

Newsletter

Autumn Term | Issue 4



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Welcome from the Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

**Welcome to the Autumn term
edition of our 2022 newsletter!**

So many wonderful things have taken place this term. We returned from the summer break to a new school day structure, new Behaviour Policy and many new developments to the site. The students have been exceptional in adapting to change and in taking the school forward.

I'm pleased to share so many wonderful things that the staff have worked tirelessly on so that our students have an enriching experience whilst at Verulam. I hope that you enjoy reading and wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Best wishes,

Miss Richardson

**Miss Richardson
Headteacher**

Word of the Week

Every week, we have a Word of the Week to help improve our vocabulary and literacy; this is shared with students, staff and parents.

Students first encounter the Word of the Week in morning form time, where students are introduced to how to pronounce the word, a definition of the word, the word in a sentence, synonyms of the word and the etymology of the word. Throughout the week, students are challenged to use the Word of the Week in lessons, both

written and verbally. If successful (or at least an attempt!), teachers issue a House Point (H2). There is in fact a Blue Stag Letter 'L' available for 10 x different H2 WotW!

There are two pavement signs (one at each entrance of the school) so students can see the Word of the Week every day. It has been a great success with over 350 house points being issued from September - December.

By: Mr Pettitt

Bold Voices

September saw the second visit from Bold Voices, this time specifically working with Y12s. Yosh and Anna delivered a powerful and timely narrative.

The theme was 'Preparing our teens for the unspoken at

University'; an interactive session, age appropriate, looking at the complex world of gendered violence, consent and everyday harassment.

By: Mr Base



Spotlight on Science

Across the course of this past term our students in Science have been embarking on a new curriculum journey. For our KS3 students this began with a complete unit of study where they were taught and implemented key practical skills! During this time, our students worked with acids and alkalis, experimented with electric circuits, and discovered how to use a microscope; this will put them in the best position moving through our new practical focused Science curriculum!

During the most recent half-term, our Year 7's have been learning about Energy and how it is fundamental to the Universe. During this, they have explained how pendulums work to some of Year 13 scientists and since

have investigated Exothermic and Endothermic reactions. Each time they are explaining how energy is imperative to the scenario and showcasing our rich and ambitious curriculum. Our Year 8's have been Working with Cells and embarking on an investigation into the germination of seeds across the coldest week of the year – wish us luck! In addition, our Year 9's are learning about the Fundamentals of Electricity and applying this in unfamiliar scenarios, which include how electrical signals are used in the human nervous system, and how electromagnets are used to move heavy substances. After the Christmas break they will be learning about Genetics and Evolution.

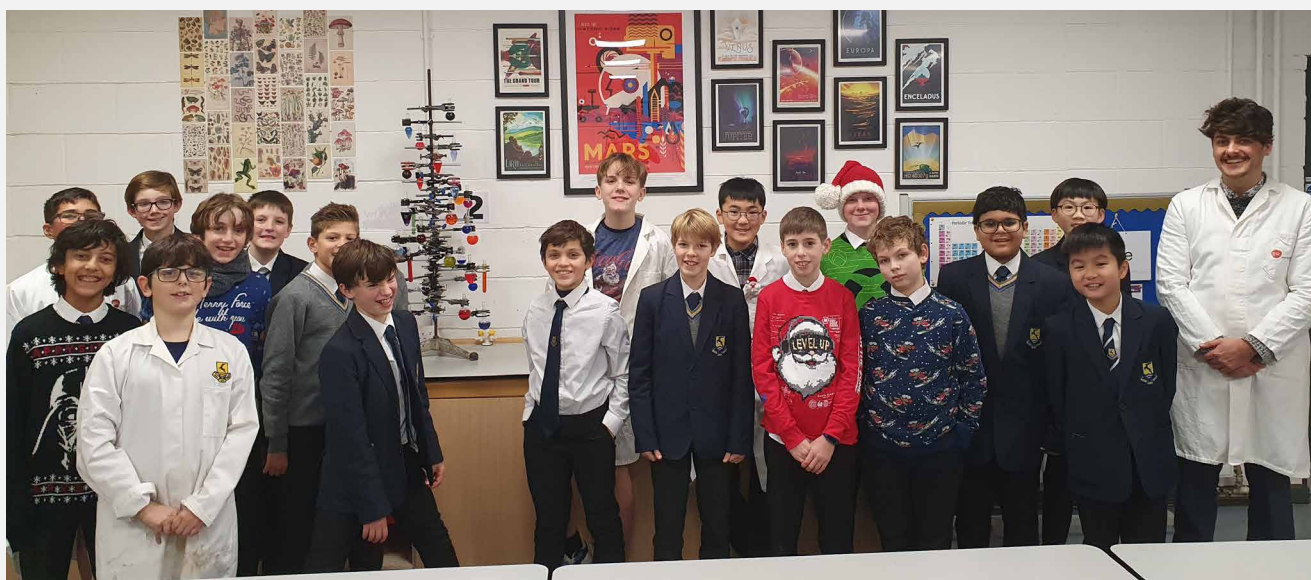
Within Science, our Year 10 and Year 11 students are preparing for their January pathway exams and mocks respectively.

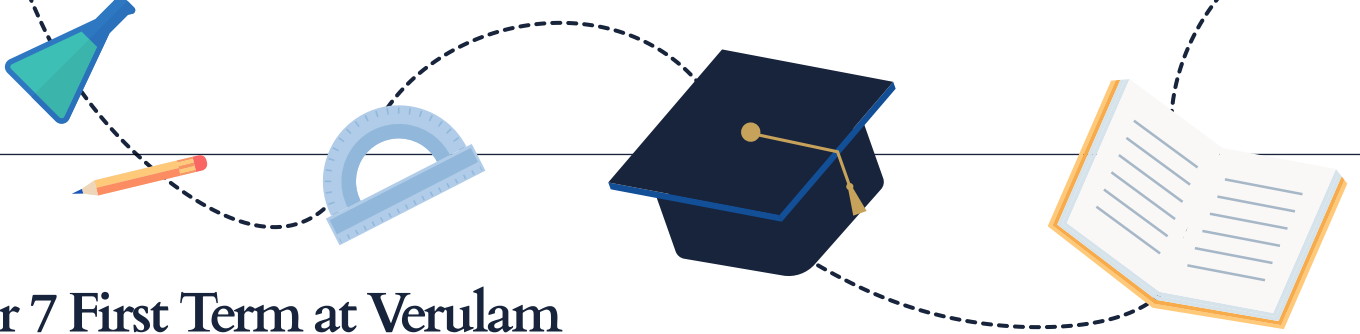
This is a stressful time and a great chance for our students to showcase their scientific knowledge. In the new year, we are planning a trip for our Year 10 students with more information to follow!

In addition to all of this, some of our Year 7 students have been partaking in Verulab and completing a series of practicals.

They have produced parachutes for eggs and distracted a few of our Year 11's from their revision while they were dropping them in the Science block. They have since used their skills to mix acids and alkalis to produce our very own Christmas Chemis-tree!

By: Mr Jamali





Year 7 First Term at Verulam

At the end of the first half term I have already communicated with our parents of Year 7 boys on their successful start to their seven year journey at Verulam.

I now wanted to share some of the amazing things Year 7 have been up to with the rest of the school community. It seems like an age away since September already and the boys really have settled into their new secondary school.

One of our first big events was Open Evening and a large number of our students represented the school as tour guides to prospective parents and students. Our boys lead the way and outshone the experience of our sixth form guides with their enthusiasm, knowledge and professionalism even though they had only been in school for a few short weeks. The feedback from visitors to the school was tremendous and all of the boys involved received their "Makes a difference & Leaves a legacy" letters of recommendation towards the prestigious Blue Stag Award.

Another boy who represented our year group during Open Evening was Tyler in 7P. He was selected by Miss Richardson, Headteacher to deliver a speech to parents and he did the school proud. He also received a Letter of Recommendation for his efforts.

Year 7 thrashed the rest of the school during the FEED project

and we topped a massive 628 items including a massive Sainsbury's delivery from Oliver in 7J who became the first boy in Year 7 to be awarded a letter of recommendation!

Many of our boys have now joined in some of our extra-curricular clubs with table-tennis, basketball, rugby training and football being very popular sports clubs. I know from my primary school visits during transition that we had a very sporty year group so much that three of our Year 7s, Claude, Ernest and Noah in 7H were selected to represent Verulam in the Under 13s District Table Tennis tournament and came a respectable second place!

For our budding scientists Verulab Science club has also been extremely popular with our boys too. They have been treated to some fun science experiments including making copper sulfate crystals, making sparklers and testing household acids and alkalis being just a small selection of practical activities they have experienced.

In English, four of our boys, Theo and Evan in 7Y and Csongor and Esa in 7B became Accelerated Reader Millionaires within the first half term and were awarded certificates for reading in excess of one million words since September. Ollie in 7C also received a prize for his work during the War Horse Event so big well done to those boys too!



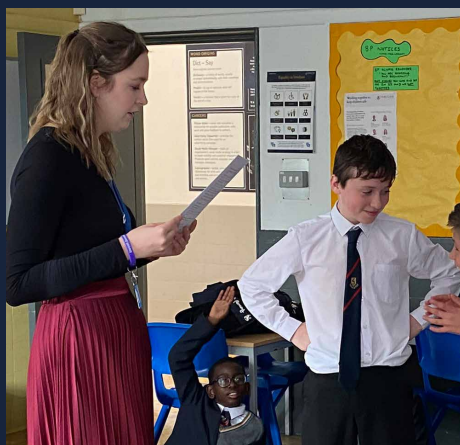
Joseph in 7J was another boy who has shown great courage and community spirit. He was witness to an elderly gentleman who had fallen at St Albans station and came to his rescue with another member of the public. It was amazing to receive an email praising Joseph for his help whilst the emergency services were on route. He will also receive a letter of recommendation for showing excellent character.

We celebrated Odd Socks Day for Antibullying week and a number of boys wore odd socks to promote diversity and celebrate that everyone is different.



Lessons have been brilliant too with the boys experiencing many

different lessons much different to their primary schools. Science has been dominated with practical skills giving students their first experiences with Bunsen Burners and chemical reactions. English have been studying Romeo and Juliet and I was lucky enough to walk in on 7C acting out scenes in the classroom. D&T have provided their usual suite of Food Tech lessons and woodwork lessons too. I have not yet tasted any culinary delights from anyone!



A number of our Year 7s have taken to the stage too and have got parts in the school production of A Christmas Carol. I am sure we will see them on stage again in the future as they develop their acting skills and take on the bigger roles once the older boys move on. I am sure I have missed many other great things that the boys have done over the first half term but for me these have been the highlights.

It is really humbling to be Head of Year 7 for these boys who have really stepped up and immersed

themselves in to life at Verulam School. There are many other events planned that I am looking forward to telling you about in the coming months and I am sure our boys will continue to be successful and make a valuable contribution to school life.

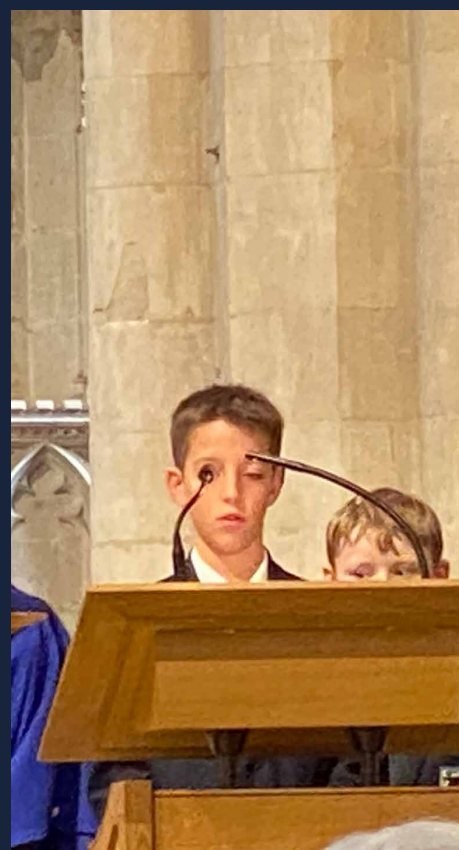
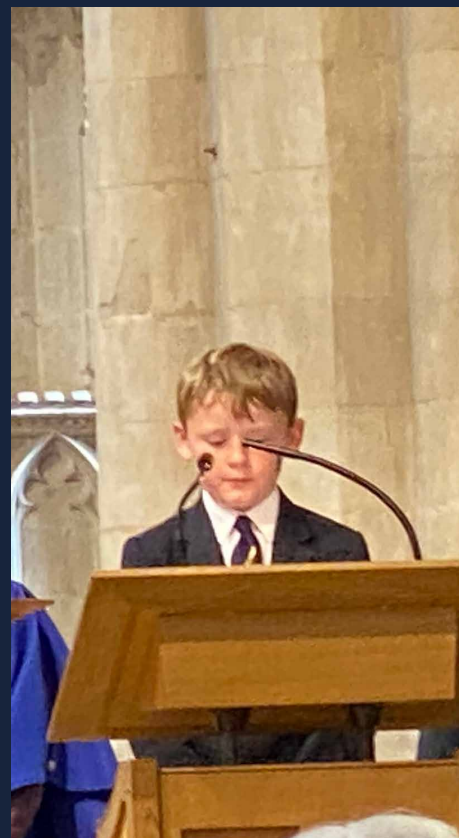
Our Lake District trip is filling up with the vast majority of the year group now signed up. The boys are already talking about it and there is a real sense of excitement surrounding it. If you haven't yet signed your son up then I really urge you to do this to prevent them from missing out on such a momentous part of their seven year journey at Verulam.

We have an action packed trip planned including mountain walking, abseiling, ghyll scrambling, sailing, bushcraft and the cinema. As I have said before this is the trip that boys talk about even when they reach sixth form.

Please do contact me if you have any questions regarding the trip or see my previous Parent Mails for details. It would be amazing to take everyone if possible.

We closed half term with our Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at St Albans Abbey and it was a fitting celebration to mark the end of our first half term together. I am so proud of our new Year 7 boys who have really shown Excellence, Character and Respect.

By: Mr Knowles



Curwen Print Study Centre Workshop

On Wednesday 21st September, Patsy and Charlotte from Curwen Print Study Centre visited Verulam Year 10 & 13 Art Students to run a workshop aimed at enhancing print making processes, broaden skills and develop coursework on their Natural Forms unit. The students were able to participate in a full day of 'drypoint etching' and 'chine collé'. All students agreed it was a really interesting day and enjoyed the opportunity to try out new techniques.

By: Ms Ramage



Year 8 Residential

This year's Year 8 residential trip to Osmington Bay was a great success. 130 students went on the trip and took on many outdoor challenges. Every day the students would do a range of activities, such as the zip wire, abseiling, 'Jacobs Ladder' and archery.

And every day they did it all with a smile on their face. A particular highlight was the swimming in the sea, helped by the stunning weather. To help enrich the experience and make new friends, no mobile phones were allowed. The results were spectacular. All

students were mingling and chatting at meal times, laughing about the experiences they shared. This was great to see and will hopefully raise the importance of friends as well confidence and self-esteem. Memories for life!

By: Mr Halsall



Clubs and Societies at Verulam

At Verulam we believe in providing a wide range of activities and clubs for our students to get involved in. The split lunchtimes have been a little more challenging for staff in terms of arranging clubs but this has not stopped us. We have a range of sports and music clubs running including the ever-popular basketball and table tennis clubs.

Table tennis is also played outside clubs on the tables around the site where students can hone their formidable skills.

We have a range of thought-provoking Societies. For example, the Historical Society have enjoyed a range of lectures on topics beyond the curriculum.

Students are encouraged to be more than passive listeners – they are actively delivering and engaging in the lectures by debating points raised and thinking critically about perspective and the wider context of historical events.

In addition, as we enter a period of intense revision and focus for our exam classes, Year 11 have been supported by academic after school clubs supporting them in

their revision across a wide range of subjects. Students have risen to the challenge brilliantly with attendance being voluntary and yet all classes are well attended with a range of students attending every week.

Next term, we look forward to a number of new Clubs and Societies joining the list on offer. Students will be able to find these on SOCS the sign up portal on MyVerulam.

By: Mrs Avery



Engaging Minds Lectures

September saw the return of our weekly lectures by leaders in their fields ranging from Law, Medicine, Politics, Journalism, Social Media, Social Sciences and Education. This term it was a pleasure to welcome back so many successful alumni to share their post Verulam journey.

We are always on the lookout for more speakers and are currently booking for September 2023. If you have a contact or could offer a talk yourselves, please contact the school.

By: Mr Base



Year 7 Welcome Lunch

On Saturday the 17th September, we welcomed our new Year 7 pupils and their families to a special lunch so that they could get to know each other and the staff. It was a wonderful day, with refreshments provided by our dedicated PTA and phenomenal food catered by our local restaurant, Oasis.

Families soaked up the sunshine, ate and socialised, supporting their child's transition to the school even further. This new event, will now become a new tradition for the school every September!

By: Miss Richardson



Dr Mark Prince OBE

On 26th September, Dr Mark Prince OBE returned to Verulam to speak with our current Year 11 about knife crime. A former professional title holding boxer turned award-winning charity campaigner, Dr Mark Prince OBE is a model example of utilising your circumstances for change.

All too familiar with overcoming adversity, the once drug-abusing youth became a world-renowned fighter, to later reinvent himself once more after the death of his son to ensure others don't suffer the same grief as him. An inspirational speaker, Mark's life journey has been nothing short of remarkable

By: Miss Richardson



Letters of Recognition

This September, as part of our new Behaviour Policy, we launched our new reward system and new prestigious award – the Blue Stag!

Students have been challenged to demonstrate all of the Verulam Values and once successful completion of each award (signalled by a Letter of

Recognition) the Blue Stag is then achieved. To date over 1000 letters of Recognition have been issued – a phenomenal accomplishment!

At the annual Old Verulamian's Association dinner, Miss Richardson issued two honorary Blue Stag awards to former Headteachers, Mr Hawkes (1988-2000) and to Mr

Ramsey (2008 – 2021) for their dedication and commitment to the school. I am pleased to announce the first Blue Stag has been issued to our School Captain, Myles.

By: Miss Perry



Black History Month

Every year, as part of our Black History Month celebrations, we invite individuals that are making Black British history today. On 7th October, the talented Stephen Asamoah-Duah, a drummer from the live band The Composers (@compozers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWwtK1w7Mjs>) came to Verulam and delivered an assembly on what Black History Month means to him, as well as sharing his inspirational journey to working with some of the biggest figures in the music industry.

Asamoah-Duah, shared his experience of attending an all-boys' school (being one of my former students at St Ignatius College, Enfield) and how he discovered his passion and talent for music. Students were enthralled by his talk and performance (not to mention his duet of Wonderwall will one of our Year 11 boys, Drew!)

On the 21st October, some of our Sixth Form students delivered an insightful and engaging, Black History Month assembly to their peers and were joined by the extremely talented opera singer, April Koyejo-Audiger (<https://aprilkoyejo.com/>) as their special guest.

British-Nigerian soprano April Koyejo-Audiger is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Royal College of Music. She is a former Link Artist (2019–20) and Jette Parker Anniversary Company Artist (2021–22) for the

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Royal Opera, Covent Garden; her performance there include Barena in the Olivier Award-winning production of Jenufa, which won her the 2022 Black British Theatre Award for Best Opera Production or Performance. At the end of the talk, students were treated to a demonstration of Koyejo-Audiger's vocal ability and were absolutely blown away by her talent!

By: Miss Richardson



Duke of Edinburgh – Silver



Back at the end of September and in October, approximately 50 students from Years 11 and 12 undertook their silver practice and qualifying expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh. These took place on the South Downs, around Alfriston for the practise and then 3 days walking around the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset for the qualifying.

The expedition has numerous aims such as improving planning, working on resilience as well as learning about the environment we are in.

Our practice was undertaken in good weather and allowed students to see the beauty of the South Downs at the same time as practice their navigation, try out the kit and get used to walking for 7 hours a day.

On the qualifying expedition students were greeted with all weathers - wind, rain, sun and more wind! Over the course of the 3 days we were treated to some fantastic views along the coastline whilst seeing Corfe Castle appear through the mist was a further treat.

To say the boys performed well was an understatement - routes were well planned and then followed with checkpoints being reached as and when planned for.

Thanks to parents for their support with this and to all staff involved both on the weekends and all at school involved in the planning.

By: Mr Toley





Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication

On 21st October, the whole school took part in its annual pilgrimage to St. Albans Cathedral to celebrate our Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication. From the earliest of times in the school's history it has made much of this opportunity to spend time to be thankful and re-dedicate itself to the principles laid down by its founders in 1938.

On the afternoon of the last Friday before the autumn half term, the whole school walks through the town centre to fill the Abbey. Students and staff

are joined by parents, dignitaries and past staff and close relatives in an expression of the wider, lasting school community. This we call #Verulam for Life. The Service is structured around songs and readings which are presented by students. These are formed around a structured journey from Thanksgiving (for all the good things the school enjoyed in the previous year) through a commitment to helping others (this year's adopted charity was SAHWR, which supports families recovering from the effects of domestic violence).

The service drew to a close with the school rededicating itself to be the best it can be in the year ahead. Verulam extends a big thank you to all those who took part, not least to Quentin (Year 13) who played on the cathedral organ *La Nativité du Seigneur* (movement #7) - Messiaen, Myles (School Captain who led the Senior Prefect Team and Mr Skipper who read *Prayer Before Birth*, by Louis MacNiece, most ably.

By: Mr Hall



‘Smile-ing Boys’ Workshop

We are delighted to welcome Kay Rufai back to Verulam School, to undertake the ‘Smile-ing Boys’ project with a group of 10 Year 9 pupils after last year’s project was such a success.

The project is a research-led mental well-being project for BAME Boys in and around London, created as a direct response to the increasing stop and search powers by the police and a greater police presence in areas where predominantly minority communities abide.

S.M.I.L.E stands for ‘send me inspiring loving energy’, and our boys have explored the eight pillars of happiness (trust,

belonging, wealth, freedom, democracy, health, balance and purpose) through a series of workshops using photography, poetry, mentorship and art to bring these issues to life.

Workshops have encouraged pupils to reflect on their identity, allowing boys the opportunity to explore issues around stereotypes, pressures, a sense of belonging and representation in the media. We are looking forward to showcasing some of the artwork from this project around the school site in the coming months.

By: Mr Hobbs



Ask Twice

During October’s mental health week, we launched the ‘Ask Twice’ Campaign.

An operation aimed at enabling more open conversations pertaining to mental health by taking a vested interest in their peer’s mental wellbeing.

We have lots of new initiatives and events coming up next term including Feeling Good Week!

By: Mr Giles

War Horse Anniversary

On the 13th of October, all year 7 students had the opportunity to celebrate (in-class) the 40th anniversary of Michael Morpurgo's classic 'War Horse'.

'War Horse' is a British war novel by Michael Morpurgo and it was first published in Great Britain by Kaye & Ward in 1982. The story recounts the experiences of Joey, a horse bought by the Army for service in World War 1 in France and the attempts of 15-year-old Albert, his previous owner, to bring him safely home.

Told from the point of view of a brave war horse, this award-winning book provides opportunities to teach historical fiction, develop analytical thinking, and Tier 2 and 3 vocabularies. Combined with Michael Morpurgo's magical storytelling ability, schools across the country continue to incorporate this novel within their curriculum.

In order to celebrate the occasion, students were streamed a live event, hosted by Michael Morpurgo himself, who spoke about his influences for writing the novel, shared creative writing tips, and explored the National Theatre production.

Students were also provided with refreshments to enjoy during the performance, with parents and carers kindly being asked to donate £5 towards the purchasing of this, with all remaining funds being donated to the Royal British Legion

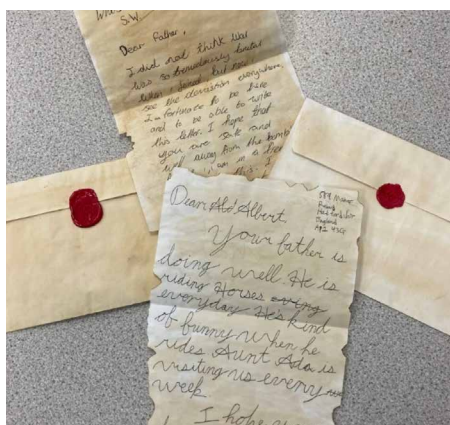


Poppy Appeal (a total of £475 was raised).

Following the streamed event, all students took part in a creative writing lesson which saw them take on the perspective of a character from the novel and writing a letter home. Students were encouraged to consider not only the transactional writing features of a letter, but the persona of their chosen character and the contextual factors that they had discussed.

Finally, students were encouraged to enter their final pieces into a competition, with the winner being awarded a copy of 'War Horse' and a pack of stationary goodies. Students really took on the challenge and had fun making their letters realistic of the period and conditions of WW1. Below are a few examples of the entries received.

By: Miss Mitchell



Evening with Max Hastings

On 10th October 2022, a group of Year 11 GCSE students had an exciting opportunity to listen to a lecture by an extremely prominent historian. Chiltern Books host regular author events throughout the year, and, held "An Evening With Max Hastings" in October. Max Hastings is an extremely well-known historian and has published many books on modern history.

He was also a War Correspondent and Editor-in-Chief for the Telegraph and currently writes for a variety of newspapers and magazines. His latest book, Abyss, is about the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War. This lecture helped enrich our students' understanding of their GCSE History Superpower Relations and the Cold War (1941-1991) course.

There were some incredibly interesting parallels between the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and the current war in Ukraine were made. Max kindly personally signed all copies for his new book which our students are avidly reading their way through!

By: Mr Pettitt

Work Experience Week

Between 17th and 21st October, all of our Year 11 students were out enjoying the world of work as they took part in their Work Experience.

Students had been guided in their selection of local companies, businesses and workplaces, to ensure they would experience that happy balance of interest, relevance and 'I'm-slightly-out-of-my-comfort-zone' challenge. This year a record number took the opportunity to create their own 'Private Placement' at businesses as far afield as Aberdeen and Wales and to seek out jobs in every conceivable environment, which

this year included oil platforms, local councils, city stock brokers and Transport for London.

Students were prepared in-school with a range of Form Time discussion and assignments designed to challenge their preconceptions, widen their horizons and build self-belief in what they are actually capable of when they enter the world of work.

This year, for the first time, work mentors were invited to write an evaluation of their students and we were delighted to see how they had risen to the occasion and

pushed themselves despite being thrown, metaphorically, in at the deep end. The students really do benefit from this reality check and are surprised at how well they do.

Similarly, we are delighted that 100% our students completed their weeks with no sackings or suspensions!

Planning for next year's Work Experience has already started with the timeline brought earlier to give even better matching between students and the placements they aspire to.

By: Mr Hall



SACFC Academy Education Programme

The October half term holidays saw the first of trials for our Post 16 Football Academy, in partnership with our neighbours SACFC led by Anthony Gosling and Dean Austin, supported by club chairman and Verulam alumni, Lawrence Levy. This new partnership already has over 20 local footballers registered for the 23/24 season.

Participants must achieve the academic standard needed to study in Verulam Sixth Form full time, whilst combining a full training and match schedule for the SACFC Academy. The next trials will be held on December 23rd, please contact footballeducation@verulam.herts.sch.uk for more details.

By: Mr Base





Year 11 Round-up

We have reached the end of a very successful first term for our Year 11 students which is reflected in our internal data for the cohort.

Since starting school in September, students have been awarded over 3514 positive points and on average are achieving a 94% positive to a negative ratio for their behaviour. This is something for the students to be proud of and one I am very keen to continue into the New Year. It is an odd feeling knowing that this will be the second to last end of term letter that this year group will receive. In around 9 months' time they will all be starting their Post 16 journey taking another step towards adulthood. It is easy to get nostalgic but now is not the time to do so.

After the Christmas holidays, we enter the most pivotal time in this year group's education. The work put in over the next 6 months will define their pathway. Education is the single greatest tool a young person can have in unlocking a positive future. Students will find there is a different feel to school life as the months speed past; there will be a greater focus on the end result and a greater sense of comradery within the school community.

With this greater focus will come pressure and the school is here as always to support. We have already taken great strides in our use of revision resources with usage more than doubling over the course of the term. We have also run a hugely successful department specific extra revision session programme that has allowed students to better arrange their revision around the mock examinations and prioritise what subjects require their extra attention.

Moving forward we will be putting in place guidance on instilling self-belief and developing organisation skills so all students have the opportunity to succeed in their GCSEs.

As always, the overwhelming majority of this year group have had an exceptional term and they should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. I want to thank them for working so hard in this historically challenging term and for focussing on the opportunity they have in front of them.

I also want to thank yourselves as parents and carers for your ongoing support. The collaborative approach of parents, students and us as a School undeniably gives the boys the best possible chance of success come the summer. We know that students benefit

from regular attendance at school and that it is key to an individual's social, emotional, educational progress and attainment. As you may realise, good attendance and punctuality are vital to your child's academic success which is why we ask for your continued support in getting the boys in everyday, on time and equipped for learning (Especially with that time ticking down towards the GCSE exams).

I would like to personally thank you for all your support during this term, it has been very much appreciated. Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

By: Mr Lewis

Shakespeare in Action

On Thursday 10th of November, Year 8 had the fantastic opportunity to take part in class-by-class workshops, run by West End in Schools. Each class developed their exploration of 'The Tempest' using a range of drama activities to enhance their learning.

Students were invited by our facilitator (an actor who spends his weekends performing in the West End) to approach key scenes from 'The Tempest', from an actor's perspective. Using techniques that a professional actor would use in a rehearsal room today; sessions gave students ownership of Shakespeare's text by encouraging them to explore the characters through their physicality and voice.

The fast-paced sessions, used a series of carefully curated drama-based activities to key explore key moments, characters, and extracts from the play.

By the end of the workshop, students were excited and engaged, which has led to insightful writing and analysis of the play in class.

By: Miss Mitchell



Curriculum Enrichment Day

Tuesday 8th November saw the first of three Curriculum Enrichment Days this academic year at Verulam School. The theme for this day was Citizenship; all students in every year group took part in activities about Citizenship.

The majority of Year 7 students attended a visit to the Museum of London at London Wall, where they enjoyed learning about the history of life in London. They saw objects and artefacts from different eras up to present day. Tottenham Hotspur fans were delighted to try on Harry Kane's football boots and look at replica shirts in the model changing room!

Three Year 9 tutor groups attended a bespoke day at St Albans Museum, where they were able to take part in a mock trial. It has been planned for the other three tutor groups to attend the museum at a later date this academic year to have this experience.

Other year groups took part in age appropriate workshops about Digital Citizenship. In today's technological world, it is vital to educate students how they can keep themselves safe online. Some topics covered during the day included: social media and digital footprints, hoaxes and fakes, protecting online reputations,

challenging confirmation bias and countering hate speech online. To quote a Year 11 student:

"This day made me think about what I put online and how it could affect my future career and reputation."

Thank you to all staff and students for making the day a success; it really was a whole school effort.

The second Curriculum Enrichment Day is taking place on Thursday 19th January 2023; its theme will be Religious Education.

By: Miss Nicholls

Hertfordshire Young People's Award 2022

Verulam School are delighted that one of our amazing boys has been awarded a Hertfordshire Young People's Award 2022.

In January 2021, Hertfordshire County Council got in touch with me and asked whether any of our Verulam School Council Representatives would like to join The St. Albans Youth Council and help with projects across the county. Crosby was very keen to get involved and he has represented Verulam School on St. Albans Youth Council ever since.

Crosby has shown huge enthusiasm, dedication and a real drive to get the projects done even through the challenging Covid lock-down times. Verulam were delighted to hear that Crosby had been nominated for a Young People's Award and even more delighted that Crosby won a Young People's Award 2022 in recognition of his progress and achievements.

As a dedicated member of St. Albans Youth Council, Crosby produced ideas that led to a charity film night and self-guided walking tours of St. Albans.

He was recognised as a cornerstone to the council and the city of St. Albans. Crosby reiterated his commitment to doing whatever he can to help the community as an active member of the St. Albans Youth Council, The Go Wild Project and Youth Talk.

By: Mrs Wright



Geography Field Trip

At the end of November, it was a pleasure to take 80 Year 11 students out on Geography coursework for the first time in around 3 years. We travelled firstly to Epping Forest and studied Debden Brook for the day before visiting the Olympic Park in Stratford to investigate regeneration and its impact.

In true Geography style, the weather at Epping Forest was a little damp! We did still manage to undertake

our studies and take measurements on the rivers width, depth and velocity in particular. This was undertaken in different locations in order to assess how the river may change from one location to another.

In Stratford, we not only collected primary data on the likes of land use and environmental quality but also undertook people counts and some questionnaires, to understand how locals feel the changes have impacted on the area. Secondary data was also used

to see how the area has changed from pre to post Olympics.

Using this work, students will now present and analyse their data before drawing conclusions on the hypothesis they set prior to undertaking the fieldwork itself.

As always, thanks go to parents and staff for supporting the students with this key element of their Geographical journey.

By: Mr Toley

Remembrance Day

Verulam School gathered at the back of the school on Friday 11th November for our annual Remembrance Day Service. Before our service, the English and Geography department created a red sea of poppies displayed on classroom windows; each poppy had a Remembrance handwritten message from a pupil.

On the day, Mr Mackenzie created a small stage, adorned with a poppy wreath. At 10:45, Headteacher Miss Richardson started the service by explaining the significance of Armistice Day as a chance to remember those who have fallen in conflict and how important it is to honour their memory. Then, Year 13 Senior Prefects Faizan and

Kamran addressed the whole school with reading a poem.

Before the two-minute silence, Simeon played the Last Post, a cavalry trumpet call used at Commonwealth military funerals and ceremonies commemorating those who have lost their lives in war. The Last Post was followed by a school-wide two minutes silence.

Remembrance Day was perhaps even more significant this year, not only against the backdrop of the pandemic, but also as conflict rages on in Ukraine. Lest We Forget.

By: Mr Pettitt



Introducing the Maths hub!

This year the Maths department have started running the lunchtime Maths Hub.

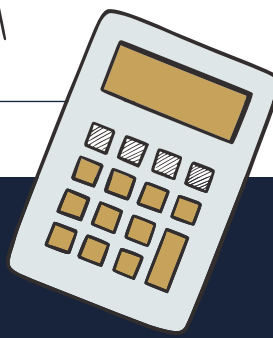
Every Wednesday lunchtime, for Lower School and Friday lunchtime, for Upper School, students can come along and explore a range of creative challenges within different areas of mathematics.

Upper School have had great success at the start of the year solving ciphers and codes with the National Cipher Challenge, working in teams we saw some

excellent problem solving to find the hidden messages. Lower School have been working with DESMOS – a popular graphing calculator – to create pictures, animations and even marble runs!

We have been so impressed with the creativity shown and the clever solutions they have come up with. They have not been intimidated by the difficulty and we could not be prouder of their achievements so far.

By: Mrs Cornmell and Miss Moreland



Team maths in London

On the 29th November, 60 students from Years 10 – 12 came to London for the 'Maths Inspiration' talk at the Phoenix Theatre.

Four fantastic mathematicians gave some really engaging talks and our boys got to see some of the maths they learn about in GCSE and A Level used in the real world. We saw how maths helped build some of their favourite football stadiums, how evacuating a festival used some familiar looking GCSE graphs, how statistics can tell very different stories based on information given, and even challenged some famous patterns to create a brand-new juggling trick live on stage. The boys were brilliant and it was a really great day out.

By: Mrs Cornmell

UKMT Medal!

Last year 80 of our Year 7 and 8 students competed in the UKMT Junior Challenge. Many received awards and three students scored so highly they were entered into the British Olympiad.

We recently received the exciting news that one of our students, Jacky, now in Year 9, performed so well that he was awarded a Medal! This followed his fantastic entry into the National Desmos Art Challenge that gained him a place in the final! Well done Jacky. What a year!

By: Mrs Cornmell



Maths Challenges

Once again our Maths students have exceeded our expectations in the Senior UK Maths Challenge. 73% of those who sat the challenge received an award and of the 4 students progressing to the next round, 3 were awarded a merit!

We look forward to the Intermediate Challenge for Years 9-11 in February, the Junior Challenge in April and the Herts team challenges next year too!



Anti-Bullying Week 14th-18th November 2022



Verulam School Council were delighted to have been asked to run the whole-school assemblies during the national Anti-Bullying Week.

The Verulam School Council Representatives felt that it was an enormous privilege to speak to the whole school on such an important topic. The School Council Representatives disclosed national bullying

statistics; looked at forms of bullying and their impact and gave top tips to stand up, speak out and prevent bullying.

Every school has some bullying - at Verulam we are very fortunate to be such a happy community that bullying is minimal and School Council felt that by raising awareness during Anti-Bullying week, they would help to try and reduce it even more.

It was the first time that several of the Verulam School Council Representatives had spoken in public let alone to such big audiences and their clarity and eloquence was very commendable - well done Verulam School Council!

By: Mrs Wright

Making a difference

The Autumn term has been busy on a number of fronts; the one I would like to highlight is the charity work the House teams have been working on. Our vision: Excellence, Character, Respect is something we actively embody in our commitment to charity work at Verulam.

The year started with our annual collection for the Vineyard Care Centre. This collection supports our community by providing much needed items for the 'Food bank'. When I say food bank, it is of course so much more than food that is donated. This year, despite the cost of living crisis, we managed to collect an impressive total of 1,717 items. Year 7 was the most active year group in terms of donations and the winning house in terms of the number of items donated was: Park, closely followed by Brampton and then Jennings making the top 3.

Having donated to the collection, a number of our students then experienced volunteering by going to the Vineyard Care Centre to volunteer in the warehouse sorting and packing items. The boys were exemplary in their behaviour, manners and the effort they put into doing the job well. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to doing it again next year.

A big thank you to all those who donated cakes to our very successful cake sale in aid of Children in Need. We held a sale during lower school lunch and



another one during upper school lunch. Sales were brisk; our students thoroughly enjoyed supporting this charity initiative - thank you also to the House representatives who gave up their breaks to help serve at this event.

This term we have also raised money for St. Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge, this focus on supporting women began with the Abbey Service focus and was continued with our 'Go orange' day highlighting the UN Anti-violence against women campaign. Our excellent Jazz Trio, Austin K, Joe V and Tristan G played Jazz in the orange-themed hall during the lunch breaks and students were invited to come in and eat lunch

to a relaxing and sophisticated backdrop of jazz music. Material explaining the UN campaign was on the tables for students to read and understand more about it. Although for some orange was a tricky colour, those who could, also wore items of orange clothing to highlight support for the campaign.

Our focus on making a difference will continue next term with our March Mental Health month charity challenge which will be led by our House teams.

By: Mrs Avery





Year 10 Round-up

We have reached the end of a very successful first term for our Year 10 students which is reflected in our internal data for the cohort. Since starting school in September, students have been awarded over 11020 positive and 1439 negative behaviour events. This is an astonishing 7:1 ratio and a great achievement for the Year 10's but with such a studious cohort I know we can do better. I am looking forward to increasing this ratio next term.

In addition to this, year 10 have had so many opportunities this term from participating in "Smiling Boys" and listening to our guest speaker from Drugline

education, to taking part in a collaborative form-time activity session with the Year 12. The Year 10 have also taken part in countless sporting and drama events, representing Verulam and making us very proud of their achievements. I am incredibly pleased that the Year 10 see the importance in taking part in extracurricular activities and promoting excellence in all aspects of their Verulam career.

We know that students benefit from regular attendance at school and that it is key to an individual's social, emotional, and educational progress. As you may realise, good attendance and punctuality are vital to your child's academic success which is why we ask for your continued support in getting

the boys in everyday, on time and equipped for learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for your ongoing support. The collaborative approach of parents, students and us as a School undeniably gives the boys the best possible chance of success.

I would like to personally express my thanks for all of your support during this term, it has been very much appreciated. Lastly, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

By: Miss Daya

Speak Your Mind: Sixth Form Debate at St Albans Abbey

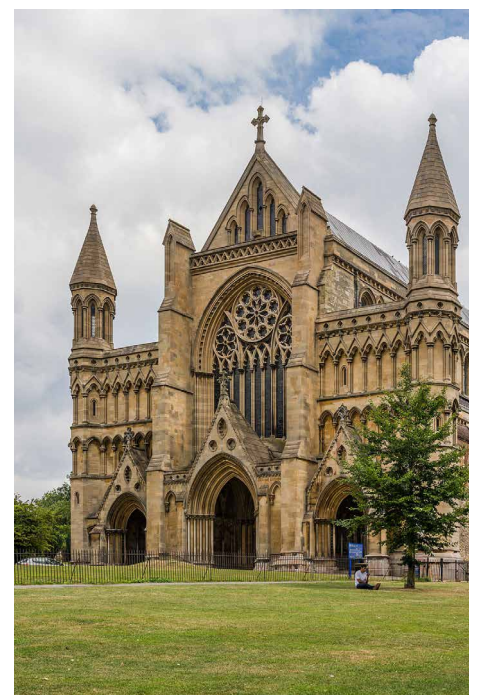
In November, 15 delegates from Year 12 and Year 13 represented Verulam at the annual Speak Your Mind Debate.

Held in the main Cathedral and supported by the University of Hertfordshire, the event is based on the BBC's 'Question Time' and is designed to help Sixth Form students develop skills and confidence in public speaking

as well as voice what matters to them.

The panel included Baroness Claire Fox - House of Lords & Director of 'Academy of Ideas', Bim Afolami - MP for Hitchin & Harpenden, Daisy Cooper - MP for St Albans and Maswood Ahmed - CEO of 'Inspire a Million'.

By: Mr Base





Year 7 visit the Museum of London

On Tuesday 8th November, Year 7 embarked on their first Curriculum Enrichment Day at Verulam and were treated to a trip to the Museum of London. The theme of CED was Global Citizenship and the museum was a perfect place to learn how the history of our capital city has contributed to the UK being “global citizens”.

The boys visited all of the galleries which started with London before London with exhibits detailing how people lived in the lower Thames Valley from around 450,000BC to the Roman times. The next gallery was set around Roman Londinium and how it became an important international port for trade within the Roman empire.

After Roman Londinium, came Medieval London followed by the 1550s-1660s where London was destroyed by invaders, racked by famine, the Great Fire and the Plague, and torn apart by religious and political controversy. But it grew to become one of the wealthiest and most important cities in Europe. By the 1670s London had become the world's largest city and Britain's biggest manufacturing centre. Not every Londoner enjoyed this prosperity. Those who became bankrupt ended up in debtors' prisons.

By 1850, London was the wealthiest & most powerful city in the world, but also the most crowded. The boys learned that while many thrived in the prosperous imperial city, others suffered great hardship and poverty. All Londoners shared

the impact of massive population growth and the experience of two world wars.

The final gallery was about modern London, the postwar generation that led London's multicultural revolution, followed by the punk movement in the 1970s. By the 1980s many of London's traditional industries had closed down, even as new technologies transformed everyday life. Now 21st century London is known for its diversity and modern industry which was especially celebrated during the 2012 Olympic Games. This is symbolised in the museum with the original London 2012 Olympic cauldron which stands impressively as a centrepiece.

One popular exhibit with our boys was of course the football gallery



where many of London's football teams and their kits, interactive displays lured them in and sparked their interest. That said, the boys really engaged in the other exhibits such as a replica of a medieval house, the model of the original St Paul's cathedral that was destroyed in the Great Fire of London and models of how the road and tram networks were planned.

It was an inspiring trip for everyone involved and Year 7 now truly understand how London, just on our doorstep, has played a huge part in the development of the United Kingdom and how we as people of the UK have become Global Citizens.

By: Mr Knowles

Year 9 Round-up

The first term of Year 9 has flown by! It has been a pleasure to begin to get to know your sons over the past 4 months - I feel very fortunate to work with such a polite, talented, and funny group of pupils. I look forward to continuing to support our boys throughout the rest of Year 9.

Our curriculum enrichment days saw half of the year group take part in an online safety workshop where the other half visited St Albans Museum - a highlight was sitting in the historic courtroom and learning about the British Justice System. We also welcomed a guest speaker from Drugline Education who delivered a talk on the dangers of addiction and illegal substances. This is incredibly important in helping us safeguard our pupils.

It has been an excellent start to the year for our sports teams. Our Rugby team have performed really well in their games so far, with an impressive win in the National Cup over Sandringham being a highlight. The Basketball team who last year were promoted to the top division have had a difficult start to the league campaign and are still in

search for their first win, although there have been some very encouraging performances. The football team still hold a 100% record winning all games that they have played so far. Oscar, Lukas and Jake took part in the School Cross Country team who qualified for the finals finishing 21st in the Country. Well done to all of our fantastic young sportsmen!

We look ahead to next term - many of the boys will be eagerly anticipating whether they have gained enough house points to gain a place on the gold, silver, or bronze reward trip which takes place in January. A key date for the diary is 7th February which is the all-important 'Options Evening' where pupils and parents will have a chance to look at which subjects they wish to choose at GCSE. I look forward to seeing parents again at this event.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing our boys back after a restful break.

By: Mr Hobbs

December

Year 8 Round-up

This term has been excellent. The students have quickly adjusted to life in Year 8. The year group attendance is outstanding and students appear to be enjoying their lessons and learning new topics.

The main themes of the term have been showcasing talents and resilience. The year group has a 'resilience hall of fame' that includes two students, the Thai cave divers and Nadia Nadim, who is our role model and example of how to persevere in life, maximise hidden talents and take all opportunities. If you are unaware of her, please look her up or better still, ask your son!

Lewis 8J showcased his talents with an outstanding rendition of Metallica on the electric guitar in assembly (he is self taught!!). Many Year 8 students performed in the Christmas Carol and demonstrated great acting as well as managing the exhausting rigors of rehearsals. Max 8Y won the BHM Creative Arts Competition, Juha 8C was runner-up.

These are just a few examples of the talents that our students have and I encourage them to demonstrate them as much as possible. Lastly, to help build

resilience the students have spent time refining ways to ask for help in class. Conversation starters have been created, by the students, on how to feel comfortable getting help in class. I encourage parents/guardians to ask how their son is asking questions (specific queries "I'm stuck"), how many times ask and if they tried all available resources before asking. This practise will hopefully develop more resilient and active learners.

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support. Have a merry, and restful Christmas.

By: Mr Halsall





A Christmas Carol

There is no doubt that putting on a production of 'A Christmas Carol' is very highly pressured. Maybe the most famous Christmas novel of all time and one that is so well known and loved, there is a lot to live up to!

The kind of talent that is available in Verulam at the moment is as high as the pressure levels. It seems a shame that so many of the parts in this play are small given the ability of the students playing them, but they made the most of every line and every second on stage. For me as director I can say with hand on heart that there was no weak link on stage. And a lot of that presence on stage goes to Henry as Scrooge who has the unenviable task of holding the whole thing together. He did this with room to spare and kept the rest of the cast on their toes, knowing they had to maintain the high standards set by this talented GCSE Drama student. I also must

give a special mention to all the Year 11s who were in the production. Luca, Findlay, Tristan and Edward who not only showed incredible commitment to the show, but were also preparing for their crucial Christmas exams at the same time.

The show is also notable in that it had a representative from every year group, all the way from Year 7 to 13. And also for the very first time in the school's history, two girls who are Verulam students, so big thanks to Sarah and Heaven who made a little bit of Verulam history. And also to our School Captain Myles who made an extra special menacing and powerful Ghost of Christmas Future.

Any production is not without its problems and pitfalls but this resilient group of students soldiered on and refused to allow anything get in the way of putting on a spectacular show, and it was.

I was ambitious for this production, mainly because I knew the students shared that ambition.

They will go on to even greater things in the future as I hand the baton over to our new Head of Creative Arts, Claire Tomlin. Another significant thing to note to make Verulam proud, is that Henry's brother, Benedict, played Scrooge in Sandringham School's production of the same story. So two Verulam boys are leading the way across the Trust.

It was wonderful after the last two years to have a live performance in the school once more, and we certainly came back with a bang! Huge congratulations to all involved, and my most heartfelt thanks for your effort and commitment.

By: Mr MacKenzie

Primary Christmas Show

In addition to their excellent evening performances, our amazing Christmas production team hosted a matinee show for over 150 local primary pupils.

The students packed into our hall full of excitement and enjoyed the fantastic rendition of 'A Christmas Carol'. The students who came across St. Alban & St. Stephen Primary School and Oakwood Primary School seemed very happy with their experience and left with an extra dose of Christmas spirit.

By: Mr Anthony



Christmas Jumper Day 2022

Year 7 celebrated Christmas Jumper Day 2022 on 8th December with a large proportion of the year group sporting a wide variety of festive knitwear.

Year 7 really know how to spread a bit of fun and celebrate! Merry Christmas from all of us in Year 7.

By: Mr Knowles

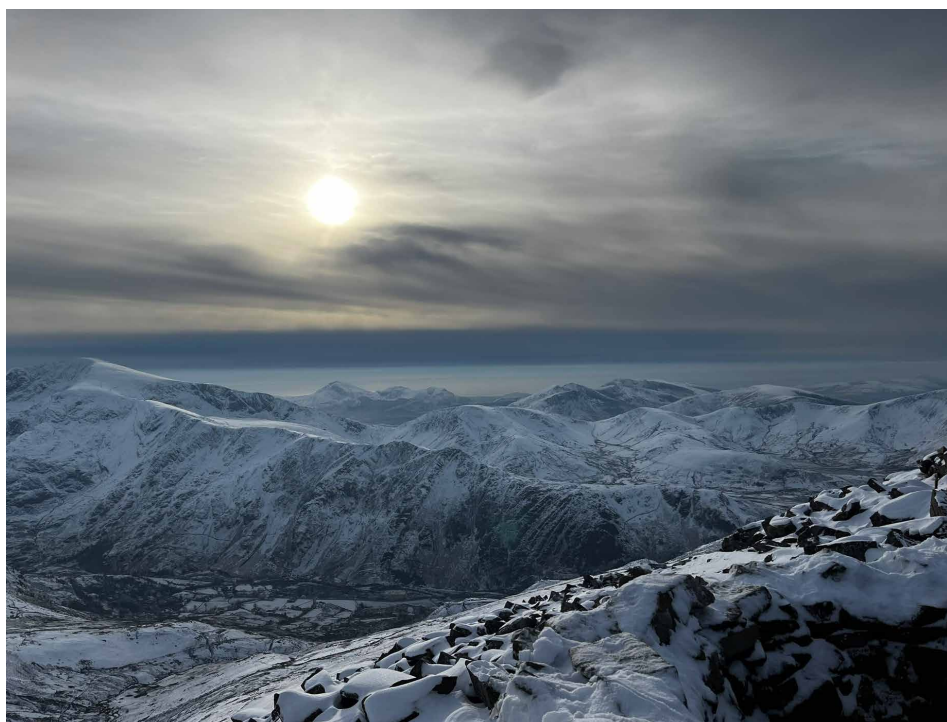


Blue Peris December 2022

We are so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity this year, especially as the inspiration came from the students themselves. Following an assembly on how much we value 'Student Voice' in Sixth Form, a group of students made a request to run this trip two and half years after their cancelled Year 9 Blue Peris trip in 2020. This winter trip will be far more

challenging however, pushing the young men and women in Year 12 to their limits, building on teamwork, character and resilience in arctic like conditions. Special thanks to Mr Toley and Mr Waters for facilitating this fantastic opportunity at short notice.

By: Mr Base



Cross Country

All three of our teams progressed from the county round of the National Cross Country Cup to the Regional Round which was held in Verulamium Park.

The Senior team narrowly missed out finishing 4th in this competition.

The Inter boys team finished 3rd progressing to the national final which was held in Leeds on the 3rd December. The 6 boys from Years 9 & 10 all ran very well in a strong field and finished 21st overall.

By: Mr Errington



Basketball

Training on Wednesdays has been really busy and a joy to see so many boys interested in Basketball. Many of whom have stayed on for the paid sessions run by Russell Hoops basketball. Following on from last year's successful campaigns we have been promoted to the top division of basketball and have seen a massive increase in the quality of opposition.

The Year 9s have really improved game on game and represented the school proudly against national standard opposition.

The Year 8 and 7 Leagues will commence in the new year.

By: Mr Errington

Badminton

Attendance to training has been excellent with the boys winning the district KS4 tournament and the KS3 side coming second. Both teams qualified for the regional finals.

By: Mr Errington

Table Tennis

The sportshall has been jam packed on Tuesday afternoons with many boys choosing to stay on for the paid session run afterwards. Our KS3 team came second in the District Competition unluckily not qualifying for the County finals.

By: Mr Errington

Football



Year 7B Team fought valiently in both their games this year in the County B and National B Cup, narrowly missing out on just a one goal lead. The national cup game was tense, with the game going into extra time. Although Krish Patel scored an absolute wonder goal, they lost in a last minute penalty.

Year 8 advanced to Round 3 of the County Cup after some exhilarating games, including a last minute winner to see them victorious away to Longdean in a 9 goal thriller. Unfortunately, tough draws in the National Cup and latter rounds of

the County Cup saw them lose to two strong sides.

The Year 9 football team still have a 100% record and are into the later rounds of both the County and National Cups. So far they have beaten Chauncy, Sir John Lawes, Beaumont, St Edmunds College and JFS School. Several pupils have represented the District and Jack and Freddie are in the County U14 squad.

Louie in Year 11, has been an ever present for the County side which has been a great achievement. The Year 11 team have played in both

the National and County Cup's this term. Both very difficult away ties. Some great individual performances and the team are starting to bond just in time for the District Cup in January.

A tough run for the seniors saw them exit both the County and National Cups after an extremely hard set of draws. They did overcome a strong Dame Alice Owens 4-1 in their opening National Cup fixture but were not able to follow it up in the next round.

By: Mr Errington



Rugby

Year 7 competed in the regional rugby tournament hosted at NBS. They performed fantastically in the group stage with a noticeable victory over Roundwood Park. They advanced through and finished the tournament in 5th place, a great effort in their first competitive fixtures.

The Year 9 Rugby team performed really well in the games they have had this year. Beating Sandringham and progressing in the National Cup until unfortunately losing to an exceptional Hitchin Boys School.

Year 10 Rugby team narrowly lost in the National Vase competition to Richard Hale School and progressed into the National Bowl. Unfortunately due to a lot of illness on the date of our match against Parmiters School was forfeited.

However, the Year 10 Rugby League team played very well in the regional competition winning two and losing two games just missing out on qualifying for the regional final.

The Senior Rugby team played very well losing to a strong Richard Hale team in the National Vase progressing into the Bowl and unfortunately losing to Saffron Walden County High School in torrential rain by only 2 points.

By: Mr Errington



Other Updates

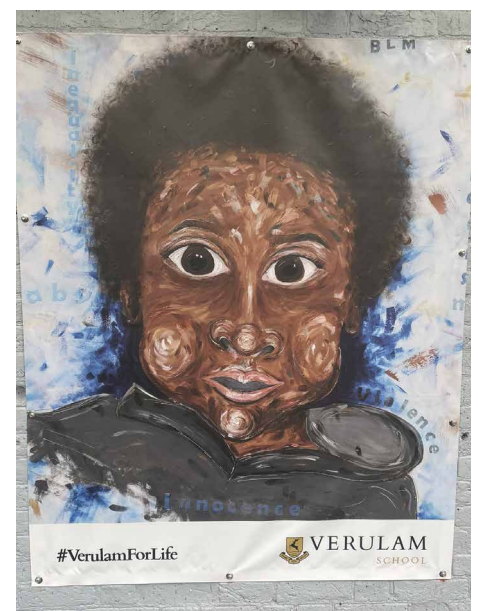
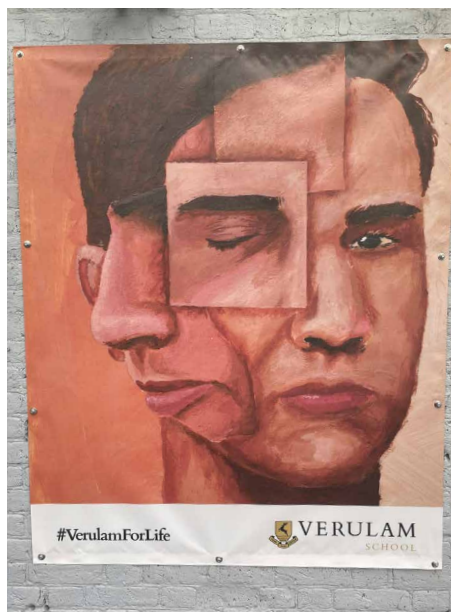
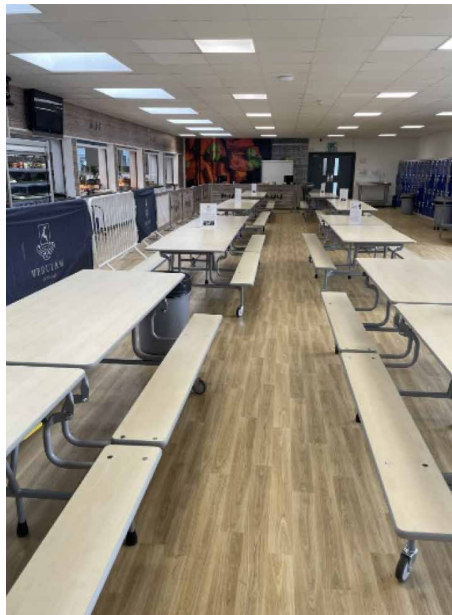
Site Developments

This term has seen a number of site developments to make the school a more pleasant, welcoming place that is conducive to learning. In the canteen quad, artwork from our talented students has been printed and displayed.

New signage has been installed around the site, thanks to the talented Fonteyne Signs (also an

ex-Verulam boy!) In addition, new furniture has transformed the Sixth Form café thanks to David Way Ltd. In addition, new furniture has been installed in the main school canteen, seating more students than before.

By: Miss Richardson



Child Protection Key Information

Verulam School is concerned about the welfare and safety of all its students and attempts to create an ethos in which students feel secure, safe and listened to. Verulam School follows the procedures established by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.



Being observant

All school staff and volunteers are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, and changes in behaviour because they have daily contact with children. They are aware of the important role the school has in the early recognition of the signs and symptoms of abuse and trauma which may be indicative of abuse, harm and neglect and the appropriate referral process.

If any member of staff is concerned about a child, they will inform the Designated Senior Lead (Mr Flack). The member of staff will record information regarding the concerns on the same day on CPOMs (our online recording platform). The recording will be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations. Mr Flack will then determine who else needs to be made aware of this information to best support the child. This will always be as few a people

as possible. In most cases, the parents/carers will be informed as we feel working together will bring about the best outcomes.

Verulam School works closely with a number of outside agencies from within and outside Hertfordshire to provide support for pupils and their families. This includes; a school family worker to support parents/carers, behaviour mentors, school counsellors, primary transition mentors as well as more specialist support in the most challenging of circumstances.

If any member of staff is concerned about another member of staff, they will inform the Headteacher (Miss Richardson). If their concern is about the Headteacher, they will inform the Chair of Governors or the CEO of Alban Academies Trust.

Weekly student focus groups are carried out by senior staff, we have employed Pastoral Assistants to support the work of Heads of Year, as well as a Well-being Manager and Safeguarding Officer.

All visitors are given a copy of our Safeguarding Booklet to read on arrival so that they know who to report any concerns to whilst they are on site.



Recruitment processes

In accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022), Verulam maintains a Single Central Record of pre-appointment checks for all staff and volunteers that work in the school. Before shortlisting for any positions in the school, an online/ social media search is carried out and applications are scrutinised for any gaps in employment.

In addition, references are obtained and every interview panel consists of a person who has completed Safer Recruitment Training and will include a number of



Safeguarding training

safeguarding questions. Any candidates that have worked/spent time abroad are subject to Overseas Police Checks and are required to bring in the Birth Certificate. No staff are permitted to commence work without an Enhanced DBS check and two references being acquired.

All staff and volunteers undergo a background check before they start to ensure they are appropriate to work with children. This is carried out by the Disclosers and Barring Service (DBS). They will then complete their NSPCC Level 1 Safeguarding and Prevent training. Once part of the Verulam community, they will receive an induction to our processes and procedures. This is usually carried out by Mr Flack (Designated Senior Lead).

Mr Flack and his Deputy Designated Senior Leads (see below) carry out regular training with all staff to ensure they are kept up to speed with relevant changes and updates as well as emphasising key information. This takes place weekly via our all staff briefing, as well as through a number of after-school and INSET day extended sessions. Staff are trained to recognise all form of abuse and know what action to take should they have a concern.

The Deputy DSLs are:

- **Miss Richardson, Headteacher**
- **Mr MacKenzie, Assistant Headteacher**
- **Miss Perry, Assistant Headteacher**
- **Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form**
- **Mr Halsall, Head of Year**
- **Miss Moss, Wellbeing Officer**
- **Mrs Morrison, Safeguarding Officer**

Our DSLs can be contacted by calling the school on 01727 766100 or by emailing safeguarding@verulam.herts.sch.uk or concern@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Every year, all staff read the annually updated version of Keeping Children Safe in Education and a cycle of training is carried out for all staff and DSLs according to their role.

All stakeholders are sent the #WakeUpWednesday from the National Online Safety to ensure that they are up to speed on the latest online threats.



Supporting pupils

The use of the house at the front of the site as an Inclusion Hub to support pupil well-being, vulnerable and SEND pupils provides a safe space for small group interventions, counselling and support.

Weekly PSHE lessons for all year groups provide a spiral curriculum that is age appropriate – pupils learn about healthy relationships, sex education, citizenship, finances, mental health, British Values etc. to support them in living fulfilling, happy lives where they thrive. External speakers share specialist knowledge about a range of topics and the school operates an online reporting system to protect victims and monitor appropriate use of technology.

The SHARP system allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear. Aside from the reporting tool SHARP delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime. We promote the Education Act (2010) and educate pupils

about the 9 Protected Characteristics. We are zero tolerant on any forms of discrimination and actively discuss this subject in assemblies and form time. Posters promoting Equality at Verulam are displayed in every room.

A pupil Code of Conduct is issued to every pupil and is explained in Form Time and assemblies. Pupils are taught what is acceptable and what is not.

What is the role of parents and pupils in helping safeguard pupils?



Parents

- Inform the school if your child informs you of anything that could suggest a child's well-being is at risk by emailing DSL@verulam.herts.sch.uk or via the SHARP system.
- Talk to your child about online safety and read the #WakeUpWednesday with them from Parent Mail.
- Visit the school website and engage in resources that exist to support your child's mental health and well-being.
- Support and reinforce school rules with your child.

- Ensure that your child has good attendance.



Pupils

- If you notice anything 'out of the ordinary' about a friend, classmate or pupil, inform the DSL via the SHARP system.
- Engage in your PSHE lessons and value them.
- Be kind to each other.
- Do not discriminate against others and report any bullying or discrimination via the SHARP system.
- Ensure that you are always wearing your lanyard (Years 12 & 13). Report anyone on site without a lanyard or anyone that has with a red lanyard but is unaccompanied, to the nearest member of staff.
- Do not have your mobile phone out whilst on site.

As a result of these and other, established good practice, Ofsted found our safeguarding to be EFFECTIVE during their visit in November 2022.

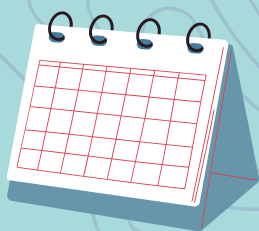
Join the PTA T.E.A.M. – Together Everyone Achieves More!

Our aim is to create an inclusive, friendly, community of parents and carers who work together to provide fun and exciting events that raise money for Verulam and by extension "all" of the children who attend the School.



The money raised is donated to the school and is used to improve the school's environment resources or directly for your Childs development. Our school will need us more than ever during these difficult times, and we are aiming to raise £15,000 to go towards the school's wish list of items.

YOU are a PTFA member if you have a child at the school automatically, and we welcome your involvement, whether it be ideas or comments, and of course we welcome your support at any of our events.



We hope you will consider joining us here is a few reasons why?

- Get connected • Have fun • Stay informed • Benefits your child

Dates for your diary...

January 14th 2023 - Second Hand Uniform Sale

February 3rd 2023 - The famous PTA Quiz is finally back after a 3 year absence! With Quiz Master David Bint

April 22nd 2023 - Spring Ball It is going to be night to remember!



We can be contacted at: verulamschoolpta@gmail.com

#WakeUpWednesday

#WakeUpWednesday - a weekly newsletter designed for parents and carers, which provides information and advice about current issues, threats or trends in the online world.

For more information please visit
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

REDDIT

Reddit describes itself as a social news website where users connect and share stories, opinions and suggestions. It's a place where users can find out what's trending online and where they can share their own thoughts and experiences. It's a place where users can find out what's trending online and where they can share their own thoughts and experiences.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MINIMAL MODERATION**
- HARASSMENT AND TROLLING**
- FAKE NEWS**
- ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**
- MEET OUR EXPERT**

Advice for Parents & Carers

- Sort the Settings**
- Rise Above It**
- Encourage Critical Thinking**
- Meet Our Expert**

Meet Our Expert

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Online bullying is a serious issue that affects many young people. It's important for parents and carers to know how to combat it. This guide provides advice on how to help your child deal with online bullying.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- 1. GET CONNECTED**
- 2. KEEP TALKING**
- 3. STAY VIGILANT**
- 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE**
- 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN**
- 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD**
- 7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE**
- 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY**
- 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE**
- 10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES**

Advice for Parents & Carers

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II is a first-person shooter game. It's a sequel to Call of Duty: Modern Warfare. It's a game that's designed to be played on a console or PC. It's a game that's designed to be played on a console or PC.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**
- OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING**
- IN-GAME PURCHASES**
- RESPECT THE AGE RATING**
- CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION**
- MEET OUR EXPERT**

Advice for Parents & Carers

- Set Spending Limits**
- Try Other Modes**
- Meet Our Expert**

Meet Our Expert

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social media can have a big impact on mental health. It's important for parents and carers to know how to help their child deal with social media. This guide provides advice on how to help your child deal with social media.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM**
- 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS**
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN**
- 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT**
- 5. SET DAILY LIMITS**
- 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY**
- 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
- 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
- 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES**
- 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE**

Advice for Parents & Carers

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HiPAL

HiPAL is a platform that allows young people to share their thoughts and experiences. It's a place where they can find out what's trending online and where they can share their own thoughts and experiences.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS**
- SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS**
- NEED FOR VALIDATION**
- EMPHASISE CAUTION**
- AVOID OVER-SHARING**
- NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION**
- INTRUSIVE FEATURES**
- LARGE GROUP CHATS**
- BUILD RESILIENCE**
- CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING**

Advice for Parents & Carers

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Setting up apps, games and software can be a daunting task for parents and carers. This guide provides advice on how to help your child deal with setting up apps, games and software.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS**
- THREE ISN'T ALWAYS FREE**
- DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING**
- APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO**
- LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW**
- CHECK THE SPECS**
- MONITOR IN-GAME CHATS**
- BE WARY OF GIFTS**
- CONSIDER STORAGE**
- WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS**
- STAY UPDATED**

Advice for Parents & Carers

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK

Google Chromebooks were first introduced in 2015 as a budget-friendly alternative to Windows laptops. They have a cloud-based desktop operating system created by Google that performs internet-based tasks simply and quickly. Although primarily optimised for Google apps – such as Gmail and Google Drive – newer devices also support Android apps and offer a range of parental controls via the Google Family Link app. Nevertheless, whilst these tools are comprehensive, there are some limitations which means there are a number of risks related to safety that should be aware of.

SETTING UP

SET UP FAMILY LINK

Family Link is a free app that allows parents to manage their child's Google account. It can be used to set up a new account for a child, or to manage an existing one. It can be used to set up a new account for a child, or to manage an existing one. It can be used to set up a new account for a child, or to manage an existing one.

DISABLE GUEST MODE

Guest mode is a feature that allows users to use a device without logging in. It is useful for public devices, but it can be a security risk if used on a personal device. It is recommended to disable guest mode on personal devices.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parents can use the Family Link app to set up parental controls for their child's account. This includes setting age-appropriate restrictions, monitoring app usage, and controlling what the child can search for online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE, ALL THE TIME

Chromebooks are designed to be used online. This means that children are always connected to the internet, which increases the risk of encountering inappropriate content or being contacted by strangers.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Chromebooks are designed to be used online. This means that children are always connected to the internet, which increases the risk of encountering inappropriate content or being contacted by strangers.

BEWARE OF MALWARE

Although Chromebooks are generally considered to be secure, they are not immune to malware. Parents should ensure that their child's device is kept up to date with the latest security patches.

Advice for Parents & Carers

There are a number of safety features that you can enable to keep your child safe while using Google Chromebooks.

1. Enable Family Link parental controls.
2. Disable guest mode.
3. Keep the device up to date with the latest security patches.
4. Monitor app usage.
5. Control what the child can search for online.
6. Set boundaries, screen-time limits, and device location when not in use.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE OFCOM CHILDREN AND PARENTS: MEDIA USE AND ATTITUDES REPORT 2022

ONLINE LIFE

99% of children went online in 2021

Who owns a mobile phone?

- 24% of 5-7 year-olds
- 60% of 8-11 year-olds
- 98% of 12-17 year-olds

GAMING AMONG CHILDREN

18% of 3-4s, 18% of 5-7s, 89% of 8-11s, 76% of 12-15s, 72% of 16-17s

ONLINE SAFETY

42% of parents know the minimum age requirement for using social media

90% of children got online safety guidance from teachers

FAKE NEWS

74% of 8-11s, 82% of 12-15s, 84% of 16-17s were concerned about their child's screen time

ONLINE BULLYING

4 in 10 parents were concerned about their child's screen time

PARENTAL CONCERNS

18% of 8-11s, 7 in 10 parents were concerned about their child's screen time

POPULAR PLATFORMS

What percentage of children used...

- YouTube: 89%
- Facebook: 40%
- WhatsApp: 63%
- FaceTime: 32%
- TikTok: 50%
- Message: 15%
- Snapchat: 42%
- Zoom: 14%
- Instagram: 4%
- Twitter: 13%

SOCIAL MEDIA AND LIVE STREAMING

Age groups

Age group	Children who use social media	Children who use live streaming
3 to 4 year-olds	22%	3%
5 to 7 year-olds	28%	3%
8 to 11 year-olds	64%	33%
12 to 15 year-olds	72%	47%
16 to 17 year-olds	72%	47%

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 is the most recent version of the FIFA video game series. It is a football simulation game that allows players to control a team and compete against other teams.

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

Scammers often use social media to lure children into scams. They may offer prizes or money in exchange for personal information or money.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Children can chat with other players in the game. This can be a risk if they encounter inappropriate language or behavior.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Video games can be addictive, leading to excessive screen time and potential health issues.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Some games include gambling-like features, such as loot boxes, which can encourage gambling behavior.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

Encourage children to be selective about who they chat with in the game.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

Be alert for any offers of prizes or money that seem too good to be true.

CONTROL SPENDING

Set limits on how much money children can spend on in-game purchases.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Encourage children to take breaks from gaming and engage in other activities.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about REDDIT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MINIMAL MODERATION

Reddit has a large, open community where users can post anything. This means there is a high risk of encountering inappropriate content or being contacted by strangers.

HARASSMENT AND TROLLING

Reddit is known for its 'troll' culture, where users often post inflammatory or humorous comments to provoke a reaction.

FAKE NEWS

Reddit is a popular source of news, but it is also a common place for fake news to spread.

SUPPORTIVE STRANGERS

Reddit has many subreddits where users can find support for various issues. However, it is important to be cautious of advice from strangers.

NEVER-ENDING NOTIFICATIONS

Reddit's notification system can be overwhelming, leading to excessive screen time.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET THE SETTINGS

Encourage children to set their account to private and limit their visibility.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach children to question information they find on Reddit and to verify it with other sources.

AVOID PRIVATE MESSAGING

Encourage children to avoid private messaging with strangers.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about BEREAL

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTINUOUS NOTIFICATIONS

Bereal sends notifications every time someone interacts with your content, which can be distracting and addictive.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Bereal allows users to connect with strangers, which can be a risk if they encounter inappropriate behavior.

PUBLIC SHARING

Anything posted on Bereal is public, which means it can be seen by anyone.

REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

Posting inappropriate or offensive content on Bereal can damage a user's reputation.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LIMIT NOTIFICATIONS

Encourage children to turn off notifications to reduce screen time.

STOP AND THINK

Encourage children to think before they post anything on Bereal.

KEEP IT AMONG FRIENDS

Encourage children to only share content with friends.

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Encourage children to create a profile that is safe and appropriate.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OVERWATCH 2

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MULTIPLE PASSWORDS

Overwatch 2 has multiple passwords for different features, which can be confusing for children.

IN-GAME PURCHASING

Overwatch 2 includes in-game purchases for cosmetic items, which can be expensive.

VOICE CHAT

Overwatch 2 has voice chat, which can be a risk if children encounter inappropriate language or behavior.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

Overwatch 2 is a team-based shooter game, which can be violent.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ASSIST WITH ACCOUNT LINKING

Encourage children to link their account to a parent's account for better control.

MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS

Encourage children to be cautious about what they say in voice chat.

USE IT AS INSPIRATION

Encourage children to use the game as a source of inspiration for art or writing.

LIMIT IN-GAME SPENDING

Set limits on how much money children can spend on in-game purchases.

WATCH SOME GAMEPLAY

Encourage children to watch gameplay videos to learn more about the game.

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Dates for your Diary

January 2023

5th - All students return to Verulam for 8.35am
 9th - Berlin Trip Information Evening
 12th - Into the Sixth Form Evening
 16th - Year 8 Theatre Workshop
 17th - Sixth Form Open Morning tours
 18th - Year 13 Parents' Evening
 19th - Curriculum Enrichment Day
 19th - New York Trip Information Evening
 20th - Year 8 Work Shadowing Day
 23rd - Year 7-10 Immunisation Catch Up
 24th - Football Education Information Evening
 25th - Year 11 Parents' Evening
 26th - Gold Reward Trip 1
 27th - Silver & Bronze Reward Trip 1

February 2023

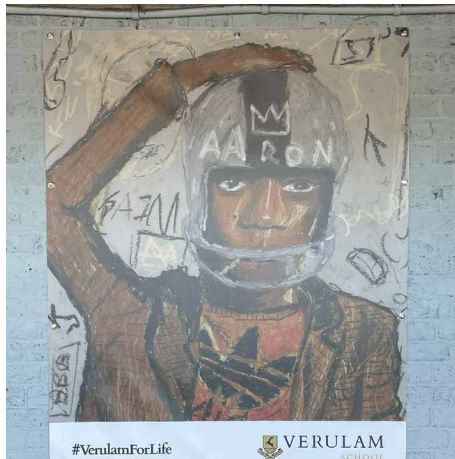
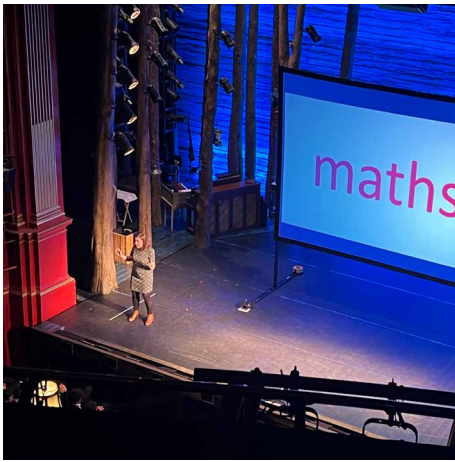
1st - UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge
 1st – 3rd - Year 11 Berlin Trip
 3rd - Sixth Form application deadline
 3rd - PTA Quiz Night
 4th-8th - New York Sociology Trip
 7th - Year 9 Options Evening
9th - Inset Day
10th - Inset Day
 10th-18th - Ski Trip
13th-17th - Half Term
 20th-3rd Mar - Year 13 Exam Week
 24th - Year 9 Immunisations

March 2023

1st - Curriculum Enrichment Day
 13th-17th - Year 11 Exams
 16th - UKMT Intermediate Maths Olympiad
 17th-20th - Year 12 Geography Field Trip (Swanage)
 21st - Apprenticeship & FE Information Evening
 22nd - HPQ Presentations
 30th - Year 8 Parents' Evening
31st - Last day of term – early close

APRIL 2023

17th - All students return to Verulam for 8.35am
 20th - Year 12 reports sent home
 22nd - PTA Spring Ball
 25th-28th - Year 10 Paris Trip
 26th - UKMT Junior Maths Challenge
 26th - Year 12 Parents' Evening



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