



ArtEquals Success for Victoria College

On Friday 30 June Victoria College Foundation held its inaugural ArtEquals event, an exhibition and auction in the Great Hall, providing students with the opportunity to exhibit their own artwork alongside those donated by local professional artists and other members of Victoria College staff.

The event was very well attended, with the Great Hall buzzing with students, their families, local artists and the wider college community. Over £4,800 was raised on the night thanks to generous pledges from guests and sponsorship by Intertrust Group, and over 80 artworks were sold.

Students had the opportunity to keep up to 50% of their sale price and three students shared the evening's awards. Edward, Year 11, received the prize for the student receiving the highest bid for his painting, 'Stormy Sea'. Indeed, he received the highest bid out of all the artworks bought. Ethan, Year 8, and William, Year 9, tied for the Public Vote Award with 11 votes each. Both students' pieces were inspired by one of the themes of ArtEquals, 'on my mind'. All three winners win vouchers for the Harbour Gallery and a visit to Ian Rolls' studio.

Planning for the exhibition and auction started in January 2023 and has seen Victoria College students create artwork in their own time – giving them the opportunity to take a screen break, relax and express themselves through visual art. Students used a wide range of media to express themselves including paintings, drawings, photography, 3D printing and collage with subjects varying from seascapes and wildlife to outer space. The prevalence of the natural world in many of the contributions underlines the importance of outside space and our local environment to mental health. There was a real positivity from all the attendees in response to the event, with many sharing ideas for a future event and expanding on wellbeing opportunities for the students.

Victoria College Headteacher, Gareth Hughes commented, 'I was delighted to host this first of its kind initiative in Jersey, which brought together students and professional artists, and members of the wider Island community. The artwork on display, with the theme of mindfulness clearly visible throughout, showcased so much creative talent and it was no surprise we saw a huge number of auction bids. The funds that we raised from this unique event will go towards the development of a Wellbeing Garden at Victoria College, taking the students directly into the natural environment where they can reflect in a quiet space. I am really pleased that the hard work that went into the event will directly benefit the mental health and wellbeing of our young people.'

These comments were echoed by local artist and Old Victorian, Ian Rolls, who said 'as an old boy of Victoria College, it was a very positive experience for me to see the Great Hall given over to an exhibition of artwork, full of variety, ideas, creativity and talent. It acknowledged the importance of creative thinking by young minds in these challenging times.'

ENDS

**Note to Editors**

Our mission at Victoria College is to nurture well-rounded, resilient young men who have the skills, attitudes and values to be successful and make a positive contribution to society.

Since we opened in 1852, we have been providing the highest standard of education to Jersey's boys and young men. We are known for our consistently excellent academic results - but they are just part of the story. At Victoria College, boys thrive and grow in many ways. Ours is a stimulating, friendly environment where they can study to the highest level and be taught by experts.

Beyond the classroom, our rich programme of co-curricular activities including strong sports teams, music programmes and the popular Combined Cadet Force, offer our boys a wide range of exciting ways to join in, belong and challenge themselves.

On average, the College has approximately 676 students, of which 75% come from our Preparatory school. We also welcome students into our secondary school and Sixth Form from all other local schools or from abroad.

For more information, please contact:

Charlotte Lavigne

Marketing & Events Officer

Victoria College, Le Mont Millais, St Helier, Jersey JE1 4HT

c.rowland@vcj.sch.je www.victoriacollege.je