

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 19 - 7th February 2020

### National Citizenship Service

Many of our senior pupils gain a great deal from participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme during which they learn a skill, undertake community service and take part in expeditions. This is not only enjoyable, but an excellent preparation for life after school. However, for some pupils the time needed for this is a disincentive due to other commitments.

A great alternative is the National Citizenship Service which is available to pupils in Years 11 and 12 and runs for three or four weeks during the summer holidays. Amazingly the three or four week experience costs only £50 and reduces to £25 if you qualify for free school meals. Pupils who have undertaken the NCS project have gained in confidence and experienced a lot.

The NCS journey involves:

- **Be Epic** – *Feel the freedom of the outside world for five days away from home at a PGL site in Lincolnshire. Take on adrenaline-fuelled activities like Jacob's ladder, canoeing and archery. Your team will cheer you along every step of the way, sharing in every challenge and every success.*
- **Live Life** – *Next up, you'll spend five days living at The University of Bedfordshire, gaining crucial life skills from public speaking to basic first aid.*
- **Do Good** – *Back at home, you and your team will devise a social action project based on an issue you feel passionate about. You have the skills and confidence to do anything – the more original, the better! This is your chance to feel proud by making a real difference in your community.*
- **Celebration** – *Celebrate your achievements with your fellow NCS grads and receive your certificate signed by the Prime Minister!*

The following dates are available:

**St Albans:** 29/06/20 – 24/07/20 (4 week)

**St Albans:** 06/07/20 – 24/07/20 (3 week)

**St Albans:** 13/07/20 – 07/08/20 (4 week)

**St Albans:** 20/07/20 – 14/08/20 (4 week)

**St Albans:** 03/08/20 – 28/08/20 (4 week)

Please contact them at [www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com) or on **0800 197 8010** if you are interested.

### Parent Surveys

The deadline for parent surveys has been extended to next Wednesday 12th February. Please give us your views.

### Headmaster's commendations

This week's HM commendations go to Jacey Hopps-Grace, Dennis Haggart, Tom Tillin and Seth Yates for being fantastic ambassadors of the school during the recent Belsen Trip.

*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

9th February	Belsen 75 Project Conference London
12th February	New York Trip departs 5am Beaumont Year 12 PTC
13th February	INSET Day
14th February	INSET Day Ski trip departs midday

#### Half Term

17th –21st February

24th February	Pupils first day back
2nd March	World Book Day Maths Fest at Roundwood Park School 1.30pm-5pm
4th March	Curriculum Enrichment Day
8th March	Verulam Choir 3.45pm rehearsal and 7.45-9pm concert Royal Albert Hall
9th March	Science Week
12th March	Reading Group 7pm

## **Year 9 Parent Teacher evening on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**The on-line booking system for Year 9 will open to parents/carers on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00am.**

Parents/carers will need to book the appointments using My Child At School (MCAS). A Parentmail with further information has been sent. **The system will close for bookings on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00pm.**

If you have not logged on to My Child At School (MCAS) recently, 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 [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) for the attention of Mrs Andric.

Thank you.

*Mr B Jameson  
Head of Year 9*

## **'Romeo & Juliet' performance workshop**

Reminder: Year10 students should attend the revision performance workshop of 'Romeo & Juliet' on Monday 17th February (Monday of half term). The performance will begin promptly at 10am and will finish at 11am. Boys do not need to wear uniform but will be ambassadors for the school and I will therefore expect perfect behaviour.

## **Spoken Language Endorsement**

On Wednesday 4th March, Year 11 students will be assessed for their 'speaking and listening' endorsement linked to their English Language GCSE. In lessons they are preparing a speech having chosen one of 5 topics to discuss.

Over half term boys should refine their speeches and practise them with family members. The speech should be 3 minutes long. On the day it will be filmed so boys need to be confident and well rehearsed before the assessments. Boys must take this seriously and focus on this task as there will be **NO RE-TAKES**. With good preparation and a mature attitude there is no need for re-takes. Please talk to your son about this and allow him to practise his speech on you!

*Mrs P Avery  
Director of English*

## **Holocaust Education at Verulam**

"My first impressions were shock and awe.... The sights and the sounds were a complete shock, we weren't prepared for it, we didn't expect it, I have never seen anything like it and neither has anyone else." L. Berney, British Army Major, April 1945.

On Tuesday this week four Sixth Form Students, Mr Pettitt and Ms O'Kelly met very early at Stansted airport to depart on a study visit to the Bergen-Belsen Memorial just outside of Hannover in Germany. This trip is part of the Belsen 75 project, delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust and UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, with support from the National Holocaust Centre and Museum, and funded by the Department for Education.

All of our students had applied to be a part of the project, committing not just to two full day conferences and the day trip, but also to working on their own legacy project to promote Holocaust Education both here at Verulam and locally across St Albans. At our first conference last Sunday we had the privilege of hearing Renee Salt BME tell her own survivor story. Her obvious distress and very clear memories of what life was like at Bergen-Belsen was very difficult to hear but it did help us to prepare for our visit this week.

On April 15th, 1945 British troops of the 11th Armoured Division liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. The conditions they found were horrific. The lack of food, shelter and medicine led to the deaths of thousands of inmates who contracted diseases such as typhus or tuberculosis. When the British troops liberated the camp there was no running water available. It's estimated that 70,000 people died in Bergen-Belsen, with 60,000 prisoners still in the camp when the British Allied 21st Army Group arrived.

Arriving on Tuesday you would not think that there had been a camp. The British were forced to burn most of the camp to the ground because of the disease that was rife. However it soon became apparent that there were clear pieces of evidence to show where the camp had stood. Trees were strategically planted to delineate the sections within the camp and as we ventured further into the open spaces between the trees the other evidence was overwhelming. There we saw the international memorial to the victims of the camp, remembering the Jewish, Polish, Roma Sinti, Jehovah's Witness, Homosexual and Political prisoners who had suffered and died in the camp. We also saw the mass graves where the bodies of the victims were interred by the British forces.

It was a very moving experience and all of us feel very privileged to have visited such an important memorial. This Sunday we embark on the second of our conferences so that we can start to explore how best to share the story of the victims and the events that happened at Bergen-Belsen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the four students and Mr Pettitt. Although a tough subject to explore and a very tiring day on Tuesday this is a project that will stay with us all for a very long time. I said to the students as we returned on Sunday and on Tuesday that I was very proud of them and I reiterate that here; they were true ambassadors of their school.

*Ms V O'Kelly  
Head of R.E.*

## Geography Field Trip

With half term in sight and less than 11 weeks to go till their exams start, the Year 11 Geographers headed out into the field for their second of two required field trips to Epping Forest. This was an opportunity for the Year 11s to gain valuable data and fieldwork experience required to secure high grades in their summer exams.



The students began the day arriving at the field study centre to receive a briefing of the day and the focus of the investigation. Quick change of footwear to wellington boots and the students began working on their investigation into 'the change in characteristics of Loughton Brook' as we headed down stream.

We visited the source and headed towards the middle course to see the contrast between the locations. The route was pure mud and the boys took careful steps along the river course. Some not so careful and a few slips happened along the way. Covered in mud and equipment in hand the boys began collecting river velocity, depth and widths. Students collected a range of data at these locations before returning to the field study centre. Here they took the opportunity to consolidate data on their own.

The students understood the value of the day, completed the task and as always were ambassadors for the school. They will now present their findings and practice paper 3 exam questions in preparation for the 2020 summer exams.

If you wish to see pictures of the event or keep up to date with further geography activities, please follow our twitter @verulamgeogHOD.



*Mr N S Woodville  
Head of Geography*

## Coronavirus - Advice from the Department of Education

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad. The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate.

### Advice for parents/guardians

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their schooling or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### What action you can take

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

## BeauSandVer Community Classes For Adults starting after half term

### 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/>

### Introduction to Roman Latin and Culture

Learning Latin and discussing Roman stories in Latin and English – suitable for those with some Latin already. **Tuesdays 25 Feb to 31 March 7.30 – 9pm Fee £63 at Verulam School**

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/introduction-to-latin-and-roman-culture/>



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

Introductory course for those looking for a change of career or considering their first job in this industry. **Thurs 9.15 to 11.15 am 27 Feb to 26 March Fee £25 at Verulam School**



### Mosaic Course for Beginners

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

**Tues 7 – 9pm 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/>

### Lino Printing for beginners/Continuers ( Adults)

A very effective and versatile way of creating striking images, especially for beginners.

Create and print your own unique images on paper or fabric. Materials will be provided.

**Mon 7pm to 9pm 24 Feb to 30 Mar 6 sessions £90 at Sandringham School**

<http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/lino-printing-for-beginners-adults-only/>



### Art Textiles and Creative Embroidery (adults and students over 16)

Explore your creativity with fabric, using sewing machines and hand-stitching.

**Weds 7.30 to 9.30 pm: 26 Feb to 25 March Fee £45 at Beaumont School** [http://](http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk/art-textiles-creative-embroidery-age-16-suitable-for-beginners-intermediate/)

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## BeauSandVer Classes for students



**Street Dance and Contemporary Dance for Junior School Children in years 3 - 6**  
**FREE TASTER LESSON on Monday 10 February** for boys and girls who are interested in joining either or both of these classes:

**Contemporary 4 – 4.45pm Street Dance 4.45 – 5.30pm**

If your child would like to come along on Monday, email [carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk) to register them for the free session.

After half term classes will run Mondays 24 Feb to 30 March – 6 sessions for £30

## UAL Art Classes for students aged 7 to 17 held at Sandringham School

Future Creatives, a scheme launched by UAL – University of the Arts, London, is working with Sandringham School to provide inspiring art and design courses for students in primary and secondary schools. There are a range of classes including afterschool, Saturdays, half term holiday classes. **Book now for February half term.**

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/subjects/fine-art/short-courses/teenagers/future-creatives-st-albans-11-to-17-year-olds>

## PTA News

**COMEDY NIGHT**



### SAVE THE DATE: Comedy and Cabaret evening Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Join us for a very special night of comedy, brought to Verulam by award-winning comedians Vick Arlidge and Matthew Osborn. £20 admission by pre-booking only to include a delicious Greek Meze supper. There will also be a fully-stocked cash bar. Look out for more details and instructions on how to buy tickets in next week's newsletter.

**Can you 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](#)

**VOLUNTEER**



- 27th Feb 6.30-8.00pm Year 9 consultation
- 23rd April 5.00-6.30pm Year 8 consultation
- 10th June 5.00-6.30/6.30-8.00 Year 10 consultation



### Uniform Sales

Thanks to everyone who has donated outgrown items of uniform or attended the sale last Saturday helping to recycle and raise £150 for the school. Please keep donating - we are always 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.

**Raise £££££ when you shop on line:** 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 funds while you shop. It's really simple to do and booking a hotel or holiday can raise £100+ in a single transaction.

**Raise donations with 4,000 online retailers**

*Julie Williams*  
PTA