



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

29 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We come to the end of another enjoyable and rewarding week. In assemblies, we have remembered Holocaust Memorial Day and seen some memorable student led assemblies led by the Charity Team (on our fundraising for Aspire to Africa) and by the Vesey TechComm (on making the most of technology at BVGS). We also were visited by the National Citizen Service who spoke to Year 11 about all the exciting opportunities which The Challenge can provide. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncsthechallenge.org/> and sign up. Please note that we have been asked to be a Champion School for NCS because so many of our students do this scheme in the summer after Year 11.

Across the school this week the top merit winners were: **Alex Dixon 7R, Joseph McClafferty 7R, Vraj Shah 8B, Aadam Ahmed 8G, Adrian Lowe 8G, Joshua Mason 8G, Haaris Butt 9R, Shoaib Sheraz 10W, Roan Farley 10G, and Harry West 10W.** They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies next Tuesday 2 February.

This afternoon I have been speaking to a number of students from Years 7-9, who tell me that they are keen to do weekly after school drama on either Mondays or Tuesdays, but have not yet returned the reply slip and money to Mrs Foster. Please could all slips and money be returned on Monday please. If your son is interested in doing this (or missed the initial audition and is still keen to participate), please do get in touch as soon as possible.

Talking of Monday, all is set for the forthcoming review day. We think it is important for every student to have a useful interview about their academic progress, as well as their all round personal development. Please encourage your sons and daughters to use their non-interview time on that day to get on with plenty of private study.

Also this week students have competed in two public speaking competitions. Well done to **Angalea Varma** and **Georgette McVerry** who in the Cambridge Union Debating Competition on Saturday earned two first places for BVGS and a fourth. They beat teams from many independent schools on the day including KEHS, Warwick, Repton and Solihull. On Tuesday we entered two junior teams for the Youth Speaks Rotary Competition. The boys did not qualify for the regionals, but did very well indeed: **Joel Stainthorpe 7B, Mithun Padmanabhan 8W, Pierce O'Reilly-Spears 8W, Ishan Mitra 7G, Paavan Sehmar 8W and Matthew McLaughlan 8R.** Thanks also to **Miss Colder** and **Mrs Masterson-Lemin** for supporting students on Tuesday, as well as our parental audience.

Elsewhere this week **John Ford** was our guest speaker at STEMSoc, a number of students took part in the International Chemistry Olympiad (results to follow in March) and we entered three Year 9 teams (**Harris Butt 9R, Shamsuddin Ellahi 9R, Aidan Croghan 9R, Omar Takruri 9R, Ibrahim Aliwi 9W, Daanyaal Oddin 9W, Matthew Burrows 9G, Matthew Bate 9G, Rohan Bassi 9G, Anas Fasih 9B, Finlay Port 9B, Isaac Bosman 9B**) supported by **Nick Yates** and **Julie Wadeson**, for the Big Physics Quiz at the University of Birmingham. Our best position was 7th. Mr Yates is already working on his battle plan to improve our position for 2017.

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).

As I mentioned last week, 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.

On Wednesday we held a 'Building Learning Habits' evening led by **Mr Bowen, Mr Baugh** and our SALPER students. We have had excellent feedback from parents who attended. Thank you for your support and of course a big thank you to our students.



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Also on Wednesday we held our regular Duke of Edinburgh after-school meeting with five outside trainees supporting. We now have substantial numbers of students doing Duke of Edinburgh at Bronze, Silver and Gold - in total over 100 participants. Thank you to **Tom Greenwood** who manages this excellent area of school life.

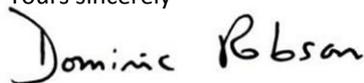
It has been an exciting week in sport. Ski trip 2017 was publicised. There were excellent victories for BVGS in basketball and hockey (U12A finished the week with a 10-0 thrashing of Queen Mary's, Walsall!). There were also some excellent performances in indoor athletics and in the Sutton Park cross-country race. However, the team of the week has to be the U15A rugby students who defeated St George's, Harpenden 9-7 in the NatWest Schools Cup. This takes us through to the national quarter-finals and a tantalising home tie on Monday 8 February against New Hall, Chelmsford. For more information about Vesey sport this week please visit: <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/diary/sports-results>.

On Tuesday we held our first Fundraising Board meeting. Our school, like other grammars, faces considerable financial challenges in the coming years. To meet these challenges, we have a clear strategy, which also includes increasing the amount of money raised by fundraising across the Vesey community. Thank you to the enthusiastic members of the Fundraising Board for their support.

Have you bought your tickets for the Night at the Races yet? Please support your PAC in their fundraising for our students 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

'The hardest challenge is to be yourself in a world where everyone is trying to make you be somebody else'  
**E E Cummings**

### Word of the Week

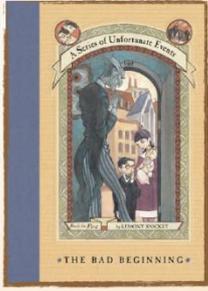
'tenacious' adj. characterised by keeping a firm hold

### Book of the Week

**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

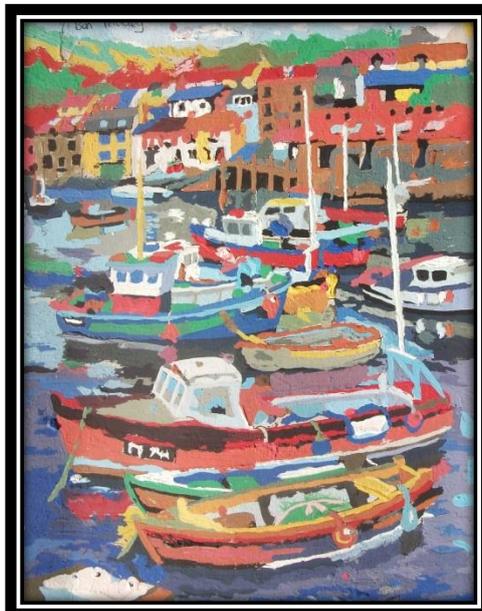
❖ "It is very interesting and I have liked all of them and the plot."  
**Benedict Resch 8W**

❖ "The story is very interesting and it is hard to predict what will happen next."  
**Chirag Guha 7W**



THE BAD BEGINNING

### Art Star of the Week



**Benjamin Priddey (7W)** submitted this fantastic watercolour painting for his recent Art homework. Benjamin clearly invested a huge amount of time and effort in this piece making it a worthy 'Star of The Week.' Well done!!

### From the Archive

From the BVGS archive, 67 years ago this week: 'The school performed Iolanthe in the Town Hall. The musical direction was led by Mr Harold Gray, whose experience proved invaluable to the success of the Opera'.

### Dates for your diary:

#### FEBRUARY 2016

w/c 1	Busking Week
Monday 1	Whole School Review Day
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
Wednesday 9	Open Morning
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