



VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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St Albans
Hertfordshire
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2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for Verulam School. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I hold a strong belief that a child's time at school should enable them to fulfil their academic potential, whilst also allowing them to embark on a journey of self-discovery, uncovering their passions, talents and embracing their unique identity. A quality education has the power to significantly change children's lives and every child has the right to receive an excellent education. As Headteacher, I am dedicated to developing opportunities for students to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known as individuals and that their personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full.

A Verulam School education is about developing the whole child and providing opportunities for them to flourish within and beyond the classroom. It is the aim of the whole school team to help each child become a successful learner and well-rounded individual who is ready to make the next steps in their learning journey. In order for all students to be equipped to survive and thrive in tomorrow's world, I believe that they must be supported to be compassionate individuals, to think creatively and to be inclusive.

I have been a teacher and senior leader in schools across London and Essex for the past 18 years. Starting my journey as an English teacher, I then progressed to lead the English department at an 11-18 all-boys Catholic school in Enfield. Since then, I have been a senior leader in three schools, most recently as the Vice Principal of a large 11-18 mixed comprehensive in East London since 2016. It is my experience in education, that will support me in taking the school forward and building upon its success to date.

Verulam School has the potential to be outstanding and I am looking forward to finding out more about the school so that we can develop it positively with changes that are supported by the whole school community. Please be reassured that nothing will change in terms of the routines for your child. The school remains a good school and the expectations of all staff (teaching and non-teaching) will be as high as they were before. Any changes that are made, will be for the best interests of the children, and will be communicated to you in advance with clear reasons given.

Verulam School

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I am keen to meet parents and carers, to give you the opportunity to say hello and also ask any questions you may have. From my experience of being in education, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. As the parent of a Year 10 child myself, I know how important communication between a school and parents is, as well as the vital contribution that parents make to childrens achievements. I therefore want to develop the relationship between the school and parents for everyone's benefit.

Communication changes

- Every Wednesday at 16:30 I will host a small parent/carers forum to give you the opportunity to meet me and ask any questions. These sessions will last approximately 45 minutes and will be pre-bookable through Ms K Bonass kelly.bonass@verulam.herts.sch.uk
- The Verulam Voice will no longer be sent out on a weekly basis. Instead, the Student Leadership Team will produce a newsletter written by students for students, which will be sent out via email at the end of each half term. In addition, all parents and students will receive a whole-school, celebratory newsletter at the end of each term.
- A new Parent/Carer Calendar will be sent out at the start of the academic year so that key dates are explicit.

I very much look forward to meeting you in order to get to know you and to share my vision and plans for the school in greater detail. This strong partnership between parents and the school is so important in enabling children to achieve success, and so I ask for your full support of school policies and for your continued proactive involvement in your child's education.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Miss J Richardson
Headteacher

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