



The John Roan School Association - Minutes of PTA Meeting Wednesday 12th March 2025

Attendees: JRSA Committee and Trustees
Dr Jennie Sanderson - Principal
Ms Bivolakou (Culture Day Update)
Mr Ayipeh (Culture Day Update)
Parents/Carers - over 30 in attendance

Apologies: Lucie Murphy - Secretary/Trustee

Agenda

Intro and JRSA Overview from Sam Woodgate - JRSA Co-Chair
JRSA Events 2025 Upcoming
Update on International/Culture Day 2025
School Update from Dr Jennie Sanderson
AOB

Welcome/Introduction

JRSA Co-Chair Sam opened the meeting and welcomed parents/carers joining online.

JRSA UPDATE

Lottery Draw and Winners

There was an increase in the number of parents who have signed up to be part of the fundraising lottery which is a good sign. The winners this term were, Shiela Winstanley, taking the first prize of £52 and Martin Tynan taking the second prize of £26.

Events Upcoming 2025

Albert Lee Concert - Friday 28th March
Pre-Worn Uniform Sale – Tuesday 1st April
International/Culture Day – Friday 4th April

Roan Raffle

The JRSA committee is currently looking at how JR **Raffle** will work as a big fundraiser. This will involve contacting local businesses or bigger companies to secure higher value prizes which can be raffled online or through an organised raffle site. Help from parent volunteers and those with raffle expertise will be required to make this happen. More updates on this coming soon.

JRSA Committee Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the JRSA committee to take on the role of Co-Treasurer working alongside our current Treasurer, Ivis. If you are interested and perhaps have a background in accounts or finance, please contact jrsa@thejohnroandschool.co.uk.

The John Roan School at 350!

As was raised in the JRSA meeting in January, The John Roan School will celebrate 350 years in 2027. It will be important for this to be recognized therefore we want to start thinking about how this year of celebration will take shape, involving teachers, students, parents/carers and the wider Greenwich community. Eve advised that a feedback/ideas form will be circulated soon, asking for input and ideas and she advised 'to think big'!

Successful Funding Bids

A recent bid for Camcorders was received and successfully approved by the Committee and Trustees/

Staff can now submit a bid for funding at any time of the year by completing a bidding application form and sending it to Eve or Sam.

International/Culture Day 2025 – Friday 4th April

Ms Bivolakou and Mr Ayipeh outlined the plans and objectives for the upcoming International Day. This very popular event will celebrate culture, heritage, ethnicity and the traditional values of all our students/teachers, parents and carers. To avoid overcrowding and so that performances are not interrupted, doors will open for a strict 30-minute entry timeframe. There will be student performances, students and teachers will be encouraged to wear clothes that celebrate heritage and culture. The school community has also been asked to bring in food and delicacies that represent their country to share on the night.

Parent volunteers will set up and help on the night with serving food and running the bar for drinks and refreshments.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Co-Secretary, Lucie, works closely with HAF organisers. The programme will run again during the second week of the Easter holidays at Maze Hill, which offers free activities and meals to eligible children during school holidays. It is funded by the Department for Education and aims to improve children's well-being, health, and learning. The program provides a wide range of activities, including physical activities, creative sessions, nutritional workshops, and fun days out.

SCHOOL UPDATE from Principal, Dr Jennie Sanderson

Yr11/Yr13 Mock Exams

Dr Sanderson expressed how positively the students have approached these last set of mock exams and how well attended the breakfast booster session have been. Exam season can be a tiring and anxious time for many and to provide mentoring and motivation the exams have been complimented with a well-being event and a tea and cake party to help balance this out.

Many Yr11 students are very keen to continue their key stage 5 education at the 6th form.

6th Form University Offers

Offers have been received for a number of students from top Russell Group Universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial and Durham and Vet School. Subjects include Engineering, Economics and Japanese. Good luck to all students.

EXTRA CURRICULAR EVENTS

The Magic Flute

Members of the school choir were lucky to attend the performance of The Magic Flute at the ESO.

Music Concert Key Stage 4 and 5

Students are practising hard to showcase their talents at the music concert to be held on Monday 31st March. Mr Barker and music team have worked with students to put on an exciting and varied musical programme to which parents and students can look forward.

Sporting activities – London Schools Cross Country Race

Around 312 students from schools across London took part. Two of our 6th form students took 4th and 6th places, a fantastic achievement and will be part of the selection process for the London Team.

Jack Petchey Speak Out

A group of Yr10 students were part of several students across the Borough in this final round. An amazing achievement to get this far and they did themselves proud. Thank you to Ms Butler who co-ordinated the team.

Debate Mate

Students who are part of this enrichment club successfully got through to round two and received positive feedback on how they conducted themselves and respected others during the event. Well done to all.

Model UN Trip to New York

A number of students had the fantastic opportunity of being part of the school Model UN trip taking place in New York. Visiting landmarks from the Statue of Liberty and Central Park, ending with the Conference on Thursday and Friday. The standard was outstanding, and our students competed with confidence and maturity. It was an amazing experience for both students and teachers who accompanied them.

CURRICULUM REVIEW

Dr Sanderson and SLT team are undertaking a curriculum review to ensure subject options are broad and balanced and that cater for a variety of interests. The three choices from the option block will remain as is but RE will now become a core subject.

Students will be given pathways to guide their choices, and more detailed information will be provided at the Options evening after the Easter break.

OUTSIDE SPACE/PLAYGROUND AREA

Plans are underway to understand how the outside space at Westcombe Park can be used better to provide all students with a place to enjoy. An edible garden, a small farm area with rabbits have been some ideas. Yr7 and 8 girls will have the courts area on days especially for them.

Parent Questions to Dr Sanderson

Q. The newsletter update has changed to being emailed on a Monday and not Friday.

A. This is just a case of managing workload and going forward will possibly aim to a return to Fridays.

Q. Teacher training for ADHD students – when will this be?

A. The Inset Day on the return after the Easter Break, there will be an ADHD Training Day by UL. Ms Masson is the dedicated teacher who leads our ADHD Students, and she will be working with each student to develop individual and tailored learning plans that can be effectively implemented in the classroom.

A parents' evening for SEN students will be arranged soon.

Dr Sanderson added that all areas of neurodiversity are being reviewed to ensure quality first teaching for all students and training will also take place on Inset day but importantly ongoing.

Q. Has the 'Boy/Girl' line up process been updated?

A. Yes, line-ups are now organized by register order and is working well.

Other topics clarified by Dr Sanderson:

'Supervised rest breaks' have now been renamed 'Regulation Breaks' and is backed up by a new process for students who are permitted to leave the classroom. The break will be more focused on having new techniques and more structured activities whilst the student is absent from the room.

Dr Sanderson is committed to reducing the number of agency staff used when teachers are absent for training or personal circumstances.

The newly introduced phone policy is working well and the number of phones visible on site has reduced significantly. Dr Sanderson also stressed that a child's safety is never put at risk and parents will always be contacted to advise if a phone has been confiscated.

Dr Sanderson will follow up on the access to the girls' toilets on the 2nd and 3rd floors

To better manage the queues at lunchtime, a longer lunch break is being considered with a change to the finish time at the end of the school day. An update on this is expected after the Easter break.

Dr Sanderson will also review the waiting list for piano and drums lessons.

Next Online Meeting: Wednesday 7th May at 6.45pm