



VERULAM
SCHOOL

Headteacher: Fergal Moane

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21st June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to attach the finalised Ofsted report from our inspection of 21st/22nd May 2024. This will go on the public website in the coming days, so this is a preview for parents.

I am delighted that Ofsted agree that we continue to be a good school. It is particularly gratifying to see that they have recognised the efforts put in over the past few years on enhancing the curriculum, setting high academic and behavioural expectations and providing a safe and inclusive environment. Perhaps my favourite comment is *'The school is an inclusive place where pupils and students can be confident about being themselves.'*

I would like to say thank you to you as parents who have supported the school and provided your feedback to the inspectors, to your children who make this place a vibrant learning community, to volunteers such as the governors and PTA who give their time generously and to my staff who are dedicated to this school and have worked tirelessly to improve the school and learning.

That said, we are far from perfect and certainly not complacent. Ofsted have given us a few things to work on and they will be integrated into the school improvement plan. I've included some of the highlights of the plan that we will be working on in the coming year, under the headings of our values:

Excellence

- A focus upon adapting teaching and learning to ensure that all learners, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities, can access the curriculum and flourish. We can't do this alone and SEND remains a challenge nationally, but there is a parallel effort in [Hertfordshire County Council to improve](#)
- More opportunities for students to go above and beyond the curriculum and stretch themselves academically. The 'super curriculum' will be an elective programme where students can undertake work to deepen their knowledge and skills across all subjects and be recognised with a Scholar award. We will continue to develop the [HPQ](#) and [EPQ](#) offer to allow students to stretch themselves and be awarded nationally recognised qualifications

Verulam School

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- A revised approach to assessment and reporting to parents, as Ofsted noted that our current approach is time consuming and doesn't always reflect the unique nature of how certain subjects are assessed. We will be making more use of tools such as Google Classroom and My Child At School to communicate with you and reduce the number of different systems that you use to receive information from the school
- Introduction of study skills programmes and a well-planned offer of intervention and support for years 11 and 13 to better support them through GCSEs, A-levels and BTECs

Character

- Continue to focus on mental health and wellbeing of students (and staff!) with further investment in the pastoral system and partnering with external agencies that support students and families
- Provide further opportunities for student leadership, including more mentoring, introduction of prefects in year 11 and outreach to our primary schools
- Further develop our extra-curricular offer, particularly where demand is high in the creative arts and sports. Ensure there is a year planner for trips so that families can better plan and anticipate costs over a multi-year cycle

Respect

- Continue to build upon our personal development programme, aspects of which Ofsted noted are 'excellent'
- Develop more forensic analysis of behaviour and attendance, adjusting our policies in response to trends and themes. There is new [statutory guidance from the Department for Education](#) that comes into force from September, including a new national framework for early help, education supervision orders and penalty notices
- With the merger of the Atlas and Alban Academies Trust, further develop opportunities for cross-school collaboration. I have already been speaking with the Headteacher at St Albans Girls School on what we may be able to do jointly in bringing girls and boys together for music, drama, careers, debates and more
- Foster improved links with our community beyond the school gates, including further charity work and deepening our existing partnerships with St Albans City FC, St Albans Cricket Club, Verulamians RFC and our alumni association, the OVA

The journey to 'Outstanding' starts here, even if how schools are held accountable changes with a new government in the coming years. We hope that this government chooses to invest in education, as all of the above is predicated on having the funding and investing in the fabric of the school to achieve these aims.

Thank you again for your support for your children and for Verulam School. I will write again before the end of term with a goodbye to departing staff and arrangements for summer exam results days and September return for those returning next academic year.

Yours faithfully,



FERGAL MOANE
Headteacher