

VERULAMVOX

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your magazine.*

SENIOR TEAM UPDATE

Read the first submission of the
'Senior Team UPDATE'

NORWAY TRIP 2022

Hear all about the Year 12
Geography trip to Norway



VERULAM
SCHOOL

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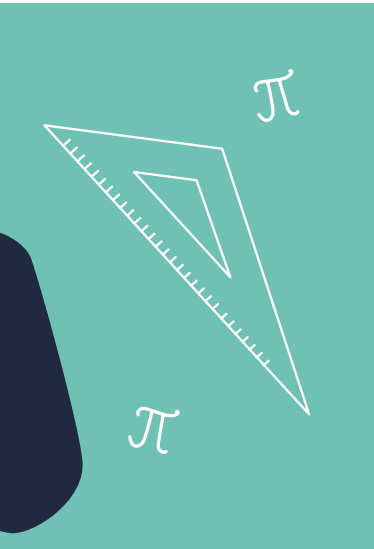
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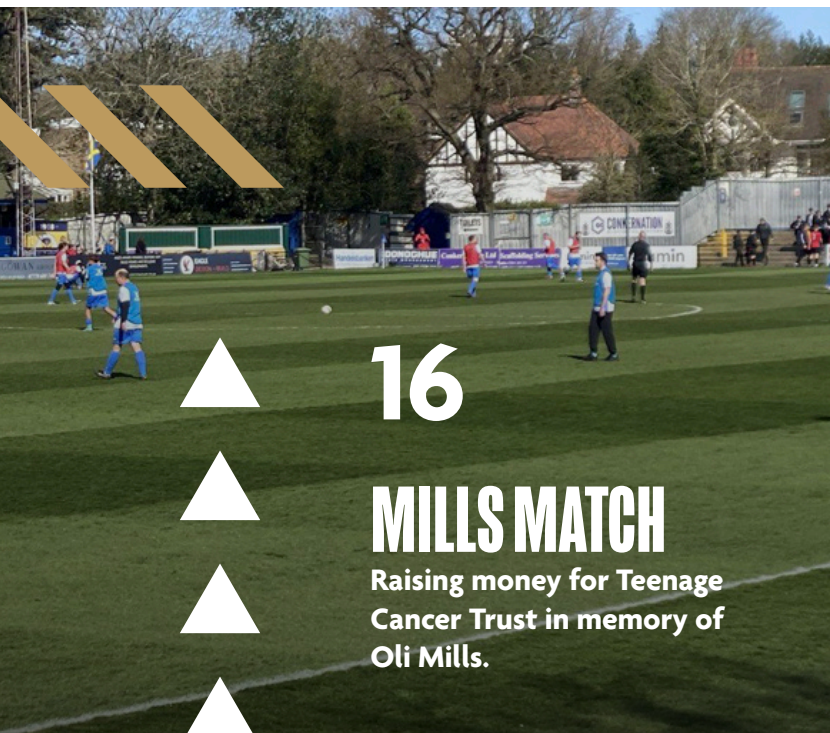
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Raising money for Teenage
Cancer Trust in memory of
Oli Mills.



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students,

**Welcome to our third and final
edition of the Verulam Vox
this year!**

This half term has been
fantastic, with lots of amazing
accomplishments by our
students.

This edition highlights some
of the insightful thoughts and
passions that members of our
school community have.

I hope you enjoy this edition and
have a wonderful half term break!

**Best wishes,
Miss J Richardson**

SENIOR TEAM

BY MYLES O

UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the new Senior Team, I would like to thank Hugh, Owen, Myli and the other Senior Prefects for their hard work and dedication to their roles over the last year.

I would also like to welcome you all to the first submission of our 'Senior Team UPDATE' section in the Verulam Vox, written by your new School Captain, Myles O'Connor. It will be reflecting on the progress we have made over the last half-term and also looking forward, discussing our plans for the future.



HAND-OVER / GOWNS CEREMONY

The 5th of May 2022 was the official date of the handover. This is a brand-new symbolic event whereby the old Senior Team hand over their prefect gowns to the new Senior Team, marking a change in student leadership.

Hugh, Owen and Myli delivered outstanding speeches, reflecting on their time in leadership and also wishing us well in ours. In addition, Faizan and I also delivered a speech, thanking the old team and outlining what we plan to do. The entirety of year

12 were also in attendance to congratulate us and wish us well, which was really encouraging.



SENIOR TEAM UPDATE

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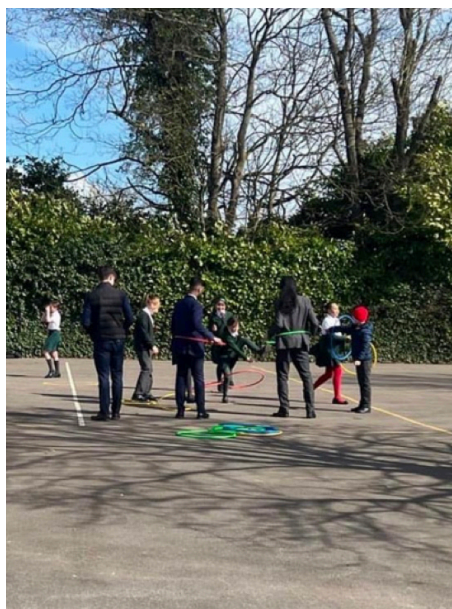
SCHOOL CAPTAIN

For me, the first few weeks as School Captain have been enjoyably hectic! So far, I have been at the forefront of organising various assemblies, visits to local primary schools, lunchtime supervision, Abbey Service and Prom for the end of year 13.

Prior to being elected, it was my aim to impact greatly in the local community, creating a positive image of the school to prospective students who may be looking to join in September.

With the support of the Primary School Liaison, Mr Anthony, the Senior Prefects have been supervising at local primary schools, including: Fleetville and St Albans and St Stevens, during their lunchtime.

This has been a great success and we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the interactions and relationships that our Senior Prefects have built with the students at these feeder schools.



Furthermore, I have organised 'talk teams', composed of five pairs of Senior Prefects, who are going to visit local primary schools toward the end of the year to give presentations to the current year 5s, informing them of what to expect when approaching secondary school.

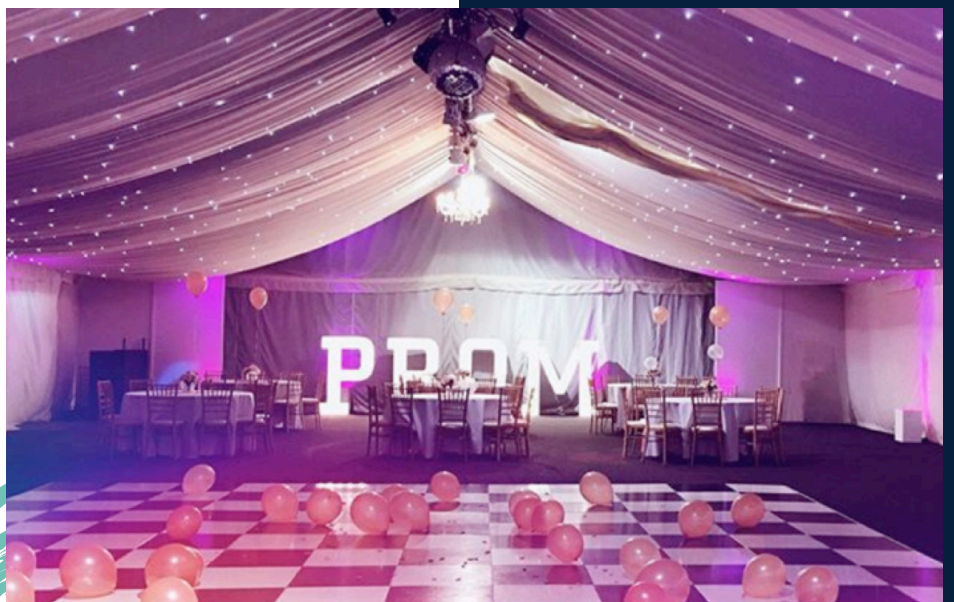
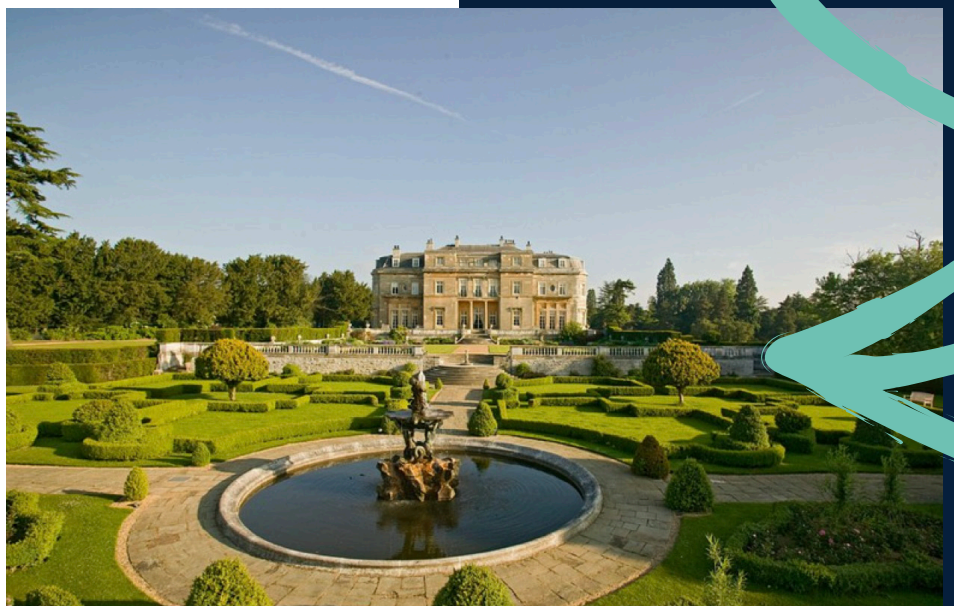
The schools we have confirmed a date with so far are: Maple, Bernards Heath, Garden Fields, SAS and Fleetville. We are still currently confirming dates with other schools but from what we've heard so far, they are in full support of this new initiative.

In addition, I have been working closely with Mr Hall to organise a charity effort for next year's Abbey Service. After quite a lot of research into local charities, it has been decided that the charity we will be supporting this year is: St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge (SAHWR).

We chose this especially due to the prevalence of domestic violence in modern society. Although the charity specifically

mentions women's refuge, it also supports men fleeing from domestic violence, fitting with Verulam's values of inclusivity and respect for all. After meeting with a representative from the charity, we are confident that this organisation is perfect for this year's Abbey Service charity event. Currently, I am organising a select few of us to visit the charity to learn a bit more about them, which will enable us to gain a greater insight into the fantastic works of SAHWR.

Finally, another priority of mine has been to provisionally book a date and venue for Prom next year. After lots of work gathering quotes from the venue and external companies, I can now announce that Year 13 Verulam Prom 2023 will be held in the Walled Garden in the Luton Hoo Estate. More details will follow in the next few weeks once I have officially booked and the last few details have been finalised.



SENIOR TEAM UPDATE

SENIOR TEAM UPDATE

HEAD PREFECTS

Our Head Prefects, Faizan and Kamran, have also been working extremely hard towards improving student life here at Verulam!

Faizan has been busy exploring different options for improving school WIFI across the school. He has made significant progress, greatly improving access to WIFI, especially in the Sixth Form block and the Modern Foreign Languages corridor, allowing students to work effectively in conjunction with the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme.

Also, Faizan has been working closely with our catering company towards a new and improved lunch menu that will be applicable to everyone, seeing the introduction of occasional themed days such as 'Mexican Monday'. This will expose the students to different cultures and ways of cooking, expanding their palette and opinions on a variety of foods from all over the world.

Kamran, on the other hand, has spearheaded the mentoring programme.

He has ensured that, by next year, students in the lower school will have access to a mentoring scheme for maths, science and technology, as well as a SEN focused mentoring scheme. This will be run by Sixth Formers and is looking to be expanded once successful.

In addition, Kamran has also organised the Senior Prefects and students in the lower school to write articles for the Verulam Vox. Look out for them in this edition! They are based on a variety of topics, some that are related to school life and some that are completely discrete and are focused on topical events in the news.



VICE-CAPTAIN

Vice Captain, Christy, has also played a major role in school development since his provisional appointment in January.

He has been occupied with organising for a variety of influential speakers to come in and speak about their career and path they took after secondary school.

These lectures will form our 'Engaging Minds' series for next year, giving the year 12s a greater scope on their choices post-16.

This is a programme that has run for the last few years and has been extremely eye-opening for many as it has given them a greater understanding of what they would like to pursue in the future.

However, the change this year is that students have responded to a Google Form that Christy sent out earlier in the year, allowing them to have a greater say in what type of people they would like to hear from. This should allow for these lectures to become more tailored to the students, keeping them 'ENGAGED'!

Another initiative that Christy is leading, along with Head Prefect Faizan, is that of the new Reward System. This new initiative will be launched in September.



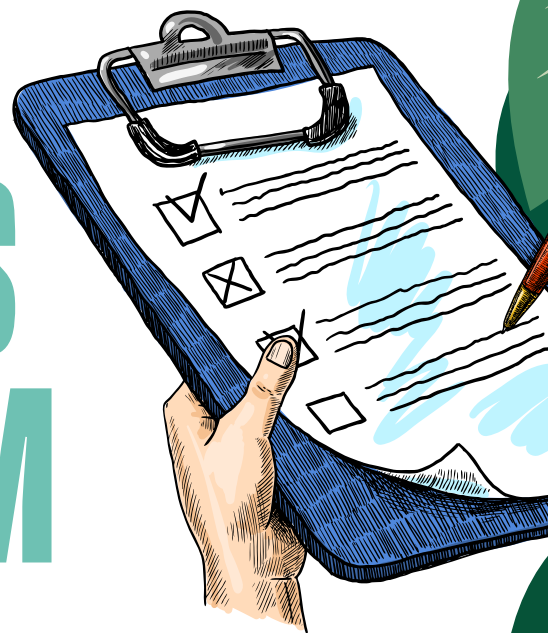
SPECIAL MENTIONS

Before we conclude the first 'Senior Team UPDATE', I would like to commend both Rudy McCann and Sam Denton for their dedication to their roles as Senior Prefects since our takeover a few weeks ago.

In light of the recent mental health week, Rudy and Sam both delivered assemblies on the importance of Mental Health to each year group. They outlined how important sleep, reducing stress and your mindset is when you're a student. It gave the students something to think about and enabled them to

become critical of how they treat their mind, especially as some of them approach exam season.

APPOINTMENT OF THE SENIOR PREFECTS AND SENIOR TEAM



BY KAMRAN G12TDE

After a rigorous application process, the new School Captain, Vice Captain and Head Prefects have been selected. The process started with the normal Senior Prefect application form and interview - which gave us our current team of Senior Prefects.

From that interview, eight candidates were chosen and invited to run for the roles of Head Prefects and School Captain. These eight candidates then wrote and delivered a speech to the year thirteens, twelves and elevens and as many staff as possible - with the aim of promoting themselves and gaining votes from the students and staff. Videos of the speeches were recorded by the candidates and sent to all staff. Once the speeches were done, staff and students were invited to vote for the best speeches.

The top four from this vote then went for an interview with the Head, Miss Richardson, who then allocated roles based on performance and character. Myles O'Connor was elected School Captain, Christy Quirke became the Vice Captain and Faizan Qutbi and Kamran Grewal became the two Head Prefects. As a team these four lead the entire Senior Prefect team. So far, proposals have been put forward by almost every Senior Prefect to make changes that will make the school more student friendly and comfortable. Examples of these include: giving more power to the student council to boost the student voice for all years, extending Sixth Form mentoring programmes for the lower years and giving the Sixth Form more of a say in the guest speakers for the Friday engaging minds lectures.

As a group, the four heads of the Senior Prefect team have made it their mission to put into place five large, lasting and visible changes to the school by March 2023.

Alongside the changes to the school, the Senior Prefects also have duties that they perform as part of their roles, an example of this includes playing a part in assemblies. The School Captain, Vice-Captain, Head Prefects and Senior Prefects all look forward to the coming year.

BY HARRISON S 12ICC

SUSTAINABILITY

In the broadest sense, sustainability refers to the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time.

Accordingly, sustainable policies emphasise the future effect of any given policy or business practice on humans, ecosystems, and the wider economy.

The concept often corresponds to the belief that without major changes to the way the planet is run, it will suffer irreparable damage. As concerns about anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution have become more widespread. The world has shifted to embrace sustainable practices and policies, primarily through the implementation of sustainable practices and increased investments in green technology. The concept of sustainability holds strongly throughout Verulam School, and we try our utmost to embody its principles and advocate its importance.

Firstly, it is pertinent to highlight that it is the little steps and tasks we complete as an individual that ultimately, when contributed to by everyone, will impact the bigger

picture. Small tasks such as extending the life of clothes, reducing energy usage, cutting food waste, and switching short journeys for physical exercise such as walking or cycling, to name a few, are simple and effective methods to contribute to this cause.

Assemblies led by Mr Woodville and Mr Emsley on this topic outlined the view that it is a collective effort to tackle climate change and to adapt our lifestyle patterns to become more sustainable. One main initiative we encouraged was 'Switch the Car for Exercise'; each form throughout the week collected points for sustainable journeys into school, providing an inter-form competitive edge. However, it is important to explain that the importance of sustainability within our school should indeed be an ongoing process.

MATHS AND READING MENTORING SCHEMES

BY HARRISON S12ICC

The Senior Prefect Team from the outset expressed their interest in a mentoring scheme with lower years to help nurture their development as a Verulam student. Mentors can raise students' confidence and problem-solving abilities. Regarding confidence, research has tied having a mentor to an overall increase in emotional health for students. The mentoring scheme was broken down into two sections, Reading and Maths.

We were assigned to two students who were requiring extra support for their reading skills. We helped with reading confidence and explaining meanings of words, as well as helping with their accelerated reader quizzes. Recording each student's progress allowed for benchmarking of advancement and development of each student's reading and comprehension skills. Over time each Prefect became closer and closer with their students, where our roles evolved, not just helping towards reading was given, but any issues in the sphere of school life. Maths mentoring was spearheaded by Mrs Cornmell (Head of Maths), where every Monday form time a group of A-Level Mathematicians

helped out Year 7 and Year 8s who were in need of some extra Maths support. This was in the form of helping with questions and once again providing support for their development in Maths and school life.

Overall, the mentoring schemes have been a great success and we are in the process of creating further mentoring schemes for a range of individuals/ other subjects.



FORMULA 1



BY JACK M12DAB

Overview

March saw the start of the 2022 Formula 1 championship with the first round in Bahrain.

The new technical regulations provided some interesting designs, with Mercedes removing the side pod totally. As the sun set on the track on the 19th March, the first qualifying session of the season was underway. The prancing horse powering Charles Leclerc pushed him to first, beating the reigning champion to pole by 1 tenth of a second. Sainz lined up third with Perez fourth to form the top 4. Sunday came round and the cars made their way to the grid. We heard the infamous "lights out and away we go" from David Croft as the cars powered their way to turn one. Hamilton got a fantastic launch from P5 to overtake Perez into P2, with Magnussen in his Ferrari powered Haas taking Perez down the straight into turn 4.

Lap 3 saw Perez chasing Magnussen into turn 1, although he locked his tyres and Perez passed him on the exit of the 4th turn after hunting him down along the straight. Seven laps later and Perez was on the back of Hamilton, passing him with ease with his powerful Redbull.

On the start of the 17th lap, Verstappen passed Leclerc into

turn 1 with a shower of sparks, only to comprise his entry into turn 2 and the Ferrari passed him back along the next straight. The next lap and we all witnessed deja vu as Verstappen went for the overtake on Leclerc but got overtaken again along the second straight. Two laps after his second attempt, Verstappen tried again but destroyed his tyres in the first turn, compromising his race strategy and giving Ferrari the upper hand.

Lap 42 saw Verstappen pit for new soft tyres, however an element of his steering was bent during the pit stop making the remaining 11 laps extremely tough for the Dutchman. We also saw Gasly leaping from his flaming Alpha Tauri on lap 46 as his Red Bull engine caught fire. This brought out the safety car and with 7 laps left Leclerc held the pack as he awaited his moment to dart down the straight. Verstappen decimated his chances of an overtake as he hustled Leclerc, leaving himself very tight into the final corner. Sainz capitalised on the world champion's error and chased him into the first turn. 3 laps from the end and Verstappen was complaining of battery issues on his RB18, with Sainz darting up the inside at the entry to turn 11. 46 races after their last victory, the

Italian outfit were running 1st and second, with their priority to take it home. This objective was aided by Verstappen and Perez both retiring after their engines cut out towards the end. Italy was rocking as the scuderia came out on top in the desert, taking home 44 points between the drivers, with 7-time world champ Hamilton on the 3rd step. Heads were being scratched in the Redbull camp, as only 1 of the 4 Redbull powered cars managed to finish the race.



VERULAM SCHOOL

FRIDAY PRAYERS

BY SALAH B 10B



The Verulam Friday prayers are a wonderful time where Muslims are able to get together and pray to Allah (God). There is one speaker and as we aren't able to go to the mosque, it has to be one of our pupils (e.g. Sixth Former). It is very beneficial to the students as they learn from the speaker who teaches them about their religion and how it can be practised in everyday life.

Examples of what can be learnt from the Friday prayer are good etiquettes like opening the door for someone or showing respect to a teacher whilst they are teaching the class. Shortly after the talk is finished, we pray with the speaker leading the prayer. Even though we haven't been doing this for a long time, everyone shows

respect towards one another with everything running smoothly and there is always a teacher to supervise us to make sure that nothing goes wrong.

Of course, we would love to go back and be able to pray in the mosque again, but we are also very grateful that we have the opportunity to practise our religion inside the school. We are able to feel very comfortable whilst praying as we get our own privacy, and we even have privileges like eating food a little earlier than usual on Fridays to be on time for the prayer as it's strictly held during a specific time.

Our supervisor is also a Muslim which gives us a sense of gratefulness and more comfort as he looks after us and if we have any problems we are able to disclose them to him. There isn't any discrimination, we are shown respect throughout the school.

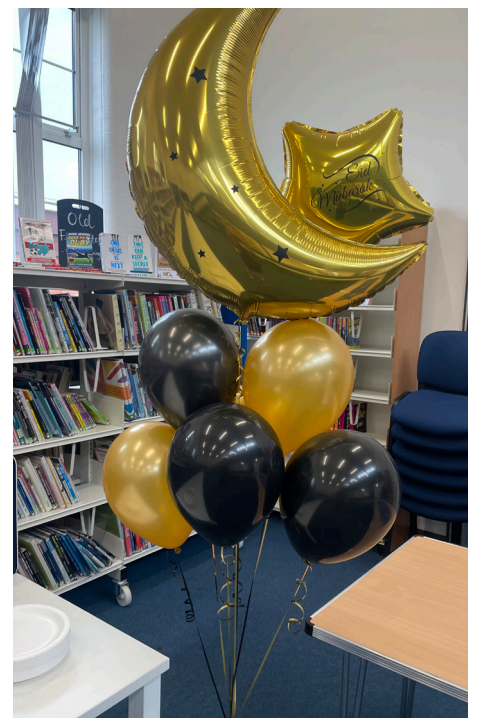
Overall, I feel that the Friday prayers are great and that it



really shows how the Verulam Community is strong, accepting different cultures and religious beliefs.

I feel that the Eid celebration lunch at Verulam was a great experience for the Muslims as it brought us together as a community. I love how the Headteacher thinks about all of her students that attend the school at Verulam as there hasn't been a celebration like this before. This goes to show how Verulam accepts all different cultures and beliefs and overall, just strengthens us as a community.

I feel that there is going to be a new gain of respect towards the new Headteacher and about how thoughtful she was. The Eid celebration was a time where all Muslims could come together and enjoy the food and chat about what they did for their Eid a couple days before. Overall, it was fun and we all loved it.



MILLS MATCH

BY FAIZAN Q - 12JVT

At the end of last term, we had our Mills Match which usually takes place once every two years. It is an event in memory and in honour of Oli Mills, an ex-Verulam student who unfortunately passed away due to a brain tumour just before his A-levels. The school takes this opportunity to raise money for the Oli Mills Foundation, who raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. A JustGiving page was also set up, where a total of £2,257 was raised for Teenage Cancer Trust.

Last year, due to the pandemic, the Mills Match could not take place. In place of this, staff from the school played off with ex-Sixth Formers in an interesting golf tournament, as well as amazing "London2Brighton" bike ride event, where Verulam staff, new and old, cycled to the sea, which raised funds and awareness for Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Oli.

This year, two very entertaining matches were put on for the whole school to watch on Friday the 1st of April: first was the Year 13s versus the Year 12s. Paulo Overton scored for the Year 12 team early on in the game. However, much to the happiness of the Year 13s, Aidan Walsh scored a last-minute goal to equalise, in dramatic fashion.

Secondly: the staff match. Mr Giles came in with an early screamer, which got the spectators riled and on their feet, wanting more. Unfortunately, the other team could not put the ball past the keeper.

Many times, in events like these, we forget the true purpose behind it. The reason for these charity events is to not just raise money for the charity Teenage Cancer Trust, but to also spread awareness of the cause: many young adults all

over the country, and all over the world, are affected by cancer. It is our responsibility to help people who are diagnosed with cancer, and their families.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils who put forward their talents; thank you to the Oli Mills Foundation; thank you to the family of Oli Mills!



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAY

BY HARRIS R 12TDE

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

In the model UN, everyone in year 12 got into groups of 3 and we chose a member state to represent. Leading up to the curriculum enrichment day, we followed the prompt of tackling “social issues” and researched about any affairs in our chosen country. On the day, we simulated activities as the third committee of the UN, who deal with social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs.

We conducted activities such as writing up and delivering powerful speeches in front of our year group to outline social issues within our countries and suggesting steps that we would take to provide solutions in the short term and long term. In our final activity, six delegates from different countries made major proposals to solve local and global problems and then everyone got to vote for the one they felt was the best.

My group chose to be delegates for Poland, and we researched about issues such as the conflict between religion and current movements supporting gay marriage, as well as the refugee crisis at Poland's borders. We had to ensure we represented the stance Poland has on these affairs, keeping in mind that we might

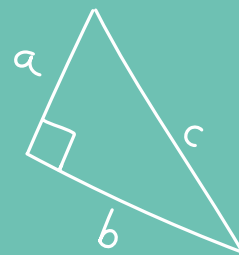
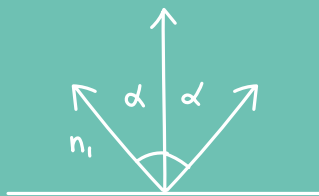
receive criticism from other member states with opposing views. We informed the other delegates of our country's beliefs and cultural norms so that they had a better understanding of the attitudes Poles have towards these affairs. Similarly, our aim was to be respectful toward others, even if we had somewhat opposing views, whilst trying to improve on a global scale.

One thing I gained from doing the model UN was that I improved my confidence with public speaking by preparing and presenting our speeches in front of the delegates from every member state. I didn't have much time to fuss about it and my colleagues were counting on me to perform well so I was determined to speak confidently and persuade the other delegates to support our plan to tackle the issues we discussed. I also got the chance to work with peers who I hadn't talked to before. Working with new people to prepare for important activities helped me improve my teamwork skills and communication.

What I liked most about the day was role-playing. We found it funny at times, but we also got to step into the shoes of the people

making major decisions and proposals to ensure safety and support the prosperity of the people in this world. We watched videos about how these conferences were conducted in real life, which was really interesting to see, and then we immediately got to express ourselves by simulating them.





YEAR 7 TRIUMPH

BY HARRIS R 12TDE

HERTS MATHS CHALLENGE

This term in March, our Year 7 mathematicians were ready to put their problem solving and teamwork skills to the test by participating in the Hertfordshire team mathematics challenge. One of the teams placed 10th and the other placed 4th out of 82 competing teams coming from schools across all of Herts. A big well done to all of them! Three enthusiastic participants came to share their excitement on Verulam Vox.

Interviewer: Harris R (H)
Interviewee: Sebastian S (Seb)

H: What do you like about maths?

Seb: I really like the way of thinking. English, and things, I am not so keen on because there's not one solid answer. What I really like about maths and science is that you either get something right or you get something wrong; there's a really logical way of thinking about maths and working something out.

H: Yeah, they say that maths is the language of logic.

Seb: That makes sense!

H: Were you excited to join the maths challenge?

Seb: Yeah, I was very excited. It was exciting to take part in something I really enjoy.

H: How did you find the style of questions?

Seb: I thought that they were very good, a lot of them were the sort of thing I'm quite good at and the estimation questions were very good. It was all the sort of maths I enjoy.

H: Any future plans to work a job in STEM?

Seb: I was thinking about working for Apple and doing something to do with technology, which has a lot to do with maths - binary and things... That's my dream job but I'd also really enjoy being a scientist - I really enjoy physics.

Interviewer: Harris R (H)
Interviewee: Thomas BD (Tom)

H: What was the most enjoyable part of the maths challenge?

Tom: The most enjoyable part was to be able to do things you wouldn't normally do in your maths lesson. There's a lot more problem solving which you wouldn't usually do in class, so there's a lot of deeper thinking involved, for instance questions can be harder - questions you don't usually see.

H: Did you work individually, each with your own problems to solve?

Tom: No, we worked in two different groups of four.

H: So how was working as a team?

Tom: It was good. In our group everyone came up with their own individual answers and we



would compare them and check each other's solutions to see if they worked and if they made sense.

H: What do you think about these challenges that involve more problem solving as opposed to typical textbook problems?

Tom: I like them a lot more because it's interesting to see the different types of maths out there, because in that challenge we did estimation which we haven't done yet. We did pretty much every single different type of maths you could think of! Prediction, estimation, problem solving, reasoning...

H: That's great. So, you were exposed to different areas of maths and problem types?

Tom: Yes.

Interviewer: Harris R (H)
Interviewee: Sam P (Sam)

H: What did you enjoy the most about the maths challenge?

Sam: I really enjoyed the competitiveness because we were competing against 82 schools, and we'd achieved a place in the top 18 and I was really excited. It was so fun doing what you love and doing it well... and also doing it competitively. It means you can almost mark yourself down in history.

H: It sounds almost like a football league.

Sam: Yeah, except it's just for maths. Just entirely the opposite!

H: Are you planning on taking part in any upcoming challenges?

Sam: We will probably be told when the next maths challenge is. I don't visit a maths club or do maths challenges outside of school, I just really enjoy maths and love maths lessons.

H: Tell me how the Verulam teams did in the finals.

Sam: So, one of our teams came 4th and one of our teams came 10th.

H: Wow, that is brilliant.

Seb: We were 3 points from 3rd.

H: Just 3 points?

Sam: Yes, 3 points from 3rd, and half a question is worth 5 points, so we were very close.

Tom: There were two questions which we had written down correctly, but we didn't change our answers. And one of them, we'd written an answer - it was wrong - and I then got it correct on paper, but they took our paper away.

Seb: You didn't write it down...

Tom: That could have got us 2nd or 3rd.

H: Fantastic, well done.

THE EXTINCTION OF THE POLYNESIAN TREE SNAIL



BY PETER B 12ICC

In the 1960s the authorities of French Polynesia needed more snails. The native Polynesian tree snail (*Partula nodosa*) was very small and was therefore hard to make escargot from. In 1967, the government decided to import the African land snail (*Lissachatina fulica*) as a food source. It seemed a perfect plan to make their escargot from a plentiful source of one of the largest species of snail.

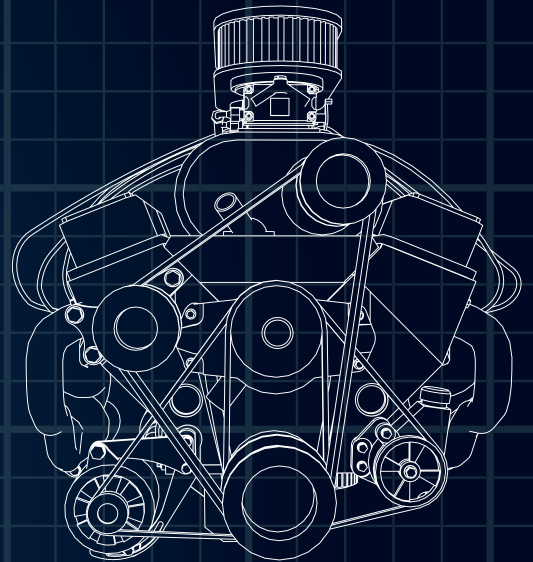
Soon, a few of the imported snails escaped captivity and began to breed and spread. They destroyed local crops and took much of the land and food of the native tree snail. Now faced with a snail epidemic, the French authorities devised a masterful plan to fight fire with fire. They introduced another species of snail: the rosy wolf snail (*Euglandina rosea*). Hunger was not the incentive

this time as the rosy wolf snail is a predatory animal. It has the advantage that it moves two to three times faster than most snails and can track by following the slime trail of other snails. Unfortunately for the authorities, the African land snail was not to the taste of the rosy wolf snail. They did not aid in the protection of the native tree snail and in fact it was made worse. The wolf snail began to hunt the tree snail, sending half of the native species to extinction and most to critical endangerment.

The story of the Polynesian tree snail is an example of the fragile balance of an ecosystem and the damage that invasive species can cause. Now the Polynesian tree snail is the focus of some reintroduction programmes. But it takes many years for an ecosystem to return to health.



THE MAN WHO MADE THE WORLD LESS INTELLIGENT



In 1936, the Mercedes-Benz 260 D became the first diesel passenger car. It was powerful for its time with a power output of 45 hp. But it had a major issue: the engine was very loud. This was due to a phenomenon called 'engine-knocking' due to the rapid compression caused by the pistons the diesel would spontaneously combust.

Research began to find a fuel additive to reduce engine-knocking. Ethanol proved to be effective however it was fairly expensive to make and also had to be at around 20% concentration to be useful which meant a very large quantity of it would be required. Then, a researcher called Thomas Midgley found a new additive that was cheap and reduced engine-knocking at very low concentrations. This additive was a compound called tetraethyl-lead (TEL). Quickly, Midgley and Ethyl Corporation patented TEL referring to it as ethyl perhaps so competitors would mistake it for another compound.

Soon, tetraethyl-lead was in widespread use despite early

warnings about the health risks it posed. The dangers of lead had been known for many decades, but the Ethyl corporation denied it posed any dangers at such low concentrations. Thomas Midgley himself attended a press conference where he placed a bottle of the chemical under his nose and inhaled its vapours for 60 seconds and claimed he could do it every day without consequence. He in fact did know the dangers of lead poisoning having been ill only a few months earlier.

Clair Patterson accidentally discovered the pollution caused by the combustion of TEL whilst trying to measure the age of the Earth from lead content in rocks. His findings were much higher than expected leading him to study ice cores and discover the unnaturally high level of lead in the atmosphere. Many studies were undertaken to examine the effects of lead: It was discovered that children with higher lead exposure performed worse in school; Graphs of crime rate trace onto graphs of lead exposure with a 22-year time lag; an accurate estimate of the number of premature deaths

caused by the high levels of lead in the atmosphere is hard to achieve however it would be in the tens of millions; global IQ dropped significantly.

The effects of tetraethyl-lead still linger on today aided by some lobbying by the lead industry leading to many countries not banning leaded fuels for many years. Despite falling levels of lead it is still an international concern and the environmental damage caused may not ever recover fully.

BY PETER B 12ICC

THE BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NHS

BY RUDY A



Following a movement for a state welfare system in 1942, recommendations were made to parliament to introduce a new, revolutionary healthcare service in the UK. In 1946 the Labour government ministered by Clement Attlee put forward the NHS act which would strive to create this free healthcare.

After two long, hard years of gathering both funds, staff and buildings, health minister Aneurin Bevan launched the National Health Service in 1948. He laid out three core principles that provide the foundation of the NHS still to this day; to meet the health needs of every single person via the same system; free at point of delivery; and to be based on clinical needs rather than the ability to pay. This invention could not have come at a greater time for Great Britain due to the continuation of food rationing and rapidly rising Tuberculosis cases.

Despite underestimating both costs and staff therefore leading to many complications and shortages, the first patient was seen in Trafford General Hospital. Thirteen-year-old Sylvia Diggory was treated for nephritis and was a symbol of promise in these rough times.

By 1952 the NHS was in full swing with over 245,000 nurses registered in the UK. This core stability provided the ability to treat patients with relatively low complications and therefore further the ability to pioneer many breakthroughs in scientific discoveries and medical firsts which have shaped the world of healthcare. Some examples include establishing a link between smoking and lung cancer in 1954; the first kidney transplant and hip replacement in 1960 and so many more.

Covid-19 has no doubt had a huge effect on the NHS, overrunning hospitals and exposing the system and government for underpaying its keyworkers and putting them under extreme amounts of stress. However, celebrating 74 years this year, the National Health Service continues to provide its objectives without deviating from its core principles created back in 1948.

NHS

GEOGRAPHY

NORWAY TRIP 2022

The trip to Norway was a success. The hotel was class and the food did not disappoint, we had different curries and freshly caught fish from the nearby sea.

The Northern Lights were a massive success as we saw them and got some really good pictures. The lights were astonishing and spell binding. It was truly a sight to behold, and I feel so lucky to have seen the Northern Lights in person.

We also visited a deer farm and got to see some angry deer fight each other. The main attraction of the trip was the snow. It had been so long since we last had snow in England. To see everything covered in snow was a surprise to be sure but a welcome one. Lots of snowball fights and friendly wrestles took place in the snow! Everyone's inner child was released once we saw the snow. On two of the nights, we were set free to see the town of Bodo, which actually turned out to be very quiet as most shops were closed.

The prices in Norway are also unbelievably expensive, I spend an insane amount of money on the trip just on food and drinks.

Overall, the trip was a lot of fun and everybody really enjoyed themselves. The trip would not have been possible if not for the amazing staff that managed to organise it in such hard times. I would definitely recommend the next year 12s to go on the geography trip!

BY ALEXANDER C



POEMS ON EMPOWERMENT

AMOR VINCIT OMNIA

BY ZAKARIYA M

**My lover as I lurk,
You seem to tiresomely work**

**Being a source of motivation for the oppressed
A pulsating inspiration, blessed**

**You credit your work with tenacity
In a patriarchal world, with what audacity**

**You thrived my passion for science to your proficiency
Dearest, you truly unlocked my prosperity**

**As your kind are labelled inferior
You have stolen my heart, my superior**

Written from the perspective of Pierre Curie, the husband of notable Marie Curie. Amor Vincit Omnia explores the patriarchal themes of women having to work twice as hard as men to seem equal 'you seem to tiresomely work' 'in a patriarchal world', also delving into the concept of ladies being historically inferior to men 'as your kind are labelled inferior'

However, it shows that regardless of gender, anyone strive for amazing achievements.

Pierre portrays how his love for Marie deems her superior in his eyes 'you have stolen my heart, my superior'

Clerihew style consists of couplets, utilised as a visual metaphor to express how close the couple are – also symbolising that in 1898 they discovered polonium and radium side by side

I AM NOT WITHOUT POWER

BY FAIYAJC

I am not without power.

If I have wronged, I will make it right
If I have despaired, I will hope
If I have sunk, I will arise

For I am not without hope.

I will let my tears fall like rain
Bringing forth meadows of smiles;
Take my losses like shattered fragments -
And build them into mirrorballs of love,
Temper the poisons of my pain
Into medicines of upmost strength

For I can heal.

Strive to sweeten the sour
Soften the suffering of others
Solace the sorrows around me
Sow the seeds of kindness,
Every land I saunter through,

For I exist for mankind.

In the vast puzzle of existence
I am but one small, atomic piece.
Without me
The universe would be left incomplete

For I am not without meaning.

And I may be invisible, seen by none.
But through my words and actions
I will walk upon this beloved earth
Leaving footprints of good one after the other.
I may not be happy,
But content will I be
Knowing I have not lived in vain.

I am not without power.



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