

Year 7 Welcome Pack 2020-21



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 7

Following the Headmaster's letter, I am writing to welcome you and your son to Verulam School and to explain further the induction process which aims to make his transfer from Primary to Secondary school as simple, smooth and successful as possible.

During the last two weeks before May Half Term, I would normally conduct visits to your son's Primary School to speak to his teacher and to meet him. Unfortunately, during school closure, this will not be possible, and instead I will be contacting your son's Year 6 teacher via phone and email to gather information about his academic progress and other key information to ensure a successful start to life at Verulam.

The first opportunity I will have to meet you will be via video link on **Wednesday 3rd June** or **Thursday 4th June from 4-7pm** depending on which Form group your son has been allocated to (The date and time will be sent nearer this event). This will allow Mr Ramsey and myself to give you an introduction to Verulam and provide advice on ensuring a successful secondary transfer.

Following this, from the week beginning Monday 8th June, your son's form tutor will introduce themselves to your son via video message and welcome him to Verulam. During this week, there will also be an opportunity to meet Ms Hart (SENDCO) via video link for those parents / carers who would like join the meeting. She will gather further information and describe the intervention and support strategies which are used in KS3 for SEN students.

All information we are required to obtain prior to your son starting at Verulam, will be gathered on-line via our email communication system, Parentmail. Instructions on how to do this will be communicated separately. Receipt of this information will be an important aspect of which Form Group your son will be allocated to, so it is of the utmost importance that you complete and submit all required forms by Monday 1st June at the latest.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise just how important these medical and personal information forms are: If your son should be taken ill, or injured whilst at school, it is vital that we are able to contact a parent during the working day. If this is not possible, then the name and contact number of a neighbour, friend or relative who could take responsibility for your son is required.

Email addresses are key for communicating with parents, so wherever possible please include an email address. We endeavour to send letters, our weekly newsletter and any trip related information via email as this reduces costs and is also beneficial to the environment.

If we have your email address, you will automatically receive an email from school with your parental MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) log in details at the start of the new academic year. MCAS is the school's webportal which will enable you to review your son's timetable, reports, reward points, personal details, parent evening bookings and other key information.

In order to enhance learning in and out of the classroom, Verulam will be using a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative which will be applied in a variety of ways - the attached letter from Ms Rosler will provide you with more details.

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Please note that other useful information to be kept as reference documents can be retrieved on the school website under “School Life, General Information – Year 7 New Starters Reference Pack.”

As per Mr Ramsey’s letter, it is highly likely that the Secondary Transfer Day which is scheduled for 9th July will not go ahead due to Covid-19 which is why we have amended our calendar to allow for this transition on **Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September**, where your son will enjoy the opportunity to get to know his form tutor, his form mates and the school. I am very much looking forward to meeting your son at the start of September.

If you have any queries regarding the above, or transition, please do not hesitate to email y6transition@verulam.herts.sch.uk and one of our team will respond to you. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to meeting you via video link in June.

Yours sincerely

Miss L McNally
Head of Year 7