



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

17 December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of term is upon us. There is so much to be proud of over the last busy term and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a well deserved break.

Last week finished with the final production of 'Two'. What a sensational play. It was so moving and powerful. The quality of acting was uniformly high. Well done to all who took part, or helped in any way, particularly Centrestage School of Speech and Drama for their inspirational leadership and commitment to the highest standards. Thank you.

Well done to our top ten merit winners this week: **Ali Lakhanpal 10G, Archie Sansome 10W, Vraj Shah 8B, Jack Lees 8W, Thomas Moore 8B, Charlie Richards 8B, Jack Moore 8B, Zachary Farmer 10B, Adeyemi Adeboyejo 8B and Diran Suraj 10G.** I will be meeting with these students and the winners from the previous week after Christmas.

On Tuesday we held our Christmas Concert. It was absolutely exceptional. There was such a variety of age ranges and styles and no-one could have failed to feel a little more festive after a magical evening. A huge thank you to **Maryann Dye** who made it all possible. Not only did she and the peripatetic teaching team prepare a superb concert to a high standard, but also as ever, she was a brilliant compère for the evening, speaking with great enthusiasm and warmth about all our performers. A big thank you to everyone else who helped. Next year we are planning to move the Christmas Concert to Sutton Coldfield Town Hall so we can accommodate comfortably all who would like to support Vesey Music.

Yesterday we marked the excellent progress made this term with the 'Growing Vesey, Growing Minds' project with a 'Breaking Ground' ceremony. This was a little ironic given the fact that the ground is already well and truly broken! However we do have the obligatory photographic record for history marking the progress thus far, with myself pictured with the Chair of Governors and our good friend and benefactor **Clive Richards OBE DL.** The building work has been blessed so far by excellent weather. Let's hope it stays mild!



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Today we are holding our Christmas assemblies led by our amazing Officer team. **Adam Smith** provided updates on the House Competition thus far:

Year 7: Purple 20, Blue 21, Gold 24, White 29, Red 34

Year 8, 9, 10 and Seniors: Blue 68, Gold 78, White 93, Red 97

In addition **Joe Keenan**, Chair of School Council, has given an update on the work of the School Council and how it has responded to the needs of students in each year group. We were then regaled with a fine musical interlude with the percussion ensemble playing 'Fairy Tale of New York'. **Sarah Quinn**, Charity Captain, then outlined all the work that has gone on in raising money for Aspire to Africa (to build a school in Africa), the local Sutton Community Hub and Children in Need. In total this term we have raised over £5,000 for charity. **Adam Spinner** from Red House then gave an excellent overview of the Vesey sport this term including basketball, table tennis, cross country, netball, rowing, hockey and rugby. I then outlined some of the successes for each year group for which everyone should rightly be proud. We then paid tribute to our leavers **Mrs Janet Crane**, Lunchtime Supervisor, who for over twenty years has been an absolutely inspirational, kind and generous helper. She is much loved by the students and here she is pictured with Year 11 who, as well as the school, collected money to buy her a lovely present.



We will also miss **Mr Sebastian Joy** who has given great service to the school both as a highly committed English Teacher, but also someone who has embraced the Vesey Experience in full, providing outstanding support to Maryann Dye in the School Orchestra and fantastic support for Junior Rugby. He will be sorely missed. However we wish him well with his future role in Redditch which has a considerably shorter commute for him!

Our assemblies then moved to an amazingly professional video created by **Umar Khan** reviewing the momentous events of 2015 and a Christmas message by **Leo Morton**, from the point of view of a Christian. Awards were also given to our two worthy winners of the Sports Person of the Term Award. Well done **Ben Moore (Y12)** and **Harrison Casey (Y9)**. The assembly finished with the Year 7 class choir and the Officer team leading the singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

As ever there has been some exciting sport this week, with the outstanding result being that of the U15A Rugby team against KE, Stratford to take them into the quarter-finals of the NatWest Vase. However, the sporting year of the week must go to Year 7 who roundly defeated KE Camp Hill Boys at Rugby, and to our delight, Chess. Great work by all students!

Wishing you a happy and relaxing Christmas break. You might want to book tickets to see Hard Working Families at the Crescent Theatre which is being put on by Stage Two Youth Theatre. **Ben Lawrence- Pietroni** and **Karam Johal** are both performing in this show on 7, 8 and 9 January.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL PhD FCMA D.Univ
Chairman of Governors or the

Quote of the Week

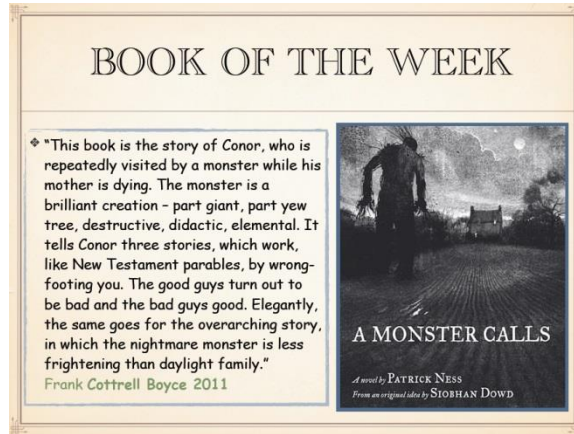
'Fellow students, as I stand before you today, I am confident that we can all aspire to make improvements in our own lives and the lives of our neighbours, wherever they may be and whenever they may need us. A new year is almost upon us, so make it a good one.'

Leo Morton, 6HF

Word of the Week

'ethereal' adj: light, airy or tenuous

Book of the Week



Dates for your diary:

DECEMBER 2015	
Thursday 17	Break up for Christmas
JANUARY 2016	
Monday 4	Spring Term Commences
w/c Monday 4	Y13 Mock Week
w/c Monday 11	Y12 Mock Week
Monday 18	Finance and Estates Committee meeting (budget review)
Wednesday 20	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 25	Full Board Meeting
FEBRUARY 2016	
w/c 1	Busking Week
Monday 1	Whole School Review Day
Thursday 4	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 4	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Friday 5	Harry Potter Book Night (tbc)
Friday 5	PAC Night at the Races 19:30
Monday 8	Learning and Teaching Committee
Wednesday 10	Year 10 vaccinations
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