19th October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

University Schools Trust

The Headteacher and I met recently with members of the University Schools Trust ("UST") to discuss the conversion to an academy. We discussed the conversion process and the increased involvement of UST in the school as part of the transition. We thought you would appreciate an update on what is going to happen during the transition, and as it is a while since we communicated anything on UST we also thought it was worth reminding you about who they are. As promised last week, Jo Franklin, the Chair of the Governors’ Learning and Achievement Committee, has also written today in a separate letter with an update in progress at the school.

The UST is a young Trust with strong University links including Queen Mary London, King’s College London, Warwick, East London and Greenwich. It is the Trust named as sponsor for The John Roan by the Regional Schools Commissioner at the Department for Education. A formal partnership with the University Schools Trust will help the school to improve outcomes for children without challenging the values of the Foundation established many years ago.

There were meetings last term for parents and leaders from the University Schools Trust. We have heard extremely positive feedback from those meetings. It is a Trust that is careful in its partnerships and clear in its attitude towards learning and teaching. As we noted in our letter in July following these meetings, UST have said that:

- The school will keep its name and uniform
- Staff will keep their jobs and terms and conditions of employment
- Council admissions policies will continue to apply
- It will prioritise improving teaching and learning, behaviour and communication

UST provides answers to other questions you may have on their website, the link is in the footnote1. The Trust includes a number of successful Headteachers and leaders of education who are experienced in supporting schools in difficulty and helping them to make rapid improvement. We believe that the University Schools Trust’s vision is robust and is an excellent match for The John Roan.

With regard to the transition, UST have already started to take a more active involvement in the school, meeting frequently with the Headteacher, the Vice-Chair and me. Their staff will shortly have a temporary base at the school, giving them a more visible presence at the school and they will be observing at Governors’ meetings.

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The University Schools Trust has promised to support us in improving performance – and we believe it will. We are looking forward, and urge you to do the same, so that your children can come to The John Roan with its same values, same ethos, same green uniform and with the very best opportunities for learning that it has provided in this community for more than 300 years.

As ever, if you have any questions or feedback please contact me through the Governors email address: governors@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk. All feedback is very much appreciated.

With very best regards,

David Skinner
**Interim Chair of Governors**