



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

16 June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Today's newsletter will hopefully provide a good insight into the last fortnight. It is good to end the week with some much needed sunshine. Most of our fixtures may have been cancelled, but the school looked resplendent this afternoon when I returned from visiting the new Year 7 in their primary schools.

Examination week went well. The students took the process seriously, and when the marks and feedback are shared next week, there will be plenty of learning for all. It was nice to see, despite having examinations the next day, that over 25 students took part in the Great Midlands Fun Run. Indeed, one of the boys, Harrison Casey, won the junior race and actually came 48th in the adult race with a time of 56:49. Fantastic running!

Last week also saw us hold our inaugural Golf Day fundraiser for the Sports Department. 116 people played on Wednesday 8 June, with many local businesses kindly sponsoring the event. We are particularly grateful to **Brian Davies**, the event organiser, and all his team and to **Clive Poole**, OV whose company, X2 Furniture, were magnificent as our main event sponsors for this very successful golf day which raised £7,500. Book early for next year's event on Friday 9 June by contacting Brian Davies, Deputy Director of Sport, on [b.davies@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:b.davies@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk).

The school has been involved in a number of outreach activities in the last week. Aside from senior leaders visiting local primary schools, we held our STEM Outreach Day on Monday attended by 32 Year 4 and 5 students. They enjoyed a day of using microscopes, coding, design work and sport. A big thank you to **Dave Phillips** and **Saffira Dhanda**, (Biology Department), **Doug Semple**, and **Thomas Lintern** (Computing Department), **Adam Belcher** (Design and Technology), **Kevin Doughty** and **Chris Howell** (PE Department). We received some lovely feedback letters from students at New Oscott School

*'To Mr Robson, thank you so much for inviting and showing me around your amazing school. The hours I was at your school were really fun and exciting, especially the Biology lesson. The teachers and students I met were very polite and intelligent. My visit to your school made me want to attend Bishop Vesey's. You have boosted my confidence to take the 11+ grammar exam. Thank you very much.'*

In addition on Saturday 11 June we held an outreach morning focussed on test familiarisation. A big thank you to our new student leadership team as well as our Year 10 helpers **Oliver Tedstone**, **Tom Froggatt**, **Simon Underwood**, **Aaran Sandhu**, **Shoaib Sheraz**, **Ali Lakhantal**, **Harry West** and **Simba Mutsanga** as well as **Aine Parize**, **Dave Goodwin**, **Russell Bowen** and **Dave Phillips**. Collectively we gave a good welcome to over 100 students and a further 150 parents. Our student helpers showed great maturity and organisation. Feedback suggested that our visitors thought it was a worthwhile experience.

Looking now at this week, a big thank you to those parents who braved the rain to attend last night's special parents' forum on the School Development Plan. I am sorry I couldn't be there - I was returning from the Grammar School Heads Conference in London. Thank you for all the feedback you gave last night. My team and I are very grateful to you for telling us what we are doing well and suggesting what we can do to improve further.

I have had good reports from the Rhineland trip. Please follow us @BVGS1527 for further updates on the trip by Mr Gotschel and his team.

Yesterday, you may be aware of a football match (!) and a non-uniform day for building a well in Tanzania. A big thank you to **Dave Goodwin**, Assistant Head for organising an opportunity for the boys to enjoy a live



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sporting event in the Sports Hall and for ensuring interesting alternative options for those less enamoured with the round ball!

Today, through until Sunday, one of our U6 Art students, **Josiah McNeil** has a piece of his work displayed in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern for the grand opening of the Tate Modern extension. The theme upon which his work is based is entitled 'What is the future of art?' In Josiah's words, 'the piece seeks to explore the plausibility of living artwork through the juxtaposition of cursory reality star interviews against an art backdrop'. If you are in London on the South Bank this weekend, why not pop in and have a look.

On Tuesday 21 June, we will be holding an EU Referendum debate in Big School 1:45 - 2:25pm. **Isaac Stevens** and **Andrew Upton** are speaking for 'Leave', while **Angalea Verma** and **Hannah Smith** will be making the case for 'Remain'. Our audience of Lower Sixth and interested Year 7-10 will have the opportunity to ask the panellists questions during the debate. We may even have a visit from Midlands Today. Watch this space!

On Wednesday 22 June our Mental Health Ambassadors will be speaking at the Sutton Headteacher's meeting at Sutton Girls from 08:00am - 10:00am. Meanwhile on Thursday 23 June **Miss Steadman**, our DSL, will be speaking at a National SSAT Conference on Mental Health and the work we do at Bishop Vesey's. We are very proud of our work in this essential area.

Sunday 26 June - Come along and support our OV Sports Day - hockey, cricket, tennis and rowing all on offer

Monday 27 June - Solihull School Debating Competition. A team of Year 10 will be taking part in this competition.

Year 7 Performance Evenings: Monday 27 June, Tuesday 28 June 7:00 - 8:40pm. Tickets have gone on sale for our annual celebration of Year 7 creativity showcasing some of our students' work in singing, brass, creative writing, art and drama. I do hope you will be able to come along and support. Tickets are available from the School Club Office - adults £3.00, students/concessions £1.50.

Wednesday 29 June there will be a practice for all involved in the Cathedral concert from BVGS at Blackwood School 09:30 - 11:30.

Friday 1 July. Thank you to all supporting the PAC Ball at Aston Wood Golf Club. We still have some tickets available. Please email [MIHLGreen@aol.com](mailto:MIHLGreen@aol.com).

Monday 4 July - Lichfield Cathedral Concert, 'Poppies' (<http://lichfieldgarrick.com/4B-Poppies-WW1-Schools-Remembrance/index.asp>) Our KS3 Drama students involved in producing a devised piece on World War I as well as the Year 7 Choir who are singing at the Performance Evening will both be performing in this concert. The drama group went for a rehearsal on Wednesday in Lichfield Cathedral and have learnt a lot from this visit about the importance of voice projection.

Tuesday 5 July - The students will have received letters inviting them to help on our Open Evening on Tuesday 5 July from 16:00 - 19:00. We are grateful to parents for your support for this. Please spread the word regarding our Open Evening to any Year 4 or 5 families who you know would benefit from a Vesey education.

Saturday 9 July - we are hosting a 'Lads and Dads' singing workshop here at school. I have spoken to some of the boys about this today. I would encourage the students and any fathers, or father-figures, in their family to come along and join in. Mr Jeffries, our singing teacher will be leading the event and the day will conclude with a performance at the Sutton Games. Please see the attached flyer and sign up via [ladsanddadssing@gmail.com](mailto:ladsanddadssing@gmail.com).

Top Merit winners this week include **Arsh Iqbal 8B, William Jackson 8R, Thomas Sherriff 8W, Charlie Richards 8B, Omar Syed 8G, Thomas Rogers 8G, Arif Mohamed 10W, James Horn 10G, Joao Cariata 10B and Daniel Baker 10G** this week - **Ayub Mohammed 8G, Jack Lees 8W, Ned Walklett 9W, Stevie Davie 9R, James Keeling 8R, Fintan Brennan 8R, Adeyemi Adeboyejo 8B, Ethan Crisp 8B, Joshua Eager 7P and Owain Prescott 7R**



## Book of the Week



### Dates for your diary:

w/c Monday 20 June	Busking Week
Tuesday 21 June	Debate on EU
Thursday 23 June	EU Mock Referendum Vote
Thursday 23 June	Higher Education Evening
Sunday 26 June	OVA Sports Day
Sunday 26 June	German Exchange
Monday 27 June	DofE Expedition
Monday 27 June	Year 7 Performance Evening 19:00
Tuesday 28 June	Year 7 Performance Evening 19:00
Wednesday 29 June	Leavers' Ball
Thursday 30 June	Year 7 Induction Day
Friday 1 July	Spelling Bee MFL National Finals, Cambridge
Friday 1 July	Vesey Ball at Aston Wood Golf Club (see flyer)
Monday 4 July	Poppies Concert in Lichfield Cathedral
Monday 4 July	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
Tuesday 5 July	Primary School Debating Competition at BVGS
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
Saturday 9 July	Lads and Dads Singing Workshop
w/c Monday 11 July	Y10 Work Experience Week
Friday 15 July	World Challenge Expedition
Saturday 16 July	Class of 1991 Reunion
w/c Monday 18 July	Activity Week
Monday 18 July	Presentation Evening Y7-10
Friday 22 July	Break up for summer