

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 21 - 28th February 2020

DfE Performance Tables

Parents may be interested in the DfE Performances Tables which were published before half term. Boys at Verulam performed particularly well gaining a positive progress 8 score of +0.22 which compares very favourably with the national score for boys which declined to -0.27. This means pupils at Verulam on average gained half a grade better at GCSE than boys nationally. I was also pleased to see that our boys were in the top 7½% for progress nationally - this summer we are hoping to be in the top 5%.

Coronavirus

This week I sent all parents information about Coronavirus and this has been discussed with all pupils. I will pass further updates or information to parents as I receive them.

I would ask that parents inform the school if their son or daughter is suffering from flu like symptoms.

Team from Verulam beats 6,000 in stock market challenge to be in running for trip to New York

A team of Year 10 students from Verulam have battled their way into the Student Investor Challenge semi-finals, beating over 6,000 teams from schools around the UK and abroad.

The Student Investor Challenge, run by The London Institute of Banking & Finance, challenges teams of secondary school students to invest virtual money on the London Stock Exchange and trade stocks and shares to make a profit.

PATS19 consisting of students *Alexander Culkin, Peter Brady, Sean Tidd and Toby Jones* successfully invested £200,000 of virtual money and qualified as one of the top 500 teams to progress to the semi-finals. They'll now go on to battle the remaining 499 teams to try and reach the final in London.

The Economics and Business Department comments that: "*The school and the four boys should be immensely proud of (and congratulated on) what they have achieved. With a little luck, they may go one better and reach the final. There is no doubt that the whole school is behind them and we wish them the best of luck."*"

Catherine Winter, Managing Director of Financial Capability at The London Institute of Banking & Finance, says:

"This competition is a powerful way of engaging young people with how the finance sector works and relating it to everyday life.

"The movement of stocks and shares, currency fluctuations and central bank activities can feel quite remote and difficult to get to grips with. By bringing it to life through a trading game, young people have proved they can grasp how economies work and the basics of investment. So, congratulations to the semi-finalists for making the top 500, it's a great achievement!"

Headmaster's commendations

This week's HM commendations go to Alexander Culkin, Peter Brady, Sean Tidd and Toby Jones who comprise Verulam's team to have made it to the semi-finals of the Student Investor Challenge. Over 6,000 teams entered with 500 going through to the semi-finals. Well done boys.

P A Ramsey

2019-2020 Academic Year

Spring Term

6th January to 14th February 2020

Easter Break

6th to 17th April 2020

Key Dates

Meetings start at 7pm unless stated otherwise

Spring Term

2nd March

World Book Day
Maths Fest at Roundwood Park School 1.30pm-5pm
Curriculum Enrichment Day
Verulam Choir 3.45pm rehearsal and 7.45-9pm concert Royal Albert Hall
Science Week
Reading Group 7pm
Big Bang Fair Trip
Finance Exam 9am
STEM London Underground

4th March

8th March

9th March

12th March

14th March

16th March

18th March

Year 9 GCSE Subject Choices deadline – 25th February 2020

All parents/carers were sent the Subject Choices Form via Parentmail.

You can complete a form on your PC, tablet or Smartphone. If you use a PC, simply go to your ParentMail account, and go to Forms (on the left hand side of the screen), click on the relevant form and complete.

If you use the ParentMail app, click on the menu (represented by the 3 lines) and click on Forms. If you have forgotten your ParentMail password, you can click on the ‘Forgotten your Password’ link on the login screen.

The deadline for submission of the form is **25th February 2020**.

We look forward to receiving your choices.

*Mr M Freakley
Deputy Headteacher*

Business Enterprise Conference – Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March 2020

On **Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March 2020**, we are organising a two day “Business Enterprise Conference” for all Year 9 pupils. During this time they will be taken off their usual timetable completely in order to take part in the activities.

We have asked tutors and a number of personnel from industry, commerce and other organisations who are prepared to act as activity leaders for the duration of the conference.

We will be working with Aecom, University of Hertfordshire, HM Magistrates Courts & Tribunal Service, Metro Bank, Watford FC, Stevenage FC, BT, Willmott Dixon and the Army. The activities to be carried out by the boys will be varied; problem solving activities, team work activities and physical/mental challenges. There should be something to interest everybody. There will be a total of eight activities of which the boys will take part in six. They will therefore not be involved with every company taking part.

All boys should bring a pair of trainers and their PE kit.

There is a special timetable arrangement for breaks and lunch. Pupils will still be able to buy school meals or bring their own packed lunch.

Please note that the year 9 boys will finish school at 3pm on Wednesday and at 3.30pm on Thursday.

*Mr B Jameson
Head of Year 9*

TICKETS ON SALE NOW: COMEDY NIGHT FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Join us for a very special night of comedy brought to Verulam by award-winning comedians Vick Arlidge and Matthew Osborn. The £20 admission price (plus a small booking fee) includes a delicious Greek Meze supper provided by Verulam Mum Magdalena Calatrava’s Backyard kitchen. There will also be a fully-stocked cash bar. With half the tickets already sold please book quickly using our new, super-easy ticketing system (no more boy mail needed!!) here [Verulam PTA Comedy Night Tickets](#)

Feeling Good Week - 10-12th February

During Feeling Good Week, Mr Flack turned into Gameshow Host where Verulam hosted their own First and Last, a new game on BBC1 on Saturday nights. Various members of staff and Sixth Form prefects took part, trying not to be first or last in each round by being distinctly average.

Rounds included, blowing up the most average sized balloon – blindfolded, bringing the most average weighted carrot, and building the median sized lego tower. In the final, Mr Bint, Ms McInally and Mr Knowles competed for a charity of their choice to donate up to £50.

Mr Bint, the most average, won, and chose The Ollie Mills Foundation. A big thanks to those staff who gave up their lunchtime to compete and also the jam-packed hall of students and staff who came to cheer them on.

Mrs L Nelson

Feeling Good Week

Year 7 have ended the half term graph dancing in maths with Mrs Cornmell.

We have all enjoyed learning about all sorts of different graphs this month and have acted out the shapes of the graphs to remember them!

Well done year 7!



DofE Equipment Request

Could I ask that DofE kit be returned that may have been forgotten about from the summer expeditions. Also any camping or hiking things that are unwanted, too big, too small to be donated to DofE. Walking boots, waterproof tops and trousers, bags, tents, stoves, etc.

Second Hand Uniform

Quite frequently, we issue students with second-hand items of uniform. Currently, we are running short of ties. If you have any spare Verulam ties, we would be very grateful if you could bring them into reception so that we can replenish our stock.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Maths Challenge Update

UKMT Senior challenges

Following his success in the first round of the UKMT Senior Challenge towards the end of last year, Matthew Stevens was invited to take part in the two follow on rounds of the British Mathematical Olympiad. These papers lasted 3 and a half hours each and we are delighted to announce that he achieved a Distinction in the second round of the British Mathematical Olympiad.

We would also like to thank Matthew for all of his help with our students in years 7-11 preparing for their maths competitions.

UKMT Intermediate Challenge

Earlier this month 54 of our year 9, 10 and 11 students sat the 2020 UKMT Intermediate Challenge. It was a really tough paper and we are very proud of how hard our students worked before and during the challenge.

31 of our students will receive the following awards:

Gold Awards

Charlie Powell
Finlay Killner
Huw Dawson
Peter Brady

Silver Awards

Adam Goodwin
Alfie Parkins
Daniel Rafferty
Dominic Ward
Finlay Denton
Harry Stone
Inesh Sagar
Jake Walters
Jawad Ali
Joseph Robinson
Matteo Douglas
Ned Threadkell
Oliver Knaggs
Oliver Lautier
Robert Mathewson
Sam Shepherd
Samuel Tillin
Theodore Clark

Bronze Awards

Aaron Saju
Bruno Winter
Callum Silcox
Dylan Laird
Faizan Qutbi
Finle Cooper
Gabriel Rabassa
Hirad Nisari
Nikhil Mohan

Further congratulations go to the following students who have been invited to take part in the first follow on round next month:

Peter Brady
Charlie Powell
Finlay Killner
Huw Dawson
Harry Stone
Oliver Knaggs
Oliver Lautier

Year 10 Maths Feast

Eight of our year 10 students will be taking part in the regional heat of the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme's Maths Feast next week. They will be working as a team to answer logic and mathematical problems, competing against schools from across the South East of England. We will update our Facebook and twitter pages and next week's Verulam Voice with their progress! Good luck boys!

Mrs A Cornmell and Mr J Langley

Verulam Cricket Club - players needed! To all Verulam School parents, staff and friends

Friendly social cricket. Midweek summer evenings, May to July.

Suitable for rusty, occasional, past-it and even keen/regular cricketers (although not complete beginners, sorry). The emphasis is on "social".

We play at several park and club venues in and around St Albans.

You'll need whites, but we otherwise have a full kit bag.

No minimum commitment, you could play all/most of the 10-12 fixtures, or just 1 or 2.

To cover costs, the match fee is £8-£10, depending on the venue, normally including some food. Nets practice sessions will be arranged soon.

Interested? We hope so! If so, please contact Matt Melling to join or with any query: mattmelling@ntlworld.com 07785-374826

BeauSandVer Community Classes – Feb/March update

Classes with HAFLS

We work with Herts Adult and Family Learning to offer highly subsidised vocational courses for people interested in either returning to work or moving to different career paths. We have run most of these courses before for parents with excellent feedback.

It would be helpful to find out which courses might be of interest to Verulam parents. Courses available include:

Introduction to Working in Health and Social Care. (Adults aged 19 upwards)

Introduction to Working in the Film and Television Industry

Introduction to Working in Customer Services in the Retail Industry.

Succeed and Get that Job

Assertiveness and Communication Skills

Boost Your Confidence.

Feedback from previous students:

“A really useful, positive course”

“great course and teacher”

“Louisa is a fantastic teacher, pulling situations out of us in a calm way and stretching our minds and creating positivity to our negative fears about getting jobs.”

“Very useful and enjoyable course which has improved my skills and confidence”

“Excellent teaching by Louisa, very much enjoyed this course”

To register your interest in the courses or to find out more, please email

carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Courses starting after half term – please email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk as soon as possible if you would like to enrol.

Creative Writing. Each session offers a taught component, writing prompts and a chance to review one another's writing. Newcomers and beginners are always welcome in this supportive group. **Mondays 2 March to 30 March 7.30 - 9.30pm Fee £55 at Verulam School**

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/creative-writing-for-adults-aged-18-upwards/>

Mosaic Course for Beginners. Learn how to make beautiful mosaics pieces using glass-based mosaic tiles. Suitable for complete beginners. Taught by experienced mosaic artist.

Tues 7 – 9-pm 25 Feb to 31 March Fee £90 for six sessions including all materials at Sandringham School. For further information visit

<https://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/glass-mosaic-course-for-adults/>

PTA News



TICKETS ON SALE NOW: COMEDY NIGHT FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Join us for a very special night of comedy brought to Verulam by award-winning comedians Vick Arlidge and Matthew Osborn. The £20 admission price (plus a small booking fee) includes a delicious Greek Meze supper provided by Verulam Mum Magdalena Calatrava's Backyard kitchen. There will also be a fully-stocked cash bar. With half the tickets already sold please book quickly using our new, super-easy ticketing system (no more boy mail needed!!) here [Verulam PTA Comedy Night Tickets](#)

RECRUITING FOR A NEW CHAIR AND TREASURER OF THE PTA

We are fortunate to have a very active PTA who play a key role in fundraising and supporting the school community. New members are always welcome to join us in running events and/or attending a PTA meeting, held once per term. We also have a couple of specific vacancies to fill as our current Chair and Treasurer will be standing down at the end of this school year. These roles are suitable for anyone interested in getting to know other parents, staff and pupils while working in a team to support the school. The chair role could be taken on either by an individual or a small team. If you are interested in finding out more or in joining us at the next PTA meeting on **Tuesday 17th March**, please contact julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk

JOIN US

There are a number of additional ways to support the PTA:

VERULAM PTA LOTTERY WINNERS: For as little as £5 per month you could be entered into our half termly prize draws by signing up here: [Verulam Lottery](#). 50% of the money raised is put into the prize draw, and 50% is donated to the school, so the greater the number of participants, the greater the amount of money in the pot! If 25% of the families at school invested the minimum £5/month subscription, this would raise £15000 each year, i.e. £7500 for the school and £7500 in prize money. Last half term's draw has been made and cheques are on their way to the following lucky winners.

- Maria Taylor £100
- Simon Threadkell £70
- Claire Pringle £30

WANTED: If you have any of the following items to rehome please leave at reception
Pre loved uniform including old and new design PE kit (mark for PTA). The next sale will be in the Dining Hall from 10.30-11.30 on **Sat 7th March**

Tennis balls, table tennis bats and balls (mark for attention of Mr Flack)



Props that could be used for a 'character' or scene by the Drama department including coat hangers, shirts, trousers, hats, plastic food, plates, cups, house hold items that are no longer used e.g. wooden spoons, bowls, old mobiles etc. (mark for Drama Dept)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you can spare an hour or two we always need help serving refreshments at consultation evenings and other events. Don't worry if you haven't been involved before – someone will show you the ropes. If you can help on any of the following dates please sign up here:

[Volunteer signup](#)

- 23rd April 5.00-6.30pm year 8 consultation
- 10th June 5.00-6.30/6.30-8.00 year 10 consultation

RAISE ££££ WHILE YOU SHOP: Please consider signing up for [Easyfundraising](#) here or via the school website and Amazon Smile (selecting Verulam Parent Teacher Association as your charity) to raise donations from retailers while you shop on line. It's really simple to do and booking a hotel or holiday can raise £100+ in a single transaction.

 **easyfundraising**
feel good shopping

Verulam Medieval Festival Sunday 5th July

Following the success of Verulam's first Medieval Festival last summer, we are delighted to confirm that we will be running the event again this year on Sunday 5th July. Last year over 400 attendees, young and old, enjoyed a sunny day of medieval merriment masterminded by former Verulam pupil James Silcox. Founder of Reach the Core – a leading provider of interactive historical experiences – James will lead another exhilarating programme of have-a-go activities; displays and re-enactments including a full-size jousting simulator; long bow archery and axe throwing and thrilling contests between professional historical combat teams. Even spectators will be invited to enter the battlefield and take up (foam) arms in an informative re-imagining of the Battle of Hastings. We received a lot of very positive feedback about the day:

“It was like Warwick Castle had come to St. Albans! What a treat to have such a high quality, and educational day out so close to home”

“We went to support the school, expecting a normal ‘fete’. We had such a brilliant day we didn’t want to leave! All of us enjoyed axe throwing, the boys loved jousting and the re-enactments were especially entertaining. Can’t wait to go to another!”

We hope you and your family will be able to join us. Further information including how to purchase tickets will be provided over the coming weeks, but in the meantime please do save the date in your diaries.

