



Friday 3 July 2020

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Dear Parents,

As we approach the penultimate week of term, I appreciate the unprecedented challenges we have all faced in recent months and the concerns parents will have regarding where their sons are academically, following a sustained period of remote learning. Since returning to school, Heads of Department and Senior Managers have been busy identifying groups and individuals who will require additional support from September and the Leadership Team have discussed the critical parent information evenings we host early in the academic year. Next week, I will be writing to you to outline in some detail our plans to incorporate more academic time for all year groups into our day from September, as well as the key curriculum and learning priorities at various stages of the Autumn Term. We continue to follow closely the Government of Jersey guidance to adopt a safety led approach, but I am very pleased that we will be able to have more boys in school on a daily basis next week.

It was great to see so many eager and happy Year 6 boys in school this morning as part of our induction process into the College in September. They met their new tutor, housemaster and teachers while participating in a range of eclectic activities and experiences to prepare them for the challenges of Year 7.

I was delighted to welcome back our Year 13 Prefects earlier in the week who all attended our assembly in the Great Hall to celebrate our newly appointed senior Prefect roles. Warm congratulations to Ben Wiseman our new Head Boy and to Sammy Cooil who was appointed Deputy Head Boy. The full list of appointments are in the message below.



NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020-2021 ANNOUNCEMENT – Message from Miss Rowland

Tuesday was a very special day here at VCJ. We were able to hold a socially distanced assembly, with an audience of current Year 12 and 13 students, teachers and our OVA President Oliver Hughes, to announce our new Student Leadership Team for 2020-2021.

On behalf of the school, we would like to express our thanks to our 2019-2020 Prefects for their exceptionally hard work, especially during such a difficult year and we wish them the best of luck for their, undoubtedly bright futures.

The annual Prefect assembly is a rite of passage for our students and we are very grateful that we were able to give the boys the acknowledgment they deserve, both to our current and new Prefects. Congratulations to our new Student Leadership Team for 2020-2021 who can formally be announced as:

Braithwaite

Josh Brown
Leo Olsson (House Captain)
Jared Toudic

Bruce

Aidan Boyle (House Captain)
Joshua Lawrenson

Diarmid

Dylan Kotedia (House Captain)
Sammy Cool (Deputy Head Boy)

Dunlop

Umar Hamid (House Captain)
Joshua Stuart
Aidan Stride
Oliver Wilderspin

Sartorius

Oliver Cawley (House Captain)
Robbie Forrest (Sports Prefect)
Patrick Gouge
Ben Wiseman (Head Boy)

Year 13s - Join the Old Victorians' Association

It was great to see some of our Year 13 students back in school on Tuesday to attend the presentation of the new Student Leadership Team and to know they are all keeping well.

It is now time for all our current Year 13s to join our prestigious Old Victorians' Association (OVA) where they will be able to connect with other OVs, be it via sporting activities, social events or in a professional capacity. Please could we urge your son to complete the '[Join the OVA](#)' document so that they can receive regular updates and invitations from the Association. These forms can be completed online (using a Windows computer) or printed out and completed after which they should then be sent to our Marketing department, either via email (c.rowland@vcj.sch.je) or post: Marketing Department, Victoria College, Mont Millais, St Helier Jersey JE1 4HT.

PARENTAL SURVEY AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM REVIEW - Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head

Academic

As part of our plan to continually improve the curriculum at Victoria College, last week you will have seen a link to a parental survey as part of our Curriculum Review. Over the last several months, many staff have been reflecting on and researching other examples of curriculum models at a range of schools in the UK and, as well as their views, your views are important too. Your help in [completing this survey](#) is very much appreciated. A similar survey has been completed by the staff and also sent to boys in every year. This survey will remain open until the end of academic year, with responses collated and considered over the next few months.

CHANNEL VICTORIA – Video message from Mr Donoghue, School Counsellor

Matthew Donoghue has created an excellent and relaxed video about 'What is counselling'. He talks about how he treats counselling as another subject lesson and that counselling is about understanding, appreciation and learning about ourselves. Matthew speaks about the situation over recent months, adapting, emotions and how to see and feel about simple tasks. You can view the [video here](#).

COUNTER BULLYING AMBASSADORS & YEAR 12 PEER MENTORS – Message from Mrs Watkins

Next week all boys in Year 11 have been given the opportunity to complete phase two of the Peer Mentoring and Counter Bullying Ambassadors training. They will be in school each afternoon taking part in role play activities and receiving important safeguarding training. Our new Prefects will be joining these sessions bringing with them their vast experience of working with Key Stage 3 this year.

Please do review the Counter Bullying Strategy sheet, where further guidance has been suggested to help support parents whose son may be experiencing bullying in the school or any other social setting.

If you have any concerns about your son, please do contact your son's Housemaster or myself s.watkins@vcj.sch.je

CCF UPDATE – Message, RSM Fidrmuc, Staff School Instructor

Shooting Club

This week we held the final of our individual competitions, the Malet de Carteret (For VCJ) and Brooks (for JCG). Seven boys scored 99 or above/100 last week to qualify, along with the two top shots from JCG. The final normally takes at least a couple of rounds to determine the winner, however George Y scored a perfect 100/100 in the first round which the rest of the boys were unable to equal and he was duly named as the winner for 2020. In the Brooks competition for JCG students, Taylor C beat Louise Y by a single point to become the first winner of this trophy. Well done to all and thanks to our volunteer Shooting Coaches.

YEAR 7 & 8 DIPLOMA

Geography Diploma Challenge – Message from Mrs Palfreyman

Last week over 50 Year 7&8 boys joined an online presentation with Rob Plummer, a meteorologist at Jersey Met. The presentation took the form of a Question and Answer session over TEAMS, offering the boys a chance to learn a little more about weather forecasting and presentation ahead of their second Geography Diploma task. The Geography Department have been impressed by the incredibly high standard of some of the submissions for this task, and have really enjoyed listening to and watching the Year 7&8 boys present their forecasts. Notable submissions were received from the following boys, and we would like to acknowledge and congratulate them for their efforts:

Year 7: Sydney S, Alexander GK, Year 8: Luca P and Ed C

The Geography Department would also like to take the opportunity to thank Adrienne Le Maistre (Senior Meteorologist at Jersey Met) for providing expert advice, local graphics and weather symbols, and Rob Plummer for offering his time and expertise to support the boys in this challenge.

Careers Challenge – Message from Mrs Job

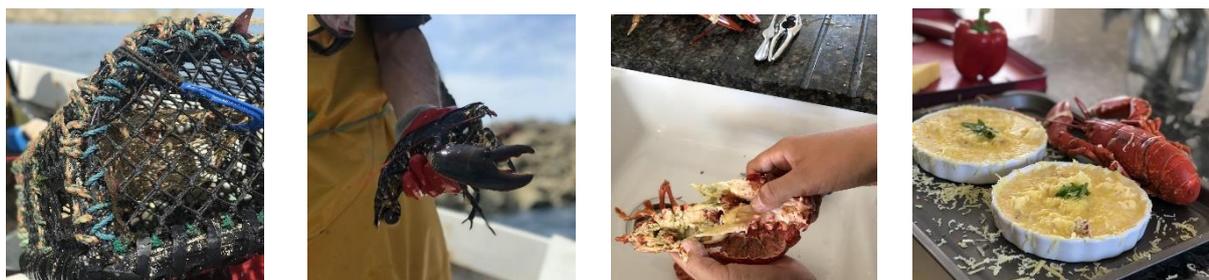
As part of their Year 7 & 8 Diploma, students were set a Careers task to research the technique of interviews. They then had to be interviewed by a family member for a job and asks questions, then carry out the role after a successful job offer. We received a great response to this task, but we would like to congratulate Toby M for his excellent interview with Mojang the creators of Minecraft; an incredible video. Well done, a £10 Amazon voucher has been awarded for this work.

FOOD CHALLENGE – Message from Mr Gorman

Well done to everyone who has taken part. Commendation has to be given to Harry N who has been consistently amazing with his work on Food and has tackled all of the 'challenge' recipes set. In particular the donut challenge was a complex recipe, that required patience and attention to detail and your recipe video was fantastic. Well done Harry, we have awarded you a £10 amazon voucher.



CO-CURRICULAR LOCAL RECIPE CHALLENGE – Mr Gorman



The Co-Curricular ‘Local Recipe’ competition asked boys to prepare a meal using local produce as its heart. The dishes submitted really highlighted just how lucky we are to live on an island that is abundant with such a variety of amazing high-quality ingredients. It was also fascinating to see how differently our boys have used these.

Many chose to work with seafood, a number of boys cooked mussels and Archie Langlois made a fantastic Lobster Thermidor using lobster he caught himself with his grandfather (photos above), while Oscar L chose sea bass. Seth R produced one of the best looking and technically challenging dishes of the competition with his Jersey 'surf & turf', pork belly and scallops. It is frustrating that I have not been able to taste any of the entries! Thank you to everyone that took part.

The overall results for the competition are:

Year	Student	House
7	Kai T	Di
8	John LF	Du
9	Alex LC	Di
10	Seth R	Bw
12	Sammy C	Di

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

It has been an incredibly busy term, well done to everyone who has taken part in so many of the challenges set remotely. The table of event positions and final standings for home learning competitions are:

	House	House Photo	Cooking	Trickshot	Rube Goldberg	Forced perspective Photo	Forced perspective Photo	Sporting	Local Recipe	Points
1	Braithwaite	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	17
2	Sartorius	2	1	1	4	2	5	1	5	21
3	Diarmid	1	5	5	1	1	4	5	1	23
4	Bruce	2	3	2	5	2	2	4	4	24
5	Dunlop	3	4	4	2	3	3	3	3	25

This sees Braithwaite take the top spot in the challenge with Sartorius a close second. With only 8 points separating all entries it has been a close competition the whole way through. We have seen fantastic photography, creative machines, sporting’s greatest moments and plenty of delicious food. Thank you to all of the boys for taking part and getting involved.

SPORT – Mr Smith, Director of Sport

It was fantastic to see competitive sport return this week as the 1st XI cricketers were able to play the Old Victorians on College Field. The game was played with special Covid-19 regulations in place to ensure player safety. Former 1st XI captain Luke Gallichan scored 114 for the Old Boys in their total of 277 in a declaration match. In reply Patrick Gouge scored an excellent 96 as the school ended on 177-8 to secure a draw.

On Tuesday the boys also played against Premier League side St Ouen Springfield, but the match was abandoned 8 balls into the second inning due to rain with the 1st XI 14-0 chasing a total of 177 to win. There were three wickets for new Sports Prefect Robbie Forrest.

MUSIC – Mr Murton, Director of Music

Our music department works closely with the Jersey Music Service and the Jersey Academy of Music with many pupils taking lessons at school. The Academy have just announced the winners of their awards for this year and eight College pupils have been awarded prizes:

Brass	Sam O and Alex GK
Strings	Magnus M
Woodwind	William P
Piano	Sam MD, Eden P and Cameron D
Theory	The highest mark awarded went to: Finn EK

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SHOP

The shop will be open on Saturday 4 July between 9am and 12:30pm. Due to regulations, numbers are limited to one adult and (one child) plus VCPA helper, so we thank you for your patience if you need to queue. We are based behind the Bistro and payment can be made via mobile banking app or BACS payment.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – message from the Headmaster, Mr Watkins

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.

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.

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

With kind regards,

Alun Watkins
Headmaster



Aspiration

Jared Toudic 12 Braithwaite

Aspiration is about setting high goals and finding ways to achieve them. It is about looking at what you could do to make the world a better place and setting a structure in to go about achieving it. Lockdown forced us all into our homes, into an environment we were not used to working in. Although this could have made me reconsider my goals as this was going to hamper my progress, I made sure that I could still find ways of achieving my goals.

For example, in addition to keeping up to date with all my schoolwork, I took part in Warwick University's "Physics Journal Club". This was an event where a prestigious scientific paper was released every week and I had to read through it and write a detailed analysis on it. Through my efforts my answers were published onto Warwick's website for being some of the best in the country.

My advice to the younger years is to think about what their goals are, and then commit to finding a way to achieve it. Perhaps it is looking at what subjects you like the most, and reading a book related to it, or wanting to improve your fitness, and going for a run. I personally regret not doing this earlier, having only started running in the last couple years I didn't realize how much I would enjoy it!



Oliver Wilderspin 12 Dunlop

Aspiration is defined as 'a hope or ambition to achieve something'. Victoria College students are lucky to have such a high-quality education, so we should be ambitious about what we want to achieve, both in the short term and in the long term.

Over lockdown, I aspired to do well in my Year 12 mock exams. This aspiration encouraged me to put a lot of time and effort into revision, which payed off and I was very pleased with my results. This was also part of a larger aspiration to get into a top University, as our results in those exams are a large factor in our University application predicted grades. As well as revision, I've also worked towards this goal by starting to read books on the topic I want to study (International Relations) so I can further understand the field, which could help me when writing my personal statement.

Aspiration, both of short-term goals such as exam results and long-term goals such as our plans post-18, should be one of the key driving forces behind the hard work we put into school.





Dylan Kotedia 12 Diamid

Aspiration is one of the key values in Victoria College, which I have embraced during my time at College. It is an important value in life; without goals we are not driven to improve ourselves individually. There will inevitably be disappointments, but these are learning experiences.

I personally am surprised by how far I can get and how much I can achieve by pushing myself and setting goals which at first may seem too ambitious.

During lockdown one of my aspirations was to get good grades in my PPEs. Another one was to maintain my fitness, so that when lockdown was lifted and the cricket season started, so that it remained at good levels. To achieve this, I decided to designate specific time periods for both work and exercise to help manage my workloads and fit in periods of exercise.

Looking forward, I aspire to go to a good university. During lockdown I undertook research to help with my personal statement and university course choices.

Apart from a few minor setbacks, my preparation during the lockdown period was beneficial towards my PPEs and fitness. I would encourage everyone to set their own personal goals; big or small and see where it takes them. Who knows where your ambition could take you in life! Aspire to be and do your best, no matter what life brings you.