



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

11 November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Friday 11th November is always a significant day in our school calendar. Today, we held three services at the same time at three points in the School: the Sports Hall (Years 7-10), Big School, which is home to our World War 2 memorial (Years 11-Upper Sixth) and Old Big School, which is home to our World War 1 memorial (a number of Upper Sixth students). **Mr Bowen** (Deputy Headteacher), **Mr Goodwin** (Assistant Headteacher) and I focussed particularly on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. (As you may be aware, the School recently visited the Somme and the students and staff involved found this a most poignant experience). We talked about men like 26 year old. **Captain Walter Sampson OV**, who was mentioned in dispatches on June 30th 1916. Sampson attended BVGS between 1899 and 1907. He was a keen athlete and footballer and was awarded the Victores Ludorum in 1902. He was also one of the founder members of the Vesey Old Boys' Club started just before the war. Killed in action in 1916, he is buried in Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle and is commemorated on the Sutton Coldfield Memorial, King Edwards Square, and at St Peter's Church, Maney. On Sunday, I will be accompanied by our three senior students: **Reiss Chahal**, **Angalea Varma** and **Brett Waldron** to the annual Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church. **Reiss**, as School Captain, will be laying a wreath at the Sutton Coldfield Memorial on behalf of the whole Vesey community. **We will remember them.**

It was a pleasure to welcome our new parents last night's to the Parent Association Curry Evening at the Karma Lounge, Boldmere. A big thank you to **Caroline Moore** for organising this. We hope you all had a great evening.

Last night saw us hold our annual Sixth Form Open Evening. As usual, School was very full indeed. All our visitors were welcomed warmly. A huge thank you to all our amazing student guides and helpers and staff, who did such a brilliant job. We received so much excellent feedback about them. A big well done also to our presenters in Big School: **Mr Goodwin**, **Matt Price** (Lower Sixth) and **Sophie Lloyd** for their assured and thoughtful speeches.

The key take-home message of the evening, I hope, was the importance of working really hard for your GCSEs. Our school, like so many others, will no longer be offering AS examinations from September 2017. Instead, students will take three two year linear A levels. Those students attaining the equivalent of 66 Vesey points at GCSE have the entitlement, if they wish, of taking four A levels. With the disappearance of AS, success at GCSE has therefore much greater significance, a big impact on the university options available to every student. This fact is one that I'm sure is not lost on Year 11, who are currently preparing for next week's 'mock' examinations. Please note additionally, that we have conducted our annual review of the curriculum. Consequently, from September 2017, we will sadly not be offering 'A' level Geology to Lower Sixth students. (Those students currently studying AS Geology will, of course, be able to continue with their A2 study of Geology in September 2017.)

Elsewhere, this week the Sixth Form have undertaken the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Meanwhile, the English department led by Mrs Haywood ran an excellent second (back by popular demand) English Support Evening for KS4 parents. Also, a group of our linguists enjoyed, accompanied by **Herr Gotschel**, an exciting range of language taster sessions at the University of Birmingham.

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



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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>.

There has been some great sport this week. What a win for the Under 15A in the second round of the Vase! And also a great 3rd place finish for the A-team in the cross-country relay race at Queen Marys Walsall. The B-team also ran a brilliant race and gave some excellent support to the A-team. Such success comes on the back of a very fine effort from **Thomas Parkes** and **Euan Cox**, who came 2nd as the fastest pair in the Sutton Park Pairs Race just before half term.

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



We continue to be 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. For more information why not read this article?

<http://www.greaterbirminghamchambers.com/latest-news/news/2016/11/11/bishop-vesey-opens-new-31m-facility/>

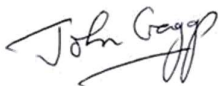
Well done to the top merit winners this week: They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies with me next week.

Planning has begun for our Golf Day in June. <http://www.bvgs.co.uk/golf-day-2017>

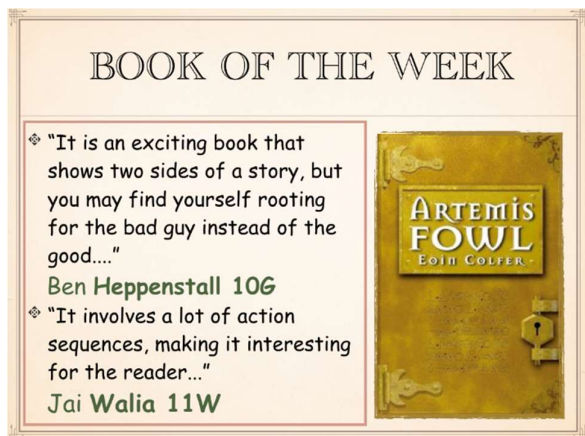
Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely


Dominic Robson
Headteacher


John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week



Art Star of the Week



Well done to our Art star of the week **JACK WADE** for a very thoughtful and highly relevant reflection on the psychological impact of warfare.

Quote of the Week: Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind.
John F Kennedy

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016

Friday 25 November	Speech Day - Sutton Coldfield Town Hall 19:00
Thursday 1 December	Y9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
Thursday 8 December	Grand Opening of The Richards-Randon STEM Block 13:00 - 15:00
8 and 9 December	School Production of 'Find Me'. 19:00
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
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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