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Lectures 2022

WELCOME

Verulam School and the BSV Consortium welcome you to a series of lectures by experts in their fields to help students look further and journey outside the curriculum.

All lectures held at Verulam School on Friday afternoons. Lectures begin at 12:20 - 13:20 in the main hall.

AUTUMN TERM SCHEDULE



DATE

SPEAKER

9th September 2022

Matt Himsworth

TBC

Daisy Cooper

23rd September 2022

Andrew Ridings

30th September 2022

Ian Bickers

7th October 2022

Dr Ronan O'Leary

14th October 2022

Rachel Younger

4th November 2022

Jonathan Watts

11th November 2022

Matthew Goodwin

2nd December 2022

Spencer Caminsky

9th December 2022

Alix Popham

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MATT HIMSWORTH

Lawyer and founder of B5 Consultancy

Matt is a director and founder of B5 Consultancy, a sports advisory consultancy which he founded with former footballer Fraser Franks in June 2020. He has been a media lawyer for 20 years now having started his career at London firm Schillings before setting up his own firm in 2012.

He works as a trusted adviser to many top Premier League Football Clubs as well as player associations and other sports organisations and companies. His real passion is positive behaviours online and he campaigns on matters such as online harms and intimate image abuse whilst advising and educating on cultures that protect everyone on the internet.



DAISY COOPER

Liberal Democrat MP for St Albans

Daisy Cooper entered Parliament as MP for St Albans in the 2019 General Election, bucking the national trend by unseating the Conservative's Anne Main. Previously, she worked in international development for ten years, including eight years in Commonwealth affairs advising Ministers and international Commissions as an international civil servant and as an outspoken Director of a human rights think-tank.

She holds an LLM in Public International Law from Nottingham University, an LLB Hons in Law from Leeds University, a Foundation Certificate in Psychotherapy and Counselling and is also an SPC Accredited Mediator.



ANDREW RIDINGS

Lawyer/Legal Recruitment Partner, Michael Page Group

Andrew has a LL.B degree in Law from the University of Manchester and a Masters of Law (LL.M degree) from the University of Southampton. Prior to his current position with the Michael Page Group, Andrew had 20 years plus in private practice in the City of London as a solicitor, 15 years as a Partner, specialising in shipping and commodities trading litigation.

He moved into executive recruitment in the autumn of 2020 to the newly created desk at Page Group Legal dealing solely with Partner lateral hires (and teams) for the London and South East region.

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IAN BICKERS

Prison Group Director – London Prisons

Ian Bickers has worked for Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) for over 16 years, having had a career in the private sector before joining the Prison Service. He is the Deputy Director leading the implementation of the Education and Employment Strategy, New Futures Network and Prison Service Industries, as well as the CFO team. He has governed two of the largest and most challenging prisons in the country, HMP High Down and latterly as Executive Governor at HMP Wandsworth, where he led the Prison Reform agenda.

Ian is a graduate of the Open University, with a MSc (Hons) in Psychology. He is also a graduate of Cambridge University having completed a Masters Degree in Criminology, Penology and Management with distinction.

Specialty Lead Neurosciences and Trauma Critical Care at Cambridge
University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



DR RONAN
O'LEARY

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Ronan moved to Stratford upon Avon after taking his GCSEs at Verulam and then went to university where he did a BSc and PhD in biochemistry before going to medical school. After training in Leeds, Birmingham, and Melbourne Australia, he moved to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge where is now a consultant in neurosciences and trauma intensive care medicine.

He is also a consultant anaesthetist with an interest in anaesthesia for complex trauma and pelvic reconstructions.

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RACHEL YOUNGER

ITN news Journalist

Rachel is an award-winning broadcast journalist at ITV News. Over the past year she has covered the war in Ukraine, reporting also from Moscow and Riga. An experienced foreign correspondent Rachel has been posted to bureaus in Washington, Jerusalem and Brussels working for Sky News, Channel 4 News and the BBC since becoming a journalist in 1996. She's crossed paths with Donald Trump and followed British politicians including Jeremy Corbyn, Nick Clegg and Jo Swinson on general election campaign trails.

Rachel is a former winner of the UK Broadcast Journalist of the Year for first-hand live reporting from the Beslan school siege. She presented the 2020 ITV Tonight documentary on Policing Britain and was Heath Editor for 3 years at ITV News. Recently she has specialised in journalism on mental health and domestic abuse and enjoys mentoring young journalists from different backgrounds.

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JONATHAN WATTS

Recruiter, Meta

Jonny grew up in St. Albans and went to Verulam school and Oaklands College before studying Criminology & Law at Coventry University. Since then he's transitioned in to HR and worked at a variety of FTSE 100 companies. He works on strategies to attract and recruit IT and technical staff in a very competitive market space.

His current role is with Meta working to recruit the top software engineers from around the globe to work on Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram along with new Metaverse experiences

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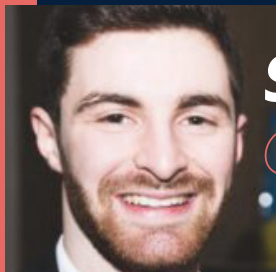


MATTHEW GOODWIN

Professor of Politics, University of Kent, Canterbury

Matthew was born and raised in St Albans, is an Alumnus of Verulam School and was the first person in his family to attend university. He holds a BA (First Class Hons) in Politics and Contemporary History, a M.A. in Political Science and a PhD in Political Science.

He is currently Professor of Politics at Rutherford College, University of Kent, Fellow at Legatum Institute and in recent years has served as Senior Visiting Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House.



SPENCER CAMINSKY

Digital Communications Officer, Shout Out UK

A past pupil at Verulam School Spencer has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature from the University of St Andrews. Whilst at university Spencer secured a number of journalism internships as well as mentoring students in Sociology, Government and Politics and English Literature. He is employed as a Digital Communications Officer with Shout-Out UK and this involves daily social media management of number of social media platforms.

Shout Out UK was launched in 2015 to fix the lack of political education in schools by bringing young people together to talk and learn about politics. Shout Out UK's mission is to protect and amplify democracy by ensuring Political Literacy education is as widespread as possible, and available to all citizens in and out of school, regardless of their socio-economic background, ethnicity, or gender.

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ALIX POPHAM

Former Welsh rugby international and ambassador for Head for Change

Alix Popham is a Welsh former rugby union player who played as a number eight or flanker. Born in Newport, he began his career with Newport RFC in 1998, before moving to Leeds Tykes in 2002. He spent three years in England before returning to Wales with the Llanelli Scarlets in 2005. In 2008, he moved to France to play for Brive. He retired due to injury at the end of the 2010–11 season, having made over 250 appearances in 13 years as a professional.

He also played internationally for the Wales national team, earning 33 caps. At the age of 40 Alix was diagnosed with early onset dementia. Together with Steve Thompson and Michael Lipman, Popham filed legal claims against the Rugby Football Union, the Welsh Rugby Union and World Rugby for the injuries they sustained during the game.



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