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Dear Parents,

As I mentioned in my Easter letter, Victoria College is absolutely not the same without its pupils and staff all together but I am very proud of the way in which everyone has responded to this difficult and unprecedented situation. Many thanks to parents and boys who have contacted us about their experiences of working from home. We will shortly be sending a survey to our students and their parents and I hope that you will be able to find the time to complete it and send it back to us. It is important that we garner your feedback so that we can fine-tune our home learning procedures to support the learning of our boys. I know also that many of you have been appreciative of the phone calls and messages received from our staff and I am very pleased to say that we will continue to make contact with families and our boys in this way.

Ofqual have launched a consultation on their changes to the GCSE and A level grading process for this year. To have your say, please follow the [link here](#). As before and during the Easter break, you will be kept informed of any new information we receive.

I would like to share with you an update from our Head Boy, Sam Moore. I have no doubt that other College boys have been doing their best to support their local community, so please do let us know as we would like to share your experience with others admin@vcj.sch.je.

Dear All,

I hope that you are all well and managed to relax over the Easter break. I took the opportunity of having spare time and put to good use the 3D printer I invested in for my DofE Gold award.

I joined a group of around 25 people through Facebook groups and Whatsapp chats. I have come across such talented individuals who have been able to co-ordinate the process of producing over 400 face shields, which are now being used by care homes, GPs and the ambulance service. I was able to print top and bottom brackets for these shields, Jersey Post kindly collected these from all those involved and delivered to Les Quennevais school, where they were assembled by simply hole punching plastic sheets and placing it in the brackets, they were then thoroughly sanitised and delivered to those who were in need.



More information of the production of the face shields can be found here [JerseyFaceShields](#).

Following the recent shipments into the island and generous donations from individuals and companies, such as the OV Gary Hopkinson, the demand has significantly reduced but luckily we were able to fill the gap of the lack of PPE that was present before this.



Since then I have helped the hospital by printing 'ear protectors' which takes the strain of a surgical mask off the worker's ears to eliminate any potential pain. These have been given to hospital to use in a range of their departments. Another OV, Nathan Le Blancq, initially reached out to the 3D printing groups on Facebook which got this project started and he and his team are now benefitting from this.



I am now enrolled for volunteering with the parish hall, DBS checked and I am ready to get out and about helping the community.

As I said in my last message, if you do come across any trouble, whether that be academic or not, do not hesitate to get in contact with any of the staff, a prefect or even myself, because we are all here to help.

Kind regards,
Sam Moore, Head Boy

OV GARY HOPKINSON : Covid immunity testing kits on way to Jersey

We are always proud of the amazing things our OVs achieve, and this story is no different. Thank you to Gary Hopkinson (OV) and his business partner, Alex Shnaider, for helping the island in these testing times. Full article [available here](#).



OV PHIL SHARP : British Yachtsman shares his 5 principles on succeeding in isolation



Single-handed ocean racer, Guinness World record and World Speed Sailing record holder Phil Sharp would like to share his 'tops tips for succeeding during isolation' with students of Victoria College. Phil shares his experience on keeping morale and motivation high to achieve results in periods of extended isolation [Oceanslab.world/Phil Sharp](https://Oceanslab.world/Phil%20Sharp)

BRAITHWAITE 'Always Together' – Mr Smith, Housemaster & Physics Teacher

Mr Smith, Braithwaite's Housemaster has created a collection of images of students and staff at Victoria College, the Prep and Old Victorians from Braithwaite House to show their support for each other. Please do view [Braithwaite Always Together](#). If you want to be added it's not too late! Email your image to [Mr Smith](#)

VICTORIA COLLEGE WEBSITE - Coronavirus Information and Updates

Our website has a coronavirus banner on the main page, please click [here](#) for key information for parents – staff directory, governmental advice and home learning guidelines. This will be updated regularly.

HOME LEARNING PROTOCOLS & ACADEMIC UPDATE –Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head Academic

Over the course of the last week, an increasing number of our boys have been added to class “Teams”. More and more classes are being conducted via Teams, from basic chat functions to sharing of documents and audio/visual conferencing. As the Education Department IT Team increase our access to Microsoft Teams, we will increasingly be using it to deliver lessons and other academic interactions as staff and students become trained and better acquainted with this new technology.

The main tenets of our Home Learning guidance remain the same;

- Boys should receive one post, per subject, per week
- The work should be broken down into clear chunks so that is easy to follow
- The work will appear on Show My Homework on the day of the first lesson of that week
- Boys should submit work to the teacher in the manner stated
- When it is submitted, the teacher will mark this on SMHW so you can also see how your son is progressing with his work
- If this is not the case, please contact your son’s teacher

Academic Enrichment opportunities

All boys in all years have received a range of different academic enrichment opportunities via SMHW in each of their subject areas. These will be shared again on Monday via SMHW and emailed direct to boys’ email addresses.

Year 11 and Year 13 update

Teachers are busy finalising their submitted grades for the exam boards, taking into account a whole range of factors. Any questions relating to this, please contact [Patrick Crossley](#). If there are any updates, you will receive a separate email as soon as we have them.

On Monday, Year 11 will receive the first of their weekly A level preparation tasks in each of their chosen A level subjects from their new teachers, so please encourage your son to check his emails. This week they have been working on A level academic enrichment tasks shared by Mr Falle last week.

Year 13 will continue to be given pre-University reading lists, as well as opportunities for completing online courses that are appropriate for them as they take their next steps in life. Again, please ask your sons to check their emails for regular updates from Mr Falle.

As ever, for any comments of an academic nature, please do get in touch with Assistant Head Academic, Patrick Crossley.

PSHE – YouMatter

YouMatter can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @YouMatterje. You may wish to follow their page, as a BBC News post has been recently shared [Teenagers still working during lockdown](#)

CO-CURRICULAR

House Photography Competition – Mr Akers, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular

We had a huge number of entrants from across the year groups and the Senior Management Team had great pleasure in reviewing the images and voting for our favourites; a big well done to all boys for their artistic creativity.

I am pleased to announce that our category winners are:
(and each of them will receive a large bar of chocolate as a reward on their return):

Year	House	Category	Winner
7	Sartorius	spring	Byron Major
7	Diarmid	work	Kai Thornett
8	Bruce	spring	Oliver Pryke
8	Bruce	work	Cosimo Dhami-Hounsome
9	Braithwaite	spring	Adam French
9	Diarmid	work	Tate Moore
10	Diarmid	spring	William Wheatley
10	Braithwaite	work	Matthew Brown
11	Diarmid	spring	Freddie Pollard
12	Sartorius	spring	Benjamin Hart
12	Diarmid	spring	George Yates

And our overall winner, chosen for their image of young cattle, is Oliver Pryke. He will receive a printed canvas image of his photograph. Well done Oliver!

That means that the final House positions are:

House	position
Diarmid	1
Sartorius	2
Bruce	2
Braithwaite	2
Dunlop	3

This competition will go towards the Ed Le Quesne Academic cup, which celebrates academic and co-curricular activities throughout the year. More competitions to follow, I look forward to seeing the submissions.

Create a Rube Goldberg Machine – Mr Akers, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular

The boys have been contacted via Show My Homework with an optional activity to create their own Rube Goldberg machine. Named after American cartoonist Rube Goldberg, the machine is intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way. Usually, these machines consist of a series of simple unrelated devices; the action of each triggers the initiation of the next, eventually resulting in achieving a stated goal and often presented on paper and impossible to implement in actuality. More recently, such machines are being fully constructed for entertainment (for example, a breakfast scene in Peewee's Big Adventure) and in Rube Goldberg competitions.

This challenge will involve your son creating a string of events each being started by the last, a great example of this can be found here [YouTube](#) and there are plenty more examples on the internet to get some inspiration from.

Entry criteria:

- Open to all Year groups
- A video file saved to your one drive that is named in the below format:
- Year_house_surname_forename for example 08_Braithwaite_Smith_Jon
- please share this file with me (k.akers@vcj.sch.je)
- Any video format is acceptable
- By entering a clip you accept to have the video uploaded to the school social media accounts
- The closing date for entries is midnight on Thursday April 30th

MUSIC – Mr Murton, Director of Music

All the year 7s have had an online ZOOM lesson this week and they are also having ZOOM sessions with their Orchestral Challenge teacher. We are pleased that the response from parents and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

Two light-hearted anecdotes:

During an instrument lesson yesterday, the teacher and pupil were working well, but then a parent walked by in the background dressed in a FULL dinosaur outfit!



Another parent emailed to say that music is a bit of a legend amongst some mums in 7A – the boys were showered, fed, dressed and waiting for their lesson on Tuesday morning. Could they have more music lessons in the morning!

Music Orchestral Challenge Stars of the Week are:

Barney Aston	Caspar Ballands	Freddie Bastin
Monty Gleeson	Harry Newbald	Josh Penabla
Zoran Plummer	Alex Reczynski	Otis Williams

College Carmen

I would like the help of students, families and staff please! We would like to create a recording of everyone singing the College Carmen, can I persuade you to record yourselves singing? If everyone does it, I will be able to mix the recordings together to create over 800 voices singing!

Details of how to upload have been sent to all boys along with words and backing track, all you need to do is:

- Play the backing track through headphones and sing along into your voice recorder of your phone. Try it, it's quite easy..
- If you would like to do a video recording, that would be great as we could use that alongside the audios in the final edition: you must check with your parents before making a video version.
- Do as many of the verses as you wish - obviously, it would be great to have all 3
- Send your recording [to me](#) and I will do the rest!
- Deadline: Tuesday 28th April

If you don't think you have the voice, or you don't think you could do it, remember, with everyone taking part, you will not be heard as an individual voice. I will edit out any wrong notes and alter volumes so that the balance works... go on give it a go!

HISTORY – Ms Plummer, Senior Teacher: Teaching and Learning

The History Department has set up a Twitter page [@HistoryVcj](#) and we are sharing lots of interesting information on resources you might find useful, programmes or broadcasts that may be of interest and our daily challenge to test your history knowledge (currently #LadybirdHistory). Please do follow us if you are on Twitter.

The Festival of Words has launched a creative competition, open to all. Details can be found on their Facebook page : [Festival of Words](#)

Classical Civilisation GCSE: The Classical Civilisation GCSE course will now commence in September with the exams still being taken in May. Having done this before in previous schools, I am confident that this group of boys will rise to the challenge and achieve strong results in the examinations. Any boys that are particularly keen to make a start can [email me](#) for a reading and resource list that will help them prepare for the course.

CCF Update

Whilst we may not be able to conduct face to face training with our cadets at the moment, a number of tasks are still ongoing in the background with the SSI & Adult Volunteers putting together the 2020/21 training programme, and the cadets were all set annual proficiency exams over the Easter Break. As and when we get the green light to return to College, the CCF is ready to go with what is always our busiest term, with every session taking place outdoors or on the water.

The end of the Easter break was the deadline for our aspiring future leaders to apply for promotion. With 33 cadets in Year 10 and upwards applying for promotions ranging from Lance Corporal to Regimental Sergeant Major, we have now begun the process of selection. For the most senior positions this has seen us having to improvise, adapt and overcome the current situation. Instructional technique assessments and interviews have been completed virtually during the week via Zoom with the Contingent Commander, Head of Section and SSI.

As we approached the Easter break we also received the very disappointing, but fully understandable, news that this year's British Cadet Shooting Team 'Athelings' Tour to Canada has been cancelled (a first outside of the world wars). This is a shame for our three selected cadets, **Tom Mulholland, Will Mulholland and George Yates**. However, they have been advised that they will be recognised as Athelings having passed selection and we will be adding them to our Honours Board in due course. It is hoped some form of 'postal' competition may take place later in the year.

We are aware that a number of our cadets have also been affected by the cancellation of our Adventure Training Camp, Bisley and RAF Summer Camps to the UK. We are now working hard to put together an on-island package for the affected cadets during Activities Week and details will follow in due course.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

We are delighted that we have now been joined by Mrs Lisa de Gruchy, who will be teaching Business Studies and co-ordinating our Trident programme; Mr Adam Warburton, who will be teaching Theatre Studies; and Mr Lee Evans who is our new Science Technician. They have joined us at an unusual time in the life of the College but they are warmly welcomed to our school community.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Jersey Heritage

Heritage at Home brings together all sorts of things that you can enjoy from the comfort of your home, from virtual tours, crafts and learning activities, to family history resources and live webinars. There are plenty of things to watch and do in the hub already and they will be regularly updating and adding to it. Visit their [website](#) to connect.

I hope that you have a very enjoyable weekend and you and your families are keeping safe and well.

With kind regards,

Alun Watkins

Headmaster