

The Victory Academy Newsletter

July 2024

Headteacher's End of Term Address

As we reach the end of the academic year, and the end of my first term as Headteacher of The Victory Academy, it is fantastic to be reminded of the considerable efforts and achievements of our wonderful students. This newsletter gives an insight into some of these highlights, but certainly not all.



Having taken on the role of Headteacher at the start of term 6, I continue to be immensely proud of our school, both staff and students. They continue to uphold our Victory Values of Respect, Belief and Pride and I know they will continue to take these with them as they move into the next academic year. As an Academy, we know the importance of our place within the community and I wanted to acknowledge those who give their time voluntarily, such as Governors, and others who support the Academy in so many ways. We thank you for your commitment.

The end of the academic year is also a time to say goodbye. Firstly, we say goodbye to our year 11 and year 13 students. It is an inevitable part of the journey through school that students move onto their next stage and we are proud of the way that they have conducted themselves, particularly through the exam season. I look forward to seeing them on their results days and celebrating successes. In turn, we have welcomed our new year 7 students to the Academy for their transition days and I very much look forward to seeing them again in September.

At the end of this term, we sadly say farewell to some of our staff members. I wish Miss Andrews, Mr Banks, Miss Ferreira, Mrs Hancock, Ms Henry, Mr Slater, Miss Sofowora, Mr Strinati and Mrs Voisey the best wishes for their new ventures and thank them for their hard work and support.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support throughout this academic year. Working together well is incredibly important to ensure our students 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

Term 1

Wednesday 4th September (years 7, 11 and 12 only) and Thursday 5th September (all year groups) to Friday 18th October 2024

Inset Days – Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September

Victory Day – Thursday 19th September

Year 10 Work Experience Day – Thursday 19th September

Open Evening – Thursday 26th September

Year 7 Parents' Evening – Thursday 17th October

Autumn Break – Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024

Term 2

Tuesday 5th November to Friday 20th December 2024

Inset Days – Monday 4th November 2024

Christmas Break – Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Updates and News

Food Ambassadors

Throughout the academic year our Food Ambassadors have been working towards the 'School Food Champions' campaign with Bite Back. The campaign gives students the opportunity to devise a social action project and change the food in schools.

In April our Food Ambassadors took part in a tasting session. Along with their invited teachers, they tasted menu items and the plant-based healthier alternatives. This was an interesting and informative session to aid their healthy eating campaign.



In term 6 the Food Ambassadors created weekly displays in the Galley and invited students and teachers to tick their favourite menu items from the week. They also launched a healthy living poster competition, inviting students to design a poster to promote healthy eating, being active, keeping hydrated and getting more sleep. They received a variety of creative posters and selected the winning entries. These are now on display in the Galley.



The Food Ambassadors have introduced healthier snacks to the Victory Shop, which are available for students to purchase with their Positive Points. The team meet weekly and will continue to work towards the 'School Food Champions' and healthy eating campaigns. If any students are interested in joining the team please speak to Mrs Oravcova.



Kent Teacher of the Year Awards

Congratulations to our Victory winners at the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards, which took place on Friday 17th May 2024.

Mrs Smith won Medway Headteacher of the Year and overall Kent Secondary School Headteacher of the Year.

Mr Bajwa won Medway Science Teacher of the Year and overall Kent Science Teacher of the Year.

Mrs Wade won Medway Science Support Staff Member of the Year.

Mr Aderiye won Medway Secondary ECT of the Year.

Miss Wilson won Medway Secondary School Teacher of the Year.

Construction Progress

It's an exciting time for The Victory Academy as the construction of our Specialist Resource Provision is well underway.

We are looking forward to welcoming our community to the grand opening in the near future!



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 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



Walkin' 'n' Wheelin' Challenge Winners

In May we took part in Medway Council's Walkin' 'n' Wheelin' challenge. From 20th to 24th May we asked our students to get involved by walking, wheeling, scooting or cycling into school. Their journeys were logged with their form tutors each morning.

We are proud to announce that The Victory Academy came 1st in the challenge with a total of 1865 active journeys. A big thank you to everyone who took part!

Summer Results Days

Examination results will be available to collect on the following results days:

- A Level - Thursday 15th August 9am-11am
- GCSE – Thursday 22nd August 10am-12pm

If students are unable to collect their results in person, they may give permission for someone else to collect on their behalf by completing a permission slip. These have been emailed to parents/carers and are also available from reception. The permission slip must be brought along on the day by the person nominated to collect the results, along with proof of their own identity.

We are looking forward to celebrating with our students on these results days!

Updates and News

The Library

This year has been a busy one for the library and we are so proud of the Victory student librarian community for everything they have accomplished. Thank you for your incredible hard work this year!

At the start of the term, the non-fiction section got a well-needed makeover, with over 150 books donated or recycled. As part of the school's Earth Day celebrations, we used some of these texts to create collages and blackout poetry that raised awareness of environmentalism.



In May we celebrated 'National Share-a-Story' month. The library ran a competition whereby students were encouraged to submit a short story around the theme of 'sailing away into a story'. We had many fantastic submissions, with our winners being Bella (year 10), Jess (year 7) and Julia (year 7).



In June the school hosted its first Scholastic Book fair in eight years! Students came to the library after school to buy new books at a discounted rate, whilst also earning new books for the library. As part of our promotion for this, students were invited to design alternative front covers of their favourite book to win £5 vouchers. The winners were Tati (year 9), Alice (year 7) and Roman (year 7).

The library now hosts a Creative Writing club every Monday lunchtime which is open to all students. We have also taken on new student librarians for the upcoming academic year and are very excited to expand the team!

We have big plans for the library in 2024/2025 and are excited to see you all after the summer holidays!



ONLINE SAFETY HUB



Developed by industry experts, our new Online Safety Hub is designed to be a vital resource for schools and parents to learn how we can keep our children safe online.

From parent advice to blogs and guides, there is something to support everyone's needs.

Explore the new hub at tsatrust.onlinesafetyhub.uk

Online Safety Hub

Earlier this year the Thinking Schools Academy Trust launched the new and improved Online Safety Hub. The hub is an online safety resource area with lots of expert advice and guidance for parents to help manage their child's safety online. Please visit their website [here](#) for more information.

APD Summer Camps

APD are holding Multi Sport and Football Summer Camps over the summer holidays. To book please visit their website [here](#).

A poster for Multi Sport Summer Camp. It features logos for 'ADVANCE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT' and 'HIV School Sports'. The text reads 'MULTI SPORT SUMMER CAMP' and 'The Victory Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, ME4 5JB OPEN TO AGES 4-14'. It also lists 'EARLY DROP OFF FROM 8.30AM - 9 AM - 3 PM' and 'JUST £20 A DAY'. A 'BOOK NOW' button is at the bottom. The poster includes images of children playing sports and a list of dates for the camps: Week 1 - Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August, Week 2 - Monday 12th August - Friday 16th August, Week 3 - Monday 19th August - Friday 23rd August. Contact information for booking is also provided.



Open Evening

Thursday 26th September 4.30pm to 7pm
Headteacher's Talks at 5pm and 6pm

Open Morning Tours

30th September - 4th October 10am to 11am
Book your place by visiting our website





Terms 5 and 6 Events

Dockyard Awards Evening

On Wednesday 3rd 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 Wizard of Oz cast performed 'Jitterbugs' and 'If I Only Had a Heart' from the summer show. Awards were given out for subject progress and achievement, Victory Virtues, Head of Year, Lighthouse subjects and Star Readers. A special congratulations to Jack, Esther and James for winning the

Headteacher's Award, the Sam Rooks Award and the George Hughes Award respectively.

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.



Earth Day

On 22nd April we celebrated Earth Day and our students took part in a litter pick. They worked together in small teams to pick the most for their school houses. A big thank you to everyone who got involved and to our Sixth Form helpers.



Wear It Blue Day

As part of MPS Awareness Week our staff took part in Wear It Blue Day on 15th May. The day highlights the rare and often unknown MPS conditions, and this year's focus is to raise awareness of the mental health of those living with rare conditions.





Terms 5 and 6 Events

Colour Run

On Thursday 11th July we held our first ever Colour Run event, to raise money for the Medway Hospital Charity. The run was opened by Tedway Bear, the charity mascot, and Donna who spoke about the work of the charity. Students then ran or walked the course, passing through different coloured paint stations.

The Colour Run was a fun-filled event enjoyed by both students and staff, and embodied the sense of community here at The Victory Academy. A big thank you to everyone who took part!



Circus Skills Workshop

In April we welcomed the Medway Plus charity and Firefields Gymnastics to deliver a circus skills workshop to some of our year 7 and 8 students.



Chessington Trip

Mr McAllister and Miss Wilson arranged a reward trip for students in years 7 and 8 to Chessington World of Adventures theme park. The students showed outstanding behaviour and true Victory Virtues. A huge thank you to Mr Whittaker and Ms Lea for supporting on this trip.



Year 11 Leavers

In June we said goodbye to our year 11 students. On Friday 14th June, after their final week of exams, they took part in a shirt signing afternoon. The following week on Thursday 20th June they attended their Prom, which was a wonderful evening filled with glitz and glam! We look forward to celebrating with our year 11 at the GCSE Results Day.





Sixth Form

Year 13 Leavers' Celebration

Our year 13 students enjoyed a celebration event on Friday 28th June. After a celebration assembly, students enjoyed inflatables, food and other activities. We would like to wish year 13 the very best of luck for their exam results in August, and thank all students' parents and carers for their support over the last two years.

Enrichment Week

Our year 12 students took part in Enrichment Week this term and attended a variety of workshops and trips to help support them with their next step after Sixth Form. Students visited the UCAS Discovery Exhibition at the Kent Showground, Maidstone, and were able to speak to universities and colleges about their courses, and meet employers, apprenticeship providers and careers advisers.

We had visits from Emily Thomas (Prison Governor, HMP ISIS), Gareth Williams MBE (Detective Superintendent), experts in the field of Dentistry, Alexander Wade (Heritage careers), Vince Maple MP and Tracy Coombs (Head of Education in Medway) and Daniel Stribbling (APD). Students also engaged in wellbeing activities and attended workshops on applying to university, finance, writing a personal statement, and apprenticeships.



The Apprentice Guest Speaker

On Thursday 18th July we welcomed Kathryn Burn to speak to our year 10 and 12 students to inspire and motivate. Kathryn was runner-up in BBC's 'The Apprentice' in 2022 and now runs her own businesses. She spoke about her career and business journey and our students found the session really interesting.

Induction Day

On Friday 5th July our current year 11 students had the opportunity to spend the day in our Sixth Form centre. Students attended taster lessons in the subjects they have chosen for September, and enjoyed some fun activities in the afternoon.

Ravensbourne University Trip

This term our Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend the degree show at Ravensbourne University. Students attended a seminar relating to creative careers, took part in sample lessons, and viewed the university student's final pieces for their degrees.

Year 12 Reward Trip

On Tuesday 16th July our year 12 students attended Thorpe Park as a reward for their hard work, attendance and punctuality this year.

Year 12 Leadership Team

Our Year 12 Leadership Team have been busy this term supporting with events, particularly with the year 6 transition days at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, and in the Academy. A big thank you and well done to our year 12 students for all of their hard work supporting staff and students to ensure over events have run smoothly.



Art

Studio VA

The Victory Academy's Annual Exhibition, Studio VA, launched on 9th July 2024. 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

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.

The Rochester Dragon

Our Year 7 Art Club supported local artist Wendy Daws and the 'Draco Roffensis: The Rochester Dragon' project. They embossed gold, silver and copper foil scales which, along with scales from other local schools and art groups, were sewn onto wire panels to create a 20m dragon. The installation is on display at Rochester Cathedral until 21st September 2024.



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 piece called 'Reinterpreting the Past' by Anjola in year 11, which was created for her GCSE Graphic Communication project.



Throughout the event our students took part in a variety of creative activities, relating to the daily themes of marks, words, images, moves and sound.

Art

Art Ambassadors

This year has been a busy one for the Art Ambassadors, starting off with a jungle themed mural in Student Services. The ambassadors drew plants from life and from their imagination to come up with a colourful and uplifting design to fit around the doorway. They started off selecting a background colour and making choices on colours to paint for the final piece.



A more recent project was to revamp some of the English block internal windows that face into the classrooms and corridors. Choosing books that are used within the KS3 curriculum, they researched text and images to come up with designs that work from an artistic perspective but also to engage students with quotes, key points and themes to help make them memorable.



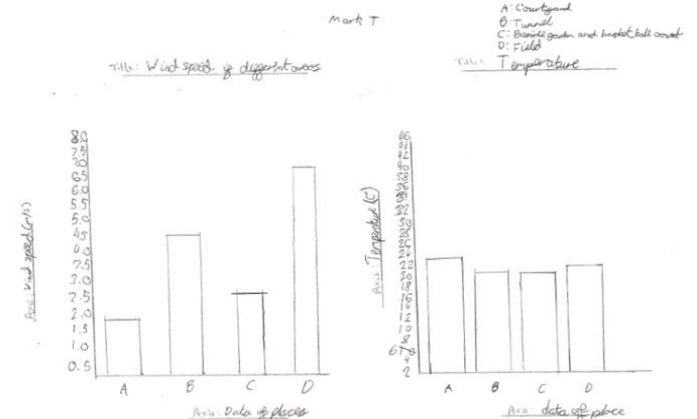
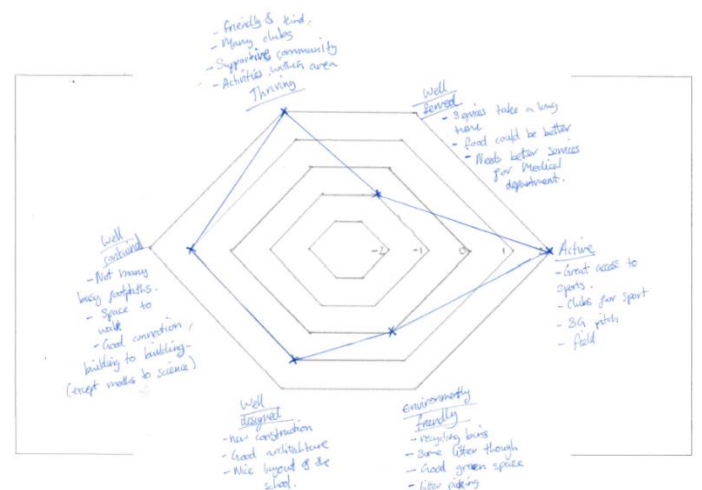
Some of the ambassadors also helped to create flowers for the Wizard of Oz production. Next academic year they look forward to continuing in the English block but also taking on further projects around the school.

Geography

Student Work

Miss Jones was particularly impressed with the thorough weather measurements taken by Fayth C and Olivia H (year 7), as well as the detailed graphs and charts produced by Mark T (year 7) and Sophia P (year 8). Well done!

Name of Site	Site description	Wind speed (m/s)	Air temperature (°C)	Precipitation (ml)	Cloud cover (oktas)
Site A:	Courtyard	6.4/2.2, 0.8/0.6/1.7	23.8/22.7/24.6	0%	
Site B:	Tor	3.9/3.1/6.9	21.8/21.6	0%	
Site C:	Spacious Hot	2.0/1.3/1.9/1.6/2.5/1.0/6/0.2/0.6	20.4/21.6/19.9/10.2/20.7	0%	
Site D:	Field	1.5/7.3/2.8/1.9/2.3/0.1/6.1/3.2/3.9	20.6/19.6/20.2/17.1	3%	





Geography

Year 10 Fieldwork Trip

In the final weeks of term 6 we had the opportunity to take our entire year 10 Geography cohort on two fieldwork studies. This is a vital part of their GCSE course, playing a huge part in their Paper 3 where they must take all of their geographic theory and turn it into reality.

On day one the students saw a different side to Chatham, exploring how sustainable this urban area really is. Students used models such as the Egan Wheel of Urban Sustainability to complete their surveys, assessments and litter counts in and around the town centre. Many of the students found themselves shocked at the rich geography in the area and were incredibly reflective over what they might have taken for granted when they are usually in town with family or friends.

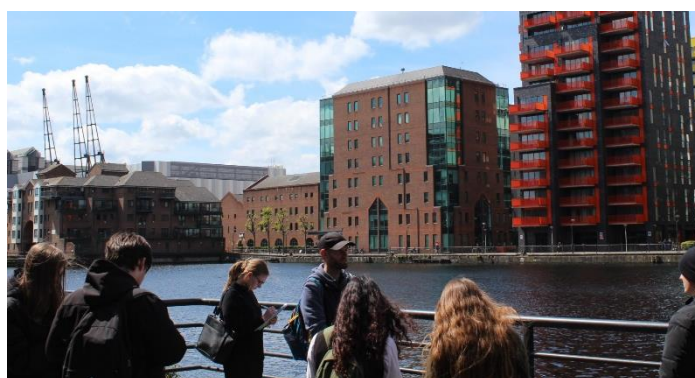
On the second day students travelled to Walmer, Deal. They were able to get to grips with the physical fieldwork, measuring the hard engineering in the area used to stop coastal erosion as well as seeing longshore drift theory come to life across the coast.

Students were a credit to The Victory Academy and made the Geography department very proud as they applied themselves fully and were not afraid to get stuck in and record their high-quality data.



Year 12 NEA Trip

Our year 12 students visited Stratford, London, to collect data for their NEA for the OCR A-Level. They engaged fully and asked inquisitive questions with our great trip lead, Josh.



Thanks to the brilliant guidance of the Field Studies Council, students have engaged with concepts such as regeneration, gentrification, rebranding, attachment and sense of place and have seen them in action. The students really flourished, opting to complete questionnaires and surveys with the general public. This is something Mr Slater and Mrs Clarkson found very impressive when they know how quiet the students can be first thing on a Monday morning!

Students have been working hard in term 6 writing up their findings as they complete their 4,000-word reports which will go a long way to support the class with their A-Level grades.



Geography

Year 7 and 8 Fieldwork

This term our year 7 and 8 students have been working hard planning their field work around the school site. Year 7 have been focusing on the different micro-climates, and year 8 have been looking at how sustainable our school is. Every class were excited to move around the school site and collect data from unsuspecting areas, opening their eyes to the real-life aspects they come into contact with day to day, and how they affect our lives.

This was a great opportunity, especially for the year 7 students, to practise their fieldwork for the first time at the school, as it will be an important aspect come their GCSE. Mr Anderson thought the fieldwork was a “huge success” and was particularly pleased with how his class adapted and applied their past knowledge to the new situations. Mr Slater, Head of Geography, was particularly grateful that “we finally had some good weather” so that we didn’t get all wet!



Year 10 Mocks

Well done to all year 10 students for successfully completing your Geography mock exams. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Your attendance and commitment in Learning Period 7 has been so impressive. We are proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing your continued progress. Keep up the great effort as you prepare for your final exams next year. Enjoy a well-deserved break!

Year 11

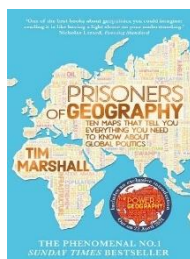
Well done to all year 11 students for finishing your GCSE Geography exams. Your dedication and effort have been exemplary, and we are incredibly proud of your accomplishments. Enjoy your well-deserved break and best of luck in your future endeavours!

Dockyard Celebration Geography Awards

A massive congratulations to all students who have earned an award from the Geography department. Their hard work and engagement has not gone unnoticed and they have displayed fantastic ability in the subject. Many of these students have made great strides since the start of the year and deserve their moment to celebrate their success!

	Progress	Achievement
Year 7	Zakk R	Alexandra M
Year 8	Vilte G	William M
Year 9	Bryonie L	Daniel E
Year 10	Victor D	Ayomide A
Year 12	Kika B	Karolina K

Geography Club



The Geography Club have been developing their wider reading, selecting chapters of the popular book ‘Prisoners of Geography’ to read together. We have also explored the popular online game ‘GeoGuessr’, where you are dropped at a random place on Earth and must identify your location based on local landmarks, languages, flags, and even the side of the road driven on!

Thank you all for your dedication to Geography Club each week. We hope to see you again next year!

History

Year 9

During term 4, our year 9 students studied the experiences of working-class women in London using Hallie Rubenhold's prize winning novel 'The Five'.

Extracts from this novel allowed us to consider the desperate situation some women found themselves in following marriage breakdowns, poverty, and unemployment. 'The Five' focuses on the lives of the five women murdered by Jack the Ripper. Through their stories, our students considered the experiences of all working-class women at this time.

To consolidate their learning, our year 9 students took part in a homework competition. They could present the story of one of the five women in a creative piece of their choosing. Huge congratulations to Cody C and Silvia H for their excellent entries. Their prizes were a certificate and a copy of the book 'The Five'.



KS3 History Revision

Since January, the History department have prioritised supporting our Key Stage 3 students as they learn how to revise for assessments. All students have been given a revision lesson to recap the key learning and transfer the information onto, what we call, a revision placemat. This has given students the opportunity to revisit their learning and select the key information to revise. All students were then encouraged to take their placemat home to revise the information using testing. It has been proven that regular testing is the best way for students to remember the key information. Students were encouraged to test themselves and ask those at home to test them using the placemat.

All teachers in the History department have been really impressed by how motivated the students have been to learn how to revise and trial this method. We have seen some fantastic placemats and are really pleased with the results from these in the term 5 cumulative assessments.

The History department will continue to use the Key Stage 3 assessments to teach students how to revise over the next academic year.

Year 9 TS Revision Sheet		T4: Working class women in London	
T3: The Holocaust		What was the Industrial Revolution?	Industrial Revolution is the period of changing from an agrarian (farm) and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing.
Define anti-Semitism:	Antisemitism is the dislike and prejudice towards Jewish people.	How did London change after the Industrial Revolution?	Improved roads, leading to the city, building secondaries in central areas, factories, warehouses, bridges and the big roads that led to the city.
What happened to Jewish people in Germany?	Boycott of shops and businesses.	Who were 'The Five' victims of Jack the Ripper?	Mary Jane Kelly, Elizabeth Stride, Anne Chapman, Polly Nichols, Catherine Eddowes.
What happened to Jewish people in Europe?	Nuremberg Laws.	Where did poor people stay in London?	They stayed in lodging houses, workhouses and some even stayed in the streets.
What happened to Jewish people in Europe?	Kristallnacht.	What work did working class women do?	Domestic services, laundresses, cleaners.
What happened to Jewish people in Europe?	Ghettos.	Words to describe Victorian London:	It was a very dirty, poor, and overcrowded city.
What happened to Jewish people in Europe?	Einsatzgruppen.		

KS3 Assessment: Knowledge Questions		KS3 Assessment: Knowledge Questions	
1	Archduke Franz Ferdinand.	11	Holocaust was the final solution.
2	Great Britain, Russia and France.	12	It happened in Europe particularly in Germany and in German territories.
3	rats and lice.	13	German Jews were not allowed to marry Germans.
4	Battle of Somme.	14	It was also called a war of attrition.
5	11 November 1918.	15	The Holocaust was caused by the rise of Adolf Hitler.
6	Genocide is the intentional destruction of a group of people.	16	New roads leading to cities.
7	Classification.	17	Annexation which was a move of poor people who were allowed to stay in the city.
8	Denial.	18	Domestic services.
9	Symbolisation is when they used symbols to represent Jews as a group of people.	19	Laundresses.
10	Rwanda and Cambodia.	20	Lack of employment opportunities.



Performing Arts

Wizard of Oz

This year's annual Victory Academy show was the Wizard of Oz, directed by Miss Wilson, which ran from 26th-28th June 2024. The cast wowed the audience which ended in a standing ovation on the Friday 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. The students shone on stage and we have received incredible feedback from the audience members. We applaud all who have made this production possible; our cast of over 50 performers from years 7-13 and an additional 16 student technicians. The students were phenomenal to work with from the auditions through to show week, where they have shown professionalism, creativity and determination. The 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 – "Last year I said "every year the show gets better and better, I don't know how we will top it next year"; this year I believe we did this and 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. For a lot of our students the stage is home to them and where they belong and as Dorothy says "there's no place like home". Well done all!"



Nike & Spotify Performance

Mrs Oravcova, Miss Wilson and Mrs Voisey have had the pleasure to work with brands Nike and Spotify in a 'Just Move It' project. The students have been taking part in workshops led by Performing Arts teachers as well as Sixth Form and ex-students.

The students have worked hard creating a performance that celebrates the ethos of both companies and the importance of music and movement. The students performed with professionalism and are excited to perform for the companies in September. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the students to participate in and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them.



Performing Arts

RSC Hamlet Performance

Miss Cumming, Mrs Voisey and Mr Best had the pleasure of supporting 9 talented performers for their starring roles in The Marlowe and Royal Shakespeare Company's collaborative production of 'Hamlet: Something's Rotten'. Joining 11 schools from across Kent together into one production on the main stage, The Victory Academy's actors were praised for their exceptional command of the Bard's language, the depth of their understanding and fluidity and convincingness of their acting skills.

The students were a credit to the school throughout the long day, which involved a full technical rehearsal then an exploration and lunch in Canterbury before returning to the main stage at The Marlowe for their dress rehearsal. This was then followed swiftly with the final performance to the public, family, friends and school staff.

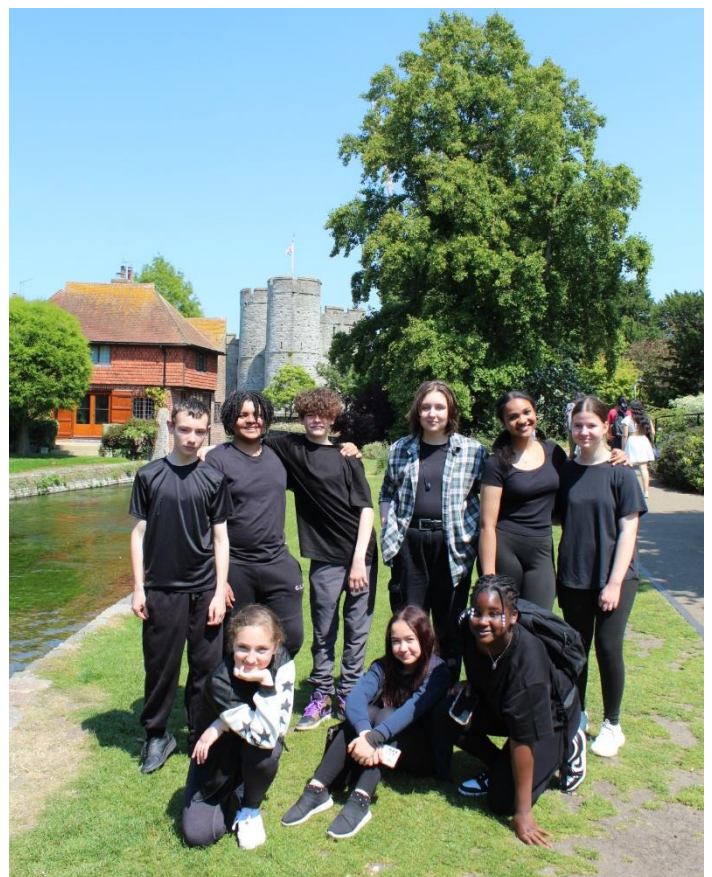
Commanding a professional stage is no mean feat, but this cast made it look easy. The Shakespeare cast have bonded through this process, supporting and encouraging one another and creating a safe space to explore and be brave with their interpretations and creativity. As a result, the group have not only created an original, captivating and truthful performance, but also deepened their confidence in both exploring and understanding Shakespeare. The students commented on how this confidence has then translated to other areas of their lives and schooling, feeling better able to answer questions in class without fear of getting it wrong, and being assured something that appears challenging at first can become perfectly manageable if the effort and perseverance prevails. With all of this, students have then discovered the enormous self-belief, sense of achievement and raised aspirations that projects such as this have grown.

One highlight for Miss Cumming and Mrs Voisey, having worked with this cast throughout the year, was the pride and wonder emanating from the sea of family and friends greeting the cast after the show. It was clear parents and students shared pride in their achievements and were enormously grateful for the opportunity to take part in such a valuable, rewarding process.

Throughout the first two years of our Royal Shakespeare Company Associate School status, we have shown a significant increase in the literacy and confidence from all involved. We are delighted to announce we have been accepted to progress into the programme for the next stage of the process, and Mr Best together with Mrs Clarke are excited to welcome a new cast to the RSC programme from September. All interested students are encouraged to look out for announcements from their form tutor and assemblies, to apply to be a part of the next cohort.

In addition to the yearly production, the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Programme has provided students with multiple workshops from professional directors, movement specialists and costume designers. Through these sessions, students have gained valuable insight into some of the breadth of the Performing Arts industry, one of the biggest growing industries in the UK.

Miss Cumming and Mrs Voisey have also been busy integrating additional acclaimed RSC active approaches into both English and Performing Arts lessons to ensure our collaboration in this project benefits all students across The Victory Academy and we are excited to continue to expand further across the curriculum this coming year.





Performing Arts

Lighting and Sound

This year our aim has been to increase the interest in technical theatre, a component which can be studied as part of GCSE Drama. Initially, the students were introduced to basic notions of lighting in performance, such as 'gobos' (small stencilled circular discs used to create projected images or patterns). The students each created a gobo which was then fixed to the end of a pringle tube. Using the light of a torch, a pattern or shape was then projected. Some students elevated the idea and created speakers from the tubes. The introduction of Mike Kizer's 'Scenic and Lighting' software resource encouraged students to design and create lighting states for specific texts such as 'DNA'. Mike kindly provided some personal advice for the students at The Victory Academy, to aid them on their design journey.



In addition, we have introduced 'SketchUp', the design software used by architects and scenographers. The main objective of the software is to enable students to replicate a theatre space such as our Quarterdeck and design sets for exams and performances. The students once again have exceeded our expectations; Victory has some very talented young designers.

In the recent production of the Wizard of Oz, three students from years 10 and 12 were the sole controllers for the show's projection, lighting and sound. Congratulations for doing a fantastic job!

Ghost Ships

In June a group of year 8 students took part in their first 'Ghost Ships' workshop with Icon Theatre, in preparation for their big collaboration project in September at The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. This was a great opportunity for the students to work with an external professional and develop their skills.



Boys' Dance Workshop

Logan M (year 10) worked with Miss Lacey to lead a boys' dance workshop, to help increase engagement of KS3 boys in Dance. Logan was a fantastic role model for these students not only during the workshops but as his role of Tin Man in the school show. The boys had great fun and it was fantastic to see them engaged and developing their skills and confidence.



Performing Arts

BTEC Music

BTEC Music is a challenging course, with students having to perform, record and compose on their instruments, and then write about it. This year, the year 10 BTEC Music cohort have accepted this challenge wholeheartedly and their commitment to the subject has been evident, with students making significant improvements with their chosen instrument and deepening their understanding of music theory and contrasting styles of music. Throughout the study of this course, some students have adapted their individual style and even attempted other instruments that they haven't considered before, including drums, vocals and digital music creations. This open-mindedness has resulted in substantial progression amongst the year 10 students.



Performing Arts Ambassadors

Any student interested in becoming a Performing Arts Ambassador (two from each year group) should look out for the announcement at the start of term, where you will be asked to provide a paragraph stating your suitability for the role. Ambassadors are a valuable link between staff and students, acting as a spokesperson feeding back on the curriculum, clubs and student interests, as well as a position of authority and responsibility to promote events and celebrate achievements. We are always thrilled to hear from new and established individuals for these roles.

Peripatetic Music

This year we have had an enormous increase in our Peripatetic music lessons, with all year 7 students being offered a chance to sample small group lessons in either ukulele, electric guitar, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, drums or singing for free. Alongside this, our talented external music teachers have continued to provide one-on-one music lessons throughout the school day for interested students across all year groups. Students have been successful in music exams, as well as showcasing significant improvement across their extra-curricular involvement and within their music lessons. James looks forward to welcoming more keen instrumentalists next year and is extending his peripatetic music lesson offerings to include both one-to-one and small group lessons. Those interested should contact the external music teacher directly via his email jamestaplinmusic@gmail.com.

Performing Arts at KS3

The team have been delighted to see the developments in students' creativity, confidence, resilience and teamwork this year.

Year 7 have been embracing a wealth of experiences including African Dance, African Drumming, Shakespeare, film music, Harry Potter, musical theatre, and singing. The introduction of a wealth of new instruments for music have been a celebrated addition and provided many opportunities to embrace creativity whilst exploring collaboration, harmony and creativity. The range of opportunity within the carefully crafted curriculum has enabled all students to shine in their preferred area of Performing Arts, and many have continued this passion into their extra-curricular involvement through clubs, open day performances, the variety show and more recently, the school show.

Year 8 have been embracing a whole new world of Performing Arts, whether it be the abstract world of Bertolt Brecht, Edward Scissorhands and Frantic Assembly, the music technology world of Cubase, or the creativity and animalistic dancing in Tarzan or Thriller. Students have not only built their confidence and willingness to step outside their comfort zone through these lessons, but also to embrace difference, think outside the box and explore new worlds.



PE

Sports Day

After a postponement on 8th July, we were very lucky to have fantastic weather on Thursday 11th July. Once again, we had a record number of students compete in the annual Sports Day here at The Victory Academy.

The morning saw students competing in the 1500m, 800m, discus, javelin and shot put. During our afternoon events, the whole school came together to watch the 100, 200 and 300 metre sprint events, and all year groups' 100m relay races. 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 Cavalier house who were crowned Sports Day 2024 champions!

	Score	Rank
Cavalier	618	1 st
Ocelot	585	2 nd
Leviathan	533	3 rd
Gannet	408	4 th



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.

Year 7	
Discus	16.25m (Athletics) Jessica A

Year 8	
100m	12.79secs (Sports Day) Ephraim A
300m	45.63secs (Athletics) Arijus A
Long Jump	4.31m (Athletics) Ephraim A
Javelin	20.92 (Sports Day) Taylor S

Year 9	
Shot Put	11.87m (Athletics) Joel C
Javelin	18.71m (Athletics) Ashly M

Year 10		
100m	13.76secs (SD) Leonía M	11.76secs (SD) Shaun C
200m	29.10secs (Athletics) Melissa O	
100m Relay	60.41secs (A) Melissa O, Esther B, Chineye O & Sophia A	51.17secs (SD) Shaun C, Bailey I, Maksymilian P & Ayomide A

PE



Duke of Edinburgh

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2023-24 cohort completed their expedition during the first weekend in July. After many hours of preparation, the students showed organisation skills and teamwork through putting up tents, map reading, and applying their knowledge of basic first aid 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 and cycling tracked by STRAVA and attended the gym. The Skill section had the 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 litter pick around the Academy. They also supported The Victory Academy library and coached younger students in a number of different clubs.



During the expedition in Sittingbourne, the group were fantastic. You could really see the improvement from the practice weekend to the assessed expedition. They had improved their communication, leadership, teamwork, decision making, problem solving, empathy towards each other, and their determination to complete their Bronze Award.

Mr Doyle was really proud of the group's endeavour and their willingness to work as a team throughout the weekend in some of the most challenging weather we have had to deal with on expedition.

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.

District Athletics

On Thursday 20th June the PE department took over 50 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; Favour E won Bronze in Year 7 Discus, Chineye O won Bronze in Year 10 Discus, Melissa O won Bronze in Year 10 200m and Ashly M won Bronze in Year 9 Javelin. Joel C won Bronze in Year 9 Shot Put and Tayo A won Silver in Year 9 Javelin. Amazing work from all athletes and we are already looking forward to next year's championships.



PE

Year 7 Cricket

Students took part in a separate boys and girls year 7 cricket tournament on Tuesday 11th June at High Halstow Cricket Club, against other Medway secondary schools. The year 7 girls team finished 4th overall in the competition as they won games early on to play in a 3rd/4th placed game. The boys team finished 9th and played some really good cricket and had some really close games that went to the last ball. Well done to all of the students who took part and represented the Academy so well.



Touch Rugby

A huge congratulations to the year 9 students who represented The Victory Academy in the Touch Rugby Competition on Wednesday 1st May: Josiah, Amir, Elliot, Joshua, Beneti, Joel, Amina, Ashly, Nicoleta and Jessica. All these students did themselves and the school proud by playing with tremendous heart, demonstrating excellent team spirit and camaraderie.

A special mention goes to Elliot who captained the team and received praise from the referees for his positive motivation and energy. Many of the students had never played rugby before and should be incredibly proud of their efforts.



Victory Citizenship

Inside Out 2 Competition

Our year 7 and 8 students took part in a national 'Inside Out 2' competition. The competition was to create a character design for a new emotion or feeling that was not already featured in the film. The students had to explain the emotion or feeling, the colour, shape and size of their character and if they have any special features. The students then explained the character's personality or how they might behave.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed designing their own characters in lesson and came up with some fantastic ideas. The teachers found it interesting that the students were having open discussions on how their emotions can impact their day and their learning. They responded in a mature and responsible way and in true Victory style offered support to those students who needed it in and outside of the learning environment.



Victory Care Corner

In collaboration with Medway Hygiene Bank, in every Victory Citizenship classroom we have a care corner with hygiene essentials should our students need them. This has been popular and has provided to those students who are in need.



Science

NHS Day

On Monday 15th July our year 7 and 8 students took part in a whole day celebration of the NHS. The aim was to educate students on various aspects of the NHS with a variety of activities including literacy, numeracy, history, science, art and career ambitions.

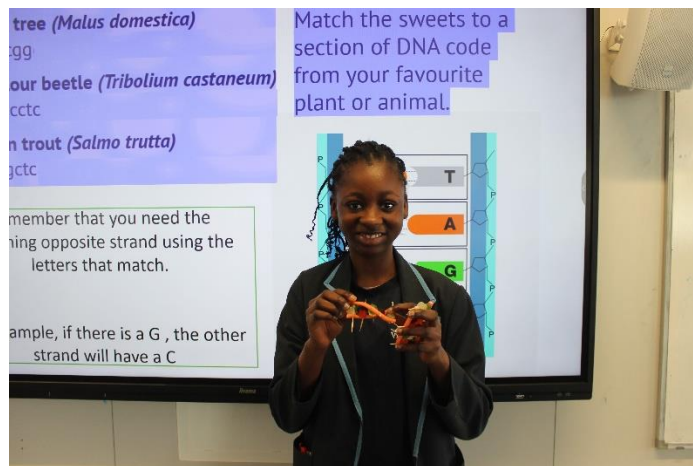
We would like to give a big thank you to Adtrex who taught both year groups the importance of CPR and helped them to practise on manikins.

Thank you to our NHS!



DNA Day

To celebrate DNA Day our Science department held a variety of activities, including making DNA models out of sweets. Students also took part in a scavenger hunt to find famous scientists and used DNA picture codes to decipher their names.



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!

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