



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

20 November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been overshadowed by the terrible events in Paris last Friday. A minute's silence was held across the school on Monday at 11am and also at the start of all French lessons on Monday. Assemblies have been held throughout the week. Above all, we have sought to stress the resilience and humanity of the responses of ordinary Parisians, as embodied by the "don du sang" for the hospitals and the "porte ouverte" for those needing shelter, and lauded the quietly defiant words of the inspirational **Antoine Leiris**: "You will not have my hatred."

Elsewhere in assemblies this week, **James Cutting** and **Tom Hooper**, Year 11 senior prefects, delivered a superb assembly to Years 9-10 on World AIDS day, which is happening on Tuesday December 1st. Meanwhile, I have been speaking to Years 7-11 students regarding the Student Voice Fund. The PAC have allocated £3,000 to this fund. We are encouraging students to think carefully about the needs of our school community and, in particular, to consider a small scale project that could make a big difference to the quality of Vesey life. We then want students to bid for money for their suggested project by completing a form, which they will be able to download from our website. Please note that the application round closes on December 16th. We look forward to receiving some exciting applications.

In some assemblies this week, the cast of 'TWO' showcased their work. The play promises to be excellent. If you would like to book your tickets for either Thursday 10th or Friday 11th December, please contact Mrs Foster on email, s.foster@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk. I know all the actors involved would really appreciate your support.

Well done to our top 10 merit winners across the school from the week beginning 9th November: **Jaan Johal 10B, Taran Chahal 7W, Aiden Hill 9R, Omar Harris 10R, Chirag Guha 7W, Daniel Utley 7W Aidan Bishop 10B, Archie Sansome 10W, Benjamin Frost 7W and Harry Ayto 10W**. It was a pleasure to meet you at break time this week. Well done also to those Year 11 students attending the reward lunch yesterday for the outstanding commitment they are making to their studies: **James Cutting, Louis Kill-Brown, Daniel Leyva, Oliver Bardsley, Charles Pottinger, Tom Hooper, Christopher Mason, Rajan Mittal, Raven Sarjit and Jamaal Simms**.

Today, we begin our Year 11 mock examinations. We wish all our Year 11 students a productive week.

There have been some excellent enrichment opportunities this week. **Joanna Davis, Governor**, led a session on interviews with MedSoc this week. Meanwhile, STEMsoc were delighted to welcome **Narinder Bains**, who talked to students about his experiences as a chemical engineer, working on new methods of processing in the food industry. Thank you to both our guests. A big thank you also to **Sarah Coleman**, from Newton, who organised an excellent hour long interview opportunity for five of our prospective Sixth Form engineers.



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Yesterday, we welcomed our Year 7 parents to their first consultation evening. If you have any feedback on the conduct of the evening, or any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We have had another busy sporting week. Visit www.bvgssport.co.uk for more detail. However, I would be remiss if I did not mention the first outing of our basketball team against Kingsbury this week, the Fourth XI Hockey team, who beat the Third XI and our amazing Cross Country team.

We have had some other great activities this week too. Busking Week in the dining hall has been great fun. Well done to all our participants. Well done too to the students involved in the Lord Mayor's Quiz – a great effort from all of them. Also thanks to Miss Lawson and Mrs Hodkinson, who enabled some of our Year 11 to go to the Skills Show.

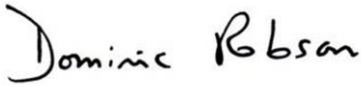
It has a pleasure to welcome other visitors this week – staff from Rainham Mark Grammar School and teacher trainees from the Plantsbrook Teaching School Alliance. They were blown away by the great teaching and learning habits they saw. Thank you Russell Bowen, Steve Baugh and Hannah Storey for your help with these visits.

Finally, I'm sure you will be as delighted as I, to hear of the excellent news of Mr Alex Davis (Head of Year 9) receiving an MSC in Teaching and Learning from Oxford University. Well done Sir!

Please note that next Friday is Speech Day and school finishes at 12.00.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

"You will not have my hatred. I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are"

Antoine Leiris, in response to the murder of his wife in Paris, 13/11/15

Word of the Week

'rapacious' adj: inordinately greedy

Art and Design Star of the Week



Archie Sansome, 10 W. Archie has been studying the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. He has completed this transcription, showing exceptional use of colour and form. Brilliant work!

Dates for your diary:

NOVEMBER 2015	
w/c Monday 23	Year 11 mock week
Friday 27	Speech Day 19:00 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall with Guest Speaker Lord Keith Bradley (OV) HALF DAY
Friday 27	Senior King Maths Challenge
Monday 30	GCSE Presentation Evening 19:00 at BVGS
DECEMBER 2015	
Thursday 3	Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:00
Sunday 6 - Wednesday 9	Dress and technical rehearsals for school play
Monday 7	Governing Body Full Board Meeting
Monday 7	Y12 Parents' Evening
Monday 7	PAC meeting
Thursday 10 and Friday 11	Performance of 'Two'
Tuesday 15	Christmas Concert
Thursday 17	Break up for Christmas