



Verulam School

PROSPECTUS 2018-19





V Verulam Values

E Enthusiastic learner

R Respectful of staff & school

U Understanding of others

L Listens carefully

A Aims high

M Makes the most of opportunities



The Goal is Excellence

Welcome to the 2018–2019 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 joined the Alban Academies Trust in September 2018. Verulam shares the AAT's vision of "educational excellence for everyone" and we believe that by working together Verulam School and our pupils will make swift progress towards our goal of excellence.

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 the goal is excellence. We believe that:

- 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 should be respectful of the staff and school
- All pupils should be understanding of others
- All pupils are ambassadors for the school

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 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



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE

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

Our pastoral care begins before you son joins Verulam with visits to his primary school by the specialist Year 7 pastoral team, and with 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.

We reserve the Bradshaw building and its playground as a special base which enables Year 7 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 form to 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 Year 7 onwards and undertake leadership roles in supporting others. The pastoral team is well supported by our Pastoral 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 or apprenticeship pathways.

Safeguarding is central to all we do at Verulam. We strive to ensure that pupils feel supported at all times and have the confidence to seek help when they need it. All pupils learn to identify their "Five Fingers of Faith" - five members of staff or friends to whom they can turn when they need help.

The school has a zero tolerance policy on any kind of discriminatory attitudes, behaviour or language and we are pleased that pupils report that they feel safe and know from whom to seek help if they experience difficulties. For further information on our approach to pupil health and safety, bullying, first aid, medical conditions and school security please speak to our pastoral team or our Designated Senior Person for Child Protection.

“You correctly regard safeguarding in its wider context and have taken clear action to promote pupils’ well-being and positive behaviour in the school.”

OFSTED HMI JULY 2018



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 through 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 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 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, Media Studies, Economics, Music and Business Studies. Year 10 students will sit their English Literature GCSE at the end of Year 10.

YEARS 12 & 13

In the Sixth Form students select three A Level or BTEC courses. 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, Media and Sport.

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



EDUCATING BOYS

Why do 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 our 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 certain social pressures which single-sex education

provides also allows them to flourish at their own pace and to explore all areas of the curriculum. Thus, at Verulam the Arts and Food Preparation and Nutrition are as popular as the Maths, Science and Technology; subjects at which boys traditionally excel.

We 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 BeauSandVer Education Trust also help our boys to prepare for university through working in an adult environment.

Verulam enables boys to compete and collaborate within an ordered and supportive environment whilst 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.

PARTNERSHIP IN 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 Show My Homework. Parents can also access school records, including details of attendance, rewards and consequences at any time via our parental portal - MyChildAtSchool. 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 sport 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 Verulam Parent Teacher Association offers opportunities for parents to become involved in school life through fund-raising and social activities such as quiz nights and the 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 with them their life at school.



“Pupils achieve well at Key Stage 4. Leaders have a clear understanding of pupils’ starting points. This information is used well to track pupils’ progress and provide additional support so that aspirational targets are met.”

OFSTED 2017

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment at Verulam is key to ensuring all 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 and visits to a multitude of cultural and social London-based excursions. 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 an A-Level field trip to Iceland, Humanities trip to Amsterdam and other 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 a part of the School Council in order to contribute to the Student Voice. Students can feedback on a range of issues which impact on the school life and their community.

As students move up through the school, they can become prefects, taking on more responsibilities. In this role they will support younger students, run tours of the school and act as a role model 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.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CORE OFFER

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

At Verulam our tradition of running activities after school is now delivered through our Extra Curricular Core Offer (ECCO). ECCO is available to all Year 7 students as they enter Verulam, and continues throughout Key Stage 3. These activities take place during lunchtime, after school, at weekends and in the holidays; and include: chess, fencing, dodgeball, skate boarding, multi-media, sailing, as well as the usual sports, music and art groups.

As students enter Key Stage 4, they can take part in the highly popular Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Throughout their time at school, ECCO provides an opportunity for students to experience a range of activities to broaden their knowledge and skills and to interact socially outside of the classroom, building positive relationships with other students and staff.



“The Lake District trip was a brilliant adventure which everyone really enjoyed!”

CHARLIE TAYLOR, YEAR 8 PUPIL



THE CREATIVE ARTS AND STEM

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 and Music.

However, Drama and the Creative Arts also thrive as a central part of the extraordinary life of the school. We encourage pupils to take instrumental lessons from specialist teachers; brass, guitar, piano, percussion, wood wind and strings are 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 From", "Oh What a Lovely War", "The Odyssey" and "Grimms' Tales". Art, Drama and Music clubs at lunchtime and after school are also an extremely popular part of the Extra Curricular Core Offer.

STEM

The school now boasts a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lab which enables pupils across all years to benefit from an integrated approach to the sciences and technology. The newly refurbished facilities enhance taught lessons and a variety of extra-curricular clubs.

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, sailing and many more sporting events.

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



“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



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 home 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, so our students have access to a common room with Wi-Fi and designated study areas such as the library where lap tops 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.

“Outcomes for students are good in the Sixth Form. Pupils achieve well across the broad spectrum of subjects, in both academic and vocational courses.”

OFSTED 2017



BEAUSANDVER

As part of the highly successful BeauSandVer consortium, students benefit from an extremely wide range of courses and from interacting with their peers from Beaumont and Sandringham schools. Students can undertake a wide range of enrichment activities such as the 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 D. of E. experience in Year 10 and, in recent years, have gone on to gain their Gold Award in Corsica, Morocco and New Zealand.

Students can participate in work experience in order to gain insight into a vocational area or future career path. Students take part in community service through environmental action and community Sports Leaders Award 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.



AMBASSADORS FOR THE SCHOOL

“I observed pupils demonstrating positive attitudes towards their learning in lessons and moving sensibly and purposefully around the school between lessons and break times and during lunchtimes.”

OFSTED HMI JULY 2018

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 3rd October until Thursday 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

Verulam School,
Brampton Road,
St. Albans, Herts,
AL1 4PR

Tel: 01727 766100

Fax: 01727 766256

E-mail: admin@verulam.herts.sch.uk

www.verulamschool.co.uk

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