



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

06 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Last half-term finished with the Annual Founder's Day Service at Holy Trinity Church. Our students behaved impeccably, showing a great deal of pride in our school. The theme of 'Refugees' certainly struck a chord with everyone, and Andrew Mitchell MP certainly gave us some interesting things to think about. It was also good to see a substantial amount of money, £525.20, collected for our designated charity for this event, the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Thank you to all who made the service possible, especially **Russell Bowen**, Deputy Headteacher.

Over half-term the Times Educational Supplement published an interesting article on school admissions quoting Department for Education data for 2014-15 that Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is the ninth most popular school in England in terms of the number of applications for the places available. It was good to see external validation of the healthy interest that parents and families have in our school.

We started the week on Tuesday with House Meetings. Thank you to all the Sixth Form leaders for organising these. Also a big thank you to **Adam Spinner** and **Andre Gill** for their intelligent feedback on the candidates we interviewed for posts this week. It was good to see that the student voice continues to be an important part of our staff selection processes.

Around the school this week I have popped in to a number of lessons. I was particularly impressed with some of the Year 7 Mathematicians I met. Talking of Mathematicians, it was good to see a full Old Big School for the Senior Maths Challenge, organised by **Mr Willis**, Second in Mathematics. We also wish luck to all those taking external examinations this week, including the fiendishly difficult Oxbridge papers.

In assemblies, we were delighted to welcome University of Nottingham Outreach Officer, **Andrew Cotterill** OV, who also, as a talented linguist himself, spent some time supporting our Oxbridge linguists. Meanwhile, it was a pleasure to welcome **Dr Balraj Dhesi** OV to MedSoc. At the same time **Mr Baugh** led some thought-provoking assemblies on the Gunpowder Plot.

Unfortunately Junior Debating was cancelled this week, however we will meet again next Wednesday in Old Big School from 13:15. However, yesterday I met with fourteen Sixth Formers interested in taking part in the English Speaking Union Mace Competition on Thursday 26 November. They seem an excellent bunch and have been charged with preparing for one of three possible debates. We will meet again on Tuesday break-time in my office. Any interested Sixth Form students, other than these fourteen, are also welcome.

Today we have welcomed **Célia Demarchi** OV from Oxford University to continue with her Psychology research. We are delighted with parental support for this work.

Also this week was the Sixth Form Art trip to London led by **Mrs Heer** and **Mrs Rowlands**. They went to The Wellcome Gallery, Whitechapel Gallery, Tate Britain, and both Serpentine Galleries. It was a fantastic day with lots of inspiration from contemporary and traditional exhibits. Students were fascinated by the opportunity to think 'outside the box', looking at many installations, and deeper concepts in the world of Art today.



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Tonight is the joint Year 7 and 8 Disco with Sutton Girls here at BVGS from 19:30 until 21:15. Please support the PAC and **Mr Bowen** by picking up your boys promptly. Hopefully the Year 7 LEPR workout to raise money for India will have helped them work on their moves!

It is always nice to hear of student successes. Well done to **Upraaj Bains** who won a bronze medal in the 2015 World Karate Championships. Well done also to **Alex Dixon** from Year 7, one of twenty national finalists in Richard Branson's Junior Necker Cup Tennis Tournament on Saturday.

I have also heard lots of good things about the Junior Rugby Tour to Ireland. A big thank-you to **Messrs Whiting, Greenwood, Graham and Joy** for an excellent opportunity for our boys.

Mr Davies is keen for me to let you know about our inaugural Golf Day raising money for school sport on 8 June 2016. Book now to avoid disappointment. For further information about BVGS Sport visit www.bvgssport.co.uk. Something that might not be on the website is our superb Cross Country success this week at QM. Well done to our Senior team.

This afternoon we hold our annual Early Entry Interview Afternoon here at school. A big thank you to all our interviewers supporting our 57 early entrants. Without the generosity of the Vesey Community, our students would not be as well supported as they are.

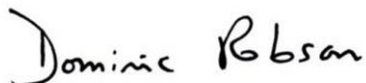
Next week we mark Children In Need with three events. On Tuesday we have a 'Question of Sport' for Pudsey at 13:15 in Big School and on Friday we hold our non-uniform day and our Boys v Girls Netball Contest. Please encourage your sons and daughters to support our charitable fundraising.

On the subject of charity, you might like to know that our Artsfest total stands at £1260.08. This will fund Our Place Community Hub.


On Sunday the School Captain, Deputies and I will be laying a wreath as part of the Royal Town's Remembrance Day Service. On Wednesday the school will stop for three simultaneous Remembrance Services. As always it will be an emotional and reflective moment.

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

'It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are'

Roy Disney

Word of the Week

'frenetic' adj: frantic; frenzied

Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK

◆ "It is an action packed thriller with murders, explosions and huge fights".
Will Mellor 8R



The image displays a collection of book covers for Charlie Higson's 'Young Adult' series. On the left, three smaller covers are shown side-by-side: 'Doublet Die' (red cover with a skull and crossbones), 'BloodFever' (black cover with a yellow insect), and 'SilverFin' (purple cover with a white snake). On the right, a larger cover for 'BloodFever' is featured, showing a yellow insect on a black background with the text 'The deadly new YOUNG ADULT bestseller' at the top, 'Death is contagious' above the title, and 'CHARLIE HIGSON' at the bottom.

Art and Design Star of the Week



Zachary Farmer, 10B. Natural forms, seen in a different light. Zach has used brushes and biro techniques, to enhance his skull form. An extremely talented artist, well done !

Dates for your diary:

NOVEMBER 2015	
Friday 6	PAC Year 7 and 8 Disco at BVGS
Monday 9	Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting
Monday 9	PAC meeting
Wednesday 11	Remembrance Services
Thursday 12	Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form 16:00 - 19:00
w/c Monday 16	Busking Week
Monday 16	Finance and Estates Committee Meeting
Thursday 19	Year 7 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
w/c Monday 23	Year 11 mock week
Friday 27	Speech Day 19:00 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall with Guest Speaker Lord Keith Bradley (OV)
Friday 27	Senior King Maths Challenge
Monday 30	GCSE Presentation Evening 19:00 at BVGS
DECEMBER 2015	
Thursday 3	Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:00
Sunday 6 - Wednesday 9	Dress and technical rehearsals for school play
Monday 7	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
Monday 7	Y12 Parents' Evening
Monday 7	PAC meeting
Thursday 10 and Friday 11	Performance of 'Two'
Tuesday 15	Christmas Concert
Thursday 17	Break up for Christmas