

Victory Flag

Victory
Academy

November 2011 Vol 2 No 1

Trafalgar Day

Celebrations Galore over 2 days

Dr Liz Sidwell

Full visit report

Our **Eco** Day

We show our true green colours



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Letters to the Editor

Victory Flag welcomes Letters to the Editor. No more than 150 words and the Editor reserves the right to adjust the length. Letters to: info@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk and marked Letters to the Editor.

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Principal Points

So much has happened in the last few months. Our GCSE results were outstanding with a 27% jump in 5 A*-Cs, including English and maths. We are one of the most improved schools in Britain.

from across the county. It was a brilliant day.

I said from the outset that my goal was to make Victory Academy the flagship school of the Eastern Region. By any measure, we are well on the way to achieving this.

Above all, everything we do is for our students. The reward is to see the pride in their faces. What was a special measures school is now a top school, in their words. And all in a year.

Thanks to everyone for all your support.

Rachel de Souza
Executive Principal
Victory Academy
principal@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk
 tw: @victoryoak

Our A-levels were transformational too. Our A*-Cs jumped 17% and A*-As 19%. The A*-Cs are 80% and A*-As 45%, well above the national averages.

On Trafalgar Day, we celebrated the first anniversary of our official launch with our parents, students and VIPs

Top Appointment

Mrs de Souza has been invited to join the prestigious Academy Principals Steering Group, a top advisory body.

The group steers the work of the academies team at the Schools Network, acts as a consultative group for the Department for Education and government agencies and liaises with the work of the National Headteachers Steering Group.

Mrs de Souza said:
“Apart from being a great personal honour, this role recognises that we are transforming education at Victory. We will become the flagship school of the Eastern Region.”



NEWS IN BRIEF



KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow the Principal's Blog on www.ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk and our Twitter account at <http://twitter.com/#!/victoryoak> and Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Victory-Oak

SITE VISITS

Parents visiting the Academy must register with our main reception for safety reasons. No-one is allowed to visit parts of the Academy or approach staff or students without registering.

THANK YOU

Our hard-working Finance Department has saved a massive £10,000 by renegotiating our site maintenance contract.

PRINCIPAL'S SURGERIES

The dates are 16th November, 21st February and 22nd May; 3.30 - 6pm by appointment. Contact Sadie Nichols on 01603 734 162 or s.nichols@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk

COFFEE MORNING

Our Macmillans Coffee Morning, organised by Dr Allen, raised more than £155 for the charity.

MINDFUL EMPLOYER

We have been awarded our Mindful Employer Charter for employers who are positive about mental health. Visit www.mindfulemployer.net

WORLD SKILLS

Forty Sixth-Formers visited World Skills 2011, held at the ExCel Centre in London.

KETTLE GIFT

Kettle Foods of Bowthorpe has donated some polo-shirts and safety work boots to the Academy.

TOP RUNNERS

The Victory Team came fourth in the UEA Super Sprint Relay Triathlon at the first attempt.

HERB GARDEN

B and Q Norwich has given us a £250 grant for a fresh herb garden.

SCIENCE DONATION

The Teacher Scientist Network has donated £150-worth of glassware to the Science Department.

ECO WIN

Our brilliant Eco Committee has won a solar heating kit. The committee voted to donate it to the Science Department.

BEAUTIFUL BULBS

Costessey Parish Council has given us 1,000 daffodil bulbs for planting on our site and the roundabout in Middleton Crescent.

GREEN FLAG

Email info@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk if you want to receive the Victory Flag electronically.

STOP PRESS

We have been awarded the prestigious **Green Flag** by Eco Schools. Thanks for hard work by Dr Allen and Eco council.

Our Celebrating Age film, made by Art CL Mrs Mizon and her team, has been selected to represent Norfolk at a special viewing by Prince Charles and the PM in London on February 23. The film was financed by the NNUH.

PARENTS FORUM

The meetings will be held on December 1, February 3, March 22, May 24, July 5; 5.45pm - 6.30pm.

GREEN AWARD

Victory has won an Eco Style Kit for taking part in Green Britain Day earlier in the year.



The hard-working Horatio's Crew has slashed food wastage from 3% to 1.5%, below the commercial benchmark.



RECYCLING PROGRESS

Two large recycling bins have been installed in Horatio's and the packed lunch area for collecting plastic bottles and drink cans.

COSTESSEY NEWS

ART CLASSES

Local artist Jenny Leonard is running fun interactive art classes at Grays Fair Court, New Costessey. Call Julie on 01603 594 747.

KNITTING

Costessey Knit and Natter meets at 2pm on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Garden Rooms, Catholic Church, Townhouse Road, Costessey. Call Dolores Edmeades on 01603 271 809.

CAR BOOT SALES

West Norwich Lions are looking for bric-a-brac in reasonable condition for their fund-raising car boot sales. Call Ernie Parsons on 01603 743 318.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Taverham and District Lions Club is looking for help with its annual Christmas float. Call Roger Horn on 01603 869 222.

ST EDMUND'S & ST HELEN'S EVENTS

November 12 Quiz and chips St Helen's Hall 7.30pm. December 3 Christmas Fayre St Helen's Hall 11.30 - 2.30pm, all the usual gifts, crafts and mince pies. Tickets for functions from Margaret Chamberlain 01603 743 998.

TODDLER GROUP

A new Mother and Toddler Group has started at Costessey Baptist Church, meeting on Thursdays 10am-noon. Call Julie Mears on 01603 749 717 or Lisa Burnett 01603 499 961.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Taverham Brass Band will be performing at Taverham Village Hall on December 16 and 17, 7.30pm and St Edmund's Church Taverham on December 13 and 20. Contact Ian Colman 01603 868 680.

ZUMBA DANCING

Sessions for children are being held at the Costessey Centre on Tuesdays, 4.30pm-5.15pm. Contact Frankie on 07968 751 481.

4TH COSTESSEY BROWNIES

Places are available at 4th Costessey Brownies who meet at the Scout Hut in the Street, Old Costessey on Thursdays 6pm-7.30pm. Call Lee Ann Brewster on 01603 742 213.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Club at Costessey Methodist Church meets fortnightly on Tuesdays, 7.45pm. Call 471 759.

FIRE CHECK

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is offering a free Home Fire Safety Check and smoke detector fit. Call 0800 9178 137.

DANCE CLUB

Costessey Modern Sequence Dance Club meets on Fridays, 2pm at the Costessey Centre. Call John on 01603 411336.

GREEN FINGERS

Easton College Gardening Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the College Sports and Conference Centre. Call Stephen Austin on 01603 731 288.

Beauty Blog:



By Anna Ball, Leader of Vocational Education

Fast fading summer, fast fading tan. As soon as I stepped off the aircraft and back into Blighty I felt my tan was rapidly disappearing. As soon as our skin is no longer exposed to daily sunshine, the melanin production slows and with it our suntan.

Follow these top tips for helping to maintain your glow for as long as possible.

- Apply a good hydrating body lotion morning and evening, my favourite is Lancaster tan maximiser — £25 for 125ml. I use this amazing product as my after sun while on holiday and continue to do so for at least two weeks after I return. The cream soothes and moisturises your skin repairing any sun damage and helping to prevent peeling. Another excellent body lotion for a fraction of the price is Vaseline intensive care aloe vera body lotion, a bargain at £4.69 for 400ml. The aloe vera is soothing for sun-damaged skin and the light texture makes it perfect to apply both morning and evening.

- One final tip, when your skin starts to peel and flake you must remove the dead skin cells, any body lotion you apply to peeling skin will sit in the dead skin cells and not offer you any hydration until they are removed. Remove dead skin cells with a gently body exfoliator, Garnier body tonic scrub £7.15 for 200ml or as a real treat splurge on Clarins smoothing body scrub £27 for 200ml.

Celebrating Trafalgar Day



Our record-breaking year was celebrated in style with visits by an Arctic adventurer and many Norfolk VIPs on Trafalgar Day.



The day was marked with balloons, musical performances and achievement awards for 30 pupils. A spectacular Community Fireworks was held the previous evening with record attendance.



Norfolk explorer Edward Parker (left), founder of Walking with the Wounded, led an expedition to the North Pole, featured by Channel 4 as Harry's Heroes, named after Prince Harry who walked part of the way.

VIPs attending the celebrations included Chloe Smith, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Simon Wright MP, Shelagh Hutson, Norfolk County Council Chair, Sue Thomson, South Norfolk Council Chair, Richard Butler Chief Executive of Diocese of Norwich and Peter Wright MBE, Chief Executive Norwich Theatre Royal.



In her Trafalgar Day address, Mrs de Souza said the Academy had been recognised as the “most improved school in the UK” and pointed to a 27% improvement in the numbers of five GCSEs A*-C including English and maths.

She said: “It’s a very special day for us and I’m proud of our Academy’s performance and humbled by Edward Parker’s presentation.”

Nelson looks on for school anniversary

A recent bustling year with marked results in pupils and community figures were joined by an heroic administrator and more than 1000 for the long anniversary of a Conventry School. Conventry Victory Academy, praising the occasion particularly marking with balloons, musical performances and awards for a number of its pupils as well as an appearance from the Trafalgar Day. This progress is due to the support of the school with a speech was given by Nelson, Edward Parker, who led a recent expedition to the North Pole and is founder of charity Working with the Wounded. Each of these is proud of the academy which opened at the site of the former Conventry High School and takes the name of the British hero. Here's how the school has been recognised as the "most improved school in the UK" and pointed to a 27% improvement in the number of students getting five GCSEs A*-C including English and maths. She added: "It's a very special day for us and I'm both proud of our school's performance over the year and humbled by Edward's presentation. It's also very humbling to have the members of the community here and realise how many people give up their time and energy for us." Paving the way for the governors, she said that she felt involved in some of the school's rapid progress and pointed to the fact that from 360 exclusions of one day in the past year, had been less than 39 in the last year. Ms Parker, who has been in the job for 15 years, said he was "dumbstruck" by the improvements in the school, before adding: "As well as raising money for charity I am also keen to talk in schools, and if one child can walk out of this school after today and think 'I'm going to try and do this' no matter what it is then I know I will have achieved something."



Ellie Pauling, Head Girl



Emily Rose, Jade Copeman and Emily Hird

Mr Parker said he was “dumbstruck” by the improvements in the Academy. “As well as raising money for charity I am also keen to talk in schools, and if one child can walk out of this school after today and think ‘I’m going to try and do this’ no matter what it is then I know I will have achieved something.”



Ellie Pauling, Head Girl

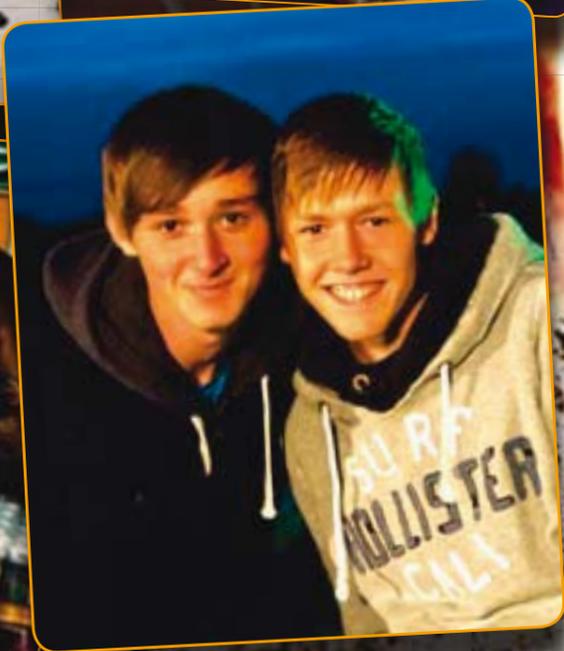


She said that instilling a sense of discipline was the key to our rapid progress and pointed to the fact that from 360 incidents of one-day exclusions with the predecessor school, there had been less than 39 in the past year.





Crack, Bang, Sizzle and BOOM



Fireworks by www.flashfx.co.uk

GCSE results at the Academy have been transformed in less than a year.

The Academy recorded a 27% leap in the government benchmark of 5A*-Cs including English and Maths. Previously, the predecessor school was in special measures.

The academy achieved an overall...

65% 5 A*-C INCLUDING ENGLISH & MATHS
38% 2010

90% 5 A*-C
(almost double last year's 48%)

98% ENGLISH A*-C
63% 2010

65% MATHEMATICS A*-C
43% 2010

96% SCIENCE A*-C
69% 2010

Mrs de Souza said: "There is no silver bullet, rather heaps of hard work and commitment. We sent the school bus to collect sleepy-heads on exam day, held pizza night revision sessions and I called a governor in to do some



mentoring. Whatever it takes for our children. A 27% jump is one of the biggest improvements in the UK."



Transformational A-Levels

The Academy achieved transformational A-Level results in its first year.

Our A*-Cs have jumped 17% and A*-As 19%. The A*-Cs are 80% and A*-As 45%, well above the national averages.

Several students have achieved three A*-As.

Mrs de Souza said: "Some great performances from so many students and staff in our first year."

"French and Travel and Tourism achieved 100% A grades. Design Technology, English Literature, Media, Child Care and History 100% A*-B grades. Every major indicator shows very big improvements.

"I promised we would become the flagship school of the Eastern Region. This is the start."



Eton @ Norfolk

A packed audience of teachers and support staff at Victory Academy heard the school compared with Eton at the Welcome Back day.

Keynote speaker Matthew Fleming, grand-nephew of Ian Fleming of James Bond fame, told the audience he attended Eton: "Whatever potential we had as Etonians, the pupils of Victory have in equal measure."

Mr Fleming, a former England cricketer and Victory governor, said: "Eton has the privilege of certainty, that pupils will be of a certain standard academically, a certain level of ambition and will live by a certain standard of values."

"With your dynamic leadership, the evolving relationship with the community, the ground-breaking relationship with the NNUH and your growing curriculum, this Academy can develop a sense of certainty."

Mrs de Souza told the staff that the 27% jump in GCSE 5 A*-Cs was the biggest improvement in Norfolk. A-Level A*-Cs improved 16% to 80%.



Matthew Fleming addresses the audience.



The Performing Arts Team



The English Team



The Behaviour Team



Doreen Bryan



Tracey McArdle



Jayne Gardiner



Stephanie Wrightson



Alison Hewitt



Mr Ball addresses the Welcome Back Day

School Commissioner Visit

The School Commissioner for England, Dr Liz Sidwell, has paid her first official visit to Victory Academy.



Mrs de Souza said:

“It was an enormous honour to be selected for the visit. Dr Sidwell, herself a former headteacher, is an outstanding figure in education today.”

Dr Sidwell with Anna Ball, leader of vocational education, in the Academy's newly-expanded beauty salon.



Her visit follows Victory's GCSE results which saw 5 A*-Cs, including English and Maths, leap by 27%, the biggest improvement in Norfolk and possibly the country.



Dr Sidwell observed English, Maths, Science and ICT lessons and visited the Academy's newly-expanded beauty salon. She also visited the Academy's wildlife garden and newly-built beehives.



The School Commissioner also met senior staff, prefects and presented awards to 14 high-achieving students.



Pen to Paper

Dear Victory Academy

I would like to say how very impressed we were with Megan, Shellby, Jess, and Keeley, four of your sixth form students, when they came to our Pamper Evening.

They came across as very polite, professional, and friendly. They helped to make the evening a great success.

It was a joy to spend the evening with them and I will definitely be passing their name on to other people and hope to use them again in the future.

You should be very proud of these girls, if you aren't already.

Joanna Durrant

Dear Victory Academy

Having lived here for 42 years backing on to the woods plus spending so much time walking with dogs and having continually sought changes, interest, etc., from past heads, the transformation is unbelievable, very little litter in the woods, no longer knots of pupils hanging around out of school, smartness goes without saying and dare I say it but even the pupils attitude and friendliness has altered. Well done to all concerned.

Les Eve

Dear Victory Academy

Despite the intense heat, I am pleased to say that it was a pleasure to attend (with St. Peters) the Olympic event at the UEA today. All the students were polite, well behaved and did their utmost to compete and to support their peers.

But I am writing with particular reference to two of your students, Ellie-Nora Beck and Holly Twiddy-Ling. They stepped in to manage the water fountain and also to report other issues with the toilet block. When I asked why they were filling bottles for people, they replied "because we're fed up with our school getting a bad name..." or something similar. The floor was covered in water and although they implied a small number of their peers were to blame, I would like to concentrate on the excellent behaviour and helpfulness of Ellie-Nora and Holly. They helped distribute water and to mop up. When the sinks overflowed some time later, they were there to help yet again.

When I asked their names, there was definitely some fear and suspicion in their eyes, but I quickly explained I wanted to write to their school and explain how helpful they had been. I was then surprised to discover that they were in Year 7.

It isn't often that you find such helpful, mature students so young (and loyal too), and I say that as both a College Lecturer, and a High School Cover Supervisor. Please could you ensure that they are suitably rewarded.

Mr Lee S. Russell
(parent helper for the trip, with St Peters, Easton)

Dear Victory Academy

Just a quick note to say a "big thank you" to the prefects for their help yesterday afternoon with our AGM.

I hope they enjoyed watching the final version of the DVD that the school made – which I think is great.

Kind regards

Hayley Gerrard, NNUH

I thought I would take the time to send you an email to share with you my thoughts on the students at your beauty salon. I found that they were all very welcoming and conducted themselves in a professional manner. I found that the facial I was given was as good as or even better than previous beauty treatments in various spas and salons around the country.

I would like you to pass on my praise to the students' tutor as she has done a very good job with them.

Jill Wright

VIP Roll Of Honour

The Academy has attracted a long list of Special Visitors since we opened in September 2010.

In alphabetical order:

Richard Bacon, MP for South Norfolk

Ian Brady, Deputy Director in the Office of the Schools Commissioner

Charles Clarke, the former Secretary of State for Education

Anna Dugdale, NNUH Chief Executive

Neil Flint, CBE, Director of Academies

Cllr John Fuller, Leader South Norfolk Council

Cllr Shelagh Hutson, Chairman Norfolk County Council

David Prior, Chairman of NNUH
Liz Reid, Chief Executive of SSAT (now Schools Network)

Cllr Jeremy Savage, former Chairman South Norfolk Council

Dr Liz Sidwell, Schools Commissioner for England

Nick Stuart, Chairman of SSAT (now Schools Network)

Larry Sullivan, Chairman and co-founder of COINS

Peter Swift, Deputy Director for Sponsored Academy Projects

David White, Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council

Cllr Tony Tomkinson, former Chairman Norfolk County Council

David White, Chief Executive of Norfolk County Council

Simon Wright, MP for Norwich South

Working With NNUH

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Year 13 D&T student Mei Ting Li is working with the NNUH Contracts Team to produce a range of designs for a staff and public recreational area outside the hospital.

At a site meeting on Wednesday September 21, Chris Paul, the hospital's SERCO Contracts Manager, presented his vision for the recreation area which has great potential for healthy walks, running and recreational time in the open air.

Chris Paul wants to develop areas where staff can take breaks away from the main hospital building and visitors can have peaceful time away from the worries of having a loved one or friend in hospital.

During the next few months, Mei will be working with LSI Architects, based in Norwich, to produce a viable design for the recreational area and will construct a landscape model to a full architectural standard.

Fresh Fruit

The Academy is to establish its own orchard to boost science teaching and encourage healthy eating.

Under the Fruit-Full Schools programme, the Academy has won one of the top three prizes for its orchard design. It was been awarded £2,000 of funding for the Victory orchard.

The project is being led by Mrs Williamson, Environmental and Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator.

David Burchett, Operations Manager of Fruit-Full Schools, said:

"Judges particularly commented that your design was an incredibly strong application and really showed the level of detail the school has gone to during the consultation of the design."



Mrs de Souza said:
"Work will start on the orchard later this term. We are all looking forward to seeing fresh fruit on the menu at Horatio's café. It is a brilliant project for our students."

Victory students learning how to graft fruit trees.

Victory Goes Green

Falconry, Zumba, a fashion show and pond-dipping were on the agenda at the Academy's monster Eco Day.

The day-long activities were planned by the Academy's Eco committee.

Other activities on the day included art in the wildlife garden, bread-making, solar car racing, a reverse bike, a swap shop and Indian head massage.



Mrs de Souza said:
"Our students had a brilliant day. Their interest in and commitment to the environment is 120%."
Another Eco Day may be held this year.



We Win Bronze

The Academy has won the coveted Bronze Award from the Food For Life Partnership for its healthy and climate-friendly food culture.

The award follows a major shake-up over the past year in the menu at Horatio's and students' attitudes to food.

- Food sourcing has been switched to mainly local suppliers.
- Big emphasis is placed on seasonal food.
- Up to 86% of Horatio's food is fresh.

Other major initiatives with food include a Victory Allotment, an Apiary built next to the award-winning Wildlife Garden and a Victory Orchard which will shortly be planted.

The Academy works alongside the Royal Horticultural Society and Garden Organic and regularly supports and advises other Norfolk schools about horticulture.

Mrs de Souza said: "Our teaching and Horatio's staff have worked extremely hard in changing the food culture. It is so important that our students develop a healthy attitude towards food."

The Food For Life Partnership has also awarded Horatio's a £500 grant to buy a new salad bar in recognition of our work in improving food sourcing.



Norwich In Bloom

What a night at the Norwich In Bloom Presentation Evening at the Assembly House on Friday, October 14 with the Academy picking up two Golds and a Silver.

We won Best Project for constructing the apiary in the Wildlife Garden; Best Recycling Project and we came second in the Fruit and Vegetable section.

Four Gardening Club students, Darren Zelos-Brown, James Pegg, Charlotte Clare and Clare Reynolds, joined Mrs Williamson and Mr Rogers at the gala awards ceremony.

The prizes included Notcutts Garden Centre vouchers for £70 which will be put towards the new Victory Orchard project.

Green Academy

The Academy is well on its way to becoming a world-class green school with a major programme underway of environmental improvements.

Mrs de Souza said: "We launched our Green Plan when we opened last year. Much has been implemented, but we still have much to do. We only have one environment which we hold in trust for future generations."

The Academy's Green Plan includes:

- Establishing our own Apiary with Victory honey produced in 2012.
- Establishing our own orchard with a £2,000 grant from the Fruit-full Schools programme.

- Developing the Academy's organic allotment area and award-winning wildlife garden.
- Opening a new sensory garden.
- An outreach programme for Norfolk schools, providing plants, training programmes and setting up gardening clubs.
- Supporting our Eco committee. Our first Eco Day was a major success.
- A major recycling programme targeting paper, cardboard, cans, bottles, cartridges, car batteries, clothing and waste food.

- Healthy eating in Horatio's café with organic vegetables from the allotment and as much Norfolk produce as possible.
- Reducing energy consumption with a Switch-Off programme and initiatives such as Earth Hour.
- Weekly litter pick and involvement in community clean-up events.
- The inclusion of environmental issues in the curriculum and in community projects.





VIP Visit

Peter Swift, Deputy Director at the DfE for sponsored academy projects, visited the Academy in September. He was escorted on a tour of the Academy by Mrs de Souza, visiting Maths, English, Science, Arts, Beauty ICT, Health and Social Care and the Wildlife Garden.

He also held talks with members of our SLT and prefects.

Costessey Carers

New pupil admissions, pristine new uniforms, new tutors, new subjects, for the Academy it is a new term and new year. The days are shorter, the sun is lower in the sky, it is a time for reflection for the majority of us, where has the year gone? Hardly seems possible but we are not far away from Christmas again.

Looking back over the speakers who have come to our Carers Group in 2011. At one end of the scale was the talk on rehomed battery hens which while partly humorous was also thought-provoking with the sorry state of the birds.

The highlight has to be the young lady who 16 years ago took to the streets in the red light area of Norwich to try to turn round the lives of the women plying for custom along with the rapidly growing drug trade.

What started in such a small unfunded hopeful manner is now held to be best practice, has a larger team, the support of the various authorities, is being adopted countrywide with tuition from that original young lady. The pinnacle for her was the trip to meet the Queen in order to receive her MBE.

We have our Christmas Lunch at Bawburgh Golf Club to look forward to plus the Secret Santa with a gift for everyone.

In conclusion looking to the New Year but I also would like to be the first to offer a seasonal Merry Christmas to one and all. - Les Eve.

web: www.costesseycarers.co.uk • email: cosseycarers@ntlworld.com Call: 01603 594 937.



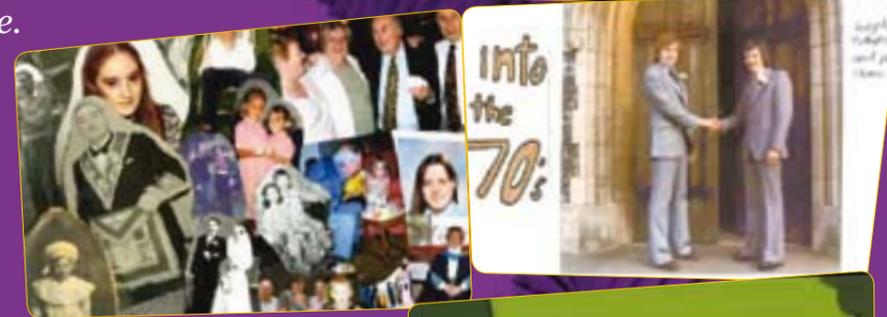
Lights, Camera, Action

The Celebrating Age animated film, made by Art Curriculum Leader Mrs Mizon and eight of our talented students, has won widespread acclaim.

The 10-minute film, run as a Summer Art Project, was made in conjunction with Norwich Age and funded by the NNUH.

It received loud acclaim at its first public viewing at the NNUH AGM in September. Artworks from the film are being displayed at the hospital.

It has been shown at Academy assemblies with other screenings in the pipeline.



The eight student film-makers were: Honor Cooke, Jack Coman, Jordan Potter, Molly Sandell, Georgia Wade, Erika Yabut, Chloe Freeman, Matthew Bartle.

View at: www.ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk/news-2/victory-videos

Welcome Year 6s

Brilliant to see so many potential Year 6s and their families at our Open Evening, the first to be held in Norwich this year.



Looking forward to welcoming the new Year 7s next September.

The hall was packed with parents and children. Lots of questions asked after addresses by Mrs de Souza and members of SLT and lots of interest in the presentations by the subject teachers.



Victory In The Stars

Science teacher Rod Stevenson was at The Breckland Astronomical Society's observatory at Great Ellingham on September 3 helping secure some of the first photographs of the new supernova in the M101 galaxy, also known as the Pinwheel galaxy.

A supernova is a star which has exploded; this star was a white dwarf until it turned supernova 21 million years ago. It has taken the light from the star this long to reach us. When first spotted on August 24 by telescope, it was a million times too dim to see with the naked eye.

Since then it has been getting brighter and brighter. For the next week or so, it could be seen with a small telescope or pair of binoculars above the two end stars in the constellation of the Plough.

The Stars @ Victory

Victory students have been visiting the stars. An inflatable planetarium has been in regular use by GCSE and Key Stage 3 classes in support of their studies.

The loan was arranged by Mr Stevenson, Science Department, from The East of England Science Learning Centre. The planetarium spends the autumn term travelling

around schools in Norfolk and Suffolk before returning to its base in Hertfordshire.

A lot of fun was had by the pupils, some returning for second and third visits.

Sixth-Form Sojourn

Twenty-one Sixth-Formers and four staff spent three days at Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire in non-stop activities.



They enjoyed team challenges, zip wire, abseiling, raft building and rifle shooting.

It was a great opportunity to meet some of the Sixth-Form team and for students to get to know each other well.



Family Memories

Everett Gray, the grandfather of Tania McGee, a Horatio's crew member, was a much-decorated veteran of World War II. His father, also Everett, was twice a champion boxer for the Army and the Royal Navy and was landlord of Sussex Arms pub in Sussex Street.

A Territorial in his teens, Everett Gray, better known as Dolly, joined the Norfolk Yeomanry on the outbreak of war. After the debacle of the French Campaign, he ended up at Dunkirk where, luckily, he found a place on one of the Small Boats rescuing our troops.

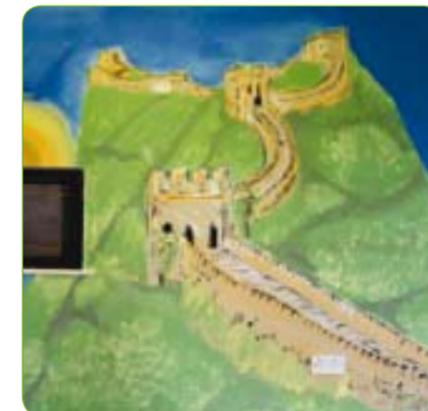
Posted to the Eighth Army Desert Rats, he was caught up in heavy fighting in North Africa. Out of touch with HQ and his officers dead, his orders were to let no-one through. Confronted by a large number of Italians, Dolly managed to talk to an English-speaking officer. Thinking quickly on his feet to save his position and protect his men, he urged the Italians to clear their positions and surrender. Otherwise, a major bombardment would start. It was a complete bluff – he was with a handful of men – but the Italians abandoned their guns and 300-400 surrendered.

In subsequent shelling, he was badly wounded and temporarily blinded, later fully recovering. He ended the war as troop sergeant of G Troop 258 artillery battery, Norfolk Yeomanry. With his wife, he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and Military Medal (MM). He was also Mentioned in Despatches with citations and received several service medals.

Tania McGee with memories of her grandfather.



Sixth-Form Makeover



Sixth-Formers rolled up their sleeves and grabbed paint brushes to give their Common Room a brand-new look.

Mrs de Souza said:

“We wanted our Sixth-Formers to take ownership of their area. The Common Room now looks really special.”

New artwork also graces the walls in the Sixth-Form block. Toni Beck, Beth Cates, Daniel Spalding did most of the art work, with Ben Sewell, Mei Ting Lei, Carla Almond and Frankie Payne also helping.



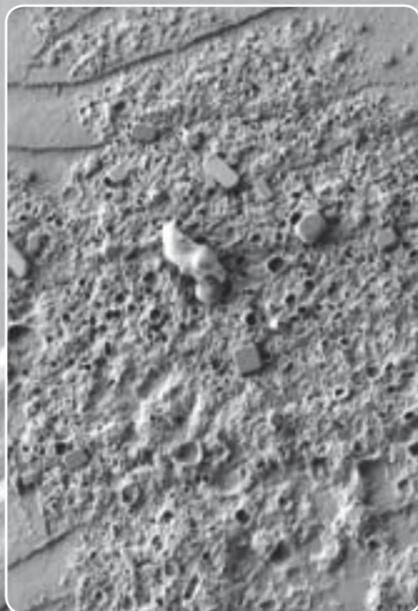
Inside Science

Tayma Bartram, Josh Kerridge, Alex Dunne, Jordan Smith, Adam Ewles and Richard Spalding spent three days at the John Innes Centre on the Inside Science Workshop.

Selected out of 46 applicants, they worked with two other Year 11s and eight sixth-formers from across East Anglia.

They had lunch with PhD students and carried out procedures on electron microscopes and mass spectrometers as well as performing Polymerase Chain Reactions. They experienced viruses that are being coated in metal to set up electric currents in living tissues to target cancer cells; purple tomatoes which have been genetically modified to make a more potent source of beneficial chemicals from blackberries and wine and the use of physics and maths to explain biology through a field called computational biology.

During the three days the students also made a video which will be on YouTube soon and they took part in a competition about their perceptions of science for which Tayma Bartram came second with her entry on evolution and whether the chicken or the egg came first.



What Our Scientists Said

“It was a challenge for the mind,” Josh Kerridge

“It was interesting to see science in action,” Alex Dunne

“It was good to be able to do things there. They explained the science they were specialist in really well,” Adam Ewles

“It was interesting but beyond me in some places,” Jordan Smith

“I liked talking to the PhDs,” Tayma Bartram

“It’s made me realise that science doesn’t just have one basic path, there are many aspects to it,” Josh Kerridge

“It showed me the different career potentials open to me,” Richard Spalding.



Beauty @ Victory



A £25,000 expansion programme has been completed at the Academy’s beauty salon.

The professionally-run salon, which trains students and is open to the public, was built last year.

The expanded salon will teach NVQ Level 3 Beauty Therapy; the only centre in Norwich to offer the course which trains students to be industry ready.

This course involves Swedish massage, Epilation (permanent hair removal), electrical face and body treatments (non-surgical face lifts, micro-dermabrasion, anti-cellulite body treatments) and aromatherapy massage.

Mrs de Souza said:

“The salon is extremely popular with our students who are achieving outstanding results. It is another example of innovative teaching at our Academy.”





County Council Visit

The Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Mrs Shelagh Hutson,

paid her first official visit to Victory Academy.

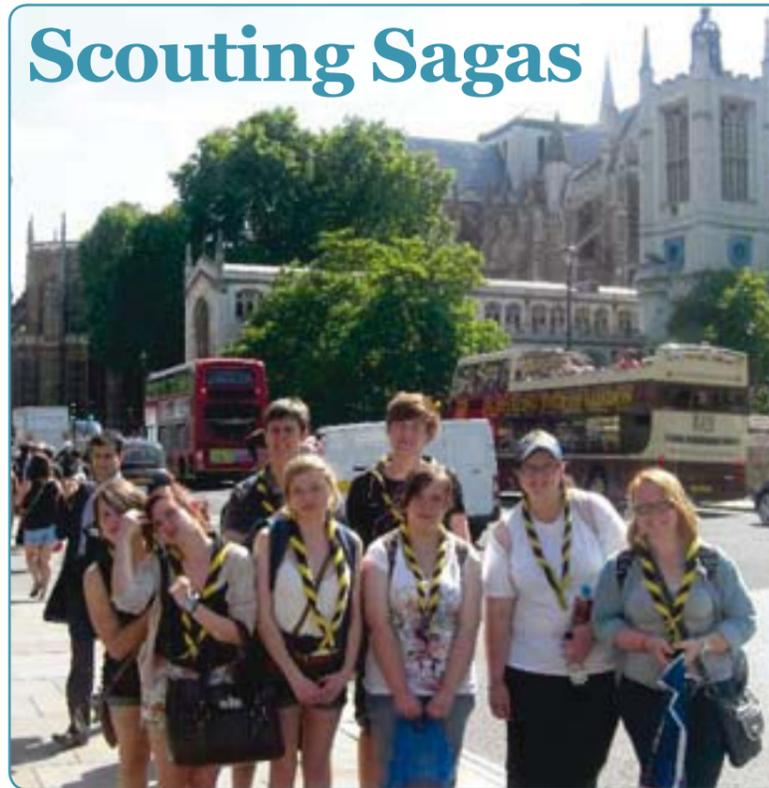
After talks with Mrs de Souza, Mrs Hutson was escorted on a tour of the Academy, seeing Maths, English, Languages, Science, ICT and Beauty Therapy classes.

“We were very honoured that Mrs Hutson made an official visit to Victory. Students really enjoyed meeting the Chairman of their County Council,”

Mrs de Souza said. “Mrs Hutson has long been a friend and supporter of our Academy and I was very pleased to show her our progress.”



Scouting Sagas



Tayma Bartram has a full diary for away-from-home breaks.

A Young Leader with the Bowthorpe cub pack, Tayma has been on camps recently for younger cubs and older cubs getting ready to become scouts.

But the highlight of the year was a joint trip by Bowthorpe cubs, scouts and Gladiator explorers to Chateau du Broutel in northern France last May.

On the agenda was a local market, a war memorial and a visit to the Somme battlefields. Tayma planted a small cross on the grave of an unknown soldier, others tried to find relatives.

The group held a ceremony at the Memorial, investing some scouts and leaders.

The next adventure for the older team was making their way home alone. In Paris, they visited the Louvre and climbed the Eiffel Tower. At the top, they invested three new explorers. Overnight train to London, then Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Number 10, Tower Bridge and a river trip.

Tayma, a cub since the age of 8, also finds time to dance with the Splits Dance Group, performing at the Royal Norfolk Show, the Lord Mayor’s Procession and talent shows.

Talented Teacher

Our hard-working Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Nicola Pettit, has just been awarded her M.Sc. from Kellogg College at Oxford University. The two-year part-time course covered educational studies, particularly student motivation.

It follows her Bachelor’s degree in French, German and Spanish which she took at the University of Leicester.

Next on the agenda is a five-year part-time PhD at another yet-to-be decided Oxford college.

Nicola will be playing a big role in our expanding Teaching and Learning programme, headed by Ben Rogers.

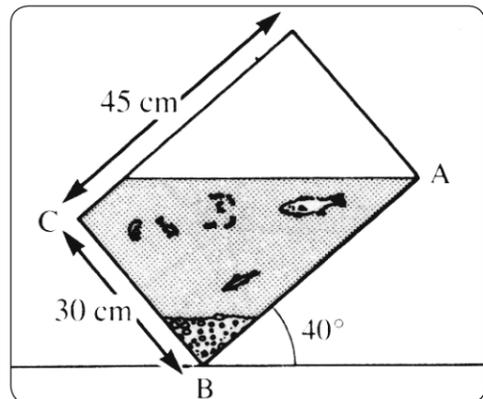


Mathematics Matters

Maths G&T Challenge

KS3: Find the lowest common multiple of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

KS4: The diagram shows the cross section of a rectangular fish tank;



When AB is inclined at 40°, the water just comes up to A. The tank is then lowered so that BC is horizontal. What is the depth of water in the tank now?

(Reproduced from Higher GCSE Mathematics: Revision & Practice, D Rayner, OUP 1994)

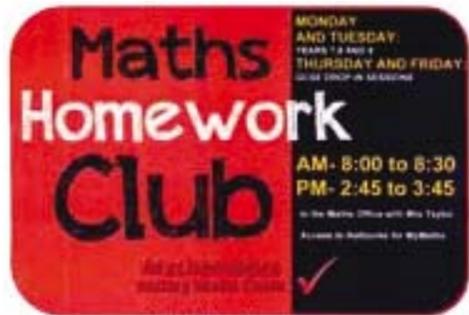
A level:

Show the algebraic steps to turn $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ into $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

Trivia:

What weighs more, a lb of feathers or a lb of gold?

Answers: maths@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk



GCSE Maths Examiners Tips

- Show your workings out clearly and in the correct order.
- Write in blue or black pen.
- Make sure that your graphs and diagrams stand out against the printed grids that you draw them on.
- Ask for tracing paper to help you with transformations.
- Make sure that you know how to use your calculator properly and efficiently.
- Write your numbers clearly, don't allow a '4' to be confused with a '9', a '2' with a '5' or a '6' with a '0'.
- Make sure that your answers fit the context of the question; money should always be written with 2 decimal places; 2 hours 50 minutes is not 2.5 hours.
- Learn and use the correct mathematical language, e.g., names of angles and shapes, circle theorems.

Maths Diary Dates:

Year 10		
Module 1	Wednesday 9 November	pm
Module 2	Monday 14 November	am
Year 11		
Module 3 (Non-calc)	Weds 9 November	pm
Module 3 (Calc)	Mon 14 November	am
Module 1	Thurs 17 November	am
Module 2	Thurs 17 November	pm
A Level		
Core 1, 2	Friday 13 January	am
Core 3	Friday 20 January	pm
Statistics 1	Tuesday 17 January	am
Core 4	Monday 24 January	am

Your Questions Answered

How much time should I be spending on my Mathematics at home?

For Key Stage 3 classes you should be spending a minimum of 30-45 minutes per week. For Key Stage 4 classes this rises to a minimum of 1 – 1½ hours per week, probably split over 2 or more evenings. For sixth formers, the typical is 1 hour for each hour spent in the classroom.

How can I help myself at home?

There are loads of ways to get help. Try the internet; Google, BBC Bitesize, Mymaths and even Youtube are all good places to start. Try asking your parents, your friends, your form tutors or even the Maths teachers at school. You could always buy a revision guide or revision CD-rom, your Maths teacher can recommend one suited to your level of Maths.

How do I use the online lessons on Mymaths?

Once you've chosen and clicked your topic or task just choose the 'lesson' button at the bottom of the screen instead of the 'online homework' button. The lessons are interactive (get you involved in your learning) and some even talk you through it.

If you would like a question answered in the next issue of Mathematics Matters, email them to maths@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk.



maths@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk

Energetic Entrepreneurs



Our Year 9s became businesspeople for the day on October 5.

Run in partnership with Price Waterhouse Coopers, whose 20 staff members acted as business coaches, Employability Day was an exciting opportunity for students to learn and develop new skills.



During the sessions, students worked in groups to design a new product and create a pitch, including marketing and costs, to give to the PwC coaches in the style of Dragon's Den.

The day was aimed at developing employability skills such as teamwork, leadership, assertiveness, independence and presentation skills.

The PwC team said how impressed they were with our students' behaviour and their use of language in the Dragon's Den pitch.



Beauty Work

Staff from Neals Yard Remedies in Norwich are working with our Beauty and BTEC Science students to make products from scratch, using essential oils and beeswax.



Victory Friends

A big thank you to the following people and organisations who have generously helped and supported us.

- Price Waterhouse Coopers, Norwich.
- Inspector Rob Wicks of Bowthorpe Police.
- James Boddy, Chairman of Onoto Pens.
- David Roger-Burton, Art Next the Sea Gallery, Wells-Next-the-Sea.
- Emkay Plastics, Bowthorpe.
- Cartridge World, 119 Unthank World, Norwich.
- Sarah Mintey, Principal Open Youth Trust.
- Neals Yard Remedies, Norwich.



Mrs de Souza was interviewed by Anglia TV about the Ebacc, our GCSE results and the Academy's progress, The Guardian and The Independent about the GCSEs and our progress. She spoke on Radio Norfolk about our GCSEs, BBC Radio 5 Live about grammar and spelling, the EDP and Norwich Evening News about our A-levels, GCSEs and the Ebacc and the EDP and Evening News about our Trafalgar Day celebrations.

The second of Mrs de Souza's occasional education columns appeared in the EDP.

Her article about our Green Academy featured in Education Executive. A letter from Mrs de Souza appeared in The Pulse (NNUH).

The Norwich Evening News reported on Dr Liz Sidwell's visit, our Beauty Salon extensions, our Eco Day, the Art Exhibition and Chloe Cousins' place in the American Musical Theatre Academy.

Channel 4 News carried footage of our GCSE results party and Heart Radio interviewed students about their GCSE success.



Growing Communities, the Royal Horticultural Society magazine, carried a feature on our gardening activities.

The Academy was mentioned on Radio Four Woman's Hour by Dr Liz Sidwell, Schools Commissioner, which was repeated on Radio Norfolk.



Education

'We went to pupils' homes and got them out of bed'

A year after headteacher Rachel de Souza took over at Victory Academy, the school is set to be named the most improved in the country. Richard Garner finds out how she did it



Headteacher Rachel de Souza has taken her school to a new level. In the year since she took over at Victory Academy, the school has been named the most improved in the country. Richard Garner finds out how she did it.

When you think of a school that has been named the most improved in the country, you might think of a school that has been through a major restructuring or a complete rebuild. But in the case of Victory Academy, the school has been named the most improved in the country for the first time in its history.

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Our Prefects

Our smart 2011/12 line-up of prefects with their gold trim jackets..

Life In Year 7

It is a big change for Mollie and Lucie Smith from St Augustine's Primary School to Victory Academy.

But the twins, who joined Year 7 in September, love their new school life. "There's lots of students here and we've made some new friends. There's always something happening."

Mollie wants to work with animals when she is older while Lucie is looking at child-care like her older sister Emily who is studying child-care in Sixth-Form.

After a few weeks at the Academy, "we like most of the teachers, we like the uniform and we like Horatio's."



Life in Victory Sixth-Form



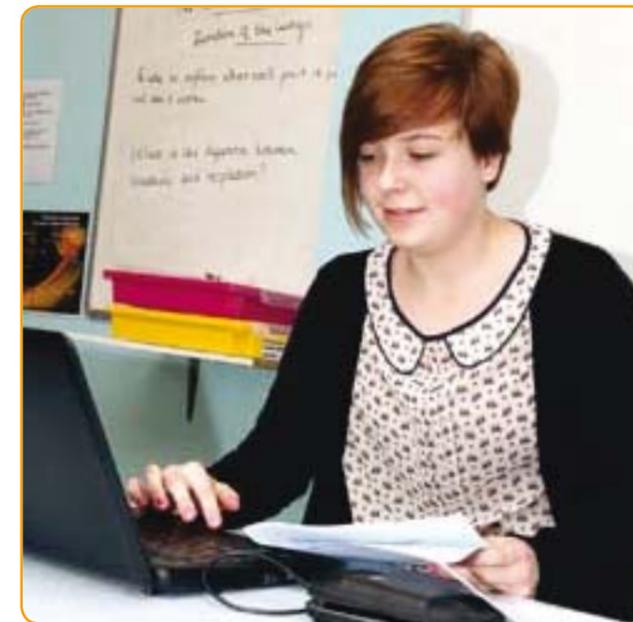
Edward Hird, who is studying Biology and Child-Care, wants to become a paramedic. "I'm a member of St John's Ambulance and this would be a continuation. I enjoy helping people."

Edward, in Year 12, will apply to the University of Hertfordshire. "I'm more a hands-on learner and you used to be able to apply direct to an ambulance service. Now it is the university route."

Edward, who enjoys studying Child-Care, has a placement at St Augustine's Primary School, working with reception and Year 3. "I enjoy working with children."

"Things have improved with the Academy. The lessons are good and the teachers support you. The teachers implement a better structure for our learning."

Edward likes the Sixth-Form dress code. "I like wearing a shirt and tie. Outside, as an ambassador for the Academy, you are treated better."



Rebecca Mussett has her heart set on becoming a doctor. It is a tough ask; King's College in London requires three As at A-level.

Rebecca is hopeful, achieving 13 As at GCSE. "Studying in London would be exciting. My family want me to go."

Rebecca, who would love to be a paediatrician, is already a member of St John's Ambulance. "I love helping people and I love meeting different people."

The Year 12 student said: "I like the change to Victory Academy, I have more of a chance of reaching my goal with the Academy."

"The teachers take more care with individuals and there's less disruption in the classes."

Rebecca is studying biology, chemistry, psychology and English. "Chemistry is hard, but we're getting there."





Two sixth-formers, Carla Almond (left) and Francesca Payne, admire some of the works.

Art @ Victory

Parents and friends flocked to the annual art show held at the Academy. The show, organised by Head of Art Mrs Mizon, featured GCSE and A-Level artworks. Mrs de Souza said: "It was a fabulous show with some really high quality artwork. Our students are very talented."



Learn the Zumba with Instructor Nivia Bishop

Email: nbfitfunzumba@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 07913 656 929



Beautiful and the Damned

A team of Victory's greatest book lovers, called The Beautiful and the Damned, competed on September 29 with eight other teams from across Norfolk and Suffolk at the Castle Street branch of Waterstone's in a Book Lovers' Quiz

The team had a lot of fun, contributed towards the £150 that the shop raised for the Rainbow Trust and were placed joint fifth out of nine teams. Thank you to my fellow competitors, Mrs Burns, Lydia Taylor and Megan Aves.

The Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library is hosting a Book Lovers' Quiz on Thursday November 10, as part of its 10th birthday celebrations. Call Sarah Salmon on 01603 774707 for details and to book a table. Victory will be there. - Helen Gage

INTER - COLLEGE FOOTBALL/ NETBALL RESULTS 2011

X or Y Band	1st (40 pts)	2nd (30 pts)	3rd (20 pts)	4th (10 pts)
Yr. 7 Boys	Enterprise	Discovery	Courage	Endeavour
Yr. 7 Girls	Enterprise	Courage	Endeavour	Discovery
Yr. 8 Boys	Courage	Enterprise	Endeavour	Discovery
Yr. 8 Girls	Endeavour	Discovery	Enterprise	Courage
Yr. 9 Boys	Courage	Discovery	Endeavour	Enterprise
Yr. 9 Girls	Courage	Discovery	Enterprise	Endeavour
Yr. 10 Boys	Discovery	Courage	Enterprise	Endeavour
Yr. 10 Girls	Courage	Discovery	Endeavour	Enterprise
Yr. 11 Boys	Courage	Enterprise	Endeavour	Discovery
Yr. 11 Girls	Enterprise	Discovery	Endeavour	Courage

Overall Result	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
	COURAGE	ENTERPRISE	DISCOVERY	ENDEAVOUR
	300pts	260pts	250pts	190pts



Victory SPORTS

Sports Round-Up
and Inter College
points table

November 2011 Vol 2 No 1



VICTORY MILE

A weekly morning run has been launched at the Academy to improve fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Initially, the run is staff-only but will be extended to include senior students.

Stay up-to-date with what's going on at our Academy

November 2011

November 16	Achievement Review Day
November 17	Business Breakfast Club
November 29	Sixth Form Parents' Evening 5.30pm - 7.30pm

December 2011

December 1	Parents' Forum Meeting
December 2-4	Cologne Trip
December 7	Feeder School Performance
December 8-9	Academy Show

