



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

27 November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have seen or heard about BVGS in the media over the last couple of weeks. One of our old boys **Lord Indarjit Singh** was on 'Desert Island Discs'. You will be able to get the recording on i-player for Sunday 15 November. In the Sunday Times on Sunday 22 November, we featured in the Parent Power League Table of Top State Schools. This year we were 49th. This is the third consecutive year our school has been in the Top 50. I am delighted. However, we are always trying to find ways of improving further. Well done to all our staff, students and parents in working strongly together for the benefit of the students.

Yesterday evening I was with the Sixth Form Debating Team participating in the English Speaking Union Mace Competition in Birmingham. We knew that we would be debating the matter of diversity quotas at the BBC with Edgbaston High School for Girls. What we didn't know was that **Angalea Varma** and **Andrew Upton** from BVGS would be faced with the amazing opportunity to debate with the internationally renowned human rights campaigner and winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize **Malala Yousafzai**. Our students were not overawed by the sense of occasion and acquitted themselves brilliantly. A big thank you to those Sixth Formers supporting last night during the four hour debating competition.

Elsewhere the Target 2.0 Team were runners up in the regional Bank of England Economics Competition. Well done to the fabulous team of **Roya Kamali, Sunny Aujla, Sarah Quinn** and **Matthew Cooney**. Thanks also to all the staff who helped support them, especially **Cara Lawson**, Head of Economics and **Dr Adrian Reilly**, Head of L6.

At MedSoc this week we have had two excellent sessions: one from **Dr Harriet Gough-Jennings** on 'ethics and empathy' and **Jane McKenzie**, an Occupational Therapist.

Yesterday it was a pleasure to meet some of the top ten merit winners of last week **Jaden Lo-Watson 9B, Harry James 9B, Alasdair Bell 10R, Benjamin Wall 9B, Eesa Gharda 9W, Isaac Bosman 9B, Jack Lees 8W, Kieran Henderson 11W, Max Geldard 9B** and **Stan Pigott 10R**.

On Thursday I had the pleasure of meeting our new Parent Governor, as voted by you, the parents. Warm congratulations and welcome to **Mrs Sukhwinder Salh**.

Please could you be considerate of our local residents on the subject of parking. Our Boswell Road residents are sometimes having their driveways blocked and parents parking in residents' permit spaces when they arrive to pick up their children at the end of the day. Please also do not park on the double yellow lines close to the kitchens, as this causes disruption and congestion on Boswell Road and could make conditions less safe for our students on leaving school. Thank you for your support on this important matter.

It is good to see that we are having very healthy ticket sales for 'Two', which is being performed on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December from 7:30pm here at school. The cast have worked very hard and are looking forward to performing to a full hall. Please consider giving this new event your support. Tickets are available from Mrs Foster via s.foster@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk and are priced at Adults £9.00 and Students/Concessions £5.00.



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www.bvgs.co.uk



I will also be writing to invite everybody today to our Christmas Concert on Tuesday 15 December. Come along and get some festive cheer. Tickets are also available from Mrs Foster (see above).

Also, on the night of the Christmas Concert, there will be a book sale organised by our librarians. The Library will also be selling books and stationery from 10 December. Plenty of ideas for the boys to buy Christmas presents!

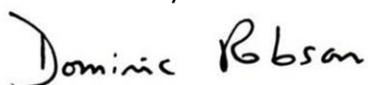
As ever we have had a busy sporting week. It has been particularly good to hear of the successes of our Year 7 Basketball team. Visit www.bvgssport.co.uk for more detail.

I am very keen to develop opportunities for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) students in Drama with a view to putting on a junior production, in conjunction with Centrestage School of Speech and Drama, in the summer term. I would be interested to gauge how many families would be interested in their son doing a weekly after-school drama session leading up to a production at a cost of £150 per head. **If there isn't sufficient level of interest, then we won't be able to proceed. Please email s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk to express your interest in junior drama by the end of Wednesday 2 December please.**

On Monday we will be celebrating the successes of our GCSE Year 11 cohort. It has been great to see so many of the re-marks in Geography going up. Our final total is 69.4% A*/A. Well done boys! Meanwhile, this evening we hold our annual Speech Day at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall. We are very excited to be welcoming back the class of 2015 to hear all about their exploits beyond BVGS. We are also delighted that our Guest Speaker this evening is the Rt Hon the Lord Bradley who is an Old Veseyan. Lord Bradley has a keen interest on matters such as homelessness, health and social mobility issues and very much enjoyed his own Vesey experience, winning the Bedggood Prize in 1969. I am sure he will be a good addition to tonight's proceedings. Thanks to all those making Speech Day run smoothly, especially **Angela Kite, Teresa Jones, Kallyann Williams, Jayne Joyce, Linda Pryor, Russell Bowen, Ruth Hearn, Kate Steadman, Pam Maskell, Lesley Overton, Maryann Dye**, top marimba player **Ryan Bagley** and of course our main MC this evening, **Mr Dave Goodwin**, Head of Sixth Form.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week

'Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough'
Unknown

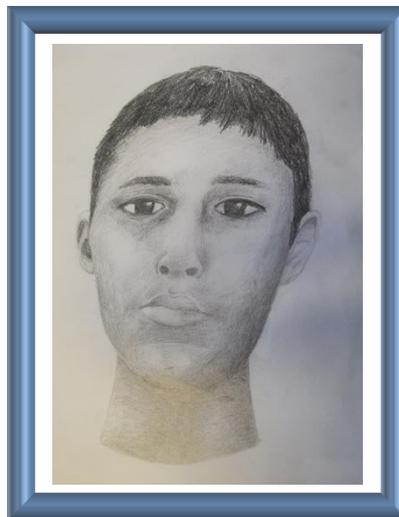
Word of the Week

'hyperbole' n: obvious and intentional exaggeration

Book of the Week



Art and Design Star of the Week



Diran Suraj 10G. At the beginning of half term, Diran began a portrait project, for GCSE Art. This self-portrait was the outcome of a lesson that focused on achieving accurate facial proportions. He was asked to develop the piece to try and capture the likeness of himself adding tone to enhance the sense of 3D form. The outcome was that he achieved an A* grade - a worthy 'Star of the Week'. Well done Diran!

Dates for your diary:

NOVEMBER 2015	
Friday 27	Speech Day 19:15 for 19:30 start 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' - 19:30
Tuesday 15	Christmas Concert - 19:30
Thursday 17	Break up for Christmas

JANUARY 2016

Monday 4	Spring Term Commences
w/c Monday 4	Y13 Mock Week
w/c Monday 11	Y12 Mock Week
Monday 18	Finance and Estates Committee meeting (budget review)
Wednesday 20	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Monday 25	Full Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 2015

w/c 1	Busking Week
Wednesday 3	Whole School Review Day - 13:30 - 15:30
Thursday 4	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday 4	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Friday 5	Harry Potter Book Night (tbc)
Monday 8	Learning and Teaching Committee
Wednesday 10	Year 10 vaccinations
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