



20th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

What next for the school?

You will have seen a number of letters today. The Governing Body also wanted to write to you to provide our view and update you on progress at the school this term.

We are pleased that there have been some positive developments this term. A few examples:

- For the past four weeks, many students have been in school on a Saturday morning to work through past papers and revise with undergraduates from King's College London supporting them.
- A recent audit and overview of our safeguarding practices reported on significant improvements over the past 12 months, with students keen to talk about how safe and well cared for they felt in the school.
- There have been many improvements in terms of student behaviour in the school and both students and staff recognise the progress made in this area.
- Teachers are sharing good practice around their teaching and accessing exam board training where available in order to ensure that they are fully up to date with the new specifications.

As a Governing Body, our focus this term has been on improving performance and as noted above there has been some progress. The improvements have not been as great or as rapid as the school needs. We welcome the decision to bring dedicated leadership capacity to the school in the form of an Interim Executive Board (IEB). We are pleased that a group of experienced educational experts are able to provide on the ground support for the Headteacher; the new Chair, for example, has agreed to commit an average of 1.5 days a week to the school.

It is disappointing that UST have decided to withdraw as the proposed sponsor. We believed that UST were a good fit and that they respected the values and long history of the school. This is a setback. It is important that as a school we keep looking forward and keep developing, working with the new sponsor when it is announced. We can learn, for example, from the assessments made by UST to help define the actions for school improvement.

A process begins in the New Year to select a new sponsor. This is a good opportunity for us all to focus on stabilising the school and to continue the improvements in teaching, learning and behaviour.

We have received a number of emails from parents expressing support for the Headteacher and the Governors. We are extremely appreciative of these emails and thank all parents and carers for their support. We urge you to continue your support of the school and, if you haven't done so, to provide your feedback. You can continue to use governors@thejohnroan.greenwich.sch.uk to email the IEB.

It has been another difficult term for the school but we remain optimistic about the future for The John Roan. We believe the IEB is a positive development and it will help the school move swiftly onto a more stable footing. We wish you all a relaxing Christmas break.

Sincerely,

David Skinner
Chair of Governors

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