



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

07 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

This has been a very busy week. In assemblies, **Mr Baugh** has been marking the international day of non-violence (officially observed on 2 October), the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. At the same time the students have been enthusiastically supporting charities. The MacMillan coffee morning raised £433.22. This follows on from a fortnight last Monday when the students were all engaged in a **Walk to Africa** to help raise vital funds for a primary school in Tanzania. We all put our best foot forward as we walked the equivalent 4,600 mile distance from the Royal Town to Tanzania as part of a huge effort to raise £20,000 for the Buyuni One Primary School. The Walk to Africa saw all students taking a variety of routes around the school to clock up the total distance. The event was inspired by the school's partnership with the Aspire Sports Trust to help improve Buyuni One's infrastructure and support the development of its pupils' education. The event was supported by Green and Co Estate Agents in Sutton Coldfield. We are very grateful for any parental voluntary contributions that can be made to support this charitable activity. So far donations have accrued £6,161. If your son or daughter and your family is able to support, please send donations to the School Club office, next door to the staffroom on the lower Maths corridor, which is organised by Mrs Foster. You can also use Parent Pay. Thank you for any help you can give.

Also coming soon, a fortnight today, **Friday 21 October** we are holding our annual student led charity evening, Artsfest. This year the theme is 'A night at the Oscars'. Tickets are £20, and include the price of a three course meal and excellent entertainment provided by the students. Tickets go on sale from **Mrs Foster** from Monday. Get your tickets early so as not to be disappointed. The students always do an excellent job of organising this evening.

On Monday, we welcomed Curtis Jobling. He spoke to Year 7 and 8, led three workshops for Year 8 boys and signed books in the library. Curtis is a well-known author who has written a series of books called 'Wereworld'. He communicated very well with the boys. Thank you to **Miss Brown** our energetic librarian for organising this great opportunity.

Thank you to parents for supporting the Upper Sixth parents' evening. There were lots of important take-home messages given. I am sure the Upper Sixth are very clear regarding what they now need to do to maximise their potential. If parents do have any questions in follow-up to that evening please contact **Mr Goodwin**, Head of Sixth Form or **Miss Egan**, Head of Upper Sixth. Thanks also to parents attending the BLH Evening on Wednesday. **Mr Baugh** and **Mr Bowen** very much enjoyed working with you.

On Wednesday we welcomed back **David Graham** for his Natural High presentation to Year 7. The Natural High presentation encourages students to use their own individual talents and skills to show that positive, healthy highs can be found by having fun without resorting to 'fake highs' associated with the various different forms of anti-social behaviour. It is a good message, and David was very impressed by the behaviour and engagement of Year 7. Well done boys!

I was pleased to hear that the Geography Field Trip by Year 11 to Shropshire's, Carding Mill Valley went very well. The data from his trip will prove invaluable to the students preparing for GCSE.

On a point of safety, can we ask that all students are vigilant on their journey to and from school. They should travel safely, preferably in twos or threes. If approached by a stranger, and they feel intimidated in any way, they should move away and not interact with them and cross the road if necessary. If you have any concerns, please do talk to a member of staff. Thank you.



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Congratulations to lower sixth students **William Hennessy** and **James Cutting** who have gained their Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards this week and will now proudly wear their badges. Further good news regarding the scheme has followed this week, with confirmation that the DofE awards will continue to be provided by our school until at least the year 2020 following a licence appraisal.

As a parent of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School you are all considered members of the Parent Association (PAC). The PAC is holding its Annual General Meeting in The Hive on Wednesday 12 October 2016 between 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm. Please come along and support. The PAC has a vital role in building our school community and supporting the work we do.

Talking of community, all new Year 7 and Lower Sixth parents are invited to a meal on Thursday 10 November 7:30pm, at the Karma Lounge, Boldmere. This is a light-hearted, friendly evening and a great opportunity to meet other parents in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Letters will be issued on Monday via SchoolComms and will also be available at the forthcoming Welcome Evenings. However places are limited and this event always sells quickly. I look forward to seeing you there.

There is a vacancy on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor following the appointment of Mr Dean Carter as a Vesey Community Governor. All parents/carers of a student at the school are eligible to be appointed and all parents/carers are entitled to nominate, and vote in an election. Governor appointments are for four years. All Governors are expected to attend regular meetings of the Full Board (six per year) and to join one of the Governors committees which meet on a termly basis. Also they should be willing to support our vibrant school community by attending school functions and taking part in visits to the school arranged through the Headteacher.

Following a detailed skills audit, the Governing Body would particularly welcome applications from parents with the following skill sets:

- a) Parents with experience of working in education, especially at Headteacher or Executive Headteacher level
- b) Parents with skills as an accountant or auditor

If interested, please request a nomination paper from Mary Mellor, Clerk Designate, via m.mellor@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk. Nomination papers need to be returned to the Clerk Designate by 5:00pm on 14 October.

I am delighted to have so many volunteers from parents to support at Careers Week in March, the Medical Society, as well as for our early entry interview afternoon on Friday 4 November. If you can help support us, please contact Mr Goodwin on j.evetts@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Many thanks to all parents who are supporting our BVGS Inspiration and Excellence Fund. As I look forward there are big financial challenges ahead for our school, namely central government funding cuts and increased costs. Together these cuts and increased costs pose a very real risk to maintaining the momentum of progress at our School. Every year we invite all parents to make a regular financial contribution to our school Inspiration and Excellence Fund. This year, the money will be used to fund important, basic ICT equipment for our new STEM Block. In line with other grammar schools nationally, we recommend a suggested contribution of £360 per year (£30 per month), or £240 per year (£20 per month). If you would like any further clarification on how to donate please visit <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/support-us/why-support-bvgs>.



We are pleased with the progress being made with our new STEM Block facility. The opening date is Thursday 8 December with the celebration being led by **Dr John Rudge** (OV) from Cambridge University.

There have been a couple of concerts this week. The Philip Bates Memorial Concert was fantastic. There were quite a few OVs and current students performing and it was a sell-out. On Thursday we turned to the next generation with our Junior Soloists' Concert. It was a lovely evening with an eclectic and enjoyable range of musical performances. Well done to our performers: **Upraaj Bains, Joe Bardsley, André Bean, Freddie Coleman, Alex Dixon, James Foxall, Freddie Goodrham, Joe Hughes, Will Jackson, Hitesh Jhall, Benedict Lawrence-Pietroni, Adrian Lowe, Elliot Matthey, Matthew Monaghan, Thomas Shephard, Finlay Sly, Harkpira Takhar, Josh Tranchant, Ned Walklett, Nicholas Ward, Tillmann Willett, Liam Wragg, Leon**

Yamin-Ali and **Thomas Yoong**. I was delighted by the confidence and skill of the students. Well done also to our technical team of **Jamie Barber**, **Joss Bird** and **Zach Sturch** as well as our comical comperes **Leon Yamin-Ali** and **Ted Boyle** from Year 8. A big thank you to all who made the evening possible, especially **Mr Swindells**, School Business Manager and **Mrs Maryann Dye**, Director of Music.

Well done to the top merit winners this week: **Jamal Rahman 7B**, **James Lewis 7G**, **Barnabas Doel 7P**, **Matthew Merrill 7R**, **Thomas Lam 7W**, **Arjan Shoker 8G**, **Moonis Haider 8P**, **Samuel Kakosa 8R**, **Will Meehan 8R**, **Vraj Shah 9B**, **Aadam Ahmed 9G**, **Arun Ladhar 9R**, **William Cowley 9W**, **Jaden Lo-Watson 10B**, **Luke O'Brien 10G**, **Zain Asif 10G**, **Freddie Goodrham 10W** and **Yannis Lakhani Da Silva 11W**. They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies with me on Wednesday break-time.

Other letters issued this week and accessible via the links below:

[Lower Sixth Welcome Evening Invite](#), [Year 7 Welcome Evening Invite](#), [Year 11 Letter](#) and [Year 11 Mock Timetable](#).

Finally, it has been a busy week for BVGS sport. Well done to the cross-country team and **Thomas Parkes** (third left) on his first place position.



It has also been a good week for our netball A and B teams, with some fine results at Wolverhampton Grammar School. We have also seen some excellent hockey results. Tomorrow we play King Edward's, Stratford at rugby. Good luck to all playing tomorrow and those Year 7 students playing at RGS, Worcester this afternoon. For all further information regarding BVGS Sport visit <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

Please note Friday night football on the astro for Year 9-11 (cost £2 a head) is on with Whittington FC starting this evening from 3.30-4.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing parents attending Year 9 and Year 7 Welcome Evenings next week.

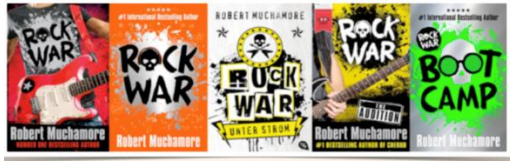
Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

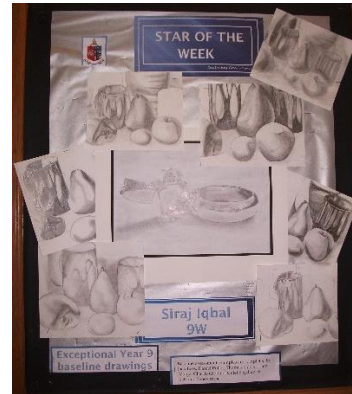
John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Series of the Week



It is relatable to my sort of age group and it is interesting, making you want to keep reading.
Dan Cross 10W

Art Star of the Week



Year 9 are starting the year, with formal drawing tasks. Siraj has based this exceptional still life drawing on the work of Matt Deakin. Other year 9 students, who also did really well with their baselines are; **Jack Lees, Daniel Bagshaw, Thomas Moore, Liam Wragg, Daniel Poller, Charlie Gibbin and Nethmin Seneviratne.**

Quote of the Week: Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes
Oscar Wilde

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016	Tuesday 11 October	Year 9 Welcome Evening 19:00 - 20:00
	Thursday 13 October	Year 7 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 20:00
	Friday 14 October	Staff Training Day (school not open to students)
	Tuesday 18 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Tuesday 18 October	L6 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 19:00
	Wednesday 19 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Wednesday 19 October	Year 11 Welcome Evening 19:00 - 20:00
	Thursday 20 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Friday 21 October	Founder's Day
	Friday 21 October	Break up for Half Term
	Monday 31 October	Staff Training Day
	Tuesday 1 November	Staff Training Day
	Wednesday 2 November	Autumn Term recommences
	Thursday 10 November School closes at 12:15 as we have Sixth Form Open Evening from 16:00 - 19:00	
	Thursday 10 November	PAC Curry Evening, Karma Lounge, Boldmere
	Friday 25 November	Speech Day - Sutton Coldfield Town Hall 19:00
	Thursday 1 December	Y9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
	7, 8 and 9 December	School Production
	Monday 12 December	L6 Parents' Evening 16:30 - 18:30
	Tuesday 13 December	Christmas Concert 19:30
	Friday 16 December	Break up for Christmas at 12:15
Spring Term 2017	Wednesday 4 January	Spring Term commences
	Wednesday 18 January	Y11 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00

Tuesday 24 January	BLH Parents' Forum 19:00 - 20:00
Thursday 2 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Monday 13 February	Review Day
Friday 17 February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 27 February	Spring Term recommences
Tuesday 28 February	Elevate Y10 Parents' Evening 18:00 - 19:15
Thursday 2 March	Y9 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 7 March	Higher Education Evening 19:00 - 20:00
Wednesday 15 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 23 March	Spring Concert
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
Thursday 18 May	Parents' SDP Forum 19:00
Friday 26 May	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5 June	Summer Term recommences
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