



VERULAM SCHOOL

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5th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is my pleasure to share with you some recent developments within the SEND Department at Verulam school.

Firstly, as many of you will be aware, we have moved location to the new Inclusion Hub. The Hub is located at the bottom of the main drive. It is designed to offer a quiet area for study, intervention, and general support. Additionally, we are open at break and lunch times where a range of games and other activities are offered for students who would benefit from quieter surroundings. We are lucky to have an outside area that is rapidly being developed into a garden and we are planning to cultivate a range of vegetables and flowers with the assistance of our students.

In order to enable our staff to take a holistic approach in our support, we are sharing the Inclusion Hub with some members of the Pastoral Team. Students can visit Student Services (which is based upstairs) for support with their well-being and mental health needs. We strongly believe that this combined approach will prove beneficial to our pupils with a range of additional needs.

Secondly, we are excited to announce two new initiatives for the autumn term. For our delayed struggling readers, we will be continuing to offer the LEXIA program but will also be running Read Write Inc. As you might be aware, the Read Write Inc is widely used in primary schools to develop the acquisition of reading skills. We are pleased to be able to offer our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 a chance to part of the Read Write Inc 'Fresh Start' approach that is specifically aimed at pupils in secondary school who have not fully acquired all the necessary skills for fluent reading at an earlier stage in their learning.

We are also introducing the Prince's Trust which is aimed to support some of our pupils who struggle with attendance, engagement and classroom-based learning. The Prince's Trust is a renowned charitable organisation that supports schools and young people in their journey to adulthood through the development of a wide range of skills. The Prince's Trust offers

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courses that develop young peoples' skills in leadership, employability, teamwork, career planning, project-based learning and many more.

As part of our Continued Professional Development, I am continuing to lead regular staff sessions that focus on a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We believe that all our pupils can thrive within the classroom when class teachers are aware of pupils' difficulties and employ a range of reasonable adjustments to support those pupils in their ongoing achievement.

We are aware that there are times when parents feel concerned that their child may be struggling more than is considered 'usual' and might have an undiagnosed need. In these cases, we strongly advise parents to contact us. The email address for all SEND enquiries is SEND@verulam.herts.sch.uk.

We are looking forward to a positive year in our new Inclusion hub and very much look forward to sharing further updates with you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss P. Hart

Head of Learning Support

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