



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

15 April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

The weather may have been a bit of a mixed bag but this has been a wonderfully vibrant first week of term here at BVGS.

First of all, there has been so much to catch up on about the Easter holiday period. Last term ended with a magnificent trip to Barcelona led by **April Slater**, Head of Spanish, along with **Steve Baugh** (Assistant Headteacher), **Min Egan** (Head of Upper Sixth), **Adam Clay-Croome** (English department) and **Rudi Götschel** (Head of German). Thank you also to **Linda Pryor** for her role in organising this excellent opportunity. What a lovely trip it was. Reading the tweets, I was quite jealous of their visits to the architectural gems of Gaudi's Parc Guel and La Sagrada Familia as well as the spiritual centre of football, El Camp Nou, and, of course, the churros! Most heartening was the impeccable behaviour and community spirit of the boys on the trip and their willingness to engage with their Spanish odyssey.

There have also been some incredible student triumphs with **Ben Jesson** and **Oliver Wem** donning the England jersey for two tough games of rugby against France and Ireland Under 18s. They were both outstanding ambassadors for their school and country and we are very proud of them. We are similarly delighted with Hamish Carter's outstanding performance in the Under 18 Gymnastics Final where he won an individual gold and bronze. He followed this last Sunday by coming in as a last minute replacement for an injured gymnast and performing in the adult gymnastics finals against the likes of **Lewis Smith** and **Max Whitlock**, coming a sensational 4th. Wow! It is to be seen to be believed. Luckily, you can see this thanks to the power of BBC iPlayer: [BBC iPlayer - Gymnastics: National Championships, Liverpool](#). Click on at 30:54 to see Hamish in action.

Easter was, for our senior students from Years 11-13, a period of concentrated revision. In Year 11 assembly on Monday, we reflected on how effective we have been so far and considered what underpins motivations using the paradigm of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The research is clear on what effective revision looks like. Active revision is crucial. Students need to condense their notes for each subject and topic and they need to keep testing themselves, especially with past paper questions. Continued rigour and enthusiasm in this undertaking will re-pay great dividends for students in the summer. We wish them ongoing fortitude and determination for the weeks ahead. We encourage all students to get help from their subject teachers wherever it is needed. There continue to be a number of GCSE revision opportunities here in school. See the attached document.

This is now the time for the rest of the student body from Years 7-10 to write their revision plans and get started on operation revision. The school examinations, the week commencing the 6 June, are just round the corner and they need to be prepared. The students also need to bear in mind that in some subjects setting/banding decisions are made, in part, on the basis of their summer exam performance. Thank you to parents for all the support you give to helping students get into good home study revision patterns.

For your information, forms are available for parents to apply for assistance with school uniform from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. To be eligible parents must be permanently resident in one of the four wards of Sutton Coldfield and forms must be returned to school by 22 April 2016.

We have had lots of good feedback about the new online parental access to the VLE and we are making some improvements to the system over the next few weeks. One common theme that has emerged is that when parents change their email address important updates are missed and sometimes username and password details can be lost. Please could we encourage you to keep us up to date with any changes to contact details by emailing [enquiry@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) or by telephoning the main school office on 0121 250 5400.



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Parents of students in Years 7 and 10 are encouraged to return their access forms if they have not already done so. Please note that reports and grade cards are now all issued online through the VLE.

Parents have told us they enjoyed reading the Spring colour newsletter. If you have not read it yet, please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/term-newsletters>.

Elsewhere in assemblies this week, there have been excellent e-safety assemblies led by Miss Hearn (Deputy Headteacher) and Miss Steadman (Designated Senior Lead). Please be aware that no student under 13 should have a Facebook or Twitter account. For further useful information on e-safety, please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/bvgs-parents/e-safety>.

On Tuesday, we held Year 8 House debating. Well done to **Rory Barber** (8G) who debated most effectively on the question: This House believes that people with medical conditions such as obesity caused by lifestyle choices should pay for their own treatment on the NHS.

Talking of Houses, this week saw our termly House assembly with an update on points totals, the announcement of House stars of the term awards as well as forthcoming House events. Red are in the lead but it is narrow and Gold and White have both been helped in their ambitions to win by good performances in House netball. This was the last House assembly for our outgoing Officer and student leadership team. I must say I have been very impressed by the professionalism of the organisation of the House assemblies. A big well done to all students involved.

This morning, I met with the new student leadership team for 2016-2017: **Reiss Chahal** (School Captain), **Angalea Verma** and **Brett Waldron** (Deputy School Captains). They have a number of exciting initiatives for the new school year. Voting now begins for the new Officer team.

It is good to hear that so many of our Year 11 have signed up for the National Citizen Service 'Challenge' programme. As a result of our participation levels, we have been made a Champion school for the National Citizen Service. New for this summer, is a Lower Sixth Challenge project, which is being launched by NCS in assembly today. Talking of summer activity, there is a brilliant set of summer holiday courses available for aspirant scientists and engineers courtesy of the Smallpeice Trust. Visit <http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/> for more details.

As usual, there have been some interesting activities and competitions beyond the curriculum this week. Debating has re-started with a debate on Europe planned for next Wednesday and the House Debating final in Year 7 assembly this coming Monday. Chess coaching is being offered after school on Wednesdays to supplement the Tuesday lunchtime club. Meanwhile, some parents have benefited from their boys being in cooking club. This week was stuffed courgettes! Also this week, we took a team to the MFL Spelling Bee Regional Final. Our team did brilliantly with two of our boys: **Harkirpa** and **Dylan** coming 2nd and 3rd respectively, thereby qualifying for the national finals in Cambridge. Well done boys!

You may also be interested to know that this Friday saw another Sixth Form Maths lecture for interested Year 7 and 8 students, this time on the theme of the Fibonacci sequence.

Our Year 7 basketballers had a great day out this week at the Midlands Junior NBA final where they met NBA legend Vladimir Radmanovic as well as taking part in drills and a shooting challenge. At the final 4s stage BVGS beat Fairfax 26-19 to reach the final, losing out to St Bede's 11-20. The player of the day was Barney McBrien (7P)



On Thursday we held our Senior Soloists' Concert. There was a varied programme from strings to vocal to percussion. Well done to all our performers: **Ryan Bagley, Luca Beech, Alex Beedle, Archie Bunney, Ho-San Cheng, Tom Eglesfield, Nyandavoh Foday, Eben Gutteridge, Natasha Jeffery, Amber Jordan, Nicholas Lee, Kelvin Li, Ben Nimmo, Isabella Page, Philip Reader, Jemima Richardson-Jones, Jon Jon Tian and Amy Walsh** and our Year 10 compères - **Ethan Stanley** and **Shoaib Sheraz**. It was a sad evening as for eight students it was their last performance on the Vesey stage. They will be missed. We wish them well in whatever they go on to do and hope they will come back and see us for future concerts. A big thank you as ever to all who made the evening possible including **Mrs Overton** and of course **Mrs Dye**. Listen out for Mrs Dye's son on tonight's Radio 2 Brass Final.

Please support our fundraising efforts by joining Easy Fundraising via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/?v=f>. Also three dates for your diaries. Tickets are now available for the Sports Dinner, The Golf Day and the Vesey Ball.

Talking of the Vesey Ball would you be able to sponsor this, or donate an auction prize? If so please contact **Dave Goodwin**, Assistant Headteacher on [d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk).

Apologies for our poor communication regarding the cancellation of the non-uniform day this week. We did not want the non-uniform day to clash with the memorial for David Shrubbs taking place in school this evening. Dave was an inspirational teacher embodying the very best of what it means to have a vocation as a teacher. We miss him.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely

**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

**John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

### Quote of the Week

'Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old; seek what they sought'  
**Matsuo Basho**

### Word of the Week

'elucidate' v. to make clear; throw light upon

### Book of the Week

**SERIES OF THE WEEK**

- ❖ "It has a great story-line and the characters are so realistic, funny and relatable.."  
**Kieran Curran 96**
- ❖ "It has lots of adventures and monsters.."  
**Adrian Lowe 86**
- ❖ "It has brilliant cliff hangers and suspense. Also because of the way Riordan changes the character's view each time after a few chapters.."  
**Ayush Das 7W**
- ❖ "It is action packed and full of adventure and mythology.."  
**Ayub Mohammed 86**

### Art Star of the Week



**Jack Wade L6CW**, Jack's drawing ability is exceptional. He has used a range of pencils to create a realism portrait, which depicts an element of water. The detail and tone is brilliant.

### Dates for your diary:

Monday 18 April	Membership and Appointments Committee
Friday 22 April	PAC Year 7 and 8 Disco
Wednesday 27 April	Sports Day
Thursday 28 April	Junior Maths Challenge
Monday 2 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 2 May	DofE Expedition
Thursday 5 May	Induction Evening 18:00-20:15
Friday 6 May	Sports Dinner - Villa Park
Monday 9 May	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
Monday 16 May	Finance and Estates Committee meeting (budget review)
Monday 23 May	HR Committee meeting
Wednesday 25 May	Outreach afternoon
Thursday 26 May	Students and teaching staff break up for half-term
Friday 27 May	Other staff break up for half term
Monday 6 June	Term re-commences
w/c Monday 6 June	Exam Week
Monday 6 June	Learning and Teaching Committee meeting
Monday 13 June	Finance and Estates Committee meeting
Tuesday 14 June	Junior Maths Kangaroo and Olympiad
Thursday 16 June	SDP Parents' Forum
Thursday 16 June	Rhineland Trip
w/c Monday 20 June	Busking Week
Thursday 23 June	Higher Education Evening
Sunday 26 June	German Exchange
Monday 27 June	DofE Expedition
Tuesday 28 June	Year 7 Performance Evening 19:00
Wednesday 29 June	Year 7 Induction Day
Wednesday 29 June	Leavers' Ball
Monday 4 July	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
Tuesday 5 July	Open Evening for prospective Y7 16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 7 July	House Music Festival
Thursday 7 July	Art Exhibition
Friday 8 July	L6 Induction Day
w/c Monday 11 July	Y10 Work Experience Week
Friday 15 July	World Challenge Expedition
w/c Monday 18 July	Activity Week
Monday 18 July	Presentation Evening Y7-10
Monday 18 July	Netball tour
Friday 22 July	Break up for summer