



Founded 1852

Victoria College

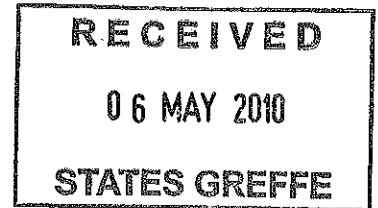
Jersey • Channel Islands • JE1 4HT

Robert G. Cook
Head Master
HMC

Visitor: Her Majesty The Queen

5 May 2010

Deputy Roy Le Hérissier
Chairman
Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Sub-Panel (Political Education Review)
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
Jersey JE1 1DD



Dear Deputy Le Hérissier

Many thanks for your letter requesting information on Political Education at Victoria College to be submitted as part of the Scrutiny Panel review. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my reply, as I only managed to return to the island from Australia last Wednesday owing to the worldwide travel chaos - and after much frustration, worry and seemingly never-ending queuing and phoning!

Political Education is a crucial part of the PSHE programme at College from Yrs 7 to 11. Basic principles regarding democracy and elections are raised as early as Yr 7 via appointments to our School Council, where all relevant issues are explored fully. The role of the Police and Emergency Services is reinforced by events like the 'Prison? Me? No Way!' day and other visits.

The preparation for Yr 11 Work Experience placements deals with Health and Safety at work, recent employment legislation (including the rights of 16-year-olds in the workplace explained by a visitor from JACS) and a host of related issues. Our PSHE programme at KS4 has units on the generic principles of democracy, diversity, probity of elections, the EU, Rights and Responsibilities and the UN. These are supported by invited speakers and Assemblies.

Aspects of political education are addressed within individual departmental curricula. The History department in particular will address different types of government and assess strengths and weaknesses of popular governance. Issues regarding Law & Order are dealt with heavily in our A Level Psychology course.

In the Sixth Form there is a structured and targeted five week programme which all students, who are now entitled to vote, follow as part of their Enrichment programme.

This includes:

- An introduction to the composition of the States of Jersey and Ministerial Government
- A visit to the States' Chamber, guided by the Assistant States' Greffier
- An introduction to the work of the island's parishes and the rôles that fall to them rather than to the Island government
- A visit from a Senator with an island-wide mandate (most often a Minister, who is therefore able to inform students on wider issues) and a Parish Deputy, who both facilitate a discussion with the students about current debates.

On occasion this programme has also been supported by senior members of the Honorary Police, who have attended in order to explain the vital role they play in the Island's community.

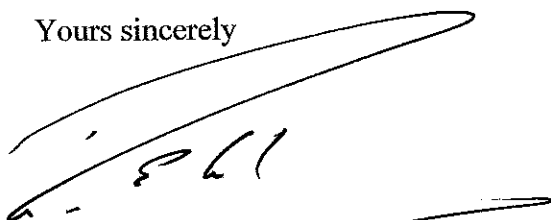
In addition all Sixth Form students visit the Social Security Department and receive information about the responsibilities and benefits that accrue in that area and the way in which Income Tax is collected.

This is but a summary of the impartial and generic work that we undertake to ensure that our students are politically aware and able to take a full part in the life of their Island.

We review and assess our programmes every year and are determined to send our young men into the world as independent, free-thinking and informed individuals.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R G Cook', is written over a large, horizontal, oval-shaped scribble.

R G Cook

Head Master