

WELCOME

Dear everyone,

We end our second full-year as a multi-academy trust with much to celebrate and also even more to look forward to in the future.

All three schools have made progress this year, each in their own way. Ridgeway continued to build on the great start it made in its first year of opening with even greater numbers choosing the school as a first choice. As a result, the school is not only full in September but also has a waiting list of families wanting to join. Sandringham has continued with its work supporting the wider community and became a designated National Computing Hub and then an EdTech Demonstrator school. This involves providing support for staff and schools in delivering computing science and using technology for remote learning. Verulam developed parts of its curriculum, including re-introducing drama and strengthening personal development. The school is also investing a significant amount of capital funds to improve facilities around the campus and is introducing Bring your own Device with students.

The trust has been busy preparing for Wheatfields Junior School and Wheatfields Infants' and Nursery School to join the trust. This is all set to happen on 1st September 2020 and we look forward to welcoming them both to the trust. Having a cross-phase trust will bring a new dimension to our operation and provide even more opportunities to push the boundaries of excellence. As you may know, Garden Fields School is currently working through conversion and the timeline is for them to join the is January 2021.

The joint conference in February demonstrated the common goals that we all have and how much we enjoy working in partnership. I would like to thank all staff from our three schools for their work over the past year. I would also like to thank the local governing bodies and the trustees for their support, advice and guidance.

Best wishes

Alan Gray

CIF FUNDING

CAPITAL FUNDING SUCCESS

The AAT has had great success with its recent bid for funding from the ESFA 20/21 Condition Improvement Fund (CIF). The priority for the fund is to address significant condition need, keeping education provider buildings safe and in good working order.

It was recently announced that we have been successful with roof bids for both Verulam School and Ridgeway Academy for nearly £1m ! This is fantastic news and will enable these schools to make much needed repairs to their defective roofs. Works will begin in August/September and will be completed before March 2021.

This is the last CIF round for which the Trust will be eligible as it will move onto the ESFA SCA allocation from September 20 onwards. MATs with 5 or more academies and more than 3,000 pupils cannot apply for CIF but instead receive a School Condition Allocation to invest across their estate.

At the beginning of lockdown and at the end of the first week we analysed some statistics on the Sandringham Virtual Learning Classroom (VLC).

- When in normal mode (i.e. – everyone is in school), the number of active Google classrooms will be around 400 per week.
- This doubled to 800 in week 1 of the VLC, with an average number of postings per day on Google Classroom leaping from 175 to 700.
- The number of e-mails also rose by 400%.
- There were a total of 1700 Google Meets ('live lessons') overall, equating to around 60 'live' lessons per day involving around 1000 students each day.

We estimate that it takes teachers about three times as long to prepare a 1-hour virtual lesson, as it would do to prepare their normal lessons in school. This is partly due to weaving more new technology into the delivery, but also thinking carefully about the structure and sequencing of learning activities when being done from a distance and in isolation. Our job is to try to minimize the impact of not being in the physical classroom and I hope that the sophistication and ingenuity in lesson planning is something that students have noticed.

One thing we have learnt is that no matter how sophisticated we are with the technology, there is still no substitute for some live work with students.

We have received many positive comments from parents and carers on how well our students and staff have coped with the new virtual learning. These have been challenging times for all and we are all constantly adapting to meet government guidelines and our students needs. It is both heartening and rewarding to receive such positive feedback:

Ridgeway Parent

In such unusual times, your staff have quickly adapted to ensure the children are given appropriate tasks to do. As I am sure you can imagine, the thought of no school for my child was a horrendous thought! The hard work and dedication of your staff to adapt their teaching, has enabled them to remain focused and challenged through this difficult time. This has given them a sense of normality, in such uncertain time. For that I am incredibly grateful and just wanted you to know how appreciated it is. Thank you for your support of children entitled to Free School Meals. We really appreciate it!

Sandringham Parent

'First of all, thank you for keeping us up to date on the daily developments within the school during this time, it's greatly appreciated. My husband and I would also like to thank all faculty members who have ensured the transition from our Yr 7 attending school to home learning was seamless. We both work and have a 7yr old who is being home schooled, only having to prepare lessons and a timetable for one child as oppose to two eases the pressure. I just wanted to say that everything we are worrying about at home, you seem to intuitively know, because you answer it in the next newsletter! Structure to the day is absolutely one of the best parts of what you've done for the kids - and parents! - and it has made the lives of those of us who are still working from home so much easier'.

Verulam Parent

The boys have accessed and started on their projects, and I just wanted to pass on our thanks to all the teachers who have clearly put a lot of thought into creating projects that are interesting, engaging and easy for the boys to complete in manageable chunks of time. This has really eased the pressure of home learning here, not having the constant tight deadlines to submit work while also giving the boys a varied spread of topics to keep them learning.

Ridgeway Parent

Ridgeway's comms are infinitely practical and informative but crucially uplifting too. Just read newsletter with explanation of why we may be feeling so anxious during this unprecedented time and some tips to help as well. It's good to know you're out there and thinking of not just your students but their parents too.

Sandringham Parent

'Many Thanks for the contact and updates, Sandringham have really been amazing in such a terrible situation. I completely agree that keeping to a schedule for the children is essential, structure in this strange situation is good for mental wellbeing. The first week for us has gone extremely smoothly thanks to everything the school has put in place. I am so impressed with the PE Challenge, such a good idea, with my office closing it means that I am available to join in with my sons PE sessions and we have all been out for a run together which has been lovely'.

Verulam Parent

The list of what is going on this term is phenomenal. I think you putting the list in the voice will ensure the support of parents. I have spoken to parents of students in other schools and I firmly believe Verulam is up there as one of the top performing schools. The level of work your staff are doing is still outstanding all these weeks since lockdown began.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL

Medical workers at Wexham Park Hospital and Senior Partner, Dr. Bruce Covell at Parkbury House Surgery were very grateful to receive some of the 600+ visors made by Sandringham's DT Faculty.



VERULAM SCHOOL

We are very pleased to be able to send out protective eye wear from our Verulam Stem Club. These were sent to Kings College NHS.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

We have received the following message from OmerCare Ltd who provide home care to residents of Hertfordshire villages such as Codicote, Kimpton, Welwyn, Whitwell, Graveley and Knebworth.

I'm writing on behalf of all of us here at OmerCare Ltd. We would like to thank you very much for the goggles that were kindly donated to us yesterday. We have been finding it really difficult to source these from our suppliers as they are currently out of stock. We are therefore extremely grateful to have received these from Ridgeway Academy. Once again THANK YOU from all at OmerCare Ltd. We really appreciate your kindness.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Chloe Treglohan in Year 7 has been volunteering for Hertfordshire Independent Living Service. At present they are struggling to manage the day to day admin tasks due to the need to prioritise feeding the elderly and vulnerable. Chloe saw their call for help and volunteered to give up her time to make welcome packs and is going one step further and helping us to create 3000 entertainment packs. We are all very proud of her and grateful for her help!

**SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL
Mayor's Pride Awards 2020**

I am delighted to say that Zac, Fin and Josh Pile have been awarded the Young Persons of Distinction Award at the Mayor's Pride Awards Ceremony last night. Due to CV19 the ceremony was conducted via Radio Verulam over the air, but this did not distract from the excitement of the event which is one of the highlights of the St. Albans and District Calendar. Zac, Fin and Josh have raised thousands of pounds for Epilepsy Society through their band 'Princes to Kings'. You may also remember them appearing as the 'unexpected stars of the show' on Michael McIntyre's Big Show, just before Christmas last year. We are delighted their achievements have been recognised through the Mayor's Pride Awards and are very proud of the work they are doing to support their elder brother,

**VERULAM SCHOOL
STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE– Team from Verulam beats 6,000 in stock market challenge to be in running for trip to New York**

A team of Year 10 students from Verulam have battled their way into the Student Investor Challenge semi-finals, beating over 6,000 teams from schools around the UK and abroad.

The Student Investor Challenge, run by The London Institute of Banking & Finance, challenges teams of secondary school students to invest virtual money on the London Stock Exchange and trade stocks and shares to make a profit.

PATS19 consisting of students *Alexander Culkin, Peter Brady, Sean Tidd and Toby Jones* successfully invested £200,000 of virtual money and qualified as one of the top 500 teams to progress to the semi-finals. They'll now go on to battle the remaining 499 teams to try and reach the final in London.

The Economics and Business Department comments that: *"The school and the four boys should be immensely proud of (and congratulated on) what they have achieved. With a little luck, they may go one better and reach the final. There is no doubt that the whole school is behind them and we wish them the best of luck."*

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Congratulations to Year 7 pupil Alfie who has been awarded a full scholarship by Stagecoach this year.

Alfie also did very well in a December production of the show "Honk" with them.



SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL



We would like to say a HUGE congratulations to Oliver W in Year 7, who has just been offered a place at the Junior Department of the Guildhall School of Music. All being well, he will begin travelling to London in September to receive tuition on the double bass, jazz piano and general musicianship. He will also have the opportunity to take part in bands and orchestras. This is such a fantastic achievement as very few places are awarded each year and we are all extremely proud of Oliver!
Congratulations!

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Bethany Newbury recently took part in a 'Stars of the Future' dance competition in Sussex and came away with two silver medals, one of which came in her first ever 'trio' entry under the name 'Level Three'.

Bethany then also travelled to the United Dance Organisation competition in Swindon, where she took part with her FK Crew and came away with a gold medal! Bethany has now qualified for the dance finals in Germany in May, where she will compete alongside dance crews from all over the world.



RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Year 7 pupil Jacob competed in the EKF National KYU Grade Championships during the half term. He fought 12 fights and won 10 meaning that he won Bronze in his teams and Silver in his individual. This now means Jacob is 2nd in England for under 12 Wadaro Karate.

We are incredibly proud of him and he fought so hard and sensibly and with his brain rather than losing his temper which was brilliant to watch. He is very bruised, he looks a bit battered as he got hit in the face a few times so looks a bit in the wars but is absolutely fine.



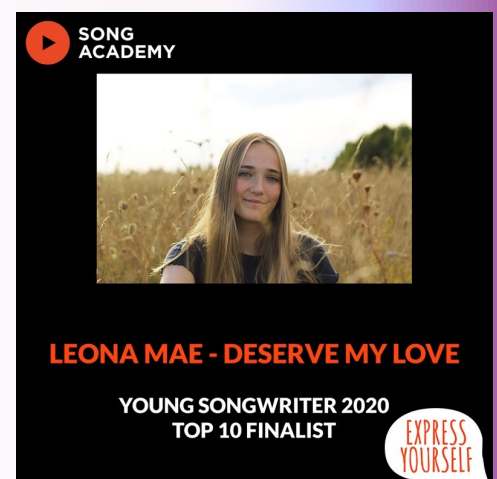
SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL

Leona Tindall – Y11

Leona has been selected as one of the 10 finalists in this years' Young Songwriter competition.

Songwriter is a online songwriting network and competition for young people aged 8-18 living in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Essex, Norfolk and Wiltshire. You can upload your own songs to the chart to received feedback from professional song writers and the chance to win prizes such as recording sessions and the opportunity to perform at local festivals.

Good luck, Leona.



VERULAM SCHOOL - MATHS

Year 11 Algebra Award Results

I would like to congratulate the 122 students who sat the Edexcel Award in Algebra exam in January. I am delighted to report that 85% students achieved a pass on this paper, which focuses on core algebra skills necessary for success at GCSE. The students have received a mixture of Level 3 (AS equivalent) and Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) certificates depending on the level they sat. I am immensely proud of the hard work put in by these students and am looking forward to seeing the GCSE results from these students in the summer.

VERULAM SCHOOL- MATHS

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 23rd 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.

VERULAM SCHOOL-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!



**SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL
MUSIC NEWS: LIVE SANDWICH SERIES CONCERT**

To end our celebration of Arts Week, held a live Sandwich Series concert/ The concert featured brothers Brendan and Ryan D, singer-songwriter Leona Mae, and brothers Zac, Fin and Josh from the band Princes to Kings.

There have been some wonderful workshops and live events this week as part of Arts Week. Highlights have included a live Q&A with musician Charlie Thornton and composer Stuart Hancock, a video message from West End singer and actress Gina Murray, a chair drumming workshop and a fantastic virtual choir session during which we collaborated to write a song together based on our thoughts and feelings on our experiences of being in lockdown. We thought you would like to read our lyrics:

We were scared and confused, the future was unclear
All our friends and our family had disappeared
The world was all in shock and fear
We all stood waiting for the dark clouds to clear
There is darkness but light will shine
Come, put your hand in mine
We will rise up above them all
And we shall never fall
We'll rise above
Rise above
We'll live on
Live on!

Students have also been busy capturing sounds in their environment which have been put together into a 'Soundscape' of our world. Students recorded sounds of nature, poetry, singing, chanting, synthesisers, and much more. Our thanks to Mr Turton for editing this.

**VERULAM SCHOOL
CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAY—PRE LOCKDOWN!**

Wednesday 4th March was the third curriculum enrichment day of the academic year.

Year 7 had an action packed day competing and engaging in House Sport, getting involved in many sports in the Sports Hall, Clarence Park and Sandpit Lane.

Year 8 had a great trip to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley to see elements of work and life in the Industrial Revolution. The museum is an open air collection of buildings from the Victorian period that have been relocated to the site from around the Midlands. It showcases different aspects of everyday life, from working in a coal mine to the houses typical for the working class families of the period. The students enjoyed displays from a blacksmith who forged chain links as part of his demonstration, rides on an Edwardian bus and the museum's famous fish and chip shop. We also got to see one of the film sets for the well-known series Peaky Blinders! The boys were engaged and ambassadors for the school, despite the weather!

Year 9 embarked on the first day of our annual Business Enterprise Conference. We were very lucky to have Aecom, Wilmott Dixon, BT, Metro Bank, Watford F.C., The Army, Stevenage F.C., Herts Business School and H.M. Magistrates Courts & Tribunal Service in school running a variety of activities which included bridge building, lost at sea, court room, football marketing and merchandising and a variety of team building experiences. There was lots of creative fun and character building!

Year 10 had a range of sessions which focused on the importance of mental health – they were engaged and acted as mature young adults.

Year 11 had their GCSE spoken language endorsement – well done boys for your preparation and excellent delivery of speeches.

SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL: OUR QUILT 2020- A COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Art Department have been running a fantastic initiative to create a giant quilt of stitched squares to celebrate communities coming together during this difficult time. Parents, students, teachers, Governors are all were welcomed to participate in this project. Mrs Owens' square is based on the clapping we've all been doing on Thursday evenings for the NHS and key workers. Mrs Leto celebrated spring in her design constructed out of felt and Mrs Button based her design on walking her dog. They hope to get as many members of the community involved in making their own personal contribution so that when we return to school, the pieces can be made into a beautiful piece of memorabilia. Follow [@our_quilt_2020](https://twitter.com/our_quilt_2020) for inspiration and ideas. Happy stitching!



RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Lots of people are turning to Art as a way of helping them deal with the current situation. One of the many things going on at the moment is an online art club run by the actor and artist Noel Fielding. Noel's virtual 'art club' sees him challenge people to some light-hearted drawing challenges. On multiple days over the a few weeks, Noel has set a theme and encouraged kids to paint, draw and create something they think relates to it. People from across the country sent their creations to Noel on Twitter, where he has been sharing them.

One of these is our very own Year 9 student Shannon De-Lacy. Noel has re-posted several of Shannon's submissions and said he liked the one shown here.

Find more examples of submissions [@noelfielding11](https://twitter.com/noelfielding11)
[#noelsartclub](https://twitter.com/#!/noelsartclub)



VERULAM SCHOOL

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!!



SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL DANCE NEWS: EARTH DAY AND INTERNATIONAL DAY- KEEP DANCING!

It has been fantastic to see so many students taking part in the Dance Faculty's Dance At Home google classroom challenges, activities, performances and live dance lessons. If You can see the full video of students celebrating Earth Day's 50th Anniversary on @sandringamdanc Twitter page or the Dance At Home google classroom.

On International Dance Day, students joined in with a series of live dance lessons, fun activities and Striding Out, our key stage 3 dance club, learning a fabulous routine. Students were also asked 'Why do you love to dance?' Below are some of the responses. If you haven't been trying some of the activities- perhaps the below will inspire you!

"I love to dance as I can do it with my friends and I love to be part of a community"

"I love to dance because I feel like I can express myself in a way I couldn't with words"

"I love dance as it is a great way to spend your time with friends who share the same passion as you. It is something I love to do to take my mind of things when I am feeling stressed and anxious"



SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL: 2.6 CHALLENGE

Well done to all those who took part in our 2.6 challenge on Sunday. Mr Cracknell opted for a 26.2 mile run, Mr Moane also ran 26.2km, Miss Meeking did a 26 minute HIIT workout. Mr Chopra and Mr Clark showed off their football skills, Miss Wills did her Take on the Wall Challenge, Mrs Holian did 26 cartwheels in a row (and got very dizzy,) Miss Bulbeck completed 26 different exercises, Dr Creaby did a 2.6 mile run and 260 stomach crunches and Mrs Paul ran 2.6 x 2.6miles as well. Students also got involved with Becky C completing 26 keepy-uppys with her hockey stick, Tom B completing a 26 event obstacle course, Olivia enjoying a multi-sports option in her garden, and Daniel M completing 26km over the week. The most impressive of all however, has to be Dr Creaby's tortoise who very slowly went 2.6 times around her garden. Nice work little guy! Well done to everyone and thank you for supporting such a worthy cause. As Mr Gray mentioned, over £715 has been raised so far.



RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

U13 and U15 Girls Handball Competitions

Following on from the boys competition, Ridgeway Academy hosted the Level 2 District Girls Handball Competition in the sports hall on Wednesday 26th February.

The U13 Girls team worked extremely hard in the first competitive handball fixture they have ever played. The team came out in a very impressive second place!

The U15 team pictured worked incredibly hard, dominating their games looking strong in both defence and attack. All the girls worked until the final buzzer, intercepting the ball on a number of occasions! They won all of their games.

They did brilliantly to win the competition; due to the U15 Girls winning the competition, they will participate in the Level 3 County competition later on in the month.

Well done to you all girls, we are incredibly proud!



SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL—FIT FOR LIFE WEEK



The aim of Fit For Life Week is to highlight and encourage the importance of physical activity and wellbeing in all of our lives for now, whilst also creating habits for a lifetime.

This is very much the message we convey every year and we want this year to be no different for students, staff and parents. This year it will be a little more challenging as we cannot all be together but we hope this will still prove to be a fun and popular event.

This year we are raising money for Mind to support the understanding and services for Mental health in the UK.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

NHS Daily Mile Challenge

The PE Department were delighted to receive a number of entries for the NHS Daily Mile Challenge. Not only did this challenge keep students active, but it also supported the local charity trust. The East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals Charity raised funds through the Here For Each Other Campaign to support local NHS staff during the COVID-19 crisis.

A huge congratulations to all students who took part:

James Horsley – 3 miles	David James – 99.34 miles
Charlie Parker – 80.71 miles	Aaron White – 4.01 miles
Chloe Treglohan – 11.69 miles	Molly Clarke – 54 miles
Cameron Charlton – 8.39 miles	Callum Cubis – 13.4 miles
Hannah Mockridge – 9.17 miles	Casey Monaghan – 14.5 miles
Dylan Hissey – 5 miles	Megan Joyner – 28.19 miles

It was brilliant to see so many students going above and beyond the daily mile. A huge £450 was raised for the charity. Congratulations to David James in Year 7 who has won the £25 XBOX voucher prize for top performer. Well done to all.

VERULAM SCHOOL Miles for Mills Fundraising

At the beginning of May we were all due to attend the Mills' Match, a biannual football match of 6th Formers vs staff and old boys at the home of St Albans City Clarence Park.



The Mills' Match is played to celebrate the life of former Verulam Student Oli Mills (seen in the centre of this photo), who sadly died of cancer in 2005.

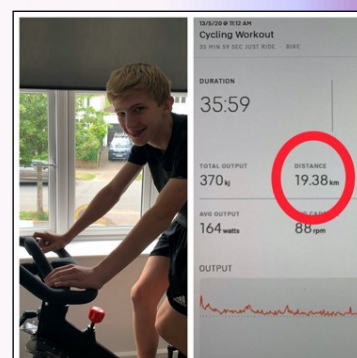
Over the years the event has raised over £45,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust and adds to the money raised by the Oli Mills Foundation which was set up by Oli's brother Eddie.

We have taken inspiration from the recent 26 Challenge where thousands of people raised money to make up for the cancellation of the London Marathon, by coming up with activities based around the numbers 2 and 6, and we thought we would do something similar to raise money.

This year we have used the year Verulam opened, 1938 as inspiration. For example, you could do a 1.938km run, 19.38km bike ride or walk 1938 laps of your bedroom for our Miles for Mills Challenge. We asked students, staff, parents, governors and Verulam alumni to raise money through sponsorship or donations over two weeks. The organisers were delighted by how many staff, students, parents and alumni participated and raised over £7300.

Examples of just some of the amazing challenges so far...

- Oil's Mum Sarah completing a 19.38km cycle ride
- The Nelson family constructing Verulam School out of lego using 1938 pieces
- The Ritchie boys cycling or running 1.9 miles each day with 38 burpees and the family burning 1938 calories!
- The Cornmell family climbing 1938 stairs
- Ms Locke completing 19.38km walk with her mini dachshund
- Miss Hickey completing 19 + 38 minutes of body combat
- Ollie in Year 9 ran 1.938 miles in 18.40 minutes on the hottest day of the year!
- Matthew in Year 8 ran 1.938 miles early morning before the start of home schooling.
- Matt in Year 12 and Mum completed a 19 minute 38 second power walk
- Josh in Year 9 and Dad hiked 19.38km through Wendover Woods and up Coombe Hill.
- The Whayman family completed a challenge of 19.38 miles worth of bike rides and 19.38km of dog walking.
- Milo in Year 8 raised £100 for MfM by doing 1938 clean catches using his crazy catch.
- Alex Culkin in Year 10 used half term to volunteer to help paint Clarence Park... 19 hours and 38 minutes worth
- Mr Toley ran 19.38 laps of Verulam School, wearing 19 tops and losing one a lap. With Eddie Mills, Dave Bullock, Cara Leung (cycling) and Bruce Wilson in relay support.



Below is a message from the Oli Mills Foundation:

“A massive thank you to everyone at Verulam School who over the last two weeks came together in memory of Oli. 7 young people between the ages of 13-24 get diagnosed with cancer every single day in the UK and particularly at the current time, this money will do an awful lot of good. Oli spent some of his best years at Verulam School and was lucky enough to meet some incredible friends and people who helped shape the time he had with us. We couldn't be prouder of our association with you guys and your continued support is not only inspirational, but testament to the values and ethos that drives the special community there”.

SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL

In April the DfE announced that Sandringham, along with 19 other schools across the country have been awarded EdTech Demonstrator status. EdTech Demonstrator schools are those who have sophisticated and well-embedded use of technology and are able to support other schools in adjusting to the use of technology for teaching. This will be an initial year-long programme and we have re-purposed key staff so that they can carry out this important work. It shows that what we are delivering through our VLC is towards the high-end of delivery which will have a massive benefit to children attending Sandringham.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Congratulations to the eight Year 10 students who have graduated from **The Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme**. Running in its second year at Ridgeway, this programme gives pupils from non-selective state schools the opportunity to work with a PhD researcher to experience university style learning. It helps pupils develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a highly selective university.

The students have been working hard to develop key university readiness skills, including critical thinking and metacognition. UCAS, the University College Admissions Service evaluates that in 2019, Scholars Programme graduates are almost twice as likely to progress to highly-selective universities. All pupils completed a challenging final assignment pitched one key stage above their current level. Tutors provided one-to-one feedback in tutorials. Assignments were marked and moderated with university gradings.



Pupils had the opportunity to visit Oxford University, met their PhD tutor, experienced their first tutorial and learned about university life. I am delighted to announce the following achievements – well done and congratulations to all participants.

Amy 2.1	Jade 1st	Ben 2.2	Joshua 2.1
Chloe 3rd	Megan 2.2	Deborah 1st	Henry 1st

SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL

DUKE OF EDINBURGH: IMPRESSIVE RESULTS FOR SANDRINGHAM

We recently received our DofE statistics and a huge thanks needs to be made to Mrs Cuneen who has worked really hard to increase the award completion rate even as the number of students participating continues to increase year on year. A total of 230 students undertook an award last year, with 174 successfully completing. That's a 25% increase on last year's completions and an overall completion rate of 76%. Considering that the county completion rate target is 60%, and that the number of students undertaking the challenge is increasing year on year- this is a huge achievement for Mrs Cuneen and all of the team involved. Thank you so much for all your hard work. (Photo from Awards in February.)



VERULAM SCHOOL

It was great to be a part of The 2020 **Hertfordshire Schools' Gala** with the boys of Verulam School which took place at The Royal Albert Hall in March this year. The 2020 **Hertfordshire Schools' Gala** celebrates the music making in primary and secondary schools across Hertfordshire.

The sound was amazing and it was a fantastic experience and something we were extremely proud to be involved in.

Highlights included a new commission *I am Alban* by UK composer Anne Dudley, based on the story of Saint Alban with lyrics by Ian McMillan, as well as arrangements of *Reach* (S Club 7), *Happy* (Pharrell Williams) and Coldplay's *A Sky Full of Stars*.

The massed Primary and Secondary Choirs alongside the County Youth Choir were supported by the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra, and there were additional performances by instrumental and dance groups from their secondary schools.



SANDRINGHAM SCHOOL

Kadija in 7A wrote the following moving poem.

Poem about COVID-19

To all the people who suffer in this despondent time,
The monster is relentless,
The monster spreads through our tears,
The monster imprisons the innocent,
Know that the sun will rise and the flowers will grow and that feelings will change from helpless to hope.

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

COMMUNITY USAGE KICKS

We are delighted to have teamed up with Stevenage FC Foundation to offer 2 FREE community programmes here at Ridgeway Academy.

Stevenage FC Foundation provide a variety of projects within the local community targeting young people. The girls only session is a Premier League Kicks Programme that provides sports sessions to girls aged 8-19 and is delivered in targeted areas of Hertfordshire.

VERULAM SCHOOL **Year 7 Race to the Lakes**

Our Year 7 set themselves the challenge of covering the 460km from school to Derwent Water, where they should have been staying during the famous Year 7 Lakes Trip.

Hopefully, this trip will be rescheduled for later this year, however Year 7 did not let missing out on this experience get them down. Instead, they rose to the challenge and covered a total of 1753km though walking, running or cycling. They then uploaded their achievements onto a Google Form where their contributions were added together.

The winning Form who covered the 460km reaching Derwent Water virtually in the quickest time was 7Y. Amazing effort from the whole Year Group - well done!



RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

Ridgeway's Power of Kindness: Penpal Scheme with local Care Homes

We asked Ridgeway students to write a letter to a care home resident that we will deliver . We aimed to set up a penpal friendship scheme, where students and residents write to each other about themselves, but also about how they are coping with the current situation. The aim is to spread some happiness and kindness in our local community. We asked students to about your favourite subjects at school and why you are interested in them, books you like to read, sports and hobbies you have. We placed a box at the school gate from Monday 20 April - Wednesday 22 April and asked that when passing the school gate for daily exercise to post their letter. It really will make a difference to how someone else is feeling. We received a fantastic response to this and the letters have now been passed. Well done to everyone who contributed!

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

Over 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



NHS CADETS PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE AGED 14-16

This September, NHS England along with NHS Innovation, St John Ambulance and local providers, will launch their new national programme: The NHS Cadets.

This programme aims to support young people aged 14-16 to access meaningful volunteer experiences within a healthcare environment while enjoying relevant training and development opportunities. YC Hertfordshire are incredibly proud to be delivering the Cadet Programme in Hertfordshire and are providing young people the option to join a pre-launch summer programme (running throughout July and August), ahead of the national programme starting in September. This summer, young people will be able to join in with a range of online training, talks, events and host their own social action event whether it's an individual or socially distanced community event.

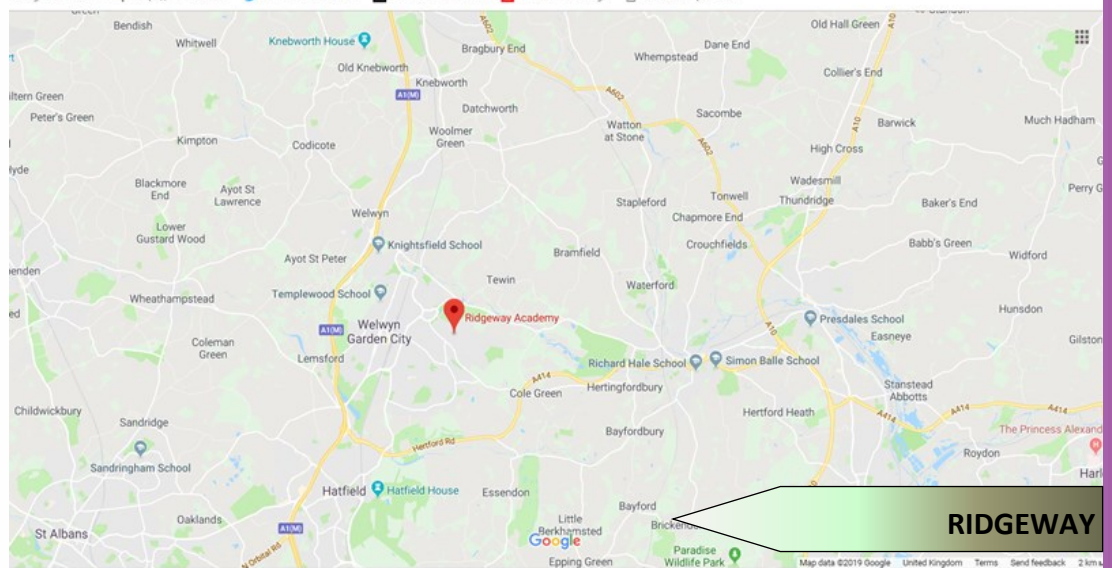
The Cadet and Summer Cadet Programme are fully funded and open to all young people aged 14-16 but they are particularly keen to hear from students who may be feeling quite lost in terms of academic options and those who you may consider vulnerable or at risk.

contact **Debi** on **01442 454226** or email: debi.roberts@hertfordshire.gov.uk

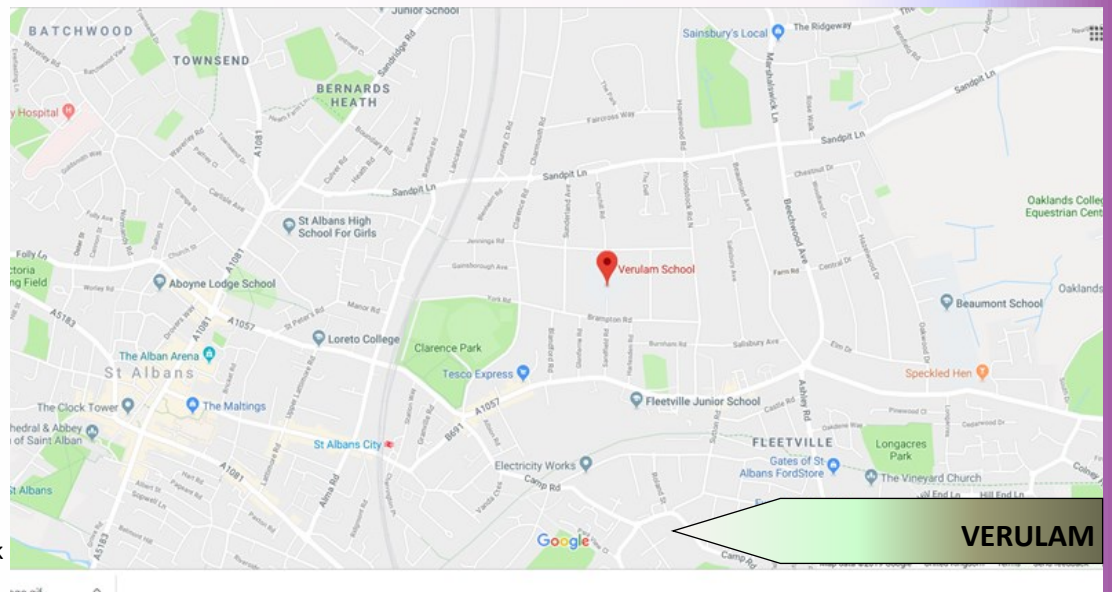
AAT SCHOOL LOCATIONS



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