



# VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. Exam season is now in full swing and we wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best with their examinations.

The summer term is a time when we reflect on the wonderful events and achievements of the year, whilst planning for the next academic year. It has been an immensely enjoyable year so far. I feel privileged to work with you in this community.

### Forthcoming main site developments

Between May half term and September, all of the boys' toilets are being removed and refurbished. These renovations will commence over the May half term, starting with the toilets near the English corridor.

When we return from the break, these toilets will be sectioned off to allow building works to commence. To facilitate this building works, Years 8, 9 and 10 will move 'up' in terms of their play spaces when we return from May half term.

### MUGA – Multi Use Games Area

On the back playground where the basketball court once stood, a MUGA is being installed over the summer break.

This will be slightly larger than the basketball court was, and will have football goals and basketball hoops built in. Sturdy fencing will surround the MUGA and there will be two entrance points.



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## SEND

We are committed to improving our provision for SEND and vulnerable students. The House at the front of the school will become an **'Inclusion Hub'** from September 2022.

SEND will move from room 27 to the downstairs section of the house. In addition, Ms Moss and our new Pastoral/Safeguarding Assistant and counsellors will be based upstairs.

A garden is currently being created for Inclusion Hub. Some students will have the opportunity to engage in The Prince's Trust as well as interventions such as animal assisted therapy.

## Kirkland Rowell Surveys

Thank you to all parents that completed the survey back in the spring term. The results recently came in.

### Some of the positive areas highlighted from the survey feedback:

1. Promoting racial harmony
2. Treating students fairly and equally
3. Strong middle leaders
4. Children are happy
5. Library facilities

### Key areas we will be focusing on improving as part of our school improvement Plan 2022 – 2023

1. Further developing our school facilities
2. Further developing our behaviour and rewards system
3. Further developing our SEND provision
4. Improving all aspects of communication including reporting systems

## Uniform

I am very grateful for the support parents give us in ensuring our students always look smart. Visitors to the school often comment positively about the way that our students present themselves. Students are now able to wear the summer uniform which permits them to not wear a tie and to have their top button undone.

As stated in my Spring letter **all** shirts are expected to be tucked in. In addition, all students must wear shoes, this rule still stands for students sitting examinations.

With the cost of living soaring, the Government has now published statutory guidance to make school uniform costs affordable for all, after a legal requirement to do so passed into law last year. As a result, I would like some feedback on our uniform; the number of branded items; the availability of second-hand uniform and the 'total cost' of uniform.

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I would be grateful if you could complete the short Google Form on the link below before Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June to share your views/thoughts on the affordability of uniform.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7fHQp8nQnFOZB1LGfHdDJSWg4lxJ8Y3WtoTUsQ\\_k3-G2yBw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7fHQp8nQnFOZB1LGfHdDJSWg4lxJ8Y3WtoTUsQ_k3-G2yBw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Looking ahead to 2022 - 2023

Earlier this academic year, we carried out a stakeholder consultation regarding the school day with a proposal to move to five one-hour period days.

Following the consultation, and extensive curriculum modelling, I can now confirm that from September 2022 the school day will be in the following format:

#### Year 7 & 8 only

	Start time	End time	Length of time
Registration	8:35:00	9:00:00	00:25
Lesson 1	9:00:00	10:00:00	01:00
Break	10:00:00	10:20:00	00:20
Lesson 2	10:20:00	11:20:00	01:00
Lesson 3	11:20:00	12:20:00	01:00
Lunch	12:20:00	13:10:00	00:50
Lesson 4	13:10:00	14:10:00	01:00
Lesson 5	14:10:00	15:10:00	01:00
End of school day	15:10:00		

#### Years 9 – 13 only

	Start time	End time	Length of time
Registration	8:35:00	9:00:00	00:25
Lesson 1	9:00:00	10:00:00	01:00
Lesson 2	10:00:00	11:00:00	01:00
Break	11:00:00	11:20:00	00:20
Lesson 3	11:20:00	12:20:00	01:00
Lesson 4	12:20:00	13:20:00	01:00
Lunch	13:20:00	14:10:00	00:50
Lesson 5	14:10:00	15:10:00	01:00
End of school day	15:10:00		

Year 7 and Year 8 will experience a separate break and lunchtime to improve their experience at Verulam and having spent most lunchtimes on duty myself in the canteen, I really feel that this will have a huge impact. This will also support Year 7 in their transition from Primary School.

By providing separate break and lunchtimes, this will enable Year 7 and Year 8 to move to the back of the school for their recreational time, having more space to play and socialise. In addition, they will have an improved experience in the school canteen, with less pupils being present at one time.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and happy May Half term. I am sure many of you will be joining in the Queen's jubilee celebrations. To mark this occasion, we are engaging in The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, that invites people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

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Hertfordshire County Council has been asked by Lord Lieutenant Robert Voss to co-ordinate the Hertfordshire wide response to this project. As part of this, Schools have been asked to get involved and help with the planting.

The Queen's Green Canopy team at HCC are providing 1 or 2 free trees which will be planted on our school grounds.

Finally, please find attached our final Verulam Vox, the student edition, for this academic year.  
[https://verulamschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/VERULAM-VOX\\_MAY\\_V2-1.pdf](https://verulamschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/VERULAM-VOX_MAY_V2-1.pdf)

We look forward to seeing students return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Julie Richardson  
Headteacher

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