



# Headmaster's Update

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Dear Parents,

It has been an excellent week and we have been so pleased to have all boys back in school. Attendance rates for all year groups have been exceptionally high and from my visits to the classrooms, our boys are very pleased to be back in formal lessons. We are desperately keen to get more boys into school on a daily basis but we must comply with the Government of Jersey's explicit guidance. Schools have very different logistical setups and the size of our classrooms mean that due to the current physical distancing rules, as set by the Government of Jersey, we are restricted in the maximum number of pupils we can have in each room. At present, if we take in more boys then we run the risk of going against our own Risk Assessment and Workplace Safety Plan, which have been agreed by the Children, Young People, Education and Schools Department (CYPES), teaching unions, and our staff. Ours is first and foremost a safety-led approach – one, I am sure, which will reassure parents, pupils and staff at a time when concerns over health and welfare are still high – we simply cannot compromise on this. If the guidelines change, we will be able to accept more boys and we will be reviewing provision for the week commencing 6th July in light of any updates to the restrictions. I have been in touch today with several Headteacher colleagues in other States' Secondary Schools in Jersey and they are also feeling the effects of the restrictions which are limiting the number of pupils they can accommodate on a daily basis. The Education Minister has decreed that Years 10 and 12 are still our priority; until we receive any further notification from the Government of Jersey and CYPES, our timetable next week will remain the same as this week except for Friday 4 July when it will be our Transition day and we will be welcoming well over 100 new students into the College. We will not be able to have Year 10 in on this day and so the timetable for next week will be as follows:

| DATE                                 | YEAR GROUPS IN SCHOOL | NOTES  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>   | 9, 12                 |  |
| <b>TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>  | 9, 12                 |  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY</b> | 10, 12                |  |
| <b>THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY</b>  | 8, 10                 |  |
| <b>FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY</b>    | 7 only                | Year 6 Transition Day - Year 6 attending VCJ for whole day |

### **Announcement of Senior Prefect responsibilities**

Next Tuesday 30 June, we will hold a formal ceremony in front of the main building to announce our new Head Boy, Deputy Head boy, Sports Prefect and House Captains for 2020/2021. Normally this process would have taken place last term in the Langford Sports Centre in front of the whole school and invited parents. Delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will now be holding the ceremony next week with our Year 12 students and our staff in attendance. We will also welcome back our current Year 13 Prefects and it will give me an opportunity to thank them for all the excellent service they have given to the school whilst they were in office. I am always so impressed with the quality of our Prefects and their unfailing commitment to the role. This cohort have once again been outstanding ambassadors for the College and wonderful role models and we sincerely wish them well on the next stage of their journey. The full list of Prefect promotions will be published in next Friday's Newsletter.

### **CURRICULUM REVIEW – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS - Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head Academic**

Whilst the current situation presents new challenges, we are still looking to the future and our planned continued improvement. As outlined last week, over the last several months, we have been reflecting on the make-up of our curriculum offering. An important part of that is seeking the views of all members of the College community and it is with great pleasure that I include the link to the parental survey [here](#). Students will receive their own survey to their @vcj.sch.je email address.

### **JERSEY SERVICE 'RETURNING TO SCHOOL' - Message from Mr Gosling, Assistant Head Pastoral**

As schools reopen and welcome back students, CYPES Jersey Services has issued a variety of brochures and information sheets for students and parents. These cover emotions on returning to school, lives changing during isolation, support groups, critical incidents such as sudden and unexpected events distressing to pupils and/or staff, mental health and well-being. These are available on the school website and can be read here:

[A Key Themes Pack for Children Returning to School](#)

[A Key Themes Pack for Parents & School Return](#)

[The River of Wellbeing](#)

[The Window of Tolerance](#)

[Jersey Critical Incident Leaflets for Parents](#)

[Jersey Critical Incident Leaflets for Students](#)

[Jersey Critical Incident Response Pack for Families](#)



### **DEADLINE EXTENSION - Co-curricular and Citizenship Awards**

The closing date for the Awards has been extended to 1 July. Mr Akers' online introduction for the 2020 Co-curricular and Citizenship Awards can be [viewed here](#). There are two categories and three age groups. The awards celebrate our students' efforts, successes and activities outside the classroom and school and this may include volunteering during isolation. Notes of how to apply can be viewed in this detailed [CC&CA PowerPoint](#).

### **TACKLING BULLYING – Message from Mrs Watkins, Inclusion Coordinator**

#### **Peer Mentoring & Anti Bullying Ambassador training this week.**

As part of our overall school well-being strategy on Monday and Tuesday of this week the boys in Year 11 had an opportunity to start their training to support our new Year 7 students in September. The group utilized TEAMS for the online training programme and we were able to look at the role of a Peer Mentor, how important it is to our younger students and what to expect in their first meeting with their mentee in September.

It is hoped that before the end of term the Year 11 boys will have the opportunity to receive further training and an opportunity to practice their newly acquired skills through role play activities. If your son missed the training sessions opportunities will be sent to your son early next week.

### **Wellbeing and Counter Bullying Strategies**

The past few weeks has been challenging for us all and has impacted many people regardless of age. As the boys return to school we are all very much aware that for some, this re-introduction back into normal school will not be easy and for others quite a challenge. For example, suddenly finding themselves back in a large group of friends can lead to boys forgetting the importance of our school values, and in particular respect towards their fellow peers.

The Education Department through the work of Dr Graham Ramsden has instigated an island wide approach to “counter bullying strategies” and we will be sharing information with you and your sons in the future. If during the lock down period or since returning to school your son has been affected in any way by bullying or experienced well-being issues please contact his Housemaster, Tutor or myself via email: [s.watkins@vcj.sch.je](mailto:s.watkins@vcj.sch.je)

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

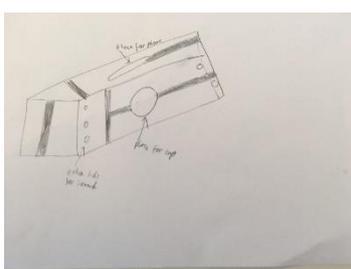
There is a free webinar for all students and parents providing information on applying to American universities and the testing system. The webinar will be on 30 June at 4pm. Please [click here](#) to join (Password: VCJ)

### **REDVERS – uniform procedures for September 2020 term**

Please be advised that due to safety obligations, Redvers has devised an appointment system for the purchase of uniform. Parents will need to make an appointment by telephoning Redvers on 731707. Appointments will take place between 20 July and 29 August, however a request for an alternative date can be made if you are unable to attend on these dates. Appointments should take no longer than 45 minutes and should only be attended by the student and one parent/carer.

### **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: COLLEGE DIPLOMA TASK – Message from Mr Batchford, Head of PSHE**

We were impressed with the standard of work received for this task. I would like to congratulate Alex GK in particular for his outstanding piece on De Stijl (The Style) made by Dutch artists from 1917 to 1928, an example of which is featured to the right. A great effort indeed and I am delighted to award him a £10 Amazon voucher.



### **MUSIC – Mr Murton, Director of Music** **Victoria College Orchestral Challenge**

This past week has been one of enormous activity for the Year 7 boys. With the help of external assessors, we have reached the end of our first year of the Orchestral Challenge. The year has been one of immense achievement and I am extremely proud of the boys who have kept hard at it, even though they have effectively been working in isolation since the end of March. With music being such a social activity, it had the potential to go off the rails, but with our determination to keep it working, I am delighted with the efforts of the boys, parents and their teachers to keep our challenge a challenge worth fighting for.

All the assessments are complete and all the boys have got to the end of the challenge. Some are relieved, some not quite believing that they have got there and others are looking to the future. Just over a third of the

year group will be continuing with stage two of our Orchestra project in Year 8 and that is higher than anticipated due to the lockdown.

During this period, the boys have had a very different style of music teaching and it has been more intense and more practical than many schools; but as a result, the attainment levels have been far higher.

### **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](mailto:e.oldridge@vcj.sch.je).

### **EXTERNAL RESOURCES**

**Accuro Jersey Triathlon Virtual Challenge** is open. Detailed Challenge Information Packs and booking links can be accessed through [their website](#). The virtual challenge will take place over a three-week period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July and is open to everyone from ages 8+ and there are Junior and Adult categories. The normal entry fee is £5 per person, but if you take up the challenge and raise funds for [Brightly](#) they will arrange for it to be waived.

And finally, I am very pleased to share with you some messages from newly appointed Prefect team on our core value Respect. May I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

With kind regards,

Alun Watkins  
**Headmaster**



# Respect

## **Oliver** 12 Sartorius

One of the key values of Victoria College students is respect. The definition of respect is having a due regard for others.

I personally have been showing respect during these unusual circumstances by appreciating that the teachers don't have all the answers and due to this we might have to use our initiative to find the answers to our questions.

Another way of showing respect is to keep to the social distancing rules in school as the teachers have made the effort to reopen the school, the least we can do is respect their efforts and stick to the rules.



## **Samuel** 12 Diarmid

During lockdown I felt the need to show respect had been greater than ever. My Mum gave up her home office so that I could have full access to all our technology to continue with my studies, so in return I helped her with household, garden and cooking chores.

Living in such close proximity day after day made it important to be mindful towards each other and I would sit down regularly to chat with my Mum to ensure we were coping as best we could. Staying safe, to show compassion and to listen to each other became a key role in life since the start of COVID-19.

I have respected myself by diversifying from my usual sporting activities and keeping healthy at our home gym, getting plenty of walks in the fresh air with our dog and eating nutritious meals. I have worked hard mentally to maintain the vital development of my academic on-line studies and I have tried to continually express my

admiration and appreciation to my tutors and fellow colleagues for their efforts in communication, hard work, for always being there and for keeping spirits high during these strange times. Outside of study times I have endeavoured to remember and help others, who may not be as fortunate, especially those living alone. It is rewarding assisting the vulnerable and elderly neighbours with shopping chores or even just telephoning them every few days so that they have someone to talk to.

We have to congratulate all those essential workers and along with many of the students and staff at Victoria College, I have done all I can to raise some money for charity, including the Nightingale run, sponsoring others and delivering some regular goody bags to Jersey Hospice to thank the staff for the difficult work they continue to devote themselves to. COVID-19 has brought new priorities and it has made me respect and appreciate my family, friends, teaching staff, normal routines, life in Jersey and staying safe and healthy more than ever, reminding me that it is paramount for all of us to keep in touch and to continue being considerate and respectful to people's feelings and circumstances at all times.

## **Joshua** 12 Dunlop

Respect is a broad term. People generally value it as a positive feeling or action towards something, however, everyone has their own meaning for it.

As a keen rugby player throughout my life, I have been repeatedly drilled to respect the people who have more knowledge than I do and are willing to share that knowledge with me. Yet, that respect has been split into two ways as I grew up. Self-respect, and respect for those around me, no matter their opinions or differences. Self-respect refers to loving oneself, and this is an important life skill, as it allows someone to build confidence which is helpful in all aspects of life.

As for respecting others, this is just as important, as it can help make the people around us happier. We don't know what is going on in other peoples' lives, and so we should be able to accept everyone around us no matter how different they may seem.

In a school environment such as Victoria College, this is especially crucial, as some people may be struggling from everyday school stresses or even difficulties with friends. Luckily, Victoria College takes respect as a core value in their teachings, and as a student who has grown through the school since year 7, I have seen this apparent in almost every lesson I have taken. Respect is a sign of maturity, so for anyone looking to prove they deserve extra responsibilities at the school, learn to have respect for those around you.

