

Newsletter



Autumn Term 2021 | Issue 1



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Welcome from the Headteacher



Welcome to our first whole school newsletter, designed to celebrate the numerous events and achievements that have taken place this year. It's been an incredibly busy term and I am so incredibly proud of the school community for all that it has achieved.

As this term draws to a close, I would like to thank parents for their continued support and staff and students for their hard work during these difficult times. A great deal of learning has taken place this term and I am very grateful to teachers who have worked tirelessly in what continues to be a turbulent and ambiguous period for education.

Staffing matters

This term we've said goodbye to the following staff, and we wish them all the best in the next phase of their career: Ms K Bonass, Mrs J Teahan, Miss E Drury, Ms S Dhariwal, Mr J Ducker, Miss R Parker, Mr D Camedoo, Mrs A Hale, Ms D Reed.

I would like to welcome the following new members of staff: Mr C MacKenzie, Head of Drama (from January 2022); Mr M Toley, Teacher of Geography & DoE Lead (from January 2022); Mr M Lewis, Teacher of PSHE/History/RE (from

February 2022); Ms G Welch, Communications/Marketing; Ms A Phillips, 6th Form Learning Supervisor (from January 2022); Mrs S Jekells, Teacher of Business Studies (from January 2022); Mrs V Baudot, Trips Administrator.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and staff a restful Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Miss Richardson
Headteacher

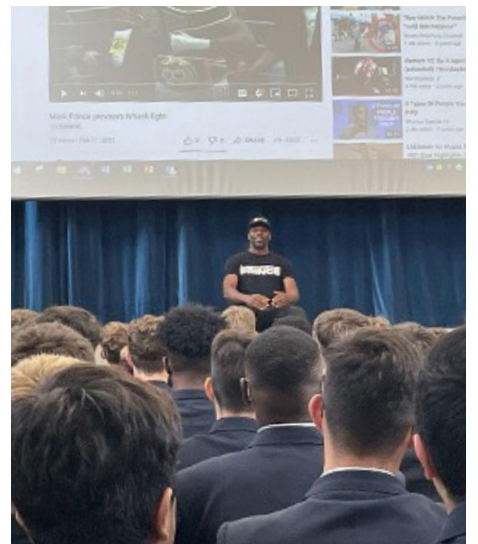
Dr Mark Prince OBE inspirational Year 11 talk

This term Year 11 had the honour of meeting Dr Mark Prince OBE. Prince is the CEO and Founder of the Kiyan Prince Foundation, a charity created following the tragic murder of his fifteen year old son, Kiyan, in 2006. Kiyan was stabbed in the heart, whilst trying to break up a fight outside his school gates.

Prince shared his personal challenges before fatherhood (physical abuse as a child, homelessness, drugs and alcohol abuse and criminal activity) and his transformation in becoming a professional boxer, achieving titles such as the IBF and WBO Inter-continental Light heavyweight Championship by 1997 and fighting for a world title in 1998.

The tragedy of losing his son unleashed a burning desire to support young people embroiled in the downward spiral of urban violence. Prince's story of loss, strength, resilience and forgiveness was an inspiration to all.

By Miss Richardson



Future Champions – with Mark Prince

Following the inspirational talk from Mark Prince to the whole of Year 11 in September, a small group of boys were selected to take part in a 12 week 'Future Champions Programme'.

Taking place on a Wednesday morning, the two hour sessions consisted of an hour of discussion, self-reflection and target setting, followed by an hour of fitness training which includes shadow boxing and bag work.

Attendance at the sessions has been excellent and all the students involved have made significant progress in their commitment and effort.

Quotes from the students involved include,

"It is the highlight of my school week. Mark is amazing, such a hero for what he has been through."

"I've really learnt to look at my future and think about what I really want to achieve in life"

And, "I'm really getting into the boxing sessions, I've never really enjoyed sport, but I am thinking about taking this up outside of school".

All the boys want to say a huge thank you and are looking forward to the final few sessions in January.

By Mr Flack

PSHE/RSE talk on Domestic Violence and Toxic Relationships by Andrew Bernard

As part of our drive to create well-rounded individuals that are able to respect others and know how to form healthy, meaningful relationships, we welcomed Andrew Bernard into the school to speak.

Bernard's talk is designed to help people recognise domestic abuse, appreciate the damaging nature of its

portrayal in the media and 'entertainment', know what to do if they (or someone they know) experiences it, and finally challenge our young men to stop the cycle of violence in their generation.

Bernard shared the story of his sister, Sarah Gosling - murdered by her partner, Ian Hope in 2012. He talked through the ways in which domestic abuse can start

and escalate within relationships. The talk raised awareness of domestic violence and toxic behaviours in relationships, challenging some of the myths around the subject and the responsibilities that everyone holds to bring about meaningful change in society.

By Miss Richardson

Transition Mentors

To add to our extensive transition programme for new Year 7 students, this year we recruited the help of 24 boys from Year 8 who had demonstrated our values of Excellence, Character and Respect throughout their own Year 7.

Carefully selected by their form tutors and head of year Ms McNally, the boys received a lapel badge so they could be easily identified by the younger students. They have undertaken a number of tasks in the first term which include, supporting on transition days and induction days, visiting form groups on a regular basis, and their weekly duty, positioned in the Year 7 playground looking out for those boys who may need an extra 'push' to make some new friends.

They have all been fabulous and have been excellent ambassadors for the school. Mr Jameson, their head of year, who has been coordinating the programme this year has also been super impressed and this is definitely a programme we will be repeating again.

By Mr Flack

Open Events 2021

On September 27th we held our Open Evening. It was a fantastic event, welcoming over 400 families. Year 6 pupils were greeted by staff in each faculty area with inspirational figure Trump cards to collect and play at home. In addition, each area hosted a number of activities to enthuse and inspire our guests in the curriculum and give them a flavour of what learning at Verulam is like.

Open Evening tours were carried out by Year 12 students who were paired with Year 7 students - bringing together old and new experiences to share whilst walking around the site. All of our tour guides and student helpers in subject areas were a credit to the school and to their family.

In addition to Open Evening, we also hosted a number of tours over the course of September and October so that prospective parents could see the school in full operation.

By Miss Richardson



FEED

At the start of the academic year, we completed our annual collection for the FEED charity. We work closely with 'Step' and specifically the FEED initiative to support their excellent charity work and their mission of: 'no one in St. Albans will go hungry'.

This year, we surpassed 4000 items collected with every year group and House actively participating and contributing. Huge thanks to the members of Year 8 who helped count and collate the items this year along with members of 'Step'.

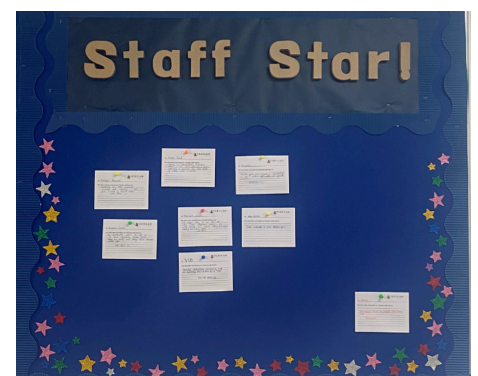
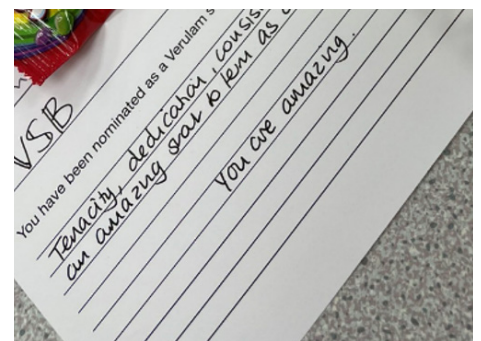


Staff Stars

A new initiative we launched this year allows ALL members of staff to nominate and be nominated as a "Staff Star" for the week. This can be anonymous or declared and each Friday / Monday they are then handed out and staff can enjoy an edible treat.

We have, so far, received 110 nominations for Staff Star since starting this in mid-October. It is only a small token, but staff have enjoyed the delivery of goodies to their classroom and acknowledgement of their efforts & contributions by their colleagues.

By Miss Perry



GB News interview with Year 10 about PSHE/RSE lessons with Survivors UK



In October we were approached by news presenter, Ellie Costello from GB News regarding the PSHE/RSE lessons at Verulam that had been co-delivered by the charity Survivors UK.

This term, Year 10 focused on Relationships, examining what makes a relationship healthy/unhealthy, control, abuse and discussing consent. To support the delivery of these topics we engaged with Survivors UK who delivered a series of workshops.

Sam Thompson, an outreach worker from the charity focused on the issue of sexual violence towards men and the stigma that exists in society, affecting men reporting attacks and speaking out to access help. Boys were shocked to learn that 1 in 6 men are the

victims of sexual violence, as opposed to 1 in 3 women. In addition, boys were told of the shocking statistic that the average male victim takes 26 years to disclose an attack to anyone.

They discussed the impact that carrying such trauma must have on male mental health and the importance of normalising the conversation about men being victims so that they are supported to speak out to access support if needed.

Ellie Costello interviewed two of our Year 10 boys about the impact of the workshops and their views on the importance of learning about such subject matter.

By Miss Richardson



A revamp to the Library



During the COVID bubble year, our Library was out of action. To celebrate its re-opening, a fresh style was introduced ready to welcome pupils. Alongside introducing over 50 new titles and a brand-new layout by genre, new displays were created to provide pupils with a reading environment.

In October, our main theme was Black History Month, championing new titles such as Olusoga's Black and British, Akala's Natives, Zoboi and Salaam's Punching in the Air and Abike-Iyimide's Ace of Spades to name a few. Our Black Panther cut out represented Marvel's historical inspiration of the women warriors of Dahomey. The end of October witnessed our own Halloween display with

books that looked like a pumpkin! In November, we commemorated Remembrance by championing numerous titles, from classics such as War Horse and All Quiet on the Western Front, to new titles such as Five Children on the Western Front and Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story.

We also had a remembrance table dedicated to two ex-students that fought and died in World War Two, with their names on display next to a poppy wreath.

In December, we created our very own Christmas tree from green books – a little gem to get pupils in the festive spirit!

By Mr Pettitt

The Stephen Lawrence Day Unity Awards



The Stephen Lawrence Day Unity Awards were hosted on Sunday, 31st October at Lingfield Park RaceCourse.

The event and awards ceremony was in celebration of young people, who took part in the previously organised KickOff@3 Stephen Lawrence Day Unity Live Stream event on 22nd April.

At the event, Year 12 student Uma represented Verulam School, singing and performing for the crowd. After our Awards Ceremony

all participants enjoyed the race course. Lingfield Park was also celebrating black history on the day.

There were a number of other live musical performances by Kick Pistol, Boy Sayso, Yarnee Clothing, Hearts of Talent and many more. There was also a live DJ set. Recent award winners Youth Unity assisted with the young performers.

Kickoff@3 hosted this Youth Awards in partnership with Lingfield Park RaceCourse,

Take The Reins, Proud & Gifted and The Metropolitan Black Police Association.

By Miss Richardson





Mental Health and Well-Being week #HelloYellow

World Mental Health Day on 10th October

Heads of Year and Form Tutors held discussions during the week about how we can regulate our own mental health and well-being, in addition to the support that is on offer both in and out of school.

Our new Mental Health and Well-Being boards which are displayed around the school were also promoted. It has been great to see students accessing the support via the QR codes this term.

The focus in Mr Tansley's assemblies to all year groups was that changing our reaction to events is key and that we must be conscious that there is always another way to view an event.

Next term there will be a push to discover how resilience in school can help promote positive mental health.



Thank you to all students, staff and parents who got involved with this, and as a school we raised an incredible **£555**, which is a fantastic amount.

By Mr Tansley



#HelloYellow is a national initiative aimed at raising funds for the charity YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. We asked our staff, students and parents to join in this fundraising effort by accessorising with yellow.

Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication – St Albans Cathedral

On Friday 22nd October the whole Verulam School community walked to the Cathedral in Autumn sunshine to continue a decades-old tradition, named colloquially as 'Abbey Service'. It was fantastic to all be together again and with over 200 parents the nave was overflowing. We were joined by two previous Headteachers: Mr Bob Hawks and Mr Paul Ramsey.

This year's theme was 'It's Good to Talk' and addressed what has been for all of us a most unusually challenging eighteen months. The role of talking in our return to a new normal was explored along three lines of thought: across the world and at home politics and society has become more partisan and individualist, we need good dialogue; our Verulam School community is built on good personal communication and finally, we all need to have good mental conversations in our own minds and thinking. In all three areas it is 'Good to Talk' and talking is good.

As well as a celebration of students' achievements in STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths), students and staff read a rich

variety of talking-related pieces including: A Jewish prayer of thanksgiving, Words by Gillian Clarke, On Talking by Kahil Gibran and The Muslim Prayer for Peace (in English and Arabic).

Our guest speaker, the Reverend Austin Janes from The Church of the Resurrection, Hemel Hempstead, collated our thoughts around the simplicity of a child asking parents to help when the going got tough.

Our VIP guests included CEO David Barker and Rachel Simkins Head of Fundraising at Youth Talk. A local charity working with young people with mental health needs. I'm delighted to say that through a range of fund-raising activities, the Senior Prefect Team raised £2,000 for this excellent cause.

By Mr Hall



High Sheriff Awards

Each year the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire has the privilege of awarding organisations for their contribution to the community, when assessed against specific criteria associated with the High Sheriff's theme or objectives. This year the chosen theme was 'Youth in Herts' nominations were solicited for organisations to be awarded under the following themes:

1. Empowering Young People to become today's leaders
2. Supporting Young People to serve in unique or new areas of community life
3. Promoting Youth engagement in the Magistracy

Our School Captain, Huw was accompanied by Year 13 student Charlie, to assist the High Sheriff in assessing the merits of the nominated organisations as part of a panel on Thursday 28th October 2021. Both Huw and Charlie represented the school well and supported the High Sheriff to identify worthwhile winners.

By Miss Richardson



Reuben Arthur visits for BHM 2021

From the 11th to the 15th October, Reuben Arthur visited Verulam School and spoke to students about Black History as part of BHM 2021.

Reuben Arthur (born 12 October 1996) is a British male track and field sprinter who specialises in the 100 metres. He was a relay gold medallist with England at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, leading off the team of Zharnel Hughes, Richard Kilty, and Harry Aikines-Aryeetey.

Born in Islington, London, he represented Great Britain in

age category competitions, including the World Youth Championships in Athletics, World Junior Championships in Athletics, European Athletics Junior Championships and European Athletics U23 Championships. He won his first international medal at the 2017 European Athletics U23 Championships, taking a silver with the 4 × 100 metres relay team including Theo Etienne, Kyle de Escofet and Ojie Edoorun.

He joined Enfield and Haringey Athletic Club and worked with coaches Edwin Stevens and Jonas Doodoo.

He went on to study at Goldsmiths, University of London and won the British Universities 100 metres title in 2017.

Arthur spoke passionately about his journey in athletics and the importance of acknowledging that Black History is taking place every day.

Students and staff were excited to meet him and were treated to the opportunity to wear his gold medal!

By Miss Richardson



Flight School

This year saw the launch of Flight School at Verulam. Each week the students have been offered a range of activities with an aviation theme. The programme has been designed to be inclusive of all students with a range of skills. The activities range from model making and aviation design to knowledge of aircraft.

The first few weeks have been spent watching the classic film, 633 Squadron before moving onto Airfix model making.

The students have been working together to share resources and ideas on what to build and how.

We have been lucky to receive donations from outside Verulam School and also from parents. Donations have included paints, models, books, DVDs and we have even been lucky enough to be donated real parts from a range of aircraft.

The new year will see the students continuing to complete their mural of aircraft and then begin working on aviation aerodynamics, flying machines and edible planes.

Please follow
@verulamgeogHOD #Flightschool
for past and further updates.

By Mr Woodville



Verulam School Council

The Autumn Term has seen the Verulam School Council Representatives having fun outside of the classroom whilst acquiring vital life skills. On Friday 12th November, the boys planted their very own Verulam Orchard consisting of 20 fruit trees – Apple Self Fertile Cox's; Apple Katy; Apple Bramley; Plum Victoria; Pear Conference; Pear William and Cherry Sunburst were some of the varieties planted. Each boy was able to choose a tree and name their own tree which set their imagination alive and over the years, the boys will be able to watch their trees grow and bear fruit. The trees chosen for this will yield fruit within two years of planting and the boys look forward to picking the fruit and transforming it into tasty morsels in their DT lessons. The boys also planted 100 bluebell bulbs - we are all looking forward to seeing them bloom in May 2022!

For the Queen's Jubilee next year, Hertfordshire County Council are giving each school in Hertfordshire a tree to plant on their site to mark the occasion. Miss Richardson decided that this job should go to the enthusiastic School Council tree-planters! The boys were delighted and chose a Silver Birch from

the selection on offer which was planted on Friday 3rd December.

The Verulam School Community are looking forward to watching all their trees grow over the years and they will no doubt continue to be a focal point for the boys. We have had fun!

By Mrs Wright





Over the course of the Autumn term, we ran Verulam School's first ever Smile-ing Boys' Project - the creation of internationally acclaimed artist, Kay Rufai, in order to promote positive mental well-being for BAME (Black and Minority Ethnicity) boys in the United Kingdom. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2020/mar/18/portraits-black-teenagers-south-london-mental-health>

The purpose of the project is to encourage engagement and reflection of one's identity as a young black male growing up in London, allowing the boys the opportunity to explore issues around stereotypes, pressures, a sense of belonging, representation in the media etc. so that they are able to feel a sense of self-worth and pride, making positive choices as they come of age.

Over the course of the project, the boys participate in weekly workshops, ending with each pupil having their portrait taken, to celebrate their identity and heritage, whilst simultaneously promoting images of black boys smiling – a contrast to the common negative depictions of this group

perpetuated by the media. After the portraits are taken, the boys enjoy a group lunch, celebrating and bonding with one another. This project has been hugely successful for us at Verulam School, improving our boys' sense of self-worth, enabling them to recognise the importance of embracing one's culture and uniqueness, and in allowing them a safe space to explore issues around race and identity.

In order to showcase this wonderful project, St Albans Museum held an exhibition of the portraits, following a grand opening night that was attended by the boys, their parents, staff and a number of other community leaders and VIPs such as Stuart Lawrence, Dr Mark Prince OBE, the honourable Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lionel Wallace, Action Jackson and CEO of KickOff@3, Michael Wallace.

By Miss Richardson

The Road to Independence

Guest Lecture Series 2021-2022

To develop a stronger 'academic culture' in my Indian Independence A Level History course, coupled with advice from the history educator community about getting historians into A Level courses, I created an enrichment guest lecture programme made up of a range of speakers. These speakers include professors, lecturers and an MBE who will visit Verulam to deliver talks and offer a Q&A afterwards.

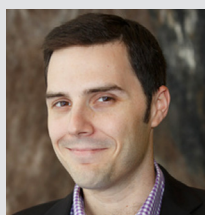
In November, we welcomed Dr Mark Condos in person, a lecturer and historian at Kings College London, interested in the intersections between violence, race, and law within the British and French Empires, with a particular focus on India and Algeria. In 2013, he received his PhD from the University of Cambridge. His research has examined the relationship between militarism, violence, and state-building in colonial Punjab and along the North-West Frontier of British India. Dr Condos delivered a thought-provoking lecture on India's contribution and involvement in World War One. This lecture not only gave our History A Level students an excellent insight into the topic, but also acted as an act

of remembrance, given it was in November.

In December, we welcomed Dr John McAleer remotely, an Associate Professor in History at the University of Southampton. He is a historian of the British Empire, with his work focusing on the British encounter and engagement with the wider world in the 18th and 19th centuries, situating the history of empire in its global and maritime contexts. Before joining Southampton, John was Curator of Imperial and Maritime History at the Greenwich National Maritime Museum. Dr McAleer again delivered an interesting lecture centred on tracing the rise and fall of the British Raj through six key buildings, using architecture as a motif to study the topic.

On both occasions, our A Level History students asked pertinent and thought-provoking questions, a real asset to the school.

By Mr Pettitt



Mark Condos



John McAleer

Children in Need

Like many schools across the country, we supported the amazing work of Children in Need on Friday 19th November.

As well as using the resources from bbcchildreninneed.co.uk during Tutor Time, we ensured Form assemblies were linked to the CiN aim: "CHANGING YOUNG LIVES ACROSS THE UK"; a principle we feel incredibly passionately about. We managed to nearly reach our goal of £1000 (£934) and loved seeing our students express themselves through non-uniform day for such a worthwhile cause.





verulamschool.co.uk

Non-uniform day

**Friday 19th November
for BBC Children In Need**

Please pay £1 on Parent Mail or bring cash on the day. All monies raised will be given directly to the charity.

Children may wear an outfit of their choice including costumes, pyjamas, sports kits.

Please keep in mind the weather and ensure your child is suitably dressed for outdoor activities.

We look forward to seeing your outfits on the day!




www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk

Sixth Form CED

Year 12 and Year 13 students were set a challenge, to use this CED as an opportunity to explore one of the world's greatest cities; London.

Students completed a Treasure Hunt that necessitated checking in at 10 of the most important cultural, economic, historic, scientific and political locations the city has to offer. Working out

the 'Object' and 'Location' was the easy bit, students had to plan the most efficient route using only the tube and walking! Staff were in the vicinity of each location, with students tasked with completing the 10 clues in about 5 hours (30mins per clue!) all evidenced via Selfie Pics.

By Mr Base



'The Drifters Girl' Theatre Trip

On Tuesday the 23rd of November we were privileged to take forty students from Year 8, 9, and 10 into London to see the new West End show, 'The Drifters Girl', which follows the story of Faye Tredwell and her involvement with the smash hit group The Drifters.

Feedback from the students was very consistent about some of

the highlights of the show being the incredible talent of the cast and the outstanding stage and lighting design that was used, but mostly students were just so excited to experience a West End production and have an amazing night out!

After the show students were able to meet Tarinn Callender, one of the cast members and an

ex-student of Miss Richardson's. Tarinn, who plays a cacophony of characters in the musical, was kind enough to talk to some students and take some photos with them. This was such an exciting trip for all involved and we can't wait for the next one!

By Miss Parker



Royal Academy of Arts Trip

Following previous exciting trips to the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, on Tuesday 23rd November we were happy to take twenty Year 10 Art students and five Year 12 Photography students into London to see the much anticipated 'Summer Exhibition 2021'.

The Summer Exhibition showcases the world's most joyful art exhibition. From icons to the up-and-coming, a selection of 1,300 works selected by coordinator Yinka Shonibare and a panel of artists, under the theme of 'Reclaiming Magic' were exhibited. In addition to the exhibition, Mr Forsyth arranged for the A Level Photography and Art Students to have a private behind the scenes tour of the academy / drawing studios by Royal Academician (Prof. Gordon Benson RA) a real behind the scenes treat and privilege! The students had a thoroughly enjoyable

time, some of the comments from our Year 10 students:

"I was surprised at the size of the gallery. It was my first visit and I didn't realise how calm and relaxed the atmosphere would be".

"The scale of the works, both big and small and being able to see them up close and in detail was really interesting".

"I was surprised that the most expensive piece of work was much smaller than I imagined".

"I enjoyed having the independence to walk around and take photos of the work I liked and then to be able to sit and draw it in my sketch book and write about it".

An informative and fun trip which we hope to do again soon!

By Ms Watford



Remembrance Service



Poppies adorned the windows at the front of school for our Remembrance service in November.

A beautiful, collaborative effort between the History and English departments, Year 7 dedicated their poppies to an individual or group who served, while Year 8 wrote a couple of lines of poetry on theirs inspired by war poems. The Last Post was played by our own students while we took time to remember those who served, fell and protected us.



His Excellency the High Commissioner of St Kitts visits to see Verulam Smile-ing Boys

On Monday 22nd November, His Excellency Dr Kevin M. Isaac, the High Commissioner of St Kitts was accompanied by the honourable Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lionel Wallace on a visit to Verulam School to see a preview of the Smile-ing Boys Project.

Dr Kevin M. Isaac assumed his responsibilities as St. Kitts and Nevis' High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on January 12, 2011.

High Commissioner Isaac is also St. Kitts and Nevis Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO); its non-resident Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Governor to the Board of the Commonwealth Secretariat. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board Governors of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Previously, Mr. Isaac served as Advisor in the cabinet of the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC and as Coordinator of that Organization's 28 Country Offices throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr Isaac joined his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992 and has been a substantial resource to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs having served broadly as a Foreign Service officer. Following a period of service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as Deputy Permanent Representative and Charge d'Affaires ad interim at the St. Kitts and Nevis Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. He later served as Minister Counsellor/Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires at the St. Kitts and Nevis Embassy to the United States of America and as Minister Counsellor/Alternate Representative and Interim Representative in the St. Kitts and Nevis Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, also in Washington DC. Kevin Isaac is a career diplomat and a graduate of the University

of the West Indies; the University of Birmingham (UK) and the University of Warwick (UK). He holds a Bachelor's degree in French and Spanish, a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations, a Master's degree in Diplomacy and Statecraft, and an LLM in International Economic Law. In 2012, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Birmingham, (UK). At the time of his appointment as High Commissioner in 2011, Kevin Isaac was the youngest and first career diplomat of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to be elevated to the rank of High Commissioner/Ambassador. He was named Diplomat of the Year for North America and the Caribbean in April 2015 at the Diplomat Magazine Annual Award presentation held in London.

By Miss Richardson



Christmas Pantomime

It has been such a pleasure to work with some of the Year 7's and 8's this term to prepare for our annual Verulam Christmas Pantomime! I was very lucky to spend part of my summer writing this script, and with the help of Ms Foster we were able to present it to the students as our script for this year's show!

Students auditioned for a role in 'Harry Potter: The Pantomime' shortly before the October half term, and rehearsals started on the first day back after their break. During this period students have worked hard to memorise their lines in preparation for three shows, one being a matinee performed to students from Fleetville on the 16th of December.

Some students were also given the opportunity to take part in

the production in a 'non-acting' capacity, and students assumed the roles of assistant director, stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, front of house manager and backstage hands. This opportunity gave students an insight to other roles and jobs that drama can lead to.

While scene rehearsals sat on a Monday after school, Ms Foster also offered characterisation workshops to the actors so that they could better prepare for their characters.

I want to say a special thank you to ALL the staff and students who have been involved in this production in any capacity, you have truly made my last hurrah here at Verulam a spectacular one!

By Miss Parker



Year 11 into 12 Celebration

Verulam like to celebrate the successes of all the students who have been successful in their GCSE / Level 2 qualifications and made it onto the Sixth Form. On Thursday 2nd December, we invited all parents and carers to the school to share in this year group's achievements.



We were joined by Vice Chair of Governors, Mr Mark Kennedy and Mr David Barker, Chief Executive, Youth Talk, our nominated charity for the Abbey Service. Prizes were awarded for progress, academic excellence, subject prizes as well as two overall 'Students of the Year', nominated by Head of Year, Mr Tromans. Congratulations to all our students and prize winners, but especially Head of Year Award winner, Kevin and Head of Year Commendation winner Elliot.

Many thanks to new Year 12 student, Elise who beautifully played the piano at the start of the event. Mr Base, Head of Sixth Form, noted how well this year group had embraced life in our Sixth Form and are continuing to be successful both academically and in their wider contributions to the school.

By Mr Flack



Christmas Jumper Day 2021

On Friday 10th December, we invited staff and students to celebrate the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

We had garments of all types; some very traditional and some that were a little more modern! Pupils of all ages made the effort as well as many members of staff too.

By Miss Perry



**Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

St Albans City FC Education Programme



Verulam School is proud to announce a new partnership with St Albans City FC.

From September 2022 the Club's Education Programme will allow talented footballers to study their A Levels at Verulam.

Please see our website for the Sixth Form entry requirements.

By Miss Richardson



House of Commons Visit

The Verulam Geography Upper 6th were lucky enough to be supported by local MP Daisy Cooper in arranging a visit to the House of Commons. The students who study geopolitics within their A-Level are becoming more focused towards international relations and political tension closer to home.

The aim was to take a small group of interested students to experience these iconic buildings and the day began with students organising their own route into London. We entered the airport style security to arrive within the gates of the House of Commons before starting our guided tours in the main hall. Unfortunately, no cameras were allowed but photos would not do justice to what we saw. The students were taken into the lobby and the reason for naming was explained. We were shown the MPs post office, hairdresser and the working pigeon holes. The grandeur was breath-taking.

Afterwards the students had access to the chamber, past the famous Black Rod to the side chambers where the real voting takes place. The students learned that any votes are only given 8 minutes

to be decided. If you miss the deadline, you miss the vote. Finally the students were taken around to the MP's benches. Seeing the famous green benches was quite an experience. We walked across the forbidden red line out of the chamber of the House of Lords. This was unexpected. The red benches had a different level of grandeur. The priceless Royal throne is made of 23 1/2 carat gold leaf. The tour concluded with more tales, knowledge and reason for events which left the students with many more questions to be explored.

Following our departure we made some time for tours of Downing Street and Horse Guards Parade before making some Christmas wishes under the Trafalgar Square tree.

Please follow @verulamgeogHOD #VG 6th form #VGU6 #VGL6 for past and further updates.

By Mr Woodville





Sporting Triumphs

It has been great to have so many boys participating in clubs and fixtures this term. Rugby fixtures have proved very successful with friendly victories against Sandringham, Sir John Lawes, Nicholas Breakspear and Bancroft. We are hoping for County Cups to commence in the new year.

The senior side did very well in the National Cup, eventually losing to a strong side from Colchester Royal Grammar School in the last 16. Football friendly fixtures have also occurred combined with some great County Cup results. Currently the year 7a, 7b, 8, 11 sides are all still in their retrospective competitions.

The Year 9 basketball league started with the boys losing their opening fixture but they have won all of their games since. Our first silverware of the year came from the KS4 boys badminton team who won the District Badminton Tournament held here at Verulam. The KS3 side came second and both represented the District in the County Finals. With the KS4 team coming third overall. We also hosted the District Table Tennis tournament in which the boys performed very well only losing narrowly to eventual winners St Albans Boys School. The Cross Country team also performed very well with the Inter Boys winning the District League and coming 4th in the regional round of the National Cross

Country Cup, narrowly missing out on making the National Final.

Other notable sporting performances have been ever present over the duration of this academic year. They vary from football to archery and the amount of success has been astounding. To begin with, Sixth former Huw has been a key player throughout St. Albans FC's notable FA Cup run and this was amplified with his goal in the final qualifying round and appearance in the first and second rounds of the competition on live TV. More football acknowledgements arose in Year 10 with Kai C being called up to the England U15 squad.

Our boys also flourished in a variety of other sports including noticeable success for Midas who won a silver medal in the Archery GB National Indoor Championships and Thomas H, who came 23rd at the U17 European Fencing Circuit in Bulgaria. With a combined 221 fencers from across the globe, Thomas was the second highest GB fencer at the event. In addition to this, Year 10 student Xav and his Gaelic Team took part in the All Britain Competition and won becoming U15 British Champions. Former student Oli was also selected to take part in the Tour of Britain and performed magnificently.

By Mr Errington



The Verulam Charitable Trust

At Verulam we believe our students deserve a first-class education that equips them to become confident, responsible and articulate young people who can succeed in their personal and professional lives. The Verulam Charitable Trust (VCT) was established to support Verulam School in its goal of helping your son or daughter to achieve excellence.

Previous donations to the VCT have funded the new school gym and the refurbishment of the science laboratory which now houses our popular STEM club. This year we are planning the refurbishment of our music block in addition to the creation of a new multi-purpose pitch to further improve our sports offering.

How you can help

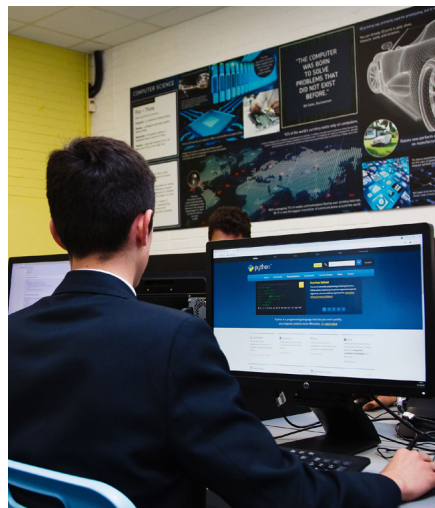
Funding challenges make us more reliant than ever on the involvement and support of our community. It is only through the support and generosity of parents, grandparents, our PTA and our Alumni that we can continue to provide the opportunities we aspire to and help your son or daughter achieve their potential. We ask our parents, grandparents and wider

community to consider making a monthly or single donation to the Verulam Charitable Trust. We know that for some this is difficult and might not be achievable every month, but we ask you to please give what you feel able to.

The Government's Gift Aid scheme allows us to reclaim tax on donations, which means that for every £1 you give to VCT, we can reclaim 25p from the Inland Revenue. All the monies received will be used to add value to your son or daughter's education, giving them opportunities to flourish in ways that Verulam School would not otherwise be able to afford.

To Donate

The simplest and most effective way to contribute is through a Gift Aid donation. Please email finance@verulam.herts.sch.uk and they will be happy to help you set up a donation.



School Captain, Huw, signed a contract with St Albans City FC

This term, our School Captain, Huw, signed a contract with St Albans City FC.

Midfielder Huw, continues to be an excellent role model and ambassador for the school. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing his football career go from strength to strength!



Verulam Lunch Menus

Lunch Week 1

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER TOPPED WITH CHEESE AND SERVED WITH SOUR CREAM	CHICKEN ENCHILADAS TOPPED WITH CHEESE AND SERVED WITH SOUR CREAM	SPAGHETTI BOLORESE	CHICKEN CURRY SERVED WITH PILAU RICE	BREADED FISH FINGERS, CHIPS WITH PEAS & TARTARE SAUCE
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	ONION BHAJI BURGERS SERVED WITH MINT AND YOGHURT SAUCE	VEGETARIAN CHICKEN CHILLI SERVED WITH SAVOURY RICE	BROCCOLI PASTA BAKE	SPINACH AND LENTIL CURRY SERVED WITH PILAU RICE	CHEESE & TOMATO QUICHE
STREET FOOD	KOREAN CHICKEN BAC BUNS WITH SOUTH ASIAN SLAW	VEGETABLE KATHI WRAP LOADED WITH SPICY VEGGIES AND RICE	CHICKEN DORO PITITAS WITH PEPPERS TZATZIKI	MEXICAN BEAN SALAD TORTILLA ROLL	LOADED HOT DOGS WITH A CHOICE OF CHILLI MUSTARD & CHONOS OR PULLES FISH TOPPING
TAKEAWAY TUBS	MEATBALLS ITALIANO	SPICY CHICKEN WINGS	CHICKEN ALFREDO	CHILLI BEEF CON CARNE	BBQ CHICKEN WINGS
PIZZA SLICE	PENNE ARRABBIATA	ONION BHAJI WITH MINT SAUCE	SPAGHETTI POMODORO	MAC 'N' CHEESE	PATATAS BRAVAS
JACKETS	MARGHERITA PEPPERONI	MOZZARELLA & PINEAPPLE HAWAIIAN	MARGHERITA SPICY CHICKEN	TOMATO GREEN CHILLI MOZZARELLA AMERICAN HOT	MARGHERITA BBQ CHICKEN
DESSERTS	HOT BANANA CAKE WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE	CHOCOLATE SAUCE & ICE CREAM	APPLE CRUMBLE & ICE CREAM	BAKED WELL TART	

Meal Deal
Main Meal With Vegetables And Dessert

Lunch Week 2

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	HOMEMADE LAMB BURGER SERVED WITH BUNT SAUCE	BEEF BURRITOS	HOMEMADE BEEF LASAGNE	CHICKEN CHOW MEIN	TUNA & SWEETCORN FINGERES SERVED WITH SWEET CHILLI SAUCE
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	VEGETABLE BURGER	VEGETABLE LASAGNE	MAC 'N' CHEESE	CAULIFLOWER & POTATO CURRY	ROAST BELL PEPPER PASTA
STREET FOOD	PERI PERI CHICKEN POTS WITH CHOICE OF SIDES	CHICKEN FISH TACOS WITH SALSA & SOUR CREAM	SHAM KESAB LAMB PATTY IN A BROSCHIO RUM WITH LENTILS & MANGO CHUTNEY	HALLOUMI & GUNDA FLATBREADS SERVED WITH SALAD	KATSU CHICKEN BURGER WITH RED CARBON SLAW
TAKEAWAY TUBS	MEATBALLS ITALIANO	SPICY CHICKEN WINGS	CHICKEN ALFREDO	CHILLI BEEF CON CARNE	BBQ CHICKEN WINGS
PIZZA SLICE	PENNE ARRABBIATA	ONION BHAJI WITH MINT SAUCE	SPAGHETTI POMODORO	MAC 'N' CHEESE	PATATAS BRAVAS
JACKETS	MARGHERITA PEPPERONI	MOZZARELLA & PINEAPPLE HAWAIIAN	MARGHERITA SPICY CHICKEN	TOMATO GREEN CHILLI MOZZARELLA AMERICAN HOT	MARGHERITA BBQ CHICKEN
DESSERTS	JAM & COCONUT SPONGE WITH ICE CREAM	STICKY TOFFEE APPLE	STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE	LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE WITH ICE CREAM	CHOCOLATE BROWNIE WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE

Meal Deal
Main Meal With Vegetables And Dessert

Lunch Week 3

All our ingredients are locally sourced and delivered fresh by local suppliers. Our eggs are free-range and Red Lion stamped, our fish is sustainably sourced and MSC approved and our meat is British Red Tractor accredited wherever possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	TURKEY BURGER	CHILLI CON CARNE WITH SALSA & SOUR CREAM	CHICKEN & MUSHROOM PIE	SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN	BATTERED FISH WITH PEAS & TARTARE SAUCE
PLANT BASED / VEGETARIAN	STUFFED PEPPER WITH SAVOURY RICE	QUORN CHILLI BURGERS WITH SALSA & SOUR CREAM	VEGETABLE LASAGNE	VEGETABLE STIR FRY NOODLES	MUSHROOM STROGANOFF
STREET FOOD	CHICKEN SHAWARMA FLATBREAD WITH SPICY VEGGIES AND RICE	SPICY BEEF BURRITOS WITH FRESH SALSA AND SPICY RICE	LAMB Kofta FLATBREAD SERVED WITH TZATZIKI AND SALAD	TINA GREEN CHICKEN CURRY TORTILLA BOWLS	ONION BHAJI FLATBREAD WITH SWEET CHILLI SLAW
TAKEAWAY TUBS	MEATBALLS ITALIANO	SPICY CHICKEN WINGS	CHICKEN ALFREDO	CHILLI BEEF CON CARNE	BBQ CHICKEN WINGS
PIZZA SLICE	PENNE ARRABBIATA	ONION BHAJI WITH MINT SAUCE	SPAGHETTI POMODORO	MAC 'N' CHEESE	PATATAS BRAVAS
JACKETS	MARGHERITA PEPPERONI	MOZZARELLA & PINEAPPLE HAWAIIAN	MARGHERITA SPICY CHICKEN	TOMATO GREEN CHILLI MOZZARELLA AMERICAN HOT	MARGHERITA BBQ CHICKEN
DESSERTS	STEARDED TREACLE SPONGE & CUSTARD	PANCAKE BAR	BANOFFEE PIE	APPLE TURNOVER WITH CUSTARD	ICE CREAM VAN

Meal Deal
Main Meal With Vegetables And Dessert

Engaging Minds Lectures

The Engaging Minds programme consists of an annual lecture series covering a wide range of cultural, political, sporting, business, current affairs and global issues taking place each Friday afternoon in the school hall.

Students complete preparatory work in their form time in the week prior to each presentation and there are opportunities for small groups of students to have lunch with the speakers. The programme is designed to enable students to broaden their experience and understanding of various aspects of contemporary culture. The talks are intended to pique students' interest in a range of topics and to inspire them to pursue the issues further through independent learning or tutor group discussion.

Christian Harral-Baker and Alex Astley. Our planned lectures for Spring 2022 are as follows:

07/01/22 -
Jennie Potts
Mama Bamboo

14/01/22 -
Robert Voss CBE CSt J
Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire

21/01/22 - **Generation 2**
Holocaust remembrance charity

28/01/22 -
Spencer Caminsky
Shout Out UK

04/02/22 -
Matthew Goodwin
Professor of Politics

11/03/22 -
David Lloyd
Police and Crime Commissioner

18/03/22 -
Linda Ritchie
Chemical Engineer

25/03/22 -
Andrew Ridings
Lawyer/Legal Recruitment Partner

This term we have enjoyed speakers including Daisy Cooper MP, acclaimed psychological crime writer Rachel Blok and Verulam Alumni

PTA

Verulam PTA strives to support the school by raising supplementary funds through a variety of events and initiatives which will help the school provide the best possible learning environment, facilities and opportunities for all the students.

The PTA also works to promote a positive and welcoming whole-school community ethos by providing opportunities to bring Verulam parents together, whether this is through social events such as quiz nights or through helping out at school events such as Open Day, concerts or information evenings.

If your child is new to Verulam or if you've been here a while, joining the PTA is a great way to get to know other parents while knowing you are making a real difference to our school and community. If you would like to get involved please email admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk to express your interest in supporting the PTA.



Dates for your Diary

Wed 5th January - Inset Day

Thurs 6th January - Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 in school for testing only

Fri 7th January - Year 8, 9 and 10 in school for testing. Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 return

Mon 10th January - Year 8, 9 and 10 return

Tues 11th January - Year 9 Immunisations

Thurs 13th January - Into the Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

Tues 18th January - Sixth Form Open Morning Tour

Wed 19th January - Year 13 Parent Teacher Consultations

Thurs 20th January - Curriculum Enrichment Day

Mon 24th January - A Level History Guest Lecture

Tues 25th January - Year 9 Options Evening

Fri 4th February - Sixth Form Application Deadline

Mon 7th February - Year 10 Parent Teacher Consultations

Wed 9th to Sunday 13th February - Sociology Trip to New York

Thurs 10th to Sunday 13th February - Geography Trip to Norway

Thurs 10th February - Inset Day

Fri 11th February - Inset Day

Mon 14th to Fri 18th February - Half Term Break

Mon 21st February - First student day back

Wed 2nd March - Curriculum Enrichment Day

Wed 9th March - Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultations

Mon 4th to Mon 18th April - Easter Holidays

Please note that all dates are subject to change as per current government guidelines and restrictions.



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VERULAM
SCHOOL