



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

12 February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an exhilarating week. In assemblies we have marked Children's Mental Health Week with some very thought-provoking assemblies led by **Miss Steadman** and our Mental Health Ambassadors **Eleni Panayiotou** and **Tom Breakwell**. The theme of the week was 'resilience' and there has been plenty of that in evidence in, and around, school.

For example I was delighted to hear of the success of Year 10 in the Regional Finals of the 'Coca Cola Real Business Challenge' held at Villa Park on Wednesday. The team worked incredibly hard to design a marketing campaign to reduce litter. The team were runners up in the competition, with 65 West Midlands schools taking part. The students were: **Christian White, Shoaib Sheraz, Ali Lakhanpal, Leo Karski, Harry West, Roan Farley and James Horn**.



I was also pleased to attend the first ever English Superstars Celebration. Eighteen highly committed young men from Year 7 and 8 enjoyed a free, tasty lunch and received a book for their fine efforts in English. Well done to: **Year 7 - Will Meehan, Oliver Smith, Mackenzie Davies, Jun Park, Chirag Guha, Riley Bevan, Moonis Haider, Kamren Purewal, Lucas Corden-Bowen and Yuan Sagala. Year 8: Aum Patel, Toby Page, Liam Wragg, Oliver Pratt, Sanan Hasahi, Ravi Sharma, Akshay Gogna and Govind Jandu.**



Last Friday **Nyandavoh Foday** performed in the Poetry by Heart competition at the Birmingham Rep. She did brilliantly. Thank you to **Ruth Haywood**, Head of English and **Beth Colder**, Second in English for supporting Nyandavoh on the evening.

On Thursday, 36 of our Year 10 attended an outstanding performance of Jekyll and Hyde at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham. Thank you to **Mrs Masterson-Lemin** for organising this excellent opportunity. **Mr Clay-Croome** who attended along with the rest of the English team, described the performance thus: 'Having taught Jekyll and Hyde and read it innumerable times, Thursday evening's performance at The Crescent theatre, provided me with an unexpected and extraordinary view of Stevenson's short novel. Certainly having one actor play the contrasting halves of the title character(s), provided the audience with insight into a man in grotesque turmoil. The play also took us all on new twists, reminding us that the past comes back to haunt us and that, once unleashed, evil is hard

to contain—as the gobsmacking ending unmistakably proclaimed! Students wishing to equip and familiarize themselves with the book in advance of our lessons in summer can purchase the Wordsworth Classics paperback edition of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for just £1.99 from Amazon.

On the theme of literature, **Miss Brown** is getting ready for exciting activity on the first day of term when student librarians and the Year 7 library reps will be taking part in a world record attempt for the largest book quiz ever, through which we hope to get into the Guinness Book of Records. Very exciting!

As we come to the end of the half-term, I am scrutinising the lists of those students with zero behaviour points. I will be sending letters out shortly. Also it is good to note the top ten merit winners of the week: **Jaden Lo-Watson 9B, Luke Beveridge 9W, Ben Heppenstall 9G, Benedict Lawrence-Pietroni 9B, Benjamin Wall 9B, Cem Young 9W, Joseph McClafferty 7R, Alex Dixon 7R, Anas Fasih 9B and Ciaran Weir 9W**. They will be meeting with me after half-term for hot chocolate and cookies.

Elsewhere this week House Debating has continued with a very competitive series of speeches in evidence in Sixth Form assembly. Also, Centrestage are now full-steam ahead on Monday and Tuesday evenings in preparation for our summer drama performances. Meanwhile, **Mr Everett** from the History Department accompanied **Danielle Miller** and **Ellie Jennings** for a life-changing trip to Auschwitz. Both students will now be working on how they communicate what they have learned to others, and they have a post trip seminar on this coming Sunday.

Thank you to our hard-working PAC for an excellent Night at the Races on Saturday which raised £700 for the school. Thank you.

Looking ahead invite letters have gone out for our Spring Concert on Thursday 17 March. Tickets are priced £9 for adults and £5 for concessions and will be on sale from the School Club Office from Monday 22 February. As ever, this looks like a brilliant programme.

A big thank you to **Heather Hodkinson** who has organised an excellent Cancer Awareness session for the Sixth Form.

There has been some lovely work going on with local primary schools. I have received a very nice letter commending students and staff for their presentations in mental health assemblies at Boldmere and New Oscott Schools. This morning we had a great morning of athletics with Year 3 from Whitehouse Common Primary School. Thanks to our Year 7 and 10 helpers who made the event a great success and also **Mr Brian Davies** for his organisation of the event.

Today we have held a non-uniform day to raise money to build wells in Tanzania. I am delighted to report that we have raised over £800 for charity.

It is always good to hear of student successes. Well done to **Georgia Curry** who has been selected to represent the West Midlands Schools AA in the All England Schools Cross Country Championships. Well done Georgia.

Our Iceland trip left at 02:00 am on Thursday, accompanied by **Mr Greenwood, Mr Brocklebank, Mr Baugh, Mr Godwin** and **Mrs Brocklebank**. The Blue Lagoon, Golden Circle tour, South Shore adventure and Solheimajokull glacier all await. You can follow the trip's progress and some excellent photographs on Twitter @BVGS1527.

Finally, this has been a momentous sporting week. There have been Hockey and Cross-Country victories over Queen Mary's, fine Chess performances at KES, Edgbaston. For a full round up please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>.

Most significantly this week has seen an historic Rugby performance by the U15s in the national quarter-final of the NatWest Vase. 15-0 down at half-time to New Hall, Chelmsford, our boys did not give up. They showed incredible resilience, determination and teamwork to pull back and win 19-15. This takes them through now to a tantalising semi-final at the Allianz Park (the home of Saracens Rugby Club) on Sunday 6 March at 1:00pm against fellow grammar school, Sir Thomas Rich, Gloucester. This morning I met with **Mr Davis** and the team for a celebratory hot chocolate and commemorative cupcakes inscribed with the score of our memorable victory 19-15. I am sure that all spectators on Monday were very proud of the students for a fine performance. Pictured below is captain **Louis Hanlan** with a commemorative cupcake created by one of our Governors, **Mrs Joanna Davis**. I can honestly say that the cupcakes were lovely!

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors



Quote of the Week

'Why? Why Not? Why Not You? Why Not Now?'
Aslan

Word of the Week

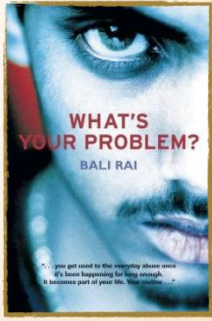
'acquiesce' v. submit or comply silently or without protest

Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK

❖ "It's a fantastic book about the life of a young Jal and how he encounters problems every day."
Mohammed **Amaan 10G**

❖ "It's scarily true and it keeps you reading and wanting more."
Israr **Khan 9B**



Art Star of the Week



Alex Dixon 7R, Daniel Tatton 7G and Raajan Sian 7W. Year 7 have completed their homework projects, so many produced exceptional designs, research, posters and models. Merits will be awarded, to recognise effort and ability. Alex, Daniel and Steven were chosen for Star of the week, all three designs show creativity and ambition. I am sure they will have as much fun eating them, as they did making them. Well done to all students, who created models for this project.

Dates for your diary:

FEBRUARY 2016

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
Tuesday 23	Author Bali Rai to visit

MARCH 2016

Wednesday 2	Swimming Gala
Thursday 3	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 3	World Book Day
Sunday 6	NatWest Vase Semi Final 1:00pm, Allianz Park
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