



Headmaster's Update

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Dear Parents,

A very happy new year to you all.

And just like that, we are back into the full swing of a new year and a new term. I hope you had a restful Christmas break and that you and your sons are ready for the term ahead. It is going to be a packed first half of term, with the Yr11 and Yr13 mock exams, the launch of the School Business Challenge, numerous sporting fixtures, and of course, House Music, which is always a popular event in the annual school calendar with parents and students alike.

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL SUCCESS

You may have heard on Channel 103 this week that we had some fantastic news on our first day back. [ALPS](#) (A level Performance System), a UK based company who work on benchmarking academic standards nationally, listed Victoria College in the top 10% for our A level progress. This is a measure of the added value due to the quality of teaching at A level, and is based on data collated over a 3 year period. We were rated against 2996 other schools and colleges across the nation, and therefore praise is due to our fantastic students and hard-working teachers for their combined efforts in achieving this outstanding certification.

UNPRECEDENTED INTEREST

I am also delighted to inform parents that following our Yr7 entrance examination in November, we have been able to make 115 offers to boys for entry into the College in September 2020. It is even more pleasing that these boys are from a variety of schools across the Island. We are also receiving an unprecedented level of interest from boys outside the College for our Sixth Form educational experience, which represents the appeal of Victoria College to students across all secondary schools in Jersey.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Congratulations to **Myles Dryland**, who brought 2019 to a successful conclusion by passing his Private Pilot's License Skill Test on 30 December. After finishing his A levels this year, Myles intends to pursue a flying career in the RAF. According to CFI Mike Owen, Myles turned up for his initial trial lesson in his Top Gun Flying Gear aged 9 and made a lasting impression on his instructor James Evans. We wish him well for the future.

At the end of 2019, **Adam Gavey** successfully took part in a day of assessments with other St John's Ambulance cadets for the title of 'Cadet of the Year 2020'. With his new title, Adam adopts various responsibilities throughout the year, the first of which will be to represent St John's Ambulance at the Holocaust Memorial Day

service. Adam will lay a wreath on Monday 27 January at The Maritime Museum Occupation Tapestry Gallery. Congratulations Adam.

CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Our co-curricular clubs started this week with boys getting involved in a range of activities at lunchtime. Please encourage your boys to check the school calendar to see what's on offer this term.

We have a group of boys (and Mr O'Hare) joining the team at GO-SAIL to complete their RYA Level 1 Yacht Sailing Certificate this term. A huge thanks to GO-SAIL who have managed to offer this qualification to our boys free of charge.

The 'Learn to Golf' course starts next week - which has proved a hugely popular option. For those who didn't get to take part in this first course we will be re-advertising just after half term for the next round of boys.

We also have a message from Jersey Sport about their Spring Term activities timetable: *"The Spring Term after school programme is an excellent way to introduce your child to a wide range of sports and activities. The programme is all about getting active and having fun and our qualified coaches will help your child develop new skills and make new friends"*. For a full list of their after school clubs, [please visit their website here](#).

YEAR 12 ENRICHMENT LECTURES – CALL FOR PARENT SPEAKERS

On Wednesdays from 12-1pm every week, we are running enrichment lectures for our Yr12 students to enlighten them about a range of different topics. So far this year we have had talks on: Endurance Events, Nutrition, Mental Health, Birds of Prey, Conservation and Hustings. We have some exciting topics lined up for the rest of the year, but also have a few spaces available. If you have a hobby, topic or life experience that you feel would be interesting for our Yr12 students to learn about, please contact our Head of Sixth Form, Mr Alan Falle (a.falle@vcj.sch.je).

CAREERS – CALL FOR PARENT SPEAKERS, 'LOVE MY JOB'

Do you love your job? During National Careers Week (2-6 March 2020), we would like parents to come and talk during our Yr7-9 assemblies about what they enjoy about their job. Please email Head of Careers, Suzanne Job, if you'd like to take the stage and inspire the next generation: s.job@vcj.sch.je

UNIFORM POLICY – REMINDER

At the end of last term we noticed a number of students were not adhering to the uniform policy, for example by wearing beanie hats and trainers. We would like to politely remind parents and students that we have a strict [uniform policy](#) which can be viewed on our website [here](#).

I am very much looking forward to the new term, and sharing the successes of our boys with our parents, governors, pupils and staff.

Kind regards,
Alun Watkins
Headmaster