#### Headteacher: Julie Richardson



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27th March 2023

### Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the spring term, it's unbelievable how fast the academic year is going! Once again, I'd like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Our end of term newsletter will be sent via Parent Mail later this week.

# **End of term arrangements**

All pupils will leave for the Easter break on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12:20 p.m. Please note that Year 7 and 8 will have their 'Festival of Colours' for Holi (postponed due to poor weather) during Period 3 on this day.

## **Start of term arrangements**

All year groups will return on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April by 8:35 a.m., going straight to registration. Please note, it will be Gold week on our return.

### Uniform

As you will be aware, at the end of last academic year, we conducted a review of uniform. All pupils are now able to wear a plain **dark grey V-neck** jumper from any supplier. A number of parents and students have asked for recommendations regarding V-neck jumpers. Retailers such as <u>Next</u>, <u>M&S</u>, <u>John Lewis</u>, <u>Matalan</u> and local supermarkets all currently have these in stock. Please note, these jumpers *must* be dark grey only and must *not* have any form of logo on them.

A gentle reminder that we do not permit any pupils to wear trainers unless medical evidence is provided in advance directly to the Headteacher and the trainers are completely black. Likewise, we do not permit any pupils to wear hooded tops at school, or any other items that are not listed as being part of our <u>uniform</u>, except for Year 11 and 13 who are permitted to wear their official Leavers' Hoody in the Summer term. If you are a Year 11 or Year 13 parent and have not yet placed your order for the Leavers' Hoody, please check Parent Mail and follow the link on the letter from the Head of Year.









Finally, as we approach the Summer term, please remind your son that all shirts, regardless of the whether it is the legacy 'summer shirt' which will no longer be available from suppliers at the end of this academic year, *must* be tucked in at all times. In addition, all boys must wear a blazer and tie to school.

# **Staffing matters**

This term we say goodbye to the following staff, and we wish them all the best in the next phase of their career: Mrs Wright, Mrs Warren.

I would like to welcome the following new members of staff: Mutee-ur-rehman Saifullah (VLR Manager), Samar Badine (Trips Administrator), Rebecca Elliott (Administrator Communications and Careers), Precious Agho (Examinations Officer), Sophia Fry (Sixth Form Study Mentor).

### Communications with the school

As the Headteacher of Verulam, I have a duty of care not only to our pupils, but also to our staff. A gentle reminder, all members of staff have the right to work without fear of violence, abuse, or harassment. We expect parents and other visitors to behave in a reasonable way towards members of school staff. As a school, we have a clear <u>policy</u> that outlines the steps that will be taken where behaviour is unacceptable.

If you have a question, concern, or query about something, I ask that you email admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk FAO the member of staff that you require and simply request a call back. Parents should *not* be emailing staff to their direct school email addresses or writing lengthy lists of questions/concerns/grievances, especially late at night or over the weekend. We take staff wellbeing seriously at Verulam and operate a strict email curfew in-house to support staff with this. Requesting a call back and one sentence detailing what the communication is concerning will suffice. Please note, that as per AAT Policy, we will respond to all letters or emails within three working days.

### **PTA Ball**











Bernadette Hall-Roberts (Y9 parent and our amazing PTA Chair!) and the Ball Committee are hard at work creating something really special for you. The gates to the Secret Garden open on Saturday April 22nd at 7pm. You'll be treated to an amazing wild garden setting, a delicious 3 course meal, a free welcome drink, and entertainment from live band Bought & Sold.

A lot of time, effort and money has already been invested in this event, and we would love to see it going ahead in all its glory – but for this to happen we need to sell a lot more tickets! Please ask your friends (non-Verulam also) to join you, buy your tickets, and have a fabulous night out!

It would be wonderful to see as many parents at this event as possible. Get your tickets <u>here.</u>

On behalf of the governors and staff, I would like to wish you all a restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Yours sincerely

Miss J K Richardson

Headteacher





