

# Newsletter

Autumn Term | Issue 7



VERULAM  
SCHOOL



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# Welcome from the Headteacher



**Dear Parents/Carers**

**Welcome to the Autumn term  
edition of our 2023 newsletter!**

It's been an eventful term with so many things taking place. Most notably, we started the year off with the wonderful news that our Progress 8 score has gone up to +0.36 from +0.05 in just one year. This is the highest score the school has ever achieved and is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff at Verulam.

Although academic results are extremely important, the personal development and enrichment of pupils is equally as important. In this edition, you will read about a number of the wonderful things that have taken place this term.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition and wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year!

Best wishes,

*Miss Richardson*

**Miss Richardson  
Headteacher**

## Open Evening

No sooner were we back in school at the start of September than we were straight into preparations for our Open Evening. This is such an important event for the school and an opportunity to show prospective students and their families all of the wonderful things that we do in the school.

All departments put on the usual top notch show with demonstrations in Design & Technology, Art, Music and PE.

The real superstars of the evening are our outstanding student guides, who worked tirelessly taking families around the site and were as polite, informative and bubbly as ever. Our students have such wonderful personalities and a real passion for the school which they are only too keen to demonstrate.

The evening was a huge success and so satisfying to see our visitors

leave with big smiles on their faces, eager to know more about Verulam.

**By: Mr MacKenzie**





## Year 7 Welcome Lunch

**Verulam extended a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their parents, as we hosted a delightful outdoor welcome buffet lunch provided by the local restaurant Oasis. The lunch, which took place mid-September, perfectly captured the essence of the exciting prospects at the beginning of a new school journey. The atmosphere was exciting but relaxed as everyone gathered to enjoy not just delicious food but also the company of each other.**

The lunch sparked connections and friendships, as shared laughter and

tasty bites created an environment where bonds naturally formed. This casual yet meaningful setting allowed the students and parents to start building a community that promises to endure throughout their secondary school journey.

On this fantastically sunny day, the outdoor lunch provided a perfect introduction to the thrilling experiences awaiting the Year 7s. It set the stage for a year to be filled with diverse subjects, engaging activities, and the shared anticipation of achievements and lasting memories.

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this welcome lunch a memorable and uplifting experience. It was remarkable how much positive feedback we received on the work that had been put into ensuring the Year 6 to Year 7 transition went smoothly during this delightful gathering which was enjoyed by all. It not only marked the beginning of the school year but also symbolised the start of a journey filled with camaraderie, learning, and shared accomplishments.

**By: Mr Holding**

## DPR

### Exciting News for Verulam School Parents!

It's been a real pleasure meeting so many parents from year 7 all the way to year 13 over the last term. We are thrilled to share updates about our recent changes to our assessment and curriculum system here at Verulam School with DPR.

Our dedicated subject leaders have been hard at work over the last year, designing a curriculum model tailored to the diverse needs of our students. We understand that change can sometimes be challenging so we want to thank you for your ongoing support.

### So, what's the buzz all about?

#### Personalized Key Learning Objectives (KOs):

We've broken down every subject into simple learning objectives that your child will master by the end of the year. This means every student can focus on what they need to succeed, at their own pace.

#### Meaningful Interactions:

With this new system, students are enjoying more meaningful interactions about their learning. No more guessing games! Now, students and parents can clearly see their progress and understand what they need to work on.

### Progress Reports:

Over the next few months, students will receive comprehensive reports capturing their progress on these KOs. It's not just about submitting work anymore; it's about understanding how their efforts impact their KOs, building a stronger foundation in every subject, both short-term and long-term.

### Empowering Students:

We're empowering our students to take charge of their own learning journey. They now have the tools and insights to see how their work from home and in class directly impacts their growth and success.

### A Cause for Celebration:

We want to celebrate this fantastic step forward with you! Our students have risen to the challenge, and we couldn't be prouder of their commitment to learning.

Change is always a journey, and we're excited to embark on this one together.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a brighter, more engaging, and more empowering future for our students at Verulam School.

By: Mr Zaman

## Clubs and Societies

As part of our development of break and lunchtime activities, a number of games are now available.

One recent edition is Mah Jong, a classic Chinese tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is a game played with four players with 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. Much to the boys' surprise, it is a game that Miss Richardson herself has played since childhood and as a result, she has given many boys a run for their money!

By: Mr MacKenzie



## GCSE Drama Trip to Blood Brothers

The GCSE groups had the pleasure of watching a performance of Blood Brothers at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. The students are studying the play as part of their syllabus extending into the written exam at the end of Year 11.

The students recognised some of the actors (from x-factor no-less!) and were suitably impressed. We had managed to secure front row seats and with the cosy theatre atmosphere, the students could see all the emotions and visual language portrayed. Students had already been primed in the storyline and studiously took notes during the play.

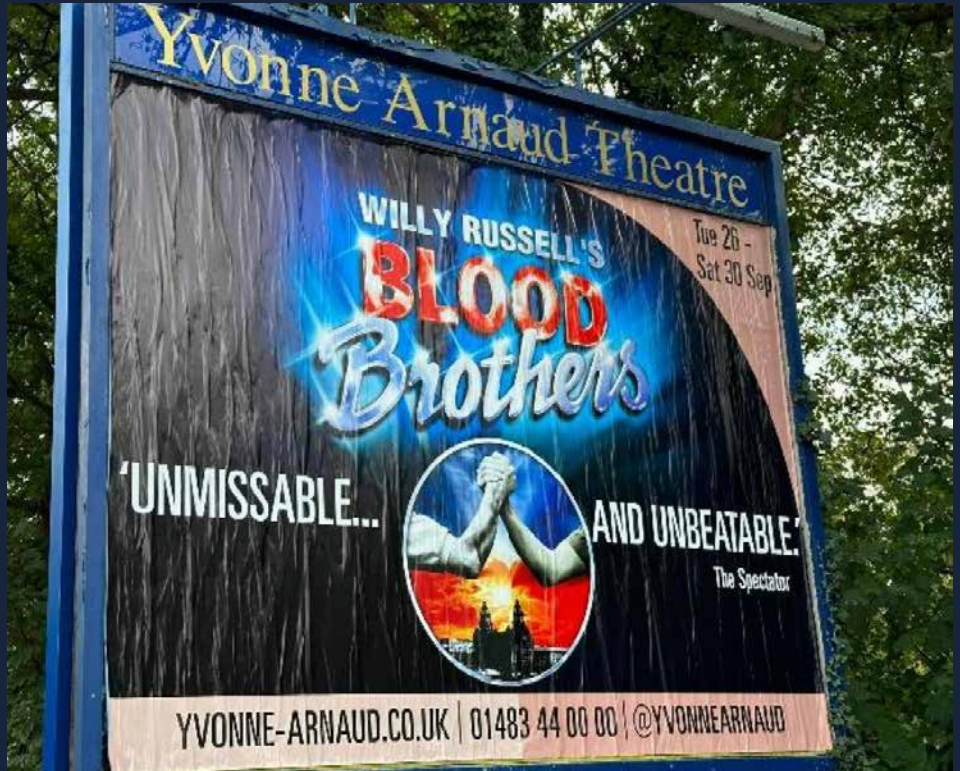
All students could reflect on how backstage crew, actors, wardrobe and theatre staff came together as a team to provide a magnificent performance.

The coach trip back was full of students talking about different aspects of the play and how impressed they were.

*'I was really impressed with how close the actors were to the audience – I could see the fluency of the production and felt completely taken in.'*

Basil D

By: Mrs Tomlin



## Duke of Edinburgh – Silver



**As is now traditional, students who wanted to progress with their D of E award, undertook their silver expeditions in the Autumn of 2023. This saw us visit the New Forest for the first time in many a year followed by our more usual destination of the Dorset coastline. In total, 35 students had signed up for this.**

Prior to embarking on the expedition, we had planned our routes in both locations to ensure both time and distances in relation to the award could be covered.

This planning stage also ensures the students have an understanding of where they are going, the terrain and any potential obstacles they may face. They can also see the challenges they will face should they become misplaced - something to be avoided in the New Forest at all costs if possible.

Given a mixture of weather and terrain, the students all performed to a high standard and will allow them to now go on and complete this level of the award. They should now complete the other sections

covering volunteering, learning a skill and completing a physical activity. Once completed, they will be able to sign up for the Gold award. The challenge for Gold students next summer will be walking the South Downs Way from start to finish.

As ever, thanks to parents for their support with these adventures and the staff who enabled this to take place - Mr Hall, Mr Curcic and Mr Toley Jr!

**By: Mr Toley**



## Cantonese Parents' Evening

**On October 5th we hosted a practical workshop and information evening tailored specifically for Cantonese parents. It was a great opportunity to connect, share valuable insights and foster a sense of community.**

The workshop provided an insight into how we test and support the growth of the students at our school.

We introduced parents to Parallel reading, a unique approach that bridges both languages. The storybooks are written in Cantonese with English text and aim to create an enriching linguistic

experience. It was a pleasure sharing this engaging method, fostering bilingual development and the love of literature.

As a school, our commitment remains unwavering in supporting and breaking down learning barriers. We're excited about the prospect of more engaging events in the future, fostering a collaborative and enriching educational environment for all.

Here's to continued growth and success together!

**By: Ms Nagi**



## Feed Collection

Autumn 2023 began, as is tradition, with our collection for the local food bank at the Vineyard Care Centre. As ever, our families are incredibly generous and kept the House Representatives busy delivering the donations to the canteen for collection by the food bank staff. We always make the collection competitive and this year the house to donate the most items was Churchill and the Year group to donate the most was Year 8 – well done all involved.

In addition to collecting donations, the most involved House Reps were invited to spend a morning

seeing what happens to our donations and got involved in the next stage. We had an interesting tour of the Vineyard Care Centre and found out about all the services and support they offer the local community. Then we volunteered in the warehouse.

The students really enjoyed getting involved after listening carefully to the safety briefings which ensured that they were able to go about their different assigned roles safely. This experience has inspired some of our students to want to volunteer when they are over 18. They had no idea how much fun and how satisfying voluntary work can be.

The other volunteers and staff in the warehouse made a point of telling me how lovely the boys were and what a delight they were to work alongside.

Best of all, the boys were delighted to be 'Expired Food Product Finders' of the Month for October 2023 having found a can of Rhubarb chunks in light syrup with a best before date of May 2016! A reminder to check the dates on any donated items!

By: Mrs Avery



## Abbey Service

**The traditional Abbey Service took place on Friday 20th October.**

It is quite a challenge moving the entire school through St. Albans to the Abbey, but our students have an amazing capacity to step up and show the character and excellence we expect from them. Not only getting to the Abbey but their attitude to the service was exemplary.

With beautiful readings and performances by a number of students and staff and a wonderful performance by

our Head of Music, Dr Imanishi on the marimba, the service was as impressive as ever. Verulam students and staff have a particular love for tradition, but are always willing to look at new and innovative ways of evolving and moving forward. The Abbey Service will continue to be at the heart of our school year and as we move towards a more diverse and multicultural society, the service should and will reflect this.

Through wristband sales and the collection we raised £1000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust on behalf of the Ollie Mills Foundation.

**By: Mr MacKenzie**



## Law Trip

**This Autumn term saw our sixth form law students in both year 12 and 13 brave a cold and wet day in October to visit the capital.**

The day started with a guided walking tour of legal London, starting near St Paul's with our trusty guide Richard. As we as we meandered through, Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple, we learned about the history of these four Inns of Court, home to our barristers.

Our stroll took us past Ede & Ravenscroft, London's oldest robemakers and wigmakers and we of course, stopped at the Royal Courts of Justice for an obligatory photo call.

Having walked up an appetite, we sat down for freshly cooked hot pizza and pasta at Sophie's Italian in Holborn, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Time was tight and no sooner than being served desert, we were on the tube and off to our next and final destination near Waterloo to see our play.

The grand chamber of County Hall was the perfect setting for us to see the classic Agatha Christie play, 'Witness for the Prosecution'. The actors were excellent and the law students were captivated by the plot, the intrigue, the twists and the turns.

**By: Mr Ahmed**



## Year 8 Autumn Term news

**It seems that Year 8 is going to be just as action packed as Year 7 was last year. Already we have gotten off to a great start with so many things to report on. We have only been back 13 weeks and Year 8 boys are already immersing themselves in as many opportunities as they can to broaden their experiences and skills in preparation for their onward journey beyond Year 8 when they will choose their GCSE options. It has been a privilege to see the boys mature as they left Year 7 behind and started the new academic year.**

One pleasant surprise when we returned to school in September was to be informed that a member of Year 8 had been selected to win an award. Zach in 8C was awarded the Verulam School "Extreme Reader" prize having been pictured reading a book on top of the caldera of Mount Vesuvius in Italy whilst on his summer holidays. Mr Pettitt had the pleasure of awarding him his prize in assembly in front of the rest of the year group.



At the end of Year 7 and over the summer another boy enjoyed a great amount of success in tennis. Noah in 8H played at Wimbledon and represented the Hertfordshire Under 14s against boys from 47 other countries.



He won four matches making it to the last 16 boys only to be knocked out by the number 2 seed. Notably this makes him the only 12 year old boy to ever make it this far in international tennis. In addition to this he won an Under 18s, two Under 14s and Under 16s and won three Under 14 Doubles competitions. Not only this he won the Hertfordshire County Cup Under 14 Doubles and came runner up in the singles. The list goes on... He won the Under 18s Windsor Lawn Tennis Club Championships for the 3rd year running and competed in the men's competition winning two matches and coming second in the final to the coach! For his achievements he received a letter from the deputy prime minister congratulating him on his success.

Thanks to his mum for sharing all of Noah's successes. We are all very proud of him! Perhaps we might see Verulam's first Wimbledon champion in the future!

On the subject of sporting success in school competitions, our table tennis team have done exceptionally well this year too! Patrick, Claude and Noah in 8H, Zach in 8C and Ernest in 8H got through from Pool B in the District Table Tennis Tournament and beat St Albans boys school in the semi-final. In the final they drew 2-2 with King's School in Harpenden but narrowly lost by 3 points overall. Despite this they made it through to the County competition where they finished a fantastic third place overall. An amazing achievement, well done boys!



Not only in table tennis are we seeing success from our Year 8 sportsmen. Our football teams are also doing us proud too. Our B team boys achieved a 2-1 win against Bonaventures in one of their initial matches and then the A team bagged a momentous 7-2 win against Monks Walk in the County Cup tournament. Our footballers are going from strength to strength and showing incredible sportsmanship.



In rugby our boys have also made notable progress too having won four matches and drew in another in the Hertfordshire Rugby League Championship. They show great resilience and teamwork and I am looking forward to seeing many more successes next year with our boys hopefully going the whole way and bringing home some trophies! All of the students have been noted to have been tremendous sportsmen and have gained huge respect from other sides.



Away from sport our form reps started their roles with the presentation of their badges and they have begun their duties in earnest. They regularly meet to discuss how they can represent their house and perform activities such as encouraging donations in the FEED project, charity appeals and much more. They do assembly duty every Thursday too. Several volunteers from each form become Year 7 mentors too. Their role was to become a recognisable face to



our new Year 7 students and act as a contact should our new students need any help or support whilst settling in. Their first job was to identify Year 7s in the same colour tie, introduce themselves and find out some interesting facts about

them to help to build new relationships with their fellow housemates!

**Continued**

## Year 8 Autumn Term news



As the first half term came to a close, we held our annual Service of Thanksgiving at St Albans Abbey. The second time Year 8 have attended the Abbey Service and our students were exemplary, both whilst walking down through St Albans city centre and in the way they conducted themselves with understanding and respect inside the Abbey. During the service Claude and Noah in 8H and Isaac in 8Y also gave readings.

Shortly after half term we had our first Curriculum Enrichment day on the theme of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Students attended some great sessions on Hate Crime, Digital Citizenship, with their form tutors, tasting food from other countries such as France and Poland hosted by Mrs Tansley and Mr Lewis, Slam Poetry by Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Wilson and an opportunity to explore some of the world's great landmarks using virtual field trips using their devices online. The White House and the

Aquarium were popular choices to explore.

Trips will continue to feature in the Year 8 calendar to give our students as many out of classroom experiences as possible. In late November, 51 students embarked on an over-night stay in Stratford-upon-Avon with Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Nagi, Mr Jenkins and Mr Knowles. We arrived in Banbury for our hotel and then ventured into Stratford for lunch at McDonald's followed by an hour in the park. After lunch we visited Shakespeare's birthplace which was his childhood home where we learned about his early life and career and that the house eventually became a pub before becoming the museum it is today. It's amazing that a group of boys on a trip manage to find the dressing up box in the museum and took it upon themselves to dress up as Elizabethan citizens.

Some as nobility, some as poor people and even the odd Lady of the House or old washer woman! Dinner was all you can eat Pizza at

Pizza Hut and there were some boys who must have eaten nearly 20 slices! Once full it was off to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre where we took in a performance of "The Box of Delights" – a novel by John Mazefield which was adapted for BBC television in 1984 and shown at Christmas. Then it was back to the hotel in Banbury ready for the next day where we travelled back into Stratford to visit the viewing tower at the theatre to view the panorama of Stratford town centre, the River Avon and beyond.



During the first term we launched our #CELEBR8 scheme. This rewards our boys who make a difference in their normal everyday lessons. Whilst we continue to celebrate those who get Letters of Recognition regularly, #CELEBR8 is a way of recognising those who just get on with their learning and don't usually get noticed for doing so. So far over 60 boys have received a shout out and LOR for showing Excellence, Character and Respect and got their name and photo in the hall of fame! Plenty more to come over the next few months.

As Christmas got nearer, the drama team put on our annual Christmas production, this year being the Wizard of Oz. Several of our Year 8 students took roles again following last year's performance and it was great to see them on stage representing the year group. Our budding actors include Joseph and Lucas in 8J, Sunny and Benji in 8P, Luc in 8B.

Of course, I can't sign off without a mention of our forthcoming trip to Dorset in May. In the new year we will hold a parent's information evening and the boys are already asking about who they can share a tent with and which groups they will be in for the activities. There is a buzz about them in anticipation for the adventure.

So that was the first term of Year 8 and the rest of the year proves to be just as exciting with plenty of things planned. You can follow our story on X (formerly known as Twitter) @VerulamYear 8 where you can see photos, see our #CELEBR8 Hall of fame and the Letters of Recognition and Blue Stag awards and all the events of the year. Be sure to give us a follow! #Team8.

By: Mr Knowles



## Higher Project Qualification

At the end of Year 9 students now in Year 10 were offered the opportunity to undertake a Higher Project Qualification. Those who chose to do this are fully immersed in the course. This qualification is the KS4 version of the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) offered in Sixth Form. Students devise their own enquiry project and then research and write a 2,000 word report on their topics. The topics this year range from: explorations into effective ways to teach boys – is there a different approach that works for boys rather than girls? Exploring space – what are the limiting factors? And To what extent has Covid impacted small businesses?

The aim of the project is to encourage students to become life-long learners by learning how to study independently. In addition, I would like to inspire aspiration in our students and to this end, I arranged for us to go to Southampton University for a study day. This was a fascinating and successful day. The students

were taught how to use an academic library including 'calling' books and then going over to the extensive library to locate the exact book they had called. The visit has been aspirational for the boys and has given them a small insight into what University might offer them.

On returning from our study day, Dr Victoria Yuskaitis from Southampton University has been running online workshops with the group which range from exploring research techniques to how to cite the use of AI in written reports. Next week she will be giving some guidance on how to write a critical argument.

The students are gaining a whole host of new skills and expanding their horizons by undertaking this project which is worth half a regular GCSE and will be completed by the end of Year 10 leaving them free to focus on their GCSE subjects.

By: Mrs Avery



## Year 7 Altru Drama Workshop



Year 7 had a very exciting day on Tuesday 17th October when they worked with the Altru theatre group for an interactive workshop on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Every class had an hour in which they revised their understanding of characters, staging and recapped the plot of the play.

It was fantastic to see the students flourish as they embraced the activities and endeavoured to show the best of their ability and knowledge by developing the freeze frames, character statues and whoosh.

It was clear that they were able to develop confidence and their understanding through Altru's creative workshop.

**By: Ms Wilson**



# Celebrating Black History Month

**In keeping with the tradition since October 2021, we once again welcomed two inspirational young men that are making black history right now to speak to our students.**

On the 4th October, Oluwatosin Toba, founder of Tech Academia, Content Creator for TikTok (JTobaTech), Fashion Model and #3 Most Outstanding Black Future Leaders 2022/23 visited to speak to Year 10 and 11 students. Toba shared his inspirational journey to becoming a Mathematics and Economics student at the University of Nottingham.

Toba spoke passionately about tackling under-representation in STEM within the Afro-Caribbean community and inspiring young people to reach their full potential. He emphasised the importance of having diversity of ethnicity within the workplace in order to promote diversity in ideas and drive innovation.

On the 6th October, Tarinn Callender returned to Verulam to speak to Years 7, 8 and 9 about his journey from being a student in an all boys' school in Enfield to a West End star!

Callender trained at Arts Educational Schools. He is currently in rehearsals for Bronco Billy which opens in the West End in January 2024.

To date he has starred in a number of productions including London's West End: Hamilton, Come From Away, The Drifters Girl. Other productions include The Secret Life of Bees at the Almedia; Dick Wittington and His Cat at Hackney Empire; Kiss Me, Kate at Kilworth House.

**By: Miss Richardson**



## Year 8 Stratford-Upon Avon Trip

**This year marked Verulam's first overnight trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon and we were excited to share this experience with a group of our Year 8 cohort.**

Over the two-day trip to Shakespeare's birthplace, staff and students were fortunate to explore the beautiful market town, whilst taking part in a range of activities celebrating and exploring Shakespeare's life.

Students visited Shakespeare's childhood home where we took part in a guided tour, as well as being allowed to get up close to objects from the Trust's world class collection, helping them to discover the playwright's world and how his work went on to shape our lives today. Next stop was a brief trip around town for lunch, before we made our way to the RSC Theatre to watch an amazing performance of their Christmas show, 'The Box of Delights'.

Students were mesmerised by the cast, the singing and the sound and stage effects. Finally, on the agenda for day one was checking into our hotel to get a good night's rest before another day of exploration.

Day two saw students up bright and early before we headed back to the RCS Tower. After ascending to the top to take in the sights of the beautiful town, we were guided through the development of Stratford-Upon-Avon over the centuries since Shakespeare grew up there.

With students now experts in the life of Shakespeare and his childhood, it was time to head home! All students and staff had a wonderful time and we look forward to planning next year's trip.

**By: Mrs Mitchell**



# Curriculum Enrichment Day 1

**All students across the school took part in a Curriculum Enrichment Day on Wednesday 8th November. The theme of the day was Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and all year groups took part in bespoke days planned to suit their curriculum needs. Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the classroom helps to ensure that each student is able to learn in an environment where all aspects of their identities are recognised and respected, and where they feel safe and secure.**

Year 7 students took part in a series of workshops to learn about non-Western music, Maths from around the world, hate crime and a digital citizenship activity about online presence. They were also joined by an external guest from the charity Stop Hate UK to learn about migration and diversity in the UK. You can find out more about their work through their website: <https://www.stophateuk.org>



Year 8 students also took part in five different workshops; these were about slam poetry, foods and taste testing global delicacies, hate crime, how to be an upstander and travelled the world through completing some virtual field trips. As a UCL Beacon School for Holocaust Education, Year 9 students faced some challenging sessions about the Holocaust, what it was, how it was allowed to happen and why it must never happen again. These sessions build on History knowledge from Year 8 and will be revisited in the Summer term through RE lessons.



Growing Against Violence (<https://www.growingagainstviolence.org.uk/>) visited Year 10 for the day and delivered three different sessions to students about weapons, choices & consequences, myths and realities surrounding gangs plus attitude adjustments. It was a thought-provoking and somewhat challenging day for our Year 10s to consider the main pull factors that drive gang recruitment so that young people are better placed to make informed decisions.

Revision was the focus of Year 11 for the day. Students were provided with revision strategies and techniques, revision timetables to help focus and target their subject areas plus subject-specific revision activities. With trial exams taking place throughout December and January, and less than 100 school days until the GCSE exams begin, it is vital that all students feel supported and know how to best prepare so that they can achieve their best grades.



The Sixth Form was also involved with the day. Year 12 students took part in a model UN council meeting, where students represented 35 different member states. Year 13 students received some external support and guidance from Herts County Council Road Safety, Herts Fire Service and NHS mental health nurses to support their wellbeing prior to their trial exams. There are lots more exciting plans in the making for the next Curriculum Enrichment Day in March 2024.

**By: Miss Nicholls**

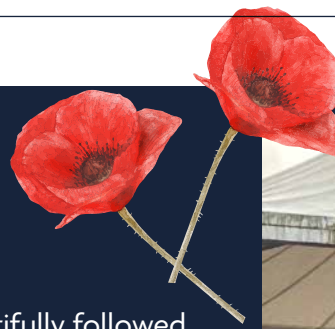
## Remembrance Day service

At Verulam we mark the 11th November with respect and solemnity. Our event brought the whole school together in our main playground to show respect to the fallen in conflict both past and present.

Our students were once again front and centre, following an introductory speech by Miss Richardson, our Vice-Captain

Aaron read beautifully followed by the Last Post played by Simeon on the trumpet. This haunting and stunning rendition was followed by a two minute silence. This is an event that is moving and important to Verulam and another opportunity for the whole school to come together to mark and pay respect.

**By: Mr MacKenzie**



## Geography Field Trip

On a wet Monday in late November, it was time for the annual pilgrimage of Verulam school A level Geography students to head to the west country. More specifically, a 19th century Field Studies Centre in the form of Leeson House just outside Swanage in Dorset.

Our aim was to investigate the honeypot village of Corfe Castle

before heading to Studland Bay and finally Swanage beachfront itself. During our time, we have to not only try and understand the area as it is now but how it is being affected by various variables. These are then investigated in some depth to allow students to understand the world first-hand via a series of data collection methods that must then be analysed via proven statistical techniques. This

allows us to draw conclusions on our investigations. Not only are such skills a must for any geographer now, but they will be of great use in later life when facing any issue that needs investigation. It also accounts for 20% of their A-level!

**By: Mr Toley**



## Diwali

**As a non-faith inclusive school, Verulam recognises and celebrates festivals and events from different religious traditions. This half term saw two festivals of light: Diwali and Hanukkah. Diwali is a festival of light celebrated primarily by believers of Hinduism but also some followers of the eastern Dharmic religions Jainism and Sikhism. Each religion marks different historical events and stories. Diwali takes place over five days; this year from 10 November to 14 November with the main day of celebration on Sunday 12 November.**

Diwali is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over

darkness. Hindus celebrate the return of deities Rama and Sita to Ayodhya after their 14-year exile. They also celebrate the day Mother Goddess Durga destroyed a demon called Mahisha.

Sikhs particularly celebrate the release from prison of the sixth guru Hargobind Singh in 1619. But Sikhs celebrated the festival before this date. The foundation stone of the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the most holy place in the Sikh world, was laid on Diwali in 1577.

The founder of Jainism is Lord Mahavira. During Diwali, Jains celebrate the moment he reached a state called Moksha (nirvana, or eternal bliss).

All students across the school received an assembly about Diwali from Ms Hart. On Friday 10th November some members of staff celebrated Diwali by dressing in traditional clothing and sharing traditional foods.

The school community looks forward to celebrating many more religious festivals this academic year.

Best wishes for the festive season.

**By: Miss Nicholls**

## Bake Sale

Once again we embarked on raising money for Children in Need by hosting a Cake Sale. This event was run by some of our House Representatives.

They ensured that there were plenty of cakes for sale, all at 50p each. We ran the sales at break and at lunchtime – they were very well attended! This really was a win-win situation, boys gave generously, some buying their cake and then making a further donation on top of the price of their cake.

The cakes were either expertly made by boys, their families and friends or purchased. I think the students would agree that the baking talent of our community is exceptional and very chocolate orientated! All the cakes donated were very much appreciated.

We raised over £200 at this event for Children in Need.

By: Mrs Avery



## PTA Update

**Our Parent Teacher Association is so important to our school community and they do tremendous work raising funds for the school.**

Their worthy efforts have contributed to Prowise boards for classrooms that are a hugely effective tool for learning, giving teachers and students access to a range of quick and efficient ways to drive learning forward in the classroom.

Students are working on their health and fitness with our new outdoor gym

equipment that is in constant use at break and lunchtimes.

After the recent AGM, we were delighted to welcome new members to the committee and also parents who want to help at the many events they run. Refreshments at our production of 'The Wizard of Oz' were provided by and managed by our committed PTFA members. Keep an eye out for some of the wonderful events coming up in 2024 which include the ever-popular Quiz Night!

By: Mr MacKenzie

## Education Programme

**St Albans City FC Education Player Programme in partnership with Verulam School has officially launched! This Academic year has seen the first cohort of student/athletes combining their education with their football.**

The team has been playing in the National League U19 Alliance league which has mirrored the league to the Men's first team. So far to date the team has travelled to Lowestoft and various other locations up and down the south of England playing in competitive fixtures other National League clubs. We have proudly had players

within the Education Player Programme represent St Albans City FC U18's in the FA Youth Cup and the U23's. We have already started the recruitment for the 24/25 academic year. If you would like to find out more information about the Education Player Programme or St Albans City FC Academy, please contact Anthony. [gosling@stalbanscityfc.com](mailto:gosling@stalbanscityfc.com)

By: Mr Gosling



# Bebras Computing Challenge

## The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students.

It is organised in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

Last November over 365,000 students took part in the UK, and over 3 million worldwide. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Participants are awarded a certificate for Participation with Merit and Distinction certificates given to those who performed particularly well.

The top performing students will be invited to the next round of challenges hosted by Oxford University.

We have opened this competition to as many students as we can and it has taken place during a Computing / Computer Science lesson. All Year 7, 8 and 9 students participated in this challenge along with those students in Yr 10, 12 and 13 who take Computer Science.

## Bebras 2023 Results!

Verulam students performed exceptionally well in our first year of entering this competition.

### The stats

Junior Competition (Year 7) – There were 117,481 students who participated nationally in the Junior competition. At Verulam we had 28 students achieving a Merit certificate and 30 students achieving a Distinction certificate.

**Congratulations to Thomas B who was Best in School.**

### Intermediate Competition

(Year 8 & 9) – There were 209,745 students who participated nationally in the Intermediate competition. At Verulam we had 69 students achieving a Merit certificate and 71 students achieving a Distinction certificate.

**Congratulations to Thomas W who was Best in School.**

### Seniors Challenge (Year 10 & 11)

– There were 38,413 students who participated nationally in the Seniors challenge. At Verulam we had 24 students achieving a Merit certificate and 23 students achieving a Distinction certificate.

**Congratulations to Jacky P who was Best in School.**

### Elite Challenge (Year 12 & 13) –

There were 12,881 students who participated nationally in the Elite

challenge. At Verulam we had 6 students achieving a Merit certificate and 6 students achieving a Distinction certificate. Congratulations to Alexander S who was Best in School.

## The Oxford University Challenge

The top 10% nationally get invited to take part in the next round of this competition hosted by Oxford University. 54 Verulam students have made the cut this year. This round will take place at the end of January and I look forward to updating you their progress in the next newsletter.

**By: Mr Schalker**



# BOOKS ON THE HILL



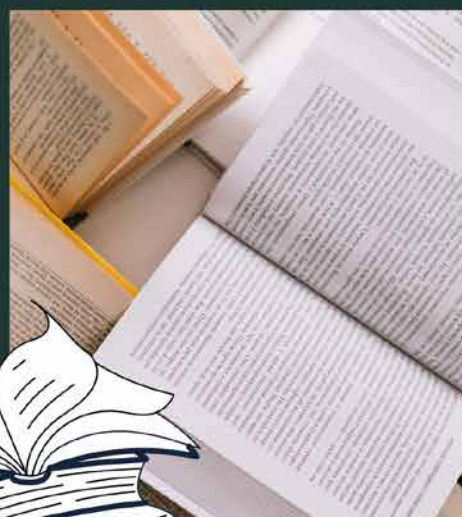
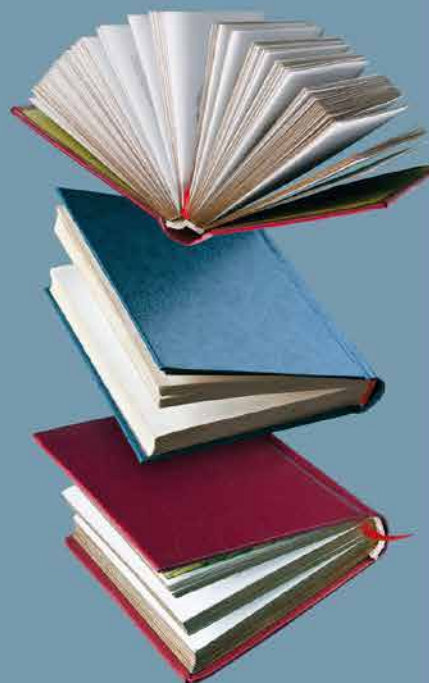
20%  
-OFF-

Verulam School has partnered with local independent bookshop, Books on the Hill. Verulam School not only has monthly book suggestions, but opportunities to publish book reviews in store and online.

Books on the Hill has a dedicated page on their website, [www.books-on-the-hill.co.uk/verulam](http://www.books-on-the-hill.co.uk/verulam) which is password protected (Verulamreads).

The Verulam Community can receive 20% off with this discount in store.

BOOKS  
ON THE  
HILL 



# Primary Outreach

Reflecting back on this busy term, the school are extremely proud of their primary school outreach work which has seen a host of students stepping up as ambassadors and helping many of our local primary schools. In an attempt to aid both the local primary community and provide our own students with some public speaking opportunities, we visited a variety of schools and delivered talks based around transition, our students' experience and top tips for success in secondary.

These assemblies were delivered to Alban City & Fairfield School with another four to come post the Christmas break. Many of the

students selected, attended these primary schools and cherished the opportunity to revisit their old teachers and talk about their amazing Verulam experiences.

The boys spoke with great passion and confidence and the primary students gained a wealth of useful knowledge that will help their own transition into secondary schools. I would like to personally thank all the boys who took part and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone talking to large audiences and answering a host of questions each time.

In addition to these visits, a huge success of the term was hosting our annual Christmas show

matinee performance for primary school students. We had over 160 boys and girls make the trip over from both Bernards Heath and Alban City. They absolutely loved the show and walked away with big smiles after some amazing performances from our students and an excellent production as a whole.

We now look to the new year with lots of exciting incentives on the horizon and continuing our strong relationships with our primary school community.

**By: Mr Anthony**





## Scholars Programme

A select group of 14 Year 9 students have embarked on a special programme of study called the Scholars Programme. These students are working with Dr Kely Tzortzopoulou on an academic enquiry project. The course is entitled: 'Metaphors for Emotions in Ancient Greek Culture'. This is a difficult topic, but the boys are throwing themselves into it and supporting each other to analyse complex texts. Toward the end of this term, each student on the programme will have a one to one meeting with Dr Tzortzopoulou to discuss their personal progress towards the completion of their final assignment.

The aim of the course is to inspire these students to pursue aspirational University based goals later in their academic careers. This will be supported once the assignments are completed by our Graduation day when all those who pass the course shall go on a very exciting trip to Oxford University next term to look around the University and receive their completion certificates. The boys have been working hard and have achieved a great deal this term and I look forward to seeing them succeed in this project and use their academic confidence to further advance their studies in school.

By: Mrs Avery

## Reward Trips

**At Verulam we firmly believe in rewarding a positive contribution to the school.**

Our Gold Reward students went to the Locked Escape Rooms where they engaged in a series of group tasks to unlock the room and win the game. All of our students thoroughly enjoyed it, as well as the visit to Nandos afterwards.

The Silver Trip took us to central London for a walking tour of the Christmas Lights, starting at the spectacular Somerset House and walking round Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street and a visit to Hamleys Toy Store.

Verulam students would not of course allow any such trip to take place without a stop off and McDonalds! It was a lovely way to kick off the festive season.

Next term our trips include a trip to the Harry Potter Studios, an afternoon at Bowling and a film in school with popcorn.

**By: Mr MacKenzie**



## Literacy Symposium

**Mr Pettitt was invited to take part in a Literacy Symposium hosted at Mercer's Hall in London and organised by the Open University about Young People in Education: Literacy Special Initiative.**

Here, findings from a 3 year study were shared, ultimately helping build a greater understanding about reading and writing for pleasure, aiming to help tackle lower literacy levels across the country. The symposium will hopefully help contribute to

the evidence being put forward to the Government in the future to help shape national policy around reading and literacy.

**By: Mr Pettitt**

# The Original Verulam School

**This term, our Site Manager, Mr Hammond discovered some photographs that show the original school site from 1938.**

The photographs show what the rooms on the upper corridor at the

front of the school (now MFL rooms) once looked like, along with the Main Hall and the Crush Hall.

The school was originally designed for 50 students and class sizes were a great deal smaller back then.

The photographs will be framed and displayed in the Crush Hall for all visitors to see in the new year.

**By: Miss Richardson**



## Year 11 Update

**As the Year 11 trial exams approach on December 18th, a culture of academic dedication is evident as both students and faculty actively engage in daily after-school revision sessions, demonstrating their shared commitment to achieving excellence.**

Crucial to this endeavour is the pivotal role of parental involvement. Parents play a significant part in aiding students to establish productive study habits. This includes facilitating the creation of revision timetables, encouraging study intervals of 45 minutes followed by breaks, and promoting healthy lifestyle practices encompassing proper nutrition, sufficient sleep, and regular exercise, all vital for optimal academic performance.

Concurrently, the Year 11 team focuses on providing guidance to students in setting clear post-GCSE goals. This directed support offers essential direction for their future pursuits, ensuring they are well-

equipped for the next phase of their educational journey.

Furthermore, initiatives like the introduction of 6th form breakfast clubs serve as platforms exposing students to the diverse offerings available at Verulam 6th form. These opportunities nurture their aspirations for higher education post-GCSEs, broadening their horizons and encouraging informed decisions about their academic paths.

In addition, Laura Cane, our connections ambassador, plays a pivotal role by offering personalised guidance. Through the evaluation of students' academic profiles, she aids them in making informed decisions about their educational paths, further fortifying their preparedness for the future.

Recognizing the instrumental role of parental encouragement, we continue to emphasise and encourage ongoing parental

involvement in motivating and supporting students to attend these critical revision sessions. This engagement significantly reinforces academic progress and contributes to student success.

We also encourage parents to reach out should they require any assistance or notice any concerns related to their child's well-being. Ensuring the well-being of our students remains a top priority, and we are here to support in any way we can.

Through a collaborative approach bolstered by parental support, focused guidance, and exposure to future prospects, our collective efforts aim to empower Year 11 students not just for success in their upcoming exams, but also to equip them for future accomplishments beyond their GCSEs.

**By: Ms Daya**

## Year 11 into the Sixth Form Breakfasts

**Mr Base and the Sixth Form Team have been hosting Year 11 in a series of meetings every morning in the Sixth Form Café.**

These informal information sessions look at the journey to Post 16 Education at Verulam. The themes covered include

pastoral support, pathways through A 'Levels/BTECs, consortium opportunities, enrichment trips and the expectation for all Verulam Sixth Formers to engage with community service programme, stepping up to be #RoleModels for the younger students. At the end of the meeting students were

provided with an information booklet to focus on with families over the holiday to make informed choices in advance of the Sixth Form Open Evening on 18th January 2024.

**By: Mr Base**

# Hanukkah

**Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights. In the spirit of interfaith relations, Verulam School celebrates different religious festivals. Earlier in the term, we looked at Diwali as a festival of light in Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.**

This year, Hanukkah started on the evening of Thursday, December 7, 2023 and lasted for eight days until the evening of Friday, December 15, 2023.

Each year, Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Kislev, which is the ninth month of the Jewish calendar.

Students in Years 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 received an assembly about different Hanukkah traditions and ways Jewish people celebrate this important festival, such as singing songs, eating traditional Hanukkah foods and, most importantly, lighting the candles. Some Hanukkah-style foods were incorporated into the canteen menu.

Year 7 students took part in some Hanukkah-crafts and created some paper dreidels and bunting. A special mention to Leo in 7J for sharing four dreidels towards a display.

Future arrangements have been made with the local St Albans Masorti Synagogue for their Rabbi to visit Verulam School and lead some workshops about Hanukkah with our students in Years 7 and 8.

**By: Miss Nicholls**



## Year 9 Update

**Year 9s are proving to be such a fantastic year group. I have had the pleasure of watching them work hard on the rugby pitch and have been getting positive feedback from Mr. Anthony about the football team.**

The sense of togetherness is incredible and this has built a strong sense of community that warmly welcomes the many new students that have

started this year. We also had many Year 9 students involved in the Wizard of Oz production, some in the starring roles. Their commitment to the wider school community is great. Long may it continue.

The students are working very hard in class and are getting access to GCSE style challenges. Such exposure will help students make well-informed choices for their Year 10 options. In form time, the

students are currently building their general knowledge and understanding of world affairs and the engagement from students is very encouraging. Year 9 maintain outstanding attendance, so I thank everyone for their efforts and support for myself and the Form Tutors.

**By: Mr Halsall**

## The Great Debate

**At the beginning of December, Will and Lukas in Year 10 competed in a national debating competition with Mr Pettitt in London. Organised by the Historical Association, The Great Debate is a public speaking competition where students had only five minutes to present their speech arguing their answer to the question.**

This year, the question being asked was: Which historical place or person from your local area deserves greater recognition?

Both Will and Lukas explored the local history of their area and identified a person or place

that they believed contributed to the world that we live in today and should be better known. The competition was an ideal opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in speaking to an audience and developing their debating skills, confidence and self-esteem.

Will and Lukas provided excellent arguments and should be proud of their contributions.

Well done!

**By: Mr Pettitt**





## The Wizard of Oz – School Show

**Following the resounding success that was 2022's 'A Christmas Carol', Verulam School Creative Arts Faculty are proud to be bringing another Christmas classic to our stage, 'The Wizard of Oz'.**

We have such a broad range of talent at the school which made the decision to mount such a famous and challenging show quite an easy one. Some of the casting was easy as we auditioned several students and many of the parts picked themselves. Last year's Scrooge, Henry G (Y12) with impeccable comic timing made him a solid pick for the Cowardly Lion. GCSE Drama student Ollie B also charmed his way to the Scarecrow. Thomás B-D was a revelation with a beautiful singing voice that sent him off to see the Wizard as the Tin-Man.

The biggest challenge was the lead. The first big decision was changing the lead part of Dorothy Gale to a male role. Now, the boys at Verulam have no issue playing female roles, and you will delight in Henry H's (Y12) fabulously menacing Wicked Witch. But the role should have a serious side to it and after a LOT of consultation and conversation, we've gone with Dominic Gale who will be whisked over the

rainbow to the land of Oz. But who could play that?

It is very usual for Year 7s, who have just arrived at the school, to have them play minor or supporting roles to develop confidence. But when Archie H came into the audition and sang 'Over The Rainbow' not only note perfect, but with beautiful character, there was only one choice to make. He has worked so hard, and is a complete natural. His acting talents are also superb.

Rehearsals went very well. One of the things I have been very impressed with Verulam students is their commitment to things they want to do. So getting the cast to turn up is no problem. And when there, they show patience and resilience. The nature of the show means there is a lot of hanging around and waiting, but there is never a complaint. The show, as they say, goes on.

This show also launched our new lighting rig which was installed in October. The new lights are very impressive and allow us to do an endless amount of effects and colour schemes that will really give the land of Oz a special feel. And we had an exciting way to show the Yellow Brick Road.

Our drama students love a challenge, so this was a truly immersive experience as the entire hall was used as a performance space.

We were also able to bring back a live band to the production under the leadership of Dr T Imanishi who has settled into the Music department with enthusiasm and gusto. Staging a musical is a huge feat and it is thanks to Dr Imanishi that the students had the confidence to deliver.

Sets and design have been achieved with ingenuity by Mrs C Tomlin and Mr N Phillips who have really outdone themselves under pressure to ensure the show was the amazing success it deserves to be.

As ever, thanks to the support from Miss Richardson and school leadership, as well as all staff who stepped up to help in any way. And to those who came along and sang along with these classic songs and were hopefully reminded of their own childhood.

As the movie says, this is a story for the young at heart, regardless of age.

**By: Mr MacKenzie**



# Coin Counter – How it's made

## Sawing the panels

Using the table saw the MDF is cut to size allowing for the solid oak lippings.



## Preparing and shooting the oak veneer

The veneer is 0.7mm thick having been sliced from a solid log. It is cut to length and then hand shot using a jointer plane to ensure the edges are straight and can be taped together before veneering.



## Pressing the veneer

Using a bag press the panels are veneered using PVA glue.



## Templating

Base and capping components are made using a series of layers which are templated to size using a bearing guided router before being laminated together.



## Laser cut templates for precision

Multiple MDF laser cut templates were produced to ensure accuracy and consistency. Here is the 2" solid oak being marked out and bandsawn over size prior to be machined accurately.



## Lipping components for aesthetic and structural qualities

Multiple glue ups were required including planning back flush, prior to next lipping being attached. Accurate cauls were made to ensure the jointing faces would 'marry-up' neatly.



### Routing out details

Once all the lippings were attached and trimmed back, the acrylic tubes holders were machined out using further templates.

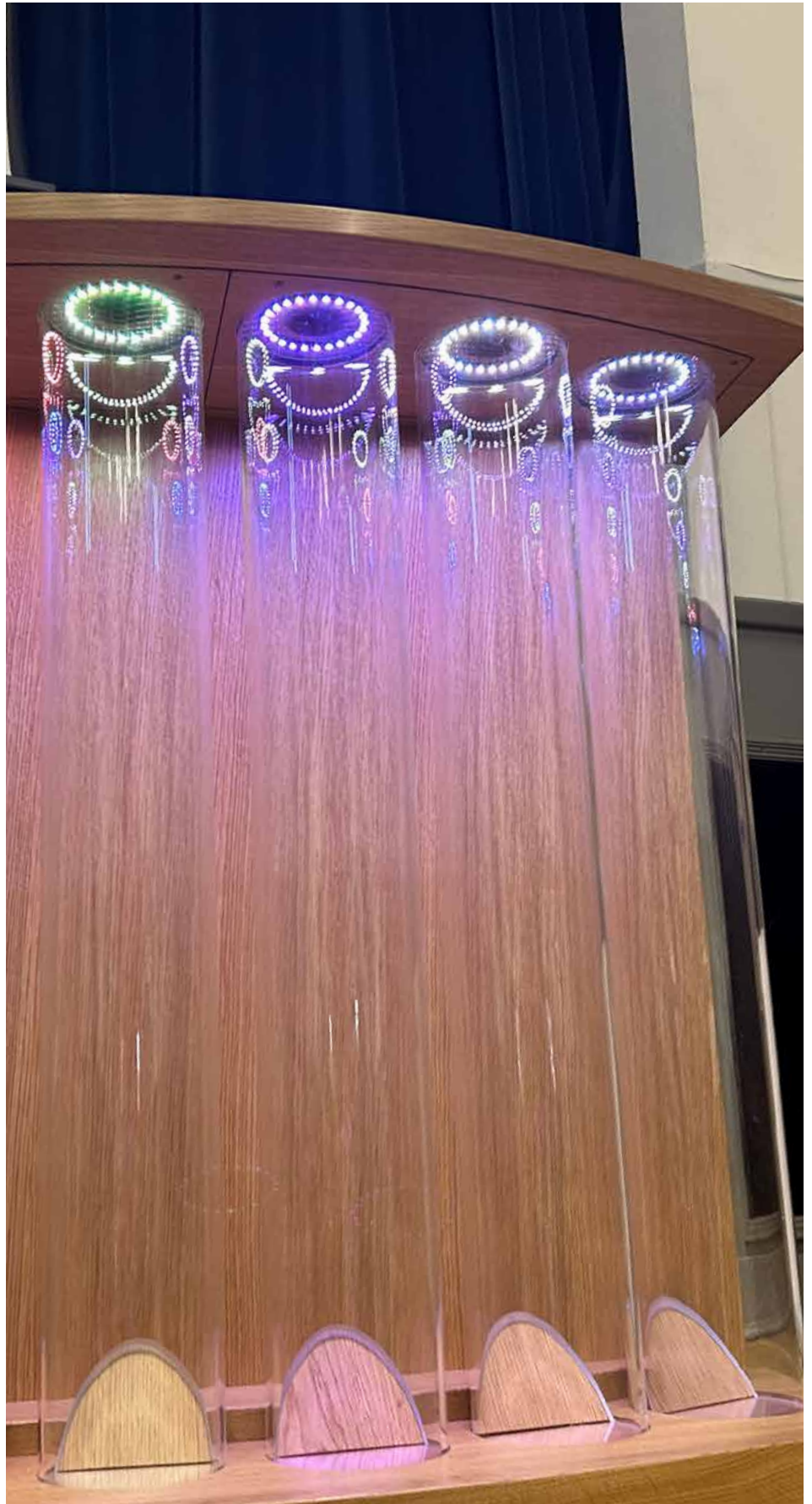


### Test fit and surface preparation

Once all the machining for the tubes was done, the tubes were test fitted and the top capping attached.

The cable management for the lighting had already been done at the CAD/CAM stage. The oak was prepared by sanding back to 240 grit. Round over details were added to soften the edges.

By: Mr Phillips



## PE Update



This term has seen huge numbers of students attending extra-curricular clubs and representing the school in a range of sports. The launch of Orienteering within the curriculum has received amazing feedback from the pupils and we look forward to further Orienteering lessons in the new year.

Outside of lessons it has been a very busy term with midweek and Saturday fixtures combined and after school training.

Successful victories in Football, Basketball and Rugby have been frequent with the school also hosting the District Table Tennis and Badminton tournaments.

### Table Tennis

The KS3 table tennis team came second in the district tournament and finished an amazing 3rd in the county.

### Badminton

Our KS3 and KS4 badminton teams also came second in the district and are looking to improve on this in the upcoming County finals.

### X-Country

The Year 7 X-Country squad finished 2nd Overall in the annual Mob Race and our Cross Country sides have done amazingly all term culminating in the boys finishing 11th in the Country and Oscar N finishing 5th.

### Football

Our Year 11 boys football team is through to the quarter finals of the county cup. With the Year 7 A and B teams, Years 8 and 9 also looking to make it through to the quarter final stages.

### Rugby

The rugby teams have done really well too. In particular our Year 7s who won a Herts rugby tournament meaning they have progressed to the Regional Tournament and they narrowly lost in a District Rugby Tournament final.

The Year 8 rugby team have won 4 and drawn 1, remaining unbeaten in the Hertfordshire Rugby League Championships.

### Follow us!

Please see our twitter socials @Verulam\_PE for up to date information and use SOCS [www.socscms.com/login/340/](http://www.socscms.com/login/340/) to see when clubs are held as well as teamsheet information for upcoming matches.

By: Mr Errington



# Working together to keep children safe

The safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility and schools have a duty to ensure that they promote the safety and welfare of children.

## If you have a concern

If you have concerns about the safety or well-being of any child or have concerns about a child, group of children or family that might be vulnerable to radicalisation or violent extremism, please speak immediately to the Headteacher, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or any of our Safeguarding Team. Your concerns will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Contact

**Visitors please email**  
dsl@verulam.aat.school

**Verulam Staff**  
Record on CPOMS

**Students**  
Contact your Form Tutor or Head of Year  
or email: concern@verulam.aat.school

**Local Authority Designated Officer LADO**  
Tel: 01992 555420  
0300 1234 043

**Safeguarding Governor: Bola Macarthy**

## Our Safeguarding Team The Fab Eight!



**Miss Perry**  
Designated Safeguarding  
Lead. Location: Deputy  
Head office by VLR



**Miss Richardson**  
Location: Headteacher  
office behind Reception



**Ms Moss**  
Deputy DSL  
Location: Office in the first  
floor of the Inclusion Hub



**Mrs Vasa**  
PA to the Deputy Headteachers  
Location: Office next to Admin



**Miss Hart**  
SENDCo  
Location: Inclusion Hub



**Mr Base**  
Director of Sixth Form  
Location: Sixth Form Office



**Mr Halsall**  
Associate SLT  
/Head of Year 9  
Location: End of  
Geography/English corridor



**Mr MacKenzie**  
Lead Practitioner  
Location: Music Block

# #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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

## 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are a fantastic time for families to enjoy quality time as much as their technology - but with distractions from phones, tablets, and the internet, it's easy to lose track of time. We've put together 12 top tips to help you and your family enjoy a tech-free Christmas.

- CHRISTMAS CRAFTING** - Get the kids involved in making Christmas cards, decorations, and gifts.
- NATURE QUEST** - Go for a walk in the park or woods and look for different types of trees, plants, and animals.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF** - Let the kids help you make Christmas dinner or bake some festive treats.
- CAROL KARAOKE** - Sing your favourite Christmas songs and make up your own lyrics.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE** - Look at old photos and videos of the family and talk about the memories.
- SNOWY SCULPTURE** - Make a snowman or snow globe out of household items.
- TOY REDUCTION JOURNALING** - Write a letter to Santa asking for a toy that you don't need.
- WRAP IT UP** - Wrap up old toys and books to donate to a charity.
- WALK IN A WINTER WOODLAND** - Go for a walk in the park or woods and look for different types of trees, plants, and animals.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF** - Let the kids help you make Christmas dinner or bake some festive treats.
- ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY** - Read or watch a Christmas story and discuss the meaning.
- SNOWY SCULPTURE** - Make a snowman or snow globe out of household items.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE** - Look at old photos and videos of the family and talk about the memories.
- TOY REDUCTION JOURNALING** - Write a letter to Santa asking for a toy that you don't need.
- WRAP IT UP** - Wrap up old toys and books to donate to a charity.

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

## What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was introduced in 2021 to protect children from harmful content online. It sets out a framework for how online services should be regulated to ensure they are safe for children.

- HARMFUL CONTENT** - Content that is likely to cause harm to children, including sexual, violent, or hateful content.
- ANIMAL CRUELTY** - Content that shows or encourages the mistreatment of animals.
- NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING** - Sharing of intimate images or videos without the person's consent.
- REPORTING AND REMEDY** - A system for reporting harmful content and for it to be removed or restricted.
- AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL** - Content that is only suitable for children of a certain age.
- MORE TRANSPARENCY** - Requirements for online services to be clear about how they collect and use data.
- HOSTING MODERATION** - Requirements for online services to have systems in place to monitor and moderate content.

What this means for you: The Online Safety Act will help to protect children from harmful content online and ensure that online services are safer for children.

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

## Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are great times to shop online, but they can also be risky. Here are some top tips to help you shop safely.

- DO YOUR RESEARCH** - Check the reputation of the retailer and read reviews.
- BEWARE OF SCAMMERS** - Be careful of offers that seem too good to be true.
- USE A SECURE PAYMENT METHOD** - Use a credit card or a secure payment gateway.
- BEWARE OF PHISHING** - Don't click on suspicious links or download attachments.
- BEWARE OF MALWARE** - Don't download software from untrusted sources.
- BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT** - Don't share your personal information with untrusted sources.
- BEWARE OF DATA BREACHES** - Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.
- BEWARE OF SOCIAL MEDIA** - Don't share your location or other personal information.
- BEWARE OF SPYWARE** - Don't use public Wi-Fi for online shopping.
- BEWARE OF VIRUS** - Don't click on suspicious links or download attachments.
- BEWARE OF MALWARE** - Don't download software from untrusted sources.
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Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

Disney+ is a popular streaming service, but it's important to know what your child can access. Here are some top tips for parents and carers.

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?** - Disney+ has a range of content, including some that may be unsuitable for children.
- ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS** - Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.
- TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY** - Turn off the auto-play feature to prevent your child from watching content they don't want to.
- TRAIN OUR AUTO-PLAY** - Train the auto-play feature to only show content that is suitable for your child.
- ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS** - Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.
- TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY** - Turn off the auto-play feature to prevent your child from watching content they don't want to.
- TRAIN OUR AUTO-PLAY** - Train the auto-play feature to only show content that is suitable for your child.

Advice for Parents & Carers: Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs are convenient, but they can also be a security risk. Here are some top tips for parents and carers.

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?** - Smart TVs can be hacked, which could allow someone to access your personal information.
- ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS** - Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.
- TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY** - Turn off the auto-play feature to prevent your child from watching content they don't want to.
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Advice for Parents & Carers: Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions are small payments made to unlock extra content in games or apps. Here are some top tips for parents and carers.

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?** - Microtransactions can be addictive and can lead to overspending.
- ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS** - Use the parental controls to restrict the content your child can access.
- TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY** - Turn off the auto-play feature to prevent your child from watching content they don't want to.
- TRAIN OUR AUTO-PLAY** - Train the auto-play feature to only show content that is suitable for your child.
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Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety

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**VERULAM**  
SCHOOL