

Verulam School
Brampton Road
St Albans
AL1 4PR



VERULAM
SCHOOL

NEW YEAR 7

HANDBOOK



FAIRE MON DEVOIR



Welcome to Verulam

I want to wish you a warm welcome to Verulam School. This is the start of an incredible journey, where you arrive with us as a boy and leave as a man, ready to enter the adult world of work or further study. We are delighted to guide you along the right path.

Our aims at Verulam are summarised by our values of Excellence, Character and Respect. School is first and foremost about learning, and we want to see you achieve highly in a broad range of subjects. Character is about discovering who you are and who you might become, being ambitious but also resilient when things don't always go to plan. Respect might be the most important of these

values in year 7: we want you to demonstrate kindness, follow the instructions of the adults who teach and care for you and to recognise the huge benefits of being a diverse and inclusive school.

You will make new, lifelong friends and discover talents and passions that you didn't know that you had! Over the next few pages, we have rules and standards that we expect you to follow to be a successful member of our community. I wish you the best of luck on your journey!

Fergal Moane
Headteacher

Verulam Values

During your time at Verulam you will be taught about our core values of Excellence, Character and Respect. Learning to embrace these values will help you lead a meaningful, fulfilling life beyond school and will provide you with clarity regarding what is expected both inside and outside of the school environment.

Excellence

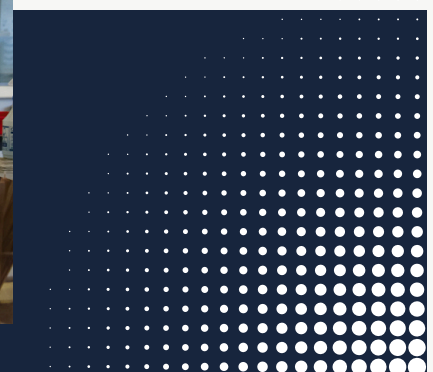
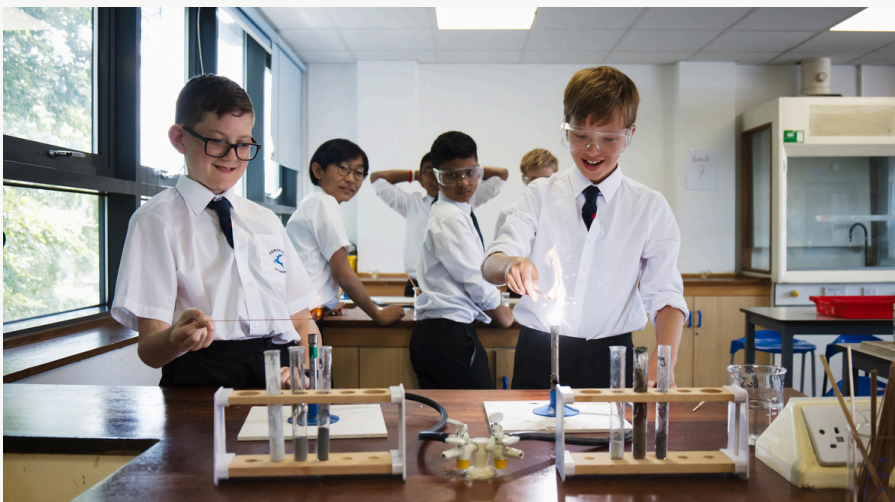
Excellence means exhibiting high standards in all areas. Not necessarily being the best but doing your best, fulfilling your potential and championing others to do the same. Striving for excellence means aiming high and maintaining positive attitudes and behaviours to support achievement.

Character

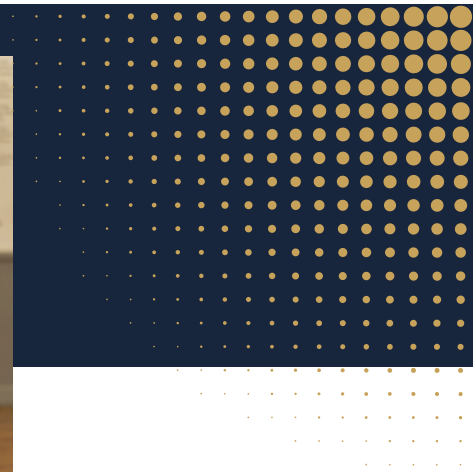
Character means having strength of character - developing positive moral attributes such as charity, empathy, kindness, compassion, integrity, loyalty, responsibility and honesty. Having a good character means not tolerating any kind of discrimination or bullying, and not being afraid to call it out if you see it. It also means doing the right thing, especially when no one is looking!

Respect

Respect means being more than just being tolerant of others – it's fully appreciating and valuing diversity, inclusivity and multiculturalism. Respect is about celebrating our differences as well as the things that unite us. Being respectful is shown through actively seeking to understand experiences outside of our own and striving for a more equal society, where all are valued and given equal opportunities. In addition, it is illustrated by contributing to your local, national and global community, as well as by treating others with kindness, compassion and consideration.



House System



Here at Verulam we operate a House system. You can earn points for your House in all sorts of ways, such as being consistently punctual, being helpful or by simply doing a great job of your homework! House points can also be won with lots of competitions taking place throughout the year, that culminate in the exciting 'Verulympics' event at the end of the summer term.

There are the 6 form tutors in each year group. Each form represents a House and wears ties in the house colour. The houses are named after the streets that surround the school.



BRAMPTON



JENNINGS



CHURCHILL



PARK



HAMILTON



YORK

BLUE STAG AWARD



Earn a Blue Stag by achieving a Letter of Recognition (LOR) for each of the following areas:







Code of Conduct



This Code gives clear guidance with regard to Verulam's high expectations of students' behaviour both inside and outside school:



| We strive to: | What it looks like: | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Behave in a manner that allows teaching to occur</p>  | <p>Having equipment (charged device/books/pencil case) in school every day</p> <p>Arriving on time to lessons and apologising to the teacher, if late</p> <p>Getting equipment (charged device/books/pencil case) out, on the desk, straight away and putting bags on the floor, under the table</p> | <p>Beginning the starter activity once equipment is out</p> <p>Putting hand up (without calling out) to ask a question or to ask for help</p> <p>Listening without interrupting when others are speaking</p> <p>Not distracting others and being focused on our own work</p> |
| <p>Respect others' point of view and rights as individuals</p>  | <p>Being kind, not mocking or laughing at others</p> <p>Using positive language that is not discriminatory, offensive or exclusionary</p> <p>Respecting people's personal space and not touching them or their belongings without permission</p> | <p>Reporting any concerns including bullying, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia to staff so that help can be given</p> <p>Not judging others because of their beliefs</p> |
| <p>Behave like good role models inside and outside school</p>  | <p>Wearing the correct uniform</p> <p>Being courteous such as thanking staff at the end of each lesson, holding the door open for others, apologising when necessary, using positive language, helping those in need</p> <p>Not bringing any prohibited items into school</p> | <p>Being polite to each other, staff, visitors and to members of the public</p> <p>Respecting the environment in school by putting litter in the bin, following toilet etiquette and not going into 'Out of Bounds' areas</p> |
| <p>Move around the site respectfully and safely</p>  | <p>Keeping left in the corridors and on stairs</p> <p>Walking instead of running inside the building</p> <p>Queuing in a single line in the canteen</p> <p>Speaking quietly in corridors</p> | <p>Only eating food in the canteen or outside</p> <p>Pushing chairs under the table at the end of each lesson</p> <p>Queuing in single file outside lessons</p> |

School Day

On arrival at school, as a Year 7 pupil you must only enter via the Brampton Road entrance. If you are arriving by car, please ensure your parent or carer doesn't park on the double yellow or zig zag lines. If you ride your bike to school, you must lock your bike securely in the back playground bike racks.

Years 7-8 timetable

| Lesson | Start time | End time | Length of time |
|--------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| Registration | 08:35 | 09:00 | 00:25 |
| Lesson 1 | 09:00 | 10:00 | 01:00 |
| Break | 10:00 | 10:20 | 00:20 |
| Lesson 2 | 10:20 | 11:20 | 01:00 |
| Lesson 3 | 11:20 | 12:20 | 01:00 |
| Lunch | 12:20 | 13:10 | 00:50 |
| Lesson 4 | 13:10 | 14:10 | 01:00 |
| Lesson 5 | 14:10 | 15:10 | 01:00 |

Break & lunch time

At Verulam, we offer you a bespoke transition timetable in Year 7. Your break time and lunchtime will be earlier than the rest of the school so that there are fewer students moving around the building and so that you can enjoy the outdoor spaces more freely.

You can either bring a packed lunch or you can purchase food and drink from the school canteen. Food should only be eaten in the canteen or in the back playground. If you need the toilet you must use it during break or lunch.

The main hall is used in bad weather. In addition, the library is available for you if you wish to read or study. Any students wishing to participate in Muslim prayers during Friday lunchtime are able to do so – exact details will be communicated in September. You are not permitted to leave the school site during the lunch break.

School Year

Term Dates 2024/2025*

Updated terms dates are available on the school website along with information on key dates within the school term.

Autumn Term 2024: 2nd September to 20th December 2024

Inset Day - 2nd September 2024 (no students in school)
Year 7 & 12 students return - 3rd September 2024
All students return - 4th September 2024
Half Term - 28th October to 1st November 2024
All students return - 4th November 2024
Occasional Day - 29th November 2024 (no students/staff in school)
Last day of Autumn term - 20th December 2024
Christmas Holidays - 23rd December 2024 – 3rd January 2025

Spring Term 2025: 6th January to 4th April 2025

All students return - 6th January 2025
Inset Days - 13th & 14th February 2025 (no students in school)
Half Term - 17th to 21st February 2025
All students return - 24th February 2025
Last day of Spring term - 4th April 2025
Easter Holiday - 7th to 21st April 2025

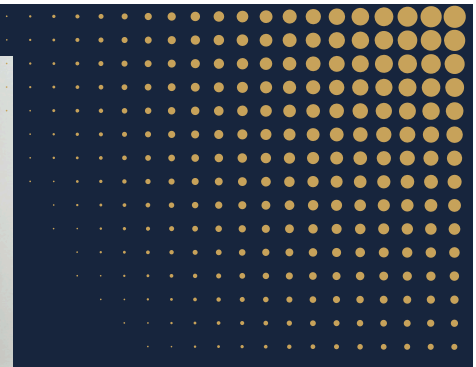
Summer Term 2025: 22nd April to 23rd July 2025

Inset Day - 22nd April 2025
All students return - 23rd April 2025
May Bank Holiday - 5th May 2025
Half Term - 26th May to 30th May 2025
All students return - 2nd June 2025
Last day of Summer term - 18th July 2025
Inset days - 21st & 22nd July 2025 (no students in school)

*Please note that all dates including Inset and Occasional days are subject to change.



Attendance



Regularly missed time soon adds up!

You are expected to be on the school site by 8.30am and be in registration by 8.35am. Your attendance target is 97%+.

Look at how many days can be lost over the course of a year, if you are regularly late to school.



5 minutes late per day = 3.4 days lost every year.

15 minutes late per day = 10.2 days lost every year.

10 minutes late per day = 6.8 days lost every year.

20 minutes late per day = 13.6 days lost every year.

Uniform & Equipment

Your uniform should be worn correctly at all times when on site, as well as when you travel to and from school. When you are in uniform and are out in the community, you are representing the school, so it is vital that you are presentable. Shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and ties must have the shield and two stripes visible.



School Uniform

- Navy blazer with school badge
- Black trousers
- White long or short sleeved shirt
- Optional grey v-neck jumper
- House tie (Blue for Brampton House, Red for Churchill, Green for Hamilton, Purple for Jennings, Gold for Park and Silver for York)
- Black or grey socks
- Black hard-soled shoes (not trainers or canvas type shoes)

Branded uniform items can be purchased from Beat School Uniform or Stevensons. The PTA also hold regular Second Hand Uniform sales where lightly used uniform can be purchased at a reduced price.



PE Kit

To be equipped for PE lessons all year and Games from May to July, you should bring the following items:

- PE shirt – navy with school crest
- PE shorts – navy
- Optional navy tracksuit trousers
- White sports socks (no school socks allowed)
- Trainers

For Games lessons from September to April, please bring the following items:

- PE Rugby shirt - navy with school crest
- PE shorts - navy
- Optional: navy tracksuit trousers
- Football socks in white with yellow and blue bands
- Football boots
- Optional: thermal tops or 'skins' as a base layer during cold weather
- Optional: navy fleece top with the school crest is also an optional addition



Equipment

You can only make good progress and enjoy school if you have the correct equipment to use in both lessons and when doing your homework. You need to make sure that you are fully equipped for school and that you check your equipment is correct before school each day.

- Rucksack - This should be large enough to carry all of your books and your tablet device to and from school. Please note that small, fashionable, 'man bags' are not permitted
- Ruler - This must be a rigid 30cm ruler
- Google Chromebook - Your device must be charged and with you each day
- Scientific Calculator - Casio fx-83GTX or similar required
- Black or Blue Pens - Your classwork must be written in either blue or black ink only
- French/Spanish Dictionary - e.g. The Collins Easy Learning or similar
- Maths Set - To include a protractor and pair of compasses
- Solid Adhesive - Glue stick or similar
- Pencils - HB pencils
- Pack of 24 x Coloured Pencils - A variety of colours
- Highlighter Pens - A variety of colours
- Pencil Case - To keep all of your equipment tidy
- Small Scissors
- Coloured Biro Pens - Red and green
- Make sure you have a private reading book with you at all times.



Mobile Phone Use

Verulam is a 'mobile-free zone'. Students must not use or show their mobile phones at any point during the school day, whilst they are in the school building or grounds. They may have their phones switched off in their bags and students bring them into school at their own risk. If a student is caught using a mobile phone during the school day (between 08:35 and 15:10) then the mobile phone policy guidance will be followed:

- First Offence: The device will be confiscated by staff and retained in the school office until the end of the school day.
- Second Offence: The device will be confiscated by staff and retained in the school office. The offence will be logged, and the device will only be returned to the parent/carer in person.
- Third Offence: The device will be confiscated by staff, logged, and retained in the school office for 5 working days. The device will only be returned to a parent/carer in person at the end of the 5-day period.
- Further Breach: If there is a subsequent breach of the school rules the device will be confiscated by staff, logged, and retained in the school office for 10 working days. The device will only be returned to a parent/carer in person at the end of the 10-day period. Parents / carers will be requested to attend a meeting.



BYOD Scheme

Verulam School operates a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme where all students from years 7 to 13 are required to have a device in school for use in lessons and at home. In September 2022 the Alban Academies Trust launched a common programme across all secondary schools for students joining in year 7. The programme requires all students to have their own Chromebook.

We live in a world full of advancing technology and our aim with this scheme is to ensure that our students become technologically fluent in a safe and secure way. We will be using the approach of Blended Learning to achieve this. Blended learning combines the use of technology with more traditional classroom methods. This approach means that the devices will be used to enhance learning but our key message to pupils is to always pay more attention to the teacher, not the technology, in the classroom.

We have worked directly with device manufacturer, ASUS, to build a custom specification Chromebook device which meets the demands of an educational setting, taking account of the power and performance of key hardware but also its durability. Unlike consumer units ordinarily purchased from a high street or online store, this device has been vigorously tested for an educational setting.

ASUS CR1104FGA Technical Specification:

Processor: Intel® N100 Processor

Memory: 8GB LPDDR5 on board RAM

Display: 11.6" HD (1366 x 768) 16:9 Gorilla Glass Touch Screen

Storage: 32GB eMMC

Battery: 10-13 Hours life

Interface: 2x USB Type-A ports, 2x USB Type-C ports, with display and power delivery support, 1x 3.5mm Combo Audio Jack, 1x Micro SD card reader

Additional Features: Front Facing Camera: 720p HD and World Facing Camera. Rubberised edges.

Weight: 1.45kg

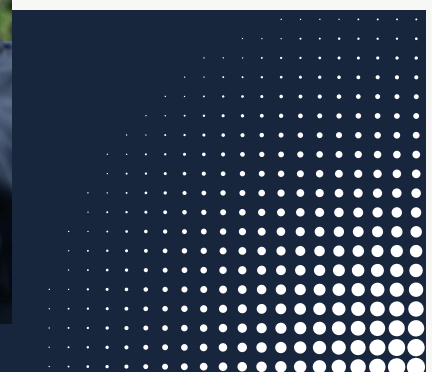
Parents are also free to source their own device ensuring that it is a Chromebook device. Financial support is available for those students in receipt of free school meals.

Assessment & Reporting

In Year 7 we have a sequenced and well planned curriculum in all subject areas. Year 7 is part of Key Stage 3 and the first year of the 3 year curriculum planning which then leads onto GCSEs in Years 10 and 11. At the end of the first term we will provide students with a clear ATL – Attitude to Learning level. This will indicate how well your son is working in all of his subjects. As the year progresses assessments will be completed and data from these sent home at key times. End of Year exams and full year reporting will take place in the summer term.

Homework

The Curriculum is split into Core (English, Maths & Science) and Foundation subjects. Each department will set homework in line with the needs of their subject. This will be communicated with students at the start of the year so that they know the regularity to expect homework. Some subjects may set project tasks or work and some use online platforms to practice skills learned during the lessons that week.



Online Platforms



We use a number of online platforms to communicate with students and parents in addition to setting class and home work. The main platforms are listed below but additional curriculum based platforms will be shared by teachers as and when needed.



My Child at School is an online portal that enables parents to view their child's attendance, behaviour and performance at school in real time.



Iris Parentmail is a school communication software



Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a set of online tools that allows teachers to create lessons, collect student work, grade, and return graded papers.



SOCS helps schools to manage and communicate sports and co-curricular activities.

Help & Support

One of the reasons that we are so successful in developing students that go on to achieve great things in life is a result of the pastoral care that we offer. As a student, you will have the support and guidance of not only your Form Tutor but also the Head of Year 7, KS3 Pastoral Assistant, Deputy Headteacher and the Student Well-being Manager. This extensive team is on hand to support you each day so that your time at Verulam is meaningful and so that you thrive.



Contact List

All emails should be addressed to the main school email address (admin@verulam.aat.school) where they can be forwarded on to the relevant member of staff. Please include FAO and name of staff member in the subject line.

| Matters relating to..... | Contact |
|--|--|
| Day to day issues | Form Tutor |
| Subject specific queries including set changes | Head of Department |
| Pastoral Concerns | Form Tutor, Head of Year |
| Long term health issues | Head of Year & First Aid Administrator |
| Leave of Absence | Headteacher's PA |



Absence

All absences must be reported by 8.30am on the first and any subsequent days by emailing the absence line: absence@verulam.aat.school or calling the absence number: 01727 754101.

Safeguarding & Student Well-being



At Verulam, we take the safety and well-being of our students very seriously. As well as the Form Tutor, Head of Year and our Student well-being officer, we have seven trained safeguarding officers too. No matter how big or small the problem is, students can always speak to one of the team about anything that might be worrying them at any time.

We also use the SHARP (Student Help Advice Reporting Pathway) system, which allows young people to report any incidents which occur within the school and local community anonymously and without fear. Aside from the reporting tool SHARP delivers educational content to raise awareness on a wide range of subjects including: Bullying, Health, Community Issues, Weapons and Hate Crime.

At Verulam, we take the safety of our students in the physical and online worlds very seriously. The internet is an integral part of children's lives. It opens up many educational and social opportunities, giving them access to a world of information and experiences. We educate students about online safety via:

- The Personal Development curriculum throughout all years
- Computer Science curriculum throughout all years
- UK Safer Internet Day assemblies and theme week in February of each year

We also send you, parents and carers, weekly guidance and support on current social media issues and platforms; this is called #WakeUpWednesday. The National College devised an initiative to produce high-quality resources that empower adults and help to protect children in the digital space – encouraging schools, parents, carers and children alike to 'wake up' to the extent of potential hazards facing young people online. 'Wake Up Wednesday' was born.

<https://verulamschool.co.uk/student-wellbeing/>

Meet The Team



Form Tutors

Your Form Tutor is your first point of contact. You will register with your Form Tutor each morning and have 25 minutes of form time. All Year 7 form rooms are based in the Bradshaw building.



Ms N Braccia
7B - Room B1



Mr D Giles
7H - Room B3



Mr F Ahmed
7P - Room B5



Miss M Khan
7C - Room B2



Mr J Russell
7J - Room B4

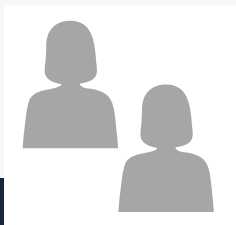


Mr D Higgins
7Y - Room B6



Head of Year 7 – Mr L Knowles

The Head of Year is responsible for the pastoral care of all the students in the year group. This means that progress, rewards, behaviour and attendance issues all come under their remit. The Form Tutors in the year group will be under the direction of the Head of Year.



Deputy Headteachers – Miss G Perry & Miss K Thackray

The Deputy Headteachers have pastoral oversight of all of the year groups and students of the school. They are responsible for managing rewards, behaviour, safeguarding and attendance for the whole school.



Student Well-being – Ms D Moss

Our Student Well-being Manager has oversight of any additional support that students need relating to mental health and external agencies. They support the social and emotional aspects of school and learning alongside the Pastoral Support Assistants.

Canteen



The Verulam School Canteen is open daily before school and at break and lunchtime.

Breakfast: 8.00 – 8.40am

Break: 10am for Years 7 & 8; 11am for Years 9 and above

Lunch: 12.20pm for Years 7 & 8; 1.20pm for Years 9 and above

Our aim is to serve great tasting, fresh food using the very best of seasonal ingredients to create appetising and healthy meals. The meals offer excellent value with a freshly prepared main course and pudding on offer every day for £2.75. As well as main courses such as mexican beef tacos, there are smaller meals such as chicken wraps with salad and vegetarian and vegan options such as sweet potato curry with rice and peas or macaroni cheese. Desserts are always available whether your child is looking for a simple yoghurt pot or wants the apple crumble and custard.

The school's catering team has a comprehensive allergen matrix available for students to view on request. There are also signs in the canteen about allergen information. We ask that students speak to the catering manager or a catering team member if they have any questions about the food or if a dietary option has run out. Food is labelled if it is Halal, vegetarian, vegan and gluten free.

The canteen uses an automated biometric recognition system where a representation of the child's fingerprint is securely stored for the purpose of purchasing food and drink. Students find this quick and easy to use when buying food or borrowing library items as they cannot lose their finger, unlike a card or cash. Dinner money accounts can be topped up and managed online.



Free school meals

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Applications are made via the Hertfordshire County Council website. It takes 5 mins and in most cases you will receive a response straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.



Pupil Premium

The Government provides academies and schools with additional funding to help reduce the inequalities and gaps in attainment between those students who are on free school meals (or have been in in the last 6 years) and their peers. This funding is called the Pupil Premium.

Every academy and school can select how they chose to use their Pupil Premium allocation, as they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for students. It is allocated to pupils who are currently known to be eligible for free school meals or have received free school meals in the last six years, pupils who are looked after and pupils who are previously looked after (adopted from foster care).

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and you would like to find out more about the financial assistance available to you to help with the cost of trips or devices, please email finance@verulam.aat.school.

PE and Games

At Verulam, we are committed to providing a comprehensive and engaging physical education experience for our students. For the 2024 intake, all Year 7 pupils will have a double Games lesson and two PE lessons each fortnight, ensuring a balanced and varied curriculum.



In PE, students will cover a range of sports, including:

- Table Tennis
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Orienteering
- Handball
- Rounders
- Tennis
- Dance



The Games curriculum is equally diverse and includes:

- Rugby (Autumn Term)
- Football (Spring Term)
- Athletics (Summer Term)
- Cricket (Summer Term)

Games lessons take place in the afternoon at Sandpit Lane. To ensure the safety and convenience of our students, they will be supervised during movement to the site. Parents have the option to pick up their children directly from Sandpit Lane at the end of the lesson. Alternatively, students can stay on for additional Rugby or Football training sessions.

We believe this structured approach not only promotes physical fitness but also instills teamwork, discipline, and a love for sports in our students. We look forward to welcoming your child to Verulam and supporting their physical education journey.

C.E.D.

We have two Curriculum Enrichment Days (CED) throughout the academic year to enhance and enrich our pupils' standard curriculum. These days are subject specific and provide pupils with different experiences and a chance to explore a topic in depth. Not only do these days build key employability skills like leadership, communication and teamwork but they contribute to developing pupils' character. The current Year 7's enjoyed an 'Inclusivity Day' this year, focusing on workshops on digital citizenship, world music, hate crime and global maths, while other Year 7 days in the past have involved activities from National Careers Week, road safety and the Science CREST Award.

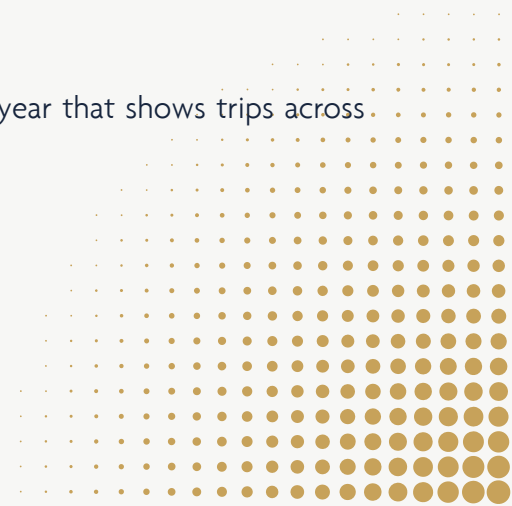
Trips & Workshops

During the Summer term Year 7 embark on their residential trip to the Lake District. This has been a Verulam tradition for over 40 years and is the trip that students still relive memories for right into the sixth form. In its present guise we take the year group in two halves to a hostel in Ambleside on the banks of Windermere. During the five days of action-packed activities we go canoeing on Windermere, take a mountain walk up to Low Pike, walk the caves and abseil at Cathedral Quarry and old slate quarry and rock climb and ghyll scramble in the Langdale Pikes. Evening activities include bushcraft and team games and on the final night a trip to the cinema. We end the trip with pizzas cooked on the banks of Windermere by a local pizza van. The trip is designed as a celebration at the end of the boys first year at Verulam and builds resilience, team working skills, making new and lasting friendships and most importantly fantastic memories. .

Trips vary slightly in each academic year but have included MFL trips to Paris and Andalucia, History trips to Normandy and Berlin, Geography field trips to Iceland and an English trip Shakespeare's birth place Stratford-upon-Avon to name just a few. Our reward trips have included Escape Rooms, bowling and Harry Potter Studios for those students that qualify.

The annual ski trip takes place over February half term and is open to years 8-10. From year 10 students can also participate in our incredibly successful Duke of Edinburgh programme with expeditions both close to home and further afield.

We aim to publish a trips calendar at the beginning of the academic year that shows trips across the seven years at Verulam, to allow families to plan in advance.





Library and Literacy

We welcome you to our library, centrally located in the main block of the school, adjacent to the Canteen. Verulam promotes a love of reading for pleasure and to enhance learning for all students. We currently have an amazing selection of over 10,000 fiction and nonfiction books, as well as over 15,000 e-books from our ePlatform. We are proud of our 'Waterstones book shop feel', with the fiction stock being organised by genre, including science-fiction and dystopia, animals, sports fiction, historical fiction, horror, crime, classics, war, fantasy, adventure, mystery and humour. During your English lessons, you will take part in fortnightly library lessons, benefitting from the knowledge of our experienced librarian and one of our online reading programmes, Accelerated Reader (AR).

To encourage reading there are displays of featured authors/genres and a regular library newsletter called No Shelf Control. Alongside seasonal and event-based challenges, there are eight mighty "Verulam Reading Challenges". For each challenge, there is a list of 8-12 books that you could read. To conquer each challenge and receive a reward, you must read 6 of these book and complete the AR quiz). Every week, we have a Word of the Week. Form tutors and teachers firstly introduce and use this word in their lessons for that week and we have a dedicated House Point (H2 WotW) for teachers to issue for an attempted written or verbal use. We also have dedicated reading lists that cover a range of topical and diverse areas and Key Stage 3 subject specific reading lists too.

Verulam is proudly partnered with local independent bookshop, Books on the Hill. We not only have regular book suggestions from the stores specialist children's bookseller, but opportunities to publish book reviews both in store and online on their website. Books on the Hill has a dedicated page on their website, which is password protected (password: Verulamreads). Here, the recommended books are displayed alongside our published reviews. The Verulam Community can receive 20% off with the code Verulamreads too, both online and in store. You will also have regular opportunities to write reviews for our local Waterstones bookstore on St Albans High Street, were these are displayed next to the book for members of the public to read - why don't you visit Waterstones and see if you can spot any reviews by our current students?



Co-curricular

We have a number of clubs on offer for you to join. Here is an example of some of our existing ones but look out for new clubs coming soon in September!

- Watercolour Club
- Verulam Historical Society
- Chess Club
- Art Club
- Lego Club
- STEM – Science Technology Engineering and Maths Club
- Warhammer Club
- Verulam Politics Society
- Book Club
- Basketball Club
- Table Tennis Club
- KS3 Drama Club
- Cricket Club
- Homework Club
- Choir
- Debate Club
- Badminton Club

If you have an interest or passion that we don't have a club for, let Mrs Avery, Assistant Headteacher know and she will try to create one!

Instrument Lessons



We are delighted to be able to offer lessons on a range of instruments via Herts Music Service. Lessons take place during the school day and students can learn individually, in pairs or small groups. Instruments currently offered at Verulam include guitar, piano, trumpet, flute and saxophone. A full list of instruments can be found via the Herts Music Service website here:

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/register

Choose 'Sign Up for Music Lessons'

Scroll down to 'Lessons in Schools'

Select your school and choose 'Lessons'

Please note that group lessons require three pupils of a similar standard on an instrument to start at the same time. If no suitable group or shared lesson is available, we will contact you with options for individual lessons.

Once you have registered with HMS, you will automatically be added to the HMS waiting list and contacted once lessons become available.

HMS teachers make every effort to ensure students don't miss the same class each week, and music lessons can actually significantly benefit academic learning. HMS teachers liaise with the school regularly to keep updated on student progress.

Verulam PTA

Our mission as a PTA, is to enhance Verulam students education by providing resources beyond what Government funding can achieve. As parents, we all have a vested interest in seeing the PTA thrive and you can make a huge difference without spending a penny!

The funds we raise support resources across every school faculty, directly benefiting your child in various ways. From sports kit to smart boards to musical instruments to playground gym equipment, we make impactful contributions. Right now, we are preparing to support multiple projects for the upcoming academic year, which means your child will benefit immediately! Plus, we back a significant project each year, like solar panels or a new minibus. This year's project will be revealed on the PTA page later this year!

Here are some incredibly easy ways to support the Verulam PTA that won't cost you a thing:

Easyfundraising - Free money for the school!

Retailers donate to Verulam every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you!! Simply sign up to Easyfundraising and select Verulam School. Your food shop alone could raise £80 a year!! Imagine the impact if every parent and grandparent did that?! Sign Up: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Verulam Lottery – You Win and the School Wins!

For as little £5, you can enter our lottery. Every half term, we draw 3 lucky winners who share half of the proceeds. And the odds are pretty good! Please tell your friends, grandparents, neighbours, the mailman ... everyone can join in! Sign Up: www.verulamschool.co.uk/verulam-lottery

Second Hand Uniform - You've got a boy, you'll need this!!

Boys get filthy and lose things, fact! Luckily, we run a Second Hand Uniform sale every half term. The next one is on the 22nd June at your transition day. Stock up on spare clothes!

Events – Have fun and raise money

We run an event for all parents every term. Our last Quiz Night was a sell out and a huge success. The next event will be in November: check your emails for details and join our Facebook group - search "Verulam School PTA".

Volunteer – Help as much or as little as you can!

Even if you have minimal time, volunteering at just one event a year makes a big difference. More time? Consider one of our vacant roles, which still only requires a few hours a month. Drop us an email: verulamschoolpta@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

Jane Gomez
Chair of the PTA and Year 8 parent!

