



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

23 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week ended with the funeral of Howard Tillotson. Howard was a distinguished Birmingham University academic and was, for many years, a member of our Governing Body, including serving as Deputy Chair and Chair. He will be missed by many Veseyans.



On Monday, the students were all engaged in a **Walk to Africa** 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 £20,000 for the Buyuni One Primary School. The Walk to Africa saw all students taking a variety of routes around the school to clock up the total distance. The event was inspired by the school's partnership with the Aspire Sports Trust to help improve Buyuni One's infrastructure and support the development of its pupils' education. The event was supported by Green and Co Estate Agents in Sutton Coldfield. We are very grateful for any parental voluntary contributions that can be made to support this charitable activity. So far 70 donations have accrued just under £1,000. If your son or daughter and your family is able to support, please send donations to the School Club office, next door to the staffroom on the lower Maths corridor, which is organised by Mrs Foster. Thank you for any help you can give.

Further good news has emerged regarding Duke of Edinburgh awards this week. In addition to 8 Y10 students achieving their awards last week, another 4 have achieved their Bronze this week. Congratulations to **Jack Wade U6**, **Ben Moore U6**, **Sophie Lloyd L6** and **Matthew Hayden 11B**

Pictured l-r: **Matthew Hayden**, **James Bishop**, **Tom Froggatt**, **Lewis Redford**, **Mohammed Aamaan**, **Robin Maes-Prior** and **Roan Farley**.



There is a vacancy on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor following the appointment of Mr Dean Carter as a Vesey Community Governor. All parents/carers of a student at the school are eligible to be appointed and all parents/carers are entitled to nominate, and vote in an election. Governor appointments are for four years. All Governors are expected to attend regular meetings of the Full Board (six per year) and to join one of the Governors committees which meet on a termly basis. Also they should be willing to support our vibrant school community by attending school functions and taking part in visits to the school arranged through the Headteacher.



Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2NH
Tel: 0121 250 5400 Fax: 0121 250 5420
head@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk
www.bvgs.co.uk



Following a detailed skills audit, the Governing Body would particularly welcome applications from parents with the following skill sets:

- a) Parents with experience of working in education, especially at Headteacher or Executive Headteacher level
- b) Parents with skills as an accountant or auditor

If interested, please request a nomination paper from Mary Mellor, Clerk Designate, via m.mellor@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk. Nomination papers need to be returned to the Clerk Designate by 5:00pm on 14 October.

Four of our Year 8 boys played in the Warwickshire Club County Cricket Final (U12) for Walmley on Sunday 18 September. They beat Olton by eight wickets to win the County Championship for the fourth year in a row- creating history by so doing. They were also involved in the West Midlands Cup cricket final on 4 September- beating West Bromwich Dartmouth by ten wickets and winning that trophy for the third time in the three years they have entered the competition. They are **Umair Choudhry 8R, Arjun Bala 8P, Oliver Gray-Nimmo and Sachin Dubb 8G**. Well done boys!

Good luck to the senior Hockey tour off to Dusseldorf for the weekend. I am sure they will be buoyed up by the success of an excellent win over Solihull School on Wednesday. More sports results, along with fixtures can be found here: <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

Thank you to all parents who have supported the Year 8 and Year 10 Welcome Evenings masterminded by **Mr Brocklebank** and **Mr Davis**. These evenings have been excellent opportunities to meet your son's Form Tutor and to hear from key staff about how to make the most of their year. A big thank you to our two guest speakers from Year 9 on Tuesday night. Well done boys! I was also 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 Robson on s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Furthermore, 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>.

For more information on future Welcome Evenings for other year groups, please see the calendar at the end of this letter.



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.

This week's top achievers are **Samuel Kakosa 8R, Ben Foden 7W, Finley Sly 9B, Harkirpa Takhar 8R, Ethan Bhermi 7W, Charles Hubbard 7W, Connor Smith 9W, Oliver Jarvis 7W, Benjamin Priddey 8W, Charlie Jarvis 7W**. They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies at breaktime on Wednesday

At our school we encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities, to get out of their comfort zone and try something different. This is not only brilliant for developing their cv/university application but importantly is a crucial way of developing young people who enjoy life and make the most of their abilities. Please find attached the extra-curricular timetable for the coming term. **Please discuss this with your son or daughter and encourage them to get involved and make the most of their Vesey experience.**

Good luck to some of the cast of 'Two' from last December who have been invited to the Council House tomorrow for an award ceremony. Apparently our play has won an award. We will find out tomorrow how well we have done. Our senior production for December is 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark. This is an excellent opportunity provided by a superb local theatre company Centrestage. I cannot recommend it highly enough. If you are interested please contact either Mr Robson via s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk or admin@centrestageschool.org.uk.

Please note that all students receiving instrumental tuition at school are expected to perform in at least one ensemble appropriate to their ability (Terms and Conditions, Commitment f). This is an opportunity for them to develop their skills beyond the individual/small group lessons and also for them to gain performance experience in our numerous concerts. The Christmas Concert is on 13 December, so it is **essential** that all students attend the rehearsals in preparation for this. The Orchestra rehearses every Monday at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in M1. Please ask your son/daughter to attend next Monday with his/her instrument. If he/she is unable to do so please ask him/her to speak directly to Mrs Dye, Director of Music. Alternatively Mrs Dye can be contacted on m.dye@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

We welcomed back **Maddie Turner** OV 2013-2015, to present to an audience of 45 Sixth Formers at MedSoc. Maddie is about to start her second year at the University of Birmingham, Medical School and offered superb advice on the admissions process and reflections of her first year as a Medic.

As a school we have built an excellent reputation for our work in the field of mental health. We have been invited to work as a lead school in the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) NewStart Programme to promote good practice across Birmingham in this area. This week six of our Year 8 boys were interviewed about or pastoral care systems. Mrs McCrohon from BEP was very impressed with them all. Well done **Ethan, Mackenzie, Oliver, Ellis, Matthew** and **Tanay**.

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

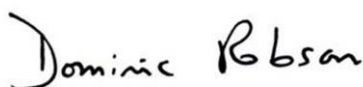
Year 8 [Microbit Letter](#), Year 7 [History Letter](#), Year 11 [Geography Field Trip Letter](#), Year 11 [Geography Revision Letter](#).

Well done to **Alex Garton**, Year 10, who has been selected for the Wasps Development Player Programme. Also we were very proud to hear of **Rory Gaskin's** achievements. He is one of three students nationally (out of 150 applicants) to be awarded a Scottish Legal Bursary scheme, amounting to £2,500 per annum towards his Law Degree next year. A brilliant achievement. But also a reminder to Sixth Formers that there are bursaries they can apply for in their chosen field of study. It definitely pays to be resourceful!

Finally, our school places great importance on the quality of our pastoral care. There is a very useful evening for parents here at school on Thursday 29 September from 7:00-8:00pm. This will include important pastoral matters such as e-safety and how parents can support their children through difficulties. The evening is led by **Miss Steadman** our Designated Safeguarding Lead. I do hope that you will be able to come. Please let Miss Steadman know of your attendance via k.steadman@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

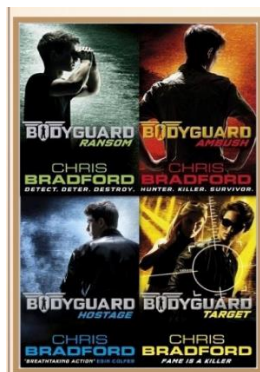


Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Series of the Week



In a dangerous world, everyone needs protection. No one suspects that a teenager could protect someone - but Connor Reeves is no ordinary 14 year old. He's a professional bodyguard, trained in surveillance, anti-ambush techniques, hostage survival and unarmed combat. When he's summoned to protect the President's daughter, his protection skills face the ultimate test.

Art Star of the Week






Zachary Farmer 11B. Zachary has worked extremely hard over the summer, to complete his coursework final piece. He has been inspired by the work of Gabriel Moreno, and used mixed-media to explore his idea. This is his abstract response to Natural forms, incorporating skulls, flowers and birds.

Quote of the Week: Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate
John F Kennedy

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016	Saturday 24 September	OVA Dinner
	Thursday 29 September	Parent Pastoral Information Evening 19:00 - 20:00
	Tuesday 4 October	U6 Parent's Evening 16:00 - 19:00
	Wednesday 5 October	BLH Parents' Forum 19:00 - 20:00
	Thursday 6 October	Junior Soloists Concert
	Tuesday 11 October	Year 9 Welcome Evening 19:00 - 20:00
	Thursday 13 October	Year 7 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 20:00
	Friday 14 October	Staff Training Day
	Tuesday 18 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Tuesday 18 October	L6 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 20:00
	Wednesday 19 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Wednesday 19 October	Year 11 Welcome Evening 19:00 - 20:00
	Thursday 20 October	Open Morning 09:15 - 10:30
	Friday 21 October	Founder's Day
	Friday 21 October	Break up for Half Term
	Monday 31 October	Staff Training Day
	Tuesday 1 November	Staff Training Day
	Wednesday 2 November	Autumn Term recommences
	Thursday 10 November	School closes at 12:15 as we have Sixth Form Open Evening from 16:00 - 19:00
	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
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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ORCHESTRA 3:30 - 4:30pm in the Music Centre	Year 7 Clay Club lunchtime room 26	COMPUTING Code Club Y7 to Y11, TA1 1.30 - 2pm	PHYSICS A clinic is in lab 51 @ lunchtime. All years welcome.	CLARINET ENSEMBLE 10:55 - 11:15am Music Centre
WIND BAND 1:15 - 1:50pm in the Music Centre	CHESS In room TA7 1:15 - 1:55pm All year groups and abilities welcome.	STRATEGY BOARD GAMES CLUB All years welcome 3:30 - 5:30pm Room 24	C.U. 6th Form the Raybould Room	A2 SPANISH Speaking session @ lunchtime room 19
Year 8 Art Club lunchtime room 28	GERMAN: club for year 7 in Room 21	DEBATING 1.15 - 2.00pm Old Big School	GCSE SPANISH Twilight class 3:30 - 4:30pm in room 19.	
	PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE 1:15 - 1:50pm Music Centre	VESEY VOICES 1:15 - 1:50pm Music Centre	FUNKY BISHOPS 1:15 - 1:50pm Music Centre	
ROWING 4:00 - 5:30pm Water session for Seniors (Powell's Pool)	ROWING 4:00 - 5:30pm Water session for Year 8 & 10 (Powell's Pool)	ROWING 4:00 - 5:30pm Water session for Year 9 (Powell's Pool)	ROWING 7:30 - 8:30am Fitness session (sports hall)	
RUGBY Year 8 Pavilion	RUGBY Year 11 & 6th Form Pavilion	RUGBY Year 7 Pavilion	RUGBY Year 9 & 10 Pavilion	
HOCKEY Year 11 & 6th form Astro	HOCKEY Year 8 Astro	HOCKEY Year 9 & 10 Astro	HOCKEY Year 7 Astro	
	STUDY CLUB Library until 4.45pm	CROSS STITCH CLUB for Year 7 & 8 1.15 - 2pm in TA3	SAX ENSEMBLE 10:55 - 11:15am Music Centre	
BVGS	C.U. for all in B4a	GUITAR ENSEMBLE 1.30 - 2pm Music Centre	CHEMISTRY A drop-in is in lab 41 @ from 8.15am All years welcome. Room	
	AS SPANISH Speaking session @ lunchtime room 19		Boy's Choir 1:30 - 2pm Music Centre	
			STUDY CLUB Library until 4.45pm	What will you join?

Extra Curricular Activities
September 2016

What will you join?