

# The Victory Academy Newsletter

July 2023

## Principal's End of Term Address

As the academic year draws to a close, I have taken some time to reflect on all of our achievements. There have been so many highlights of which our newsletter only gives a snapshot. I continue to be extremely proud of our students and our staff; their energy, enthusiasm and determination to achieve is commendable. Particular highlights for me this year have been the Artsmark Platinum reaccreditation, working with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Duke of Edinburgh Award being relaunched.

This term, we said farewell to our year 11 and year 13 students. I look forward to seeing them on their results days and celebrating successes. We have welcomed our new year 7 to the Academy for their transition days and I very much look forward to welcoming them to the Academy in September.

At the end of this term, we sadly say farewell to some of our staff members. I wish Mr C Mills, Mr R McLellan, Ms J Loveridge, Mr C Snell, Miss L White, Ms R Ideh, Ms S Odumosu, and Ms A Burgess the best of luck in their new ventures and thank them for their hard work and support.



Finally, I would like to say thank you to our parents, carers and Governors for their continued support throughout this academic year. Working together well is incredibly important to ensure our young people achieve their very best.

I wish you all a happy summer break and look forward to welcoming students back to Victory in September.



## Key Dates Academic Year 2023-24

### *Term 1*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September (years 7, 11 and 12 only) and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September (all year groups) to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Open Evening – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Autumn Break – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### *Term 2*

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Christmas Break – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

## *Follow Us for Updates*

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

Facebook - [@TheVictoryAcademyChatham](#)

Twitter - [@TheVA\\_Chatham](#)

Instagram - [@tsat\\_victoryacademy](#)

# Updates and News

## Uniform

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

Our School Uniform:

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

Performing Arts & PE Kit:

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

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

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

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



## Artsmark Platinum

We are delighted to have received the Artsmark Platinum Award for the second time. Accredited by Arts Council England, Artsmark supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum. In order to achieve the award, we have further developed and embedded arts and culture into the curriculum. The Platinum Award is the highest level that can be achieved.

## Kent Teacher of the Year Awards

Congratulations to Mr Vashisht who was awarded the Medway Maths Teacher of the Year and Mr Slater who won Medway ECT of the Year and was the overall winner of Kent and Medway ECT of the Year.





## Terms 5 and 6 Events

### *Dockyard Awards Evening*

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July we held our Awards Presentation Evening at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. It was a great evening celebrating our students, along with their families and teachers. The Matilda Jr. cast showcased some performances from the show. Awards were given out for subject progress and achievement, Victory Virtues, Head of Year, Lighthouse subjects and Star Readers. A special congratulations to Amon-Ra M, Kye O and Laura K for winning the Principal's Award, the Sam Rooks Award and the George Hughes Award.

### *Dockyard Project*

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June our Dockyard Project students took part in the Presentation Event. They spoke about the activities they have been working on at the Historic Dockyard Chatham over the five weeks. This included exploring the ships and exhibitions, learning about artforms, and making rope in the ropery. Well done to the group, who have now achieved their ArtsAward.



### *Sharp Project*

In term 5 a selection of students took part in the Sharp Project delivered by Imperial College London. The research project, in response to knife violence, looks at the impact for those involved and those who witness violent altercations. It aims to work with young people to see how they can be supported and how barriers can be overcome.



Phase 1 included a VR re-telling of the story of a real-life knife violence incident using computer generated imagery. The students reflected on this and then expressed their thoughts and feelings during an art workshop using Indian Ink. Finally, students discussed together the reasons young

people might carry knives and what the solutions are to avoid this.

In Phase 2 students visited Imperial College London and watched a physical enactment with working healthcare professionals of the story they explored during Phase 1. The students explored the impact of violence on those directly involved and on those who respond, such as paramedics and A&E staff.





## Terms 5 and 6 Events

### *Sailing Trip*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May eight students, accompanied by Mr Owen and Ms Littlemore, embarked upon a four-day voyage onboard the Blue Mermaid sailing barge. Throughout the four days students had the opportunity to learn and participate in the daily tasks of a sailing voyage from Suffolk, down the Essex coast and into the Medway River ending at Gillingham. Alongside learning about all that is involved in sailing the vessel, the students worked fantastically together to ensure they were all fed, and that the vessel was kept 'ship-shape' (yes that included cleaning the on-board sea toilets!). The students threw themselves fully into sea life and particularly enjoyed climbing the mast!



Oscar W – 'The thing I enjoyed most about the sailing trip was learning new skills and being able to do things I didn't think I would be able to do, like going up the mast and along the bowsprit. I learnt lots of new skills like tying knots and setting the sail.'  
Arda A – 'I really enjoyed climbing the 10m ladder; it was a really good experience and the view was amazing. The best thing about living onboard was having my friends close.'  
Caroline H – 'I learnt how to control the sails when the wind changes. The best thing about living onboard was making new friends.'

### *Mental Health Awareness*

In May we took part in Mental Health Awareness Week and encouraged our students and staff to start conversations about mental health and the things in our daily lives that can affect it. Our staff took part in Wear It Green Day and wore green ribbons to raise money. Our students wrote positive messages on our Mental Health Awareness display and we held a doughnut sale to raise money for Mental Health Foundation and MPS Society.





## Terms 5 and 6 Events

### *The Canterbury Bike Project*

A selection of students took part in The Canterbury Bike Project. The project offers young people the opportunity to engage in practical learning through bicycle mechanics. Over the six weekly sessions, our students developed new, valuable skills in a fun and practical way.

The final Bike Project trip took place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May at Betteshanger Park in Deal. Students cycled around the park using the bike that they helped to mend over the course of the project. They then attended The Riverside Youth Project on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July for their final assessment.

### *FLUX Project*

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July we welcomed Ideas Test to present Arts Award certificates to our FLUX Project students. The FLUX Project sessions included singing, song writing, rapping, spoken word and performing arts. At the end of the project, they created their own music videos to original songs and raps. This included doing their own recording, videography, choreography and editing.

Well done to all the students involved and congratulations on your Arts Award.



### *Fitfix Sessions*

In terms 5 and 6 some of our students took part in the Fitfix course. This 12-week course, designed by TriForYou, helps young people improve their health and wellbeing. It encourages healthy eating and physical activity by including cookery, wellbeing sessions, fun fitness sessions and personal training. Our students learnt about the Eatwell guide, food nutrition labels and healthier food alternatives, with a focus on increasing confidence and self-esteem.

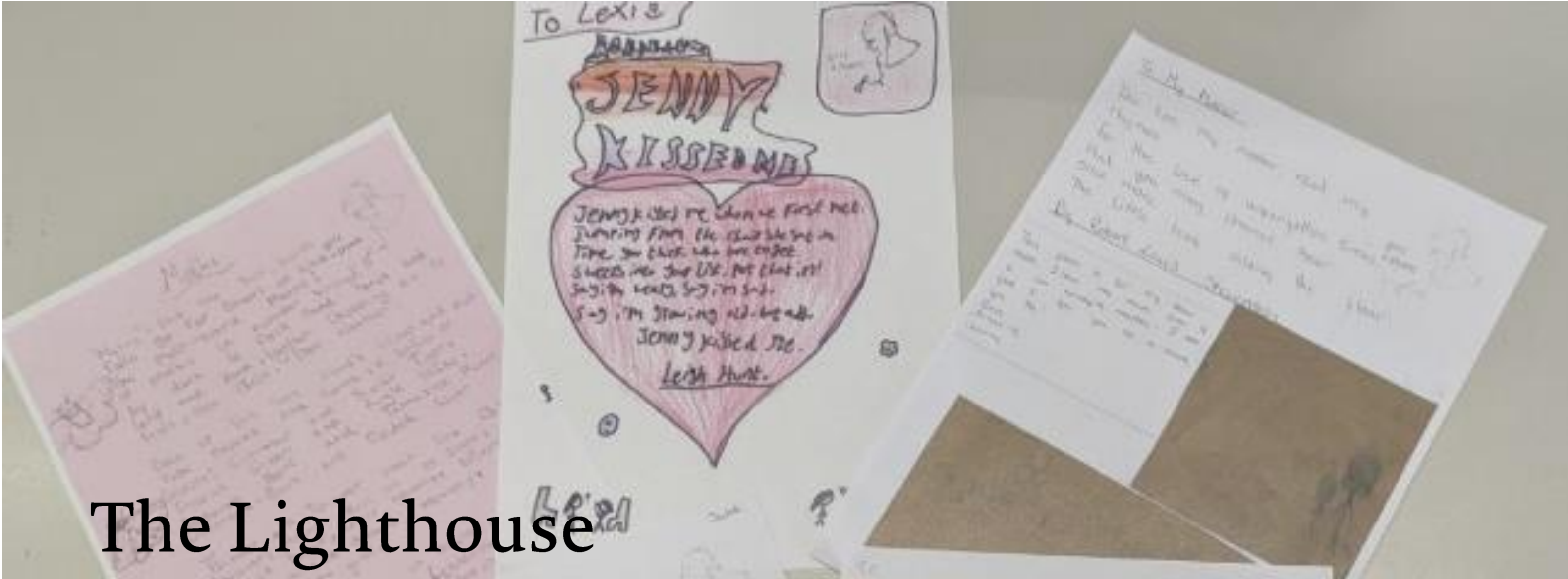
### *Water Safety*

A selection of students took part in a Water Safety and Sports Career Programme led by Black Swimming Association and Arches Local. The programme seeks to engage a variety of young males who are new to, struggling or uncomfortable with aquatics.

Under the theme of water safety, the students were introduced to water sports and aquatics career pathways with visits to RNLI Gravesend Lifeboat Station, Sky Studios in London and Pentland Group. They also learnt water safety at Medway Park pool.

For the last session on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July the students visited Chatham Maritime Watersports Centre. They took part in kayaking and a challenging team raft build and race.





# The Lighthouse

## Gift a Poem Project

The Lighthouse have been working on gifting poems to friends, teachers and family members. They added illustrations relevant to the poem chosen. These were then sent off to UNESCO in accordance with World Poetry Day.



## Outdoor Learning

Over the course of terms 5 and 6 the Lighthouse students have been partaking in outdoor learning lessons in accordance with completing AQA Awards. Students have been exploring outdoor areas, collecting natural resources, creating art and playing sports. Recently, the students have completed some fire lighting tasks – next year the outdoor lessons will continue and focus on the theme of Survival.



## Nature Book

In accordance with AQA Awards, Lighthouse students have been working hard on creating Nature Books exploring themes that interest them such as butterflies, mushrooms, birds, plant species and scientific topics like germination and food chains. They have created some spectacular books!



## The Lighthouse Awards

As part of the Awards Presentation Evening at The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Lighthouse Awards were given for great work and behaviour in the Lighthouse throughout the year. The awards included Art, Science, Numeracy, Literacy, Project and Star of the Year. Along with a certificate, students received an activity pack based around their award subject.





# Art

## Studio VA

The Victory Academy's Annual Art Exhibition, Studio VA, took place on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It showcased the creative work of our year 11 and 13 Art and DT students, including:

- A Level Art and Design
- A Level Product Design
- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Design & Technology
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- BTEC Art and Design
- Level 1/2 Engineering

Held in our Art department, the exhibition showcased the sketchbooks, folders and final pieces that our students have created over the last two years. It was a great event celebrating our students' artistic achievements.

## Art Club

Our Year 8 Art Club takes place every Wednesday after school. This term our students have been exploring Egyptian culture and have produced effective pieces using a foil and Sharpie technique.



## Creative Workshops

Our Art department have hosted a variety of workshops this term. Ravensbourne University delivered a fashion workshop for our year 10 Textiles students. They created fashion collages using their own photographs.

We also welcomed University of the Creative Arts to deliver a Cyanotype Workshop to our Textiles students. They created beautiful prints using UV rays.



## TSArTs Week

In June we took part in the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's TSArTs Week. The event saw the Trust's schools and offices unite to celebrate arts and all things creative. A variety of artwork from across the schools was put on display in a virtual gallery tour. The gallery can be visited [here](#). Our submission was a stunning acrylic painting by Kacie A in year 11.





# Performing Arts

## *Matilda the Musical Jr.*

This year's annual Victory Academy show was *Matilda the Musical Jr.*, directed by Miss Wilson, which ran from 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The cast wowed the audience which ended in a standing ovation every night! Each performance celebrated the many accomplishments of our students. The Performing Arts department are incredibly proud of this year's show and the talent of each student. We applaud all who have made this production possible; our cast of over 50 performers from years 7-13 and an additional 14 student technicians. The students were phenomenal to work with from the auditions through to show week, where they have shown professionalism, creativity and determination. Their efforts and passion to produce the very best show have been inspiring to witness, not to mention the sheer depth of their individual and collective talent.

Miss Wilson – 'Every year the shows gets better and better, I don't know how we will top it next year; it's definitely a show to remember! Thank you to all for being part of our show – whether behind the scenes, on stage or in the audience. *Matilda* sums it up well, "Even if you're little you can do a lot" - and this was shown on and off stage by all students. Well done all!'



## *The Trials Auditions*

The Victory Academy were proud to be the Medway Hub for Marlowe Theatre's auditions for their upcoming production of 'The Trials', showing in August and September 2023. Our Quarterdeck became a hub of young talent being video-interviewed by the Marlowe's team. Students from across Medway threw themselves into two-hour group audition slots exploring the themes, script extracts, intentions and drama of the upcoming new play.

Particular praise goes to all Victory students who attended these external professional auditions as their first audition in the performing arts industry. Mrs Voisey was proud to see our students, nervous themselves, help ease the nerves of their fellow auditionees. The camaraderie and openness, along with professionalism and bravery, were touching to witness and we wish them the best of luck with this audition outcome along with many more auditions sure to come.







# Performing Arts

## RSC Final Performance

The Victory Academy's Royal Shakespeare Company Cast participated in an 11-school production of 'As You Like It' at Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park.

The group of 18 students from years 7 to 10 have been working with the Marlowe Theatre and RSC as part of the Associate Schools' Programme. Students have taken part in multiple acting and costume workshops to explore the Bard's text through active approaches. Working with Mrs Voisey and Miss Cumming, along with the RSC Director Mentor, students have learnt to fully inhabit the characters they are playing, developing their use of dramatic intonation, characterisation and interaction. The project has strengthened their comprehension of Shakespearean language making the text, themes and characters come alive.

Opening the promenade outdoor production, the performers excelled themselves in setting the scene for the story of jealousy, exile and family breakdown. Our Principal, Mrs Smith, came to see the penultimate of seven shows and was very impressed by the hard work and dedication of our students. Although tired, the students were very proud of how far they had come and all they had achieved through the course of this project. Mrs Voisey, Miss Cumming and parents were delighted with the culmination of our students' efforts.



Edward – 'It was very fun and a massive boost to my confidence. I'd do it again. I loved making everyone laugh.'

Lilly-Jean – 'The experience in pushing myself and being around positive people has made me feel more confident.'

Katie – 'At first I was nervous and unsure as I used to struggle with the Shakespearean language, but the more I tried the more I understood.'

James – 'I found it fun and easier to understand Shakespeare, what some words mean and how Shakespeare represented his characters in his shows.'

William – 'I found it easier to understand the Shakespearean language than before.'

Harry – 'It was good working with others and I'm 5/5 confident and proud of the end product. I'm also understanding the Shakespearean language better.'





## English

### *37 Plays Project*

In April some of our students went on the 37 Plays Project trip to Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury. They performed their original play, written in partnership with the RSC project. They had a wonderful day, and the parents who came to watch thoroughly enjoyed the performance!



### *NHCA Writing Workshop*

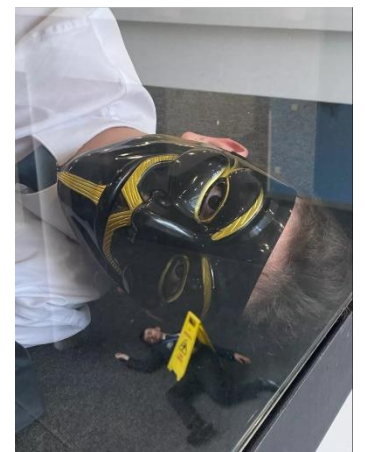
In July we had the joy of taking five of our year 9 students to New Horizons Children's Academy. Our students worked with years 4 and 5 to help incite a joy of writing. They rose to the challenge and collaborated as a team to write a story in a short space of time. We are extremely proud of how our students conducted themselves. They represented The Victory Academy fantastically, showing great enthusiasm and communication skills.

### *Speaking and Listening Exams*

At the start of term 6, year 10 completed their Speaking and Listening exams to go towards their GCSE English Language certificates. The year group showed such great enthusiasm and pride in preparing for their exams, and the English department was impressed at the maturity and dedication that year 10 showed when completing their exams. Well done year 10 – we hope the good work continues into year 11!

### *Photography Workshop*

This term we welcomed Ravensbourne University for a photography workshop with our year 10 and 12 Media Studies students. They learnt how to use natural light and reflections to enhance their pictures.



# History



**Workhouse**  
**Workhouse**  
 A public institution in which the destitute of a parish board and lodging in return for work

for the help of  
 that was sent down for the  
 this was their new headmistress  
 that finally stood up for the  
 rights of these children and  
 decided to ban all corporal  
 punishments.

**Rules of the Rochester Union Workhouse**

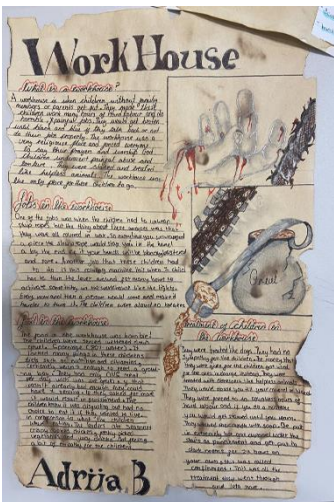
- Every person shall be awake by bells.
- No alcohol to be brought in.
- Make no noise when silence is required.
- Pretend sickness to get off work.
- Shall follow orders of the officers.
- Shall keep good hygiene.
- Anyone found not obeying these rules will be fed only bread and water.

## Year 7 - Victorian Medway

Year 7 have been taking part in the Local Medway Project. The project explores Victorian Medway and Charles Dickens, and includes a collaboration with the English department with the students reading 'Oliver Twist'. Special recognition to Ethan L, Skye W, Tommy M, Adrija B, Hayden H, Emily P, Zofia B, Scarlett M, Livia C, Lexi D and Ellie P.

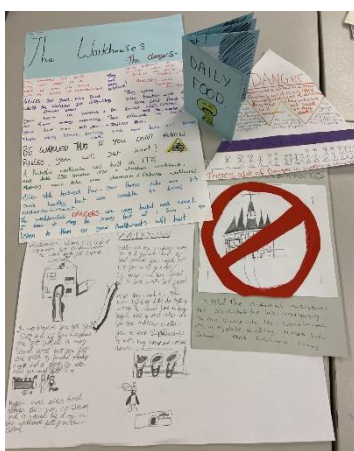
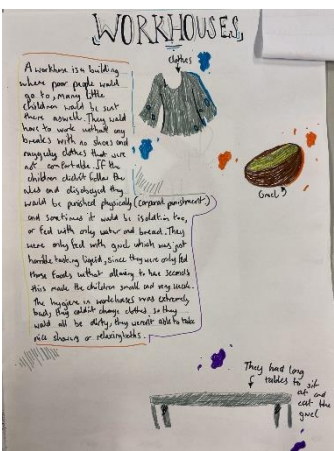
## Year 9 - The Canonical Five

Year 9 have been working on developing theories on the identity of Jack the Ripper. They have also been looking at the victims' lives and the misconceptions that Victorian morality and media place on the women's characters. Special recognition to Bella N, Jack S, Gabriellis R, Chineye O, Chris S, Deima R, Ameer A, Ben B and Sara P.



## Year 10 Mock Exams

Well done to all year 10 students for completing their History mock exams, and to those who attended the Learning Period 6 sessions. Remember to start revising for your second 'Weimar and Nazi Germany' mock exam in November. Special recognition to Junior A, Esil A, Ella C, Rashawn K, Kayan R, Melanie M, Fade B, Rhapsody D, Tiffany L and Laura K.



## Beacon School

As a department we are extremely proud and excited to have been accepted as a Beacon School for Holocaust Education. This will be an exciting journey for the students and The Victory Academy.



Ms Cullen, Lead of History – 'Miss Dower and I are extremely proud to be accepted onto the programme at UCL and are excited to engage with all

## Year 8 - Ireland

Year 8 have been learning about the partition of Ireland and the subsequent troubles. They have been looking at both Irish and British points of view. Special recognition to Oscar P, Josiah T, Kirills S, Louie M, Jess T, Emiliene N, Amy H and Andzelika G.

students at Victory in this project. During the next academic year, we will be working with UCL to develop an engaging scheme of work for our year 9 cohort. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to extend their knowledge and involvement during Holocaust Memorial Month and term 3.'

# Geography

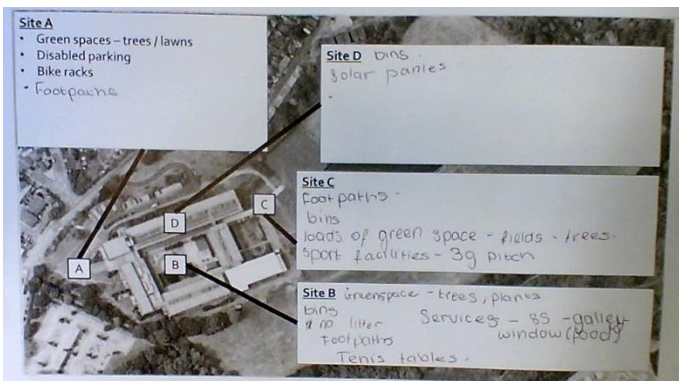
## Fieldwork

Throughout term 6 our Geography students have been participating in fieldwork investigations. KS3 students completed local fieldwork within the school site, while our year 10 students visited Folkestone and Deal on 11<sup>th</sup> July to explore the impacts of tourism and coastal management.

Year 7 have been exploring the school's microclimate, using anemometers and thermometers to measure the wind speed and temperature at different sites around the school. They presented their data by creating bar charts and annotated maps of the school.

Year 8 have been investigating the sustainability of The Victory Academy. They used the Egan Wheel to complete a local sustainability survey and a sustainable community assessment. They then presented their data by creating annotated maps and radar graphs to highlight strengths and weaknesses.

Shout-outs to Lilly M, year 7 and Ellen B, year 8 for their neat presentation of data using annotated maps.



## Geogglebox Club

A special thank you from Miss Jones to the 14 students in year 7 and year 9 who have regularly attended our geography documentary club, Geogglebox, on Friday lunchtimes. This year the club have watched lots of programmes about how people interact with the environment, including the popular 'Frozen Planet' and 'Blue Planet' series, as well as an undercover investigation into how SHEIN factories are run in China. It has been fantastic watching the club grow throughout the year and seeing students apply their learning to their work in class too!

# DT

## KS3 Projects

Our KS3 DT students have completed their final pieces this term. In Engineering, classes 7B and 7C have made Aluminimals where they produced aluminium animals from their hand drawn measurements.



In Product Design, class 7A have made sweet dispensers. These were produced from Scots Pine and recycled plastic bottles, to introduce the topic of sustainability to year 7.





PE

## Sports Day

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, a record number of students, including year 12 for the first time, competed in the annual Sports Day. The morning saw students competing in the 1500m, 800m and the field events. In the afternoon the whole school came together to watch the 100m, 200m and 300m sprint events, and four 100m relays. All of the events were fiercely competitive which resulted in a number of new Sports Day records. The PE department would like to thank all the students who took part and staff who helped during the day. Big congratulations to Gannet house (blue) who were the overall winners.



## District Athletics

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June we took 55 athletes to the annual District Athletics Championships at Medway Park. All the competing athletes were a credit to the Academy and performed magnificently.

Congratulations to the following students who won medals;

Ephraim A won gold in Year 7 Long Jump and silver in 100m, Carvell M won silver in Year 7 200m, Taylor S won silver in Year 7 Javelin, Ollie G won silver in Year 8 1500m, Joel C won bronze in Year 8 Shot Put, Shaun C won silver in Year 9 100m, Chineye O won silver in Year 9 Discus, Marius T won bronze in Year 10 Javelin, and Michael N won bronze in Year 10 Long Jump.

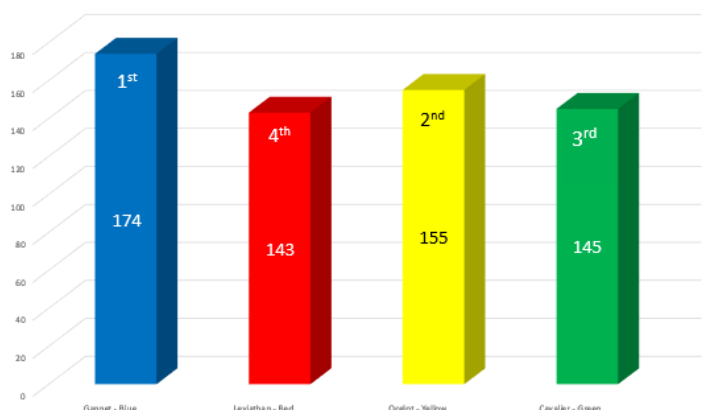


## SSG Cricket

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, year 7 students took part in the SSG Cricket competition at Lordswood Cricket Club. The competition included 15 schools from the local area. Despite the warm weather our students played really well throughout the day and reached the knockout stages. Congratulations to all those involved.



Overall Sports Day Results



# PE

## *Duke of Edinburgh Award*

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2022-23 cohort completed their expedition during the first weekend of July. After many hours of preparation, the students showed organisation skills and teamwork through putting up tents, map reading, applying their knowledge of basic first aid for the expedition and the rules of the countryside.

Throughout the academic year, students have been working hard on the Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections of the course. In the Physical section they performed a variety of team sports, dance, walking tracked by STRAVA and attended the gym. The Skill section had our students completing a variety of activities such as cooking, artwork, photography, performing arts, dance and sign language. For the Volunteering section some students used their time after school to help The Victory Academy library and coached younger students in a number of different clubs.

The group were fantastic during the Expedition in Sittingbourne. You could really see the improvement from the practice weekend to the Assessed Expedition. They improved their communication, leadership, teamwork, decision making, problem solving, empathy towards each other and their determination to complete their Bronze Award. Mr Doyle is really proud of the group's endeavour and their willingness to work as a team throughout the weekend.

A massive congratulations to all students who have started their journey on the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. If you are interested in starting our Bronze Award in September, please contact Mr Doyle.

## *New School Records*

This year The Victory Academy has had an excellent athletics season. As well as the medals won, there were a number of school records broken during District Athletics and Sports Day, some of which had stood for over 10 years! Congratulations to all the students who set new school records.

Name	Yr	Event	Time/Distance
Ephraim A	7	100m	13.04secs
Ephraim A	7	Long Jump	4m 11
Carvell M	7	200m	28.89secs
Ephraim A, Carvell M, Arijus A & Olamide A	7	Relay	56.83secs
Ollie G	8	1500m	5mins 21secs
Amira H	8	Shot Put	7.35m
Daniel E	8	Shot Put	10.04m
Temitayo A	8	Javelin	26.75m
Leonia M	9	100m	13.72secs
Chineye O	9	Discus	18.09m
Shaun C, Bailey I, George M & Maxy P	9	Relay	52.00secs
Sam E	10	200m	25.63secs
Stephanie M	10	100m	14.53secs
Stephanie M	10	200m	31.33secs
Catherine E	10	Discus	16.75m
Ella C	10	1500m	6mins 38secs
Michael N	10	400m	60.46secs
Michael N	10	Long Jump	4.98m
Molly C, Ella C, Jessica T & Krishna B	10	Relay	63.25secs
Junior A, Sam E, Michael N & Abdul S	10	Relay	51.78secs

# Science



## STEM Camp

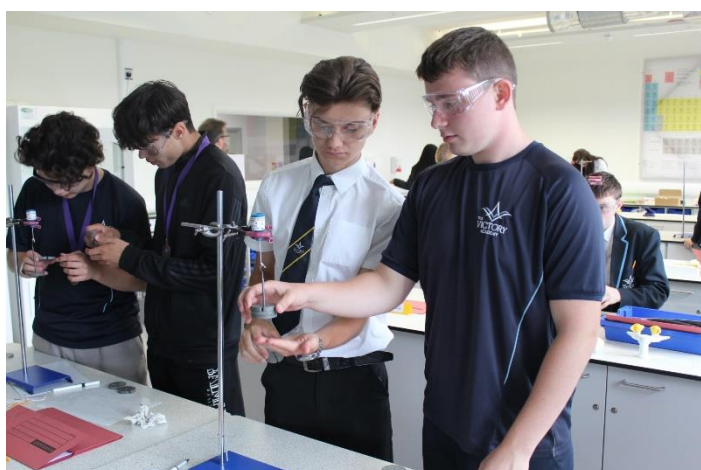
The Science department held a four-day intensive STEM camp for 20 selected students in year 10. The Victory Academy was the only school in Kent to offer this opportunity which was available through the Southeast Science Learning Partnership with sponsorship from Goldman Sachs.

Students spent a whole day studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics and ICT with many hands-on activities and practical work. They also had an opportunity to live stream with a number of people working across various industry sectors exploring their career pathway, what their job involved and what was enjoyable about it. Subject specialists and experts were brought in from across Kent to teach our students for these four days.

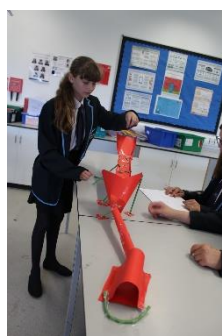
Comments from our students:

'I have really enjoyed the STEM camp as the teachers were amazing and very supportive. The thing I enjoyed most was how to do new practicals.'

'The STEM camp was really enjoyable. Physics, especially the practicals, gave a great visual presentation making it easier to understand content and topics.'

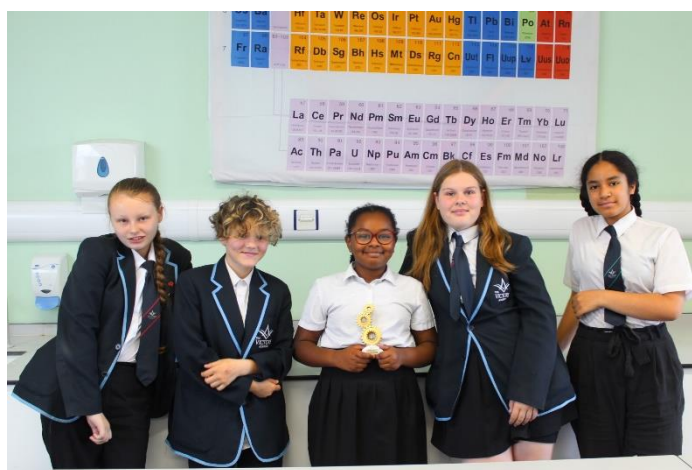


## Virtual STEM Event



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July the Science department held a virtual STEM event for year 7 students. The event was presented by PPMA Best, a consortium of engineering companies. The students had two challenges with the first being to make an eco-roller. The premise of this was to recreate a factory roller transporting eggs, ensuring the eggs didn't break. In the lab students were given a fixed quantity of resources to make a marble run with the slowest run time for the marble. The tutor group which came out on top was 7.L5 with a run time of 12.19 seconds.

The second activity was for the students to come up with an innovative idea to solve a particular problem. Working in groups they discussed ideas, made a technical drawing and then created a 40 second pitch to convince an investor to back their idea. Firstly, each group pitched their idea to the rest of their form and the winners from each form were judged by a panel of staff judges. The winners were from form 7.O6 with their Plastics in the Ocean Remover. Well done to all participating students.

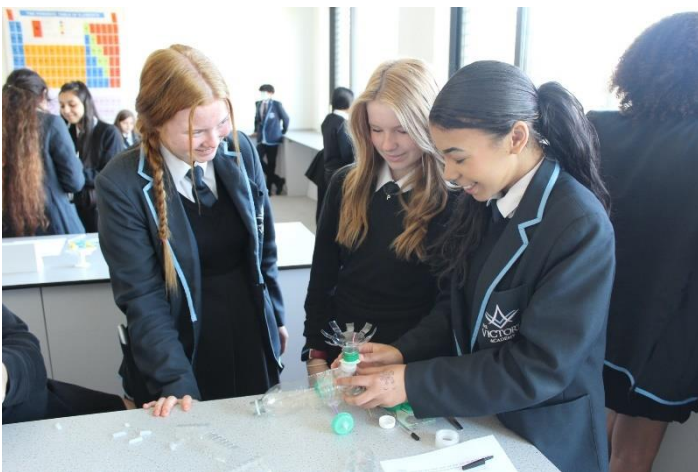


# Science



## Big Bang Event

On Wednesday 10th May our year 9 and 10 students took part in the Big Bang Event. The first activity was to create moving bottle cars, using plastic bottles and a variety of materials. Students were divided into small groups and were given design suggestions using the balloon or propellor method.



We also welcomed Ian Dunne from Do Science. Ian performed a variety of science 'magic' showing the students tricks, robotics, optical illusions and electricity. The show was fun and engaging – we especially loved Tibbles the robot cat!

The Big Bang Event was a great success and we hope to organise a similar event next year.



## Sixth Form Field Trip

On 5<sup>th</sup> June the year 12 A-Level biologists travelled to The Wildwood Trust at Herne for part one of their field trip. The group undertook a woodland ecology study, learning sampling techniques and data analysis. They had expert tuition from Woodland's tutors and had a personal tour of the park and the research projects being undertaken there. The students had a chance to see many species once native to the UK including wolves, bears, deer and bison.



On 8<sup>th</sup> June the group travelled to Botany Bay at Broadstairs for the second part of their field trip. On this occasion the group studied coastal ecology and succession. Although very breezy, the day was really enjoyable with students finding so many interesting creatures in the rock pools such as starfish, jellyfish, oysters, limpets, crabs and periwinkles, and of course there were lugworms in the sand. Both days were extremely enjoyable and informative.







# Sixth Form

## Year 13 Leavers



Our year 13 students were in school for the final time on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June. We are very proud of how hard they have worked before and during the examination season. We would like to thank all students, parents and carers for their dedication, hard work and support to the Sixth Form team. We would like to wish every student the very best of

luck for Results Day in August and beyond.

## BTEC Sport Trip

Our year 12 BTEC students had a fantastic day at Canterbury Christ Church University. They took part in a number of different laboratory tests used in sport, and were able to apply their knowledge to understand how and why these tests are used. Students were then able to tour the amazing university facilities and discover more about the campus, courses on offer and university life.



## Work Experience and Enrichment Week

Our year 12 students had a one-week work experience placement before May half term. We were very proud of the feedback received from work placements about how our students performed and conducted themselves during this week. Our students will benefit from this experience in the future.

We also had Enrichment Week at the start of Term 6. Students attended the UCAS exhibition in Maidstone, where hundreds of universities promoted their courses. Students were able to find out valuable information to help make informed decisions on future plans. We also had talks from MP Tracey Crouch; a TSAT representative; a real estate agent; Ravensbourne University; and University of Kent. Students attended sessions covering UCAS applications, apprenticeships, cooking, and writing personal statements and CVs.

## Year 11 Induction Day

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July we had our Sixth Form Induction Day for current year 11 students. It was great to see students engaging in the subjects they wish to study from September. We would like to wish year 11 the very best of luck for GCSE Results Day and look forward to welcoming you into Sixth Form next academic year.

## Year 10 Futures Talk

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July we had a year 10 futures afternoon. Students were able to find out more information about their options for after year 11, with presentations by MidKent College and the Sixth Form team.

# Year 11

## *Memorial Mile*

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May our year 11 students took part in a mile walk/run in memory of George Hughes and to raise money for Young Lives vs Cancer. Well done everyone for taking part.



## *Exams Support*

It was wonderful to see some of our year 7 and Sixth Form students cheer on year 11 as they headed into their first exams.



## *Leavers Afternoon*

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June we said goodbye to our year 11 leavers. They had a great afternoon with shirt signing, a bouncy castle, football and pizza.

Miss Wilson, Head of Year 11 – 'I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you and lucky to have been your Head of Year, watching you grow from year 8. I want to wish you all the best in your future endeavours, and I look forward to seeing you all on results day.'



## *Results Day*

GCSE results day is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 10am-12pm. If any student is unable to collect their results, please contact the school office so we can arrange an alternative.



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

## *Contact Us*

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