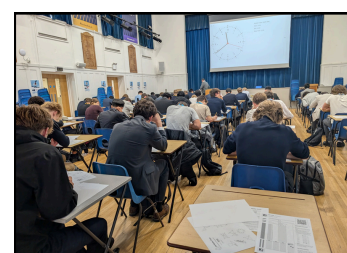


VERUNews

EDITION 007



Headteacher Highlights

This is a busy point in the longest academic term and the summer holidays have receded into the distance!

On Friday 25th September, our community came together for European Day of Languages, enjoying form quizzes, library activities, lunchtime Pelota, and brektime churros. On the academic front, our mathematicians shone in both the UK Girls Maths Challenge and the Senior UKMT Challenge. In the library, we welcomed Nathanael Lessore to speak to and hold an author workshop. Nearly forty budding authors in year 8 who took part in the Young Writers challenge had their short stories published in book format!

In sport, it has been one of our busiest periods in recent memory. Our Year 9 and 10 footballers clinched crucial National Cup victories, our KS4 Table Tennis team was crowned District Cup Champions, and our Senior XV Rugby team kicked off their season with a high-scoring 54-28 win against Roundwood Park. Furthermore, across a marathon set of fixtures against Sandringham in table tennis, Verulam won an incredible 11 out of 12 games! It is great that our senior girls' netball team continues this season, drawing versus Dame Alice Owens in a closely contested game.

We have really appreciated that so many parents and carers have joined us for our Autumn Information Evenings. Years 9,10,11

and 12 have taken place so far, with Year 7 and 8 next week and Year 13 the following week. For Year 7, there will be an opportunity to meet form tutors and review how the year has gone so far. For Year 13, it is a crucial time with assessments that count towards UCAS assessments being sat. We also have a record 16 students making early applications to Oxford, Cambridge and Medicine related courses.

A reminder that the information for each information evening is published on our website:

<https://www.verulamalschool.co.uk/Learning/Parents-Information-Evenings/>

Finally, please support the PTFA with their fundraising efforts at our annual Fireworks Festival on Friday 23rd October. Tickets can be purchased from <https://tinyurl.com/veru2026> and proceeds will directly support equipment provision in music, media and PE in the year ahead.

Speaking of music, the department is appealing for donations of functional but no longer needed instruments. Please contact Ms Way at the school if you can donate an instrument that can support our goal of increasing participation in bands, ensembles and performances. There is a gap in the market for a Verulam originating band now that Enter Shikari have announced their 'indefinite hiatus' at the end of 2027!

Fergal Moane, Headteacher

Fortnightly Focus

Click  for Term Dates

- 11 - 12 Oct - Yr 11 DofE Bronze Expedition
- 12 Oct - Black History Month continues
- 12 - 16 Oct - Book Fair
- 12 Oct - Yr 13 Geography Field Trip
- 13 Oct - Yr 13 Geography Field Trip
- 14 Oct - Yr 9 Theatre Workshop and Performance
- 14 Oct - Yr 8 Information Evening
- 15 Oct - Yr 7 Settling In
- 19 Oct - Culture Week begins
- 21 Oct - Yr 7-11 Talk Consent Assemblies
- 22 Oct - Yr 9 Work Experience Trip
- 22 Oct - Yr 13 Information Evening
- 22 Oct - Yr 8 Disco at STAGS
- 23 Oct - Last day of Half Term (normal finish)
- 23 Oct - PTFA Fireworks Festival

VERUNews

Award-winning author visits Verulam

To kick off Black History Month and celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 1st October, Verulam was delighted to welcome award-winning author Nathanael Lessor.

The morning began with an inspiring presentation for Year 7 and Year 8 students, where Nathanael shared insights into his life, his path to becoming a writer, and led an engaging game of 'Rap or Poetry?'. Congratulations to Wilfred V. (Year 7) and Samuel G. (Year 8), who asked the most insightful questions and each won a signed copy of his novel, *King of Nothing*.



A huge thank you to Nathanael for such a fantastic morning, and well done to all our student prize winners! Finally, thank you to all our new and returning Library Assistants for their hard work, especially Head Supervisor Nilesh P. for co-authoring this article!

Miss G Pettitt, Literacy Coordinator



Following the presentation, Nathanael hosted a fully booked poetry writing workshop in the library for students in Year 7, 8, and 9. Students created their own unique (and some very funny) poems, and after careful judging, Issac L. (Year 9) took first place, winning a signed copy of Nathanael's book.



Stay in Touch

✳ verulamschool.co.uk
 ✉ admin@verulam.aetrust.uk
 ☎ 01727 766100
 📍 Brampton Road, St Albans
 Hertfordshire, AL1 4PR

Please remember.....

IF ABSENT please contact:

✉ absence@verulam.aetrust.uk
 ☎ 01727 754101

VERUNews

Book Fair Opens

Verulam School has partnered with Scholastic publishers to hold the first book fair this academic year for the Autumn term! From Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October there will be a chance for students to purchase books, stationary and gifts at a discounted rate which, in turn, will provide the library with even more titles.

During the week, all students are able to access what is on offer in the

library, and potentially purchase anything they might like during break and lunch. Students can pay with cash or with gift vouchers online via <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>.



VERUFocus

Black History Month in the Library

The library is celebrating Black History Month by recognising individuals whose everyday contributions have shaped the UK, with a particular spotlight on Hertfordshire and unseen stories. The Black History Month challenges are up and running, including a reading challenge, hidden histories challenge and an author hunt activity!

Reading Challenge: Read 3 books of Black Origin in October and create a book review for each to receive a reward!

How can you celebrate?

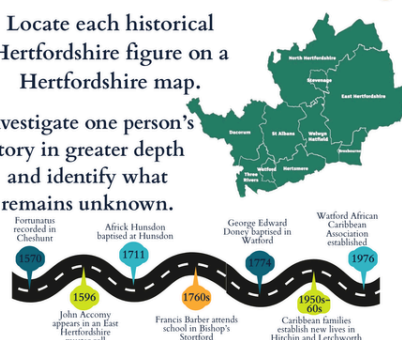
Hertfordshire
GRID



Hidden Histories Challenge

Locate each historical Hertfordshire figure on a Hertfordshire map.

Investigate one person's story in greater depth and identify what remains unknown.



Hidden Histories Challenge: To celebrate this year's theme 'Honouring Our Communities', the hidden histories activity challenges you to locate each historical Hertfordshire figure from the timeline on a map of Hertfordshire, investigate one person's story in greater depth and identify what remains unknown.

Author Hunt: Journey through the works of incredible Black authors, find clues, solve riddles and discover powerful stories.

Good Luck!!!

In the Community

We are always keen to share helpful local updates, support networks and charity events with our Verulam community. Please take a look at the following links for further information:

- [St Albans Child Contact Centre](#)
- [Youth Talk](#)
- [St Albans & District Foodbank](#)
- [Coram Family Lives Information](#)
- [DENS Sleepout](#)
- [Stevensons School Uniform](#)
- [Hertfordshire Community News and Events](#)
- [St Albans Sleepout for Herts Young Homeless](#)
- [Hatfield Cultural Connection CIC](#)
- [Hertfordshire Children's Wellbeing Team - Free Workshops](#)
- [Carers in Herts](#)
- [Verso Care - Food Bank](#)
- [STEP Schools Work](#)

VERUNews

Year 10 Information Evening

We held a successful Year 10 Information Evening on October 1st, providing students and parents with vital guidance to help everyone settle smoothly into the demands of GCSE.

The session highlighted the critical importance of maintaining excellent attendance and bringing the correct equipment every single day—key habits that will directly prepare students for their upcoming mock exams taking place in the sports hall during the week beginning 19th April. In addition, parents and students heard directly from our

Heads of English, Maths, and Science, who shared essential subject-specific advice, revision strategies, and key insights needed to excel in these core subjects throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. If you were unable to make it on the night, the full presentation slides are available to view on the school website [here: https://www.verulamschool.co.uk/Leaving/Parents-Information-Evenings/](https://www.verulamschool.co.uk/Leaving/Parents-Information-Evenings/)

Ms L McNally, Head of Year 10

YEAR 10 INFORMATION EVENING



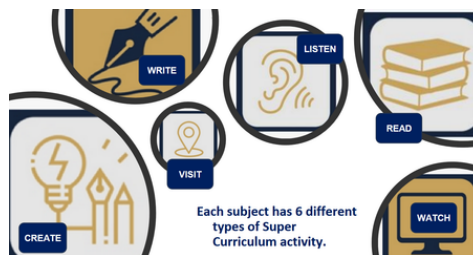
VERUNews

Personal Development and the Super Curriculum

Recently in assemblies I have been inviting students to consider the 'person they are becoming.' The focus was on their Personal Development beyond the school taught lessons. This means thinking about being 10% braver and perhaps attending clubs they haven't yet tried and therefore meeting new people and exploring the Super Curriculum.

The Super Curriculum can be found on the school website here:

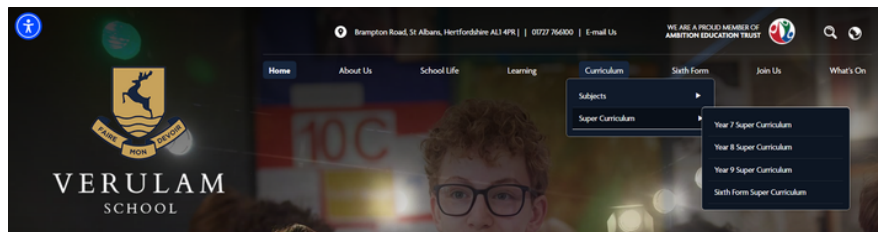
There are numerous tasks and activities for students to engage with. They are collated under these six headings:



As an incentive, once a student has submitted 5 completed tasks he will receive a LOR for Love of Learning. Once he has completed 15 tasks he will receive a 'skip the lunch queue' pass for a week for himself and a friend; and once he has completed 20 tasks he will receive the much-coveted GOLD STAG badge presented by the Headmaster.

Mrs Avery, Assistant Headteacher

Super CURRICULUM



VERUNews

European Day of Languages

On Friday 25th September, Verulam School celebrated European Day of Languages.

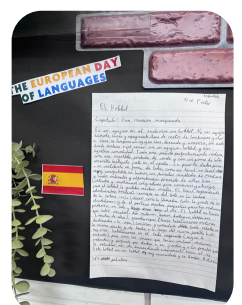
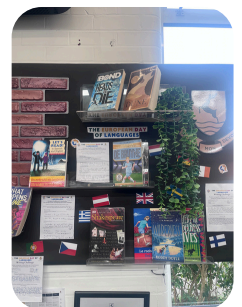
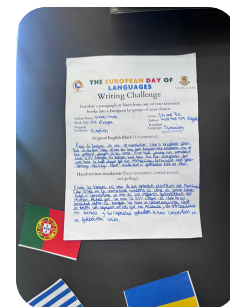
Students enjoyed a Languages Form Time Quiz during morning registration, and the canteen prepared 'Churros con Chocolate' as a break time treat (unfortunately, these sold out in minutes, so we'll be sure to prepare lots more next time!)

In the library, Miss Pettit offered 3 challenges/activities for students to complete, including a reading challenge, research task and a writing challenge.

Mr. Errington and Mr. Moroney in the PE Department offered Pelota matches in the Sports Hall at lunchtime, and Mrs Herrington and Miss Chirchi ensured lots of faces left school decorated with a French or Spanish flag.

I hope the students really enjoyed the activities and look forward to European Day of Languages 2027!

Mrs I Chirchi, Director of MFL



VERUSport

Action packed Sporting Success

It has been one of the busiest periods for school sports fixtures in recent memory, with our teams competing across multiple codes and competitions. Our students have represented the school with immense pride, determination, and skill, delivering outstanding performances across the board. Here is a summary of an extraordinary week in sport:

Football: National Cup Victories

Year 10 Football: The Y10 team delivered a clinical performance in the National Cup, securing a fantastic 3-0 victory.

- Goals: Mason (2), Kai (1)
- Man of the Match: Sam B for a commanding display.

Year 9 Football: Battling testing pitch conditions at Sandpit Lane, the Y9 squad produced some superb football to claim a 2-1 win against a tough side, progressing through to Round 3 of the National Cup.

- Goals: Jake O'N, followed by a dramatic late winning free kick from Charlie S.
- Man of the Match: Charlie S.

Table Tennis: District Cup Champions! 🏆

Our KS4 Table Tennis team was crowned District Cup Champions after a dominant display.

- **Team:** Noah S, Claude, Kai and Noah J all performed brilliantly and represented the school impeccably throughout the tournament.

What's Next: Having won the District Cup, the team will now proudly represent **St Albans at the County Finals in November**. Huge congratulations to all involved!



Senior Sports: Thrilling Season Openers

Senior XV Rugby: The Senior XV launched their season with a high-scoring 54-28 victory over Roundwood Park, advancing into the next round of the National Cup.

- **Standout Performance:** Charlie K delivered an incredible 5-try masterclass to take home Player of the Match.

Seniors Netball: Our Senior Netball team kicked off their season with a high-octane thriller against a strong Dame Alice Owen's side. Despite playing together as a team for the very first time, the girls demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and heart to battle back to an exciting 15-15 draw.

National Cup Sweep vs. Sandringham 🔥

Our KS3 and KS4 teams kicked off their National Cup campaigns in unforgettable fashion against Sandringham. Across a marathon set of fixtures, our students produced phenomenal performances to win an incredible 11 out of 12 games!

Mr Errington, Director of Sport



Mobile Phone-Free Reminder

Thank you for your support with the successful rollout of our new mobile phone pouches this term. We have seen a hugely positive impact on our learning environment, creating a safe, focused and distraction-free space for our students.

We kindly remind all parents and carers to continue supporting our school expectations and sanctions regarding mobile devices. Under

Section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, Department for Education (DfE) guidance requires all schools in England to operate as mobile phone-free environments. Furthermore, Section 94 of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 provides schools with statutory authority to use appropriate disciplinary measures when policies are breached.

We appreciate your ongoing cooperation in upholding these standards and fostering a respectful partnership between home and school.

- You can review our full Verulam Behaviour Policy on our website.
- Learn more about national policy via the official [DfE Mobile Phones Guidance](#).

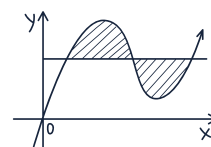
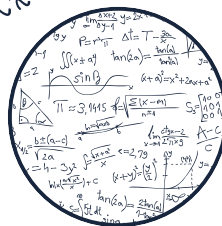
Miss G Perry, Deputy Headteacher



VERUNews

UK Maths Challenge

$$\sqrt[n]{a} = a^{\frac{1}{n}}$$



Five weeks into the school year and already we have completed two challenges:

On 22nd of September we sat the UK Girls Maths Challenge. The Mathematical Competition for Girls was introduced in 2025 as a new opportunity designed to inspire and challenge young female mathematicians across the UK. It was our first year running it and three of our Year 12 students completed the Olympiad style challenge and Kiana P managed to receive a Merit.

Well done girls!

On 7th of October we entered all of our A Level mathematicians into the Senior UK Maths Trust (UKMT) challenge. The UK Maths Trust is the leading British charity that advances the education of young people in mathematics. The problems on the Senior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think: stimulating problems for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers. Sixty six students sat the ninety minute, multiple choice paper and put their

mathematical problem solving to the test. As always we are very proud of our students and excitedly await their results.

Mx Moreland



VERUSixth

Engaging Minds Lectures 2026/27

The new academic year has gotten off to an inspiring start for Year 12 as they embark on this year's Engaging Minds Lecture series. A unique highlight of the Verulam Sixth Form experience, this program delivers 20 lectures across the year—exposing students to diverse perspectives across the arts, culture, science, medicine, politics, faiths, military, and the legal system.

Our first three sessions were exceptionally well received, setting a fantastic tone for the term ahead:

Gary Naphtali (MD of Sales Perfect): Gary kicked off the series by dismantling common misconceptions about the commercial world. Drawing on his career leading global sales teams across the UK, Europe, and the USA, he reframed sales not merely as a career path, but as a crucial set of life skills. His session

focused on how mastering communication and value-creation builds real-world confidence and opens doors internationally.

David Barker (CEO of Youth Talk & Alumnus): Returning to his roots, former Verulam student and Brampton House member David shared his non-linear path from leaving school without a degree to becoming a successful media entrepreneur and chief executive of a local youth mental health charity. Championing the "University of Life," David's energetic presentation reminded students that academic results alone do not define potential, encouraging them to stay adaptable and ambitious.

Nick Burrows (Head of Assets & Estates at Tesco): Hosted in partnership with Speakers for Schools and Futures For All, Nick provided

valuable insights into corporate leadership and large-scale operations. He shared practical advice on navigating career crossroad options—whether pursuing apprenticeships, university, or direct entry into the workforce—followed by an engaging Q&A session.

These diverse talks have challenged Year 12 to think broadly about their own future paths, offering practical wisdom well beyond the classroom.

We are always looking for new speakers. If you feel you can contribute to the series, please contact Verulam Sixth Form.

Mr Base, Director of Sixth Form



Residential Reminders

Confirmed residential trips are shown below.

Upcoming residential trip reminders:

- 11 & 12 Oct – Yr 11 DofE Bronze Expedition

Further ahead (2027 dates):

- 19 Feb – Geography Field Trip Iceland*
- 27 Jun – 01 Jul – Yr 7 Lake District Trip*
- 28 Jun – 01 Jul – Yr 8 Battlefields Trip*
- 28 Jun – Yr 12 New York All Humanities Trip*
- 28 Jun – Barcelona Football Trip*

*some payments are still outstanding

VACANCIES

We are delighted that you are considering applying for a role at Verulam School.

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Verulam School:

- Part Time Teacher of Music
- Director of English
- Lead Exam Invigilator

If you, or anyone you know would like to be part of our fantastic and dedicated team, please visit the website [HERE](#).

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 call 01727 766100

House Updates

The House leadership team organise many events throughout the school year which are designed to celebrate students' success and keep students motivated. Who will win this year?



BRAMPTON 18487



CHURCHILL 20727



HAMILTON 16830



JENNINGS 15179



PARK 16383



YORK 16442

VERUNews

Year 9 Information Evening

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday 7th October for our Year 9 Parent Information Evening. It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout in the Main Hall and to feel the incredible support from our school community as we kick off this important academic year.

The evening provided a valuable roadmap for the year ahead as our students step up into Key Stage 3's final phase and prepare for the transition to Key Stage 4. Here is a brief recap of the key areas covered during the presentation:

- Navigating the Step into Year 9: We discussed how students can build effective home study routines, develop personal resilience, and take greater

- ownership of their learning as academic expectations increase.
- The GCSE Options Roadmap: Guidance was shared on how the upcoming options process will unfold later this year, emphasising how students can begin exploring their interests, strengths, and future career pathways thoughtfully.
- Enrichment & Personal Growth: We highlighted the wide array of extra-curricular activities, sports, trips, and student leadership roles on offer this year, encouraging every student to push beyond their comfort zone and get involved.

For those who were unable to attend, presentation slides and supplementary

guidance materials can be found on the school website here: <https://verulamschool.co.uk/Learning/Parents-Information-Evenings/>

Thank you once again for your continued partnership and active involvement in your child's education. Together, we look forward to supporting our Year 9 cohort through a successful, engaging, and rewarding year ahead.

Mr Anthony, Head of Year 9

YEAR 9 INFORMATION EVENING





BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Cultural Pop-Up Market

EXHIBITION | BEAUTY | ART | CRAFTS FOOD | FASHION
LITERATURE | WORKSHOPS | EDUCATION | SERVICES
ENTERTAINMENT AND MUCH MORE...

SATURDAY 10TH & SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2026
10AM - 5PM & 10AM - 4PM

Westgate Stevenage
Unit 7 (Opposite River Island)
Westgate Shopping Centre
Stevenage SG1 1QR

SCAN ME

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FIREWORKS FESTIVAL 2026 

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER
6PM-9PM
FIREWORKS AT 7.30PM
TOTALLY MUD FREE ZONE!

Verulam School Sports Ground
Sandpit Lane, St Albans, AL4 0BX

NO PARKING ON SITE
Disabled parking only. **MUST** be pre-booked

TICKETS
Under 5s: **FREE**
5-15 year olds: **£6**
Adults: **£10**
Family: **£30**
2 adults, up to 3 children
Prices higher on the day

Enjoy epic street food, bars with mulled wine, a live DJ, candy floss and breathtaking fireworks set to music!



BOOK HERE!

tinyurl.com/veru2026

A massive THANK YOU to our Sponsors!

Supported by: 



While you sleep tonight

120 young people could become homeless in the UK*

St Albans SLEEPOUT
Friday 13th November 2026
Registration open!



Verulam Cricket Club

New players needed/welcome!

To all Verulam School parents, staff and friends

Friendly social cricket. For occasional, rusty and/or regular adult cricketers - and (when needed) their children! Not for complete beginners, but mixed ability and the emphasis is on "social".

Midweek summer evenings, May to July. 20/20 social format.

We play at club and park venues in and around St Albans.

You'll need whites, but no need to buy equipment as we have a full kit bag.

No minimum commitment, you could play all/most of the 10-12 fixtures, or just 1 or 2.

A match fee covers costs, including a hot snack.

Nets practice sessions in the spring.

Interested? Please contact Matt Melling to join us or with any query: mattmelling@ntlworld.com 07785-374826

