

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 33 - 12th June 2020

Re-opening of School for Years 10 and 12

We are very pleased to welcome back our Year 10 and 12 students to school next week and have written to parents giving full details of the partial re-opening. Safety of staff and students is of paramount importance and so I would like to ask parents to discuss this with their son or daughter over the weekend. Of particular importance is that:

- All students observe social distancing at all times and remain in their designated groups
- Entry to the school will be via Jennings Road for Year 10 and Brampton Road for Year 12
- Students should only bring in the requested equipment to school
- Students should not gather or socialise on the way to or from school
- All students should wash their hands on entering the site and before eating
- I would also be grateful if parents could ensure that their son or daughter only attends school if they are healthy and not showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms.

I would also be grateful if parents did not enter the site without an appointment.

Important Choices for Year 13

The deadline for accepting university offers on the 18th June is fast approaching. Any student who would benefit from further guidance should contact Mr Base, Head of Sixth Form, as soon as possible.

I am pleased that the vast majority of Year 13 have secured firm and insurance offers for courses of their choice. However, the changes brought about to higher education due to the pandemic will undoubtedly be a topic for discussion in many households.

I therefore thought parents might like to read the following article summarising the issues from the BBC news website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52753913>

Although some students may be tempted to defer their place, I would suggest that commencing their studies would be a more fruitful option than the probably limited opportunities for travel or employment during a Gap year.

I am more than happy to speak to any parent or student who is concerned about university entrance this year.

If you would like to arrange a time to speak, please contact my P.A. Kelly Bonass on kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk.

Black Lives Matter

This week's assembly from Mr Flack concerned the shocking death of George Floyd and the calls for racial justice from all those involved in Black Lives Matter protests across the world.

In next week's assembly Mr Pettit will be examining this issue and in particular the issues raised from a British perspective including the case of the slave trader Edward Coulson whose statue was toppled in Bristol last weekend.

Parents may be interested in exploring the issues raised further with their son or daughter by looking together at the following excellent resources:

<http://theredcard.ie/what-can-we-all-do-about-racism/>

<https://www.un.org/en/letsfightracism/>

Any student who would like support with issues raised by this topic should contact the pastoral team at:

studentservices@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Headmaster's Commendation

This week's HM commendations go to:

Tom Kelway and Lewis Ritchie for singing in the Verulam Virtual Musicians piece shown on Facebook.

Ethan Appleton and Stanley Woodford Year 10 who both have completed every piece of science work, to a good standard since we have come back from half term.

P A Ramsey

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

- Stevensons - uniform information

Google Meets

All Google meets are now confirmed for different subjects. If a meeting is not on the schedule then teachers will be using alternative means to communicate with their students.

- To access the Google Meets students should go to meet.google.com and click 'join a meeting.'
- They should then enter the code for the meeting they wish to enter. Please note each subject will have a different code, this allows meetings to start on schedule should any overrun.
- The meetings are only accessible to people using an @verulamschool.co.uk email address. This is the same one your son will have used for Google Classroom or Google Drive. If they are not logged in with the correct email address they can not access the Google Meets.
- Students are only able to join a meeting using the code once the teacher leading the Google Meet has started the meeting. Please be patient and stick to the schedule for access.
- If your son has not got an @verulamschool.co.uk email address or is having issues, please email loginquiries@verulamschool.co.uk

The schedule for Year 7-10 with codes is being sent via ParentMail today. The code will be the same for their meetings week to week so a new schedule will not be sent unless changes are necessary. Students in Year 12 will be sent codes directly from their teachers.

Projects Years 7-9

All projects are now available for students in Years 7-9. These can be accessed from the our website by clicking on the 'Home Learning' link from the home page or clicking [here](#).

Students should be aiming to complete at least 1 hour of their project for each topic every week. This is in addition to their assessments which will also begin this week. A suggested timetable is provided for your son to manage their time.

All projects are to be submitted via email as an attachment. Email addresses for submission are included with each project, they all follow the same format, simply change the subject name and follow: SUBJECTproject@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Students should submit their work via email using the following format in the 'subject line'
Name – Subject – Year Group i.e John Smith – Art – Year 7

Please remember that the weekly Google Meets are an opportunity for your son to seek any further guidance for their project and assessments.

If your son has completed their project work and assessments for the week then we recommend:

- They complete any outstanding tasks on Show My Homework or Google Classroom
- Revise for upcoming assessments
- Access the Oak National Academy Resources which can be found [here](#) or
- BBC Bitesize which can be found [here](#).

Assessments Years 7-9

Assessments will be released on Monday and Thursday of each week via Show My Homework. Following the timetable as below:

Mon 15 th June	English assessment released
Thurs 18 th June	History assessment released
Mon 22 nd June	Maths assessment released
Thurs 25 th June	Geography assessment released
Mon 29 th June	Science assessment released
Thurs 2 nd July	RE assessment released
Mon 6 th July	MFL assessment released

Cont/d

- Students should be completing their assessments and uploading these within 48 hours of them being made available on Show My Homework.
- Students should be aiming to complete the assessment without any other resources available to make the assessment a fair reflection of their learning unless instructed by their teacher.
- The use of text books, revision guides, the internet and exercise books is ideal for revision but should not be used when completing assessments. Unless told otherwise.
- Students should upload their assessments to Show My Homework using the upload option.
- If your son is having any issues uploading their assessments then please email them to the member of staff who has set the assessment on Show My Homework, clearly indicating their name and year group in the email subject line.

Year 12 Threshold Exams

The Timetables for Threshold exams were sent yesterday via ParentMail for all BSV schools.

I would like to highlight the following information to you:

- All Verulam and Beaumont assessments will be released on Show My Homework and Google Classroom from 9am on the day of release.
- Verulam and Beaumont assessments should be completed and uploaded back to Google Classroom or email by 12pm (midday) the following day.
- Sandringham assessments are live assessments with a 2 hour window for completion.
- Unless otherwise indicated, students should be aiming to write responses by hand and upload a photo or scan of their work for submission. This is to give students the experience of writing at length as they will be required to do during their final exams.
- Students should be aiming to complete the assessment without any other resources available to make the assessment a fair reflection of their learning.
- The use of text books, revision guides, the internet and exercise books is ideal for revision but should not be used when completing assessments. Unless told otherwise.

Any questions about assessments should be directed to subject teachers via email.

*Mr M Emsley
Assistant Headteacher*

Exams Access Arrangements Years 7, 8, 9 and 12

A number of families in Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 will have received letters from our SENDCo Ms Hart this week detailing our arrangements for allowing pupils their Exams Access Arrangements when sitting exams and assessments at home or in Skeleton School .

Please do ensure that you read these letters carefully and if necessary raise any queries with Ms Hart via email Polly.Hart@verulam.herts.sch.uk . Furthermore please ensure that the two forms enclosed with the letter are completed and a paper version returned to school marked for the attention of Ms Hart before the end of term .

*Ms P Hart
SENDCo/Head of Learning Support*

An important message from Edenred

Edenred have advised us that they will be carrying out some scheduled maintenance work to improve their systems at the following dates/times:

Start time: 8am on Saturday 13th June
End time: 7pm on Sunday 14th June

This means that parents/carers will not be able to access the www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk website during this time.

Finance Department

Stevensons

Could we remind all parents booking appointments with Stevensons to note the advice given to them - available on their website and sent out to you confirming your appointment - which will ensure their branches are a safe environment for staff and parents/children.

BeauSandVer Online Courses Summer 2020

We're delighted to be able to offer another online course for adults:

Oil Painting - Seascape and landscapes, beginners/intermediate online course

Join our new online seascape and landscape oil painting course which is suitable for beginners and those with more experience. Following her very popular Oil Painting Portrait classes for BSV courses, Sarah Gidden will be leading you through a range of different landscape and seascape styles for the next six weeks, including a view of fields, a sunset over the sea, waves crashing on a beach, fields of flowers and reflections on a lake.

You will be using the Alla prima method (wet on wet) completing a painting in one sitting each week, following step by step instructions. Many painters used this technique especially when painting landscapes outside, including Van Gogh, Monet and Manet.

Course Details:

Time: Tuesdays 7.30 – 9pm
Dates: 16 June to 21 July 2020
Fee: £60 for six sessions

To book a place on this course or for queries please email

carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk

