



VERULAM
SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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

www.verulamschool.co.uk
Email: head@verulam.herts.sch.uk

17th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we start to prepare for the Summer break, it's a perfect time to reflect on all that has been achieved this year.

In September, we welcomed students back into a new school day, with split breaks and lunches and significant improvements across the site. Our staff and students demonstrated significant resilience and adaptability in managing these changes. The split breaks and lunches have enabled our students' greater spaces to play during recreational times, as well as a less crowded canteen to visit.

In addition, the number of trips, visits, and speakers are at an all-time high at Verulam. The introduction of the new rewards system and the prestigious Blue Stag award, have enabled students to achieve praise and reward for exuding the Verulam Values and demonstrating that they are role models for others.

Please see the latest issue of our Verulam Newsletter [here](#) for full details of this term's events and activities.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued support as we take Verulam forward into the next exciting chapter of its history. I wish you all the very best for the summer, whatever your holiday plans may be.

Site Improvements

This Summer break, the last of the student toilets will start to be renovated. The toilets in the Bradshaw building will be transformed in a similar style to those that were installed last year across the site.

Verulam School

A member of Alban Academies Trust. Registered address:
The Ridgeway, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9NX. A charitable
company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number: 07523557)



In addition, we are investing in some outdoor gym equipment (pictured right) outside the sports' hall, new table tennis tables, additional recycled plastic benches and four new goals, to improve the recreational spaces further.



Over the Summer break, another wave of Prowise boards are also being installed as part of our technology upgrade. This will enable staff to teach more effectively in Creative Arts and the Sixth Form block. We would like to thank the PTFA for their fundraising that has enabled us to make this investment.

Safeguarding

In November 2022, we were visited by Ofsted to review our safeguarding practice. The Inspector found safeguarding at Verulam to be **effective**. However, as a school, we are continuously looking at our systems to reflect and review what we do, so that they stay relevant and keep our children safe. Each Summer we revisit our Verulam Safeguarding Policy, so that it is updated and is compliant with statutory guidance. You can find our current policy [here](#). We would like to hear any feedback that parents/carers have on anything that they might like to have added into this policy. Please click [here](#) to give any comments/feedback by August 18th.

After the shocking recent events reported by the National Press at Tewkesbury Academy, we send our love and best wishes to Headteacher, Kathleen and her staff team. By all accounts their calm professionalism in the face of understandable fear and confusion was simply remarkable. The staff there had to deal with a serious situation forcing them to instigate lockdown procedures. All schools have lockdown procedures, and thankfully having to instigate them is incredibly rare in this country. However, effective safeguarding means having an attitude that "it could happen here". In the final week of term, we will be practising our lockdown procedure so that our staff and students are clear on what they would need to do in order to keep themselves and others safe, should such an incident occur.

Uniform

Last year, I informed you that the Government published statutory guidance to make school uniform costs affordable for all, after a legal requirement to do so passed into law. As of September 2023, Beat and Stevensons will be selling significantly less branded items as part of our uniform. Full details of the uniform can be found [here](#).

We would also gratefully receive any unwanted uniform that is in good condition for our second-hand uniform shop. Please drop off any items in a clearly labelled bag to the main reception via the Brampton Road entrance.

Assessment and Chromebooks

Verulam School

A member of Alban Academies Trust. Registered address:
The Ridgeway, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9NX. A charitable
company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number: 07523557)



At the start of the next academic year, we will be launching a new Assessment system – [DPR \(Dynamic Progress Reporting\)](#). This will make the curriculum in every subject on your child’s timetable explicit to both them, and to you as a parent/carer and will significantly improve the academic report that you receive detailing your child’s progress.

DPR is an award-winning assessment reporting platform and will be launched for each year group in line with their calendared **Information Evening** in the Autumn term. In addition, each year group’s parents/carers will be offered an optional technical support evening.

The dates for these evenings are detailed below:

Year	Information evening	Pupil log ins shared with parents and pupils	Thursday DPR optional support
7	16 th September (presentation at the start of the Summer BBQ)	15 th September	21 st September 6-7 p.m.
13	20 th September	19 th September	28 th September 6-7 p.m.
10	3 rd October	2 nd October	12 th October 6-7 p.m.
9	10 th October	9 th October	19 th October 6-7 p.m.
12	8 th November	7 th November	16 th November 6-7 p.m.
11	14 th November	13 th November	30 th November 6-7 p.m.
8	6 th December	5 th December	14 th December 6-7 p.m.

Verulam is now a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school. All students are expected to bring a fully charged device (preferably a Chromebook) each day. In order for your child to make full use of DPR this is essential. Financial assistance is available to any pupils that are in receipt of Free School Meals. For more information regarding this, or for support to complete an application for Free School Meals please email Mrs Avery at admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk.

Summer Results

A Level results will be available on Thursday 17th August. GCSE results will be available from school on Thursday 24th August. Students can arrive from 9:00 a.m. to collect their results from the Main Hall.

Lunchtime supervisor positions available

We are always looking for additional lunchtime supervisors, to cover from 12.20 – 2.20 p.m. (or part thereof). The role pays £12.50 per hour – if you would like to find out more, or wish to register interest, please contact Mrs Hudd Allison.Hudd@verulam.herts.sch.uk

Goodbye and Good luck

Verulam School

A member of Alban Academies Trust. Registered address:
The Ridgeway, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9NX. A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number: 07523557)



We will be saying goodbye to a number of staff and welcoming new members of staff to Verulam School in the new academic year. On behalf of the school community, past and present, I would like to thank the following staff for their time at Verulam: Mrs Roofe; Mrs Bitencourt; Ms Howells; Mr Hobbs; Mrs Morrison; Ms Ramage; Ms Saggar; Ms Hun; Mr Ahmed; Miss Tan (one-year sabbatical); Ms Watford; Mr Woodhall and Mr Flack.

While it is always difficult to see members of our community move on, we wish them all well in the future. I know that our new staff will be both positive and productive additions to our school community.

I would like to welcome the following new roles/new members of staff: Miss Perry (Acting DHT); Mrs Cornnell (Acting Assistant Headteacher); Mr Halsall and Mr Coughlan (Associate SLT); Ms Wilson (2 i/c English); Mr Russell (Teacher of Maths); Ms Durrani (Exams Invigilator); Mr Austin (Teacher of Computer Science); Mr Moroney (Teacher of PE); Miss Widd (Teacher of Science); Mrs Vasa (PA to the DHTs), Mr Greaves (Lead Practitioner – Teaching & Learning); Ms Hannat (Art Technician); Mr Hagos (Teacher of Science); Mrs Rawal (Teacher of Maths); Mrs Novikova (Teacher of Maths).

Start of Academic Year Arrangements

Friday 1st September is closed to all students as this is a staff training day.

The summer promises to bring rest, relaxation and perhaps even some adventure and discovery. I hope you and your family enjoy sunshine and the warmth of each other's company.

We look forward to seeing all students return to school on Monday 4th September at 8:35 a.m.

Please find a copy of our final newsletter of the academic year [here](#) .

Yours sincerely,



Miss Julie Richardson
Headteacher

Verulam School

A member of Alban Academies Trust. Registered address:
The Ridgeway, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9NX. A charitable
company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number: 07523557)

