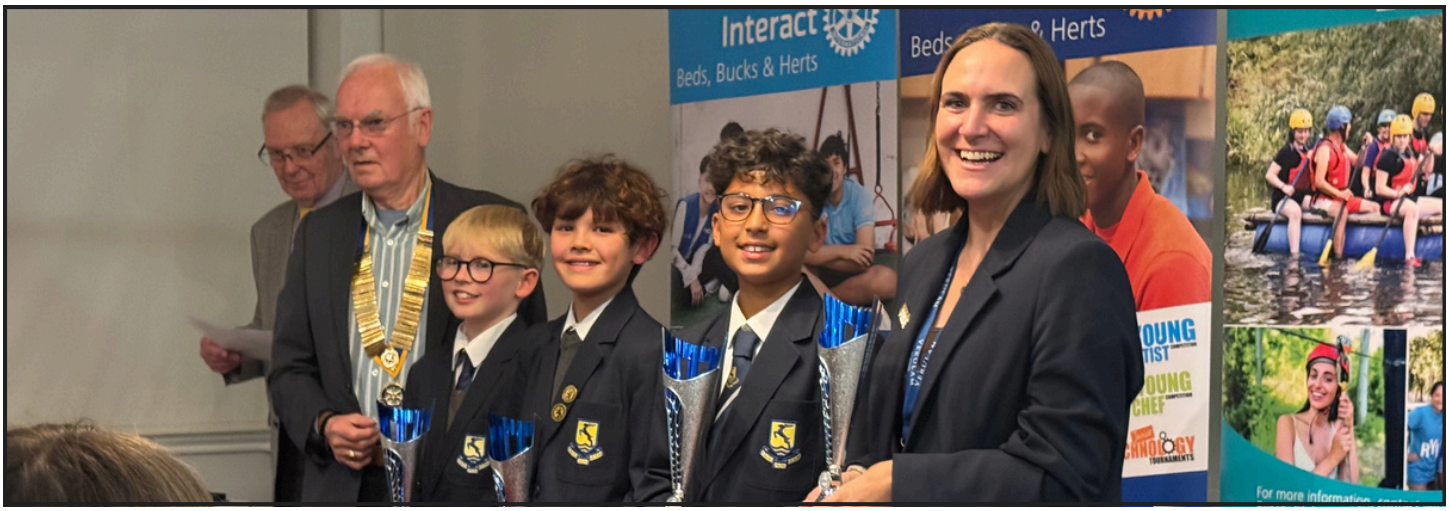
25th November 2026

VERULAM SCHOOL

VERUNews

EDITION 010



Headteacher Highlights

This has been a busy few weeks in school. We recently hosted our annual Governor Day, where our governing body visited lessons and spoke to staff and students to get a sense of school life and to provide scrutiny and challenge to the school leadership team. We also had a visit from our School Effectiveness Adviser from HFL Education, who again provided a level of external audit and accountability. Both sets of visitors noted positive progress compared to last year, with calm and purposeful classrooms and ambitious students who are increasingly well supported in making progress. Our rising academic results over the last three years are a reflection of this. However, we are not complacent; there are still plenty of areas where we can improve, and we are grateful for parental input on this. We are working with the PTA on a variety of projects to improve resources and facilities in areas such as Physical Education and the Performing Arts.

I have been very proud of our Head Students in the last few weeks, from their lead role in the annual Abbey Service to speaking at the Old Verulamians Association annual dinner. Head Girl Lexi and School Captain Aiden also accompanied me to a conference hosted by the Domestic Abuse Alliance at St Albans Town Hall, discussing how education can support positive masculinity and reduce abuse and violence directed towards women and girls—a particular duty in a boys' school.

Finally, a reminder about a couple of key events coming up. You are invited to our annual Apprenticeship Evening for students and their parents/carers in Years 11–13, to meet a range of employers and apprenticeship providers in a programme of talks and encounters designed to provide more information on this increasingly popular option for post-16 and post-18 choices. Please also note a reminder about our Winter Showcase on 9 December. Students have been practising hard and would love to perform to a large audience.

Thanks for your support, as ever.

Fergal Moane, Headteacher

Fortnightly Focus

Click for Term Dates

- Movember Mens Health Awareness Month (November)
- 16 Nov - Year 11 MFL Mock Exams - ALL WEEK
- 26 Nov - Abbey Service - ALL YEARS
- 27 Nov - OCCASIONAL DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 01 Dec - Years 11-13 Apprenticeship Evening
- 03 Dec - Year 10 Parents Evening
- 08 Dec - Flu vaccinations - catch up clinic (Years 7-11)
- 09 Dec - Winter Showcase
- 10 Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- 16 Dec - Year 7 Christmas Lunch (Main Hall) - details to follow
- 16 Dec - Years 8 & 9 Christmas Lunch (canteen) - details to follow
- 17 Dec - Years 10-13 Christmas Lunch (canteen) - details to follow
- 18 Dec - LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM - Students dismissed at 12.20pm

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Verulam Debaters Shine at Rotary Competition With Year 7 Claiming Victory!

Last Wednesday evening, three teams from Verulam School took to the floor at the Rotary Youth Speaks debate competition, delivering articulate, passionate performances across and doing the school proud!

Our Year 12 team navigated the economic and environmental complexities of drilling in the North Sea. Year 10 explored the ethical boundaries of science, debating whether genetic enhancement should be permitted. And, Year 7 took on the future of technology, questioning if AI innovation will cause humans to lose the ability to think for themselves.



Every student rose to the occasion, writing and delivering well developed and thought through arguments, demonstrating critical thinking and strong teamwork under pressure.

The crowning achievement of the evening came with our Year 7 team winning their debate in the ages 11 - 13 category, triumphing over older Year 8 teams.

The judging panel had high praise for all of Verulam's participants. Beyond noting how refreshing it was to see so many boys engaged in competitive public speaking, the judges remarked that several of our speakers possessed the presence and eloquence to stand at the House of Commons dispatch box in the future.

Event organisers also extended their warm congratulations to the school, praising Alex, Joshua, and Alex for their inspiring oratory skills and exemplary conduct, calling them a great tribute to Verulam School.

A huge well done to all three teams for their hard work, preparation, delivery and fantastic representation of the school.

Ms Long





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Please remember.....

IF ABSENT please contact:

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In other news.....

Christmas Show News

Tickets for Verulam's Festive Christmas Showcase are on sale via MCAS.
Taking place on Wednesday 9th December 2026 and tickets are priced as follows:
Adults £5
Under 16's £2.50.
Doors open at 6.30pm and the show will start at 7.00pm.
We look forward to seeing you there!



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Year 11 Explore Vocational Pathways at Oaklands College



Despite some truly appalling weather, a group of Year 11 students recently braved the elements to attend the School Explorer event at Oaklands College.

Designed specifically for students considering practical, hands-on post-16 routes, the day offered a fantastic insight into college life and vocational education. Students took part in tailored workshops across a range of specialist industries, allowing them to test their skills, use professional equipment, and speak directly with industry-experienced tutors about what a typical day looks like on their courses.

The visit proved to be an invaluable experience, particularly for those considering careers in the trades, as well as students actively exploring practical alternatives to traditional A-Level pathways. Having the opportunity to experience the campus environment first-hand helped bring their post-16 options to life and gave many a much clearer sense of direction as they prepare for their upcoming applications.

Students engaged brilliantly throughout the day and were a real credit to the school, refusing to let the rain dampen their enthusiasm. Thank you to Oaklands College for hosting such an informative and welcoming event.

Mr Lewis, Head of PSHE

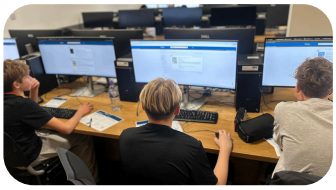
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Year 10 HPQ Trip to the University of Southampton

On a sunny November morning, fifteen of our Year 10 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) students travelled to the University of Southampton with Mr Knowles and Mr Zaman for a day of academic research and campus exploration.

A major highlight of the visit was working inside the university library, which holds over 2.5 million books. Shown how to navigate university catalogues and online databases, our students moved well beyond everyday search engines to track down peer-reviewed journal articles and specialist texts. Learning how to find and evaluate credible sources is a vital part of the HPQ, and everyone came away with strong academic material to back up their 2,000-word essays.







Away from the desks, the beautiful weather made for a brilliant walking tour of the grounds. Students learned about the history of the university and toured its impressive facilities, including the university gym and sports centre. Sharing lunch with current undergraduates also gave the group a great opportunity to ask questions about student life, degree choices, and what independent study is really like.

Our Year 10s represented the school brilliantly throughout the day, tackling university-level research with real focus and maturity. They returned home with a genuine taste of higher education and plenty of solid research gathered, ready to get stuck into writing up their final HPQ essays.

Mr R Zaman, Assistant Headteacher

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Engaging Minds & Settling into Year 12

It has been another busy and rewarding week in the Sixth Form, with our Year 12 students taking full advantage of enrichment opportunities alongside important milestones in their academic journey.



We were delighted to welcome back ITN War Correspondent Neil Connery to deliver our latest Engaging Minds Lecture. Drawing on his extensive career reporting from warzones and natural disasters across the globe, Neil shared a wealth of inspirational stories and first-hand insights into the world of broadcast journalism. Incorporating real news reportage into his talk, he brought the realities of frontline reporting to life and gave our students plenty to reflect on.

Thank you, Neil, for such a captivating session!

Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form

House Updates

The House leadership team organise many events throughout the school year which are designed to celebrate students' success and keep students motivated. Who will win this year?

BRAMPTON 21135

CHURCHILL 23276

HAMILTON 19356

JENNINGS 17629

PARK 19223

YORK 19129

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Year 12 Students Explore University Life at UCL

Ten of our Year 12 Sociology students recently visited University College London (UCL) to take part in the Department of Science and Technology Studies Taster Day. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity for students to experience university life, explore a subject beyond the A-level specification and consider what studying at degree level might look like.

Throughout the day, students took part in sessions exploring the History and Philosophy of Science and the Sociology and Politics of Science, as well as enjoying a guided tour of the UCL campus. A particular highlight was a thought-provoking session entitled 'Who's to Blame When a Self-Driving Car Kills Someone?', which encouraged students to consider the ethical and social implications of emerging technologies.

The day also gave students a valuable insight into university admissions, the experience of studying at UCL and the wide range of career opportunities that a degree in Science and Technology Studies can lead to. These include careers in science policy, journalism, politics, consultancy, teaching and the pharmaceutical industry.

Most importantly, the visit allowed students to picture themselves in a university environment, ask questions and start thinking about their own future pathways. It was an enjoyable and valuable experience, helping to bring their classroom learning to life while broadening their aspirations for life beyond Sixth Form.

Mrs C Braban

VERUFocus

Odd Socks, Open Minds

This Anti-Bullying Week, our lower school stood against bullying. Edward M and I led the brilliant team of Year 12 Mental Health Mentors in delivering a series of assemblies to Years 7 to 10, giving every student the chance to reflect on how our words and actions affect others, and the importance of this year's theme: 'breaking the silence'.

The assemblies explored what bullying really looks like in the modern world, from online messages to name-calling and exclusion. We talked about the line between banter and behaviour that truly hurts, and about how it feels to be on the receiving end: upset but afraid to speak up. I think the most important message from the assemblies was a simple reminder that students don't have to face bullying alone; breaking the silence and talking to someone about your problems is always better than bottling it up.

Alongside the assemblies, we encouraged everyone to take part in Odd Socks Day. It sounds trivial, but we strongly believe in the impact this day has every year. It raises awareness for the issue of bullying in a way everyone can participate in, and pushes a really important message: everyone is different, which is something to celebrate rather than something to be targeted for. Every odd sock represented individuality, and it was great to see so many people taking part.

Of course, change doesn't come from just one week. We need to make sure that the message is carried into the future, and people continue to make the right choices, like including the person sitting alone, challenging people who are picking on others, and checking in on a friend. Importantly, this week gave us a great starting point.

A huge thank you to Edward M, Jacob G and Zayan H for hosting the assemblies; you all did an amazing job and have had a remarkably positive impact on the lower school.

Written by Sebastian S, Year 12 Senior Mental Health Mentor.





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Year 12 Parent Teacher Consultations

We recently concluded our first in-person Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening of the academic year. It was wonderful to welcome nearly 100 families into school for focused, one-to-one discussions on how our Year 12 cohort has settled into their new A-Level, BTEC, AAQ, and Level 3 courses. Thank you to all the parents, carers, and students who attended—your ongoing partnership is invaluable as students build strong foundations for the year ahead.

Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form

Residential Reminders

Confirmed residential trips are shown below.

Upcoming residential trip reminders:

- Nothing Upcoming

Further ahead (2027/28 dates):

- 19 Feb - Geography Field Trip Iceland*
- 27 Jun - 01 Jul - Yr 7 Lake District Trip*

Further ahead (2027/28 dates):

- 28 Jun - 01 Jul - Yr 8 Battlefields Trip* - FULL
- 28 Jun - Yr 12 New York All Humanities Trip* - FULL
- 28 Jun - Barcelona Football Trip* - FULL
- 05 Jul - 09 Jul - Yr 9 North Wales Trip* - FULL
- 11 Feb - 19 Feb 2028 - Yr 7-9 Ski Trip (open for expression of interest)

VERULAM SCHOOL

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Sporting Success continues!

A very busy and successful couple of weeks for our teams. Please note next week indoor clubs resume.

1st XV Rugby: Commanding Win Over Beaumont
Our 1st XV produced an impressive performance against Beaumont, securing a dominant 47–22 victory, with Harry P earning Man of the Match honours.

Year 9 Rugby League: County Champions
A fantastic result for our Year 9 rugby league team, who defeated Hemel School 54–12 to be crowned County Champions. They now progress to the regional stage of the competition next Monday—well done, boys!



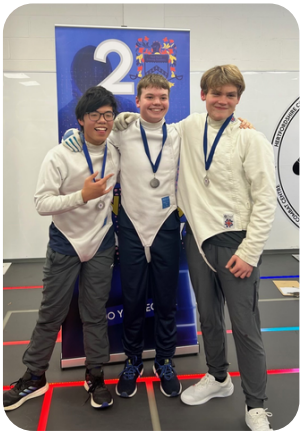
Year 8 Rugby League: South of England Finalists
Well done to our Year 8 rugby league team, who competed in the South of England Finals and finished in an impressive 4th place, doing both the school and county proud with their effort throughout the tournament. Congratulations to our Players of the Day: Zach K for his outstanding all-round play, and Ky R for scoring an incredible four solo tries!



Senior 1st XI Football: Historic National Cup Victory
Our Senior 1st XI continued their remarkable unbeaten season on Friday night with an incredible away victory against Samuel Whitbread—the current National Champions and finalists for the previous three years. Showing superb desire and resilience, the squad took the game to penalties and held their nerve to win 5–4, maintaining their 100% record and progressing to Round 5. They also had a convincing victory in the County Cup against Townsend.



Hertfordshire Schools Fencing Championships 2026
Congratulations to our Year 10 fencing team—Lucas, Venci S, and Vyacheslav B—who won a brilliant silver medal at the Hertfordshire Schools Fencing Championships 2026.



Year 8 Swimming: National Finalists
Well done to our talented Year 8 swimmers who competed at the National Finals over the weekend. Simply qualifying is an outstanding achievement, and the boys represented the school brilliantly at the highest level in their Verulam swim hats. They will all receive LORs in recognition of this fantastic accomplishment.



KS4 Table Tennis: County Finals
Well done to our KS4 District Table Tennis Champions, who finished an impressive 5th in the County Finals. Competing against very strong opposition, the boys played brilliantly throughout and narrowly missed out on a bronze medal by just one game. A great effort from everyone involved!



Well done to our fantastic teams!
Mr Errington, Director of Sport