



# VERULAM SCHOOL

**Headteacher: Julie Richardson**

Brampton Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 4PR  
Tel: 01727 766100

[www.verulamschool.co.uk](http://www.verulamschool.co.uk)  
Email: [head@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@verulam.herts.sch.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a really positive start to the spring term. However, like schools across the country, we continue to be affected by Covid-19 and the challenges this poses in terms of staff and pupil absence. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support at this difficult time.

## **Behaviour**

Since September we have focused our pastoral programme on how students treat one another. All too often in the modern world, individuals say or do things under the guise of 'banter'. *Someone's banter is someone else's pain* and it is essential that a culture of 'banter' is not accepted. We would appreciate all parents/carers in echoing this core message so that this is consolidated within the home.

## **Return to school – PE/Games**

Half term marks the end of pupils wearing their PE/Games kit on days that they have PE/Games. From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, all boys will be expected to bring their kit to change into at school. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, pupils are able to once again change on site.

## **Lockers**

The dark blue lockers outside of the school canteen are being removed over half term. All pupils that currently occupy one of these lockers have been asked to relocate their belongings to a free locker inside the canteen.

## **Uniform and Jewellery**

The school operates a clear uniform policy. All students Year 7-11 are expected to adhere to the policy, wearing the full school uniform. Please note, trainers are not permitted and any students arriving at school without shoes (without validated medical exemption) will not be permitted to go to lesson. Please ensure that

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if your child needs new shoes, that these are purchased over the half term break. Jewellery is prohibited with the exception of one pair of studs.

### **Hair Policy**

As you may be aware from recent reports, we decided to remove any reference to hair from our Behaviour Policy in September 2021. This move is to ensure that no student is unfairly treated or penalised as a result of the way in which their hair naturally grows. We feel that this is a positive non-discriminatory step to support all students in feeling comfortable in their own skin.

### **Reviews**

Since September, as the new Headteacher I have audited the school and reviewed our Behaviour Policy, SEND and Inclusion provision. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all parents, governors, staff and pupils that have been involved in these reviews. The feedback and input of all stakeholders has been incredibly useful. We are now working to plan and implement revised systems ready for September 2022 and will release more details about this in the summer term.

### **First Aid**

We have a new First Aid provision. Should any students feel unwell or be injured they should go to the Main Reception where a first aider will be called.

### **Masks**

It is no longer necessary for pupils to wear masks in communal spaces and classrooms. However, your child may continue to wear a mask if they wish to. Please note, should infections begin to rise next half term, we will review this and reintroduce masks if necessary.

### **Vaccinations**

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

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>

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You can find more information about COVID-19 vaccinations at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

### **Staffing matters**

I would like to congratulate the following staff on their recent promotion: Mr J Pettitt – Lead Practitioner, Mr C MacKenzie - Acting Assistant Headteacher.

As we reach half term please enjoy reading our student-led Verulam Vox to hear more from our student body [https://verulamschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/VERULAM-VOX\\_FEB\\_V3.pdf](https://verulamschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/VERULAM-VOX_FEB_V3.pdf)

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to wish you a restful half term.

Yours sincerely

Miss J K Richardson

Headteacher

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