



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

26 February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been saddened this week by the news of the death of one of our former teachers, Mr David Shrubbs. Dave began his teaching career in 1964 at Burton on Trent Grammar School as a teacher of Mathematics. He then moved in 1969 to John Wilmott School, where he served for 29 years and had various roles as Head of Maths, Head of Faculty, Head of Year and Head of Lower School. His unbroken 50 year service to education continued here at BVGS with a remarkable 14 years of service to our students. So many students (and staff) benefited from Dave's magical contributions - as an amazing Mathematics teacher, the incredible support to so many BVGS extra-curricular activities from cricket to residentials. An inspirational, brilliant, talented, uniquely wonderful and generous man. We will miss him.

There have been some lovely tributes to Mr Shrubbs posted on line

'A brilliant teacher who inspired countless young mathematicians' (Luke Kendall)

'My life would be hugely different without him. Rest in peace.' (Jack Haynes)

'He was a really great character and gentle teacher' (Dr Junaid Hussain)



Elsewhere this week we have held assemblies on the European Referendum debate and we have been visited by the well known author **Bali Rai**. Bali was very generous with his time, running a number of excellent creative writing workshops. Also in the library, our students helped, in partnership with many other schools, to break the Guinness Book of Records for the biggest book quiz ever. Thank you to **Miss Brown, Mrs Ward**, the student librarians and the Year 7 library reps for their enthusiasm.

On Tuesday the Art Department took Year 10 and 11 students to visit Walsall Art Gallery. It was an excellent trip. The students saw inspirational art, from Picasso to Epstein, and had great fun taking part in a dry-etching workshop. Thank you to **Emma Rowlands** for organising this excellent opportunity.

This week has also seen a very fine debating performance by **Sam Breen** and **Hannah Smith** in the annual Sixth Form contest, this year superbly hosted by Arthur Terry School. Sam and Hannah spoke eloquently on the two separate debates of the legality of military drones and the value of PHSE. Well done to Hannah who won the 'Best Speaker' prize. A big thank you to **Dr Reilly, Lewis Terry** and **Angalea Verma** for their support in preparing our team.

Well done to our top ten merit winners for this week, I will be seeing them for hot chocolate and cookies next week. **Jack Lees 8W, Joshua Eager 7P, Jack Glover 8G, Joshua Sherratt 10R, Matthew Roberts 7P, Ethan Stanley 10W Joao Cariata 10B, Vraj Shah 8B, Finlay Sly 8B, Hamzah Mahmood 10W.**

Letters will also be going out at the start of next week to the 312 students from Years 7 - 11 showing exemplary commitment to their studies last half-term. Well done everyone. Let's see if we can get an even higher number for this half-term.



It was also good to celebrate, with hot chocolate and cookies, the success of our amazing Netball team, and their wonderful coaches, who are off to the Nationals in Brighton on 19 March. Well done ladies.



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Thank you to the Languages Department for taking Sixth Formers to the excellent Film Masterclass at Birmingham University. There were excellent workshops on Das Leben der Anderen, El Laberinto del Fauno and La Haine. Thank you to **Mr Götschel** (Head of German) and **Miss Slater** (Head of Spanish) for organising this.

Tickets are going quickly for the Spring Concert. See the letter for this here: [Spring Concert Letter](#). We will also be holding a raffle on that night. One of the raffle prizes will be a luxury hamper. Would you be able to donate a small item for the hamper? **Mrs Gregory**, Fundraising Manager says that 'we would be grateful for your support. If you can pass anything on, we will be collecting items at Mr Bowen's office.' Thanks in anticipation of any help you can give.

Yesterday, we heard some brilliant news of sporting success. Two of our boys have been selected to play for the England U18 Counties Rugby Squad. Well done **Ben Jesson** and **Oliver Wem**. This is an incredible achievement and a huge honour for both boys. To have two boys playing at national level at the same time is probably a Vesey first!

There has been a lot of amazing sporting opportunities this week. The U13s won the Adams 7s. Meanwhile **Georgia Curry** came third in a good cross country race at Warwick School. Georgia will be performing at national level over the next three weekends. We wish her well. Meanwhile the U13B 7 a side Hockey team won the Warwickshire competition winning every game on the way to being crowned champions. However the sport of the week was probably Table Tennis, with a 1, 2, 3 for the U13s in the Birmingham Schools' Individual Table Tennis Championships. Thanks to **Mr Phillips** for his support and a big well done to **Mithun Padmanabhan, Angus Rogers** and **Sid Khanna**. For more information on Vesey Sport this week please see: <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>.

Finally please do come along and support the school at our annual PAC Quiz Night on Friday 18 March, where our very own **Dave Goodwin** will be Quiz Master. Also please note an important date for your diary: the Vesey Ball on Friday 1 July @ Aston Wood Golf Club. Tickets are £50 per head.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

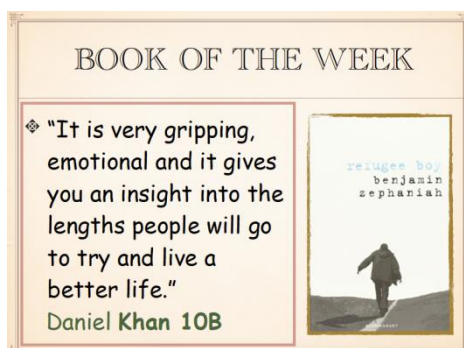
Quote of the Week

'My life would be hugely different without him. Rest in peace.'
Jack Haynes on David Shrubbs

Word of the Week

'sporadic' adj. appearing or happening at irregular intervals in time

Book of the Week



Art Star of the Week



Roan Farley 10G - Roan has completed an excellent mixed media portrait, showing emotions. He has spent a great deal of time and effort, with developing his realistic drawing and tonal skills to create this study. Well done. Do you recognise one of the subjects?

Dates for your diary:

MARCH 2016

Wednesday 2	Swimming Gala
Thursday 3	Year 9 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00. Headteacher talk for all parents will be at 17:00 - 17:10 in Big School.
Thursday 3	World Book Day
Sunday 6	NatWest Vase Semi Final 1:00pm, Allianz Park
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