



VICTORIA COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Christmas Newsletter

December 2009

Headmasters Introduction:

Dear Parents,

For most of the Prep community Christmas truly begins with our Service of Carols. It is one of those occasions where the whole family gathers together for a shared experience. We celebrate our good fortune in being together and look forward with hope to a new year and a new term. For some the challenges are greater than others and our thoughts are with them. We value mutual support and draw strength from our unity.

To the multitude of parents who continue to support the school

and give of their valuable time to assist in virtually every area we extend our thanks .

The Prep is a school of which to be proud. Together we will continue to face a challenging world with confidence and optimism.

All staff extend to each and every one of you the compliments of the season.



Queens Baton Relay:

The Delhi 2010 Baton Relay was launched on 29th October 2009 at Buckingham Palace in London, with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II handing the Baton to the Honorable President of India. On November 19th it reached VCP with six year 6 children carrying the baton



through the grounds on its way to the next school. Every child had the opportunity to touch the baton as it passed by . Previously it had travelled through the UK before us, and went on from Jersey through Europe and onto Africa.

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After School Club:

After School Club has started well and has been well supported. As you are aware this has been a trial period. We now want to clarify the shape this club will take moving forward into the new term.

After School Club will provide boys with the opportunity to complete their homework with some

supervision however the club cannot replace the invaluable time that parents spend with their sons listening to them read and checking their progress in other subjects. This must be done at home.

Educational games will also be provided by school for boys who prefer

not to use this time to complete their homework.

Boys are to be collected from outside the office. It is too disruptive if parents collect from the year 6 area and too dangerous for us to allow boys out into the yard unaccompanied.

Pull out booking form enclosed for next term.

Sports News:

After an extensive trial period, the football season has begun in earnest with all 12 VCP squads performing well and occupying the top 3 positions in all their leagues. The A-team has the knock out 7aside tournament coming

up, so will be looking to progress to the regional stages.

Diarmid win the House Football!

VCP finished top of the group in the local stage of the national 7a side tournament with some of the best football produced the VCP squad have produced this year. In the first match, VCP defeated Rouge Bouillion 3-0, then

PE Kit Reminder:

In the interests of health we encourage pupils to become involved in sporting activities and to be prepared to participate. It is essential therefore they have the appropriate kit in order to fully enjoy their sport with the maximum level of safety

and comfort. The development of good personal organisation is essential as they progress through the Prep and on to College. To encourage good practice a boy will be given 3 warnings per term before a debit will be issued for

forgetting items of sports kit. This is in line with the policy of Victoria College.

Can we remind you of the importance of bringing both training shoes and football boots for all games lessons, particularly as the weather becomes wetter and colder.

Cycling Proficiency:

Saturday 23rd January has been set aside as a training morning for any parents

wishing to volunteer to run cycle proficiency at school. It will run from 10am to 12

noon at Haute Vallee School. Please contact the office if you are interested.



Musical Notes:

As usual, the autumn term has been very busy for the VCP musicians. We began with preparations for the Eisteddfod. The Senior Choir took part this year; competing in the Dean Goss Trophy. The choir sang very well and were awarded a Silver Certificate.

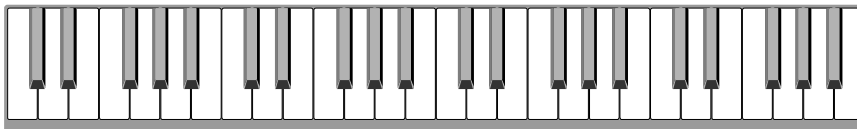
Other ensembles which have met regularly this term are the Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, Composition Club, Orchestra and Recorder Group. The Orchestra participated in a joint 'workshop morning' at JCG Prep, which was a great success. There were almost

80 performers who worked together for the morning and gave a short informal concert at the end of the workshop.

The Chamber Choir were invited to sing in the Royal Square at the Soup Kitchen in aid of Shelter Trust for the Homeless. We sang for 20 minutes to an enthusiastic crowd and received a tin of chocolates in thanks! After the end of term, the Chamber Choir will feature once more in a 'Fresh' series concert at Jersey Arts Centre - this series features leading young musicians and choirs from the island.

Classroom music has been as active as always and has culminated in a variety of performances in assemblies, both from soloists and whole class groups. As ever, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment which the boys at VCP bring to all aspects of their musical life at the school.

The term culminated with our lovely Christmas Service at Wesley Grove Methodist Church. This featured the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and vocal soloists. It was a perfect way to herald the end of a rewarding autumn term.



Eisteddfod:

Dance and Drama - Three dance groups entered the Creative Dance / Drama Class. The boys had been rehearsing since September and felt well prepared for their performance. Unfortunately two of our dancers were 'struck down' with Swine Flu and were unable to participate on the day. Nevertheless the boys excelled themselves winning two Gold Awards and a Platinum. They were then asked to open the Gala

Concert at the Jersey Arts Centre on Saturday evening. At the end of the Gala, the boys were then awarded the overall Dance / Drama Trophy for both Senior and Junior Categories.

Choir - Our Senior Choir sang with over 70 boys taking part. They did extremely well and received the Silver Award as a consequence.

French - 22 Year 6 boys and 26 year 5 boys took part in

the French Section of the Eisteddfod. The year 5 boys received 3 Gold, 18 Silver and 5 Bronze Awards. The year 6 boys were joint winners of the French Consul Shield thanks to the performances of Stanley Keites and Matteo Pallot. The shield being presented to the boys by the French Consul himself. Other boys received were 10 Gold and 11 Silver awards.

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We're on the Web!
www.vcp.sch.je

Stop Press:

Our annual Christmas Service was a very enjoyable family event. The boys' appearance, behaviour and musical performances were excellent. Our thanks go to Mrs. Silvester for making it such a success! The retiring collection raised over twelve hundred pounds! Thank you for your generosity.

Traffic Notice:

I have received further complaints concerning parents parking illegally and driving inconsiderately in Grosvenor Street and College Hill. Residents are being prevented from entering and leaving their homes and pedestrians are being forced to walk on the road.

There are many hazards to be encountered at the Pleasant Street/College Hill junction between 3.00 and 3.15 p.m. when 293 boys leave by the main entrance and cross two very busy roads!

Two members of our staff plus Mr. Perestrelo are always on duty until 3.15 pm, but in order to ensure that this difficult area is as safe as possible it would

help if you could follow these guidelines.

- Boys must only cross the road when told to do so by Mr. Perestrelo and should not re-cross.
- Boys are not allowed to wait on the pavement on the corner of Pleasant Street and Grosvenor Street.
- Boys are not allowed to walk up College Hill or Pleasant Street to meet parents, they should wait either on the red tarmac area or across the road at the junction of Grosvenor Street and Clarence Road.
- Parents should not delay collection; pupils should be prepared to enter their vehicle quickly yet safely.

- Boys must not play games on the pavement.
- Boys misbehaving or disobeying road safety rules in this area will face sanctions.
- Parents in Years 3 & 4 only may park in the playground to collect their sons.
- Parents must not block entrances to residential properties.

Parents may not drive or park in the College grounds.

These rules are in place to protect your child and also to ensure continued good relations with local residents. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation and support.

End of Term:

The end of term has been an extremely busy time packed with activities for the boys to enjoy including:

House Football Matches, Yr 5 / 6 Christmas Disco, Year 3 Christmas Party, Year 4

Bowling Trip and Year 5 Swimming Trip to the Aqua Splash and of course our Christmas Service

None of these events would have been possible without the help of our

tremendously dedicated parents. On behalf of the boys and staff at Prep, yet another big thank you to all those who continue to give their time and support to the school.