



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

08 July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

It is easy to forget the real people behind the news. This was the theme of assemblies this week for Year 7-10. Last Friday my brother (a UN Ambassador to Bangladesh) had a close shave. The café where he goes to breakfast every day in the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital city Dakar, was attacked by terrorists. Luckily for him, he wasn't there at the time. However, many others (Italians, Japanese and Bangladeshis amongst them) were less lucky and there were 20 fatalities. Elsewhere, we have been concerned nationally by the rise of reported racist and discriminatory incidents in the wake of the EU Referendum vote. We are a tolerant and diverse community and it is so important that we all stand together to promote a courteous, respectful and civilised society.

On a happier note last week ended with the Vesey Ball at Aston Wood Golf Club. This was a huge success, raising £5,000 for the new STEM Block and was a lot of fun. A huge thank you to the wonderful **Helen Green** and **Vicky Brown** who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this event. A big thank you to **John Beggan**, Chair of the PAC and the rest of the team too.

Also on Friday, I was hugely impressed by the performance of **Dylan Linford** and **Harkirpal Takhar** who out of 75,200 contestants secured a place in the top 30 in the German Spelling Bee Final. They were amazing!

On Monday, 50 of our boys were performing at the Lichfield Festival 'Poppies' Concert in Lichfield Cathedral commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The singing and acting by the boys was stunning. Once again a huge thank you to **Mrs O'Dowd**, **Miss McGrail** and **Mr Garrington** from Centrestage for a highly professional effort.

On Tuesday we held a primary schools' debating competition for five schools from the LTE (Learning Trust for Excellence). It was so good to see our students working so effectively with the Year 5 children. A big thank you to **Angalea Varma**, Deputy School Captain, **Isaac Stevens**, **Andrew Upton**, **Georgette McVerry** and **Hannah Smith**. They chaired debates and led feedback sessions. They were also supported by a number of students from Year 8, Year 10 and the Lower Sixth who worked in an encouraging way with the Year 5s. They were all fantastic. Indeed the feedback from LTE staff and children has been excellent: *Pupils returned to school buzzing and full of confidence. Staff agree that the children really did get a lot out of the morning. Please pass on our thanks to your staff and pupils who put in such a lot of effort to make the morning a success.*

Also on Tuesday we held our Open Evening. I am very grateful to everyone for their hard work with this. It was a lovely evening and our visitors clearly enjoyed their trip to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. There are so many people to thank. A special mention to those students performing in Big School in front of large audiences: **Alex Dixon**, Saxophone, **James Foxall**, Clarinet, **Cole Hancox**, Guitar, **Ellis McKenzie**, Voice, **Owain Prescott**, Guitar, **Josh Tranchant**, Trumpet, **Tillmann Willett**, Cello and our speakers for the evening **Reiss Chahal**, School Captain, **Ishan Mitra**, Year 7, **Sam Stoddart**, Year 7, **Rohan Bhopal**, Year 7 and **Joe McLafferty**, Year 7. A great evening - even the sun shone.

It has been a busy week regarding the Duke of Edinburgh award. **Louis Hanlan**, **Jai Chauhan**, **Joe Gaunt**, **Arjun Bains**, **Bilal Abidi**, **Dan Black**, **Stan Pigott** and **Shoib Sheraz** in Year 10 have now completed their bronze award. Also the bronze award has been opened for the current Y8 and Y9 this week and Mr Greenwood was very pleased with the speed of the boys' responses. All 60 places were taken within two days of it opening which will see 2016/17 be the biggest cohort ever at BVGS. Subject to a fitness test, the boys will now be registered on the system and further information will be sent out very soon.



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Miss Brown, our Librarian, and **Sam Khan** from the PAC have held a book collection for boys to donate books from home. 330 books were donated in total with all donors going into the draw for some Krispy Kreme donuts. A very useful, and tasty, initiative. Thank you.

Sixth Form Induction Day went well today with taster lessons and excellent presentations from staff and students, as well as a practical introduction to BLH with a very tough quiz. A big thank you to the Sixth Form team yet again for a brilliant job: **Dave Goodwin**, Assistant Head, **Min Egan**, **Adrian Reilly** and **Pam Maskell**.

Today Year 10 had their last day of the academic year before beginning their work experience fortnight. They leave on a high note with superb speaking and listening presentations in English this week. I personally have been blown away by the quality and diversity of the speeches. Each boy has independently presented on a topic of their choice and as teaching staff we have learned a lot this week from a wide range of informative, engaging presentations. A fantastic end to Year 10 - well done.

Well done to all who took part in the House Music Festival on Thursday with our vocal adjudicator **Ruth Roberts** at the helm. The results are as follows. For Year 7: Purple 15, Red, 12, White 10, Blue 6, Gold 4 and for Year 8: Blue 12, White 11, Red 10 and Gold 3. A big thank you to **Mrs Dye**, Director of Music for organising and outstanding afternoon of Music and well done to all those who participated.

On Monday we held our annual end of term rowing races and the 'Old Boys' race. It was a competitive afternoon of rowing across all year groups and in the OV race the old boys clinched the win by two boat lengths. Rowing has flourished in the school and is fantastic to see all the boys achievements on the water.



For those at a loose end this weekend BVGS are involved in two events. Tomorrow we host a Lads and Dads Singing Workshop here at school from 09:30 - 15:00, followed by a performance at the Sutton Games at Wyndley. All are welcome. The music will be accessible and it doesn't matter if you have never sung before. The whole event is led by Richard Jeffries.

Also this weekend we have 60 Lower Sixth acting as the Games Makers for the Sutton Games. A big thank you to **Dr Reilly** who has led on this event, helping organise an inter-school sports tournament in conjunction with The Scouts, involving teams from BVGS, Fairfax and Plantsbrook - to take part in Dodge Ball, Football with a Paralympian and a raft building exercise with the Scouts.

Wishing you a great weekend.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

'Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be'
Abraham Lincoln

Word of the Week

'pedantic' . adj. overly concerned with minute details or formalisms



**ART, D&T EXHIBITION 2016
CELEBRATING CREATIVITY**
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School



Thursday 14th July 5-6:30pm, Big School (main hall). Welcoming friends of the school and parents/carers of all students.



Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK

"It's an in depth action packed, guns blazing, fast paced, roller coaster ride of a book.."

Luke Cooper 7B

The Legacy of Caliban series brings the story arc begun with Gav Thorpe's "Angels of Darkness" to its conclusion. The Dark Angels are proud warrior-monks, constantly striving to atone for a sin ten millennia old and on the hunt for their most ancient enemies, the mysterious Fallen.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 9 July	Lads and Dads Singing Workshop culminating with a performance at the Sutton Games at Wyndley
w/c Monday 11 July	Y10 Work Experience Fortnight begins
Wednesday 13-15 July	Year 7 Residential to Whitemoor Lakes
Wednesday 13 July	Shaggy Dogs Afternoon Tea Party
Thursday 14 July	Art Exhibition 17:00 - 18:30
Friday 15-22 July	World Challenge Expedition to Croatia Group 1
Friday 15 July	L6 begin their Enrichment Week
Friday 15 July	World Challenge Expedition
Saturday 16 July	Class of 1991 Reunion
Sunday 17-24 July	World Challenge Expedition to Croatia Group 2
w/c Monday 18 July	Activity Week for Years 7-9
Monday 18 July	Presentation Evening Y7-10
Friday 22 July	Break up for summer