

Headlines...

Curriculum change this year

A slogan used a lot by Government ministers and other education professionals today is *personalised learning*. It can mean many different things. At Verulam we interpret it as trying to develop the subjects and learning offered to meet the needs of all our students. We have offered, with our Consortium partners, the International Baccalaureate for the first time this year. Over forty BeauSandVer students are now studying a broader range of subjects than the traditional A levels. A colleague told me the other day that the only 3 countries in the world that allow their school students to drop maths and their native language at 16 are Zimbabwe, Botswana and England! Our Transition Year 12 course (T12) was very successful last year in meeting the needs of those students who did not quite achieve the GCSE points score to go on to study 3 A levels. Some have gone on to 6th form, some to college and some to training and employment after achieving worthwhile qualifications. This year also sees the start of a new pathway for a small group of Year 10 students. They will study the core GCSE subjects but combine this with a day at college studying more vocational subjects and a day doing work experience and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Our learning support team also provides personalised support to special needs students. Finally, the school network with online resources also promotes personalised learning with students going at their own pace.



Food for thought

The canteen has been re-branded as the Food for Thought canteen. It has certainly kept ahead of the government's agenda on healthy eating. Recent national research highlighted in the press has shown that school dinners are healthier overall than packed lunches. Every day our students have the choice of 3 main meals, one of which is always vegetarian. They can also choose salads, pasta with a choice of two sauces or pizza. Fruit and healthy sandwiches are also available so students can choose between a plate meal and a healthy sandwich.



Everything looks brighter and livelier in the canteen after its re-paint this summer. Two plasma screens provide school information, news channels and sports updates. If you are a parent who provides a packed lunch why not give our canteen a chance again. We have special meal deals and it will save you the stress of having to prepare the packed lunch each day. The canteen is run and managed entirely by our own staff. All profits go back into improving our tasty but healthy food.

Finally...

If you read this before Saturday 15th September you still have time to put on your old clothes and come up to school to give us a hand brightening up Verulam.

Mr. D. Kellaway

2007-2008 Term Dates

Autumn Term
 4th September - 21 December
 Half Term: 22 October - 26 October
 Spring Term
 7 January - 20 March
 Half Term: 11 February—15 February
 Summer Term
 7 April - 23 July
 Half Term: 26 May - 30 May

Upcoming Events.

11th Sept.	L6 Information Eve. 7pm
14th Sept.	Art Exhibition 6.30-8pm
20th Sept.	School Photos - Yrs. 7,9,11,13
20th Sept.	Year 7 Information Eve/ PTA Cheese and Wine
26th Sept.	Yr. 7BCH Theatre Quest
26th Sept.	Year 10 Mentoring Information Evening
27th Sept.	Year 7JPY Theatre Quest
28th Sept.	Year 7 Town Trail
3rd October	Open Evening
8th-11th Oct.	Open Week
10th October	Year 10 Coursework Info. Eve

TIME OUT FOR TEENAGERS



A six week course to help parents communicate with their teenagers run by Youth Talk. Thursday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm at Verulam School from 4th October to 15th November. Call Jo to reserve a place.

'SAVE A LIFE' – FIRST AID COURSE

As part of Family Learning Week we are holding a one-off session run by the British Red Cross for parents/carers plus one child over the age of 7 years. This runs on Tuesday, 9th October at Fleetville Junior School from 3.45-6.00pm. Call Jo to reserve a place. For further details of either of these course please contact Jo Maher on 01727 855134 or 07939 111152.

School Photographs

School photographs will take place next Thursday for Years 7, 9, 11 and 13

Staffing

We are very fortunate to have begun this academic year fully staffed, having been fortunate enough to recruit a number of well qualified candidates to fill our vacancies. Numbers of new staff this year are significantly less than last year. Our new staff are as follows:

Mr J Durham	Head of ICT	Mrs A Miller	Head of Maths
Ms R Nwodo	Head of Learning Support		
Miss H Hay	Second in Technology		
Mr S Base (p/t)	Sociology	Mr J Little	Geography
Miss A Little	History	Mr D Harrington	Science
Mr L Spence (p/t)	Economics	Ms R Oppenheim	English
Mr L Nichols	Learning Support Assistant		

Mrs M Taylor, Mrs T Smith and Mrs J Emery **Learning Supervisors**

Our Year Learning Managers this year are as follows:

Mr R Mawby - Year 7,	Mrs L Watterson - Year 8,
Mrs J Harrison - Year 9,	Mr D Jones - Year 10,
Mr M Toley - Year 11,	Mrs H Barltrop - Years 12 & 13

VERULAM SCHOOL

BRAMPTON ROAD

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the galleria



The Prince of Wales
Arts & Kids Foundation

trestle
taking part

TheatreQuest 2007 – Getting Year 7 Involved

For the first time, Verulam in collaboration with Trestle Arts Base and The Galleria are taking part in the national school's arts event, TheatreQuest 2007.

Year 7 students will have the opportunity to be directly involving in the creation, devising and performance of an exciting physical theatre performance at The Galleria in December. There will also be a special presentation evening for parents, carers and friends of Verulam at Trestle Arts Base.

The first part of the project is for participating Year 7's to see a special première performance of Trestle Theatre's new touring production of *Little India* on Wednesday 26th September for students in forms 7BCH, and Thursday 27th September in forms 7JPY. A letter with further details and parental consent forms will be sent out early next week. In the meantime, please look out in the Verulam Voice for the latest on TheatreQuest!



ACTV is Back in Action!

ACTV – Verulam Young Peoples' Theatre makes its long awaited return on **Thursday 20th September 2007!**

Open to students from Year's 7-10, ACTV is the place to be for those interested in developing their performance skills and getting involved in the school productions. The project will run from **3:45pm until 4:30pm every Thursday.**

Nestlé Tennis Success

During the summer term the year 9 and 10 tennis team played in the Nestlé schools tennis competition. During the group stage we beat Chancellors, Richard Hale, St Albans Boys' school and Haberdashers. This meant that we won our division and got through to the county finals. In the semi final we lost to Rickmansworth School 4-2, which equalled our success last year.

For each match the team was made up of four boys. All of the following boys played in at least one of the matches: Chris Ruis, Tommy Hunt, David Gwynn, Hardain Nandra, George Irving and Haydn Dodge.



Chris Ruis 11P

Earrings

Please note that the wearing of earrings in Years 7-11 is strictly prohibited. Boys found to be wearing earrings will have them confiscated, in the first instance for a week.

In the Sixth Form **only**, the wearing of a metallic stud earring is allowed for pupils .