



Verulam School

PROSPECTUS 2016-17



THE GOAL IS EXCELLENCE

“Verulam is one of the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England for pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C including English and Mathematics.”*

NICK GIBB MP, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS

Welcome to the 2016–2017 Verulam School Prospectus

Dear Boys and Parents

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Verulam School and to invite you to join with us in pursuing our goal of excellence in the academic, sporting and social spheres of life. In order to help us achieve these goals we became an academy in August 2011. We believe this gives us the ability to manage our finances in the best interests of our pupils and the freedom to match our curriculum and organisation to our pupils' needs.

I hope you enjoy reading our prospectus and feel inspired to find out more about Verulam – particularly by visiting us on either our open day or during the following open weeks.

At Verulam we believe that:

- **The goal is excellence**
- **All pupils should make good progress and fulfil their potential**
- **All pupils should engage in the life of the school and enjoy their learning**
- **All pupils are ambassadors for the school**
- **High expectations of conduct and cooperation are the norm**
- **Every Lesson Counts**

We are specialists in boys' education and understand that only by making our expectations clear and setting high targets will pupils fulfil their potential. We also recognise that boys succeed when they engage in the sports, social or other extra-curricular activities provided by the school. Most importantly these activities help them to become confident, articulate young men who can succeed in higher education, employment and their personal lives.

At Verulam this means that boys are set ambitious targets, receive regular assessments and feedback and are expected to sign up for the Extra Curricular Core Offer – whether that be involvement in clubs, sport, music or drama. The best adverts for Verulam School are the students – I hope your son wishes to become one.



Paul Ramsey BA (Hons)
Headmaster



EDUCATING BOYS

Why do many boys thrive when educated together?

Single sex education is not the right choice for all, but for many boys it offers the chance to be taught by teachers who understand how boys learn and to study a curriculum that is tailored to their needs.

Verulam is able to offer courses that play to boys' strengths and offers a wealth of extra-curricular activities that they enjoy, leading to greater engagement in learning. Boys and girls do approach learning differently and Verulam's structured approach enables all boys to make good progress.

Many boys benefit from clear rules in the classroom and an ordered approach to

learning. They also succeed when given regular targets and assessments that show them how to improve.

The absence of social pressures also allows them to flourish in their own time and to explore all areas of the curriculum. Thus at Verulam the Arts are as popular as the Maths, Science and Technology subjects at which boys traditionally excel.

We also encourage boys to become leaders and accept responsibility from an early age and thus become ambassadors for the school. Our mixed Sixth Form and collaboration with Beaumont and

Sandringham Schools as part of the nationally recognised BeauSandVer consortium also help our boys to prepare for university and work in an adult environment.

Verulam enables boys to compete and collaborate within an ordered and supportive environment whilst also encouraging them to become leaders and to accept responsibility. Moreover, our dedicated pastoral care supports boys and helps them to become confident and articulate young men.

CURRICULUM

Verulam offers a curriculum which is both flexible and demanding in order to meet the needs of all pupils and seeks to help them achieve the goal of excellence.

Year 7

In Year 7 we present pupils with a wide range of subjects which are mostly taught in all-ability groups. The main exception is Mathematics which is taught in sets.

All pupils follow the National Curriculum including Science, Religious Studies, a two year Key Stage Three Humanities programme and French. Drama, Music, P.E. and Games are very popular. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) is included through a variety of channels such as: during time with form tutors and as part of our personal learning course.

The curriculum is enhanced by four curriculum enrichment days per year when issues or topics are addressed in depth.

Years 8 & 9

In Year 8, Spanish is introduced for most pupils. Setting is now extended to English and Modern Foreign Languages. Pupils will choose their Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities choice of either History or Geography at the end of Year 8.

In Year 9 GCSEs start for English Language, English Literature, Science, Maths, Religious Studies, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

Years 10 & 11

All pupils follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, RS, Technology/Computer Science and Games. They opt for additional GCSE subjects which can include: Physical Education, Art, BTEC Sport, BTEC Business,

Drama, Economics, Music and Business Studies. We introduce three specific pathways for students to maximise potential success at Key Stage 4.

Years 12 and 13

In the Sixth Form students select three A Level subjects. A number of students who study Further Maths in addition to Maths will study four A Level subjects. Level 3 BTEC options are offered in Business and Sport.

Further details of the curriculum can be found on the school or BeauSandVer websites www.verulamschool.co.uk and www.beausandver.net

“Verulam students are often mature, courteous, polite and friendly”

OFSTED, 2014

“Ensuring your pupils are achieving high standards or attainment at Key Stage 4 provides a strong basis for their further education and employment.”

NICK GIBB MP, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS



SIXTH FORM AT VERULAM

The Sixth Form aims not only to give students a first class academic education but to ensure that they emerge as confident and articulate young people who can succeed at university and in the workplace.

Our students are highly successful in gaining university offers and now secure places at the best universities in the country including Oxford, Cambridge and the Russell group. The vast majority of Verulam students choose to continue their education by studying A Levels in the Sixth Form where they are joined by external students seeking to take advantage of the wide range of courses on offer including Photography, Media, Sociology as well as popular traditional subjects such as

Maths, English Literature and the Sciences.

Throughout the two year course students are supported by a Sixth Form tutor from whom they receive individual pastoral support and advice on university applications. Students are given ambitious targets in each subject, progress is assessed regularly and reported to parents.

The Sixth Form is co-educational and we have many female students who are part of our Sixth Form community. Independent study is vital at A Level and so our Sixth Form students have access to a common room with wi-fi and designated study areas such as the library where laptops are available. As well as the in-depth study of their

selected subjects, pupils also enjoy the opportunity to widen their horizons by participating in the 'Engaging Minds' lecture series where experts encourage them to consider wider social, political and cultural issues. Previous lecturers have included journalists, politicians, charity workers, industrialists, eminent scientists and sports personalities who seek to inspire students and provoke thought.

Responsibility for oneself and others is a central part of Sixth Form life. Our students are enabled to develop these qualities via the prefect and house system and thus gain valuable leadership experience.

“The support Verulam gave me over my time at the school was invaluable. Not only does Verulam provide an environment which fosters close friendships, but also an environment in which students in every year group are mentored to become the best they can be.”

EX-STUDENT LEIGH SIMPSON, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY



“Verulam School have been an integral part of the BeauSandVer consortium since its inception over 20 years ago. The consortium has gone from strength to strength and offers a wide range of fantastic curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for all students.”

KATIE BARTER, BEAUSANDVER CO-ORDINATOR



BEAUSANDVER

As part of the highly successful BeauSandVer consortium, students benefit from an extremely wide range of courses and from interacting with students from Beaumont and Sandringham schools. Students can also undertake a wide range of enrichment activities such as critical thinking, EPQ and financial studies as well as participation in the highly successful senior sports teams in each host school. There is also a full range of orchestras, choirs

and frequent drama productions. Young Enterprise is very popular amongst students as well as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Students begin their experience in year 10 and, in recent years, have gone on to gain their Gold award in Corsica, Morocco and New Zealand.

Students can also participate in work experience in order to gain insight into a vocational area or a future career path.

Students also take part in community service through environmental action and community sports leaders awards and coaching in local primary schools. With over 840 students across the three schools BeauSandVer offers a variety of social and academic opportunities unrivalled in St Albans.



“An amazing experience and a great way to end our first year at Verulam!”

OWEN CAMINSKY, YEAR 8 PUPIL



EXTRA CURRICULAR CORE OFFER

It has been long recognised that students will perform better in the classroom if they are fully engaged outside it.

At Verulam there has been a long tradition of such activities after school, at lunch, at weekends and in the holidays. This is now being extended through our Extra Curricular Core Offer (ECCO) which is available to

all Year 7 students as they enter Verulam and for all pupils in Key Stage 3. These activities take place during lunchtimes and after school and include: chess, fencing, dodgeball, skate boarding, multi-media, sailing and many more.

As students enter Key Stage 4, they can take part in the highly popular and

successful Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. ECCO activities provide an opportunity for students to experience a range of activities to broaden their knowledge and skills. They enable students to interact socially outside of the classroom and build positive relationships with other students and staff.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment at Verulam is key to ensuring students mature into well-rounded, engaged and mature individuals. Verulam looks to provide opportunities for all those who enter the gates to make progress, not only in the classroom, but also on a personal and social basis.

Curriculum Enrichment Days are embedded throughout the academic year. On these days students are off timetable and partake in trips and activities to supplement and develop their learning in the classroom. A wide variety of external visitors are welcomed to Verulam to share their expertise and knowledge. Key Stage 3 students take part in activities such as: a town trail, a visit to Hampton Court and a multitude of cultural and social focused

sessions. Throughout Key Stage 4 and 5, pupils enjoy a range of activities, both informative and distinctive from their day-to-day learning, preparing them for further study and life after Verulam.

As a school we run an annual ski trip, as well as, fantastic opportunities for students to explore outdoor adventurous activities in the Lake District and Snowdonia. Students are challenged to complete team building activities such as: sailing, climbing and cycling. There are a range of curricular based trips including: visiting the Normandy Battlefields, Languages, Geography and Biology field trips. Students throughout the school undertake leadership roles as representatives for Sport, House and Learning in their forms. They can be part of

the school councils in order to contribute to the student voice. Students can feedback on a range of issues which impact on their school life and their community.

As students enter Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form, they can become prefects. In this role they will support younger students, run tours of the school and act as role models for the lower school. Students can become journalists for the student magazine, 'Top Button', writing articles, interviewing key staff and meeting our 'Engaging Minds' lecturers. It is through these experiences that students can develop their skills in order to become confident and articulate young men.



THE CREATIVE ARTS

Music, Drama and Art form an important part of the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and many pupils choose to pursue one of these subjects at GCSE level. At A Level the school offers Art, Photography, Media, Music and Music Technology.

However, Drama and the Creative Arts also thrive as a central part of the extracurricular life of the school. We

encourage pupils to take instrumental lessons from specialist teachers; with brass, guitar, piano, percussion, woodwind and strings all well represented.

Music is especially popular and many pupils take part in instrumental groups, form bands or join the Verulam Big Band who as well as participating in school concerts, perform both locally and in Europe.

Recent successful productions have included "Joseph", "Aladdin", "Animal Farm", "Oh What a Lovely War" and "The Odyssey". Art, Drama and Music clubs at lunchtime and after school are also an extremely popular part of the Extra Curricular Core Offer.

SPORT

Sport is central to life at Verulam whether it be representing the School, playing in house competitions, honing skills in Physical Education lessons or just enjoying a game with friends. Through sport, boys learn the benefits of teamwork, develop leadership skills and improve their health and fitness.

Verulam has outstanding sporting facilities including our purpose built sports hall, a climbing wall and two outdoor basketball courts on site. Our extensive playing fields are located off site at Sandpit Lane and

include four football pitches, three rugby pitches and a cricket square. Verulam is one of a small number of state schools that operates a full Saturday fixtures programme for Rugby, Football and Cricket. Our representative sides are very competitive and have achieved considerable success at District, County and National Level.

Through the house system all boys have the opportunity to experience competition in a range of sports. This culminates in the 'Verulympics' where students take part in

fencing, trampolining, fishing, table-tennis, martial arts, badminton, tennis, athletics and many more. The house competition allows boys to work together and encourages house reps and form captains to develop leadership skills. Most students also attend extracurricular sporting clubs for enjoyment or to develop their skills.

The Physical Education team also organise a number of tours and trips including regular outdoor adventure activities and an annual ski trip.



“The respect and friendliness the PE department demonstrate towards the boys and their commitment to developing their sporting skills is exemplary”

PARENT

A CARING COMMUNITY

We believe in supporting your son from secondary transfer to university or job application. Many pupils continue to receive advice and guidance long after they leave the school as they stay part of the Verulam community via the Old Verulamians' Association.

Our pastoral care begins before your son joins Verulam with visits to his primary school by the specialist Year 7 pastoral team and two induction days in the summer term. This ensures that pupils can start at Verulam secure and confident, having made new friends and that they are familiar with the school.

Reserving the Bradshaw building and its playground as a special base for Year 7 helps pupils to feel safe and builds their confidence.

Within a few weeks pupils have successfully made the transition to secondary school and can take advantage of all the opportunities Verulam offers. From Years 8 to 11 Form Tutors and Heads of Year usually stay with their forms and build strong relationships and trust. This enables staff to offer effective care, support and guidance on both social and academic issues. The students have the opportunity to become prefects from Years 7-13 and undertake leadership roles in supporting others. The pastoral team in also well

supported by our Pastoral Support Worker, Matron, Pastoral Mentor and Counsellor.

In the Sixth Form, pupils join specialist Form Tutors who lead Year 12 and 13 forms, enabling excellent academic guidance and assisting with university applications.

Safeguarding covers child protection, 'Prevent', pupil health and safety, bullying, first aid, medical conditions, school security, drugs and substance misuse about which guidance has been issued by the Secretary of State. For further information please see the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

An effective partnership between parents and school helps pupils to achieve their goals and succeed. Communication is vital to achieving a strong partnership which is why we write directly to parents by e-mail, issue a weekly newsletter – 'Verulam Voice' and issue 5 reports per year. Parents and pupils can access homework information through our online system 'Show My Homework'.

Parents can access school records, including details of attendance, rewards and consequences at any time via our

parental E-portal. The School has a very popular Facebook group and the website also provides information for parents and carers: www.verulamschool.co.uk.

We try to ensure that all the details, whether they be about sports fixtures, homework or uniform, are clear and simple to understand as we know this helps boys and makes life simple for parents. If parents do have concerns or queries, we welcome contact by phone e-mail or in person. The sooner we are aware of an issue the sooner it can be resolved.

The Verulam Parent Teacher Association offers opportunities for parents to become involved in school life through fund-raising and social activities such as the Quiz Night and Annual Ball.

We encourage parents to participate in daily school life by acting as lunchtime supervisors, invigilators or by supporting the work of the Special Needs department. Most valued, however, is the regular involvement parents have in encouraging their sons by discussing life at school.

“The fantastic relationships which are developed at Verulam School between staff, students and parents have reaffirmed that there really is no better school for our son.”

PARENT



AMBASSADORS FOR THE SCHOOL

“Students enjoy coming to school and are good ambassadors for it.”

OFSTED, 2014



FIND OUT MORE

We encourage all prospective pupils and parents to visit the school and to observe learning at Verulam. Guided tours including visits to lessons and an opportunity to speak with the Headmaster are scheduled for the Open Weeks commencing Tuesday 4th October until Wednesday 19th October.

Appointments to meet the Headmaster can also be made at other times and include an opportunity to tour the school. Alternatively why not visit Sandpit Lane to see sport on a Saturday morning or come to a concert or play?

Our application process is via Hertfordshire County Council admissions. If you require any further information please log onto the HCC website. www.hertsdirect.org

Booking for open weeks tours and appointments with the Headmaster should be made by contacting 01727 766100 or via e-mail: admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk



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