



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

24 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## The importance of optimism

This has been a difficult week for our country. It feels a very long time since Monday evening when Dr Craggs and I attended a grammar school reception at the Houses of Parliament. Our hearts go out to all affected by Wednesday's attacks. However, as our guest speaker today, **Jack Dromey** MP for Erdington put it 'Despite the crises faced by our democracy, we must never lose sight of the importance of optimism.' An excellent message. I was impressed with Mr Dromey's discussions with the Sixth Formers which encompassed mental health, public sector cuts, Syrian refugees and of course the recent events at Westminster.

## New Student Leadership Team appointed

Following hustings, votes and interviews this week, we are delighted to announce our new Student Leadership Team. For the first time ever we are appointing two School Captains (one male and one female). This acknowledges the substantial number of female students that we have at our school and the outstanding contribution that they make to the Vesey Experience.

School Captain	William Hennessy
School Captain	Sophie Lloyd
Deputy School Captain	Matthew Price
Deputy School Captain	Nickeal Sidhu
President of the School Council	Louis Kill-Brown
Vice President of the School Council	Tanya Takavarasha
Charity Captain	Sheamol Obeda
Charity Officer	David Green
Charity Officer	Charlotte Frazer-Morris

## Red Nose Day

It has been an eventful day. We had cake sales and staff Sumo Wrestling (no that isn't a typo!). We will be able to announce the final totals on Monday.

## Book Aid

Thanks to all who supported Book Aid. We raised £860.87. Thanks everyone.

## Vesey Leadership on Mental Health

There was a conference on Tuesday 21 March at Newman University aimed to increase understanding of the challenges faced by schools in responding to the needs of students experiencing mental health difficulties and to explore a range of strategies and approaches currently being used within schools to support young people experiencing mental health problems whilst promoting the wellbeing of all students. **Kate Steadman**, Assistant Headteacher and our student 'Time to Change' ambassadors, spoke about how young people attending BVGS are encouraged to seek help early if they are experiencing



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mental health problems and to talk openly about the challenges they face. Thank you Miss Steadman, and the ambassadors, for your continued excellent work in this area.

### 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, Delottie, Laing O'Rourke, EY, PwC. IBM and Capgemini are recruiting.

### Spring Concert

What a brilliant Spring Concert, it was such a varied programme. Thank you to all who supported and of course a big well done to **Mrs Dye**, our Director of Music, our 243 performers and all the senior team **Miss Steadman, Mr Goodwin, Mr Bowen** and **Mr Swindells** and our raffle-meister **Mr Davies** and **Mrs Overton** who leads on hospitality.

### Sports Dinner, Friday 5 May with Guest Speaker Kristian Thomas

Tickets are £29 and are available from Mrs Foster in the School Enrichment Office.

### Basketball Success

Well done to our basketball team, through to the finals!



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 HonUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

## Book of the Week

## Art Star of the Week

SERIES OF THE WEEK



❖ "It is full of action and well written."  
**Jude Heath 10R**

❖ "It is a thrilling fast-paced follow up to Apache"  
**Henry Guest 10R**



**Shamsuddin Ellahi 10R.** Another talented year 10 student, who has worked creatively and consistently throughout this year. Shamsuddin has persevered with new skills and forms, to really develop his own ability. A talented star of the week.

**Quote of the Week:** Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential  
**Winston Churchill**

### Letters issued this week:

[Jobs Fair Letter](#)

[Jobs Fair Seminar Timetable](#)

### Dates for your Diary

#### Spring Term 2017

Friday 31 March	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Weekend
Friday 31 March	German visitors arrive
Thursday 6 April	Break up for Easter at 15:25
Friday 7 April	German visitors depart
<b>Friday 7 April</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>

#### 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