## SPOTLIGHT ON:

**EDITION 13: 22/01/24** 

## **SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 9 JOURNEY**

For our current Year 9 students, the theme at the outset of their journey in Year 7 was teamwork and building relationships with other students. Form tutors led a week long series of fun team building exercises. The impact was very positive with students learning to respect and be respectful of opinion, culture and attitude of everyone.

Over the next two years we discussed the idea of 'resilience' and examples of people that demonstrate perseverance and a positive attitude to succeed. People like Nadia Nadim and the divers who rescued the Thai football team as well our very own students. We showcased these characters in assemblies to raise the importance of resilience in life.

Our Year 8 trip to PGL in Dorset was a chance to demonstrate teamwork in action while forging deeper friendships. Students were encouraged to become better organised and take responsibility for their learning. Successful interventions from subjects teachers as well as direction from form tutors highlighted the importance of being well prepared, punctual and well mannered. Such soft skills are vital for moving into the world of work and students have carried these skills and high expectations into Year 9. Students worked on making revision plans to help them during exams, a tricky process that requires a balance between work and leisure time. It is a task that welcomes parent/guardian support and we encourage an active role in the lead up to exams.

Year 9 has been an opportunity to develop general knowledge and an interest in current affairs as we move towards choosing GCSEs. Students regularly engage with world issues and quizzes to widen their knowledge base.

Year 9 have played a huge role in the school Christmas production, The Wizard of Oz. They are also committed to sports and our Year 9 teams have played some very competitive games, doing the school proud. Students have been on many school reward trips to Escape Rooms, Thorpe Park and the Odyssey Cinema in addition to the entire year group enjoying a reward day that included Zorb football and archery.

This year we welcomed a huge amount of new students to the year group. The students have definitely added to the diversity of the year group as well as raising the level of expected behaviour and attitude to learning. Excellence, Character and Respect are the core values of Verulam School and the students demonstrate them every day.





## COMING UP SOON:

Date	Event	Time
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 11 MFL Speaking Mocks Sixth Form Taster Sessions U13 Rugby Home	All day 3.15pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 10 Art Trip Year 11 MFL Speaking Mocks Sixth Form Open Morning Under 15 Football Away	All day All day 9.15-11am
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 MFL Speaking Mocks Sixth Form Taster Sessions Under 14 & 16 Football Away	All day 3.15pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	New York Trip Parent Information Evening Sixth Form Taster Sessions	7pm 3.15pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January		
Monday 29th January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip	All day
Tuesday 30th January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip Under 13 Rugby Home	All day
Wednesday 31st January	Year 11 & 13 Iceland Geography Trip Year 11 Berlin History Trip Year 9, 10 & 11 Intermediate Maths Challenge	All day All day
Thursday 1st February	Year 11 Berlin History Trip	All day
Friday 2nd February	Sixth Form Application Deadline Year 11 Berlin History Trip Under 12 Football Away	All day