The Victory Academy Newsletter

April 2024

Headteacher's End of Term Address

Terms 3 and 4 have been incredibly busy for students and staff alike. Year 11 and year 13 have been working hard during the final countdown to their formal exams. They will receive their final mock exam grades this term which will allow them time to make some final tweaks to their learning and revision programmes. During the first week of Easter break, we have some revision sessions available to support the final push.

Our sporting teams are flourishing. I was particularly pleased to attend the first match for our girls' football team. Our students continue to represent us well in all number of events from rowing, netball and basketball to dance, music and performances.

We welcomed year 5 students from a number of primary schools to take part in our Harry Potter themed workshops. We really enjoyed working with them (and their teachers) and look forward to welcoming them again.

This will be my last newsletter as the Headteacher of The Victory Academy. You will know that I am moving into a Director role within



the Thinking Schools Academy Trust. I will continue to work closely with the school as part of my new venture and will check in regularly with the students and staff alike. I hand over the reins to Mr Owen who has been at the school for 10 years. I look forward to continuing and overseeing the excellent work of the staff and students of our school.

Have a restful Easter break.

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Facebook - @TheVictoryAcademyChatham

X (Twitter) - @TheVA Chatham

Instagram - @tsat victoryacademy



Key Dates

Term 5

Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May 2024

Year 11 & 13 Parents' Evening — Thursday 18th April Year 7 Parents' Evening — Thursday 2nd May Bank Holiday — Monday 6th May Year 12 Work Experience Week — 20th to 24th May

May Break – Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024

Term 6

Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July 2024

Year 12 Enrichment Week – 3rd to 7th
June
Year 11 Prom – Thursday 20th June
Year 13 Leaver's Day and Evening
Celebration – Friday 28th June

A Level Results Day – Thursday 15th August

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 22nd August

Updates and News

Rights Respecting School Silver

We were officially recognised as a UNICEF Silver Rights Respecting School on 22nd February. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is made known to children, young people and adults, who use this shared understanding to work to improve child wellbeing, school improvement, global justice and sustainable living.

The initiative is led by Assistant Headteacher, Miss Simperl, and the Academy's Student Council, who are passionate about raising awareness of children's rights and have worked hard to make changes in the Academy. Work has been done to develop both our current Victory Citizenship curriculum and tutor time, to learn about global citizenship.

The Student Council spoke passionately to the accreditation team, stating, "We learn about human rights, which is important to make sure that everyone has opportunities and that you know about respect. It is important for children to know that they can be heard."



Chadlington Scholarship Success



Congratulations to Laura K (year 11) for being successful in gaining a Chadlington Scholarship place at King's School Rochester Sixth Form. As part of the process Laura attended an interview and tour around the school site.

The school were impressed with Laura's commitment, drive and academic passion, commenting that she interviewed very well. We are so proud of Laura and wish her all the best in her further studies.



Headteacher of the Year Nomination

Congratulations to our Headteacher Mrs Smith for her nomination for 'Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School' Award in the Pearson National Teaching Awards. This is a testament to the incredible work Mrs Smith does to support the staff and young people she works with.

School Food Champions

Our Food Ambassador students recently met with Mr Owen, Mrs Oravcova and Mrs Daffey from Chartwells, the Academy's catering company. They discussed healthy food options and how to promote healthy eating in school. This is part of the School Food Champions with Bite Back. The campaign gives students campaign opportunity to devise a social action project and change the food in schools, focusing on healthy eating and food diversity.



Updates and News

Uniform

Ahead of the new term please can we ask for support in ensuring students have the correct uniform. As part of our Victory Values we take pride in ensuring a high standard of uniform and appearance. Items marked * can be purchased from our uniform supplier identified below.

Our School Uniform:

- Academy blazer*
- Academy tie (House colour)*
- Plain black V-neck jumper (optional item in addition to a blazer)
- White shirt, either long or short sleeved
- Plain black straight leg trousers (no skinny fit or denim) or plain black knee-length skirt
- Plain black ankle socks (no frills or colours) or plain black or skin-colour tights
- Plain black flat formal enclosed shoes (no boots, canvas shoes or trainers)
- Black headscarf (to be worn for religious reasons only)

Performing Arts & PE Kit:

- Academy PE top*
- Academy half-zip long sleeve top (optional)*; no other long sleeve tops are acceptable
- Plain navy shorts or plain navy knee-length cycling shorts with discreet logo
- Trainers
- Navy football socks (desirable)
- Football boots with plastic studs (desirable)
- Shin pads (desirable)

Uniform can be purchased from <u>Monkhouse</u> and <u>School Time</u>. The nearest shops are:

Monkhouse
Unit 28 Chatham Dockside Shopping Centre
Maritime Way
Chatham
ME4 3ED

Telephone: 01614 767 216

School Time Outfitters 87-89 High Street Chatham ME4 4EE

Telephone: 01634 831 684



Exams

Upcoming in Term 5 we have the summer external exams, starting on 2nd May. Students will receive their timetables in due course.

Advice to students:

- Make sure you know the date and time of your exams
- Ensure you arrive in plenty of time for your exam
- If you are running late please contact the Academy and advise them you have an exam
- If you are unsure of anything please contact the Exams Officer, Ms Littlemore

All students sitting summer exams need to be available up to and including Wednesday 26th June, as this date has been chosen as the JCQ contingency day. This is the last date upon which any exam can take place, should it have to be moved from its original time/date in the event of national or local disruption to exams.

The examinations awarding body (JCQ) has put into place rules and regulations to allow the exams to run as smoothly as possible and to ensure fairness for all students. Please take time to familiarise yourself with them here.

We look forward to celebrating with students as they receive their results in August. The dates are:

- A Level Thursday 15th August
- GCSE Thursday 22nd August



World Book Day

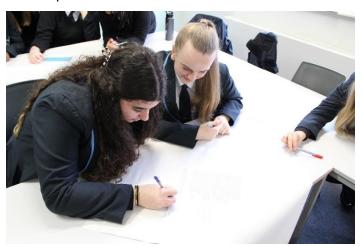


A wide range of activities around were held Academy to celebrate World Book Day Thursday 7th March. Many members of staff donned their costumes to celebrate their favourite characters and the love of reading. Throughout the school day, students were introduced to their teacher's favourite

book at the beginning of each lesson, as well as completing a Masked Reader quiz in their English lessons and creating their own comic strip! A book drive was held at break and lunch to raise money for the library whilst giving old books new homes. Thanks to Miss Dean and the wonderful Student Librarians!

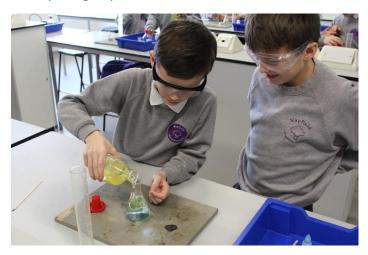
Year 9 Taster Week

All year 9 students took part in Taster Week prior to Options Evening in March. This was an opportunity to learn about new subjects offered at GCSE and ask questions. Students took part in a mixture of sessions and assemblies to support them making their options selections.



Primary School Taster Days

In February we welcomed Swingate Primary School, New Horizons Children's Academy, Lordswood Primary School and Wayfield Primary School for their Year 5 Taster Days. The students had a tour of the Academy and took part in Harry Potter themed activities in our English, Science, Languages and Computing departments.



Swingate Primary School - "The day has helped our students overcome their nerves about secondary school. They learnt that lessons at Victory are fun and engaging, even if they are a higher level."

New Horizons Childrens' Academy - "The pupils have adored their time at Victory today. The day was extremely well planned and each session was so engaging."

A big thank you to the year 5 students and staff for visiting!

On Friday 2nd February we welcomed New Horizons Children's Academy, Luton Primary School, Walderslade Primary School, New Road Primary School, Lordswood Primary School and Balfour Junior School for a Headteacher Coffee Morning. We discussed collaborative ways for a smooth transition for year 6 students coming to secondary school.



LGBTQ+ History Month

Throughout February our students and staff celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month, and the lives and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community. The month also aims to promote tolerance and raise awareness of the prejudices faced.



The LGBTQ+ flag was raised in the Courtyard and our departments created displays honouring current and historical figures of the LGBTQ+ community.

On Friday 9th February we held our 'Be You' event. Activities included rainbow face painting, writing heart messages for our display,

and raising money for the Just Like Us charity. A big thank you to our Be You Ambassadors for your help!

Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March we took part in Red Nose Day to raise money for Comic Relief. We held a cupcake sale and red nose face painting. A big thank you to our Sixth Form helpers for organising and running the event.



National Techognition Day

On 8th March we took part in National Techognition Day to celebrate the fantastic work done by technicians in education. We put up posters around the Academy to familiarise our students with our amazing tech team.





Year 9 Army Session

Some of our year 9 students attended sessions with the Army over a 6-week course. The sessions included team building and a variety of activities to push them out of their comfort zone, such as working with other students they didn't know and speaking in front of the class. For the final session, students were put into groups and worked together to build a sling shot.

Sixth Form

It's been a busy term for our Sixth Form students with lots of events and trips happening, as our year 13 also prepare for their last few weeks at school and A level examinations.

Community Day

Our year 12 students are doing exceptionally well in their roles during Community Day. On a Wednesday, students can either mentor a younger student, support with reading for younger students, help staff during a Learning Period 1 lesson or support the reprographics team. It's amazing to see how well our Sixth Form are supporting our younger students in the Academy and this is having an overwhelmingly positive impact for a number of our students.



Personal Development Lessons

Our year 12 students have been spoken to by visitors from Kooth this term. This has been beneficial to support students with their mental health and be able to find out more about the services Kooth offers. Students have also had a lesson from Mrs Anderson discussing 'Are happiness and pleasure the same?' and a lesson on National Apprenticeship Week.

Next term we have GamCare visiting to discuss gambling and addiction, our Sixth Form girls will be taking part in a self-defence session, and we will be taking part in a driving awareness course.

Parents' Evening

It was great to see so many parents and carers for Year 12 Parents' Evening on Thursday 1st February. We had lots of positive feedback from staff, parents, carers and students and this was great to hear.

Apprenticeship Fair

On Friday 8th March all year 12 students visited the Apprenticeship Fair at Mote Park, Maidstone. Students were able to speak to a range of business and apprenticeship opportunities, to support them with making the best decision for after year 13.

Work Experience Week

Year 12 will be taking part in Work Experience Week from Monday 20th to Friday 24th May. Students have been independently finding work experience and have been using Learning Period 1 on a Thursday to do this. Students should inform Mr Cass and Miss Clark when they have found a placement.

Sixth Form Leadership Team

This term we had interviews with students applying for the various roles in our Sixth Form Leadership Team. Congratulations to Deborah O and Vladislav B who have been appointed as Academy Captains. Also, congratulations to our Vice Captains Jack W, Karolina K, Caitlin L, Shevell K, Monique M, Elias U, Paige I, Vanessa O and Nathaniel A. We are looking forward to working with our amazing team.

Year 13

Our year 13 students have been working hard towards their A level examinations. During Learning Period 1, students are either revising or completing coursework. They have now completed their mock examinations and are attending extra lessons during the school day or after school.

Students in year 13 have also benefited from sessions led by Kooth to support their mental health, particularly during the examination season. They have also had career meetings to plan their next steps. Students applying to university have recently been spoken to about student finance and how to apply for tuition and maintenance fees.

Next term students will have the opportunity to work with GamCare to discuss gambling and addiction, and will have a session on examination expectations.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all year 13 students the very best of luck for their exams and we look forward to celebrating your last day of school with you on 28th June.



Cupcake Project

Our year 9 Art students have been working on a Cupcake Project to explore and experiment with a wide range of media, techniques and styles. They developed their drawing skills, mark making and painting, then explored painter Wayne Thiebaud's work and colour techniques. Recently the students have made and painted ceramic cupcakes.





LGBTQ+ Hearts

Throughout February our year 8 Art students have been researching the works of Keith Haring and Jean Michel Basquiat. They have produced love hearts that represent LGBTQ+ inclusion and diversity, which have been assembled to create a vibrant display in the Art corridor.



Canterbury Trip

On Tuesday 5th March our year 12 Art students went on a trip to Canterbury. They explored the Cathedral, Westgate Gardens and other medieval landmarks as part of their research for independent projects. Students were able to take lots of photographs and create beautiful drawings to incorporate within their projects.





Printmaking Workshop

Our year 12 Art BTEC students have participated in a printmaking workshop, experimenting and producing creative and bright mono print artworks for their coursework.



Geography

Fieldwork Trip

Our year 12 Geography students went on a trip to Stratford, London to hone their fieldwork skills and prepare for their coursework later in the A level course. They expertly gathered data on the changes to the Stratford area by interviewing members of the public, taking environmental quality surveys and gathering photographic evidence across the newly developed Olympic site.





Upcoming Trips

We are very excited for the arrival of the summer terms where we will be completing the NEA data collection with year 12, and collecting data with our year 10 students both locally and in Deal and Walmer.

Geography Club

Students attending Geography Club have begun reading The Power of Geography by Tim Marshall in their first step into the world of geographical literature. With a Kindle and copy of the book in hand, the club have been discussing the intricacies of geopolitics and how the world around us has shaped the human world as we know it.

Year 11 Mocks

Congratulations to our year 11 students for their efforts during the mock examination period, specifically with their two Geography papers. Students have made great strides since term 2 and this has given both staff and students the information needed for the final push for revision before the summer. Well done all!

ICT

Disneyland Paris Trip

We are excited to share with you the incredible opportunity we recently provided to our Key Stage 3 students — a trip to Disneyland Paris for the Computing Live! Conference and a day in the park. This unique experience aimed to combine educational enrichment with fun and memorable moments.

During the Computing Live! conference, students had the chance to engage with industry professionals, gaining insights into the latest advancements in technology and how they intersect with various aspects of our lives. From coding workshops to interactive demonstrations, the conference offered a hands-on approach to learning that ignited our students' curiosity and passion for Computing.







Following the conference, students had the opportunity to explore the enchanting word of Disney where they could unwind, bond with classmates, and create lasting memories. This trip not only enriched our students academically within Computing but also fostered personal growth and social development. We look forward to offering more trips and experiences for our Computing students in the future.



MOVE IT Dance Exhibition

On Friday 15th March our year 10 and 12 Performing Arts students went to MOVE IT at ExCel London, the biggest dance exhibition in the world. The students watched professional performances and interviews, took part in dance classes, received careers advice, enjoyed practical activities and viewed company stands. Miss Lacey was thrilled to see how much our students were inspired by the event. It was also fantastic to see a previous Victory student performing at the event! Miss Lacey would like to thank Miss Wilson for planning the whole trip, then sacrificing her place to attend the trip to be with year 11 for the day, enabling Miss Lacey to take her place.

The Great Big Dance Off

Some of our year 10 and 12 students competed in The Great Big Dance Off national competition with their piece 'Possessed' choreographed by Miss Wilson. The dancers were very professional and danced exceptionally well. Miss Wilson is incredibly proud of each and every one of them, for their onstage performance as well as their behaviour and professionalism throughout the day. The performance was definitely a stand out of the evening and very different to any other school competing with many compliments from other students and teachers. Well done!





Edward Scissorhands Trip

On Friday 26th January our Sixth Form Performing Arts students went to see Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, to support them for their unit 1 exam. The whole production was outstanding from start to finish, with some students saying it was the best show they have ever seen!



Swan Lake Practical

In February our year 12 students explored another work by Matthew Bourne, Swan Lake, in preparation for the unit 1 exam. In a practical lesson they focused on their movements and expressions whilst performing.



Performing Arts

Exploring Shakespeare

As an Associate School for the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Marlowe Theatre, The Victory Academy has been enriching the Drama curriculum with some of the Bard's work this term. Year 7 students have been getting stuck into one of William Shakespeare's most prolific works, Macbeth, in their Drama lessons. Students have performed an abridged version of the play as well as working creatively to bring the atmosphere alive with soundscapes before delving into the original dialogue, performing scenes for their final pieces.

Feedback from students reflected on the experience: "I thought I wouldn't understand it, but we went through everything by acting and that made it easy to see what my character was doing and thinking."

"Creating the 'weird sisters' was really funny and I loved the sounds that groups came up with to create the eerie atmosphere."



Mrs Voisey, Head of Performing Arts, commented "throughout the year we like to challenge year 7 with a wide range of stimuli and topics to explore within Drama. I am delighted we are able to provide a space where Shakespeare's works can be explored practically, without fear, enabling all to appreciate how poignant the messages and how relevant the topics within these works are still, today. The students have thrown themselves enthusiastically into characterisation and generating atmosphere within their lessons and rehearsals, resulting in many stunning group performances."

Music Lessons

To support the Academy's access to playing music, our year 7 students were given the opportunity to sign up for free small group music instrument sessions this term, selecting from the choice of ukelele, drums, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, or singing.



Frantic Assembly's 'Lovesong'

Our year 12 Performing Arts students have been busy preparing for their Investigating Practitioners written exam this term. As part of their preparations, the group watched a live recording of Frantic Assembly's 'Lovesong', inspired by the TS Eloit poem 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'. The production, bringing the memories of an older couple alive by sharing the stage with their younger selves, offered a fantastic opportunity to explore the nature of memory; the changes in a relationship; priorities over time; and the signals we miss or choose to ignore. Students commented on the beauty of the relationship and subtlety of the Frantic moves along with the unique interactions between the young and older couples on stage. This cultural activity offered a chance to reflect on less is more, and the different inspirations that inspire each practitioner.



Performing Arts

Devising Extra Curricular

We have had a wealth of devised performances being created in Performing Arts this term, including solo or whole band musical numbers, duet ensemble dances, duologues, monologues, and group acting pieces. Our students have been exploring works from multiple decades through dance, drama and music, with many opting to continue work on their pieces, or even create additional works, in their own time.

One impressive performance Mrs Voisey had the pleasure of watching outside of lessons this term, combining the musical talent of Andre with the poignant, emotive acting of Nick, centred around one man dealing with loss and the power of helplessness upon our actions. The dedication these boys gave to their craft outside of lessons is praiseworthy indeed and resulted in a commendation and further opportunities to come.



GCSE Drama Performances

This term our year 11 Drama students have been working hard to prepare for their live performance to an external examiner. Students have been rehearsing and creating set lighting designs for texts ranging from 'Waiting for Godot', 'Antigone: Brecht', 'Rozencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead' to 'The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband', honing both comedic and intensely emotional moments between them. Students welcomed the examiner in the final week of term to show their well-rehearsed pieces and Mrs Voisey remarked how proud she was of their development, professionalism and the standard of their final performances.

The external examiner thanked the team for their focus and presentation, and praised the variety of work provided to her on the day. Mrs Voisey would like to thank John Lastauskas for his invaluable technical support and the cast for their energy, attention to detail and for coming together to support one another in their first externally assessed performance of their school lives.

Comments from the students on the day include: "I was so nervous before today but now feel I'm ready!"

"I just want to show the examiner how well I can now play this role."

"We've all worked hard and I hope the examiner can see the skills we've developed to play our roles."

"I know we're going to smash it! We're ready and I want to make Miss proud."

The Wizard of Oz

We are delighted to announce this year's summer show will be The Wizard of Oz. We had a great turnout of students attending auditions in March, auditioning for both main and ensemble roles and applying for backstage and technical theatre positions. Between them we have welcomed over 120 students into the production this year! The standard of the auditions was fantastic, which made the casting decisions very hard to make! The Performing Arts department would like to say a huge congratulations to all students involved and we are very proud of you all.



We are very excited about this year's show and getting stuck into rehearsals. The performances will be taking place in June.



Girls National Football Cup

The Victory Academy participated in its first ever U16 Girls National Cup Competition on Thursday 22^{nd} February in Canterbury. The girls who represented the school were a credit and put on a magnificent performance, even in terrible weather conditions! Amazing work from all who played.

Football Fixtures

Our football fixtures resumed in term 4. A huge well done to all of our students who have represented the Academy so well this term showing determination, skill and respect.



Our year 7 team got their first win of the season by defeating The Robert Napier School 3-0 before losing to a strong Holcombe Grammar School team. The team will look to bounce back in the last week of term as they take on Strood Academy.

The year 8 team have played just a single game this term in the top Premiership League. They lost to a strong The Leigh Academy side but will look to bounce back in their next game.

The year 9 team have been hugely successful this year. The team have now won the league and will be promoted to the Premiership next year.

They beat Holcombe Grammar School 2-1 and won the league in style with a 6-0 win at home to UTC. The team are also into the quarterfinals of the cup after winning their game 3-1 against The Thomas Aveling School. Huge congratulations to the year 9 team on a great season and good luck in the next round of the cup.

The year 10 team lost 1-2 to St John Fisher School in a league and cup double holder this term. They play UTC at the end of the term where they will hope to finish the season strongly.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

All students have continued to make great progress towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award with many already ahead of schedule. Some students have already completed two of their three individual sections of eDofE. This is really impressive; keep up the great work!

We are now heading into expedition preparation season where all students involved will learn how to navigate their way around our chosen expedition area. Training will really gather pace after the Easter break. We look forward to seeing the continued progress as we move towards our expedition.

The Friday training sessions will continue at lunchtime in G95a. The activities we will be covering are map reading, route planning, First Aid, campcraft, stoves and meals, and tents. A reminder to all students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award that this training is mandatory and must be completed before we head out on our Bronze Expedition.

If any students in year 9 or above are interested in doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award please see Mr Doyle.

PE

Netball

On Friday 15th March our year 8 netball team travelled to Rainham School for Girls for their first Kent netball tournament. The team consisted of Heidi T, Remi H, Daisy-May W, Taylor S, Layla D, Andreia T, Victoria A and Leah H along with Jessica A (year 7) and Carmen J (year 10 Junior Leader). Although the competition was very high, the girls from Victory pulled together and held their own, scoring several goals over the eight games. Congratulations to the team for their grit and determination throughout the whole day.



Indoor Rowing

On Thursday 7th March our year 7-9 boys and girls took part in an indoor rowing competition at Greenacre Academy. Each team was made up of four students. Within the competition each team had to complete an individual timed race where all the four distances were added together. Following this, they took part in a team relay where each individual would row for one minute and then they would swap. The students that participated were a credit to Victory and represented the school and themselves excellently.





We are still awaiting the official results but there were some good performances where some students came in the top 3 in their individual heats and also in the relay challenge. As there were two different sessions, the official results will let us know if we are through to the next round.

Within the year 7 and 8 girls team we were missing a competitor but Jessica A (year 8) stepped in and performed amazingly and Favour E (year 7) completed two legs within the team event. The students had never experienced an event like this before but performed really well.



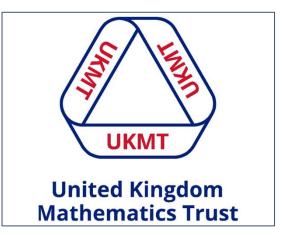
Maths

UKMT Intermediate Maths

Challenge

Congratulations to the 60 year 10 mathematicians who took part in this year's UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. This is a national level competition for Key Stage 4 students testing their problem solving and mathematical reasoning skills.

Achieving Bronze were Isabelle C, Amelia F, Shaeyla H, Elvin I, Carmen J, Sara P, Riley S, Frankie S, David T and Danny W. Benjamin S achieved both Bronze and Best in School.



English

The Library



It's been an exciting term in the library! In February we ran the 'Blind Date with a Book' initiative, which saw Key

Stage 3 students selecting an anonymous book and writing a review on it to be entered for a prize draw. We had incredible feedback from the students and lots of wonderful reviews that are now on display in the library.

We also hosted a 10p Book Drive for World Book Day, with the goal of raising money to reinvest in new books for the library. A massive thank you to the student librarians who dedicated a huge amount of time to auditing texts, organising them into genre, displaying them for sale and manning the cash jar. Miss Dean is very proud of the student librarians for their hard work!

There is a plethora of new texts available and plenty of exciting initiatives in the works for next term. In the meantime, why not check out the rotating bookshelf, which has a new theme each week? Happy reading!

Science

Victory Scientist Day

To celebrate British Science Week our year 7 students took part in Victory Scientist Day. They took part in a marble run challenge, designing structures to slow down the marble and have the slowest overall time. Then at lunchtime our Science department gave out cupcakes!







Thank you for reading this edition of The Victory Academy Newsletter. Our next issue will be published at the end of term 6. On behalf of everyone at Victory we would like to wish you a Happy Easter!

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