

The Victory Academy Newsletter

April 2023



Principal's End of Term Address

As we draw to the end of an extremely busy term 3 and term 4, I have taken the time to reflect on some of the achievements of the Victory staff and students. And, as always, I am extremely proud to lead The Victory Academy.

Our year 11 and 13 students have been working incredibly hard in the lead up to their final exams. Many have taken every opportunity to access extra revision sessions and additional support from staff. On the last day of term 4, staff have been spending time with the students, sharing revision techniques and strategies with them to support them in the final push before exams.

Since the Christmas break, there has been a lot to celebrate. It was wonderful to see so many staff and students taking part in World Book Day as well as International Day of Mathematics and International Languages Day. Throughout the month of February, we observed LGBTQ+ History Month as a Trust and a school. Many events and activities took place to raise awareness and to celebrate the diversity in our community. We have had many interesting and exciting educational trips and visits and have created links with The Canterbury Bike Project and Ravensbourne University London.

At the end of this term, we wish Mrs Pullen well as she moves into a Trust role as Regional Safeguarding Lead. Mrs Pullen continues to work closely with us and with Mrs Hope, our new Designated Safeguarding Lead.

I remain extremely proud to be at the helm of The Victory Academy and look forward to continuing to work with you in terms 5 and 6 to ensure we continue to provide opportunities for our students to achieve their very best.

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Facebook - [@TheVictoryAcademyChatham](#)

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Key Dates

Term 5

Easter Break – Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April (students return 17th April)

Year 11 & Year 13 Parents' Evening – Thursday 20th April

May Bank Holidays – Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May

Year 7 Parents' Evening – Thursday 4th May

Year 12 Work Experience Week – Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May

Term 6

May Break – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June (students return 5th June)

Year 12 Enrichment Week – Monday 5th June to Friday 9th June

Sports Day – Wednesday 28th June

School Show – Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th July

A Level Results Day – Thursday 17th August

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 24th August

Updates and News

UNESCO

The Victory Academy is pleased to announce we have been successful in our application to become part of the UNESCO



Associated Schools Network (ASPnet). By becoming an Associated School, Victory will be connected with more than 12,000 schools in 182 countries around a common goal 'to build peace in the minds of children and young people'. As a member school we will promote the ideals of UNESCO of valuing rights and dignity, gender equality, social progress, freedom, justice and democracy, respect for diversity, and international solidarity, which will be a continuation of our existing belief in positive promotion of these key areas.

Medway Climate Response Trees

We were excited to have 20 new trees planted in the car park next to the Academy. They are part of Medway Climate response which we support, and were provided by Medway Council. They join trees from the Woodland Trust already planted in the area.



Women's Rugby Squad

Miss Gardner, Teacher of English, has recently been selected for the Kent County RFU Women's Rugby Squad. This is following two trial sessions which were held at Charlton Park RFC where mixed teams of players from a variety of clubs competed against each other to showcase their skillsets to the coaches and assessors.

After the two successful trial sessions and over 100 applications from women around the county, the head coaches Peter McAlister and Andy Miller selected this year's representative squad.

This is a huge achievement and we are so proud of Miss Gardner. Well done and congratulations!

Ukrainian Culture Event in Rochester

On Friday 24th February our Community Liaison Officer, Ms Oracova, was invited to Rochester Cathedral for an Evening of Ukrainian Culture. The event celebrated Ukrainian culture, friendship and peace. The Victory Academy flag, along with other Medway schools, was placed to show that we have welcomed Ukrainian children into our community.

Updates and News

Uniform

Ahead of the new 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



Exams

Upcoming in Term 5 we have the summer external exams, starting on the 15th May. Students will receive their timetables in due course.

Advice to students:

- Make sure you know the date and time of your exams
- Ensure you arrive in plenty of time for your exam
- If you are running late please contact the Academy and advise them you have an exam
- If you are unsure of anything please contact the Exams Officer, Ms Littlemore

All students sitting summer exams need to be available up to and including Wednesday 28th June, as this date has been chosen as the JCQ contingency day. This is the last date upon which any exam can take place on, should it have to be moved from its original time/date in the event of national or local disruption to exams.

The examinations awarding body (JCQ) has put into place rules and regulations to allow the exams to run as smoothly as possible and to ensure fairness for all students. Please take time to familiarise yourself with them [here](#).

We look forward to celebrating with students as they receive their results in August. The dates are:

- A Level – Thursday 17th August
- GCSE – Thursday 24th August



Terms 3 and 4 Events

Ravensbourne Workshops

On Friday 20th January, our Year 10 and 12 students took a trip to Ravensbourne University in London. While visiting, the students took part in a variety of workshops including photography and protest resources.

During the photography workshop, students were able to photograph from the roof of Ravensbourne University, which overlooks the city of London, the Thames, and the O2 Arena next door. Students then walked around the local area and used the techniques they had been taught to photograph the surroundings. Students were able to upload and share their work as a group.

The placard workshop allowed students to do some research into subjects and topics they would like to protest about. They then created resources to use in order to protest, and used a range of materials to create their final piece.



In addition to the Workshops put on for them, students were able to take a tour of the University and discovered the many courses and facilities the University has to offer.

National Techognition Day

On 10th March we took part in National Techognition Day to celebrate the fantastic work done by technicians in education. We put up posters around the Academy to familiarise our students with our amazing tech team.



Year 9 Taster Sessions

All year 9 students took part in Taster Week prior to Options' Evening in March. This was an opportunity to learn about new subjects offered at GCSE and ask questions. Year 9 not only had assemblies from their core subjects, but opportunities to speak to teachers one-to-one. We look forward to next term when all year 9 students receive a one-to-one meeting to discuss their option selection and their next steps.





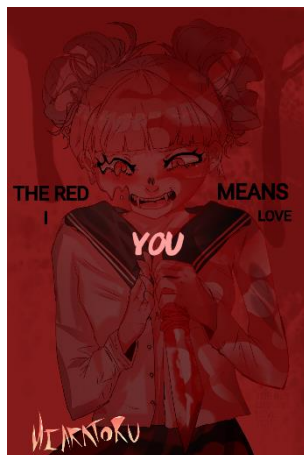
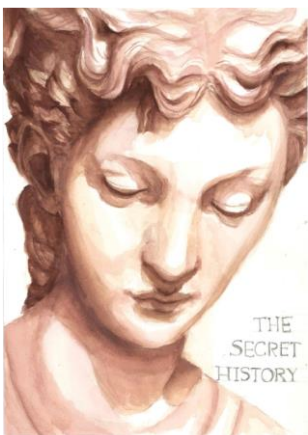
Terms 3 and 4 Events

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday 3rd March and some of our staff dressed up as characters from some well-known books. Many departments chose team costumes including our English department as characters from 'A Christmas Carol', Performing Arts as characters from 'Matilda', and the Student Services team as 'Alice in Wonderland'. We also held a book sale at break and lunchtime.



For World Book Day we hosted an art competition. The challenge was to draw a portrait of your favourite character, or to redesign the cover of your favourite book. The winners were Eva N's redesigned cover of 'The Secret History' and Alisha B's portrait of Toga Himiko from 'My Hero Academia'.



International Mother Languages Day

On Wednesday 21st February our students took part in International Mother Languages Day, to celebrate the diversity of our students and staff. We had a variety of flags and speech bubbles to represent each language, and Mr Pugsley bought in snacks from around the world for students to try. A big thank you to our Young Interpreters for supporting the event.



International Day of Mathematics

Tuesday 14th March was International Day of Mathematics. Our KS3 students took part in activities based around symmetry, origami and pursuit curves.





Terms 3 and 4 Events

LGBTQ+ History Month

Throughout February our students and staff celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month, and the lives and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community. The month also aims to promote tolerance and raise awareness of the prejudices faced.

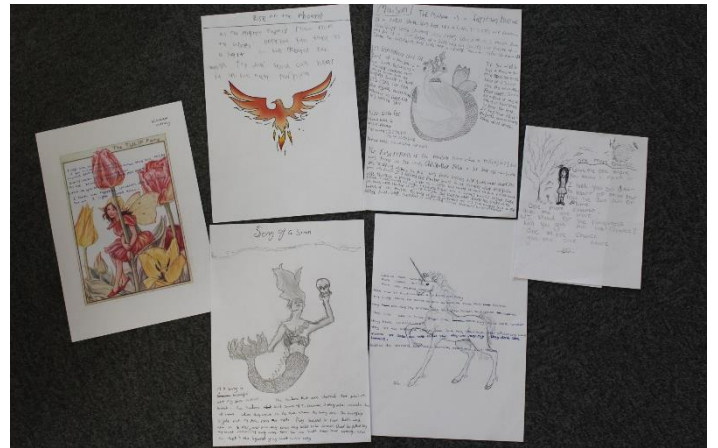
The LGBTQ+ flag was raised in the Courtyard and our departments created displays honouring current and historical figures of the LGBTQ+ community.

On Friday 10th we held our 'Be You' event. Activities included rainbow face painting, 'I Am Beautiful' signs and we welcomed the 'Be You Project' to talk to our students about LGBTQ+ youth groups.



The Lighthouse Celebrate World Poetry Day

Students in the Lighthouse provision celebrated World Poetry Day on Tuesday 21st March. They wrote poetry based around their termly theme of Myths and Legends.



The Lighthouse Escape Room

In February, Medway Youth Service came to The Victory Academy and ran an Escape Room for our SEND students. The students enjoyed their time in the room immensely and came out full of smiles. All of the students behaved so well and we are really proud of them. Medway Youth Service were so pleased with them and said that everyone had a positive experience.





Performing Arts

Year 13 Final Performance

Year 13 have created their own 20-minute performance based on a stimulus set by the exam board. Students have spent the last few months devising, choreographing and rehearsing. This was their final performance as a class. The piece was an exploration of Ruth, a woman suffering from dementia, taking the audience on a journey through her memories. The audience commented on how creative and entertaining the performance was. A huge well done to Leighlou, Andre, Evie, Daniel and Bethan.



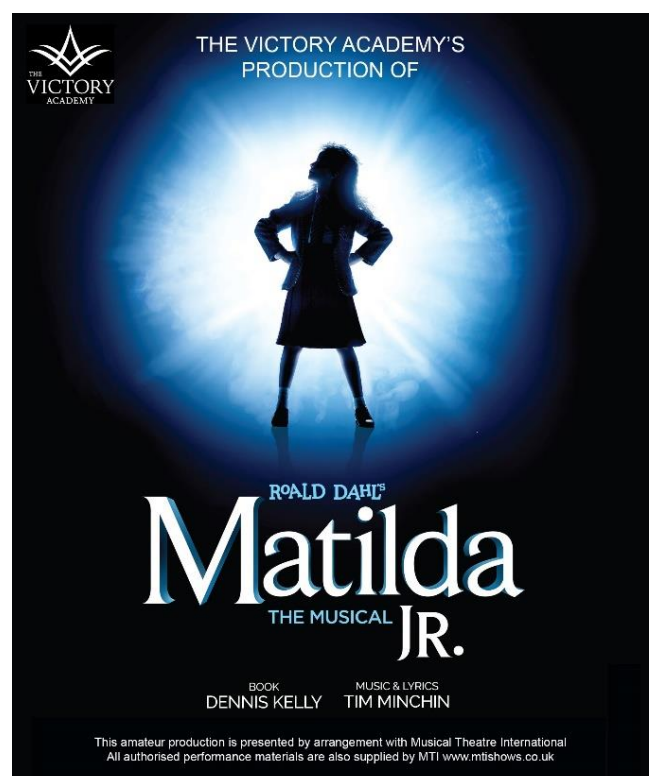
Year 11 Drama Performance

This term saw one of two days our year 11 Drama cohort have been working towards all year. The visiting examiner from Eduqas GCSE Drama exam board attend The Victory Academy for the first time to assess live scripted performances rehearsed and designed by the students. The examiner remarked on the students' professionalism, remarkable attention to detail in their set and lighting designs, and the creativity and commitment of their acting skills. Students worked hard and overcame many a nervous moment on the day to do themselves and the school proud. Mrs Voisey and Mrs Clarke would like to congratulate the year 11 Drama company for their hard work and focus on the day. One performance exam day down, one written exam to go!

Matilda Jr Auditions

This year's show, directed by Miss Wilson, is Matilda the Musical Jr. We had over 60 students audition for main roles and over 75 wanting to be part of the show. The standard of the auditions was fantastic, which made the casting decisions very hard to make. The Performing Arts department would like to say a huge congratulations to all students involved with auditions and we are very proud of you all.

Our first rehearsal took place on Tuesday 7th March and we had over 60 students. We got to know the full cast and Miss Lacey taught some choreography to the song 'Bruce'. The students showed professionalism in the rehearsal and worked well as a whole team. The Performing Arts department are very excited about this year's show and getting stuck into rehearsals.





Performing Arts

Internet Safety Performance

Miss Wilson choreographed a dance to represent the effects of social media and staying safe online. The students performed this in the Quarterdeck and really captured the essence of the piece and conveyed the message to the audience. The full dance can be viewed [here](#).

Royal Shakespeare Company Workshop

Ms Cumming and Mrs Voisey were thrilled with the achievements of The Victory Academy's Royal Shakespeare Company performers in their workshop rehearsals this term. Students worked with the RSC Marlowe Theatre Director Mentor to develop their confidence with the comedy of their scenes from 'As You Like It', as well as focusing on the specific skills needed to prepare for the challenges of outdoor performances. Their performance will take place in Oare on 26th June 2023. Students are working hard to bring their characters across, working on developing their confidence as performers. Students ranging from years 7 to 10 have committed to rehearsing for 'As You Like It' to continue to develop their oracy, literacy and performance skills whilst gaining valuable cultural capital.



'Before Anyone Else' Show

Mrs Voisey and Miss Hope were thrilled to welcome UpFront Theatre Company this term. The entire year 9 cohort experienced 'Before Anyone Else', performed live in the school's Quarterdeck. The play, with its focus on the 'Me Too' movement was both entertaining and thought-provoking, bringing a valuable message across in a thoroughly engaging way, with a clever plot and talented cast. Students left commenting on how cleverly the cast had managed to grab their attention and make them think about a current social topic relevant to their PSHE curriculum.



All Faiths Dance Workshop

This term Miss Wilson took Evie C, one of our year 13 Performing Arts students, to All Faiths Children's Academy to run dance workshops for years 1-6. The children at All Faiths had a great time at the workshops, as did Evie and Miss Wilson. They taught different styles of dance to the students including Musical Theatre, Hip Hop and Jazz. They are now choreographing a dance piece for All Faiths' students to compete in a dance competition in June. The experience of teaching the workshops has encouraged Evie to pursue a career in Performing Arts and she will be heading off to study Dance at Brighton University.



Performing Arts

Boy Blue Workshop

The Performing Arts students in years 9 and 10 are currently studying with Boy Blue, a well-known dance company from London. They were lucky enough to have the dance company come to the Academy and offer a workshop, organised by Miss Wilson. Boy Blue hosted a three-hour workshop, in which students were extremely engaged. The leader of the workshop commented on the talent, professionalism, knowledge and energy that our students in the Academy have. Miss Wilson is extremely proud of these students and would like to congratulate each and every one of them.

Arts Award

This term we have had confirmation that all 66 year 8 students entered for their Arts Award qualification have all passed! We are waiting for the certificates to arrive. We will be hosting a celebration evening later in the year to congratulate and hand out certificates to these students. Well done to all students involved.

Dance Competition



Miss Wilson and Miss Lacey worked hard with the students to choreograph a KS3 and KS3/4 piece of dance. They performed these at the National Dance Competition in Chatham on 27th March. The students danced beautifully and were extremely professional

throughout the evening. We are so proud of the way they performed and represented the Academy. We look forward to the results!

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty

On the 23rd March we took KS5 Performing Arts students to see the very famous Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. This helped to support students with their unit 1 exam and increased their appreciation of live dance. Students loved the opportunity and commented on how creative and immersive the set, lighting and costumes were.



Year 11 Compositions

Our year 11 have been working really hard this term to complete their final unit in Music. They have been creating their very own compositions, in four different genres of music. They have been using Cubase software to create the compositions and have been learning new skills. The students have been working on these tirelessly and the Performing Arts team are extremely proud of what they have achieved. Well done year 11!



Performing Arts

Performance in the Community

Year 13 completed a performance in the community for their level 3 qualification. As part of this unit, they created an immersive performance around the school community. They performed this to years 10, 11 and 12 with the purpose of raising awareness of mental health within the school environment.



Design in Drama

In the past two terms KS3 have been introduced to the technical aspect of lighting in performance, more specifically the 'Gobo'. Students were asked to donate Pringles tubes which were used to create a lantern; the light source was supplied by the students' phones. As you can imagine the students were more than happy to consume Pringles in order to create their own lantern. The students created a plethora of Gobos including super hero symbols, leaves, houses and trees.

Year 10 Drama Exam Day

During this term year 10 successfully completed Comp 1 of their Eduqas GCSE exam, which was performed and recorded in front of a year 9 audience. The performances drew inspiration from theatre practitioners such as Brecht and Katie Mitchell. Devised and designed by the students, the performances were a visual delight. There were nerves, excitement and some glitches, but they overcame these obstacles in a professional manner. Mrs Voisey and Mrs Clarke would like to congratulate the year 10 - only two more comps to go!

Peripatetic Music Lessons

The peripatetic music lessons with our external tutors have been a huge success across all key stages, with a number of students being entered for their exams. Excellent work!

Science

Victory Scientists

Here are our very own Victory Scientists carrying out fish head dissections and producing series dilutions during two of many practical investigations this term.



Success Stories

We have had excellent year 11 GCSE mock results. Callum B has achieved a Grade 9 and Karolina K achieved a Grade 8 in Biology.

Well done to Ruslans A, Eva N and Hollie W for consistently achieving A and B grades for their term 3 and 4 end of topic assessments. Well done to Callum H for persevering following his return to school, bouncing back and achieving a C in the end of unit test – the Science Department know how much work you have put in and you should be very proud of yourself.

PE

Clubs

A full programme of clubs has been running this term, with good attendance including lunchtimes in the Fitness Suite (full PE kit required) and Badminton in the Sports Hall (trainers required). Look out for our new club timetable next term when we move onto our summer sports including Athletics and Rounders.

Congratulations to Emma!



Congratulations to Emma in year 8. She has recently been selected for the Kent Schools FA girls football squad for this season. This is an amazing achievement and the PE department are very proud of her. Emma is a goalkeeper who also represents Millwall FC. Recently she

has been part of the team that has won the Junior Premier League. We look forward to tracking Emma's progress.

Football Update

The year 7 team look to continue their great form in the Medway League when they take on Brompton this week. Good luck to the team. They will also play matches in Term 5 when we return after the Easter Break.

Year 8 were defeated 1-4 against Robert Napier. The year 9 team beat UTC 3-0 to progress to the next round of the cup, however they lost to Hundred of Hoo in the quarterfinals.

The year 10 team also crashed out of the Medway Cup in the quarterfinal stage, losing 0-1. Our year 11 team beat UTC 4-0 in a friendly this term. It was great to see some of our future APD scholars play with current Sixth Form students in preparation for next year.

As we draw to the end of the football season, well done to all of our students who have taken part in the fixtures.

Duke of Edinburgh

All students have continued to make great progress towards their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Some have already completed two of their three individual sections on eDofE. This is really impressive, keep up the great work!

We are heading into expedition preparation season now, where all students involved will learn how to navigate their way around our chosen expedition area. Training will really gather pace after the Easter Break. We look forward to seeing the continued progress as we move towards our expedition.

Our Thursday training sessions will continue after school in F144 until 4pm. Below are the dates and activities we will be covering. A reminder to all students participating, this training is mandatory and must be completed before we head out on our Bronze expedition.

- Map reading & route planning (23rd & 30th March, 20th & 27th April)
- First Aid (4th & 11th May)
- Campcraft, stoves and meals (18th & 25th May)
- Tents (8th & 15th June)

If any students in year 9 or above are interested in doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award please see Mr Doyle.

Sports Leaders

Congratulations to five of our year 12 Sport students on successfully completing the Mental Health Sports Leaders Level 1 Course. After four evenings of training and an online meeting, they are all prepared for leading events at the Mini Youth Games in tag rugby. Well done to Shay H, Jan C, Regnars I, Christian M and Sandis R.

Competitions

We look forward to Inter-House Football and SSG Dodgeball during the last week of term. Terms 5 and 6 will see more competitions including Inter-House Netball and Rounders, and Sports Day for the whole school. We will also start training for the District Sports.

Art

Creative Workshops

Our Art department have put on a variety of workshops this term. In February some of our Year 9 students took part in a fashion illustration workshop. They created collages inspired by textures and colour.



Then in March we welcomed University of the Creative Arts to deliver a Digital Camera Workshop to some of our year 10 students.



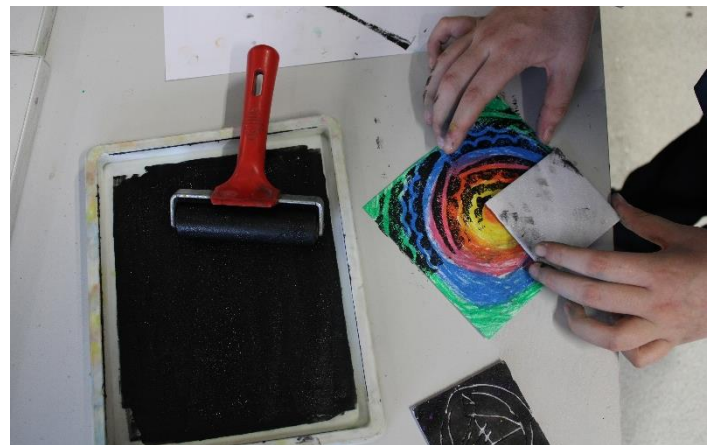
LGBTQ+ Hearts

For LGBTQ+ History Month our students created Keith Haring inspired hearts. They have been assembled to create a vibrant display in the Art corridor



Art Club

Our Year 8 Art Club takes place every Wednesday after school. This term our students have been experimenting with polyblock printing techniques. They created an oil pastel background and printed a mandala design on top with ink.



English

World Book Day with New Horizons

This World Book Day, Miss Steeples and Mr Tate had the pleasure of taking four enthusiastic students from years 9 and 10 to New Horizons Children's Academy to read to the students there. The students: Carmen, Tomek, Bella and Georgina represented Victory excellently, demonstrating a love and passion for reading that the primary school students found infectious. Both Miss Steeples and Mr Tate felt extremely proud of the Victory representatives and the kind and considerate manner with which they interacted with the young students.

We had the joy of hosting some students from New Horizon Children's Academy for World Book Day. Our students worked with the NHCA students to create, write and perform a short play using a range of prompts. Liridon S, Sariah T, Lilianna C, Erica C, Sophie H, Max S, and Lily W, demonstrated great teamwork and communication skills as they worked in collaboration, and rose to the challenge of creating a 3-minute play. We are extremely proud of our students for interacting with the NHCA students with a friendly and calm approach.



Design Technology

Pewter Pendants

Year 10 DT students have created their own keyring and jewellery pendants from Pewter. This involved them using the forge and melting their own pewter. An amazing job from the two classes!



Women in STEM Trip

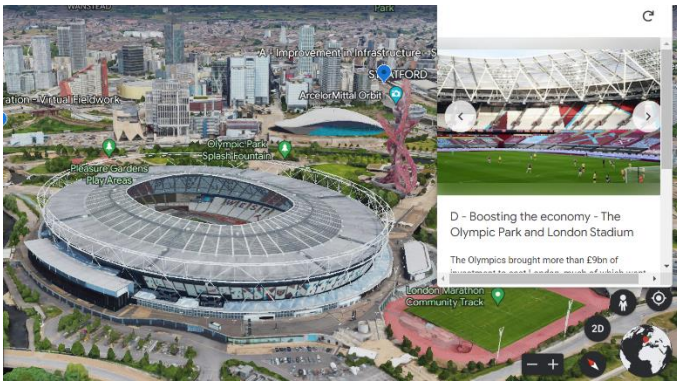
On Thursday 23rd March a group of year 9 and 10 female students attended a 'Women in STEM' trip to BAE systems in Rochester. They piloted a flight simulator, with Isabell H landing in Heathrow, and took part in a design challenge, beating teams from Highsted Grammar and Rochester Grammar. They were awarded judges' prizes for presentation, design and concept.



Geography

Year 10 Virtual Fieldwork

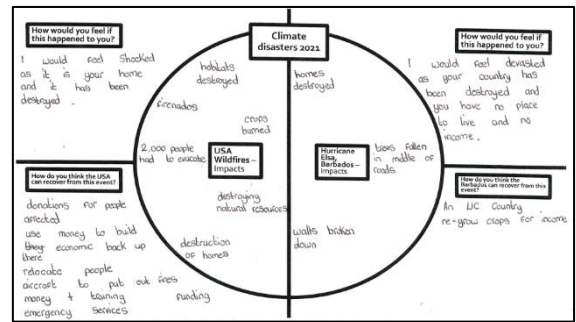
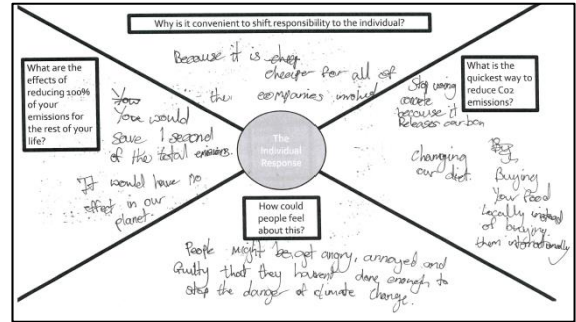
Using access to new presentation features on Google Earth, year 10 were able to explore Stratford and the Olympic Park to explore how urban regeneration has changed in this area in London. They were able to weigh up the opportunities and challenges that this development created to give their final judgements on how successful the scheme was for supporting the London Borough of Newham.



Location	Strategy	Social	Environmental	Health/Wellness	Education/Research	Considerations	Rank - Most effective to least effective strategy
A	Improvement in infrastructure - Connection with two Underground lines into London, high speed trains between Kings Cross Station, and intended plans to be a stop on the Eurostar to Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	There and house prices have increased due to the connections with the rest of London in Stratford. This has priced many original inhabitants out of the area.	3rd
B	Increase affordable housing - over 2,800 homes were built for lower-income families	✓	✓	✓	✓	Many of Newham's lowest income families still could not afford these homes, and in addition 400 homes were destroyed in the process of reorganising Stratford's economy	High
C	Tackling unemployment - The International Quarter Technology Centre and Westfield shopping centre provided jobs for local people	✓	✓	✓	✓	Existing businesses had to move, including M. Forman and Sons, a railway-signaling factory with 50 employees	2nd
D	Boost the economy - The park brought over 10 billion of investment to the area and attracted over 8.5 million visitors during the Games, resulting in a billion additional spending in 2016.	✓	✓	✓	✓	The Olympic stadium is estimated to have cost 200 million pounds, almost 3 times the original estimate. This angered many local people.	1st
E	Improve the environment - As part of the environmentally friendly development for the area Olympics, contaminated land and brownfield sites were reclaimed for new habitats and parks.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Many of the materials for the stadiums and the Olympic Park came from overseas. The games produced 3.3 million tonnes of CO2	5th

Geopolitics

Year 9 have been exploring the geopolitics behind climate change, trying to understand whether we will be able to actually stop it unless countries, businesses and people can come together.



GeoggleBox Club

Miss Jones has seen a further increase in numbers for her GeoggleBox Club called GeoggleBox. This is a space and place to watch, discuss and give opinions on Geography in the media using videos and documentaries which have been shown on TV or online over the week.



Thank you for reading this edition of The Victory Academy Newsletter. Our next issue will be published at the end of term 6. On behalf of everyone at Victory we would like to wish you a Happy Easter!

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