



Learning Guide for Students



Building Successful Futures

RESPECT · RESILIENCE · RESOURCEFULNESS · ASPIRE

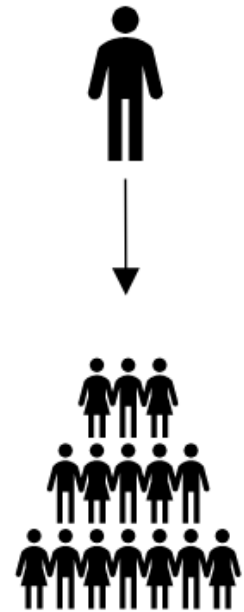
Learning in Class

In primary school, you have been used to mainly having one teacher, who works with you on different subjects over the day. Sometimes, you may go to different teachers, but mostly you are based in one room with one main teacher, who knows you well.

In secondary school, you will find that this is different.

You will now have lessons with specialist teachers and move from classroom to classroom to be with different teachers each lesson. Your main contact, who you will see every day, will be your form teacher.

Your average day will include five lessons, with five different teachers. These teachers may have different teaching styles- some might desk based, others more practical. You may have some lessons working on computers, using textbooks or tools or simply your imagination. Some of your lessons will only be once a week, but in the core subjects (English, Maths and French) you will have more. Some of this will be familiar from primary school, but you may find that working in specialist rooms will be different and you will have to learn new ways of working and rules for these areas.



Much of this is what you have been looking forward to and is what makes secondary school an exciting next step. You will be expected to be more independent. You will be responsible for getting yourself to your lessons on time and having your equipment and books with you each day.



Learning in class

So how can you help get your learning off to the best start at Victoria College?

- Make sure you are getting lots of sleep and eating well. This will ensure that you are always in the best mood for school and for learning.
- Pack your bag the night before to make sure you have everything you need. This avoids having to rush before school and means you won't forget anything.
- Develop good relationships with your classmates, so that if you get lost or find that you are struggling with something, you can ask them for help.
- Develop good relationships with your new teachers. Of course they will seem a bit scary when you first arrive at the school. However, don't be afraid to ask questions and be honest about mistakes or when you forget something, as this will help you to build a good relationship. This means that when you get stuck on something, they will be more approachable.



Limitless Potential

At Victoria College, we believe that you arrive in Year 7 with brains ready to be filled with knowledge and learning. That is why we talk about our students having limitless potential.



When you arrive in September, we like to think you are capable of everything and have the potential to achieve what you want to achieve through your own effort and commitment. We will help you to grow these attitudes through your learning and experiences.

If something is difficult or challenging, we want you to think "I can't do this yet". This is why we talk about resilience and resourcefulness as core values as we want to see these demonstrated in your learning.

"Yet" is a powerful word. It helps us to realise that we have the potential do things that we don't always know we have the potential to do. It helps us to try harder and not give up, when sometimes we might not have the resilience to continue. It helps us to look differently at a problem and find a way through it.

Can you think of an example where you have said that you can't do something recently? **Try saying it with the words "yet" at the end. Does it feel different?**

Learning and Our Core Values

You may have already heard about our core values. They are:

Respect

Resilience

Resourcefulness

Aspiration

These values are we want to develop in a Victoria College boy. You will be encouraged to demonstrate these values in your lessons and learning and your report will use these words. What do you think they mean? What do you have to do to show that you are demonstrating these core values?



Write down your thoughts below:

Respect:

Resilience:

Resourcefulness:

Aspiration:

Learning at home

Some of you may have had homework at primary school, but now you will find that you get more work to complete outside the classroom.

The main method of communicating homework is via the Show my Homework app. You may want to download this before school starts so that you have it on your phone for the first day of school. Your teachers will set you tasks with a deadline each week on this app.



Tip: complete your homework tasks by date set rather than date due. This will allow you to keep on top of your work

In the first few weeks, you will find that teachers will not set you very much homework. This is to allow you time to adjust to the new ways of learning that you will encounter. However, soon you will be set work from all subjects. Most subjects will set homework either once a week or once a fortnight.

It is a good idea to do homework on the night it is set, when the work is fresh in your mind. This way you reinforce the learning that you encountered in class and help secure the knowledge in your brain- a bit like super-powering your learning!

Advice for successful homework



Give yourself time to rest and eat after school before starting on homework. Have a break. You will feel tired because you are processing lots of new learning.

Teachers will set a time scale on the homework task- use this as a guide. This is to make sure that you don't spend too long on work.



If you are struggling, ask someone for help- family or friends. If you are still finding it difficult, email the teacher. This will show that you have attempted the work but found it hard.

If you forget the homework or don't complete it, for whatever reason, let the teacher know before the lesson, ideally, in person. They will understand and can suggest ways to get the work completed. It's ok and it happens.



What if I am struggling?

Firstly, it is important to understand that you will find the change to secondary school challenging at first. Your brain is having to process new changes and a step up in learning, so be kind to yourself, make sure you get lots of rest and talk to your family, friends and form tutor about any worries or concerns that you might have or if you are finding things difficult. It is reassuring to know that others feel the same, so talking to others will help you feel better.

However, if you are finding work too difficult, struggle to complete work in the time set or are feeling overwhelmed by everything, then you must talk to your teachers (particularly if it is in one subject) or your form tutor. They will talk through the problem with you to identify what the issue is and if necessary, get you further help.



There are lots of places you can go to get help:

- Your form tutor is your first port of call
- Your housemaster
- Your head of year, Mrs Ogg
- The Study Centre
- Your peer mentor, if you have one
- A teacher you trust

The college runs a **homework club** after school, which is a session where you can complete your homework with a teacher on hand to help. This might be useful if you are finding homework difficult. Your parents can find out more about this from your tutor.

What if I want more challenge?

Some boys adapt very quickly to life at Victoria College and really enjoy the pace of lessons and specialist learning.

If you are one of these boys, you may enjoy being challenged further.

There are lots of ways to do this.



- Get involved in our extensive co-curricular programme. Clubs and activities that will challenge and stretch your mind run every lunchtime and after school. You could play chess, discuss ethical matters in Socrates Club or even go to an engineering lecture alongside A level students.



- The Ed Le Quesne Academic Challenge cup is an annual prize awarded for academic challenges. You can take part in our annual Escape Room, quizzes, the Maths Challenge or Student Business Challenge. These will challenge you academically and gain further points for your house. Last year, we even had a murder mystery competition!



- Each subject has produced a guide suggesting further reading, websites and activities. You can access this from the school website.



- If books and reading get you excited, the Librarian, Mr Wooldridge, is an inspirational source of information. He can recommend books, magazines and games for you to read or play.

How can I tell if I am making progress?

In primary school, there is often a parents evening each term and a full written report at the end of the year.

At Victoria College, your teachers measure your progress in a number of ways.



- Low stakes knowledge quizzes and tests
- Assessment tasks- usually skill and knowledge based
- Homework
- Classwork
- End of year exam carried out in exam conditions in May

Teachers will feedback to you about your progress regularly in lessons and in written comments in your book. It is really important that you read and respond to this feedback, because it will help you to understand what you need to do to get better in a subject.



You will get a progress review every term, which will provide feedback on how you are doing in each subject. You will also get a full written report from all your teachers during the year.



Finally, your parents will be able to meet your subject teachers and tutor at special parent evenings during the year.

We hope you found this guide helpful and that you are looking forward to starting at Victoria College in September.

We look forward to having you join us!

Good luck!



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