



VERULAM
SCHOOL

Parent Information

2021/22

verulamschool.co.uk

Welcome

It is a great honour to welcome you and your child to Verulam School at this crucial time in their educational journey and personal development.

A child's time at school leaves a significant impression on them, shaping the adult that they later become. This is a responsibility that we take seriously at Verulam.

We aim to ensure that your child is successful in every way. A key factor in this occurring is the encouragement and support that your son will receive to be truly himself, embrace his unique identity, and be comfortable and confident within his own skin.

In addition to this, we strive to harness a number of positive moral attributes that are underpinned by our core values of Excellence, Character and Respect, so that your son goes on to lead a fulfilling life.



Julie Richardson

Julie Richardson
Headteacher



What type of person will Verulam create for life?

Verulam boys typically arrive with a sharp mind, ambition and intellectual curiosity, which is complemented by our carefully planned curriculum and co-curricular offer.

We ensure that all boys engage in a wider ideal of scholarship. We not only equip students to achieve academic success but also prioritise the importance of developing them into compassionate individuals that have a strong sense of social responsibility, as well as the resilience to cope with any challenges that they may face in life. In addition, our well-qualified, dedicated teaching staff ensure that all students are encouraged and given opportunities

to think creatively, thinking ‘outside of the box.’ Our boys are therefore encouraged to be fearless, pushing boundaries to break convention, to re-imagine the future for society and its citizens by creating new, amazing ideas.

Our students are educated and nurtured in an environment where *all* are valued and *all* are loved, where differences are embraced and the unique needs, interests and strengths of *all* flourish. As a community, we celebrate the differences between individuals whilst cherishing that which binds us together.

Beyond the classroom

Beyond the classroom our rich co-curricular offer supports boys on a journey of self-discovery.

A diverse range of clubs and societies enriches boys' experience, opening their minds to the endless possibilities and opportunities that exist. Although we educate bright boys for bright futures, our priority is their happiness, so we encourage them to realise their passions, understand their self-worth, and own their vulnerabilities in order to unleash their potential.

As Shakespeare notes ***"Pleasure and action make the hours seem short"*** and it is with this in mind that the unique offer at Verulam ensures that boys enjoy their time at school, eagerly returning each day to experience more. In every sphere, we encourage boys to identify their

passions, and give them every opportunity to take flight.

If a boy has an interest that is not yet fulfilled, we'll help him find a way of pursuing it. Your son will also encouraged to take ownership and to develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime through his engagement in our termly pupil-led newsletter, the Student Council, peer mentoring programme and in our termly PASS (Pupil Attitudes to School and Self) survey.





Joining Verulam

This is an exciting time for your son to join Verulam and we will work closely in partnership with you so your son feels supported when moving into to this larger community.

At Verulam we believe that all boys should be given the opportunity to succeed and as a result we offer an environment that understands and supports boys in fulfilling their capability. We understand the pressures that exist for teenage boys in the modern world. As a result, Pastoral Care at Verulam is at the heart of the school. We work tirelessly to ensure that boys feel a sense of belonging, safety, and well-being from the moment that they join us in September.

In our experience, the close family atmosphere that derives from being a smaller than average secondary school, ensures Year 7 pupils gain confidence and forge new friendships quickly. Our contemporary and honest approach ensures that we know each child individually, offer a broad pastoral support programme, peer support groups and can work more closely in partnership with you. Any feelings of apprehension that your son may possess are swiftly replaced by a sense of belonging and pride at being a 'Verulamian boy'.

We look forward to getting to know you and your son as he embarks on his journey at Verulam.

Coming to Verulam in 2021/22

Compassionate for life



Civic Duty Programme

At Verulam a new Civic Duty Programme will start in September 2021. This will encourage boys to participate in a range of voluntary activities and fundraising events across the academic year.

Each term a different charity will be selected through collaboration with the Student Voice. Charities will be at a local, national and international level so that boys are educated and encouraged to consider experiences outside of their own, recognising their own privilege and social responsibility in the local and wider community.

SUMO for Schools

**SUMO for Schools – from September 2021
Verulam will become a SUMO school.**

Boys will be taught the principles of SUMO (created by Psychologist Paul McGee) through the Pastoral Programme, which promotes self-care, building resilience and self-confidence, raising aspirations, and achieving better outcomes in life.

SUMO will support boys in understanding others so that they are more compassionate as individuals.

PSHE/RSE

**Each week boys will have one period
of PSHE/RSE.**

These lessons are designed to help young people achieve their potential by supporting their well-being and tackling issues that can affect their ability to learn, such as anxiety and unhealthy relationships. This is crucial so they are equipped with the knowledge to keep themselves and others safe.

Coming to Verulam in 2021/22

Creative thinkers for life



Vortic VR

From September 2021 Verulam will be the first school in the country to use Vortic VR in the art department.

Boys will have the highest quality digital experience of a number of high profile art galleries and institutions. This cutting edge technology will complement and strengthen the physical experience of viewing art.

Verulam has formed a partnership with the renowned Victoria Miro Gallery in London that has created the Vortic platform which offers

a customised and sustainable solution for galleries to exhibit works using the most advanced AR and VR technologies.

This technology will enable boys to be truly inspired through the innovative use of technology and instant access to numerous works of art. In addition, we will have the capability to exhibit boys' own art through a virtual gallery on the platform.

Higher Project Qualification

From September 2021 boys will have the opportunity to take the Higher Project Qualification KS3.

The Higher Project Qualification allows students to discover the joys of independent learning, take responsibility for their own study and develop new life and study skills. Through attendance to an after school club, your son can embark on the HPQ qualification and gain the equivalent of half a GCSE for their project. Your son will have the creative freedom to pursue a project of his choice using a range of mediums.

Coming to Verulam in 2021/22

Inclusive for life



Co-curricular

In sport alone there are dozens of clubs, catering for all abilities, ranging from football to fencing. We also have an orchestra, a choir and numerous ensembles for those who enjoy music. Further clubs include Art, Chess, Classics, Coding, Debating, Engineering, French board games, Green Team (environmental), History, Lego, Politics, Science, and Youth Theatre.

The initiative, interest and enthusiasm of both pupils and staff are such that new clubs are always bubbling up.

Smile-ing Boys' Project

In October 2021 The Smile-ing Boys' Project is coming to Verulam. The project is the creation of internationally acclaimed artist, Kay Rufai, in order to promote positive mental well-being for BAME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) boys.

The purpose of the project is to encourage engagement and reflection of one's identity as a young black male growing up in the modern world, allowing boys the opportunity to explore issues around stereotypes, societal pressures, masculinity and representation.

Identity Competition

In September 2021 the art department will be leading a school competition entitled "Identity" to encourage boys to celebrate their cultural heritage through art.

Pupils across all year groups will consider a range of artists from other cultures for inspiration. All entries will be exhibited at the school, judged and awarded prizes by the Victoria Miro Gallery, London in October.



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VERULAM *for life*

