



VERULAM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Fergal Moane

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new headteacher at Verulam School. I am excited and honoured to be asked to lead the school and wanted to tell you a little about myself and the direction of the school.

I grew up in Northern Ireland and was educated at a boys' grammar school, very similar to Verulam. I took my first degree in Computer Science at Queen's University in Belfast and then spent the next 15 years working in the Investment Banking industry. This was mostly in London but I benefitted from time spent working in New York and Sydney. My calling to teach came after the challenges of the 2008 financial crisis at Lehman Brothers (sorry about that!) and, by way of contrast, the joy I took from coaching a youth rugby team at Old Albanians.

I trained to teach and was a head of department at Roundwood Park school in Harpenden, then was assistant and deputy headteacher at Sandringham School. Most recently, I was headteacher at Hitchin Boys' School, leading the school through the pandemic and an 'Outstanding' Ofsted inspection.

I have lived in St. Albans for almost 25 years and feel very connected to the community here. I know Verulam from doing some of my initial teacher training here, working within the BeauSandVer trust and supporting our CEO, Alan Gray, in setting up the Alban Academies Trust in the early days. It is a school with enormous strengths and potential. My intention this term is to listen and observe before making any significant changes. I will be holding several Headteacher's surgeries where you can book in to see me if there is something you want to discuss. I will also be seeking your views via a survey in the near future. More information on these will follow soon.

I also need to let you know about the appointment of an interim Chair for our governing body., Jonathan Kemp. Jonathan is a music teacher and started teaching in Essex in 1986 before assuming various school leadership roles in Hertfordshire. He has been deputy and headteacher in special schools since 2010 (including two boys' schools), recently retiring as headteacher of Batchwood School in St. Albans. His experience as a former headteacher and

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current chair of the Hertfordshire Education support for Medical Absence service will be invaluable to Verulam.

We are due a visit from Ofsted this term, as part of a routine inspection since our last full inspection was in 2018. I would be grateful of your support in completing the ParentView questionnaire as the inspection team place significant importance upon the views of parents in coming to their judgement. You can do this ahead of time if you wish via the link <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> but we will of course let you know when the inspection date is confirmed.

I would ask for your patience and support as I settle into the school and reassure you that the gains and improvements achieved under Miss Richardson's tenure will be sustained. You may see a slightly different style and some changes in the future, but my goal in the short term is to listen, engage with our community and other stakeholders and take time to digest the different views before setting out the next stage in the journey for Verulam school. Your input and feedback are welcomed.

I'd also like to wish the year 11 and 13 students the very best of luck for the upcoming public exams and hope that revision has gone well over Easter!

Yours sincerely



Fergal Moane
Headteacher

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