

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 25 - 27th March 2020

### Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

Welcome to our new weekly update on all that is happening in the new virtual world of Verulam. I realise that it is difficult to keep track of a host of emails and so we will, where possible, confine our communication to one weekly update.

I do hope all parents, carers and pupils are well and are coping with the rigours of this new world. Despite the school's closure this week we have been busy recruiting staff by video interview, holding virtual meetings to address key issues and opening our "skeleton school" for the first week of learning.

Can I remind all parents, carers and pupils that the school remains closed and that entry is prohibited in order to minimise the risk of infection.

### Key Workers

Last week, we asked you to complete the Key Worker Survey which was sent to you as a form in parentmail, as your child is able to continue to access education during the closure.

In order to help us determine staffing levels, we have written, and will continue to write, to all of you who replied every week to get your update for the week to follow, regardless whether you indicated on the initial survey if you needed to bring in your child(ren) or not.

The update survey will be sent out every Thursday. We would ask you to complete the survey by 2pm on the Friday of each week.

If you didn't complete the survey but you qualify as a key worker, please email [admin@verulam.herts](mailto:admin@verulam.herts) and we will include you in future communications.

Likewise, if you registered your child and your circumstances have changed, please let us know on the same email address.

### Year 11 and 13 Trial Exams

Trial exam results will be published on Friday 3 April via My Child At School.

These are the results of the recent exams. **THEY ARE NOT THE CALCULATED GRADES WE WILL BE SENDING TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

We are still waiting for guidance from the DfE about Calculated Grades. We will update parents and pupils as soon as we have this information.

The link below is useful for updates:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>

Please do not contact teaching staff regarding Trial Examinations or Calculated Grades.

### Work for Pupils

From Monday we move into phase two of our work setting strategy.

Individual teachers will now be setting work for their classes. All work is being set through Show My Homework.

### Google Classroom

Students should be logging into Google Classroom using their Verulam email accounts, not their personal email addresses.

### ShowMyHomeWork

How to upload work can be found on this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8H1dNptrY>

### Easter

The Easter holiday commences on Friday 3rd April. Although the "skeleton school" will remain open for children of key workers teaching staff will not be setting lessons/work during the two weeks of the Easter holidays. Ideas for activities during Easter can be found in the attached document.

### The Government's latest guidance on Coronavirus and staying at home can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

### This week we have also attached a number of communications and useful documents:

- Letter from Chair of Governors
- Mental Health concerns during school closure
- Reading list from Mrs Avery
- Activities to do during Easter

**For the time being all trips and events are cancelled.**

## Online Safety

We are entering a brave new world where our young people are on line more than ever. They will always be one step ahead of adults, but we should try and keep up!

Please have a look at the links below and the attached 'posters' which cover what I believe to be the most useful information.

Free online safety guides for teachers and parents: [www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides)

Free guides on supporting remote learning safely for Pupils (<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/10-top-tips-remote-learning-for-children>)

Free guides on supporting remote learning safely for Parents (<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/10-top-tips-remote-learning-for-parents>)

*Mr A Flack  
Deputy Headteacher*

## Reading

Make the most of your time - make sure you are reading every day. If you are stuck for ideas our reading lists for all keystages can be downloaded from the school website.

### KS4 and KS5 Wider reading

In addition to the reading list on the website and since you have time, have a go at reading around a topic that interests you. The attached reading list is challenging but worthwhile wider reading - try one and see where it takes you.

*Mrs P Avery  
Director of English*

## Music competition

Your chance to be top of the charts.

Each week or fortnight I am releasing details on Google Classroom for weekly/fortnightly music competition. Tasks set are part of that weeks music work and are accessible to all.

There will be a winner per class group and year group as well as a running house result. The best examples will be posted to the Facebook page for all to hear. 1st competition is released on Google Classroom this coming Saturday with a deadline of Friday 3rd April.

*Mr D Southorn  
Head of Music*

## BeauSandVer Community Classes – March update – “Virtual reality”

Just to let you all know that whilst our adult classes at the Consortium cannot meet up in person for classes, we are starting to meet online for lessons.

The Tuesday Adult Latin group at Verulam has met for the last two weeks using the Zoom App to continue their explorations of the classical world through Latin texts and lively discussions.

The Tuesday Pilates group at Sandringham logged in for a class last night on Zoom and managed really well, able to see the tutor demonstrate the exercises and follow their progress to give advice and instructions.

Several classes should be able to resume next term in an online format if necessary, including modern foreign languages and creative writing. Further details will be available on the website at [www.bsvcourses.co.uk](http://www.bsvcourses.co.uk)

### Tuesday Latin lunchtime and after school classes for years 8, 9 and 10

Mrs Bienfait is supplying the students with lesson plans on Google classroom to keep their studies on course. Please contact [carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk) if there are any queries.



“St. George and the Dragon”

*Paolo Uccello, About 1397—1475 also available in the National Gallery*

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/paolo-uccello-saint-george-and-the-dragon>

**Please listen to this performance of “Not My Best Side” by U. A. Fanthorpe  
Poem in full on next page**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y63sYsrBEs>

## Not my Best Side - U. A. Fanthorpe

Not my best side, I'm afraid  
The artist didn't give me a chance to  
Pose properly, and as you can see,  
Poor chap, he had this obsession with  
Triangles, so he left off two of my  
Feet. I didn't comment at the time  
(What, after all, are two feet  
To a monster?) but afterwards  
I was sorry for the bad publicity.  
Why, I said to myself, should my conqueror  
Be so ostentatiously beardless, and ride  
A horse with a deformed neck and square hoofs?  
Why should my victim be so  
Unattractive as to be inedible,  
And why should she have me literally  
On a string? I don't mind dying

It's hard for a girl to be sure if  
She wants to be rescued. I mean, I quite  
Took to the dragon. It's nice to be  
Liked, if you know what I mean. He was  
So nicely physical, with his claws  
And lovely green skin, and that sexy tail,  
And the way he looked at me,  
He made me feel he was all ready to  
Eat me. And any girl enjoys that.  
So when this boy turned up, wearing machinery,  
On a really dangerous horse, to be honest  
I didn't much fancy him. I mean,  
What was he like underneath the hardware?  
He might have acne, blackheads or even  
Bad breath for all I could tell, but the dragon--  
Well, you could see all his equipment  
At a glance. Still, what could I do?  
The dragon got himself beaten by the boy,  
And a girl's got to think of her future.

I have diplomas in Dragon  
Management and Virgin Reclamation.  
My horse is the latest model, with  
Automatic transmission and built-in  
Obsolescence. My spear is custom-built,  
And my prototype armour  
Still on the secret list. You can't  
Do better than me at the moment.  
I'm qualified and equipped to the  
Eyebrow. So why be difficult?  
Don't you want to be killed and/or rescued  
In the most contemporary way? Don't  
You want to carry out the roles  
That sociology and myth have designed for you?  
Don't you realize that, by being choosy,  
You are endangering job prospects  
In the spear- and horse-building industries?  
What, in any case, does it matter what  
You want? You're in my way.