

The Victory Academy Newsletter

July 2022

Principal's End of Term Address

As we approach the end of the academic year, I have taken some time to reflect on all that we have achieved. Our newsletters only give a snapshot of all the wonderful opportunities available to our students, as well as their successes. Our staff have continued to work relentlessly to ensure our students have the best experiences both in and out of the classroom. I am particularly proud that we have achieved Advanced Thinking Accreditation as well as becoming an Associate School with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

This term we have said farewell to our Year 11 and 13 students. I am looking forward to sharing their exam results successes with them during the summer break and supporting them in the next stages of their education or career. We have welcomed our new Year 7 students to the Academy for their transition day and spent the day with them at The Historic Dockyard. We are really looking forward to welcoming them full time in September.

At the end of this term we say farewell to some of our staff and wish them well in the next stages of their careers. We say goodbye to Mrs M Hall. Mrs Hall has worked here for over 20 years and has been integral in shaping and supporting so many of our students. Mrs Hall will remain in the Thinking Schools Academy Trust and will support all our schools in her new role. We would also like to say farewell and thank you to: Mr J Carr, Mr E Williams, Miss P Tan, Miss P Marcis, Mr J Briggs, Miss S Beere, Mrs A Abu and Miss E Anderson.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents, carers, and Governors for their support. Working together is essential to ensure the best possible life chances for our young people – thank you.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer.



Key Dates Academic Year 2022-23

Term 1

Monday 5th September to Thursday
20th October 2022

Year 7 Baseline Testing – w/c
12/09/22

Year 7 Settling In Evening – 22/09/22

Year 6 Open Evening – 06/10/22

Autumn Break – Monday 24th
October to Friday 28th October 2022

Term 2

Tuesday 1st November to Friday 16th
December 2022

Year 13 Parents' Evening – 03/11/22

Year 11 Parents' Evening – 17/11/22

Christmas Break – Monday 19th
December 2022 to Monday 2nd
January 2023

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Website - <https://www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk/>

Facebook - [@TheVictoryAcademyChatham](https://www.facebook.com/TheVictoryAcademyChatham)

Twitter - [@TheVA_Chatham](https://twitter.com/TheVA_Chatham)

Updates and News

Uniform

Ahead of the new academic year please can we ask for support in ensuring students have the correct uniform. As part of our Victory Values we take pride in ensuring a high standard of uniform and appearance. Items marked * can be purchased from our uniform supplier identified below.

Our School Uniform:

- Academy blazer*
- Academy tie (House colour)*
- Plain black V-neck jumper (optional item in addition to a blazer)
- White shirt either long or short sleeved
- Plain black straight leg trousers (no skinny fit or denim) or plain black knee-length skirt
- Plain black ankle socks (no frills or colours) or plain black or skin colour tights
- Plain black flat formal enclosed shoes (no boots, canvas shoes or trainers)
- Black headscarf (to be worn for religious reasons only)

Performing Arts & PE Kit:

- Academy PE top*
- Academy half-zip long sleeve top (optional)* no other long sleeve tops are acceptable
- Plain navy shorts or plain navy knee-length cycling shorts with discreet logo
- Trainers
- Navy football socks (desirable)
- Football boots with plastic studs (desirable)
- Shin pads (desirable)

Uniform can be purchased online from [Simmonds](#) or alternatively the nearest shops are:

S Simmonds & Son Ltd
Newnham Court Shopping Village
Bearsted Road
Maidstone
ME14 5LH

S Simmonds & Son Ltd
Chatham Dockside
Maritime Way
Chatham
ME4 3ED
Telephone: 01892 837202



Chatham Wellbeing Champion

Congratulations to Mrs Monika Oracova for winning Chatham Wellbeing Champion of the Year! Monika is the Community Liaison Officer here at The Victory Academy, and works closely with our community. Recently she has set up free English classes for adults on Saturdays as well as working closely to support families from Ukraine. Monika is forever going above and beyond to support those who need it. She is a true Victory Hero!

Changes to School Payments

From 1st September 2022 we will be changing to PlusPay, an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily via the MyEd app. This will be the only form of payment from this date.

We already use the MyEd app to send communication, including updates and letters home. It also gives you access to your child's attendance records and more. The MyEd app is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices. Once you have installed the app, search for The Victory Academy and follow the instructions to identify yourself. PlusPay can then be found under the 'My Students' tab and 'Payments'.

For more information please visit our website [here](#).



Terms 5 and 6 Events

Dockyard Awards Evening

On Monday 4th July we held our Awards Presentation Evening at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. It was a great evening celebrating our students, along with their families and teachers. The Fame Jr cast showcased some performances from the show, and awards were given out for subject progress, subject achievement, Victory Virtues and Head of Year. A special congratulations to Emils L and Sergejs S for winning the Principal Award and the Sam Rooks Award.



Mental Health Awareness Week

In May we embraced Mental Health Awareness Week and encouraged our students and staff to start conversations about mental health and the things in our daily lives that can affect it. Each day we focused on a different activity which could positively improve wellbeing. These activities included acts of kindness, being active, learning and trying something new and caring for our planet. On the Friday we wore green ribbons which are the international symbols of mental health awareness. It was great to see the creative ways our students wore their ribbons.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Friday 27th May we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Students and staff wore non-uniform in red, white and blue colours. There were themed cupcakes and juice on sale, and we hosted a staff and parent/carer raffle to win some Jubilee and summer themed goodies. The money raised went to George Hughes' Go Fund Me Page and Great Ormond Street Hospital.



STEM Magnets Workshop

In April we welcomed the STEM Roadshow Team to deliver a workshop to our Year 8. They learnt about magnets and electromagnets, and how they are used in engineering. The workshop was a fun and energetic way to learn, and we especially loved the magic tricks from Mr Magnet!





Terms 5 and 6 Events

TSArTs Week

In June we took part in Thinking Schools Academy Trust's TSArTs Week, which focused on the Arts and



brought the Trust schools together with a range of artistic and creative opportunities. A variety of artwork from across the schools was put on display in a virtual gallery tour. The gallery can be visited [here](#). Our submission for The Victory Academy was a stunning painting by Roni-Leigh L in Year 11.

Throughout the week our Art and English departments put on activities based around the TSArTs daily themes of Marks, Words, Sounds, Moves, and Images. It was great to see so much creativity and imagination amongst our students and staff.



Trust's Got Talent

The Performing Arts department were chosen to represent The Victory Academy in both the student and staff entries of Trust's Got Talent. The students performed a dance routine to 'Requiem for a Tower' choreographed collaboratively by Miss Wilson and the students involved. The students did the school proud with their team work, creativity and hard work. For the staff entry Mrs Crane-Herbert, Miss Wilson and Mr Johnson performed 'For Good' from the musical Wicked.



The entries from across TSAT were judged by presenter and actor Ore Oduba. We are so proud to announce that our students won the secondary school category! Ore sent a video announcing The Victory Academy as winners and commented on the dance. "I thought it was outstanding. Firstly, I loved the theme tune and you all danced superbly well to it. I loved how synchronized you all were, you are all obviously supremely talented and the young guy (Logan M) who was front and centre really commanded that stage so well."



Terms 5 and 6 Events

Around the World

Both New Horizons Children’s Academy and The Victory Academy have been working together this academic year to produce a show that celebrates a range of dance styles and cultures from all around the world. On Wednesday 15th June we celebrated this by performing a diverse selection of dances at The Victory Academy to over 150 family, friends and teachers.

The project has been a fantastic opportunity for all involved. A group of our students have been responsible for exploring each dance style to teach to Years 3 and 4. They visited New Horizons in March and taught workshops and choreography. This allowed our students to gain some valuable teaching experience and also gave them the chance to work with younger students. After the workshops, the New Horizons students and their teachers went away and continued to develop these dances and explore their style of dance in more depth. They also spent time during their lessons looking into the different cultures and history behind the dance styles from around the world. A few weeks before the performance, New Horizons filmed their progress with their dances for the Victory students to watch and give feedback. They decided on what feedback to give to help New Horizons students develop and improve their dances even more.



The Around the World show was a great success. Years 3 and 4 performed Samba, Jazz, Bollywood, Irish, African and Street dance styles amazingly.

Our Victory students also decided to come together to create a performance as part of the celebration. They explored the unique style of dance by Michael Jackson, incorporating jazz, popping, locking and hip-hop. They performed to Thriller.



Evie W – “I have loved being part of this experience because it has allowed me to develop skills and have a sense of responsibility.”

Logan M – “Some skills I have learnt from the Around the World project were listening skills as I needed to listen to the children and their feedback and if they needed help. Communication skills as I needed to deliver and teach the students and help them along the way. Lastly, it has helped me improve and has boosted my confidence a lot, so in summary it was a really good experience.”

This was a fantastic opportunity to see the work of two schools within TSAT work together to create a collaborative show. It has been a creative and educational experience for all those involved.



Thinking Conversations

Edition 5: CoRT Tools

This informative Thinking Resource can be used to engage in a reflective conversation with your child about their Thinking Mastery task. We will be posting more thinking-based resources on our social media channels throughout the academic year.

What are CoRT tools?

CoRT (Cognitive Research Trust) is the name given to a programme of 60 'thinking tools' designed by Dr Edward de Bono.

CoRT was designed to explore the direct teaching of thinking as a skill in schools.

Originally formulated for teachers of English, the programme is now used throughout the education sector, across subjects.

Benefits of The CoRT tools:

- ✓ People can learn to think and judge for themselves
- ✓ Develop a greater understanding and appreciation of your own potential
- ✓ Become more proactive and constructive
- ✓ Provides for broader thinking and a more comprehensive viewpoint or decision

What your child has been doing in form time this week:

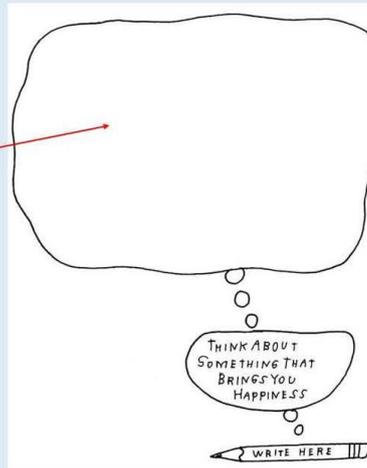
Completed w/c 11th July

TASK 38: What brings you happiness?

Draw or write about something that brings you happiness.



What are the first important priorities to achieve your happiness?



Creating, imagining and innovating.

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How you can use Victory Virtues with your child at home:

First Important Priorities

You use this tool to prioritise ideas, concepts and actions.

Ask your child to consider their First Important Priorities in order to identify their areas for development.

Consider what strategies they might use in order to improve the areas identified.



FIP – First Important Priorities:

First Important Priorities is a problem solving activity that guides students to see connections among researched facts, independent thinking, and pertinent action. By practicing the strategy, students learn to examine their own ideas, discuss and challenge other's ideas, question how final decisions are made, and see how the process of decision-making impacts outcomes.



Physical Education

The PE department always enjoys the Summer terms as the weather brightens and we look forward to Sports Day and District Sports. This year was particularly exciting as we have not had these events since 2019. Well done to all the students who represented The Victory Academy.

SSG District Athletics

Congratulations to all the medal winners and pupils who took part in the SSG District Athletics Championship this year. All athletes competed well with many achieving new PBs.



The medal winners are:
Leonia M – 100m Silver Medal
Michael N – Triple Jump Silver Medal
Beneti B – Discus Silver Medal
Temitayo A – Javelin Gold Medal
Joel C – Shot Put Gold Medal

Ella C – 1500m Bronze Medal
Chineye O – Discus Silver Medal

Sports Day

This year's Sports Day was extremely successful and enjoyed by all students, particularly those who won medals. Competitors took part in morning field events, then the whole school got to watch the afternoon track events and staff race.

Congratulations to Leviathan for being our overall winners of Sports Day. The individual year group winning houses were:

- Year 7 – Cavalier (7.3 & 7.7)
- Year 8 – Cavalier (8.3 & 8.7)
- Year 9 – Gannet (9.4 & 9.8)

SSG Cricket



Our Year 7 cricket teams enjoyed taking part in the SSG cricket competition. There were some thrilling games, including against other Trust schools.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The DofE Bronze Award participants continue to work towards their Expedition. They have been practising putting up tents, improving their map reading skills, learning basic first aid, and understanding the rules of the countryside. Students have been working hard on their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections throughout the academic year. Students are completing their Physical section by doing a variety of team sports, walking tracked by STRAVA or attending the gym. The Skill section has them completing a variety of activities such as cooking, artwork, photography, and sign language. For the Volunteering section some are using their time after school helping in the library.





Physical Education (cont)

Football Season

A big well done to all of the football teams this season. The Year 7 team finished 5th overall out of 11 local secondary schools and wrapped up the season this term with a fine 2-1 win away at Thomas Aveling. The standout performers this season were Duncan S, Ethan D and Ollie G.

The Year 8 team also had some very good results and finished 8th out of 11 Medway secondary schools. A really strong performance against St John Fisher winning 7-2, and a narrow 0-1 loss to Thomas Aveling ended a season where the boys really improved as a team.

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 football teams. Both year groups won their respective leagues this season. The Year 9 team also made the quarterfinals of the Cup Competition, but lost to Rainham Mark. Special mentions to some Year 9 standout performers; Junior A, Abdul B, Abdaelay D, Dennis Z and Samuel E who scored four goals in the final game.

The Year 10 team went one better by reaching the semi-finals of their Cup Competition, but unfortunately lost to a very strong Howard School team. Well done to all the players involved in a really successful season.

APD Football Academy

The Sixth Form students finished 8th in the Kent Schools Academies League North Division, out of 14 teams, and finished the season really well. As a team they have made huge improvements from the start of the season and will look to build on this impressive form next season.

The APD team have had the opportunity to play some high-profile fixtures against the likes of AFC

Wimbledon and Chatham Town, and this has been a great opportunity. They have also recently returned from a UK tour during the Easter holidays where they played against professional clubs Tranmere Rovers and Mansfield Town. They also had an amazing evening watching the Champions League quarterfinal match between Manchester City and Atletico Madrid at the Etihad Stadium.

Rugby Club

Since the start of the academic year, Miss Gardner and Mr Power have been running weekly rugby sessions on Thursdays after school. The club encourages year groups to learn key rugby skills and build on their teamwork. The diverse range of students has pushed the social boundaries between Years 7-10, building a friendly Rugby community. The students support each other to be confident in their abilities, gain respect, and consistently push each other to do better. We promote the school's values by encouraging the team to show pride and respect when representing the school.

Very recently, we played a friendly touch fixture against Holcombe Grammar School. Holcombe supported our students throughout and both teams showed excellent showmanship. A warm thank you to Mr Doyle and Mr Nanson for helping to organise the fixture and making sure that it ran smoothly.



PE (cont)

Basketball Launch

In September we plan to increase the basketball provision here at The Victory Academy. In preparation we were delighted to have the services of Ciaran Sandy who ran a Basketball workshop on Tuesday 12th July. Ciaran grew up in Medway playing Basketball for Kent Crusaders and was coached by Mr Fenton when he started competitive basketball. He is now on a full athletic scholarship at Mercyheart University, Pennsylvania, USA. Around 70 students from different year groups enjoyed some top Basketball coaching.



PE Honours

The PE Department would like to congratulate 56 pupils for being awarded the PE Honours Bronze Award for services to the department. This includes representation at fixtures and Secondary School Games competitions. The recipients also include our Football League winners and new School Record holders.

Special mention to the following who have been awarded PE Honours Silver Awards this year, building on their previous Bronze Award.



- Freddie B
- Jack W
- Tomi S
- Daniel A
- Colin I
- Julija A

Design Technology

Year 7 and 8 Projects



Year 5 Visit

In July we had a visit from New Horizons Children's Academy Year 5 students. They took part in DT activities and made some wonderful creations.



Engineering Club Projects



Performing Arts

Fame Jr

This year over 100 students supported the summer school production of Fame Jr at The Victory Academy. Technical Theatre students across Year 7-12 designed and painted the set built by our Victory Site Team, whilst performers worked hard on the choreography, acting, and singing to bring the show alive. Students engaged in four months of rehearsals and preparation, committing their lunchtimes and after school time



to be a part of the iconic show. Seeing the students' confidence grow throughout this process was very special to see, and as a team we are thrilled we were able to work with multiple casts to provide more students with lead performer and lead

backstage opportunities. The students' hard work paid off, performing to five audiences through the course of a week including; the entire Year 7 cohort, an incredibly enthusiastic Year 5 audience from New Horizons, and evening performances to friends, family and staff. Huge congratulations to all involved.

Isla N – “For me, being in Fame Jr helped develop my confidence in my abilities as there was a lot of support from teachers when I felt I wasn't fully capable, so I managed to progress past it. Having Harrison take over for the role of Nick with around a week until the show was very nerve racking at first, but everyone in the cast contributed by giving help if necessary and adjusting well to the last-

minute change. Doing Fame was an excellent experience and developed friendships throughout the cast, and I would definitely recommend being in the school's performances.”

Karolina K – “Being in the show was an amazing experience that taught me cooperation and patience. I was cast as a lead role in the show and that really showed me how with practice better opportunities open up to you. At the beginning of Fame Jr, I was only supposed to do a couple of nights but I was told I was going to be doing all the nights, and I felt really excited but nervous at the same time. I was really excited because this showed me that if I worked hard all of it would pay off in the future and it did. Having a duet in the show with another lead role showed what I was capable of and how much I believed in myself to do good.”



Performing Arts (cont)

Medway's Got Talent

The Victory Academy students were honoured to be selected to represent Medway secondary schools at the Medway's Got Talent celebration. Year 8 students were able to showcase the excellent choreography created in their Dance lesson led by Miss Lacey, performing to Thriller. Rileigh D performed her solo 'There She Goes/Fame' and Isla N performed her solo 'Let's Play a Love Scene', supported by Kiera B and Logan M as dancers. The students did the school proud and performed with professionalism, energy, and beautiful phrasing. Thank you to Mrs Oracova and our Performing Arts Team for organising this experience.

RSC Associate School

Mrs Voisey and Miss Cumming are delighted to announce we have been successful in securing a place as an Associate School with the Royal Shakespeare Company from September 2022. This will provide students across the Academy with opportunities to not only explore the Bard's work in new and practical ways, but also to watch out for information on being part of performances taking place across Kent. Our staff team are excited to explore established RSC active approaches and bring them into the classroom. We look forward to starting this valuable journey with the selected group of schools and the Marlowe Theatre.

FLUX Students

This year, we have been working with several professional companies to increase engagement in the arts and promote creativity. Our FLUX Project has proved successful, designed to unlock and maximise creative potential through music technology, whilst building confidence and raising self-esteem. Sessions this year have included singing, song writing, rapping, spoken word, performing arts and more. At the end of the first phase of this project in July, students came together and recorded their music, so we look forward to celebrating this work soon! FLUX will be continuing next year, to engage students through performing arts.

Slapstick Workshop



Theatre 31 have provided many fantastic workshops across the Academy this year, for students across Years 7-11 in Performing Arts. One highlight from students this term was the slapstick workshop delivered to all Year 7 students as part of their Arts Award Bronze

qualification, in addition to Year 9 actors and many Year 10, 11 and 12 performers. Students embraced their inner comedian during these workshops, whilst learning the delicate intricacies of performing comedic punches, kicks, and hair-pulls. The workshop was led by the professional actor and comedian Callum Donnelly. Students embraced these varied workshops and have continued to push themselves outside their comfort zone by trying something new within a safe, supportive environment. We are very pleased to have seen many new stars shine through this experience.

Puppeteering Workshop

Performing Arts were delighted to welcome Half a String theatre company to The Victory Academy this July for a Puppeteering Workshop. A group of students from Years 7-10 learnt how to make and manipulate a puppet, bringing their own puppets to life in performances during the workshop.

Students reflected afterwards; "it was so great to do something completely different", "I loved watching the professionals show us how the puppets could breathe and move" and "it's made me think about how many different avenues there are within the Performing Arts industry".

We look forward to working with A&E Lab and Half a String in the future to continue to offer varied workshops to our students.



PA (cont)

Dance Competition

Students were thrilled to get through to the final of the National dance competition The Great Dance Off in Folkestone. Our students from Year 7, 8 and 12 were able to showcase the excellent choreography created by Miss Wilson. The students did the school proud and performed with professionalism, energy, and beautiful emotion, achieving the highest score out of all combined Key Stage groups. The students helped spread an important message to their audience, through the theme of this piece.

Year 7 Arts Award

Year 7 have been completing their Arts Award accreditation this past academic year. They have had the chance to work with an external practitioner in a slapstick comedy workshop. Students have also learnt and shared new skills within drama, dance and music. Year 7 students have carried out research into the Arts industry and created work based on practitioners who inspire them. They have also recently had the experience of being an audience member for the school production Fame Jr. They then had the chance to write a review on their experience. It has allowed them to have new experiences as well as develop their skills within Performing Arts.

&Juliet Theatre Trip

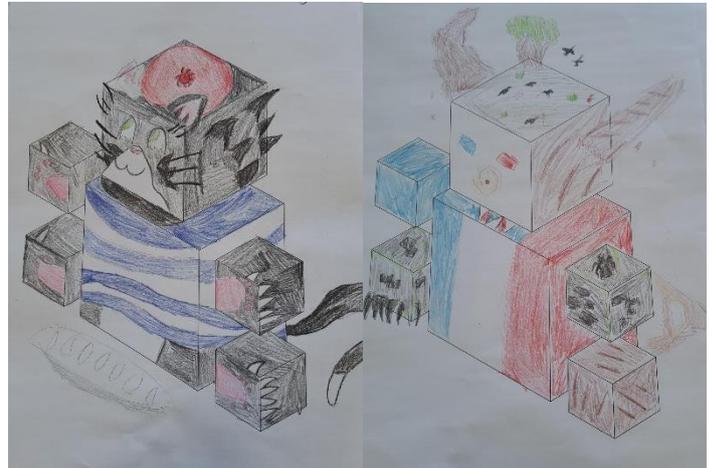
On Monday 13th June our Performing Arts students had a great time seeing &Juliet at The Shaftesbury Theatre. The new musical is a contemporary twist on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.



MFL

French & DT Combined Lesson

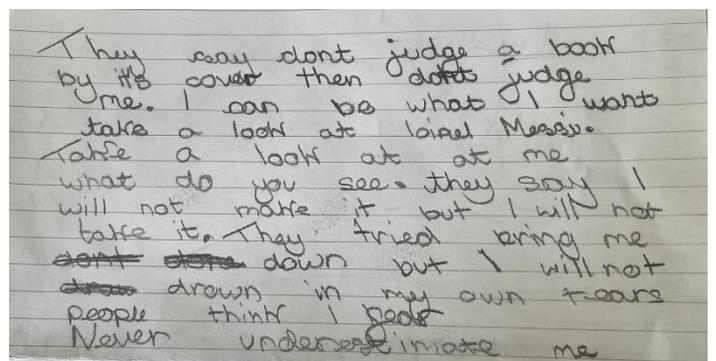
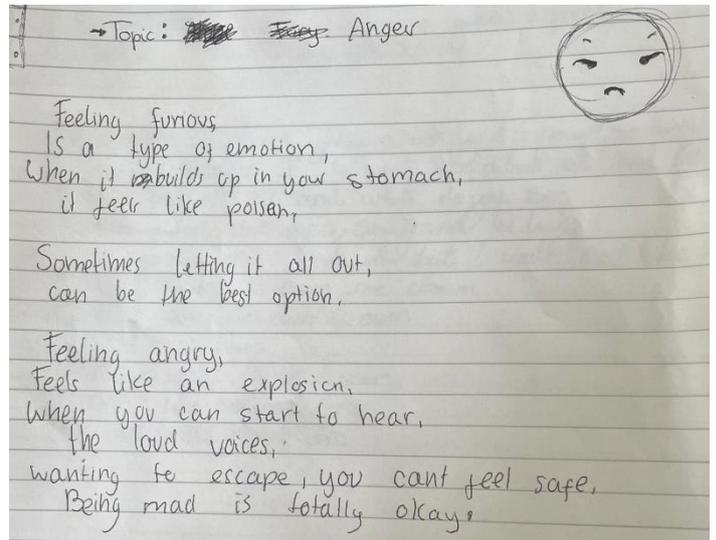
Our 7G class created some DT technical drawings with Miss Vaughan in their French class recently. It's great to see the outcomes of two combined subjects.



English

Slam Poems

Students from 8G1 have been creating and performing slam poems. The poems below were written by Amelia F and Maksymilian P.





Geography

GCSE Fieldtrip

After many disrupted years, our Year 10 finally had the opportunity to conduct their fieldwork for their GCSE Paper 3 which gave over 80 students the chance to explore Folkestone and Dymchurch. The students investigated the impact of tourism on Folkestone identifying where the coastal town had received investment, which meant they could discover the fantastic sights and smells of the Harbour Arm. Students then investigated the effectiveness of hard engineering in Dymchurch, engaging with the groynes and sea wall on what was a brilliant day in the summer sun. A massive thank you to all staff who supported, but especially to our students who were exceptional throughout. They received positive comments from the public with regards to their politeness, commitment and conduct when in and around Folkestone and Dymchurch. They made the Academy proud.

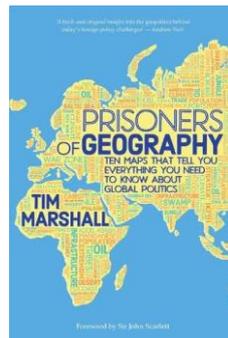
Geography Stars

This high standard we saw on the fieldtrip was expected as students across our GCSE classes have stretched themselves throughout this academic year. Particular students include Callum B, Gabriela D, Diogo B, Willow C, Christine G, Kika B, Louisa H and Karolina K, who have all displayed consistent success in Geography this year. They have sought opportunities to work beyond the GCSE specification, engaging in fascinating geographical debates where they have begun to effectively speak like a geographer, and shown enthusiasm to develop and improve when faced with difficulty. We want this to continue as a GCSE cohort into Year 11!

Two Year 8 students went above and beyond earlier this year when they participated in the 'This

Is Geography' national competition run by the Christ Church College, as part of Oxford University. As part of this competition, Chineye O and Ayoka B produced a presentation about a geographical issue that relates to them personally using a range of geographical software and tools. This was a fantastic opportunity for real geographic application and the department were incredibly proud of their endeavours.

We are proud of the efforts of our KS3 students who have persevered throughout this challenging academic year. The students have been stretched, engaging with demanding and contemporary issues which will dictate their lives beyond the classroom into the future. For example, our Year 9 have explored the geopolitics of climate change, questioning who is responsible and the challenges facing our leaders who could formulate solutions. In



addition, their work this term on boarders has sparked fierce debate, informed by Tim Marshall and his book 'Prisoners of Geography'. Even our Year 7 have had opportunities to question their own misconceptions of our planet using 'Factfulness' by Hans Rosling.

We are excited as a department for what lies ahead next year as we seek even more opportunities to broaden our students' horizons with Geography. Over the summer we will be working for ways to increase the use of state-of-the-art technology and software to enhance the student experience, and provide opportunities for students to discuss the pressing issues facing our world today.

We look forward to seeing our students back in September and hope everyone has a restful summer.

History

History Mystery Club



History Mystery Club is an opportunity for budding young historians to extend their curiosity beyond the classroom and investigate deeper mysteries from the lost city of Atlantis to Area 51. In this club we aim to come up with the most logical answer to mysteries

that have perplexed others. Our reoccurring investigators include Tomass, Danny, Benjamin, Liam, Reece, Rihards, Andre, Denis, Russel and Abdoul, all from Year 7-9. History Mystery Club is held every Wednesday in G19 from 3.15pm to 4pm.

The Royal Engineers Museum

Earlier this year Year 9 were set a competition to create an emotive piece around the First World War. We had some amazing submissions including diary entries, drawings, letters and family photos.

The reward was a personal tour of The Royal Engineers Museum in Brompton. Although originally delayed due to COVID restrictions, we finally made it and had a beautiful sunny day. The students were given the opportunity to hold a Victoria Cross of our local hero, James McFadden. It was made extra special with great praise from the Museum's manager complimenting our students on their conduct and behaviour during our visit.



History Stars

We have been so proud of our Year 7 and how they have accepted any challenge given to them, especially with Medway Project, working as a team and developing presentation skills.

Year 8 enjoyed topics such as; Persecution and Migration, The Elizabethan Golden Age, and The Irish Troubles.

The History department are looking forward to our new Year 10 in September. Our current Year 10 have been doing amazingly well during their mock exams. Ms Cullen would like to say well done for those who came to her tutorial lessons after school, keep up the commitment and see you all in September.

As a department we are constantly looking at improvements to learning. Mr Willicombe, Miss Dower and Ms Cullen will be putting their heads together during the summer holidays to organise trips for all of KS3 and KS4. A big thank you to all the students this year for their engagement in learning, conversations and just for being you! We are forever grateful to our students in making us understand why we teach.

A Message from Miss Dower

As a new member of the History department at The Victory Academy I have been completely bowled over by the enthusiasm of KS3 students every lesson.

This term alone, Year 7 have shown me their curiosity for the Islamic Golden Age with students such as Amir O being a great example of someone who stretches their vocabulary using key words each lesson. Year 8 have navigated the complexities of the Irish Troubles with students such as Lianna M and Samuel F showing each lesson their determination and persistence to discuss the topic critically. Finally, Year 9 have wowed me with their enthusiasm, curiosity and analysis of the Canonical Five and Jack the Ripper and have tactfully used evidence we have learnt to support their arguments. I could not have asked for a better first year at The Victory Academy and can't wait to see what the students bring into the classroom in September.

Science

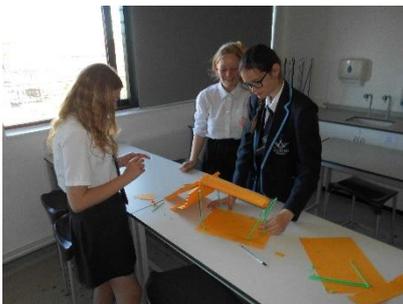
Poster Competition

As part of National Science Week, the Science department held a poster competition on the theme of growth. We are pleased to announce that our winner was Louise A from Year 9. Louise's entry, along with two others, was submitted to the National Competition. Although not successful in making the list of National winners, you will surely agree that Louise's poster is fabulous. If any students would like a closer look at the fantastic detail and perhaps learn a thing or two about acorns and oak trees, Louise's poster will be on display in the Science department until next term.



Virtual STEM Challenge

On 11th July Year 7 took part in a virtual STEM Challenge and Careers Day provided by PPMA Best, a consortium of engineering companies, through STEM Learning. During the day students listened to talks from professionals working as engineers and took part in two activities. The first was to build an Eco Factory Roller Loader using only the items provided and within the time scale.



The idea was to move items along the loader slowly. Each Roller Loader was tested with a marble and the slowest verified time without the marble stopping was recorded. The second challenge was to think of a new invention or piece of technology, draw a design of the idea, then work on a pitch to be delivered in 40 seconds. Each tutor group chose their best pitch and then Mrs Crane-Herbert and Miss Simperl decided on the

overall winner. All those who took part received an engineering ruler. The winners of the trophies are: The Best Eco Factory Roller Loader was group 7.7 with a time of 22.5 seconds

The Best Pitch was group 7.5 with their invention of



a robot turtle that roamed the oceans picking up and recycling plastic waste. Congratulations to both tutor groups and well done to all those who took part.

Sustainable Futures Challenge

Year 7 students Alex K, Tayler C, Joel T, and Maxymilian M earned STEM Without Borders certificates for entering the Sustainable Futures: Innovation Challenge. The certificate is awarded by the Royal Academy of Engineering for taking part in the challenge. The students came up with a creative solution to tackle some of the biggest challenges that are impacting our environment and creating carbon emissions. To earn a certificate the students had to design and engineer a technology that works towards a sustainable future. The ideas were presented in a project portfolio, demonstrating engineering habits of mind. The students showed a good understanding of the problem tackled and why it was important. They showed how their solution tackled the problems identified and then communicated that idea in clear and creative ways.

The problem our students looked at was the carbon emissions from industry (a manufacturing plant). Their idea was to build a self-contained ecosystem on the roof of the manufacturing plant which uses the emissions from the factory to grow food. They thought about how to keep food production at a maximum all year, how waste could be recycled and how to make sure the ecosystem maintained a healthy temperature, light and nutrition balance.

Our Science Technician Mrs Wade has earned accreditation by STEM learning, University of York as an Associate STEM Learning Facilitator. Mrs Wade can now deliver quality CPD to STEM colleagues. Since accreditation she has presented CPD sessions at the South East Technicians Conference at Discovery Park, Sandwich and at the Association of Science Education Southern Technicians Conference at the University of Surrey.



Science (cont)

Canterbury Christchurch Trip

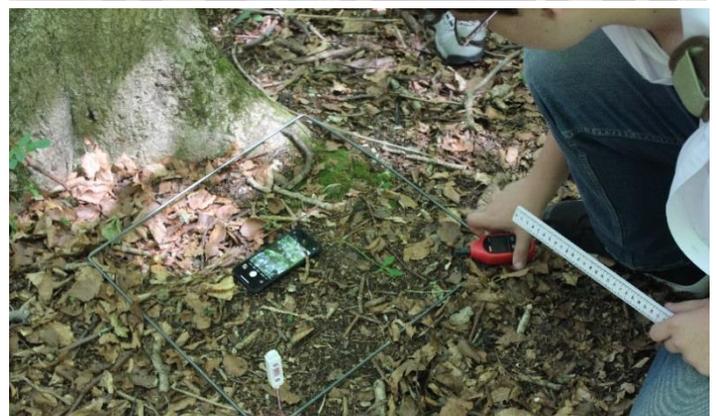
On Tuesday 14th June a group of twelve Year 10 students were invited to Canterbury Christchurch University to take part in a day of practical work in their new £64m facilities for Science and Engineering. Our students undertook some forensic work on a mock crime scene where they prepared DNA samples from the scene and suspects, and then ran a gel electrophoresis to produce a DNA 'fingerprint'. The University also provided a workshop on fingerprints and fingermarks. Students learnt how forensic scientists identify the different characteristics of ridge patterns as well as 'lifting' fingermarks from paper. Students were even allowed to take their own fingerprints and make them into a keyring.

Staff at the University were impressed by how quickly our students mastered the lab skills and all participants enjoyed themselves, even Mr Power and Mr Carr got stuck in! Here are some quotes from staff at CCCU. "Both Rodrigo and I were impressed by your students in the lab." "...Students did a good job of prepping and loading the gels, as can be seen from the well-defined band shapes – loading the wells is tricky and they did pretty well for a first attempt." The Year 10 represented The Victory Academy extremely well and should be proud of their achievements.



A Level Biology Fieldtrip

The Year 12 Biology trip to FSC Juniper Hall, Surrey went really well this year. Students conducted ecology experiments including the mark, release and recapture of pond snails, setting animal traps, and investigating the effects of different abiotic factors on an ecosystem. Students were also taught important statistical tests as part of their A Level course in order to pass their practical endorsement certificate.





Art

Creative Workshops

Our Art department have put on a variety of workshops this term. The University of the Creative Arts delivered a Utopian Cities architecture workshop for some of our Year 9 students. Then in June Canterbury Chirstchurch University did a Board Game Design workshop to Year 7 and 8. It was great seeing the students' different creations and having a go at playing some of them.



National Gallery Trip

In July our Art students from Years 10 and 12 visited the National Gallery. They had the opportunity to view numerous masterpieces and even took part in an art 'scavenger hunt' for their teachers' favourites.



Art Exhibition

The Art team has been busy setting up a corridor maze to display Year 11 and 13 artwork. We hope our students and staff have enjoyed viewing the amazing work on show.



Year 7 News

This has been an incredible year for the overwhelming majority of Year 7 and we have seen some incredibly high moments throughout the whole academic year.

Summer School 2021

Due to COVID we were unable to offer a transition experience to this cohort, but we managed to organise a summer school to support their transition. Every staff member involved is still talking about how much fun it was to have so many enthusiastic and well-behaved students in their workshops and how lovely it was to watch them make friends and play games in the Courtyard. They completed workshops on circus skills, football, orienteering with the Sea Cadets, Drama, Science, English, treasure hunts and many others. It was a great start to their school year.

The Dockyard 2021

One of our transition events is a day at the Historic Dockyard, but we rescheduled this to October so students could develop their team building skills. It was a great day where Year 7 enjoyed tours of boats and submarines and worked together to make their own rope, build boats and rockets, and race them. The staff at the Dockyard were very impressed by their behaviour and teamwork skills.

Halloween Disco

One of the highlights of the year was the Year 7 Halloween Disco. Students dressed up and enjoyed a Halloween style buffet, music and games. The costume and make up creations were very impressive and it was a fun-filled evening.



Christmas Rewards Assembly

Usually Awards Assemblies are very sensible and controlled, but at Christmas time Year 7 were in the Sports Hall so we turned it into a rewards, games and dance off event! Students were amazingly well behaved, and we were very proud and impressed by the dancing skills of the cohort, especially David O who won the competition with some incredible Michael Jackson style moves.

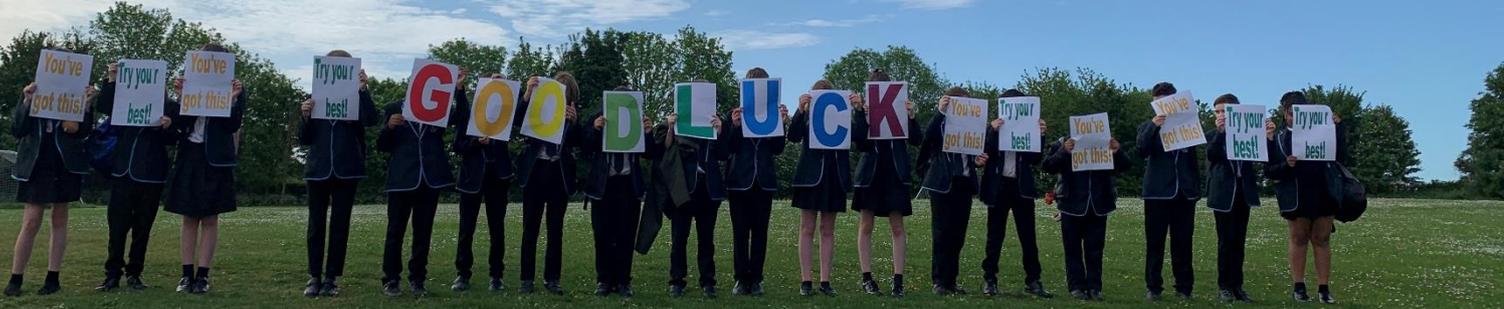
Tour Guides

At the end of this term, there have been numerous events where Year 7 have supported Mrs Crane-Herbert with Year 6 students. The amount of pride the students had when supporting tours and even guiding whole classes around the school was incredible. They were amazing representatives for the school and true Victory Citizens.



A Message from Mrs Crane-Herbert

It is always sad to say goodbye to a year group but always so wonderful to see them progress into Year 8, and they have a wonderful new Head of Year in Mrs Babatunde. I have had so many moments this year of joy and pride in this year group and will miss them terribly! Good luck Year 7!



Year 11 News

GCSE Exams

Our Year 11 started their external exam season in May which continued through to the end of June. Although it was a challenging journey due to learning interruptions and COVID, the whole year group did fantastically and we are so proud.

Prom

On Thursday 30th June our Year 11 students celebrated the end of their examinations and school year at the Year 11 Prom. During the evening we put on a picture slideshow of their Victory journey, including pictures from when they were in Year 7!

A Message from Mr Cass

We would like to wish all students leaving us the very best of luck with their next journey and look forward to welcoming many students back to the Sixth Form. A reminder that GCSE Results Day is Thursday 25th August and students can collect their results from 9am to 12pm. We look forward to seeing you.



Sixth Form News

Enrichment Week

In June our Year 12 had their Enrichment Week. This was a period of time we gave to the students off-timetable, to allow them to gather as much information to support with their next steps. The week started off with a visit from Dr Ben Smith to talk about his journey to become a doctor. Barrister Mr Singh came in to perform a mock trial, then Miss Mulley and Miss Clark launched UCAS.



Throughout the week we had workshops and talks from Canterbury Christchurch University, Kent Police, Tracey Crouch MP, and many more. On Thursday 9th June the students visited the UCAS Exhibition at the Kent Showground, Detling.

Year 13 Leavers

On Friday 8th July we held a Leavers Day BBQ for our Year 13. It was a lovely event where the students and staff could catch-up after their exams, say their goodbyes and pass on leaving gifts.



A Message from Miss Mulley

We are so proud of all the hard work and effort you have put into your studies leading up to the exam season. It was lovely to see some of you for our Leavers Day BBQ, and we can't wait to celebrate with you on Results Day in August.



Thank you for reading this edition of The Victory Academy Newsletter. Our next issue will be published at the end of term 2. On behalf of everyone at Victory we would like to wish you a lovely summer break!

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