

ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE



SIXTH FORM





Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am delighted that you are considering our Sixth Form for the next steps of your education. Choosing a Sixth Form is a very important decision for parents, guardians, and students. At The Victory Academy, we are committed to transforming the life chances of our students, ensuring that all are supported and encouraged to have high aspirations and to achieve their personal best. We work hard with our Sixth Form students to ensure that they have a clear vision for life after The Victory Academy. Many of our students continue on to study at top universities, while others pursue apprenticeships and successful careers.

We consider ourselves to be highly inclusive and welcome students of all backgrounds and beliefs. Our ethos is one of care and compassion, enabling our students to grow in a supportive atmosphere conducive to their development. Where students need additional support, we will look to meet their needs through our well-resourced Sixth Form team.

As our Sixth Form students are role models for the younger students within the school, we have high expectations of how our Sixth Form students behave, speak, and present themselves, both in the Academy and the local community. Our expectations are underpinned by our Victory Values of respect, pride, and belief, and our Victory Virtues derived from Costa and Kallick’s Habits of Mind.

The Victory Academy is officially accredited as an “Advanced Thinking School” by the University of Exeter. We are also extremely proud to have been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award by the Arts Council England. This is because we celebrate and promote creativity in everything that we do.

We have a thriving extra-curricular programme with many opportunities for students to grow their talents. In the sporting arena, the school has a wide range of very successful teams, a Football Academy, and a professionally equipped fitness suite. We also have outstanding student productions, dance shows, and exhibitions.

The Victory Academy is very proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust’s (TSAT) family of schools, and our students are taught to use thinking tools to support them with their learning. There are currently 21 academies in the Trust, primarily in the Medway, Kent, Portsmouth and South West areas, including both Secondary and Primary/Junior Academies. TSAT has been ranked by the Government as the highest performing academy trust in the South East for GCSE results (2020). Our cognitive approach to education provides our students with the tools to develop their learning as they grow, facilitating their educational ‘Thinking’ journey into Sixth Form, university, and beyond to their chosen career paths.

We are named after HMS Victory, first launched in 1765, which was built only 2 miles from here at the Chatham Historic Dockyard. We have strong links with the Navy and have our very own Sea Cadet unit. The Victory Academy is at the heart of Chatham. We are proud to be part of and work with our local community and enjoy our unique status within Medway as a school focusing on artistic excellence, naval heritage, and cognitive education.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Victory Academy.



Mr Oliver Owen
Headteacher

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Sixth Form Students Aspire

At The Victory Academy we work closely with Sixth Form students to help them discover their full potential and work towards their personal best.

The Victory's Sixth Form students are diverse, resilient, and committed. As members of the wider school community, they are our best ambassadors. They know that success is earned, and they are willing to go the extra distance to make sure they have the brightest possible future. Our Sixth Form is relatively small, so you are guaranteed individual support. The Sixth Form Team know all their students individually, and we are committed to making sure you get exactly what you need to fulfil your own ambitions. You will find passionate subject staff who are experts in their fields and are completely committed to your success.

Student Support

Each student has a personal tutor with whom they meet each morning. Tutors complete one-to-one interviews with their tutees on a termly basis to discuss wellbeing, specific targets, and to monitor progress across academic subjects. Once a week, we have a dedicated Sixth Form assembly, at which we share our successes, and look at our academic progress. Our Sixth Form Support Administrator, who is always available to discuss pastoral and academic

issues, supervises all study periods. Students have guaranteed access to both quiet and silent study areas. During social times, there is a common room and our own snack bar.

Student safety and well-being are extremely important to us, and we provide sessions on sexual health, mental health and stress management, road safety, overcoming obstacles, and online safety.

We expect parents to take an active role in their child's education, and provide opportunities to discuss their child's progress at Year 12 and Year 13 Parents' Evenings. We also keep in regular contact with parents via letter, email, and through our website. At the end of Year 12, the University of Kent runs a UCAS Information Evening, which allows parents to find out about the process of applying to university and the financial support available.





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Endeavour

We all know that in order to be successful, we have to invest the time and effort necessary for us to achieve our goals. Therefore, at The Victory Academy we support students in developing the right habits and skills to be successful not only at school but in life.

Aristotle identified that “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit”. At The Victory we identify and work consciously on effective habits of mind with students to help them develop the right habits to be successful. In addition, we provide students with training in a variety of ‘Thinking Tools’ that they will use in their lessons to support their learning. These include Thinkers’ Keys, Thinking Maps, and De Bono’s Thinking Hats.

Having achieved accreditation as a Thinking School in 2017-18, the Academy committed to further development and became an Advanced Thinking School in the Summer 2022. We ensure that our students benefit from enhanced use of thinking skills in their learning and with this, our students are supported and provided with the right tools to enable them to work successfully towards their personal best.

“Effective leadership of teaching in the Sixth Form ensures that students achieve well. Students also benefit from sound support, advice and guidance.”

- Ofsted



“It is clear that there are effective strategies in place across subject areas that encourage and support evaluation and reflective practice of learning and teaching approaches and impact.”

- Advanced Thinking School accreditation report from the University of Exeter 2022.

Achieve

Whatever the student's talents or abilities, the Sixth Form team strives to grow the whole person, which is why we believe in giving young people responsibilities and opportunities to pursue their passions throughout their two years with us. These opportunities are rich and diverse and result in students developing their own passions and key "soft skills" of leadership, teamwork, and independent action that are critical to their long-term success.

We are privileged to work in a stunning learning environment with excellent resources.

Our students demonstrate an impressive variety of strengths and talents, and our enrichment programme reflects this. At the end of Year 12 we have an Enrichment Week, including a dedicated "Careers Day" and a "UCAS Day" to help students make decisions and get the support they need to make choices post-18. We have a range of outside speakers, including university admissions officers, student finance representatives, industry representatives, the Department of Work and Pensions, and the National Citizen Service, all of whom provide advice and guidance on a range of possible careers.

At the end of Year 12, all students complete a week's work placement, gaining valuable skills and experience either to support their university application or as the foundation for their CV.

Previous placements have included:

- Kuhne and Nagel Logistics
- Mid Kent Legal Team
- Wendy Daws BEM (Artist)
- Bond Bryan Architects
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Medway Hospital ENT Surgery Team
- Lordswood Primary School
- Eurotech Automotives

Trips are organised throughout the year, and include Media and Sociology conferences, university visits, the annual UCAS convention, and the end-of-year reward trip.

Many Year 12 and 13 students undertake safeguarding training and become mentors for younger students, bringing the benefits of their own educational experiences to support them. The Student Leadership Team plays an active role in the school and wider community, liaising with parents and visitors, and representing the school at external events. Students have also independently fundraised for local causes, demonstrating a keen social conscience and the ability to organise, lead, and inspire. Students can also enrol on the Academy's Duke of Edinburgh programme, join our Academy Sea Cadet unit, or become involved with the Academy's exceptional Performing Arts department.

"The academy's work to promote all aspects of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is effective."

Ofsted





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Student Destinations

As a comprehensive Sixth Form, we are proud that over half of our students choose to go on to university, but we are equally proud of those students who win places at performing arts colleges or on apprenticeships.

We are strongly committed to supporting all our students' ambitions, and our extensive Careers Programme covers a range of future options. We have excellent links with the University of Kent, who provide our students with a range of information, including practical experience of degree apprenticeships.

Through our career support programme, our students have attended Easter schools at Oxford and Cambridge, acquired specialist mentors, and visited a range of universities.

Year 12 students have additionally achieved placements with the Social Mobility Foundation and with the Nuffield Science Scheme, to support their applications to Medical School and other higher-level careers. The University for the Creative Arts regularly visit to provide portfolio support days, and our students make campus visits.

List of previous destinations

- Kings College London
- London School of Economics
- University of Bristol
- University of Nottingham
- University of Southampton
- University of York
- University of Exeter
- Royal Holloway
- Roehampton
- University of Sussex
- Loughborough University
- University of the Creative Arts
- De Montfort University
- Aston University
- University of Essex

“Teachers show secure subject knowledge and use questions to encourage pupils to explain their thinking.”

Ofsted

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Curriculum

As a comprehensive school, we offer a range of academic and vocational courses. Students are able to design a programme of study that suits their strengths, abilities, and previous experience. As an Artsmark school, studying with us means you will particularly benefit from our strengths in Art and Design, and Product Design.

As a Victory Sixth Form student, you may be eligible to study further A Level subjects at one of our partner schools, Holcombe Grammar School. This gives each student a huge range of potential options from which to choose. We also offer GCSE re-sit classes for English and Maths.

As a general guideline, we suggest the following:

- Students achieving grades 5 or above at GCSE might follow the academic pathway (A level)
- Students achieving grades 4 at GCSE might follow the vocational pathway (BTEC)



“Achievement has risen over the last three years. Pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, are making good progress in most subjects.”

Ofsted





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Advanced Technologies

The Victory Academy has outstanding facilities for students to use to support their learning.

We are thrilled to be building a brand new Sixth Form block which will open in 2025. This new space will provide state-of-the-art facilities for our growing Sixth Form, including study and social spaces specifically for Sixth Form students, which will be separate from the main Academy building.

Currently, we have four refurbished, fully resourced ICT suites that students can access, as well as an Open Access computer area in the Art and Design, Technology. In addition, many departments have their own mini-ICT suites with technology specifically tailored to meet the needs of the subject. For example, powerful Apple computers with the latest music and media software.

Every classroom has an electronic whiteboard to enable teachers to use the most interactive and engaging media with their students.

At the Victory Academy, students are able to enhance their learning by harnessing the latest technologies in a creative and exciting manner.

New Sixth Form block to open in 2025.





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