



HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Parents,

Please find with this Newsletter, a copy of the latest Victorian which, once again, highlights the enormous range of activities that we are able to offer at the College. At our recent Prize Giving and Speech Day celebrations, attended by the Bailiff of Jersey, the French Consul, the Constable of St Helier and the Chairman of the Board of Governors, I was able to congratulate many of our boys on their wonderful achievements throughout last year. Top of the list of course, was the excellent public examination results which, once again, broke a number of school records. Last year's Upper Sixth was a large cohort of 96 candidates entering a total of 303 A2 Level examinations. The overall A2 pass rate was 100% with 92% of these results graded A* to C. Nearly a third of the Upper Sixth Formers gained three or more A*/A grades at A2. 10 boys achieved 4 A*/A grades. Particularly encouraging is the scale of success of the new A* grade, which has been awarded at A2 for the second year. This year, over 13% of all entries were awarded A* with 45% of all examinations entered receiving an A* or A grade. This is a whopping 6% increase on last year's achievements. In particular, we congratulate Robbie Chinn, Alexander Evans and Theodore Wou for obtaining three A* and one A grade and Will Southall, Philip Fortio and Remmi Harris for obtaining two A* and two A grades. Victoria College will be sending boys to a wide range of University destinations, including Warwick, Loughborough, Exeter, Imperial London, Oxford, Bristol, Bath and a staggering 16 to Durham. Courses range from accountancy to architecture, from mechanical engineering to pilot training, theatre and performance technology to pure degrees in physics, chemistry, biological sciences and mathematics. We will have our fair share of lawyers, medics and even one boy who has decided to study natural resource conservation in his native Vancouver, Canada.

At GCSE, there was a 100% pass rate, with over a quarter of all examinations taken receiving the top A* grade. Nearly 53% of all examinations taken were awarded A* or A grades. Well over half the year group obtained 5 or more A* and A grades and 28 boys achieved the gold standard of 10 or more A* and A grades. Special mention must be made of Alexander Cornish, Peter Graham and Louis Sangan who all achieved a clean sweep of 11 A* grades. Charlie Griggs achieved 11 A* grades and 1 A grade. Tanguy Tomes achieved 10 A* grades and 2 A grades. We were especially pleased with our Science results for Year 10 boys who sat these examinations early. All entered GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics and the results achieved were 50 A* and 10 A grades.

We congratulate all our boys on their splendid achievements. These results are a real credit to the commitment and hard work of our pupils but also a clear demonstration of the high quality and dedication of our teaching staff here at College.

As I mentioned in my Prize Giving speech, demand for places at College is at an all time high and we started the term with a record 736 boys in the School, which includes the biggest Sixth Form we have had in our history. We also welcomed 10 new staff to the College and I am delighted to say that they have settled in well over the first few weeks of the new term. We anticipate another busy, productive and enjoyable year and I very much look forward to meeting with parents on the touchline, at Parents' Evenings and the numerous events that feature in the school calendar.

With my very best wishes,

School News

Congratulations:

The following boys have been entered into the **Book of Excellence** for September:

Year 7 – Harry Torpy – For winning the Comer W60 Cadet Karting Championship in Guernsey.

Year 8 – Alexander Cotton – For becoming the Inter Island Under 60Kg Judo Champion.

Year 9 – Benedict Lewis – For becoming the youngest student at Victoria College to gain the full ECDL Certificate.

Year 10 – Oliver Rybarczuk – For playing guitar at the 'La Fete De La Musique' in Brittany.

Year 11 – John Benest, Joe Hogben, Tom Porter & Tom Ward – For winning 'The Battle of the Bands' and playing at Jersey Live.

Year 12 – Fabien Amy – For winning the Rive Challenge Cup and the W.T. Maret Trophy for Shooting.

Year 13 – Corey Bisson and Alex Cooke – For their outstanding performance representing Jersey in the World Cricket Tournament in Malaysia.

Sports Results:

Football Results

Year 7 A	1-1	Les Quennevais
Year 7 B	3-1	Les Quennevais
Year 7 C	11-0	Les Quennevais

Year 8 A	5-2	De La Salle
Year 8 B	1-2	De La Salle

Year 8 A – JSSA Cup

QF: Year 8A	3-1	Le Rocquier
SF: Year 8A	4-3	De La Salle
Fin Year 8A	3-1	Grainville

JSSSA Cup winners – ESFA 1st round Wed 28th Sept v Carter Community College

Year 9 A	4-3	Grainville
Year 10	0-2	Grainville
Year 10	3-2	Haute Valle
Year 11	5-2	Grainville
1 st XI	3-4	De La Salle
1 st XI	1-2	Elizabeth College

Hockey Results

1 st XI	3-8	OV Convicts
1 st XI	4-1	Thornbacks
2 nd XI	6-4	OV Victoriana
2 nd XI	1-6	JHC Ladies
Colts	1-3	JHC Tigers
Colts	2-3	OV Victoriana

Golf

Victoria College 5 – 3 Elizabeth College

Sailing Regatta:

Victoria College recently took on Elizabeth College, Guernsey in a sailing regatta. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in retaining the Brennan Transom Trophy and lost to a mature Elizabeth College sailing team 4 – 0.

The results: Race 1: 12 – 9
Race 2: 14 – 7
Race 3: 11 – 10
Race 4: 11 – 10

However, there will always be next year on home waters!

School Information

New Website:

We are delighted to inform parents that we have upgraded the School's Website: www.victoriacollege.je. In particular, we hope the new online calendar will provide parents with up-to-date information on all events, especially extra curricular activities occurring at the College. Should parents wish to make any comments regarding the information on the website, please contact Mr Phil Gray, p.gray@vcj.sch.je.

Forthcoming Victoria College Parents' Association Events:

The Association was established to act as a liaison between the management and staff of Victoria College and the parents of pupils. Members of the PA help organise various activities in support of this objective. It also runs the second hand uniform shop which, over the years, has generated many thousands of pounds in revenue and has helped fund student and college activities, as well as donating items of sports kit to various charities. In addition, the Association provides limited financial support to Victoria College and its pupils by way of donations for projects that fall outside of the normal budgetary scope of the college. This can be anything from supplying new drinks fountains to the purchase of a new minibus. We would like to remind parents about a couple of events coming up over the next half-term:

Wednesday 12th October – Afternoon tea in the Bistro Victoria from 2:45pm.

Tuesday 18th October – AGM in the College Library, starting at 7pm. Please come along to support your Parents' Association. If you would like more information about either of these events, the Parents' Association or would like to join the committee please contact the Honorary Secretary, Katie Hubbard, on 854742 or email khubbard@jerseymail.co.uk.

Chess:

Veselin Topalov (2006 World Chess Champion, 3rd highest ranking Grandmaster ever, and current world number 8) will be visiting College on October 4th to play 24 students simultaneously in the Great Hall. The event will start at 1545, spectators are welcome. The Chess club run in school takes place on Thursday lunchtimes and is open to all students. Jersey Chess Club run an after school club for U18s from 1800 to 1930, anyone interested in attending this should get in touch with Mr W Gorman via w.gorman@vcj.sch.je.

Music:

Music Department rehearsals are now up and running for this term and are listed on the College Calendar. Big Band on a Monday is for any interested students who are grade 4 and above, Brass Ensemble on a Tuesday for all abilities, Orchestra on a Wednesday for grade 4 and above, Recorder Consort on a Friday for all abilities. The Close Harmony Group on a Tuesday is for keen singers in year 10 and above. The College Choir on a Friday is an important initiative for this academic year and is for all keen singers in Years 7 – 9. Please encourage your son to take part in a suitable activity/activities, where appropriate. Any queries about involvement in these rehearsals should be addressed to Mr Davis (p.davis@vcj.sch.je) or Miss Humphries (s.humphries@vcj.sch.je).

Debate Team/Club:

There is a new debate team/club for boys in years 10-12. This takes place on a Thursday lunchtime in T1 & T2. Please contact Miss Jones-Padidar k.jonespadidar@vcj.sch.je for more information.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 29 th September	159 th Anniversary of the founding of the College Inter House Tug-of-War – 1.30pm Knights Shield Inter House Race around the Grounds – 3.30pm
Friday 30 th September	Parents' Association New Parents' Supper
Saturday 8 th October	BSSC – Orienteering Competition
10 th – 21 st October	Project Trident for Year 11
Tuesday 18 th October	Parents' Association AGM – 7pm
Tuesday 18 th October	Inter House Drama Competition
Wednesday 19 th October	Inter House Drama Competition
Thursday 20 th October	Inter House Drama Competition
Friday 21 st October	1 st Periodic Grades Posted home to parents for all year groups
24 th – 28 th October inclusive	HALF TERM
31 st October	School returns after half term – 8.25am

