



# VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Julie Richardson

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15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic Autumn term we have had. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the amazing support and commitment you continue to provide the school.

Once again, this term has seen a number of exciting trips, guest speakers and rewards take place. We also saw our Progress 8 score rise to **+0.36** from +0.05 in one year. Progress 8 is a secondary accountability measure aimed at measuring the progress of pupils across a selected set of 8 subjects. It is a type of value-added measure, meaning pupils' results are compared to the actual achievements of other pupils with the same prior attainment. In addition, our Progress 8 score is higher than the National Average for non-selective boys' schools, which currently stands at +0.23. This is a huge achievement and I would like to publicly thank the Verulam staff that have worked so hard to help our boys achieve.

In addition, staff and pupils worked collaboratively to put on a phenomenal Christmas production of The Wizard of Oz. A special thank you to Mr Mackenzie, Mrs Tomlin, Dr Imanshi, Mr Phillips, Mrs Barford and Mrs Tandon who worked tirelessly across the Creative Arts and Technology faculties. The production not only featured stunning performances from our talented students but was further enhanced by our new lighting rig which created a stunning Emerald City!

As always, the numerous events and achievements of this term will be showcased in the autumn newsletter which will be sent to all stakeholders on the last day of term.

### End of term arrangements

The last day of the Autumn term is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Each Year Group will attend a special celebration assembly, being dismissed for the holidays at the time detailed below:

Year	Assembly	Dismissal time
11	10:30 - 10:50	10:50
7	8:40 - 9:05	11:15
8	9:10 - 9.35	11:15
10	11:20 - 11:40	11:40
9	9:40 - 10:05	12:00
12 & 13	N/A	12:00

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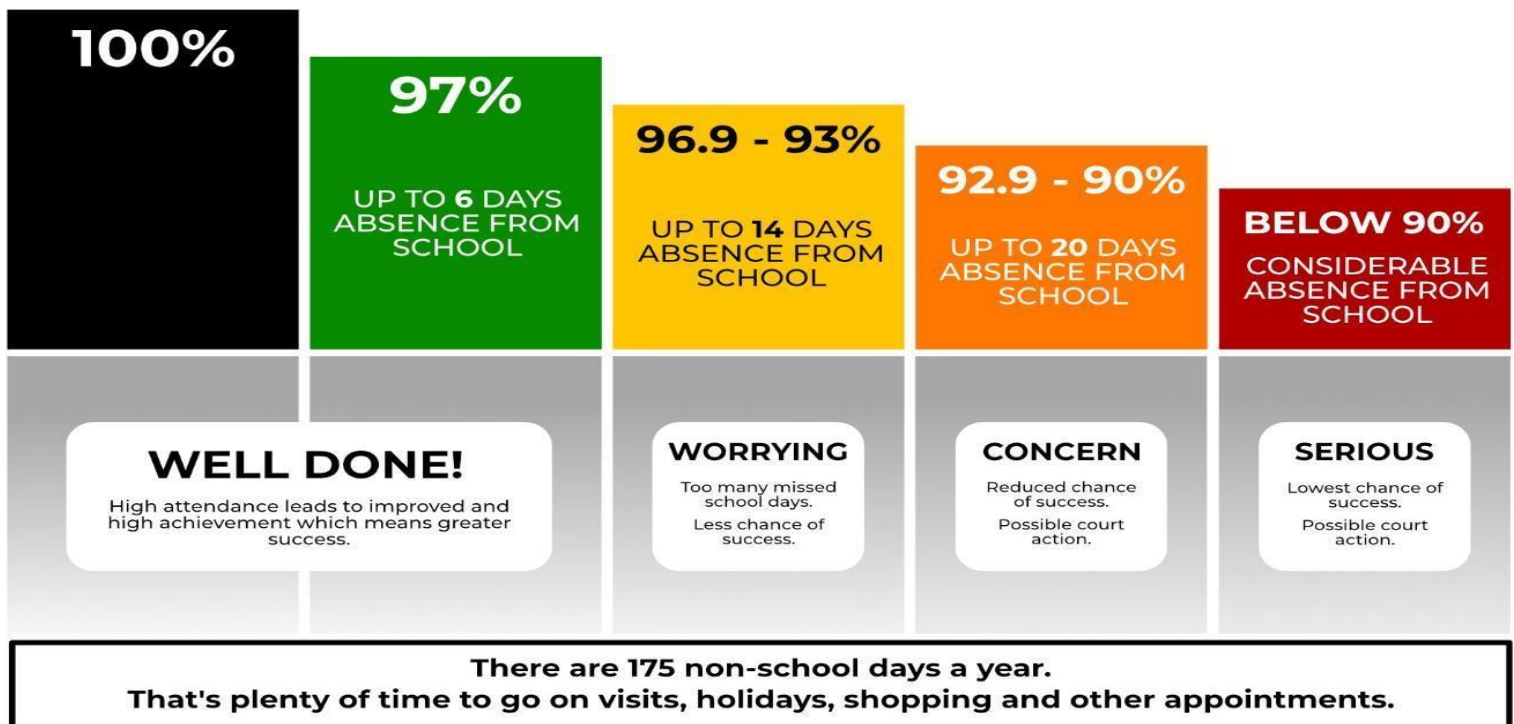
The Spring term will commence on **Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2024** for *all* year groups at **8:40 a.m.**

### Attendance reminder

Attendance rates for all schools are monitored closely. Post-Covid attendance for many schools has been volatile.

Attendance at Verulam has improved significantly and is higher than the Hertfordshire average. Thank you for your dedication to date in supporting our school attendance to be positive.

However, we must never become complacent. The diagram below is a reminder of the impact that absence can have.



### Staffing Matters

This term we say goodbye to the following support staff, and we wish them all the best in the next phase of their career: Mr Ide; Mr Armstrong; Mrs Bailey; Mr Khan.

I would like to welcome the following new members of staff: Miss Pettitt (LSA); Mr Beeson (PE Apprentice); Mrs Reid (Reprographics Assistant); Mr Ramsingh (Premises Assistant).

### Uniform

Standards are incredibly important and it is essential that your child has the correct uniform on arrival to school. As we are likely to experience significant cold spells over the winter months, please

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ensure that your child has a plain dark grey V-neck jumper and a school coat. Please note, other colours, sweatshirts or hooded tops are **not** permitted.

If you are planning to buy your child a new coat this winter, we recommend opting for a bright colour as they make children more visible to traffic in the dark mornings/afternoons.

Please ensure that your child is wearing shoes to school. No students are permitted to wear trainers instead of shoes.

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.

All that is left for me to say is that I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would like all of our students to have a well-earned, fun-filled break and hopefully return fully rested.

We look forward to seeing students return to school on Friday 5th January.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Richardson  
Headteacher

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