



Welcome

It is a great honour to welcome you and your son to Verulam School at this crucial time in their educational journey and personal development. As a smaller than average secondary school, we provide a close, family atmosphere that allows students to gain confidence and forge new friendships quickly. In addition, we are able to ensure that all of our students are known, feel valued and are supported.

Academic success is incredibly important to us. Our success in GCSE, A' Level and vocational courses speak for themselves. Alongside this, we firmly believe that the development of the whole person is vital in order to not only survive in the modern world, but also thrive.

A Verulam education is like no other, and your child's time at the school will help them to reach their potential,

be compassionate, a creative thinker and someone who embraces diversity and challenge. We nurture a number of positive moral attributes, that are underpinned by our core values of Excellence, Character and Respect. Our school motto 'Faire Mon Devoir' translates from French to "Do my duty." Part of the Verulam experience sees our students encouraged and supported to fulfil their duty or obligation to be true to themselves, to love themselves, make positive contributions, to learn and grow, be happy and grateful and to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Though steeped in a positive culture and tradition, we are also a modern, diverse, and forward-thinking all boys' school. One of the most striking features of Verulam is the diversity of students and staff, of different backgrounds, temperaments, opinions and interests, each of which has their place here.

As I hope you will discover for yourself, Verulam enthusiastically embraces innovation and new opportunities when we feel that it will enhance the educational experience of our students.

I hope that this prospectus provides you with the background information you need to make the right choice for your child and I would like to extend a warm invitation to see us in action by visiting the school.



Julie Richardson

Julie Richardson
Headteacher

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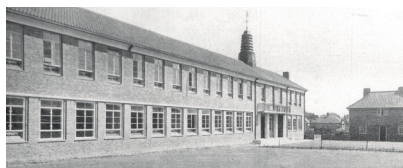


About Verulam School

Established in 1938 as St Albans Boys' Modern School with just 54 boys, the name changed in 1940 to St Albans Grammar School for Boys and in 1975 to Verulam School. Now an 11-18 boys' school with a mixed Sixth Form, we provide a first-class education to 1,200 students.

Our students are bright and come from a diverse range of backgrounds, achieving well in comparison with national benchmarks.

1938



St Albans Boys' Modern School opened on April 26th 1938 with just 54 boys.

1940



In the 1940s the former 'Modern School' became a three-form entry grammar school with a 6th Form of considerable size providing a regular supply of entrants to the Universities, Polytechnics and similar institutions.



1938

The official opening by Sir Cyril Norwood, President of St John's College, Oxford, and former Head Master of Harrow School, took place on October 2nd in 1938.

1961



From 1961 onwards a new, up-to-date science block, dining accommodation and extra classrooms were developed.

1991

In 1991, the school joined BeauSandVer Sixth Form consortium.



2005

In November 2005, the construction of a Sports Hall commenced.



In 1975 the school changed from a grammar to a comprehensive.

1975

In 2003, the school became a Specialist Technology College. An additional block of classrooms, named "The Bradshaw Building" was built to permit the number of pupils to be increased to a total of 1,200.

2003



Joined the Alban Academies Trust in 2018.

2018



Meet Sebastian

“

“The memories that I’ve made at Verulam will be with me forever. I’ve particularly loved studying geography and PE. The support and encouragement that the staff have given me to pursue my dream of becoming a professional football player has been fantastic, especially where I’ve had to travel internationally to play.”

WINGER, GEOGRAPHER
AND GLOBE TROTTER

Sebastian plays football for Arsenal FC as part of the under-16s team.

An accomplished sportsman, Sebastian takes a keen interest in global issues and is an active fundraiser for many of the charities that the school supports.

Verulam Values

During your child's time at Verulam they will be taught about our core values of **Excellence, Character and Respect**. Learning to embrace these values will help them lead a meaningful, fulfilling life beyond school and will provide them with clarity regarding what is expected inside and outside the school environment.



Excellence

Excellence means exhibiting high standards in all areas. Not necessarily being the best, but doing their best; fulfilling their potential and championing others to do the same. Striving for excellence means aiming high and maintaining positive attitudes and behaviours to support achievement.



Character

Character means having strength of character - developing positive moral attributes such as charity, empathy, kindness, compassion, integrity, loyalty, responsibility and honesty. Having a good character means not tolerating any kind of discrimination or bullying, and not being afraid to call it out if witnessed. It also means doing the right thing, especially when no one is looking!



Respect

Respect means more than just being tolerant of others – it's fully appreciating and valuing diversity, inclusivity and multiculturalism. Respect is about celebrating our differences as well as the things that unite us. Being respectful is shown through actively seeking to understand experiences outside our own and striving for a more equal society where all are valued and given equal opportunities. In addition, it is illustrated by contributing to the local, national and global community.

As well as upholding our core values, our students are expected to support their classmates to develop and challenge themselves, and to contribute to the school and wider community. As a Verulam student they are expected to be:

- Polite to others
- Helpful
- Hard-working
- Kind
- Thoughtful
- Generous
- Respectful
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Inquisitive
- Enquiring
- Solution-focused
- Honest
- Organised
- Punctual



“

“Leaders are effective in developing pupils’ understanding of groups of people in society who are protected from discrimination by law.”

Ofsted 2018

Academic Life

Academic study is an integral part of life at Verulam. Whilst learning is well supported, engaging and inspiring; scholarship, perseverance, and hard work also form part of our high expectations and aspirations for students.

With the support and guidance of specialist teachers, our students' love of learning thrives and lasts a lifetime. Students have access to a busy, well-resourced library offering a diverse range of texts to supplement their studies and interests, and foster a love of reading.

Creative thinking is a key element within our curriculum design. Verulam students are actively encouraged to think 'outside of the box.' They are inspired to be intellectually fearless, pushing boundaries in order to break conventions, to re-imagine the future for society and its citizens, creating new and amazing ideas.

The curriculum at Verulam is diverse and inclusive. We ensure that all students see themselves in the curriculum, are known, valued and are exposed to figures that will inspire them. Our students are encouraged to be non-conformist, to be the trendsetters and trailblazers of the future. In addition, the learning experience is enriched through a number of close partnerships with Old Verulamians and other highly successful schools, both locally and further afield.

To support academic success and mental health and well-being, we prioritise the teaching and delivery of RSE and Health Education (commonly jointly referred to as RSHE) by providing every year group with a weekly session. We also work closely with a number of specialist organisations to support our students to deliver high quality sessions so that they are well-informed, able to make positive, healthy decisions and keep themselves and each other safe. All students are able to use technology to support their learning across the

school, and the blended learning environment provides a powerful base to enhance learning at all levels. We also encourage students to develop a passion for learning and become increasingly self-directed to study through the range of Higher Projects that are offered (HPQs).

Our well-established and highly successful post-16 partnership with Beaumont and Sandringham Schools, provides sixth form students with access to an unparalleled range of courses and subject expertise. In addition, a range of Extended Projects (EPQs) are offered in Year 12.

Core subjects at GCSE:

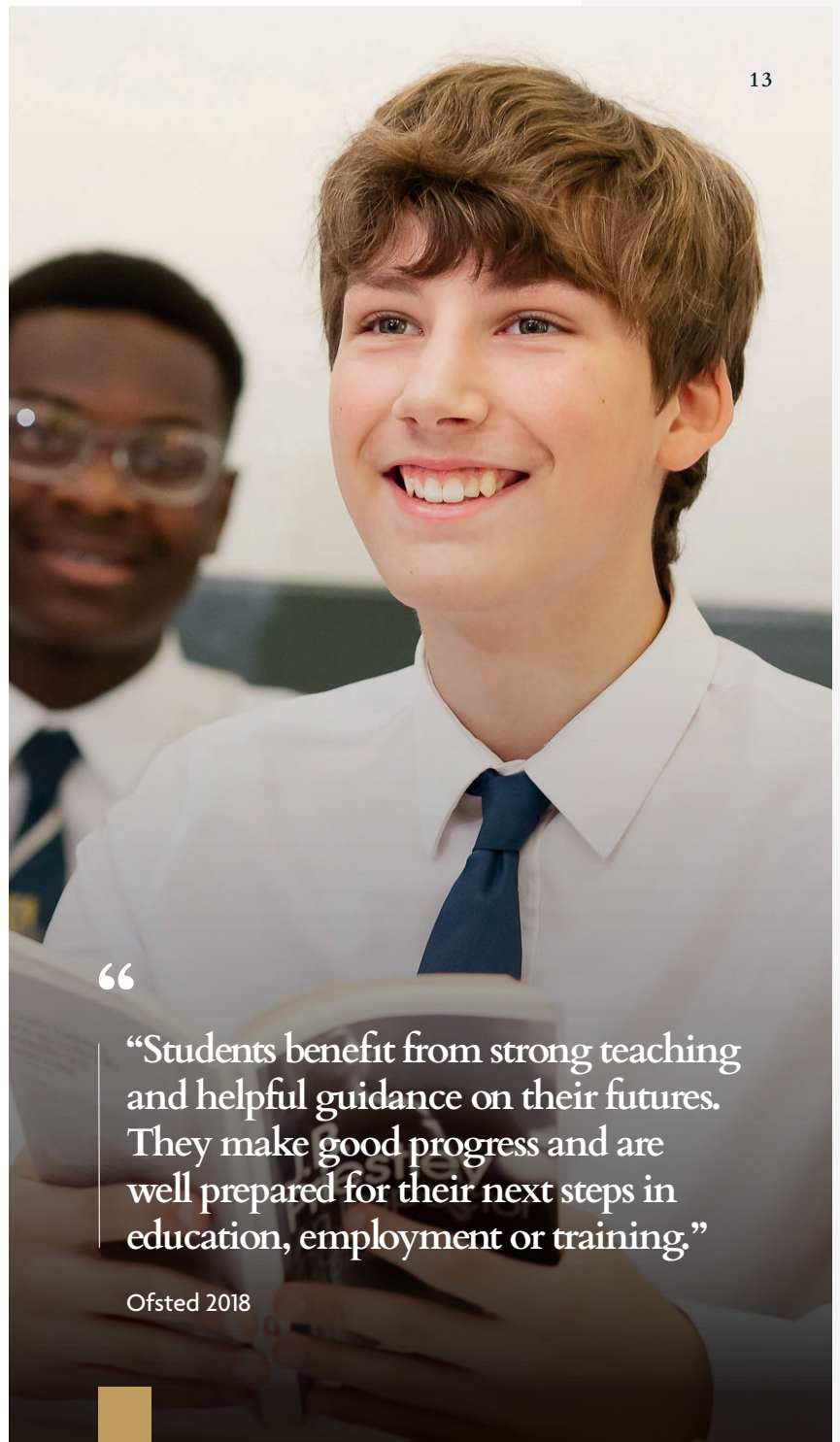
Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science

Options for GCSE:

History, Geography, French, Spanish, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Food, Art, Computer Science, Drama, Business & Economics, Media Studies, Music, Physical Education, Princes Trust

Options for A Level:

Art, Art – Photography, Biology, Business BTEC, Chemistry, Creative Digital Media Production BTEC, Product Design, Economics, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Psychology, RE/Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology, Sport BTEC, Law, Computer Science



“

“Students benefit from strong teaching and helpful guidance on their futures. They make good progress and are well prepared for their next steps in education, employment or training.”

Ofsted 2018

Pastoral and Well-being

At Verulam we believe that all students should be given the opportunity and encouragement to succeed. We offer an environment that understands and supports them in realising their potential. Working closely in partnership with parents/carers, we endeavour to ensure our students feel understood and valued from the outset.

We understand the particular pressures that exist for teenage boys in the modern world. As a result, pastoral care at Verulam is at the heart of the school. From the moment they join us in September, we work tirelessly to ensure that all students feel an equal sense of belonging, safety, and well-being at Verulam.


In our experience, the close family atmosphere that derives from being a smaller than average secondary school, ensures students gain confidence and forge new friendships quickly. We know each student

individually and offer a broad Pastoral Support Programme as well as peer support groups to enable strong relationships to develop throughout the school. In addition, we work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure clear communication and mutual understanding is maintained.

At Verulam, the Pastoral Support Programme promotes self-care, how to build resilience and self-confidence, raise aspirations, and achieve better outcomes in life. Designed using the concepts of SUMO by psychologist Paul McGee, we support students in understanding themselves as well as others, encouraging positive mental health.

Our Civic Duty Programme encourages students to participate in a range of voluntary activities and fundraising events across the academic year. Each term a different charity is selected through collaboration with the Student Voice. Charities supported are at local, national and international level so that students are educated and encouraged

to consider experiences outside their own, recognising their own privilege and social responsibility in the local and wider community. This focus on being charitable ensures that students feel a sense of purpose and develop into empathetic, understanding, compassionate individuals ready to make a positive contribution in the world.



“Pupils behave well in and out of lessons. Pupils’ health, safety and well-being high on the school’s agenda.”

Ofsted 2018

Meet Henry

“

“Verulam has provided me with endless support, being an influential factor in helping me to fulfil my potential. I have particularly loved having the opportunity to perform the leading role in the school play, as acting is a career that I am keen to pursue in the future.”

**ACTOR, PHILANTHROPIST
AND HISTORIAN.**

Henry possesses dedication and commitment which has not only led to academic success but also a black belt in Karate.

With a strong moral compass and social conscience, he annually fundraises and supports a national homeless charity by giving up his time to sleep outside to raise awareness of the plight of the poor. Henry also has a passion for History which has resulted in him creating a podcast that was recently played on Verulam Radio.



Co-curricular

Although we educate bright students for bright futures, we value their happiness, encouraging them to realise their passions, understand their self-worth, and own their vulnerabilities, in order to discover their potential.

As Shakespeare notes *“Pleasure and action make the hours seem short.”*

Our rich co-curricular offer is integral to our students' rounded and fulfilling education. The unique offer at Verulam ensures that students enjoy a range of opportunities that make their time here seem to fly by, and they eagerly return each day to experience more. Our Verulam community teaches and encourages students to be inclusive, celebrating our differences whilst cherishing that which binds us together. Verulam is a school for all types of individuals, where all are celebrated and encouraged to thrive. Our co-curricular offer is tailored to suit our wide ranging student and staff passions - if a student has an interest that is not yet fulfilled, we will help them find a way of pursuing it.

Here is an example of some of our existing clubs:

- Rubik's Cube Club
- Orchestra Club
- Spanish Club
- Chess Club
- Coding Club
- Art Club
- Vortic Virtual Reality Club
- STEAM – Science, Technology Engineering, Art and Maths Club
- Debating Club
- Origami Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Basketball Club

Students are encouraged to join any club that they are interested in and to explore new opportunities, regardless of previous experience.

We also boast a range of exciting and innovative links and partnerships within the local community that enhance our co-curricular offer.

On joining Verulam, all pupils are allocated one of six Houses, which hold inter-house competitions in sports and the arts throughout the year, designed to accommodate a range of interests and abilities. Our focus is on participation, leadership and teamwork which allows students to engage with other students across the school community to strive for success together.

In addition, each House participates enthusiastically in a range of long established and new and innovative charitable activities for national and local charities. Fundraising and volunteering are key elements of our enriching Civic Duty Programme.



The Arts

The school has a proud tradition in the Arts. Old Verulamians have been at the top of their fields both in the past and present. There have been outstanding comedians (John Sessions, Simon Evans), playwrights, screenwriters and film directors (Jeremy “Jez” Butterworth), musicians and entertainers (Colin Blunstone, Jim Rodford, Rou Reynolds, Chris Batten, Chris White), artists (Mike Chaplin), record producers (Photek – Rupert Parkes).



Vortic VR

Music

The opportunities for music at Verulam are rich. The Music department is vibrant, lively and fun. There is something for everyone and every year an ever-growing proportion of our students enjoy an extensive programme of instrumental lessons and co-curricular activities, all of which take place in our dedicated suite of music teaching rooms and practise rooms.

There are over a dozen different groups/choirs and clubs on offer including Jazz Band, choir, string group, Samba drum group, brass group, guitar group, Rock School, Junior Band, theory clubs and a Jazz ensemble.

We invite professional musicians into school to work with our students. We also work in partnership with the St Albans Symphony Orchestra to enable our talented singers and musicians the opportunity to work with Tom Hammond, the dynamic, award-winning Principal Conductor, known for his exciting and thoughtful programming and broad repertoire.

Drama

At Verulam we encourage all students to engage in drama to help them improve in a wide range of areas, such as self-confidence, self-esteem, self-expression, communication, collaboration, interpersonal skills, aesthetic awareness and, last but not least, imagination.

We offer the opportunity to participate in two shows per year and the possibilities for enthusiastic pupils are vast due to our popular weekly co-curricular Drama Club and smaller revue shows created by students for students and families.

Students are also encouraged to participate in a 'backstage crew' capacity if they do not wish to be on stage, but still would like to be involved. Our Drama department also boasts strong links with professional actors such as West End star Tarinn Callender (The Drifters Girl, Hamilton, Kiss Me Kate, Dick Whittington and his Cat) to provide workshops for students.

Art

Art and Design provides opportunities for personal expression, encourages imagination, sensitivity and conceptual thought. At Verulam, we believe that this is vital so that students develop the ability to think creatively and thrive in tomorrow's world.

We have a strong partnership with the prestigious Victoria Miro Gallery, London. As a result, we are the first school in the country to provide students with opportunities to engage in the ground-breaking new technology, Vortic VR, enriching their experience of Art and Design. This technology enables our students to engage with over 150 galleries and 30 museum collections in specially curated virtual exhibitions, and enjoy immersive virtual exhibitions from any location through an Oculus VR headset. In addition, students' creativity is developed even further as they learn how to curate - choosing exhibition spaces, considering lighting, framing choices, pedestals etc. to stage virtual exhibitions of their own pieces within the Vortic platform.

Meet James

“

“I’ve really enjoyed my lessons at Verulam as the teachers make learning exciting. I’ve made a lot of friends and enjoy coming in every day.”

TENNIS-PLAYER,
MATHEMATICIAN
AND PHILOSOPHER.

James plays tennis, representing England. He is currently ranked as one of the top 15 under-12s in the country.

A dedicated and passionate tennis player, he also enjoys Maths, Science and History. James also takes great pride in representing the school at a number of events.





Sporting Life

Sport is one of the key components of life at Verulam and students are actively encouraged to adopt an active, healthy lifestyle through not only weekly Physical Education lessons, but also Games. Games lessons are: Rugby (Autumn Term), Football (Spring Term) and Athletics and Cricket (Summer Term). There is also the opportunity for fencing off site at the Paul Davis Fencing Academy.

The School's sports facilities include 7 Rugby and/or Football pitches, a grass cricket square, an astro cricket square, indoor Cricket nets, Sports Hall and a 400 metre grass running track. All students also have access to a fully equipped fitness suite with a range of cardio and resistance machines.

Our students have been highly successful at District and County level at many sports; for example, our u14 Football team in 2019 finished a stunning year in football by reaching the English Schools' Elite National Cup

Final. Experiencing team sport and individual physical activities are important in creating team spirit, positive relationships and pride in individual and team achievements beyond the academic curriculum. Co-curricular competitive sport at Verulam School has always played an integral part of school life.

All students are provided with opportunities to participate in competitive sport at an appropriate level. Specialist coaches assist Verulam students in Table tennis, Badminton, Basketball, Football and Cricket further increasing the number of extra curricular clubs on offer.

Some of our most notable current successes include: Students signed with a range of football clubs including: The England team, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur, MkDons, Queens Park Rangers and Stevenage. Rugby success includes students playing at County and Regional Rugby League level.

Our students also excel at Athletics; for example, one of our students is the South of England Octathlon Champion. We also have District success in a number of disciplines and we have tennis success resulting in one of our team members becoming a member of the England National Team.

The sporting year culminates in our unique take on 'Sports' Day': Verulympics. Whilst our elite athletes compete to beat their personal bests, there are a myriad of other sporting opportunities for our students to try ranging from beach volleyball, to golf, ice-skating and cycling to name but a few.





Meet Aaron

“

“I’ve loved the vast array of opportunities that you can participate in. I’ve had the opportunity to compete in a number of sporting events, as well as to pursue my personal interests in business and media.”

**ACTOR, LEADER
AND ENTREPRENEUR.**

Aaron has enjoyed the supportive environment at Verulam, where all students’ interests and passions are catered for.

Talented in Business Studies, English Literature, Media and History, he has also represented the school as part of the Basketball team. In addition, Aaron is a talented up and coming actor, having starred in a number of televised dramas to date.

SIXTH FORM

SIXTH
FORM

SIXTH
FORM

SIXTH
FORM

THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at Verulam is co-educational and has a strong academic ethos, offering an environment in which students are supported to attain the very highest levels of academic achievement. Following their Sixth Form studies, our students typically progress to Russell Group universities, studying a range of academic courses.

Verulam Sixth Form is open to any student who reaches our entrance criteria, regardless of where they live or which school they have attended. Sixth Form students have full access to a very wide range of courses through our own curriculum and the long-established BeauSandVer Educational Trust, our post-16 consortium with Beaumont and Sandringham schools.

In the Sixth Form, students are given greater academic independence and responsibility for their own learning;

however, our teachers, tutors and Sixth Form Management Team are outstanding and are on hand, willing to help, support and advise. We also recognise the importance of learning beyond the classroom and offer a superb range of super-curricular activities, such as our Engaging Minds lecture programme.

Our Sixth Form students play a vital role in the running of our clubs and societies. They also mentor pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4, volunteer in the local community and organise and support charitable events. In addition, our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team coordinates our termly pupil-led newsletter, supporting and encouraging students across the school to find their voice, and to engage in world news.



Meet George

“

“Being able to participate in so many clubs and societies is something that I’ve really enjoyed at Verulam. I’ve made some amazing friends that have shared my interests and passions. The teaching is excellent and the teachers support you to be your best.”

READER, BIRD
ENTHUSIAST,
AND HISTORIAN.

A regular attendee at STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) club, George also excels in History, Geography, RE and English.

He is fluent in French and a huge Star Wars fan whilst also being passionate about wild birds. He hopes to pursue a career where he can combine all of these passions!



Alumni

The Verulam community has an extensive alumni of parents, students and staff who all share a lifelong connection with the school.

Through professional networks, reunions, social gatherings and academic lectures our community creates connections to support each other, our students, the school and our charitable initiatives.

When students leave Verulam, they automatically become a part of our alumni that includes leaders from every professional field. They'll be joining a register that includes Jez Butterworth (Playwright, film-script writer and film director), Nicholas Crawley (Opera singer), Simon Evans (Stand-up comedian), Peter Kalmus OBE and George Kalmus CBE (Particle physicists), Lawrence Levy (Joint owner of St Albans City Football Club), Jim Rodford (Bass guitarist, played with The Zombies, The Kinks, The Swinging Blue Jeans and Argent), Allan Webster (Professor of Economics).

It's an inclusive and supportive alumni community that helps nurture lifelong friendships, helps students start out on their career path, provides ongoing professional engagement and channels support back to the school.





Verulam for life

At the end of their seven-year journey, our students are 'Verulam for life.' We leave a positive imprint on them so that they not only develop our core values of Excellence, Character and Respect, but are truly themselves, embracing their unique identity, being confident within their own skin and poised to build a positive future upon the academic success that they will have achieved with us.

Verulamians also take with them a strong sense of social responsibility, with the resilience to cope with challenge, disappointment and loss, whilst also being charitable for life, with a deep sense of social justice. They strive for equality, exhibiting empathy and integrity when dealing with others and are flexible, adaptable and resourceful. Their ability to think creatively, as a result of their school experience puts them in good stead for their adult life.

In addition, our students leave as confident, self-assured individuals, with positive mental-health and well-being. They embrace inclusivity, multiculturalism and diversity, exuding a worldly appreciation of other cultures, viewpoints and experiences, that enables them to develop meaningful, trusting relationships and a solid reputation. Our close-knit community also ensures that students develop friendships and memories for life.

An education at Verulam isn't an ordinary education. When our students leave, they possess genuine choices in life, with access to the world's leading universities, and are forever part of a unique family.

They are Verulam for life.





“Students are prepared
well for life after
school.”

Ofsted 2018



VERULAM

SCHOOL

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