



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

14 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Today we have had a very productive training day with staff focussing specifically on the new specifications in operation at GCSE and A Level.

This week in assemblies we have focussed on the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in particular, Article 28, The Right of the Child to Education. We explored why some children might not have access to education, and how lucky we are to be living in the United Kingdom in this regard. Meanwhile, in form time staff have been discussing World Mental Health Day, including a short poem written about mental health by a young man in Birmingham, as well as information signposting a drop-in centre for young people, PAUSE, in Digbeth.

I also very much enjoyed a Year 11 assembly led by **Mr Hutchieson** and **Mrs Hodkinson**, which amongst other things talked about mock preparation. **Hiwa Khalis 11R**, did a superb job of talking to the boys about what revision techniques worked for him. Hiwa generously showed his colleagues various examples of successful strategies.

Congratulations to **Nyanda Foday** who is the new Young Poet Laureate for Birmingham. We are very proud of her achievement. Click on this link to read more :

<http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com/blog/News/poetslaureateannounced2016>

Nyanda is an excellent performer. She is involved in Artsfest next week (see below) and in the Senior Production of 'Find Me' in December.

We have now concluded our **Walk to Africa** campaign 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 funds for the Buyuni One Primary School. I am delighted to say that we have raised an amazing £6,851.44

Next Friday, 21 October, we are holding our annual student led charity evening, Artsfest. This year the theme is 'A night at the Oscars' (black tie/lounge suits both acceptable). Tickets are £20, and include the price of a meal and excellent entertainment provided by the students. The programme includes performances by:

**Philip Reader** (violin), **Jon Jon Tian** (piano), **Will Jackson** (vocal), **Alex Dixon** (saxophone) **Jemima Richardson-Jones** (vocal) **Georgia Curry** (clarinet), **Nyanda Foday** (vocal), **Tom Eglesfield** (saxophone) **Lauren Newbould** (cello), **Emanuella** (saxophone), **Elise Kane** (vocal) and **Syncopatient** (a trumpet/piano duo) composed of **Jack O'Hara** and **Ned Walklett**. There are also other unconfirmed performances scheduled as well. Tickets are on sale from **Mrs Foster**. Do come along and support the students and the very worthwhile **Aspire to Africa** charity. The students always do such an excellent job of organising this evening.

Thank you to all parents for supporting the Year 7 and Year 9 Welcome Evenings. I hope you found them useful and of course a big thank you to the student speakers **Elliot Brown** and **Freddie Goodrham**, Heads of Years **Mr Doughty** and **Mr Williams**, as well as the Form Tutors and Learning Mentors.

At the Year 7 Evening I invited everyone to come to a meal on Thursday 10 November 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. I look forward to seeing you there.



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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](mailto: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>.

Thank you to **Mr Greenwood** and the DofE Team for hosting this week's cluster meeting for other DofE Centres.

We have had an excellent debate this week in Old Big School at lunchtime on Wednesday on 'Truth is Stranger than Fiction'. The motion was narrowly carried.

There has been some excellent sport this week. For example, the U15A Hockey had an excellent win over Warwick School with a last minute **Jack Horton** goal.

Meanwhile we hosted primary and secondary school cross-country championships. We are grateful to all student helpers and staff who made this happen. Well done to **Jacob Wakefield 7G** who won the Year 7 Race.

In rugby the 1st XV beat Adams in the second round of the Schools' Cup. We now face an away tie at Sandbach. We also hosted the cross country pairs race in Sutton Park. Thanks again to the Sixth Formers who helped as well as the great **Mr Potter!**

Last, but not least, I am delighted to announce that we have been crowned School County Champions in Netball for the fourth consecutive year! Our superstars did it again! Our seconds also did really well.

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



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.

Well done to the top merit winners this week: **Jamal Rahman 7B, Hitesh Jhall 7G, Ken Allen 7R, Morgan Davage, 8G Arjan Shoker 8G, Stephen Huxley 8P, Arjun Sekhon 8R, Alex Croasdale 8W, Vraj Shah 9B, Patrick Tyrrell 9G, Omar Ahmed 9W, Mithun Padmanabhan 9W, Joseph Hughes 10B, Luke O'Brien 10G, Raul Athwall 10W, Joe Higgins 11B, Roan Farley 11G and Alasdair Bell 11R**. They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies with me on Thursday at break-time.

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

[Concussion letter](#), [Junior Rugby Tour \(Year 8/9\)](#), [Junior Rugby Tour Itinerary \(Years 8/9\)](#), [Year 11 Biology Revision](#) and [PAC Curry Night](#).

We are looking forward to welcoming parents attending Year 11 and Lower Sixth Welcome Evenings next week.

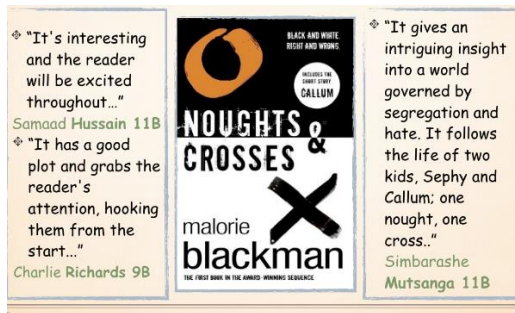
Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

**John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

## Book of the Week



## Art Star of the Week



**Ali Lakhanpal 11G.** Here Ali explores and distorts a self-portrait, by successfully exaggerating and merging it, with flesh and cyborg.

**Quote of the Week:** We build too many walls and not enough bridges  
**Isaac Newton**

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Autumn Term 2016</b>	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 18:30 - 20:15
	Thursday 20 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Friday 21 October	Founder's Day
	Friday 21 October	Break up for Half Term
	<b>Monday 31 October</b>	<b>Staff Training Day (Disaggregated)</b>
	<b>Tuesday 1 November</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
	Wednesday 2 November	Autumn Term recommences
	<b>Thursday 10 November</b>	<b>School closes at 12:15 as we have Sixth Form Open Evening from 16:00 - 19:00</b>
	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
<b>Spring Term 2017</b>	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
	<b>Friday 7 April</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
<b>Summer Term 2017</b>	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