



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

18 March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a very busy week indeed. Last weekend, the Junior Hockey Tour to the south west concluded. The boys had some excellent fixtures against Dauntsey's School and Millfield. They acquitted themselves well and were a pleasure to work with. A big thank you to **Chris Howell, Alex Davis** and **Dave Devey** who led the trip. As the students battled on the hockey pitch, Year 7 and 8 boys were pitted against King Edward's High School for Girls in the field of chess. It was a tight game and KES squeaked home 6.5 to 5.5. At the same time, we welcomed our German exchange partners from Bayreuth. A big thank you to **Herr Götschel** for organising, and of course our brilliant host families. Over the week, amongst other things, our guests visited different places of worship in Birmingham, had an audience with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and spent some time at the Black Country Museum.

The school has now been awarded a Recognition of Commitment Award from Unicef as part of its work towards becoming a Rights Respecting School whereby the rights of children are central to the ethos, culture and work of the school. During the last two weeks **Ruth Hearn** (Deputy Head Teacher) and **Kate Steadman** (Assistant Head Teacher) have been talking to students in assemblies about the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Rights Respecting Award.

Also in assemblies, we have welcomed **Dan Hicks** (OV) MCIa, FSA, Associate Professor in Archaeology, University of Oxford and Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum. Dan spoke eloquently about the importance of students reading beyond the syllabus, showing intellectual curiosity and following their academic interests. It was a very similar message to what was given at the Oxbridge conference attended by Sixth Formers on Monday. University entrance is more competitive than ever. Our students need to be aware of the high standard at which they need to perform to be successful.

Year 11 received their interim report cards today. Things are generally moving in the right direction. However this is now the time for the boys to really step up. Every student needs a revision plan in place so that they use Easter profitably. Most Year 11 students will be going on study leave after the leaving assembly on Friday 6 May. However for some there will be a need for a supported structured programme of work here in school for the week beginning 9 May. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding with this.

On Monday 37 A-Level Chemists, along with **Jay Lal** and **Dr Silvia Carroll** attended Science Live at the Birmingham Town Hall. Scientists appearing on the day included Professor Andrea Sella (On rare earth elements), Dr Philip Ball (On Biochemistry), Dr Peter Wothers (On Spectroscopy) and Dr Sujata Kundu (On changing her mind about carbon). It was an excellent day.

In Mathematics this week we held the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Meanwhile **Patrick Singleton** from the Upper Sixth gave a lecture to interested Year 7 and 8 students on 'Modular Numbers'.

This week has also seen our first STEM Outreach afternoon with **Mr Belcher** and **Mr Semple** laying on Coding and Robot Football for Year 4 and 5 students from Cromwell, New Oscott and Kingsthorpe Primary Schools. A big thank you also to our student helpers **Sam Gill, Gabriel Plume** and **Rory Barber**.

It was lovely to see Year 8 students and parents for Parents' Evening on Wednesday. There was a lot of positive feedback and areas for improvement given. An excellent evening.

This has been another great week for Music. I have heard lots of good things about the Woodwind Chamber Concert on Tuesday night at St Michael's, Boldmere. Meanwhile yesterday's Spring Concert was absolutely stunning. I will be writing to all students and staff involved. However I have to say that the quality of the performance was excellent and it was particularly lovely to see students performing for the first time, or



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trying new things publicly. The Head of the Birmingham Music Service, Ciaran O'Donnell, was present and he was blown away by the variety and quality of what he heard. A big thank you to all the Birmingham Peripatetic Music Team, especially **Lisa Riley**, who has served our school for many years, and for whom yesterday was the last concert as a Vesey parent, and of course our Director of Music **Maryann Dye**.

This week we have marked Sport Relief. The total figure has yet to be calculated, but there have been lots of exciting things going on. There have been Chess Challenges in the Library v Teachers, Table Tennis Marathons and of course today's non-uniform day. Thanks in particular to **Sarah Quinn**, Charity Captain and her team. Tomorrow Sarah and a number of volunteers along with **Dr Reilly** and **Mrs Overton** will be digging a garden for the local Community Hub, Our Place.

Congratulations to our merit winners this week **Alex Dixon 7R, Will Meehan 7R, Amardeep Khangura 9B, Harry James 9B, Lewis Redford 10B, Finlay Port 9B, Isaac Bosman 9B, Nader Takruri 7R, Oliver Smith 7R, and Vraj Shah 8B**.

There is a lot of sport that one could mention this week. Rowing trips to Eton Dorney, two amazing expeditions to Rosslyn Park 7s with some incredible performances by the boys, including U14 topping their group on day 1, defeating Clifton College, but succumbing to the might of Wellington. One could also mention the regional finals for Hockey and a very fine performance which took us to the semi-finals at Cannock losing narrowly to Repton. For further information about Vesey Sport this week visit: <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>.

A date for your diaries. The Sports Dinner is to be held on Friday 6 May at Villa Park with our Guest Speaker the Paralympian Canoeist Rob Oliver. Please see the flyer that has been sent out to you.

Well done to **Lucy Parize** who was at the England Netball trials on Saturday in Sheffield and has been re-selected into the England U19 Netball squad for the 2016-17 Season.

Talking of Netball I wish all the Netball girls the best of luck for the National Finals at Roedean tomorrow. This is a huge achievement for the school and we are all rooting for you.



Hopefully I will see some of you either at tonight's PAC Quiz (starting at 7:30pm prompt), or at tomorrow's Year 7 Rugby 7s Tournament.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

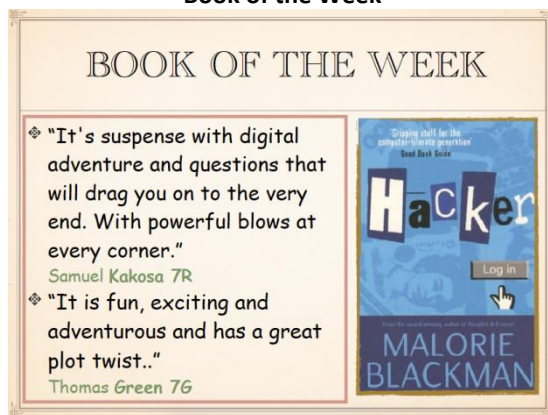
Quote of the Week

'An obstacle is often a stepping stone'
William Prescott

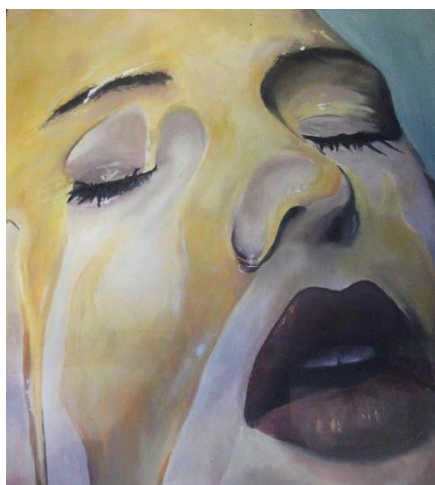
Word of the Week

'hedonist' n. a person whose life is devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification

Book of the Week



Art Star of the Week



Eleni Panayiotou U6CW, Eleni is an exceptionally talented realist painter. Her current project explores over indulgence and beauty. This particular piece is based on a series of photographs that she took of her sister.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 22 March	L6 Geography Field Trip
Wednesday 23 March	Half Day, break up for Easter
Thursday 24 March	Training Day
23-27 March	Barcelona Trip
Monday 11 April	Summer Term commences
Thursday 14 April	Senior Soloists' Concert 19:00
Friday 15 April	Non Uniform Day
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



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Annual Sports Dinner

BVGS Annual Sports Dinner celebrates the outstanding array of sport at the school, with music, awards, raffles and auction prizes

Friday 6 May 2016

The Holte Suite, Villa Park,
Trinity Road, Birmingham B6 6HE



Guest Speaker

Rob Oliver

World silver medallist, prospective Rio 2016
Paralympian and inspirational speaker



Tickets: £29.50
Available from Mrs S Foster
School Enrichment Office

Dress Code: Lounge Suits
Doors Open: 6:30pm