

ASPIRE, ENDEAVOUR, ACHIEVE



THE
VICTORY
ACADEMY



Welcome

from the Headteacher

Dear parents, carers and students

I am delighted that you are considering choosing The Victory Academy for your child's education. Choosing a secondary school is one of the most significant decisions parents and guardians have to make.

The Victory Academy is very proud to be part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust's (TSAT) family of schools, and our students are taught to use thinking tools to support them with their learning. There are several Academies in the Trust, primarily in the Medway, Kent, Plymouth and Portsmouth areas, including both Secondary and Primary Academies. TSAT has been ranked by the Government as the highest performing academy trust in the South-East for GCSE results (2020). Our cognitive approach to education provides our students with the tools they need to develop their learning as they grow, facilitating their educational 'Thinking' journey into Sixth Form, to university, and beyond to their chosen career paths.

Our school is named after HMS Victory, first launched in 1765, which was built only 2 miles from here at the Chatham Historic Dockyard. We have strong links with the Navy and are proud to have our very own Sea Cadet unit. The Victory Academy is at the heart of Chatham, and we are proud to be part of, and work with, our local

community and enjoy our unique status within Medway as a school focusing on artistic excellence, naval heritage and cognitive education.

At The Victory Academy, we are committed to transforming the life chances of our students, ensuring that all are supported and encouraged to have high aspirations and achieve their personal best. We consider ourselves to be highly inclusive, and welcome students of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Our ethos is one of care and compassion which enables our students to grow in a supportive atmosphere conducive to their development. Where students need additional support, we will look to meet their needs through our well-resourced pastoral system and can offer a bespoke programme for any student with specific aptitudes and interests, including the most able. Our design for pastoral and academic mentoring ensures that we know all members of our community well, enabling us to provide the appropriate support and curriculum to allow each student to realise their potential and achieve their personal best.

We have high expectations of how our students behave, speak and present themselves, both in the Academy and in the local community. Our

expectations are underpinned by our Victory Values of respect, pride and belief, values derived from Costa and Kallick's Habits of Mind.

The Victory Academy is officially accredited as an Advanced "Thinking School" by the University of Exeter. We are also extremely proud to have been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award for the second time in 2023 by the Arts Council England. And, more recently we are proud to be part of the Royal Shakespeare Company Associate Schools Programme. We celebrate and promote creativity in everything that we do.

Our school boasts a thriving extra-curricular programme with many opportunities for students to grow their talents. In the sporting arena, the school has a wide range of very successful teams, a Football Academy, and a professionally equipped fitness suite. We also have outstanding student productions, dance shows and exhibitions.

I hope our prospectus gives you a real insight into life at The Victory Academy; we look forward to welcoming you to our community.



Mrs Michelle Smith,
Headteacher



Aspire

We recognise that every child has their own personal talent that must be nurtured and developed.

As a school, we work with our students to help them identify their unique talents and ambitions. Then, we support them to achieve their aspirations.

All students are appropriately challenged to achieve their full potential. Many students have academic talents. We provide excellent support to the most academically able.

Some students are gifted in more creative ways, and thrive in the visual and performing arts. Our school offers additional tuition in the creative arts and stages several excellent productions and exhibitions every year which allow our students to explore and showcase their talents.



Our school has excellent facilities, including a professionally equipped fitness suite and 3G pitch, to support and inspire students in a variety of sports and activities.

Every student at The Victory Academy is challenged to think about their future and consider the goals they are working towards.





Endeavour

We all know that in order to be successful we must invest the time and effort necessary for us to achieve our goals.

Therefore, at The Victory Academy, we support students to develop the right habits and skills to be successful, not only at school but also throughout their lives.

As Aristotle wisely said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." At The Victory Academy, we identify and

work consciously on effective habits of mind with students to help them develop the right habits to be successful. These habits of mind equip our students with transferable skills which prepare them for success in their futures.



Achieve

Whatever a student's talent or abilities, the school strives to grow the whole person.

We believe that, in supporting our students to grow as individuals, we must nurture and encourage not only their academic progress, but also their personal development. Our curriculum and teaching and learning strategies are designed to help our students achieve their very best academic results, as well as offering our young people opportunities to pursue their passions throughout their time in the school.

These opportunities are rich and diverse, and include drama groups and productions, dance troupes, the Visual Arts Society and many sporting opportunities and teams, including a Football Academy partnership with Advanced Player Development (APD).

In this way, students develop their own passions and develop key "soft skills" of leadership, teamwork and independent action that are critical to their long-term success. We are privileged to work in a stunning learning environment with excellent resources. The Academy is focused on providing an education for all. Our belief is that each person is unique – every member of our community has gifts and talents that we seek to develop and channel.

In addition to these many activities, we also nurture, support and encourage every individual's talents. Whatever your ambition, The Victory Academy will support you in achieving your goals.



Community

At The Victory Academy we believe that all students are part of something special.

Each student belongs to a House and engages in House competitions and activities. Through this structure, students develop close bonds and key skills, such as collaboration, teamwork and resilience.

Our teachers and students work with a range of partnerships. The Victory Academy has established links with The Historic Chatham Dockyard, The Royal Opera House Bridge, The Marlowe Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Nucleus Arts, APD, Fort Luton, the Local Cultural and Education Partnership (LCEP) and the Sea Cadets. These relationships not only connect our students with the wider community, but also enable us to offer a variety of unique cultural opportunities to our young people.

The Academy prides itself as being a cultural champion that gives back to the local community and has strong links and partnerships with our local area. The students and staff at the school proudly demonstrate their Victory Spirit to raise funds for charities that support local families. In addition, the school runs a host of events during the academic year, including International Women's Day, Victory Day, LGBTQ+ History Month, Thinking Days, Sports Day and Studio VA, which all encourage a real sense of community within our school and beyond.





The Creative Arts

The Academy offers a broad and balanced curriculum geared towards ensuring that students will be dynamic members of society when they leave us either to further their education or start their chosen career.

The Arts are part of our cultural heritage and are highly valued at The Victory Academy. Those who have studied learning processes throughout the ages, beginning with Plato, have emphasized the importance of The Arts in education.

We believe that all students should be given the opportunity to increase their self-esteem, to cultivate self-discipline and, through rich and diverse cultural and creative experiences, work actively and constructively with others.

Our Arts provision, both in the curriculum and beyond, provides our students with specialist tuition, innovative practices and a real insight into employment opportunities within the creative industries.

In order to offer a full and enriching experience which builds cultural capital, The Victory Academy has

committed to our Artsmark journey, ensuring the cultural and creative education we provide is broad, diverse and engaging. In 2023, our school achieved its Platinum Artsmark Award for the second time, recognising the outstanding success of our mission to incorporate creativity and cultural education across our curriculum and school ethos.

Every student at The Victory Academy has a Cultural Passport which encourages them to record and reflect on their cultural experiences. The Passport offers a range of activities and ideas for broadening students' horizons and developing their skills, from managing a budget and learning a survival skill to visiting an art gallery and trying foods from different countries. Our school offers as many opportunities as possible to equip our young people with a diverse set of experiences, skills and knowledge.



"At TSAT, we believe in the value of cultural education and encourage all of our schools to embark on Artsmark journeys. The Victory Academy is the flagship of Artsmark within the Trust, setting a fantastic example for our schools, having received the Platinum Award twice!"

Mandy Gage - Director of Culture



A Foundation for Thinking

To be a student at The Victory Academy is to be part of something special.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools that work together to “transform the life chances” of all our children and young people. We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, The Victory Academy takes pride in the unique approach we take to education; we provide our students with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners. We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our students are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society.

The use of these Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research, and students are

encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps, De Bono’s Thinking Hats and Art Costa’s Habits of Mind. These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our students tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at The Victory Academy as part of our Thinking School ethos. Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best, and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.

In 2022, The Victory Academy was accredited as an Advanced Thinking School by the University of Exeter’s School of Education, which leads the way on Metacognition, Thinking Skills and Creativity.



Advanced Technologies

The Victory Academy has outstanding facilities for students to use to support their learning.

We have four newly refurbished, fully resourced ICT suites that students can access as well as an Open Access computer area in the Art and Design, Technology and 6th Form areas. In addition, many departments have their own mini-ICT suites with technology specifically to meet the needs of the subject. In addition, every classroom has an electronic whiteboard to enable teachers to use the most interactive and engaging media with their students.

At the Victory Academy, students are able to enhance their learning by harnessing the latest technologies in a creative and exciting manner.



Sea Cadets

Medway Victory Sea Cadets aims to offer challenge and adventure to all its cadets at The Victory Academy..

We are proud to have our very own Sea Cadet unit for Victory students, as well as students attending our fellow Chatham Thinking Schools: Holcombe Grammar School and New Horizons Children's Academy.

Sea Cadets believe in helping our young people get a head start in life by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves.

Through Sea Cadets, young people get to take risks in a safe environment and have their first taste of responsibility, giving them valuable experiences that

they will never forget. We offer the chance to experience something different and the opportunity for young people to discover their potential.

All this is made possible by the efforts of our dedicated team of hard-working volunteers. Our training scheme ensures that each of our volunteers get to make the best use of their skills and talents. Some of the training includes Naval battles, fire safety, first aid, knots and much more.





Thinking Schools Academy Trust

At The Victory Academy we believe that students need to feel part of a successful Trust.

The Victory Academy is part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) which is a highly successful and respected Trust comprising both Primary and Secondary Schools. We believe 'we are one' and our primary aim is to improve the life chances of all our children and young people.

Our Trust comprises a number of secondary and primary schools from Kent, Medway, Portsmouth and the South West that are all committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole-school integrated approach to cognitive education. We are passionate about the difference this makes in nurturing adaptable and resilient thinkers. Indeed, through this approach to the teaching of thinking, we believe it "makes learning irresistible".



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