

# VERULAM VOICE

## Issue 35 - 26th June 2020

### Virtual book of Remembrance

A message from Marion Brown —Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and ex-Verulam Governor:

*The Hertfordshire Lieutenancy has just opened a 'virtual' Book of Remembrance which can be accessed via the link below. It is hoped that the book will provide some comfort for those in the county who have lost loved ones during the pandemic, whether as a direct result of the virus or through other causes. We are conscious that for many there has not been an opportunity to be with loved ones in their final days or to grieve in the way they would have wished due to the current circumstances. The link includes a brief message from HRH Prince Charles.*

<https://lord-lieutenant-herts.org.uk/remembrance/>

### School Re-opening

The relaxation of the rules on social distancing and social gatherings will have led many parents to consider what the return to school in September will look like for their son or daughter.

We are still awaiting the publication of guidance from the DfE about these arrangements which is expected next week. We sincerely hope that all pupils will be back in school receiving full time education. As soon as we have received the guidance we will update our plans for the new academic year and explain them fully to both parents and students.

The possibility of further lock-down should there be a second wave of virus has also prompted us to review our Virtual Learning provision. Teachers are currently reviewing all we have learnt about virtual teaching and the benefits of tools such as Google Classroom and narrated powerpoints. We aim to ensure that from September Verulam will be able to adopt a new standard of provision for Virtual Learning reflecting best practice.

I continue to be most impressed by the behaviour and attitude of Year 10 pupils coming into lessons and am delighted to have welcomed so many Year 7 pupils back to school for pastoral meetings this week. I would also like to congratulate all students for the way in which they have responded to the challenge of taking assessments at home this term.

### Lower Sixth Induction

This took place successfully, in a virtual way, across the BeauSandVer consortium this week. If your son or daughter has any queries about the summer work or other questions related to the Sixth Form please do not hesitate to contact Mr Base, Head of Sixth Form.

### Virtual Verulympics

Most of our traditional summer events have had to be cancelled due to school closure and lockdown. I am therefore very pleased to announce the launch of a Virtual Verulympics which will run from today until Friday 10th July. Students, parents, carers and staff are all invited to participate in a range of events designed to test strength, coordination, endurance and balance. The event is being run as a house competition so every participant's efforts will count towards the Hawkes House Cup.

Mr O'Connor has posted further details on Show My Homework and detailed information will be sent by parentmail today. Videos explaining each activity will also be published on Show My Homework, Facebook and PE Faculty twitter. Do encourage your son or daughter to participate!

### Headmaster's Commendation

This week's HM commendations go to:

Finley Cooper, Christy Quirke, Sean Tidd, Harrison Shaw, Harmesh Jethwa and Faizan Qutbi in Year 10 RS for their continued excellent work.

And to Orrin-Oakley in Year 7 for work toward his Art Summer Project.

*P A Ramsey*

## **UKMT Junior Maths Challenge**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 10am, more than 50 Year 7 and Year 8 Verulam students took part in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge, which was held online and at home for the first time in its history.

Participants had just one hour to solve various mathematical problems of increasing difficulty, attempting to achieve a bronze, silver or gold award. The Maths department was absolutely delighted with the number of participants and would like to wish all of those students who took part in the challenge the very best of luck on receiving their results. Results of the challenge will be available online on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, where participants will be able to login and view their results.

## **Verulam Virtual Musicians**

Still not too late to join up. After our great success with 'Mission Impossible' and 'A Sky Full of Stars' and with students currently working on the theme from 'The Mandalorian' Verulam Virtual Musicians is looking for more students to sign up for the next piece.

We will be doing 'Demons' by Imagine Dragons so need singers as well as instrumentalists. The code for Google Classroom is et7ra23.

*Mr D Southorn*