



VERULAM
SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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16th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a wonderful Autumn term. Many thanks to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. There have been many exciting events and opportunities on offer that you can read about in our termly newsletter which will be sent out later today.

As a community, we are also incredibly proud to have raised £4613 for the following charities this term: Hello Yellow; Youth Talk; Save the Children; Children in Need; The Stephen Lawrence Foundation; The Royal Legion and Miles for Refugees. We are looking forward to building on these successes as we have a busy and exciting Spring term planned. In the meantime, we wish you a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

End of term arrangements

As a result of increasing cases of the Omicron variant locally, we have made the decision to finish the term on Friday 17th December. Pupils will leave for the Christmas break at 3:30pm. This decision has not been taken lightly and is in response to the increased pressure that schools are facing managing sickness absence in both students and staff.

Regrettably, this also means that we are having to cancel the school Pantomime for family/carers and friends who were due to attend this evening and tomorrow. This is particularly disappointing as the children have worked incredibly hard during rehearsals and were looking forward to performing in front of an appreciative audience. The good news, however, is that we will share a pre-recording of the performance and a link will be sent out so that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the Panto and the amazing acting ability of our students.

The School will be donating ticket sales to Herts Young Homeless - www.hyh.org.uk/st-albans-homeless-charity.

Vaccinations

You can book a vaccination for your child online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119.

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There are also a wide range of walk-in options at vaccination sites across the region for adults and some specific clinics for young people. Please check which sites are running clinics for young people on the website before you book. You can find times and addresses at:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/events/vaccination-walk-in-clinic-times>

You can find more information about COVID-19 vaccinations at:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

Start of term – mass testing

When school reopens after the holidays there will be a staggered start to term to support on site LFD testing for all students with parental consent, as required by the DfE under current guidance.

We will be using Thursday 6th and Friday 7th of January 2022 to complete the testing. Students in years **11,12,13** and **7** with parental consent for testing, will come into school on Thursday 6th January to be tested and will then return home. Those who test negative will return to school the following day (**Friday 7th January**) as long as their LFD test remains negative, to start lessons according to their timetable.

Years **8, 9** and **10** students with parental consent for testing, will come into school on Friday 7th January to be tested and will then return home. Those students in years 8, 9 and 10 who test negative will return to school on **Monday 10th January** as long as their LFD test remains negative, to start lessons according to their timetable.

The timings are below. Please ensure your son/daughter attends at the correct time; students will only be able to test in their allocated time slot. The testing will take place in the Sports Hall. All students **must** wear masks on arrival. Any positive test results will be communicated to students and parents.

Thursday 6th January schedule:

Timings	Students
9am to 10am	Year 11 forms BCH
10am to 11am	Year 11 forms JPY
11am to 12pm	Year 13 students
12pm to 1pm	Year 12 students
1.30pm to 2.30pm	Year 7 BCH forms
2.30pm to 3.30pm	Year 7 JPY forms

Friday 7th January schedule:

Timings	Students
9am to 10am	Year 10 forms BCH
10am to 11am	Year 10 forms JPY
11am to 12pm	Year 9 forms BCH
12pm to 1pm	Year 9 forms JPY
1.30pm to 2.30pm	Year 8 forms BCH
2.30pm to 3.30pm	Year 8 forms JPY

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Subsequent tests will be issued for weekly completion at home. Previously given consent **does not** cover consent for January 2022 LFD testing on site.

Link for Consent

You will need to login with your child's @verulamschool.co.uk account to complete the consent form, this is to ensure that only parents/carers can consent for an individual. If you have more than one child who attends the school, please log in separately with their respective accounts.

<https://forms.gle/EkV2M5xhAX3KHqkU8>

Masks

In order to keep our school community safe, it is essential that a mask is worn in all communal spaces and classrooms. An increasing number of pupils are arriving at school without a mask. Please ensure that your child has a mask. In addition, we recommend investing in reusable, washable masks as these are also better for the environment.

Uniform

It is essential that all students have the correct uniform ready for the Spring term. Please note that trainers are not permitted to be worn with a full uniform and that if your child needs new shoes they are acquired over the Christmas break. In addition, hooded tops are not permitted.

In preparation for the winter months please ensure that your child has a suitable coat and a school jumper.

Staffing Matters

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

I would like to welcome the following new members of staff: Mr C MacKenzie, Head of Drama (from January 2022); Mr M Toley, Teacher of Geography & DoE Lead (from January 2022); Mr M Lewis, Teacher of PSHE/History/RE (from February 2022); Ms G Welch, Communications/Marketing; Ms A Phillips, 6th Form Learning Supervisor (from January 2022); Mrs S Jekells, Teacher of Business Studies (from January 2022).

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

Yours sincerely



Miss J K Richardson
Headteacher

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