Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that all of our families were able to get some sort of a break over Easter and, above all, that you are all keeping as well as possible at the moment. The school feels terribly empty and I am very much missing the hustle and bustle of the usual school week. However, it is heartening to hear from so many of you and to know that you are appreciative of the work that staff are doing to provide ongoing learning to all of our students.

Parent survey

Thank you for your responses at the end of term to our hastily constructed survey. Your feedback has been enormously useful and has contributed to a slight re-shaping of our provision going forward. Many of you mentioned the challenges of keeping to a normal school timetable in abnormal circumstances. We are aware of the IT challenges that many of our students are facing as they share limited resources within the family. We note also that the vast majority of our parents are working from home themselves and simply cannot support their children with school work as much as they would like.

We have taken these and many other comments on board and from Monday 27th April will be following what we hope is a much more achievable schedule each week. Please click here to take you to the website where you can see your child’s new weekly schedule.

Years 11 and 13 will, on the whole, not now be receiving formal lessons but we are developing bridging units for our Year 11 students to prepare them for Key Stage 5 and I hope to get these out to the students soon. However, some Year 11 students in particular may find that they want to take some exams in the Autumn and so, if they think that this will be the case, they should not stop working on their GCSE courses as they need to continue to revise and prepare. Their teachers will be able to continue to provide guidance and work if this is the case. Year 13 will also be provided with information to support them in preparing for their next steps.

We have organised for students in Years 11 and 13 to take a course from the Eton College Future Skills Programme and details will be sent to the students shortly. These high-quality courses have been made available free to state schools during this crisis. The courses are fronted by teachers from Eton and are designed to support young people as they prepare for higher education or the workplace.

Keeping in touch

Many of you fed back to us with very positive comments around the ways in which tutors have remained in touch with their tutees and have been providing PHSE tasks each week. This pastoral contact has enabled us to find out how things are going and to address any concerns as they arise. Using this information we have been compiling lists of students for whom it is better, for example, to send home hard copies of work rather than rely on communication through Show My Homework. We have also been able to support some families with IT access by providing them with the loan of a school laptop.
Free School Meals
For those of you whose children are entitled to free school meals, you should by now have received some vouchers and be aware of the government scheme. The implementation of this has not been without teething problems and I am grateful to those of you who have experienced some difficulties for being so patient. The following message from the DfE is important, and also highlights the scale of the operation to get vouchers to all families in the country who are entitled to them.

Update on national voucher scheme for schools providing free school meals:
Schools and families have now converted over £20 million worth of vouchers into supermarket gift cards. If you have ordered eCodes and are waiting for them to be delivered, this can take up to 4 days. All orders placed up to 19 April have been delivered.

Please note that if you have ordered eCodes to go direct to the school rather than direct to the family, then the school will either need to convert the eCode into a gift card for a supermarket and then give it to the family, or provide the family with instructions so they can convert the code into a voucher themselves.

If you have not received eCodes you have ordered, please check your ‘junk’ folders before contacting Edenred at freeschoolmeals@edenred.com.

On site provision
We continue to open the school each day to support some of our more vulnerable children, as well as those whose parents are key workers and unable to supervise their child during the day. In addition to completing their home learning tasks in the school environment, our group has been doing PE each morning and this week have been cooking with some of our kitchen staff.

The Pride Home Challenge

During the time that school is closed, we are setting a selection of fun challenges for Year 7, 8 and 9 students to complete. Some are easier than others and some will demand some creative thinking. When we go back to school there will be certificates and prizes for both the number of completed challenges and the best challenge entries. You will find further details on Show my Homework.

Please send fun challenge photographs to Ms Ward for our twitter feed....let’s see how creative you can be!
Stephen Lawrence Day was on April 22nd. It celebrates the life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack at just 18 years old. Stephen attended The John Roan School to study his A levels and was a valued member of the school community. Last year we celebrated his life with a number of activities to remember his life. This year as active members of The John Roan School we will continue to celebrate his life by accepting the Stephen Lawrence Challenge, please see the details in the link below.


Please remain safe and well. My very best wishes.

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
For Sixth Form click here

Inclusion Department News can be found here

Library News can be found here

Music Department can be found here

H&SC Department can be found here

Please find below link to the contact details for Greenwich residents who either want to volunteer or who would like to access support.

Volunteering and support for vulnerable residents | Coronavirus (COVID-19) | Royal Borough of Greenwich

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/communityhub
Statement on council events and coronavirus
www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk
I hope you are all staying well, staying safe and staying sane!

We are very pleased with the attitude to learning of Year 7 and their engagement with the set tasks on Show My Homework. It is also lovely to hear from them on e-mail, please encourage them to continue to communicate with us weekly, so that we know they are safe and happy.

**The Pride Home Challenge**

During the time that school is closed, we are setting a selection of fun challenges for Year 7,8 and 9 students to complete. Some are easier than others and some will demand some creative thinking. When we go back to school there will be certificates and prizes for both the number of completed challenges and the best challenge entries. You will find further details on Show my Homework.

Please send fun challenge photographs to Ms Ward for our twitter feed....let's see how creative you can be!

**Dance Challenge**

Following on from our Bollywood Zumba lunchtime classes, stay fit and do the Renegade dance challenge. E-mail films of your challenge to Ms. Ward and there will be a prize for the winner. [Watch the tutorial here](https://youtu.be/Th9f7_KxMf4).

Have Fun!

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I hope everyone managed to enjoy a bit of rest over the Easter holidays and really enjoy the beautiful weather. It's been good to get back into school and the routine of lessons! The Year 8's have shown an excellent commitment to their work and have all been regularly logging into SMHW. It would be really good if all this work could be sent back to the teachers so that it can be reviewed to make sure students are understanding the work. The method of doing this will be detailed by the teachers on SMHW- emailed to them directly or submitted online.

It's been lovely hearing from students how they are and how they are getting on with online learning. I know a number of students have felt overwhelmed by the quantity of work they have been given to complete. I have fed this back to the HOD's and hopefully this week students will see this work managed a little bit better. It is a learning curve for all of us, and feedback is welcomed to help us get this right for everyone.

Just to repeat form my last newsletter what we would hope all of the Year 8's are doing with their time, so that we can maintain good communication and support students where necessary:

1. Ensure they are logging into SMHW every day and completing any classwork recorded for that day. Students should not spend any longer than the lesson time to do as much as they are able to complete! If there is H/W, this should also be completed. Teachers will let students know on this page how to submit the work they complete.

2. Every week they will receive an email from their Form Tutor checking in that all is well and supporting students with any problems they might have. Please can all students ensure they have responded back to this email ASAP. Please note all students should be communicating with school using their school email accounts. They do not have to wait for an email, they can communicate with teachers if they have any problems directly here.
Password issues:

If you cannot get into SMHW or email, it may be because your son/daughters password needs resetting. Please follow the information below to reset:

1. Please call 0208 516 7555 or email info@thejohnroanschool.org.uk to request that your forgotten password be reset.
2. The member of staff who takes the call or monitors the info@ mail account will log a ticket on the internal IT Support Helpdesk.
3. IT Support will reset the password using a 3rd party password generator such as https://passwordsgenerator.net/
4. The password will then be sent home via ParentPay to the parents, along with the password requirements and a link to the password reset tool on the school's website https://ts.thejohnroanschool.org.uk/RDWeb/pages/en-US/password.aspx

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s FT if there are any problems.

Stay safe, Stay in, Stay well!

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I hope you and your family are remaining safe during this time.

I hope everything is going well in regards to remote learning from home. Please remind your child to check their school email addresses. If they have forgotten any log in details or their school email addresses, please just email me and I’ll be able to provide them straightaway.

If you are having any IT issues, please let me know.

I thought this week to inform you of the many ranges of online resources available from other sources.

Whilst the lockdown remains in place, Amazon have cancelled the subscription to their books and audio stories; allowing your child to stream a variety of different stories, as well as learning up to 6 different languages. Please see the link: https://stories.audible.com/start-listen

I have also been informed by one of our students in our year group about Skillshare. Skillshare is a great platform which has a lot of resources, guides and information for various media-related subjects such as animation, illustration, design as well as writing. Thank you for informing me about this resource. Please see the link below: https://www.skillshare.com/

There has been a lot of media coverage surrounding Oak National Academy, which also supports online learning for a variety of different subjects. https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom

However, please, if you or your child is becoming overwhelmed with the homework tasks, please email me immediately! We’re in a very strange time and the last thing I’d want is for our students to start feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed. I check my emails daily, so please do not worry about sending me an email. I am also available one day a week to make phone calls from school, so I can always call you should you need any support.

Please stay healthy, safe and well.
I hope this e-mail finds you and your families in the best of health.

Firstly I hope that this email finds you and your family in the best of health. I also hope that you have had a restful (as best as possible) and relaxing Easter break (for those that celebrate it) and just a break from school work for the last 2 weeks.

I know that many of you have a lot of questions and I'd like to address some of these queries to the whole cohort rather than individually.

The first major query is whether or not you should continue to complete the work being set by your class teachers in light of the most recent guidance by OFQUAL in regards to how you grades will be calculated. My advice here is a resounding YES. I'm not just saying that because I'm your Head of Year, but because I wouldn't want you to further disadvantage yourself any more than has already occurred. It is important, at the very least, that you complete the courses and in some cases this will involve a few more weeks of work from you.

It's very likely that a number of you will be unhappy with your teacher assessed/calculated grades. This may be for a number of reasons but if that is the case then you will be able to appeal the grade and take exams in the Autumn to get an exam grade. This may be the avenue that many of you elect to go down. If this is the case, then it's likely that you may not have completed the curriculum for several of your subjects and just as important your teachers may be setting you revision work in preparation for this.

Some of you are also on the boundary of a grade 3/4 in English and/or Maths. Any student that attains a grade below a grade 4 in English and/or Maths will be required to resit English and/or Maths prior to the age of 18 before being "allowed" to leave education. If you are near this boundary, then I would strongly advise that you continue to do all the work being set by your English/Maths teachers for the remainder of this half term at least and sit the exams in Autumn, if your grade is below a grade 4.

In summary, it's my advice to you that you continue to complete all the work being set by your class teachers as it may very well be excellent preparation for the exams in the Autumn.
I believe that your grades will be calculated over the next 3-4 weeks. Please do not ask your teachers for any grades, predicted or otherwise, as they are not allowed to provide this to you.

The school is rigorously following the guidance provided in order to submit the fairest and most robust information we can to the exam boards. This is being quality checked at a number of different levels and is also strictly confidential.

In terms of Post 16/Sixth Form provisions, it's very likely that some will now offer some sort of entrance exam or you will be placed on a 3-4 week trial once you have been given a place. Most may also offer you some sort of "taster" sessions/week and if you know what subjects you are interested in, then I would encourage you to engage in these.

We are currently developing packs of work to prepare you for your Level 3 courses and these will be sent out to you where we know what courses you will be doing next year. This work will allow you to ‘hit the ground running’ when you start your courses in the Autumn as well as give you a flavour of what the actual course might involve. Where possible, try to take up these opportunities from several establishments that you may be interested in attending, as they may be in different weeks during the second half of the Summer term, rather than placing all your eggs in one basket and be left disappointed come September.

I'd like to also bring to your attention, in case you were not aware, that Amazon have made the Kindle version of their 'Headstart to A-Level' books free to download. This is a great opportunity to plan ahead with "Year 11 bridging" towards Year 12. Unfortunately, they only cover the subjects Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths, which I know were quite popular with a number of you.

The Leavers Hoodies have been delayed as the factory producing them has had to shut down. We were expecting delivery of the first batch on the 17th April but this did not occur, although I have been reassured that because we got our orders in so early, we should definitely be a priority for completion of the order once they have reopened their factory.

The yearbook and prom are still going ahead as far as I'm aware, though watch this space as we obviously have to follow the advice issued by the government and I am very concerned about whether the prom will still take place. Please rest assured that if the prom doesn't go ahead then a full refund will be issued for all parents who have already paid.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing good health to you and your families.
Welcome ‘back’. Two weeks ‘break’ over Easter probably felt a bit odd for everyone but hopefully it gave you an opportunity to do something different.

**Year 13**

I’m sure you and your Year 13 student will have been discussing grades. As a school, we are busy arranging the processes to do this sufficient justice. Please note there is no point emailing teachers about grades, as such correspondence will not factor into the process, in fact, it could delay them in getting on with the job. Most of the process has now been set out by Ofqual, the government organisation tasked with co-ordinating the process with schools and exam boards. The school is rigorously following the guidelines and procedures set out to ensure that all students get the grades that they deserve as far as is possible this year. I have included some information for you to look at on grades that is the latest to which students have access.

Year 13 should have started to apply for student finance for university. Information about this was sent to students before the break and please see a link to a quiz with further information below.

Eton College, the world renowned independent school, has offered an online course for Year 13. The course is on Resilience, as that relates to managing independently as you move on from The John Roan School either into an apprenticeship or on to university where there will be lots of new challenges and difficulties.

Eton normally charge every individual nearly £100 to take the course but it is FREE for your student in Year 13. Students will receive a link by email.

Students are encouraged to look up the reading list and course modules which feature in the first year at their universities. Make a start on preparation. It could well be that the initial period at university could involve online learning anyway, so why not get a head start now.

Video to students by Ofqual – [click here](#)

UCAS webinar broadcast Thursday 23 April – [click here](#)

Here’s the uni finance quiz, one each week coming up. Take your time with it. Watch the videos. Submit your answers to get a score but each answer includes lots of information, so take your time with it. Now is the time to start applying for student finance.

[**Uni finance quiz – how much do you know?** – click here](#)

Apprenticeships are still being advertised and applications are still happening. Utilise this time to research and apply for some amazing apprenticeships. If you need further assistance with an application, please email me or Mr Martin.

The link below is for a Degree Apprenticeship with Amazon in Software Development. Check it out if it is of interest: [https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000005988](https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000005988)

You can also start your apprenticeship search here: [https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch](https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)
Year 12

Your Year 12 student will need to prepare for next year and finish off this year. Their situation is very different to Year 13. The headline is that they need to engage in the work being set as best they can so they are not behind when school resumes. They should by now be working on their personal statement by carrying out super curricular activities to enhance their application. They should also be thoroughly researching universities and courses. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. For Monday’s PSHE, I will send information about drafting and finalising your personal statement, do look out for it in your school email.

Year 12 and 13

I would like to know a few basic details about how students are all managing at home, so could you please ask your student to complete this very short survey. Thank you.

Bursary payments will be made shortly. Please look out for a letter about this.

Netflix and Fifa will be two ways of passing time but when this period of ‘stay at home’ is over (in whatever form it is ‘over’), we all need to answer the question, ‘What did we do with the time?’ It would be great to hear what all of you are doing in your time at home that involves learning or self-development: books you are reading, online courses you are taking, new skills such as cooking etc. I’m currently trying to improve my Excel skills to better track you all and also to learn how to dye my hair rainbow; it’s not going well. Do let me know what you are all up to, I’ll include the best examples next week.

Stay Safe, Stay Well, Stay Home
Online Resources

I know many parents will have discovered a whole range of online resources to support you and your children during this lockdown time. I like this resource from WiseOwl Education, a private company listed on the DfE website. WiseOwl groups online resources in handy sections - Maths, English and other subjects; coding, arts and crafts; older years; get up and be active; games; reading and YouTube channels.

As a school we have not checked out all these links, so if you find something really good we would love to hear your recommendations so we can share the best with everyone.

WiseOwl Education: https://wiseowl-education.co.uk/learningathome/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIhdv43szv6AIVLaNRCh3GdA3zEAEYASAAEgJbvfD_BwE

For those of you who enjoy a daily digest of the news, this newsletter is accessible for all ages. I have just subscribed and I like the news summary and the daily topic for debate. They also have lots of activities and things to download but if your day is busy enough, you can ignore those!

The Day Newsletter https://theday.co.uk/subscriptions/the-day-home

Siobhan McCauley
SENCo
LIBRARY NEWS

Hospice Virtual Mini Marathon
With everyone staying at home to protect our NHS, keeping fit and staying active can be difficult so why not sign up for the Hospice Virtual Mini Marathon! You can run, walk or jog the equivalent of 2.62 miles around your home or garden to complete your own Virtual Mini Marathon challenge! This is a fun activity for all the family to get involved in during these difficult times. It’s also a great way to stay fit, get active and get the kids off that tech! On Sunday 3 May the Hospice will host a very special Virtual Mini Marathon live stream!

There will be medals for children signing up and certificates for the rest of the family. Any kind donations or sponsorship raised by families will be much appreciated as this will help keep the Hospice open as their frontline doctors and nurses support our NHS during the Covid-19 crisis. If you’re wondering how you can raise sponsorship whilst social distancing, then download these Virtual Fundraising Tips to get you started!

Ready to register? Then click here. Need more information? You can call the Fundraising Team on 020 8319 9230, email team@gbch.org.uk or check out their Virtual Mini Marathon FAQ’s.

Click here: Virtual Mini Marathon

Empathy Day 2020
Empathy Day is coming up on the 9th June and to celebrate the Libraries would like to create a poster/book of messages for everyone at Mycenae House, the Let’s Beat Loneliness Lunch Club and at Rectory Court and Leah Lodge that we can send out and show that we are thinking about them.

We would like to ask students, staff and parents to complete the survey with their messages that we can then pass on. https:// surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TRYGRW2

Thank you in advance,
Jenny
Below are suggested funny reads for the entire family that might help to lift everyone’s spirits during lockdown. Don’t forget that if you belong to a local Library, you can access e-books from home.

### Recommended reads for Pre School

- Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
- Aliens Love Underpants
- “You’re Called What?!”
- The Cat in the Hat

### Recommended reads for Primary

- Anthony Horowitz: The Falcon’s Malteser
- The World’s Worst Children
- My Naughty Little Sister
- Horrid Henry and the Secret Club

### Recommended reads for John Roan Students

- The Person Controller
- Star Wars: Be More Vader
- Very British Problems
- Mr. Greedy Eats Clean to Get Lean

### Recommended reads for adults

- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13¾
- Always Look on the Bright Side of Life
We are continuing to teach all students who have instrumental or singing lessons at school, whether this be through live Skype lessons or a variety of other media. You should have been emailed by the peripatetic member of staff that teaches your child, suggesting a way in which lessons can continue whilst school is shut. The peripatetic staff have been working hard trying to get lessons/technique videos etc set up, so please do bear with them if there are technical difficulties at the outset. If you have not received an email, then please do contact them – all email addresses are listed below. If your child does not have an instrument at home to practise on, then there are creative ways of getting around this.

If you think then your child would benefit from an instrument at home to practice on, then please email me; I will be arranging loans of instruments in the coming days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wright</td>
<td>Teaching Y7 – 13. Singing (y11) and flute</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alastair.wright@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">alastair.wright@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Hill</td>
<td>Teaching Y7 – 9 &amp; 11-13. Clarinet and singing (Y7)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie.hill@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">julie.hill@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Evans</td>
<td>Teaching Y7, 8 &amp; 10. Piano (Y8 &amp; 10)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:claire.evans@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">claire.evans@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Johnson</td>
<td>Piano and saxophone (Y7-11)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:max.johnson@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">max.johnson@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jones</td>
<td>Piano (Y9 – 11)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:simeon.jones@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">simeon.jones@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Luckett</td>
<td>Guitar &amp; bass (all years)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neil.luckett@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">neil.luckett@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mills</td>
<td>Steel Pans (Y7 – 10)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eversley.mills@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">eversley.mills@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Phelps</td>
<td>Singing (all years)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alice.phelps@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">alice.phelps@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Talbot</td>
<td>Violin, cello &amp; piano (Y7 &amp; 8)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wendy.talbot@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">wendy.talbot@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr West</td>
<td>Drums (all years)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edward.west@thejohnroanschool.org.uk">edward.west@thejohnroanschool.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Some recommended (free) websites for music**

- Music theory: [https://www.musictheory.net/](https://www.musictheory.net/)
- Band lab (composition): [https://www.bandlab.com/](https://www.bandlab.com/)
- Free music courses: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/music.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/music.shtml)
- Learning composition: [https://learningmusic.ableton.com/](https://learningmusic.ableton.com/)
- Notation software: [https://musescore.org/en](https://musescore.org/en)

I hope you and your families are well and staying safe. Please do email me if you have any questions, requests or suggestions.

Best wishes,

Mr Wright
Head of Music
Year 10
Well done to every student who has returned work. The work that I have received is of high quality and students have obviously spent a great deal of time and effort on their coursework. Please encourage your child to keep up this hard work. If students are finding it difficult to email in work, it can be posted to school – FAO either myself or Ms Shepherd.

Year 11 – A reminder – I need mock exam papers to be completed by Friday, 1st May. Students can either email the work to me or post it. If students are able to post their folders into school (yellow folder), please can they do so. Thank you for all of the work that I have already received.

Year 12/13 – A reminder – Unit 14 coursework deadline is Monday, 27th April. If students need an extension to this, please ask your child to email me. Thank you for the work that I have already received.

Ms T Sumner