



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

04 December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

What a brilliant celebration we had last Friday at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall with our annual Speech Day. This year our guest speaker was an Old Veseyan who left in 1969, the **Rt Hon the Lord Bradley**, who gave an excellent account of what BVGS did for him. The Class of 2015 whose efforts we applauded were an outstanding year group of conscientious and committed students. We wish them well for their future careers. Well done also to **Ryan Bagley** for his amazing marimba playing and all who enabled this event to be such a success. For more information about the evening, please click on 'Speech Day Programme' from our website or follow the link <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/speech-day-programme-2015>.

It was also good to mark Year 11 GCSE success on Monday night. Thank you to **Peter Dines** OV for distributing the certificates, **Messrs Baugh and Williams** for their words of wisdom, and for the contributions of **Reiss Chahal** (piano) and **Charlie Steventon** who spoke about sport in Year 11. In assemblies this week there have been some thoughtful assemblies. **Mrs Hodkinson**, our KS4 Learning Mentor gave an excellent assembly on World Aids Day to Year 11. Meanwhile **Mr Goodwin**, Assistant Headteacher spoke to the boys in Year 9 and 10 about Homophobia and **Mr Lal**, Teacher i/c Sixth Form Enrichment gave an excellent overview of the Syrian civil war on the day that parliament were debating the crucial issue of air strikes.

There has been a good attendance at academic clubs this week and the library has been thriving as ever. I am pleased to announce that we have had two of our boys **Joe Rogers 7W** and **Sam Harkin 9B** are having their poems published in 'The Poetry Trials'. This is an excellent achievement. Well done boys, I look forward to reading your work in print.

It is great to see that EngineeringSoc continues to flourish with an excellent presentation from **Mr Wayne Geldard** this week. We really do appreciate all the support that our parents give us. Thank you.

This week has also seen a university masterclass for Maths and Computing. Thanks to **Mr Morgan** for organising the event. I must also belatedly mention the fact that three of our senior Mathematicians **Ben Harland**, **Brendon Sorahan** and **Michael Saunders** qualified for the interestingly named Senior Kangaroo Challenge. We await their results with interest.

Yesterday we held our Year 9 Options Evening. With an excellent turn-out from parents and students, it was hopefully a very useful evening. I certainly enjoyed listening to each of the departments speak about their subject at GCSE. I had some excellent feedback from parents on the evening. If you have any thoughts about how we can refine this evening further please contact **Kate Steadman**, Assistant Headteacher via [k.steadman@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:k.steadman@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk).

Well done to our top merit winners from last week: **Harrison Dodd 7W**, **Ayub Mohammed 8G**, **Jamie Moore 9B**, **Joshua Littleford 10G**, **Robin Maes-Prior 10B**, **Aadam Ahmed 8G**, **Fintan Brennan 8R**, **Hamza Rahman 8G**, **Harry West 10W** and **Jack Glover 8G**. I look forward to seeing them at breaktime on Wednesday.

It has been a busy sporting week with some excellent competitive games. Probably the team of the week has to be the cross-country team **Tom Hooper**, **Jack Brookes**, **Tom Parkes**, **George Beirne**,



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**Iqram Choudhury, Georgia Curry and Euan Cox.** They won the highly competitive Cannon Hill Park Race on Wednesday. Well done also to **Euan Cox** who came fourth in the men's race, **Tom Parkes** who came ninth despite losing his shoe in the mud and **Georgia Curry** who won the women's race. For more information about BVGS sport, including the U14 Hockey triumph v Solihull and of course the ongoing unbeaten record of the amazing U14B Rugby team, visit [www.bvgssport.co.uk](http://www.bvgssport.co.uk).

Looking forward, we are trying to encourage students to come up with ways to improve our school. All students can bid for money from a £3,000 PAC (Parents' Association) Student Voice Fund to be spent for the benefit of fellow Veseyans. Bids need to be submitted to [s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) by Thursday 16 December and the bid form should be on the website under the 'latest news' section.

Good luck to our Chess team who are in competition at KE Five Ways this evening.

We have had some great news with Duke of Edinburgh recently. Congratulations to **Ben Harland** (silver) and **Katherine Wharton** OV (silver) who have been awarded with their Silver Duke of Edinburgh certificates and badges this week. Also congratulations to all of the following boys who have been awarded their Bronze certificates and badges to wear proudly: **Dom Abbott, Andre Gill, Ben Green** OV, **James Cutting, James Winton, Tom Parkes, Folu Bajamo, Tom Thursfield, Jerin Johnson, Dan Leyva, Jasmeet Hothi, Alfie Lockrey, Chris Mason, Jacob Ricketts, Chris Wheat, Jonjon Tian, Sunil Salh, Oliver Bardsley, Callum Simpson, Joe Beesley, Marquez Sinclair, Ed Stanley, Jacob Fairweather, Jacob Wilkes, Liam Yates** and **Will Hennessy**. This means our completion rate is one of the best in the West Midlands and will hopefully keep rising, well done boys! A big thank you to **Tom Greenwood** for his leadership of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme at BVGS.

It is good to see that we are having very healthy ticket sales for 'Two', which is being performed on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December from 7:30pm here at school. The cast have worked very hard and are looking forward to performing to a full hall. Please consider giving this new event your support. Tickets are available from Mrs Foster via [s.foster@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:s.foster@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) and are priced at Adults £9.00 and Students/Concessions £5.00.

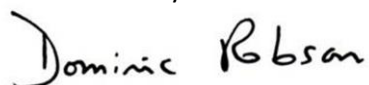
On the matter of Junior Drama I have received some expressions of interest. However I would be delighted to have even more. I will extend the deadline until the end of Monday 7 December before I make a final decision to go ahead with this project.

I will also be writing to invite everybody today to our Christmas Concert on Tuesday 15 December. Come along and get some festive cheer. Tickets are also available from Mrs Foster (see above). Please also note that at the interval, and before the concert, we are holding a Scholastic Book Fair thanks to our wonderful Library team. If you are needing inspiration for Christmas presents, look no further.

Finally congratulations to our Chair of Governors, **Dr John Craggs** who will receive an honorary doctorate (D.Univ) at Birmingham University on Wednesday 8 December. This is being awarded for John's 'outstanding contribution to the University, The City of Birmingham and the West Midlands'. He is joining the ranks of distinguished, and sometimes famous, academics, scientists, politicians, economists, ambassadors, musicians, bishops, medics, historians and business people. Others honoured have included Marie Curie (in 1913), more recently Jasper Carrot, Kenneth Branagh and Benjamin Zephaniah. This is obviously a great honour for our school too. Well done Dr Craggs.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

### Quote of the Week

'Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare'

**Japanese Proverb**

### Word of the Week

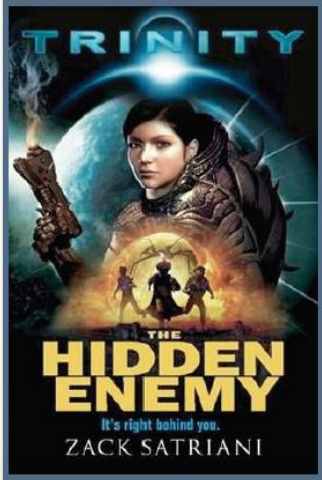


'abstemious' adj: restraining behaviour or appetite

### Book of the Week

# BOOK OF THE WEEK

BOOK NUMBER ONE OF THE 'TRINITY' SERIES

❖ "It is a page turner due to it's filled with action and adventure involved."  
Rakeem UDDIN 10R



### Dates for your diary:

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>	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
<b>Monday 7</b>	Y12 Parents' Evening
<b>Monday 7</b>	PAC meeting
<b>Thursday 10 and Friday 11</b>	Performance of 'Two' - 19:30
<b>Tuesday 15</b>	Christmas Concert - 19:30
<b>Thursday 17</b>	Break up for Christmas

## **JANUARY 2016**

<b>Monday 4</b>	Spring Term Commences
<b>w/c Monday 4</b>	Y13 Mock Week
<b>w/c Monday 11</b>	Y12 Mock Week
<b>Monday 18</b>	Finance and Estates Committee meeting (budget review)
<b>Wednesday 20</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<b>Monday 25</b>	Full Board Meeting

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

<b>w/c 1</b>	Busking Week
<b>Wednesday 3</b>	Whole School Review Day - 13:30 - 15:30
<b>Thursday 4</b>	Year 10 Parents' Evening
<b>Thursday 4</b>	Intermediate Maths Challenge
<b>Friday 5</b>	Harry Potter Book Night (tbc)
<b>Friday 5</b>	PAC Night at the Races 19:30
<b>Monday 8</b>	Learning and Teaching Committee
<b>Wednesday 10</b>	Year 10 vaccinations
<b>Friday 12</b>	Break up for half-term
<b>Friday 12</b>	Year 10 - 13 Iceland Trip
<b>Monday 22</b>	Term re-commences
<b>Monday 22</b>	Finance and Estates Committee meeting