HEADTEACHER UPDATE

- Thanks to JRSA for recent support at events.
- Cath was in Braithwaite for Remembrance Sunday to lay a wreath in memory of John Roan students who gave their lives in conflicts.
- Cath has booked 4 weeks in the summer for school journeys for years 7 to 10's.
- As the school is now an academy, pupils are no longer eligible for school uniform grants from Greenwich Council. The John Roan Foundation has agreed to support pupils with uniform and school journeys (heavily subsiding the same as the council would have done in the past).
- The Foundation has also given money for end of term trips for pupil premium students.
- ULT spent a day in the school monitoring 50 classes across both sites. They have been observing lessons, teaching and learning and the behaviour and attitude of students. ULT have seen a positive indicator of change, on the way to achieving our goals to be an outstanding setting. More information will come out in the newsletter.
- School is now cashless, students are doing really well remembering their lanyards. It has proved a much quicker system than the thumb print ID, so will extend to years 7/8.
- Less late detentions are being given, but still detentions for no homework.
- Repeaters in DFL are getting lots of extra support. On the whole things have really settled down.

PARENT QUESTIONS

Q: regarding DFL - it's not always warn/move/remove. (Parent yr8)

A: school acknowledges this and is working to rectify it if it goes wrong (mainly issues with supply staff) teachers are being given extra support to ensure procedures are carried out.

Q: IAG - What is happening?

A: Cath has had 2 meetings with IAG parents who are interested in coming to JR. Has had some applications for instant moves. Parents have been told that the school will close July 2020. Understandably parents are concerned and especially Yr 9 parents re: options. JR only has a few spaces in year 8 and 9 but years 10 and 11 are full. The school does have up to 30 spaces in Yr 7 however if we took that amount of children a clear integration plan would be put in place to avoid all IAG children in one class, they will be spread out amongst all tutor groups.

Q: lunchtime queues too long/not always enough food left. (Parent 7, 9, 11)

A: Cath – children should never be left with no food. Lanyards have made it much quicker. Will talk to kitchens to make sure always enough. If pupils are experiencing this they need to go straight to Cath, she will never let a child go without lunch.

Q: There was a ‘fight’ in playground a few weeks ago, is this the start of more bad behaviour, why did this happen (Parent Yr 9)

A: It was not a physical fight. A boy became rather angry with a process at lunchtime and reacted badly, took 3 teachers to calm down situation. Frightening to watch, very public (1 very angry pupil) school calmed down very quickly after. It was a shock as this type of behaviour rarely happens any more at school.
Q: what happened to ‘drop everything & read’? (Parent yr11)

A: Cath wants to encourage more reading throughout school & expose more youngsters to the News. Look at reading/watching news as a whole school - tutor time? The Library is doing so much more, this needs to be spread out to all classrooms not just the Library. It was suggested that reading returns to tutor time. Cath will follow up with heads of year.

Q: work experience deadline for year 10s is December, is there a problem coming back in the New Year - some companies not getting back to parents/students? (Parent yr10)

A: deadline is to get health & safety etc sorted out which are all done by RBG- this is very thorough and takes time. School can’t send pupils to places without relevant checks. Borough does have some places available to pupils that can’t find placement. Very difficult to arrange work experience now, raises the question of whether it has value. Lots of schools don’t do it. JR does it in yr12 still, businesses prefer year 12s because of insurance and health and safety standard are better for 16 year olds plus.

Q: can there be more clocks in exam hall? And make sure correct exams handed out (Parent yr11)

A: pupils are told to check to make sure they have the correct paper. Analogue watches are ok to have on desk. Students are having more practice papers now to get them ready for the real thing and prepare them.

Q: are there any plays/theatre trips on set works to consolidate learning?

A: unfortunately the school rely too much on staff goodwill/extra work and would need to be financially subsidised. In the past theatre trips were done through particular teachers and grants have been given to fund them. Maybe it is something JRSA can fund or the foundation (as they have done in the past).

FINANCE - Mandy has found a replacement, they haven’t yet confirmed in writing but is a year 8 parent with accountancy experience. Mandy will pass everything onto him and feedback before the next meeting. We now have £5000 in bank – At our February meeting we will be making a decision on which departments to invest in. We are waiting for department bids. Cath will help with the communication.

CHARITY STATUS - All uploaded to charity commissions. Need to add committee members - chair/co, chair/ treasurer etc. Trustees will need to read information and give extra details. Need an auditor and an accountant.

CHARITY - School has supported Sickle Cell charity (Emmanuel, sadly suffered from sickle cell and passed away when he was in yr9) The Bridge Community Centre is also supporting the Safari Ward at QEH, it is a general children’s ward however sees many patients with blood disorders. They are hosting a Christmas party in the ward with Father Christmas, face painting, magician etc on 17th December. They are looking for donations/presents to hand out. Also, overnight essentials kits for parents who stay with their child. It was agreed that we can collect donations via the Reception at both sites and we can work throughout the year on collections.
To do: Eve to coordinate and follow up. Jenny Jones has two bags of soft toys to donate for next week.

EVENTS - help is needed
- Quiz night 31st January - will need to get alcohol license so JRSA can offer a bar. Need raffle donations. Trish will write quiz and Mike has offered to be quiz master on the night. Trish has also offered to make poster and the social media team will promote it before and after Christmas.
- 6th December 3:30 W/P IAG open day tea/coffee
- 12th December Achievement evening M/H 6:30 start (wine/soft drinks/ mince pies)
- 17th December 6:30 M/H Christmas concert (full bar/ mince pies/ raffle)

MARKETING Team – we have a strong team in place to promote positive news across both sites. They have created a What’s App group to help with communications
Livy – organiser and PR
Trish – Tweeter
Caroline – Facebook
Hilary – social media general

LOTTERY – new poster on website with correct bank details. Next month we will have a full breakdown of all income and prize money. In January we will do the draw for December and February. Easy fundraising – ‘how to’ guide on website, money is slowing increasing however we need more people using it when they buy online, it is a simple thing to do and will make us money without doing much at all.
Need a new treasurer – Ian yr 8 Parent? Mandy to follow up.

JOHN ROAN SPORTS CLUB – The JRSA have 2 seats on the committee, at present only Eve is on the committee if anyone one else wants to join the committee they meet twice a year and discuss the running of the club. They need to increase members and get more people using the club and its facilities. Currently have a strong football club playing (7 teams including children and adults and 2 old boys’ sides). The Basketball Academy sometimes use the courts, students use the grounds during sports lessons and outside businesses such as Greenwich Cricket Club use the grounds. Whilst the grounds and club house is owned by the John Roan Foundation it is The John Roan Sports Club that manage the club house and take membership fees and invest into the club. All students are members for free, adult membership is only £15 per year. Members can hire out the hall, drink in a subsidised bar, use the tennis courts and the grounds and be part of the community. If you are interested in joining the club please contact the club secretary Michael Smith on mb.smith@btopenworld.com

JOHN ROAN FOUNDATION – The JRSA have one person represented on the board of trustees. Patrick Cooper has been in this post for many years however he is stepping down we now need another trustee to represent the JRSA. If interested contact Eve Daniels, Co-Chair of JRSA to express interest. The Foundation own the school, the grounds, playfields and another 20 properties in Greenwich, the rent from those properties are invested back into the school and the students. The Foundation give the school a lot of support for example they pay for music lessons for every child, support those children on a lower income with uniform, school trips and lunches, they also support groups of students for example they funded all the prizes and certificates for year 11’s and year 13’s at their achievement evening in December.