Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of a very long and somewhat turbulent term, the news yesterday was not exactly how I wanted to be starting my last message of the term to you. Nonetheless, we all know that whatever is happening ‘outside’, the important job ‘inside’ is that of rapid school improvement and high quality experiences for the students day after day. We continue to work on this vital agenda and 2019 will bring much more work on that aspect of The John Roan School life. I have appreciated, and value enormously, the messages of support, encouragement and partnership from parents and look forward to continuing to work with you next term. I hope that this newsletter will bring you some good cheer and will remind us all of the very many great things about the school.

Last night my spirits were certainly lifted at the Celebration of Achievement Evening. It was truly lovely to chat with so many young people and their families, to hear about what they are doing now, and to recall some of their experiences at the school. We celebrated academic success and great progress and we were entertained by our accomplished Sixth Form musicians. I would like to thank all of the staff who worked so hard behind the scenes to ensure that the evening was the resounding success that it was.

Also this week we enjoyed our Christmas Concert – a glorious evening of music from students in all year groups and a real celebration of the talent that exists in the school. The John Roan has a huge number of students who benefit from the generosity of the John Roan Foundation, who sponsor music tuition. I know that they were as proud as I was throughout the evening. It never ceases to amaze me how very talented our students are. The students, along with our Music Department, worked so very hard and I would like to thank each and every one of them. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

The JRSA also supported the concert – selling refreshments before the concert and at the interval – raising a significant amount of money to support the school. Their fundraising has been very successful this year and I look forward to the next meeting when they will be considering the bids from school departments and deciding how to allocate the funds. A warm thank you to all of the volunteers who support the school so positively with their time and enthusiasm.

I am very pleased to say that the Year 11 Mock Exams are now complete. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Year 11 students were in school, on time and ready for their exam. Their attendance and attitude has been excellent throughout.

This experience prepares them for the summer exams and provides them with a good indication of their current grades, once all the marking is complete. Many Year 11 students are now thinking about the courses that they want to follow Post 16 and this set of exams will help them to determine their strengths and thus the pathways that would be best for them to pursue.

Today, Year 11 were able to take part in ‘Christmas Jumper Day’, having missed out last Friday due to exam protocol, and I must say they all looked marvellous, whilst adding to the money already raised for Save the Children.
I also wanted to share with you the positive feedback that our students received about yesterday’s trip to the Digital Bazaar at Mycenae House - both Mycenae House staff and Greenwich residents, who have attended the event several times, said how lovely all the students were and how polite.

They chatted about books to the older Greenwich residents, helped them with using their mobile phones, tidied up everyone’s tea and coffee cups, and even ran the quiz for everyone.

They were amazing representatives for the school, and we are very proud of them. The students had a great time and what to go back, and Mycenae House want them back too!

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Final reminder - CHANGE IN SCHOOL UNIFORM – January 2019

Reminder - please note that from January 2019, our school uniform will change slightly. Students, in all year groups, will no longer be required to wear skirts and trousers with The John Roan logo on them. They will be permitted to wear plain black skirts and trousers. If students wish to continue to wear their current skirts and trousers with the logo on, this is acceptable too.

The following school rules still apply –
**Skirts** – should be at knee length and not rolled up at the waistband to make them shorter.
**Trousers** – do not include leggings, black jeans, skin-tight designs etc.

*Please also note that JK Clothing in Eltham will be closed from Monday, 24th December and re-opening on Wednesday, 2nd January.*

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Winter reads - why not read one of these recommended winter books to curl up and read on a cold day? Books are available from the school Library or your local Library.

*Dreaming the Bear* by Mimi Thebo  
*North Child* by Edith Pattou  
*Winter Magic* by Abi Elphinstone  
*A Snow Garden* by Rachel Joyce  
*Winter Stories* by Enid Blyton

Please also find at the end of the newsletter a section from the John Roan School Association (JRSA), which I hope gives you an insight into some of their invaluable work.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful holiday season. Enjoy the festivities and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 7th January at the usual time - for a prompt start to 2019.

Yours faithfully,

Cath Smith  
Executive Headteacher
# Dates for the Diary

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### 24 December 2018 / 4 January 2019 inclusive – SCHOOL CLOSED

## PARENTS EVENINGS 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 January 2019</td>
<td>Year 9 Parents' Evening</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 February 2019</td>
<td>Year 8 Parents' Evening</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 February 2019</td>
<td>Post 16 Parents' Evening</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 April 2019</td>
<td>Year 7 Parents' Evening</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 May 2019</td>
<td>Year 10 Parents' Evening</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
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## SPRING TERM

<table>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>End Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 January 2019</td>
<td>Term begins</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td>8.30 am</td>
<td>2.55 pm</td>
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<td>7 January 2019</td>
<td>Post 16 Mock Exam WEEK</td>
<td>Maze Hill Post 16 Centre (excluding Art)</td>
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<td>14 January 2019</td>
<td>Year 11 Achievement Assembly</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
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<td>28 January 2019</td>
<td>PRIDE Day</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
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<td>29 January 2019</td>
<td>JRSA Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 January 2019</td>
<td>Year 9 Options Evening</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
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<td>18 February 2019</td>
<td>HALF TERM</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March 2019</td>
<td>PRIDE Day</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March 2019</td>
<td>JRSA Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
<td>6.45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 – 22 April 2019</td>
<td>EASTER HOLIDAYS</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
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News from the Guidance and Achievement Leaders

Year 7 Ms Causer JCAUSER@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

The final newsletter from me this year. I have been delighted with the behaviour and progress of the Year 7 students this term. They have all made a wonderful start at The John Roan and have got themselves involved with many activities and after school clubs. Many have already represented the school on trips, sports fixtures, and musical concerts and with guests, working with them for our PRIDE days and special visits, such as Philip Womack.

This week the girls Year 7 football team play their first match, and I will update in the New Year. I wish them the best of luck. The music concert that took place on Tuesday evening and was a fantastic event and I am proud of all the students who took part.

Finally, I can announce that this term’s winners of the most PRIDE points awarded was won by 7N. We also celebrated the form who had made the biggest improvement in PRIDE points, which was 7H. Well done to both form groups for all the effort they have been making in their class. The competition starts again in January!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and New Year. Have a wonderful and restful break.

Mrs Causer, Year 7 GAL

Year 8 Mr Duncan eduncan@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

All that is left to say is have a very Merry Christmas and I wish you and your families a very prosperous New Year!

Just a reminder, we are returning to school at 8:30am on 7th January. We are straight back in to normal lessons from P1.

Seasons Greetings and ho ho ho!

Mr Duncan, Year 8 GAL

Year 9 Ms Smith asmith@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

Despite the exciting build up to this wonderful time of the year, the students have remained focussed on their studies. Whilst preparing for our Celebration of Success Assembly later on today, I added up the total number of achievement points accrued by the whole of Year 9 and the total is 3002 – simply outstanding!

The tutor group with the best attendance is 9J and the tutor group with the most achievement points is 9R, beating 9J by just two points. So congratulations to the whole year group for making a fantastic start to the academic year.

I would also like to thank the Year 9 tutor team, who have been an incredible support to me in my new role as Head of Year. They go above and beyond the call of duty for the benefit of the students on a daily basis.

It now just remains for me to wish you, your families and your friends a very Happy Christmas and every possible happiness and success in 2019!

With best wishes, Mrs Angie Smith, Year 9 GAL
Firstly, I would like to start my final entry for this term by saying a huge thank you to parents of students in Year 10 for your continued support. It is very much appreciated and it is only when we work collegiately together that your child and the school will make the necessary progress that we all want. I’ve been a very lucky Head of Year to have had such fantastically supportive parents of all that we as a school have tried to do for their child.

Huge congratulations to the Year 10 boy’s football team as well. The boys defeated Crown Woods School one nil on Friday evening, thanks to the winning goal from Jason Tokenge, and in so doing making it to the next round of the London Cup. Their coach, Mr Merridan, was very impressed with them and we are all proud of their achievement.

Yesterday in the Blackheath Cup, the boys followed up the victory above with a 13-2 victory over Trinity School, with goals from Jason Tokenge (5), Jai Cheung (3), Enoch Muwonge (3) and Jamar Powell. There is some real talent in the Year 10 boys football team and, if you have time to watch them in their upcoming London Cup or Blackheath Cup games, I would encourage you to do so, as Mr Merridan has them playing at a very high quality. Well done to all the boys in the team and not just the goal scorers, as the team is never about any one individual.

We have our termly celebration of achievement assembly on Friday and boy is there a lot to celebrate. The Year 10s have been leading the way in more ways than I can mention. Their behaviour, on the whole, has been fantastic. Punctuality to school and lessons has been brilliant. Attendance as a year group is excellent (though could be better). Their engagement in lessons has been really good also, barring a few exceptions. The only major area that the year group continue to cause me concern is with their homework. Far too often it is not completed and unfortunately, even more often, when completed it is not of the required standard as students have rushed it. Please can I continue to ask for your support in this. Please check their planners/Show My Homework to see if they have been issued with homework and once completed please check through their homework and that they have placed it into their school bag. I know that this may take up some of your time but your child will appreciate (believe me they do, even when they pretend otherwise) the interest that you are placing in their education. I’m also aware that the vast majority of you already do this but this plea is for those parents that don’t do so as yet.

The progress that I’ve seen so many students make over the last term is inspiring and keeps me and others going, as challenging as things have been. I have no doubt that with an even more collegiate relationship between the school and home, students will make even more progress over the next term and coming 18 months.

The uniform in Year 10 over the last term has also been exemplary. Over the last week or so, a few trainers have started appearing. I know that school shoes break and will need replacing, so please could you ensure that any item of school uniform that needs replacing is done over the Christmas break and all students are in full school uniform on their return to school on Monday, 7th January 2019 (usual start time).

Speaking of Monday 7th January, we have a company called Box Clever coming in to deliver a GCSE English workshop on Romeo and Juliet during periods 3 and 4. The performance is for an hour, which is followed by a 30 minute workshop. The performance is designed to support the English curriculum so it is very important that your child is in attendance as they can benefit hugely from this support.
We have a taster day at the London School of Economics arranged for 30 Year 10 students on Thursday, 17th January 2019. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students fortunate enough to be selected. Letters were sent home a week or so ago by Ms McKenna through ParentPay. Please could you complete and return the reply slips as soon as possible, so that we may get all the necessary paperwork completed. If you do not wish for your child to take up this opportunity, please let us know asap so that we can offer the place to another student. We have another date confirmed for 30 more students later in the academic year and we are endeavouring to secure another date.

Year 10 reports will be sent home this week and you may have already received your child’s report by the time you are reading this article. When looking at your child’s report, rather than asking them what they are failing/not doing well in, ask them what they could do differently in that subject to what they did this term or could they have put more effort into the subject? Did they always complete the homework for that subject? Was it of a high enough standard? It’s important to get students to reflect on how they can improve rather than focussing on any negative aspects of the report (should there be any).

Please could you think about the below until my next newsletter entry. Please feel free to drop me a line if you have figured out its significance;

What is the relationship between the following numbers: 38/52 x 5/7 x 7/24 = 15%

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and for those parents/families that do not celebrate Christmas, I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable break and I’m very much looking forward to seeing your child in January, who will be more dedicated, more determined and more reflective towards their studies.

Luke Thomas, Guidance and Achievement Leader for Year 10

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Ms Sumner</th>
<th><a href="mailto:tsumner@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk">tsumner@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk</a></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 GAL</td>
<td>Ms Sumner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsumner@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk">tsumner@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk</a></td>
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I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful, safe and restful Christmas break.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Ms Sumner, Year 11 GAL

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<tr>
<th>Post 16</th>
<th>Mr Williams</th>
<th><a href="mailto:bwilliams@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk">bwilliams@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post 16</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bwilliams@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk">bwilliams@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk</a></td>
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I have written home for all Post 16 students with end of term grades and information for their Mock Exams and return to school. Please can you keep a look out for this letter in the Christmas post.

We have had a really busy year in the Sixth Form and are happy to report that, following the release of National Progress data for the 2018 exam results, we now know that our students performed better that National Average in both A-levels and Level 3 BTEC qualifications.

We are really pleased with these outcomes and it reiterates to us that in our Sixth Form, students are able to achieve good outcomes throughout their time here. Well done class of 2018 and we look forward to getting even greater results in 2019 and 2020, as we know how hard our students are working.

Mr Williams, Director of Post 16
As ever, the end of the Christmas term has been extremely busy in the Music Department.

On Tuesday, we had the Christmas Concert, which was very well received by parents and staff. All the students involved were fantastic and I would like to congratulate all of them for putting on such an excellent show. Particular praise must go to some of the Year 7 students who were performing in front of a big audience for the first time (especially the string group who only started learning the violin in September!).

I would also like to say a huge thanks to you - the parents. To those that attended the concert, to those whose children were performing in the concert and to all those that have encouraged and supported your child’s musical development. It was lovely to speak to some of you on Tuesday evening and it was very evident to me how much musical support you have given.

The JRSA provided refreshments, mince pies and a raffle for the concert, so a big thank you to them also for their hard work in making Tuesday such a positive, fun and festive event.

On Thursday evening, we had the celebration of achievement evening, where two year 12 students will performed in front of last year’s Year 11 cohort. Phoebe Cheshire-Miles and Inaki Concepcion-Sanchez (of Spanish radio fame from a couple of weeks ago!) performed two songs, ‘Fight Song’ and ‘The Climb’.

Then on Friday, we have the Achievement Assemblies, so yet more music! Anthony Belous will be performing his original composition during the Year 7 assembly, whilst Isaac Gill-Romain will be performing ‘Stay with Me’ for the Year 8 assembly. It takes a great deal of courage to perform in front of your own year group so well done to these four students and good luck!

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Mr Wright, Head of Music
News from the JRSA

Are you doing any last minute online shopping? Did you know you can raise money for The John Roan by simply shopping through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). It is so easy to use and you can help raise money through your own shopping.

Follow these easy steps, go to the website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) -

1. Search for a cause by typing in the John Roan School Association - Greenwich and click on it
2. Click the pink button "support this cause"
3. Log in by registering your email or if you are already a member then log in with your password and email
4. Then shop away

You can choose to have the symbol on your search bar so that every time you shop online, you click on the symbol first and then start shopping. Everything you buy will give the school a contribution and it doesn’t cost you anything extra. So simple, you can book anything through it, from a holiday to your groceries.

**SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND HELP US TO RAISE MORE FUNDS**

Our next meeting is on the 29th January 2019 at 6.45pm in the Westcombe Park building, where we will be looking at bids for each department and heads of years, you are welcome to join us in our funding decision.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school email at JRSA@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk.