

VERUNews

EDITION 005



WELCOME
BACK TO SCHOOL

Headteacher Highlights

A warm welcome back to our returning families and students and a heartfelt welcome to those who have just joined the school.

I was incredibly proud over the summer to meet our Year 11 and 13 students on results days to celebrate their success. The young men in Year 11 had the best results at GCSE the school has had since the pandemic, with an average score that will put us in the top 20% of schools in England. They should be proud of responding to the challenge and securing what they needed to go to Sixth Form, college or apprenticeships. Likewise, Year 13 did very well with the vast majority securing their first-choice university or higher education place and a number taking on apprenticeships and employment.

A focus for us this term is responding to policy changes by the government. You are aware that a statutory ban on mobile phones in schools came into effect in June. After surveying our families last year, we flexed this in recognition that many of our students travel some distance and a smartphone has benefits for passes, payments and location tracking. If a student brings a phone to school, it must now be locked in a pouch during the school day and only unlocked upon

exiting school. The vast majority of students have understood this and it has already had a positive impact upon behaviour and wellbeing. Thank you for your support with this. Additionally, the government requires all schools to publish an 'inclusion strategy' and ours is now on the Policies section of the school website. We are working to provide more consistent, tiered and tailored support for young people, within the constraints on resourcing that all schools face at the moment.

Finally, can I make an appeal to those parents/carers who collect their child from school by car? Some driver behaviour at the Brampton Road gate has been poor and endangers our children as well as causing significant inconvenience to local residents. Please do not park on double yellow lines, block driveways, leave engines idling or in some cases simply stop in the middle of the road and block the street. St Albans District Council and police will be taking enforcement action. There is plenty of space at the rear Jennings Road entrance if you have to pick up your child by car, although I would encourage walking, cycling and more sustainable public transport options if at all possible.

Fergal Moane, Headteacher

Fortnightly Focus

Click  for Term Dates

- 15 Sep - CAT Testing
- 16 Sep - CAT Testing
- 16 Sep - Year 7 Clubs Fayre (lunchtime)
- 17 Sep - Year 9 & 11 Individual Photos
- 17 Sep - Year 12 Information Evening
- 21 Sep - School Council Election process begins
- 22 Sep - Open Evening (early finish) - All students will leave site at 12.20pm
- 22 Sep - Open Evening for prospective families 5.00pm - 8.00pm
- 23 Sep - Late start - students must arrive on site by 11.00am
- 24 Sep - Open Morning Tour
- 24 Sep - Year 10 Theatre Trip
- 24 Sep - Year 11 Information Evening
- 25 Sep - Open Morning Tour

VERUWelcome

Welcome to our new Year 7

On Wednesday 2nd September we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort to Verulam School. Kitted out in brand new uniforms and polished shoes their 7 year journey began in earnest. The boys had already set the bar high with their first impressions on Secondary Transfer Day in July and they continued to live up to expectations on their first day at big school.

Their first day was calm and the anxieties of meeting new friends and new teachers were quickly dispelled. They had the whole school to

themselves as the older years were not starting until the day after. During their first day they spent the first three lessons with their form tutors getting to know their co-tutees, timetables, photos and biometrics. Their form tutors commented how well they had gelled together in their forms and enjoyed the ice-breakers delivered by their tutors.

Day two was their first real day of lessons with the older boys about the school. Subject teachers have already commented on the impressive behaviour and attitude to learning of our new cohort so I am expecting big things from this year group especially for our first big events, The Mob Race district cross-country run and the Verso Care Food bank collections coming up over the next few weeks.

In the coming weeks we will be holding a Clubs Fayre and communications will be sent about our annual Lake District Trip which the students are already excited about. Trials will also take place for the many sports teams. It is already looking to be a very successful year with our new Year 7s. I am looking forward to sharing their success as we move through the year.

Mr Knowles, Head of Year 7



VERUFocus

Year 7 Clubs Fayre

Work is underway to put together our offering of clubs and societies for our Year 7s and older year groups at Verulam.

Clubs and societies at Verulam are a great way to network and meet new people and also instill a sense of belonging. Verulam has always offered a wide range of clubs to suit many different interests from all of the sports clubs like football, rugby, table tennis, gym, athletics, badminton to name a few, to music clubs like choir, string club, jazz band and many others.

We also offer popular clubs such as D&D club, chess club, boardgame club, debate club, general knowledge

club, Warhammer club, Christian society, Friday prayers for our Muslim boys, STEM club, ECO council and many others.

This year to encourage Year 7 to participate we are hosting a Clubs Fayre in the main school hall on Wednesday 16th September where staff and sixth form students will promote the many clubs we have on offer and allow students to sign up.

If any students wish to sign up later in the year they will still be able to so the Clubs Fayre will not be the final opportunity to join a club. We would however encourage them to take part as early as possible to start the process of making friends now.

If parents would like to see what is on offer this will be published on the school website as soon as the definitive list is published in a couple of weeks.

Mr Knowles, Head of Year 7



VERUFocus

A.I. Summer School

Ernest J and Claude O-R, now Year 11, were successfully selected to participate in the prestigious Good Future Foundation A.I. summer school in July, hosted at Holmewood House. The students applied through a vibe-coded portfolio website, showcasing their exceptional HPQ research alongside other personal projects and endeavours relating to A.I. The week long, all inclusive, fully funded programme placed emphasis on responsible A.I. use and maintaining authenticity through the motto 'keeping it human'. The week featured guest speakers, including representatives from Voice 21 and Loudspeaker, as well as Alex Moore, a teacher turned A.I. consultant currently pursuing his PhD.

Key opportunities included excursions to the Salesforce A.I. Centre in London and the Datum Data Centre located in Farnborough. Here, the boys learned about the value of data and how it is protected through rigid security systems. Salesforce showcased how a globally recognised company valued at \$217.63 billion operates to provide A.I. solutions designated for some of the world's biggest corporations, such as Disney. The students raised questions regarding topics ranging from generative image creation to the implementation of agentic A.I. systems.

The Good Future Foundation's primary goal for the week was to create A.I. solutions that could be used in education while adhering to the DfE's 12 GenAI Product Safety

Standards – a set of rules that validate whether a Generative A.I. app is safe for use in education. Ernest made a website that checks A.I. prompts and outputs against the standards, while Claude produced a GCSE-focused study tool. All participants showcased their projects at the end of the programme.

Throughout the week, the group collaborated with AIEOU (A.I. in Education at Oxford University), sharing ideas and questions focused on compliance with and adherence to the DfE's 12 GenAI Product Safety Standards. The students pitched their projects to Google DeepMind and the DfE, creating a great opportunity for them to have their voices heard and translated into actionable policy.



Overall, this was a fantastic experience to collaborate with like-minded individuals and the students were even offered the opportunity to participate in the 2027 Good Future Foundation conference in Soho. Well done Claude and Ernest, we are very proud.

Mr Pettitt, Associate Assistant Headteacher

VERUNews

Year 11 Information Evening

Year 11 is a pivotal stage in secondary education. For both students and parents, the months ahead can feel intense, but they also offer a clear pathway toward future success. Cramming at the last minute rarely yields strong results for GCSEs due to the vast volume of content across subjects. Establishing consistent revision habits early in Year 11 makes a substantial difference.

To ensure the best opportunity for academic success and personal achievement students are already revising in form time with structured lessons and working hard in after school revision classes. To triangulate the school, the child and the home, we are hosting the Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 24th September to present the key information regarding revision, subject topics, important dates and dealing with exam stress. Having such information proves invaluable and empowers parents/guardians to have greater oversight. Parents who are better informed are inevitably in a stronger position to support.

Already students are working hard in school, yet we need to work together to ensure they work smart. I look forward to the year ahead and giving every student the best chance of success.

Mr Halsall, Head of Year 11

Student Spotlight

Aristotelian Award Success

Back in January of 2026, a number of Year 9 students (now Year 10) started their entries into an essay writing competition run by the Perse School in Cambridge. Also known as the Aristotelian Award, students are given ten titles from which to produce a 1,500 worded essay. An example title from this year was, 'Is it possible to reverse or slow down the chemical processes that cause ageing in the human body?' Other subject areas included the humanities, mathematics and the environment.

Open to schools nationally and internationally, students are required to produce the work on their own and then submit for judging. This year, Verulam School had 6 entries from Vinny K, Leo T, Noah J, Thomas B, Sam B and Dill D.



After much research, drafting and re-drafting, entries were submitted for judging. All students received certificates for their work this year which was wonderful to see. Particular mention must go to Vinny K for his entry on the title above for which he was 'highly commended' putting him in joint 2nd nationally and awarded a cash prize!

His entry can be found on the school website should you wish to read it.

Well done all – a great experience.

Mr Toley

VERUSport

Sporting News

Welcome back, everyone! It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved in clubs and representing the school already.

Our sporting year kicked off with the annual Year 7 Mob Race. Our Year 7 boys represented the school brilliantly, showing incredible effort, determination, and team spirit from start to finish.

The Cross Country League is also underway. Races take place every Thursday for the next six weeks. Anyone interested in running should speak to Mr. Waters as soon as possible.

Clubs Next Week

- Monday: Year 7 Football Trials | Table Tennis (All years)
- Tuesday: Badminton (All years)
- Wednesday: Basketball (Years 7–9)
- Thursday: Fencing (Paid club)

Looking ahead, football, rugby, and badminton fixtures will begin the following week. Good luck to all our teams!

Mr Errington, Director of Sport





VERULAM SCHOOL

CLUBS

THIS HALF TERM!

LUNCH TIME CLUB					TABLE TENNIS
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS	
MONDAY	- BADMINTON - YEAR 11, 12, 13 RUGBY
TUESDAY	- TABLE TENNIS 29TH ONWARDS: FOOTBALL - YEAR 7-10 RUGBY
WEDNESDAY	BASKETBALL YEARS 7-9
THURSDAY	FENCING CLUB (PAID)
FRIDAY	GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN, BE YOUR BEST!

BE ACTIVE. MAKE FRIENDS. GET INVOLVED.



VERUSixth

Record Intake for Verulam Sixth Form

On Wednesday 2nd, Verulam Sixth Form welcomed 120 new students, marking our largest Year 12 cohort in a generation.

Key details of the incoming year group:

- **Student Composition:** The intake combines a strong return rate from our Year 11 group with an increase in external applicants, resulting in a record

- number of female students joining the Sixth Form.
- **Academic Profile:** The cohort enters with the highest average entry profile on record, achieving a GCSE Average Point Score (APS) of 4.5+.

On their first day, students met their new tutors and attended an induction assembly led by Headteacher Mr. Moane and Director of Sixth Form Mr. Base. Full academic timetables commenced on Thursday.



Destinations for Year 13

We have had a very pleasing year with successful university applications. 79 students made an application for UK universities for courses starting in September. Of these, 59 are starting a course at their first choice university, 27 at a Russell Group university. A further 12 are due to study at their insurance choice, and a further 3 have secured a university place through clearing. This doesn't include the one student who declined their UK application to attend a university overseas.

Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form

House Updates

Our House Representatives have returned to their duties in Years 8 to 11 and will be meeting next week to organise our annual charity collection for our local Food Bank. Every year, the Verulam community come together and give generously to support this cause (more on this in the coming weeks) for now, our House Representatives are organising the logistics of collecting the donations from across the school and correctly attributing the donations to Houses as, naturally, this will be not only charitable, but also competitive! Which house will be the most effective in making donations? This is also an opportunity for our new Year 7 students to step up and show their form tutors their leadership skills! I will be adding Year 7 Representatives to the House team in November when their Tutors have had time to get to know them a little more and can select the most appropriate students for this role.

Mrs Avery, Assistant Headteacher

VERUFocus

Verulam School Photos

It has been a busy couple of weeks for Tempest, our photography provider. Last week Tempest were in school taking individual photos of our new Year 7s, Year 12s and Year 7 Form Tutor group photos. Your child will have taken home proofs for these individual photos. Ordering details are included on the photo proof. Please check bags for the photo proofs!

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Our whole school photo took place on Thursday this week. This is an important school tradition and a very proud moment for Verulam School. It was a monumental task gathering over 1000 staff and students. Tempest even commented that the behaviour of Verulam students was exemplary and they were the best they had ever worked with. Thank you to everyone involved. You can see time lapse footage from the day on our Facebook page. Ordering details will be available soon.

A gentle reminder that Tempest will be back at Verulam on Thursday 17th March to take individual photos of our Year 9 and Year 11 students. More details will be communicated next week. Please ensure uniform policy is adhered to correctly.

Verulam Admin



VERUFocus

E-Safety News

On the 17th September at 7pm, Hertfordshire Cybercrime officer, Chen Tsui, will be delivering an online presentation for parents and carers on password security, social media, photo and video sharing and online safety.

In this engaging 60-minute session, Hertfordshire Police Cyber Protect & Prevent Officers will explore two important topics: keeping your family safe from cyber crime and helping young people make safe and positive choices online.

You will receive practical advice on improving your family's cyber security, including how cyber criminals target individuals and households, the most common online threats, and the simple steps you can take to better protect your devices, accounts, and personal information.

The session will also examine how a young person's curiosity about technology can sometimes lead them

towards risky or illegal online activity. Many children enjoy learning how technology works, developing coding skills, gaming, or exploring tools and techniques they discover through websites, videos and online communities. While these interests can create exciting opportunities and valuable skills, it is important to understand where the boundaries lie and how to encourage positive and lawful use of technology.

Topics covered include:

- Practical cyber security advice to help protect your family online.
- Common cyber threats, scams and frauds affecting individuals and households.
- How cyber criminals target people and what you can do to reduce the risk.
- The types of online activity that can place young people at risk of cyber offending.
- The potential consequences of becoming involved in cybercrime.
- Warning signs that parents and carers should be aware of.

Positive pathways for young people interested in technology, coding, and cyber security.

Whether you are looking to better protect your family online or support a child with an interest in technology, this session will provide valuable knowledge, practical advice, and the confidence to navigate today's digital world safely.

This session is suitable for parents and carers of children of all ages. The advice and guidance provided aligns with the Government's Stop! Think Fraud, and the National Cyber Security Centres CyberAware and the National Crime Agency's Cyber Choices campaigns.

We would urge all parents and carers to engage with this training. You can do so by clicking the below link on the 17th September at 7pm.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39846949002860?](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39846949002860?p=3257xo2lCz9NCU3bUA)

[p=3257xo2lCz9NCU3bUA](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39846949002860?p=3257xo2lCz9NCU3bUA)

Meeting ID: 398 469 490 028 60

Passcode: UP9LP2jD

Stay in Touch

- * verulamschool.co.uk
- ✉ admin@verulam.aetrust.uk
- ☎ 01727 766100
- 📍 Brampton Road, St Albans
Hertfordshire, AL1 4PR
- IF ABSENT please contact:**
- ✉ absence@verulam.aetrust.uk
- ☎ 01727 754101

VACANCIES

Verulam School is seeking to appoint a Lead Exam Invigilator to oversee and support the effective delivery of both internal and external examinations.

In addition, Verulam School is also seeking to appoint multiple Exam Invigilators.

For further details or if you wish to have a tour of the school or ask any questions, please contact Roberta Williams on HR@verulam.aetrust.uk or 01727 766100

Residential Reminders

Further ahead:

- Yr 10 DofE Bronze Expedition*
- postponed until further notice
- 19 Feb - Geography Field Trip
Iceland*
- 28 Jun - Yr 12 New York All
Humanities Trip

* some payments are still outstanding





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St Albans

At Verulam School

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Children explore how AI works and what it can do.



CREATE

Children use AI tools to bring their ideas to life.



SOLVE

Children tackle real-world challenges and think critically.



BUILD

Children develop their own projects and share their creations.



WEEKLY SESSIONS

Sundays
11:00am – 12:00pm

Starting Sunday
20th September



AT VERULAM SCHOOL

Our AI Academy sessions are run by Code Ninjas St Albans and are based at Verulam School, giving local children the opportunity to explore this exciting technology close to home.



AI TASTER SESSION

Want to try it first? Join our **one-hour AI Taster Session** on **Sunday 13th September** and get a taste of what AI Academy is all about!



REGISTER NOW

Scan the QR code to register for the taster session.



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- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Robotics, Data Science
- Web & Application Development
- Game Development

Details & Sign Up

Locations: St Albans & Harpenden

Days: Tuesdays / Saturdays / Sundays

Time: 5.50-6.50 pm / 3-4 pm / 11-12 noon

Year Groups: 4-11 / (Ages 8-16)

Maximum Class Size: 15 pupils

Price: £316 per term (2 installments of £158) + Admin Fee



Structured Learning

- For Everyone: Lessons with clear objectives & outcomes, suitable for complete beginners and those with prior coding experience.
- Adaptive Challenges: Activities are designed for all skill levels to ensure engagement and reward.
- Core Skill Development: Build essential problem-solving skills through computational thinking, specifically decomposition & abstraction.

VEX IQ Robotics Competition Level Up 2026 - 2027

An exhilarating 60-second VEX IQ Robotics match on a 6x8-foot robotics field. This fun & competitive challenge encourages teamwork, strategic thinking & hands-on engineering skills.

