



VERULAM
SCHOOL



ENGAGING MINDS

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Lectures 2021/22

WELCOME

Verulam School and the BSV Consortium welcome you to a series of lectures by experts in their fields to help students look further and journey outside the curriculum.

All lectures held at Verulam School on Friday afternoons. Lectures begin at 13.55 in the main hall.

AUTUMN TERM SCHEDULE



DATE	SPEAKER	AREA OF EXPERTISE
10/09/21	Phil Brooke	Animal welfare
17/09/21	Rachel Blok	Crime Writer
24/09/21	Christian Harrall-Baker	Social media, Premier League
01/10/21	Dr Funke Abimbola	Diversity ambassador
08/10/21	Dr Helen Pearson	Science journalist
15/10/21	Dr Lindsay Kass	Sport science & nutrition
05/11/21	Nerys Crosby	Cyber security
12/11/21	Dr Kirsten Shulka	Climate change
03/12/21	Alex Astley	Business consultant
10/12/21	Daisy Cooper	Member of Parliament
17/12/21	Student University Challenge	

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PHIL BROOKE

www.ciwf.com

Phil works to develop the animal welfare knowledge base in our research department, providing technical support for colleagues and journalists. He also coordinates the international education programme and speaker service.

After studying environmental science at university, Phil decided on a career in animal welfare education and was a science teacher for 20 years. He has now worked for Compassion for over two decades. In his spare time he works on the development of a website - Fish Count - which addresses the welfare of fish caught in commercial fishing.

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Our message is simple: by ending factory farming, we will bring better lives to billions of farm animals and people, save wildlife from extinction and leave a planet worth having as a legacy for our children.

COMPASSION
in world farming 

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RACHEL BLOK

Rachel grew up in Durham and studied English Literature at Warwick University. Upon graduating she taught English in a London comprehensive.

She is now the full-time author of three acclaimed psychological crime novels based in St. Albans.

The books feature DCI Maarten Jansen who struggles against his plain speaking Dutch upbringing when faced with the seemingly polite world of this picturesque city.

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“Supremely atmospheric and suspenseful... a special talent”

Daily Mail

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CHRISTIAN HARRAL-BAKER

www.livewiresport.com

Christian was a student at Verulam. He graduated with a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Nottingham Trent University. His career has seen him work within a number of creative industries companies helping brands connect to sports fans through social media.

He is currently working with Livewire Sport as a Social Media lead, working as a consultant to the football, Premier League, directing their daily output across their social media channels, which have over 125 million followers.



L I V E W I R E
S P O R T

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DR FUNKE ABIMBOLA MBE

Dr. Funke Abimbola, is a Nigerian business woman, lawyer, public speaker and TV contributor.

Funke is a recognised equality, diversity, and inclusion leader with a strong track record in the field. She is a graduate of Newcastle University.

Her leadership and influence have been recognised by the Financial Times who listed her as being one of the top 15 ethnic minority leaders globally. In 2017 she was awarded an MBE in the Queens birthday honours list for services to diversity and young people.

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My mission is to level the playing field.



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DR HELEN PEARSON

Helen Pearson is Chief Magazine Editor for Nature, the world's leading science journal, where she oversees its journalism and opinion content. Her first book, *The Life Project*, was named best science book of the year by *The Observer*, and was a book of the year for *The Economist*.

Her TED talk has received over 2 million views. A reporter for *Nature* since 2001, Pearson has won accolades including the Wistar Institute Science Journalism Award and two best feature awards from the Association of British Science Writers.

Pearson has a degree in natural sciences from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in genetics. She is working on her second book, *What to Believe*, which is about the use of research and evidence to make decisions.

nature

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DR LINDSY **KASS**

Lindsay has undergraduate degrees in Sports Science and Nutrition from the Universities of Greenwich and East London and holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Exeter.

Prior to joining the University of Hertfordshire in 2004, she worked as a sports scientist and nutritionist with elite athletes. She is a Principal Lecturer in Sports and Exercise Science.

Outside her professional role Lindsay, is an advocate for adopting a healthy life-style and she works with both the general public and schools to encourage good health through physical activity and healthy eating.

University of
Hertfordshire UH

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NERYS CROSBY

Nerys graduated from the University of Exeter with a first class degree in Accountancy and Finance and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants, England and Wales.

She has over 20 years experience working for major UK accountancy firms supporting businesses reach their technology goals.

Currently, she advises clients on cyber security.



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

12.**11.****21**

DR KIRSTEN **SHUKLA**

Kirsten studied Medicine in Freiburg and Hamburg, Germany. After graduating she trained in child psychiatry at St Mary's hospital, London.

She is a founder member of Psych Divest, a group of psychiatrists whose aim is to lobby the Royal College of Psychiatrists to divest from fossil fuels in the light of the mental health impacts on young people by climate change.



East London
NHS Foundation Trust

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ALEX ASTLEY

Alex is an ex-Verulam student. As an undergraduate he studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at Oxford University and he holds a MSc in Development Studies, from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

At Oxford he was the founder and Director of Students4students a charity to provide help from primary school students who are at risk of falling behind and therefore leaving school unable to read and write.

He is a Business Consultant with Deloitte UK.

Deloitte.

10.**12.****21**

DAISY COOPER MP

Daisy was elected MP for St Albans in the 2019 General Election. Prior to Parliament she used to work for the cross-party movement More United.

As Campaigns Director, she designed and delivered campaigns that changed government policy four times. Previously, she worked in Commonwealth affairs for 10 years - campaigning for improved LGBT+ rights abroad and against human rights violations in Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, and with victims of press abuse at Hacked Off. Daisy has campaigned alongside the “Save St Albans Pubs” campaign for two and a half years, successfully changing Liberal Democrat party policy to abolish the out-dated business rates system which is killing our high streets and replace it with a fairer tax.

Daisy has a high profile within the Lib Dems.

Liberal
Democrats





VERULAM SCHOOL

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