



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

08 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our students this week. I do hope everyone has had a relaxing Christmas holiday.

We had an unusual first day back with the school suffering a power cut (unrelated to the building work) around 11:20am. Without power we could not provide an appropriate service to students in terms of lunch, heating and lighting. Therefore we closed the school at 13:15 and the students were dismissed dependant on parental permission being granted by text or phone call. We had enough food in the Dining Hall to make sure all Year 7 had sandwiches before they left school. Thank you to everyone for their co-operation and understanding on an interesting (!) first day.

On the subject of closures, as the weather gets colder, please note our emergency closure procedures in the event of bad weather. If we decide to close the school, we will put a message on the front page of our website, through the @Bvgs1527 Twitter feed and via Radio WM, Heart FM and Free Radio by 06:45am. If we decide to close the school during the school day, all parents will be texted via SchoolComms (provided there isn't a power cut!). Those parents not on SchoolComms will be telephoned.

We had some excellent news right at the end of last term that a group of Year 10 students taking part in the Coca Cola 'Real Business Challenge' had achieved great success. The group had to create a product and marketing strategy. They beat 850 other teams to gain a place in the Regional Final which will be held at Aston Villa in February. The students involved are: **Ali Lakhanpal, Shoaib Sheraz, Leo Karski, Harry West, Christian White** and **James Horn**. Well done boys!

This week I have held two break-time celebrations for top merit winners from the last two weeks of the Autumn Term. Well done to **Oliver Gray-Nimmo 7G, Ethan Finney 7G, Matthew Whitehouse 7G, Haaris Butt 9R, Finlay Port 9R, Guvraj Dhillon 10R, Sam Whitehouse 10G, Hamzah Mahmood 10W, Shoaib Sheraz 10W, Harry West 10W, Vraj Shah 8B, Jack Lees 8W, Thomas Moore 8B, Charlie Richards 8B, Jack Moore 8B, Adeyemi Adeboyejo 8B, Ali Lakhanpal 10G, Archie Sansome 10W, Zachary Farmer 10B** and **Diran Suraj 10G**.

I have also signed off letters today for the 283 students who did not receive a single behaviour point last half term. Well done to all of them. Keep up the good work. Let's see if we can make that figure higher for this half term.

This week has not seen much competitive sport. However it is worth noting the very fine performances by our Hockey teams against Repton on Thursday. Fantastic! Good luck to everyone playing against Solihull this weekend.

We are currently planning a stimulating and varied programme here at school for National Careers Week beginning on 7 March. Calling all parents! Would you be able to spare some time in National Careers Week to come into school and talk to students? You wouldn't have to be allocated with your son/daughter's year group if you did not want to be. If interested, please contact Mr Dave Goodwin on j.evetts@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk who is our SLT lead for this exciting week.



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Please note that many extra-curricular activities will be back up and running from Monday. In 'Debating' for example on Wednesday we will be discussing the motion 'This house believes New Year's Resolutions are a waste of time'.

Thanks to all those parents who helped the school over Christmas by taking part in the 'Easyfundraising' scheme. The school really does value the help and support of parents with PAC fundraising.

An exciting PAC initiative for this academic year is the Student Voice Fund. The PAC have allocated £3,000 to this. Students had the opportunity before Christmas to bid for this money to help improve the quality of Vesey life. We have received a number of applications on the themes of: Chairs, Toilets and Self-Defence Classes. The Senior Team have examined all the applications and are now taking back a proposal to the School Council for further discussion. Watch this space for further information.

The PAC run a number of excellent social events. Tickets are now available for 'Night at the Races' on Friday 5 February. Tickets are available by emailing MIHLGreen@aol.com. The evening should be great fun. Have a look at <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/pac-race-night-2016> for further details. Hope to see you there.

Thank you to all Year 9 parents who have returned their slips to the IT Team enabling their on-line access to the Year 9 reports. Without these slips parents won't be able to view the Year 9 report when it is published on-line in a fortnight's time. Can we get all the remaining slips in this week please?

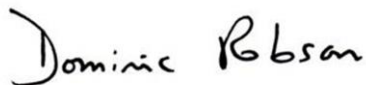
The building work is benefiting from the mild weather (fingers crossed). You can see progress by visiting our STEM Block Blog <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/school/2015-10-18-12-01-44>.

I hear good reports about the Stage 2 Youth Theatre production of 'Hard Working Families' at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. Good luck to **Ben Lawrence-Pietroni** (Y9) and **Karam Johal** (Y11) who are both performing in this show tonight and tomorrow.

In a similar vein you may be interested in opportunities with the National Youth Theatre (NYT). One of our students, **Alessandra Davison** joined the NYT in the summer. She is helping at the Birmingham auditions this year, so that will be a friendly face for any auditioning Veseyans. If you want to know more visit www.nyt.org.uk.

Last, but not least, I bring you news of an exciting drama workshop courtesy of Centrestage School of Speech and Drama on Tuesday 19 January. The Year 7 session will be from 14:25 - 15:25 in Big School and the Year 8 session will be 15:45 - 16:45 in Big School. The cost to attend for each family is £5.00. We are hoping that with sufficient interest that we can put on a Junior Production in the summer. If your son has previously done drama, or shows any interest or aptitude in this area, please encourage them to take part in what will be an excellent workshop. If your son is interested in taking part on 19 January, please send the money to Mrs Foster in the School Club Office, in an envelope, with the student's name on it and 'Junior Drama' written clearly, by **Friday 15 January**. Have a great weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD D.Univ FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

'What we learn with pleasure we never forget'
Alfred Mercier

Word of the Week

'delusive' adj: misleading or deceptive

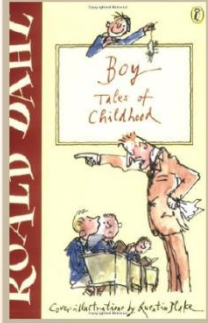
Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK

❖ "It is all about Roald Dahl's life. It is a very interesting book with lots of detail." **Stephen Huxley 7P**

❖ "The first book is a nice, funny, off beat look back on childhood, while the second is an informative and touching look back on wars." **Ben Mehaffy 8R**

❖ "It is very intriguing and it is a book that is hard to put down. As well as this, there are lots of funny experiences." **Tye Coughlan 7G**



The book cover for 'Roald Dahl Boy: Tales of Childhood' features a red spine with the author's name 'ROALD DAHL' in white. The front cover is yellow with a cartoon illustration of a boy in a blue shirt and a girl in a red dress. The title 'Boy Tales of Childhood' is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, it says 'Illustrations by Quentin Blake'.

Art Star of the Week



Daniel Lee 8R, produced a detailed pencil study of the Eiffel Tower. A touching tribute to those who lost their lives recently in Paris.

Dates for your diary:**JANUARY 2016**

w/c Monday 11	Y12 Mock Week
Monday 18	Finance and Estates Committee meeting (budget review)
Wednesday 20	Year 11 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Monday 25	Full Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 2016

w/c 1	Busking Week
Monday 1	Whole School Review Day (please read the letter Mr Bowen will be sending on this topic to all parents)
Thursday 4	Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 17:00
Thursday 4	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Friday 5	Harry Potter Book Night (tbc)
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

Tuesday 1	Targeted Review Day Year 7
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
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
Thursday 24	Half Training Day
Thursday 24	Break up for Easter
Friday 25	Barcelona Trip