



Friday 5 June 2020

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Dear Parents, Pupils, Governors and Staff

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 10 and 12 students and our staff back to College next week. It has been a long time since our boys were in school and much has changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This week, we have been busy completing necessary documents and preparing our site for the safe return of our students and staff. The welfare of both has been uppermost in our plans and we have ensured that this welfare has been carefully considered to comply with the safety standards expected by the Government of Jersey and CYPES. A risk assessment and safe return strategy have been shared with all staff, Governors and experts at CYPES. We have also produced a video which outlines the changes we have made in school to ensure that classrooms, toilets and other areas on site follow strict Covid-19 safety standards. This information can be obtained from our website www.victoriacollege.je and the link to the video is shown later in this newsletter.

Our safe return strategy has been based on the bubble model where a small group of students work in the same classroom every day with the same teacher. To ensure that we are able to minimise the risk of cross-contamination, students and staff will not mix during the school day. There has been extensive planning and preparation of the school site to enable the safe return of staff from 8 June and students from 9 June. A key consideration has been managing our school site, which is a large campus with many access points. We have chosen to open two blocks of the school only to students during their phased return. These are the Le Brocq English classrooms and the Science laboratories. No other classrooms will be accessed by students at any time. Students on phased return will not enter the Main Building unless in need of First Aid of a non-Covid-19 nature. We have chosen the Le Brocq and Science buildings for the following reasons:

- These blocks permit each room to have separate access, thus mitigating cross-contamination between bubbles of staff and students.
- The classrooms/laboratories are large, spacious, well ventilated rooms allowing up to 8 student stations and 3 teacher stations, while maintaining social distancing.
- These rooms are in self-contained blocks, meaning that cleaning can be done efficiently and effectively throughout the day.
- Toilet facilities are available and close to hand for all rooms.

We have developed an induction plan for staff for Monday 8 June, and separate induction plans for Year 12 and Year 10 students for the 9 June and 11 June. Further specific information for Years 10 and 12 will be sent directly to parents this afternoon. As I have mentioned in previous Newsletters, our school will not be back to normal for a while and we have introduced temporary changes to meet the strict safety standards to ensure students and staff are safe.

A special message to Years 7, 8 and 9

To our Year 7, 8 and 9 students in particular, we hope that we will have the chance to welcome you back to Victoria College in the near future but in the meantime, please rest assured that we will continue to support your home learning and wellbeing. You will continue to have your tutor meetings on Teams and phone calls home to support you all through the coming weeks. We hope that Year 7 and 8 will get thoroughly involved in their new College Diploma studies (please see Mr Crossley's update later in the newsletter) and that Year 9 are now enjoying the focus on their chosen GCSE subjects. This has been a very difficult period for all of us and we ask our parents and students to be patient and understanding as we work through this phased return to school.

CHANNEL VICTORIA PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL VIDEO

For your information, please see the link to [this video](#) by the Headmaster which shows the changes we have implemented ahead of our phased return for Years 10 and 12 next week.



#CHALLENGE 75

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from our very generous community for their involvement in #Challenge75.

Back in May we set out to raise funds for two very important local charities, Jersey Hospice Care and Age Concern Jersey, by asking our community to challenge the number 75. This was an attempt to celebrate the Liberation 75 anniversary, which we were no longer able to celebrate in the way we had planned.

Students, staff and OVs came together with incredible force to show the island what they were made of. The challenge saw teachers and students unite in a 75km run around FB fields, two Deputy Heads cycle 75 miles on turbo trainers, OVs running 75 laps of the torturous Knight Shield, amongst many more.

Not all of our competitors chose sporting challenges and we saw the reciting of 75 digits of Pi, the completing of 7.5 hours of mathematics, the collating of 75 occupation stories from locals and the exploring 75 historical sites of St Helier to name but a few.

Our aim was to raise £7,500 over the course of the challenge and that has been blown out of the water by all our generous donors. We have now raised **£9,950** and we are delighted to hand this money over to Jersey Hospice and Age Concern, so that they can continue their brilliant work.

Thank you everyone!

The fundraising page will remain open until 9am Monday 8th June <https://my.race-nation.co.uk/sponsorship/entry/315245>

ACADEMIC AND HOME LEARNING - Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head Academic



Year 7 & 8 assessment week results

These will be published electronically to you on Wednesday next week.

Year 7 & 8 College Diploma – Introductory Video

On Monday morning, boys will receive their first nine College Diploma tasks, as well as their core work in Maths, English and French. All work will be set via SMHW. In addition, boys can continue to tune in to the specially created Team to listen to one of their teachers read their favourite book. Please see the [introductory video on Channel Victoria](#).

Updated written reports – Years 7, 8, 10 & 12

Yr 7: sent to parents Friday 26th June

Yr 12: sent to parents Friday 3rd July

Yr 8: sent to parents Friday 10th July

Yr 10: sent to parents Thursday 16th July

Year 10 internal examinations

These have now been cancelled as a formal assessment week. Some departments may still choose to run their own internal end of unit assessments, if they feel that they will be beneficial.

THE HOUSEMASTERS – video messages to their Houses



The Housemasters have certainly been busy during isolation, but they have come together, from their gardens, to send [special messages to their Houses](#). Their messages share a common theme, which links to the co-curricular challenge set by Mr Akers, which has been circulated to all boys. Bon appétit!

CO-CURRICULAR WEEKLY HOME LEARNING CHALLENGE – Mr Akers, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular

This week's challenge has definitely been one of the most difficult to judge, with Housemasters and senior teachers alike trying not to dribble on our keyboards at the sight of all of the delicious foods!

A huge well done to Alex (7 Braithwaite), who was selected as the overall winner for his effort; a fantastic looking brioche plait. He will receive a £5 Amazon voucher.

The winners of each Year group are:

Year	Winner	House
7	Alex R	Bw
8	William R	Sa
9	Adam F	Bw
10	Charlie Y	Sa
11	Teague M	Bw



Each of our winners will receive a bar of chocolate. However! we have had a meltdown (get it- chocolate, meltdown...). The good people of Amazon have lost our order of 45 chocolate bars (I promise I haven't eaten them all!). More are on the way, so for any past winners... do not worry... they will be with you soon!

Thank you so much to all of the boys who took part, even if you were not a Year group winner your efforts were part of your House's overall position.

Positions for this week's challenge:

1 st	Sartorius
2 nd	Braithwaite
3 rd	Bruce
4 th	Dunlop
5 th	Diarmid

Next week's challenge is for boys to recreate a famous sporting moment in a short video clip. More information to come out Via SMHW on Monday but it should be a fun one!
Thanks to all for your support

ORACY – Message from Mrs Plummer Senior Teacher: Teaching and Learning

Oracy is a key skill that we aspire to develop in our students. In ordinary times, this takes place in lessons and in discussion groups as part of our cross-curricular offering. However, in these extraordinary times, the opportunity to discuss academic ideas and thoughts has been missing from our students' lives. For this reason, we would like to encourage boys to get involved with the following opportunities during this remaining half term.

Year 7 and 8 : have access to a discussion group as part of their Diploma. Mr Crossley has shared information about this with parents and students already.



Year 9 : Socrates Club will start again next week via Teams. If any Year 9s are keen to get together with others weekly and discuss topical points of interest, then please get in touch with [Mrs Plummer](#) via email and she will add you to the team. The first topic for discussion will be "How has coronavirus changed our lives?". Sessions will take place every Wednesday from 1-2pm.

Year 12 : a virtual Athena Society debate will take place at some point this half term, date, venue and time to be confirmed. If any Year 12s are interested in proposing a motion for discussion, please let [Mrs Plummer](#) know via email or chat on the Phoenix Society Team, to which all year 12 have been added.



ASSEMBLY ON INSPIRATION – Delivered by Mr Gosling, Assistant Head Pastoral



Listening to the radio at home, a song struck a chord which inspired Mr Gosling to feature an assembly on 'Inspiration'. We hope you and your families enjoy the presentation which can be [viewed here](#).

YEAR 11 : MORRISBY PROFILE – Message from Mrs Job, Head of Careers & Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form

In year 12 it is very useful if your son has taken the Morrisby Profile to aid his research with regards to future career paths. If your son has not already taken this, it would be an excellent way for him to utilise his time over the new few weeks as it can be taken at home. It is easy to do, but will require approximately three hours of his time. This can be split, as it does not have to be taken in one sitting.

In order to take the profile, your son will need an access code from Mrs Suzanne Job s.job@vcj.sch.ie and there is a cost of £25.00. Information on the Morrisby profile can be [found here](#).

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES WEBINAR – Message from Mrs Job, Head of Careers & Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form

There will be a free webinar for all students and parents providing information on applying to American universities and the testing system. The webinar will be on 30th June at 4pm and the link is below.

Please click the link below to join the VCJ US Applications webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84770246221?pwd=eTVZTWFCaUhGTET0YUY4SjRnZG1LQT09>

Password:

CCF UPDATE – Message, Mr Fidrmuc, Staff School Instructor

Return to CCF Training

We are now working on a plan to restart CCF training for the final few weeks before summer and to take full advantage of the weather and outdoors spaces, whilst following social distancing restrictions. This will still be dependant upon a number of factors, which need to be finalised. We hope to have a further update on this next week.

Friday Quizzes

We are continuing to run interactive quizzes on Friday afternoons for the cadets and these have been well received with over half of the cadets taking part. Over the last two weeks we have run light-hearted quizzes on the Adult Volunteers and Senior Cadets. This week it is back to a point scoring inter-sections quiz on Military Knowledge. Results next week.

Shooting Success

Just before half-term we received the news that our CCF shooting team of Tom M, Will M, Joe B and Toby J finished 3rd in the annual Cadet Forces .22 Winter League, with our B team close behind in 4th place and our C team in 6th place. Individually, Tom M finished as second place cadet and third overall (cadets and adults) with a score of 583/600. Well done to all.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- Common Sense Media :- a range of resources can be found here to help cope with anxiety, depression and specific difficult circumstances, for those who need it, via meditation, connection and other techniques. A list of helpful apps can be [found here](#).
- Tonight at 7pm The National Theatre at home is screening the official [Donmar Warehouse's Coriolanus](#) with Tom Hiddleston.
- #World Environment Day - Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust has put together a new short film, ['Journey Home'](#), which portrays the power we all have to both destroy and heal our planet.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are aware that the current COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause a good deal of financial hardship for some of our parents. I would urge you to contact me, in confidence, should you wish to discuss your current financial situation and what the school may be able to do to support you. In the first instance, please contact my secretary, Mrs Emily Oldridge via e.oldridge@vcj.sch.je.

As we look forward to receiving our Year 10 and 12 students and our staff back into College next week, can I wish you and your families a very enjoyable weekend.

With kind regards,
Alun Watkins
Headmaster