

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 5 - 4th October 2019

Successful Open Day

I would like to thank all those pupils, parents and staff who contributed to such a successful open day last Saturday. All the feedback we received was very positive about the school and was highly complimentary about our pupils.

We are continuing to host tours for prospective parents every morning until 18th October.

Some parents are concerned that they will not gain admission unless they live close to the school. I would be grateful if parents could dispel this myth to any friends or family who are applying. Verulam welcomes applications from pupils as far afield as Harpenden, Radlett, Redbourn, Hatfield, Welwyn and even some pupils from the wilds of Watford!

Reading Group - An open invitation

All parents are invited to join our informal and social reading group which meets every half term to discuss a book selected by its members. It would be particularly pleased to welcome new parents from this year's Year 7. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 24th October at 7pm.**

We normally discuss only one novel, but this month we are discussing:

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood - this is the brilliant follow up to Margaret Atwood's dystopian Handmaid's Tale which many parents will be familiar with. If you don't have time to read it, it is currently being serialised on Radio 4 every lunchtime.

In Xanadu: A Quest by William Dalrymple is a fantastic travel story about a young man's journey across Central Asia to China.

Private Tutor guidance

I have sent a parentmail to all parents regarding private tutoring which is increasingly popular. I would advise all parents to read the letter with care before employing any private tutor as the advice contained relates both to safety and also to maximising outcomes for students.

Attendance and Holidays

I have recently received a number of requests for holidays during term time. These are normally refused as school policy dictates that such absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Our aim as a school is to achieve 97% attendance as this is the most significant factor in raising achievement.

Uniform reminder

The overall standard of uniform this term continues to be high. However, as the weather becomes more inclement, can I remind parents that hoodies are not permitted in school.

Drama Club

I was most impressed by Ms Parker's drama club on Wednesday evening. Year 7 and 8 pupils interested in drama can join her at 3.30pm on Wednesday after school.

Headmaster's commendations

This week's commendations go to the following students for their outstanding contribution to Open Day:

James Lynch, Harrison Yasotharan, Iris Shakespeare, Myles O'Connor, Aidan Chester, Ben Hawker, Owen Caminsky and Luyanda Tshuma.

Thank you for being great ambassadors for the school.

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

1st - 18th October	Open Weeks
10th October	Sailing Practise - 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
22nd October	PTA Happy Bag collection
24th October	Reading Group
25th October	Abbey Service

Half term 28th October - 1 November 2019

Second Hand Uniform Sale

This will be at 10.30-11.30am on **Saturday 5th October** in the Dining Hall. All welcome.

Mental Health Awareness Week **7th October - 11th October**

There will be assemblies throughout the week to discuss the importance of positive mental health.

Verulam School Aims:

- To ensure that through the promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing, children and young people are helped to understand and express their feelings, build their confidence and emotional resilience and therefore their capacity to learn.
- To increase the awareness and understanding and reduce stigma amongst students, staff and parents/carers of issues involving the mental health and wellbeing of young people and to provide support at an early stage to any student who is or appears to be suffering from mental health issues.

We know that 10% of teenagers are dealing with very distressing events in their lives. Sometimes it can feel like no one understands, or can help.

They can:

- Use five fingers of faith
- Visit www.youthtalk.org.uk
- Visit www.justtalkherts.org
- Visit www.samaritans.org
- Visit www.epicfriends.co.uk

Any member of staff, student, and parents/carers concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of a student should speak to the student's Head of Year about their concerns. The Head of Year will monitor and support them, and refer to outside agencies, if appropriate, for further intervention.

The importance of a good nights sleep

Advice on sleep via the link below

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ORlCdTJENQanFI_v6bQnJPPY_PUPjBGBByMKybp4wM8Y/edit?usp=sharing

Mr D Tansley
Head of Year 10/Pastoral Director

Latin GCSE Success For Verulam Sixth Formers

Verulam School students continue to shine in their extra-curricular Latin studies. Congratulations to the Sixth Form boys who have been studying Latin in their lunch times for the last five years, who achieved excellent results, grades 9-6, in their Latin GCSE this summer:

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

Taught by Mary Bienfait, a classicist from Cambridge University, the boys studied the writing of Roman authors on chariot racing, and aspects of Roman life, from relaxing at the baths to gladiatorial combat, including a visit to Verulamium museum.

Chris Hill, who achieved a grade 9, said: “I’m really glad I had the opportunity to learn Latin. I’ve enjoyed the challenge and hope the skills I’ve acquired will serve me well in the future. I’m thrilled with my result.”

Mrs Bienfait was impressed by the boys’ commitment: “They deserve credit for studying Latin in their spare time alongside their A Levels. This required significant hard work and commitment. Congratulations.”

Headmaster Paul Ramsey said: “We are delighted by the boys’ success and committed to offering the opportunity to study Latin to our students.”



PTA News



Open Morning – Saturday 28th September

Thanks to Hannah and Kern and everyone who donated and gave up their Saturday morning to serve Year 7 helpers and visitors with cakes, muffins, cupcakes, donuts, bacon and sausage sandwiches. The BBQ was a successful new addition to the morning and along with other refreshments helped the PTA to raise £150 at the same time as supporting the school and welcoming potential new students and their families. Thank you all.



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

If you'd like 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 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 here:

[Volunteer signup](#)



SECOND HAND UNIFORM: 10.30-11.30am Saturday 5th October in the Dining Hall

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! 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.

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*

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.

Pupil Games Escort/Supervisor

Rate of pay £13.53 per hour

Daily 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 each day.

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.