



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

09 October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

It is lovely to end the week in sunshine. Good luck to our Year 11 GCSE PE students who are on residential in the Brecon Beacons.

This has been a very exciting week for the school with us hosting the Lichfield Literature Festival on Monday. We were delighted to welcome primary school students from Whitehouse Common School. They enjoyed, along with our Year 7, a very entertaining talk by Guy Bass. Meanwhile, Year 8 enjoyed meeting Bryony Pearce author of 'Phoenix Rising'. The students asked some very thoughtful questions. After school we were lucky to have Kate Hollingsworth, a producer/director with over 15 years' experience producing programmes for broadcast television, leading a 'Writing for TV' workshop. At lunchtime, we held our first ever 'Book Swap'. Thank you to all the students who got involved with this and, of course, our amazing Librarian Leaders **Ciaran Weir 9W, Jaden Lo-Watson 9B, Anas Fasih 9B, Haaris Butt 9R, Sam Gill 8G, Dan Bagshaw 8W** and **Henry Guest 9R**.

It has been a busy week in the Library, as ever. Yesterday, we marked National Poetry Day with some poetry readings in the Library and some lovely poetry being written by students and staff, including Mr Doughty and Mr Jones. Thanks to our dedicated Library Team, **Wendy Brown** and **Alison Ward** for their exceptional and inspirational work across the school.

Talking of poetry, please encourage the boys in Year 7 to take part in the English Department's Poetry Competition. Can you write a poem on the theme of 'Light'? Entries please to your English teachers by the end of next week.

Elsewhere this week, we have been visited by Professor David Sallah, Emeritus Professor of Mental Health at Wolverhampton University, who spoke to our Mental Health Ambassadors. He has set a challenge for us to debate what self-managing health care will look like in the 22nd century. Another visitor this week was Rebecca Yates from Keele University who gave a superb talk to MedSoc.

On 6 November we are holding our 'early-entry' interview afternoon for U6 Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Veterinary candidates. So far we have 26 interviewers for this important event on Friday 6 November 13:30 - 15:30. We really need to double the number of interviewers. If you have expertise in any academic field, or are experienced in rigorous interviewing, then I would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you.

In assemblies this week Mr Baugh has been reminding Year 7 - 10 about the importance of getting a good night's sleep. I also attended a very interesting Year 8 assembly with Mr Williams on the theme of 'When were you last amazed?'

Thank you to parents who attended our BLH Evening on Tuesday. Feedback suggests many of you found this a very useful evening. You may also like to know that the work that Mr Bowen and Mr Baugh have spearheaded in this area has gained quite a lot of positive attention and interest across national school networks such as Leading Edge and across the grammar school sector. We are convinced that 'Building Learning Habits' is central to preparing students well for life after school.



Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2NH
Tel: 0121 250 5400 Fax: 0121 250 5420
head@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk
www.bvgs.co.uk



Yesterday I had the privilege of attending the Junior Soloists' Concert. I found it a very inspiring event with our boys showing great musicality, soulfulness, sensitivity and confidence. Well done to all our performers: **Ethan Alexander, Upraaj Bains, Lewis Brett-Iveson, Erik Brown, Angus Carter, Harrison Casey, Freddie Goodrham, Ali Lakhanpal, Matthew Lakin, Adrian Lowe, Robin Maes-Prior, Jay Makepeace, Stephen Middlemass, Jamie Moore, Syakir Saiful, Ravi Sharma, Finalay Sly, Harpira Takar, Jamie Tunstall, Ned Walklett, Nicholas Ward, Liam Wragg, Leon Yamin-Ali, Thomas Yoong, Cem Young and Tobey Yu** and compères **Harry Baxter, Ali Bharwani and Matthew McLaughlan**.

Thank you to all who made the evening possible including our sound and lighting team **Michael, Ben and Ho-San**, our hospitality team led by **Lesley Overton** and of course our Director of Music **Maryann Dye**. Music is good for the soul. If you are able, in any way, to support our Music Department financially by becoming a Patron or Friend of Vesey Music, then please contact Sharon Weblin via s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

It was good to see students getting involved with clubs at lunchtime. Mr Semple, Head of Computing is pleased to see increasing numbers coming to Wednesday 'Coding Club' in the temporary block. The students are doing some interesting work with Kodu, Scratch and Python.

Interestingly, we have a Headteacher's lunch lined up for next Thursday with a talk by Duncan Turner OV regarding careers in IT and Computing. If you are in Year 10 or above and interested in this field, please let Mr Semple know.

Well done to our top ten merit winners from last week: **Sam Gill 8G, Aadam Ahmed 8G, Sam Harkin 9B, Gabriel Plume 8G, Jaden Lo-Watson 9B, Nikhil Sahdev 10W, Alex Quirk 8G, Leon Yamin-Ali 7B, Adrian Lowe 8G, Aum Patel 8G**. These boys will be invited for cookies and chocolate with Headteacher at Wednesday break-time.

The House competitions have been at full-flow this week with Red leading the field in Dodgeball. Next week sees the arrival of House Table Tennis. Please encourage your son or daughter to get involved.

To hear of our performance this week in sport and to see what's coming up soon visit www.bvgssport.co.uk.

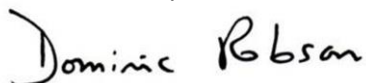
There are some good events to look out for if you are a Year 7 parent. Don't forget the new Year 7 Evening on Thursday 15 October. Also I look forward to seeing as many Year 7 parents as possible at the PAC Curry Night at Bhujon, Mere Green on 22 October at 19:30. Tickets will be available on Thursday.

I am sure you will be delighted, as I am, that following re-marks our GCSE results have improved substantially from 66% A*/A to 69% A*/A. We are delighted to achieve our best ever GCSE results. However, we are not complacent and we are determined to open as many doors as we possibly can for all our students by continuing to reflect on, improve and refine the work we do.

This coming Monday sees construction begin on the new STEM Block. This is very exciting for the school. We have site restrictions in place, which have been communicated to all the students and staff. The fundamental thing we have stressed with the students is to observe the site restrictions and to exercise good judgement and common sense as they move around the school site. Please also note that our car parking will be restricted. We therefore ask Sixth Form students who drive to school to find alternative methods of transport wherever possible.

We will be monitoring our site management arrangements on a daily basis. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

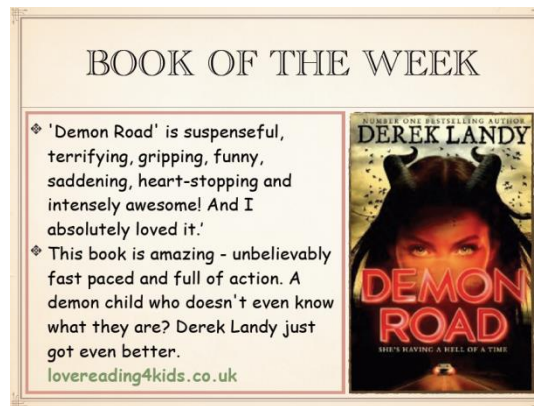
'Embrace change. True success can be defined by your ability to adapt to changing circumstances'

Connie Sky

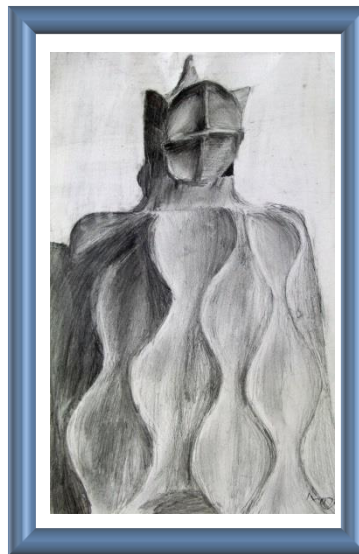
Word of the Week

'Alacrity' n. cheerful readiness, promptness or willingness

Book of the Week



Art and Design Star of the Week



Ayub Mohammed 8G

Ayub has made an excellent start to the year building on his many outstanding achievements in Year 7. This secondary observational drawing is based on one of Antoni Gaudi's chimneys. In this particular piece he was developing his use of tone using pencil.

Dates for your diary:

| OCTOBER 2015 | |
|--------------|--|
| Friday 9 | Y11 PE Residential |
| Monday 12 | HR Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday 13 | Careers Fair 15:30 - 19:30 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall |
| Thursday 15 | Y7 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:30 and 19:30 - 20:15 |

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| Monday 19 | Finance and Estates Committee Meeting (budget review) |
| Monday 19 | PAC AGM |
| Tuesday 20 | Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30 |
| Tuesday 20 | L6 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:15 and 19:30 - 20:15 |
| Wednesday 21 | Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30 |
| Thursday 22 | Junior Hockey Tour |
| Thursday 22 | PAC Welcome Curry Night - Bhujon, Mere Green |
| Friday 23 | Founder's Day on the theme of 'Refugees' |
| Friday 23 | Break up for half-term |
| NOVEMBER 2015 | |
| Monday 2 | Training Day |
| Tuesday 3 | Term re-commences |
| 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 |
| Wednesday 18 | PAC Pamper and Shop Evening - Big School |
| 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 |