

The Victory Academy Newsletter

July 2025



Headteacher's End of Term Message

As we arrive at the end of the academic year, it is wonderful to be reminded of all that has gone on in our Academy over the last 12 months. First and foremost, we are immensely proud of all our students. Day in day out, alongside the many individual achievements, they collectively display our Victory Values and Virtues.

The end of the academic year is always 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 their successes. At the end of this term, we also sadly say farewell to some of our staff members. I wish Miss Dower, Mrs Eley, Miss Hamm, Mrs Hariti, Miss Jones, Mrs Lea and Mr Wakefield the best for their new ventures and thank them for their hard work and support.

This is our 10th anniversary year and there is much that we can celebrate over that time. Our school, as part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, is committed to developing students who are independent thinkers and have the tools to take ownership of their learning. Over the last 10 years we have worked hard to embed the Victory Virtues as habits to support all our students to be successful. As we move into the next academic year, I am delighted that we will be relaunching these Virtues. Working with our student artists, new designs have been created and in September we will also launch our new, unique disposition – Prioritising Learning. This underlines our commitment to metacognition as an approach that enables all our students to achieve their best.

There is much more to look forward to as we head into the next year and our second decade. September will see our first cohort of students joining The Victory Harbour (Specialist Resource Provision). This is part of our commitment to providing an inclusive education. We will also be opening our new Sixth Form Centre which will coincide with the introduction of new A-Level courses, broadening our offer and providing greater academic opportunities for our students. There are exciting times ahead!

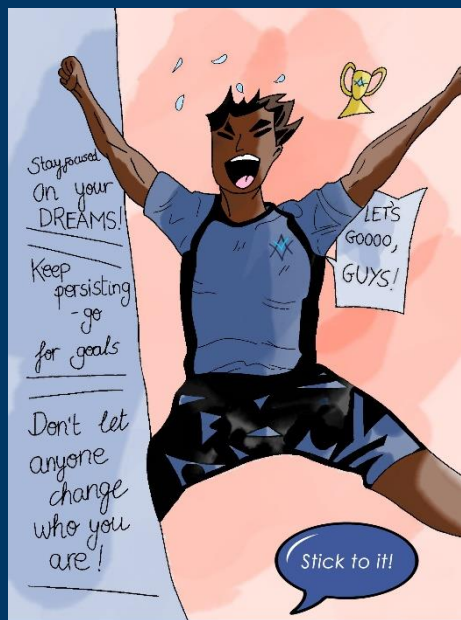


As an Academy, we know the importance of our place within the community and I want to acknowledge those who give their time voluntarily, such as Governors, and others who support the Academy in so many ways. We are fortunate to have this team who advocate strongly on behalf of our Academy and our students. I would like to say thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support throughout this academic year. Working well together 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.



Prioritising learning



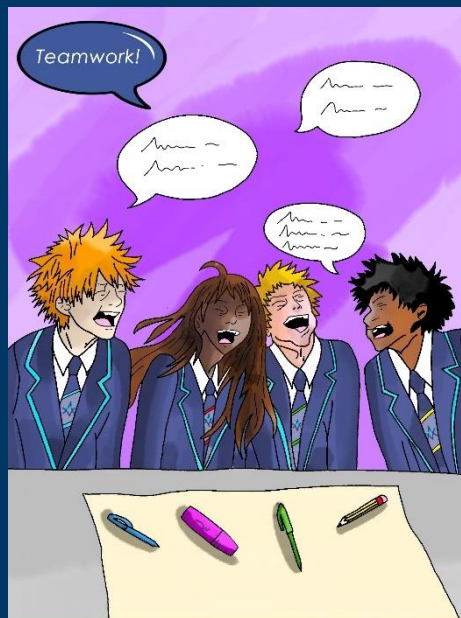
Persisting



Striving for accuracy



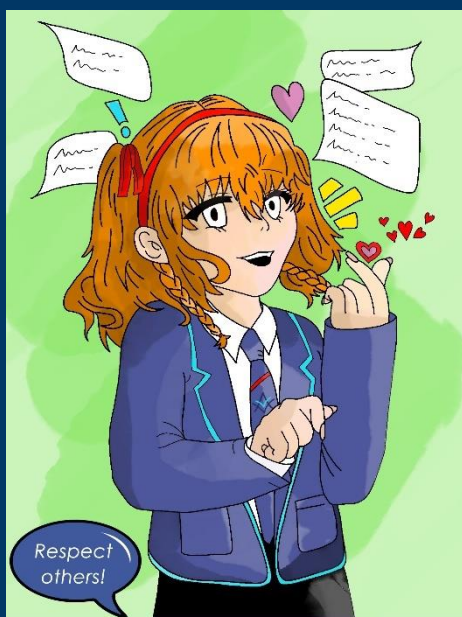
Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision



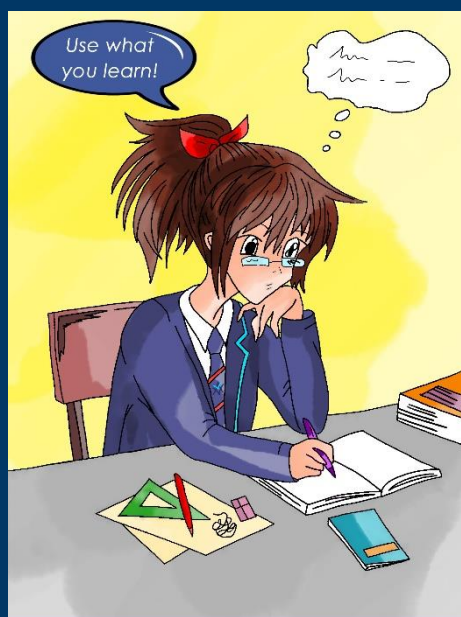
Thinking interdependently



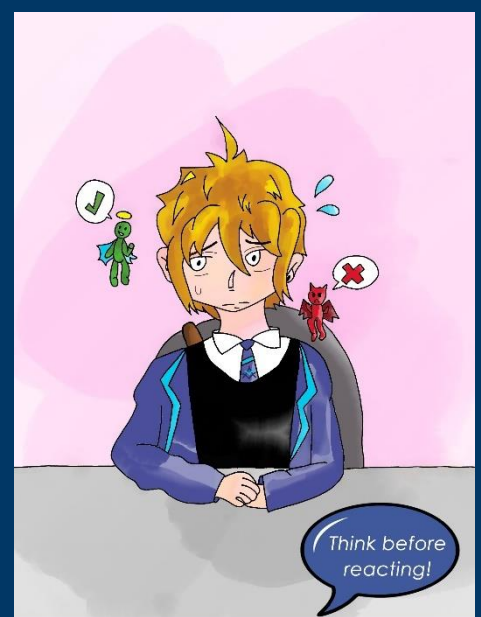
Creating, imagining and innovating



Listening with understanding and empathy



Applying past knowledge to new situations

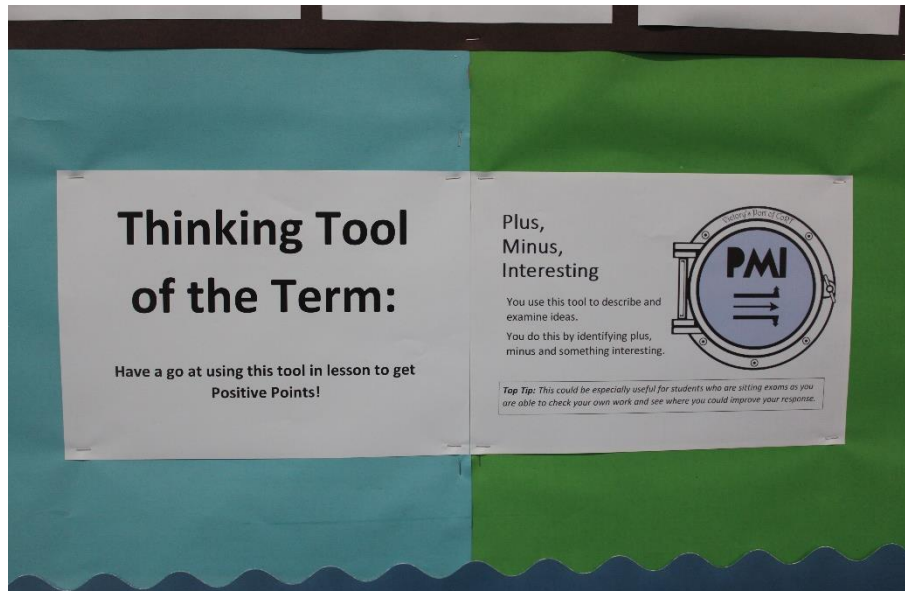


Managing impulsivity

Updates and News

Student Drive Team

Our Student Drive Team has been busy making a display board to show house points and Thinking Tools. Students can see regular updates and the 'Thinking Tool of the Term'.



In May our Student Drive Team took part in a cultural exchange event with students from the Czech Republic. They described the Thinking Tools and gave a few examples of the Keys, CORT Tools and Maps and their use in a variety of subjects.



The team also took part in a group activity to demonstrate how Thinking Hats are used. For each hat we asked our students to explain what the hat was used for, for example when discussing the red hat students gave their personal responses to the activity. For the yellow hat they explained what they gained from talking to someone new – learning from each other, making new friends, gaining confidence and using languages. The third hat discussed was the black hat, and as the Czech students had been exposed to the previous examples, they answered first and our Victory students answered second. The final hat we looked at was the green hat, where the students came up with improvements for the activity such as name tags, more space, less furniture.

A big well done to our Student Drive Team for their enthusiasm and teamwork at this event!



Key Dates

Term 1

Wednesday 3rd September (years 7, 11 and 12 only) and Thursday 4th September (all year groups) to Friday 17th October 2025

Inset days – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September

Open Evening – Thursday 25th September

Autumn Break – Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October 2025

Term 2

4th November to 19th December 2025

Inset Day – Monday 3rd November
Year 11 Parents' Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 27th November

Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations – 10th December

Year 13 Parents' Evening – Thursday 11th December

Christmas Break – Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026

Updates and News

Czech Students Cultural Exchange

On Saturday 3rd May we were excited to be visited by year 10 Czech Republic students as part of a special cultural exchange event hosted by Medway Homestay.



The students arrived at The Victory Academy on the Saturday to take part in activities with our own students to better understand and experience British culture. First, all students had the chance to bake traditional scones to later eat during afternoon tea. While we waited for the scones to bake, the Czech students had the chance to sample a variety of British foods such as sausage rolls, a variety of sauces, Marmite, Dairy Milk chocolate and much more. There were definitely some very mixed opinions about the foods that were tasted but, overall, the Czech students learnt more about British



culture and cuisine. Soon after, the scones were ready, and the afternoon tea had been prepared. The students were taught how to traditionally eat their scones with jam and cream and were taught how to make tea. Lastly, the Czech students were introduced to finger sandwiches which are traditionally always eaten during afternoon tea. This day was all about teaching the students all about everyday foods and regular traditions of the British.

The next day, we met with the students again to participate in a friendly bowling competition which we all enjoyed. The cultural exchange was so much fun that we hope in the near future students from The Victory Academy will go to visit Czech Republic to learn more about their culture and cuisines.



Kent Teacher of the Year Award Winners

Congratulations to our Victory winners at the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards, which took place on Friday 9th May 2025.

Mrs Thomas won the Medway Secondary Teacher Award in Science. The Science department won the Medway Team Award.

Mr Miller won the Medway Award for Student Services Manager and the overall Kent Award for Pastoral Care.

Summer Results Days

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

- A Level - Thursday 14th August 9am-11am
- GCSE - Thursday 21st 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. 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

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 suppliers.

Our School Uniform:

- Academy blazer*
- Academy tie (House colour)*
- Plain black V-neck jumper (optional item in addition to a blazer)
- White shirt either short or long sleeved
- Plain black straight leg trousers (no skinny fit, flared or denim) or plain black knee-length pleated skirt (skirts not to be rolled up)
- Plain black or white ankle socks (no logos, stripes 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, plain navy PE skirt or plain navy cycling shorts with discreet logo (e.g. Nike Pro 5-inch shorts – women's)
- Plain navy jogging bottoms or plain navy leggings with discreet logo
- Trainers (for Performing Arts, grip socks e.g. Flip Out/Gravity/Primark can be worn as an alternative)
- Navy football socks (desirable)
- Football boots – moulded studs (desirable)
- Shin pads (desirable)

Uniform can be purchased from [Monkhouse](#) and [School Time](#):

Monkhouse
Unit 28 Chatham Dockside Shopping Centre
Maritime Way
Chatham
ME4 3ED

School Time Outfitters
87-89 High Street
Chatham
ME4 4EE



Walkin' N Wheelin' Challenge Winners

In May we took part in Medway Council's Walkin' N Wheelin' challenge. From 19th to 23rd 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 Secondary School category with a total of 1618 active journeys. A big thank you to everyone who took part!

RSC Education Prize

In May we welcomed the Royal Society of Chemistry to present Mrs Wade, our Lead Science Technician, with the prestigious Excellence in Secondary and Further Education prize. The prize was awarded for creating variations of microscale practical chemistry resources and actively engaging with the wider education community. Congratulations Mrs Wade!



Terms 5 and 6 Events

Victory Celebration Day

On Tuesday 15th July we held Victory Celebration Day to celebrate The Victory Academy's 10th birthday. The day started with a Cultural Parade around the Courtyard to recognise and celebrate all the countries our students come from. After lessons linked to the theme 'Celebrate All', our students enjoyed a birthday picnic and cultural performances in the Courtyard.



Awards Presentation Evening

Following our Victory Celebration Day, we held our annual Awards Presentation Evening. It was a great evening celebrating our students, along with their families and teachers.

The *Oliver! Jr* cast performed 'Pick a Pocket' from the summer show. Awards were given out for subject progress and achievement, Head of Year, Lighthouse subjects, Star Readers and Victory Virtues. A special congratulations to Hermione, Charlotte, Kirills and Rakshan-Raj for winning the Headteacher's Award, the Sam Rooks Award and the George Hughes Award respectively.

Full of Hope Project

This term a group of our students took part in the Full of Hope Project, alongside Medway Diversity Forum. They took part in workshops creating mental health artwork, which was then installed in our new Full of Hope safe space in the library.

Year 11 Leavers

In June we said goodbye to our year 11 students. On Monday 16th June, after their final week of exams, they took part in a shirt signing afternoon. The following week on Tuesday 24th 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.



On Friday 11th July we welcomed The Mayor of Medway and visitors from Medway Diversity Forum and Public Health to open our new space and meet our students. As part of the opening ceremony, they also planted a rose in our Eco Garden, called the Victory Rose, which will be cared for by our students.



Terms 5 and 6 Events

Colour Run

On Friday 11th July we held our Colour Run event, to raise money for the Medway Hospital Charity. The run was opened by Tedway Bear, the charity mascot, and 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!



Arsenal WFC Trip

In May, we took a number of students from all year groups to Emirates Stadium, London to see Arsenal Women play their match of the season against Manchester United Women. We really were treated to a great day out. Before the match, our students enjoyed the celebrations in the fan zone: a DJ, face painting, temporary tattoos, and recording a message of good luck for the team before their Champions League final. We then watched a great match with plenty of goals and opportunities to cheer and sing. Arsenal Women went on to win the match 4-3.

We would like to thank all teachers who gave their time at the weekend to make this trip possible. Everyone really enjoyed the day and students are already asking to go again next year – let's take a look at next season's fixture list!



National Thank a Teacher Day

On 19th June we celebrated National Thank a Teacher Day. A group of students from our Student Drive Team handed out small gifts as a thank you, to recognise the hard work and efforts of all our staff.





Terms 5 and 6 Events

Careers and University Fair

On Friday 4th July we were excited to hold our first ever Whole School Careers and University Fair. Each year group took turns throughout the day to visit the stalls from by employers, training providers and further education institutions.

Visitors included the Army, Kent Police, Medway NHS Trust, Royal Mail, UK Border Force, Kent Fire and Rescue, Royal Air Force, South Eastern Railways, and more! We also welcomed Canterbury Christ Church University, University for the Creative Arts, and University of Kent, to discuss higher education opportunities and courses.

It was wonderful to see all students engaging with industry professionals and gaining insights into different career opportunities.



Ancient Britain Camping Trip

In June a group of Year 13 students celebrated the end of their exams by taking a camping trip to the West Country to investigate the mysteries of Ancient Britain. We explored both ancient and modern belief systems, bringing what they had learned in the classroom over the last two years very much to life!



Mental Health Awareness

In May our staff wore green and supported Mental Health Awareness Week. By going green, we raised awareness about the importance of taking care of your mental health and opening up conversations on the topic.





Year 8

Message from Head of Year 8

As we reach the end of the academic year, it's been a real pleasure to reflect on what a fantastic year it has been for our year 8 students. Watching each student mature, develop, and grow in their own unique way has been a particular highlight. Their enthusiasm, dedication and spirit have made this year a memorable one.

Year 8 students have taken part in a wide range of exciting opportunities throughout the year. A number of students participated in the Royal Shakespeare Company project, where they showcased their talents in both Performing Arts and English. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to develop their confidence and creativity, and they represented the school with pride.

One of the highlights of the festive season was the Christmas Disco. It was a fantastic event that gave students a chance to enjoy an evening of music, dancing and socialising with friends. With delicious food provided by Chartwells and a great atmosphere, it was a night to remember! Due to its success, we're already looking into hosting a similar event next year.



Sport has also played a key role this year. Our year 8 football team impressed in their fixtures, displaying strong teamwork and talent on the pitch, and delivering some excellent results for the school.

We are also incredibly proud of our students who took part in the school production of *Oliver! Jr.* Several year 8 students were involved both onstage and behind the scenes, and their hard work and dedication helped make the show a resounding success. If you didn't manage to see it, you truly missed out on a fantastic performance!

As a reward for their hard work and achievements this year, we were excited to take some year 8 students on a well-deserved trip to Thorpe Park. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything our students have achieved as a year group.

Looking ahead, year 8 will soon transition into year 9, an important milestone in their educational journey. Next year, students will begin considering their GCSE options and planning their future pathways. After speaking to many students, it's clear they are excited and ready to take on this next challenge, and we will be here to support them every step of the way.

Finally, I'd like to say how much I'm looking forward to continuing to work with this fantastic year group as they move into year 9. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support, it makes a real difference. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer. See you in September!



Art

Studio VA

The Victory Academy's annual exhibition, Studio VA, launched on Thursday 10th July. 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
- BTEC Art and Design Level 3
- GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art and Graphics
- GCSE Design & Technology
- GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Level 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.

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



Year 7 Portraits

This term our year 7 students have been learning about portraiture. They produced bright self-portraits inspired by the artist Julian Opie.



Year 8 Mascots

Our year 8 students took part in a competition to design and create mascots for our four school houses. Well done to the winners Favour E, Jazmine J, Connie W and Skye C.





Art

Year 9 Watercolour

This term our year 9 Art students have been experimenting with watercolour paint techniques inspired by the artist Wayne Thiebaud.

Student Artwork

Art Ambassadors

Our Art Ambassadors designed and produced colourful books of positivity which will be hung on the library mural tree they created last term.



Little trotty wagtail, he went in the rain,
And tittering, tottering sideways he ne'er got straight again.
He stooped to get a worm, and looked up to catch a fly,
And then he flew away ere his feathers they were dry.

Little trotty wagtail, he waddled in the mud,
And left his little footmarks, trample where he would.
He waddled in the water-pudge, and waggle went his tail,
And chirrup up his wings to dry upon the garden rail.

Little trotty wagtail, you nimble all about,
And in the dimpling water-pudge you waddle in and out;
Your home is nigh at hand, and in the warm pigsty,
So, little Master Wagtail, I'll bid you a goodbye.



English

Poetry by Heart

Two students took part in the Poetry by Heart competition with Miss Gardner and Mr Tate. They had to learn two poems by heart and then recite them in a performance. Both Naiomi A (year 8) and Jessica D (year 10) did a fabulous job learning their poems and were highly commended by the judges. Poetry by Heart is a national competition for all KS1, KS3, KS4 and KS5 students and is a chance to showcase their skills in both memory and performance. We're so proud of both students and hope we can expand further next year!

Rainham Poetry Festival

On Friday 11th April the annual Rainham Poetry Festival hosted a poetry competition for Sixth Form students. Out of a very competitive field, our very own Anastasia I was placed in the top 5 entries across all schools. Her poem, *A Teenager's Lament*, was highly commended by the judges, including Vince Maple and the Editor of Goat Star Books, who organise the festival. Well done Anastasia!

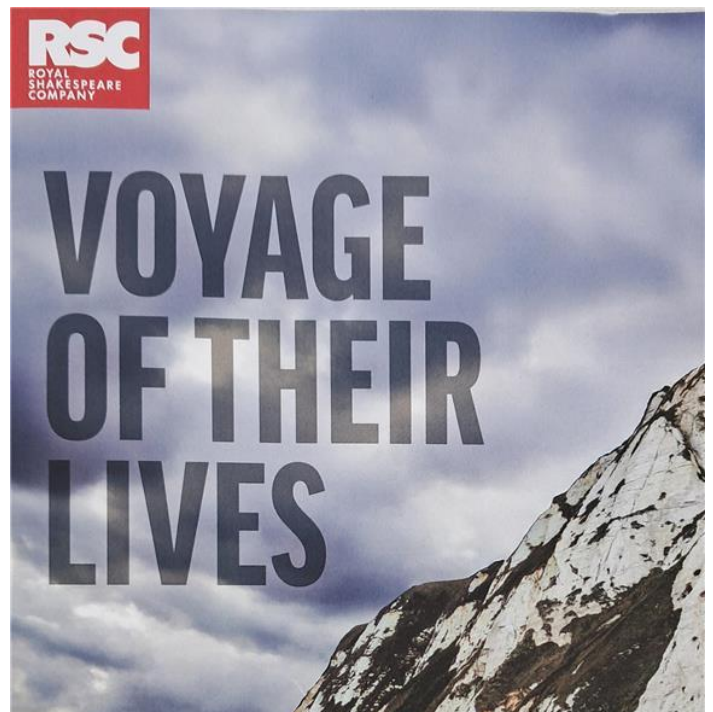


POETRY BY
HEART

Choose a poem
Learn it by heart
Perform it out loud

RSC Final Performance

After months of cultivation, The Victory Academy's Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) project finally bloomed on Monday 23rd June. Mr Best and Miss Davies took 11 students to Samphire Hoe, Dover, to perform in front of two live audiences, *Voyage of Their Lives*. We had the great pleasure to work with excerpts from one of Shakespeare's most morally complex plays, *The Merchant of Venice*. Throughout the project, the students engaged with the complexities of Shakespeare's text, the vast depth and wide breadth of emotion within the text, and tackled some very challenging themes.



One audience member said: "There's a special feeling about the RSC programme in Kent," and we at The Victory Academy couldn't agree more!

Mr Best is now looking forward to the next RSC project, *King Lear* at The Marlowe Theatre, and is excited to work with returning and new students on the project.



Geography

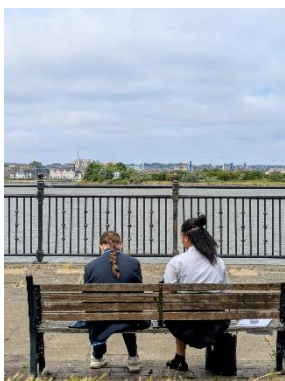
Geographers in the Field

It's been a busy and exciting time for Geography students across the school, with fieldwork taking centre stage this term as part of our commitment to hands-on, enquiry-led learning.

GCSE Fieldwork: Urban and Coastal Investigation

Our GCSE Geographers have undertaken two contrasting fieldtrips this term to deepen their understanding of both urban and coastal environments – key components of their fieldwork enquiry.

In Chatham town centre, students investigated the question '*How does environmental quality vary across Chatham, and what factors influence it?*'



Students collected a range of data including environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts and litter tallies across different locations. This urban fieldwork helped them explore the spatial variation of urban quality and the human and physical factors that influence it.

Later in the term, they headed to Herne Bay to study coastal processes, focusing on the impact of longshore drift and the effectiveness of groynes. Students conducted beach profiles, measured sediment size and shape, and observed signs of erosion and deposition. Both trips provided excellent opportunities for students to apply geographical skills, work collaboratively, and develop meaningful conclusions based on first-hand evidence.

A Level Stratford Trip:

Regeneration in Action

Our Year 12 Geographers visited Stratford, East London, to examine how the area has been transformed through regeneration and place branding since the 2012 Olympics. They assessed changes in land use, environmental quality, and local perceptions – all vital for their *Changing Places* case study and future NEA coursework. Students were especially interested in the role of flagship developments like Westfield and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in reshaping Stratford's identity.



KS3 Fieldwork Foundations

Across Key Stage 3, students have been introduced to the importance of geographical fieldwork and enquiry. Students have explored how geographers collect and present data, learning about sampling methods, primary and secondary data, and how to ask meaningful questions about the world around them. These early experiences lay a strong foundation for more advance investigations in the years to come.

History

The Five Competition

Last term our Year 8 students were set a competition by the History department to design a creative piece to commemorate the lives and experiences of 'The Five' as working-class women in Victorian London.

Five winners were selected by the History department for their outstanding pieces of work. Congratulations to Abilaya, Zara, Rosie, Freddie and Annie.



Maths

New Maths Club

We are excited to announce that for the next academic year there will be a brand-new Maths Club, powered by the brilliant Axiom Maths curriculum and the Maths Circle programme. Whether you're a number ninja or just curious about cracking codes and solving puzzles, this club is designed to make maths meaningful, magical and fun.

Interested? Don't let this opportunity *subtract* from your potential – speak to Mr Catto in F173 to find out more!

MFL

MFL Ambassador Lessons

It was great to accompany our year 7 and year 8 Modern Foreign Language Ambassador students to New Horizons Children's Academy. They delivered highly effective and enjoyable French lessons to three year 5 classes – well done!



Maths

Student Achievements

The Maths department would like to congratulate the following students for their outstanding achievements in Mathematics throughout the year:

- Zac P (year 7)
- Rosemary O (year 8)
- Melinda L (year 9)
- Fatima A (year 10)
- Michael N (year 12)
- Rebecca S (year 12)

The Maths department would also like to congratulate the following students for being Maths Ambassadors:

- Year 7 – Abdelrahman H and Maja K
- Year 8 – Jessica A and Favour E
- Year 9 – Sophie P and Ayowande O



Performing Arts

Oliver! Jr School Production

This year's school production, *Oliver! Jr*, featured over 70 students in both performance and technical roles. The Performing Arts department could not be prouder of the cast and crew, whose energy, talent and commitment made the production a tremendous success. Many audience members called it one of the best shows ever staged at The Victory Academy. Congratulations to everyone involved – we can't wait to get started on the next one!



RSC School Programme

This year, our students proudly took part in the RSC Associate School Programme, led by Mr Best and Miss Davies. After months of dedicated rehearsals, students performed *The Merchant of Venice* in a stunning outdoor setting at Samphire Hoe as part of the RSC's *Voyage of their Lives*. Performing in challenging conditions, our students delivered a powerful interpretation of Shakespeare's classic work. We are immensely proud of their achievement.

Swan Lake Trip

Our year 9-13 Dance students recently attended a performance of *Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake* at The Marlowe theatre in Canterbury. The production was nothing short of spectacular and served as an inspiring experience for our students. Seeing Matthew Bourne's iconic choreography live was particularly valuable, as his work features prominently in the Key Stage 4 and 5 Performing Arts curriculum.





Performing Arts

Key Stage 4 Dance

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 Dance students and all they have achieved over the past two years. Their commitment, creativity and collaborative spirit have been evident in every performance. We wish them all the very best as they take their next steps.

Key Stage 5 Performing Arts

Our Year 13 Performing Arts students have continually impressed us with their dedication and talent. Over the past two years, they have approached every performance with passion and professionalism. Their outstanding portrayal of characters in this year's production of *Oliver! Jr* was widely praised. We wish them every success in their futures.



Kidenza Orchestra Performance

Miss Wilson and Miss Dawkins organised a fantastic opportunity to host *Kidenza*, a 14-piece orchestra made up of 16 talented musicians. Our Year 8 Victory students, along with 422 local primary students, were treated to a highly engaging and educational live orchestral performance.



Chicago Theatre Trip

The Performing Arts department took Year 13 students to see *Chicago the Musical* at The Marlowe Theatre. Earlier this year, our students staged their own production of *Chicago*, so watching a professional performance of the same show was both rewarding and insightful. Our students' behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school.



PE

Sports Day

On a bright and energetic day at The Victory Academy, students from years 7 to 12 came together to take part in our annual Sports Day – a highlight of the school calendar that celebrates effort, teamwork and athleticism.

The day was packed with exciting events, showcasing a range of track and field disciplines. Students demonstrated incredible determination and skill as they competed in discus, shot putt and javelin, with each event drawing impressive performances and plenty of support from peers and staff alike. The track events were equally thrilling, with competitors giving it their all in the 400m, 300m, 200m and 100m sprints.



Energy levels remained high throughout the day, with students showing outstanding sportsmanship and school spirit in every race. One of the highlights was the relay event, where teamwork and communication took centre stage. The cheers from classmates around the track created a fantastic atmosphere, helping to spur runners on to the finish line.

Of course, no Sports Day would be complete without the staff relay – a much anticipated event that brought laughter, cheers and a few surprise sprints from members of the teaching team. It was a brilliant way to end the day, and a reminder of the strong community spirit we're so proud of at Victory.

A huge thank you must go to the entire PE department for their hard work, dedication and organisation in making the day run smoothly. From setting up the events to encouraging every participant, their efforts ensured it was a fantastic and memorable experience for all involved.

Most importantly, an even bigger congratulations to all the students who took part, whether competing or cheering from the side-lines. Your enthusiasm, effort and team spirit truly made the day special. Well done to everyone – we're already looking forward to next year!

Overall results:

House	Score	Rank
Cavalier	738	1 st
Leviathan	677	2 nd
Ocelot	636	3 rd
Gannet	603	4 th





Curriculum Update

As the summer term progressed and the weather continued to improve, the PE department took full advantage of our outdoor spaces, delivering a broad and engaging curriculum to students across all year groups. During terms 5 and 6, students have enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities including athletics, and striking and fielding sports such as rounders, softball, kwik cricket, tennis and pickleball.

We've also seen a strong turnout for our extra-curricular programme with clubs including football, tennis, athletics, striking and fielding, fitness club, basketball and pickleball. These clubs have given students the opportunity to further develop their skills, improve fitness and enjoy sport in a fun, supportive environment.

A special mention goes to the increasing number of students arriving to lessons fully equipped with the correct PE kit. This has had a noticeable impact on participation and the overall enjoyment of lessons – thank you to parents and carers for supporting this.

Many students have stood out for their commitment and performance, earning the title of MVP (Most Valuable Player) in their PE lessons. These weekly awards celebrate effort, progress and a positive attitude. The competition for the coveted Year Group MVP of the Year is now well underway, with final results to be announced at the end of term.

The PE team is incredibly proud of the progress and enthusiasm shown by our students this term. Well done to everyone who has taken part – you've set a great standard and we look forward to building on this success in the new academic year.

District Athletics Championship

On Monday 30th June we proudly took 24 female athletes to compete in the annual District Athletics Championships at Medway Park. Despite the challenging heat, every athlete represented the Academy with determination, resilience and fantastic sportsmanship.

A special congratulations to the following students for their medal-winning performances:

- Chelsea U – Bronze in Year 7 Discus
- Daisy K – Silver in Year 7 200m
- Taylor S – Silver in Year 9 Javelin
- Freya C, Blessing A, Chelsea U, Daisy K – Bronze in the Year 7 Relay

We would also like to give a huge well done to Viktoria R, who showed great team spirit by stepping up on the day to compete in both the 800m and the relay.

All of our athletes should be incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements – what a fantastic day for The Victory Academy!

Well done to all the boys who attended the athletics training sessions and the District competition. They performed excellently, showing great effort and dedication throughout. Congratulations to the medal winners:

- Ephraim A (year 9) – Bronze in 100m and Long Jump
- Carvel M (year 9) – Bronze in 200m
- Maxim H (year 7) – Silver in Javelin
- Gerald O (year 10) – Bronze in Discus

These individual successes are just part of what made the athletics season special. We're incredibly proud of every student who took part and look forward to building on this momentum in the seasons ahead.

PE



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2024-2025 cohort successfully completed their expedition during the last weekend of June. After many hours of preparation, students demonstrated exceptional organisation and teamwork. They showcased skills in tent pitching, map reading, basic first aid and adhering to countryside rules.

Throughout the academic year, students have been dedicated to completing the Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections of the award. For the Physical section, students participated in a variety of activities including team sports, dance, walking, cycling (tracked via Strava) and regular gym sessions. The Skill section saw students developing talents in cooking, art, photography, performing arts, dance and sign language. For Volunteering, students made a real difference in our community by litter picking around the Academy, supporting the library and coaching younger students in various after school clubs.

During the final expedition in Sittingbourne, the group truly shone. The growth from the Practice Weekend to the Assessed Expedition was remarkable. The group showed real development in their communication, leadership, teamwork, decision-making and problem-solving abilities. They also demonstrated empathy, resilience and determination – especially as they tackled some of the most challenging weather conditions we've face on an expedition!

Mr Doyle, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator – “I couldn't be prouder of the group's commitment, teamwork and positive attitude throughout the weekend. A huge congratulations to all students who have embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh journey this year!”

Kwik Cricket Tournament

During Term 6, 16 of our year 7 students took part in a Kwik Cricket tournament. All those involved showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the day, participating with great energy and determination and represented the school with pride.

Both the boys' and girls' teams played multiple matches and each team secured a well-deserved win during the tournament, which was a great reward for all their hard work. Both teams showed excellent teamwork whilst supporting each other, as well as excellent effort during every game and demonstrating a positive attitude.



Both teams showed a high level of resilience, learning from every match and improving as the day progressed. Their conduct on and off the pitch was a credit to our school and we are extremely proud of how they performed in challenging conditions. Well done to all the players involved for their commitment and enthusiasm.



Science

IET Challenge Days

In June 72 year 9 students took part in challenge days created by The Institute of Engineering and Technology. Students had to use their prior science knowledge as well as being independent and learning about new circuit skills.

On the first day, students were challenged to design and engineer a prototype to help transport aid to people. The second day's challenge was to engineer a prototype to make a child's hospital stay more comfortable. Each group, after planning and building their prototypes, had to present their ideas in front of the other groups and judges. We even had a rap!

Each student who took part had a great part to play in their group's work and we had some fantastic ideas and circuits created. We had several conveyor belts, LED lights, solar panel installations and much more. We are truly proud of our #VictoryScientists in this event!

The winner of both days received #VictoryScientists medals. All those who took part will receive a certificate from IET and have also been entered into a CREST award.



Natural History Museum Trip

On 2nd July we took our year 10 students to London for an adventurous day at the Natural History Museum. There were many exhibitions to look around – it was safe to say a map was needed!

Students were given the opportunity to have small group 'behind the scenes' tours of the Spirit Collections, where they saw samples collected personally by Charles Darwin. They learnt that flesh eating beetles are used in the museum to study bones of organisms and got to see them through a live camera feed.

It was a packed day of activities and will help the year 10s in their GCSE curriculum next academic year.





Science

AgriTech Xperience Trip

In July 11 of our year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Canterbury Christ Church University to take part in the AgriTech Xperience, looking at the future careers in farming and food.

Students undertook multiple practical activities throughout the day:

- The Secret Life Beneath Our Feet – students learnt the importance of microorganisms and tree communication. They also used microscopes to truly see what is truly lurking in soil.
- Medway Food Innovation Centre – students looked at how technology is used in the food industry and got to see an example of 3D printed food.
- A tour of the CCCU engineering department.
- Grow with the Glow of Seaweed – students learnt how seaweed is an alternative to chemical fertilisers and how they can reduce the issues caused by fertiliser use. Students then made a formula using seaweed to add to their seeds.
- The Case of the Silent Patients – in this session students learnt about how it is important that there are people looking at the health of plants, diagnosing any issues and then treating them.

The day was a great experience. Well done to the students for representing the school.

Ambition Talks

We have been very lucky to welcome external speakers this term. Medical Statisticians Rosie Brown and Maria Jacobs spoke to our year 10 and 12 students about their role and the importance of maths in science, as well as their current job roles in transplantation in the NHS.

Our year 9 students had the opportunity to listen to a talk by a Neuroscientist, Peter Imoesi, regarding his pathway in science to his current role. He also spoke to the students about how to become the best in STEM subjects. A big thank you to these STEM ambassadors for their time.

Wildwood Trip

Our A Level Biology students went on an ecology trip to Wildwood in June. They conducted statistical tests, collated data on woodlice populations and carried out quadrats and transects in different woodland habitats, before taking a tour of the wildlife park. The students got involved in all of the activities and were a credit to the school. They also completely fell in love with the otter, so Mrs Thomas has adopted him and there will be a plaque at the otter enclosure for 12A Biology for the next year!



Science

NHS Day

On Thursday 10th July all of year 7, 8 and 9 were off timetable for our annual NHS celebration. The entire day encompassed multiple subjects such as Numeracy, History, Arts, Literacy and Science.

Students had the opportunity to look at the different careers in healthcare, where year 8 pretended to be Ophthalmologists and year 7 were Dentists. Year 9 students debated how different countries tackle vaping and staff praised them for their ability to evaluate and express their opinions.

We had several external speakers to talk to our students including Medical Statisticians, a talk on 'Medicine Through Time and Diagnostics' plus Kent and Medway Medical School.



A window has been created with some of the work created by the students, including art from the wellness sessions and fact files on Dame Elizabeth Anionwu. More artwork was created at lunch time with our NHS chalk drawings.

Well done Victory Scientists and thank you to all those who work for the NHS and the healthcare sector!



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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