

# The Victory Academy Newsletter

December 2024

## Headteacher's End of Term Address



As we approach the end of Term 2, I continue to be immensely proud of our school and grateful for the hard work of both students and staff. So much has happened since our new year 7 and year 12 students joined us in September. They have made a fantastic start to their time with us and we look forward to their journey with us over the upcoming years. Throughout these two terms, for all year groups, our classrooms have been places of focused learning where students have engaged with a challenging, diverse and

enriching curriculum.

Beyond the classroom the range of events and activities taking place has continued to reflect the wealth of talent and enthusiasm of our students. There are so many to mention as you will see throughout this newsletter, but it has been particularly wonderful to see our Courtyard, the physical centre of our school, come alive with students singing, dancing and participating in a range of events. Alongside all that is learnt in the classroom, we know memories of these events will remain with the students for years to come.

At the start of Term 1 I spoke to all students about how our values of Respect, Belief and Pride should lead us all to *Be Kind, Work Hard and Celebrate All*. Our whole community has continued to embrace these values. This newsletter is therefore a celebration of all that has taken place and all the students who belong to our school.

I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you all in 2025 to ensure the very best possible life chances for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Key Dates

### Term 3

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Year 11 Parents' Evening – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Year 8 Parents' Evening – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Year 9 Taster Week – w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Staff Training – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February (students leave at 1.25pm)

Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February

February Break – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

### Term 4

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Year 10 Parents' Evening – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Year 12 Parents' Evening – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Spring Break – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

# Updates and News

## Student Council

This term, our Student Council has been working hard to represent the voices of students and bring about meaningful change. Recently, our representatives joined forces with councils from schools across the Trust to address key issues raised by students. The collaborative meeting was a resounding success, as representatives collectively agreed on a series of action points that shape their ongoing work. These points, covering areas students feel are most important, will be shared with the entire Trust in the new year, ensuring everyone remains informed and involved.



A highlight of this term's work was Amina, year 10, stepping into the spotlight to meet with our Trust Executive Team. Representing her peers, Amina provided feedback on the Diversity action points discussed during the council meeting. Her confident presentation and ability to thoughtfully respond to questions were a testament to the leadership and dedication nurtured within our Student Council.



The efforts of our Student Council demonstrate the power of student leadership in driving positive change. We are proud of their accomplishments so far and excited to see their plans take shape in the months to come.

Let's celebrate the dedication and hard work of our Student Council, and look forward to the continued impact of their leadership in the new year.



## Green Award Winners

We are extremely proud to announce we are winners of a Green School Award and the Secondary School Trailblazer award.

Our Community Liaison Officer and three students from our Eco Warrior, School Food Ambassador and Eco Garden groups represented The Victory Academy at the Green School Awards 2024 ceremony, which took place at the Ashford International Hotel on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

These awards are a testament to the ongoing work our staff, students and community are doing to protect our planet and inspire others to do as well. Every action counts, and these awards celebrate the creativity and dedication of young people driving positive change. Well done to everyone involved.



# 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 from [Monkhouse](#) and [School Time](#). The nearest shops are:

Monkhouse  
Unit 28 Chatham Dockside Shopping Centre  
Maritime Way  
Chatham  
ME4 3ED  
Telephone: 01614 767 216

School Time Outfitters  
87-89 High Street  
Chatham  
ME4 4EE  
Telephone: 01634 831 684



## Challenge Winners

We are proud to announce that The Victory Academy are winners of Medway Council's Striders challenge. Our students took part by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling to school throughout the event week in October, resulting in a total of 5416 active journeys. A big thank you to everyone who took part.



[MEDWAY.GOV.UK/WALKTOSCHOOL](https://www.medway.gov.uk/walktoschool)



# JOIN OUR SIXTH FORM

Are you interested in joining The Victory Academy Sixth Form?  
There's still time to sign up.

Explore our Sixth Form offering by scanning the QR code below.  
Alternatively, visit our website at [thevictoryacademy.org.uk](http://thevictoryacademy.org.uk).



Scan to explore our  
Sixth Form

If you would like to join our Sixth Form  
or to discuss your next steps,  
please speak to a member of our  
Sixth Form team



# Terms 1 and 2 Events

## *9 Years of Victory!*

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated Victory Day; the ninth anniversary of our official opening! Students took part in a variety of active sessions throughout the day including football, basketball, benchball and tug-of-war.



Students were with different departments doing activities based around Arts, Naval and Thinking. Year 7 were with English and Art working on a children's book project, illustrating animals and creating a story for their characters. They also welcomed the illustrator and author Georgina Golding who

talked about her books and art style. Year 8 worked with Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages on an exciting project about the Battle of Trafalgar. Year 9 took part in Maths and DT activities creating 3D shapes and structures, and Year 10 did practical sessions with the Science department involving forensics, aviation design, the marble challenge and an escape room. Year 11 spent the day in workshops about careers, wellbeing 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!

## *Odd Socks Day*

To support Anti-Bullying Week, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, our students and staff came to school wearing odd socks and celebrated what makes us all unique.



## *Democracy Week*

In the first week of October we held Democracy Week where each year group took part in the Student Council representative vote. Students were given ballot slips and went to an individual booth to replicate a real polling station. The voting went really well and we are proud of our students for taking part. A big thank you to our Sixth Form Leadership Team for their support across the week.





# Terms 1 and 2 Events

## Remembrance Day

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November The Victory Academy held a Remembrance Service to remember those in the Armed Forces and their families.

The whole school service began with a prayer and 'The Stand' by John Bailey read by Sydney (Year 7) and Anastasia (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.

## Kindness Week

As part of our ongoing #WeAreOne initiative, this term our school celebrated Kindness Week – a special event dedicated to encouraging acts of compassion, thoughtfulness, and unity within our community.



Throughout the week, students received kindness cards with suggestions for small but meaningful ways to spread kindness. These activities

sparked a wave of positivity across the school. To add a touch of excitement, every completed kindness card earned students an entry into a prize draw. The lucky winners will be enjoying their own Christmas Dinner with Mr Owen.

Kindness Week was a wonderful reminder of the power of small gestures to make a big difference. We're proud of the thoughtful ways our students embraced this challenge, proving once again that #WeAreOne in our commitment to creating a supportive and caring school environment.

## Harvest Festival

Throughout October we collected Harvest Festival donations to support our local community. We welcomed Medway Food Bank to deliver assemblies to all our year groups. They spoke about the charity and how donations help the community. A big thank you to everyone who supported and donated!



## Medway Safety Roadshow

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November our year 9 students took part in the Medway Safety Roadshow delivered by Kent & Medway VRU and Kent Police, hosted by actor Robbie White from Netflix's Heartstopper series. A variety of guest speakers presented interactive sessions covering personal safety, knife crime, drugs, sexual health, mental health, and more.





# Terms 1 and 2 Events

## *Black History Month*

Throughout October we celebrated Black History Month and the Trust-wide focus of 'Unity in Diversity'. On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October some of our students performed a dance at lunchtime in the Courtyard. It was fantastic to see so many students enjoy the performance, and the energy coming from the performers themselves. Thank you to Miss Ayeni for organising.



On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October our Gospel Choir, led by Miss Lea, performed in the Courtyard. We also had some food tasting of traditional African snacks, including chin chin, puff puff, meat pie and plantain chips.



## *The Feast of St. Nicholas*

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, our school embraced the festive spirit with a delightful celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas. This cherished tradition brought joy and excitement to our students as they welcomed a very special visitor.



In true St. Nicholas fashion, students placed their shoes outside the classroom doors, eagerly awaiting his arrival. Much to their delight, St. Nicholas filled the shoes with chocolate treats, spreading holiday cheer throughout the school.

## *Christmas Jumper Party*

Our year 8 and 9 students enjoyed their Christmas party in December. There was music, food, a raffle to win prizes, and a best dressed Christmas competition for an Amazon voucher. Special thanks to Chartwells for supplying the food.





## Terms 1 and 2 Events

### *Children in Need*

This year, our school celebrated Children in Need in an exciting and memorable way by hosting our very first lunchtime fair. Organised by the Student Council, the event was a wonderful opportunity for students to come together, have fun, and raise money for a great cause.

The fair featured a variety of creative and entertaining stalls run by our dedicated Student Council members. From games and challenges to face painting and hot chocolate, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The enthusiasm was contagious, and the turnout exceeded all expectations.

Due to the overwhelming demand, we extended the fair to the following day, giving more students the chance to join in the fun and contribute to the cause. The event was a resounding success, raising an impressive amount for Children in Need and showcasing the generosity and community spirit of our school.

A huge thank you goes out to our Student Council for their hard work in organising the event, as well as to everyone who supported the fair. Together we've made a difference and helped those in need.



### *Rail Safety Assembly*

This term, our assembly program featured an engaging and important presentation from Kate and Donovan of Southeastern Railways' Safeguarding Team. The duo delivered a powerful session focused on railway safety, shedding light on the potential dangers young people may encounter near the tracks.



With an active and interactive approach, Kate and Donovan kept our students captivated throughout the presentation. They emphasized the importance of making safe decisions and being aware of risks, providing practical advice on how to stay safe in and around railway environments.

Our students showed great enthusiasm, actively participating in the session and asking thoughtful questions. This engagement highlighted their genuine interest in the topic and their commitment to understanding how they can protect themselves and others.

We extend our thanks to Kate and Donovan for their time and for delivering such an impactful presentation. Their visit reminded us all of the importance of safety and the role we each play in looking out for one another.



# What does autism look like in teenagers?



Join the National Autistic Society's Teen Life programme for parents and carers of young autistic people aged ten to 16.

## Teen Life programme

Get together with other parents to share advice and experiences. The six-session programme covers:

- understanding autism in teenagers
- women and girls
- self-esteem
- stress and anxiety
- puberty
- planning for the future.

**“What a course! I would strongly recommend any parent with a teenage child on the autism spectrum attend this programme.”**

Parent



**This is your local licensed Teen Life group leader, trained by the National Autistic Society.**

Contact them for more information:

**Name:** Vicki Cornwell & Theepana Thananseyan

**Contact:** [vicki.cornwell@fortitrust.co.uk](mailto:vicki.cornwell@fortitrust.co.uk)

[theepana.thananseyan@fortitrust.co.uk](mailto:theepana.thananseyan@fortitrust.co.uk)



## Information and support

Get free resources and expert advice on a wide range of issues affecting autistic people and their families.

 **Visit:**  
[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)



# Art

## New Chronicles of Mudfog



This term we welcomed artist Nadia Perrotta to deliver a workshop to some of our students as part of the 'New Chronicles of Mudfog' project. The project is an exciting creative initiative by the Chatham-based creative hub, House of Stars, and funded by Medway Heritage Place and Creative Estuary. Over the course of the workshops, students will have the opportunity to engage in

storytelling and illustration, drawing inspiration from local history – particularly the period from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the Industrial Revolution, when migrants played a significant role in the development of the Chatham Dockyard and the local economy. Their work will explore the contributions of these early migrants to Medway's heritage.

The students' artwork will become part of an augmented reality installation on Chatham High Street and will inform the creation of a role play game later on, allowing them to showcase their talents in a public space and contribute to a community-based project.



## Printmaking Workshop

Our year 12 A Level Fine Art students took part in an Experimental Printmaking workshop delivered by University for the Creative Arts. They had the opportunity to experiment with dry point, monotype and gelli print techniques. They produced artwork inspired by botanical themes to increase confidence in this Fine Art discipline.



## Art Ambassadors

This term we were pleased to announce our new Art Ambassadors. These students will work alongside the Art department to create displays around the school, contribute to the student voice about our curriculum, support with exhibitions, and more.

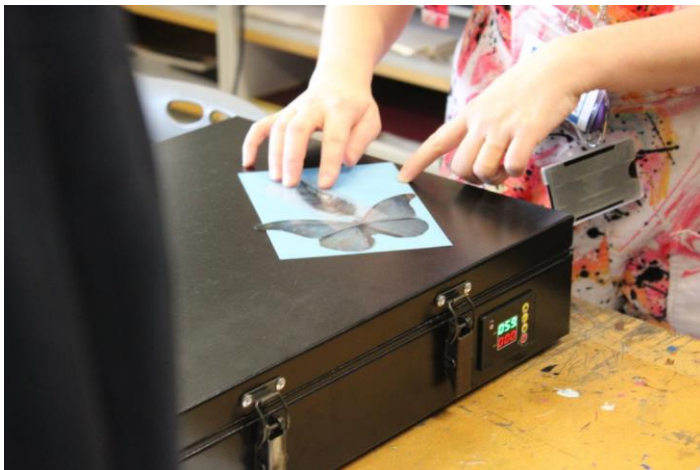


# Art



## Cyanotype Workshop

Our year 10 Fine Art students had the opportunity to take part in a cyanotype workshop delivered by University for the Creative Arts. They experimented with the technique by laying an object on paper coated with solution before exposing it to UV light. They then washed it with water to create stunning blue and white designs.



Students also had the opportunity to talk with the University about future careers linked with creative paths.

## Art Club

Our KS3 Art Club has been creating Christmas decorations this term. They have been painting and decouping laser cut templates, as well as painting winter inspired landscapes.



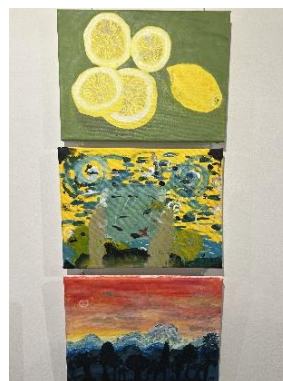
## Black History Month

This year, for Black History Month, our KS3 students learnt about African masks. The students learned about the history of African masks, how they are a central part of African culture, with deep symbolic and religious meanings, and how African masks have influenced key European art movements throughout history.

Our students took inspiration from the colourful and bold geometric shapes of African masks to create colourful paper collages. Each mask has its own style and individuality, and they have all been brought together to create our symbolic meaning and celebration of 'Unity in Diversity'.



## Student Exhibition



Congratulations to Gemma C in year 8, whose artwork was recently displayed in an exhibition with Child Friendly Medway at the Nucleus Arts gallery in Chatham. The organisers commented on how creative Gemma is and the Art department are very proud.

# Business

## *Christmas Market*

This year our Business students from year 10 hosted a stall at The Victory Academy Christmas Market. This gave those selected an opportunity to put what they have learned in lessons into action, including sales and customer service. It also provided them with a chance to talk to other stall holders and gain valuable insight into what it takes to start and run a business, enhancing their knowledge from classes.

In the weeks leading up to the market, our students worked very hard buying, making and baking items, ensuring we had lots of different stock available for people to purchase. All money taken on the evening has now been donated to the Save the Children charity.

It was amazing to see so many members of the community come and support our students, say hello and help us raise money for an important cause. Events like this will help bridge the gap between in-class learning and the real world of business, in which they wish to progress, developing many skills the students will use in future endeavours.



# MFL

## *European Day of Languages*

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated European Day of Languages. At lunchtime we held a cake stall where students could get free treats by asking for them in French. They also took part in a flag challenge to test their knowledge of European flags.

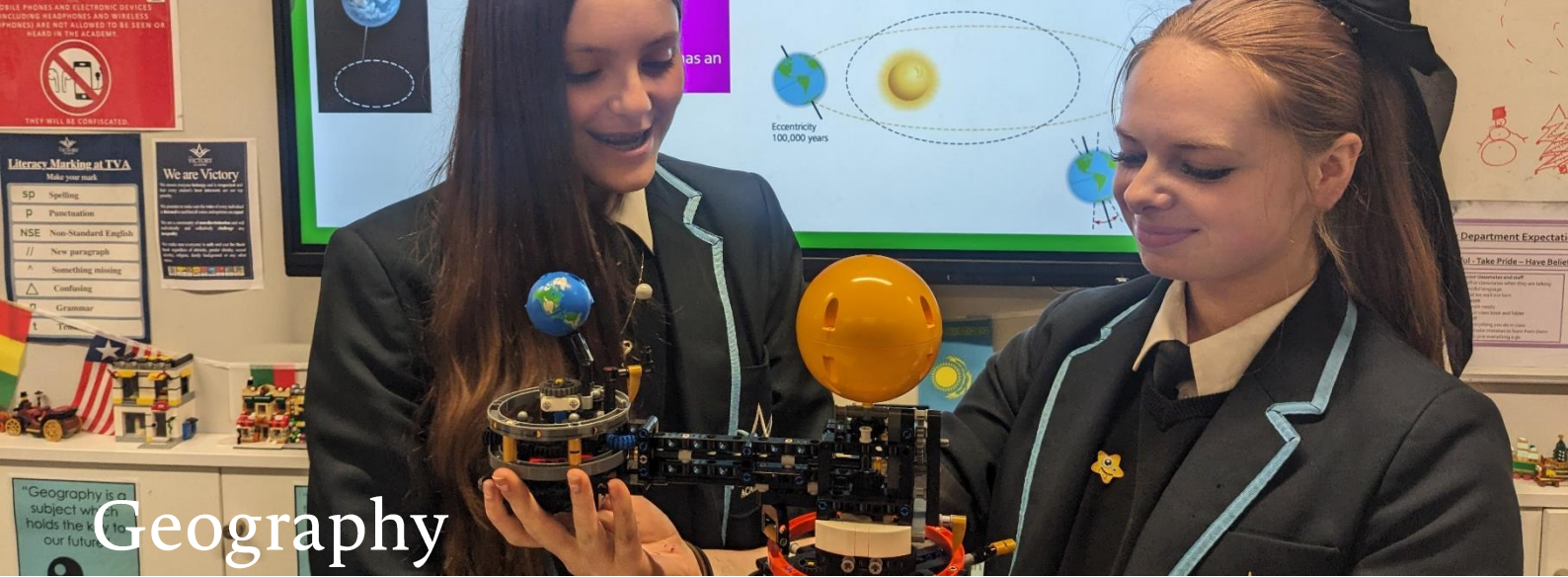


# Geography

## *Geography Club*

Geography Club takes place every Friday lunchtime in G37 and all students are welcome to attend.

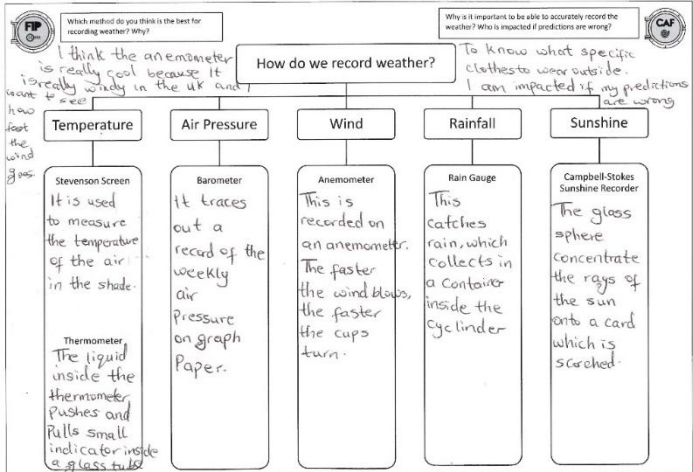
This term we have started exploring geographical debates, giving students a chance to build their oracy skills by discussing local and global issues seen in the news. We recently learned about an aquarium that created a robot shark to promote conservation efforts, the best ways to illustrate a world map, and how we can best protect endangered species from climate change. Well done to all students involved -we look forward to continuing Geography Club in Term 3!



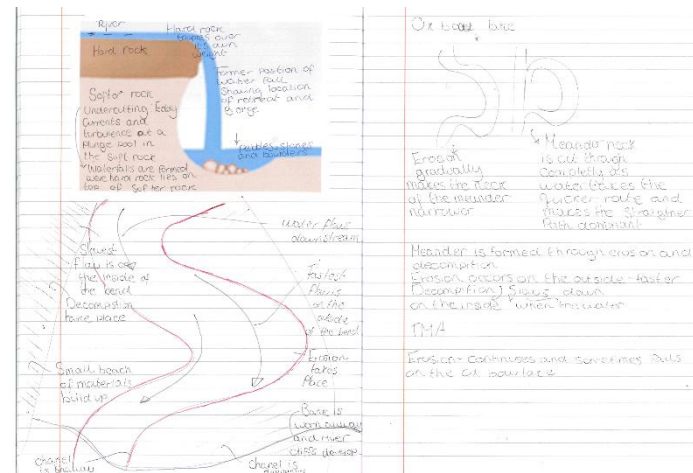
# Geography

## Key Stage 3

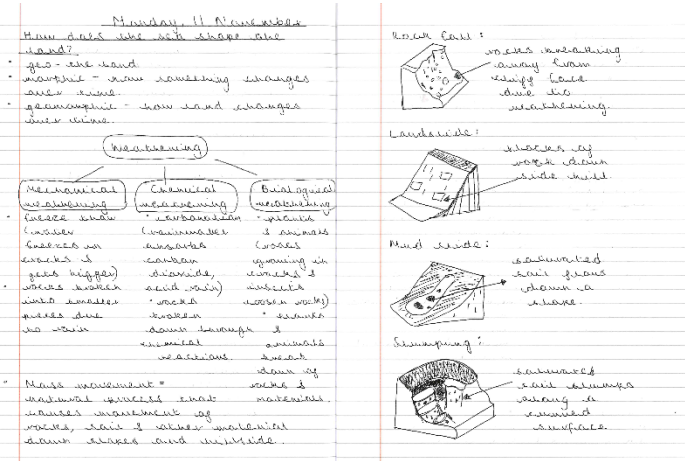
Our KS3 geographers have spent this term learning about different physical systems that affect the UK. Year 7 have explored how weather works, from the processes that cause rainfall to the risks and hazards that weather can bring. Miss Jones was especially impressed with a tree map made by Chinwendu O to show different methods of measuring the weather.



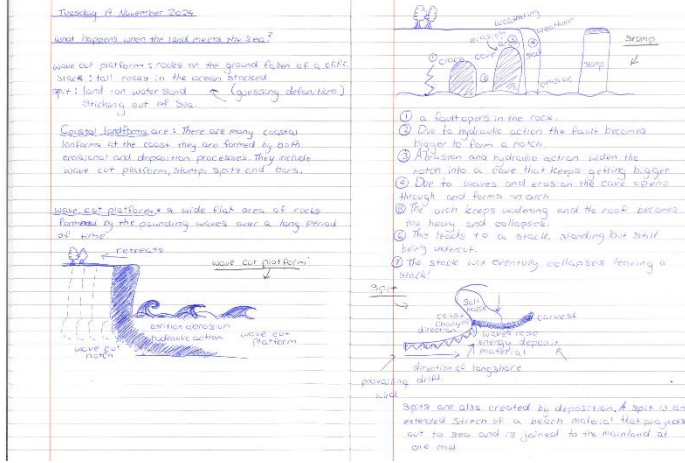
Years 8 and 9 have been learning about landscape systems in the UK. Year 8 have focused on rivers, looking at the journey of the river from the source to the mouth. They have explored the processes and different landscapes to understand how both waterfalls and meanders are formed.



Year 9 have focused on coasts and understanding how the waves create distinctive landscapes around the coast. They have looked at the geomorphic process, detailing the impact that this has on the coast, looking at examples across the UK.



Learning about the physical systems within the UK led to some very interesting discussions and debates around the risks of flooding in urban areas, and how we might mitigate or reduce the effects of hazards.



## Key Stage 4

Year 11 have been learning about climate change. By using scaled down models, they were able to demonstrate how the natural changes in the Earth's orbit have led to both warming and cooling of past global climates.



## Bletchley Park Trip

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November a group of our year 8 and 9 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Bletchley Park, the historic site of World War II codebreaking. They explored the fascinating exhibits, learning about the pivotal role Bletchley played in shaping modern computing. They discovered the importance of information security and how it shaped the modern digital age.

Through interactive workshops, our students learned practical tips for keeping personal information safe and staying secure online. The trip was not only a fascinating journey into the past, but also a valuable lesson in cyber safety, equipping our students with essential skills for navigating the digital world responsibly.



## Digital Ambassadors

The Digital and Computing department are excited to launch our new Student Digital Ambassador scheme, offering students the opportunity to represent our school while developing leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.

Ambassadors will take on a variety of responsibilities, including supporting school events, mentoring younger students, and being a voice for their peers. This is a fantastic way to build confidence, enhance your CV, and make a positive impact in our school community. Applications are now open on Teams.

**BECOME A DIGITAL AMBASSADOR**

THE VICTORY ACADEMY  
#VictoryInnovators

Are you interested in Technology?  
We are looking for passionate & creative individuals to get on board and promote the Digital Technology & Computing Department within The Victory Academy

As Digital Ambassador you will be able to:

- Organise projects
- Promote the Department
- Participate in events inside and outside of school

Use the QR code to apply or apply through teams

**Deadline: Friday 20th December**

For more Information Speak to Mr. Amoah



## Performing Arts

### *Chicago Performance*

Our year 13 Performing Arts students have been working hard in their final year of KS5. They started by creating a musical theatre performance of Chicago the Musical, which was seen by year 10 and 11 students as well as staff. They performed with energy and excitement and worked hard to create a professional performance. Miss Wilson, Head of Performing Arts, is incredibly proud of what they have achieved this year and looks forward to their creations in their next units.

### *National Theatre Trip*

Mrs Clarke took our year 10 Drama students on a trip to the National Theatre, London, to see 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. The students said how incredible the performance was, and they were lucky to have been given this opportunity. Mrs Clarke expressed how the students were professional and engaged, and she is very proud of them.

One of the students said, "It was so inspirational and made me feel that I wanted to be onstage with them. From the facial expressions to the set, everything was just incredible."



### *Oliver! Auditions*

This year's show, directed by Miss Wilson, is Oliver! 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 the auditions – we are very proud of you all.

The Performing Arts department are very excited about this year's show and getting stuck into rehearsals next term.





PE

## Football

This term saw the PE department enter the GFC Utilita Cup U13 Girls' tournament. Mrs Williams took seven girls from years 7 and 8 along to the tournament in which they played against four other schools. The day of the tournament was cold and windy but, despite this, all the team gave their best throughout the tournament. The PE department are very proud of them all for representing the Academy.

A few days later the same team, plus a few additional players, took on Strood Academy in a friendly game at home. The team only had 10 players, and fought hard to the final whistle. Unfortunately, the final score didn't go our way but the PE department are proud of the team for their commitment and determination.

## Basketball



Our basketball season got off to a flying start with an impressive win for the year 9 and 10 team against Holcombe Grammar School. Our year 7 and 8 team also played Holcombe in the first game of their campaign. Unfortunately, this time, Holcombe were too strong for

them, but they will have an opportunity to turn this result around at the rematch next term.

During January and February, we have the majority of our basketball fixtures and we are excited to see how our teams get on. If you are interested in playing for The Victory Academy basketball team, please make sure you attend Basketball Club on Thursdays after school.

## Badminton

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Williams took eight girls from years 7 to 9 to the SSG Badminton tournament in Gillingham. Despite the girls not having the opportunity to practise due to year 11 mock exams, they all showed determination and positivity throughout the whole day. There was success in some of the singles and doubles games where the girls showed their ability to move the opposition around the court, allowing them to score points.



The following week our KS3 boys' badminton teams took part in their SSG Badminton tournament. Whilst both teams had a slow start to the day, they improved during the afternoon session and achieved some great results against strong opposition. The PE department would like to congratulate all those involved.





# PE



## Rugby



In October our year 8 students participated in the SSG Rugby tournament at Medway Rugby Club. The team participated in drills such as tackling, passing and scrums in the morning before participating in seven aside games in the afternoon. Despite never having played rugby before

the team had great enthusiasm throughout the day and showed strength and vigour in the games that they played. All of the girls should be incredibly proud of themselves.

The results were as follows:

- Game 1: Hoo v Victory 4-2
- Game 2: Victory v St John Fisher 2-2
- Game 3: Fortpitt v Victory 4-2
- Game 4: Thomas Aveling v Victory 2-1
- Game 5: Rochester Independent v Victory 0-1
- Game 6: St John Fisher v Victory 2-3

This term the Rugby Club has continued to go from strength to strength with many students attending. With plans to play in a Touch Rugby league in the summer terms, now would be the perfect opportunity to join the club and represent the school.

## Table Tennis

Table Tennis has been a huge success this term with students attending training after school on a Friday in the Quarterdeck. It has been really pleasing to see students improve their skill in the relatively new sport at the Academy.

## Netball

Our year 9 netball team played at home against The Leigh Academy on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The whole team put in a lot of effort during the game. A big thank you to Ophelia B (year 7) and Jessica A (year 8) for stepping up to play. Despite losing 7-1, this was a momentous game as Jessica supported Taylor S (year 9) to score our first Victory league goal. We are now looking to improve on this in our further games.



## Extra-curricular Sports Clubs

This term has seen a huge increase in the number of students participating in extra-curricular sports clubs. There has also been a number of opportunities for our students to represent the school in competitive fixtures.

With the increase in students taking part in sporting activities, the PE department has launched our PE Passport across the school. This has really taken off and many students have been entered into the draw to win sports vouchers at the end of term. Well done to all students who have taken up the challenge.



PE

## CCCU Sport Trip

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October our year 12 and 13 Sport students visited the sports lab at Canterbury Christ Church University. They took part in a variety of field fitness tests and laboratory fitness tests, and were able to apply their knowledge to understand how and why these tests are used.

Students were then given the opportunity to tour the university facilities and discover more about the campus, courses on offer and University life.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have had a fantastic uptake of the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year with 20 students signed up to take part in the Bronze Award.

Students are involved in different activities from boxing, hockey, football, walking, badminton and fitness for their Physical section. For the Skill section, we have students learning Sign Language, photography, cookery, art and piano. For the Volunteering section, students have committed to help work in charity shops in the local area, and support at Reading Club within the Academy and at the local library. All of these activities are building towards our two-day expedition at the end of the academic year.

## Curriculum

As always, this time of year can be challenging due to the weather, but our students have stepped up and participated in all conditions. Numbers of students participating in our lessons are at an all time high and with our Most Valuable Player (MVP) initiative, students are really trying to achieve academic excellence in their PE lessons. Congratulations to all students who have achieved this award during their lessons.



# Science

## Celebrating World Soil Day

Our Victory scientists had the opportunity to investigate the pH of the different soils found around the school site. We determined that the SEN garden had acidic soil due to plant matter presence, the trench dug for the new buildings was alkaline due to Calcium Carbonate in the deeper spoil, and compost was neutral due to microorganisms decomposing organic matter.



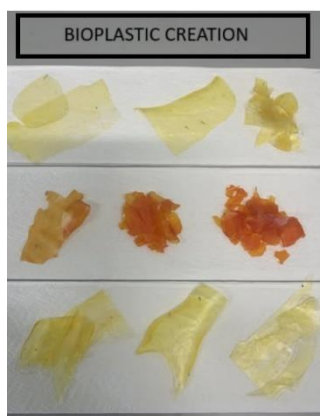
## Oobleck Creation

Students had the chance to create their own bags of oobleck to raise funds for Children in Need.



## STEM Club Highlights

This term our STEM Club has been bustling with creativity and innovation. The journey began with the UCL Ocean Health Challenge, where students showcased their ingenuity by designing and annotating diagrams, and modelling prototypes. Four unique projects were submitted including an anti-plastic submarine, a sea bin, contortionist straws, and the 'Pick Mix Monster' – a litter-picking robot. A huge congratulations to all participants for their outstanding efforts!



In addition, students recently completed an exciting session on snow scene formation, exploring the science of crystallization using saturated salt solutions.



From creative engineering to hands-on experiments, our budding scientists have demonstrated remarkable innovation and dedication. Here's to many more ground-breaking ideas in the future! We couldn't be prouder of our victorious young Victory scientists.



# #VictoryScientist



## Science

### *Science Museum Trip*

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Science department took year 7 students to the Science Museum, London. They explored the world's largest display dedicated to the story of medicine. They discovered the Making the Modern World exhibit, learning about iconic developments in technology, science and medicine. The students also visited the Exploring Space exhibition where we looked at the vast darkness of space and the machinery that allows us to see billions of stars and planets.

The highlight was a 3D IMAX experience discovering Antarctica - it really did feel like swimming alongside seals and humpback whales!



### *Celebrating our Technician*

Our Senior Technician, Maureen Wade, has won the prestigious award from the Royal Society of Chemistry. The prize was awarded for Maureen's creation of variations of microscale practical chemistry resources and actively engaging with the wider education community. Please join us in congratulating her on this much deserved prize.



### *Next Term Science Clubs*

We are excited to be starting our STEAM Club, where we will encompass Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics! For term 3 we will be learning about key women and girls in Science whilst creating murals to hang in our Science department. There will be painting, drawing, collaging and much more. The club is open to all students and family members every Friday 3.10pm-4.00pm in The Galley. Refreshments will be provided. We will unveil our creations on the last week of term 3 to celebrate Women in Science Day.

Join us every Wednesday after school in the Science Department for CREST Club! We will be undertaking the CREST Awards Bath Bomb Challenge. You will be entered into receiving the award from your completed project. All year groups are welcome.

# Design Technology

## Picture Showcase

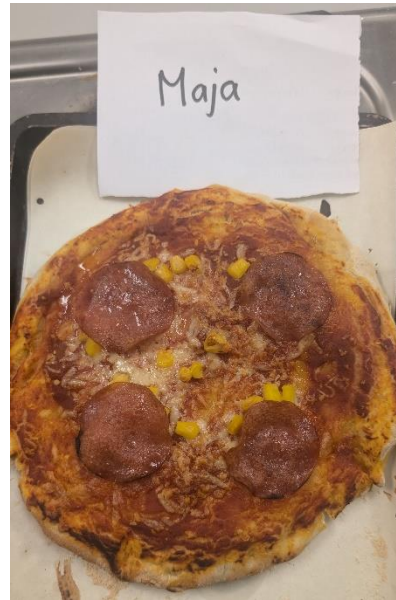


A Level Product Design Open Evening display, showcasing year 12 lamps and classwork with technical drawings and sketches.



Year 11 model, by Malaz H, made for their Design Technology coursework.

Year 10 Textiles bag, based on Bauhaus and Art Nouveau design movements.



Year 7 Food Technology pizza assessment – amazing results and they look delicious!



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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