

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 15 - 10th January 2020

### **Pupil, Parent and Staff Surveys**

This half term all the schools across the AAT will be conducting a survey of pupil, parent and staff views to help our development. We have employed Kirkland Rowell, a leading independent survey company, to run the surveys which are anonymous and cover all aspects of school life.

Pupils will be the first to take part in the survey which will be issued to them on Friday 17th January. Form tutors will be collecting surveys during the week of 20th January with a deadline for final return being Friday 24th January. Completion of the survey will be set on ShowMyHomeWork for the weekend of 18th and 19th January and I would be grateful if you could encourage your son/daughter to complete the survey at home over that weekend.

Parents will have the opportunity to give us their views when we send their copy of the survey home via their son/daughter on Monday 27th January. The parental deadline for replies is Wednesday 12th February.

Staff will be completing an online survey on Friday 14th February.

### **Balloon Debate**

Our female icon balloon debate at the end of last term was a great success and very enjoyable. The successful icons in each year group were as follows:

**Year 7** - Marie Curie

**Year 8** - Greta Thunberg

**Year 9** - Michelle Obama

**Year 10** - Rosa Parks

**Year 11** - Tanni Grey-Thompson

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

We are delighted to invite you to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. The evening will start with refreshments from 6:45pm in our Sixth Form Centre, followed by subject presentations and a short talk from Mr Ramsey. This is a great opportunity to come and find out more about our Sixth Form, the courses we offer and what makes Verulam a fantastic place to continue your education. If you would like any further information please contact Mrs Amanda Harding,

[Amanda.Harding@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Amanda.Harding@verulam.herts.sch.uk)

### **Headmaster's commendation**

This week's HM commendations go to Orson Gacek Campos and Emir Johnston for their outstanding A Level Art work.

Well done boys.

*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**

#### **Spring Term**

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 6th Form application deadline
30th January	Year 9 Immunisation Reading Group 7pm
2nd February	Belsen 75 Project Conference in London
4th February	Sandringham Yr 12 PTC MathsFest Belsen 75 Project visit to Belsen camp, Germany

## **Year 10 English Faculty only – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

On **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**, we will be holding an English Faculty only Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening to update on progress so far and to give guidance on specific areas for improvement for the boys going forward.

We are moving away from the old paper based booking system for Parents' Evenings to an on-line system. On-line bookings will provide parents/carers with a quicker and more efficient system.

### **How does the new system work?**

Simply log on to MCAS and select the Parents Evening tab (on the menu on the left hand side). This will show the available times to book a 5 minute slot with your son's teacher on the evening. If you have any problems, please email [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) and we will be happy to help.

Please make sure you can access MCAS or you will not be able to book appointments. If you need a refresher of your MCAS log-in details, please contact the school on the email address above for the attention of Mrs Andric.

**The on-line booking system for this Parent Teacher Evening will open on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 6.00am. The system will close for bookings on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00pm.**

We look forward to seeing you on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

*Mrs P Avery  
Director of English*

## **Year 10 Silent Study**

Well done to the 25 boys who attended Silent Study period 7 on the second day of term! Excellent resilience and determination to succeed. This option is available to all and runs every Wednesday in room 4.

I am sure we will be back up to our usual numbers of between 40 and 50 boys next week.

Please encourage your Year 10 son to attend if he can work in a silent environment. Boys are able to use our range of revision materials when they are attending these sessions.

*Mrs P Avery  
Director of English*

## **Year 11 Parent Teacher evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

**The on-line booking system for Year 11 will close on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 9pm.**

There remain very few slots so if you have not done so yet, please log on to your My Child At School (MCAS) to secure any appointments before the deadline.

If you need a refresher of your MCAS log-in details, please contact the school on [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) for the attention of Mrs Andric as a matter of urgency.

## **220 St Albans Air Cadet Squadron**

We are writing to inform you of the next recruitment evening at the squadron, taking place **Monday 13th January 2020**.

We would like to inform you about the upcoming event, as we seek to expand our squadron. New cadets must be in **Year 8 (and above) or at least 12 years old**.

Being an air cadet helps to build character and improves dedication. For any further information, pupils and parents can go to the St Albans Air Cadet website: <https://220atc.org.uk/recruitment-nights/>

*Corporal Finlay Killner and Corporal Jennifer Ward-Tsang*

## **UAL Future Creatives Courses**

Couldn't make it to one of our autumn courses? Never fear! UAL Future Creatives is running brand new art and design classes at the Sandringham School from next week (16 January), and there's still time to book.

After a fun-filled first term, Future Creatives' after school, weekend and holiday classes for 7-11 and 11-17 year olds will bring you fresh new content and the opportunity to try out even more art and design techniques – suitable for both first-time and repeat learners. If you've already completed a course, you can take 10% off your next booking with the code School10 – valid until 31/1/20.

Visit <https://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/short-courses/future-creatives/art-classes-st-albans> for all the details and to book.

## **Verulam School**

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

This course is ideal for someone who is thinking of changing career or returning to the job market. Explore the skills needed to become an effective Learning Support Assistant in secondary school, college and beyond.

Topics include learning styles, supporting young people and adults in their learning, safeguarding, behaviour management. You will also learn how to prepare a professional CV to help you apply for jobs as an LSA.

**Thursdays 9.15 – 11.15 am 16 Jan to 13 Feb 2020 Course Fee £15, Registration fee £10 Total £25**  
<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/becoming-a-learning-support-assistant-in-secondary-schools-and-beyond/>

**Feedback from students who have taken the course with this tutor:**

**“Louisa is a fantastic teacher – she supported us all to engage with the topics ..we had a very enthusiastic group.”**

**“ Very helpful and informative – gives me the confidence to look for jobs in the future”**

**“I’m so happy that I did this course. Great experience, great learning.”**

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)

### **New Spanish Beginners Course – Tuesdays starts 14 Jan 7 – 8.30 pm**

If you missed out on joining the Spanish Beginners class in September and would like to start learning now, book your place on our new Tuesday evening course at Beaumont School. The focus is on helping you feel confident speaking and reading Spanish, learning the basics to equip you for a holiday or business trip to a Spanish speaking country.

**Tuesdays 14 Jan to 31 March 7 – 8.30 pm** at Beaumont School; (no classes at half term or 25 Feb) 2020.

**Fees £75 for 10 sessions; discounted for parents at Beaumont, Sandringham or Verulam Schools to £67.50**

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)