



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

17 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Please write to your MP ...

Today, Dr Craggs and I (along with the Heads and Chairs of all the Sutton secondary schools) met the MP for Sutton Coldfield, Andrew Mitchell, to share our concerns regarding school funding.

Judging by the news today, the message from schools across the country is starting to get through to our politicians: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-39292344>

We need to keep the pressure up on our MPs. The new National Funding Formula for schools 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. **Please note that the consultation closes on Wednesday March 22nd.**

Maths Kangaroo

The following boys from years 9 and 10 have qualified for the next round of the intermediate maths challenge and took their Maths Kangaroo test yesterday. We wish them well.

Y9: James Keeling, Thomas Moore, Mithun Padmanabhan, Jack Lees, Joshua Bayliss-Sheridan, James Mckay, Aadam Ahmed, James Pan, William Sedgwick, Daniel Lee **Y10: Harry James, James Ward, Daniel Porter**

Spring Concert - 23 March. Get your tickets!

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. Tickets have gone on sale at £9 for adults, £5 for concessions and students from the School Club Office. We have sold 240 tickets so far. 60 tickets still left!

Newstart

We are part of the Newstart programme involving 19 secondary schools across the city with a view to building resilience in young people. On Saturday 11th March our Well Being representatives **Patrick Tyrell, Paavan Sehmar** and **James Whitehouse**, all in Year 9 and accompanied by Miss Kate Steadman, attended their second training session. On Wednesday 15th, we hosted a meeting involving some of the other Newstart schools and Mental Health Officers **Ella Sykes** and **Zac Smith** gave a presentation about the work Bishop Vesey's does in tackling stigma around mental health and illness. To promote knowledge of mental health and illness, Ella and Zac also visited Little Sutton Primary last week to deliver an assembly to Years 4-6 which was well received. Thank you to the amazing **Miss Steadman**, Assistant Headteacher and our DSL, who is driving so effectively our work in this area.



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Careers Opportunities

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a **Careers Fair** on **Friday 31 March** and **Saturday 1 April**. The afternoon of 31 March will take the form of a careers seminar for students from Yr10-13. Each student will be able to book a session through **Mrs Evetts** in the Sixth Form, once timetables have been finalised. The inaugural Jobs Fair will be held on Saturday 1 April. In attendance will be a variety of local, and national companies, offering work experience, internships, casual, part-time and full-time positions. This event is open to students in Year 11-13, and recent school leavers. There will be a number of 45-minute seminars from Old Veseyans, focusing on the industries that were highlighted as the most popular in our recent careers audit. A selection of food and drinks will be available to purchase. **Beverley Nielsen**, the Liberal Democrat candidate for the West Midlands mayoral election will also be there, talking about the exciting times that are coming to the West Midlands over the next few years!

Looking for an apprenticeship? Use this link and sign up for up to the minute vacancies: <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/register>. Currently Severn Trent, ATOS, Deloitte, Laing O'Rourke, EY, PwC. IBM and Capgemini are recruiting.

Wonderful PAC

The Parents' Association Quiz Night was a sell-out! Great hosting by our very own quizmeister **Mr Goodwin**. Thankfully, our staff team did not come last!!

A big thank you to the PAC for re-distributing lost property for us at the recent Year 8 parent evening. Some families were re-united with trainers that they didn't even know they had lost!

ARTiculation National Final - University of Cambridge

Congratulations to **Evie**, who was one of the runners-up in the national finals of ARTiculation. Lovely to see strong support from all the senior students in the Art Department.

Chess Champions again

Our Junior Team again continued their unbeaten streak, beating Windsor High 11-1 on Friday. Well done **Chirag, Ruben, Hei-To, Hugo, Nayan, Vraj** and **Yemi**.

Junior Hockey Tour

Thirty-four Year 7s and 8s enjoyed their tour last weekend with excellent performances against top Hockey sides such as RGS, Sir William Borlase and Whitgift School. The accompanying staff **Mr Howell, Mr Devey, Mr Davis, Mr Gray** and **Mr Lintern** were very proud of all the boys.

Sports Dinner, Friday 5 May with Guest Speaker Kristian Thomas

Have you got your tickets yet from **Mrs Foster**?

Sutton Chamber comes to BVGS

We really enjoyed hosting last night's Sutton Coldfield Chamber of Commerce AGM and Social Networking event. It was great to have so many of our corporate partners present. A big thank you to our wonderful Officers, **Mr Davies, Mr Swindells** and **Mrs Overton** for organising and supporting an excellent event.

Rugby 7s Success.... with our own 7s tomorrow.

Another successful week! Year 7 had a good tournament at KES going out to Ivybridge College, Devon. Meanwhile, our Seniors were delighted to go out with a bang, winning the Plate at Kings' Worcester. Meanwhile, our Under 13s finished as runners up in the main competition at the Leicester Grammar 7s.

We look forward to a great day of Under 12s 7s at BVGS tomorrow.

Netball National Finals at Welwyn Garden City

This is a huge weekend for our amazing BVGS Netball 1st team with our third successive trip to the national finals in three years. We wish them plenty of resilience and determination for a really exciting and fun competition.



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

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.

Wishing you all a lovely week.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2017

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
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
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