Dear Parents and Carers,

It is increasingly difficult to remember that we have only been in Lockdown for 7 weeks – and in that time so much has changed about the way that we work and talk with people. I have attended a virtual JRSA meeting this week where we all discussed matters to do with the school from the comfort of our own homes. Our first Skype JRSA meeting was a success and it was lovely to see and talk with parents again!

The JRSA Meeting

As ever, the questions at the meeting were wide ranging and challenging, but represented concerns and anxieties around the welfare of staff, continuity of learning for all year groups, the impact of the situation on children, the impact of the loss of social interaction on young people, Centre Assessed Grades, recruitment into Year 7 and Year 12 and the digital divide ……… to name but a few topics!

Reopening of Schools

One area that is very difficult to respond to is around the reopening of schools. I can say that we are already planning for the return of some students in the near future, but also that we know no more than anyone about who this will be for or when. By all accounts there will be an announcement on Sunday and anything that is in the news prior to that is likely to be pure speculation. I would like to reassure you and confirm that, as you would expect, we are already preparing for a number of possible scenarios and will, of course, keep you as well informed as we can throughout the period between a government announcement and the opening of the school gates.

Safety First

Please note that whatever happens, health and safety is an absolute priority. We are as concerned as everyone is about infection and illness and are working hard all of the time to ensure that we get things as right as we possibly can and that we pay full and proper attention to all of the advice that we get from Public Health, the government and United Learning.

Support from United Learning

I have been asked by many parents about the support and guidance the school is receiving at this difficult time. In response I am very able to say that it has been very good to be part of a bigger group and to be able to benefit from the regular and timely advice and guidance received from United Learning. In the first weeks, Headteachers were briefed by Jon Coles on a daily basis. This is now slightly less frequent but always timely. In addition, I have had very regular (at least twice weekly) contact with our Regional Director and with a group of other local Headteachers. We have been able to share good practice and support each other as we navigate the new daily challenges. United Learning subject advisors have been working with our subject leaders to support in the development of new materials that are suited to distance learning and to provide advice and guidance in the generation of Centre Assessed Grades for Years 11 and 13.
Student Engagement
Emerging strongly from the past few weeks has been a wide difference in the levels of engagement of our students in the work that has been set for them. The reasons for this are also varied. However, our role is to provide engaging work for our students to help them to grow and develop as learners. If there are barriers to their learning, we know we need to help to find a way to overcome this.

The Digital Divide
High on many agendas is the challenge of lots of people in one household competing for devices that will enable them to work effectively from home – whether it is for school work or paid employment, many of us have felt the need for more devices in our households at times. There are press reports that suggest the ‘Digital Divide’ is going to negatively impact the futures of some young people if they cannot access their school work.

To address this where we can, we have loaned out a large number of our school laptops. Families have been letting us know if they are struggling with access and we are doing our best to help. We have now exhausted our stock of laptops.

Fund Raising
In discussion with United Learning, we have decided that the best solution is for us to purchase a number of Chromebooks. These would be able to be prepared reasonably quickly for lending out to students in need and then, once schools are re-open, would be available on short term loans or for use in classrooms to support learning. Through a match-funding process, we would be able to purchase new Chromebooks for about £120 each. We would like to have another 50 at least.

Through the JRSA, we will be launching a fundraising initiative to help us to purchase this target of 50 more Chromebooks .......... more about this next week, but in the meantime, please get thinking about ways that you and your children could possible fundraise using the number 120 as a theme.

Assemblies in Lockdown
Some of you may have seen that the Heads of Year have been sending out their online assemblies. We hope that your children have enjoyed hearing the voice of their Head of Year and seeing their faces, as well as celebrating the great work that students have been doing over the past weeks at home.

Flying Start
Year 11 students will now be receiving work to support them in getting off to a flying start in the Sixth Form. Courses and advice on study skills will be followed by a short programme over the next 6 weeks that will introduce them to the Level 3 courses that they are interested in taking next year. At the end of this programme we are planning to hold some ‘live’ online teaching sessions as tasters of Sixth Form lessons. Mr Wilson will be regularly in touch to let students know what is planned for them.

Centre Assessment Grades—FAQs 2020
Please find attached FAQs regarding Centre Assessment Grades, which I hope you will find useful. This can also be found on the school website.
Theatre in YOUR Sitting Room

There is so much that we can do for free at the moment that I am sure we may well resist buying tickets for shows at the theatre in the future! Attached to this newsletter is a list of just a few opportunities to catch up with a bit of London Theatre life from your own armchair. We hope that you all find something that you want to watch!

Pulse Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the United Learning pulse survey last week. We will use the outcomes of this to continue to improve the way in which we are working at the moment and to do our very best to support you as you work with your children at home. We know it isn’t easy – I don’t know many people who are finding this sudden change easy to manage all of the time. Please keep telling us what you think and – in particular – we love to hear what we are doing well so that we can continue to do it!

I do miss the hustle and bustle of daily school life. I miss walking around and chatting to everyone, seeing students learning and staff teaching, I miss supervising the dinner queue or being at the front door to welcome late comers, I even miss driving through the Blackwall Tunnel every morning. But I am immensely proud of how adaptable you have all become, of how quickly you managed to change the way that you learn and how resilient you are. I long to have everyone back at school, but above all I want us all to feel safe, healthy and secure, because it is only then that we can truly learn effectively.

The Queen’s Commonwealth Essay Competition

I would like to draw your attention to this competition, which is open to all children and young people across the Commonwealth, with two age-group categories (under 14s and 14–18). Entrants are invited to use any form of creative writing to respond to one of four topics, each of which is linked to the ongoing climate crisis, the role of young people in bringing about change and how the Commonwealth can be used as a tool for positive action. Further details are available on the RCS website, and I am also attaching a leaflet. Entries to the competition can be submitted through an online platform until 30 June 2020.

My very best wishes,

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher
New virtual cyber initiative for teenagers

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced an online initiative that aims to inspire school pupils to work in the cyber security sector through a range of extracurricular activities including online classes. This provides the opportunity to learn and develop the important skills required for future jobs in areas like cyber security from home.

Full details of this announcement and the resources available can be found here:


Student Guide for Further/Higher Education

Students should also read the student guide to coronavirus (COVID-19) published by the Office for Students for information about securing a place at university, the clearing process, accommodation, and finance.

The student guide can be found here:

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

Departmental News can be found here

Music Department News can be found here

Library News can be found here

School Website click 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 safe and well.

**PRIDE and Learning**

We have been really impressed with the attitude to learning of students. Teachers are reporting that more work is being completed and submitted on-line. Year 7 are really rising to the challenge and they are now really adapting to working independently online, which has been a learning challenge in itself - well done to all.

The quality of some work is excellent and we are trying to show good examples on our Twitter feed, so please try to follow that. Some students have produced outstanding amounts of work and next week we will have a virtual assembly to celebrate our year group achievements, as well as our PRIDE challenges. More details will follow.

**The Sunshine Project**

This week we have been set a challenge by Mrs Allen in the Library, its called 'The Sunshine Project'. It's a new community initiative where Mrs Allen is compiling a book/wall of lots of bright, cheerful digital images from staff, students and parents which will be displayed for everyone we know at Mycenae House and other local care homes. Her e-mail is Jennifer.Allen@thejohnroanschool.org.uk

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**Welcome Postcards**

This week I posted a task for Year 7, which was to write a welcome message to Year 6 students, a postcard was designed by Tilly in 7J and we will be sending personal messages to all our new students from our Year 7. We did this last year and I know Year 6 valued these personal messages. Please remind your child to complete this welcome message for the back of the postcard.

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Finally, please keep challenging yourselves and send photographs of your challenges to my e-mail Lois.Ward@thejohnroanschool.org.uk. Have Fun! If you are struggling and need support with work, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will try our best to help. Stay safe and well.
It has been another busy week keeping in touch with students and teachers of Year 8.

Work continues to be submitted on a regular basis, which we are very grateful for. There are lots of work that has had to be changed in order to take it all online, and by students submitting this work makes it all worthwhile.

I will be posting another virtual assembly on Thursday this week, as the school will be shut on Friday due to the Bank Holiday. Please note NO work will be set on Friday for students. Please make sure you make the most of the extra day, and if there are any VE Day Celebrations taking place, maybe send the photo’s in!

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Bank Holiday and hopefully some sunshine. Just a quick reminder of the new timetable we are working to below:

![Timetable Image]

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

*Stay safe, Stay in, Stay well!*
I hope this letter finds you well.

We kick started this week with a Virtual Assembly (please see link to SMHW at the bottom of this newsletter). It has been great to see so many of our students work being celebrated and praised by their respective teachers. Please let me know if there is anything you wish for me to share or mention in our next virtual assembly.

I felt this week, being Bank Holiday on Friday, to share a few ideas which you can all do as a family. I also wish to encourage our students to still enjoy the outside space as much as possible. The Government are still allowing us to exercise outdoors each day; cycling, roller-skating, running, or just walking. Please let me know how you get on with the following challenges:

1) Create your own nature documentary (from your window, garden, local park)
2) Grow some plants/herbs/vegetables
3) Make a bird-feeder (https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-recycled-bird-feeder/?channel=paidsearch&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI8PbA7Zif6QIVCbltCh3FsQBxAAYASAAEgJ_3vD_BwE)
4) Paint/chalk the driveway, communal areas (the NHS Thank You Posters!)

Lastly, one online resource I wish to share; Ted Talks.
TED is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. A TED talk is a video created from a presentation at the main TED (technology, entertainment, design) conference.

http://www.ted.com/recommends?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9ZG2o5mf6QIVVotCh3tagCNEAYASAAEgKoGvD_BwE

Please let me know how you and your family get along with the resources.

Take care, stay safe and see you all soon.

SMHW Link to Virtual Assembly:
https://www.satchelone.com/notice-board/events/148334?backPath=month&occurrenceDate=2020-05-03
I would like to say ‘well done’ to all Year 10 students for their hard work. I have received a number of responses from students to say that they prefer the ‘new timetable’ that they are following and are finding it much easier to manage work and prefer the daily routine. Please encourage your child to maintain this routine and work ethic.

Please can you also remind your child that they must reply to their tutor when they email them each week. We are using this communication to ensure that students are well and understanding the work that has been set. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – tracey.sumner@thejohnroanschool.org.uk.

Stay safe and take care.

It’s been so lovely seeing so many of you while Mrs Kayser and I have been out delivering the 2020 leavers hoodies this week. From what I’ve seen and heard on social, the hoodies have really caused a buzz amongst the students and reinvigorated a number of them. Apologies if we’ve not been able to stay for longer and have a proper catch-up but these hoodies won't deliver themselves.

We have either made deliveries or attempted to make deliveries to SE3, SE7 and SE10 for all students that ordered a hoodie. We seem to be missing a few of you though, as it seems that some of you are sleeping in when we are out on deliveries.

We will be delivering again next Monday and Tuesday definitely.

Student of the week in Year 11 is Felix for his perseverance.

Stay safe.
So what are some people up to while they stay at home?

Tom Foolery is an online poem just released a few days ago by a young London poet who enlisted the support of some family members to create this video which has struck a chord with a few of our students who have sent it to me. Click here

It seems many of you have been up to lots too, with some of you learning the guitar, others reading more than before, whilst some you have found time to delve deeper into their subject areas by listening to podcasts. A question likely to be asked at a job/university interview in the future could well include, ‘What did you do during ‘lockdown’? What would you say?

Someone is taking an online MOOC ‘Special theory of relativity’ whilst also learning basic app design. Someone else has watched lectures on Massolit (see previous email for log in details), as well as listening to some podcasts on Radio 4. Whilst a Year 12 has been involved in animating and music-making, as well as taking a CISCO course. Someone else has been taking the time to teach their younger brother, who has difficulties, to speak more clearly thus enabling him to be understood by more people. What a fantastic, selfless, and difficult job. Well done to everyone and keep engaged everyone! Do let me know what you’re up to, and please let me know if I can use your name instead of using someone!

Some, I know, are finding it hard to just keep on doing the things you need to do without extra effort. This too is an achievement. You will be able to talk about how you built resilience, dealt with stressful situations, found creative ways of dealing with new situations. I’m proud of each and every one of our students.

Year 12 will be back in school in some way at some point, so it is vital they keep up with their A–Levels and BTECs, as they still have lots to do. We also know it’s been a struggle, so please support them to do their best and that way work won’t pile up for them on their return. Please do contact me or subject teachers if your student is facing physical problems, ie computer access, or is overwhelmed with managing workload at home. We can support them.

Year 12 should be continuing with their University research and attending online open days, details can be found on each university webpage. They should also be working on their draft personal statement. They have been emailed support material for this, more is available should any student require it.

Year 13 should be preparing for university. UCAS are making some changes to their procedures. Please ask your student to keep an eye on Track and also the Covid section of the UCAS website. A new Student Finance quiz will be sent out on Monday, please encourage your student to complete it, it is not about me finding out who knows the most, but a way of sharing information in a way that students can check they’ve understood. Do look at this video which explains more about making final choices.

Apprenticeships are becoming hard to find due to the current situation, this has meant some students are now considering applying to university instead. Please be assured it is not too late and I am here to help in any way I can, just let me know.

As ever, please do contact me if I can help or support in any way.
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT

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 Monday, 11th May (at the latest). 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 - Well done to those students who have emailed coursework to me. What I have received is of high quality. A reminder to those students that I gave an extension to – Monday, 11th May is the deadline for this work.

With best wishes,

Ms T Sumner

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWS

LOOK AT this Imperial War Museum collection of photos showing people celebrating VE Day
https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-photos-of-ve-day-celebrations

Send us a photo (with parents permission) of your VE Day celebrations. You can decorate a space with red, white & blue bunting and make a themed picnic.

CREATE memories of your VE Day celebrations
Send us a photo of: your VE Day (red, white & blue) picnic/biscuits/cake; your home-made bunting; your flyer inviting friends/family to a virtual street party; your own 75th Anniversary poster.

VE Day or ‘Victory in Europe Day’ marks the day when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end. Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that World War II had come to an end in Europe. How are you going to celebrate the day? Have a go at one of these activities and let us share your work with others in the John Roan School community.
Happy VE Day!

WATCH this 10-minute video of Churchill’s announcement to the nation and how the nation celebrated:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ve-day-How-did-the-british-plan-to-celebrate/zndn7nb

Send us your poem or song entitled VE Day OR interview older members of your family about their memories of the day and send us a transcript of your interview.

RESEARCH VE Day using this BBC Teach resource to get started:
https://youtu.be/NEavcsrMoMw
https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ve-day

Send us your own VE Day YouTube video to teach others about the day OR create an information leaflet about it.
Free Theatre to watch online.
Due to all of the theatres closing, lots of theatres are streaming shows to watch for free.

Here is a selection:

**The National Theatre**
A new play is released every Thursday on YouTube.
https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home

You can access for a limited period the National Theatre catalogue of plays to watch online for free. The log in details are below. Please do not share these details with pupils who are not students at The John Roan School.
https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com
Username: 8Bh+7GsAd&
Password: 4Mcx2Ez@m#

**The Royal Opera House**
They are releasing ballets and operas every week via YouTube.

**Half Moon Theatre**
https://www.halfmoon.org.uk/live/
They have a great selection of teenage plays online including, Boys Don’t, What Once Was Ours and Off The Grid. They also have some plays for younger audiences too.

**The Globe Theatre**
They are releasing plays every week to watch online for free, link below.

**Mousetrap Theatre Projects**
They have launched #EveryHomeATheatre where a theatre challenge is released every week. This weeks is to recreate a moment from a musical. Get the whole family involved. We would love to see the videos you make.
https://www.mousetrap.org.uk/every-home-a-theatre

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Hibbert and Miss Farwell.
This week has unfortunately seen the cancellation of some instrumental lessons as staff have had to make the transition to using Skype for Business for teaching. This is an instruction that centres around key safeguarding concerns that are linked to Zoom. 

Zoom is an insecure platform that records and has the rights to use information that is shared on the platform. We are therefore not able to use it because of the confidentiality issues.

I understand that this has been a frustration, as lessons were working well on Zoom, however safeguarding has to be our top priority when delivering these lessons. Any lessons that were cancelled this week will of course be rearranged and I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

That aside, I’ve been greatly encouraged by how the students are taking to online lessons. Staff have been extremely positive about how engaged, motivated and determined everyone has been to make these lessons a success. I would also like to thank you as parents for your support in adapting to this new way of teaching!

On the next couple of pages I have included a guide to using Skype Business on a PC/IPad. Please do refer to this to help you and your child get used to the online platform.

Here is a link for downloading Skype for business on a PC: https://support.office.com/en-us/article/install-skype-for-business-8a0d4da8-9d58-44f9-9759-5c8f340c3fb#os_type=windows

Two brief reminders:

I am still offering free loans of instruments whilst school is shut. Please contact me if you & your child are interested in taking up this offer

A reminder of contact details for music staff:

| Mr Wright | Teaching Y7 – 13. Singing (Y11) and flute | alastair.wright@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Ms Hill | Teaching Y7 – 9 & 11-13. Clarinet and singing (Y7) | julie.hill@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Ms Evans | Teaching Y7, 8 & 10. Piano (Y8 & 10) | claire.evans@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Mr Johnson | Piano and saxophone (Y7-11) | max.johnson@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Mr Jones | Piano (Y9 – 11) | simeon.jones@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Mr Luckett | Guitar & bass (all years) | neil.luckett@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Mr Mills | Steel Pans (Y7 – 10) | eversley.mills@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Ms Phelps | Singing (all years) | alice.phelps@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Ms Talbot | Violin, cello & piano (Y7 & 8) | wendy.talbot@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Mr West | Drums (all years) | edward.west@thejohnroanschool.org.uk |

Please do email me if you have any questions, requests or suggestions.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mr Wright,
Head of Music
How to Join a Skype for Business meeting on a PC

1. Log in to Office 365 at https://www.office.com
2. Click on the top left corner of the window
3. Select Outlook
4. Click on the Calendar icon in the lower left corner of the window
5. Open the meeting and click on “Join online meeting”

6. Click on “Install and join with Skype Meetings App (web)”

If the Skype Meetings App has already been installed, click on “Already installed? Click here to join with Skype Meetings App (web)”
How to join a Skype for Business meeting on an iPad

1. Open the Calendar App

2. Click on the meeting

3. Click on the link after “Join online meeting”

4. Click on “Open in “Business””
The Sunshine Project
Many of the people that The John Roan School see regularly are now self-isolating at home, or are unable to leave their care homes that they live in.
To show that we are thinking about them, and continuing with our campaign to beat loneliness, the Libraries are looking for bright, colourful pictures of things like sunflowers, and gardens from The John Roan School students, parents and staff.
Please email photos of your creations to Mrs Allen so that we can create a book of images to show people that we are thinking about them, and hopefully brighten their day.
Thank you and Good luck!

The Lockdown Reading List
Now available on the school website is a special Lockdown Reading list with a selection of the amazing free reading materials that are available for The John Roan School students. This website list will be updated regularly as more resources become available:

The Lockdown Reading List - News - The John Roan
Below is just a small selection of the amazing free reading materials that are available for The John Roan School students. This website list will be...
www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk

National Literacy Trust Survey
The National Literacy Trust are running surveys to find out more about reading and writing during lockdown, and they would like to hear from young people.

Below is a survey for young people aged 8 to 18. Please encourage your children to take the survey during their free time. It should take about 10 minutes and will help the National Literacy Trust adapt the resources to help young people more.: http://research.literacytrust.org.uk/s/pupils_literacy_general/

The Cross Curricular Lockdown Resources List
Now available on the school website is a special Cross Curricular Resources List with a selection of the amazing free resources that are available for The John Roan School students. This website list will be updated regularly as more resources become available:
http://www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk/334/news/post/316/the-cross-curricular-lockdown-resources-list

The Cross Curricular Lockdown Resources List - News - The John Roan
Contact The John Roan School Maze Hill, London, SE3 7UD 0208 516 7555 info@thejohnroanschool.org.uk
Westcombe Park Site (Years 9,10, 11) The John Roan School, Westcombe Park Road, London, SE3 7QR 0208 516 7555 info@thejohnroanschool.org.uk
www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk

Thank you in advance,
Mrs Allen
The John Roan Word of the Week

Word: Resilience

Definition: The ability to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened:

Example sentence: "Everyone has shown great resilience considering the problems we've had.''

Synonyms: strength, fortitude, power

The Weekly Challenge: Use the noun, resilience, 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 John Roan Weekly Reading Challenge. Week 2

This Week’s reading Challenge: Ask a member of your family for a book recommendation. Read the book that they have recommended and write a short review.

This week’s reading recommendation:

DC Comics have made a selection of their books available free to download and read until 8th June.

https://www.readdc.com/DC-Essential-Reads/page/23690

The Creative Challenge: Create a flipbook for someone in your family with the template attached. Don’t forget to change the picture slightly on each square of the template so that the images will move when you put them all together.

Please enjoy this Reading Challenge from the John Roan Libraries for students and their families to enjoy. Please email any entries to Mrs Allen for the chance to win prizes upon return to school!