



Verulam School
Excellence · Character · Respect

Head Teacher: **Paul Ramsey** BA (Hons)

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Dear Parent/Carer

It has been one week since our school closed and I wanted to take the time to reach out to you. As a nation we have never before experienced a challenge of this kind. As communities, schools and individuals we are having to take unprecedented steps to meet and overcome the challenge posed by COVID-19.

This is my second year as Chair of Governors. When I joined the governing body over seven years ago there was one thing that struck me at my first meeting and which still holds true today; in order for a child's 'Verulam Journey' to be the best it can be, with the best possible outcome, 4 very interconnected elements have to be optimised and work together:

- Your Child – the effort, attitude and focus they bring
- Our Parents – the support and encouragement we offer
- Our Staff – the experience, capability, effort and focus they deliver
- The school facilities – always being fit for purpose.

The huge impact of CV-19 is replicating the learning experience within our homes so that children can continue to learn remotely.

Mr Ramsey and his team have been working tirelessly in recent weeks to prepare the school for an impending closure. To do this, they have made sure that 4 things have happened:

- From the realisation of the danger posed by CV-19 that pupils and staff within the school were safe and as protected as possible. As more information was discovered about the virus, ensuring the appropriate action was taken rapidly.
- That robust plans and procedures were put in place to guarantee that once the school closed your children's learning could continue remotely with a tailored and responsive learning experience for all students. All work will continue to be set out on Show My Homework (SMHW).
- The school remains open and safe for the children of key workers.
- Our Y11 and Y13 pupils had the best possible "closing experience" we could possibly muster.

At Verulam we are an extended family – students, parents, staff and governors. We have to work together like never before to give our students the best possible learning experience over the coming days, weeks and months. We need to diligently follow the advice and instructions we receive from the Government and senior medical professionals. The main area where we can take control is in our homes – staying safe and healthy (physically and mentally) and supporting our children in their learning.

I would like to personally thank all of our staff for their commendable efforts, our students and all the parents – particularly those of you who are also key workers – your contribution is commendable and invaluable.

Kind regards to all pupils, staff and parents on behalf of your governing body.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Acton', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Acton
Chair of Governors at Verulam School
Email: john.acton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

PS I too feel the pain of all other parents who have undertaken the daily Joe Wicks fitness workout at 9 am every morning (PE with Joe)

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>