

Victory Park Academy

News

February 2020

www.victorypark.org.uk

Update from the Head Teacher

Welcome to the spring term edition of Victory Park news. A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We have worked as an Academy with the Trust to develop MAPA. This is a system that helps our pupils by evaluating their needs and keeping them safe. We trained a senior member of staff to instructor level and all staff have been trained in the system. This has made a notable positive difference in the way that staff work with our pupils.

In addition we have developed our personal development programme through 'My Activity Passport' has been embraced by both students and staff. The passport activities enable our pupils to experience activities outside of the formal curriculum and helps develop character including resilience, communication managing emotions and team work. We have been pleased with pupils' response and I hope you enjoy this edition of Victory Park's newsletter.

I would like to thank all our students for their continued dedication and development of themselves.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, support agencies and parents for their continued belief and support in the work that we do.

In The Classrooms

Primary Turnaround Group

Primary students have enjoyed spending time with Frank the therapy dog. They have learnt how to be safe around dogs and have taught Frank some new tricks. His owner has even



commented that the the students are better behaved than Frank!

Primary students have been learning about the Gingerbread Man as part of their learning they have made Gingerbread salt dough and produced a puppet show. They performed the puppet show to their classmates and staff.



Construction & Horticulture

Year 10 and 11 have been working hard this term on their outside garden area. From constructing planters and building their own garden gateway the outside space is really beginning to shape up into a lovely area. The students have also been responsible for sowing a variety of different plants and making sure they are maintained throughout the different seasons.

Food Technology

To fit in with our Personal Development theme this term; where does food come from? Year 8 and 9 visited Marsh Farm. We had a tour of the farm, met different animals on the farm, and even watched a ferret race!

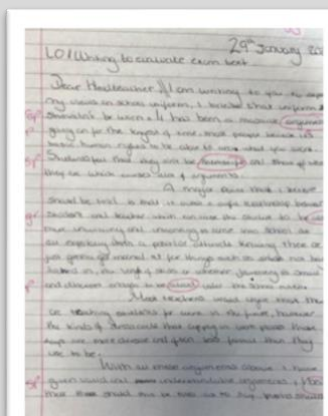


We have also been cooking seasonal food and learning about the benefits of eating locally produced fruit and vegetables.

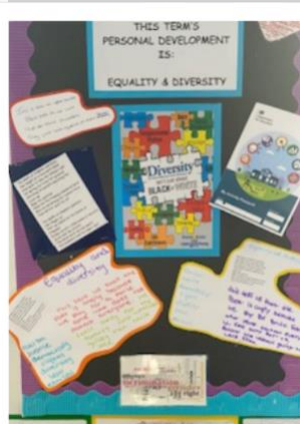
English

Year 11 – In preparation for English IGCSE Paper 2, students have been focusing on developing their creative writing skills further by employing a range of language techniques, openings and closing techniques effective use of dialogue and dialogue tags.

We used a range of stimuli including short clips from a range of different genres; still images and extracts from short stories.



Pupil writing an exam practice exam.



Year 10- Context- poem about Stephen Lawrence Case and Developmental Themes.

Year 10- Students are revising poetic techniques, identifying them in poems and beginning to explain what the effects are. There is a focus on the context to each poem: Out of the Blue- context 9/11; "What has Stephen Lawrence taught

taught us?" - Context the Stephen Lawrence Case and Institutionalized Racism which links to the personal development theme this term.

Year 9- This half term students have been learning about non-fiction texts. They recognize, text type, audience and purpose. We have used a range of topics linking to equality and real-life issues such as County Lines and knife crime. Students have learnt a range of persuasive techniques and designed their own chocolate bar advert.

Sport Science

Year 11

Students have been conducting fitness tests this term. The tests have been collecting data from a range of fitness components including reaction speed, strength, power, speed and flexibility. There have been some great scores posted which really shows the sporting potential of many of our students.

Year 10

Students have been studying biology and have been conducting scientific tests to measure the changes that happens to our body when we start to exercise.

Year 9

Students have been learning about sports nutrition and have completed some fantastic diet plans.

Next term, the year 9 students will cook some of the meals in the food technology room.

Physical Education

This term the students have done some amazing work in their PE folders which is of great credit to them, well done and keep it up. The football team played their first match against Inspire Academy running out 12-3 winners! Well done boys! All the training at The Chase is paying off.



Return to Learning

The return to learning started in September 2019. This is a new small group to help students who



have not been in main stream school helping them to reintegrate.

A student from the RTL group has reported "We learn at a steady pace and the support in the room is so good. I feel happier being in RTL, our lunch is brought to the room and we are able to go out for a walk for our midmorning break. The Activity Passports, which have just been introduced, allows us to take part in activities within the class room such as playing new games and planting bulbs to watch them grow"

Exams

With all the examination entries now complete for our Year 11 students, Victory Park are predicting that 21 out of the 27 students will achieve at least five GCSE or equivalent qualification this June. This year, the Academy has introduced four new qualifications - Construction, Equality & Diversity, Food Technology and Child Development to complement our current offer. Students will complete qualifications from over 10 different subject areas, so good luck to our current Year 11 group.

Progress

Every school has different methods for tracking student progress and the Academy have recently introduced a new online system for measuring student progress, called Go4Schools. Although we will continue to send out termly reports, parents can now log in (subject to GDPR consent) to check on their child's academic progress, attendance and predicted examination grades.

Vocational Activities

This term students have been attending Southend Combat Academy every Tuesday and Thursday. They have been training skills in boxing, kickboxing and ju-jitsu.

The students have loved attending the gym and has been a great way to develop relationships between peers, whilst also keeping them fit and healthy.



Turn Around Group

The progress of TAG through Autumn 1 and 2 has seen a 100% successful return back into their mainstream settings.

The hard work of staff across Victory Park Academy has given the students



an identity and this has been integral in their Personal Development.

Here is a testimony from a parent about the development of her son since their attendance in TAG

“Hi, I just wanted to say thank you and that I am amazed at the positive turn around my son has made so far in such a short space of time, on your TAG programme with you all. He is a nicer young man to be around at home, he's happier in himself and with us, he even joins in with his siblings and there is finally laughs and smiles all around. He is super high and excited/ happy for 2-3 days when he does physical things through the programme such as Belchamps trips and football at Chase, even doing the gym workouts. It's amazing to see the effect this has on him.

What you all do here with these children is fantastic, I honestly can't thank you enough.

Thank you”

Mum of TAG Pupil

Personal Development

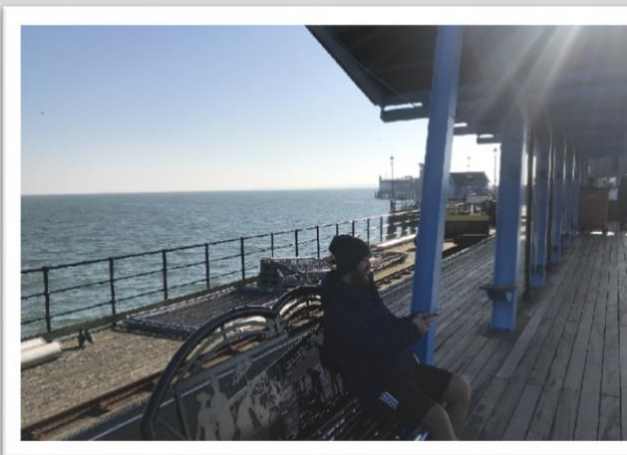
Year Nine's went for a walk to visit a place of worship, St Mary's Church, Southend on sea. Some have never visited a Christian place of worship before and were



intrigued by the shiny wood of the pews. They liked the Pulpit, the Sanctuary and the candles. We then all enjoyed a nice walk from the church to Priory Park, where they all took an independent walk around the Secret Garden area and the mini maze. They also enjoyed climbing a tree and jumping the stream.

Some students took part in a bake off competition. They were given a brief and a marking criteria. Students had to independently prepare and cook a giant cookie!

Other students went for a trip to the pier to visit a local landmark.



Careers Fair

Careers Lead Steve Morgan would like to thank all the students and providers for attending the first Careers Fair held at Victory Park Academy. The turnout of 60 students from across four schools shared a hot breakfast and took positive steps toward their post 16 options. It was great to see young people from VPA, Sutton House Academy, Ramsden Hall and YMCA Southend engage with representatives from colleges and local employers. Going forward there will be a Forces day.



Key Dates for Spring 2

- Dog Therapy – Every Tuesday
10:00-11:00
- Kickboxing – Every Tuesday
13:00 – 14:15
- Fitness Training – Every Tuesday
13:00-14:15
- Academic Review – 26-02-20