

Victory Park Academy

News

www.victorypark.org.uk

Twitter: [_Victorypark_](#)

November 2020

Update from the Head Teacher

Dear All,

I am very proud of all our pupils, staff, parents and wider community for their efforts at ensuring a normal as possible education for all. I have been really impressed with pupils' application and the way they have adapted to the changes we have had to put in place during the Covid Pandemic.

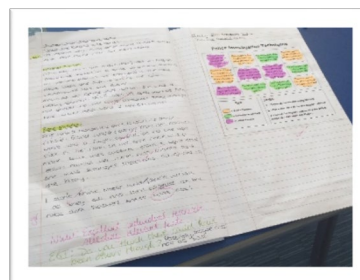


We continue to operate group 'bubbles'. Our enhanced cleaning throughout the day, limited movement of pupils around the school during school hours, means we are able to use all our specialist rooms and offer a full curriculum. Pupils are responding well and acting responsibly to reminders of frequent handwashing and making space. Our pupils have been asked to wear a face covering which is mandatory around school.

I wish you all the best, keep safe and have a great Christmas.

Mr M Aspel (NPQH, MA)

Literacy and Work Scrutiny



In general, pupils across the Academy have reintegrated positively into their timetabled lessons. Their work clearly

shows that their literacy levels have improved or plateaued despite the Coronavirus interruptions caused to the flow of education earlier this year.

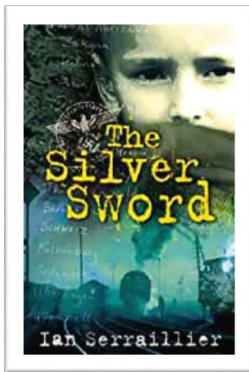
Pupils have endeavoured to follow the Literacy focus for Autumn 1 in all of their lessons and as a result, their work is punctuated more accurately across most subjects.

This half term our Literacy whole school focus is sentence structures. Additionally, each individual pupil has their own Literacy target which applies to each subject area. At the end of the term, we will review again through the Literacy work scrutiny and evaluate this accordingly.



English KS3

Autumn 1



Year 8/9 – Year 8/9 are reading a novel called 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier.

The Blurb: The night the Nazis come to take their mother away, three children escape in a terrifying scramble across the rooftops.

Alone in the chaos of Warsaw, they learn to survive on their own.

They meet Jan, a ragged boy with a paperknife-the silver sword-that they recognize as belonging to their long lost father. The silver sword becomes their symbol of hope as, with Jan, they begin the hazardous journey across war-torn Europe to find their parents'. Pupils have had the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the historical context, plot, characters, language and themes. We will continue reading the novel this term with a piece of creative writing to finish off the topic.

English KS4

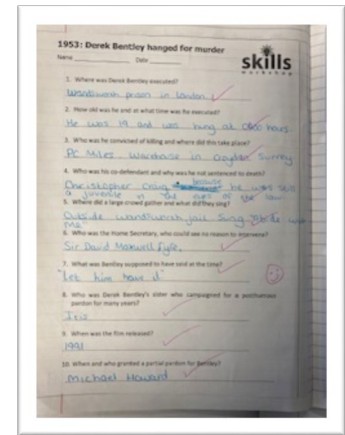
Year 10 - Non-Fiction- Using the prison system and crime and punishment as a topic pupils are working on key skills for the Cambridge IGCSE English Language exam. We have looked at different strategies for reading and writing.

Different types of text we have used include; documentaries; autobiographies; newspaper and magazine articles; reports. Pupils developed their writing in terms of

writing for different audiences and in different forms within non-fiction.

Additionally, we evaluated Capital Punishment, read about the cases of Stanley 'Tookie' Williams and

Derek Bentley and discussed the effectiveness of Capital Punishment.



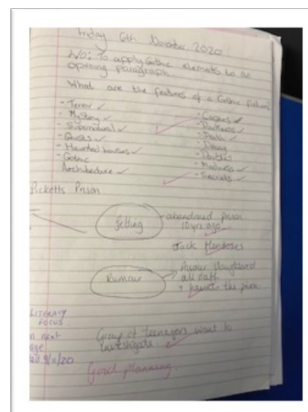
This term we are studying the Gothic genre focusing on creative writing skills for the first part of the term and then reading and understanding 'A Christmas Carol' which is also Gothic.

Year 11 - Non-Fiction- Pupils researched and learnt about the infamous Jack the Ripper. Using historical sources, maps, witness statements, police and autopsy reports, pupils used a wide range of reading skills to gain an insight into the state of Victorian London and the police investigation itself. Pupils also studied 6



different suspects and evaluated which one they felt was the most likely suspect.

Every piece of work linked to a language exam skill.



The last week of the half term- pupils completed a mock IGCSE paper and felt they were fairly confident in the reading sections. This term we are studying the Gothic genre focusing on

creative writing skills for the first part of the term, then reading and understanding a range of Gothic short stories.

PSHE

This term in PSHE we have been learning all about risk taking behaviour and the consequences of our actions.

We have also touched on equality and diversity.

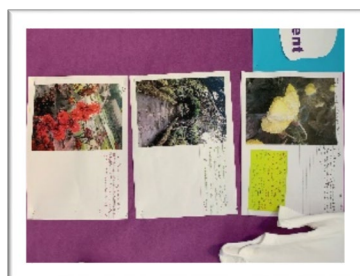
October was Black History month, the

pupils did some excellent work and created a display on Black people from history who they have been inspired by.



Child development

This term in Child development we have been learning about how children can be inspired by the natural world. We visited a local park and pupils took some excellent



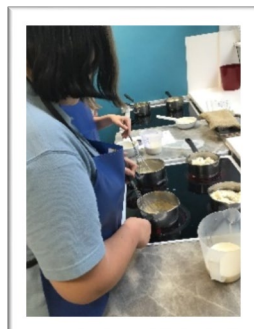
pictures of different environmental factors that children might be curious about.

Applied Science

The start of the new academic year saw us introduce a new Science BTEC qualification for KS3 and KS4 pupils. The new course has started extremely well with a fantastic response from the pupils. They have been studying Biology, examining cells and learning how the body works, also learning about different ecosystems and the impact that humans can have in those environments. The course is also running on Google Classroom, where students can access resources and complete coursework. The new course also gives our pupils a chance to learn Forensic Science in

the New Year, this will involve students gathering evidence from a mock crime scene and trying to solve the mysteries.

Food Tech

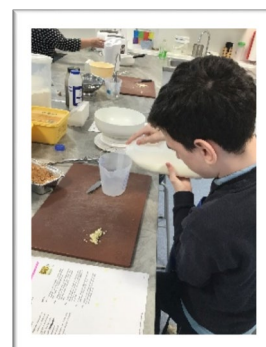


In Autumn 1, KS4 pupils have been learning about the nutrients that make up a balanced diet. In Autumn 2, they will be assessing recipes in terms of healthy eating and making changes to make the dishes

healthier.

In Autumn 1, KS3 pupils have been learning about the characteristics of bread making ingredients. In Autumn 2, they will be learning about food seasonality and where food comes from.

We also plan to run a Bake-off competition on 27/11/20 which has previously been a great hit with pupils!



Music

As of the start of this new term our pupils have been enjoying intervention afternoons.

On Mondays and Tuesdays our Yr10s and Yr11s take part in Art/Music Therapy. They are currently two sessions into it and have enjoyed it so much. During Music Therapy they are learning to write lyrics and put them to a rhythm/beat. In Art Therapy they have been learning different styles of graffiti. It's been wonderful to see our young people have the confidence to take part in something new. All pupils involved have been a credit to the Academy and have been very welcoming to Sonny and Luke who are teaching them these new skills.

Football

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, pupils of all ages attend Chase High School

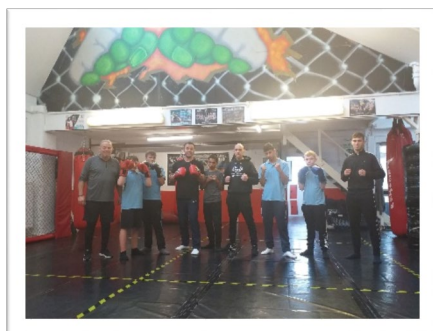


to play five a side football. The pupils always have a great time and are improving their skills and

fitness. The matches are always competitive and everybody enjoys scoring a goal. The pupils are learning to work as a team and the staff also join in to add some extra skill and flair. Keep up the hard work everybody!

Kickboxing

This term saw the return of our sessions at the newly renovated Southend Combat



Academy. We currently attend the Academy 3 times a week including a session for primary pupils on

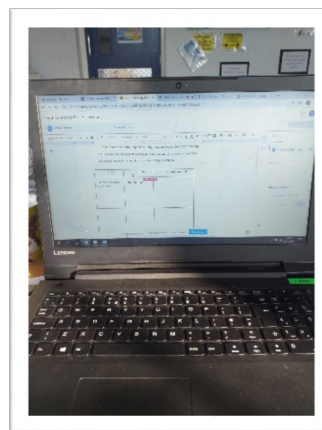
Mondays, strength and conditioning on a Tuesday and boxing/kickboxing on Thursdays. The students have been fantastic, putting in 100% effort into each training session.

A comment from one student "I love going to the gym because it lets me burn off loads of energy and makes me feel good about myself".

Google Classroom

Our pupils have become increasingly engaged with google classroom and are using the platform during class to complete assignments and taking part in live lessons from home.

Feedback from pupils:



"I like doing my assignments online because I think that a lot of kids find it easier to type rather than write" RMK
"The live lessons are good because if I am ill, I can still learn from home" OS

RSE

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education are now statutory subjects that must be taught in all schools.

At Victory Park Academy, staff have joined forces with the PSHE Association in order to deliver well resourced, high quality lessons that are taught sensitively in an open and free atmosphere. In addition to this, visits from health professionals will be arranged throughout the year to compliment the new curriculum and support our students. If parents want to learn more about the subject follow the links below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf (Primary age pupils)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907640/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf (Secondary age pupils)

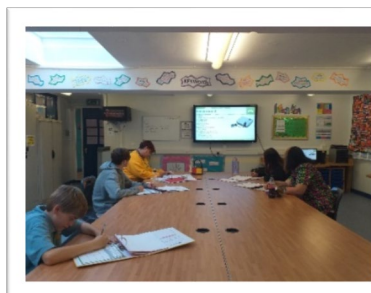
Personal Development – Globetrotters

Since the start of the new academic year our KS3/KS4 students have been part of a brand new personal development scheme called 'The Globetrotter Activity Passport'. The passport allows students to earn reward point for completing a range of activities focusing on Careers, Health, Talents, Community, Life Skills and Physical Activity. Some of the activities that have been completed include: learn phrases in

sign language; play a new sport; watch a foreign film; learn a mindfulness technique and write a C.V.

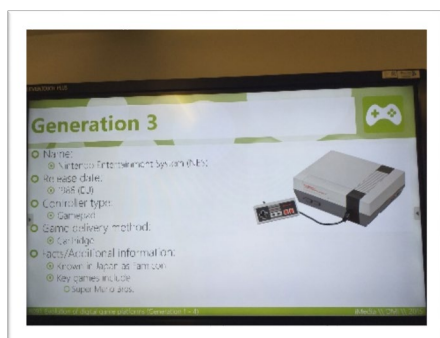
Media Studies

In Autumn 1, pupils in Media have been



learning and understanding the capabilities and limitations of a range of gaming platforms. They are able to

identify core features of digital games and have shown great engagement and knowledge towards the subject. This term pupils are learning to understand the basics



of planning and designing digital games for the creative digital media sector.

On completion of this unit, pupils will know about different types of digital games and where they are used, be able to plan and design a digital game concept and present a game proposal to a client or focus group.

Occupational Studies

This term in Occupational Studies we have been taking part in a wide range of activities from the NCFE qualification. We have been learning a wide range of new skills, developing our independence



and also working effectively as part of a team.

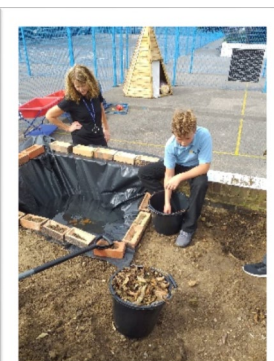
In year 10, the pupils have started their introduction to brick laying and have shown really impressive levels of skill and engagement. Our year 11 pupils have been working on how to decorate and have also shown a great attitude to learning something new. We have also been developing an offsite allotment where we will be growing a wide variety of plants and vegetables.

Primary



Primary worked hard on traditional tales during Autumn 1, they learned and retold the story of Little Red Riding Hood and then wrote

their own version of the story. They have been enjoying their outdoor learning



sessions and created minibeast habitats as well as a mini pond in line with their animals and their habitats topic.

Primary have been focusing on core skills. During Autumn 1 they learnt about a range of

different traditional tales and retold stories using puppets. They have learnt how to add and subtract by playing a maths game whilst also learning turn taking.

Both groups helped to celebrate mental health day by wearing yellow and selling

cupcakes they had made. They also celebrated talk like a pirate day by dressing up as pirates and



taking part in pirate activities like making a treasure map.

This half term KS2 primary are learning about adventure stories using the film UP as their inspiration whilst KS1 primary have been learning about Diwali and enjoying the beginning of their winter topic. We have also had talks from the fire service regarding bonfire safety. KS2 primary have been enjoying their combat, street dance and football sessions which will be continuing until Christmas.

Pupil Voice

The pupils involved in Pupil Voice were outstanding yesterday. They engaged well and all contributed to the meeting. We discussed a number of potential projects. The pupils suggested raising funds for new P.E equipment, getting involved with and supporting local charities that are important to the pupils, and one student even suggested that we incorporate more humanities based subjects in our curriculum. It was a successful first meeting and we look forward to what the future holds for our Pupil Voice.

SEN

My name is Sally Carter and I am supporting Katie Blight in covering the SENCo responsibilities at Victory Park Academy. We have started to look at the SEND register and are liaising with the educational psychology service to ensure that any EHCP applications are supported. We are looking at individual pupils and assessing and identifying individual needs.

Please make an appointment or call the school if you need any support around SEND.

Counselling Service for Children & Young People

If you are aged 5 - 18 years and experiencing low mood or anxiety as a result of COVID-19 or other life events Kids

Inspire is offering a counselling service to support you.

Please call 01245 348707 or email cypcounselling.kidsinspire@nhs.net

October 2020 was also a busy month starting with Black history month. The pupils had lessons on the abolishment of the slaves and how life is so different for black people now.

For World Mental Health day the school put on a wellbeing day with a meditation room complete with aroma therapy; beauty treatments; hand and feet reflexology and colour therapy. The pupils moved from class to class in their bubbles. We also had a cake sale, the teachers wore yellow and the pupils were given a beautiful yellow rose as the left to go home. All in all a very chilled successful day.

Jeans for Gene's day the pupils and staff dressed down and wore Jeans for the day. The year 8 & 9 did a shop as part of personal development to help the homeless with a bag of essentials: tooth paste; tooth brushes; warm socks; hand sanitiser; soap; deodorant; wipes and hair products. These were handed over to the local HARP shelter and they were extremely grateful.

Princes Trust

Prince Charles would be exceptionally



proud to see the attention to detail and tremendous efforts that all pupils from Key Stage 3 & 4 have made since September in the Prince's Trust.

Currently pupils are working on managing money and career planning, all pupils are now aware of how to set up a bank account and create their own CV. Essential life skills!

Keep up the good work! We look forward to celebrating these achievements in the Awards lesson at the end of this term.

Key Dates

- 19th November 2020 – Cyber Bullying Workshops
- 20th November 2020 – Road safety talk with fire service.
- 26th November 2020 – Knife Crime Workshops
- 9th December 2020- Gang Crime Workshops
- 14th December 2020 – Gambling Awareness & Harm it can cause Workshops
- 18th December 2020 - End Of Term (Pupils)
- 5th January 2020 – Start Of Term (Pupils).



Please follow Victory Park Academy on Twitter

https://twitter.com/_victorypark_

