



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Secondary Transition 2023

Welcome!

Many of your questions are answered in our Welcome Assembly which is recorded and can be watched here - [John Roan School Welcome Meeting March 2023](#)



Additional questions and answers can be found below:

#### **How many places are there for Year 7 in 2023?**

We have 180 places for Year 7 in September 2023.

#### **Will students be taught Computer Science?**

Computer Science is on the Key Stage 3 curriculum for September 2023, and we are also offering it as a new course for Year 12 in September 2023.

Students are taught the IT skills that are needed for them to write emails, access their online platforms, attach documents to emails, use spreadsheets etc through the broader curriculum that includes their form time and PSHE lessons.

#### **Do students have lockers?**

We do have lockers in the Westcombe Park building but we do not have enough to be able to provide every student with a locker. Priority is given to the older students who need to be able to secure their property whilst sitting exams.



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## **Can students bring their mobile phone into school?**

We operate a 'see it, hear it, lose it' approach to mobile phones. Students may bring their phone if they wish to, but the phone must be switched off throughout the day and cannot be used. If the phone is seen or heard, then it will be confiscated until the end of the day.

Any phone, or other personal property, is brought into school at the student's own risk. We do not accept liability for lost, stolen or damaged phones.

## **What modern foreign languages are taught in the school?**

Students in Key Stage 3 learn Spanish.

Some students whose mother tongue is not English are able to sit a GCSE in their mother tongue. This is not taught at the school, but we do accommodate any student wishing to sit an exam in an additional language.

We offer French and Spanish at A level.

## **What residential opportunities are there?**

Our main residential opportunity is to Braithwaite – the Hope Memorial Camp is situated just outside the village of Braithwaite in the Lake District and accommodates 26 students. Years 7 – 10 have a week every year and the visit is open to those who wish to go, with places allocated on merit (looking at attendance, attitude to learning, behaviour etc). You can read more about Braithwaite [here](#).

## **Will you be visiting the feeder primary schools?**

Yes. We always try to visit as many of the feeder primary schools as possible in order to talk to the Year 6 staff, find out more about the students and to talk to the students before they start at the school. This is just one of several ways that we get to know the students in advance of them starting with us.

## **Do you sort out the classes based on ability?**

In some cases, yes, but not in all! We do use prior attainment data together with other information (SEND, gender, reading age, etc) to sort out our groups. For some subjects we group the students into very broad ability groups, in other subjects we pay closer attention to the ability of each student in that subject and set the students by ability (e.g. in Maths).

We do formal assessments twice a year and after each assessment point we review the groupings to ensure that all students are placed in the group that is best for them and for the progress they are making.

## **I've heard that it is possible for my child to learn a musical instrument for free, is this true?**

Yes. The John Roan Foundation operate a music scheme that enables students to learn a musical instrument for free. There is an application form for you to express an interest in this that will be within your admissions papers. Please complete this and return it to school if you would like your child to be considered for a place on this scheme.

## **My child has special educational needs, who will oversee their support?**

Ms Sahara Ismail is our SENDCO. She and her team will be available to talk with you on either of the admissions meeting evenings and at any other time by appointment. We have an excellent team of



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Specialist Learning Coaches who will work with you to ensure that we know everything we need to about your child's needs and how they have been supported in their primary school. Using this information they will develop an Individual Learning Plan that will be shared with teachers so that they know how best to work with your child.

The Inclusion Team will also follow up after your meeting by making contact with your primary school to talk with the Inclusion Team there and ensure that all documents and information are transferred to us.

## **My child is interested in having school meals, what do I need to do?**

We are a cashless school, and all meals are paid for via ParentPay. You will receive information about how to use Parent Pay before your child starts at the school. Please make sure that you have logged on and activated your account before the beginning of term and that there are sufficient funds for your child to purchase their food.

We have a breakfast service open from 8 – 8.20am. Break snacks are served from 10.10 – 10.25am. Lunch for Key Stage 3 is from 12.10 – 12.45pm.

Menus are posted on our website [here](#).

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please make sure that we have this registered on our system by completing the online form via Entrust, which can be found on our website [here](#). A Free School Meal allowance is added to the student's account in time for the lunch service and will allow the student to have a 'Meal Deal'. Any additional food purchased (breakfast, break or in addition to the Meal Deal, will be paid for via ParentPay).

We use a biometric system for ParentPay in the canteen. Details of this will be in your admissions pack. If you prefer not to give permission for us to use biometrics, your child will be issued with a 4-digit PIN.

## **How many GCSEs can my child sit, and do they have to follow the EBACC?**

Currently all students sit a core GCSE package of: English Language, English Literature, Maths and Combined Science (a total of 5 GCSEs in the core).

They also have 3 Option Subjects they can select.

We encourage all those who are able to do so to take an EBACC pathway which means that they select to do a Modern Foreign Language (Spanish) and either Geography or History, as well as an additional subject.

The full range of subjects varies slightly from year to year depending on staffing and can be seen on our website [here](#).

In addition, some students opt to follow the Single Science route, covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs.

There is also the option for some of our more able Mathematicians to sit Further Maths.

Some students attend lessons with the Royal Observatory and study Astronomy GCSE, sitting this exam at the end of Year 10.

Students who wish to sit a GCSE in their mother tongue are able to do so.