



Victory Park Academy News

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Autumn Term 2021

Update from the Head Teacher

Dear all,

Victory Park Academy have continued to provide positive experiences of school and education this Autumn term. The following Newsletter is full of stories of interest and demonstrates our commitment to developing our pupils' education experience.

We have many new personal development experiences for the new year which we will share with parents and pupils. Pupils have many trips, activities and visits from speakers planned. Pupils will be able to develop new interests, explore career opportunities and are prepared for life beyond school.

Almost all pupils who attend for a short time are successful in returning to mainstream schools to continue with their education. We are further developing 'Reading for Pleasure' and phonics and all staff are involved in this development. We are also focussing on programmes for pupils who have been identified as having SEN needs and require additional support we are involving parents and pupils on this journey.

Finally, I just wanted to thank all pupils, staff and parents for a great first term.

Have a great Christmas break and an even better new year

Headteacher: Mr M Aspel (NPQH, MA)

Cooper (Therapy Dog)



Cooper has joined the VPA team –he is training to be a therapy dog. The pupils all enjoy working with him and he always keeps us calm. He is worth his weight in bones. Woof!

Queen B – Hair and Beauty

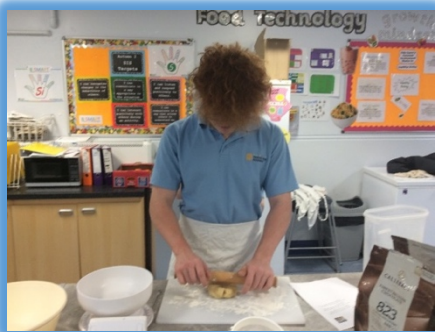


This term our Hair and Beauty pupils have been learning how to texturize hair - curl, crimp, chopstick curl, backcomb, straighten etc, learn

airbrush/textures, creative makeup, hair up Dos and face painting techniques. In their final session with our resident expert make-up teacher, they will take part in an award ceremony with certificates and prizes for their effort!



Food Technology



In Food Tech this term, pupils have been making various shortbread dishes,

including caramel shortbread slices, which were a hit all round!

KS4 have been learning about how the seasons affect food availability in the UK, and how importing goods affects climate change.



KS3 have been learning how to make bread and the science of bread making.

Google Classroom

Google classroom still plays a prevalent role in learning this term at VPA. We are using it as



a platform for our lessons and assignments pupils submit in school. In addition to this, pupils that are working from home can access lessons remotely and also log onto Lexia, our online Literacy programme.

We continue to develop staff how to use google classroom so that we can best support our pupils learning, in and out of school.

PSHE

In PSHE KS4 this term we have been learning about ways to develop our confidence and self-esteem. Pupils have engaged very well with this and provided excellent ideas in lessons. KS3 PSHE have been learning basic first aid and how to keep themselves safe online. Again, engagement has been excellent; keep up the good work everybody!

Child Development

Year 11 have been busy working on their coursework this term. They have been learning about the benefits of musical activities for young children. This unit included the opportunity to design and make a musical activity, pupils produced some excellent results! Year 10 have made an excellent start to the course and have been learning all about the development of children.

Physical Education

We have had some high numbers and great games of football at Chase football this term. The best game was a 11-



12 ending where Mr Brown scored 4 goals for each team.... He is incredible!!!

This term in PE has been Badminton, students have been learning how to perform a drop shot, smash, overhead clear and backhand to good effect. AS has been amazing at all of these this term. Well done AS!

Southend United have been in all term and they have been honing the students skills and accuracy.

Trips that have taken place this term have been at Garons Mini golf, the Sealife Centre, Creams and a food place of the students choice. We have taken to top 6 students on the reward trips as that they have been the ones that have earned the trips due to good behaviour shown in lessons and around the school. Well done to you!

Occupational Studies



Autumn term has been a great success in Occupational studies and both year 10 and 11 have shown great engagement and displayed some great ability.

Year 10 have been developing their decorating skills and have transformed the creative space into a room that has a real wow factor. Year 11 have been developing their brick



laying skills and continue to impress with their team working and use of appropriate communication. Well done every one and keep up the good work.

Applied Science

This term in Applied Science Year 11 pupils have been researching aspects of healthy lifestyles and creating action plans to make positive changes.

Year 10 pupils have been learning about cells, the nervous and endocrine systems and ecosystems. KS3 have been learning about the 7 life processes, cells and habitats. Pupils also spent a day with Dolly the tortoise to learn about adaptations made by animals.



ENGLISH

Year 11 pupils have been working on GCSE exam skills this half term using some Gothic Literature as a stimulus.



Year 10 pupils have started 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens written during the Victorian era. Pupils have learnt how society and values were different to contemporary society; how Dickens wanted to highlight the inequalities within society through his stories.

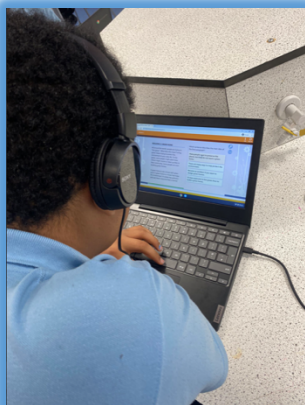
Year 8 and 9 pupils have finished the novel 'Private Peaceful' which is set during WW1. They understand character development and plot structure.

Literacy Across Curriculum

The literacy focus for this term is "sentence structures", all lessons across the curriculum have embedded this into the teaching to help strengthen pupils' ability to vary their sentences.

Reading interventions have been set up using the Dockside set of books; pupils selected have enjoyed reading these so far and the one to one reading is successful. We plan to run small reading groups over future terms.

LEXIA



Part of our literacy strategy was to launch the Lexia online learning programme. Quoted from [Lexialearning.com](https://www.lexialearning.com) "literacy is fully within reach of the vast majority of learners...Across

all our solutions and services, Lexia's approach is focused on sound methodology, engaging experiences, and continued

acknowledgement of the value of each individual learner."



Pupils have fully engaged in this programme after being assessed and placed where their needs are within the blocks. So far, all pupils whom have registered have made good progress in their literacy skills and have said they enjoy the online lessons.

Examination News



Well done to the ten Year 11 pupils who have recently completed their

functional skills examinations in both English and maths. The results should be in just after the Christmas break – Good luck to all!

Note in your diary, the dates for this year's GCSE exams, which are currently planned to take place are:

- Maths GCSE - Friday 20 May, Tuesday 7th June and Monday 13th June 2022 and
- English GCSE - Wednesday 18 May and Friday 10 June 2022.

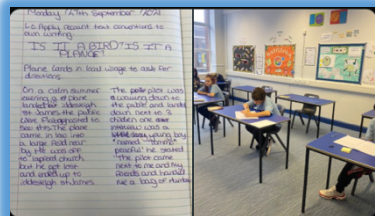


Results day will be on Thursday 25 August 2021.

Work Scrutiny

This terms focus on WS has been pupil feedback and evidence that pupils are recalling information from previous lessons.

This could be demonstrated through starter activities in books as well as verbal questioning observed through Learning Walks.



In addition, this links to literacy and numeracy targets in pupils' books. Pupils, once

mastered a skill, need to be continuously showing that skill in use after the date the target has been met. Similarly, if a target has not been met, and pupils show this later in the term this can be noted and dated. This helps build on pupils' memory and recall skills which are imperative tools for pupils to acquire in order to reach their full potential.

Teaching and Learning Steering Group across the Trust

At the last T and L meeting the PLT Minimum Service Standards were discussed so that all PLT academies

Are working in the same way to the same schedules and deadlines. This helps to share good practice and experience. This includes WS; LW's; Progress meetings; data drops; moderation both internally and externally; parent and pupil surveys. All dates and information is on one T and L calendar which all academies follow simultaneously.

Staff CPD- the needs within the academy around quality of education were discussed and relevant training around speech and language; reading strategies and interventions were highlighted as training to be actioned.

English Subject Meeting Across the Trust

All English teachers met virtually to discuss the teaching of English and all academies are completing the same AQA English GCSE's. This has made sharing resources; moderation and planning more consistent across PLT.

The terms focus is reading and how this is implemented within English and all subjects; how SOW are sequenced through from KS1-4; a phonics SOW; memory and recall skills and how PDP topics are delivered in English SOW.

Lexia should be used across curriculum and as a side line intervention as opposed to being part of an English lesson and Wrats should be completed within the first ten days of a new pupil entry.

Everyone must be aware of the lowest 20% readers and what is being done differently for these pupils in order to close the gaps.

KS1 and KS2 Primary



Students have been learning about explorers as their topic for this half term. In our KS1

group children have enjoyed learning about the bear hunt and completing sensory tasks around this topic. In KS2 children have been completing learning around The Firework Makers Daughter and enjoyed writing diary entries as the main character. KS1 have also been working hard on their phonics and enjoy daily phonic sessions with Fred.





On 11th
November
2021
primary
students
attended
Westcliff
cenotaph
to lay a
poppy
wreath on

behalf of the academy. Students were lucky enough to meet an ex-soldier who proudly showed them his medals and explained why he received each one.

Now we are in December and our mischievous elves have returned. Children have enjoyed seeing what the elves have been up to each morning and we look forward to seeing what



other mischief they will cause throughout December. Students are also enjoying opening a daily book advent calendar and listening to the story they have unwrapped.

Primary students have also enjoyed a selection of enrichment activities which have included: weekly swimming sessions on a Monday, many pupils are now able to swim at least one length with most starting with not knowing how to swim. Kickboxing each Monday to build resilience and a positive outlet for managing and regulating their emotions. Basketball each Friday with a focus around relationships and communication, two basketball coaches work with children to develop teamwork and building positive relationships. Football once a week with Southend United football coaches to develop teamwork and resilience.

Relationships Presentation

Our KS4 pupils were involved in a session about healthy relationships and respect, which was delivered by Emma from the street engagement team. The pupils showed great maturity when talking about some tough topics, and really enjoyed group conversations around sexual harassment and misogyny. If a child or young person needs confidential help and advice direct them to Childline. Calls to **0800 1111** are free and children can also contact Childline online.

STAG



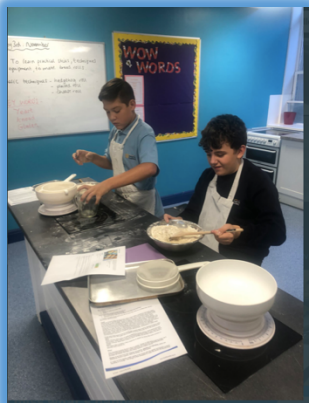
During this autumn term STAG have begun to enjoy a blended curriculum that included Food Technology, where Millionaires Shortbread, Cupcakes and Chicken Pie

have been beautifully made and tasted by the pupils. They have participated in Outdoor Activities such as Traversing and Pedal Karts

at Belchamps Scout Centre. STAG are now attending Thriftwood where they will be enjoying



the highs and lows of the Climbing Wall, Zip Wire a Vertical Assault and Archery.



Pupils from STAG are working each week with the Build-a-Bike Instructor and are in the process of adding the wheels, bearing, forks and handle bars. They are enjoying the challenge and looking forward to

completion when they can ride the bike they individually built.

Combat Academy this term has again been



successful in developing confidence, self-esteem and transferable skills in the kitchen where they can enjoy making healthy and nutritional dishes at home. STAG pupils level of fitness has

improves and the work effort put in is getting better each session.

STAG wish you all a Merry Christmas and are looking to enjoy a great 2022!

WELFARE

Well we have made it through another strange year. Looking back over things it's all gone exceedingly well.

The food bank was a great success, handing out the extra vouchers will go down as a high light of VPA year. For myself reading through some of the remarks you filled in has been overwhelming

We have. Helped with moving, helped toward a new fridge, Lots of you went on a food shop.

"Really pleased help to take the pressure off ""You have made me feel like someone cares"

"So grateful for the vouchers it's an amazing help I didn't expect

These are just a few of your grateful comments and it's been a pleasure helping and supporting you all our amazing families

We will be back still striving to support you all in 2022

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a splendid new year to follow

DON'T FORGET HERE TO HELP!

Staff have been training on the following:

- Understand how communication happens and be able to support each aspect of communication development more appropriately
- Be able to identify pupils with SLCN in a secondary classroom
- Give pupils time to process information and know why this is important
- Find it easier to differentiate questions
- Have strategies to support development of oral and written vocabulary
- Have tools to develop narrative and report writing for those who find this a challenge
- Facilitate learning in a classroom which enables pupils to express their ideas and request help appropriately.
- Understand how to manage pupils with social communication needs more effectively
- Understand the link between speech and literacy development

–Know how memory develops and have a toolkit of visual strategies, appropriate for this age group, to facilitate learning and memory.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

As we come to the end of another successful term at Victory Park Academy. I want to thank all of the pupils for their continued attendance and engagement with the school.

As ever, there have been many wonderful moments, and the school community has consistently demonstrated that it has some truly remarkable individuals. I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy holiday period and a prosperous New Year.

Key Dates

- Wednesday 15th December 2021 – Christmas Lunch
- Friday 17th December 2021 – Finish Date for Christmas Holiday
- Monday 3rd January 2022 – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 4th January 2022 – INSET DAY
- Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Start Date

