



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

21 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Today is Founder's Day. This is the day we mark the endowment made by Bishop John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter and tutor to Mary, Henry VIII's daughter, in 1527 to provide £7 per year to pay for a 'fit and proper person' to teach grammar and rhetoric to young men of this Parish. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was initially housed on the high street close to Holy Trinity Church. The school has been on this site since 1729. Traditionally we hold our Founder's Day on the last Friday before October half-term in the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, which houses John Vesey's tomb. This year there will be a slight difference to normal proceedings. Holy Trinity is just coming to the end of an extensive refurbishment and so unfortunately will not be able to house both Year 11 and Sixth Form for the traditional Founder's Day Service. So this year it will just be Sixth Form students walking down Lichfield Road for the 2:30pm service officiated by Rev John Routh, the Rector of Holy Trinity and former Vesey parent. Our guest speaker will be **Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi** from the Birmingham Progressive Synagogue. The theme of this year's foundation service, which contains reference to all major world religions and secular traditions, is 'One World', a sentiment which I am sure will have value for all present. Thank you to all leading today's service, both staff and students alike, and especially Deputy Head, **Russell Bowen**.

This week we have held a number of Open Mornings. Thank you to all the students for helping with these, and a particular well-done to our brave, and very talented, student speakers from Year 8: **Arran Murria**, **Andy Bath** and **Matthew Roberts**.

Thank you to all the parents who supported our L6 Welcome Evening and Year 11 Revision Evenings. A big thank you to the staff who led on these: **Miss Min Egan**, Head of L6 and **Mr Stuart Hutchieson**, Head of Year 11. I was very impressed by the student input at the Lower Sixth Evening provided by **Brett Waldron**, Deputy School Captain and **Lauren Newbould**, House Officer - they were absolutely magnificent. A big thank you also to **Sara Perrin**, Chair of the Fundraising Board who gave an impassioned appeal for parental support at the Lower Sixth Welcome Evening. I was also very pleased to hear great feedback about 'Elevate' who presented on revision strategies to Year 11 students and parents. We wish all Year 11 students well in preparing for the mocks in a rigorous way over the next few weeks.

I have had some lovely feedback about the History trip. The students enjoyed visiting the Somme and Vimy Ridge amongst other things. Staff led by **Mrs Storey**, Head of History, were delighted with the students. The tour guide, staff at the hotel and other visitors at the monuments all commented on how excellent the boys were. I am delighted by that and hope that this inspiring trip, in this 100th anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme, will have a lasting impact on the students.

Yesterday I had the privilege of visiting Twickenham Primary School in Kingstanding. What a wonderful school. I do hope the students there will be inspired to keep working hard and consider a place at grammar school at the age of 11.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to arrange for the renowned professional theatre company, The Pantaloons, to perform their production of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde at Bishop Vesey's. This country-wide tour has now sold out. However, they have agreed to perform for one night only at our school. We would like to extend a very warm invite to all students from Years 9-13 and your families and friends to attend this production here at school on Thursday 3 November at 7:30pm. Refreshments will be available. Tickets will be available on a first come first serve basis and can be purchased from **Mrs Foster**. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children.



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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. To book a place please email Mrs Moore on [carolinejmoore25@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejmoore25@gmail.com).

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>.

On Thursday the Juniors set off on their rugby tour of the north and Scotland. They had a couple of excellent wins yesterday against Queen Ethelburga's. They have also made quite an impression in other ways. Newton Aycliffe McDonald's have written to say how impressed they were with our touring party: *'The way they have represented your school is exquisite. Manners from staff and pupils were very polite and well-spoken and my staff were impressed on how well they conducted themselves whilst waiting for their orders to be collected. It is not often that my staff are impressed by all customers but they informed me that they were a delight to serve and would dearly welcome them back to the store anytime. All pupils are a credit to your school and please can you pass my gratitude on to your amazing staff.'*

This morning I presented five medals won by our BVGS J15 4x+ sculling crew at Burton Head River Race. Well done boys! An impressive start to the season.



L-r: **William Jackson (cox), Matthew Burrows, Tom Shephard, Matthew Berry and Oliver Hadley**

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: **Vraj SHAH 9B, Sam GILL 9G, William JACKSON 9R, James KEELING 9R, Benjamin WALL 10B, Louis STEER 10G, Benedict NEWMAN 10R, Benjamin HENSTOCK 10W, Joao CARIATA 11B, Tobey YU 11G, Roan FARLEY 11G, Omar HARRIS 11R, Harry WEST 11W**. They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies with me after half term. We will also be counting up those students without behaviour points this half-term. All those students will be receiving letters in November.

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

Letters issued this week and accessible via the links below:

[Rugby Tour Letter](#) and [Jekyll and Hyde Letter](#).

Wishing everyone a lovely half-term. Please note that school re-starts for students on Wednesday 2 November at 08:40am.

Yours sincerely

**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

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

### Series of the Week



**Quote of the Week:** Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.  
**John Dewey**

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Autumn Term 2016</b>	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
	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
<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