

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 22 - 6th March 2020

### Coronavirus update

Earlier this week I sent all parents an update from the Government about Coronavirus Covid 19.

The action plan can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

I will continue to keep parents informed of the latest Government advice particularly if there are any changes.

Taking basic hygiene precautions remains the best way to reduce the chances of spreading the virus. Assemblies and form time have been used to remind the students of the Public Health England guidance: to wash their hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds each time, and to sneeze or cough into a tissue and immediately bin it.

We have clear and simple posters throughout the school reinforcing this message.

Hand sanitiser has been provided at Student Services for the students, at reception for visitors and in the staff room for staff. However, the guidance is clear that hand sanitiser is not a replacement for handwashing.

We are continuing to ensure the school is clean and safe and have added in daily cleaning of areas that people touch regularly such as handles and stair rails in the school with a disease control surface disinfectant.

At school, we have reminded pupils of the importance of handwashing and the key message of "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it".

We have displayed posters around the school and I will remind pupils again in assemblies next week. However, I would be grateful if parents could once again stress the key messages to your sons/daughters.

I would also be grateful if parents could inform Matron if their son or daughter displays any flu like symptoms as we are recording and monitoring all cases.

At present all school activities and events, including trips, are proceeding as normal. We will notify parents of any changes to our plans at our earliest opportunity.

### Year 11 Algebra Award Results

I would like to congratulate the 122 students who sat the Edexcel Award in Algebra exam in January. I am delighted to report that 85% students achieved a pass on

this paper, which focuses on core algebra skills necessary for success at GCSE. The students have received a mixture of Level 3 (AS equivalent) and Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) certificates depending on the level they sat. I am immensely proud of the hard work put in by these students and am looking forward to seeing the GCSE results from these students in the summer.

### Outstanding Performance in English Spoken Language Endorsement

As part of their GCSE English examination Year 11 pupils took their English Spoken Language endorsement on Wednesday. All pupils presented a speech on a chosen topic and then responded to questions from staff and other pupils. The students rose to the challenge and delivered high quality presentations demonstrating just how confident and articulate our boys can be. The results will form part of their GCSE award in the summer and it is safe to say that the vast majority excelled in this element of their English Language course.

### Headmaster's commendations

This week's HM commendations go to Dennis Haggart in Year 13 and Mrs Carole Dobson, Canteen staff, for administering first aid skills to a student last week.

Thank you both.

*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**

7th March	Second Hand Uniform Sale 10.30-11.30am Dining Hall
9th March	Science Week
12th March	Reading Group 7pm
14th March	Big Bang Fair Trip

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

**TOMORROW 7th MARCH 10.30-11.30am:** Join us in the dining hall to stock up on items of school

**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH: TICKETS NOW ON SALE:** 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 using our new, easy ticketing system (no more boy mail needed!!) here **Verulam PTA Comedy Night Tickets**



**We also need volunteers** for the bar/food and refreshments between 7.00-10.30/11.00pm. If you can help for a couple of hours or the whole evening please contact [julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk](mailto:julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk)

### **Business Enterprise Conference 2020**

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, Year 9 change from their normal subjects to focus on the skills which will help them to succeed in life.

The activities during the conference aimed to develop work related skills such as problem solving, time management, team work and above all, effective communication. We were delighted to welcome contributors from AECOM, BT, Metrobank, Willmott Dixon, Watford FC, Hertfordshire Business School, HM Magistrates, Stevenage FC and the Army.

The delegates all commended the enthusiasm and involvement of students and staff. Lilac group was voted the winning group overall. Alex Strazza, Rishabh Heerah, Louis Walters, Freddie Roe, Henry Burt, Connor Soulby, Ted Thomas and Matteo Zenone were among the students who got a special mention. One student, Tariq El-Jumaily even got told that there was a job for him to join the Army recruiting team! These students will receive a H5 for outstanding behaviour.

Year 9 students will be asked to complete a survey to gauge feedback on the individual activities and the overall event. The survey will be posted on SMHW.

*Mr B Jameson  
Head of Year 9*

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

Next Wednesday, the Year 9 Parent teacher consultation evening is taking place. As you know, appointments were booked on line.

Please take the time to check your appointments schedule which you can access and print via MCAS. Simply log on MCAS, go to the Parent Evening tab on the left handside and click on the printer icon to print your schedule.

We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday.

*Mr B Jameson  
Head of year 9*

### **Year 7 Parent Teacher evening on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**The on-line booking system for Year 7 will open to parents/carers on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 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 Thursday 19<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.

*Ms L McInally  
Head of Year 7*

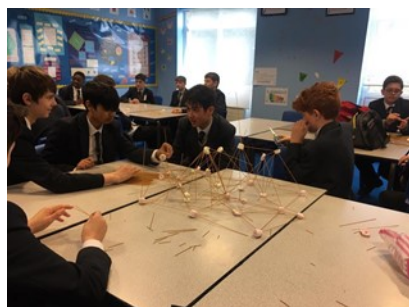
## C.E.D. III!

What a fantastic day for Verulam – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March was the third curriculum enrichment day of the academic year.

Year 7 had an action packed day competing and engaging in House Sport, getting involved in many sports in the Sports Hall, Clarence Park and Sandpit Lane.

Year 8 had a great trip to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley to see elements of work and life in the Industrial Revolution. The museum is an open air collection of buildings from the Victorian period that have been relocated to the site from around the Midlands. It showcases different aspects of everyday life, from working in a coal mine to the houses typical for the working class families of the period.

The students enjoyed displays from a blacksmith who forged chain links as part of his demonstration, rides on an Edwardian bus and the museum's famous fish and chip shop. We also got to see one of the film sets for the well-known series *Peaky Blinders*! The boys were engaged and ambassadors for the school, despite the weather!



Year 9 embarked on the first day of our annual Business Enterprise Conference. We were very lucky to have Aecom, Wilmott Dixon, BT, Metro Bank, Watford F.C., The Army, Stevenage F.C., Herts Business School and H.M. Magistrates Courts & Tribunal Service in school running a variety of activities which included bridge building, lost at sea, court room, football marketing and merchandising and a variety of team building experiences. There was lots of creative fun and character building!

Year 10 had a range of sessions which focused on the importance of mental health – they were engaged and acted as mature young adults.

Year 11 had their GCSE spoken language endorsement – well done boys for your preparation and excellent delivery of speeches.

Year 12 had a really productive day, working on their Post Verulam Futures. All students engaged in an Apprenticeship workshop ran by The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK). Alongside this, students used @UNIFROG to research degree opportunities, completed a University Shortlist, booked Open Days and started drafting their Personal Statements.

What a busy but brilliant day at Verulam!



## Kindness and Consideration in Brampton House

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, I am running an assembly for Brampton boys about fundraising for the Ollie Mills Foundation. To inspire them, if your son is in Brampton house and has gone out of his way to help others, started fundraising for the Mills Match or any other charitable cause, please let me know via [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk). I enjoyed speaking about 7 of the Brampton boys in January and any mentions in assembly will earn house points.

## PTA News

**COMEDY NIGHT**



**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH: TICKETS NOW ON SALE:** 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 using our new, easy ticketing system

(no more boy mail needed!!) here **[Verulam PTA Comedy Night Tickets](#)**

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**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE: TOMORROW 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 10.30-11.30:** Join us in the dining hall to stock up on items of school uniform and games/PE kit

**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)

- ♦ **11<sup>TH</sup> March 6.30-8.00pm** year 9 consultation
- ♦ **23rd April 5.00-6.30pm** year 8 consultation
- ♦ **10th June 5.00-6.30/6.30-8.00pm** year 10 consultation

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> March**, please contact **[julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk](mailto:julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk)**

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

**VERULAM PTA LOTTERY:** 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.

**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)

**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.