5th July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

At a time when we are all in an unfamiliar situation, I am very aware of the multitude of questions that so many of you have. I too am unfamiliar with this position and have been asking plenty of questions myself!

It was good to see a number of parents at the recent information evening with UST. I found it useful to hear some of the responses to questions at this event, and I hope that you did too. There will be more such meetings arranged over the next months.

There is, I am sad to say, a lot of mis-information being circulated around our situation and I am disappointed that students are now being directly targeted through a leaflet campaign. I have not wanted to politicise our situation at all, my priority is to focus on school improvement and student safety. However, it is important to me that everyone has access to facts, rather than rumours and suggestions, so I am developing a page on our website to provide straightforward information for parents and students to read.

The link to this section/s is on the school’s website: Home Page/Parents/Letters Home or Home Page/About Us/FAQs, this also provides a link directly to the UST website where they have supplied written answers to a number of the key questions that parents and staff have asked of them. I will continue to add further information to this area of the website in response to questions that are asked, or mis-information that is published.

The Ofsted report was clear about the priorities that the school now needs to have and I am developing and implementing plans to take us forward. I intend to send a letter to parents over the summer holiday to outline some of the ways in which these will be seen from September onwards. In the meantime, we continue to ensure that our students and their education are our priority.

In terms of staffing for next year, I am pleased to report that I am close to having a full teaching staff team to start the new year. It was good to welcome Judith Causer the new GAL for Year 7 as well as Josephine Okokon the new Associate Headteacher yesterday, when they joined us for the Year 6 Induction Day.

We have a new staff induction day on Monday next week to meet with all of our new teachers and I am delighted that some will actually commence their employment with us on that day. The others will be permanently with us from September. This is a much stronger position than the school was in last year and I am pleased that we will be able to offer greater stability to our students in the new academic year.

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We have an exciting future together at The John Roan School and I am totally focused on ensuring that your children receive an ever-improving education here.

Yours faithfully,

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher