14 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer.

A number of you have asked for communication that is more regular and so I am going to trial a weekly newsletter to see whether this is something that will assist in improving the flow of information from school to home. Over the next few weeks, this may change in format and style as we experiment with what works, what is possible, and as we hear from you what you think about it. I am aiming to send this to you via Parent Pay on each Friday.

I am pleased to report that the term has started very positively. After the long break, it is great to have the students back in the school and to welcome new students to Years 7 and 12, Year 9 into Westcombe Park and everyone else back to school. In particular, following the disjointed end to last term, it has been evident that the students have relished the certainty of the rhythm of school life and have settled quickly into a keen focus on their learning.

This term we welcome many new members of staff to the school – 15 new teachers, as well as a number of new teaching assistants and support staff. This puts us in a very strong position in terms of teaching and learning this year. I am sure that parents will be pleased to know that their children will be getting regular teachers for their lessons and so can begin to build the strong relationships that are so fundamental to good learning and a feeling of security.

Ties
There are a number of students wearing the wrong colour of tie this term. I am sorry if this is a miscommunication on my part, though I think it is just a general confusion, and hope that the following information will help to ensure that all students are very quickly in the right ties.

We have a different colour of tie for each year group, which currently remains with the students throughout their journey with us. The colours are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Blue</td>
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Whitehall Clothiers have said that they are willing to swap ties that they have sold in error. In addition, we now have a very small stock of different colour ties so that we can help with swaps for some students. Students should speak with their GAL about this.
Maze Hill
For those of you visiting the Maze Hill site, please note that the Reception area is now at the main entrance, accessed from Maze Hill. We have relocated it back here to provide a much more welcoming space for visitors to that building.

Weekly News
Each week, the GALs will be writing a piece in this newsletter. This will give you all the opportunity to see some of the things that are happening across the school, but also to hear from the specific GAL for your child/children. We welcome some new GALs to the team this year: Ms Causer is now the GAL for Year 7, Mr Duncan for Year 8 and Ms Smith for Year 9. Mr Thomas, Year 10 and Ms Sumner, Year 11, are well known to those of you with children in these year groups. Mr Williams and Ms Cook continue to oversee the students in Years 12 and 13.

Yours faithfully,

Cath Smith
Headteacher
News from the Guidance and Achievement Leaders

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

The Year 7’s have continued to settle in very well and I have been able to see, as I walk around the building, that they are focused and engaged in their lessons, which is very pleasing and a great start to their time at The John Roan.

PRIDE points are building and I will be setting up some inter-form competitions to see which form can build the most points each term, with a small prize for the winners. Punctuality and attendance has been very good this week, with students arriving for form time promptly at 8.25. Thank you all for your help with this.

Please note that the Year 7 Parents evening date I sent in my introduction letter to you this week, was incorrect, the date should have been Tuesday 2nd April 2019. Please do amend in your diaries, and I apologise for this misinformation.

Mrs Causer, Year 7 GAL

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

Our Year 8s have started this year fantastically well. I am hearing many good news stories from many teachers and subjects; including History, Music, Science and PE to name a few.

We have almost filled all of our student leadership roles: Sports Captains, School Council Representatives and School Ambassadors. This year, we are strongly focused on student leadership as well as extra-curricular engagement in order to provide all of our students with plenty of opportunity to grow and develop beyond the classroom.

We are about to begin our inter-form sports competitions (tutor groups will compete against each other), which will happen every half term with a different sport. This half-term, we will be focussing on Football. The Student Council Representatives may suggest an idea about what an overall prize could be for the winning tutor group, as well as any other issue that they feel could change/improve.

I have just launched a School Ambassador Programme for Year 8 students. I am very excited about this brand new role for this year. Our School Ambassadors will act as Prefects for our Maze Hill Building assisting with tours of the school to new/perspective families, assisting during Open Days/Evenings, which will start from next week.

We also now have a link with the new IKEA, which is being built on the Peninsula. Fifteen keen students will have an opportunity to learn about sustainable living; growing your own vegetables and making draught-excluders as the winter months approach.

Many, many exciting things happening this year for Year 8.

Mr Duncan, Year 8 GAL
My name is Angie Smith and I am the new Guidance and Achievement Leader for Year 9.

I am very happy and excited about my new role at The John Roan and I look forward to getting to know your child and working closely with you to ensure that he/she reaches their full potential in all aspects of school life.

I will be working closely with your child’s form tutor and subject teachers to monitor your child’s academic progress across the curriculum and to organise intervention if or when required, ensuring academic success in every subject.

I will ensure that your child feels happy and safe at all times. The students know that my door is always open if they need to talk about anything. The only time my office door is not open is when I am teaching. So, if your child needs to speak to someone and I am teaching or in a meeting, then they can go to the Pastoral Support Team. Ms Kayser and Ms McKenna are experienced non-teaching members of staff who are there to support your child at all times.

I will be organising extra-curricular activities such as competitions, fund-raising activities and outings on a regular basis throughout the school year.

Listed below are the names and email addresses of the Year 9 Tutor Team.

9J: Ms Mann: rmann@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9O: Mr Vigilante: p vigilante@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9H: Ms Kerrins: akerrins@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9N: Mr Craigmyle: jcraigmyle@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9R: Mr Ahmad: rahmad@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9A: Ms Horn: shorn@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9T: Ms George-Allen: gallen@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk
9E: Mr Whitethread: g whitethread@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk

Year 9 have had a great start to the new academic year and there is a real sense of excitement and anticipation as they look forward to all that lies ahead. They have settled down extremely well into the building at Westcombe Park.

I am delighted to report that many students have already had postcards sent home for outstanding academic achievement and there have been many achievement points awarded for outstanding effort and producing work of an excellent standard.

Our new Headteacher, Mrs Smith, came to our assembly on Wednesday and she delivered an inspirational message about determination. Judging by all the postcards and awards being given out by the teaching staff, the message has well and truly been taken on board. Mrs Smith also gave out
music examination certificates to a number of Year 9 students who have recently taken their grade exams.

It has also been very encouraging to see Year 9 students arriving to school on time, looking very smart and fully equipped to learn.

Many congratulations go to Raphael Higgins-Humes in 9N, who has landed yet another part in a West End show: “Camelot” at The London Palladium.

Well done Year 9! Keep up the great work that you have started!

I look forward to working with you and your child to ensure that the next three crucial years of his/her life are years of enrichment, fulfilment and success.

Mrs Angie Smith, Year 9 GAL

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Year 10

It has been an absolutely fantastic start to the new academic year for Year 10s. They have come back very focussed and determined and their first week has been one of many congratulations for their hard work, with me having to speak to only a tiny minority of students concerning behaviour. The prime issue has been around homework, so your support in checking that this is completed on time would be greatly appreciated.

The options guidance seems to have been very thorough and the year group have settled into their GCSE option choices. All students, barring 5, were able to get their first four option choices and the 5 above all got one of their reserve choices, so the whole year group were able to get the option that they chose.

The tutor group changes that were made at the end of the last academic year seem to have also made a positive contribution to the excellent start to the new academic year with students being more settled and focussed. With this continued and determined effort, I see no reason why your child should not achieve or surpass his/her potential.

Attendance so far for Year 10s is well over 96%, with less students being late to school than I have fingers. No student from 10J or 10R have any recorded lateness to school as yet.

I am particularly pleased to report that 10R has an attendance of 99% so far this term, and 10A a fantastic 99.4%. Well done to both of those forms and, of course, to everyone in the year group who has been in school, on time and working hard every day this term.

We expect students to have an attendance percentage above 97%, as any day missed from school is a day of learning lost!

Please pass on my congratulations on an excellent start to the academic year to your child and thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks, Luke Thomas, Guidance and Achievement Leader for Year 10
Congratulations to our Year 11 students for an excellent start back to this academic year. They have come into school ready and prepared to achieve the best results they can.

A huge well done for the positive attitude they displayed at this week’s Year 11 Progression Fair at Ravensbourne College. All students found the fair extremely useful in preparing them for their Post 16 choices. We have had feedback from the organisers of the event to say that our students conducted themselves in an exemplarily manor – engaged, polite and a credit to the school. Well done to them all.

A particular well done to Jude Ayling, who has been selected to attend the initial identification camp for Great Britain’s under 16 Ice Hockey Team, in preparation for playing for the Great Britain Team.

Ms Sumner, Year 11 GAL

Thank you to all our new Year 12 students who have enrolled with us last week. We are really pleased to have a serious and committed cohort and are really excited to work with them.

I am available to speak to any parents, those new to the school or not, and you can book a time to see me on 0208 516 7591. Also can we ask that if your child is off school for any reason, such as illness, please could you contact the school’s absence line, like other students lower down the school on 0208 516 7558.

Ben Williams, Director of Post 16