

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 27 - 24th April 2020

### Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

Welcome back to the first Verulam Voice of the summer term. I hope pupils were able to access my assembly which was placed on the noticeboard of ShowMyHomeWork on Monday. An assembly will be posted every week on Monday morning throughout the summer term.

### Virtual School

#### Frequently Asked Questions

We have received a number of queries on different matters over recent weeks. As a result, we have put together the attached FAQs document which hopefully address many of these queries and others you may have. If you have any further questions please email [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

#### Key Workers

School is still open for children of key workers. Please remember that the Government guidance is that students should attend school if there is no alternative childcare available. Each day students are being given the opportunity to complete work online set by their normal class teachers and also to undertake activities in school. The school is open from 9am-3pm daily for these children.

If you do need your child to attend school please email [admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk) with the following information (which we have to send to the Department for Education on a daily basis):

Child name, year group, your name, your job role, employer name, days you would like them to attend.

#### Centre Assessment Grades

Centre Assessment Grades will be generated for Years 11, 13 and Year 10 English Literature (if the current Government consultation results in Year 10 being included).

#### The Government guidance is:

“Schools and colleges will judge the grade that these students would most likely have achieved if they had been able to sit their examinations with the intended reasonable adjustment or access arrangement in place.”

- Verulam has a clear three stage robust process. Stage One will be input from class teachers, Stage Two will be moderation by Heads of Subject and Stage Three will be moderation by senior leaders.

**Centre Assessed Grades will not be released or discussed with students and parents.** Government guidance here is: *It is important schools and colleges do not share provisional grades, nor rank orders with students, parents or carers before the final results have been issued.*

#### We have had some communication from parents over Easter and the following FAQs include all the points raised

#### **Does my son/daughter need to finish their course-work?**

No, the Centre Assessed Grade will use a full range of data to reach a grade for each subject.

#### **My son/daughter did worse than expected in the recent trial exams or in subject X, how will this affect his/her final result?**

The school will use all information and data available from the whole course to reach a Centre Assessed Grade. The recent trial results are one part of this process. It is not uncommon at this stage for some underperformance in the trial exams.

#### **Will my son/daughter have his/her access arrangements taken into account in the final result?**

Yes, this is part of the full process as indicated above.

#### **How will the appeals process operate when the results are released and what are the arrangements for taking exams in the Autumn Term?**

There are no specific answers to these questions as nothing has been released by the Government at this point.

*P A Ramsey*

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

- Maltings Art Prize 2020
- Mental Health Information
- Virtual School FAQs

## **Year 10 GCSE English Literature**

The situation regarding Year 10 pupils entered for GCSE English Literature has not yet been confirmed but following pressure from professionals and parents, the DfE have announced a consultation on this issue and are proposing that calculated grades will be awarded to pupils in Year 10.

## **Oak Academy**

You may have seen announcements about the Oak National Academy which has some interesting teaching and learning resources. Please see link below for your information:

[Oak National Academy](#)

## **HM Commendations**

This week's HM commendations go to:

Charlie Sheard in Year 9 for writing a fantastic 26 page book series review which was an optional task, and therefore has been completed in addition to the set classwork.

Victor Artemi in 7C for his RE work on his hopes and dreams for the future was exceptional.

## **Maltings Art Prize 2020**

Please see the attached flyer regarding a virtual art competition designed to support and encourage the development of art skills from the students of St Albans based schools.

*Ms R Watford  
Head of Art*

## **FEED 2020—Vineyard Church St Albans**

The FEED project would like to thank those parents who are still supporting the foodbank. They have asked me to point out that any cheques need to say Vineyard Christian fellowship of St Albans on the top line (or the bank won't accept it) and we just ask people to write "FEED" on the back of the cheque so we know where it's going.

They would also like to let you know that they are not going to the bank regularly at the moment, so they are using bankuet as a way of receiving donations at this time. Bankuet have their shopping list and know what they need so it's a great way to donate directly if people wish to do so. Please see link below if you would like to donate to FEED:

<https://www.bankuet.co.uk/feedstalbans>

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written,  
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain,  
They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes,  
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains,  
They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask,  
We sent them to war, with one simple task,  
To show us the way, to lead and inspire us,  
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus,  
It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests,  
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests,  
So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue,  
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you"  
We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride,  
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside,  
They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies,  
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes,  
They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice,  
Some never came back, the ultimate price,  
So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on,  
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won,  
The many of us, owe so much, to so few,  
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue,  
So let's line the streets and remember our debt  
We love you, our heroes,  
Lest we forget

Matt Kelly 2020

*Chosen this week by Mr R Lewis*