The Victory Academy Newsletter

December 2022

Principal's End of Term Address

In term 1, we welcomed our Year 7 students to The Victory Academy. We are really proud at how well they have settled in and are fast becoming Victory Citizens. Our Year 12 students have also settled well to life in the Sixth Form and are working hard to achieve their best selves.

More recently, Years 11 and 13 have received their mock exam results. This has been the perfect opportunity for them to work with staff to ensure they know what they need to do to achieve. A large part of what we do at The Victory Academy is around Knowledge Acquisition and Thinking. Our students will be supported in how to remember so that they have the knowledge they need, not only for their exams but also for the next stages in their education or employment.

As always, I have been impressed by the number of opportunities available to our students. We have recently launched a trip to Kenya, a 5-day sailing trip, and numerous day trips, visits and events within school. Our students have represented us in an exemplary manner.

As we draw to the end of term and reflect upon everything our staff and students have achieved, I am left feeling extremely proud to be at the helm of The Victory Academy. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you all to ensure the very best possible life chances for our young people. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous 2023.

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

Facebook - <u>@TheVictoryAcademyChatham</u>

Twitter - @TheVA Chatham

Instagram - @tsat victoryacademy



Key Dates

Term 3

Christmas Break – Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January (students return 3rd January)

Thursday 2nd February – Year 12 Parents' Evening

Thursday 9th February – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Term 4

February Break – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February (students return 20th February)

w/c 20th February – Year 11 Mock Exams

w/c 27th February – Year 13 Mock Exams

Thursday 16th March – Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Evening

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 <u>Simmonds</u> 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



Advanced Thinking School Award

At the beginning of Term 1 we received our Advanced Thinking School Award from the University of Exeter.

This is a proud moment for The Victory Academy and the result of all the hard work the staff and students have put into understanding and applying the Thinking School ethos to all aspects of life. The school will continue to grow through staff development and training and embedding cognitive education, supporting our children to become skilled, independent and reflective learners.

Mrs Smith, Principal – "The staff at The Victory Academy work tirelessly to transform the life chances of our students, support their progress and develop their thinking. I couldn't be prouder that the University of Exeter's School of Education recognises the commitment we have for our young people and awarded us the Advanced Thinking Accreditation. Thank you to everyone involved who worked so hard to achieve this award."



Updates and News

Recognising Diversity in the Lighthouse

This term, KS3 pupils who access The Lighthouse Provision have been recognising diversity. Pupils have read Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah and their project-based learning has been all about different cultures and places in our world. Students have learnt about China, Japan, Italy, Spain, Africa, Australia and the Inuit people and their culture among many others. Drawing Anime, making Chinese New Year dragons and crafting Inuit homes are just a snapshot of the exciting activities pupils have participated in while recognising diversity.

Students have enjoyed learning about the world in which they live and this is evident in the fantastic quality of their display work throughout this term. The students who accesses The Lighthouse have particularly enjoyed recognising diversity. They have loved the book Chinese Cinderella and many of the pupils have found learning about all of the animals that live in Africa very interesting.







Student Council

The student council, made up of representatives from all year groups and chaired by Drew in Year 13, met this term with Mrs Smith, Mrs Pullen, Miss Simperl and Mrs Orakova. They discussed a wide number of topics such as uniform, keeping safe in and out of school, food served at school, lessons, and clubs.

Wellbeing Links

The following organisations offer combinations of web based, text and phone support for young people:

- Kooth
- YoungMinds
- The Mix
- Shout
- NHS Help for Teenagers,
 Young Adults and Students
- Samaritans
- Childline

Support for parents/carers on young people and mental health:

- NELFT
- Parenting Mental Health
- Place2Be
- NHS Advice for Parents

Financial and cost of living advice:

- Citizens Advice Medway
- Money Advice Service
- Medway Council Help for Households
- StepChange



7 Years of Victory!

On Thursday 29th September we celebrated Victory Day; the seventh anniversary of our official opening!

Students took part in a variety of activities throughout the day; including running an inflatable obstacle course and working out team challenges, arranged by the PE department. This was also enjoyed by some members of staff after the students had gone for the day!



We welcomed the British Army and enjoyed an informative assembly about the different career routes the Army has to offer. They also helped our pupils to push themselves through a number of elite skills activities; including the tyre challenge, desert and circuit survival guide, toxic barrel challenge, and the Mercedes badge challenge.

The Royal Navy demonstrated how to complete a rescue mission, and an effective use of team work with the spider web challenge.

Throughout the day, Students were with different departments doing activities based around Arts, Naval and Thinking. Year 7 were with English and Art doing a children's book project, illustrating animals and creating a story for their characters. Year 9, with Maths and DT, designed and created gift boxes.

Year 11 spent the day in workshops about careers, debating and learning valuable revision methods.

In the evening, our guests were invited for a celebration where we took the opportunity to show off the talent our Victory Family has to offer. There was a showcase of students' work from the day, and performances in the Quarterdeck from our Performing Arts students. The celebration continued with a sit-down meal in the Galley, which included a selection of delicious desserts all prepared by our GCSE Food students!



Sailing Trip

On Friday 16th September, Mrs Babatunde and Mr Power took a group of year 8 on a wonderful trip sailing at the Sun Pier in Chatham. Students were involved with pulling the ropes, preparing the ship and even steering the wheel. They ended the trip by taking part in an art mural workshop.





Children in Need

On Friday 18th November we held fundraising activities for Children in Need. This included a bake sale, polka dot face painting and a tombola. We are delighted to confirm that The Victory Academy raised £312 for the charity.



Our students and staff also shared Bear'y Kind Acts. These included making someone smile, leaving a kind note and making everyone a cup of tea.

Harvest Festival

Throughout November we collected Harvest Festival donations to support Medway Food Bank and our local community. A big thank you to everyone who donated.



Remembrance Day

On Friday 11th November The Victory Academy held a Remembrance Service to remember those in the Armed Forces and their families.

The service began with a prayer and The Stand by John Bailey read by Livia (Year 7) and Amon-Ra (Year 12). The playing of the Last Post on the trumpet then signalled the start of the silence. After this a wreath was laid at the foot of our flagpole as a mark of respect for those who have lost their lives.



Odd Socks Day

To support Anti-Bullying Week, on Monday 14h November our students and staff came to school wearing odd socks and celebrated what makes us all unique.





Black History Month

Throughout October our students and staff celebrated Black History Month. There were many activities from the annual TSAT Art Competition and lessons about inspirational people in history, to BHM reading lists and themed assemblies. Our staff linked their curriculum to include key messages about inclusivity and equality, inspiring our students to be kind and celebrate each other's differences.



Our Year 7 students studied African Dance in their Performing Arts lessons with Miss Lacey. They learnt key terminology, techniques and movements, then created their own choreographed dance. They had the chance to perform with other students controlling the music and lights.

Our Art department created a display with KS3 artwork. Years 7, 8 and 9 drew inspirational people and created backgrounds inspired by artist Alma Woodley Thomas.



#WeAreVictory Day

On Thursday 20th October we held the first of our



#WeAreVictory events, to celebrate and raise awareness of the diversity of our community. Firstly, our students signed the Victory Pledge in their form groups. Our staff and students were invited to wear cultural dress or the colour red, to support 'Show Racism the Red Card'. We also held a girls' football tournament.

Flux Project

Some of our students were invited to take part in Flux, a project all about feeling better about yourself, your opportunities and your future by getting involved in the arts.

Projects took place across Kent and Medway. Here at The Victory Academy a local company called Ideas Test visited every Thursday afternoon. Sessions involved singing, song writing, rapping, spoken word, performing arts and more. These sessions were designed to unlock and maximise creative potential through music technology, whilst building confidence and raising self-esteem.

In December our students attended Flux Fest in Folkestone to meet the other participants from across Kent and Medway, showcase their work and celebrate everyone's achievements. They had written rap lyrics and created a music video.





The PE Department have had an extremely busy two terms running a full extra-curricular programme, entering Secondary School Games competitions and running our Inter-house competitions. Well done to everyone who has enjoyed taking part in our clubs and representing their Houses and the Academy. A new extracurricular club timetable will be published in January and all students are welcome to attend our clubs.

Lunchtimes

The fitness suite is now open at lunchtimes for students who want some additional exercise. PE kit must be worn. The Sports Hall is also open at lunchtimes for Badminton and on certain days, Basketball. Trainers must be worn.

Secondary School Games

In October we took a team of 24 students to represent The Victory Academy at the SSG Cross Country competition. All that took part tried really hard and were a credit to the Academy. Well done to all them, with a special mention to Maksy P and Leo E who were selected to represent Medway at the Kent championships in January.



Well done to all of the students who represented our Academy at the SSG Futsal competition on Thursday 8th December. Whilst facing extremely strong competition from other schools, they showed their Victory Virtues of perseverance and tried their best.

Inter-House Competitions

We have had a number of inter-house competitions so far this year including Cross Country, Multistage Fitness Test and Futsal.

Congratulations to the following Houses on their Victories:

Futsal – Ocelot Multistage Fitness Test – Ocelot Cross Country – Leviathan



Rugby

This term we have focused on foundational skills needed for rugby in the hope to hold further tag rugby competitions. Our students have successfully improved tackling, handling skills, passing and creating a strong defensive line.

A massive congratulations from Miss Gardner and Mr Power to the students that have persisted through the cold weather, especially the seven that have attended Rugby Club every week! A further well done to the many year 7 students we now have attending the club. Fabulous job!



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have had another fantastic uptake for the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. Over 25 students have signed up to take part in the Bronze and Silver Awards at The Victory Academy.

Students are well underway with three individual sections. They have downloaded their eDofE accounts and are uploading information about three of their four individual sections; Physical, Skill and Volunteering. For their Physical section students are involved in different activities such as Kick Boxing, Gymnastics, Football, Swimming, Basketball and Fitness. For the Skill section we have students learning Sign language, Photography, Cookery, Art and the Piano. Finally, for the Volunteering Section students have committed to help work in Charity Shops in the local area, Reading Club within the Academy and at the local library, coaching at different sporting clubs and giving up their time to support at various Pet Rescue Centres. All of this is leading towards our Expeditions for both Bronze and Silver Awards at the end of the academic year.



We had two groups of our Victory students complete their Bronze Expedition during the middle weekend of October. We were very lucky with the weather and all students stepped up to the

mark over the weekend. They organised themselves throughout the weekend from route planning to reading the maps when out with their groups. They also cooked their dinner and stayed overnight which was a different challenge for many of our groups.

Students are still able to sign up for the Bronze Award. If you are interested please see Mr Doyle.

Football

The Year 7 football team have started the season strongly and currently sit top of the Medway Schools League. They hope to continue their good form when matches resume in term 4. The team have beaten Hundred of Hoo (3-2), St John Fisher (2-1) and Robert Napier (5-3), drew with Greenacre (3-3) and lost narrowly to Thomas Aveling (2-3). Well done to all of the players that have taken part so far.

	Team	Р	w	L	D	F	Α	w	L	D	F	Α	GD	Pts
1	Victory Academy	5	3	1	1	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
2	Rainham Mark	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	21	1	20	9
3	Thomas Aveling	4	0	1	1	3	11	2	0	0	15	6	1	7
4	Howard	2	2	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	6
5	Brompton Academy	4	2	2	0	22	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
6	Leigh academy Rainham	3	0	1	0	0	8	2	0	0	9	1	0	6
7	Greenacre	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	12	6	6	4
8	Holcombe Grammar	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	8	-3	1
9	Robert Napier	3	0	1	1	4	10	0	1	0	3	5	-8	1
10	Hundred of Hoo	4	0	1	0	0	6	0	2	1	6	12	-12	1
11	Strood Academy		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	St John Fisher		3	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	14 -1	.5

The Year 8 team have played just three fixtures in term 1, but hope to get their season back on track in term 4. They lost to St. John Fisher, Brompton Academy and Thomas Aveling so far, but have been competitive in all of their matches.

The Year 9 team made a blistering start to their season with an emphatic 8-1 over St John Fisher. However, they have suffered defeats since that first game against Holcombe, Brompton and Robert Napier. They will be hoping to climb back up the table in term 4.

The Year 10 side, after being promoted last season, have narrowly lost their first two games of the season against Greenacre and Rainham Mark. They are competing really well in the Premiership and will be working towards getting a win when matches return in term 4.

PE (cont)

The APD Football Academy have been on brilliant form and have started the season strongly. They have had big wins against Northfleet, Oasis and Brompton and a good draw away to Wrotham. The team lost 1-3 to Holcombe recently, but currently sit 3rd in the table and will be hoping to mount a serious challenge for the league title after Christmas.



We currently have Girls' Football for Years 9 and above on a Thursday after school. This is run by APD (Advanced Player Development). This term we also had a Year 7 and 8 girls fixture against Hundred of Hoo. Despite a loss, the girls were excellent and really enjoyed the game.



The PE Department would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all of the students that have represented the football teams so far. We look forward to the matches starting again in term 4.

Art

Art Club

Our Year 8 Art Club takes place every Wednesday after school. This term our students have enjoyed taking part in a photography workshop where they experimented with different lights, colours, angles, and composition through photographing festive cupcakes; sculpting tealight holders inspired by the Day of the Dead, using air dry clay and acrylic paint and experimenting with different tie dye techniques to show beautiful patterns.





Beading Workshop

Earlier this term KaMCOP organised for a tutor from the University for the Creative Arts to come in and deliver a beading workshop to 25 Year 9 students. They really enjoyed using the materials that they don't usually get to use, and created some artistic designs.





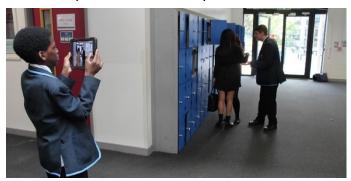
Film in a Day

In September we celebrated our own Oscars following 25 Year 9 students taking part in the esteemed 'Film in a Day' with Youth Film Academy.

Students started the day exploring the genre of film; learning about film acting, taking part in a stage-combat workshop and learning how to shoot and edit effective full, mid and close-up shots for an original short film. Students put their skills to the test with their first shorts created and shared before the Oscars challenge was set. They rose to the challenge of devising, writing, acting in, filming and editing (complete with sound effects, music and credits) their own films in a day from the film academy's selection of titles.

Collaborative skills, creativity, decision making time-management and attention to detail were all essential to achieving their finished product in addition to taking on the new skills they had only just learnt. Despite the enormous task ahead, students utilised their perseverance and determination to come together and produce something they were proud of.

The day ended with all students showcasing their short films in their own Oscars presentation, in front of a select, young audience who's cheers left us in no doubt of how impressed they were with the work produced in one day.



Professor Paws

In September and November our students were treated to a Performing Arts concert and workshop delivered by the celebrated rap artist, Professor Paws.

Whilst the music celebrated his Ghanaian and British heritage, the workshop focused on the dangers of carrying a knife, mental health, and overcoming discrimination, and was filled with personal stories and astute advice from the South-London raised artist. Students took in



the anecdotes and personal stories sympathetically and attentively, resulting in the Q&A session being filled with thoughtful questions regarding the topics from the workshop as well as questions on the music industry itself.

Professor Paws certainly made the students think and won them over with his 'melody-driven R&B sound pools, sharp and crunchy electro-rap beats, and ice-cold African cues', creating an electrifying atmosphere one minute and hearing a pin drop from their focus on the more sombre realities of societal struggles in another.

Over 100 students chose to stay after school to ask further questions and snap their own selfie or autograph with the artist who boasts over a million followers across social media. Professor Paws' tracks boast accolades such as #10 MTV Europe Dance 2022, #11 Music Week Commercial Pop, #6 Black Music Club Charts and more.

We look forward to welcoming Professor Paws back to The Victory Academy in the future and thank him for sharing such powerful memories to help guide our students.

Geography

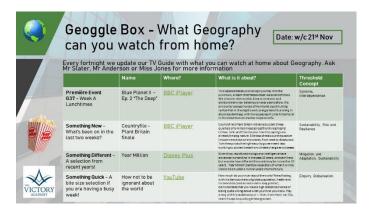
Successes

Well done to the following students for their successes in Geography this term:

Oliver C Isabel R
Scarlett O Leah H
Ramandeep D Sara P
Roland T Callum B
Julija A Nikita B

Geoggle Box

Geoggle Box, our Geography Club, takes place every Friday at lunchtime. There is a new schedule released on Teams and social media every fortnight. A massive thank you to all students who have been attending the club and engaging with the material we post. We have had some fantastic discussions and broadening all of our geographic horizons.



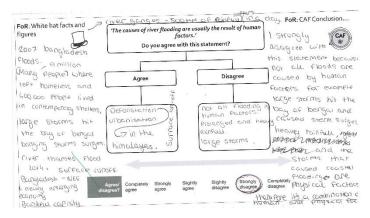
Missing Maps Project

Each year, disasters around the world kill nearly 100,000 and affect or displace 200 million people. Many of the places where these disasters occur are literally 'missing' from open and accessible maps and first responders lack the information to make valuable decisions regarding relief efforts. Missing Maps is an open, collaborative project in which you can help to map areas where humanitarian organisations are trying to meet the needs of people who live at risk of disasters and crises: https://www.missingmaps.org/

A new lunchtime club, starting term 3, will give students the opportunity to help aid organisations and charities around the world to support people in need by completing and mapping parts of the world that are yet to exist on our maps! Please ask Mr Slater for more information.

Student Work

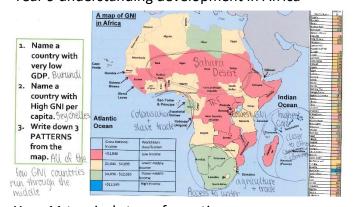
Year 8 student response task



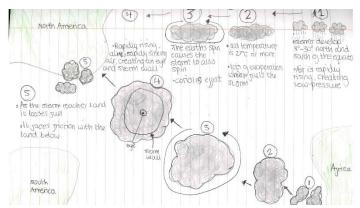
Year 8 Geography news

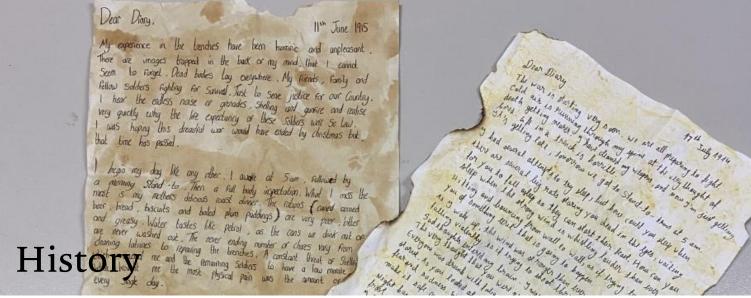


Year 9 understanding development in Africa



Year 11 tropical storm formation





WWI Competition

Well done to all who entered the Year 9 WWI Competition. This is the 2nd Year that the History Department has opened this competition and we have had some amazing entrants. Competition and imagination was high this year. Winners will be involved with a reward trip in term 4 either to The Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham or The Hawthorne Trenches in Folkestone. Well done to all that entered, the winners are as follows:

Matthew H Chloe D
Tate S Letisha B
Phoebe T David T
Sara P Iyzie-May A
Keira B Alisha B

James G built a model of the trenches with soldiers, lights and a bell to warn of gas attack. James built the model from clay and it really shows imagination and commitment to learning.

Kaden C made a wooden box and filled it with letters. Kaden made this box in his dad's workshop. It shows great woodwork and commitment to learning.



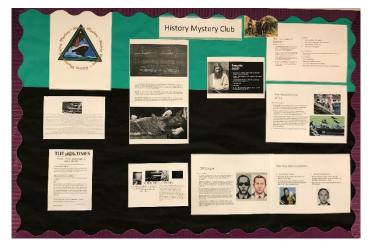






History Mystery Club

The dedication from students to the History Mystery Club is a credit to Mr Willicombe. In the club students have investigated a range of unsolved historic mysteries from The Pyramids to the assassination of JFK. They are often in deep debate and the club has grown so much. Please speak to Mr Willicombe if you are interested in joining.



KS3 History

The KS3 History Department will be teaching the following next term:

Year 7 - Culture of the Industrial Period

Year 8 – The British Empire (Change and Continuity)

Year 9 – The Holocaust

The History Department would like to wish all of the Victory Academy students a very merry Christmas!



Rotary 'Youth Speaks'

On the 11th November Olivia, Year 11, represented The Victory Academy at a local school competition held by the Medway Rotary Club. There were six in Olivia's class, and all the candidates spoke with feeling and emotion regarding a topic they all clearly had strong feelings about – Feminism, and the place of women in society and the world.

Olivia gave a fantastic presentation and delivered her views clearly, concisely and with impact, making several members of the audience nod along with what she was saying, getting all members of the audience onside, including the Mayor! Miss Steeples and Miss Kokkranikal were so proud of Olivia's performance and we knew during the interval that it was going to be a tough decision.

Olivia was commended for her performance while first and second place went to two students from Walderslade Girls'.

In addition, Olivia represented The Victory Academy superbly and we look forward to entering the competition again in the future.







Thank you for reading this edition of The Victory Academy Newsletter. Our next issue will be published at the end of term 4. On behalf of everyone at Victory we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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