



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

22 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

At this time of the academic year, much of the school's thoughts are turned towards the forthcoming public summer examinations for Years 11, 12 and 13. I am pleased to note that students understand the importance of going up another gear in their studies following the mock examinations. Students have learning support opportunities to avail themselves of, and I am pleased to note that they are seeking to make the most of these. On Wednesday we held our Year 11 Parents' Evening. Feedback received suggests all parties found this evening helpful and motivational.

This week **Mr Brocklebank**, Head of Year 11, and I have been meeting for hot chocolate and cookies with the students in Year 11 with the highest levels of commitment. Well done to: **Benjamin Abbott, Folu Bajomo, Oliver Bardsley, James Cavendish, Lewis Cope, James Cutting, Jack Eccles, Thomas Edwards, William Hennessy, Tom Hooper, Jasmeet Hothi, Karam Johal, Jerin Johnson, Jawad Karim, Louis Kill-Brown, Daniel Leyva, Alfie Lockrey, Ben Miles, Rajan Mittal, Aaron Pahal, Thomas Parkes, Jack Parsons, Jainan Patel, Charles Pottinger, Matthew Price, Daniel Quirk, Ishaq Ravat, Philip Reader, Aran Sandhu, Harvinder Sandhu, Callum Simpson, Edward Stanley, Jamie Taylor, Luke Topley, Mohammed Usama, Ben Wallace.**

This week has seen publication of the DoFE Performance Tables (See [here](#)). I am pleased to see that at KS5 we have an average point score for A Level entry of 248.8 ie B+, the third highest state school in Birmingham and Walsall (behind Camp Hill Boys and Camp Hill Girls). Furthermore, at GCSE BVGS is ranked fourth in Birmingham. Our point score per student is lower than some schools because we believe that offering ten GCSEs and doing them well, is better than offering a bigger range of subjects. Also worthy of note, particularly as we consider offering up to 20% of our new Year 7 places for September 2017 to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who meet our qualifying score, is the excellent performance of students from all backgrounds. (See [link](#)).

In assemblies this week **Miss Hearn** gave the students an inspiring message about 'never giving up'. She finished with a very powerful clip of Derek Redmond's performance in the 1992 Olympics which you can find [here](#).

Also in assembly **Nikhel Madamsetty** from the U6 talked to Year 11 about a wonderful opportunity they could get involved in if they were interested in Engineering. (Please see link: [Aerospace Challenge](#)) This is the School's Aerospace Challenge 2016. Another opportunity that Year 11 really must get involved in is The Challenge. [www.ncsthechallenge.org](http://www.ncsthechallenge.org). It is a brilliant way to purposefully use your summer.

We are very keen to provide some excellent careers experiences for our students, especially in National Careers Week w/c 7 March. Could you spare some time to get involved with this? If so, please contact **Dave Goodwin**, Assistant Headteacher on [d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk).

Across the school last week the top merit winners were: **Matthew Roberts, Vraj Shah, Ravi Sharma, Ethan Crisp, Finlay Sly, Jaden Lo-Watson, Finlay Port, Matthew Richardson, Joao Cariata, and Harry West.**



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On Wednesday, in assembly, I spoke to Year 7 and 8 about the importance of recognising their Vesey education as a gift to be used with wisdom and appreciated. I am sure they will never want to lose sight of that.

On Wednesday **Mr Semple**, Head of Computing and **Mr Baglee**, Network Manager accompanied the students from TechCom Team for a day at the BETT show in London. They have come back with lots of ideas for how we could improve technology at BVGS. Interestingly, I also met with three new Lower Sixth students this week about their Vesey Experience thus far. Thank you **Lauren Abbott**, **Lucy Parize** and **Tom Perraton** for their helpful comments. They all had lots of lovely things to say about the school. They also had some excellent ideas about how BVGS could embrace technology and thus even more effectively support student learning.

At BVGS we are committed to raising awareness of and tackling the stigma associated with mental illness. Our Mental Health Ambassadors **Edward Shakespeare**, **Jessica Taylor**, **Angela Sohal**, **Louise Hannon** and Mental Health Officers **Sneha Lala** and **Tom Breakwell** have visited Boldmere Junior School and New Oscott Primary to talk to Year 6 students about mental health and, also, the importance of a healthy body image. The talk was well received and generated lots of sensible questions. More information about this important issue can be found on our website under the parent tab. <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/bvgs-parents/e-safety>

On Tuesday Year 7 had a very creative day. First of all, they went to an excellent concert performed by the world class CBSO at Symphony Hall. I was very impressed by their maturity and the way they embraced the opportunity. Thanks to **Maryann Dye**, Director of Music and all the team who supported for organising a superb event. On return to school, 47 Year 7s, along with students from other years enjoyed an absolutely outstanding drama workshop with Centrestage School of Speech and Drama.

In debating we have been getting ready for some public competitions. On Saturday, I will be at Solihull School to support **Angalea Varma** and **Georgette Mc Verry** perform in the lightning-quick Cambridge Union Debating Competition. Meanwhile on Tuesday two KS3 teams, ably supported by **Miss Colder** and **Mrs Masterson-Lemin** from the English Department will compete in the Youth Speaks Rotary Competition. **Matthew McLaughlan**, **Pierce O'Reilly-Spears** and **Paavan Sehmar** will be focussing on the question 'Do we over-use and over rely on technology?'. Meanwhile **Mithun Padmanabhan**, **Joel Stainthorpe** and **Ishan Mitra** will be talking about the question 'why are Britons so unhealthy?'. Good luck to all the students involved.

I have been impressed this week by the enterprising approach of our Year 9 boys. **Sam Maynard** (9W) has made cookies for the teachers in the staff room to try to raise money for his World Challenge Expedition. Meanwhile, **Benedict Newman** and friends are arranging a vast array of fundraising activities to coincide with the 7s Tournament we are hosting in March. Well done boys.

I hope that you have now seen our new library logo. Well done **Joe Rogers** (Y7) - it is very effective. Talking of the Library, we are very keen to get involved in supporting the Big Read <http://www.thebigread.org.uk>. The total cost of the school getting involved would be £1,000. Would you, or your business, possibly be interested in sponsoring this? If so please get in touch with Sharon Weblin, my PA.

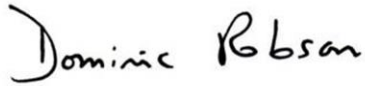
We have had a weather affected, but still busy sporting week. Our 1st XV were closely knocked out of the Vase this week by The Leys School. This was very frustrating for the team, however they should be proud of the progress they have been making this season. The U14s Hockey meanwhile had a fine day on Tuesday beating Princethorpe, King Henry's and Warwick School to take them into the Regional Finals. An outstanding achievement. Well done to **Matt Freer** who scored the vital goal with 20 seconds left against Warwick. For more information on all things sporting please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>.

This afternoon Year 8 will have a thought-provoking talk in an extended assembly on the Kirambi Project in Rwanda from Dr Sharon Bennett. We raised over £500 for this project on Founder's Day back in October. I am sure Year 8 will have some excellent questions to ask our guest speaker.

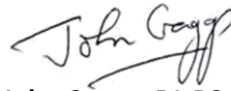
Have you bought your tickets for the Night at the Races yet? Please support your PAC on Friday 5 February.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher



**John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

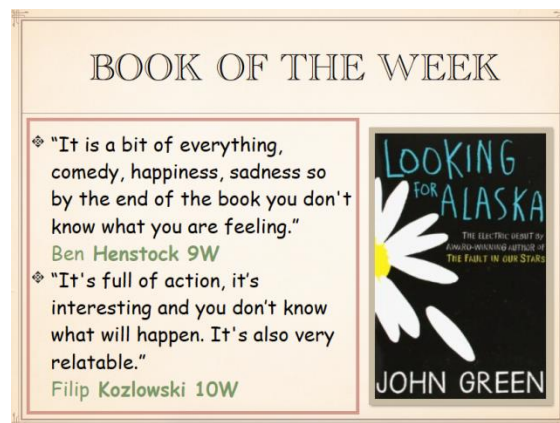
### Quote of the Week

'A problem is a chance for you to do your best'  
**Duke Ellington**

### Word of the Week

'oxymoron' n: figure of speech where a statement seems to be self-contradictory

### Book of the Week



### Art Star of the Week



**Alex Hemming 11G** has completed an extremely detailed response, to his architecture project. He has incorporated the style, of Gaudi and Stephen Wiltshire, into his final piece. An exceptional student, who always puts a lot of time, effort and skill into his work.

### From the BVGS Archive

From the BVGS archive, 100 years ago: Miss L Le Huray was appointed as the school's first female teacher.

From the BVGS archive, 65 years ago this week: 1st XV beat Leamington College 35-5. It was their 13th win from 14 during the 1950-51 season

### Dates for your diary:

#### JANUARY 2016

Monday 25 Full Board Meeting

#### FEBRUARY 2016

w/c 1 Busking Week

Monday 1 Whole School Review Day (please read the letter Mr Bowen will be sending on this topic to all parents)

Thursday 4 Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 17:00

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

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

#### MARCH 2016

Tuesday 1 Targeted Review Day Year 7

Wednesday 2 Swimming Gala

Thursday 3 Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 3 World Book Day

Monday 7 AS/A2 Geology field Trip

Monday 7 Full Board Meeting

Thursday 10 Year 7 and 8 Hockey Tour

Thursday 10 Intermediate Olympiad Maths Challenge

Friday 11 German Exchange visitors arrive

Monday 14 Admissions Committee meeting

Wednesday 16 Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 17 Spring Concert 19:00

Thursday 17 Intermediate Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Tuesday 22 L6 Geography Field Trip

Wednesday 23 Half Day, break up for Easter

Thursday 24 Training Day

23-27 Barcelona Trip