



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

03 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Preparation for Public Examinations

This has been a busy week. A lot of progress has been made. Year 11, 12 and 13 should be continuing work they started in the holidays. This is the time for reviewing notes, filling in gaps, making revision notes and preparing for mock assessments. It is the time to get more organised.

Please write to your MP ...

The government is planning a new National Funding Formula for schools. This will penalise BVGS and all other Midlands grammar schools with a 2.9% cut in funding. Please write to your MP and make the case for funding grammar schools at sustainable levels. The new funding proposal for BVGS is below the recommended level of £4,800 per student.

... and fill in the consultation on school funding

You as grammar school parents are an articulate and talented body. Please lend your voice to our concerns over school funding by filling in the consultation document on the National Funding Formula. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2>. Your voice can make a difference.

Mobile Phones and uniform

We re-stated our policy on mobile phones and uniform this Monday. The key points are as follows:

- Mobile phones should be off and out of sight on the school site.
- Year 7-11 are not allowed to take photos of homework. Homework should be recorded appropriately in the school planner
- Year 7-11 are not permitted to use mobile phones for study purposes in the Library at any time.
- Sixth Formers are allowed, under supervision from the Learning Mentor or Librarian, to use mobile phones for study purposes only in The Hive and the Library

Physics Olympiad

Fifteen of our U6 students competed in the full Physics Olympiad earlier this year. This is UK's top Physics competition. It is **very** challenging and our students did extremely well. They are: **Molly Willars**, (Bronze I), **Iqram Choudhury** (Bronze I), **Alex Burden** (Bronze II), **Georgia Curry** (Bronze II), **Sophia Thorn** (Bronze II) **Callum Delaney** (Bronze II) **Thomas Parkes** (Commendation), **William McCreery** (Commendation), **Johnny Day** (Commendation) **Samuel Smith** (Commendation) **Omair Quyyam** (Commendation) **James Wyatt**, (Commendation), **Syed Gillani** (Commendation), **Joe Frankham** (Commendation) and **Euan Cox** (Commendation).



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World Book Day/Book Aid

It was a pleasure welcoming Richy Chandler to school for World Book Day. Thank you so much to the library reps, Miss Brown, Mrs Ward and Mrs Gregory for leading assemblies this week. Let's keep the reading going. National statistics on the reading habits of boys are horrifying with evidence showing that on average boys stagnate between the ages of 11-16. That is why it is so important that we are not complacent and that reading is a key feature of all our homes.



Spring Concert - 23 March. Get your tickets from Monday!

Our Spring Concert is coming up fast on Thursday 23 March. We are on the hunt for raffle prizes. Donations please to the Main School Office. Tickets go on sale at £9 for adults, £5 for concessions and students at the School Club Office on Monday.

ARTiculation

Many congratulations to **Evie Shipp** (L6) who came first (out of 8 contestants) in the regional heat of the ARTiculation Prize 2017 at the Ikon Gallery this week. Her presentation was challenging and in depth, analysing the work of Zoe Buckman, Untitled 9. Evie was confident, and her personality showed throughout her brilliant presentation. The adjudicators Stacy Boldrick and Roger Hiorns praised Evie for her reflective thinking and her self-critical response to the work and for discussing the work with such honesty. Evie now goes through to the finals at Cambridge University next week. Good luck Evie! (See 'Art Star of the Week').

Careers Opportunities

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a **Careers Fair on Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April**. The afternoon of 31 March will take the form of a careers seminar for students from Yr10-13. Each student will be able to book a session through **Mrs Evetts** in the Sixth Form, once timetables have been finalised. The inaugural Jobs Fair will be held on Saturday 1 April. In attendance will be a variety of local, and national companies, offering work experience, internships, casual, part-time and full-time positions. This event is open to students in Year 11-13, and recent school leavers. There will be a number of 45-minute seminars from Old Veseyans, focusing on the industries that were highlighted as the most popular in our recent careers audit. A selection of food and drinks will be available to purchase. **Beverley Nielsen**, the Liberal Democrat candidate for the West Midlands mayoral election will also be there, talking about the exciting times that are coming to the West Midlands over the next few years!

Also, please don't forget that you can still attend What Career Live? at the NEC tomorrow. Just check out this website for more details: <https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/>

Looking for an apprenticeship? Use this link and sign up for up to the minute vacancies: <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/register>. Currently Severn Trent, ATOS, Delottie, Laing O'Rourke, EY, PwC. IBM and Capgemini are recruiting.

Merit Winners

Lewis Allison 7B, Dominic Van Loan 7G, Jack Wakefield 7G, Thomas Lam, 7W, Charlie Capella 7W, Alistair Kitchin 8B, Ishan Mitra 8G, Matthew Richardson 10B, Huzhayfa Ejaz 10B, Siraj Ravat 10G, Zain Sarmad 10W. I look forward to seeing you on at break time on Tuesday 7 March.

Sporting Success



Wednesday saw the final league race of the season in Sutton Park which, BVGS as a team, comfortably won. Once again, many thanks to **Mr Potter** for his generous support for our cross-country team and for helping to set out the course.

Also in cross-country **Georgia Curry** (U6), has been selected to compete for West Midlands in the English Schools' Championships on the 18 March. Good luck Georgia!

For further information on BVGS sport this week please visit: <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

Ski Trip, Bardonecchia 2016

Well, I have heard a lot of great things about the ski trip this week. A big thank you to our trip leaders, **Miss Egan, Mr Bousfield, Mr Dobson, Mr Greenwood and Mr Yates**. It sounds like there was some fantastic skiing in beautiful surroundings and above all an exemplary community feel to the trip. Well done to all the boys for their excellent behaviour and engagement and a special thank you to our excellent Sixth Form leaders: **James Cutting, Tom Hooper and Joe Perrin**.



Swimming Gala, Wednesday 8 March, 1.30pm-3.30pm

We need to receive a completed consent form for students to be involved. Parents are also welcome to come and watch, however we must stress that there should be no phones in the viewing gallery.

Sports Dinner, Friday 5 May

Takes place on Friday 5 May (flyer attached). Get your tickets from **Mrs Foster**.

Quiz Night, Friday 10 March

I am delighted to announce the latest social offering of the BVGS Parents' Association: our Annual Quiz Night on Friday 10 March. It is always great fun and hosted by our very own quizmeister **Mr Goodwin**. Please see the attached flyer.

VEX Robotics

Congratulations to **Jon Jon Tian** whose VEX Robotics team has qualified for the National Stages of the VEX Championships at the NEC 15-18 March. This is taking place at the same time as the Big Bang Fair. A fuller report on Jon Jon's exploits will appear in the Spring colour newsletter.

Youth Speaks/Parliamentary Debating Competition

Good luck to our Year 7 team at the regional final of Youth Speaks at Bablake School on Saturday. **Harry, Charlie and Shailan** are arguing that 'footballers are overpaid'. Meanwhile we wish **Sophie and Nickeal** well in the Parliamentary Debating Competition on Thursday at Sutton Girls. Sophie and Nickeal are arguing against 'voting being compulsory'. If you would like to support Sophie and Nickeal on Thursday evening (the food is very good at Sutton Girls) then please let **Mrs Weblin** know by the end of Monday.

Are you able to help?

A French student looking to improve her English is seeking work as an au pair, looking after children and doing a bit of housework etc. All she requests in exchange is to be fully integrated into a nice family and be appropriately accommodated etc. Clara is 17 years old and intends studying at drama school.

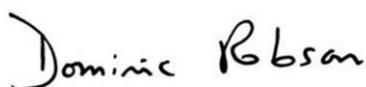
It is important though that any such family doesn't have family members fluent in French!

Courteous and Considerate Parking

We would request that parents refrain from parking on the double yellow lines outside the school on Boswell Road when dropping off and picking up students, or parking in the Residents Only Parking Zone. These actions both have the potential to block the road, and could cause safety concerns for students as they leave the school grounds and cross the road. We would suggest that alternative parking is found away from this point of congestion to alleviate any health and safety issues.

Wishing you all a lovely week.

Yours sincerely

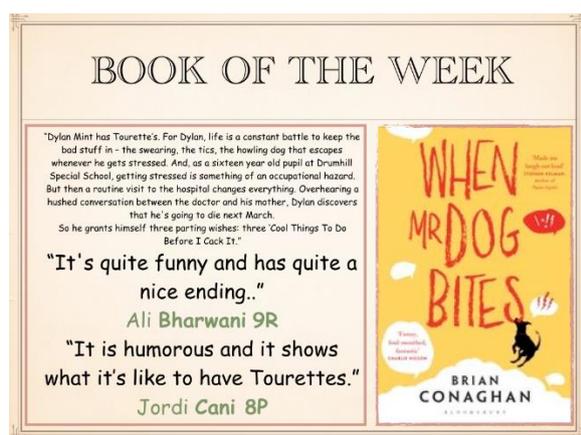


Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week



Art Star of the Week



Evie Shipp giving her presentation at the regional heat of the ARTiculation 2017 competition at the Ikon Gallery

Photo courtesy of: ARTiculation 2017 and The Roche Court Educational Trust

Quote of the Week: Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy
Norman Vincent Peale

Letters issued this week:

[Swimming Gala Letter](#)

[Flyer re tennis coaching](#)

[Example of Y11 Revision Timetable](#)

Dates for your Diary

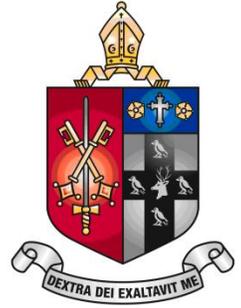
Spring Term 2017

Saturday 4 March	Youth Speaks Regional Round at Bablake School
Tuesday 7 March	Higher Education Evening 19:00 - 20:00
Wednesday 8 March	Swimming Gala 13:30 Wyndley
Thursday 9 March	New Year 7 Open Morning
Thursday 9 March	Sutton Coldfield Parliamentary Debating Competition
Friday 10 March	PAC Quiz Night
Monday 13 - 15 March	Geology Trip
Wednesday 15 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 21 March	World Poetry Day
Thursday 23 March	Spring Concert
Friday 24 March	Non-uniform Day for 'Red Nose Day'
Friday 31 March	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Weekend
Thursday 6 April	Break up for Easter at 15:25
Friday 7 April	Staff Training Day

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24 April	Summer Term commences
Tuesday 25 April	Y7 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 27 April	Senior Soloists' Concert 19:00
Monday 1 May	May Day Holiday
Friday 5 May	Annual Sports Dinner
Thursday 18 May	Parents' SDP Forum 19:00
Friday 26 May	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5 June	Summer Term recommences
Friday 9 June	Golf Day
Tuesday 27 June	Open Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 4 July	Performance Evening 19:00 - 20:30
Friday 21 July	Break up for Summer Holidays

BVGS ANNUAL SPORTS DINNER 2017



Kristian Thomas

Tickets: Price to be confirmed
Available from Mrs S Foster,
School Enrichment Office

Dress Code: Lounge Suits
Doors Open: 6.30pm

Friday 5th May 2017 7.30pm

**Veseyans Rugby Club
Little Hardwick Rd, Walsall WS9 0SQ**

Guest Speaker:

Great Britain Olympic Gymnast

Kristian Thomas

BVGS Annual Sports Dinner to celebrate the outstanding array of sport at the school, with music, awards, raffles and auction prizes

