



Newsletter

December 2025

Headteacher's End of Term Message



At The Victory Academy we are committed to ensuring that all our students **Belong and Achieve**. This newsletter gives a wonderful snapshot of all that has taken place since September. We continue to be proud of all our students and how they work hard every day to prioritise their learning. It is also right to celebrate the continued dedication, skill and enthusiasm of our staff team who work tirelessly to enable our students to thrive.

Since September, we have continued to focus on our three values; **Be Kind, Work Hard, Celebrate All**. There are examples of all these in the pages that follow. Kindness has been demonstrated day in day out through small acts. However, it has also been seen in student participation in events such as World Mental Health Day, giving food and supplies for Medway Street Angels and Medway Foodbank, whole school participation in our Act of Remembrance and joining in with the Trust #WeAreOne event focused on 'Unity in Diversity'.

Our students continue to work hard. In lessons we have seen students focused and participating fully in their learning. Assessment has enabled our teachers and students to clearly identify areas of strength and improvement. Outside of the classroom we have seen students prepare and present speeches to be part of our Student Council, perform poetry in the Courtyard and devise performances as part of their coursework.

All our students deserve to be celebrated. We have seen both individual and team sporting success alongside our School Games Gold Award. We saw over 170 students collect their Artsmark certificates and as a school we were delighted to receive our Thinking School accreditation through the University of Exeter. Finally, our Victory Scientists continued to excel as part of the Big STEM Challenge.

This newsletter is a celebration of all these things and much more! I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you all in 2026 to ensure all our students continue to **Belong and Achieve**. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Key Dates

Term 3

Tuesday 6th January to Friday 13th February 2026

Year 8 HPV & Years 9-11 Catch-up HPV Vaccinations – Wednesday 14th January
Year 7 Parents' Evening – Thursday 15th January
#WeAreOne Week of Thinking – Monday 26th January
Year 10 Parents' Evening – Thursday 5th February

February Break – Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

Term 4

Monday 23rd February to Thursday 2nd April 2026

Year 9 Taster Week – Monday 2nd March
Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening – Thursday 5th March
Year 12 Parents' Evening – Thursday 26th March
Students finish early at 12.30pm – Thursday 2nd April

Spring Break – Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April 2026

Updates and News

Advanced Thinking School Award

We have proudly secured reaccreditation as an Advanced Thinking School by the University of Exeter, recognising our commitment to transforming life chances through innovative, inclusive, and child-centred education.

This accolade places the Academy among a select group of schools acknowledged for embedding metacognitive approaches across every aspect of school life. In their report, the University of Exeter recognised the Academy as “an inspirational beacon of metacognitive educational excellence” and “a world-leading holistic educational provider”.



The report commended the Academy's ethos and values, inclusive culture, and our 'Victory Virtues' which develop resilience, creativity, and independence. Staff were recognised for their innovation, care, and strong professional development. Assessors also highlighted the Academy's culture of reflection and research, with students and staff engaged in Thinking Logbooks, Reflective Journals, and lesson study models. Assessment was praised as “exceptional”, ensuring it supports rather than drives curriculum.

Mr Owen, Headteacher: “We are absolutely delighted. This recognition is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our staff, the curiosity and resilience of our students, and the strong partnerships we share with families and our wider community. Our vision has always been to put children first, empowering them to think deeply, act with confidence, and thrive as lifelong learners. This award shows that vision is not only alive, but flourishing.”



Striders Challenge Winners

In October we took part in Medway Council's Striders challenge, as part of the International Walk to School Month. From 6th to 10th October 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 1762 active journeys. A big thank you to everyone who took part!

Medway Diversity Forum Award

We are delighted to receive an award from the Medway Diversity Forum for our “outstanding support, partnership, and dedication to empowering young people”. This achievement reflects the impact of initiatives such as the Youth Employment Programme and the Suicide Awareness HOPE Project, which continue to make a meaningful difference in our community. A big thank you to all the students and staff who were involved.

Updates and News

Uniform

As part of our Victory Values we take pride in ensuring a high standard of uniform and appearance. Ahead of the new year please can we ask for support in ensuring students have the correct uniform. Items marked * can be purchased from our uniform suppliers [Monkhouse](#) and [School Time](#).

School Uniform	Performing Arts & PE Kit
Academy blazer*	Academy PE top*
Academy tie (House colour)*	Academy half-zip long sleeve top (optional)*
Plain black V-neck jumper (optional item in addition to blazer)	Plain navy shorts, plain navy PE skirt or plain navy cycling shorts
White shirt either short or long sleeved	Plain navy jogging bottoms or plain navy leggings
Plain black straight leg trousers (no skinny fit, flared or denim) or plain black, knee-length pleated skirt (not to be rolled up)	Trainers (for Performing Arts, grip socks can be worn as an alternative)
Plain black or white ankle socks (no logos, stripes or colours) or plain black or skin colour tights	Navy football socks (desirable)
Plain black formal enclosed shoes (no boots, canvas shoes or trainers)	Football boots (desirable)
Black headscarf	Shin pads (desirable)

General Appearance

- One small plain gold or silver stud in the lower lobe with no other visible piercings including tongue and nose piercings. If clear studs are to be used as an alternative, they should be discreet and as minimal as possible. No other clear piercings permitted. Students taking part in practical subjects (including PE and Performing Arts) will need to remove any piercings before participating.
- No other visible jewellery other than a wrist watch
- No make-up including false eyelashes
- Nail polish including false nails should not be worn and will have to be removed before entering the Academy
- Hairstyles should be appropriate and of a natural colour and not contain exaggerated colours or styles. Patterns or tramlines should not be shaved into the hair or eyebrows.
- Hair bands should be plain and either black or navy and of discreet size
- Not hats, caps, hoods or durags other than for religious purposes
- Hoodies, tracksuit tops, scarfs, denim and leather jackers are not permitted
- If belts are to be worn they must be plain black, discreet buckle or fastening with no logo



Student Magazine

We are delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new student magazine, The Vessel. The Autumn issue celebrates the many successes from Terms 1 and 2, showcasing the creativity, talent, and dedication of our Sixth Form students. Read it [here](#).

Every article has been written and edited by our students themselves, reflecting their voices, perspectives, and achievements. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment. A special thank you goes to Patrick, our editor, whose outstanding visuals have brought the magazine to life.

Don't forget to engage with the magazine's QR codes to share your thoughts and contribute ideas for the next issue.

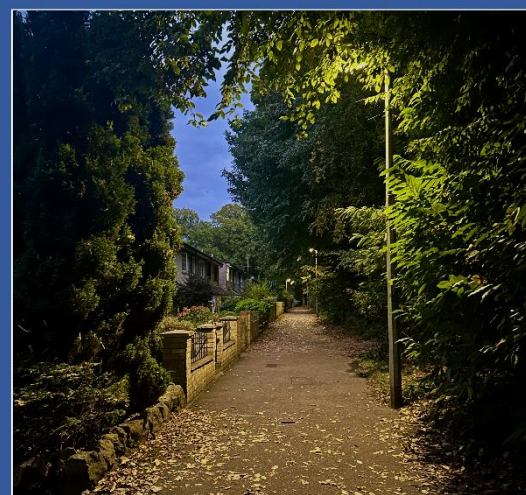


Photo: Amelia Gildewell - Winner of photography competition

Updates and News

Bronze Arts Awards

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable success of 176 Year 8 students who have achieved their Bronze Arts Award, a nationally recognised Level 1 qualification granted by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England.

The Bronze Arts Award is designed to develop young people's creativity, leadership, and reflective skills through engagement with the arts. As a two-time Platinum Artsmark School, we champion creativity and cultural education as a core part of our curriculum. This achievement reflects our ongoing commitment to nurturing artistic talent and promoting cultural understanding among our students.

The journey began in Year 7, when students embarked on an inspiring project exploring Adinkra symbols, the traditional African symbols from Ghana dating back to the 1800s. Guided by our Art department, students researched the meanings behind these symbols and created their own identity symbols to celebrate the diversity of cultures and identities within our school community. They combined research with practical weaving skills to design decorative canvases showcasing their unique symbols, resulting in a stunning collection of creative work.



This accomplishment not only highlights our students' creativity and perseverance but also reinforces our role as a leader in arts education. By embedding cultural learning and creative expression into the curriculum, we ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive and develop skills that will benefit them far beyond the classroom.

Isla, Year 8: "I really enjoyed completing the Arts Award because it was a different kind of art which I found really fun. I feel proud that I have a qualification in Year 8 and this can help me in the future."



Sixth Form Volunteering

We are incredibly proud of the way our Sixth Form students contribute to school life and the wider community. Their commitment and leadership shine through in roles such as:

- Supporting our community garden
- Acting as mentors for younger students
- Guiding peers as reading mentors
- Assisting with reprographics to keep everything running smoothly

These opportunities help our students grow as leaders, collaborators, and role models – making a real difference both inside and outside the classroom.



Updates and News

School Meals

All the meals provided at the Academy are prepared and cooked on the premises by our Catering Team, Innovate. Seasonal menus are devised by Innovate's nutritionists to ensure meals are healthy and balanced. Please see below the weekly menus, which can also be viewed on our [website](#) with the prices and Meal Deal options.

At the beginning of each day, every student has access to a free breakfast, to ensure they are energised and ready to learn. The school site is open for students from 8am daily and at this time students will be able to enter the Galley for Breakfast Club. At break and lunch times, items can be purchased from the Galley and our outdoor serving point, The Sub. Sixth Form students can also use the café in our new Sixth Form Centre.

Items can be paid for by topping up your child's Arbor account. Some families may benefit from Free School Meals. To check your eligibility and apply, please fill in the form on our [website](#).

WEEK 1

Week Commencing: 27/10/2025 17/11/2025 08/12/2025 19/01/2026
09/02/2026 02/03/2026 23/03/2026 13/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Beef Bolognese with Wholegrain Pasta & House Salad

TUESDAY

Kung Pao Chicken with Vegetable Rice

WEDNESDAY

Honey Glazed Roast Gammon, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Tikka Masala, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad

FRIDAY

Chip Shop "Friday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce

MONDAY

Plant Based Bolognese with Wholegrain Pasta and House Salad (V)

TUESDAY

Kung Pao Cauliflower with Vegetable Rice (VE)

WEDNESDAY

Lentil Sage & Onion Wellington (V)

THURSDAY

Butter Cauliflower & Chickpea Curry, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad (V)

FRIDAY

Homemade Cheese & Onion Slice with Chips & Peas (V)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Sliced Pineapple Cakes with Custard

TUESDAY

Chocolate & Lemon Brownies

WEDNESDAY

Syrup Sponge with Custard

THURSDAY

Oaty Apple Crumble with Custard

FRIDAY

Hot Chocolate Rocky Road

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD

Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily

WEEK 2

Week Commencing: 03/11/2025 24/11/2025 15/12/2025 05/01/2026
26/01/2026 16/02/2026 09/03/2026 30/03/2026 20/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Pork & Beef Sausage, Served with Mash with Onion Gravy

TUESDAY

Beef Lasagne with Homemade Garlic Bread & Garden Peas

WEDNESDAY

Hand Carved Roast British Turkey, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Sweet & Sour Chicken, Served with Fried Rice

FRIDAY

Chip Shop "Friday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce

MONDAY

Vegan Sausage Casserole with Gravy (V)

TUESDAY

No Waste Cauliflower Cheese Bake (V)

WEDNESDAY

Cheese, Onion & Leek Pie, Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (V)

THURSDAY

Sweet & Sour Tofu with Fried Rice (V)

FRIDAY

Jerusalem Squeesh Pasty with Chips & Peas (V)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce

TUESDAY

Pear & Ginger Crumble with Cinnamon Custard

WEDNESDAY

Jam Sponge with Custard

THURSDAY

Baked Churros

FRIDAY

Ice, Chocolate Rocky Road

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD

Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily

WEEK 3

Week Commencing: 20/10/2025 10/11/2025 01/12/2025 22/12/2025
12/01/2026 02/02/2026 23/02/2026 16/03/2026 06/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

BBQ Chicken Served with Salt & Peppers Wedges, Garden Peas

TUESDAY

Chicken Arancini with Pasta Bake

WEDNESDAY

Roast Shoulder of Pork, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Korma with Pilau Rice & Concomer Salad

FRIDAY

Chip Shop "Friday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas and Tartare Sauce

MONDAY

Chicken & Quorn Dippers with Salt & Pepper Wedges & Garden Peas (V)

TUESDAY

Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese and House Salad (V)

WEDNESDAY

Cheesy Roastie Squash & Parsnip Crumble, Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (V)

THURSDAY

Cauliflower 'Steak' with Pilau Rice & Mint Yogurt (V)

FRIDAY

Crispy Onion Pakora Burger Served with Mango Salsa, Chips & Peas (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Sticky Lemon Sponge

TUESDAY

Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble

WEDNESDAY

Jam Holy Poly with Custard

THURSDAY

Tiramisu Pudding with Custard

FRIDAY

Hot Chocolate Rocky Road

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD

Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily

street VIBES

MADE YOUR WAY!

CHOOSE IT!
ADD IT!
TOP IT!

Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available Tuesday to Thursday. With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.

Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!

Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week

NATURally

MONDAY

3x120 Cauliflower Wings, Served with Salt & Pepper Wedges (V)

TUESDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (V)

WEDNESDAY

1x110 Little Buddha Bowl (V)

THURSDAY

Green Bean Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)

FRIDAY

Garlic & Chili Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

TUESDAY

Pasta in a Cheese Sauce

WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Peppero 1/Pizza

THURSDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza

Terms 1 and 2 Events

Student Council Elections

In Term 1 students had the opportunity to present their campaign speeches for the role of Student Council Representative. Each candidate presented to their year group during assembly, showcasing confidence, creativity, and a commitment to making a difference.



Following the speeches, we held the Student Council election. Every year group took part in the voting process, they were given ballot slips and went to an individual booth to replicate a real polling station. The elections ran smoothly and we are incredibly proud of all our students for their enthusiasm and participation. A special thank you to our Sixth Form Leadership team for their support across the event.

Congratulations to our Student Council:

- Year 7 – Jessica T and Razvan M
- Year 8 – Kieron T and Ophelia B
- Year 9 – Olanrewaju S and Fayth C
- Year 10 – Derry A and Malvin F
- Year 11 – Amina H and Ishaq H

The team have already been working hard to represent the voices of students and bring meaningful change. We look forward to the continued impact of their leadership in the new year.

MP Visit

In November we welcomed MP Tris Osbourne to meet with our Student Council. Following a tour of the school, they met for a thoughtful discussion on key topics such as:

- The impact of technology and mobile phones on young people
- Funding for schools
- Positive activities for young people outside school
- Future careers and aspirations

Our students valued the chance to share their ideas, ask questions, and engage directly with Tris.



Harvest Festival

Throughout October and November we collected Harvest Festival donations to support our local community and Medway Food Bank. A big thank you to everyone who supported and donated!



Terms 1 and 2 Events

Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November The Victory Academy held a Remembrance Service to remember those in the Armed Forces and their families. The whole school service began with a prayer and a reading of 'The Stand' by John Bailey. The playing of the Last Post on the trumpet then signalled the start of the silence. After this a wreath was laid at the foot of our flagpole as a mark of respect for those who have lost their lives.

Students demonstrated impeccable conduct throughout the service, listening attentively, and upheld the traditions of the day with grace and maturity. It was a moving tribute that highlighted our commitment to remembering and respecting those who gave so much.

European Day of Languages

In September we celebrated European Day of Languages, a special occasion that highlights the joys and importance of learning new languages. To mark the day, our Modern Foreign Languages department organised a lunchtime cake stall with a twist! Students were invited to claim delicious free treats – but only if they asked for them in French and Spanish. The event was a fun and interactive way to encourage everyone to practice their language skills outside the classroom.



Grain LNG Careers Trip

In September Ms Wilson and Ms Littlemore took five students to Grain LNG. They enjoyed the opportunity to join other schools from Medway on a behind the scenes tour of the site. They were given valuable information by specialist staff regarding the day to day running of the plant, exploring new power generation setups and discussing their environmental impact.



All the schools then came together to create a site model using the information they had learnt throughout the day. They were also given a talk on different careers and progression routes at LNG.





The Feast of St. Nicholas

On Friday 5th December, our school embraced the festive spirit with a delightful celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas. This cherished tradition brought joy and excitement to our students as they welcomed a very special visitor.

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



Children in Need

On Friday 14th November we supported Children in Need with a day of fundraising activities, including the annual polka dot face painting.



World Mental Health Day

In October our school community came together to celebrate World Mental Health Day, an initiative that raises awareness about the importance of mental wellbeing. To show support, our staff wore yellow to symbolise hope and positivity. At lunchtime our students participated in a creative activity where they wrote uplifting messages. These messages were then used to create a display celebrating belong and unity.

KS3 Christmas Party

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed their Christmas party in December. There was music, food, face painting, games, and a raffle to win prizes.





Art

Art Ambassadors

We are delighted to announce our new Art Ambassadors for this academic year:

- Year 7: Sarah, Delia and Amy
- Year 8: Peyton, Warren and Lukas
- Year 9: Connie and Skylar

As Art Ambassadors they will play an important part in promoting artistic initiatives, assisting with projects, and encouraging students to engage with creative opportunities. We look forward to working closely with the team and celebrating the exciting projects they will help bring to life.

Power of Us Event

In October our KS3 Art Club students took part in the #WeAreOne Power of Us event. Through their creative work they showcased powerful messages of equality and pride in who they are, celebrating diversity within our school community.



Student Artwork

Lucy in Year 11 has produced an A2 portrait using tonal pencils as part of her coursework final piece.

Amber in year 13 has used oil paint onto MDF wood surface to represent a natural environment as part of her design idea development for her A Level coursework.



Viktoria in Year 12 has produced an oil painting of lemons using the impasto technique with a spatula, for her BTEC Art coursework.





English

Poetry Performance

On Friday 3rd October we celebrated National Poetry Day with an inspiring poetry performance at lunchtime. Our poets performed a range of pieces, from original compositions to beautifully memorised works, each delivered with passion, creativity and confidence. Every student who participated should feel immensely proud of their achievement. Their willingness to share their voices and celebrate the art of poetry made this event truly memorable. Congratulations to all our performers!

Youth Laureate Competition

We are delighted to share our Sixth Form students' recent success at the Medway Youth Laureate competition in November. Huge congratulations to Julija in Year 12 who won the 1st place prize with her poem 'The Tarnished Flame'.



We are also super proud of Sara in Year 12 as her poem 'The Ashes of Who I Used To Be' was awarded a judges' special commendation.

The poems were on display in Chatham library throughout November, and the winners of the competition will have various opportunities for mentorship and workshops throughout the year.

Othello Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 19th November Dr Bennett, Miss Steeples and Miss O'Brien braved the cold (and the tourists!) to take ten Year 12 and Year 13 students to see *Othello* at Theatre Royal Haymarket. The production was a masterful reimagining, with a star-studded cast, and has enriched our A Level students' understanding of the play, a set text for their upcoming exams.



A Christmas Carol Performance

This term our Year 10 students had the opportunity to watch one of their GCSE texts, *A Christmas Carol*, performed live by Quantum Theatre. It was lovely to see the text brought to life in such an imaginative way by the cast, including all of the key quotes needed for the exam. Well done Year 10 for your impeccable attentiveness to such an important day.





Geography

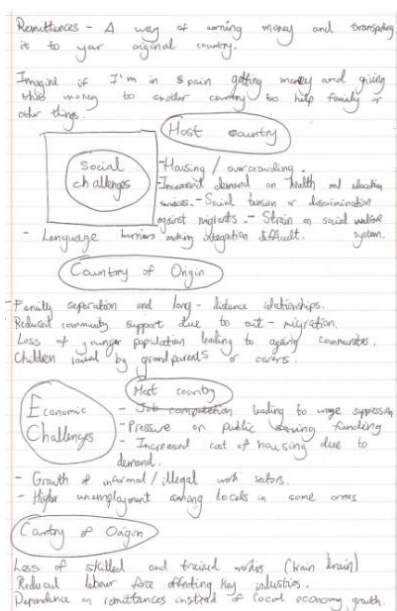
Building Strong Geographers

Year 7 – Mapping the World & Understanding Our Weather

Our newest geographers made an excellent start with a full introduction to map skills. They learnt where places are, how to read symbols, scale and direction, and ended the term with an impressive OS map group challenge, planning routes like real navigators and explorers. They are now moving on to *Weather and Climate* – the fundamentals for every budding geographer. This topic lays the groundwork for understanding everything from storms to global climate patterns, inspiring future forecasters, meteorologists and climate scientists.

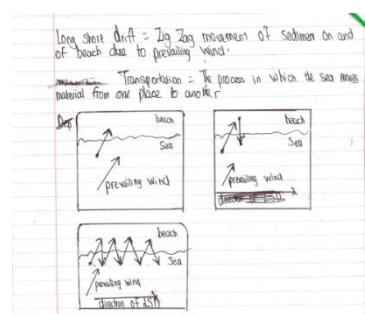
Year 8 – From Rivers to Migration

Year 8 immersed themselves in the world of *Rivers and Flooding* in Term 1, learning how landscapes are shaped and how communities respond. This term they moved on to *Migration*, exploring why people move, the challenges they face and the global patterns that shape our world – vital knowledge for future careers in government, international development and social research.



Year 9 – Development and Coasts

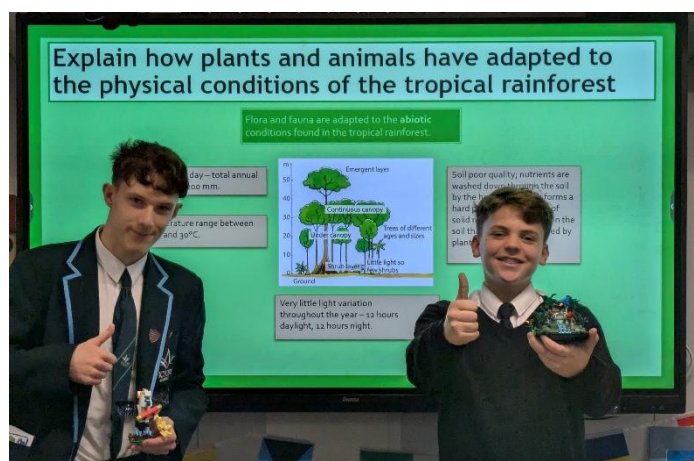
Students began this year with *Development*, comparing global inequalities and what makes countries progress. They have now taken to the coastline to study *Erosion, Deposition and Coastal Management* – key skills for future coastal engineers, environmental consultants and sustainability specialists.



Deepening Knowledge and Strengthening Skills

Year 10 – Resource Management and The Living World

Year 10 explored how essential resources – water, energy and food – are managed around the world, before diving into *The Living World*. They have been learning how plants and animals adapt to extreme environments like deserts and rainforests, mirroring the work of ecologists, conservationists and environmental scientists.





Geography

Year 11 – Prepping for the Future

This term has been focused and purposeful as Year 11 studied *Urban Issues* and *Natural Hazards*. From megacities to earthquakes and tropical storms, they are developing a strong understanding of the real-world challenges tackled by urban planners, hazard specialists and emergency response teams.

Advanced Geography in Action

Year 12 – A Fantastic Start to A Level Geography

Our Year 12 students have shown real enthusiasm as they began *Dryland Landscapes* and *Changing Spaces, Making Places*. They also completed the first of their four NEA fieldwork days with a visit to Bluewater, investigating how a sense of place shifts across the seasons – just like professional geographers, place analysts and environmental researchers.



Year 13 – Tackling Global Challenges

Year 13 have moved into their final topics: *Climate Change* and *Disease Dilemmas*. These units challenge students to think critically about the world's most complex issues, preparing them for careers in environmental policy, global health, climate science and beyond.

Photography Competition

This term our Geography department held an exciting photography competition. Students and staff were invited to submit a photography and caption with the theme 'Belonging in my town'.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Student runner-up – Barney, Year 8
- Student winner – Evie, Year 11
- Staff runner-up – Miss Steeples
- Staff winner – Mr Anderson



Evie, student winner: "Mushrooms are key indicators of healthy woodland ecosystems, dependent on soil type, moisture, and other factors. It shows that we live in a biodiverse area with lots of different wildlife."

Mr Anderson, staff winner: "This golf course gives me a sense of belonging because it feels natural and familiar. The open fairways, trees and fresh air connect me to the landscape and its ecosystems. I feel the seasons change through the weather, the firm ground in the summer and softer turf after rain. Walking the course builds my fitness and clears my mind. Golf rewards accuracy and persistence, so every swing feels like steady improvement. I return to the same spaces, learn the slopes and wind, and feel part of the place."

History

BHM Competition

The History department are proud to announce that Mary A, Year 12, is the winner of our Black History Month 2025 competition – Standing Firm in Power and Pride. A huge well done for writing a thought-provoking poem. We are also pleased to announce that the runners-up are Mariam G, Year 11, and Camari W, Year 7.



Gorgeous and unrelenting

Black in colour; but cared for those in a different font.
Turned down by the lady of the lamp,
Yet outshone her by being their beacon of light.
Nightingale walked around with the lamp, but Mother Seacole saved
with the lamp.
They called her Mother Seacole
Because she cared for the dying soldiers like they were her people.

Saw no harm in treating these people.
What is racism when a life is involved?
They loved her so, she was given the title of Mother Seacole.
Treated these soldiers like they were none to die.

Initially forgotten, like past old memories.
Campaigned for, like the mother she was.
They say black is everything but gorgeous and thriving,
But the history shaped is more gorgeous and thriving.

They say black is feisty,
But I say black is relenting.

First black professional footballer, Lt Walker Tull.
Thrived and showed he was relentless.
Led a horde of soldiers in World War 1,
Showed he could be anything and proved them all wrong.

They say black is ugly,
But I say history makes it even more gorgeous.
There's beauty in black if you look even harder.

Fading away through history, clinging on like relentless
glue.
Not honored because of the colour of their skin.
Was relentless even with the colour of their skin.

Black in colour,
But led soldiers in a different font.

It's easy to narrow history down a homogenous path,
But quick to forget who helped build the foundation,
who helped shaped history.

History is gorgeous when you look at it from an even wide
spreadsheet,
but it is never about who is original but who about who
helped shape it.
Everyone who took a part in history was known for something
great,
We should always understand history from third person,
Never from first person.

Black isn't just a colour it's the pillar that built
symbolism itself.
History is ongoing,
Black is just the beginning...



Maths

Student Work

Our KS3 curriculum is designed to interweave topics in Mathematics that were previously learnt in KS2 and previous years. Below is an example of how sequences can be graphed on a cartesian plane. The fundamental skills learned this term will help students in the coming years with graphic quadratic and cube functions in Years 10 and 11.

Fantastic work from our students in Year 8 who explored Coordinates and Graphs this term. Honourable mentions to Fatimah O, David O, Dominic M and Penny B who have demonstrated our Victory Virtues notably this term, skills and virtues that will surely benefit them in the future!

Wednesday 1st October 2025

Algebraic manipulation

Starter:

- $8f + 3a$ ($5f + 3f = 2a + 5a$) ✓
- $9a$ ($7a + 2a$) ✓
- 66 cm^2 (Area 6×11)
- $x - 3$ ($-5(x - 3) = 30$) $x - 5 = -5x - 5x - 3 = 15$
 $-5x + 15 = 30$
 look left of a number to see if it is a negative.

Quadrilateral
length \times width
 $6 \times 11 = 66$
 66 cm^2

"like terms are terms whose variable are the same. Their coefficient can be different. If they are not like terms then they are called unlike terms. $B \neq b$ - NOT like terms!"

Algebraic notation is where mathematical ideas are expressed concisely.

Ram has 4 bags of sweets. He eats 5 sweets. Express this using algebra. $4b - 5$
 4 bags \times 5 sweets

You do:
 $1 \quad 1b - 2$
 $2 \quad 2b - 13$ ✓
 $3 \quad 3b - 2$ ✓
 $4 \quad 3b - 5 = 55$ ✓
 $5 \quad 2b = 2b - 4$ $x \quad 2B + 2b - 4$

We do:
 $1 \quad 1b - 2$ ✓

A sentence with a minimum of 2 numbers or variables and at least one math operation is an expression. No equal sign.
 expression equation variable
 $52x^2 - 9x + 36 = 7m + 82$
 term, coefficient constant

Drawing Straight Line Graphs

Q1. Complete the table of values for the following graphs.

a) $y = x - 2$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1

b) $y = 2x + 3$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	-3	-1	1	3	5	7	9

c) $y = 3x + 4$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	-5	-2	1	4	7	10	13

d) $y = 2x - 1$

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	5

e) $y = 4x - 2$

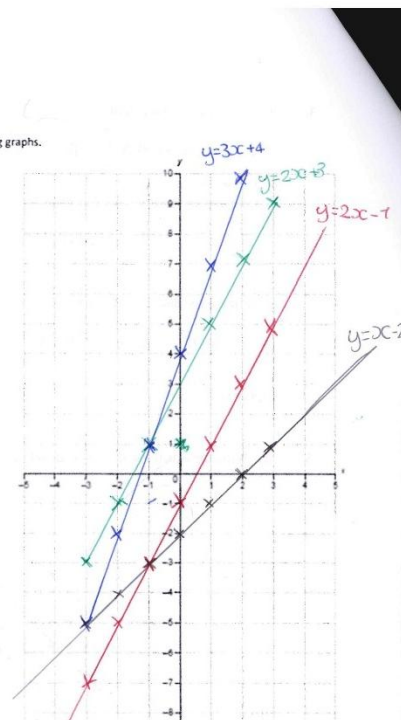
x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
y							

Q2.

Draw the five graphs on the axes provided.

Draw all of them on the same grid.

Use five different colours for each line.



2 Tammy has 3 bags of sweets and eats 2.
 Express this using algebra.

$3b - 2$

$3b - 6 = 36$
 $2B + 5b - 4$

Expression: A sentence with a minimum of two numbers or variables and at least one math operation.

expression equation variable
 $52x^2 - 9x + 36 = 7m + 82$
 Term



Performing Arts

Fort Luton Performance

Our Year 12 and Year 13 Performing Arts students recently delivered a powerful piece at Fort Luton, exploring the challenges our community faces and the strength we find when we come together. Their performance was thoughtful, emotional, and showed outstanding creativity and maturity. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our performers. The Performing Arts department is incredibly proud of what our students have achieved.

Sections of this performance were then shared in assemblies the following week, giving other students the chance to experience the important message and exceptional talent.

Year 11 Showcase

Our Year 11 Dance and Music students have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for their Component 2 assessments. This has included performances of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, a song of their choice, and the creation of original compositions. Over the two performance days, students demonstrated outstanding professionalism, dedication, and creativity. We are immensely proud of their achievements.



Shrek Jr. Auditions



This term, the Performing Arts department held auditions for this year's school production, *Shrek Jr*. With over 70 students auditioning, the standard was incredibly high, making the casting process both exciting and challenging. We were thoroughly impressed by the talent, enthusiasm, and commitment shown by everyone involved, and we are looking to bringing this fantastic show to life. Tickets will go on sale in Term 4.

Year 12 Panto

A huge well done to our Year 12 Performing Arts students, who performed a dress rehearsal of *Aladdin* to Year 7 students. This was followed by a final performance to primary students from New Horizons Children's Academy. The feedback from the audience was absolutely fantastic!





Performing Arts

Ebony Scrooge Trip

As part of their preparation of the Level 3 Unit 1 examination, students recently attended a professional performance of *Ebony Scrooge* by ZooNation at Sadler's Wells East. This contemporary reinterpretation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage with industry-standard practice, particularly in relation to performance skills, choreography, and the communication of meaning to an audience. We were extremely proud of the students, whose behaviour throughout the visit was exemplary. They were attentive, respectful, and fully engaged, representing the school superbly and demonstrating maturity and professionalism both in the theatre and within the wider venue.



The Sound of Victory

The Sound of Victory, held on Thursday 18th December, marked a significant milestone for The Victory Academy as it became the school's first dedicated music concert.



Led by Miss Wallis, alongside Mr Taplin, the Academy's peripatetic music teacher, the event showcased the musical talent and commitment of students across the school. Performers presented a diverse programme of songs on a range of instruments, including both solo and ensemble performances, demonstrating growing technical skill, confidence, and expressive musicianship.

Miss Wallis and Mr Taplin expressed immense pride in the performers, praising their dedication, courage, and progress in preparing for a live concert setting. The evening not only celebrated student achievement but also established a strong foundation for future musical events at The Victory Academy, reinforcing the value of music as a vital part of school life.



PE

Basketball

It has been a great start to the basketball season at The Victory Academy. Both our Year 7 & 8 team and our Year 9 & 10 team have begun their leagues with strong performances, showing excellent teamwork, skill, and determination on the court. The players have demonstrated real commitment in training and competitive fixtures, and their early results reflect the hard work they've put in. We are excited to see how both teams progress after the Christmas break and look forward to celebrating more success as the season continues.

Netball

Our netball teams have been busy this term competing against local schools, showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit throughout every match.

Our Year 7 team have made a brilliant start to their first season of school netball. They demonstrated excellent improvement in spacing, passing, and communication each game. Although results were mixed, their enthusiasm and positive attitude never faded. It's been wonderful to see new players gaining confidence on court and representing the school for the very first time.



The Year 8 squad continued to build on last year's progress with some well-deserved wins and competitive performances. Their defensive pressure and movement through the court showed real development. The team displayed resilience even in the tougher fixtures, supporting each other and reflecting proudly on their achievements.

The Year 10 team competed strongly in every match, showcasing skilful attacking plays and great leadership on the court. They faced some tough opponents but showed admirable commitment, controlled play, and excellent teamwork. They've acted as fantastic role models for younger year groups.

We look forward to building on this success next term with more fixtures, skills development, and continued fun on the court. Well done to all players!

Girls' Football



November marked the start of the girls' football season at The Victory Academy, as a selected group of Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the Utilities Cup Tournament hosted by Gillingham Football Club. The team performed exceptionally

well throughout the day, navigating a series of challenging matches, but with determination and teamwork they made sure they enjoyed every match. Their efforts were rewarded with an impressive 5th place finish in a strong field of competitors. All students involved were a credit to the Academy, showing determination and respect throughout the competition.

PE

Badminton

This term, students from The Victory Academy took part in the SSG Girls' Badminton Competition, with many experiencing their first-ever competitive event. The girls performed exceptionally well from start to finish, demonstrating determination, teamwork, and impressive skill throughout the day. Their hard work and positive attitude were evident in every match, and they should be extremely proud of their achievements. We look forward to seeing them return to the court in next year's competition.

Our KS3 Boys' Badminton teams also represented the Academy in the SSG Tournament, competing against several local schools. Both the A and B teams delivered strong performances, securing multiple match wins across the event. The A team finished 4th overall in their competition, while the B team took 5th place in theirs – an excellent set of results.



Well done to all students who took part. Their commitment, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm were fantastic to see, and many are already looking forward to competing again next year.

Core PE Curriculum

Term 2 has been a busy and rewarding period for the PE department, with students engaging enthusiastically in a wide variety of sports and activities.

Despite the challenging winter weather – ranging from heavy rain to sudden cold snaps – our classes have adapted well, making excellent progress both indoors and outdoors.

Football has remained popular, with students developing their dribbling, passing, and tactical awareness. Even with unpredictable weather, students have shown great resilience during team drills and small-sided games. In netball, students have improved their shooting, positional understanding, and teamwork, adjusting smoothly between indoor and outdoor sessions when conditions changed. In rugby, students have focused on ball-handling skills, evasion techniques, and safe contact. Although the pitches have not always been usable, 3G technical sessions have helped ensure steady progress.

Fitness and fitness testing have played a key role this term. Students have taken part in circuits, endurance challenges, and strength and agility tests, allowing them to monitor their progress and set new personal goals. Their determination has been clear throughout.

Indoor activities have been particularly valuable this term. Badminton and pickleball have helped students develop racquet control, movement skills, and tactical play, with pickleball proving especially popular as a newer addition to the curriculum. Basketball and handball have brought fast-paced excitement to lessons, encouraging teamwork, quick decision-making, and effective communication.

Overall, our students have shown fantastic adaptability, effort, and enthusiasm. The PE department is proud of their achievements and looks forward to building on this success in Term 3.

SPORTS LAB



PE

CCCU Sport Trip

In November our Year 12 and 13 Sport students visited the Sports Lab at Canterbury Christ Church University. They took part in a variety of field fitness tests and laboratory fitness tests and were able to apply their knowledge to understand how and why these tests are used.

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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

This term has seen fantastic engagement across all sports clubs at The Victory Academy, with particularly strong participation from our Year 7 and Year 10 students. We are proud to offer a wide range of activities, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy and excel in.

Our fitness club continues to be popular, with students working hard to improve their strength and endurance. Netball and football have attracted enthusiastic groups each week, while girls' football has grown significantly, with many students showing real commitment and rapid progress.

In rugby, students have demonstrated great teamwork and resilience, developing both their tactical understanding and technical skills. Basketball sessions have been lively and energetic, supporting players as they prepare for their upcoming fixtures. Meanwhile, badminton remains a favourite, with students refining their coordination, footwork, and competitive play.

It's been brilliant to see so many students getting involved, staying active, and representing the school with pride.

Sports Ambassadors



We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Sports Ambassadors, chosen through a rigorous and highly competitive selection process. These students have demonstrated excellent leadership, communication skills, and a passion for promoting sport within our school community.

As Sports Ambassadors, they will work closely with the PE department to ensure all students at The Victory Academy have a voice in PE. They will also play a key role in helping to increase participation and promote physical activity across all year groups.

Sports Honours Celebration

Congratulations to all the students who achieved Sports Honours during the last academic year. Each recipient has represented The Victory Academy with pride, commitment, and exceptional effort across a range of sporting activities.

The Sports Honours programme recognises not only sporting ability but also dedication, attitude, teamwork, and consistent participation. Students can achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold Honours, depending on the level of commitment they demonstrate throughout the year. These awards reflect the hard work and enthusiasm students bring to school sport, both in lessons and through extracurricular involvement.

We are incredibly proud of all our award winners and look forward to seeing even more students earning Honours this year.

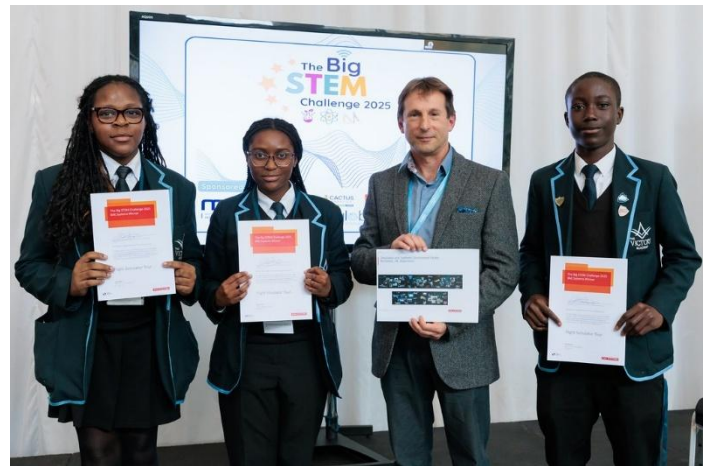
Science

Big STEM Challenge

We are incredibly proud to announce that all three of our teams made it to the finals of the Big STEM Challenge. The teams worked very hard in the creation of their working prototypes. They had to arrange their stalls and answer questions from judges and other contestants throughout the day. All groups then took part in a Dragons Den style presentation – every student spoke well and with pride.

Students had the opportunity to explore the range of stalls including VR experiences, creation of VR worlds, simulated diggers, and other STEM activities. They also had a tour of the community labs.

We are very proud to share that two of our groups won a prize and we won overall third place. The Science department is looking forward to working with students on new projects for next year's entries.



Thank you for reading this edition of The Victory Academy Newsletter. Our next issue will be published at the end of term 4. On behalf of everyone at Victory we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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