



VERULAM SCHOOL

Excellence . Character . Respect

PROSPECTUS 2019–20

www.verulamschool.co.uk

MEET THE PUPILS

YORK | YEAR 7

Primary School: Abbey Primary School

Favourite Verulam Memory: My favourite memory of Verulam was my UNHCR charity cake sale that I did with a few of my friends.

Favourite Subject: My favourite subject is Maths because although it's difficult I love the subject and I love to learn different things. Another thing I love about Maths is when you've spent a week revising for a test that is quite difficult and when you finally get a high score and you feel amazing.

Verulam Hobbies & Interests: I love sports, one of the main things I do is Tae-Kwon-Do. In Tae-Kwon-Do I am a former England champion in Sparring.

Greatest Achievements: Getting a Headteacher's commendation for helping in the STEM club project.

Future Aspirations: When I am older I want to be a doctor.

JENNINGS | YEAR 9

Primary School: London Colney Primary School

Favourite Verulam Memory: Lake District with my friends, while canoeing, we tried to submerge each other as a joke and getting each other wet!

Favourite Subject: Geography because we get to learn so much. We get to learn about different countries from all over the world, their cultures; as well as the terrible disasters they have had to face and to evolve.

Verulam Hobbies & Interests: I love doing sports and two of my favourite things to do are boxing and cricket.

Greatest Achievements: Maths Challenge and STEM Club. We won the Hertfordshire Award for best club.

Future Aspirations: Astronomer.

I am Verulam because: I am a representative for Verulam in and out of school doing sport, and, in the future I cannot wait to do Duke of Edinburgh Award.

BRAMPTON | YEAR 8

Primary School: Bernards Heath

Favourite Verulam Memory: Beating Parmiters in the Maths Challenge. It was very exciting because it was a bit like a game show!

Favourite Subject: My favourite subject is History because I like discussions and learning how and why everything happened in the past.

Verulam Hobbies & Interests: STEM Club, Rugby Team, Maths Challenge and the Ski Trip.

Greatest Achievements: City of St Albans Swimming Club - Regional Champions in the relay.

Future Aspirations: Top university, study History, become an archaeologist.

I am Verulam because: I work hard, study hard and aspire to be the best possible for me and help that by doing lots of extra-curricular activities that not only do I enjoy, but also help my knowledge grow.

CHURCHILL | YEAR 10

Primary School: Aboyne Lodge

Favourite Verulam Memory: Camping with my friends on the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Favourite Subject: History, because I enjoy to learn about the past and warfare and why wars occurred in particular.

Verulam Hobbies & Interests: I enjoy cycling and playing badminton.

Greatest Achievements: Bronze DofE because I enjoyed getting lost and finding our way back to the campsite just on time.

Future Aspirations: Traveling the world. Gold DofE. Studying Law at university.

I am Verulam because: I enjoy exploring and the opportunities it has given me.

Welcome to the 2019–2020 Verulam School Prospectus

Dear Boys and Parents

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Verulam School and to invite you to join us on a learning journey pursuing the goal of excellence in the academic, sporting and social spheres of life. In order to help us achieve these goals we joined the Alban Academies Trust in September 2018.

Verulam shares the AAT's vision of "educational excellence for everyone" and we believe that by working together Verulam School and our pupils will make swift progress towards our goal of excellence.

We are specialists in boys' education and design our curriculum and teaching to help pupils fulfil their potential. We also recognise that boys succeed when they engage in the sports, social or other extra-curricular activities provided by the school. The seven year journey enables your son to become a confident, articulate young man who can succeed in higher education, employment and their personal lives.

From his very first day at Verulam we want your son to become an enthusiastic learner who aims for excellence, develops his character and shows respect for all.

I hope you enjoy reading our website and feel inspired to find out more about Verulam – particularly by visiting us on either our open day or during the following open weeks.

The best adverts for Verulam School are the students – I hope your son wishes to become one.



Paul Ramsey BA (Hons), Headteacher

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“The behaviour of pupils is good... around school, pupils maintain their positive behaviour. They are polite and show respect for others. They move purposefully and calmly around the site.” OFSTED

BEHAVIOUR & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We believe in supporting your son on his seven year journey from secondary school transfer to university, apprenticeship or job application. Our expectation is for him to behave well at all times, have respect for others and to be resilient in the face of challenges.

Our tailored pastoral induction programme ensures that pupils can start at Verulam secure and confident, having made new friends and that they are familiar with the school. Year 7 is based in the Bradshaw building and its playground is a special base which enables Year 7 pupils to feel safe and builds their confidence.

Form tutors offer care, support and guidance on both social and academic issues and the pastoral team is well supported by our Pastoral Worker, Matron, Pastoral Mentor and Counselor.

Both the curriculum and enrichment opportunities develop pupils' characters and help them develop confidence and resilience. We also stress the importance of healthy lifestyles and ensuring that every boy has a clear plan for the future.

Safeguarding is central to all we do at Verulam. We strive to ensure that pupils feel supported at all times and have the confidence to seek help when they need it. The school has a zero tolerance policy on any kind of discriminatory attitudes, behaviour or language and pupils report that they feel safe and know from whom to seek help if they experience difficulties.



PARTNERSHIP IN SUCCESS

We want to work together to ensure your son succeeds and enjoys school. Good communication is vital to this which is why we write directly to parents by email and issue a weekly newsletter - “Verulam Voice”.

Parents can view up to date details of attendance, rewards and consequences at any time via our parental portal and app - MyChildAtSchool. Homework is also easily accessible through Show My Homework. The School has a very popular Facebook page and a useful website also provides further information: www.verulamschool.co.uk

The Verulam Parent Teacher Association offers opportunities for parents to become involved in school life through fundraising and social activities such as quiz nights and the Annual Ball.



THE VERULAM CURRICULUM

Verulam has a broad and balanced curriculum which is both flexible and demanding in order to meet the needs of all pupils and seeks to help them achieve the goal of excellence with personalised routes tailored to students.

At Key Stage 3 students are taught in both mixed ability and sets. We build key skills in Years 7 and 8 which helps students to achieve across all areas of the school and build the crucial character traits of resilience, confidence and independence. Teaching and learning is varied and exciting to meet the needs of all students.

As well as the core subjects, we take great pride in our Technology, Art, Music, Drama and Physical Education/Healthy Lifestyles curriculum. A Modern Foreign Language of either French or Spanish develops additional key skills at KS3 and Personal and Social Education and Religious Studies really get to the heart of the debate, personal development and really thinking about the individual in society.

Computing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are a key focus with plenty of opportunities to explore practical and academic experiences. Google Classrooms and technology is used to enhance the learning for students by equipping them with the exciting IT skills needed for the changing world around us. We place a significant focus on reading and speaking and listening skills. We also adopt a clear process for the complete learning experience in terms of: thinking, planning, analysing, reviewing and writing via book polishing and clear assessment for learning feedback.

Key Stage 4 which we start in Year 9, builds on the skills and experiences from KS3. We provide students at GCSE with vocational routes as well as the more traditional pure academic routes to personalise the curriculum for every student. Option choices added to the core curriculum include: BTECs, Economics and Business Studies.

The curriculum is enhanced by four curriculum enrichment days per year which focus on wide ranging opportunities for all year groups to engage with key topics, visits and challenges beyond the classroom environment.



EDUCATING BOYS

Why do boys thrive when educated together?

Single sex education offers boys the chance to be taught by teachers who understand how boys learn and to study a curriculum that is tailored to their needs.

Boys benefit from clear rules in the classroom and a consistent approach to learning. They succeed when given regular assessments and clear feedback on how to improve.

Verulam enables boys to compete and collaborate within an ordered and supportive environment whilst encouraging them to become confident and articulate young men.

Our mixed Sixth Form and collaboration with Beaumont and Sandringham Schools helps our boys to prepare for university through working in an adult environment.

“Pupils come to lessons ready to learn. They readily follow routines and settle quickly to their work. They take pride in what they do and demonstrate consistently positive attitudes.” OFSTED



VERULAM JOURNEY



“The teachers’ unique approach geared towards teaching boys, keeps them engaged and enthusiastic... it is abundantly clear that all your staff strive for excellence each and every day.” PARENT, 2019

ENRICHMENT AT VERULAM

Enrichment at Verulam is key to success. Pupils who participate in the wide range of activities on offer enjoy school and thrive.

Boys choose from a varied diet of activities including outdoor adventure, sport, Music, Drama, academic specialisms, debating and a host of other opportunities.

All pupils enjoy Curriculum Enrichment Days throughout the academic year when the normal timetable is suspended and we take time to investigate an area such as business or the Holocaust in depth.

Trips are often the high point of boys’ school experience and whether it is skiing, Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions or field trips to Iceland competition for places is always fierce!



THE CREATIVE ARTS

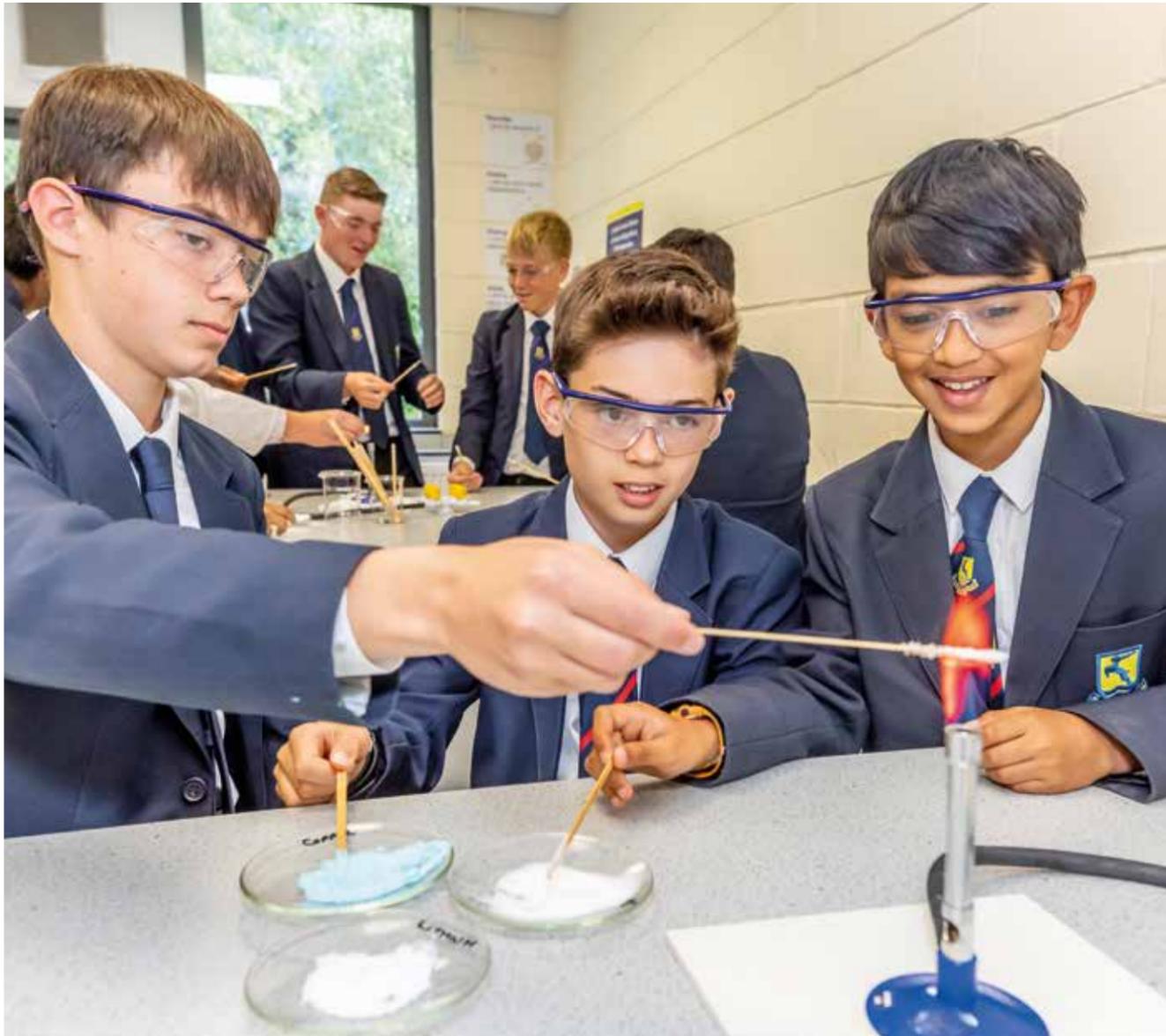


Music, Art and Drama form an important part of school life and many pupils choose to pursue one of these subjects at GCSE or A Level where the school offers Art, Drama, Photography, Media and Music.

However, Drama and the Creative Arts are also central to the enrichment on offer to all pupils.

Pupils are encouraged to take instrumental lessons and are welcomed into the choir in Year 7 with the incentive of performing in St Albans Abbey.

Music is especially popular and many pupils take part in instrumental groups, form bands or join the Big Band. Musical and dramatic performances are scheduled throughout the year and the departments often collaborate to produce a musical spectacular.



“Pupils are confident to speak in front of other pupils, such as when answering the teacher’s questions or reading aloud. Others listen carefully and do not interrupt.” OFSTED

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

Physical Education and School Sport has an integral part to play in the learning journey of a Verulam pupil.

The broad and balanced curriculum introduces pupils to a wide range of activity, with the ultimate aim of developing a life-long appreciation of the importance of physical activity within a healthy lifestyle.

Many pupils will go on to represent the school in sport but all pupils are given opportunity to become involved in house sport opportunities throughout the academic year.

Our flagship house sport event known as the Verulympics takes place each June and involves all pupils, competing in a programme of over twenty different sporting activities, to gain house points towards the Hawkes House Cup.

STEM



Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are central to life at Verulam.

These are a key focus of the curriculum and are at the heart of enrichment. STEM club and Verulab are the most popular clubs in the school and over 150 boys a year enter the UK Maths Challenge.

The school now boasts a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lab which enables pupils across all years to benefit from an integrated approach to the sciences and technology.

It is unsurprising that the number of Sixth Form pursuing STEM related degrees is very high.



SIXTH FORM AT VERULAM

“Sixth Form provision is good. Students benefit from strong teaching and helpful guidance on their futures. They make good progress and are well prepared for their next steps in education, employment or training.” OFSTED

The co-educational Sixth Form aims not only to give students a first class academic education, but to ensure that they emerge as confident and articulate young people who can succeed at university and in the workplace.

Verulam offers a wide range of subjects including: Media, Photography, Psychology, Sport and Sociology as well as popular traditional subjects such as Maths, English, Technology and the Sciences.

Students also undertake a wide range of enrichment activities such as the Extended Project Qualification, Young Enterprise and Financial Studies.

Outside of the classroom teaching is supported by a wide range of educational trips including Geography field trips to the Baltic and Iceland and Social Science trips to New York.

Students are encouraged to take the leading role in the school by becoming prefects, training as reading or welfare mentors, undertaking work experience and attending our Engaging Minds lecture series.



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We invite all prospective parents to make an appointment for a guided tour of the school during 1st - 16th October. This includes visits to lessons and an opportunity to speak with the Headteacher.

Appointments can be made by telephoning the school.

Our application process is via Hertfordshire County Council Admissions
www.hertsdirect.org

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