

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 2 - 13th September 2019

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**

Open Day - Saturday 28 September 2019

I would like to remind parents that school finishes early on **Friday 27th September at 12.45pm** in order to allow staff to prepare the school for Open Day. Mr Hall will be writing to students shortly to invite them to participate on the day. The students' contribution is central to the success of Open Day as they play vital roles in organising car parking, distributing the prospectus, acting as guides and being fantastic ambassadors within faculties. I would like to see as many students as possible involved this year to show

what a great school Verulam is. I would be grateful if parents could encourage their sons or daughters to participate.

Open Day Parent Ambassadors

This year I am also seeking a small number of parental volunteers to act as roving ambassadors on Open Day. We feel that parents can make an invaluable contribution by talking to prospective parents and students about their experiences of the school.

If you are interested in volunteering as a parental ambassador on the day, please contact my PA Ms K Bonass on kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk.

Uniform congratulations

I would like to congratulate all students on their smart appearance this term. A local resident also commented on this improvement this week. It is particularly noticeable that shoes are currently very shiny. It would be marvellous if parents could encourage students to polish their shoes on a weekly basis so this can continue!

Fresher's Fayre

I am looking forward to meeting Year 7 parents at next week's Fresher's Fayre on 19th September at 7pm. You will have the chance to meet your son's Head of Year, Ms McNally, form tutors and also meet other key staff.

Mr Freakley and Mr Flack, my Deputy Headteachers, will be giving presentations on Teaching and Learning The Verulam Way and Character Development and the 7 Year Journey

Headmaster's commendations

This week's commendations go to Kai Brookes and Joey Blakeson for obtaining a level 8 in one of their Computer Science exam papers.

Also to Emir Johnston Year 13, and Archie Daintree Year 10, who have both won their age group category in the Maltings Art Prize competition. They have made it to the finals for the over all winner. Both went to the presentation on Thursday evening at St Albans gallery to receive a trophy.

Well done boys.

P A Ramsey

2019-2020 Academic Year

Autumn Term

3rd September to 20th December 2019

Half Term

28th October to 1st November 2019

English

Recycling English Literature GCSE Revision Guides

If your Year 11 son has any revision guides he no longer needs, the English Faculty would very much appreciate having them to help the current year 10 students. Please ask your son to pass them on to his English teacher.

Spelling tests

Please be aware that spelling tests have begun. They will take place towards the end of the week in English lessons. Your son should be able to access the words for the weekly test via Show my homework. If he has any issues with this he should talk to his English teacher.

Mrs P Avery
Director of English

House Captains

Congratulations to the following boys on becoming House Captains:

Brampton - Oakley Rennie-Sivell and Ned Threadkell
Churchill - Freddie Laycock and Adam Smith
Hamilton - Morgan Deamer and Oscar Reeves
Jennings - Charlie Powell and Sam Tillin
Park - Harvey Bogush and Ronan Hewit
York - James Man and Cameron Wilson

Curriculum Enrichment Clubs

Year 7 and 8 Football Club has been added after school on a Thursday. Please see attached the list of enrichment clubs that we are offering this term. There are a variety of clubs covering all areas of the curriculum.

Lunchtime clubs - students should attend the club and then go to lunch afterwards. The newly refurbished canteen is open until 1.30pm and there will be a full range of food and drinks available at this time. Students must arrive at afternoon registration on time.

After School clubs - Clubs will last for one hour after school and will finish at 4.30pm. There is no late school bus and all students are expected to make their own way home.

All these clubs are free to students. We are hoping to expand the range of clubs on offer. This may include some clubs for which we will request a contribution to the cost of the club.

If you are interested in running a club or would like to recommend an organisation who is able to add to our programme, please contact Mr Flack via email. (anthony.flack@verulam.herts.sch.uk)

Mr A Flack
Deputy Headteacher

Curriculum Enrichment Club Request

We would be grateful if any parents could donate any old Technic Lego sets (complete with instructions) ideally for an enrichment club. Also any unopened Airfix Kits for the Airfix Enrichment club would be gratefully received. If so, please pass onto Mr Phillips or Mr Pegg in Technology Department.

Mr N Phillips
Head of Technology

Year 11 Reward Assembly

Our Year 11 Reward Assembly will take place on **Monday 23rd September**. There will be Subject rewards, Form Tutor rewards and Head of Year rewards.

Due to space restrictions in the Hall, attendance will be by invitation only and only parents/carers of boys who will be presented with a reward will be invited.

The assembly will be a celebration of everything that has been achieved by last year's Year 10 students over the course of the academic year 2018-2019. The assembly will start at 8.50am and will be finished by 9.30am.

Mr A Flack
Deputy Headteacher

VERULAM SECURE "MOB RACE" VICTORY 2019 (New Year 7 deliver silverware)

The new sporting year has begun in fine style. Our debutant Year 7 pupils continued the school's proud tradition at the annual Sandringham School fun run on Tuesday evening.

The event is held to introduce St Albans District pupils to the challenge of competing for their new school. Verulam has an outstanding record in this event. This year 40 pupils eagerly lined up on the start line hoping to do themselves justice. I am pleased to say that they all delivered with Verulam pupils filling 3 of the top 12 places including the overall winner Max Fergie (7P). We also celebrated 3rd place with Nikolai Cherniaev (7P) and 12th place with Louis Dracos (7B). **This team's performance placed us 1st overall and we proudly regained the "Mob Race" trophy.**

Congratulations to all runners on this achievement. Mr Ramsey will congratulate them in their upcoming year assembly.

Mr P. O'Connor
Head of PE

Latin GCSE Success

Congratulations to the following Year 12 boys who all achieved excellent results, grades 9-6, in their Latin GCSE this summer:

William Foy
Chris Hill
James Stewart
Abner Wallace
Billy Wilding
Liam Winter

The boys were successful in three papers: Latin Language, Latin Literature and Roman Civilisation. In addition to demonstrating skill in translating the Latin language, they were required to appraise the writing of Roman authors on the subject of chariot racing and learn about several aspects of Roman life, such as gladiatorial shows and theatre.

This achievement deserves special mention as the boys were studying Latin in their spare time, after school on Tuesdays with Mrs Bienfait, and fitting in the work around their A level studies. This required significant hard work and commitment. Congratulations!

If any pupil or parent is interested to find out more about the Latin Club at Verulam, please contact Mrs Bienfait or Carole Heselton.

Mary Bienfait
Verulam Latin Club teacher
mary.bienfait@verulam.herts.sch.uk
Latintutor@outlook.com

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. An application and job description can be found on our website.

Community Classes Starting next week

For Children:

Junior Music Band at Verulam School – Free Taster Mon 16 September

If you have a child in years 5 or 6 who plays an instrument and is interested in playing with the Junior School Music band here, taking part in school concerts, contact carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk. Band practice is on Mondays from 3.40 to 4.30, £20 per term.

Super Science Club at Sandringham School – Free Taster Mon 16 Sept

Have fun enjoying practical, hands on science activities working in a school laboratory.

Mon 4pm – 5pm Fee £50 <http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/super-science-club-years-5-6/>

For Adults

Certified Level One Course in Skills for Business and Administration – daytime course starts Wed 18 Sept

This course offers a broad introduction to the business and administration sector, providing the knowledge and skills specific to this sector alongside a range of transferable employability skills. It is designed to support progression to further learning and ultimately to secure employment in business and administration or other related sectors.

This is an accredited course by Gateway. There are no exams but you will put together a portfolio during the course which will be used for assessment. It is important therefore that you are able to attend all the sessions.

Cost: Subsidised rate £25 for people earning less than £16,000 or on Jobseekers allowance, benefits or universal credit;

Full fee for those who do not qualify for a subsidy is £345.00

Dates: Wed 18 Sept to 18 Dec (no class at half term w.c 28 Oct 2019)

Time: 9.30 am – 12.35 pm

School: Verulam School

PTA News

Desperately seeking new design PE kit!



We took an amazing £400 at the second hand uniform sale last Saturday, with our limited stock of new design PE kit flying off the shelves. So if your son has grown out of his kit please do pass it on to us via reception so we can give it a good home! It has also been confirmed that ANY BRANDED PE KIT is acceptable for the boys to wear, so if you do need spares we have plenty of the old design kit available. The next sale will be 10.30-11.30am on Saturday 5th October in the dining hall

Quiz night – Friday 15th November

Details of our next quiz night which will be held in the school hall at 7pm for 7.30pm on Friday 15th November are attached. If you'd like to take on the teachers and test your general knowledge over a fish and chip supper, please complete and return the attached booking form by **Monday 4th November**. Please note that the maximum team size is 9 people and groups with less than 8 may be combined with other participants.

Or if you are available to help with set up during the afternoon or evening please sign up via the volunteer link below



Can you help? Please sign up here for the following events: [Volunteer signup](#)

Open Morning – Saturday 28th September

We will be on hand to serve refreshments, including home-made cakes, to potential new students, their parents and our year 7 helpers. We will need lots of help in the form of providing cakes (homemade or otherwise) and/or helping during the morning - so if you are free and would like to help out, please put the date in your diary and look out for more information at the start of next term. This is also a great way for **new year 7 parents** to come along and meet other parents.

Other ways to support the PTA



Chess Club and Tennis Balls! Thanks very much to those of you who have been in touch to donate chess sets/pieces and tennis balls. They will all be put to great use this term. If anyone else has old chess sets, or pieces that you could donate, or you can get hold over any past-their-best balls from local tennis clubs, please let us know

Sign up to easy fundraising at the [Verulam Webshop](#) to raise money while you shop on line.

Ask your employer if they can offer **fund matching** for events. Join the [Verulam Lottery](#) to support the school with a one off payment pf £10 or from £5 per month to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

If you have any other ideas or would like to find out more please contact julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk

*Julie Williams
PTA Chair*

Key Dates
Meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise

14th September	DofE Silver Departs
16th September	DofE Silver Returns
18th September	Year 12 Learn to Live 10.00am St Albans Arena
19th September	Year 11 & 12 Enrichment Trip Assembly Year 7 Fresher's Fayre
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 Year 10 English Literature Information Evening
26th September	Spanish Exchange Parent Meeting
27th September	Early Finish 12.45pm
28th September	Open Morning 9am-12pm