



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

17 February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## Preparation for Public Examinations

We come to the end of a busy half-term. A lot of progress has been made. For Years 11, 12 and 13 this half-term break is an important time. It is a time for reviewing notes, filling in gaps, making revision notes and preparing for mock assessments. It is the time to get more organised. For example, Year 11, in the first week back, will all have a Paper 2 English Language mock starting at 13:30 on Wednesday 1 March. All students have been given an outstanding revision guide by Collins. If used well, this can provide excellent preparation for the Paper 2 English Language mock, especially if used in conjunction with the feedback all Year 11 have received on a Paper 2 mock done a couple of weeks ago. In addition, Year 11 have mock exams after half-term in Geography (the development gap), History (a full Paper 2 on female suffrage), Biology, Physics, Computing, Business Studies, a Music listening test on Monday 6 March, lunchtime, a German written controlled assessment with **Mr Götschel**, French re-sit controlled assessments and a one hour Maths assessment in lessons on Monday 27 February. No study leave will be granted as all assessments aside from English Language and Music will be done in lesson time.

## Inspiration and Excellence Fund

I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank all parents who are supporting our BVGS Inspiration and Excellence Fund. I had the opportunity to walk around the site with the School Business Manager earlier in the week and reflect on all the amazing things we have achieved over the last seven years as a result of generous parental contributions. The attached impact statement highlights the significant benefit that has been achieved as a result of this generosity. However, as I look forward there are big financial challenges ahead for our school, specifically 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. We invite all parents to make a regular financial contribution to our school Inspiration and Excellence Fund. As you can see your contributions can make a real difference. 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>

## 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.



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## Mobile Phones

We have reviewed our policy on mobile phones and will be communicating this to all students on Monday 27 February. 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

## Vesey's Got Talent for Aspire to Africa

Thank you to **Mrs Overton, Dr Reilly** and our Charity Reps: **Megan Littlewood, Lauren Abbott** and **Isabella Page**, as well as our comperes, **Mr Reiss Chahal**, School Captain and **Miss Angalea Varma**, Deputy School Captain. It was an excellent event.



Before the concert we were proud to present a cheque for £7,254.55 to Aspire to Africa.

## Musical Opportunities

Many of our students are involved in Birmingham-wide musical ensembles. You can see three Veseyans in action in the Birmingham Schools' Singers Concert at the Elgar Hall, University of Birmingham on Saturday 4 March. The auditions for Birmingham ensembles are coming up soon. Please follow the [link](#) to explain how your son or daughter can audition.

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.

## Business Success



Well done to the Year 10 team participating in the Coca Cola Challenge. They won the award for the 'best radio advert campaign'.

## Careers Opportunities

An excellent new website to look at as a family: <https://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/>

## Merit Winners

**Henry Wilkes 7W, Elliot Matthey 7G, Matthew Roberts 8P, Sam Hennessy 8G, Alistair Kitchin 8B, Sam Kakosa 8R, Harrison Dodd 8W, Jack Lees 9W and Tom Froggatt 11W.** I look forward to seeing you on at break time on Thursday 2 March.

## Sporting Success

Congratulations to Gold House for winning the Senior House Hockey Competition, the Netball girls for a fine victory over BMet and a hugely resilient performance by our Year 11 U16 XV in the cup against Old Swinford.

**Mr Davis** writes, *'Over the past three years I have had the fortune of working alongside the current Year 11 and Mr Whiting through the wind, rain, snow, freezing temperatures and odd glimpses of sunshine. The way they conducted themselves on Wednesday is something I am very proud of. They have become a team demonstrating resilience beyond their years and are fuelled by a common passion. Their season isn't over and it is time now to hit the books with even more purpose.'* Well said Mr Davis and well done boys for setting such an excellent example to future players.

On a very wet Wednesday afternoon and with some good competition from Adam's Grammar and King Henry VIII the cross-country team managed to secure a much needed first place position in Sutton Park. A note of thanks to **Mr Potter** for his continued support and to all the team for working together in very muddy conditions.

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

## #Netball on the Rise

You may follow from the 'Twittersphere' a debate about professional netball. One of our current Veseyans **Lucy Parize** makes her professional debut on Tuesday night for WASPS. Tune into Sky Sports at 19:45.

## Quiz Night

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.

## Courteous and Considerate Parking

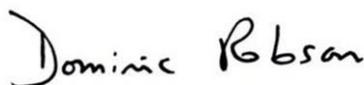
We would request that parents refrain from parking on the double yellow lines outside the school on Boswell Road when dropping off and picking up students, or parking in the Residents Only Parking Zone. These actions both have the potential to block the road, and could cause safety concerns for students 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.

## Ski Trip

Good luck to **Miss Egan, Mr Bousfield, Mr Dobson, Mr Yates** and **Mr Greenwood** and 41 students from Year 12, 9 and 8 with their skiing trip to Bardonecchia in north west Italy. We wish them a happy, safe and inspiring visit.

Wishing you all a lovely week.

Yours sincerely

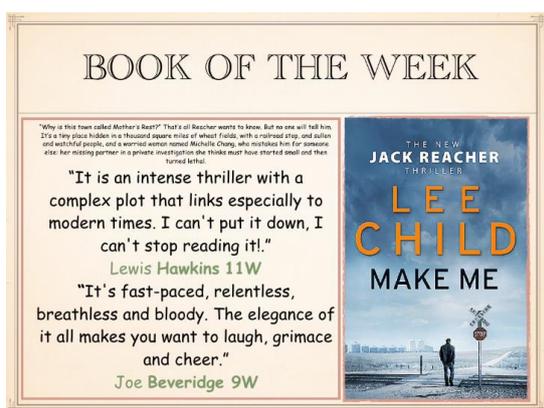


**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher



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

## Book of the Week



## Art Star of the Week



We held a KS3 Anti-Bullying competition last term, and many students completed excellent designs. **Miss. Steadman** has chosen **Oliver Gray-Nimmo's** design, as the winning logo. It will now be produced as a poster, and displayed around school.

**Quote of the Week:** Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.  
**Winston Churchill**

### Letters issued this week:

[Year 7 and 8 Science Revision Guide](#)

[Year 11 English Collins Snap Revision Guides](#)

[Uniform Reminder](#)

[Sutton Train Station Letter](#)

[Reading List for Year 11](#)

[Reading List for Year 10](#)

[Letter from Sutton Coldfield Police Station](#)

### Dates for your Diary

#### Spring Term 2017

Friday 17-24 February	Ski Trip
Friday 17 February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 27 February	Spring Term recommences
Monday 27 February	Y13 Articulation Prize Regional Heat at Ikon Gallery
Tuesday 28 February	Elevate Y10 Parents' Evening 18:00 - 19:15
Thursday 2 March	Author visit from Richy K Chandler
Thursday 2 March	Non-uniform Day for 'Book Aid' - WBD charity
Thursday 2 March	Y9 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
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

**Summer Term  
2017**

Thursday 6 April	Break up for Easter at 15:25
<b>Friday 7 April</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</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
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



# Inspiration and Excellence Fund

Historical Impact Report for the last 7 years



## Projects completed

## Funds raised:

# £393,349

in annual parent and stakeholder donations

New Minibus

Professional  
Hockey  
Coaching

New  
tennis/netball  
courts

Rowing  
development

New  
outdoor  
cricket nets

Chess  
development

New sports  
storage

Big School Re-  
decoration

Two classroom  
refurbishments

New ICT Suite

New Rugby  
Posts

Floodlights for  
Middle Field

ICT facilities for  
The Richards-  
Randon STEM  
Block

New Stage  
Lighting and  
Sound

New Hive Sixth  
Form Study  
Centre

New Grand  
Piano

**Let's maintain the momentum ....**

**Together we can ensure  
'inspiration and excellence' for all**