

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 23 - 13th March 2020

### Coronavirus – Contingency Planning

As the situation regarding Coronavirus / Covid-19 continues to develop I realise that many parents will be concerned about the effects it could have on their son or daughter's education.

The school continues to follow advice from the Department for Education and Public Health England as it is updated and it is planning of a number of eventualities.

At present the government is not proposing to introduce the widespread school closures seen in some countries but we have prepared a contingency plan to deal with this or partial closure that might be caused by staff shortages.

In both cases our response will be to prioritise the needs of year groups taking public examinations and to ensure that all pupils have access to work and study materials via on-line platforms. In the case of partial or full closures we would be setting work and home study via the Show My Homework App your son or daughter uses on a daily basis.

In order to ensure that all pupils can access on-line learning I have arranged for the following actions in relation to our key on-line services:

- **Renaissance reading** - Students will be re-issued their logons on Monday morning during registration
- **Kerboodle** (a number of subjects) – passwords will be reset to the same as usernames - the institution code is xv4
- **Hegarty Maths** - Students will receive reminders of their logons on Monday and Tuesday during their Maths lessons
- **Educake** (Science) passwords have been reset to usernames and stickers will be distributed to students with their usernames on Monday
- Students that have **My GCSE Science** should already have their usernames which is normally "VS followed by first initial and surname" in one word (Eg VSaeinstein) and password is "VS".
- Any parent having difficulty accessing My Child At School (MCAS) or Show My Homework (SMHW) should email [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) putting this query in the topic line.

If in doubt, email [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk).

### Public Examinations - Summer Exam Contingency Date

The Joint Council for Qualifications has published an examination contingency date of Wednesday 24 June 2020.

This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams up to, and including, Wednesday 24 June 2020, even if their timetable indicates their last exam is much earlier.

### Headmaster's commendations

This week's HM commendations go to:

Elijah Hussain – 7J – For making excellent progress with reading .

The Under 14 (Year 9 football team) who have made it to the Hertfordshire Schools County Cup Final after beating Sir John Lawes in the Semi Final. The final is on Monday 30th March v Goffs School.

Congratulations to the school choir for their brilliant performance of "I am Alban" at the Royal Albert Hall.

*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**

16th March	Finance Exam 9am
18th March	STEM London Underground trip
20th March	<b>CANCELLED - PTA COMEDY NIGHT</b>
25th March	Year 7 Parents Evening
26th March	Sixth Form Leavers' Photograph 12.45 Maths Challenge at Haberdasher's School 1.30-5
28th March	DofE Silver Expedition Departs

## SPAMalot auditions

We had a successful audition evening with 29 students auditioning for roles in our summer production of SPAMalot on Wednesday evening!

The cast list will be released on Monday, and rehearsals start on Wednesday. We are so excited for this production, which will be on the 11th and 12th of June! Ticket information will be available in the coming months.

*Miss R Parker  
Drama Department*

## PTA News

### **CANCELLED - COMEDY NIGHT FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

Given the current uncertainty surrounding the corona virus and moving to the next phase of government planning, we feel that it would be unwise to go ahead with the Comedy Night on 20th March and with regret confirm that we are postponing the event to later in the year, date to be confirmed. In the meantime we will refund the cost of any tickets purchased (minus the booking fees). Please note that refunds will take around 5-10 days to appear in accounts. We would like to thank everyone who planned to attend the event for their support and apologise for any inconvenience caused. We will confirm a new date as soon as possible and hope that many of you will be able to join us for a night of fun and laughter later in the year.

### **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 help run events and/or attend PTA meetings, held once per term. We also have a couple of vacancies to fill as our current Chair and Treasurer will be standing down at the end of this school year. These roles are a great way of getting to know parents and staff, working with an enthusiastic team to support the

school. The Chair role does not have to be taken on by an individual, as it could be held by a couple of people or a small team. If you are interested in finding out more or in joining us at the next PTA meeting on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, please contact [julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk](mailto:julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk)

**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](#) or contact [julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk](mailto:julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk)

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

Other ways to support the PTA:

### **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.

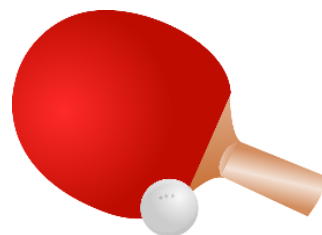
**VERULAM PTA LOTTERY:** For £5 per month you could be entered into our half termly prize draws by signing up here: [Verulam Lottery](#). 50% of the money raised is put into the prize draw, and 50% is donated to the school, so the greater the number of participants, the greater the amount of money in 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.

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## PTA News

**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 7<sup>th</sup> 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)



*Julie Williams*  
*PTA*