

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to introduce you to how the PTA is run at Verulam and let you know how you can get involved.

As a registered charity, we raise funds for a variety of initiatives requested by the school, ECCO clubs or the school council, to ensure the best possible learning environment and facilities for all students. With budget cuts and constraints, schools are increasingly dependent on additional funds to provide the highest quality of learning experience for the students. This is where the PTA can make a real difference and because everything is on a larger scale, PTAs possibly play at least as important a role here as in primary schools.

We know that the transition from primary to secondary school can be more daunting for the parents than it is for the boys, with no real opportunity to get to know parents at the school gates. We can help by providing opportunities to meet at events such as quiz nights and the annual Ball, or by volunteering at Open Day, concerts and information evenings.

### Supporting the PTA

We realise that work, family and other commitments leave little time to devote to other things, so there are a number of different ways to support the PTA in addition to attending or volunteering at events including:

- Securing access to charitable funds such as **“matched funding”** from employers
- Joining the **Verulam PTA lottery** to be in with a chance of winning a cash prize: join here [Verulam Lottery](#)
- **Raise ££££ by shopping on line:** sign up here for [Easy fundraising](#) and Amazon Smile on line (select Verulam Parent Teacher Association as your charity) to raise donations from retailers while you shop. It's really simple to do and 1000s of retailers donate from pennies to £100 for booking a holiday on line. We have raised £3000 to date, so it all adds up!
- **Donating products or services** for example:
  - gardening, hairdressing, sports coaching etc. for **auction and raffle prizes**
  - used **tennis balls, footballs or table tennis bats and balls** for lunch time play if you work at/attend a sports club
- Donating outgrown uniform and/or stocking up at our **second hand uniform shop** (10.30-11.30am in the dining hall on the first Saturday of every month unless current COVID-19 restrictions do not allow for this)

Additional information is available on the PTA pages on the school website and current news is circulated via the school's weekly newsletter Verulam Voice. We always welcome new members, occasional supporters and new ideas.

If we don't see you prior to your son starting in September, we will be at the “Freshers' Fair” for Year 7 in September, so please do find us and say hello. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in the meantime please contact the PTA chair, Julie Williams, at [julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk](mailto:julie.williams@tinder-box.co.uk). We look forward to meeting you.

Examples of items funded by/or in part by the PTA are:

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| • Outdoor canopied seating areas   | • Easels, paints, ink and chemicals for the Art Department |
| • Table tennis tables and equipment  | • Cameras for the Photographic Dept                        |
| • Audio/visual equipment in the school hall                                    | • New lockers  |
| • The grand piano in the school hall   | • An imac computer for multi-media projects                |
| • A 3D printer for Technology  | • Equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme               |
| • £1000 worth of reading books   | • A new school minibus                                     |
| • Lighting desks and portable staging for the Drama Dept                       | • On line science and language resources                   |
| • Footballs, tennis balls and other sports equipment for break time activities | • “Pop up” gym in the drama studio                         |
|  | • Library refurbishment                                    |