



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

09 December 2016

Dear Parents/Carers



Yesterday was a historically significant day for the school. Just under 50 years after the opening of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School's new Science Block by Sir Edward Boyle MP in 1967, we opened a new facility fit for the 21st century to inspire the next generation of Vesey scientists, mathematicians and engineers: The Richards-Randon STEM Block.

We were delighted to welcome so many donors, volunteers and supporters to yesterday's Grand Opening Ceremony. Initially we assembled in Big School for lunch and to hear speeches from our Chair of Governors, Dr Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA, our former Chair of Governors and significant benefactor Mr Clive Richards OBE DL, The Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Carl Rice, The Headteacher and distinguished Old Veseyan Dr John Rudge MSc who is a Lecturer at The Bullard Laboratories at the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Dr Rudge is well-known in scientific circles for his work in arguing that the Earth is younger than previously thought:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10577055>



All our guests then moved to the Richards-Randon STEM Block where Dr Rudge cut the ribbon and declared our new facility open. Thank you so much to all the students involved in doing tours yesterday and those providing musical entertainment in Big School:

Harrison Casey 10R, Warwick Pallister 10B, Jamie Moore 10B, Hugh Woodcock 7P, Joshua Thompson 7W, Jack Wakefield 7G, Christopher Walker-Twigg 7P, Ben Cheema 7P, George Quatermain 7P, Shailan Srikanthan 7G, Jayen Rughani 7G, Dylan Steer 7G, Eliot Matthey 7G, Jacob Stoney 7G, Dominic Van Loan 7G, Sanan Hashmi 9B, Ravi Sharma 9B, Pierce O'Reilly Spears 9W, Will Mellor 9W, Rory Barber 9G, Nethmin Seneviratne 9R, Philip Reader L6, Tom McManus U6, Jack O'Hara L6, Jemima Richardson-Jones U6, Angus Carter 11R, Alex Dixon 8R, Harkirpa Takhar 8R, Ned Walklett 10W, Ben Thompson 11R along with Reiss Chahal, School Captain and his outstanding team of **Officers**.



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Our guests really appreciated the chance to tour the building and visit the various classes under way in Maths, Physics, Computing and Design and Technology. They were all impressed by the focus and enthusiasm of our students and staff.

A big thank you to all organising yesterday's celebrations, but in particular to **Mrs Overton** who masterminded the operation brilliantly.

Yesterday evening a large audience enjoyed this year's senior play 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark. The play has a powerful theme of mental health and we are delighted to be raising awareness of important issues. Proceeds from the raffle will be going to Our Place, Community Hub in Sutton Coldfield which provides a range of advice and support services for individuals and families.

The quality of acting was stunning. A big thank you to our cast **Essie McGlynn, Nyandavoh Foday, Hannah Bennett, Juliette Thomas, Joe Perrin, Nickeal Sidhu, Madeleine Muir, Kiara Sagoo, Chester Powell, Jack Lees, Sophie Sadera, Rebecca Lewis, Jack O'Hara, Hamza Stitan, Roshan Siddique, Emily Coleman, Segert Jensema, Freddie Coleman, Arun Ladhar** and **Jemima Richardson-Jones**. We also had a fabulous support from our lighting and sound team: **Jamie Barber, Sheamol Obeda, Edward Stanley, Luke Butcher, Zachariah Sturch** and **Joss Bird**. Also a big thank you to our props and back-stage team of **Georgia Graham** and **Louis Kill-Brown** and our inspirational directing team of **Rebekah O'Dowd, Simon Garrington** and **Ella McGrail** from Centrestage School of Speech and Drama. None of this would have happened without the support of our generous sponsor **Bassi Solicitors**, specialists in Immigration, Family Law, Wills and Probate, Civil and Commercial Litigation. (bassisolicitors@gmail.com).



We do it all again tonight 7:00 for 7:30pm. Tickets will be available on the door. Hopefully we will see you there.

This week saw two meetings regarding forthcoming trips to Italy and Iceland. Thank you to **Miss Egan** (and her team) and **Mr Greenwood** (and his team) for organising these important information evenings.

Talking of trips there is a letter [here](#) regarding the Somme trip for 2017 for current Years 8-10. I commend this opportunity to you. Please note that only KS4 students doing GCSE History will be able to attend this trip.

Thank you to all students and parents who supported the Year 7 and 8 disco on Friday. A healthy profit of £569 was made by the PAC for the school. Thank you to **John Beggan**, Chair of the PAC and his team (and of course **Mr Bowen**, Deputy Head) for their continued support for the school. In our new STEM Block key benefactors are recognised in the name of different rooms within the Block. It is fitting to note that one of the mathematics rooms is a PAC Room as a result of all the amazing fundraising Mr Beggan and his team have undertaken over the last few years. Thank you so much.

I have news to report of some great successes in mathematics. On Tuesday 8 November 49 Further Mathematicians from years 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge in Old Big School. The challenge includes a wide range of interesting problems that are designed to test students' mathematical problem solving skills to the maximum, with students who do particularly well qualifying for the British Mathematics Olympiad or Senior Mathematics Kangaroo papers. BVGS had some excellent results this year, with 16 students achieving a bronze award, 15 students achieving a silver award and 9 students achieving a gold award. Of those students achieving gold, 6 qualified for the Senior Maths Kangaroo paper; a great achievement. Those students are: **Benjamin Hackett, Mustafa Qureshi, Molly Willars, Hamza Siddiqui, Nat Scott** and **Tom Edwards**. Special congratulations should also be given to **Benjamin Hackett** for achieving the best mark in the school, and **Nat Scott** for achieving the best score in year 12.

It was good to catch up with last year's 11G and 11R this week who collected their GCSE certificates over tea and cakes. One more certificate event still to come:

11W Tuesday 13th December 3.30 to 4.00pm

Mr Götschel, Head of German, is keen to find families that could offer to host a German exchange student (Year 10, 15 years old) next year. We only have 12 pupils going, but there are 24 German boys and girls intending to come to Sutton, hence we are 12 hosts short. They will arrive on Friday, 31 March after school and leave the following Friday, 7 April, at 9am. If you can help out, please get in touch with Mr Götschel urgently, since he tells me that he will not be able to enjoy his Christmas otherwise!

We have received great news regarding the Duke of Edinburgh scheme this week. It is extremely pleasing to announce that three girls in the Sixth Form have achieved their Gold awards: **Jemima Richardson-Jones**, **Georgia Curry** and **Emer-Jo Staunton**. This is a reward for many hundreds of hours of work and effort. A huge well done to the girls!!

Cross-country success continues. In this week's meet **Thomas Parkes** continued his 1st position streak, but we also had 3rd/4th/5th and 7th place positions. Currently we are joint first to win the entire league as it stands going into the Christmas break.



We also had some excellent Hockey and Netball games this week. Well done all. For more information on Vesey sport this week visit: <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

We look forward to our final rugby fixtures of 2016 on Saturday against Camp Hill.

I thought you would like to know also about **Lucy Parize** and her continuing achievements in Netball. On Sunday she played her first game for WASPS, her professional Super League debut against England U21. WASPS won, and Lucy playing as Goal Attack and Goal Shooter made a real difference to the fortunes of the team. Well done Lucy!

Looking ahead, Christmas Concert tickets for Tuesday 13 December are selling fast and are available from Mrs Foster in the School Club Office, £9 for adults, £5 for students and concessions.

This week's top merit winners who have been invited to Mr Robson's office at break-time on Wednesday 14 December are : **Ross DRYHURST 7B**, **Ken ALLEN 7R**, **Joshua FRANKS 7W**, **Tye COUGHLAN 8G**, **Tanay SARVIA 8P**, **Oliver WILLIAMS 8R**, **Joshua MASON 9G**, **Max GELDARD 10B**, **Isaac BOSMAN 10B**, **Matthew PRINCE 10G** and **Aidan TOWSE 10R**

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>.

Many of us are starting to turn our thoughts to Christmas shopping. Did you know that you can support BVGS while undertaking your Christmas shop online? Do sign up for Easyfundraising via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopveseysggrammar/>

With our best wishes for a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing L6 parents at Parents' Evening on Monday and of course getting into the festive mood at our Christmas Concert on Tuesday evening.

Yours sincerely

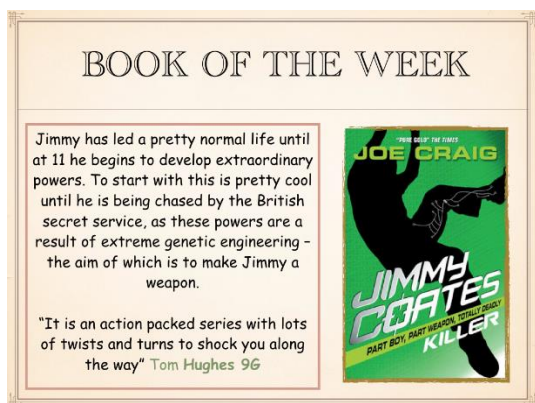
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Robson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Craggs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week



Art Stars of the Week

James Lewis, Ben Faulkner, Reinart Jensema and Ethan Chan Smith are all in Year 7. They developed incredible, creative relief collages based on the work of Jane Perkins. The planning, time and imagination shown by these students is amazing. They have collected and arranged objects to create such individually interesting portraits.



Quote of the Week: There's nothing I believe in more strongly than getting young people interested in science and engineering, for a better tomorrow, for all humankind.
Bill Nye

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016

9 December	School Production of 'Find Me'. 19:00 for 19:30
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
Wed 4 Jan - Tues 10 Jan	Upper Sixth mock examinations
Wed 11 Jan - Mon 16 Jan	Lower Sixth mock examinations
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