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Dear Parents,

It has been a highly unusual week without our boys in school and an unsettling time for everyone. I hope you are all well and looking after each other and your son is showing independence and self-reliance whilst, of course, continuing to count on the support of his teachers. It is our intention to ring every parent/student by the end of next week and to date, well over 350 calls have been made by our senior staff. It is encouraging to receive so many generous comments about our home learning package, the guidance and support that has been afforded by our staff and the positive way in which the boys seem to be coping at such a challenging time. We do, of course, value your comments suggesting areas for improvement and understand that with this new way of working, there will be the inevitable teething problems but we will do all we can to ensure that these are rectified as soon as possible.

Naturally, this has been a very difficult time for our boys in Years 11 and 13 and we will continue to update you, and them, of the finer details regarding the awarding of this summer's public examination grades. We are awaiting further clarification from Ofqual and the exam boards but we will be in contact when we have more information.

Earlier this week, I rang the parents of boys in Years 7 and 8 who are deemed 'critical workers'. Thank you for your appreciative responses and on behalf of the Victoria College community, can I thank you for all the wonderful work you are doing at such a challenging and uncertain time. We have put in place the necessary arrangements to deliver on our commitment to help the community deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. We understand that we will need to be fully prepared and flexible in the coming weeks but remain absolutely committed to supporting the boys of our key workers.

As you will know, the Government has offered much advice regarding Covid-19 and the steps we can all take to limit the spread of this disease [States of Jersey-Coronavirus advice](#). Whilst we need to be understanding of this advice, it doesn't mean that our boys have to completely lock themselves away and stay indoors. It does mean, however, being sensible, responsible, vigilant and kind to others when they go outside for much-needed exercise.

You will find in this week's newsletter some guidance, information and contact details from a number of my colleagues. Whilst we are in the midst of this pandemic, I have no doubt that the VCI community will continue

to pull together to offer each other support and compassion. The next few weeks will doubtless present challenges but also opportunities. I will endeavour to maintain regular contact with you and would urge you to keep the communication channels open with my colleagues so that we can all work together in the best interests of your sons.

A full staff directory is available on our website, and at the following link.

https://www.victoriacollege.je/_site/data/files/secondary/894C1F8F5C0061D561D0DF203616E9A7.pdf

2020 EXAMS – FAQs

Following the cancellation of exams for Years 11 and 13, FAQs are available on the College website, link below-

<https://www.victoriacollege.je/news/?pid=11&nid=1003&storyid=1130>

SCHOOL CLOSURE CLASSWORK PROCEDURE

Home Learning Guidelines are in place for all year groups and, from Monday 23 March, pupils have received regular work from our teachers. Our online learning platform –ShowMyHomework– is the primary method of delivery of work. If you, or your son, have any concerns please could you contact the relevant member of teaching staff via e-mail.

If you have not already done so, you will receive a phone call contact from a member of the senior team over the next week, leading up to the calendared end of term date of 3rd April. This will be to check in on how pupils' work is progressing, and also to help answer any questions you may have.

HOME LEARNING - Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head, Academic

We are grateful for the feedback that has been received during phone calls home from members of the SMT this week. This is a learning experience for all of us, and so it important to adapt as we go along. Our primary concern is, as ever, the wellbeing of our students, their families and our staff.

A number of lessons are being delivered interactively and in accordance to the timetable. Many staff are exploring a range of ways of making lessons more dynamic to reflect the current situation. However, we do not feel it is practicable to enforce this across the curriculum due to the availability of devices in family and staff homes, as well as the family situations of both students and staff. As far as possible, the content taught will mirror the planned Curriculum Overviews, but there will be some adaptations. Please bear with us as we work to get this right.

In order to streamline the delivery of work, from Monday, the following updates have been made;

- Boys will receive one single post, per subject, per week, even where that subject has multiple lessons.
- Content should be broken down into chunks, and guidance given as to what should be achieved. This post will appear on the day of the first lesson of that subject in that week.

Work should be submitted in the form specified by the teacher, who will feedback to students in an appropriate manner when they can.

In addition to the set work, from Monday, all students will also have access to a range of Academic Enrichment resources and activities that can be Read, Watched, Clicked On, Listened to and Made in all curriculum areas.

If you, as a parent, are experiencing difficulty with accessing the Show My Homework platform, please email admin@vcj.sch.je by the end of Sunday 29th March. Please include your son's full name, year group and house to help us to solve the problem.

If you would like to discuss the academic provision for your son, please contact Patrick Crossley, Assistant Head Academic p.crossley@vcj.sch.je.

HOW ARE THE BOYS COPING IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES? – Message from Mr Gosling, Assistant Head Pastoral

One of the great aspects of Victoria College is the sense of community. In terms of well-being, all students need to feel they are connected to their peers; days at home can make them feel disjointed and disconnected. Stress and anxiety can be amplified by being alone. In normal times these connections are maintained and built at school. However, in the current circumstances, students may struggle to maintain contact with their friends or feel they are becoming increasingly isolated from their friends or social circles. Closely linked to this is the issue of loneliness, which again can undermine a student's well-being. Modern technology and the range of social media platforms can offer a way of reducing the feeling of loneliness and promote well-being. Students could be encouraged to set up groups with their peers via platforms such as Face-time or Zoom. However, as with all social media, this needs to be monitored carefully by parents as such platforms can also be misused.

If you have any concerns, please find below some key contacts at school:

Academic Concerns :

Mr Crossley / Assistant Head Academic / Email: p.crossley@vcj.sch.je

Academic Heads of Years (AHOY) :

Mr Falle / Head of Sixth Form / Email: a.falle@vcj.sch.je

Mr Carolan / AHOY: Year 10 & 11 / Email: b.carolan@vcj.sch.je

Mrs Priestley / Educational Needs Co-ordinator & AHOY Year 9 / Email: o.priestley@vcj.sch.je

Miss Bryan / AHOY Y8 / Email: j.bryan@vcj.sch.je

Mrs Ogg / AHOY Y7 / Email: l.ogg@vcj.sch.je

Pastoral Concerns :

Mr Gosling / Assistant Head Pastoral / Email: m.gosling@vcj.sch.je

Mrs Watkins / Inclusion Co-ordinator / Email: s.watkins@vcj.sch.je

Matthew Donoghue / School Counsellor / Email: m.donoghue@vcj.sch.je

Housemasters :

Mr Smith / Braithwaite / Email: t.smith@vcj.sch.je

Mr Royle / Sartorius / Email: a.royle@vcj.sch.je

Mr Crill / Bruce / Email: j.crill@vcj.sch.je

Mr Coe / Dunlop / Email: s.coe@vcj.sch.je

Mr Cox / Diarmid / Email: d.cox@vcj.sch.je

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Should your son require support, the School Counsellor, Matthew Donoghue, will be available to provide counselling support Tuesday to Thursday 8.25am to 3.25pm next week. He can be contacted on r 07797 739 315.

Meetings with the School Counsellor will not be held in school, until schools return to normal opening hours in Jersey.

If you have any other pastoral concerns Mr Gosling can be contacted on m.gosling@vcj.sch.je or 638212.

PSHE – Message from Mr Batchford, Head of PSHE

There is a great resource for Years 7 to 11 to help improve students' knowledge and awareness of Covid-19, <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/coronavirus-newstink>.

This provides access to lots of health-related resources, which will be signposted to the boys on a weekly basis for as long as is necessary. Perhaps the boys could review this task for their registration period time which is

normally from 2.00pm - 2.20pm. Key Stage 3 PSHE lessons are available through SMHW following the normal timetable of one hour per week.

REPORTS AND PROGRESS REVIEWS - Message from Mr Crossley, Assistant Head, Academic

Please be advised that Year 10 full written reports will not be sent home this side of Easter; these will be finalised and sent out in the first half of the Summer Term. Progress Reviews for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 will be completed this term and will be sent at the start of the Easter holiday.

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – Mr Akers, Senior Teacher: Co-Curricular

I hope you and your son are safe, well and managing to feel that you are making the most of your time during the school closure. To offer boys a quick creative challenge, I would like to invite your son to enter a House photography competition. Entries can be made using either a mobile device or a higher spec camera. There are two categories and boys can enter either or both:

- ❖ Spring Has Sprung
- ❖ Working From Home

All pictures should be shared with me with via email: k.akers@vcj.sch.je and contain the student's name, House, Year group and category in the subject of the email.

Please could I ask for any pictures taken using a DSLR or other high res camera to be shared using the Microsoft One Drive system.

The closing date will be Thursday 2nd April and we will announce a winner for each year group in each category on Friday 3rd April. The winning pictures will be chosen by our Senior Management Team based on the criteria "it made me smile".

With current Government recommendations of social isolation and distancing, please do encourage your son to consider how he goes about taking these pictures. We will seek parental permission prior to uploading the results to our Facebook and Twitter accounts. I look forward to seeing the results .

CCF

Shooting Successes

Over the Spring term our shooters have been competing in the British Schools' Smallbore Rifle Leagues, as we do every term. Results are now in for the Spring Term and our teams have done very well.

In the Senior Section (more experienced shooters, team of 5, '10 bull' card), our A Team won Division 4, and our B Team came 3rd in Division 6. In the Junior Section (junior shooters, team of 4, '5 bull' card), our C Team came 2nd in Division 5, the D Team also came 2nd in Division 7, and our E Team won Division 9.

We have also had the results back from the British Schools' Senior Smallbore Championship, and very well done to our finalist Joe Beddoe who finished a very respectable 9th in his first year in the Senior Championship (he won the Junior Championship last year).

Camps and Activities - Update

Cadets will be aware that we have had to cancel our Adventure Training Camp in May half term and the RAF Summer Camp and the Bisley Competitions have been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation in the UK. At the moment, Army Summer Camp and the Royal Navy Courses in July are still due to go ahead.

The SSI and Adult Volunteers are now working on an on-island tri-service Activities Week package for the affected cadets and details will follow in due course.

With regards to all other CCF on-island training, we are continuing to plan for all events up until the Summer holidays (and beyond!) in the hope that the situation improves and the current restrictions begin to be relaxed, although notable events that we were due to support have been cancelled, such as the Boat Show and Liberation Day.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY - UK Chemistry Olympiad Competition

Many congratulations to five Year 13 Chemistry students who achieved superb results in Round 1 of the Royal Society of Chemistry's competition. The five students sat a demanding two-hour examination, with awards being graded at Gold, Silver and Bronze level.

Gold awards, which were awarded to only 8.2% of the 9182 entrants, were awarded to Thomas Cotillard, Samuel Moore and Lysander Mawby.

Silver awards, accounting for 24.0% of all entries, were awarded to Oliver Cook and Archie Mason.

Taking into account that 32.1% of all entries achieved no award at all, this is a remarkable achievement for our boys.



ADVICE FOR YEAR 12 – OPTIONS AFTER A LEVEL – Message from Mr Falle, Head of Sixth Form

During this home-time, we suggest that our Year 12 parents can encourage their sons to do some research on their options after their A levels, whether this is going into employment or off to university. Some excellent websites to use are:

Morrisby	www.morrisby.com	Unifrog	www.unifrog.com
UCAS	www.ucas.com	Prospects	www.prospects.ac.uk/

If your son would like to take the Morrisby profile they can do this at home for £25, payment to:

Sort code 40-25-34
Account 31237632 – Victoria College School Fund
Ref Morrisby / student name

SCHOOL TRIPS

There have been a number of school trips affected by the current travel situation. We are working with travel companies and our insurers regarding the reimbursement of costs of any trips that have been cancelled. We are exploring all options to ensure that we are able to refund as much of the cost possible and we will be in contact with parents when we have more information.

Please do take care of yourselves and my best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.

With kind regards,
Alun Watkins
Headmaster