



Update from the Head Teacher



As we come to the end of another busy, eventful term, we would like to thank you for all your continued support. Our pupils constantly rise to new challenges and continue to make everyone in school proud of their achievements. There

has been so much going on in school with school trips, special events, visitors to school and the academy being awarded with 'The Excellence in Pupil Development Award', 28th February 2024, A National Standard for Pupil Development.

This award has enabled us to plan so that knowledge and skills for personal development are embedded into the whole-school curriculum. We are able to set high expectations for pupil behaviour and conduct, including punctuality and attendance. We promote positive attitudes from pupils towards their own learning, towards each other, and towards the wider community. We engage with local groups and parents to deliver enrichment activities that develop pupils' confidence, responsibility, and leadership skills. Staff actively enlist the support of external agencies to help raise pupils' aspirations for their future. We are committed to high-quality, ongoing staff CPD so that all staff can build and support pupils' personal development (please see verification report from the QA which took place).

As always, I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or simply wish to engage. Our open-door policy reflects our commitment to transparency and collaboration. Thank you for your



continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and development of our students.

Harbour – Primary



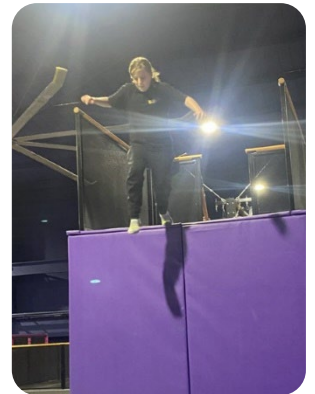
The Spring Term has been a great success with the pupils in Harbour Class. We have been learning about traditional tales and non-fiction texts in literacy which the pupils have shown excellent creativity and research skills alongside celebrating World Book

Day where pupils and staff dressed up as different characters from their beloved books.

In numeracy, pupils have begun to use White Rose maths which pupils are engaging with well and making good progress. Science has been exciting as we have been learning about trees and plants which gives us the opportunity to get outside in nature which all the pupils have really enjoyed.

In Art, pupils have been learning about masks from different cultures and have designed and created their own. We ended our term with a well-deserved trip to Oxygen Trampoline Park which the pupils worked hard for and really enjoyed.

Some of our pupils also began their transition back to their mainstream school which has been going well.



Phonics & Reading

Phonics has had another successful term at VPA. Pupils are utilising our amazing resources and skilled staff, to make outstanding progress. This development is also present in the pupils' writing where they are using the techniques and skills, we practice improving their spelling and creativity. Great work everyone.

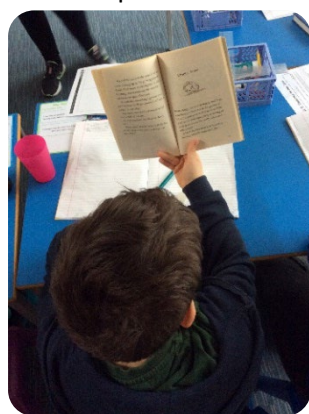


Reading in Primary is always an important part of the pupils' day. In Donaldson, along with the reading in their core subjects, pupils also get the

time to read their own reading book and write book reviews when they are finished. Harbour class also read a lot in their lessons and enjoy our afternoon reading sessions where pupils choose a book for the teacher to read. World book day was a real treat too, where pupils dressed up as their favourite characters from a book they love.

Donaldson - Primary

It's been a busy term in Donaldson class and pupils have enjoyed learning about a wide variety of topics: the Hodgeheg, in English; multiplication and division in Maths; Extreme Earth in Geography and forces and magnets in science. Pupils have also enjoyed daily reading sessions with adults to build their confidence and comprehension skills as well as accessing Lexia daily.

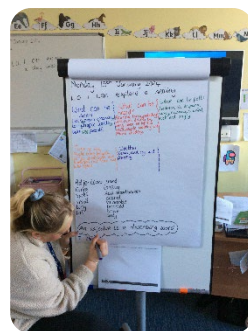


Pupils also enjoy a daily story time – we have just finished Billionaire Boy by David Walliams and we are looking forward to reading Horrid Henry next. In English, pupils have written a diary entry and have enjoyed writing and learning about the features of newspapers.

During maths, pupils have begun their work on White Rose, a new maths scheme. The scheme is broken down into step-by-step lessons which has meant pupils are able to meet the success criteria and are beginning to show great progress. All pupils in primary, who require it are placed on our RWI phonics programme which supports pupils to learn their sounds and build on their reading fluency. Within our current cohort, five pupils have graduated the programme and the rest of the pupils are making great progress!

SEN

During this half term there has been a focus on SEN with staff reviewing pupils' targets on provision mapping and setting up new achievable targets for those who have met their targets and breaking them down into more achievable goals for those who have not. Parents will be receiving phone calls to discuss their child's targets and whether they were achieved. We would really appreciate your feedback on their targets and how we can help them to achieve.

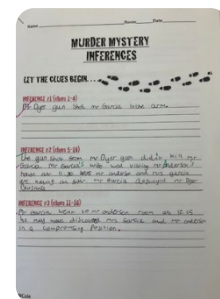


Fresh Start

For our secondary pupils who require it Fresh Start is available. Fresh Start is a phonics scheme developed for older pupils to improve their reading fluency and understanding of texts. Currently, there are 8 pupils accessing the programmes all of which are showing amazing progress. Fresh Start is run as a 1:1 or small group lesson and is broken down to 20-minute sessions all pupils are showing great engagement during these lessons.

LEAP & KS3 English

This term, in KS3 and Leap English, we have been using inference skills to solve a murder mystery. We have also been studying the novel 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. We have used this as a stimulus for illustrations for the book cover and re written part of the novel.



KS4 English

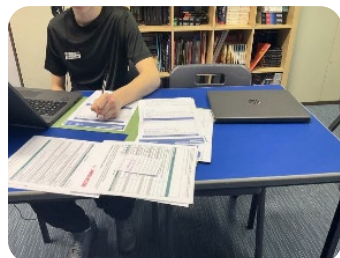
MARY SHELLEY: FRANKENSTEIN

Frankenstein tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sentient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Shelly started writing the story when she was 18, and the first edition was published anonymously in London on the first of January 1818, when she was 20. It tells the story of an aggressive and violent monster that explores themes of life, death and man versus nature. Frankenstein believes that by creating the Monster, he can discover the secrets of "life and death", create a "new species," and learn how to "renew life." He is motivated to attempt these things by ambition. He wants to achieve something great, even if it comes at great cost.



Year 10 pupils have been studying Gothic literature in Spring 2. This scheme of work provides an understanding of this classic genre by covering influential authors, key Gothic themes, settings, plot narratives and Gothic characters. Famous novels in this genre include Dracula, Jekyll and Hyde and Frankenstein. Contemporary media is analysed for gothic conventions such as The Pyewacker; Twilight and The Vampire Diaries. Pupils have enjoyed researching and creating their own Gothic monsters as well as writing their own Gothic short story.

Year 10 are finishing off the term writing a newspaper article about alien invasion, using extracts from HG Wells's novel 'War of the Worlds' and the film Independence Day.



Year 11 pupils have been completing practice papers for their GCSE English Language exams on 25th May and 12th June 2024. In Spring 2, we have focused on

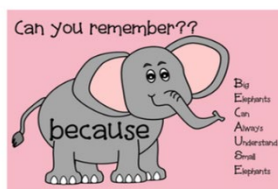
paper 1 – Explorations in creative reading and writing – the paper has 5 questions: 4 reading questions and 1 written question. Each question has different marks and tests a different skill (Q1-4 marks; Q2- 8marks; Q3 8 Marks; Q4 20 marks and Q5 40 marks) and paper 2- Writers' viewpoints and perspectives – the paper has 5 questions:(Q1-4 marks; Q2- 8marks; Q3-12 marks; Q4-16 and 40 marks).

Literacy

Spring 2 'Literacy Focus' is Spelling. Pupils have timetabled sessions on Spellzone and have been reminded of common spelling strategies to use, as well as staff CPD planned for summer 1.

Teaching Spelling Strategies...

1. Write words out by hand. Does it look correct?
2. Encourage reading.
3. Sound the word out loud.
4. Keep words on display.
5. Play games to practice.
6. Explain mnemonics.
7. Look, cover, write



Star Assessment training has been completed and all pupils current and new will be taking the online assessments beginning in Summer 1. This baselines pupils for reading, writing and maths. From this and WRATS scores, which we have just finished will enable us a more detailed, refined way of selecting the correct interventions and support for individual pupils.



KS4 Maths



Well done to nineteen of our Year 11 pupils and seven of our Year 10 students who have already passed their Functional Skills

Maths (Level 1) this term! Year 11 have been revising hard for their upcoming GCSEs and have covered topics such as, multiplying and dividing fractions, symmetry, averages and listing outcomes.

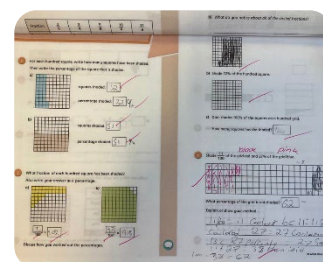
This term, our Year 10 pupils have been developing their problem-solving skills by tackling a variety of mathematical challenges.

KS3 Maths

This term, KS3 pupils have been working really hard and have covered a range of topics including describing and continuing sequences, calculate the area and perimeter of a compound shape, calculating the area of a right-angled triangle, using a formula to find the volume of a cuboid and reading and interpreting pie charts. Well done to all involved.

White Rose Maths

We have just begun using a new scheme of learning for Maths, at Victory Park, called White Rose Maths.



We are hoping that the small steps in learning; discussions by students of their learning methods and wider use of manipulatives will give our students a more secure foundation in their maths understanding. This is a much more collaborative approach to learning and we hope the impact will be wide spread.

Art



From the beginning of January Key Stage 4 pupils have been working on GCSE exam work and this year the theme is 'Power'.

The pupils have experimented with various materials such shading pencils, charcoal, pastel, water colour paint and water colour pencils and have

developed their skills. Recently they have progressed to painting with acrylic paint on large wooden boards. They have put a lot of time, effort into their work and displayed resilience and patience.

How would you depict 'power' within a piece of art work?

With the help of staff, all pupils have worked really hard and created some outstanding work – well done to all!

Occupational Studies



This term in Occupational Studies, our pupils have been covering a broad range of topics to explore potential interests and possible career options for the future. We have been learning a variety of skills on how to measure and cut angles to fit skirting boards, dado

rails and coving to the spaces they had built last term. They have also learnt how to fill surfaces and used caulking to improve the appearance of their work. The pupils are working towards their NCFE Level 1 and 2 qualifications and all are on track to succeed. Great work everyone and thanks for all the hard work.



Combat Academy

Every Wednesday afternoon our Leap, Stag and Key Stage 3 students, have the opportunity to attend the Combat Academy to test out their combat and fitness skills in a safe, competitive environment. The students



get the chance to access the gym and learn how to train safely and use fitness equipment to develop their strength, fitness and improve their health. It is a chance for them to get into positive lifestyle choices and

release any built-up tensions. They are trained by professional coaches who teach them discipline, determination and commitment. For those who do not

want to take part physically, they have the chance to cook for everyone once they have finished their session. This intervention creates a very positive opportunity and experience for all our students.

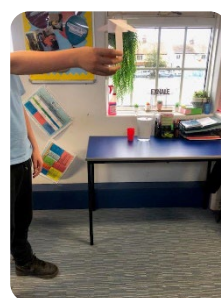
Hair & Beauty



Pupils, this term, have been learning lots of new skills from plaiting and blow-drying techniques to developing their own hairstyles for occasions. During this unit, pupils have been looking at the different types of tools and equipment that would be used for different

services and why we would use them. Some pupils have made such great progress this term from not being able to plait to completing a full set of French/Dutch braids which is a difficult technique to master.

Applied Science



In KS3, pupils have been introduced to forces by including hands-on investigations in each lesson. There is a focus on evaluating the investigations throughout the unit. Initially, students are guided step-by-step through writing an evaluation,

then scaffolding is gradually reduced in subsequent lessons. Students are supported to rearrange equations and there are several opportunities to practice calculations through the unit.

In year 10, pupils have been working a simulate crime scene. The pupils have had to process, record and collect evidence from a simulated scene. They have the had to analyse all the evidence which they collected from the crime scene, making their conclusion on who they believe the suspect to be. Pupils used a variety of analysis techniques from chromatography to shoeprint and fingerprint analysis.

In year 11, pupils this term had to take their knowledge further and make a product from home using their knowledge of the different elements and chemical reactions. Pupils researched and decided to



create bath bombs and soaps. The pupils have worked really hard this term creating some absolutely beautiful bars of soap and bath bombs which many of the pupils took home as gifts for their Mums/sisters/guardians as a thank you/ Mother's Day gift.

Personal Wellbeing

This term, year 11 completed their Level 1 Award/Certificate in Personal Wellbeing. Pupils, over the course of the Unit, have had to look at very mature subjects such as Consent, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Sex and Relationships, and Drug and Substance Misuse. The pupils have shown great maturity at times discussing some really difficult themes and topics. Pupils have worked to a really high standard with some of our pupils gaining their Certificate in this Unit which will support them as they move onto their next journey. I have enjoyed teaching pupils this term as we have all built a great working relationship in this class and it's been an honour to see so many of our students grow in maturity across the curriculum.

Exams News



Note in your diary, the dates for this year's GCSE exams.

All exams will be held in the morning starting at

9:00am. GCSE English is on Thursday 23rd May and Thursday 6th June, GCSE Maths will be on Thursday 16th May, Monday 3rd June and Thursday 10th June and GCSE Art will be on Tuesday 7th May, Wednesday 8th May and Thursday 9th May 9:00-12:20.

Thursday 22nd August 2024 is examination results day. Results can be collected from the VPA office between 9:00am and 11:00am on the day or they will be posted out to any Year 11 pupil who cannot make it in!

Careers

This has been a very important month for careers at VPA. Our year 11 pupils have been working closely with our link from Connexions to assist in mapping out their next steps and what they will be doing when they move on. We also attended a careers fair at The Forum in Southend where pupils met local educational providers and businesses from their



area. With pupils now having a clear plan they are able to focus on what qualifications they will need to make their next step.

GDPR

Spring term has been a success from a GDPR standpoint as all staff are up to speed with training. This has resulted in well-educated staff on the importance of keeping data safe. This understanding has meant we have had no breaches or subject access requests. Well done everyone.

Horse Riding

This term, we have been taking students to Silver Birch Farm, and the students have been helping with



maintaining the stables of the horses and ensuring the horses are fed and that their water bowls are filled up properly.

Spending time at Silver Birch has allowed the students to engage in activities independently and as a team as well as working on their communication with one another as well as the adults who run Silver Birch.

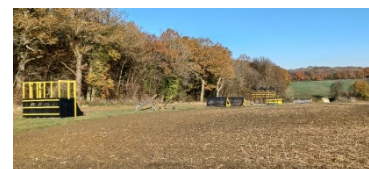
The students love going to Silver Birch and spending time with a number of farm animals. Additionally, they enjoy horse riding as a reward for all their hard work.

Nuclear Races

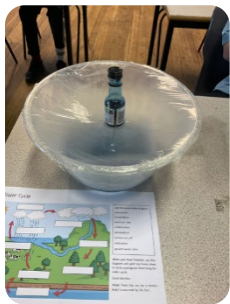


Our KS3, KS4 and STAG/LEAP students are physically and mentally challenged every week by attending Nuclear Races which is an outdoor experience, regardless of the weather.

Nuclear Races offers something very different to the classroom. It is set in over 2,000 acres of farmland with over 150 individual obstacles. Students have the opportunity to try something new and push themselves in a different way. From any age to any ability, there will be an activity for our Victory Park pupils to ensure the individual can flourish, and enjoy the fresh air!



LEAP Science



In science this term, we have competed a topic on states of matter. This included looking at the water cycle, heating and cooling. We made a simulation of the water cycle in a bowl using hot water, blue food dye and salt.

We learned that the evaporated water, that collected on the cling film, was salt free and clear. Our next topic has been about forces- gravity, air resistance and friction.

Physical Education



This Term in KS3 and KS4 we have focused on cricket, which according to the pupils was negatively perceived as boring but to great surprise after learning

the basics the pupils of KS3 and KS4 enjoyed this very much and became very competitive.

KS1 and KS2 have focused on basketball this term and are now basketball superstars. Their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills have come on leaps and bounds and have truly surprised the PE team, Well done.



Pupil Voice

Throughout this term we have had lots of discussion, not just in our pupil voice meetings. Students have been coming to me during break and lunch with different ideas and things they would like to see change



and improve. Our main focus this term has been around the school uniform and school activities. Overall, the students are happy with school

uniform and have suggested we have thinner tops for the warmer weather. The activities we offer are a big hit with our students and have come up with some more ideas. They have shown a keen interest in swimming and would love to have a go at some indoor

rock climbing. Our students take great pride in being able to have their say in what happens in our school.

Food Technology



Pupils have been working hard in Food technology this term. Year 11's have been working towards their coursework and preparing for their final assessments. Year 10 have been learning about nutrition. STAG, LEAP and KS3 have been learning about health

and safety in the kitchen. I have been so proud of how hard pupils have worked to produce some amazing food including; red velvet cake, pizza, pancakes, buffalo wings, and fajitas.

Girls Group

As part of our positive relationship building, we have created a 'Girls Group' intervention. This is to support female 'bonding' and help girls to maintain positive friendships, learn conflict resolution and team building skills.



Activities have included: making pizzas enhancing team skills; trips out for lunch and milkshake cafes to develop their social skills and currently, they are working together to plan an event practicing communication and team building skills..

Message from our Counsellor & Mentor

For many of our young people getting to school every day is an amazing achievement. I am very fortunate to work with them and offer my support as a counsellor



and mentor. Life can be tough. Things can change very quickly, we work together to find some space to process what is going on. Acknowledging

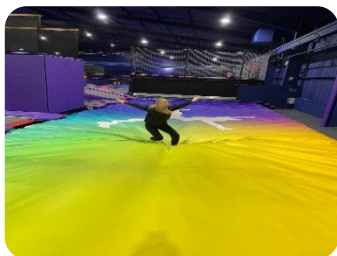
how hard things can be is a good place to start. I can offer support on a range of emotional issues and would encourage them to come and see me if they have any concerns. I currently work on Tuesdays and Thursday but can change days to suit. Please contact me if you wish to make a referral. packera@victorypark.org.uk

Behaviour

Behaviour has been positive across the academy with rewards assemblies every Friday celebrating success. We strive to maintain high expectations and following the behaviour policy, pupils are allocated detentions which support their resilience, personal development and punctuality.

Enrichment

This term we have had great fun at many of our lovely reward and enrichment trips which have included, Padel4all at Garrons, Horse riding in Eastwood, Combat with the always wonderful staff at Southend Combat with Simon and Allana.



We also had an amazing time at our BIG reward trip to Basildon Go-Karting! This trip was purely based around positive behaviour as well as points earned during the term. Everyone that went on the trip said they had a brilliant time. Look out for the poster in the new term guys as its coming again.



Pupil Inductions

Hello, my name is Eileen Hawkes. All new students come to me for induction to make their transition into Victory Park Academy, welcoming and engaging in the Academies curriculum. They are assessed on their levels of reading comprehension and Mathematics, enabling the Academy to place the students into the correct level that they are working towards.



It is important that students are recognised for what they have and can achieve. Within the Academy, we strive to support all students to achieve the best outcomes for their future.

Curriculum

The curriculum from primary through to KS4 outlines a summary of what will be taught, reading and assessment opportunities. This term we added numeracy in blue. In table form, it is easy to follow for

pupils and parents and gives a clearer picture of what is on the agenda or horizon if looking ahead.

These are on Victory Park Academy's website under 'Pupils' then 'Curriculum'.

Message from the Assistant Headteacher



Let me introduce myself, I am Andrew Newman the new Assistant Headteacher at Victory Park Academy. Firstly, I want to say thank you to all the staff and students who have helped me settle into my first term here. I was really excited about the move here and it was an easy decision to make to come and join this amazing academy after 18 years at Shoeburyness High School. I have been teaching for nearly 20 years and feel all my years and experience in teaching and leadership will be important and valuable to our students. I look forwards to being successful here and help keep moving the academy in the right direction. I have been very impressed by what I have seen so far, and the efforts made by everyone to support our students in many aspects of their lives, not just education. I look forward to working with everyone across the academy and will do my best to support you all to the best of my ability. Wishing you all a happy Easter and a well-earned rest.

RSE Review

This term Teaching and Learning have audited primary and secondary RSE curriculum which is embedded within the PHSE curriculum. From this we have reviewed and updated resources for PHSE which includes timely RSE Statutory guidance lessons.

School Uniform

The price of a blue polo shirt is £10.00 with VPA logo.

The price of a navy sweatshirt / jumper is £15.00 with VPA logo.

The expectation is plain black joggers no advertising logs.

Black trainers.

No sliders/crocks as they are a health and safety issues.

Jeans or bright coloured bottoms will not be allowed into the school. Your child will be asked to wear the spare uniform provided.

Attendance & Punctuality

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Good attendance is essential for the children to make outstanding progress in their communication, social and academic skills. If

your child is a little “under the weather” please do consider sending them to school, we will look after them and inform you if they need to be sent home. Please make sure your child attends school before or after medical appointments. Every session counts and our children love to learn and be at school.

School starts at 8:45 and your child can arrive between then and 9am. Anyone arriving after 9am is counted as late. Arriving on time for school is important as late arrivals are disruptive for the class and can be embarrassing for the child who is late. Children can also miss important information during registration including the plan for the day. We understand that school mornings can be hectic, but ... Did you know? Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!

Key Dates

Last Day of Spring Term

Thursday 28th March 2024

Easter Break

Friday 29th March 2024 to Sunday 14th April 2024.

First Day of Summer Term

Monday 15th April 2024

HAF Holiday Programme

WHERE?
Shoebury Youth Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness

WHEN?
2nd – 5th April 2024

TIME?
11:00 am to 3:00pm

COST?
Free to all those eligible for free school meals and/or have a HAF Code

FOOD?
A hot lunch plus drinks provided free

WHO?
Children and young people aged 8 – 14 years

WHAT?
Sports, team-games, board games, pool, table-tennis, table-football and arts & crafts.

CONTACT YOUR FRIENDLY YOUTH WORKER OR THE TEAM MANAGER –
Victoria Pallen at: victoriapallen@southend.gov.uk

OPEN 12-2PM THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

ONE LOVE SOUP KITCHEN

Happy Easter

- EASTER EGG COLLECTION
- KIDS CLOTHING
- FOODBANK + FRESH ITEMS

Support for you this festive period

mind
0300 123 3393
Open 10am-6pm weekdays (except for bank holidays).

SAMARITANS
116 123
Always open

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY
0800 58 58 58
Open 5pm - midnight

If you're in Wales:
CALL
0800 132 737
Always open

If you're under 25:
THE MIX
0808 808 4994
Open 4pm - 11pm