Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, yesterday saw another strike day at The John Roan by members of the GMB union, and they were joined by NEU members too. During the day, five primary schools worked alongside our talented and enthusiastic sports leaders as part of the Borough-wide Primary Athletics initiative. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for the school, and received much well deserved praise for their hard work and commitment to giving the primary school children an excellent experience. It was a good day for sports all round, as the Year 8 football team excelled themselves by reaching the semi-finals of a tournament held at Charlton Athletic. Meanwhile, Year 11 students attended school to continue preparing for their mocks and demonstrated a very positive attitude to learning, with one group of PE students spending the day kayaking as part of their GCSE course.

It is with deep regret that I must warn all parents that there is a possibility of further strike action this term. I will provide you with confirmation of this once I have further details, but for now, please could you make a note that there could be strike action on 11th, 12th and 13th December. I would like to reassure the parents of Year 11 that I will ensure the mock exams continue throughout any disruption to the school, but the provision for other year groups on these days cannot be certain, as I am sure that you will all appreciate. As ever, if any parent is unable to make suitable provision for their child on a strike day, they should contact me and I will see if there is something that we can do to help out.

On Monday evening, we had a number of John Roan students participating in the Royal Greenwich Music Gala at Blackheath Halls –

- Phoebe Cheshire-Miles (Y12) and Zuriel Williams-Kabasomi (Y10) performed an outstanding vocal duet
- Jude Smith and Daniel Kennett-Brown (both Y9) performed with the Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Choir
- Elias Hickman (Y10), Leo Jackson-Horne (Y11) and Erin Daniels (Y9) performed with the Royal Greenwich Youth Orchestra
- Leo Jackson-Horne (Y11) and Erin Daniels (Y9) performed with the Royal Greenwich Big Band

Please congratulate all those involved, as all were superb. Erin, Elias and Leo also performed on Tuesday night for the second Gala Concert.

We hosted our annual Post 16 Open Evening on Wednesday. This was another great opportunity to showcase the school and to speak to Year 11 students from John Roan and other local schools about our curriculum offer Post 16 and the range of additional activities that we offer here. Such evenings are always a good opportunity to remind Year 11 – who are already working hard – that their grades in the summer are important in shaping their futures.
In addition, on Wednesday, 28th November our team of newly created Community Librarians met with staff from Mycenae House to find out more about working as Digital Buddies, and to talk about the Inter-Generational Book Project. They discussed how they can help older Greenwich residents with their ICT problems, as part of the Digital Buddy and what new things that they could teach them.

The students involved were amazingly enthusiastic, and the staff from Mycenae House were very impressed with the student’s brilliant attitude and knowledge.

We are looking forward to working with Mycenae House and the future projects that we are taking part in more projects.

Our second PRIDE Day took place today, with an extensive programme of activities for each year group. The PRIDE Days enable us to deliver a comprehensive programme of personal, social and health education across the year and provide a good opportunity for us to bring in outside speakers and organisations to provide expert input into these important curriculum areas. Your children will give you feedback about their particular experiences, and I have been really excited at the variety of activities that are running today. Year 9 for example, have had four different external visiting groups working with them today.

Last Saturday was the first in a series of ‘Saturday Schools’ that we are running to support Year 11 students in their studying and preparation for their exams. A large number of undergraduates from universities such as Kings College London were in school to work with small groups of Year 11 all morning, as they went through past exam papers and revised key information and skills. The feedback from the students – and the undergraduates – was overwhelmingly positive and it was very encouraging to see so many of our students benefitting from this great partnership.

I am also really pleased to have a long list of parents who have volunteered to support Year 11 students after school with their revision and study skills. Thank you to all who have made contact with the JRSA to express an interest in this. We are now doing the necessary administration to enable us to get started with this support as soon as possible.

Other parents have volunteered to help raise standards at the school by coming in to speak to students about their careers. We are compiling a database of volunteers for this so that staff can contact you directly to ask for your services. If you would like to be included in this exciting initiative, please let us know what you would be able to talk about, how we can contact you and some notes about your availability. Thank you in advance for this.

To promote Reading for Pleasure at home for the whole family, and due to student interest, the Libraries are launching a new collection of books called The Sibling Collection. This is a collection of books for John Roan students to read with their younger siblings. These books can be borrowed as normal from the Libraries. Please contact The Libraries directly if you have any additional questions.

The next JRSA meeting is next week. Wednesday 5th December at 6.45pm at the Westcombe Park site. All parents are welcome to come along and discuss how they can support the school, raise funds for the school and continue to build a strong community partnership of parents to support the school.

Finally, please can parents ensure that where new medical conditions are diagnosed, that the school is informed immediately. This will ensure that relevant staff are informed and, where necessary, an Individual Health Care Plan can be produced in conjunction with the School Nurse.
Students with Asthma should carry their own inhalers; please can parents check that students leave home with their inhaler. Students should also have an emergency inhaler in school, which will be stored in our Reception area/s.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher

NB – TWITCH Parents' Guide attached.
## THE WEEK AHEAD

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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## PARENTS EVENINGS 2018/19

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<td>Year 9 Parents' Evening</td>
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## AUTUMN TERM

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<td>Celebration of Achievement Eve</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
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<td>21 December 2018</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM</td>
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News from the Guidance and Achievement Leaders

Year 7

Ms Causer  JCAUSER@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

We have now passed the halfway point of this term and the PRIDE point’s competition is very close, with only a couple of points between the tops places. Students have been working hard in their lessons and being rewarded for their efforts.

Ms Allen, the School Librarian took a group of Year 7 & 8 students to the Community Librarian meeting this week to help at Mycenae House. Mrs Allen has written:

“They were really impressed with the enthusiasm and knowledge of the students, and they thought that they were "lovely", which is a direct quote. We are hoping to expand the project with some additional training and with the end goal of the students helping to run a Digital Bazaar, but that's a long way off.

The following students were involved:
Angel Madu
Asim Sapkota
Rebecca Davies
Martha Williams Peppiatt
Sean Faulkner
Kuukuwa Buckman
Nathan Bauge
Linda Gusque
David Pegler

Well done to all who participated in this event.

I look forward to letting you know about PRIDE day 2 and how it went next week, until then have a lovely week.

Mrs Causer, Year 7 GAL

Year 8

Mr Duncan  eduncan@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

We are fast approaching the end of our first term in Year 8. I have been hugely impressed by a number of our Year 8 students; including our new starters who have settled in very well and seem like they have been a John Roan since Year 7.

The Year 8 girls football team were brilliant on Thursday the 29th. This is the Year 8 girl's first football tournament this year and I am very pleased to say they went all the way to the Semi Finals, before being beaten on penalties. A huge well done must go to the following girls: Wendy Nguyen 8O, Lizge Sari 8T, Coco Cardona 8O, Sanna Habib 8H, Aleyna Kirci 8H, Samyra Mawete 8T, Macayla Riney-Lucas 8E and Ikraam Mohamed 8E.

We are currently involved in our PRIDE Day 2 plans and two Tutor Groups are visiting four different heritage sites/museums with the focus of Remembrance Day. 8J and 8A are visiting the Imperial War Museum. 8H and 8T are visiting the National Army Museum. 8R and 8O are visiting HMS Belfast. 8N and 8E are visiting the Royal Air Force Museum.

At the end of PRIDE day, we have the opportunity for our School Council Representatives to deliver a speech explaining why they should be the two nominated Councillors. The two
chosen Councillors will represent the whole year cohort in the full School Council Meetings. The first full School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, 5th December.

We also have our first ‘Bake Off’ Competition, which will begin on Thursday, 6th December. The sign-up sheets are outside the Y8 office door. If your child has signed up to the competition, they will need to bring ingredients and a recipe! They have 1hr 30mins to produce their bake!

In the New Year, I am very eager to organise a trip to visit the London Metropolitan University. Our students will get a chance to experience university-style lessons/equipment/ facilities. The pictures look amazing and very inspirational! I would love for many of our students to aspire to go to university and possibly be the first in their family to achieve a Degree. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Have a good weekend!

Mr Duncan, Year 8 GAL

Firstly, I would like to congratulate three members of Year 9: Daniel Kennett-Brown, Jude Smith and Erin Daniels who gave outstanding performances at The Royal Greenwich Music Gala at Blackheath Hall. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend. However, Mr Wright, our Head of Music, was able to go and he was incredibly impressed at the quality and standard of their performances.

I am delighted to announce that our Year 9 fundraiser for this term is being held next week. We are holding an Inter-Tutorial Five-a-Side Football Tournament in aid of The Palace Foundation. The Palace Foundation is a wonderful charity that works very closely with schools, colleges and local community agencies in South London, supporting young people from deprived backgrounds and anyone with mental health issues.

The Tutor Groups have submitted their teams and we held the draw in this week’s assembly, with the help of Ms Mann and some of the students. We are holding the heats immediately after school on Monday, 3rd December and Wednesday 5th, December in the Sports Hall. The semi-finals will be held at the same time and venue on Thursday, 6th December. The final will be held in the New Year, as we have some guests of honour from the Crystal Palace’s first football team, who have kindly agreed to referee the final.

In order to spectate or compete in the tournament, the students need to make a one-off voluntary contribution of £1.00, which goes directly to The Palace Foundation.

The results of the heats and the finalists will be announced in next week’s Year 9 Newsletter. Some of my Tutor Team are also planning to lead by example and make a donation to The Foundation and play a staff five-a-side football match.

With best wishes.

Mrs Angie Smith, Year 9 GAL
Year 10s are involved in PRIDE Day 2 today as I write this entry. The first session for all students is going really well with a lot of positive engagement, as students are either taking part in sessions around why they should go to university, speaking to undergraduates about university life, preparing a CV for experience or writing a personal statement to help with their work experience. I will be able to provide you with more details about how today has unfolded for the year group in next week’s entry, which should include some feedback from students.

We now only have 3 weeks until the end of the Autumn term. These remaining days matter as much as any of the previous ones. I know that it’s the time of year where students may pick up illnesses, but please could you send your child to school if you think that they are able to come in. We will definitely keep a very close eye on them and if they deteriorate then we will contact you to inform you of this and allow them to go home, once collected. On many occasions, students start to feel much better once they are in school and value not missing out on a day of learning.

I’m pleased to announce that Ms McKenna and I have secured 30 spaces for a university visit to the London School of Economics for Year 10s on the 17th, January. Letters will be coming home before the end of term for those students selected to attend this session. We are awaiting confirmation for three other dates that we have requested for a total of 90 other students in the year group to also visit LSE next year.

Next Tuesday evening, we will be visiting Somerset House for our annual end of term ice-skating. More on this in next week’s entry.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you, as always, for your continued support!

Luke Thomas, Guidance and Achievement Leader for Year 10

Post 16 Applications
A reminder that Year 11 students should be applying now for Post 16 placements/colleges. Students should apply for a minimum of three provisions. Ms Kayser is available at lunchtimes in the work breakout area to help students with their applications.

Attendance and Punctuality
100% attendance in Year 11 is vital for success and achievement. Research statistics show that a student with excellent attendance (95%+), achieves on average half a grade to a grade more than a student with less than 95%. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and on time. It is extremely important that every student is on time for registration. In Year 11, registration time is used for the completion of college applications, revision, subject support and interventions and the completion of their ‘Record of Achievement/CV’.

Ms Sumner, Year 11 GAL

End of Term Grades and Mock Exam Timetable
We will be sending home a letter before the end of term updating you on your child’s progress this term. This will include both the target grade we think they should be capable of achieving
at the end of Year 13 and a predicted grade too. The predicted grades are what your child’s teacher(s) for that subject think they are most likely to achieve, also at the end of Year 13. Any discrepancy between your child’s prediction and target grade shows that they may be under or over achieving in that subject. We hope this information will be useful for you.

Mock exams for both Year 12 and Year 13 students will take place in the week beginning 7th January. I will include a timetable with the letter for you too, so you can support your child’s revision in the next month or so.

**Celebration of Achievement Evening**

We have invited students from last year’s GCSE and A-level cohorts to come to the school to celebrate all their hard work and formally receive their exam certificates. This event takes place this year on Thursday, 20th December from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. If you have a child/student that completed exams with us last year, could you please check they have returned the RSVP slip, because space is often limited and we are keen that no one who is planning to come misses out.

Mr Williams, Director of Post 16
We had an exciting start to the week with the Royal Greenwich Music Gala on Monday and Tuesday evening. These concerts saw 33 different ensembles from 21 Greenwich Schools, 3 Greenwich ensembles and over 600 students performing in the newly refurbished Blackheath Halls.

Zuriel Williams-Kabasomi, Year 10, and Phoebe Cheshire-Miles, Year 12, represented The John Roan on Monday and sang superbly; their performance was excellently received by the audience. Other John Roan students that performed in the concert were Daniel Kennett Brown, Jude Smith, Erin Daniels (all Year 9), Elias Hickman and Simon Hall (Year 10) and Leo Jackson-Horne (Year 11). Daniel and Jude performed with the Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Choir whilst Leo, Elias and Erin performed with the Royal Greenwich Youth Orchestra. Erin, Leo and Simon also performed with The Royal Greenwich Big Band. Congratulations to all students involved as these concerts were of a very high standard.

This week we have the Junior Choir taking part in the annual Maritime Schools Christmas Concert in the Old Naval College on Monday. They will be singing the Simon and Garfunkel classic, ‘Bridge Over Troubled Water’, before joining with all the other schools to perform a joint choir’s version of ‘Jingle Bell Rock’. Parents are welcome to attend this free concert and it will take place from 1:00pm to 2:15pm.

Then on Tuesday, we will be hosting our first informal instrumental concert of the year. We have a range of instruments/voices performing and all are welcome to attend. This concert will take place from 3:15 – 4:30pm in Maze Hill Hall and will be free of charge.

Another reminder, that we have our biggest event of the term, the Christmas Concert, taking place on Tuesday, 18th December in Maze Hill Hall. The concert will take place from 6:30 – 8:15pm and tickets for this event will be on sale later this week from Reception at both sites at the price of £3 for adults and £1 for concessions.

Mr Wright, Head of Music