

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 7 - 18th October 2019

### Verulam Boys GCSE Success DfE Performance Tables 2019

The 2019 performance tables show Verulam pupils making above average progress at KS4. Their Progress 8 score of +0.22 places Verulam in the top third of schools in the country. Compared to the boys' national progress figures -0.25 in 2018 Verulam pupils achieved almost half a grade better in every subject! Our aim is for all our pupils to achieve even more and to reach the top 15% and for the school to be judged well above average.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137038/verulam-school/secondary>

### Black History Month

October is a month in which Black History is celebrated in the UK and it's been celebrated nationwide every year for nearly 40 years. This month was originally founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to this country over many generations.

Black History Month was first launched in London in the 1980s, where the aim was for the local community to challenge racism and educate themselves and others about the British history that was not taught in schools. Black British history is everyone's history.

As part of Verulam's work in this area, form tutors have shared a number of videos and stories with their form throughout the month.

The History department addresses Black History in two main areas. The first is in Year 8 spring term where the students study the Civil Rights movement in post WW2 America. The second is in Year 12 when the students investigate the changing nature of the Civil Rights movement across the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This year we felt it was time to take another look at how the school dealt with Black History Month and issues around Black British identity. I have been meeting with a diverse group of senior pupils from Years 11-13 to discuss how they feel we should celebrate Black History and identity. The pupils have decided that we will present a wide ranging assembly later this year which looks at Black History from a more personal angle and at representation.

A number of pupils have asked to take part in the assembly in order to present their family history and how that reflects the history of Black people in the UK and around the world. Others wish to talk about photographs they have researched which shed fresh light on the often-unseen history of Black people in the UK.

Further discussions with pupils led us to decide that it would be valuable to ask a broader range of pupils from Years 7—11 to contribute to an article for a future edition of Verulam's student magazine "Top Button". If you or your son or daughter would be interested in participating in this project, you can register your interest by contacting Ms K Bonass on [kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk).

The two Sixth Form coordinators will arrange a brief meeting next Thursday lunchtime in order to move this forward.

### Headmaster's commendations

This week's commendation goes to Nathan Massam who went to Tesco to ask for Feed donations and spoke with the charity manager who then donated 40 items.

*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**

18th October	Year 12 Geography Trip departs
20th October	DofE Silver Returns Yr 12 Geography Trip returns
21st - 25th October	Open Week tours
24th October	Reading Group
25th October	Abbey Service 2.00pm

**Half term 28th October - 1 November 2019**

**QUIZ NIGHT: Friday 15th November 7pm for 7.30pm**

To take on the teachers and test your general knowledge over a fish and chip supper in the school Hall, please complete and return the attached booking form by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

## **Abbey Service Friday 25th October 2019**

We are delighted to announce that this year's Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 2.00pm at The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban. This year's theme is "**Save Our Planet**" and we will be supporting the local charity **Earthworks** which offers social and therapeutic horticulture and nature-based activities to people with learning disabilities and mental health problems; as well as the Marine Conservation Society.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers to join us on what is a very special day for Verulam School. Please make yourself known on arrival. We plan for all guests to be seated by 1.45pm. The service will conclude by 3.00pm.

In order to raise funds, Verulam will be holding a number of events in the period leading up to the Abbey Service. One of those is that we will be selling wristbands to students during form time as of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. In line with our cause, we have opted for bamboo sustainable wristbands which will be sold for £2.

The idea is for all students to purchase one of these and to wear them during the Abbey Service to show how committed we are to doing our bit to Save our Planet for generations to come.

We would appreciate if you could give your son/daughter £2 to purchase one of these. Alternatively, you can pay for this via ParentMail Pay.

Thank you for your support.

*Mr R Hall*

## **Trips Online consent forms reminder**

As explained in a previous Verulam Voice edition, Verulam School is switching to online parent consent forms for school trips.

All parents have been emailed a generic Parental Consent Form via ParentMail which should be completed and returned back to school. You will only need to complete this form once (there may be certain trips for which we need a different paper copy, however these will be kept to a minimum).

For any subsequent trips, you will receive a form to provide consent, but unless your details have changed, you will only need to click the give consent box, fill in your child's name and form and click the 'all data remains the same' box, then submit.

If you have not yet completed the Generic Parental Consent Form for your child, please do so as soon as possible. You can complete a form on your PC, tablet and Smartphone. If you use a PC, simply go to your ParentMail account, go to the Form section (on the left handside of the screen), click on the relevant form, complete the form and submit.

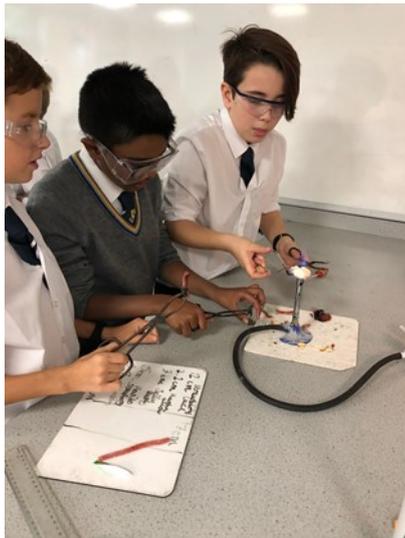
If you use the ParentMail app, click on the menu (represented by the 3 lines) and scroll down to the Form section in the same way as you go to Accounts to do online payments.

If you have forgotten your password for your ParentMail account, you can request a reset by going to <https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/#core/login>. Alternatively, if you are having any other issues completing the form, please contact our Trip Administrator, Mrs K Dell, via [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk).

## **Verulam School STEM club thriving after winning the Herts Advertiser Innovation Award last year!**

Following its success last year winning the Herts Advertiser teaching award for innovation, Verulam School STEM club has enjoyed a busy start to the year.

This first term has focused on chemistry and included understanding how hydrogels work in nappies including adding household substances to wet nappies to try to reduce the weight! They also measured how stretchy different types of sweets are and whether heating them up made a difference.



The rest of the year will see different STEM faculties taking the lead on half termly projects. The students will learn some coding and investigate some computing hardware, produce some magical maths and enjoy understanding how art is also a major part of STEM. They will be also having some visits from STEM ambassadors with an engineering focus and taking part in trips to see their STEM subjects in action in the world of work.

*Mrs A Cornmell and Ms H Howells*

## **English news**

### **Year 9 Literature GCSE texts**

Please remember to purchase a copy of each of the required texts for English Literature as per the parentmail sent last week. Boys will be expected to have 'A Christmas Carol' with them as of 4th November.

### **Reading Years 7 and 8**

As the half term break approaches please encourage your son to read something new - perhaps a ghost story to tie in with Halloween! Don't forget to keep taking those quizzes on the Accelerated reading programme - a number of boys are doing exceedingly well - will your son be in the top 10 performers in their year this term?

### **Reading KS4 and 5**

Don't forget to read! Over half term, maybe take a look in an actual bookshop! Failing that, look online or in the library - try some non-fiction or a genre you don't normally read.

*Mrs P Avery  
Director of English*

## BSV News

### Latin Lessons at Verulam for Years 8 and 9

We have been running a very successful extra-curricular Latin programme at Verulam for the last five years. Boys have studied for external examinations including a Level One Certificate and Latin GCSE with high levels of achievement; all the boys taking the Certificate achieved an A or A\* and this year's Latin GCSE results achieved Levels 6 – 9.

We are now in a position to offer Latin classes to boys in Year 8.

The classes will be taught by Mary Bienfait, a Cambridge classicist who teaches Latin here and at St Albans High School for Girls. Initially we are offering a set of four taster lessons for boys to give them the chance to experience the pleasures of learning Latin before deciding whether they would like to study it further.

The taster sessions will run as follows:

Year 9 Monday lunchtimes 1pm – 1.30pm (11 November to 2 December)

Year 8 Tuesday lunchtimes 1pm to 1.30 pm (12 November to 3 December)

The fee for the taster sessions is £30

If your son would be interested in joining the taster sessions, please email [carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk) or call 01727 754113.

### Vocational Classes for Adults

#### Introduction to Working in the Film and TV Industry – afternoon course starts Wed 6 November

This course is ideal for people considering a career move or wishing to find out more about working in the film and TV industry. This course is provided in conjunction with HAFLS (Herts Adult and Family Learning Service). **Weds 1.15 – 3.15pm, Wed 6 Nov to 4 Dec Fee £25**

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

#### New Creative Hub launched in St Albans by University of the Arts London

UAL has started a venture to deliver inspiring art and design courses for children and students aged 7 – 17 students on Saturdays and after school, starting after half term. St Albans is one of the first three Creative Hubs to be launched, based at Sandringham School.

- Primary School students will enjoy developing their creative skills in small classes with lots of hands-on guidance from experienced teachers. <https://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/art-classes-for-primary-school-children/>
- Secondary School students will be able to expand their artistic vision exploring new techniques and skills whilst compiling creative art and design portfolios. <https://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/sandringham-school-art-classes-for-secondary-students/>

*Carole Heselton*  
Community Links Administrator  
BeauSandVer Education Trust  
01727 754113  
[www.bsvcourses.co.uk](http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk)

## PTA News

  
**GRAB A  
TEAM  
ITS  
QUIZ  
NIGHT**

### **QUIZ NIGHT: Friday 15th November 7pm for 7.30pm**

To take on the teachers and test your general knowledge over a fish and chip supper in the school Hall, please complete and return the attached booking form by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 here: **[Volunteer signup](#)**

### **SECOND HAND UNIFORM: 10.30-11.30am Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Dining Hall**

The next uniform sale will be on 9<sup>th</sup> November due to the half term holiday the previous week. Come along and stock up on spares – or if your son has grown out of items of uniform before they are worn out (and in particular new design PE kit) please pass it on to us via reception so we can give it a new home.

NB ANY BRANDED PE KIT is acceptable for the boys to wear, so if you do need spares we have plenty of the old design available.



### **OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PTA**

Raise money while you shop online with thousands of retailers using this link - **[easyfundraising](#)**  
Join the **[Verulam Lottery](#)** to raise funds and win prizes in one of our half termly prize draws

*Julie Williams  
PTA Chair*