



Founded 1852

Victoria College

Jersey • Channel Islands • JE1 4HT

Visitor: Her Majesty The Queen

A. D. Watkins B.Ed (Hons) M. Ed
Headmaster
HMC

18 October

Deputy R Ward
Chairman, Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
States Greffe
Morier House
St Helier
JE1 1DD
scrutiny@gov.je

Dear Deputy Ward

Thank you for contacting us in respect of the Post 16 Education Provision in Jersey. I am sending this letter by email in the first instance; a hard copy will follow by post.

I have read through the Terms of Reference which I believe covers much of the information that I have addressed in my response. Attached you will find responses to each question and I am happy to say that Victoria College would be very pleased indeed to provide student views on the Post 16 courses that they are currently following. If you would like to contact our Head of Sixth Form, Mr David Payne, on d.payne@vcj.sch.je I am sure that he would be very pleased to provide students who can contribute to the Post 16 education debate.

Please do feel free to contact me should you require any further information or clarification of the points raised in the attached.

Yours sincerely

Alun D Watkins
Headmaster



Victoria College · Jersey

POST 16 EDUCATION PROVISION

October 2018

Curriculum

- A levels offered in 14 subjects
- Further curriculum flexibility offered through collaboration with other post 16 providers: Beaulieu, JCG and De La Salle
- This includes maintaining a breadth of curriculum access through enabling A level teaching/learning at other institutions, whilst also allowing some VCJ students to access other Level 3 qualifications (Business Studies BTEC and Cambridge Technical ICT at Beaulieu)
- Significant A level success: 15.8% A*; 40.1% A* - A; 64.2% A* - B
- Preparation for university through the optional Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Enrichment

Range of enrichment opportunities offered including qualifications in:

- First Aid
- Photography
- LAMDA - **Grade 8, Gold Award, Speaking In Public**
- European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Advanced

Enrichment also provides opportunities for pupils to consider:

- PSHE topics including a strong focus on mental health and wellbeing, including advice on consumption of both legal and illegal substances
- Transition from full time education, including management of personal finance
- Jersey politics
- Conversational Italian
- Mindfulness
- Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) projects

Co-curricular

Comprehensive range of opportunities offered within school in:

- Sport
- Drama
- Music
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- Public speaking/debating

Leadership

- Sixth Form pupils have extensive leadership opportunities both within their houses (each pupil is a member of one of five school houses) and in College more widely
- School Prefects have extensive responsibility in assisting staff in the organisation of day to day College life as well as in the maintenance of standards across the school site
- Pupils have senior roles in sport, drama, music and CCF
- Senior pupils also adopt lead roles as:
 - House prefects – organising teams, casts and ensembles for house events
 - Peer mentors – guiding and assisting younger pupils
 - Peer educators – assisting Year 7 tutors through the leadership and delivery of PSHE

Careers

- Pupils receive one lesson per week of Careers guidance throughout Year 12
- Careers Fair open to all Year 12 and 13 students
- Range of careers opportunities presented throughout Year 12 and 13 including:
 - Careers Fair held on site
 - One to one interview experience for all Year 12 students
 - CV and business etiquette guidance through BDO and First Names
 - External speakers address Years 12 and 13 through assemblies e.g. KPMG, PWC
 - Institute of Directors work shadowing scheme
 - Life in Finance scheme
 - Young Enterprise
 - Bursaries with a range of firms including Law and Accountancy
 - Many students complete further work experience during Activities Week (July of Year 12)

Pathways

- Pupils receive extensive guidance on their options post 18 through Careers lessons (see above) and a Deputy Head of Sixth Form with specific responsibility for UCAS applications
- Year 12 students receive guidance from visiting universities (e.g. Sussex, Winchester) and visit the HE Fair
- The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), 2017 described Sixth Form pupils as “*well prepared to move into the next phase of education or employment*”¹
- Majority of students go on to Higher Education; 97% of students accessed their university of choice in 2018
- A significant minority of students seek employment on island
- A small number of students take a GAP year before progressing to employment or Higher Education

SEN

- A range of SEN provision is made in the Sixth Form
- Dedicated SENCO identifies specific learning needs, provides support for students to aid their learning and guides staff on appropriate support strategies for pupils
- Access arrangements for public examinations are provided according to JCQ guidelines

¹ <https://www.isi.net/school/victoria-college-9181>

- SEN cohort are tracked and monitored using internal and external data to assess the efficacy of our provision

Successes

- Pupils achieve excellent results in A levels, the ‘gold standard’ of educational attainment
- The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) 2017 report described Sixth Form pupils as “*excellent role models who take their responsibilities seriously*”²
- Sixth Form pupils were further described as “*confident and articulate communicators*”³ who “*will be a credit to the school in whatever they do in their futures*”⁴.

Challenges

- Changes to A level specifications have made access to A levels more challenging for some of our pupils

Initiatives

- Continue to develop a PSHE programme which adapts to the changing nature of challenges faced by our pupils
- Reflecting on the suitability of our post 16 curriculum (as part of a broader curriculum review)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.