Dear Parent/Carer,

I write on behalf of the John Roan School (JRS) Governing Body to clarify, as far as is possible, recent events with regard to the Ofsted Inspection. You may be aware that the grade the school receives following the inspection cannot be confirmed until the report has been through a scrutiny process.

We have been informed by Ofsted that the report is expected in mid-June. We fully recognise that this unavoidable delay is causing anxiety to the whole school community but the Governing Body, as you will fully appreciate, have a duty to follow the guidelines set by Ofsted around confidentiality. As soon as the final report reaches the school we have a duty to publish it to parents and post it on our website, which we will do. It will be available on the Ofsted website within 5 days of the school receiving it.

The intention of this letter is to share the information that we can with you and to try to clarify some of the concerns that have been raised by parents.

We are aware that, as the judgement is not in the public domain, any actions we take may be open to misinterpretation. In writing this letter, my intention is to show transparency in our actions. We recognise that there is current speculation and that individuals are drawing their own conclusions as to the future of the school. A similar letter to this one has been sent to all staff.

Given the data over the past few years and other factors such as below national levels of attendance, we have to work on the assumption that the school will either be graded at ‘requires improvement’ or ‘inadequate’. If the school ‘Requires Improvement’ we will have to produce a rapid improvement plan and will be monitored by the Local Authority. We are already working to a school improvement plan and working closely with the Local Authority. If the school receives a judgement of Inadequate then we will be issued with an Academy Order by the Secretary of State. Governors and the Local Authority are expected to comply with this.

It is only right that Governors prepare for all possible outcomes. There have been discussions and meetings with the Local Authority and we have carried out some basic research on academies and multi academy trusts and Governors have invited a local Chief Executive Officer of a Multi Academy Trust to meet with us. We believe that we need to be as well informed as possible in advance of the mid-June publication of the Ofsted Report.

As a Governing Body we hold the welfare and progress of all our students and staff at the heart of what we do. We are already working closely with our new Headteacher, Cath Smith, to ensure that there is rapid and significant improvement in the outcomes for our students. There has been a focus on the Year 11 and 13 students and we have already seen an improvement in attendance.

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We know that you are very concerned about the future of our school and your children’s education in particular. As a Governing Body we will keep you informed and continue to build on the recent progress that has been made.

With best wishes,

Linda Karlsen
Vice Chair of Governors