

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 1 - 6th September 2019

Examination Success

I would like to congratulate students on their success in GCSE and A-Level examinations this summer.

Verulam pupils surpassed their targets this year and achieved a predicted Progress 8 score of + 0.238 meaning that on average they achieved nearly half a grade higher than boys nationally in 2018. (Boys national Progress 8 Score 2018 -0.25)

John Tromans, Head of Year 11, congratulated all the boys on their impressive results and was particularly pleased with strong results in a wide range of subjects.

"I am delighted with our haul of 67 Level 9 grades – these really show how hard our boys have worked."

Head of English, Phyllis Avery, was delighted by Year 10 pupils who sat their GCSE English Literature examination a year early and achieved an 88% pass rate at level 4 or above and with a third of pupils achieving the highest 7 to 9 grades. A number of pupils' performance was particularly impressive as they achieved a grade 3 or 4 levels higher than their targets. A-Level results were positive with 40% of grades at A/B level which enabled pupils to gain prestigious University places and apprenticeships. 83% of the Year group moved onto University study with over 40% of places at top universities. Other students are pursuing apprenticeships, travelling abroad and training as a journalist and a pilot!

New Staff

I would like to introduce the following staff who have joined the school:

Mr Emsley joins us as Assistant Headteacher responsible for intervention at Key Stage 4 and 5
Ms Cazorla-Montilla to teach Modern Foreign Languages

Mr Forsyth joins the Art Department to teach Art and Photography

Mr Giles joins Social Sciences to teach Psychology

Ms Parker Teacher of Drama

Ms Reid Teacher of Geography

Ms Moreland joins us to train to teach Mathematics

Ms Clark joins the SEN department as a Learning Support Assistant

Mr Mack and Mr Springate join as Cover Supervisors

Ms Mills-Pullen as a Behaviour Officer.

My Child At School App

This year we are launching the MCAS app which will make it easier to access information about your son or daughter's life at school via your phone. I have attached a document to this newsletter explaining log in information for parents.

Traffic Congestion and Road Safety

I would be very grateful if parents could avoid collecting or dropping off students on either Brampton or Jennings Road as the resulting congestion is dangerous to students, has the potential to cause

accidents and is upsetting for our neighbours.

We would encourage students to cycle or walk to school wherever possible as this gives them the best possible start to the day. Obviously cycle helmets are essential.

As pupils leave by both pedestrian and vehicle gates at the end of school, parents are requested not to enter the site to collect their children. It is much easier and quicker if parents can rendezvous with students in the other roads a short walking distance from the school Hatfield Road or Morrisons' car park. It is particularly important that parents do not stop on the zig zag or double yellow lines outside the school as doing this blocks the sight lines for both drivers and pedestrians and has resulted in accidents in the past.

Headmaster's commendations

This week's commendations go to the following Year 10 students who achieved 4 grades above target in their English Literature GCSE:

Corey Allen

Morgan Deamer

Taha Abdullah

William Miller

A fantastic achievement boys, 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

2nd September INSET Day

3rd September First pupil day

7th September Second hand uniform sale
10.30-11.30am in the dining hall

12th September School photos Years 7,9,11

Year 8 Immunisation

Year 8 Parent Information Evening

14th September DofE Silver Departs

16th September DofE Silver Returns

PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

The first second hand uniform sale of the Autumn term will be on 7th September in the dining hall from 10.30am-11.30am.

Verulam's catering gets a face lift

Your son or daughter may well have come home this week to tell you about the new Sixth Form café or the fully refurbished dining room and kitchen. You may be wondering what this is all about....so we thought we'd show you.

The Sixth Form has gained a new café – open from 8am in the morning until 2.30pm in the afternoon. It serves coffee from a truly space age looking coffee machine, tea, smoothies and all the usual drinks. It also serves hot food, sandwiches, fruit and puddings. The Sixth formers can now get delicious, healthy lunch and snacks throughout the day and they have a redecorated and newly carpeted social area in which to eat and take a break from studying.



The Sixth Form now also has 2 large areas in which the Sixth Formers can study when not in lessons. The first is a group study area and the second is a completely silent individual study area. The Sixth form team: Mr Base, Mrs Harding and Mr Fletcher are on hand to supervise and support the students.

The kitchen and dining room have been refurbished and the menu has been updated and extended. It is open for breakfast, break and lunch. Food is being made from scratch with a main meal every day plus vegetarian and vegan options. This week's menu has included roast pork with roast potatoes, stuffing and seasonal vegetables, tomato, feta and pesto tart, and penne arrabiata. There are hot and cold puddings and a particular favourite – chocolate brownies where the sugar has been replaced with dates – tastes gorgeous and totally healthy.



As you can imagine, we have many more students using the dining room and café. We want to make sure that they can all be served as quickly as possible. You can help us to do this by making sure that your child's card always has money on it. To do this, simply log in to your Parent Mail account, go to Accounts, then Dinner Top Up and use your debit or credit card to add money.

Kate Locke
School Business Manager

Facebook Communications

We would ask all parents to follow the school FB page for updates and school information.

Enrichment Clubs

Please see attached the list of enrichment clubs that we are offering this term. There is 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)

Lockers

Year 7 all have lockers located in their form rooms. All students should have been issued with their locker keys this week.

Years 8 and 9 will have their own individual locker allocated to them. These can be found in the canteen quad.

For Years 10 and 11, we will be operating a hot locker system whereby students will either share a locker or use one only on the days on which they are required. These can be found in the canteen.

This will be done via form tutors from week beginning **Monday 9th September**.

Years 8-11 will be required to bring a padlock with them to secure their locker.

Any student who has already claimed a locker by placing their padlock on it, must from Monday 9th September only use their allocated locker, or a locker within their allocated area.

Pupil Games Escort/Supervisor

Rate of pay £10.89 per hour
Thursday and Friday 1.40pm – 2.40pm

Verulam School wish to recruit a Pupil Games Escort/Supervisor to join our existing team. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in the life of Verulam School, whilst helping to keep our children safe.

Duties involve escorting pupils to and from Verulam under the leadership of the P.E. teachers to our Sandpit Lane Games Field between 1.40pm to 2.40pm.

If you wish to have an informal tour or discussion prior to application, please contact Head's PA, Ms Kelly Bonass at kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk. An application can be found on our website.

Evening Classes – for parents

The start of a new school year is an excellent time to parents to start a new course as well! We have a wide range of evening classes across Beaumont, Sandringham and Verulam Schools including:

- **Modern foreign languages** (Spanish, Italian, German, French), from Beginners to Advanced
- **Arts and crafts classes**, including woodworking, art textiles, acrylic landscape, portrait painting in oil, creative writing, Roman Latin and Culture
- **Music** - community choir and jazz band
- **Pilates, yoga, restorative yoga workshop**
- **Employability Skills Classes**

After School Classes for primary school children

- Verulam Junior Music Band
- Coding Club
- Science Club
- Street Dance
- Contemporary Dance

For more information visit our website www.bsvcourses.co.uk or email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Daytime and Evening Classes at Verulam School for parents/members of the Community

If you are interested in developing or changing your career, you might be interested in a range of courses we are offering at Verulam School this term:

Certified Level One Course in Skills for Business and Administration (mornings)

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/level-one-award-for-business-and-administration-skills/>

Intro to Working in Health and Social Care (afternoons)

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/introduction-to-working-in-health-and-social-care/>

Cont/d overleaf

Introduction to Working in Film and TV Industry (afternoons)

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/introduction-to-working-in-the-film-and-tv-industry/>

Soft Business Skills for Professional Success (evenings)

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/soft-business-skills-for-professional-success/>

We are continuing to run our evening classes in **Creative Writing**, <http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/creative-writing-for-adults-aged-18-upwards/> **Latin and Roman Culture**, <http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/introduction-to-latin-and-roman-culture/> and the **Verulam Book Group**.

Email [**carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk**](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk) or call 01727 754113 if you have any queries or wish to book a place for any of the courses.

GCSE Latin Success for year 12 Students At Verulam

We are delighted to offer our congratulations to the students in year 12 (now year 13) who have been studying Latin as an extra-curricular subject at Verulam, who all achieved excellent grades in this year's GCSE exam. 100% of the students achieved a level 6 or above, with one student achieving a level 9 and two students achieving level 8.

Mary Bienfait, who has taught them, said: " They are all to be commended for their continued dedication to learning Latin, and congratulated for their fantastic results."

*Carole Heselton
BSV Coordinator*

PTA News

On behalf of the PTA – Welcome to the Autumn term. We hope you enjoyed your Summer. We always have a busy start to the year, so here is a quick update along with the usual requests for help:

PTA Lottery Draw: As always, the final draw of the year included an additional bonus prize of £200. The lucky winners below have been notified by post.

Bonus prize £200	Mr Kern Roderick-Jones
1st prize £110	Mrs Katrina Collins
2nd prize £70	Mrs Jill Barnett
3rd prize £40	Dr Anna Sasiak

Unfortunately profit after paying prizes dropped from £1915 to £1570 this year. If you haven't signed up please find out more or sign up here [Verulam Lottery](#) to support the school with a one off payment of £10 or from £5 per month to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Second Hand Uniform Sale – Tomorrow: Saturday 7th September – PE Kit needed please!

The next sale will be held tomorrow in the school dining hall between 10.30am-11.30am. In addition to standard uniform and PE kit, we are extending our product range - so if you have a clear out over Summer, we are now accepting the following items which can be taken to the sale or dropped off in reception any time

- Standard uniform and sports kit
- Sixth form suits
- DofE, Blue Peris, Lakes gear such as walking boots and any other essential items which can be expensive to buy new
- **Current Year 11 and 13 text books/revision guides**



Quiz night – Friday 15th November

If you'd like to take on the teachers and test your general knowledge over a fish and chip supper, look out for confirmation and booking details for our next Quiz soon. Or if you are available to help with set up during the afternoon or evening please sign up via the link below

Can you spare an hour or two to meet other parents and support the following events? Please sign up here: [Volunteer signup](#)

Fresher's Fair – Thursday 19th September

The PTA will be available to serve refreshments, sell uniform and to welcome and meet the parents of our new Year 7 boys from 6.30pm-8.30pm

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 attending 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 easyfundraising to raise money while you shop (98 people have raised £500 since the end of last year) – find the link on the PTA section of the Verulam website. Ask your employer if they can offer **fund matching** for events

Julie
PTA Chair