

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 3 - 20th September 2019

### Open Day

Plans for this year's Open Day on **28th September** are well underway and we are requesting as many pupils as possible are involved this year.

I would also ask parents to support the school by publicising details of this year's Open Day via social media as follows:

### Verulam School Open Day

**Saturday 28th September 9.00am to 12.00pm**  
**Headmasters speeches: 9.15am, 10.00am, 10.45am and 11.30am.**

Please be aware that the school will close early on **Friday 27th September at 12.45pm** to allow for staff to prepare the school for Open Day.

### Communication protocols

Involving you in your son or daughter's education is central to our vision and we devote considerable time communicating with parents via Verulam Voice, letters regarding specific issues, parents' evenings and in responding to parental queries. This term, we initiated meetings with year groups to brief parents about the year ahead. We have already spoken to parents from Years 7, 8 and Lower Sixth and have the following meetings scheduled:

- Year 10 English Literature information evening on Wednesday 25th September
- Year 9 Information Evening on Thursday 3 October

Mr Emsley, Assistant Headteacher for KS4 and 5 will also be issuing specific calendars for Years 11 and Year 13 shortly.

However, as is of course correct, the vast majority of a teacher, Head of Department or Head of Year's time is spent in the classroom or preparing teaching and learning. This means that they cannot respond to all parental queries as quickly as parents may wish.

The school's communication protocols are that the Senior Leadership Team will respond to all queries within 24 hours - in fact we always try our best to respond the same day. Other teachers are requested to reply within 48 hours of any parental communication.

The school also observes an email curfew from 7.00pm to 6.00am Monday to Thursday and from 6.00pm on a Friday evening for the weekend to ensure staff wellbeing.

### Headmaster's commendations

This week's commendation goes to Lewis Durkin in Year 8 who competed in the London region national gymnastics qualifier last weekend and made the team of four to represent London at the nationals in November.

An amazing achievement, well done.

*P A Ramsey*

### 2019-2020 Academic Year

#### Autumn Term

3rd September to 20th December 2019

#### Half Term

28th October to 1st November 2019

### Key Dates

#### Meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise

23rd September	Year 10 (2018-2019) celebration assembly (Hall)
24th September	Enrichment Trip Year 11 & Year 12 Parents Info Evening (2021)
25th September	Year 10 Parent Information Evening
26th September	Spanish Exchange Parent Meeting
<b>27th September</b>	<b>Early Finish 12.45pm</b>
<b>28th September</b>	<b>Open Morning 9am-12pm</b>
1st—16th October	Open Weeks
2nd October	Art Trip - Curwen Studios - Year 10
3rd October	Year 9 Parent Information Evening
9th October	Year 11 DofE Presentation Evening
10th October	Practice Sail - Stanborough Lakes (12.30-4pm)
11th October	Tollesbury Trip Departs
17th October	DofE Silver Departs
18th October	Year 12 Geography Trip departs
20th October	DofE Silver Returns Yr 12 Geography Trip returns

## **FEED 2019 - Supporting our community**

As part of the school's educational role, we aim to help pupils think about important community and social issues. This wider education is vital in helping young men and women to become successful members of society.

To start the term, we decided to look at an issue which was both local and accessible to all pupils. Food poverty is an increasing problem in the UK and research shows a significant rise in demand with more than a million people being supported by food banks.

St. Albans is fortunate enough to benefit from a well organised and supported programme known as The Feed Project. Each local secondary school supports this food bank for 1 month of the year. Verulam sponsors September and due to the generosity of parents and enthusiasm of students we hold the record for the largest number of donations. With an uncertain national picture, this year could be our most important yet and we hope to collect **7000** items. I would be very grateful if parents would consider supporting this very worthy charity.

A list of items that can be donated can be seen below:

- Coffee, tea, sugar, longlife milk, fruit juice/squash
- Tinned meat/vegetables
- Rice, pasta, noodles, cooking sauces
- Tinned puddings, custard, jam/spreads
- Cereals, cereal bars, biscuits
- Shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary products
- Washing up liquid/powder, toilet rolls
- Nappies

Students should bring their donations to school in the morning and leave them in the dining hall from 8.15am and during registration where they are counted and sent off to the Feed project. Items can be sent in from **Monday 16th to Friday 27th September**.

## **Verulam Cricket Club Players Needed!**

**To all Verulam School parents (especially Year 7), staff and friends**

- Friendly social cricket
- Suitable for trusty, occasional, past-it and even handy cricketers (not complete beginners, sorry). The emphasis is on "social".
- Midweek summer evenings, May to July. We circulate the fixture list in March.
- We play at several park and club venues in and around St Albans
- You'll need whites, but no need to buy equipment as we have a full kit bag.
- No minimum commitment, you could play all/most of the 10-12 fixtures, or just 1 or 2.
- To cover costs, the match fee is £7-10, depending on the venue, normally including some food.
- Some nets practice sessions are usually arranged informally in the spring.
- Interested? We hope so! If so, please let us have your email address and mobile no.

**Contact Matt Melling to join or with any query on:**

**mattmelling@ntlworld.com**  
**Mobile : 07785 374826**

**Open Day**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September - 9.00am to 12.00pm**

The School's annual Open Day Event for prospective parents is being held this year on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September. We are holding the event on a Saturday in order for all parents and students to experience every aspect of Verulam school life. The event will run from 9.00am-12.00pm.

**School will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 12.45pm and will start late on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, with registration at 9.45am.** The school will notify the bus companies of the early finish on Friday and late start on Monday morning.

All students who are helping out on the day need to be in full uniform. We would like Year 7 to arrive at school at 8.30am and report to Room 1 (BCH) or Room 11 (JPY).

**Annual Service of Thanksgiving**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - 2.00 to 3.00pm**

This year's Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans will take place on **Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October**.

It will give pupils, staff and guests an opportunity to reflect and be thankful for Verulam; to celebrate personal and school achievements and inspire us all to be ambassadors in achieving Verulam's goal of excellence. Our guest speaker is Alisdair Nauls, Public Engagement Officer of the Marine Conservation Society.

The theme of this year's Service is: "Save Our Planet". We are supporting two charities this year: the local charity Earthworks; and the Marine Conservation Society.

A collection will be taken for charity during the service. The school will also be running a number of fund raising events during October. Sustainable, bamboo wristbands will be sold for £2 in aid of Earthworks. Please ask your child to wear his/her wristband for the Abbey Service.

**Year 12 GCSE Celebration Event**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November as of 2.00pm**

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, we will celebrate GCSE results of 2018 2019 year 11 students **who are currently in Year 12 at Verulam School**. We will celebrate results of students who were at Verulam in Year 11 last year and students who have joined us from other schools in Year 12.

The ceremony will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Main Hall from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Parents/Carers will receive an invitation via ParentMail.

*Mrs Nele Destickere*  
*Administrator*

## Smartcards

We would like to remind parents that when adding funds to your child's smartcard account, Parentmail pay dinner top up, is the preferred method of payment. This can be accessed on line against your child's name using your parentmail account.

If you are paying by cheque then please make sure your cheques are payable to **ABM Catering Ltd.**

*Finance Office*

## Enrichment trip

Verulam are excited to be partnering with True Adventure to deliver this enrichment adventure to pupils in Years 11 and 12.

Costa Rica is a stunning country with famed levels of biodiversity, friendly locals, an abundance of landscapes and endless wildlife. Whilst out there pupils will have the opportunity to gain a skill for life by completing PADI Open Water diving qualification.

They will expand their knowledge through cross-curricular learning with opportunities for Spanish, Biology and Geography to name a few! The experience will enhance life skills that are valued by universities and employers such as resilience, empathy and leadership.

For more information please come to the parents evening 7pm, 24th September in the main hall.



## **Clerk to Governing Body**

**5 hours per week during term time**

**£3500 per annum**

**Term time only**

Verulam School is seeking an energetic and confidential clerk to work with the Governing Body. You will work under the direction of the Chair of Governors and Headteacher. Duties include clerking up to 5 meetings per half term. Committee Meetings are scheduled at 4.00pm or 4.30pm whilst Full Governing Body takes place at 7.00pm. There are also occasional early morning meetings.

If you wish to have an informal tour or discussion prior to application, please contact the Head's PA, Ms Kelly Bonass at [kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk). An application and job description can be found on our website.