

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 29 - 7th May 2020

Victory Europe Day:

I hope all parents and students enjoy a peaceful break on the 75th anniversary of V.E. day.

Good news for Year 10 GCSE English Literature students

I was delighted to receive the following announcement from Ofqual this week which confirmed that Year 10 will be awarded a calculated grade for English Literature this summer. The school will submit centre assessed grades to the examining body based on the full range of evidence available from the whole course.

“In line with our consultation proposal, we have decided that students entered for exams in year 10 and below will be eligible to receive calculated grades this summer. This follows the majority of responses received, which indicate that the progression of some students would be disrupted if they were not awarded a grade this summer, and to exclude them would have an unfair impact. Amongst the responses we received were concerns about the potential impact of excluding early entrants on disabled students or those with special educational needs, who might wish to spread their GCSE exams over different years.” Ofqual.

Ofqual have made it clear that the centre assessed grades are confidential and schools are not allowed to share these with you. We would request that you do not contact teachers, heads of subject or senior leadership in relation to your child's centre assessed grade as this is vital to the integrity of the system.

I would also like to take this opportunity to respond to a number of questions from Year 11 students:

I have been offered a place in Verulam's Sixth Form. What happens if my grades this summer do not meet all of the entry criteria?

If there any problems regarding meeting criteria for the Sixth Form or individual courses, please speak to Mr Tromans or Mr Ramsey on results day.

How will be results be issued and how will I collect them?

Results will be issued to schools in the normal way and will be available for collection on Thursday 20th August from 10am. Year 10 results from 11am.

A level results on 13th August from 9am.

What about English speaking grades?

All grades submitted to the exam board are subject to moderation by the examination board and therefore could change.

Will in class assessments be taken into account for calculated grades?

All evidence from the two year GCSE course will be used in the calculation of centre assessed grades.

What happens for summer work set by Beaumont or Sandringham?

The summer work for all A level courses will be available at induction. Bridging work is now available on the Verulam website for courses taught at Verulam.

What about retakes next year?

Ofqual have not yet published their plan in relation to retakes.

When will we know the status of our Sixth Form applications?

Sixth Form offers are confirmed after results day.

Headmaster's Commendation

This week's HM commendations go to:

Bayley Hoggarth in 7C for his work on Mother Theresa which was is exceptional.

Nikolai Cherniaev (7P), Jacob Hamilton (8P), Adam Smart (9H) and Victor Artemi (7C) - all for producing posters to display in their windows to persuade people to comply with the government advice on social distancing.

Anish Madhewoo for his superb art work which can be seen on page 4 based on a photo he took of a homeless man.

Louis Mostyn Year 9 for his fantastic performance of the Eagles Hotel California; and

Adam Goodwin Year 10 for his outstanding effort and organisation in Design and Technology. All work completed/up to date and submitted on time!

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

- Hertfordshire's Young Peoples' Webinar information
- Ollie Foundation Training Schedule

Year 11 Work

Work is now available for your son at the following location on the school website:

<https://verulamschool.co.uk/bridging-work/>

This work is intended to bridge the gap between the completion of their GCSE courses and Sixth Form induction in June. We will be adding some further work over the coming week too. Please note that not all A Level subjects taught across the BSV consortium have such work available.

At their induction, students will be given all summer work required prior to commencing their A Level or BTEC Level 3 courses. This is different to the bridging work provided at this stage.

For any questions, please email admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk and the appropriate member of staff will get back to you ASAP.

*Mr M Emsley
Assistant Headteacher*

VE Day Celebrations

As you know, this year's early May bank holiday has been moved back by four days for the whole of the UK to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. May Day is traditionally held on a Monday but this year is on Friday 8 May 2020. VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. This will hopefully provide the school community with an opportunity to remember and honour the heroes of the Second World War and reflect on the sacrifices of a generation. The May Day bank holiday has been moved only once before. It was changed from 1 May to 8 May in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has halted most of the planned celebrations, there are other ways to get involved in the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of VE Day:

- 11am: A two-minute silence will be held to honour the service and sacrifice of the wartime generation and reflect on the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on so many lives across the world.
- 11.15am: The nation is invited to join in with the Royal British Legion's (RBL) VE Day 75 Livestream. Grab a cup of tea and tune in as the generations of the Second World War and today are brought together to chat about their shared experiences. Hosted by TV presenter Sonali Shah, the 45-minute programme will feature stories from those who served and sacrificed, as well as recognising the difficulties people are experiencing today.
- 3pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two. Take part by raising a glass, cheering and clapping on your doorsteps and saying: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."
- 9pm: A pre-recorded address by the Queen will be broadcast at the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address on May 8 1945.
- 9pm: Fancy a sing-along? After the Queen's address, the nation is invited to come together in a rendition of Vera Lynn's We'll Meet Again on BBC One.

Please join in for this historical moment!

Mr J Pettitt

History Poster Competition

Last week, entries closed for the Verulam School Poster Competition. This competition involved designing and creating a poster that was based on propaganda posters from World War One and World War Two. Pupils had to read the government advice on social distancing and persuade people to comply with the guidance or spread messages of positivity. We had lots of entries, but the best designs came from Nikolai Cherniaev (7P), Jacob Hamilton (8P), Adam Smart (9H) and Victor Artemi (7C). Well done boys! The winner of the competition is....

VICTOR ARTEMI (7C)

An excellent design with the iconic image of our Prime Minister and the daily press conference - "Make Britain Proud - Do Your Part" the slogan reads. Well done Victor!"



OLLIE Foundation Webinars

The OLLIE Foundation are running a series of webinars on Mental Health and Well-being which are designed for adults and young people. If you or your son/daughter wish to take part, simply register using the details attached.

Board Game Club

I've been looking into games that students can play at home, as I've been missing running the board game club.

Over the past few weeks, various companies have been releasing free online games to play with students and families. One of these, Asmodee, have released 'Print and Play' versions of some of their popular games, which you can find at <https://print-and-play.asmodee.fun/>. These games are adapted from the full board games and are offered completely free. The rules for each game are on the website alongside it, and are used by printing off the given materials and playing!

I've been trying a few at home and they work well. Some games are activities for younger pupils, and some for older students too. I'm looking forward to returning to school and trying some out in the club.

Miss Siggers

Technology Department

Skeleton School Cookery

A light relief from their ongoing work, students of skeleton school cooked pizza and flapjacks this week!



Art

This marvellous pen drawing was produced by Anish Madhewoo based on a photo he took of a homeless man. This was a response to a similar work by Picasso.



Support for Parents with employment concerns regarding the impact of COVID-19

Whether you have just been made redundant, been furloughed, lost your job for other reasons, or have been out of work for some time, the National Careers Service is a free, impartial resource available to provide you with professional careers information, advice and guidance.

- Find Work and Training
- Review your current situation & identify your skills
- Identify training needs
- Understand effective job search methods
- Find a course to get new skills and qualifications
- Develop your CV and interview skills
- Get matched to available jobs

**To book an appointment contact us: E: NationalCareersServiceNCC@futuresforyou.com
T: 0800 917 94 19**

Creative Writing Online Course - update

Our course began earlier this week on Monday from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. If anyone missed out and would still like to join, you would be welcome to start on Monday 11 May - please email

carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

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

“Hope” is the thing with feathers

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

By Emily Dickinson

Chosen by Ms F Rosler
Director of Maths