



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

18 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week we held our annual entrance test. The pouring rain added an extra challenge to our organisation. However the team of staff and students led by **Pam Maskell** did a fantastic job. Thank you to all who gave up their time to ensure our Year 6 visitors had a positive experience.

We started this week with House meetings. I was very pleased by the efforts of the House Captains in leading assemblies. It is always a really good learning experience for our young leaders. The House system is an integral part of BVGS life. Every merit, good deed recognised or participation in activities and House competitions go towards points for your House. Who will win the House Cup for 2015-16?

In assemblies this week **Steve Baugh**, Assistant Headteacher has been focussing on the message of Oscar Wilde, 'Be yourself; everyone else is already taken'. Next week the House Spelling Bee begins.

I have enjoyed visiting lessons this week to check student planners. What is clear is that some students are not writing in full their homework for the day in their planner. This needs to be done by all students and will be a focus for the coming week.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of congratulating the top merit achievers of the first week: **Aadam Ahmed (8G), Charlie Giblin (8G), George Parkes (8B), Matthew Roberts (7P), Adrian Lowe (8G), Joshua Mason (8G), Ethan Crisp (8B), Haaris Butt (9R), Jack Moore (8B), Ravi Sharma (8B), Sam Harkin (9B), Thomas Hughes (8G), Vraj Shah (8B)**. Well done boys!

It has been good to see a flourishing of activities this week with big numbers attending Debating and Strategy Board Games Club. There is still quite a lot of space for extra players in Chess on Tuesdays in Room 11 with **Mr Morgan**. Students need to look out from their Form Tutors about any lunchtime and after school activities going on.

Today we held a fire drill. The Chair of Governors, **Dr Craggs** was in school to witness it. We were all very pleased by the outstanding behaviour and maturity of all our students this morning.

Last night we held our Open Evening. Well done to all our musical magicians **Stephen Middlemass (8R), Jack Moore (8B), Tom Moore (8B), James Whitehouse (8G), Thomas Yoong (8R)**. Thanks also to our very entertaining speakers: **Arun Ladhar (Y8), Ethan Crisp (Y8), Nick Ward (Y8), Will Cowley (Y8), John Clarke (School Captain), Adam Smith (Deputy School Captain)**. Well done in particular to the Year 8 boys who, in a toughly fought competition, won the Open Evening Speech Writing Contest. Thank you also for the other 170 students who helped us last night. We received lots of positive feedback about our students and our school. One prospective parent emailed: *'We attended the Open Evening last night and wanted to send a short thank you message. We were shown around BVGS by two YR 8 students - Tom Moore and Upraaj Bains. My wife and I wanted to express how*



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*impressed we were by the two boys. They were smart, polite, well mannered and very courteous. Their behaviour and conduct was exemplary throughout and they are a real credit to your school. Upraaj took responsibility for our son and went out of his way to ensure he understood everything and to ask questions and be curious. I imagine their parents are really proud. The school itself is excellent and our Year 5 son was really impressed with the scientific experiments, the way in which we were treated and the sports facilities (this is an achievement believe me as he is really hard to impress!).'*

We have had an excellent week of sport. For all information and results please visit: [www.bvgssport.co.uk](http://www.bvgssport.co.uk). This week has seen notable victories in the Rugby Cup against Fairfax and RGS, Worcester. Well done boys. Our netballers have also had a great start to the season.

I had the pleasure of visiting Whitehouse Common on Tuesday this week. What a lovely primary school! We hope to be doing some more work with them in the coming weeks and months.

Coming up next week we have two authors visiting which will be very exciting so if you want your Ben Davis or Michelle Magorian books signed, please bring them along. Thanks you to **Wendy Brown**, Librarian for organising these excellent opportunities for the boys.

Tomorrow, we hold our annual OVA Dinner here at school. This always is a great event and if you, as a parent, are an OV then please come along next year. It is always good to see OVs returning to their school.

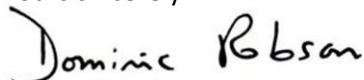
Finally, a plug for Artsfest. I hope the following note from the Charity Team inspires you to buy a ticket.

### **Hidden Problems**

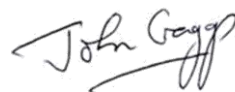
*Everyone acknowledges that Sutton Coldfield is an affluent area. However, what people perhaps do not realise is the extent of the hidden problems that exist here. Poverty, unemployment and mental illness are all prevalent issues, and working with the Sutton Coldfield Community Hub, I have been taken aback to witness families with such a sought-after postcode who can't afford to feed their children. The Hub provides an incredibly diverse service for families such as these, be it from mentoring, employment advice for parents and support for carers to counselling for anything from low self-esteem to domestic violence. However, the charity is massively over-stretched, and so Vesey has decided to give support via 'Artsfest', our gala evening of entertainment, which is not only a showcase of students' talent but a fantastic opportunity to support such a worthy cause. We hope to see as many of you there as possible at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th September, particularly given the three-course meal included and new deal of two tickets for £30 or one for £20. Not only are we trying to raise as much money as possible for extra staff and training, but we will also be putting the money towards designing and building the Hub a new garden in order to enable more community events to bring closer together the people of Sutton who need it most. It can be uncomfortable to think about these kind of problems in such a comfortable area, but I sincerely hope you will get behind both our school and this charity. See you at Artsfest.*

Go to <http://bvgsartsfest.co.uk> for tickets. **Sarah Quinn, Charity Captain.**

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

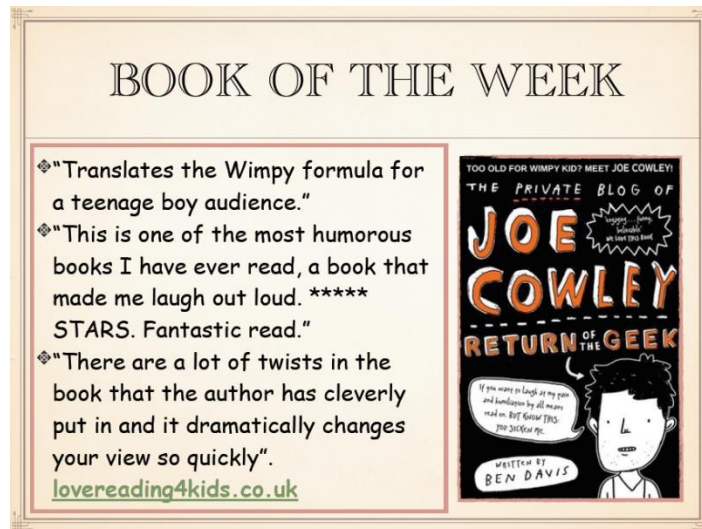


**Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

## Quote of the Week

'Be yourself; everyone else is already taken'  
**Oscar Wilde**

## Book of the Week



### Dates for your diary:

| SEPTEMBER 2015      |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday 19</b>  | OVA Dinner                                      |
| <b>Monday 21</b>    | Ben Davis author visit                          |
| <b>Monday 21</b>    | Governing Body Full Board Meeting               |
| <b>Tuesday 22</b>   | Mental Health/E-Safety Parental Awareness 18:00 |
| <b>Wednesday 23</b> | Natural High Presentation for Year 7            |
| <b>Wednesday 23</b> | Michelle Magorian author visit                  |
| <b>Thursday 24</b>  | Artsfest (tickets costs £20). All Welcome       |

| <b>OCTOBER 2015</b> |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Friday 2</b>     | Geography Field Trip (Y11)                               |
| <b>Monday 5</b>     | U6 Parents' Evening 16:00                                |
| <b>Monday 5</b>     | Lichfield Literature Festival all day at BVGS            |
| <b>Monday 5</b>     | Admissions Committee                                     |
| <b>Tuesday 6</b>    | BLH Parents' Forum 19:00                                 |
| <b>Thursday 8</b>   | World Poetry Day   |
| <b>Thursday 8</b>   | Junior Soloists' Concert 19:00                           |
| <b>Friday 9</b>     | Y11 PE Residential                                       |
| <b>Monday 12</b>    | HR Committee   |
| <b>Tuesday 13</b>   | Careers Fair 15:30 - 19:30 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall |
| <b>Thursday 15</b>  | Y7 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:30 and 19:30 - 20:15   |
| <b>Monday 19</b>    | Finance and Estates Committee Meeting (budget review)    |
| <b>Monday 19</b>    | PAC AGM  |
| <b>Tuesday 20</b>   | Open Morning 09:10 - 10:30                               |
| <b>Tuesday 20</b>   | L6 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:15 and 19:30 - 20:15   |
| <b>Wednesday 21</b> | Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30                               |
| <b>Thursday 22</b>  | Junior Hockey Tour                                       |
| <b>Thursday 22</b>  | PAC Welcome Curry Night - Bhujon, Mere Green             |
| <b>Friday 23</b>    | Founder's Day  |
| <b>Friday 23</b>    | Break up for half-term                                   |

## NOVEMBER 2015

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Monday 2</b>      | Training Day  |
| <b>Tuesday 3</b>     | Term re-commences                                     |
| <b>Friday 6</b>      | PAC Year 7 & 8 Disco at BVGS                          |
| <b>Monday 9</b>      | Learning and Teaching Committee                       |
| <b>Monday 9</b>      | PAC meeting   |
| <b>Wednesday 11</b>  | Remembrance Services                                  |
| <b>Thursday 12</b>   | Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form 16:00 - 19:00 |
| <b>w/c Monday 16</b> | Busking Week  |
| <b>Monday 16</b>     | Finance and Estates                                   |
| <b>Wednesday 18</b>  | PAC Pamper and Shop Evening - Big School              |
| <b>Thursday 19</b>   | Year 7 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00                 |
| <b>w/c Monday 23</b> | Year 11 mock week                                     |
| <b>Friday 27</b>     | Speech Day 19:00 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall        |
| <b>Friday 27</b>     | Senior King Maths Challenge                           |
| <b>Monday 30</b>     | GCSE Presentation Evening 19:00 at BVGS               |

## DECEMBER 2015

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday 3</b>                    | Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:00           |
| <b>Sunday 6 -<br/>Wednesday 9</b>    | Dress and technical rehearsals for school play |
| <b>Monday 7</b>                      | Full Board Meeting                             |
| <b>Monday 7</b>                      | Y12 Parents' Evening                           |
| <b>Monday 7</b>                      | PAC meeting                                    |
| <b>Thursday 10<br/>and Friday 11</b> | Performance of 'Two'                           |
| <b>Tuesday 15</b>                    | Christmas Concert                              |
| <b>Thursday 17</b>                   | Break up for Christmas                         |