

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 9 - 8th November 2019

### Remembrance Day

In preparation for our 2 minutes silence on Monday, Mr Pettitt has been delivery assemblies on the theme of remembrance this week. He focussed on the stories of Michael Boden, a pupil of the school who lost his life whilst serving in Italy during World War Two and the story of five Year 9 boys who collected 3 tonnes of scrap metal in 1943 to support the war effort.

Mr Pettitt is also working with pupils to produce a series of history podcasts which will be broadcast on Radio Verulam. The first will be broadcast on Monday 11th November. We will publish a link to this both on Facebook and the school website.

### CED

The first Curriculum Enrichment Day of the year took place on Tuesday. The Sixth Form undertook an adventurous treasure hunt in London on the tube, whilst Year 10 enjoyed a series of PSHE lessons focussing on culture, attitude and coping with change. Despite the weather, Year 9 enjoyed house sports, whilst Year 8 experienced a language themed day where they got to try out a variety of languages including German and Welsh. Meanwhile STEP (St Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project) delivered many sessions surrounding current social issues and religious thought provoking matters to Year 7.

Year 11 did not participate in this Curriculum Enrichment Day as they are currently taking their trial exams.

### Dress Bright, Be Seen

As both mornings and evenings grow darker, could I remind all pupils of the importance of wearing fluorescent clothing or reflective straps/badges as they cycle to and from school.

### Headmaster's Commendation

This week's commendation goes to Oscar Afonso-Trindade who took the opportunity to raise over £300 for Herts Young Homeless on Halloween. Adopting an ET theme, Oscar collected for the charity dressed as Elliot with his dog Lola as E.T.



### 2019-2020 Academic Year

#### Autumn Term

3rd September to 20th December 2019

### Key Dates

#### Meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise

9th November	Second Hand Uniform Sale 10.30-11.30am
12th November	Year 10 DofE Bronze Information Evening
13th November	Ski Trip Parent Information Evening
14th November	Spanish Exchange students arrive
15th November	GCSE Celebration Assembly for all of Year 12 (2pm- 3.30pm)
19th November	PTA Quiz Night
20th November	Sandringham Year 13 PTC UKMT/AMSP Senior Team Maths Challenge, Longdean School, 1.00pm to 5.00pm
21st November	Spanish Exchange students depart Beaumont Year 13 PTC
22nd November	A Level Biology Live Trip
27th November	Art trip National Portrait Gallery and Royal Academy 2 Years 11 & 12
28th November	Non-Uniform Day (for charity EarthWorks)
29th November	<b>Occasional Day (school closed)</b>

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

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.

## Holocaust Education Trip to Poland

“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” G. Santayana.



Last Monday, at a very early hour, 39 boys and 4 members of staff met at school to begin Verulam's inaugural Holocaust Education trip to Poland. It was to be a trip that will not easily be forgotten by any of its participants.

Once we had arrived in Poland we started with a visit to the former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz. There had been a Jewish community in this area of Poland for around 400 years and a chance to visit the Remuh Synagogue was not to be missed. A very small building it nonetheless has centuries of history and, after the atrocities of the Nazi occupation and desecration of the area, has returned to being a place of worship once again. On

Monday we also visited the site of the wartime ghetto in Podgorze. Today the square has a memorial of 39 empty chairs which symbolise the three clearings of the ghetto. Those forced to work outside the ghetto would return to find that members of their family had been sent away, leaving empty chairs behind.

Tuesday morning also started early, we were on the coach by 05:50 on our way to a full day study visit at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum. If a single word can epitomise evil, perhaps it is 'Auschwitz': near the small Polish town of Oświęcim where around 1.1 million people were murdered as the Nazis' Final Solution reached its terrible zenith. This day will, in the words of some of the boys who were there, stay with them forever. It is a difficult place to visit and there were many different feelings and responses from the group. Some commented that it was like the place had been frozen in time, others felt that they had not appreciated quite how big the complex was. For some the things that will remain in their minds are the collections of possessions that were found when the camp was liberated in 1945, for others it was the fact that more people were killed in a gas chamber at any one time than there are students at Verulam.

We took the time at the end of our visit at Birkenau to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We gathered around one of the Pits of Ashes and lit a candle, heard two readings and paused, in silence, to remember. One of the readings was a poem written by Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer which you can read at the end of this article.

On our final day, we visited the infamous Plaszow labour camp just outside Krakow (this is the camp that is depicted in the film *Schindler's List*) and a visit to Oscar Schindler's factory in Krakow itself. The factory is now a museum to life in Krakow before, during and after the events of World War Two and, for some, the images of the Nazi flag were a difficult thing to see.



This trip was organised as part of Verulam's ongoing commitment to Holocaust Education. We are proud of our status as a Holocaust Beacon School and we hope that this trip is one of many to come.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boys and staff who came on the trip. Although a tough few days it was a trip that will stay with us all for a very long time. I said to the boys as we returned that I was very proud of them and I reiterate that here. They were true ambassadors of their school and to witness these young men as they explored the horrors of the past was a great privilege.

*Cont/d overleaf*

At the rising of the sun and at its going down  
We remember them.  
At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter  
We remember them.  
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring  
We remember them.  
At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer  
We remember them.  
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn  
We remember them.  
At the beginning of the year and when it ends  
We remember them.  
As long as we live, they too will live;  
for they are now a part of us  
as we remember them.  
When we are weary and in need of strength  
We remember them.  
When we are lost and sick at heart  
We remember them.  
When we have joy we crave to share  
We remember them.  
When we have decisions that are difficult to make  
We remember them.  
When we have achievements that are based on theirs  
We remember them.  
As long as we live, they too will live;  
for they are now a part of us  
as we remember them.

*Ms O'Kelly  
Head of RE*

## Verulam School History Podcasts - Verulam Remembers

Remembrance Day is of vital importance, sharing stories and commemorating those who have fallen in past conflicts, including World War One. This year, the History Department at Verulam School is remembering The Great War by writing, delivering and broadcasting a special history podcast on the St Albans local radio station. This is about a local St Albans man called Herbert Hiskett who grew up on Hatfield Road, attended Hatfield Road Boys School, fought, and unfortunately died, in World War One. Herbert's story is one of many that help us understand what some people have gone through by giving their lives in defence of the country.

Helped by Mr Pettitt, the podcast was written and delivered by Henry Hitchiner (8H), Henry Gaskin (8C) and Roan Hoggarth (8C). These Year 8 boys visited the studio at Radio Verulam, showing resilience, determination and a real passion for history.



The boys were ambassadors for the school; one of the board of directors at Radio Verulam said that the boys were “an absolute pleasure to work with. Their level of engagement, attention and commitment to their work is outstanding.” This act of remembrance will be aired on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November on Radio Verulam (92.6 FM) and officially launches Mr Pettitt's new History Podcast series on Radio Verulam, broadcasting local stories to the community of St Albans.



Alongside the Remembrance Day podcast about Herbert Hiskett, two other episodes in Mr Pettitt's first series have been written and delivered by boys at Verulam. Dennis Haggart (Year 13) recorded a podcast about the local DeHavilland Aircraft Company, delving into its rich aviation history surrounding both St Albans and Welwyn Garden City. Ronan Hewit (11P) and Logan Hewit (11Y) also visited the studio at Radio Verulam to record their history podcast about Bride Hall, in Ayot St Lawrence, a quiet dwelling until the start of the Second World War which witnessed it being transformed into an espionage base. Bases like these were responsible for some of the undercover systematic secret planning for missions like Operation Anthropoid, the successful assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, a high ranking Nazi SS officer. Mr Pettitt's new history podcast series for the local radio will be broadcasted on Radio Verulam (92.6 FM), weekly, from 11<sup>th</sup> November.



*Mr J Pettitt*

## Swanage Trip

Once again the Lower Sixth returned to Swanage and just as we were welcomed with a heavy rainfall. The resilient students marched on between the hail, rain and possibly sleet to find patches of sunshine along the seafront, to begin their first glimpse of their home for the next three days. The rain increased and the clothes began to soak through, but I am pleased to say that the students and staff carried on.

The purpose of the trip was to collect data, understand statistical analysis and see the coastal landscape in its true form. The end result will be that the students will create their own individual investigation with a title of their choice and submit 4000 words to secure up to 20% of there A-Level.

The three day residential is intense, with pupils beginning the days at 08:00 and finishing each night at 20:00. Working both in the field and in the classroom. In between the learning, students are able to experience life way from home, bond with their new peers, and enjoy the different environment. Highlights outside the day to day learning were the annual ghost walk and access to the pool table. Unfortunately the staff were once again defeated on the pool table, however we all enjoyed a social gathering to cheer on our teams in the rugby world cup in the TV common room. For me, I truly believe it gives the students the first taste for potential university life. Dinners were eaten quickly with little discussion and beds are found waiting after but working days.

I am pleased to say that as organised the sun did make an appearance and students were able to choose which coastal location they wanted to return to collect their own data. The A-level geographers where able to enjoy days on the beach listening to waves and taking sand measurements and samples amongst the beaches and dunes. Students self-selected whether to return to Swanage bay, or the dunes of Studland. A great experience for the students to create new working friendship and become independent learners I can honestly say once again taking the pupils away is the highlight of my job. A chance to see our young students becoming mature adults with friendship and work ethics.

I now look forward to reading the 4000+ word investigation and if you wish to see images of the residential, then please see your twitter feed @verulamgeogHOD #VGSwanage19 and the school Facebook photo page.

*Mr N Woodville  
Head of Geography*



## Last boarding call for fights to Costa Rica 2021

In the past, students of Verulam School have benefited from exotic enrichment trips overseas. They have come back passionate and energised. It could be experiencing a different culture, seeing the impact of a community project or working to protect an endangered species that instigates the change in them.

For me, it was the independence I felt being in another country with a large group of people I had grown to be friends with in the build up to the trip. This trip was one of the school's first adventures to New Zealand in 2005 run by Verulam staff but I was a student! I remember the freedom to explore new cities but also the responsibility that we had to organise our meals and activities during the holiday. We enjoyed so many different things like white water rafting, skiing on a volcano, living as a Maori and performing the Haka. It was an experience that I put on my University applications and was asked about time and time again in interviews as it was something different, something that made me stand out. Mr Base and I want to give our current students the enrichment opportunity to stand out and be different. The enrichment programme in the Sixth Form is not linked to any subject and this trip is not part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



The trip to Costa Rica in 2021 will be for Year 11 and Year 12 students and will run after exams over the last week of the school year and the first 2 weeks of the summer holidays. We have worked with True Adventure to support myself and Mr Base in running this trip. For our students to get the most out of it we have a skeleton itinerary with a base location that the teams can then plan their activities in that area from. True Adventure will be assisting in each groups' planning and will facilitate any bookings and local contacts needed.

There are three main areas Mr Base and I believe would give a well-rounded experience. The first to be based in a city, to look at history, language and way of life through shopping and sightseeing. It would be remiss to not visit Costa Rica's wildlife rich rain-forests by staying in lodges in the mountains; long treks are not a necessity here, the group can decide. The final part of the trip would be spent around the beaches, turtle hatcheries and ocean. Part of this time would be spent at a PADI resort learning to scuba dive or just snorkelling.



Running the trip through True Adventure assists us in the organisation and planning phase, but also provides huge protection and assistance during the trip. They are an ATOL protected company and insurance is better than most individual cover. Their operations office is 24/7 and can be in satellite communication with the True Adventure staff leader who will be with the group from the UK airport all the way. That leader is a highly trained international guide and will have travelled to the places we are going many times before.



All of this comes with a big cost. The students who gain the most will have had a hand in raising the money for the trip, but should parents or other parties wish to contribute that is not prohibited. One of my other long lasting memories and friendships is from the group of people I raised money together with. We ran some events in our community, became quite entrepreneurial in selling plants and items we had made and did a variety of sponsorship challenges together. Breaking down the cost into monthly or weekly targets made it manageable. It made me plan ahead to be focused on exams and then busy working during the holidays afterwards.



To find more information about fundraising ideas, the trip itself with True Adventure, or find how to apply and secure your place, please visit the following website: [www.true-adventure.co.uk](http://www.true-adventure.co.uk)

Follow the 'My True Adventure' link at the top of the page. Sign in with your email address and the expedition ID: **VERULAM2021**.

*Mr T Massey  
Head of Outdoor Education*

## **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – Thursday, 12th December 2019**

As is tradition, we will be holding our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols this December. We are building on the success of the last ten years and again all music will be performed by the students of Verulam.

The evening has an informal start from 6.30pm with a glass of warming mulled wine and a mince pie, whilst listening to Verulam's musicians playing a medley of Christmas songs. As in previous years, the hall will be lit by candles as we recreate the atmosphere of a traditional carol service. The festival itself will run from 7pm – 8pm.

We very much hope that you will be able to join us for what has proved to be a popular evening. Ticket price is £5 per adult ticket (children and students are free) which covers the cost of refreshments and a small donation to the two charities we are supporting this year: **Earthworks and the Marine Conservation Society (MCS)**.

Further information as to how to reserve your place will be communicated closer to the date.

*Mr R Hall*

## **Year 12 GCSE Prizegiving Ceremony Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 2.00pm to 3.30pm**

Parents and Carers of current Year 12 students are invited to the GCSE Prizegiving ceremony for the academic year 2018/2019 where we will celebrate GCSE results of both students who were at Verulam in Year 11 last year and students who have joined us from other schools in Year 12. Students who were at Verulam in Year 11 will receive their GCSE certificate(s).

The ceremony will take place on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November** in the Main Hall from **2.00pm–3.30pm**.

Due to the constraints of space, each child will only be able to have two guests per family. Please confirm your attendance [here](#) by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**.

We look forward to seeing you on the **15<sup>th</sup> November**.

*Mr A Flack  
Deputy Headteacher*

## **Alban Federation**

Verulam School is a member of the Alban Federation partnership in the area of teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults (56 in 2019/20), either straight from University with their degrees, or people who are changing careers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status. All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and the window is now open for courses starting in September 2020.

Courses at Verulam in English, Maths, Science, Technology, MFL with salaries or bursaries are available for suitably qualified candidates in many of the above subjects.

## **Spanish Exchange Students**

Some of our Year 10 Spanish students will be welcoming their Spanish Exchange partners to Verulam on Friday 15th November. They will be in school for form time in the morning and will experience a Verulam lesson in Period 1.

The Spanish students will be staying with their Year 10 exchange partner for one week and will be visiting London, Windsor and lots of other interesting places.

Please say hello and give them a warm Verulam welcome if you see them!

*Mrs I Chirchi*  
*Head of MFL*

## **Year 12 BTEC Business**

Mike Hosking who runs New Flame Business Coaching & Consultancy visited Verulam on Wednesday to talk to Y12 BTEC Business students about the world of business.

Mike talked about his business background and the coaching and consultancy work that he now does. He also ran a session on the fundamentals of business finance and how to problem solve in business and finished with a question and answer session which Verulam students engaged with really well.

Thanks to Mike for taking the time out to visit the school and well done to the students for their positive contributions to the session.

*Mr T Engel*  
*Head of Business Studies*

## **Year 10 Silent Study Successful first session**

This week saw the start of period 7 Silent Study in room 4 on Wednesday. We had an excellent turnout with 40 boys attending.

These sessions will run from now until the GCSE exam in May. Please discuss this with your yr10 son and encourage him to attend. The sessions however are optional because they do not suit everyone. Boys who attend work in silence on revision (not homework) and cannot use phones/listen to music.

If your son would like to attend he just needs to turn up at room 4 on Wednesdays at 3:30pm until 4:25pm. All boys who attend the full session will receive an H3 to recognise their hard work.

## **Year 9 Literature texts**

All boys in yr9 (and yr10) should now have copies of 'A Christmas Carol', 'Romeo & Juliet' and 'An Inspector Calls' the three texts we study at GCSE. They are commonly available via bookshops and online. We ask boys to annotate their personal copy of the text and this then becomes an excellent revision source. It is therefore essential that boys have their own copy to work with in class.

*Mrs P Avery*  
*Director of English*

## **Gaming for good cause**

During half term Arthur Abbiss Keeley 9C, Charlie Wren 9H, and Louis Walters 9P, spent 12 hours gaming overnight to raise money for a fellow pupil and his family whose mother is fighting cancer for the second time. Caroline is unable to work during her many chemotherapy sessions and the boys wanted to raise money to help her through this difficult time.

In addition, the local community are also raising money for Caroline and her family through an afternoon tea and clothes sale next Sunday 10th November between 3-6pm, at Tabard Rugby Club in Radlett.

Everyone is welcome.



## Becoming a Learning Support Assistant in Secondary Schools and Beyond

We are offering this successful course again this term to support adults who are interested in learning the skills required to become an effective Learning Support Assistant in Secondary School, college and beyond. The course is provided by Herts Adult and Family Learning Service (HAFLS) in conjunction with Verulam School.

The course fees are £15 and the class will take place on Wed afternoons from 13 Nov to 11 Dec 1.15pm to 3.15pm.

### Topics will include:

- learning styles,
- supporting young people and adults in their learning,
- policies and getting a job
- gaining an insight into safeguarding issue
- examining typical duties associated with the role of LSA
- considering methods for managing challenging behaviour in the classroom.

The tutor will show you how to prepare a professional CV to apply for job roles as a LSA.

You will need a good level of conversational and written English to gain the most from this course.

### Feedback from students who have taken other HAFLS' courses with this tutor:

"This is my second course with Louisa. Once again she was an excellent teacher. Fun and informative lessons, and definitely helped to improve my confidence".

"A very informative and useful course. Found your feedback and suggestions really helpful, and really enjoyed the company of the other students (and yourself of course!)."

"It feels good to learn something new in a welcoming and friendly environment.....helpful and practical information".



For further information or to enrol, call Carole Heselton on 01727 754113 or email [carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk)

*Carole Heselton*  
*Community Links Administrator*

## PTA News

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

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.

### QUIZ NIGHT 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER: SOLD OUT AND HELP NEEDED

Thanks to everyone who has bought a ticket for the quiz, we look forward to seeing you for an entertaining evening on 15<sup>th</sup> November. We are sorry to disappoint you if you missed out on a table but hope you'll be able to join us for another event soon. In the meantime we do need **an extra pair of hands** to help at the quiz from 7.30pm so if you are able to help please contact [jsitrin@gmail.com](mailto:jsitrin@gmail.com)

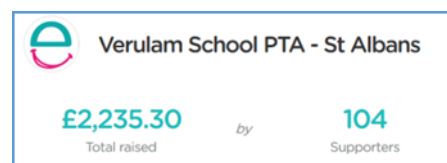
### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Look out for more information on the following events:

- **Chloe James Christmas Shopping Event** on Friday 6th December 12:30 - 2:30pm. Enjoy complimentary mulled wine and mince pies while you get ahead on your Christmas shopping in this lovely boutique opposite Cote restaurant. 10% of everything purchased will be donated to Verulam PTA. We would love to see you there!
- **PTA meeting** on Tuesday 10th December 7.30-9.00pm in the Bradshaw building  
Our first ever **Comedy Night** on Friday 20th March details tbc

### RAISE MONEY WHILE YOU SHOP ONLINE

Thousands of retailers will donate a small percentage of the value of your purchase to the Verulam PTA every time you shop on line using easyfundraising. To date we have earned over £2000 with only 100 supporters, so the potential with more supporters is huge. It is easy to join and doesn't cost you anything via this link [easyfundraising](#).



### Volunteers Needed



### IF YOU CAN SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO – WE NEED YOU!

Thanks to anyone who has volunteered so far. We still need help for the following events so please check out the dates sign up via the link here: [Volunteer signup](#)

- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 6.30-8.00pm** – serving refreshments at the school performance – a new addition to the school calendar
- **Friday 15th November 1.30-3.00pm** - serving refreshments at the Year 12 prizegiving ceremony. Various Consultation evenings in the new year.

*Julie Williams*  
PTA Chair