

# Victory Park Academy

## Spring 2021 News

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Spring 2021

### Update from the Head Teacher



It gives me great pleasure to write the introduction to our Spring Newsletter.

A **HUGE** thank you to all our **parents** and **carers** for all your support and co-operation during the past

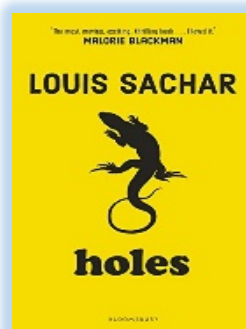
few months. To all our **pupils** - simply put, **YOU ARE INCREDIBLE**. We are so proud of you all. And to our **staff**, no words can adequately convey all our gratitude, **THANK YOU!**

### English

During the lockdown there has been some outstanding work from pupils from both face to face and Google classroom teaching.

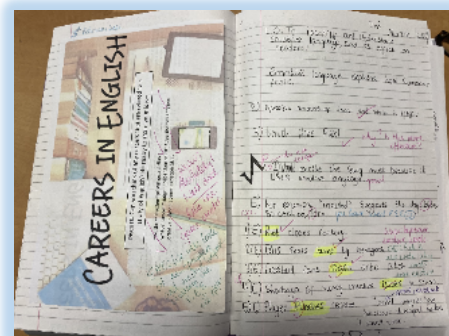


**Year 8** are currently working on developing their poetic skills, learning new language techniques as well as revising ones learnt previously.



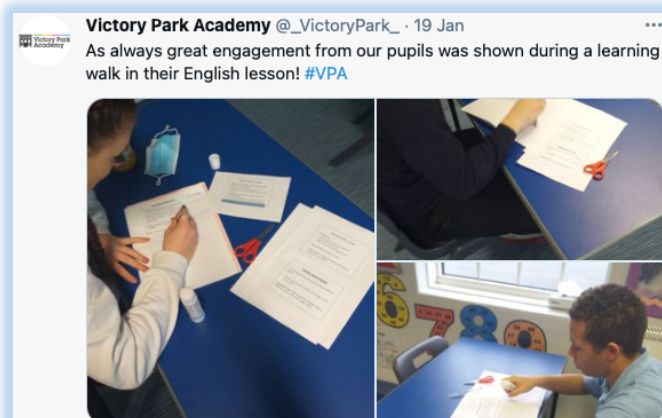
**Year 9** have just begun to read the novel 'Holes'. It has a dual narrative storyline and covers a range of topics both historically and contemporary.

**Year 10** are learning about careers in English focusing on journalism and advertising.



They have learnt about the power of language and words, the role of emotive language in these industries especially in advertising.

**Year 11** are continuing to build up their IGCSE evidence for the teacher assessment grade. They are completing past papers in controlled conditions.

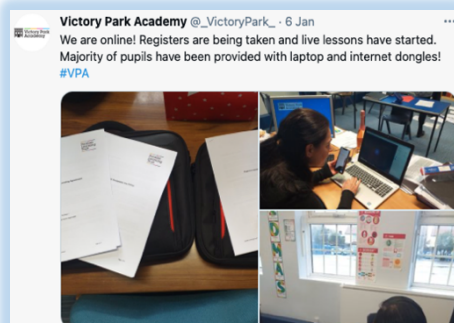


## Quality of Education

Quality of Education at VPA is good with outstanding features. Teaching has been evaluated through learning walks, work scrutiny and pupil progress both face to face and remotely. Planning, SOW, pupil engagement and marking have been areas of great strength as has the Google classroom lessons which increased in numbers after week one.

This term VPA are focusing on improving pupils' responses to marking and including an increase in literacy and numeracy across the academy.

## Google Classroom

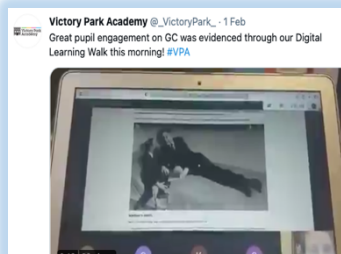


Remote learning through google classroom has been a huge success during the

lockdown with our attendance improving from 6% on week one of Spring 1 term to 50% on week one of Spring 2 term. Pupils are continuing to use the platform in school to complete assignments and are engaging well.

Pupils on a TIP timetable (Transition Intervention Plan) are currently using remote learning as a way to integrate them back into education.

We also use google meet as a platform for our whole school assemblies, so pupils in



school and at home could be included and receive weekly awards/vouchers for good work and behaviour.

## Occupational Studies

This term in Occupational studies we have been working on our new offsite provision down at our local allotment. Pupils have been using a wide variety of skills to develop the site including fence building, deck laying as well as getting the



ground ready to sow seeds and plant flowers. The pupils are enjoying this new provision and are really taking ownership as the site develops.

## Food Bank

At Victory Park staff and their friends and families have gone above and beyond to provide food parcels for our students and their families. People's generosity has been overwhelming. We have received bags of shopping, money (which was spent on online food orders) and donations of large volumes of food from places such as **One Love Soup Kitchen**. Bags have been put together regularly and food parcels have



been delivered to homes on a weekly basis. Our students and their families have been very grateful for the extra support.

### **Primary Turnaround Groups**

The Primary turnaround groups have made a fantastic effort to engage and take part in all aspects of their learning during the spring term. Although Covid-19 intervened once again and online learning proved to be quite challenging, pupils regularly completed their learning tasks and were among the first to return to classroom-based lessons. Since then, they have enjoyed several outdoor learning opportunities, which involved visiting Belfair's wood, a seafront excursion and more local visits to the Victory Park allotment.



More recently, the children dressed up as their favourite World book day

characters and participated in a selection of special activities to help celebrate and promote reading for pleasure through the love of books and shared reading experiences.

Staff are extremely proud of the way the children have settled back into their school routine and not let Covid get the better of them!

### **Primary KS2**

During the spring term KS2 pupils have enjoyed learning about Max the Hedgehog during English who's aim was to cross the road safely. Children have created their own hedgehogs out of modelling clay and focused on newspaper reports as their creative writing piece. Primary pupils have

also enjoyed welcoming new class members to our class and have been forming new friendships with their peers. In maths pupils have been learning about shapes, including, recognising pentagons, octagons and hexagons and also learning how to measure the circumference of a circle. Pupils enjoyed celebrating World Book Day coming in dressed up as their favourite character including, Batman, Spiderman and Harry Potter. Pupils have returned to their enrichment intervention timetable which includes kickboxing and football and have enjoyed learning these new skills.



Fudge is still a prominent member of a classroom and pupils enjoy taking care of him. Fudge has helped pupils show empathy and maintain a calm classroom environment. Pupils help to feed, clean and

take care of Fudge and enjoy having cuddles on a daily basis.



Harbour class also visited our academy allotment, where they planted some flowers and had hot dogs that were cooked on the barbeque! All the children really enjoyed digging up the mud too!!



## **Harbour**

This term, Harbour class in primary have been out on some morning, adventure excursions. Whilst on a visit to Belfairs woods, the pupils had lots of fun on the climbing



apparatus which was quite exhausting! A camp was made with the bare essential materials available, which came in very useful as a shelter as it started to



drizzle. The children and their staff had some well-deserved snacks under the shelter!

## **SENCo**

All pupils now have their ISP targets to work on and support their progress across Victory Park-we are looking forward to sharing these with you and gathering your views.

TAG 1 in Primary are using a Social Use of Language Programme to teach good listening and communication skills. TAG 2 in Primary are using precision teaching as an intervention to support reading skills.

I am always on site to answer any questions and offer support where I can.



Zac using colourful semantics in TAG 1 to support with his communication skills.

## **STAG**

Spring 2 has seen the start of the new Southend Turnaround Group (STAG). They have settled in well and I'm delighted to say, enjoying the opportunities in Combat Academy and Horticulture at the Victory Park Allotment where they have planted Thyme, Rosemary and Lavender after digging up an area of the ground and setting down a Planter.





As well their classwork, a session per week is spent at the local Combat Academy working on their Fitness and looking at Nutrition. This has become a big hit (no pun intended). Definitely a way to improve the Mind, Body and Soul.



### **Staff/Pupil Wellbeing**

Due to the COVID Pandemic many things have changed. Least of all the way in which we work at Victory Park Academy. The amazing work of staff with the introduction of Google Classroom by **Miss Honeysett** and **Mr Muca** and the positive engagement of our pupils. A curriculum that met the needs of our pupils and countless welfare calls and visits keeping track so that they engaged with school throughout these unprecedented times.

Staff who worked from home for long periods were wonderfully supported by their colleagues but most of all the spirit in

which we returned was positive. We have endeavoured to support all our pupils and staff regarding their Health and Wellbeing and will continue to do so in the times ahead.

This term saw the first **Staff Quiz** held, where tea, coffee, cakes and other goodies were enjoyed by the staff. Unfortunately, staff had to endure the dulcet tones of the Quizmaster, **John Williams**.

Healthy competitive banter and laughter was all part of a fun afternoon and it brought together the comradery we would expect from the community at VPA

### **Inclusion Outreach**

Due to Covid 19 the Inclusion Outreach Team has had to adapt and find ways to support mainstream schools as the majority were not accepting visitors during the latest lockdown. Therefore, we have had to find different ways to support pupils and schools.

We have continued with direct face to face contact with pupils in mainstream schools (if allowed). This has been especially important when supporting vulnerable and anxious students. In addition, due to the current situation all schools were given the offer of extra support for these vulnerable pupils.

Various observations have been carried out in mainstream schools. These include observations to support EHCP requests and also as already mentioned to give additional support to the more vulnerable pupils.

Resources have been sent to schools for pupils. These were to be used either in school or sent home. We have continued to liaise with schools regarding our current cases.

We have used Team's meetings to offer support to schools and have also used this to deliver formal training. This has been extremely useful in maintaining contact but

we very much welcome the opening up of schools and are looking forward to resuming our face-to-face work.

## Welfare

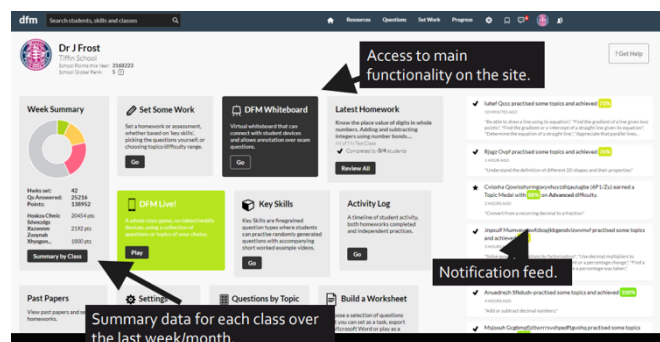
Through December to March, Staff have engaged with pupils and families with daily welfare phone calls and weekly welfare visits to ensure pupils still had access to education via our remote system of google classroom, a number of laptops and data sims were issued to support this. Food parcels have also been widely spread on a weekly basis to support where needed. The response to remote learning and the engagement from pupils has been second to none and a real positive. Staff at VPA have maintained a great rapport with our pupils and families during this time as pupil welfare is at the forefront of our minds and our main priority.

## Maths

In the maths department, we have recently set all pupils up with a log in to DrFrostMaths.com - a free maths-learning website.



The site has loads of PowerPoints, videos and slides explaining how to tackle every topic area in small easy steps. This online platform lets students practise questions and it also keeps track of their progress and scores as they move through each new topic.



## Covid Testing



One way we are making the academy safer during the pandemic is by offering weekly covid testing for all staff and students. Following on from training delivered by public health England, we have conducted hundreds of tests over the past term, which have provided reassurance and peace of mind for everyone attending the academy.

## Virtual Assemblies

With a large amount of our students learning virtually last term we decided to move our celebration assemblies online. The assemblies provided a great opportunity to celebrate the hard work of students and gave chance for pupils from all year groups to log to the same meeting. We also competed in some fun quizzes which saw many students beat teachers.

## Key Dates

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – Last Day of Spring Term
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021- Bank Holiday
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – First Day Back to School



# Gallery

