



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

05 February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all this week there is plenty of excellent news from the English Department with the introduction of our new 'Superstars in English' awards. Next Wednesday there will be a celebration lunch for 18 Year 7 and 8 students who are receiving this excellent accolade. **Will Meehan, Oliver Smith, Mackenzie Davies, Jun Park, Chirag Guha, Riley Bevan, Moonis Haider, Kamren Purewal, Lucas Corden-Bowen, Yuan Sagala, Aum Patel, Toby Page, Liam Wragg, Oliver Pratt, Sanan Hasahi, Ravi Sharma, Akshay Gogna and Govind Jandu.**

This week a number of Year 11 students attended Poetry Live at the ICC. The boys listened to poets perform and were able to ask them questions. The Chief Examiner for the Poetry Unseen exam was there and gave the students excellent tips. Thank you to Head of English, **Ruth Haywood**, Second in English **Bethany Colder** and **Adam Clay-Croome** (English Department) for their support for this important revision event.

There have been plenty of examples of spoken English in action this week as House Debating continues. **Ben Smith** won Year 11 Debating for Red House in assembly yesterday. Today it is the turn of Year 9. Results available on Twitter later @BVG51527.

Students enjoyed their first Drama session on Tuesday with Centrestage. We still need to fill a few more places for this excellent opportunity. A letter has gone to every Year 9 parent by SchoolComms regarding this. Please note all reply slips need to be returned to Mrs Foster in the School Club office on Monday. Similarly if any Year 7 or 8 students would like to take this opportunity, please get the slips in on Monday.

It is always good to see live performances. This evening our own **Nyandavoh Foday** will represent Bishop Vesey's in The Poetry by Heart Midlands competition at the Birmingham Rep. Good luck Nyandavoh.

This coming Thursday sees 30 Year 10 going to the Crescent Theatre to see 'Jekyll and Hyde' with the English Department. Birmingham has such brilliant theatres you can visit and if you get chance over half-term it can be a very good experience for your sons and daughters.

Across the school this week the top merit winners were: **Tillmann Willett 7G, Joe Rogers 7W, Jun Park 7G, Chirag Guha 7W, Jack Lees 8W, Mithun Padmanabhan 8W, William Cowley 8W, Mohammed Hashim 10B, Leo Karski 10G and Edward Stanley 11B.** They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies next Wednesday.

This week has seen the dining hall alive to the sound of music as part of Busking Week. Well done to all our performers: **Jamie Barber, Alex Dixon, Robin Maes-Prior, Chester Powell, Will Sedgewick, Adian Tse-Stuart, Josh Sherratt, Adeyemi Adebeyejo, Benedict Newman, James Rogers, Ben Nimmo, James Foxall, Tobey Yu, Angus Carter, Ben Thompson, Jordan Orchard, Amber Jordan, Jemima Richardson-Jones, Upraaj Bains, Andre Bean, Alex Beedle, Joss Bird, Torin Bird, Ben Roberts, James Whitehouse, Syakir Saiful, Jude Heath, Sam Godsell, Sam McDowell, Jon Jon Tian, Louis Kill-Brown, Ho-San Cheng and Freddie Coleman.**

Congratulations to **Nicholas Lee** from U6 who has achieved a DipABRSM on violin. This is a fantastic achievement.

Elsewhere this week **John Wait** spoke at STEMsoc and 24 of our 50 students on the Gifted and Talented register for sport were invited to a special day with Olympic athlete **Daniel Caines**. Feedback on the day was excellent. Also Year 9 and 10 undertook the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge on Thursday morning. We await their results with interest.

In assemblies this week **Umar Khan** and the TechCom team presented to Year 7 and 8 assembly. Well done. This week I met, along with **Miss Hearn** and **Miss Steadman**, our new Rights Respecting Team. This is a student committee which seeks to promote awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Children. I am grateful for the support of this enthusiastic student team: **Ishan Mitra 7G, Leon Yamin-Ali 7B, Cole Hancox**



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7P, Alex Bailey 9R, Hamzah Mahmood 10W, Jack Eccles 11B, Georgia Curry 6JK, Omair Quyyam 6WB, Fadil Chishti 6IB, Nyandavoh Foday 6CW and Elise Kane 6SH

We are very keen to provide some excellent careers experiences for our students, especially in National Careers Week w/c 7 March. Could you spare some time to get involved with this? If so, please contact **Dave Goodwin**, Assistant Headteacher on d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Thank you to parents for your support this week with Review Day and Year 10 Parents' Evening. Feedback suggests you found these opportunities useful.

In sport the big news this week is that our Netball team are through to the national finals for a second consecutive year. The regional competition was held on Sunday in a wet and windy Bromsgrove. BVGS won five out of six games at the group stage, thereby qualifying for the semi-finals. They followed this by defeating Hereford Cathedral School and then beating Wrekin College 11-9 in the final to become regional champions. As you can see, the girls (see below) were delighted. Well done to: **Martha Hutchings (Captain), Ore Akinwale, Holly Brown, Meg Chaplin, Melissa Garton, Nikki Jones, Katie Littlewood, Lucy Parize, Carlie Pimlott, Hannah Richards and Angalea Varma.**



We have had other excellent sporting news this week with a fine set of victories at the Birmingham Schools Indoor Games: 14 medals in total with particular success in Indoor Rowing and Table Tennis, amongst other things. Also noteworthy this week was a fine Year 8 victory over Bromsgrove School with **Clark Wells** scoring a hat-trick. For a lot more information about Veseys Sport this week, please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>. This coming Monday afternoon sees our U15 take on New Hall, Chelmsford in the quarter-finals of the NatWest Schools Cup. Very exciting. We hope we will have a good contingent of OV supporters on this occasion.

Also coming up next week we have the Year 10 team at Villa Park competing in the Coca Cola Regional Business Challenge and **Mr Everett** is taking a student group from BVGS to visit Auschwitz.

Our new Admissions Policy for students entering Year 7 and our Sixth Form for September 2017 has now been agreed by the Governing Body. I attach it for your perusal.

[http://www.bvgs.co.uk/images/stories/school/Admissions/Determined Birmingham School Admission Criteria September 2017-Bishop Veseys Grammar School.pdf](http://www.bvgs.co.uk/images/stories/school/Admissions/Determined_Birmingham_School_Admission_Criteria_September_2017-Bishop_Veseys_Grammar_School.pdf).

Finally I attach a West Midlands Police update on the subject of a number of recent hoax bomb calls which have been made to schools across the West Midlands. Please be reassured that we have rigorous procedures in place for such matters.

Wishing you a lovely weekend. Hope to see some of you at tonight's 'A night at the races'. Thanks to the PAC for organising.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Robson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Craggs". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

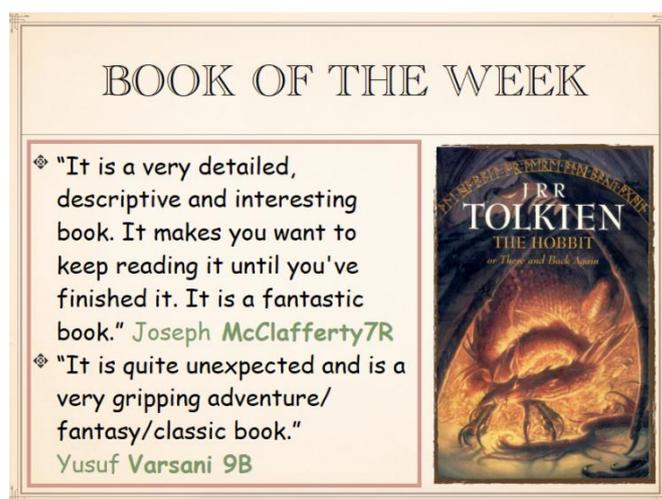
Quote of the Week

'The hard way is the right way'
John Alves

Word of the Week

'destitute' adj. without means or substance, lacking food, clothing and shelter

Book of the Week



Art Star of the Week



Josiah McNeil (U6) (pictured third from left) after entering the regional heat of the ARTiculation Award at the Ikon Gallery on Monday. Josiah gave a confident and fluent speech about 'Him and Her' by South African artist, Candice Brietz. He finished in second place, and received very positive feedback from the judges as well as a place on the Ikon Youth Programme.

From the Archive

From The Veseyan, Lent 1952: A debate was held in Old Big School between BVGS and Sutton Girls with the motion 'That this House deplores feminine flamboyancy at the expense of masculine monotony in the sartorial system. Apparently the motion was defeated by a small majority!

Dates for your diary:

FEBRUARY 2016

Friday 5	PAC Night at the Races 19:30
Monday 8	Learning and Teaching Committee
Friday 12	Break up for half-term
Friday 12	Year 10 - 13 Iceland Trip
Monday 22	Term re-commences
Monday 22	Finance and Estates Committee meeting

MARCH 2016

Wednesday 2	Swimming Gala
Thursday 3	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 3	World Book Day
Monday 7	AS/A2 Geology field Trip
Monday 7	Full Board Meeting
Wednesday 9	Open Morning
Thursday 10	Year 7 and 8 Hockey Tour
Thursday 10	Intermediate Olympiad Maths Challenge
Friday 11	German Exchange visitors arrive
Monday 14	Admissions Committee meeting
Wednesday 16	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 17	Spring Concert 19:00
Thursday 17	Intermediate Kangaroo Maths Challenge
Tuesday 22	L6 Geography Field Trip
Wednesday 23	Half Day, break up for Easter
Thursday 24	Training Day
23-27	Barcelona Trip

Message to Students, Parents & Carers

Following Recent Hoax Bomb Calls

Issued 1 February 2016

Dear Student, Parent or Carer,

Following recent hoax bomb calls to schools, West Midlands Police is providing an update to students, their parents and carers.

Over the past 10 days there have been a series of hoax bomb calls to schools across the country, including schools in the West Midlands.

Some of the calls are clearly linked to each other. Others are 'copycat' calls.

Each of calls has caused significant disruption to school life, upset to school staff and understandable concern to students, their parents and carers.

West Midlands Police treats such matters very seriously and we are committed to working with schools and local councils to ensure the safety of all students and to minimise disruption to learning.

We have taken the following action:

We have assessed every bomb threat. Our highly experienced officers review real-time intelligence and work with counter-terrorism experts, who have an in depth knowledge of such incidents, to quickly assess whether a threat is real or not. We are satisfied that there is no credible threat posed to student safety. All of the calls are malicious and designed to cause fear and disruption.

We have begun a major criminal investigation. Making a hoax bomb threat is a serious crime punishable by up to seven years imprisonment. We are working with police forces across the country to find the person or people responsible. A number of arrests within the West Midlands have already been made for copycat crimes.

We are keeping schools and councils updated and have issued guidance on what to do in the event of a bomb threat. This guidance is in addition to pre-existing safety plans held by schools which are well-rehearsed and are designed to manage a range of situations.

We are reviewing the site security of some schools. Schools remain some of the safest and most secure public spaces. Staff are highly trained and the wellbeing of students is their top priority.

As a parent or carer we understand your concerns. There is a real threat from global terrorism and it is important that we are alert but not alarmed. To help us we ask the following from you:

- 1. If you have any specific questions regarding your school's safety plans or the site's security please speak to school staff.**
- 2. If your school makes a decision to temporarily suspend lessons while safety checks are carried out please do not attend the campus to remove your child unless you are asked to do so. Also please do not phone the emergency services to ask for updates on your child – this delays genuine people in need from getting help. Schools will keep you informed as soon as possible and they will always arrange care for students who are unable to return home or whose parents/carers are unable to collect them.**



Serving our communities, protecting them from harm
www.west-midlands.police.uk

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3. Please do not attend and remove your child from a school that has not been affected by an alert – this results in missed learning opportunities.

4. Finally, please speak to your child about the consequences of making hoax calls. What may appear to them as a 'joke' will have long-lasting implications for their future.

Should you have any information about those responsible for the security alerts call police on 101 or the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

You can find out more about how schools, the council and you can prepare for emergencies here:

www.gov.uk/local-planning-emergency-major-incident



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