



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

18 November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Last Sunday was Remembrance Sunday. Senior students, staff and Governors from schools across Sutton Coldfield remembered together the War dead. There are many excellent photos of this event in today's Sutton Observer, pages 4 and 5.

This has been a momentous week. Today, saw the first lesson in the Richards-Randon STEM Block with Mr Semple, Head of Computing and his Sixth Form group (see photos below). A big thank you to all assisting with 'the move': Miss Green, Head of Mathematics and her team, Mr Semple, Head of Computing and his department, Dr Colclough, Head of Physics and his team, our DT staff, as well as all IT and support team staff involved and, of course, our amazing Project Manager, Mr Swindells. Our new facility marks a big change for the school and I am grateful to everyone for their flexibility and support with this change. It is not long now to our Grand Opening on Thursday December 8th.



This week has been our Year 11 mock examination period. This year we have increased the number of mock examinations to more accurately prepare students for the challenges of the real thing in the summer. There is no doubt lots of learning to be had for the students. The key is to calmly learn from all the feedback and take systematic steps day in, day out, to make the necessary improvements so that the boys do themselves justice.

Today has been Children In Need day. There has been a non-uniform day for years 7-10 and Sixth Form, which has raised just under £900. Additionally there have been a number of activities from hair dyeing to leg waxing?! The latter was a massive success. Well done to James Cutting and Daniel Leyva who between them raised £150 in sponsorship. There also have been vibrant sales of cakes and chocolate! I anticipate a good total overall for the school. Thank you to Dr Reilly, Mrs Overton, the Charity Team and all staff (including the onesie-wearing Mr Keeble) who volunteered and helped make the event such a success.

The dining hall has been alive to the sound of music with Busking Week. Well done to all of the performers.

Thank you to Mrs Heer and the Art department for organising an excellent Year 9 trip to the Birmingham Art Gallery this week. They explored the Staffordshire Hoard and reflected on the work of Picasso, Epstein and Lowry amongst others. There will be plenty of photos in the Autumn colour newsletter. Meanwhile the Maths department attended inspiration lectures at the University of Birmingham on the themes of 'Lies Damned Lies and Newspapers', 'From Vectors to the Oscars' and 'Decisions, Decisions'. Thank you to Miss Green and Mrs Heaviside for organising the trip.

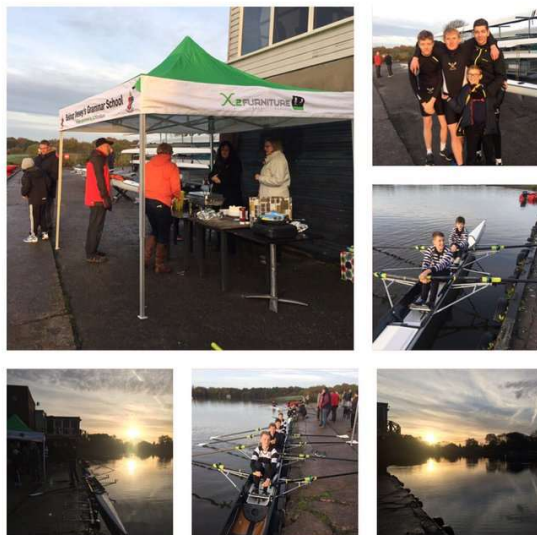


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Many thanks to all parents who are supporting our BVGS Inspiration and Excellence Fund. As I look forward there are big financial challenges ahead for our school, namely central government funding cuts and increased costs. Together these cuts and increased 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>.

We have had a busy sporting week. Last Sunday saw the inaugural Vesey Head on Powells Pool in Sutton Park where our rowers competed against each other in a 2500metre time trial. It was wonderful to see the commitment and ability of our rowers on display on the water on a lovely bright morning. I would also like to pass on my thanks to Mr Bousfield and Miss Egan as well as our wonderful parents. A big thank you to Mrs Berry for organising the catering and Mrs Hadley and Mrs Shepherd for assisting. It was also great to have the first outing for our new BVGS rowing gazebo.



It was also good this week to hear about our Cross-Country success at Old Swinford School with our students coming in at 1st (Tom), 2nd (Georgia), 4th (Gabriel) and 8th (Jack) respectively. For more information on Vesey sport this week visit: <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

Well done to the top merit winners this week: Ned SMITH 7B ,Harry DOWEN 7R,Charlie WOOD 7W , Joshua FRANKS 7W, Ethan BHERMI 7W , Alistair KITCHIN 8B ,Krishan PATEL 8B , Dylan WRIGHT 8B Owen BOXALL 8P ,Thomas TARONI 8R ,Archie SANSOME 11W . They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies with me.

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

I would just like to plug two forthcoming opportunities. Mrs Dye has sent a letter to all musicians relating to our tour of Lake Garda in July 2017. Please do sign up for this amazing experience as soon as possible. Please note that in order for the trip to be viable we have to have 40 students sign up.

I am also delighted to invite you to our forthcoming Senior School play, "Find Me", which is to be performed here in Big School at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December. "Find Me" is a powerful play based on a true story set in the early 1980's. The central character suffers with mental health problems. The play studies the effects that the condition has on her family and questions the treatments she receives from the health service. Though the play is a powerful indictment of attitudes in the 1980's to mental health issues, the plot is fast moving, and by turns, funny, shocking and always involving. A big thank you to one of our Vesey parents, Deepak Murria from Bassi Solicitors in Handsworth for sponsoring this play. Tickets are available from Mrs Foster in the School Club office and cost £9 for adults and £5 for students and concessions.



Letters issued this week include:

Music Tour to Lake Garda July 2017

Invitation letter to "Find Me" ,our Senior School play Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December

Early Closure letter for Speech Day , 12.15pm Friday 25th November 2016

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week

SERIES OF THE WEEK

◆ "It is full of action and very gripping, leading you to want to read more and more..."
Kamran Hussain 9G

◆ "They are very action-packed, modern and there's loads of great plot twists.."
Pierce O'Reilly-Spears 9W



Quote of the Week: An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.
Benjamin Franklin

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016

Friday 25 November	School closes at 12.15pm
Friday 25 November	Speech Day - Sutton Coldfield Town Hall 19:00
Thursday 1 December	Y9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
Tuesday 6 December	Ski Trip Information Evening 18.30 - 19.30
Thursday 8 December	Grand Opening of The Richards-Randon STEM Block 13:00 - 14:00
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
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