



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

25 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, our hearts go out to any members of the Midlands' Muslim community adversely affected by yesterday's tragedy in Mecca. Yesterday's festival of Eid ul-Adha was sadly blighted by this. We wish all families well.

This has been a fantastic week for the Arts at BVGS. We have been lucky to have two amazing author visits. On Monday Ben Davis, author of 'The Private Blog of Joe Cowley', was in school. He took a Year 8 and 9 assembly and ran entertaining creative writing workshops. Then on Wednesday, Michelle Magorian, who wrote the well-loved 'Goodnight Mr Tom', was in school to talk to students about her latest book 'Impossible'. Both events sparked the interest of the students. A big thank you to **Wendy Brown**, Librarian for organising these opportunities for the boys.

Last night, we held our annual Artsfest led by the student Charity Leaders **Sarah Quinn, Connor Walton and Ore Akinwale**. It was a highly professional evening with so many brilliant student performances, inspired by the 1920s, from dance solos (**Tamsin Sandiford**) to singing (**Archie Bunney, Anna Morris, Natasha Jeffery, Danielle Miller and Natasha Rowland-Lovatt**), to great piano playing from **Louis-Kill Brown and Jon Jon Tian**, breathtaking violin playing from **Nick Lee** and sensational xylophone playing from **Ryan Bagley** with his 'Log Cabin Blues'. It was also wonderful to see an excerpt of our upcoming BVGS Senior Production 'Two', which we will be performing here at BVGS on 10 and 11 December 2015. There were some very entertaining performances from **Ethan Gore, Joe Perrin, Zachariah Sturch, Himmat Sidhu and Daley Smith**. The whole event was superbly compered by Messrs **Cooney and Smith**, for whom a career at 'stand-up' clearly beckons. A huge thank you also to **Adrian Reilly**, Head of L6 and **Lesley Overton**, Business Support Officer for their coaching and mentoring of students. Last, but not least, thank you for all the hard work put in by the excellent waiters, waitresses, film crew, back-stage staff, greeters, catering staff and everyone at 'Our Place Community Hub'.

On the theme of the Arts if you get chance there is an excellent concert at the Adrian Boulton Hall on Saturday evening starring one of last year's U6, the amazing **Xhosa Cole (OV)**, who now plays in the National Jazz Collective.

Elsewhere this week, we have debated our approach to migration. Some very thoughtful contributions. We have also moved back to our usual home for Debating in Old Big School. All welcome next Wednesday at 13:15. Bring your sandwiches!

In Year 11 assembly this week we have begun the launch of our 'Opening Doors' campaign. We want all our students to strive for continuous improvement and to aim high. Year 11 students are now just 30+ school days away from their mock examinations. Mock timetables come out next week. Year 11 students should be using their full two and a half hours homework per night for the completion of homework and revision. All Year 11 students need to get their revision plan in order.



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Thanks to all those who attended Tuesday's excellent Mental Health and E-Safety Evening. Thank you in particular to **Kate Steadman** (Designated Safeguarding Lead) for her input, and that of our student Mental Health Officers **Tom Breakwell**, **Eleni Panayiotou** and **Sneha Lala**. More details can be found here: http://www.bvgs.co.uk/images/stories/e-Safety/Parental_Info_e-Safety_Sept_2015.pdf

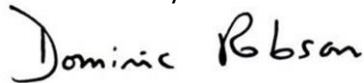
Talking of mental health, we had our annual visit from David Graham and his Natural High show for Year 7 this week. There are some great pictures on our Twitter feed, @BVGS1527.

It was also great to see our first House competitions of the year take place. The Sixth Form Spelling Bee was a fiercely fought competition with White House triumphing thanks to the skills of **James Froggatt**.

Well done to our top merit earners of the week: **Nicholas Ward 8W**, **Sam Harkin 9B**, **Adrian Lowe 8G**, **Thomas Hughes 8G**, **Aadam Ahmed 8G**, **Jack Glover 8G**, **Patrick Tyrrell 8G**, **Thomas Rogers 8G**, **Finlay Sly 8B** and **Jack Lees 8W**.

We have had an excellent week of sport. For all information and results about some excellent performances in Hockey, Netball and Rugby please visit: www.bvgssport.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

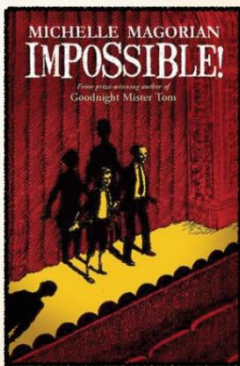
'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much'
Helen Keller

Book of the Week

BOOK OF THE WEEK

◆ "Part theatre story, part adventure and part homage to Joan Littlewood, the trail-blazing maverick director and founder of the Theatre Workshop ...an immersive read, featuring a wonderful cast of characters and great dialogue, in a beautifully written novel, full of incident and humour." *The Guardian*

◆ "Michelle Magorian is the author of *Goodnight Mister Tom* and a series of books for young teens that makes her one of the first authors to specialise in the genre. Her unflinching realistic approach and her warmth and humour makes her books unputdownable. In this, Josie must dodge kidnappers, mistaken identity and a gang of villains to pursue her dream of becoming an actress". *SUNDAY EXPRESS*



The book cover features a red background with a yellow stage floor. Three figures are silhouetted on the stage, and the title 'IMPOSSIBLE!' is written in large, bold, white letters at the top. Below the title, it says 'From the bestselling author of Goodnight Mister Tom'.

Art and Design Star of the Week



Still Life drawing completed by Andre Bean 9G.

Andre has started the year with great commitment and effort. He has spent several hours developing observational drawing and tone, often giving up his own free time to gain extra support from his art teacher.

Dates for your diary:

OCTOBER 2015	
Friday 2	Geography Field Trip (Y11)
Monday 5	U6 Parents' Evening 16:00
Monday 5	Lichfield Literature Festival all day at BVGS
Tuesday 6	BLH Parents' Forum 19:00
Wednesday 7	Admissions Committee
Thursday 8	World Poetry Day
Thursday 8	Junior Soloists' Concert 19:00
Friday 9	Y11 PE Residential
Monday 12	HR Committee
Tuesday 13	Careers Fair 15:30 - 19:30 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
Thursday 15	Y7 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:30 and 19:30 - 20:15
Monday 19	Finance and Estates Committee Meeting (budget review)
Monday 19	PAC AGM
Tuesday 20	Open Morning 09:10 - 10:30
Tuesday 20	L6 Information Evening 18:30 - 19:15 and 19:30 - 20:15
Wednesday 21	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
Thursday 22	Junior Hockey Tour

Thursday 22	PAC Welcome Curry Night - Bhujon, Mere Green
Friday 23	Founder's Day
Friday 23	Break up for half-term

NOVEMBER 2015

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