



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

04 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the start of the new academic year. Today, we had the pleasure of greeting our new Year 7 and Lower Sixth. Students have been eager to get stuck in and have enjoyed their new challenges.

Year 7 began the day with an assembly on 'How to be a successful Veseyan'. We talked about the importance of four key behaviours: curiosity, determination, being caring and hard working. Their commitment to these behaviours will determine how well they make the most of their Vesey experience. I have enjoyed meeting the boys in the Dining Hall and seeing them in action on the rugby field as part of this afternoon's starter course. I am pleased with the efforts of the boys. Roll on next Monday!

We apologise for the problems with the delay in arrival of sports kit in relation to Maudesport and Under Armour. We are all disappointed that there have been so many delays. We hope that all difficulties are now well on the way to being resolved.

The Sixth Form have been involved in some challenging learning. They have taken on complex Einstein puzzles in connection with Port Said and faced tough translation challenges of unfamiliar codes and languages. I am grateful for the support of **Graham Powell**, an Educational Consultant, with this venture.

We look forward to welcoming all year groups (Year 7-13) to school for an 08:40 start on Monday morning.

Talking of Monday there is a very exciting opportunity for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 coming up. We have employed Centrestage School of Speech and Drama to produce a senior production. The play which we will be performing is 'Two' by Jim Cartwright. It is an excellent play with a lot of humour. Auditions will be held here at school this coming Monday (7 September) and Tuesday (8 September) from 15:25 - 17:00 in Big School for Years 10-13. Performances are scheduled for 10 and 11 December. We look forward to seeing as many Year 10-13 students as possible on Monday and Tuesday! It will be great fun.

On a very different note, I am delighted to be able to write that we have had a very successful summer in public examinations. A record 54% of A\*/A grades were awarded to BVGS students at A Level. Ten of our students achieved three A\*s or better with 51 students attaining three As or better. Most of our students have gone on to study at some of the top universities in the UK (and indeed the world) including nine going to Oxford and Cambridge universities. We also have a fabulous dozen off to study Medicine. We are very proud of these results. 81% of the grades were awarded at A\*/B, the 39th best state school results in the country out of the 3,268 state funded secondary schools in England. Our students achieved the best results of any co-educational Sixth Form in Birmingham and Walsall. Importantly life is not just about examinations. Our A Level leavers made friends for life, showed a spirit of enquiry and curiosity, developed their leadership, independence and



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resilience and were part of a warm, outward-looking community which celebrates diversity and supports others. They have achieved excellence and have been inspired to be outstanding learners. As Sebastian Heley, outgoing School Captain, who is off to read Economics at Durham University wrote to me, **'The teaching at Vesey is exemplary. It is because of my teachers that I developed real passion for my subjects. I loved my studies and I think that is very important.'**

AS Level results augur well for the future with our best ever attainment and record numbers of students with three As or better at AS.

Meanwhile at GCSE we were pleased that 100% of students taking exams scored a fabulous five A\*- C at GCSE including English and Maths. Two-thirds of the grades were at A and A\* level with 81 students attaining an average of ten A grades or better. Out of 3,268 state secondary schools in England, we were 60th, the second best boys' school in Birmingham, only surpassed by Camp Hill Boys. There were many exceptional achievements: **Alexander Burden** (11 A\*s), **Omair Quyyam**, **Akshay Khanna** and **Reece Jones** (10 A\*s). Reece also scored 100% in all French GCSE modules and 100% in unit one English Language. One student combined Olympic success with a Gold and a Silver in Gymnastics with an impressive eight A\*/A grades. Well done **Hamish Carter!**

Special thanks go to Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form), **Dave Goodwin** and Head of Upper Sixth, **Min Egan**, the rest of the Sixth Form Team including out-going Head of Year, **Beth Gainford**, **Pam Maskell**, Senior Learning Mentor, **Tom Williams**, Head of Year 11, **Heather Hodgkinson**, Learning Mentor and **Lesley Overton** (who has the unenviable job of masterminding the whole exam administration at BVGS) as well as all subject leaders, teachers and support staff on offering outstanding support, care and guidance to a group of students who have distinguished themselves by commitment to their studies and their contribution to the life of our school community.

It has been a busy summer in other ways too. A big thank you to **Julian Whiting**, Teacher i/c Rugby, **Andrew Cragg**, Maths Department, **Peter Cragg**, recently retired from the Maths Department and **Andrew Whittle** who is off to join Warwick School, for running a superb three week tour to South Africa. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the trip:

'It was the best three weeks and all the lads enjoyed it to the full. There was a real spirit on the tour and everyone got on and integrated seamlessly.' (**Tom Elliman** on South Africa 2015).

There has been a lot of work going on at Bishop Vesey's during the summer:

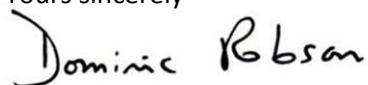
- The fire detection system has been upgraded (paid for by DFE devolved capital)
- We have a new rowing room in the area of the old bike sheds (paid for by a private donation)
- The temporary teaching block is now operational housing Geography, Design and Technology and Computing
- Meanwhile Art has been re-located to Rooms 26 and 28.

Many thanks to **Graham Swindells** who has masterminded operations over the summer, along with the hardworking site team of **Paul Boyle**, **Kevin Wamsley**, **Jon Holden** and **Andy Tomlinson**.


Finally, we would request that parents refrain from parking on the double yellow lines outside the school on Boswell Road when dropping off and picking up students. This has the potential to block the road, and could cause safety concerns for students as they leave the school grounds and cross the road. We would suggest that alternative parking is found away from this point of congestion to alleviate any health and safety issues.

Here's to a successful new academic year,

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
**Headteacher**



**Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA**  
**Chairman of Governors**

### Quote of the Week

'Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.' (Aristotle)

### Dates for your diary:

SEPTEMBER 2015	
<b>Monday 7</b>	Term starts all year groups at 08:40. Library and Dining Hall open at 08:00.
<b>Monday 7</b>	Auditions for school production 15:25 - 17:00 in Big School.
<b>Tuesday 8</b>	
<b>Thursday 10</b>	Photographs for Year 7, 10 and L6.
<b>Thursday 10</b>	Year 10 Information Evening 18:00 - 19:00
<b>Friday 11</b>	Geography Field Trip (U6)
<b>Saturday 12</b>	Entrance Test
<b>Monday 14</b>	Membership and Appointments Committee Meeting
<b>Thursday 17</b>	Open Evening for prospective Year 7 16:00 - 19:00. Students have a half-day and leave at 13:15.
<b>Saturday 19</b>	OVA Dinner
<b>Monday 21</b>	Ben Davies author visit
<b>Monday 21</b>	Full Board Meeting
<b>Tuesday 22</b>	Mental Health/E-Safety Parental Awareness 19:00
<b>Wednesday 23</b>	Natural High Presentation for Year 7
<b>Wednesday 23</b>	Michelle Magorian author visit
<b>Thursday 24</b>	Artsfest (tickets costs £20). All Welcome

<b>OCTOBER 2015</b>	
<b>Friday 2</b>	Geography Field Trip (Y11)
<b>Monday 5</b>	U6 Parents' Evening 16:00
<b>Monday 5</b>	Lichfield Literature Festival all day at BVGS
<b>Monday 5</b>	Admissions Committee
<b>Tuesday 6</b>	BLH Parents' Forum 19:00
<b>Thursday 8</b>	World Poetry Day
<b>Thursday 8</b>	Junior Soloists' Concert 19:00
<b>Friday 9</b>	Y11 PE Residential
<b>Monday 12</b>	HR Committee
<b>Tuesday 13</b>	Careers Fair 15:30 - 19:30 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
<b>Thursday 15</b>	Y7 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:30 and 19:30 - 20:15
<b>Monday 19</b>	Finance and Estates Committee Meeting (budget review)
<b>Tuesday 20</b>	Open Morning 09:10 - 10:30
<b>Tuesday 20</b>	L6 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:15 and 19:30 - 20:15
<b>Wednesday 21</b>	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
<b>Thursday 22</b>	Junior Hockey Tour
<b>Friday 23</b>	Founder's Day
<b>Friday 23</b>	Break up for half-term

## NOVEMBER 2015

<b>Monday 2</b>	Training Day
<b>Tuesday 3</b>	Term re-commences
<b>Monday 9</b>	Learning and Teaching Committee
<b>Wednesday 11</b>	Remembrance Services
<b>Thursday 12</b>	Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form 16:00 - 19:00
<b>Friday 13</b>	PAC Disco at BVGS 19:00 - 21:00
<b>w/c Monday 16</b>	Busking Week
<b>Monday 16</b>	Finance and Estates
<b>Thursday 19</b>	Year 7 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
<b>w/c Monday 23</b>	Year 11 mock week
<b>Friday 27</b>	Speech Day 19:00 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
<b>Friday 27</b>	Senior King Maths Challenge
<b>Monday 30</b>	GCSE Presentation Evening 19:00 at BVGS

## DECEMBER 2015

<b>Thursday 3</b>	Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:00
<b>Sunday 6 - Wednesday 9</b>	Dress and technical rehearsals for school play
<b>Monday 7</b>	Full Board Meeting
<b>Monday 7</b>	Y12 Parents' Evening
<b>Thursday 8 and Friday 9</b>	Performance of 'Two'
<b>Tuesday 15</b>	Christmas Concert
<b>Thursday 17</b>	Break up for Christmas