



17<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Parent,

**Victoria College Biology Department**

During half-term (22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October) we are encouraging all Year 7 students to undertake a survey of a rockpool. This is part of a course designed to give them an appreciation of the natural environment of Jersey. We have found it to be a valuable experience in the past.

Your son will have been taught about the common organisms present along Jersey's coastline. His task is to do a survey of a small rockpool, make observations, take photographs and then present his results in the form of a poster to be handed in to his biology teacher during the week of 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November.

We have checked the tide times for this week. Low water is between 1230 (Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October) and 1900 (Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October). The start of the half-term holiday should prove the best conditions with high water at nearly 11 metres so there will be ample opportunity to study, for example, a rock pool low down on the beach.

Your son will have been briefed about the necessary safety precautions during his Biology lessons however these are repeated below for you information:

1. Boys should not work in groups of less than 3.
2. No-one should be out of sight of the other two at any time.
3. The tide comes in quickly and we recommend that the survey is carried out between the following times on one of the respective days below:

Date	Times of low water
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	0900-1100
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	0900-1100
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	1000-1200
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	1100-1300
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	1200-1400
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	1300-1500
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	1400-1600
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	1400-1600

4. Suitable clothing should be worn to keep warm and dry.
5. Boys should carry a mobile phone in case of emergency.

Boys will be collecting primary and secondary data. This data will include maps of the area, numbers and names of organisms found, temperature on the day, weather conditions etc. We would hope that they enjoy this kind of science and learn more about their local environment.

This is also an opportunity for parents to become more involved with the learning taking place at College and we would encourage all parents to either accompany their son or arrange for another parent to be present when the boys are surveying the shore area.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [j.hale@vcj.sch.je](mailto:j.hale@vcj.sch.je).

Yours faithfully,

*JMHale*

**Jon Hale**