

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 14 - 20th December 2019

Christmas Wishes

I would like to wish all pupils, parents and staff a happy and peaceful Christmas break. I would also like to thank the staff for all their hard work and commend the pupils on their efforts.

Parents may wish to read the house competition update from Mrs Avery which is attached.

Equipped for learning in January

I would be very grateful if parents could devote some time during the Christmas break to ensure that all pupils are correctly dressed and equipped for learning at the start of next term.

As you may remember, uniform rules changed in the summer and hoodies and white socks have been banned from school. We have also asked parents to move to white shirts from January 2020 onwards. Skin tight trousers have also been banned.

The full uniform and equipment list is in full at the end of this newsletter.

Raise Donations whilst you shop online

Free Donations If you are planning to shop on line for last minute Christmas presents or January sales bargains, please consider signing up for easyfundraising and Amazon Smile to raise funds while you shop. It's really simple to do and could generate £100s of donations over the next few weeks.

Easyfunding

Over 4000 retailers including John Lewis, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Just Eat, Expedia, Booking.com and EBay donate a small percentage of the value of your purchase to the Verulam PTA every time you shop on line. In the last 30 days we have raised £150 and last month one parent generating a donation of £105 for an Expedia hotel booking - so it really is worthwhile. It's quick, easy and requires one just extra click before check out. Please sign up here: [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com).

Amazon Smile

Verulam PTA has also registered with Amazon Smile, which means the school will earn 0.5% every time you shop at Amazon Smile. Please register and shop at [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.co.uk) selecting Verulam Parent Teacher Association as your charity and you'll be helping the school to give your child the best possible education.

 smile.amazon.co.uk

Headmaster's commendation

This week's HM commendation goes to the school's support staff without whose sterling efforts Verulam would cease to function.

Whatever their roles, they share one common feature; their dedication to doing the best for our pupils and their willingness to go above and beyond what is required.

Many thanks from myself and the teaching staff.

P A Ramsey

2019-2020 Academic Year

Spring Term

6th January to 14th February 2020

Half term

17th—21st February 2020

Key Dates

Meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise

20th December EARLY CLOSE 12.00pm
End of Term

Spring Term

6th January	INSET Day (no pupils)
7th January	First Pupil Day
8th January	Yr 13 Parents Evening
	Yr 13 BTEC Sport 6D 9am
9th January	Beaumont 6th Form Open Evening 6-8pm
10th January	Finance Exam 9am
13th January	Finance Exam 9am
15th January	Verulam 6th Form Open Evening 7pm
16th January	Curriculum Enrichment Day Sandringham 6th Form Open Evening 6.30pm
21st January	6th Form Open Morning New York info eve 7pm
23rd January	1.00-4.30pm, Sociology visit to UCL
29th January	Year 9 Pathways evening Epping Forest Geography Fieldtrip

Mental Health Ambassadors

On Monday 16th December, we, the group of Mental Health Ambassadors attended a conference at St Albans Museum and Gallery with a variety of other local schools, hosted by The Marlborough Science Academy.

At the beginning we listened to a selection of guest speakers, including the CEO of an organisation called “Youth Talk” and a spokesperson for the NHS initiative “Trailblazers”. Next, we wandered around a marketplace of stalls, each with information about a different mental health charity or support group.

After lunch each school did a presentation about their school’s mental health provision. One presentation was particularly impressive, as Heathlands school delivered theirs completely in sign language.

Our last task was to put together short and long term plans we intend to put in place as a school, using inspiration we had gained from the others school.

We thought the conference was incredibly useful in how we can raise awareness of positive and negative mental health and we already have some ideas to increase the mental health provision at Verulam.

*Mr D Tansley
Mental Health Lead*



Mental Health ambassadors:

Ben Hawker, Stefan Melian, Owen Caminsky, Izaak Briffa, Alfie Kerr and Max Leyshon

BeauSandVer Courses

Please see attached information for courses starting in the Spring term for adults and children.

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS REVIEW 2019

As we once again look forward to the Christmas period and the New Year, it is always nice to reflect on the past term and to celebrate the wide range of success on the sporting stage.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have competed in both football and rugby this term. Local and county wide opposition have added to the experience and much success has been achieved. Many pupils have again gone on to represent us at district and county level.

Year 7 have built upon their “Mob Race” success in early September with some pleasing performances in football, rugby and basketball this term.

Verulam football sides have enjoyed much success in recent years and I am pleased to report that our county and national cup campaigns for 2019 are cementing our excellent reputation in the county and beyond. Our Year 10 team have unfortunately exited from the National Cup competitions but are still on course to win a fourth consecutive County Cup title.

The spring term will see the Hertfordshire Schools Rugby Festivals take place for Year 7 and Year 8. These one day competitions are designed to focus on participation and fun rather than the actual results. We will look forward to continuing training as we progress towards these events.

Our U14 badminton team advanced to the county finals held at Hertfordshire University in early December. They played superbly to reach the final only to be overcome by an excellent performance from Watford Boys. As runners up in the county we will be invited to the National Badminton Finals in March. An outstanding achievement for Salman HAKIM (9), Arthur WRAIGHT (9), Younus HAKIM (8) and Ethan MAN (7).

*Mr P O'Connor
Head of PE*

Cycling Safety

Reminder to parents and pupils. In the dark mornings and evenings, could pupils who are cycling to/from school remember to wear helmets and have appropriate lights on their bikes. Reflective clothing can also be particularly useful.

Year 13 A Level Art and Photography



On Friday we took our Year 13 A Level art and photography students into London to visit a total of 4 exhibitions!

It was a challenging but rewarding day for all students who collected a huge amount of resources for their studies. In the coming weeks students will each be encouraged to create work that incorporates the ideas and imagery they collected from the day.

We can't wait to see what they make!



Uniform, Clothing and Equipment Guide

Sixth Form Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to set the standard for the rest of the school through their presentation and conduct. A Sixth Former must be able to conduct a tour of the school for a visitor or leave the school site for an interview without having to alter their appearance.

The Sixth Form dress code is smart office wear and the requirements are as follows:

Male	Female
Preferably a suit – i.e. navy, grey or black tailored jacket and trousers OR Jacket and tailored trousers Shirt with a tie. The Verulam Sixth Form tie must be worn on formal occasions.	Suit (preferably a dark colour) – i.e. jacket with matching tailored skirt or full length tailored trousers OR Tailored jacket with tailored skirt, trousers or dress. The skirt or dress should be of appropriate length; just above the knee. Sleeveless summer dresses may be worn with a jacket or cardigan if they meet the criteria for smart office wear. However, a jacket / cardigan must be worn with such dresses around school. Fitted shirt or smart top without logos. Shirts and blouses must cover the midriff. Vest tops, tops without sleeves, low cut tops or tops that reveal midriffs are not suitable.
Smart shoes	Smart shoes Muslim girls are permitted to wear a head scarf (Hijab) should they wish. These should be either black or blue. Full face head veils (Niqab) are not permitted.

Hooded tops are not to be worn at any time. No trainers, boots or casual shoes
 Ear and nose piercings discreet stud only. Hair should be appropriate for school
 Facial hair must be neat, tidy and short; following the line of the jaw
 A jacket must be worn when walking around school, as well as for assemblies and other formal occasions.
 Teachers may give students permission to remove their jackets in lessons
 Outdoor coats must be removed inside the school building
 For practical lessons, students may need to bring in appropriate clothing to change into for that lesson

*Any student who breaches the school dress code **can expect to be sent home to change and will be issued with a detention.** Issues with 6th Form dress will be referred to the KS5 Leadership Team who will make final decisions regarding dress or the need to change.*

School Uniform Year 7 -11

Navy Blue Blazer with badge

Black trousers of conventional cut – skin tight trousers will not be tolerated

White shirt (as a small minority of parents may have blue shirts these will be accepted until December)

House tie

School pullover or grey V-necked pullover

Black shoes – not trainers

Dark grey or black socks – white socks are not permitted

Pupil Equipment

Pupils can only make good progress and enjoy school if they have the correct equipment to use in both lessons and homework. We therefore ask all parents to ensure that boys are fully equipped for school and that they check this equipment is correct before school each day. This is shown on the homework timetable as Prep, which should include the student checking:

- Show My Homework for any tasks that are due
- Whether any games kit is required for the next day
- That they have all the books needed for the next day's lessons and that any work due is completed
- To ensure equipment is ready for the next day

We recommend that all boys transport their books and equipment in a rugged and capacious bag such as a rucksack. This should be named. Small, fashionable, 'man bags' are not fit for this purpose. The bag should be able to contain both sports kit and all the text and exercise books required for a day's learning.

Learning equipment should be kept in a soft see-through pencil case and include:

- Black or blue pens for writing – pupils should use the pen that helps them write in the clearest and neatest fashion
- HB graphite pencils
- Colouring pencils
- Highlighter pens
- Red and green biro
- Glue stick
- Small scissors
- A clear rigid 30cm ruler
- Scientific calculator – Casio or similar are recommended
- French dictionary, e.g. The Collins Easy Learning or similar
- Maths set, including a protractor, pair of compasses and a set square

Many parents find it beneficial to keep a duplicate learning equipment kit at home. Pupils are also expected to have a private reading book with them at all times.

PTA Update and Requests

Verulam Lottery Winners!

Merry Christmas to all those taking part in the Verulam PTA Lottery. Thanks to Mr Penrose, Jeff Seymour and Nicky Thomas for helping throughout the year and to all the students who have 'pressed the button' for us, including Adam Smart 9H last week. The lucky festive winners are:

- Nicola Thomas £110
- Justin Walters £70
- Matt Whayman £30

Desperately seeking PE kit and Table Tennis Equipment!



We are very short of both old and new design PE kit, so if your son has grown out of his this term please do pass it on to us via reception so we can rehome it. The next sale will be 10.30-11.30am on Saturday 11th January in the dining hall.

Table tennis is always very popular with the boys which inevitably means that equipment has a relatively short lifespan, so if you do have any spare/old but usable bats or balls please leave them at reception for the attention of John Tromans.

Finally on behalf of the PTA we wish you all a healthy and happy festive season, wherever and however you spend it.

Julie Williams
PTA