After three years of anticipation (half of my time at The John Roan!), students and staff are now proud users of brand new and refurbished buildings, which were officially opened last month. On Monday 3rd November, Baroness Estelle Morris of Yardley officially opened the new and refurbished John Roan buildings in front of other esteemed guests, which included former John Roan students: News Reporter, Asad Ahmed; Sports Presenter, Steve Ryder; the Mayor of Royal Greenwich Borough, Cllr Mick Hayes; the Chair of the Old Roan Association, Hilary Haslam; and 87-year-old Alan Weir, who joined the school in 1937. All were present at the momentous occasion.

A Welcoming Learning Environment

The John Roan, founded in 1677 and one of the oldest state schools in England, now has a brand new building at the Westcombe Park site. With state-of-the-art classrooms, which are equipped with modern technology, it is now at the forefront to enhance learning. It also boasts an open space computer suite and library, along with a modern sports hall that provides excellent facilities for sports such as badminton, tennis, basketball and volleyball. The John Roan is a Mathematics and Science specialist school; it now also has great facilities for creative students, which include a drama studio equipped with lighting, staging and a sound system, and a spacious modern dance studio.

The Maze Hill site has been refurbished and what was previously the gym now houses a separate Sixth Form building with 30 new computers. As a Sixth Former myself, I can truly say that it provides a pleasant and comfortable space to work in.

A Day of Celebration

The guests arrived at the Westcombe Park site on the day of the opening where they were greeted by Sixth Formers and were given tours of the building by prefects. A group of John Roan sixth form Media students collaborated with filmmakers from Ravensbourne College to document the event on film. It will hopefully be edited and shown soon!

After the individual tours, the guests assembled in the new Westcombe Park
gymnasium where Headteacher Des Malone gave a speech about the rebuilding of the school. Mr Malone said, “This is a landmark moment for The John Roan which formally opens our outstanding buildings fit for 21st Century learning.” He summed up fellow students’ and staffs’ feelings by saying that, “we are all immensely proud to be part of the continuing history of our very special school.”

The guests were treated to a performance by a school band, and a dance show in which students of all ages took part, before they were taken to the entrance atrium. Here Estelle Morris, Asad Ahmed, Alan Weir and Steve Ryder all cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the school’s time capsule. Prefects then escorted the guests to the newly refurbished Maze Hill site where more tours took place for the second part of the opening celebration.

My Sixth Form partner Chad and I took two guests around the Maze Hill building. They were very impressed with both the open space of the modern dining hall and the refurbishment of the main hall, which has been left largely untouched because of the unique character it gives to the school.

The guests then gathered in the main hall where Mr Malone introduced Baroness Estelle Morris, who spoke about her career as Education Minister and her experiences with The John Roan. The speech was followed by an informal social gathering.

As aspiring journalists, Chad and I had the opportunity to speak with Asad Ahmed about his career. He gave us some reassuring advice, which made me feel a lot more confident about the career path I would like to follow.

The event concluded with everyone agreeing that it had been very successful. It felt very much like the wonderful beginning of a bright new future for all students attending The John Roan now and for many, many years to come.

Hendrike Rahtz 12KP
Theatre Reviews

Three five-star reviews already this academic year as Year 10 burst back on to the stage with their new production company Starlifes ProductionsTM.

ART

Art, written by Yasmena Reza, was a major West End hit in the nineties. It starred three men and a white plain canvas. At the Roan ‘Service for Languages Theatre Festival’ the cast was given a neat twist as one of the men was replaced by a woman. A neat twist? You bet. Mercedes Mears (Yvan) was the perfect foil to Reece Miles (Serge) and Abiola Owokonuran (Marc). Using the swap of gender and superb costumes and make-up, the themes of the play were more transparent and much easier to follow than in the West End. The contrast of black and white make-up with the stark, ever-present, white canvas was a stroke of genius. The play is ultimately upbeat but very emotion was explored to its triumphant end.

LOS VENDIDOS

Year 10 can never be said to shy away from difficult texts. In the same bill as ART this play requires some of the cast to be bilingual! Luis Valdez’s ‘los Vendidos’ is set in Mexico in Honest Sancho’s shop of curios. Sancho (Charlotte Reed) is trying to sell Miss Jininez (Kiran Matharu at her best and most aloof) a ‘companion’ (this is not the right word but the ambiguity of what she wants is so important). Sancho presents a line-up of hilarious characters. A farm worker (Luke Leutchford), a Chicago gangster (Mason Clarke-Whale at his oily best), a revolutionary (Izzy Murray-Pickard) and a public speaker (Mia Hando). Each ‘mini’ scene had the audience whooping and clapping – a must see if ever you are feeling down!

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

This year’s entry at the Shakespeare Schools Festival (held at Greenwich Theatre) was one of Shakespeare’s lesser performed plays, the Taming of the Shrew. Preceded by Macbeth (Holbeach Primary) with a superb Lady Macbeth, As You Like It (City of London Academy) and Richard III (Edmund Waller Primary) in which Richard stole the show, it looked like John Roan’s performance could be eclipsed. Add to this the madness of a last-minute cast change and a manic Head of Year screaming there was a crisis and the scene was set for disaster. No one need to have worried. The success was ensured with the opening dance scene in which Petruchio (Imani Edwards) and Katherina (Izzy Murray-Pickard) commanded the stage in a sensual yet unnerving routine which perfectly set the scene for the tensions which followed. The electricity between these two performers was tangible. This show had everything, from the brilliant comedy of the suitcase which Lucentio (Mason Clarke-Whale) cannot move to the violence of Katherina slapping Petruchio. It was the only play which received regular applause from an audience who realised the best really had been saved to last! This critic was particularly impressed at how well the ensemble worked together. The smaller parts were all important and every member of the cast was clearly valued and gave their best - the way they supported the last-minute cast member (a nervous Matthew Trearty in his debut at Greenwich Theatre) was legendary and will be talked about amongst Greenwich ‘lovies’ for years to come.

John Roan is a firm favourite at this Festival and quite rightly so. With productions of this quality, this critic is seeing future stars and not just in his reviews but on the stage!!

Mr Sayers
**Pimp my Sole Competition**

I really liked the sound of the Pimp my Sole Competition. I don’t wear slip-on pumps so it’s really cool to get the chance to design my own trainers. It took me ages to decide on my design and then draw it. At the end I was proud of what I had done, especially when I was in the top 10.

Thank you to those who organised the competition and chose mine as one of the top.

Emily Biro 7AM

I was so excited when I got the template for the Pimp my Sole Competition. At first I wasn’t sure what design my shoe would be. I got inspiration by asking my friends: they said that I should make it bright and colourful. I followed their advice and look where it got me! It was a great experience coming in the top 10 of Year 7, and I hope to do it again.

Ruby Cracknell-Wright & Anna Lefeuvre 7AMC

**Oxford Taster Day for Year 11**

On 4th November, 10 students from Year 11 had an opportunity to visit Oxford University, one of the best universities in the world! We started very early and travelled together by train. The journey was surprisingly short.

When we got there, we were greeted with stickers that had our names printed on them, which was very nice. The programme began with a quick and brief introduction about why we were invited there. This was followed by sample lectures on the different university subjects; our personal favourite was the one about robots and how they worked.

In the second part of the day, we took part in a workshop where a current student from Oxford talked to us about A-levels and career options. It was interesting to see what students from other schools wanted to do in the future.

Finally, we were given a tour by one of the third year students there. The college we went to was called Hertford, which was one of the smaller colleges there; the buildings were rather old and had an antique vibe to them.

At the end of the day, we were left with an impression of Oxford being a very competitive university. However, there also seems to be a lighter, more fun aspect to university. Based on this experience, we would recommend that students look at all sorts of different universities as it will expand their horizons. After visiting Oxford University we feel more confident applying there in the future.

Leen Jouman-Agha and Rupali Adhikari 11MS

The day I got the shoe my mind raced with all the creative things I could do until I got my design I drew on this particular evening. The next day I handed it in and then whilst I was sat in assembly my name was called. My heart froze and my ears felt like they were betraying me, but they weren’t. I was so proud!

Beatrice Leggatt 7AS

I really enjoyed the Pimp my Sole Competition and although I was a bit disappointed I didn’t win, it gave me confidence to try another competition.

Lulu Pennicott-Banks 7IN
ASHFORD ADVENTURE

The Year 7s have recently been on a residential trip to the Kingswood centre in Ashford. They were split into two groups consisting of the tutor groups 7CLC, 7AMC, 7RC and 7AS for the first group, who went from 13th to 15th October, and the second group were 7CCO, 7AM, 7IN and 7JR, who went from the 15th to 17th of October. They took part in activities and challenges such as the Three G Swing and the Leap of Faith, where you climb up to a high platform and then jump off on to a trapeze.

When they arrived, they were welcomed to the centre by the staff of Kingswood. Then they put their luggage in a small luggage room and went to lunch. After eating, they were given a tour. Then they took part in several activities before going to the cafeteria to enjoy a well-earned dinner.

We took part in many exciting activities like the night walk, where you had to crawl in mud blindfolded around a tricky course. We also took part in orienteering, circus skills, archery, abseiling and Jacob’s ladder. All these activities were really exciting and fun. Even Ms Sumner had fun on the Three G Swing!

Throughout our stay we had a jam-packed timetable of cooperative activities that tested our voyage and our problem-solving skills. One of the ‘high points’ was the Leap of Faith when we had to climb a 35-foot high pole and jump to a trapeze.

The food was very tasty. We had chilli con carne with tortillas and tacos, and for pudding one night we had Eton Mess. On the last night of our stay we had a brilliant disco with amazing pop songs. The staff at the centre were really nice and helpful. We really enjoyed our stay and we hope to go again one day.

As our short but exhilarating stay came to an end we switched over with the jubilant other half of the year. Also, I’d like to thank Miss Sumner, Mr Murphy and all the other adults who made it possible.

Nicole Conway, Louis Tebbutt and Ruby Cracknell Wright
7AMC
The First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme

This year, the History Department gave me (and Daniel Barrie, also Year 9) the chance to visit the battlefields of the Great War. The idea behind the programme (rolled out to all schools in England and Wales) is to allow students to get ‘hands on’ with history, allowing them to visit Flanders Fields and to try to get a greater understanding of the reasons behind the war and of the experiences of the men who fought in the trenches in 1914–18.

We met the other members of our party at an activity centre in Ashford. We were among the youngest in the group, but after some ‘ice-breaking’ activities we soon made friends from a number of schools and amongst students of all ages. Much of the trip (to the area around Ypres) involved travelling around the war’s battlefields and memorials, and to enable us to record our thoughts we were given a booklet which contained searching and difficult questions such as ‘were there any difference between the British cemeteries and the German cemeteries? If so, why might this be the case?’

Some of the memorials we visited were huge, listing hundreds, even thousands, of names of ‘unknown’ soldiers – those who were ‘Missing In Action’ and presumed dead whose bodies were never recovered/identified. The trip allowed us to appreciate that this really was a World War, as we saw the graves (amongst others) of French, British, Australian, Chinese and German soldiers. In some of the cemeteries all of the ‘unknown soldiers’ were buried together in a communal grave, while some of the ‘individual’ graves we visited actually represented 4–6 people.

Whilst in Belgium, we were accompanied by serving British soldiers. We were lucky enough to be able to talk to and question a corporal (a sniper) called Josh who had trained in Kenya and fought in places like Afghanistan. It was really interesting to get an insight into the roles and responsibilities of the modern British army. On one of the last few days the two soldiers showed us their battlefield ‘kit’. Josh showed us his home-made ghillie suit and rations but not his gun.

Overall, I had a great time in Belgium. I learned a great deal about the First World War, while this ‘hands-on’ experience left me thinking about war in general, its terrible human cost, and whether it can ever be justified.

Harry Simons 9AY
2014 was the first year I had been to Braithwaite so I really didn't know what to expect, but I can assure you that I wasn't disappointed!

Our Arrival at the Hope Memorial Camp
The staff who accompanied us were not only caring but also a pleasure to be with. On the first day we arrived at Braithwaite we had time to chill out and unpack before later that evening going on a walk while dinner was being prepared. At first I thought it was a waste of time and I couldn’t be bothered but I went on to find out that it was one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen. The sun was on the verge of setting, I could feel the sweet country breeze on my face, and the air was so fresh that even the most toxic smell would smell like sweet nectar!

Later that evening we went swimming, which consisted of Mr Thomas and two of the previous Sixth Formers (Joe Armson and Sam Spong), who were mentors to us on the Braithwaite trip, dunking a multitude of students underwater; rest assured we got our own back.

Day two
Everyone was required to wake up early on day two because we had to be at the Via Ferrata at Honister Slate Mine for 9:00am. At the time I had no idea what was awaiting us but I soon found out that we were getting ready to climb along the side of a GIGANTIC mountain. I wasn’t really scared of heights but the person you would least expect to be scared was Mr Thomas who decided to sit this activity out. The Via Ferrata was the most adrenalin-pumping activity of the entire trip, in my opinion, and I absolutely loved it although I was scared senseless at times.

Day three
On the Wednesday of that week we were off to an indoor snowboarding and skiing centre in Glasgow, Scotland. Being a skateboarder, I couldn’t wait to see what it would be like to snowboard. It was a two-hour drive from Braithwaite but it was full of good vibes and interesting conversations with friends and the teachers. When we arrived, we were split into an afternoon and morning session, so while one set of students were skiing or snowboarding, the rest of us could explore the huge plaza we were in containing a variety of shops and arcades. Snowboarding was lots of fun and although I got a face full of snow on multiple occasions, all I could think about was getting back to the top of the slope because of the encouragement given by the instructor and friends with whom I’ve spent most of my John Roan secondary school life.

Day four
We went paintballing on Thursday. Mr Thomas and I were on the same team, which I wasn’t very happy about as I was very much looking forward to ‘shooting’ him during paintball. I’m glad that I was on his team though as we ended up winning the majority of our games, though not
all down to Mr Thomas. I must admit that I got a little carried away during paintball and shot Mr Soane and Sam Spong at point blank range in the buttocks and upper back respectively when I should have given them the chance to surrender. They later got me back in the free for all with a little help from Yael Sherr, the undisputed underdog of their team. Later that evening we all took some time to unwind and enjoy a beautifully cooked BBQ put together by all the staff and Mr Thomas in particular.

**Day five**
The week went by really quickly and I couldn't believe that this was our penultimate day. Ghyll Scrambling was the activity for today and I was really anxious as it was pouring down with rain and I had only found out what it was about the night before, but nevertheless I gave it my best shot. We all had on gorilla suits for insulation and waterproofs to go over the top as we were about to traverse the course of a river going down a hill. There were plunge pools and small gaps which we had to perform manoeuvres to get across and down with help from our group instructors who made the activity enjoyable despite the bad weather and freezing cold water. We had completed the activity by early afternoon and spent the rest of the day relaxing, regulating body temperatures and getting ready as tonight we were going out to a nice restaurant, the Coledale Inn, for our evening meal.

I would just like to sign off by saying Braithwaite was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my school life and I would strongly recommend it for all younger years to go if offered this amazing opportunity. Thanks to all the staff, Ms Flynn, Ms Tebbutt, Mr Soane and Mr Thomas and our great mentors, Sam Spong and Joe Armson, who decided to give up their time to take us on this fantastic trip. I know it must have been hard for Mr Thomas to be away from his young family, but even though we were so far away from home, the staff made it feel like home for us!

Abdul Adebayo 10FM
CENTENARY BATTLEFIELD SCHOLARS VISIT NO 10 DOWNING STREET

Over the last year, Charlotte Reed and Kiran Matharu (Year 10) have been leading members of a nationwide programme to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Beginning with a four-day visit to the 1914-18 battlefields of Belgium and France, Charlotte and Kiran were then invited to be ambassadors for the programme, culminating in a visit to the school from Helen Grant MP and subsequent invitations to speak on ‘London Live’ radio and to run ‘Twitter’ forums.

In recognition of their hard work and leadership, Charlotte and Kiran were invited to attend a reception at 10 Downing Street. Together with Daniel Barrie (Year 9, who followed in the girls’ footsteps on the programme this year), we travelled to Whitehall, proudly flashing our invitations to walk right past the crowds and in through the most famous front door in Britain. We were treated to an afternoon garden party hosted by the Prime Minister, David Cameron, with a very select group of guests ranging from MPs and current servicemen to the historian Mary Beard and TV personality Hugh Dennis. Charlotte, Kiran and Daniel were excellent ambassadors for The John Roan, and when their chance came to speak with David Cameron, they were able to show how much they had learned about the Great War and to talk to the future for remembrance in the UK.

The afternoon ended with a once-in-a-lifetime private performance from the cast of the West End smash hit ‘War Horse’ – the perfect end to a very special day!

Ms Olufsen

LONDON SOUTH BANK

The LSBU Year 10 Summer School is a programme offered by London South Bank University, which gives Year 10 pupils the opportunity to experience university life on a first-hand basis. We were given the choice between five different tailored courses that we would complete over the duration of five mornings (like Applied Science, Engineering, and Film and Media), and several afternoon activities that included volunteering, a mock law trial, and games design, which would be completed over three afternoons. Despite all of our preparation, however, the morning of 30th June was quite nerve-wracking. After turning up at the university bright and early, Elizabeth Dawotola, Amin Svenningsen, George Power and I were quickly registered, given building passes, and ushered into a large lecture hall with a crowd of pupils from several other schools. We were shortly briefed by the summer school’s organiser and introduced to all of our subject leaders and student ambassadors, the people who would be working with us for the whole week. We were then led out of the hall to attend our first day as ‘university’ students.

I chose the Applied Science route, which had a theme of crime scene investigation. Over the whole week, we participated in seminars that described how to deal with crime scenes, DNA evidence, and the law, conducted scientific experiments to analyse hairs and unknown fibres, and even entered a mock crime scene, equipped with full-body suits, gloves and shoe covers. After interviewing several suspects and analysing crime scene evidence, we had to come to a decision as to which suspect murdered Mr Smith, the victim, and produce a report explaining our reasons for the accusation. The people who did the Engineering course (Amin and George) had to design, make and test a mobile vehicle from scratch, and Elizabeth (who did Film and Media) had to produce a short video – she did hers on fashion, which she has a passion for.

The afternoon activities were also very valuable. I participated in the volunteering activity, and I helped water the plants and repaint a plant box for the London Wildlife Trust in Peckham. On Thursday, the final day of our afternoon activity, we stayed onsite at the university, and worked closely with an English PhD student to produce a poem which described our experiences as volunteers – which we performed on Friday to the rest of the students at the leaving assembly. We all came away from the Summer School with new friends, new interests, and valuable experience – we achieved several certificates (including accredited CREST awards), and talked to the students about their lives and the qualifications they were working towards at university. I would like to thank Miss Harris for all of her hard work and preparation for this week; we enjoyed it, and have come away from it with a brighter outlook on higher education.

Ellen Vernon 11FM
Geography GCSE at Kew Gardens

Year 11 Geography students spent a day at the world-famous Kew Gardens recently, carrying out some research into one of the topics that will be in next summer’s exams. On both days, we were blessed with some warm sunny weather. Students had to complete work in the Princess of Wales’ Observatory (investigating desert plants), and also in the Palm House (for tropical plants). Several members of the public complimented us on the smart appearance of our students in their new uniforms, and also on their excellent behaviour.

Many thanks to Ms Larkin and Ms Thompson for their great support on these trips.

Mr Giddings

Students find Local Businesswoman’s Phone

Just before the end of the October half-term, Phoebe Grant of 12JH was walking along with friends in Greenwich Park during lunch break when they discovered an iPhone 4s in the children’s playground. As the phone still had charge, Phoebe used the phone to call the owner’s partner in an attempt to get in contact with its owner, unfortunately without success, despite trying for over an hour. Feeling frustrated, the Sixth Form students handed the phone to the school's reception.

The phone was later reunited with its owner when it was collected from the school, a couple of weeks later the owner of the mobile phone, Sarah Lavery-Clarke, sent an email into the school to thank the ‘amazing students’ for returning her phone. She especially wanted to thank them for their honesty and efforts in contacting her husband. She had given up hope that she would ever see her phone again.

Mrs Lavery-Clarke rewarded the Year 12s with confectionary.

Extracts from Mrs Lavery-Clarke’s email

Hello,

I lost my phone in Greenwich Park on Wednesday 15th October and some of your amazing students found it and contacted my husband. They were on their way home from school and said they would leave it in reception for me to collect tomorrow.

I’d given up hope that I’d get my phone back so am truly grateful for the students’ honesty and their efforts in contacting my husband.

I use the phone to run my business as well as personal use so getting it back has saved me a lot of hassle!!

Kind regards.
Sarah Lavery-Clarke

Hendrike Rahtz 12KP
Urban Lyrics

On my first day of the rap workshop, I was really nervous because I thought people would make fun of me. But when I met Shay I felt that I could let out what I have to say and turn it into rhymes. Then after I started to rap, I felt more confident about what I have to say. The best part of the workshop was meeting new people from other year groups and becoming friends with them and performing in front of the Sixth Formers.

Jake McDonald

Mr Portes’ Economic Lecture

On Friday 21st November, Economic and Business A-Level students got the opportunity to listen to Jonathan Portes, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, as part of the Speaker for School programme.

Mr Portes gave an extremely interesting and educating lecture on the various economic issues regarding the UK. He explained what each of the three main political parties has proposed to do to solve these issues, and discussed how they will affect the General Election in May 2015.

One of the economic issues we discussed was the European Union and what the consequences of leaving or staying would be. Another issue was the national debt, and Mr Portes explained how each party has proposed to either cut the deficit, increase taxes or cut public services. The lecture was also interactive, with a Q&A at the end. Many students raised some intelligent questions, which were answered by Mr Portes in the same fashion. The information given in the lecture, and the questions asked by both students and teachers, were all applicable to the modern day and to us young people, and so the lecture was not only informative but relevant to our lives.

I found this lecture to be not only educational and helpful, but accessible and enjoyable too.
**The Brilliant Club**

Last academic year, a few Year 10 and Year 12 students were chosen to take part in the Scholars Programme, the Brilliant Club. We started our course visiting the University of Sussex and meeting with our PhD university tutors. For the following five weeks we met regularly with our tutors to learn about a specific topic in which we would have to complete an essay or a test at the end to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding at an A-level or undergraduate standard of work. Our Year 10 groups studied either rocket science or investigated how humour can be used in comics to give a feminist message. Throughout the weeks we learned about our specific subjects and I learned a lot about the history of feminism, and how humour can be used to confront difficult topics whilst engaging the reader. Our PhD student on the feminist course was called Nicola. She was really enthusiastic and always had lots of activities like drawing comic strips with and without words. Nicola was really passionate about her subject and it was a surprise to all of us how specific her research focus was.

At the end of the course we were asked to write a 2000-word essay on feminism and comics during the summer holidays, which our tutor would grade. In September, all those who had completed the final essay were asked to attend the graduation ceremony at Royal Holloway, University of London, where we were presented with our certificates. We visited the university on the open day and were able to find out more about life on a university campus.

From the Scholars Programme I have learned how to successfully construct an essay, using referencing and sources. I have also learned more about the courses, experiences and opportunities universities have to offer, as well as the type of work that is to be expected from undergraduate students. It was also really helpful to visit two universities as I do not normally get the opportunity to. We got to see a lot as we were taken on tours, told about student finance, course requirements and the type of subjects offered. Overall, being part of the Brilliant Club has been a very enlightening and informative experience that I would happily participate in again.

Charlotte Warn 11JS

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**Children In Need**

This year, The John Roan did itself proud by raising an amazing amount of money for Children In Need. Whether through the wonderful cake sale that we held, the exciting teacher–student tournaments that we ran, the hilarious fancy-dress fun run or the ‘How many sweets in the jar?’ competition, the commitment of our staff and students to this vital charity was second to none.

Take, for example the cake sale in which customers were crowding to buy the lovely cakes made or brought in by Year 11 Prefects. Such was the enthusiasm that there was even a bidding war for the last Rice-Krispie cake! With just a few cupcakes we managed to raise over £100!

The PE department did their bit by organising a very popular ‘staff vs students’ basketball tournament. The ‘pay to play’ format was a great success and while the PE staff managed to win against their under-16 opposition, they lost out to a very impressive Sixth Form side. Picking up the superhero theme of this year’s Children In Need, Ms Smith from the English Department set up a fun-run open to all. After school, a significant number of superheroes of all shapes, sizes and ages could be seen running round Greenwich Park raising yet more money via sponsorship – and as they ran from generous locals – towards the whole-school total.

These are just some of the events that took place to raise money (with a total heading towards £1,000) for Children in Need. This says a lot about the generosity of spirit that exists at The John Roan and it is this that makes the school so special. Our school is a place where there is a genuine care for others and where students and staff work together to make a difference. Well done The John Roan!

Edith Richardson, Deputy Head Girl
The Seventh Black History Achievement Conference at LSE

We all need both encouragement and (self) motivation if we are going to succeed in life. To this end on 18th October, 25 Afro-Caribbean pupils in Years 10, 11 and 12 attended the Black Achievement Conference organised by the London School of Economics in celebration of Black History Month. This was hosted by TV and Radio presenter DJ Kat from MTV along with Action Jackson from the ‘Fix-up Team’.

This event helped us to think outside the box, aim higher, increase our self-belief and set out achievable ‘smart’ goals to help us pass our forthcoming exams – it was also a lot of fun. In addition, we participated in a variety of challenging workshops designed to illustrate the difference between secondary school and university, while all the time building our confidence to ultimately make this jump.

From finding and figuring out what we would like to be in the future to focusing on the realities of what is required in the world of work, it was a fascinating day. The main motivation mantra of the day (for success) was: ‘Small Easy Changes’.

In conclusion, to be able to take part in a trip whereby people of all ages gather to celebrate Black achievement (past, present and future) in conjunction with Black History Month was amazing. On behalf of the pupils who were lucky enough to participate, we say ‘thank you’ to Mr Wilson and Mr Thomas for organising the day.

Ore Aiyesimoju 12HC and Amarachi Odoemenam 12BD

A sad, but unfortunately necessary coda to the Black History Conference. On the way home we – as a group – were about to cross the Strand, heading back to Charing Cross station. While waiting for the lights to change, a scaffoldor’s van drove past with the windows down. The ‘man’ in the passenger seat chanted very loudly (in the manner of a ‘monkey chant’) ‘Ebola! Ebola!’ To say I was shocked would be an understatement – indeed, I am only sorry I did not take the registration number of said van to subsequently pursue what was clearly a race crime. While this is an extreme and fortunately uncommon situation/reaction, it serves to highlight just how important events such as the Black Achievement Conference are, as racism unfortunately continues to play a pernicious part in society today.

Mr Wilson
Year 8 get ‘hands-on’ at the National Maritime Museum

Year 8 History students recently visited the National Maritime Museum to take part in a study day focusing on the British Empire. Our day began in the museum’s lecture theatre with a whistle-stop tour through the growth of the British Empire from the 1600s right through to the start of the 21st Century. We were amazed to see just how much of the world was once owned by Britain!

Our first ‘hands-on’ session was with manuscripts from the ships that travelled around the empire. These valuable documents were a mine of information: the cargoes carried by each ship; the routes sailed and even the names and addresses of everyone who worked aboard. Some of these manuscripts were almost 300 years old so we were incredibly lucky to be able to get so close to them.

Our afternoon session focused on Britain’s contacts with Mughal India and the Islamic world. We were given boxes of artefacts containing among other things tea, spices, silk and satins. This helped us to understand that many aspects of British life have complex origins and indeed many originate halfway around the world.

We came away from our study day with a lot to think about the British Empire. Thank you to the Maritime Museum for welcoming us and opening our minds to this important and controversial period of our history.

Eldona Kupa 8KH

Year 13 Health and Social Care students visit The Westcombe Park Nursing Home

On Friday 21st November, a group of Year 13 Health and Social Care students visited the Westcombe Park Nursing Home to complete a questionnaire which they had created as part of their coursework. The staff at the home made our school very welcome and the residents helped to complete all of the questions on the student survey. The focus of the questionnaire was about human rights in the community. Thank you very much to the staff and residents at the Westcombe Park Nursing Home for allowing us to visit.

Ms Sumner
**Badminton Club**

Thanks to Mr Stevenson, one of our technical staff, Badminton is quickly becoming an established sport at The John Roan. Since the beginning of term, Mr Stevenson has combined his love of the game, the new sportshall, and the enthusiasm of our students to make Thursday evening ‘Badminton Night’. The popularity has been such that sadly the numbers have had to be limited and entrance is on a first come, first served basis.

The students who attend regularly have shown a great deal of potential and have improved steadily throughout the term. We have even entered the National Schools Badminton Competition and eagerly await our first match.

Mr Graefe

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**Year 10 Football**

The Year 10 boys have had a slightly slower start to the season than last year. Their first match saw them travel to Dulwich in the London Cup where they took on a formidable Bishop Thomas Grant School side. Despite matching them man for man in many areas of the pitch, it was the speed of their forwards that was to be our undoing. Their first goal looked to be no more than a speculative cross which sailed well over our keeper’s head, only to drop down and sneak in the far top corner. Fifteen minutes later we equalised with a scorching shot from Wesley Phiri from the right-hand side of the penalty area. Our opponents again went ahead and the game stayed one goal apart until the dying minutes when they sneaked a third. A game we could have won but not with the performance displayed on that occasion.

Our next game is in the Blackheath Cup where we take on Prendergast School. A match that resulted in a comfortable win for us last year.

Mr Graefe

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**Year 11 House Football Competition**

Da Vinci House were the first winners of the indoor 6-a-side Football competition. In the shiny new sports hall, they beat Stopes House 2-1 in extra-time to claim the trophy and 100 vivo points each for their house. Well done to: Lekan Ejiwunmi, Jamie Joy, Fabio Mendes Rodrigues Conceicao, Eder Uka and Abdou Adams.

Mr Cater

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Played</th>
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<tr>
<td>Da Vinci</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stopes</td>
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<td>Darwin</td>
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<td>Seacole</td>
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The students who attend regularly have shown a great deal of potential and have improved steadily throughout the term. We have even entered the National Schools Badminton Competition and eagerly await our first match.

Mr Graefe

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**Year 7 Football News**

The Year 7 Football team have made an excellent start to life at The John Roan. Over 50 pupils turned up for the trials, making selecting a first team squad very difficult. The strength in depth of the year group has been highlighted with a 100 percent record so far with wins against local rivals Thomas Tallis 7-2 and Corelli College 10-2 in the Blackheath Cup. They now face Trinity School in the 3rd round later this month. The following players have also made the Blackheath district squad: Jaivin Carpenter, Harvey Smith and Chima Eze.

Mr Cater
O2 Freestyle Football

On 22nd October, there was a trip to the F3 World Freestyle Football Championships at the O2. At 5pm, Mr. Duncan, 14 other Year 9s and I all met outside the O2 where we were given our allocated tickets. We then proceeded inside the Indigo O2 – then took our seats near the front.

The evening kicked off with all 16 F3 freestylers showing us their moves and giving us a taste of what was going to come. All 16 freestylers represented different nations; including the United Kingdom, Poland, Japan, Brazil, Argentina and France. I especially enjoyed the freestyler from Japan: Tokura, as his performance included speed and precision with his skills.

Once everyone had completed their introduction, the battles began. The battles would have two freestylers having just over a minute to perform their routine. The 3 judges on the stage would then decide on which freestyler was the most impressive and showed the most amount of ball control. The 8 battles were amazing; the freestylers showed skill and style but great sportsmanship at the end.

Unfortunately, only one freestyler could win the battle. The winner then gets a place in the next round before ultimately having two finalists. As the finals drew nearer, the contestants were dropping like flies.

The two finalists were Charly and Boyka; from Argentina and Colombia respectively. The crowd were more in favour for Boyka but Charly didn’t give up. It was the closest battle and, in the end, it came down to a tight decision, but the champion was Boyka from Colombia – despite me wanting Charly to win.

I personally enjoyed the trip as it was as if a new door had been opened in my life; and behind that door was the world of Freestyle Football. The other boys also had a great laugh and the whole trip was a success.

Sean Garnier is a world famous football freestyler.

In 2008, he was declared World Champion at the inaugural Red Bull Street Style World Finals in São Paulo, Brazil. Séan combined music, breakdance, somersaults, various football and basketball elements in his attractive routines. He formed his own team dubbed Street Style Society, also called S3 Crew, which combines freestyle football, freestyle basketball as well as some other street sport styles. Séan Garnier is actually considered as one of the most skilful football players in the world.

Bhagwant Sandhu 9CR

Year 8 Blackheath Cup

John Roan Year 8 football team played Conisborough College in the first round of the Blackheath Cup on Tuesday 11th November.

In the first half, John Roan played well and we were the better team; but at half-time it was 0–0. We started the second half determined to improve our game. We scored about halfway through the second half but then allowed Conisborough to equalise just before the final whistle.

This meant penalties! But after a very tense penalty shoot–out, John Roan won 3 – 2. We are now through to the next round and will hopefully win that match in normal time!

A special mention goes to the boys who also made their debut during this match; including goalkeeper Ali Ozcelik who made a vital save to keep it at 1–1. We also had Pavel Smith making his first appearance at Left Back and Mucad Jama who steadied the ship in the second half.

Matthew Francis
goal scorer, penalty taker and vice–captain
Sports Day 2014

The John Roan Sports Day took place on Tuesday 8th July at the playing fields. The annual event was started with an opening ceremony with the four house teams, Da Vinci, Darwin, Seacole and Stopes, parading along the 100m straight to a song of their choice and showing off their house colours. The day has a wide variety of events from the traditional athletic events to obstacle course, cup stacking, boccia and tug of war, so there really is an event for everyone.

There were plenty of good competitions between the students throughout the day, but star performances of the day were Matthew Holmes of Da Vinci house and Jaratta Adams and Dizolele Neto of Stopes house. The cheerleader of the day went to Tianna Alcindor as she went dotty on Stopes.

The event was won again by Stopes house, but it was a close competition with Seacole house in 2nd place. The day isn't all about the students participating in the various events; the staff get their turn to show off their sporting talents or to generally make fools of themselves. This year’s staff event was the 100m, with a collision at the start with staff nearly knocking each other out. Mr Treaty managed to make it through the race and take the victory. I think the staff could take a few lessons from the students!

Ms Mann
A mild October afternoon saw the annual Greenwich Schools X Country Championships in Avery Hill Park.

With many of the Year 7 students away on the residential trip, their team lacked numbers. Overall though, we had 39 students representing the school, with the biggest boys team in Year 8 and the biggest girls team in Year 9.

In the Year 7 girls race, the only competitor was Salma Assal and she had an excellent run to finish 10th. First home in the Year 8 girls race was Anaise Reid in 22nd. The next race was the Year 9 girls with Ruby Pogson – Jones first home in 15th, followed by Jessie Roubians in 24th.

The first of the boys races saw Eddie Brown finish 18th, closely followed by Jude Ayling in 21st. In the Year 8 Boys race Ayoub Assal finished in an excellent 3rd, followed by Matthew Francis in 4th, then AJ Martin in 6th and finally Ronaldo Brown in 22nd to make up the team who finished 2nd, 2 points behind Woolwich Poly, who they beat last year.

In the Year 9 race, Connor Simmons finished 32nd and in the final race of the day the Year 10/11 boys race Reece Miles finished 2nd and is still only a Year 10 – looking forward to next year’s race!!!

Congratulations to those individuals and the Year 8 boys teams. Also congratulations to Salma, Ayoub, Matthew and AJ who will represent Greenwich in the Year 7 and 8 inter borough championships in March.

Ms Mann
Crowned Champions Once Again!

John Roan were crowned champions (once again) of the Greenwich Post-16 5-a-side Football competition. En route to the final, they won 3 of their 4 group games; against Shooters Hill College (A), Greenwich Community College and Woolwich Poly. They only dropped points in their opening group game against Shooters Hill College (B) in a 1-1 draw. In the final, they overcame GCC 8-7 in a dramatic penalty shoot-out. After finding themselves 2-0 down at half-time, they fought back to take the game to penalties with a last-minute equaliser from Olatunji Glover. Robbie Sinclair was the hero in the penalty shoot-out, saving 3 spot kicks. Well done to the boys!

Mr Cater

A Star in the Making

Earlier in the year, Reon Sailes and his team won the English Schools’ Football Association under 11s Inter-District Tournament. As a result, he has been given a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity to represent England at the Danone Nations Cup World final in Brazil. A total of 32 countries take part in this worldwide event every year and the event will be seen by more than 2 million people. This event will have already taken place whilst going to press. So look out for an update in the next edition of The John Roan News.

Ms Sumner

Volunteers Required For Reading With Year 7s

Please see website for further information