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Dear Parents/Carers,

Important Updates and Information for the New School Year

I hope this email finds you well. As we kick off the new academic year, I wanted to share some important updates and information with you.

We have had a fantastic start to the year, especially for our Year 7 and Year 12 students who have settled in quickly. Their enthusiasm and positive energy are truly commendable. Overall, I have been impressed by the calm atmosphere and the engagement with learning that all students have shown in the first two weeks.

Catering

Our new caterers, Culinera, have received excellent feedback from students regarding the quality, variety, and freshness of the food. Although some prices have risen, the quality of ingredients is significantly higher than previously and the main meal at £2.75 represents excellent value. Demand from students has increased and our catering staff have done an excellent job in serving an average of six-hundred meals a day. Please click this link to view the current menu.

Trips & Clubs

We've published the annual trips calendar on our website. Please visit this <u>link</u> to access the calendar and learn more about the exciting trips planned for this year. This list is provided in response to parental feedback seeking more information on costs to allow for planning across multiple years. Note that day trips, trips linked to clubs and Curriculum Enrichment Day events are not included, so all students will have further opportunities to take part in a trip should they wish.

Our offer for extra curricular clubs is being gathered at the moment. Information on extra-curricular activities will be published <u>here</u> early next week.











Parents' Evenings

Below you will find dates for upcoming Parents' Evenings and Information Evenings. Please note that after surveying parents at the end of the last school year, we have returned to face to face appointments for all year groups. To ensure a fair allocation of meetings, appointments will be booked via our School Cloud online booking system that will open at a specific date and time for bookings. In order to ensure that available appointments are distributed more evenly, we will cap the maximum number of appointments at seven teachers for Key Stages 3 and 4. We would ask you to keep to the five minute appointments to ensure that the evening runs smoothly (discussions that demand more time can always be arranged outside of this evening.)

More detailed information on information evenings and parents' evenings will be sent by the Heads of Year closer to the date for each event.

Year	Information Evenings	Parents' Evenings
Year 7	Welcome Lunch 21st September	26th June
Year 8	10th October	25th March
Year 9	16th October	11th February
Year 10	21st October	7th May
Year 11	4th November	23rd January
Year 12	26th September	13th November
Year 13	18th September	15th January

Open Evening

We are currently making arrangements for our Open Evening on Tuesday 1st October. The evening is a wonderful opportunity for children in Years 5 or 6 and their families, who are considering making an application to attend Verulam from September 2025 or 2026, to see our school.

In order for staff to ensure the school is ready and prepared for the event, we traditionally close school early on this date, and open late the following morning. This year, the school day will end at 12.20pm on Tuesday 1st October, after Period 3 and students should return home then. The











canteen will not be open for lunch but if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, they will be able to collect a packed lunch from the canteen before departing.

On Wednesday 2nd October school will begin late to allow staff and students who have been involved in Open Evening a suitable period of rest. Students can arrive at school from 11am. Lessons will begin at 11.20am and students should go straight to their Period 3 lesson – there will be no initial registration in form rooms.

We are very much looking forward to our Open Evening and are incredibly grateful to our current students and families for their help in making this event a success.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to our school office.

Wishing you and your child a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

Yours sincerely

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Mr F Moane Headteacher









