

Newsletter



Spring Term | Issue 2



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Welcome from the Headteacher



Welcome to our second whole school newsletter, designed to celebrate the numerous events and achievements that have taken place over the course of this term. Although the Spring term is a short one, there has been a great deal going on at Verulam.

We started the new year spreading the news of our new inclusive Sixth Form Dress Code and the removal of the mention of hair from our behaviour policies. As a school we are striving to have values that are lived and not laminated and these changes exemplify how we are striving to create a more inclusive environment where all pupils are encouraged to feel comfortable within their own skin.

As we approach the break, examinations for Years 11 and Year 13 come ever closer. Despite the turbulence in education caused by Covid-19, we are confident that our students are ready for the challenge that is ahead of them.

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: Miss Purnell, Director of Science; Mrs Farquarson, PA to the Headteacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and staff a restful Easter break.

Miss Richardson

Miss Richardson
Headteacher

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Rosie Llewelyn-Jones

Rosie Llewelyn-Jones visited Verulam School on Monday 24th January to deliver an informative lecture to us on India during the Second World War. Throughout her talk, she emphasised how crucial the Indian army was to the success of the war effort; it was the largest volunteer army in the world, contributing over 2.5 million soldiers by August 1945. This, compared to the 205,000 Indian soldiers at the beginning of the war in September 1939, demonstrates the extent to how committed the Indian people were to the war effort.

Rosie highlighted how ironic this was that, although under the oppressive rule of the British, the Indian army was determined to fight for the British regime in an attempt to gain greater freedom. Furthermore, Rosie then went on to compare the philosophies of two iconic social activists:

Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose. She evaluated how effective each of their policies were in gaining Indian Independence post WW2.

Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, politician and peaceful revolutionist who led the 'Quit India Movement' of August 1942, leading to his arrest and Bose was a Bengali intellectual, who was elected as head of Congress in 1937. Both activists had the same aim - swaraj (self-rule). However, Gandhi aimed to achieve this by non-violent protest, whereas Bose believed that the only way to abolish British rule was by violence. She concluded that Gandhi's approach, although mostly unsuccessful due to his arrest and how some of his protests turned violent, was the most effective method in achieving independence in August 1947.



Roderick Matthews Paul Fletcher

It is extremely important that we remember and commemorate the Indian effort during WW2 and throughout their time under colonial rule. Not only was this lecture a credit to the A Level History Indian Independence course, but it was also a credit to students' wider knowledge around the curriculum; it helped visualise the reality of the British during their repressive reign in India.

By Mr Pettitt

Roderick Matthews studied history at Balliol College, Oxford, specialising in Indian history and politics. His family had significant links to India: his great grandfather tutored Jawaharlal Nehru through his Harrow entrance exams and his great-grandmother cared for Gandhi when he fell ill in London in 1914.

Matthews delivered an extremely informative lecture on the 3rd February, focusing on themes of peace, poverty and betrayal throughout the history of British India. Throughout, he spoke very highly of Jinnah, stating that he was 'the great ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity' and was invaluable in bringing them together during this period.

By Mr Pettitt

Paul Fletcher, an exceptional and experienced teacher who was Head of History here at Verulam for years, delivered a lecture on the 10th March, investigating the fall of British India and how important Gandhi was in bringing down the Raj.

Mr Fletcher took a unique approach of making it more of an 'interactive lecture' for us, opposed to 'lecturing us' - which was extremely effective when trying to get his point across. After a series of thought-provoking questions and challenging ideas, Mr Fletcher concluded by arguing that Gandhi was not solely responsible for independence in 1947, in fact, it was WW2 that forced Britain to give up India. However, Gandhi's persistent political resistance played a vital role in making this inevitable - what he described as the 'drip' effect

By Mr Pettitt



Curriculum Enrichment Day

What a fantastic day for Verulam – Thursday 20th January was the second Curriculum Enrichment Day of the academic year.

Year 7 were completing a Science Crest Award entitled “Water for the World”. They explored how lucky they are to have fresh, clean water on tap and the importance of preserving the precious commodity that other countries do not have. Their task was to design and build water filters and create poster work that will be submitted for their certificates.

Year 8 had a work and careers day, where they either visited a

family members place of work for the day or had careers led workshops all day.

Year 9 spent the day continuing their Religious Education curriculum, learning about The Holocaust, having sessions by UCL’s Centre of Holocaust Education. The day ended watching a documentary about Holocaust survivor Freddie Knoller.

Year 10 had a range of external speakers from Gangs Against Violence, an organisation that aim to educate young people about the current social issues in communities today like knife crime, drugs, gang violence and adjusting attitudes towards

women. The Year 10 boys were utterly engaged.

Year 11’s a day focused on Maths, solving problems and applying their mathematic skills to fun activities. This day also included a brilliant A Level taster session, inspiring those potential A Level candidates.

Year 12 started their UCAS journey and explored the world of Apprenticeships, Year 13 had a day action-packed with the theme of ‘surviving after sixth form’, including Yoga, cooking on a shoestring and financial basics.

By Mr Pettitt



The Great Debate

In January, two Year 10's competed in a National debating competition, called the Great Debate. This is the Historical Association's annual public-speaking competition for students aged 16-19 in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This year, given it was Elizabeth's jubilee, the debate was:

"The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II has seen global and widespread changes including in: societal infrastructure, industry, rural life, the environment and ideas. Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most?"

In preparation, Henry and Henry in Year 10 visited St Albans town centre to conduct primary research, met with the Museum Curator at St Albans Museum to discuss their ideas, and visited the

local library to delve into a range of material, assisted by the local archive expert.

After months of preparation, Henry and Henry delivered their speech at Avanti House Secondary School in Stanmore, competing against other schools in and around London. Their speeches were excellently delivered and both boys responded very well to the questions afterwards – they were ambassadors for the school and represented the history department incredibly well. Henry Hitchiner was commended by the CEO of the Historical Association for his "rigorous approach to historical research." Well done to both!

By Mr Pettitt



Geography Norway Trip

Half term is normally a time for a recharge, catch up and spending time with the family. However this year the Verulam Geography 6th from A-Level students all met on Thursday morning in Morrisons car park at 04:30 to board the minibuses for the beginning of their travels around the Arctic Circle.

The residential was to travel around Norway in four days, via planes and coaches. The aim of the trip was to show the students a variety of physical landscapes and how the weathering and geology have shaped the lands over millions of years. To cover both sides of the course, the human aspects, where to look at new regeneration programmes throughout the region and the changes to landscapes. The students were able to witness architecture from a range of periods and leaders, cultures and communities from across the globe and interact with artefacts and real working lives within the cities and inside the Arctic Circle.

On day one we landed in Norway and headed straight into the city of Bodo. We arrived in a full snow blizzard which just sent the excitement levels high. From here the student's stomachs began to rumble as we headed into the 'Old Town' with its fascinating, narrow modern designs to find our Hotel. Settling into our rooms we made our way to a full buffet 3-course meal. This included traditional Norwegian dishes and delicious cakes with coffee for dessert.

Bellies full, we headed out by bus on the hunt for the Northern Lights. We have a 50/50 chance of seeing the lights. Parking the coach and playing more in the snow, the skies darken and then the green glow appeared. This was very lucky and according to the guide was a brilliant display. Staff and students were camera ready and many shots were taken of the northern lights.



Day three, breakfast again and we are making our way to the coast. We boarded a coach for the short journey to the sea. We arrived in even colder, snowier and now frozen waters of the Norwegian Sea. We met our guide and we trekked through the snow to understand the people of Norway and the landscapes.



We were welcomed with a Norwegian tea to warm up before the students (and the staff) enjoyed playing with the snow and ice. The tour guide took us back towards the coach and towards our lunch. It is surprising how much students can eat at an all you can eat buffet of Norwegian dishes. After lunch it was time to head to the aviation museum.

We walked through the local streets toward the museum where we were greeted by a guide to inform us of the roles the Norwegian people played during WW2. There was a buzz about seeing the U2 spy plane amongst the collections. A highlight was an opportunity for 2 budding pilots and their selected friends to take part in a flight simulator. With some crashes and questionable landing, there was an opportunity for the experienced steady hands of the staff to show how it was done. It was pleasing to see that you never lose your wings and I can still hold my own as a safe and skilled landing was displayed.

We headed back to the hotel via coach transfer to enjoy warm showers, gym time and a change of clothing before another meal in the hotel. After dinner, it was time for some social relaxation. We headed to the local bowling alley and shuffleboards to get competitive with each other. With some interesting skills and scores, we move into the night to attend a late-night UV crazy golf complex.

Tensions and pressure rose and even a broken club saw a fun end to a very busy day.

The morning arrived with another buffet breakfast. The students are all in good spirits, further team #VG6thform photos are taken before we are taken to the airport for our double flight home. Stocking up on food and gifts, we flew home to a bumpy sliding landing and then the minibus journey home.

I can honestly say, I thought the students would sleep the whole flight home but they continued to talk, laugh and smile. The cabin crews had nothing but praise for the manners which made us all feel very proud. #VGNORWAY22 was a brilliant event, we saw a range of locations and lives, we made new friends and respected the world we live in. The students have now found a greater drive to achieve higher grades to ensure in the future they have the options to travel to even more countries.

I would like to take a short moment to personally thank the parents for supporting the residential, the students for being ambassadors for the school and the Mr Toley, Mrs Avery and Mr Pettitt for giving up their half term to join me. THANK YOU ALL.

Should you wish to see further images of the event please look at the Twitter @verulamgeogHOD using the #VGNORWAY22.

By Mr Woodville



Chinese New Year

On February 1st we celebrated Chinese New Year at Verulam by wearing red items.

Red is the traditional colour of the Han — the dominant ethnic group in China — that signifies good fortune, luck, vitality, celebration and prosperity. Especially during the Chinese New Year, the country's people adorn themselves in red apparel to boost luck and ward off evil spirits.

By Miss Richardson



School Council

School Council had their two meetings this term and students actively voiced their opinions and held discussions on current school issues such as changing the system for the canteen queue and looking at the School House Reward System.

Year 11 Representatives thanked the teachers for the extra guidance and advice that they had received for their GCSE Exams that will be sat in person again this Summer. The School Council Representatives were also very enthusiastic in wanting to be involved in one of Verulam's latest initiatives - becoming a Green Flag Eco-School.

The Representatives held an extra meeting and completed The Environmental Review of where their school is now and are currently putting together their Action Plan. They have chosen to focus on three areas: Biodiversity, Litter & the School Grounds as they enjoyed enhancing their environment earlier this academic year by planting the Verulam Orchard. It has been another busy and productive term.

School Council are also pleased to announce that the trees in Verulam Orchard are coming to life this Spring.

By Mrs Wright



Victoria Miro Gallery Reward Trip

On the 9th February the lucky winners of the autumn term Black History Month competition visited the Victoria Miro Gallery in Islington.

The boys were given a personal tour by Oliver Miro, creator of Vortic VR. They viewed a number of exclusive exhibits on show at the gallery and even had the opportunity to try out Vortic VR in the huge gallery space!



LGBT History Month

February saw the annual LGBT History month and at Verulam we chose this time to relaunch our LGBT policies in support of students and staff that identify as LGBT. In response to student voice surveys and the Ofsted guidance on LGBT in the curriculum, we are keen to ensure that we avoid tokenism with the delivery of the odd assembly here and there to promote LGBT History Month or Pride month in June. We are keen to embed LGBT issues, news stories and discussion as the norm intertwined in the curriculum so our students can openly celebrate diversity in an inclusive and respectful environment.

We are relaunching our ECCO club "Happy As I Am" where students who identify as LGBT and their friends can come to a safe place and be themselves. Before the pandemic we had a small but successful group who would meet weekly and play card games, board games and generally chat about the issues they felt important to them.

We are also launching our LGBT Ambassadors. A group of staff have volunteered to wear Verulam branded rainbow lanyards to identify themselves as teachers that students can approach for help and advice on LGBT matters or be a friendly ear if they feel they need someone to talk to. This also extends to an email address that students can use to find out information and

support and details of the Happy As I Am group.

The staff have also received INSET day training from two of our members of staff on how to deal with situations that may arise and how to challenge homophobic language and educate students about why they shouldn't use homophobic language and the correct words to use in their proper contexts.

Middle leaders have also met to discuss ways of including LGBT issues in the curriculum whether it be as simple as using imagery of single sex couples, delivery of the French language using Pride festivals as a topic basis, discussing the religious opinions in RE or even evaluating evidence of the gay gene in Science.

Other plans include increasing the range of LGBT novels in the library, evaluating the idea of becoming a Stonewall school and taking advantage of their resources and training as well as bringing back the Balloon Debate celebrating LGBT icons, all of which will help to promote diversity and inclusivity.

#InclusiveForLife

By Mr Knowles



VERULAM
PRIDE

Feeling Good Week

Feeling Good Week encourages us as a school to promote young people's emotional wellbeing by raising awareness of mental health. During the week 7th – 9th February 2022 staff and students were invited to participate in a number of activities.

The aims of this week are to:

- Promote positive emotional/mental health
- Increase resilience in students and young people by empowering us all to know who to ask for help if and when it is needed and to enable them to develop positive coping strategies to deal with life events.
- Raise awareness and encourage us all to recognise that good emotional/mental health and well-being is fundamental to being able to enjoy and achieve in life.
- Reduce stigma and allow all of us to access emotional support if it is needed and to recognise that anyone can suffer from an emotional/mental health problem and that seeking help is a legitimate strategy for a happy and successful life.

Activities included: Fun activities in form time; Penalty Shoot Out (Mr Anthony and Huw); Badminton tournament; Band/Guitar masterclass from Mr Jameson; staff vs students Linkee tournament; Chess tournament and the opportunity to watch some TV in the hall at lunchtime. Students were also able to share the goodwill with staff thank you cards and each form nominating a teacher for a mug of goodies.

A great week had by all!

By Mr Tansley



Library Update

Over February half term, we were very lucky to receive delivery of brand-new furniture for our library. The furniture has really added to the collaborative and learning atmosphere, giving a 'public' or even 'university' library feel. Students regularly use the space, especially in the mornings before school and at break and lunch time; one student even said how comfortable the new chairs were!

In an effort to help improve reading and oracy outside of the classroom, Verulam introduced 'Restaurant Reads' articles, in the canteen, based on current affairs and relevant news. Every break and lunch, students who sit around the articles eat and drink while engaging in a quick news story, or discussing the article with their friends. The Premier League Table may have caused some heated debates though! The success of these 'Restaurant Reads' has been extended to the Reception Area, where parents and visitors can enjoy reading a current news story while waiting.



Sociology Trip to New York



Following Verulam's first Social Science Study visit to New York City in 2020, we were delighted to return again in February 2022, despite the many hurdles Covid threw at us.

New York City, being the world's most global city offered the students an insight into a very different society. In Sociology we emphasise to students the need to develop their 'sociological imagination', thinking outside of the classroom and to begin to see the 'familiar as strange and the strange as familiar'.

The A Level topics of Sociology of Education; Culture & Identity; Globalisation; Family; Migration; Criminology were built into the trip.

The itinerary was tailor-made to meet our specific requirements, not purely around the big tourist sights but based on first-hand knowledge of what this city had to offer.

Brief overview of the itinerary.

Day 1:

Lunchtime: arrival NYC; Orientation walking tour of High Line; Twilight ascent of Empire State Building.

Day 2:

Morning: Ground Zero Memorial, Seminar & Tour; Lunch: Ferry to Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island Immigration Museum; Afternoon: Manhattan High School; Evening: Ice Skating and Hot Dogs in Central Park.

Day 3:

Morning: Criminology Seminar with NYPD; Lunch: Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) 'Art in Society' Tour; Afternoon: Seminar & Tour at United Nations; Evening: Walking tour and meal in the historic Little Italy District.

Day 4:

Morning: Lower Manhattan Walking Tour inc. Brooklyn Bridge; Afternoon 'Free Time' in Greenwich Village.

The students were a credit to the school, hopefully finishing their final year at Verulam with memories that will last a lifetime. We now look forward to Social Science NYC23.

By Mr Base



Primary Outreach

This term, we have commenced some outreach work looking to boost the provision on offer from some of our local primary schools. This has seen groups of sixth form students attending and aiding lunchtime sessions at Fleetville Primary School and St. Albans and St. Stephens Primary School.

It has been extremely enriching, not just for the younger students who loved having the presence of older role models but also for our sixth formers who get to develop vital experience and build a variety of skills whilst doing so. It has been useful for our primary schools as it provides them with an extra, invaluable layer of assistance to run these clubs.

This month, will also see groups of Year 9 students providing reading and literacy support to local KS2 students with a Rise and Read Primary School scheme that looks to bolster the confidence and ability of students in their reading.

These are all examples of our students being amazing ambassadors for the school and amplifying their presence within the community. Mr. Anthony, the Primary Liaison, would like to commend the students for their volunteering and amazing commitment to the school and our outreach work.

By Mr Anthony



Leon 111 Art Competition



27th January is International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. In keeping with our cross-curriculum work with other departments, Year 10 Verulam Art Students were invited to work in collaboration with Mr Pettitt in History and Miss O'Kelly in RS to enter UCL Centre for Holocaust Education 'Leon 111 Art Competition' under the theme 'One Day'. The competition was open to students from across the country to produce pieces of work to honour the life and legacy of Leon Greenman, reflecting on the power of his story.

Following a period of review, the competition works were selected and on 4th March 2022 Corey Soper, Lecturer at UCL Centre for Holocaust Education wrote to the Art Department:

"Thank you for your many excellent entries as part of the Leon 111 art competition – they were impressive and a true credit to you and your students. We are currently putting together an article for the Centre's website and would love to feature some highly commended pieces in that article, giving full credit to the artists involved. We would love to discuss James Ackerman's (provocative!) piece and the work of Liam Packer in this article".

The article featuring commendation for both James and Liam's work will be published on the UCL website in the near future.

By Miss Ramage



The Other Art Fair

THE OTHER ART FAIR

PRESENTED BY  SAATCHI ART

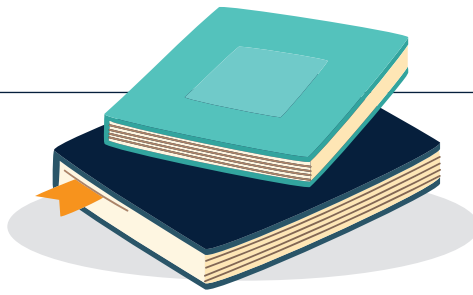
On Friday 18th March, Year 12 & 13 Art and Photography Students took a trip to ultra-cool Brick Lane in London on an art trip to 'The Other Art Fair' at The Old Truman Brewery.

Students were able to see street art at its best, followed by entrance to an exhibition of 140 independent artists showcasing

their original artwork. The range of artwork displayed varied from Pop Art, Abstract, Voyeuristic and everything in between! Verulam Students were able to talk to the artists and discuss the processes, inspiration, and journey of this creative community. A fabulous day out!

By Miss Ramage

World Book Day



World Book Day became World Book Week at Verulam, starting with an engaging talk by popular author, Dan Freedman. He spoke about being the best version of yourself and having the confidence to do this – an inspirational message for our Year 8 students. Dan Freedman also presented copies of his books to the boys who have exceeded their reading targets by the greatest amount so far this year.

In addition, we have an on-going 'Bookopoly' competition running, 'Star books' reading challenge was also launched and some of our students had a go at becoming sports journalists for a lesson!

Our students also expressed their talents by baking book-themed cakes which were not only creative

but delicious too. The cakes were then sold to begin this year's fund raising for the Ollie Mills Foundation.

The book theme continued in the form of our annual Big Book Swap in the library (with a separate one for staff!) this was a great opportunity for students to donate books they have already enjoyed and pick up new titles to read.

Although World Book day/week is now over, please do send in any books your son/daughter has read and no longer needs as we can always find a home for a good book!

By Mrs Avery



Future Champions

The month of March signalled the end of the Future Champions programme organised by Dr Mark Prince OBE. Our dedicated and committed Year 11 students completed the final sessions with their customary enthusiasm. Parents and Carers were invited to their celebration event on Wednesday 23rd March.

With their Year 11 GCSE exams just around the corner, the sessions have continued to prove a huge motivation to all who have been involved.

Our sincere thanks go to the Kiyen Prince Foundation for their fantastic work with Verulam this year.



Stuart Lawrence Visit

On the 25th March Stuart Lawrence, the younger brother of Stephen Lawrence, who was tragically murdered in an unprovoked racist attack in 1993, came to speak to Year 10 about his powerful and positive book about being the best person you can be and using your determination to create a better world for others.

Stuart Lawrence talked about what he has learned from life - the tools that have helped him live positively and kept him moving forwards when times have been tough. "We all want to be successful in life and to be remembered for our achievements - but how can we do that, when the world can seem so big and sometimes scary?"

By Miss Richardson



Sporting Achievement

This term has seen basketball and football fixtures get under way, proving very successful for Verulam. Currently our Year 8 and 9 basketball teams sit top of the District Leagues.

Eddie J's performances in Year 8 must be highlighted in helping the Year 8s to the top. Oscar M being the stand out performer in Year 9. Our football teams are having equally successful seasons. Our Year 7b, 8 and Year 11 sides have done remarkably well and have

made it through to the county cup finals. Year 7s have beaten Mount Grace, Ashlyns and Katherine Warrington en route to the final. The Year 8's have beaten Beaumont, St Clement Danes, Sandringham and Queens in their journey to the final. The Year 9s are in the County plate competition semi finals. The Year 11s have defeated Marriotts, Rickmansworth, Queens and Chancellors to get to their final. District semi finals have been reached by our Year 7, 8, 9, 11 and

senior sides. Currently we have our Year 8 and 11 sides looking to achieve "The Double" with Cup finals in both District and County competitions.

By Mr Errington



Year 12 Numeracy Support

Each Monday morning our Year 12 mathematicians have been supporting selected Year 7 and 8 students with their numeracy. All students really enjoyed spending time getting to know each other and it was lovely to see our KS3 students grow in confidence with their numeracy.

Year 12 were also set an interesting challenge this term— to prepare and present for 5 minutes on an area of maths that interested them. What a treat it was to listen to so many carefully researched presentations. Topics covered ranged from how trigonometry is used to determine the position of a person struck with a weapon to the history of well known theorems, from the use of an abacus to support numeracy to the mathematics behind the game Dobble. We even enjoyed some mathematical “magic”!

By Mrs Cornmell

Maths Round Up: Edexcel Algebra award results

120 of our year 11 students sat algebra awards in January of this year. The awards are a chance for our students to sit an external examination and to focus on their algebra in advance of their GCSEs.

The maths department were so impressed by the dedication of our students leading up to the examination, which certainly paid off!

Well done Year 11!

By Mrs Cornmell

Maths Round Up: Success in Hertfordshire and UKMT Challenges

This term our Year 7's enjoyed participating in the Hertfordshire team maths challenge, our year 10's competed in the AMSP team maths feast and Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the UK Intermediate maths challenge.

We are proud to share that out of 82 competing teams, both of our Year 7 teams progressed to the final in May! Both of our Year 10 teams were awarded certificates in their AMSP maths feast, one for winning one of the four rounds and

the other for outstanding team work throughout.

Most impressive of all was the performance of our 74 students in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge.

78% of students gained awards and of these lots qualified for the next round!

We are so proud of all of our students for their hard work in preparing for the challenges and for their energy and enthusiasm throughout.

By Mrs Cornmell

Maths Round Up: Pi day 2022

On March 14th mathematicians across the world celebrated “Pi day”. Verulam School has always enjoyed this day and 2022 was no exception. We asked our colleagues across the school to help our maths team to celebrate such an important mathematical constant and we were delighted with the response. Of particular note was the use of Venn diagrams in Geography and English, with A level Geographers using hula hoops to create circles!

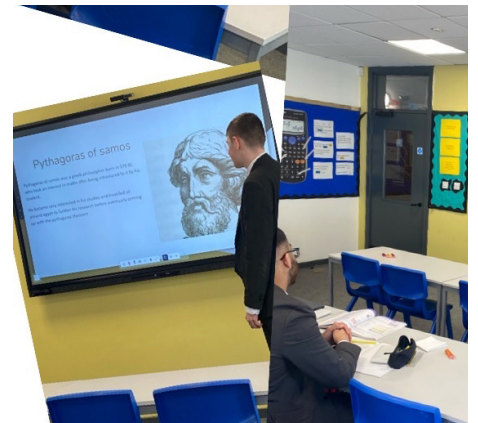
Our maths students made some amazing “Pi Lines” and other “Pi” charts. Our Year 10’s impressed us by performing The Buffon’s needle experiment to approximate Pi to a surprising degree of accuracy! Year 12 mathematicians also took a break from studying statistics to

make some pretty Pi pictures on biscuits!

Finally, some of our students were entered into this year’s MEI Desmos Art competition. Their task was to use the graphing tool Desmos to create art around the theme of “The World around us”. We are delighted to announce that Jacky in Year 8’s piece entitled “Stop the Invasion” was chosen as a notable entry. Well done Jacky!

Next term our maths team look forward to the UKMT Junior challenge, more Hertfordshire maths challenges and lots more fun enjoying maths in the world around us.

By Mrs Cornmell



Curriculum Enrichment Day

Verulam School held the third Curriculum Enrichment Day of the academic year on Wednesday 2nd March, packed with enriching activities for the pupils.

Year 7 were incredibly lucky to have a range of activities for a Geography curriculum enrichment day. One highlight was welcoming ZooLab UK, an authentic ethical classroom experience with animals and insects, engaging and inspiring through a living encounter workshop.

The Science Dome Experience was another highlight, giving a different

learning experience to pupils in a pop up planetarium.

Year 8 enjoyed a trip to the Black Country Museum, while Year 9 had a host of visitors from a variety of business' and organisations, leading sessions on teamwork, communication and problem-solving, as well as introducing the boys to the world of corporate business.

Year 10 had an action-packed day competing and engaging in House Sport. Across the school site and Sandpit Lane, Year 10 competed in inter-house football at Sandpit

Lane and competed for the House badminton, dodgeball and table tennis titles in the Sports Hall.

Year 12 had an excellent 'Model United Nations' day, where each pair of students represented one of 32 countries. Students had to research, prepare, propose and then vote on different United Nations Humanitarian & Human Rights resolutions. The motion by the Spain delegation was ratified by 23 votes!

By Mr Pettitt



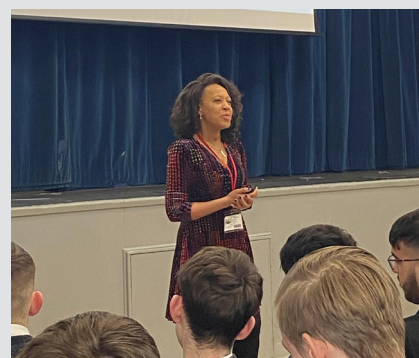
International Women's Day Speakers

We were honoured to welcome five inspirational female speakers across a whole week of assemblies to celebrate International Women's Day on Tuesday 8th March 2022.

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The theme for this year's events was Break the Bias. Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough, action is needed to level the playing field. Our speakers shared their own experience of bias, common bias traps and ways to avoid them.

On Monday we were joined by leading Women's Empowerment Inspirational Speaker Jenny Garrett OBE. Tuesday's assembly was led by journalist, writer, entrepreneur, speaker, designer, awards judge and founder of Women in Trade magazine, Janet Kirlew. We welcomed Gifty Enright, author and speaker on women, success, health and happiness on Wednesday. Thursday saw shoe designer Susannah Davda joining us for the penultimate day and we rounded off the week with our final speaker of the week, poet Sharena Lee Satti.

By Miss Welch



Black Country Museum



Year 8 enjoyed a trip to the Black Country Living Museum for their CED 3.

The museum is a large collection of buildings and props from the time of the Industrial Revolution gathered in one open air site. It provides a chance for the students to experience in part what life would have been like in Victorian Britain first hand, bringing their learning about this period in class to life. Each exhibit has been transported from areas around the Midlands, taken apart and brought brick by brick in some instances to be

reconstructed to form an eclectic mix of shops, coal mines, houses as well as a period cinema and firm favourite, the fish and chip shop.

The history of each building was brought to life by the costumed guides leading each group and stationed around the museum site. Their knowledge and expertise relayed the details of each location, how it would have functioned and some of the residents who occupied them. Live demonstrations included common crafts of the

time including chain link making and iron nail smithing. The students were also able to try their hand at popular street games of the time, a considerable contrast to the leisure activities they are used to. The Year 8 students should be commended on their behaviour throughout the day, engagement with each activity and perseverance through the typically Spring weather!

By Mr Pettitt



Mills Match

On Friday 1st April the school hosted the Mills Match at Clarence Park. The event was in honour of Oli Mills, a Verulam student who sadly died from a brain tumour in 2005. In 2006, Oli's peers organised the first Mills Match; a staff vs sixth form football match to remember Oli and to raise as much money as possible for a charity we know he would have loved – Teenage Cancer Trust.

Unfortunately, since 2006 regulations about staff vs pupil matches has changed and schools are no longer able to play such games in any contact sports. However, in honour of Oli and

to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust, a range of pupil vs pupil and staff vs staff matches were planned. It was a wonderful day, which has so far raised over £2500, for an amazing cause. Staff and students loved the opportunity to play on the pitch at Clarence Park!

Huge congratulations to the blue team who were awarded the prestigious Oli Mills trophy.

By Mr Flack

To donate please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/millsmatchverulam> and help us hit our target of £5000.







MILLS MATCH

Friday 1st April 2022

10.45AM Kick Off

Parents are welcome

ST ALBANS CITY FOOTBALL CLUB, CLARENCE PARK




verulamschool.co.uk

#MoreThanJustAGame

Sixth Form Engaging Minds Lecture Series

The Sixth Form Engaging Minds Lecture Series came to an end last week for the academic year. They will resume in September 2022.

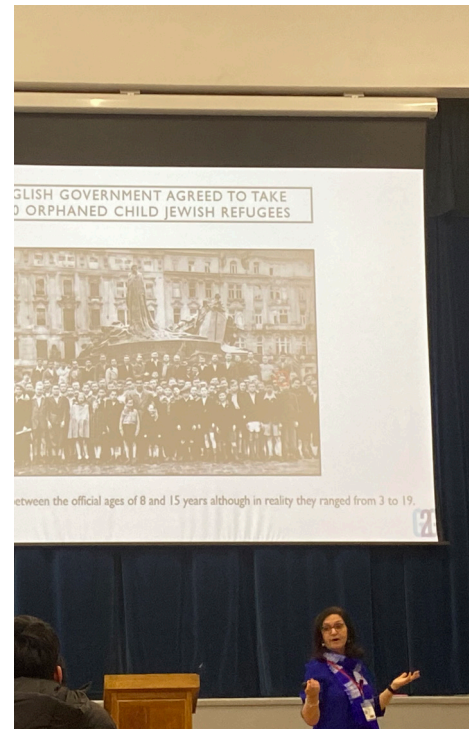
Unfortunately the programme was hit with Covid complications in January. However, we were able to run with lectures ranging from local policing to renewable energy. The highlight of the series was Generation 2 Generation, a charity who provide speakers for schools who are the direct relatives of victims of the Nazi Holocaust. Maralyn Turgel recounted her very moving but equally uplifting story of her father's survival and subsequent new life in England.

"It was a pleasure coming to speak to your Sixth Form yesterday. The students were a credit to you all. Thank you to you and your staff for making me welcome"

Maralyn Turgel Gen2Gen

We are currently planning our lecture series for the September 2022 onwards. If any parents would like to offer a lecture or can recommend a friend, colleague, please contact the school.

By Mr Base



Revision

Following the completion of their recent mock exams, the Year 11's and 13's are now counting down to their final exams this summer.

Revision materials and guidance have been shared with students and we continue to support each student in finding a set of revision techniques that work for them.

Our Year 11 revision evening recently took place with a focus on:

- Mind Maps
- Flash Cards
- Just a Minute – speak for one minute on a topic without hesitation, pauses or repetition
- Graphic organisation of material
- Cornell Note Taking Strategy

- Quizzing
- Staged Revision

This will now be shared with all other year groups to help them to prepare for their end of year exams.

We wish every student taking exams this summer the very best of luck.

By Mr Freakley



Alumnus of the month



Tim Dracup is our Verulam School April 2022 Alumnus of the Month. Tim left Verulam School in 1977 and is now retired.

Please tell us a little about yourself – where do you work and how did you get into this role?

I arrived at what was then St Albans Grammar School for Boys in 1970, the first in my family to pass the 11+. On leaving what had by then become Verulam School, I headed to the University of East Anglia to study English Literature, followed by a PGCE equipping me to teach secondary English.

But I ended up in Whitehall, a civil servant at what was then the Department of Education and Science. I gradually worked my way up the hierarchy, but hit the buffers in 2010, so took early retirement. I became a part-time consultant and househusband, so that my wife

could develop her own career before we retired together and lived happily ever after. Sadly she developed breast cancer and died in 2017 and, since then, I have been striving to entertain the possibility that the best years of my life may still lie ahead! I have clung on to that hope through the subsequent death of both of my parents, some mental health issues and the blight of Covid lockdowns.

What are some of your proudest achievements since leaving Verulam School?

Back in 1996, I applied for a role as team leader responsible for a miscellaneous bunch of education policy issues that no-one cared about. One was support for able learners. During the Blair years this emerged as a priority and I found myself establishing and then leading England's National Gifted and Talented Education Unit. When I was working as a consultant, the University of Oxford commissioned me to write them a review of effective practice in widening participation and fair access.

What advice would you give someone looking to follow a similar career path?

Go to university if you possibly can, to study a subject you enjoy, rather than one that will make you more employable. Seize every opportunity to broaden your range

of interests, pursuits and skills. After you've paid off your overdraft and travelled the world, find a job you enjoy - one that will earn you enough money that you can dedicate yourself to life, love and the pursuit of happiness. Be diligent, but work to live rather than living to work. Beware the Peter Principle!

What's next?

I'm still trying to realise the happiest years of my life! I try to keep fit through a mixture of walking, running, pilates and weight-training - and I'm working my way steadily round the South-West Coast Path.

I've appointed myself unofficial Dracup family historian and love researching the lives of earlier Dracups, placing them in their proper social and historical context.

To read more, please scan the QR code with your phone.



If you're an alumnus who would like to take part, or you'd like to volunteer an alumnus that you know, then please drop us an email.

PTA

The PTA are beginning to look at events for the end of this year and the start of next year, so it is an exciting time to consider joining us.

Unfortunately, the spring ball will not take place by the end of this year, however, we are looking at future dates.

We continue to fundraise in the following ways:



Easyfundraising

Simply scan the QR code with your phone and download the Easyfundraising app on your laptop or phone selecting Verulam PTA as your charity and click into it every time you plan to make an online purchase. For every purchase made through the easy fundraising site the school will be paid a percentage. This is a good moneymaker for the PTA and your support is greatly appreciated.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Amazon Smile

Amazon have a similar fundraiser when you shop with them. To add Verulam PTA as your charity, simply scan the above QR code with your phone.



Verulam school Lottery

This is a lottery that is drawn every half term and half of all the money raised is given in prizes and the other half is paid to the PTA, so the more people that join, the more the PTA can raise and the more that you could possibly win. If you would like to join the PTA lottery, you can find all the details of how to sign up just simply scan the below QR code with your phone.

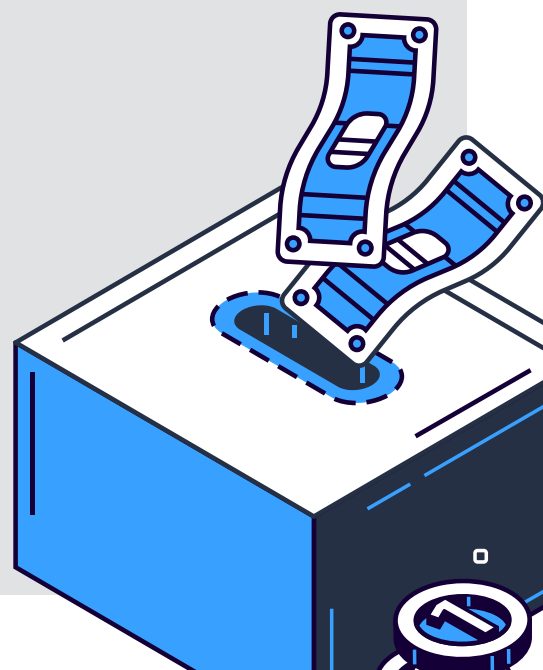
Second Hand Uniform Sale

The second hand uniform sale also raises much needed funds. You can support this venture by visiting us on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30 and 11.30am in the school canteen. Due to the half term holidays the next one will be Saturday 23rd April. You can also donate school uniform that is no longer needed but of good quality by leaving it with the school reception.

If you have any questions for the PTA we can be reached by email at **verulamschoolpta@gmail.com**

Thank you as always for all the support you give.

By The PTA



Student Commendations



Student Commendations

Congratulations to all the recipients of the Spring Term Commendations.

Year 7

Subject Commendation

Ashwath K - Art	Jevarn M - Geography
Francis H - Computer Science	Tom W - History
Lennon M - Design and Technology	Francis H - Mathematics
Luke W - Design and Technology	Sam P - Music
Sam S - Design and Technology	Maksim N - PHSE
George L - Design and Technology	Zakariah M - PHSE
Blake M - Design and Technology	Sam S - Physical Education
Sharvesh M - Design and Technology	Elias B - Religious Education
Tom W - Drama	Sebastian S - Science
Max R - English Language	Alfred C - Spanish
Jonty K - French	

Form Tutor Commendation

Abubakr A-R
Raad S
Jake P
Sam S
Joe B
Max R

Head of Year Commendation

Louis C
Benji M
Harry P

Year 8

Subject Commendation

Ted S - Art	Sid J - History
Alex P - Computer Science	Jacky P - Mathematics
Evan T - Design and Technology	Arthur R - Music
Seb N - Design and Technology	Eddie J - Physical Education
Alfie O'C - Design and Technology	Sam R - Religious Education
Jacky P - Design and Technology	Ollie B - Science
George C - Design and Technology	Gamal S M - Spanish
Billy W - Drama	
Roman T - English Language	
Jehnush S - French	
Stanley C-H - Geography	

Form Tutor Commendation

Sam F
Gabriel F L
Nathan W
Omar T
Ollie B
Beck W

Head of Year Commendation

Callum K
Max D-N
Oliver R

Year 9

Subject Commendation

Ted S - Art	Lucas K - Maths
George B - Art	Tom R - Music
Daniel I - Computing	Joshua S - Physical Education
Simeon T - Design and Technology	Tommy H - Religious Education
Archie R - Design and Technology	Joshua B - Science
Greg Y - Design and Technology	Leo B - Spanish
Nikolai C - Drama	
Laith E-J - English Language	
Reuben H - French	
Michael W - Geography	
Vsevolod G - History	

Form Tutor Commendation

Dhru P
Venuk P
Alex Z
Archie R
Hoi Ching HL
Matthew J

Head of Year Commendation

Kenneth M
Jack B
Judd-Ryder A

Year 10

Subject Commendation

James A - Art
 Bradley T - BTEC Enterprise
 Drew W - BTEC Sport
 Salmaan A - Business Studies
 Raman S - Computer Science
 Lewis R - Design and Technology
 Sebastian J - Design and Technology
 Henry G - Drama
 Mohammad M - Economics
 Oliver B-S - English Literature
 Naveen N - Food Preparation and

Nutrition
 Sebastian J - French
 Billy S - Geography
 Jack C - History
 Maxim R - Maths
 Dylan N - Media Studies
 Austin K - Music
 Jacob N - Physical Education
 Bobby N - Religious Education
 Samuel C - Science
 Jack P - Spanish

Form Tutor Commendation

Jack C
 Angelo H
 Alexander B
 Louis P
 Vinnie O
 Jamie P

Head of Year Commendation

Jake H
 Callum P
 Jacob H

Year 11

Subject Commendation

Dylan B - Art
 Matthew W - Biology
 Mason L - BTEC Enterprise
 Declan W - BTEC Sport
 Oliver M - Business Studies
 Rishabh H - Chemistry
 Rico C - Computer Science
 Corey P - Design and Technology
 Oliver H - Economics
 Joseph F - English Language
 Oscar B - Food Prep and Nutrition

Jacob D - French
 Sonny D - General PE
 James G - Geography
 Samuel L - History
 Joshua S - Maths
 Connor S - Media Studies
 Matthew W - Music
 Oliver R - Physics
 Henry B - Religious Education
 Jacob C-Y - Science
 Wasif R - Spanish

Form Tutor Commendation

John W
 Samuel W
 Finnlay H
 Daniel H
 Ethan N
 Archie B

Head of Year Commendation

Rico C
 Samuel B
 Oliver R

Year 12

Subject Commendation

Erin S - Art

Charlie J - Biology

Jacob C - BTEC Business

Thomas M - BTEC Creative Digital Media

Rocco T - BTEC Sport

Harrison T - Business Studies

Rudy A - Chemistry

Bryce M - Economics

William P - English Literature

Elise L - EPQShahid Z - Financial Studies

Enid R B - Further Mathematics

Harvey C - Geography

Alex M - History

Rudy A - Mathematics

Cait O'C - Philosophy and Ethics

Charlie W - Photography

Mary-Kate K - Photography

Harris R B - Physics

Kai B - Product Design

Daisy G - Psychology

Sam S - Sociology

Form Tutor Commendation

Jack M

Alex J

Riley H

Seán T

Quentin F

Head of Year Commendation

Cait O'C

Luca T

Benedict G

Year 13

Subject Commendation

Sadie B - Art

Myli Y - Biology

Thomas W - BTEC Business

Miranda A K - BTEC Creative Digital
Media

Jack C - BTEC Sport

Finley N - Business Studies

Gianmarco L R - Chemistry

Izaak B - Economics

Sadie B - English Literature

Ollie G - Financial Studies

Charlie P - Further Mathematics

Alex L - Geography

Will F - History

Max L - Mathematics

Matthew W - Philosophy and Ethics

Tom B - Physics

Evan H - Product Design

Myli Y - Psychology

Alfie R - Sociology

Form Tutor Commendation

Danny F

Lydia S

Evan H

Ethaniel A

Sadie B

Head of Year Commendation

Daniel O

Uma E

Gianmarco L R

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th to Monday 18th April – Easter Holidays

Tuesday 19th April – First student day back

Tuesday 19th April – Year 11 and 13 Photographs

Wednesday 20th April – Year 8 Immunisations

Thursday 21st April – Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultations

Saturday 23rd April – PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Tuesday 26th April – Year 9 Immunisations

Wednesday 27th April – Year 12 Parent Teacher Consultations

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd May – Reallocated Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday

Saturday 7th May – PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Monday 16th May to Friday 28th June – External Exams

Friday 20th May – Year 13 students last day in school before study leave begins

Monday 23rd May – Year 7 Parent Teacher Consultations

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May – Verulam Summer Showcase

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June – Half Term Break

Monday 6th June – First student day back

Saturday 11th June – PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Monday 27th June – 20-21 Year 13 Prizegiving

Monday 27th to Friday 1st July – Year 10 and 12 Internal Exams

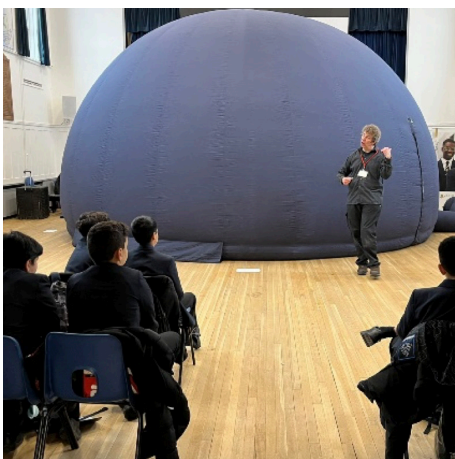
Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th June – Sixth Form Induction Days

Saturday 2nd July – PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Monday 11th – Friday 15th July – Activity Week

Thursday 14th July – Secondary Transfer Day

Wednesday 20th July – Last day of term



Verulam School
Brampton Road
St Albans
AL1 4PR
01727 766100

verulamschool.co.uk
[f](#) [t](#) [@verulamschool](#)



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