

Victory Park Academy

Summer 2021 News

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www.victorypark.org.uk

Summer 2021

Update from the Head Teacher



I want to thank all the staff and pupils for their work this year and for making it a great year to remember despite Covid and the disruption it caused for

everyone. A big well done to all including all our key stages and turn around groups and Y11 who under pressure left with some great results. We have as an Academy come a long way over a short period of time. This is exemplified by our 'pupil voice' who wanted a games room for break and lunch times and we have delivered on this. Over the Summer break there will be further improvements made to the site including development of our hair and beauty salon and the playground. We have invested in new sports equipment including Athletics, football and racquet sports.

Next year we have a variety of enrichment activities planned into our school year. This will include opportunities such as graffiti art, hair and beauty, bike maintenance, martial arts, music, horse riding and learning to drive (KS4 only). We are also investing in Speech and Language training and mental health first Aid training for key staff. I hope you enjoy this last newsletter for this academic year. Have a safe summer.

Mr Aspel



Offsite Provision

Our offsite provision at the allotment has been a great success this year. Pupils have really engaged in developing the site and

have taken ownership.

Pupils have been making progress in lots of areas but particularly working within a team and learning to communicate appropriately.

Thanks to all the pupils for the hard work and look forward to continuing to develop this site over the years to come.



Occupational Studies

Occupational Studies has had another successful year with pupils engaging in a



broad range of activities and increasing their skill set. Pupils have learnt decorating skills, bricklaying techniques and developed a strong understanding of horticulture.

In other work the pupils have experimented with mod-roc to create masks in different styles. They put lots of effort into their designs and the finished results are really

striking - well done everyone for creating some great art this term.



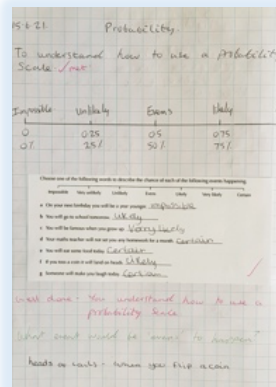
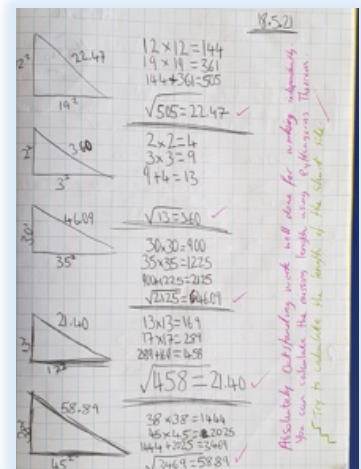
Pupils have shown great progress in this subject with the practical elements being something they all really enjoy.



Thanks to all my pupils for a great year, good luck to year 11 and look forward to working with year 10 and 9 in the next year.

Key Stage 3 Maths

During Maths this term pupils have been working on various topics such as probability, plotting coordinates, drawing symmetrical



shapes and studying Pythagoras Theorem. it has been an eventful year and well done to all pupils for working hard whether in a classroom or on Google Classroom. Keep up the hard!



Art

During Art this term the pupils have been working hard as a team by helping each other paint murals on the Art classroom wall. The pupils came up with the

squared design in the background and used acrylic paint to achieve a bold and vibrant finish.

Food Technology



In Food Tech this term, the year 11's have been completing their Unit 4- Plan and produce dishes

in response to a brief.

They were given a brief, to cook a three-course meal for a wedding. As you can see from



the pictures, they did a fantastic job and some of our year 11's have managed to secure part time jobs in the Hospitality industry! Well done to all of them for their hard work.

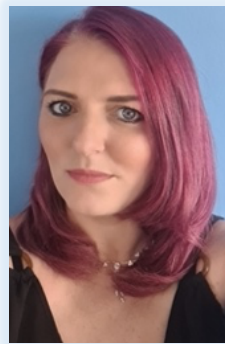
Year 7,8 and 9, have been learning about



where food comes from, and we took a trip to Barleylands Farm, where they picked herbs and vegetables grown in their poly- tunnel and fed them to the animals!

Year 10's have been working hard too, completing Unit 2- Understanding food. They have cooked a number of dishes such as, chicken curry, savoury muffins and meatballs.

SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding is the responsibility for us all. In June 2021 I became the newly appointed DSL for Victory Park Academy. A role of which I am fully dedicated to but also thoroughly enjoying.

Keeping children safe particularly in Education is key. Therefore where ever possible we encourage all pupils to attend school and a full timetable be offered.

VPA continue to work closely with external agencies to support families on their pupils attending on site education. The offering of an enriching enrichment timetable has been bountiful and encouraging opportunities such as music, allotment, MAPA, Globetrotters allowing pupils to re-engage in VPA and minimise the anxiety of getting them ready to learn. To continue to follow up level 1 and level 2's and welfare monitoring.

Guest speakers for See the Signs has proven highly successful as well as Prince Charming touring Theatre Company all covering areas that could have or might affect our pupils.

As we enter the summer holidays and close the door on this challenging last academic year it fills me with pride to be a part of Victory Park Academy. Everyone, Children, staff and parents have worked together to ensure that the children receive the best of what we can offer them.

The staff have attended hours of extensive training to ensure they have the best knowledge of safeguarding the children within education with the most up to date methods and resources available to them.

I wish you all a happy and restful summer break. See you again in September.

Charlotte Burch

GDPR

Data protection is extremely important and this term staff have completed training on how to keep information safe and what to do if there is a data breach. If you have any questions or concerns about how personal information is stored and protected, please contact Cameron at

cmatthews@victorypark.org.uk

English

Literacy remains key to VPA's drive forward to support pupils in teaching their full potential. Work scrutiny has shown that teachers are including literacy as part of their planning and teaching through marking; spellings; grammar and subject specific "wow" words.

VPA has invested in online software called "Bedrock Learning" which specialises in reading; developing vocabulary and spelling. It is currently being piloted with select groups who have enjoyed it so far. Our aim to have this up and running for literacy intervention groups in September and as online home tasks.

KS3 English classes have been working on creative writing and writing for different audiences. We have used a SOW about mental health through the ages which links into citizenship as well as current affairs. Pupils have contributed to some interesting class discussions.

KS4 English have also completed creative writing based on "Zoo" a book and drama about animals who turn against humans. We have explored reasons why this could happen and discussed how animals have been treated through the ages, as well as current animal charity groups and why they are important.

KS2 Primary

The KS2 group have been busy during the summer term covering topics such as plants and poetry. The students enjoyed planting

their own plants and creating an investigation into what they need to survive.

The students have also worked hard in their poetry topic creating their own funny limericks and recognising the features required. For those students who attend on a Wednesday they have enjoyed a number of enrichment trips including most recently a trip to the park where they supported the local community by litter picking.

The students have continued to enjoy a range of enrichment activities including kickboxing on Monday afternoons, football on Tuesday mornings and Southend United football coaches on a Friday afternoon. These activities have supported children with their self-esteem and taught them how to be resilient.

Lastly, both KS1 and KS2 groups were donated a worry monster for the children to use to express any concerns they had and also a robotic therapy cat which have both been gratefully received. The students named their worry monster Jimmy and their therapy cat Simba.



Class dojo

KS1 and KS2 classes have introduced class dojo to promote positive behaviour from the children and to create a home school link with our parents. We have had a fantastic response from our parents using this new app and appreciate all of

the communication this has created. We have had some wonderful feedback from parents who are also using the app to promote positive behaviour at home. The app has also enabled us to instantly share

classroom learning with parents.

Build-A-Bike

“We have been coming to Victory Park Academy for

since April to conduct our Build-A-Bike programme and it has been hugely popular. As staff, we’ve had a great time working with these guys and we like to think that they have too. We’ve found participants to be fully engaged throughout and seen some real string enthusiasm towards to learning opportunity.

The premise of these courses is as follows: We bring in a bike which has been broken down to just a frame, wheels

and a box of parts. Then over a named period of weeks, we work closely with the pupils to show them how to rebuild the bike piece by piece, component by component. Once the Bike has been reassembled, we move on to showing how to fully service and tube their bike. Once this stage has been completed, we then go for a test ride and once all is said and done. ***That bike then becomes theirs to keep.***

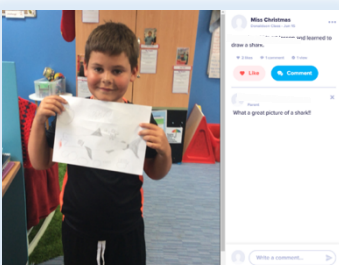
The on-the-job feedback from the kids has been very positive and there have been moments which has truly touched our hearts. For Example, one participant stood back and marvelled at this bike and exclaimed “***I built that!!***”. As an experience for us it’s been very rewarding and we hope to continue working closely

with VPA in the future. We have also been taken back at the level of support that has come down from the heads and deputy heads as they go about seeing

that their pupils get the best opportunities possible.

Since our early group sessions, the heads have also helped us to plan and develop our 1-2-1 intervention sessions which, again, have proven a success at increasing attendance.

Overall, we’ve loved every minute of it and would like to thank **Mr Aspel** for working with us to make these courses successful.”



Message from Assistant Head

When asked by people what I do for a living I'm always delighted to tell them where I work and the amazing amount of enjoyment I get from my job.

It makes me happy to see the many success stories I get to be part of at VPA, whether that be a pupil developing their own social independence or returning to a mainstream school or perhaps just reintegrating back into education. It might be an amazing piece of written work presented to me with such pride eager to be put up in my office or an offering from a tasty food tech lesson they have been part of and wanting to share their delicious food.

I then look at the pupils they have become - another year 11 group leaving us with so much maturity and respect for themselves and those around them going on to pastures new but with every right to be proud of their own success.

Enjoy your summer everyone. To all the pupils and staff, I have the pleasure to work with, I look forward to seeing you all again in September 2021

Mrs S Taylor

CHILD DEVELOPMENT



This term in child development we have been learning about how we can support babies and children to learn in the different areas of

development. To help with our child development studies, we have also

welcomed the arrival of our interactive baby Dolcie. The pupils have spent the term learning how to look after the baby in class, and in September will hopefully be able to take the baby home to look after overnight. We are really pleased to have received the interactive baby and are looking forward to seeing how the baby can support our pupils in their learning on Child Development



Wellbeing

This year has been a strange and challenging for us all. We pulled out all the stops during Covid Supporting Families with Food parcels and the free school meal vouchers. A team of staff would make daily calls checking all was safe and well in your homes.

The food we had donated from staff family and friends I must say a big shout out to our **Zoe, Siobhan, Rochford rugby club, the one love soup kitchen and everyone else that supported us.**

The feedback from our parents has been wonderful showing us you have appreciated all our hard work.

As the six weeks are fast approaching the academy is now giving you the opportunity to apply for £50 of love to shop vouchers to help with food uniform of just to use for your own wellbeing. You will have received the referral form in with your child's school report. Fill in and get it back to school for the attention of Gill Lyons and I will arrange for you to receive the vouchers.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a very happy break and look

forward to the new term without covid restrictions.

STAG

Summer Term 2 has arrived and seen the beginning of a new Southend Turnaround Group (STAG). They have settled in and I'm happy to say, enjoying the opportunities they have been given in Basketball, Football, Food Technology and Combat Academy, where they have developed their personal skillset further in many different ways.

As well their classwork in English, Maths and Princes Trust, a session or two per week is spent at the local Combat Academy working on their Health, Fitness and looking at Nutrition.

This has become a great success with fantastic support from our Local Authority. In a conscious effort to help our Mental Health and improve the Mind, Body and Soul.

Mr J Williams

KS1 Primary



Primary KS1 have been on some great enrichment trips this term. We have been crabbing at the beach, den building in the woods and visited Hadleigh Farm. This is a great

opportunity to further develop communication/social skills and an opportunity for some outdoor learning. We love Wednesday enrichment!

We have also had some lovely art equipment donated by SENDIAS, a charity that



supports children with additional needs through therapeutic strategies. The pupils have really enjoyed doing their paintings.



At reward time on a Friday our Harbour pupils

enjoy creating a camp area, its great problem solving for them as they have found ways to attach the blankets and stop the tent from falling down. This is one of our best ever tents!

Key Stage 4 Maths

Pupils across all year groups have worked really well in maths this year, whether through online Google classroom lessons or live lessons in person and have managed to achieve their end of year targets through these difficult times.

Due to covid-19, the Prime Minister decided to cancel GCSE examinations again this year. However, all of our Year 11 pupils have completed mock examination papers which have been sent off to the exam board, so that they can receive their grades. The department are predicted that four pupils will achieve a Grade 4 (a C grade in old money!) and three pupils a Grade 3 (Grade D). In fact, 83% (15 of our 18 year 11 pupils) will achieve a GCSE grade for Maths's year!

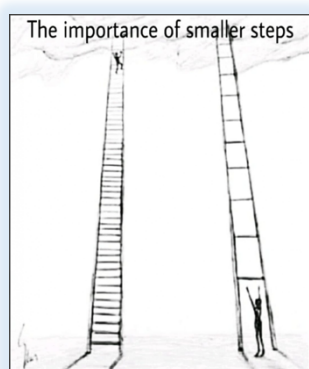


Date for diary: Thursday 12th August 2021 is examination results day. Results can be collected from the VPA office between 9:00am and 11:00am on the day or they will be posted out to any Year 11 pupil who cannot make it in!

SENCo News

All pupils have been working hard to achieve their ISP targets this term, remember to share them with your child at home also as these small steps make a big difference!

It has been a pleasure working closely with families to request EHCPs for them. It is so vital that pupils get the correct support and provision that they need.



If you have any questions about the special educational needs support and provision for your child please get in touch with the school.

Have a safe and fun Summer!

Sally Carter

See the Signs

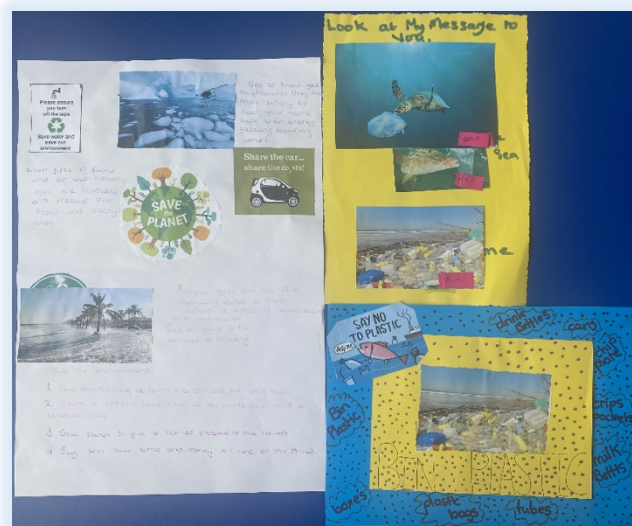
During this term at VPA we have had a number of sessions delivered to staff and pupils by the See the Signs organisation.

The sessions were aimed at raising awareness of child exploitation, county lines and knife crime. The sessions were extremely engaging and gave vital information needed to support young people at risk of child exploitation. For more information and advice please visit the website: www.seethesigns.org.uk



Science

This term in science students have been studying The Living Systems, which includes lessons about cells, ecosystems and inheritance. Students engaged really well when learning about the effects of humans on ecosystems, and below is an example of some great posters focusing on how to reduce plastic waste. Also, a massive congratulations to all pupils who achieved Science qualifications in 20/21, throughout what has been an extremely challenging 18 months.



BBQ

Our Yr11s were treated to a BBQ for their leaver's celebration. Rosie and Zoe cooked up a storm and as well as all of the usual BBQ foods



they provided homemade Mac'n'Cheese, roast potatoes, variety of salads including potato salad, Zoe's Oreo cake, a donut wall and much more! There was also a pick and mix sweet station set up. The weather was insanely hot but it was a wonderful afternoon and a great chance to wish our leavers well and see them off in style!



Message from Deputy Head

As with everyone else, this past year has been one we will never forget. We have been putting strategies in place to respond and react to changes as well as potential changes that this academic year could bring.

Our focus for this term has been ensuring that our year 11 pupils leave with the right qualifications that they deserve. To support this, all subjects were Internally Quality Assured across the Trust. The focus was on year 11 only, due to non-exams which was replaced with coursework. Each teacher was required to take at least 4 pieces of marked work. Using PLT moderation template teachers moderated the selection of work. This provided each subject, in each academy with moderated evidence if required by exam boards and reassured teachers of the grading.

We close the 2020/2021 academic year with pride in how we have all functioned together as a school community and supported one another throughout. Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Mr E Muca

Date for your Diary

- Thursday 12th August 2021 is examination results day.
- Wednesday 1st September 2021 - INSET DAY – Non-Pupil Day
- Thursday 2nd September 2021 – Pupils return to School.
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GALLERY



