

Newsletter



Summer Term | Issue 3



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Welcome from the Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year! This term we have seen our Year 11 and 13 students complete their examinations with resilience, maturity and optimism. I wish our school leavers well as they journey down their individual and collective roads.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued support and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the summer. May it be a safe, healthy and happy one and whatever your holiday plans are, may they be most enjoyable! I hope that you enjoy reading about all of the wonderful events and trips that have taken place this term.

Best wishes,

Miss Richardson

**Miss Richardson
Headteacher**

Mayor's Challenge

**YOUTH
TALK**
We're listening

Well done to Alex C and his family for participating in the Mayor's Triathlon 2022, supporting Youth Talk as their chosen charity partner.

The event consists of a 5k cycle, 200m swim and a 3k run around Verulamium Park. Alex and his family came second overall with a time of 34:03 minutes (43 teams approx. 75 athletes) and raised £150.

Year 12 student, Alex set off 5th or 6th on his run and finished 1st overall going past the eventual winning team in the last 100 metres. His run took the team to within 20 seconds of the top spot, having only gone out for a couple of runs beforehand.

By Mr Base



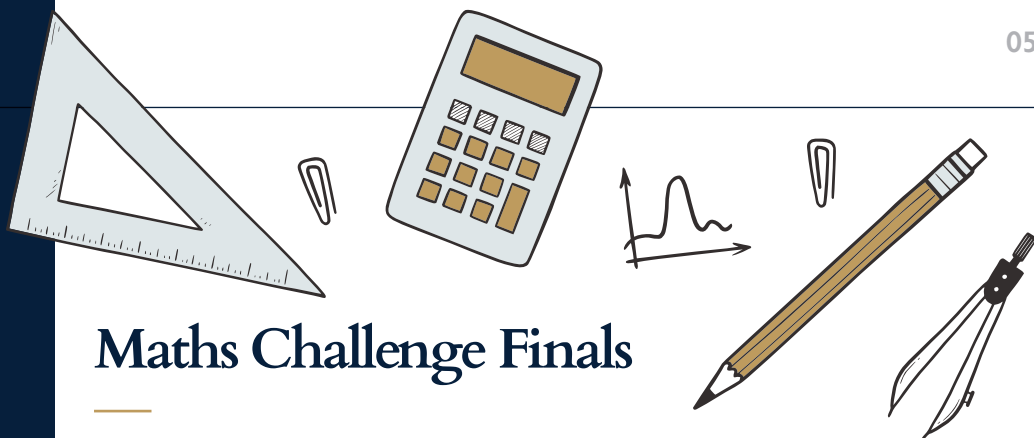
A-Level Art Destinations

A Level Art student, Evan has been offered a place to continue his studies at the prestigious Art college, Central Saint Martins.

He will study for his Foundation course which is a prerequisite to an Art degree. This will lead on to his degree which he will be able to study there. Central

Saint Martins has the reputation of being the Oxford/Cambridge of the art education world. Evan has worked very hard on his art portfolios to achieve this place.

By Ms Watford



Maths Challenge Finals

On Wednesday 4th May two teams of Year 7 students represented Verulam in the finals of the Herts for Learning group Maths Challenge after performing incredibly well in their March qualifier.

We travelled down to Marriotts school in Stevenage where the top 18 teams from over 70 were representing schools across Hertfordshire. Both teams excelled in the challenges, demonstrating skills in memory, estimation, and

problem solving. Team A placed 10th and Team B placed 4th and with very close scores we were thrilled.

A big congratulations to Sam P, Francis H, Louis C, Thomás B-D, Sebastian S, Alistair S, George N, Elliot McM, and Henry P for their effort and accomplishments in both the qualifier and the finals. The Maths Department could not be happier.

By Miss Moreland



Jubilee Cupcake Competition

In celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, a competition was set for Year 7 to design a Jubilee themed cupcake. The winning entry will be made by our lovely Food Tech department.

After receiving some creative entries, James B was selected as the winner with the 'Corgi' design. Pictures of the original design and the finished cupcake. Delicious!

By Ms Ramage



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



We were delighted to learn that former Verulam student Jed was recently invited to a Garden Party to collect his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace.

Most of Jed's DofE Award was completed during his time at Verulam. When Jed left, he only had the Gold Expedition element to do to complete his Award.

He was finally able to complete this in the Peak District in July 2020 as we were coming out of the first Lockdown.

Jed and his family would like to pass on their thanks to Mr Toley, DofE Co-ordinator for most of the time that Jed was at Verulam (and our current Head of DofE). In addition to Mrs Cornmell for supporting Jed when he Volunteered to help with the KS3 Science Club. And, as always, my thanks also go to the PE department in particular Mr Waters for supporting Jed throughout his time at Verulam.

By Mr Base

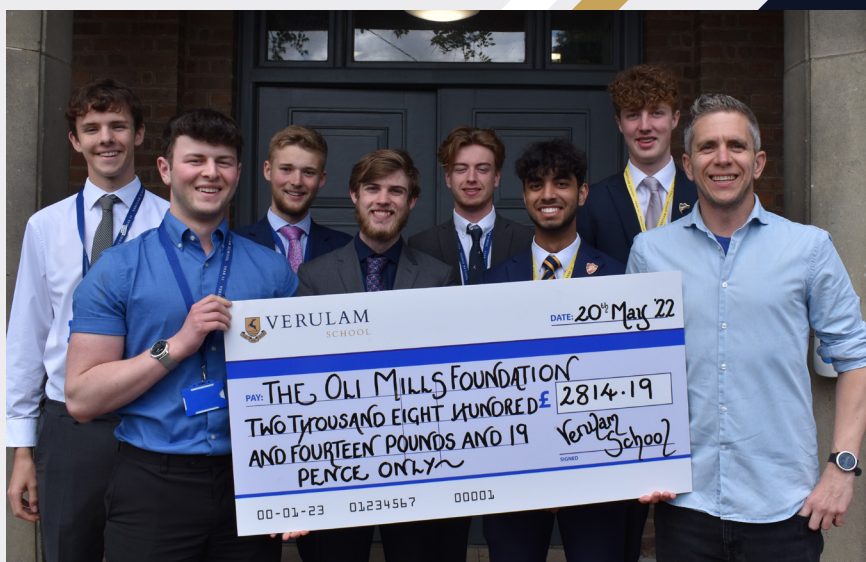


Mills Match Cheque Presentation **MILLS MATCH**

We were honoured to welcome Eddie Mills to Verulam to receive a cheque for the funds raised by the Mills Match for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Eddie met with our outgoing Senior Prefect team and their incoming replacements.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and supported this amazing cause.

By Mrs Welch



Gold Breaststroke Win

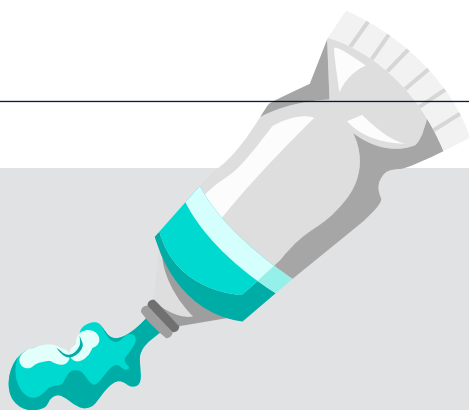
Verulam would like to celebrate the successes of Karson C in Year 8 who has achieved an outstanding swim.

He won Gold in the age 13 years category 50m Breaststroke at the Swim England East Region and achieved his personal best time 35.77s. Congratulations to Karson!

By Mr Jenkins



Year 7 Art



With the exciting, upcoming Comedy Production in which the Creative Arts, Drama and Music departments have come together, the Year 7 Art students have designed, developed and now produced a textile backdrop in response to the production - a true cross curricular collaboration!

By Ms Ramage



Just Talk Poetry Competition

Following on from our success in previous competitions with both Alex S (Year 11) and Ryan K (Year 10) winning for their storyboard and video respectively. Verulam were again successful in joining the mental health campaign with Just Talk.

This year there was a Poetry competition open to all KS3 and KS4/Sixth Form students from Hertfordshire schools and sixth form colleges. Students were asked to write a poem, with the title "The Gift of Kindness".

The quality of poems submitted was extremely high and we are delighted to announce that Angelo H was a runner up in the KS4/sixth form category, and Alex P was shortlisted in the KS3 category. Congratulations to both boys!

By Mr Tansley



Year 7 Enrichment Project

A group of Year 7 students enjoyed the sunshine and had fun developing the Memorial Garden whilst honing their soft skills in team-building; communication; planning; creativity; time management and organisation. The following week the boys then designed their ideal gardens and had a tea party and bonded as friends. The feedback has been wonderful. One student said “Wednesdays is now the high-light of my week”; Another student commented “This makes my week!”

Extra-curricular activities and projects are such an important part of Verulam school-life and offer students an important space to have fun and relax away from the pressures of the classroom. It has been a pleasure to watch the boys grow in confidence interacting with each other whilst developing life-skills. It has been fun!

By Mrs Wright

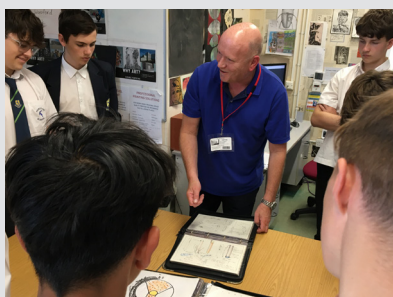


Paul Stebbens Visit

Our Year 10 GCSE Art students were very lucky to have a guest speaker visit one of their lessons in June. 3D Product Designer, Paul Stebbens guided them through his career in Art by explaining his journey from studying Art at school to his current job. The boys were able to see his sketchbooks from school years as well as his recent design work which helped them relate and imagine a career in Art & Design.

They welcomed Paul and asked pertinent questions, feeding their own curiosity whilst Paul shared his passion for design. This was a valuable experience which we hope to repeat by inviting more artists & designers to Verulam in the future.

By Ms Watford



Athletics Gold

A huge congratulations to Year 7 student Thomás B-D who claimed gold medals in both the 100M and 200M events in the East of England Athletic Championships.

A fantastic achievement, well done!

By Mr Anthony



Exams

A massive well done to all our students who completed exams this summer. It was a particularly poignant season because very few of the students had ever taken a 'real' public exam.

It was a mammoth task to organise but the students were exceptional. Both their attitude and behaviour were excellent and I sincerely hope they

all get the results they deserve to move to the next stage of their learning journey.

A Level results can be collected from 09:00 on 18th August and GCSE results can be collected from 09:00 on 25th August, both sets of results will be available on MCAS from 12noon.

By Mrs Panton

Primary Outreach

Our primary outreach has been in full flow this term with several amazing events taking place between us and our local primary schools. Our senior prefect team led a host of amazing talks across Fleetville, Maple, Garden Fields and St. Alban and St. Stephens Primary schools. This was based around secondary transition with our boys talking through their experiences and providing some invaluable advice for the hundreds of eager students who were in attendance.

Our work with Fleetville involved our Year 10 GCSE students leading an afternoon for their Year 2

students during their sports week. The boys ran a carousel of mini activities which the 90 students from Fleetville loved. Adding to this, a select number of our art students also went over to Fleetville to help the upper key stages with their art week and got stuck in with helping to ensure all students finished their projects. In the words of the Fleetville teachers, 'We couldn't have done it without them'

A project that has run over the duration of this year concluded this term with a virtual art gallery exhibition for both Fleetville and Garden Fields Primary Schools.

These schools sent over a number of artworks from a variety of their students to be uploaded into a virtual gallery. These were completed with the help from our partnership of Vortic VR with a superb end product of some very professional looking artworks. These can be found on our website and social media if you wish to have a look for yourself. A massive thank you and well done to all of our students who were great ambassadors across these events.

By Mr Anthony



Year 14 Graduation

We were determined to recognise the achievements of our Year 13 cohort of 2020-21, and finally got to celebrate their success with our twice postponed Graduation and Prizegiving Evening at the end of June.

Timed to coincide with the start of many university student's summer holiday, we were pleased to see so many alumni and parents back in school. Chair of Governors, John Acton gave a wonderful address, focusing on 10 top tips to success.

We also were delighted to have Paul Ison from the Old Verulamians Lodge join us to present their award and prizes. Congratulations to all of our winners, but special praise must go to the winner of the Headteacher's Prize, Charlotte C, who made a fantastic contribution to Verulam during her two years with us.

By Mr Flack



Leadership Course

During the Summer Term, we invited our Year 10 to apply for the Leadership Foundations course run by Step.

The Leadership Foundations course aims to empower any young person to understand what makes a good leader and to recognise the leadership potential in themselves. Designed for Key Stage 4&5 students, the eight 60-minute modules consist of experience-based learning supported by teaching, discussion and one-to-one

mentoring. The course is delivered by a skilled team of experienced facilitators.

We had several applications and invited ten boys to complete the six-week programme. All were successful and gave positive feedback on the course and their experience. We look forward to offering this to Year 12/13 as well as Year 10 next year.

By Miss Perry



Chelsea's Story

Chelsea's Story - Child Sexual Exploitation educational drama

In June Year 9 had the opportunity to watch a drama production based around educating our boys on the topic of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Chelsea's Story is a 40 minute long Applied Theatre Production that has proven highly successful in raising awareness amongst young people of the issues surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation. The play was followed by a 30 minute plenary session exploring the issues raised in the play.

The play has proven highly effective for young people by:

- Raising Awareness of Healthy Relationships
- Promoting Safe Internet Use
- Identifying Risky Situations
- Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation and the differing forms that it can take.

The behaviour and attitude of Year 9 that afternoon was exceptional and some of the questions asked of the actors in the plenary session were thought provoking and insightful.

By Mr Tansley



Harry Potter Studios Tour Trip

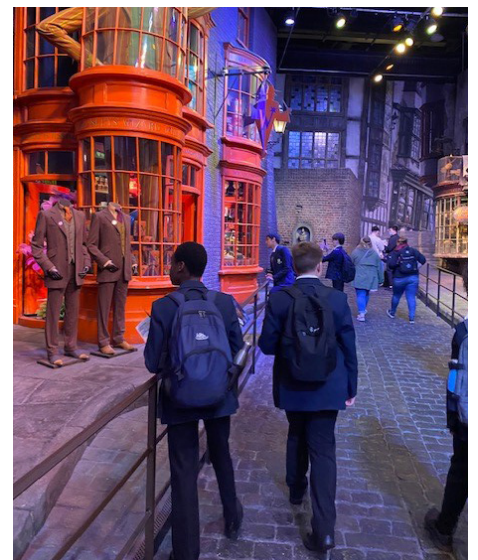
We have many students who give up their time to attend drama clubs and participate in school productions and shows. This involves giving up lunchtimes, after school and even on a Saturday to rehearse.

These students have an interest in the Performing and Creative arts, so it seemed appropriate to go to the Warner Brothers Studios Tour to gain a fascinating insight into the making of the Harry Potter films.

Many of the boys who attended are big fans of the famous boy wizard, but the tour is of great interest to anyone who has an interest in this process.

The day was a huge amount of fun as the boys worked magic with broomsticks, wandered up Diagon Alley and rode on the Hogwarts Express.

By Mr MacKenzie



Duke of Edinburgh

At the start of this year, the Duke of Edinburgh award was back with a bang and over 100 Year 10 students starting at the Bronze level.

The award itself is made up of 4 aspects - Voluntary, Skills, Physical and the Expedition.

The first 3 involve students undertaking an activity in each section for an hour a week for 3 or 6 months. The expedition involves 2 days of walking with a night in a camp site. During the walk, students are out for approximately 6 hours.

As preparation for the expeditions students are trained in first aid, navigation, emergency procedures and expedition food.

Following this, in May, we set out into Herts, Beds and Bucks to complete the expedition.

Students started walking early on Sunday morning from various points close to Ivinghoe Beacon and made their way to our campsite near Chesham. The following day we made our way to various pick up points in the surrounds of Ivinghoe Beacon. During the two days, boys learnt much about themselves and working in a team. Luckily poor

weather was not something they had to deal with! Most were able to get from A to B without too much trouble - those who did, managed to work out their errors and get back on track.

A big thank you to staff and parents who supported the students with this.

On completion of the award at Bronze, students are able to move onto Gold and Silver - many are now signed up to this and ready to go.

By Mr Toley



Year 7 Transition

Over the last half term Mr Knowles and his team have been busy with a programme of events to help students and parents with the transition from primary to secondary school. This began with visits to the vast majority of students in their primary schools by Mr Knowles and Mrs Moss where students could ask questions and find out about school life at Verulam. Evening information events for parents and students were also hosted by key members of staff to ease the transition process. One of these also involved three Year 7 boys; George, Shane and Samer from 7C walking the catwalk modelling their uniform, PE and games kits. Samer however had to have his uniform corrected because his shirt was untucked and tie undone! Mr Knowles was not impressed! The humour was well received by parents.

For the first time ever we added an extra date to our transition calendar. We invited all the boys that are coming to Verulam where they are the only boy from their primary school. It can be very daunting to not know anyone so this was an opportunity to meet boys in the same situation and make friends prior to the transition days and alleviate any anxieties for the boys.

On 14th July we hosted all of our new Year 7 cohort for Secondary Transfer day. The boys found out their form groups and met their form tutors for the first time. Then, led by a team of sixth form

helpers, experienced their first Verulam taster lessons in a wide variety of subjects including Maths, English, Science, French and Spanish, Computing, Design Technology, Art, History and PSHE. The boys really enjoyed the lessons and left the school buzzing and excited to come back in September.

On Saturday 16th July we held our final transition event of the year with a Saturday fun day with their form tutors. This was an opportunity to spend quality time with their form and their tutors getting to know one another and developing team skills in an informal setting. There was a competitive treasure hunt around the school with prizes for the groups who solved the cryptic clues, found keywords placed around the school and worked out the school motto "Faire mon devoir means do my duty" from the words.

Everyone is looking forward to starting in September!

By Mr Knowles



Mural Artist in Residence

In the final weeks of the summer term the Art department had the pleasure to welcome mural artist, Emmylou Aurora.

She worked with Year 9 pupils creating designs

based on diversity and inclusivity. The final design was created taking elements of multiple winning designs and these pupils helped her paint the final mural. This will be a permanent display on the external wall of the Art block next term. Big thanks to the following

boys, Hanson L, Thomas D, Kosi O, Marcus L, Edwin F and Ryan Y for showing excellent character and respect towards our guest and heaps of enthusiasm!

By Ms Watford

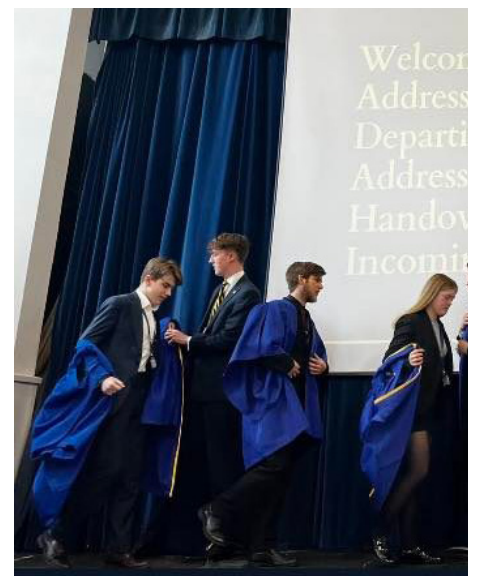


The Handover of the Robes

This year, following a long and thorough application process we saw the election of a new Senior Prefect team. A new tradition was made and the outgoing Senior Prefect Team were invited to handover their robes to the incoming Senior Prefect Team. Speeches were made, well wishes and thanks were given and staff involved in the process were so very pleased to welcome our new group of Pupil leaders.

The team have already supported whole school events and activities, contributed to the editions of the Verulam Vox and launched schemes in school to benefit our pupils. We are very excited to see what this group achieve during their year 'in office'; already they have started to have a huge impact on the school.

By Miss Perry



Activities Week

During this week a large number of students experienced education “outside the classroom” as various visits and trips took place. The aim of the week was to learn a new physical skill, develop an academic interest or experience and overcome a challenging situation.

Our Year 8 students spent 2 days at a Water-Sport centre in Broxbourne working in unfamiliar groups with specialist instructors. Despite the very warm weather the students had a memorable time on paddleboards, building rafts or overcoming challenges on water.

Year 9 students spent the week in North Wales at Blue Peris Mountain Centre where they pushed their physical and mental limits with a variety of outdoor experiences including abseiling,

coasteering and rock climbing. A further group of Year 9 students enjoyed a UK History Tour which included a 2- night residential element. The students visited many sites of historical significance which wetted their appetite for GCSE History in Year 10.

All students in Year 7, 8 and 10 also enjoyed a day’s House Sport which saw some significant competition over 3 sports.

Finally, Year 10 had a fun day out at Thorpe Park to celebrate the end of year which we hope to make an annual treat.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff, teaching and support, who gave freely of their time to bring these opportunities to fruition.

By Mr O'Connor



Year 12 Geography Trip



After a busy week of threshold exams, it was great to get the Year 12s out into the real world and see the coastal landscapes and urban city that they have been studying all year.

Wednesday morning, we packed the mini bus with the geography equipment of ranging poles, quadrants and clinometers and headed off to Walton-on-the-Naze. Mr Toley and Mr Base in bus 1 and I in bus 2, we made our way towards the clear skies and deep blue sea. After a traffic-free run, we arrived at the famous Naze tower.

Equipment in hand the students head down to collect their first sets of data.

It was great to see the team mentality and enthusiasm as they made footprints in the sand and measured the profile. With the tide out, we made our way along the golden Essex sands towards the pier. Practising the field work methods as we went, we arrived back at the buses, fully experienced and ready for the return journey.

Thursday arrived with more sunshine and a second day of fieldwork. This time the students selected their own data collection locations and off they went. A pleasing sight to see them independently

working and heading off into the sunshine once more. Each group arrived at the town with some time to purchase an ice cream or two as they looked at the contrast of locations. Ice creams finished, it was equipment back on the bus and the return journey home.

Friday morning and temperatures rising, it was off to London. Our first stop was to see a MASSIVE football stadium. The students guided us into Stratford (via an interesting route) and we arrived bang on time at West Ham football club. A great experience to see the inside, hear the stories and be a part of the regeneration of the area.

After the tour, we made our way to the Orbit and headed up the lift to see the views of east London and regeneration taking place. Clear skies allowed a stunning view. Going up was quick but going down was even quicker. And the only way down was to take the slide. So suited up and helmets ready, one by one we headed down.

After sliding down, we returned back to the top for group pictures and a presentation to myself from the group of a vintage personalised West Ham shirt. A nice touch from a thoughtful group of students. Change of outfit and we headed over to Docklands to visit the museum and take in the information for their regenerating places modules.

Nothing but smiles and laughter made three days a fitting end to the year. Having had my first field trips to Walton and The Olympic Park when I started Verulam, it was a fitting closer for the end of my time here. Thank you #VG6thform for everything.

By Mr Woodville



Year 9 UK History Trip

A group of Year 9 students embarked on a five day historical tour of the UK. Monday was focused on Jewish migration to London, visiting the Kindertransport Memorial, Hope Square, Brune Street (Soup Kitchen for the Jewish Poor), the WWI memorial in Spitalfields, the Battle of Cable Street Mural and the Imperial War Museum.

Tuesday and Wednesday were based on World War One; Tuesday began at Cannock Chase, looking at the role Cannock played in soldier training and the medical response of a soldier. We then visited a German military cemetery that included 4 Zeppelin crews that were shot down over Britain, ending the day at a British War Cemetery, where the first five graves amongst 100's were soldiers from Hertfordshire, Manchester, India, New Zealand and Ireland - highlighting the truly global nature of the First World War. The boys then enjoyed a buffet dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday started at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum, where their WWI trench experience was amazing! We then spent the

afternoon at the National Memorial Arboretum, finishing the visit with a reflective memorial service laying a poppy wreath to those soldiers, sailors and aircrew who gave their lives since WW2. Two students, Tanaka and Gaurav, gave readings to commemorate, one from "They Shall Not Grow Old" by Laurence Binyon and another from "The Soldier" by Rupert Brooke. The message on the poppy wreath was chosen collectively by the students: "May your sacrifice never be forgotten. Faire Mon Devior." After a day of history, the boys relaxed with a game of bowling and a meal out before heading back to the hotel.

On Thursday, we focused on the Industrial Revolution so visited the Black Country Museum, learning about work and life in Industrial

Britain. The BCM was also the film set for the Peaky Blinders, and some of the boys even managed to meet the actor double for Arthur Shelby in the series!

Friday ended the History Tour back at Verulam with a day of reflections and quiz. It was outstanding to see how much the boys learnt from this experience. One commented: "it makes sense now, this is why we learn history – this week has shown me that we must understand our past to help make better decisions in our present, to help the future."

By Mr Pettitt



Thorpe Park Year 10 Trip



Last Thursday, to celebrate the end of the academic year, 140 of the Verulam Year 10's went on a trip to Thorpe Park.

Everyone was extremely excited, and although the prospect of queuing in the hot temperatures to get into the park wasn't something any of us were looking forward to, it was a small sacrifice to make for such a fantastic experience!

The park was extremely busy, however with our boys' determination to get on as many rides as possible most of them managed to ride the biggest rollercoasters. (Examples of this included the terrifying 'Saw' ride

and 'Stealth', which shoots from 0-80mph in under two seconds.)

Most managed to brave at least one rollercoaster, although, for some (Mr Anthony), the teacups were more than enough!

The weather was hot and sticky but that didn't stop the boys getting soaking wet on the water rides.

Exhausted but very happy, we set off back to Verulam. The coach was a lot quieter on the way back: most students had fallen asleep!

By Mr Lewis



Blue Perris

After a long three years it was good to see the school return to Blue Peris Mountain Centre for a week of outdoor adventure activities. Blue Peris offers a wide range of activities designed to push the boys to their limits both physically and mentally.

The activities we undertook last week were:

- Rock Climbing
- Abseiling
- Mountain Biking
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Mine Adventure
- Coasteering

Surprisingly, the Welsh weather was fantastic with blue skies most days.

All boys and staff thoroughly enjoyed their time in North Wales, we hope some will have found a new appreciation for the adventurous outdoors and will do these activities again.

By Mr Waters



Summer Term Sporting Success

Summer term has witnessed an array of success across many domains. Our summer sports consisted of students participating across the county in Cricket, Athletics and Tennis.

Our athletics squads met regularly with schools across both the district and county in their respective year group leagues. Some notable wins were gained at the District Athletics championships across all year groups including Thomás B-D winning the U12 100m, Oscar N claiming gold in

the U13 800m, Michael B smashing the U14 Javelin, Matthew N leading the U15 800M and Nikolai C bringing home the U13 800m title.

The Year 8 athletics squad claimed a spot in the County Plate Championship after their consistent performances across the term. They claimed a 2nd place finish in the competition and great team achievement across the County.

Our cricket season saw us gain some hard draws in both the District and County competitions, but the boys who represented the

teams did an amazing job in some tough and close matches. The Year 8 side travelled the furthest in the County competition and narrowly lost out in the Semi Final.

A well done to all students who represented the school this term and did so with excellent attitudes.

By Mr Anthony



New House Teams



Congratulations to all of our newly selected House representatives and our House Captains. The selection process involves tutors selecting those students who embody our ethos of excellence, character and respect. I am delighted to say that all of the students selected demonstrate these values and I am sure they will be excellent role models for other students.

The team have hit the ground running by organising their form in preparation for Verulympics to

ensure wide participation in a range of events. This will be followed by charity leadership in September as we raise awareness and collect donations for FEED, our local food bank.

Throughout the year there will be a mix of competitions, charity events and leadership opportunities for the team to get involved with. The ultimate aim for the students is to try to ensure that their house gets to raise the Hawkes Cup at the end of the school year!

The Hawkes cup is awarded to the house who accrue the greatest number of house points during the academic year. Together, our team of House leaders will enable participation in a range of events for our students and will learn how to organise and encourage others and gain house points along the way. This is a demanding role, but a rewarding one. I wish them every success in the coming year.

By Mrs Avery



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.



Alban Academies Trust Newsletter

A snapshot of various activities both across the AAT and in each individual school.

It cannot hope to cover everything that takes place, but will celebrate key things that collectively and individually we are really proud of.

Please find the link on the below QR code for the AAT Summer Newsletter.





Prizegiving

We were pleased to welcome parents of our student of the year prize winners to school during the first week of July for their celebration evening. Prizes were awarded to one student per year per subject as well as a form tutor award, and three from each Head of Year, for three students who best exhibited our core values of Excellence, Character and Respect.

The awards were presented on the basis of progress in a subject as well as demonstrating our first core value of Excellence, which to us is being the best version of themselves. All the prize winners must be congratulated for their effort throughout the academic year. Our winners of each year are as follows:



Year 7

Thomás B-D
Miloš D
Zachary R

Year 8

Lukas M
Crosby C
Jago A

Year 9

Oliver B
Tom R
George G

Year 10

Henry G
Jacob H
Maxim R

Year 12

Elise E
Harrison S
Harris R

PTA

Despite the ongoing challenges of organising and running events during this Academic Year, the PTA has been successful in raising over £7,000!

Together with previously raised funds, the PTA donated £15,000 to the School in June 2022, to cover the cost of the Library fittings refresh, with the remainder contributing to the wider rollout of next-generation Smart Board in every classroom. Our next fundraising project is supporting the refurbishment of the Science Labs. Every penny we raise goes towards enriching the educational experience of all pupils at Verulam.

We are very keen to hear from parents who would like to get involved in any aspect of the PTA. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 13th October at 7.30pm at the school, and you are warmly invited to attend. At the AGM we will be electing officers to the following committee vacancies:

- PTA Chair
- PTA Vice Chair
- PTA Comms Officer

If you are interested in standing for election or helping with any of the PTA activities, please email verulamschoolpta@gmail.com.

Please see the separate PTA newsletter for more information.

Alumnus of the month



Adrian Cobb left Verulam School in 1977 and is now Regional Director for Dodd Group (Eastern) Limited, an electrical and mechanical services contracting business.

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

I left Verulam in 1977 when my parents moved the family to Norfolk for a better work/life balance. At that time, I felt that I wanted to pursue further education and a career through a vocational route. I started as a craft electrical apprentice, qualified as an electrician and since then have followed both a technical and commercial route in the building services MEP sector of the construction industry to reach the position that I have now. This is a position that I have held for the past twenty years working for this family owned business that has coverage across the UK. In

East Anglia, we enjoy long term business relations in a number of sectors but primarily Defence.

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

Family has to come first and I am very fortunate in this respect including welcoming a steady flow of grand children to the world.

Workwise, initially achieving technical success. Over the past twenty years, the satisfaction has been in developing a strong sustainable regional business that has family values and is agile to cope with the future demands of a changing industry. Modern methods of construction and renewable energy sources are at the forefront of the change.

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

We have an apprentice intake scheme within our business. For many years now, I have informed the new intake that they should grab hold of every opportunity that comes along because it will all add up to excellent all round experience. This industry is extremely diverse and changing rapidly for the next generation with modern methods of construction evolving. Every day is a learning day and the diverse range of people encountered make each day

interesting. You will never get bored in this industry.

What House were you in at Verulam School and can you describe one of your fondest memories?

What I have learned to appreciate from the school is the culture of learning, discipline and caring for those around me. Attending school through teenage years is not always easy but the culture at the school was supportive and encouraging whilst providing a disciplined environment.

In life, if you are receptive to learning, care about those around you and approach tasks in a disciplined manner then you will succeed. Therefore, the culture at Verulam School is set to create success in life.

What's next?

I will reach 60 years of age in January of 2022 and so retirement from full time employment is on the horizon. I am busy formulating a plan that will keep me fully engaged whereby I can continue to contribute to the business that I enjoy whilst engaging in more leisure activities and charitable activities along the way. Oh, and continue to learn....

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