



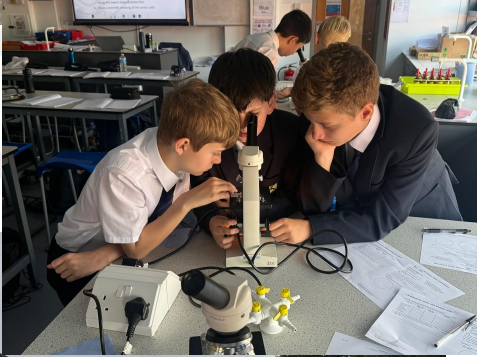
Year 7 Information Evening

15th October 2026

Welcome to Year 7!

Mr Moane	<i>Welcome & the year ahead</i>
Mrs Cornmell	<i>Assessment</i>
Miss Thackray	<i>E-safety</i>
Mr Knowles	<i>Leadership Opportunities & The Super Curricular</i>
Mr Knowles	<i>The Lake District Trip</i>
Year 7 Tutor Team	<i>Form rooms- Bradshaw</i>
Mr Moane	<i>Feedback - end</i>

Mr Moane – Headteacher



Attendance Matters

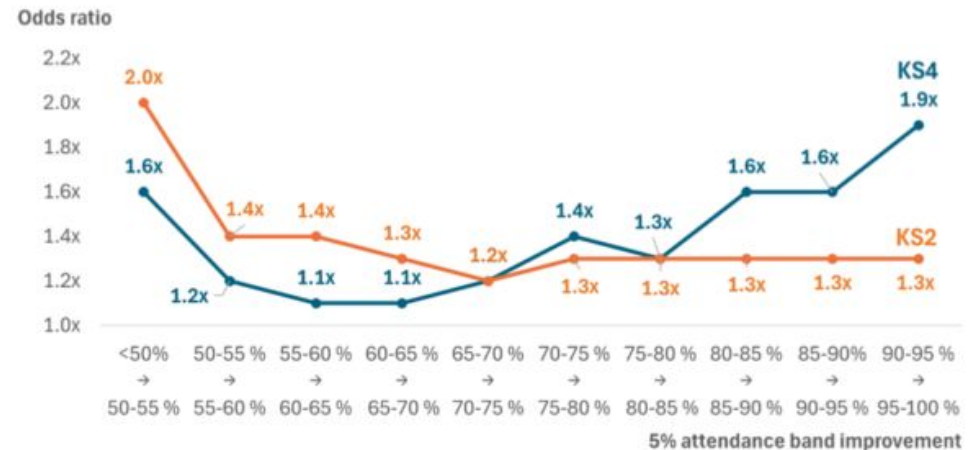
DfE Evidence shows that a pupil's progress and attainment is affected if their attendance falls below 90%.



Attendance Matters

- 90% attendance = 19 days off = 95 missed lessons that will never be repeated.
- The odds of year 11 pupils achieving a grade 5 in English and maths almost double if their attendance is over 95 per cent, compared to those who miss between 5 and 10 percent of lessons

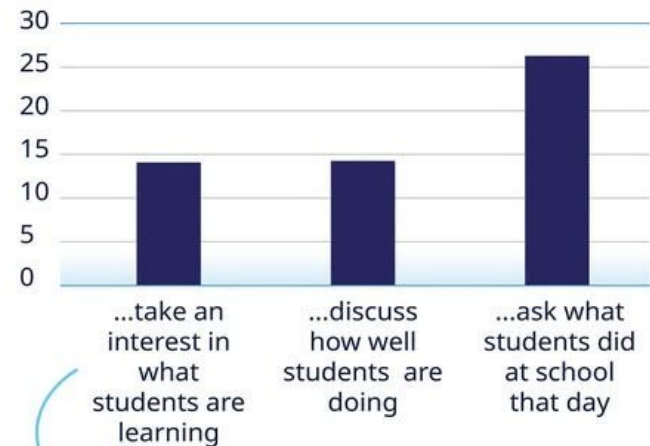
Figure 11 The odds ratio of achieving the expected standard at KS2 and KS4 when moving up a single 5% attendance band



- OECD research shows that parents simply taking an interest and asking about learning can make a significant difference to outcomes
- A reminder that all subjects publish the half termly topics being studied by each year group on our website under Curriculum->Subjects

Parental interest in schooling is linked to **higher student performance**

Score-point difference associated with students who report that parents or other family members...



Yet students reported **less family support than in 2022** in almost all countries and economies.

Home School Partnership



Verulam School - HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

	As a student I will...	As a parent/carer I will...	As a school we will...
Learning and progress	- learn to the best of my ability - try to improve, by seeking and taking advice from staff, reviewing my progress regularly and setting personal goals - attend parent/care-teacher evenings - undertake extra-curricular activities appropriate to my interests - develop my attributes through the Personal Development programme	- support my child's learning - take an active interest in my child's life at school - attend parent/careers consultation evenings and other events organised to help me learn about my child's progress - encourage my child to undertake extra-curricular activities - support my child in undertaking the Personal Development Programme	- support a high-quality learning environment - provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum - offer the best available teaching and support staff - report regularly on progress and advise on how improvement can take place - deliver a rich and varied super-curricular programme - encourage all students to follow the Personal Development Programme
Home-based Learning and Coursework	- make sure that I have understood my home learning and check it on Google Classroom - do my home learning to the best of my ability and on time - meet my coursework deadlines - follow teacher and exam board instructions carefully and don't cheat by copying work or using AI when it is not allowed	- provide a suitable environment at home to support my child's work - give encouragement and appropriate support ensure they meet their deadlines for submission of work - monitor Google Guardians Summaries regularly to keep up to date - support the school when sanctions are issued for missing homework or breaking rules on plagiarism or use of AI	- provide opportunities for each child to achieve their full academic potential by regular setting and marking of appropriate tasks - provide clear timelines and calendars for coursework and home learning schedules using Google Classroom and Google Guardian Summaries - make use of professional judgement and automated tools to detect plagiarism or prohibited use of artificial intelligence tools
Attendance and punctuality	- arrive at school each day on time - not leave the premises without permission - aim for 100% attendance	- ensure my child attends school regularly and punctually - inform the school of the reasons of any absence as soon as possible via the absence line - avoid taking my child out of school during term time	- monitor and encourage outstanding attendance - follow up attendance issues with the student and parent/carer as necessary
Responsibility	- take responsibility for my own learning and behaviour - observe the school rules at all times - be hard-working in all aspects of school life - do the right thing - when no one is watching - represent the school values - both at school and in the wider community	- encourage my child to behave responsibly and correctly and ensure they follow school rules at all times - encourage my child to behave responsibly when in the community and on the way to and from school - encourage my child to develop self-discipline and diligence	- define clear expectations with regard to behaviour and discipline and educate students to meet them - uphold and promote values of self-discipline and diligence - recognise and praise students who embody our school values
Relationships	- undertake never to bully other students - support other students - be a good citizen in the school and wider community - support others to make good decisions - ensure that you tell a teacher or other adult if you have a concern	- encourage my child to develop good friendship groups - give early warning of any concerns in behaviour, learning or relationships	- provide a safe and positive learning environment - provide guidance and support through the pastoral care system

- The triangular partnership : student, school, home
- The agreement sets out expectations of all parties
- The system is designed to encourage students to make positive choices and change behaviour
- The rules are there for safety and to create an environment suitable for learning
- We need your support with this, to celebrate rewards but also to uphold school sanctions when they apply.



Respect	- behave in a manner which shows respect for others in my school. Never act in a way that discriminates against people based upon their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or other protected characteristics - respect the school buildings, property and surroundings - never use social media to bully or disrespect others	encourage my child to uphold the values of integrity, compassion and tolerance	uphold and promote the values of integrity, compassion and tolerance
Uniform and equipment	- come to school each day correctly dressed, following the uniform and appearance guidelines and wear my uniform correctly in and out of school - ensure I bring the correct equipment, including device, to school each day - use my device and other equipment correctly	- ensure that my child leaves home each day appropriately dressed, equipped (including their device) and prepared for the school day - ensure that my child adheres to the appearance guidelines at all times both in and out of school - Monitor online usage at home and support the school policy to keep children safe when accessing the internet	- monitor uniform, appearance and equipment on a regular basis and inform parent/carer of problems - consult on any changes to regulations in advance - have robust safeguarding systems in place to ensure safe internet usage
Extra-curricular activities	become actively involved in school, including extra-curricular activities wherever possible	support my child in any extra-curricular activities undertaken	offer the chance to take part in a variety of extra-curricular activities
Communications	- take home information regularly when asked to do so - monitor and use the learning platform, Google Classroom and school website to keep up to date with information - remind my parents to complete online reply slips for trips and events - ensure that I always use my own tablet/electronic device in accordance with the Acceptable Use Agreement I have signed	- take note of and respond to, all school communications promptly and effectively - monitor and use Google Guardians Summaries and the school website to keep up to date with information and home learning that has been set - draw matters of concern to the attention of the school at the earliest possible moment - Support my child in appropriate use of an electronic learning device at school	- provide suitable platforms such as Google Classroom, MyChildAtSchool and the school website to provide clear information to parent/carers - Safely share the minimum amount of personal data needed with these platforms to provide educational benefit - contact parent/carers at the earliest appropriate moment should concerns or problems arise - deal with parent/carer concerns promptly and effectively

https://www.verulamschool.co.uk/docs/policies/Home_School_Partnership.pdf

Key dates 26-27

Event	Date
Wednesday 21st October	Talk Consent - Challenging misogyny and harassment
Tuesday 10th November	Curriculum Enrichment Day 1 (Digital Citizenship)
Thursday 26th November	Abbey Service - St Albans Cathedral
Friday 27th November	Occasional day - <i>note that school is closed</i>
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 29th January	Year 7 Attainment and Progress Data shared with parents
Tuesday 9th February	Year 7 Disco
Wednesday 3rd March	Curriculum Enrichment Day 2 (STEP)
Thursday 17th June	Year 7 Parent- Teacher Consultation Evening
Sunday 27th June - Thursday 1st July	Cultural Capital Week/ Lake District Trip



Year 7 Assessment

Mrs A. Cornmell

Assessment for learning at KS3

Students are assessed throughout their time at Verulam to enable students, parents and teachers to understand what a student knows and how to help them to improve.

Informal assessments take place in all lessons by teachers through observation and questioning in lessons.

Students will also sit more formal style assessments including some as they enter year 7.

SATS, CAT4 and NGRT

Most students completed **SATS** tests at the end of year 6. These are primarily used to track primary school performance but are also used by the Government to set GCSE targets for students.

All year 7 students sat **CAT4** tests in their first few weeks at Verulam School. These tests evaluate a student's academic potential and reasoning skills rather than learned curriculum content.

NGRT are new group reading tests that aim to measure students' reading and comprehension skills. These provide diagnostic information to teachers

How we report to you

- In year 7 we will report to you three times
 - **October 2026** – Attitude to learning only report for each subject
 - **January 2027** – Attitude to learning, Attainment and Progress report for each subject
 - **May 2027** – Attitude to learning, Attainment, Progress and student specific comments for each subject.
 - **Attitude to Learning is decided by subject teachers.**
 - Outstanding
 - Good
 - Inconsistent
 - Unsatisfactory
 - Progress is based on SATS attainment categories (or CAT4 where not available)
-

How we report to you

Our KS3 assessment grading system has been carefully devised to assess the extent to which students have the key knowledge, understanding and skills to be successful in each subject.

Mastery

Greater Depth

Secure

Developing

Emerging

Working towards Emerging



E-Safety

Miss K. Thackray

Home – School partnership – e-safety

1. Parental controls and guidance
2. Impact on school life
3. Where to find support



What rules do you set around online usage at home?

While parental concerns in some areas have increased considerably, their enforcement of rules appears to be diminishing, partly because of **resignation** about their **ability to intervene** in their children's online lives.

Spending money online (52%)

Information their child can share online (49%)

Video content their children are allowed to watch online (67%)

Types of websites and apps they can use (41%)

Source: Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2024

Why not have a family agreement to:

- **clarify** what is allowed...or not
- **establish** ground rules like no phones at the table or in the bedroom at night-time
- **agree** shared expectations to reduce arguments and keep everyone safe & healthy

Download it at parentsafe.lgfl.net/digital-family-agreement

Parental controls:

- Controls have to be set up on both the broadband connection AND each individual device
- These do not come as standard so it's worth checking
- They are important because they allow you to:
 - **Block and filter** upsetting or inappropriate content or sites
 - **Plan what time and how long** your child can go online for

Visit www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ to find out how to set controls on devices:



Set up devices safely

Set parental controls on a range of devices, apps, and platforms with our how-to guides.

Smartphones & other devices Select the smartphone, other device or OS from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL	Broadband & mobile networks Select your network provider from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL
Social media Select the social media app or platform from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL	Video games & consoles Select the video game or console from the dropdown list:  VIEW ALL

Impact on school life:

- Fatigue and difficulty concentrating in lessons, addictive traits develop.
 - Exposure to inappropriate online content – potential of concerning language being used, violence, harmful world-views.
 - Potential of increased ‘unkind’ behaviours between peers – large Whatsapp groups are harmful and impact social relationships in school.
 - Mental health – feelings of isolation, anxiety and disconnect.
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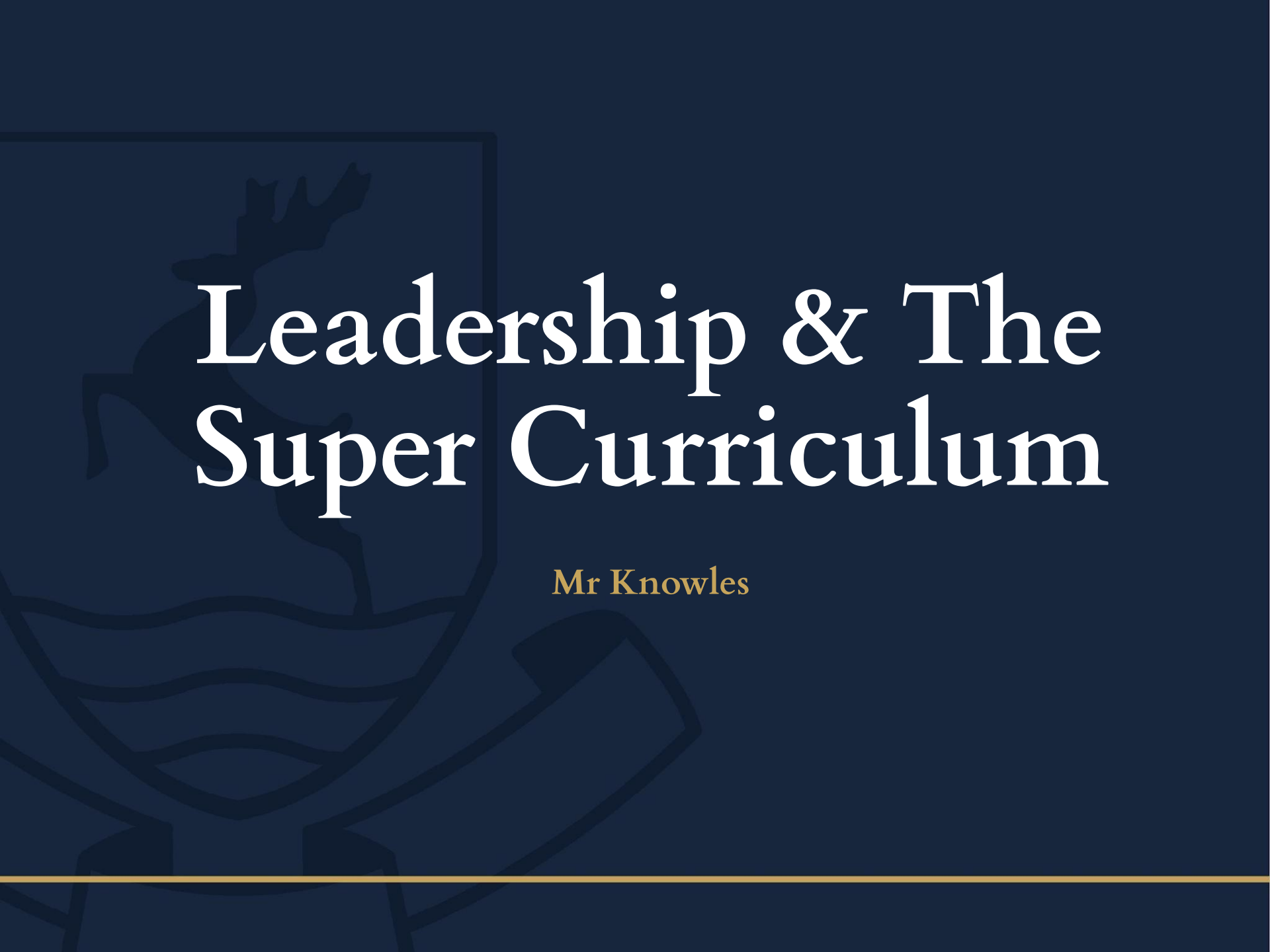
Where to find support:

- Form Tutors
- Head of Year
- School Safeguarding Team



NSPCC





Leadership & The Super Curriculum

Mr Knowles

Student Leadership Opportunities at Verulam

Student Council & Elections

- Includes students from **Years 7–11**, elected directly by their peers.
- Year 7 received informative assemblies explaining the entire process and opportunity.
- **Elections are taking place this week!**

Meetings & Responsibilities

- Elected representatives meet with the full Council **once a month**.
- Discuss key topics relevant to the **day-to-day running** of the school.
- Provide a vital platform for student voice and personal experience.

Annual Opportunity

- Elections are held **every year** for Council positions.
- If not successful this year, students are strongly encouraged to **try again next year!**



House Representatives

Selection & Role

- Each form has **TWO House Representatives**.
- Students apply to their Head of Year for this role and the most appropriate candidate is selected.
- Year 7 House Representatives will join the House team after half term.

Hawkes House Cup

- Awarded at the end of the Spring term to the House with the most House points.
- Competition restarts at the beginning of the Summer term with a new House Team election. This allows Year 11 House Captains to step down and focus fully on their GCSEs.

Competitions

- House competitions run continuously throughout the academic year.
- First event: **Verso Care Food Bank** donations competition.

Leadership through involvement with Clubs

Sports Leadership

Students can get involved in leadership opportunities through sport leadership. Joining a sporting team or extracurricular activity is a great way to explore leadership and teamwork.

Extracurricular Clubs

Students can find diverse leadership opportunities through our wide selection of Extracurricular club activities.

Eco Council

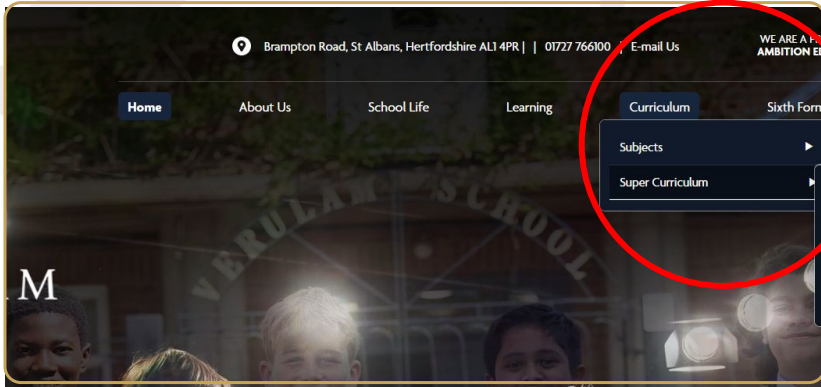
This is run by our Sixth Form Senior Prefects, allowing students to explore project leadership. Last year, the team successfully created a pond and undertook several wildlife surveys and environmental projects.

Music & Drama

Creative leadership and performance avenues include several new Year 7 music bands currently forming, along with opportunities in Drama for students to get involved in.

The Super Curriculum

To keep your son academically stimulated, we have provided a Super Curriculum accessed via our School website:



KS3 Subject Challenges

Tasks challenge students beyond taught content across 6 core categories: Read; Write; Listen; Watch; Create; Visit.

5

Tasks Completed

LOR Reward

Receive an LOR for
Love of Learning.

15

Tasks Completed

Lunch Pass

Receive a 'skip the lunch
queue' pass for a full week.

20

Tasks Completed

GOLD STAG Badge

Receive the much coveted
GOLD STAG badge presented
by the Headmaster.



The Lake District

Mr L. Knowles

When?

Sunday 27th June – Thursday 1st July
(During Culture Capital week)

Who can go?

140 places available.

Students remaining in school will do alternative activities.

Travel?

By coach to Lakeside for a boat cruise along Windermere to Ambleside.

Accommodation?

YHA Ambleside on the banks of Windermere.



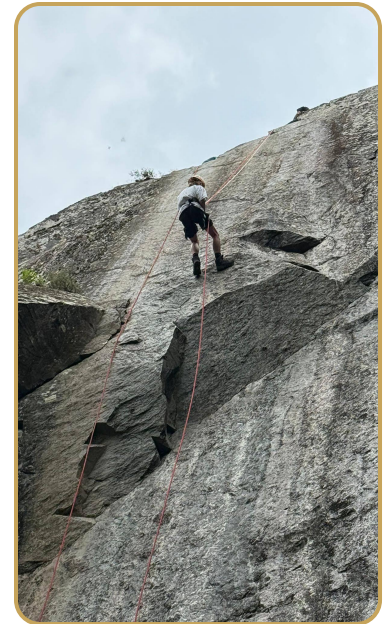
What are the activities?

- Mountain walk on Loughrigg, Low Pike or High Pike
- Canoeing on Windermere
- Cave walking & abseiling at Cathedral Quarry
- Rock Climbing & Ghyll Scrambling at Stickle Ghyll
- Bushcraft & Initiative challenges in the evening
- Cinema trip



Why should your son go?

- Builds resilience, team building skills & long-lasting friendships
- Real-world activities in the open air
- Pushes students to their limits
- True personal growth happens outside the classroom; remaining in school during Activities Week misses the core purpose of experiential learning.



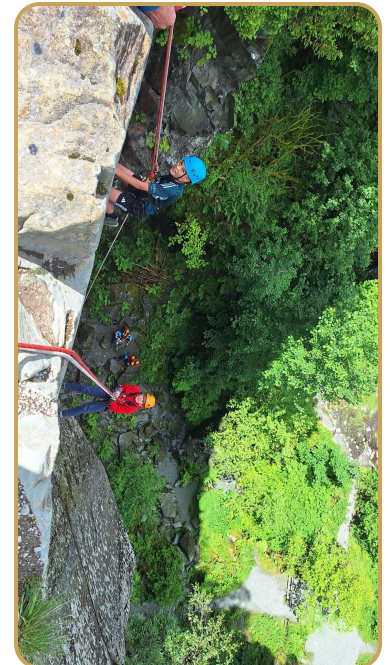
Cost?

- Whilst we understand the trip is quite expensive, please talk to us.
- In most cases we can assist with revised payment plans.
- Please don't feel your son is excluded due to costs.



Dietary requirements & Medical?

- All dietary requirements are catered for by the hostel.
- All instructors are qualified first aiders, as well as some of our own Verulam staff.
- Allergies, diabetes, and even homesickness are fully catered for!





Form Feedback

Year 7 forms

7B	<i>Mr Hegarty - B6</i>
7C	<i>Dr Novikova - B2</i>
7H	<i>Mr Moseley- B3</i>
7J	<i>Mr Russell - B4</i>
7P	<i>Mr Ahmed - B5</i>
7Y	<i>Mr Higgins - B1</i>

15 minutes. Get to know tutor and each other. Focus on “What Went Well” / “Even Better If” feedback to help us improve. Form tutor will then feed back to the group when we return to the hall. Constructive criticism is welcome but please avoid individual concerns relating specifically to your own son.

Feedback and closing comments



BRAMPTON

Mr Hegarty



CHURCHILL

Dr Novikova



HAMILTON

Mr Moseley



JENNINGS

Mr Russell



PARK

Mr Ahmed



YORK

Mr Higgins



Mr F. Moane

Google Classroom & Homework

<https://verulamschool.co.uk/Google-Classroom-Guide/>

Homework will start to increase in the coming weeks. Google Guardian Summaries can be helpful, but perhaps the most helpful thing is a discussion with your child about what homework they have been set. Get them to show you on Classroom (they will be set as 'Assignment' with a due date.) Homework in English, Maths and Science is often set on the Sparx platform.



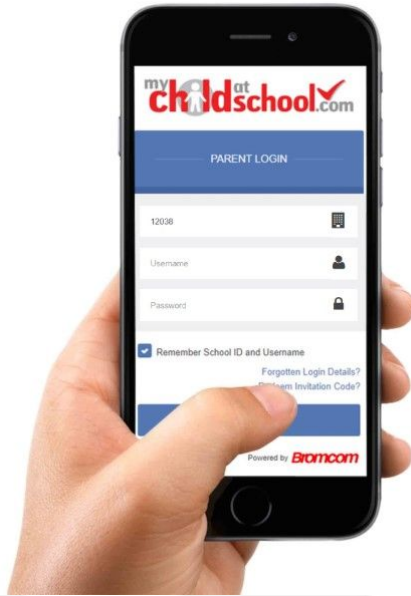
Google Classroom

Guide for Students & Parents

My Child At School:

Know what is happening at school.

- Attendance
- House Points
- Sanctions



I saw that you were late to English, was everything ok?

Mr Knowles gave you a house point today, what was that for?

This presentation
already available on
our website, under
Learning-> Parents'
Information
Evenings

verulamschool.co.uk/Learning/Parents-Information-Evenings/

Apps verulamschool.co.uk bookmarks

Home About Us School Life **Learning** Curriculum Sixth Form Join Us What's On

Parents' Information Evenings

This page gathers the presentations given at the year group information evenings.

The dates for the 2025/26 academic year are below, alongside the parent teacher consultations where appointments can be booked with teachers via the My Child At School platform.

Year group information evenings		Parents' consultation evenings	
		Year 7	Settling in meet with tutor (virtual) Thursday 16th October
Year 12	Thursday 11th September	Year 12	Thursday 20th November
Year 11	Thursday 18th September	Year 10	Wednesday 3rd December
Year 10	Thursday 2nd October	Year 11	Thursday 22nd January
Year 9	Thursday 9th October	Year 9	Thursday 5th February
Year 8	Wednesday 15th October	Year 13	Tuesday 10th February
Year 13	Wednesday 22nd October	Year 7	Wednesday 11th March
		Year 8	Thursday 30th April

PDF Year 10 Info Evening 2025

PDF Year 11 Info Evening 2025

PDF Year 12 Info Evening 2025

Learning

- Curriculum Overview
- KS4 Options
- Assessment for Learning
- Verulam Learning
- Equipped for Learning
- Literacy and Reading
- Exams
- Curriculum Enrichment Days
- Parents' Information Evenings**
- Personal Development
- Useful Links
- Year 11 Revision Microsite