



# Headmaster's Update

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Dear Parents,

This week has been particularly active and positive, aside from our usual sport, lunch time clubs, CCF and music, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a multitude of guest speakers this week. Local companies have introduced the boys to a range of different career opportunities, Dr Sigman spoke with the boys, teachers and parents on a variety of health and lifestyle issues; and two boys won their Heats in the PwC Jersey Musician of the year Competition.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

A special mention to our good Samaritans who stopped to assist a lady in St Helier this week, as a thank you the daughter posted an appreciative message on a local Facebook group page. It is always satisfying to receive genuine, positive feedback.

I would be grateful if these boys could make themselves known, so that I may thank them for being respectful in the community.

Would like to say a massive thank you to the lovely boys from Victoria Collage today who helped my mum when all of her things fell out her bag onto the pavement, there we 3/4 college boys all walking towards her (towards town) and all got on their hands and knees and helped her pick it all up 😊

Not quite sure of names or year group but well done to you all and your parents should be proud of the kind young men they've raised X

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2 comments

## PwC Jersey Musician of the Year Competition 2020

Our congratulations to Ed Clark, Leo Vernaglione, Darius Kayley and Cosi Dham who took part in this year's competition, and a special mention to:

Winner of the Wendy Falla Piano Heat : Darius Kayley

Winner of Johnny Begley Trust Brass Heat : Leo Vernaglione

Both of these boys participated in the final at the Jersey Opera House last Saturday.

Congratulations to Leo who won the Jersey Symphony Orchestra Award.

## Piano Exam

Many congratulations to Samuel Piskorz who successfully passed his Grade 1 piano exam with Merit 123/150 and to the positive and encouraging comment from his music teacher.

## **CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS**

As you are aware, Victoria College is closely monitoring the ongoing Covid-19 virus situation. We are receiving regular updates and guidance from the Education Department (CYPES) and information is being communicated regularly to the parental body. Please also check our website, which has a live link to the Government of Jersey advice on Covid-19.

The health and welfare of our pupils and staff is our primary concern, and we are providing regular updates to the boys on ensuring good hygiene practices. We have spoken to boys in assemblies about the need to follow the advice of washing hands regularly and to use disposable tissues when sneezing. Our site staff are also regularly checking toilets to ensure soap is available to our boys. Door handles, keyboards and handrails on staircases are being cleaned on a regular basis.

We also need to ensure continuation of academic provision in the event of any disruption to the school day. Staff have been briefed on academic contingency planning. Boys will be briefed during Assemblies and Tutor Periods next week on their various online accounts (Outlook; ShowMyHomework), to ensure that academic work can be accessed, whether in school or remotely. Communication methods will also be clarified so that boys can contact their teachers remotely with any academic questions. The IT department is on hand each day to provide support to pupils that require technical assistance. The guidance to pupils will also be communicated home to parents via ParentMail first thing next week, so you are fully aware of the plans.

Please visit the [States of Jersey Government website](#) for the latest information on Coronavirus.

## **UK MATHS TRUST (UKMT) Intermediate Individual Challenge**

Congratulations to the 100+ boys who took part and especially to those that received 13 Gold Certificates, 20 Silver Certificates and 24 Bronze Certificates.

By finishing in the top 8,000 participants nationally, there will be 8 Pink Kangaroo entrants in Year 11, 5 Pink Kangaroo's in Year 10 and 2 Grey Kangaroo's in Year 9.

Notably, Isaac Tarrant topped the scores for Year 9 and Wojtek Wiecek did so in Year 11.

Laurence Millns, however, not only scored the highest in the school and in Year 10, but also gained entry into the Hamilton Olympiad an invite reserved for the top 1,500 entrants nationally. A fantastic achievement!

## **MUSIC**

### **Emmy Award Winner, Blues Musician, Billy Branch Visit**

Senior boys were lucky enough to have an assembly held by Billy Branch, an American blues harmonica player and singer of Chicago blues. Mr Branch is a three-time Grammy nominee, a retired two-term governor of the Chicago Grammy Chapter, an Emmy Award winner, and a winner of the Addy Award. Mr Branch was joined on stage by OV and Memphis Blues Music Award Winner Giles Robson. Mr Robson is the first and only British or European blues artist to appear on Chicago's legendary Alligator Records, the most famous and long running active blues label on the planet.

The assembly consisted of Branch teaching the boys the history of the Blues, its origin and what type of topics help an artist write a Blues Jazz song. When asked what gave the boys the blues, Branch was told 'homework'!

Look out on our social media channels for a video of the assembly – it'll have you tapping your feet.

### **Commendations for Music**

Fraser Baird, Oliver Boyle, Che Englebrecht-Kotze, Ghassan Hassan, Max Hazzard, Yanis Irtizalli, Angus McLaughlan, Zoran Plummer, Edison Slater, Sydney Smith, Rhean Vardon

### **Stars of the Week for Music**

Fraser Baird and Zoran Plummer

## CCF

### CCF - Fullbore Shooting Team Training Weekend

On Saturday 29 February and Sunday 1 March the 2020 Fullbore shooting team gathered for a training weekend. The course was delivered in the main by the Senior Cadets and ensured our five newest team members have the knowledge to be able to make the transition from indoor 22 shooting to outdoor 7.62mm target rifle shooting. Well done to all involved and thanks to our RSM Fidrmuc and our volunteer shooting coaches Richard Benest, Mary Norman and Owen De Gruchy.

### CCF - RAF Cadet Drill Course

Over the weekend, CCF RAF Cadet's Jonathan Marett and Henry Higgins completed the RAF Cadet Drill Course with Jersey Air Cadets. Both passed written and practical tests and the course also included a session in Rifle Drill. Well done to both and thanks to Jersey Air Cadets for the opportunity.

### NEIL HUSSEY HEART CHARITY ECG CLINIC

We express our gratitude to the Neil Hussey Heart Charity who donated their time and equipment to provide 39 boys, collectively, with a complimentary ECG heart scan on Wednesday and Thursday. Operating out of the Temple, three nurses and volunteers took ECG readings of the boys and collated the data to notify the boys of any anomalies. This is an extremely beneficial service, which a lot of our boys have taken advantage of. If any parents have experience with taking ECG readings, and have some free time to donate to the charity to assist with ongoing clinics, the charity would be very grateful. If you are interested please contact via email: [neil.hussey.heart.charity@hotmail.com](mailto:neil.hussey.heart.charity@hotmail.com).

### MURDER MOST FOWL

As part of World Book Day, Key Stage 3 boys took part in a quiz where House points are up for grabs for the winners in each form. On Friday, our Librarian, Mr Wooldridge, ran an exciting Murder Mystery event 'Murder Most Fowl', the successful detectives will be announced on Monday.

### NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

National Careers week has been very exciting with external guests setting up stalls in the Bistro during lunchtimes to talk to students about Digital Careers, Careers in Sport, Engineering and Journalism, including two of our Foundation partners, Saltgate and Rathbones, who offered information about working in the finance industry.

In addition, thank you to two of our parents who have been in to talk to Year 7 about Financial Crime and Year 9 about becoming a doctor, and finally on Friday a pilot chatted to all age groups on the career path to becoming a pilot and life in aviation.

We are grateful for the support given from industries and parents, which has made this week so successful.

### JERSEY STUDENT BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Our boys are taking on the Student Business Challenge again this year. Advance notice that Saturday 21 March will be the Market Day and we hope that you will have the opportunity to visit them at The Central Market to see all the Jersey Student Business Challenge stalls and view the products and the charities they will be supporting.

### DR ARIC SIGMAN TALKS

Dr Aric Sigman, a health education specialist, spent two days at the College this week, his talks were very well received by the boys, parents and teachers alike.

- Talks for the boys included: body image, alcohol awareness, 'soft' drugs and mental health issues;
- Talks for the parents included: managing screen time and preventing mental problems in children;
- Talks for teachers specialised on mental health.

For parents who wish to refer to his school talks, please visit the website [www.aricsigman.com](http://www.aricsigman.com).

### **UNSUNG HEROES**

Whilst we try to include as many of our boys' achievements as we can in the weekly newsletter, we believe there are a few unsung heroes at the College. If your son has been participating in any co-curricular or charitable activities that we can shout about, please email our Marketing department on [communications@vcj.sch.je](mailto:communications@vcj.sch.je). Please also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to see daily updates of life at Victoria College.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,  
Alun Watkins  
**Headmaster**