

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 28 - 1st May 2020

Dear parents, pupils and carers

This week's Verulam Voice will focus on pastoral care during closure and preparing Year 11 for Sixth Form work.

Due to the current school closure and issues regarding social distancing, we have decided that the Sixth Form induction will be conducted virtually this year. Mr Emsley will be writing to all Year 11 parents and external applicants with full details.

I would also like to recommend Mrs Avery's googleclassroom bookclub. From my perspective the real benefit of this lockdown has been the opportunity to tackle some novels which I wanted to go back to. I am currently enjoying rereading a number of novels by Graham Greene and more up to date thrillers by Mick Herron. I would particularly recommend The Slough House novels. The Slough House series starts with "Slow Horses".

Keeping in touch with students

One of the greatest challenges during this period of school closure is the lack of daily contact with friends and teachers which can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness. It is also difficult to adjust to new routines and the lack of variety and choice in our lives.

Staff at Verulam are taking a number of actions to support our students during closure:

- From the start of this term weekly assemblies are sent out on Monday via SMHW. This week the theme was Character Development, next week is on E-Safety and the following week on Mental Health. All these contain voice recordings by the presenter.
- A keeping in touch survey is sent to all students via the tutor on a weekly basis. Tutors and Heads of Year use this to respond to issues raised by students and to praise students for their accomplishments.
- Subject teachers also communicate with tutors and Heads of Year if students are persistently missing deadlines for work. This is then followed up by the tutor, Head of Year or a member of the pastoral team

- A studentservices@verulam.herts.sch.uk email has been set up for students who would like advice or support from one of the Student Services team – please encourage your son or daughter to use this if they have concerns.
- Verulam employs a number of counsellors, mentors and family support workers who are continuing to keep in contact with students and families they were working with before the school closure.

We have been sending out a variety of emotional and physical support, advice and guidance through Verulam Voice. This week there is information from the Hertfordshire School Nurse service.

During these difficult times, we are trying to support the Verulam community as best we can. If you have a concern, please contact your child's form tutor and Head of Year in the first instance. They will be able to signpost support or advice.

HM Commendations

This week's HM commendations go to:

Oliver Bloomberg in Year 12. His Mum advised that her engineering company has been asked to make ventilator parts for the NHS and Oliver is helping on the weekends while doing his school work during the week.

Harry Brandt in 8C who ran 6km to raise money for NHS charities.

P A Ramsey

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

- Mental Health Information
- Information and Advice for Young People
- Chat Health
- School Nurse Information

Year 11 Work Setting

We will be releasing work for Year 11 students to complete ahead of their Sixth Form induction at the start of next week. Subjects are providing 8 -10 hours of work plus additional reading and research time. The work will help to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level study and pick up on many topics from the A Level courses.

It is expected that students complete the work as it will give them a good foundation in the subject before commencing their A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses. Subjects have tried to provide work across a broad range of subjects that we offer at Sixth Form, however, not all consortium subjects will have work available.

Students should complete the work from their A Level and BTEC Level 3 course choices as a minimum. They also have the opportunity to address the work from other subjects. Please bear in mind that not all course places are confirmed until results day in August and so it is advisable to study all possible option subjects including reserve choices.

A link to this work will be sent out to Year 11 Parents via ParentMail at the start of next week.

Sixth Form Induction

The Sixth Form induction process will be moving online for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. There will still be opportunities for students to meet their form tutors, subject teachers and Mr Base, Head of Sixth Form. Summer study tasks and recommended reading will also be provided. More details on the induction process and a link to the induction pages will be released after May half-term.

Login issues

Please remember if you are having any issues with accessing resources for online learning (SMHW, Google Classroom, Hegarty maths etc.) please email loginqueries@verulamschool.co.uk and a member of staff will be available to support you.

Submission of work

We have been made aware that some students have been having issues with the submission of work. This appears to occur when using a mobile phone to upload work. We have contacted Show My Homework about this issue and will let you know any outcome from this. In the meantime, please try to use a computer or tablet to upload work via the Show My Homework website www.teamsatchel.com

*Mr M Emsley
Assistant Headteacher*

Googleclassroom bookclub

Our book club now has 71 members from across our school community which is fantastic. Many of our members have joined the challenge to read 12 books in 12 weeks - we are currently finishing week 6. If your son would like to join in for the second half of the challenge then please ask him to join the class on googleclassroom and get reading!

As we are all finding more time to read, I would like to add to my growing collection of excellent book reports written by students based on books they have enjoyed reading during lockdown. I will be using the best of the book reports in a special edition of our school magazine Top Button in a few weeks. This edition will focus on reading recommendations.

*Mrs P Avery
Director of English*

Art News



Tom Bailey - Year 8 - homework based on a Mosquito fighter plane - an entry submission for the Maltings Art competition on St. Albans history.

Aiden Chester in Year 11 has shown tremendous skill in producing a sculptural series based on the Sea Turtle. This work has brilliantly complimented his GCSE Art coursework!



Science at Home!

Missing your science lessons?
Try some home experimenting!

I have been setting some Home Experiments over the past few weeks for all pupils in Year 7 and 8.

Pupils have looked into what happens when you put pineapple into jelly, testing their momentum skills with eggs and paper towers and even making homemade lava lamps!

Next week is: can red cabbage really be a pH indicator?

If you would like to share any results or other fun Science Home Experiments you've tried, please join the google classroom with the code **5zzcf5p** and let everyone see your excellent experimenting!

Stay curious!

Miss H Howells
Science Department

Update from the Alban TSA Inside 2020 – Computing Hub Home Teaching

Monday, 27th April, saw the launch of the new NCCE Home Teaching initiative, with the intention of giving pupils and their parents the opportunity to engage in key computing topics. Each week a new topic is listed and activities can be downloaded and completed, alongside a remote facilitator on hand to answer questions at specific times.

A summary of the programme is below and can also be accessed at the following link:

www.teachcomputing.org/home-teaching

KS3 pupils can access resources/support in:

Python: 10-11am - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

App development: 11am -12pm - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Cyber security: 2- 3pm - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Pupils therefore can choose to access the content/support on any given day that suits them. Content then changes each week, but the times stay the same.

KS4

Basics of Python programming: 12-1pm - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Algorithms & advanced Python programming: 10 -11am - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Boolean Logic: 11am-12pm - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#) or again at 3-4pm [here](#)

- Networking: starting w/c 4th May

Maths and logic in Computer Science: - Starts 28th April [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Transitioning from GCSE to A Level Computer Science: 11am-12pm - [Join the group chat by clicking here](#)

Online Evening Classes for Adults, Summer Term 2020 - Creative Writing Course

If you'd like to explore and develop your writing abilities, you might be interested in joining our online BSV Creative Writing Course for five weeks, starting Monday 4th May, finishing Monday June 7th.

You would need a laptop, pc, tablet or smart phone with a microphone and speakers on which you can receive a Zoom conference call.

Details

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Fee: £55

Dates Mon 4 May 7 June (no class 25 May)

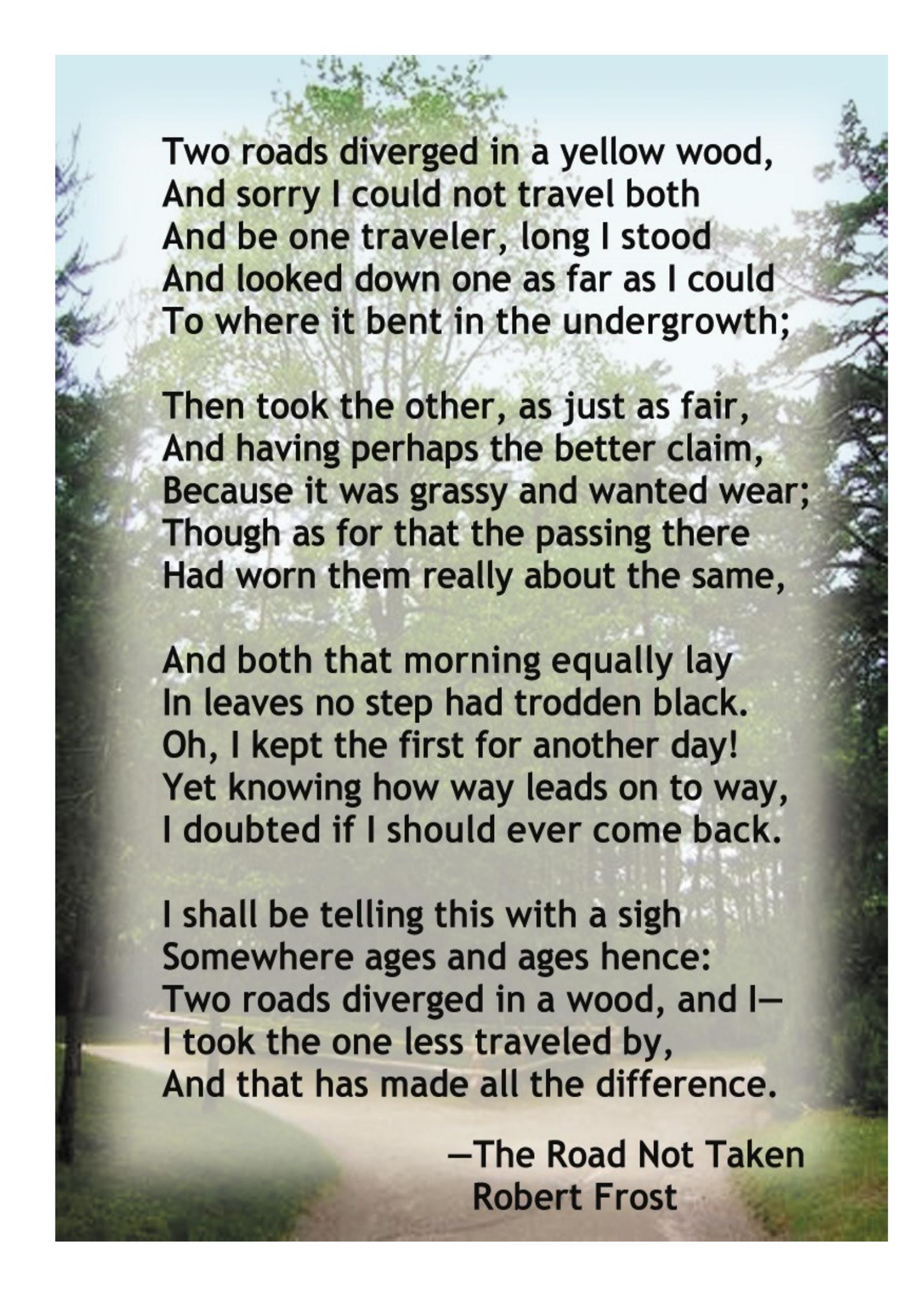
Stories with a life of their own

This term, we'll be creating characters who are true to life, or at least true to themselves. When we confront these characters with a problem to solve, we'll see how the story begins to take-off. Each session offers a taught component, writing prompts and a chance to review one another's writing.

Documents will be shared by email beforehand and/or screen-share during the session and each participant will have the opportunity to read their work aloud during one or more sessions. Newcomers and beginners are always welcome in this supportive group.

Email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk if you would like to enrol in Creative Writing this term, starting next Monday 4 May.

*Carole Heselton
Community Links Coordinator
BeauSandVer Consortium
01727 754113
www.bsvcourses.co.uk*



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

—The Road Not Taken
Robert Frost