Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week this has been! Thank you all for your fantastic support of the school, as we have all done our very best to try to understand the implications to our lives of the current national emergency. Thank you in particular to the many of you who have sent lovely messages of encouragement and understanding and to those who have volunteered to help out as and when it is needed. It is certainly at times like this when everyone pulling together makes such a difference.

Throughout the week we have done the best we can to provide a stable, safe and reassuring presence at the school for all of our students. Quite a challenge at times, I can assure you, but we have been blown away by the strong spirit in the school and the determination of so many to be strong at this time of great uncertainty.

Exams and Qualifications
The news that hit us on Wednesday evening of the cancellation of exams was one major blow. But our students in Year 11 and 13 have been strong and resilient and we have been immensely proud of them. Once we have an idea as to how assessments will be undertaken we will be in touch. But for now we are just asking all of the students to ensure that they continue to work hard to evidence their abilities, their knowledge and their understanding of everything that is on the syllabus for each subject they are studying.

In short – we know that the students WILL get qualifications. We don’t yet know HOW this will be achieved. An announcement is expected today, we will work on a response as quickly as we can and will be in communication with you as soon as we have a strategy worked out.

How to Cope
It looks rather as if we are all going to be in these strange and different circumstances for some time and that this will mean that you are now going to be largely in charge of your child’s learning. I attach a Parent Guide that you might find useful and also a leaflet with advice about staying healthy when largely confined to your house. I hope these will be of interest, if not now, then perhaps after the initial novelty of schools being closed has worn off!

Emergency Provision
We are, of course, not entirely closed. As directed by the government, schools will remain open for some students. I have already asked you to let us know if you are a key worker and need your child to come to school on some or all days every week. Vulnerable groups of students have also been identified and the school will continue to be open for them. Separate communications will be sent to you if this is relevant.

Despite the school being partially open, I do need to emphasise that –

◊ Parents are asked to keep children off if they can (even if they meet the criteria)
◊ Parents should not be asking those who fall within the ‘stringent social distancing’ group (including the elderly) to be providing childcare
◊ Only one parent has to fit the ‘key worker’ definition for the children to be eligible for the emergency provision in schools
Free School Meals
Large numbers of our children are entitled to free school meals and we know that the closure of schools will have a significant impact on these families over the next weeks and months. We are currently sourcing food vouchers for those families and will be sending them home (probably by post and email – but details will follow). Please let us know if you feel that this should include you, but that you have not heard from us.

Talking to Your Child
Strangely, perhaps one of the most difficult things for us to deal with right now is helping our children to understand more about something that we are struggling to get to grips with. There is so much misinformation around that we, as the adults who are looking after the children, need to really think carefully about what we are saying and how we are helping our young people to navigate and compute what is happening. You may find the BBC Newsround site (https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51877454) useful, or perhaps the UNICEF advice (https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19).

Where to Find Us
From next week and until further notice, the Maze Hill site will be closed and all school operations will be based on the Westcombe Park site.

We are accessible by email and phone, will do our utmost to keep the website up to date and I will continue to communicate with you as frequently as seems sensible and possible.

Show My Homework is the main communication channel for students.

Our Twitter accounts will also continue to keep you up to date with snippets of information from time to time.

Again, I cannot thank you enough for the support you have offered the school at this challenging time. The staff here have been, and continue to be, magnificent and have done all they can to support and reassure your children. We are all working to make sure that there is as much continuity of learning as is possible for all of our students. This crisis will soon be over and their education remains vitally important for their futures. Working in true partnership over the next months, we can ensure that the young people of The John Roan School are in no way disadvantaged as a result of this break to their routine.

My best wishes to you all.

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher
Quick Links—News to Share Page

**News from the Heads of Year**
For Year 7 click [here](#)
For Year 8 click [here](#)
For Year 9 click [here](#)
For Year 10 click [here](#)
For Year 11 click [here](#)

**Library News** can be found [here](#)

**Website updates : Coronavirus** click  -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>Admissions Meetings (Year 6) - POSTPONED</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Friendship Afternoon - POSTPONED</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>Year 11 Passport for Success Evening - POSTPONED</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent Evening — POSTPONED</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>Jack Petchey Regional Final — POSTPONED</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Apr</td>
<td>Staff INSET Day — school closed to students</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–17 Apr</td>
<td>Easter Holidays — school closed</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It has been the strangest working week that I have ever encountered. However, the Year 8’s have taken it all in their stride and I am very proud at how they have all coped within their lessons and the uncertainty of what is happening around them.

Whilst students have been asked to work at home, all lessons are now being provided online though Show My Homework. This is the online platform that students will be able to access at home and continue to work from. If they have any questions regarding the work set, they can communicate this to their teachers using their school email address. If they are not sure what their email address is, they should be able to follow this format: first letter of first name followed by their surname, e.g. jsmith18@thejohnroanschool.org.uk. Instructions on how to access SMHW & emails have been sent home this week and last via Parent Pay, so please do refer back to these if there are any difficulties. Failing this, please contact your son/daughters Form Tutor in the first instance for further assistance.

Thank you to all Parents/Carers who have supported us this week and also to those who have sent their children to school.

I wish you all well over the coming weeks.
Please take good care of yourselves during this very unusual and very unpredictable time. Our students will still have access to school work which will be provided by Show My Homework. Our students can log into Show My Homework using their email addresses. If there are any issues with SMHW, please let me know and we can always resolve it.

Due to the current situation, I doubt our Braithwaite trip will go ahead as planned for this year. I'll inform you with a definitive answer once I receive one.

Below are some more online links to various curriculum areas to help our students with their studies during this time.

https://ed.ted.com - All sorts of engaging educational videos
http://www.duolingo.com Learn languages for free
http://mysteryscience.com Free science lessons
http://thekidshouldseethis.com Wide range of cool educational videos
http://thecrashcourse.com You Tube videos on many subject

If you are concerned about anything which is currently occurring, please do not hesitate in emailing me.

Please keep yourselves and others safe during this unprecedented time.

YEAR 10 Work Expectations - Teachers are currently posting work on 'Show My Homework'. The expectation is that students spend as much time working at home that they would do in lessons and follow their 'normal' timetable. For example, if students have double Maths on a Monday, they should spend 1 hours 40 minutes completing Maths work. All staff are available via email if students have questions about the work that has been set. Completed work should also be sent back to teachers for marking. Tutors will also be making weekly contact with students to check on progress, well being etc.

If parents have any questions during this period, please do not hesitate to email me - tracey.sumner@thejohnroanschool.org.uk. If school is closed to staff, I will still be accessing my emails from home.
How disappointing was the announcement by the Prime Minister! To say I was gutted and upset would be an understatement, as I can see how hard the majority of Year 11s were working and more importantly how much progress they were making over the last few months as we geared up towards the GCSE exams that will no longer take place.

Please rest assure that any information we know concerning the Year 11s will be passed on to you from either Ms Smith or myself, and I will also endeavour to keep students as informed as much as I possibly can.

The dedication and commitment these students have towards their studies was demonstrated in the very high attendance of students to school yesterday and even more so today. I am so, so proud to have been the Head of Year for such a fantastic bunch of young people. There’s not a day that they don’t fill me with pride and are a truly positive reflection of you as their parent(s)/carer(s).

With the school closing, I’m relieved that all the contingency plans that we have been putting in place will come into effect. Your child should still follow their timetabled lessons from next week at home as work will be being set by their subject teachers. You may be asking what’s the point of doing the work? The very simple answer is that we are not 100% certain as to how students will be assessed to get their qualifications and as such we will need a body of evidence to support the predicted grades that we are putting forward for them, which is very likely to be heavily moderated/verified.

Please could you ensure that you look after any books your child has from Year 10 onwards, including any assessments and that you ensure that they complete any portfolios or coursework to the highest possible standard as these will benefit them enormously in securing a high grade.

Passport for Success: This event has been cancelled.

**Reminder:** Hoodies—I’m so pleased that we got our orders in early and got this all set up so early, as I’ve heard on the grapevine that several schools haven’t done so and may not now get theirs done due to the huge rush now taking place. The first orders are being despatched on the 17th April. I will contact the relevant students to come and collect theirs once I receive delivery of them and will let you know when the second order arrives.

**Reminder:** The John Roan School Class of 2020 Yearbook is on ParentPay – I’m even more determined to get this complete, as we have had quite a few upset students today who are very sad at how their time at the school has ended and it would be great for them to have this as a way of remembering their 5 years with us. Unfortunately we did not get round to taking the whole year group photo, but we completed all the tutor group photos and the individual photos. **The deadline for purchasing a yearbook is Thursday 2nd April. This date will not be extended (they are already on ParentPay).**

**Reminder:** Year 11 Prom on Thursday 18th June – This is still planned to take place but the decision to go ahead may be taken out of our hands, depending on where we are with the current predicament. If you have already paid, then you will receive a full refund.

I’d like to finish, what may very well be, my final newsletter to you by saying THANK YOU. Thank you for all the very thoughtful messages that you have sent me over the years and more recently over the last few days. This is a very difficult, and somewhat unknown, time that we are about to venture into but I am confident that because we have worked so collegiately over the last 5 years that we will get the best qualification possible for you child, so that they are able to make the next step in their education.

Thank you again for your continued support and stay safe.
Postcards for Rectory Court and Leah Lodge

Unfortunately, at the moment, we are unable to visit Rectory Court and Leah Lodge, if any parents or students would like to write a postcard with either a message or a story to the residents of either care home, please contact the Libraries, and we can arrange to send postcards home for you to fill out.

1677 Challenge

To celebrate National Story Month in May, The John Roan Libraries are launching the 1677 Challenge. We would like to get 1677 (the year the school was founded) book recommendations from students, staff, parents and the local community. Please complete the short survey below with your book recommendations.

Thank you in advance.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PGFCDP9

The John Roan Word of the Week

Word: Diligent

Definition: Having or showing care and conscientiousness in one’s work or duties.

Example sentence: “Their lawyer was extremely diligent in preparing their case.”

Word group: adjective

Synonyms: industrious, conscientious, hard-working

The Weekly Challenge: Use the adjective, diligent, as many times as possible throughout the week and you could receive PRIDE points every time! This can be verbally OR in your written work.
The “Eggscellent” Family Reading Challenge

Can the whole family fill up the Easter basket with the different types of books? Just write the title of the book and the date of when you have read it on the egg, and then stick into your basket. You can decorate your eggs. There will be a prize for the family that reads the most books after the Easter break.

Please contact the Libraries if you have questions.

Good luck!

The John Roan Libraries

Jennifer.allen@thejohnroanschool.org.uk