

VERULAM VOICE

Issue 34 - 19th June 2020

Verulam School opens again to students

It was a great pleasure to welcome back Year 10 and 12 students this week. Students are in school for catch up lessons before the summer break, which supplement their virtual learning at home.

Students are coming in to school in small groups to allow all health guidance and social distancing to be observed. Assistant Headteacher, Martin Emsley said "it is really important for the students to be back in school, receiving face to face learning and having the chance to see their friends again" a sentiment echoed by Sam Shepherd a Year 10 student who said "it's really good to see our friends and get back to lessons."

Students are going to be attending the school over the next five weeks, with Year 10 students studying Maths, English and Science, while Year 12 students will be studying all their A-Level subjects and receiving careers and university guidance.

Fiona Rosler, Head of Mathematics and Director for Teaching and Learning who taught her Sixth Form class on Tuesday said "It was great to see so many Year 12 students returning to school this week and be able to prepare them for their continued study next year. They should be very proud of the progress they have managed to make during this challenging time and we will be able to build on the skills they have developed through our blended learning initiative next year."

I was most impressed with how well students observed our new social distancing rules and noted how excited both staff and students were to be back in the classroom. It does seem that the prolonged absence has made some students more reticent than usual. I am sure they will grow in confidence as they become more familiar with new staff and a new style of classroom!

Updated Finance guidance for prospective students

Year 13 students and parents may wish to know that the Student Loans Company (SLC) has updated their guidance for prospective undergraduate students who can apply now for student finance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-prospective-students>

Guidance for Year 11 and 13 Students:

The current crisis has made careers and education decision making even more difficult than usual for students and I am happy to offer guidance discussion for any student who feels they need extra helping deciding on post Year 11 or 13 destinations. Please contact my P.A. Ms K Bonass on Kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk to arrange a discussion or meeting.

Headmaster's Commendation

This week's HM commendations go to:

Josh Allen Year 9 for setting himself such high standards that he re-submitted his already excellent English written assessment because he spotted a typo in the original document after he had submitted it.

Samuel Calthorpe Year 8 for his tremendous Art work based on St. Albans History for the Maltings Art competition.

Peter Brady in Year 10 for his work in French which is superb, and his effort is consistently excellent.

Joshua Stacey (9Y2 Spa) made a lovely Spanish lunch for his project.



P A Ramsey

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

- Behaviour Update to Behaviour Policy
- House Points update

Project Work

The projects can be found on the Verulam website by following the link [here](#). Students should be completing the projects for all subjects they currently study by Monday 13th July, the intention is that students should be spending approximately 1 hour per week on each subject in order to complete the projects.

Every effort has been made to provide learning opportunities that meet the needs of all students, however, we recognise that this is not always possible and as such if your son is unable to complete all tasks on a project, they will not be sanctioned for this. Students should complete the work that they are capable of and simply highlight any omissions to their teacher on submission.

We strongly recommend that all students attempt tasks from each of their subjects, rather than prioritising one subject over another, or not attempting a project at all. Students should be aiming to complete as many tasks as possible from their projects.

We would also like to remind you that students should not submit their tasks individually, but save these to submit the completed project as a whole by the deadline of Monday 13th July. When submitting, students should ensure the email subject follows the format :Student Name – Year and Tutor Group – Subject Name Project. This will ensure that the projects get directed to the correct staff and therefore help with planning for next academic year.

Google Meets

The Google Meets have been working well over this past week and we have heard from many students and staff, saying what a positive experience they have been. Please continue to encourage your son to take part in the Google Meets to get any feedback or guidance needed for their subjects and also to interact with their teachers and peers.

The schedule and codes sent out via ParentMail last week will be the same for all future weeks until the end of term. If your son has struggled to access the Google Meets, please ensure that they are logged into Google with their @verulamschool.co.uk email address in the first instance. If they are not, then they will not be able to access the meets. Please also remember that the codes will not work until the teacher has started the meeting and so will only work from the time specified on the schedule.

Year 12 Threshold exams

Year 12 Threshold exams take place next week, following the timetable sent last week via ParentMail. Please remember the following points when students are completing the exams:

- Exams will be released at 9am on the day of the exam. These will be released via Show My Homework and/or Google Classroom.
- Students have until midday the following day to submit the exam to their teachers.
- Students should stick to the specified time limit for the exam, and not keep going beyond this simply to complete the paper.
- Exams should be undertaken in as close to exam conditions as possible. No textbooks, internet access or resources should be used unless clearly stated otherwise by the subject teacher.
- Students should only look at the exam as they come to complete it, i.e if they have two exams in a day, only look at the second exam after completing the first one. This will reduce the temptation to do any further research into a topic or answer.
- Students should be completing the exams handwritten and then uploading a scan or photo to their teacher for submission. This is to try and facilitate an experience of writing at length as they would have to in their final exams.
- Beaumont and Sandringham subjects have slightly different exam requirements which will be communicated directly by their subject teachers.

*Mr M Emsley
Assistant Headteacher*

Virtual Verulympics Friday 26 June- Friday 10th July

I am pleased to announce that we are proceeding with Verulympics this year, albeit in virtual format. Pupils, parents, carers and staff will have the opportunity to take part in all or some of nine activities on offer.

The aim is for all pupils to take part in at least one event to gain participation points for their house. I will send detailed information early next week and all pupils will be informed of this opportunity via SMHW.

Final results will be announced in the closing assemblies and totals will go towards the overall Hawkes House Cup 2020.

Good luck and have fun!

Mr P O'Connor

June 24th National Writing Day

Why not get involved and look at the brilliant resources to help you to improve your creative and non-fiction writing: <https://firststory.org.uk/writeday/> We would love to see what you produce, so when you are ready, upload your work to the school website/School Life/Top Button - there is a link here for submissions. I look forward to reading what you produce.

*Mrs Avery
Director of English*

Year 7 Take On the Duchess of Cambridge's 'Hold Still' Challenge

Over the past 2 weeks, Year 7 students have been participating in a national project run by the National Portrait Gallery and spearheaded by the Duchess of Cambridge, to capture the spirit, mood, hopes and feelings of our nation in lockdown.

Students uploaded snapshots of their lives to illustrate their experiences and one winner was chosen by Mr Ramsey to represent Verulam in the National Competition. Congratulations to Samuel Stacey (7J) who captures both his and his cat's desire to escape to the outdoors but are instead staying home to protect the NHS and save lives. Best of luck to Samuel in the competition and well done to all the students who participated.

Ms Stockman-Black



History

For the past 18 months, resident history teacher Mr Pettitt has been working hard alongside a production company to create an educational history documentary series. He has luckily been able to travel around the country on exciting filming shoots and numerous historical locations. Mr Pettitt is collaborating with a history distribution network for the series to be made available online soon. Please keep a look out in Verulam Voice in the next academic year for more details!



Art work

During distance learning Samuel Calthorpe in Yr 8 has made a tremendous effort with his Art work. The project has been based around St. Albans History which is the theme for the local Maltings Art competition. Sam has shown great flair with his drawing and digital Art skills which makes him highly eligible for competition entry. Well done Sam!!

