



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

27 January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We know that our young people live in a world dominated by the internet and we have to accept that this is not going to change. In fact, social media is going to continue to evolve into ever more sophisticated and alluring forms. This is a plea that parents help to safeguard their children's safety and academic progress by undertaking some control measures at home. These could include:

- Insisting that children leave devices outside their bedrooms after a certain time at night to encourage a good night's sleep – we know that many spend far too long on the internet at night and that this interrupts good sleeping habits;
- Insisting that homework is done without the distraction of phones and ipads – they need to be helped to maintain focus and concentration;
- Encouraging children to complete homework in a space where they can be monitored, rather than being shut away in a bedroom.

Obviously it is up to individual parents to decide what is best for their children and this will vary according to age. Also, I am aware that homework sometimes demands use of the internet! Nevertheless, one of my colleagues received an email from one parent who had put some control measures in place which offered food for thought:

'What I didn't realise until recently is just how much of a distraction the phone is during homework... the thing didn't stop pinging/ringing/buzzing etc! I realised then that the quality of homework is always going to be compromised because the lure of the 'phone is too great for teenagers to ignore.'

Currently government plans for a national funding formula penalise Midlands' grammar schools, including Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, with a 2.9% cut in funding. This is in addition to other considerable challenges facing all schools, but particularly grammar schools. I am keen to ensure that government is well informed regarding the negative impact of current proposals for national funding formula. If any parents would be happy to respond to the consultation document on funding, please visit <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2>. If you are interested in responding, please let me know and I can update you about this in greater detail. Thank you for your support.

Thanks to the Vesey family we continue to have an excellent array of MedSoc speakers. This week it was the turn of Stuart Southgate, specialist in radiography and cancer care.

This week we have been remembering the Holocaust. **Mr Everett** from the History Department has been sharing the story of Elie Wiesel with the students. Additionally, Year 8 had an assembly on the World Challenge Expedition to Norway in 2018.

There have been some interesting academic enrichment opportunities. Well done to the Big Physics Quiz teams who had a good day at the University of Birmingham. Students attending the BETT Show in London have returned to school with all sorts of exciting ideas about how we might improve technology further at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School. Meanwhile I am pleased to hear of great progress by the STEM Society on their weather balloon launch. Details coming soon. Meanwhile congratulations to both teams entering for the Youth Speaks Competition organised by The Rotary. Our Year 7 team of **Harry Vlahkis, Charles Hubbard** and



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Shailan Srikanthan triumphed and proceed to the regional final at Bablake. Good luck to our Sixth Form team of **Nickeal** and **Sophie** participating in the Cambridge Union Debating Competition at Solihull on Sunday.



We have had a great week for sport. This week we held the Sutton Park Race for all senior cross-country league schools – Well done to our cross-country team as we managed to secure the first place position against some tough competition. Thank you in particular to **Mr Potter** and the sixth form helpers **Elise Kane**, **Euan Cox** and **Vinay Jalaf** who helped make the event run so smoothly.

Three Year 7 boys were selected to represent North Birmingham Schools in the West Midlands Schools Cross Country race last Saturday, 21 January. The boys came 2nd, 3rd and 6th in the Year 7 race. This race was against other year 7s across the region, which not only covers Birmingham, but out as far as Coventry and Wolverhampton. The North Birmingham team for the Year 7s was made entirely of boys from Vesey.



l-r: **Ethan Patel** (2nd), **George O'Conner** (6th) and **Jack Wakefield** 3rd.

A large rowing squad travelled to Stourport Head last Sunday with some excellent performances to start the new year and a win for our Year 9 coxed quad who won their event. Well done to **Charlie Richards**, **Dan Jones**, **Will Sedgwick**, **Nektarios Kourtidis-Sextos** and **Jack Glover** (cox).



U15s progress to national quarter-finals of the Schools Cup Plate after a hard-fought 29-17 victory @PrincethorpeCol. We meet Sir Thomas Rich Grammar School next Friday at 15:30 (this will be a tie that many of us will recognise as our opponents in the semi-final at the Allianz Stadium last season.

For more information about all things BVGS Sport please visit : <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

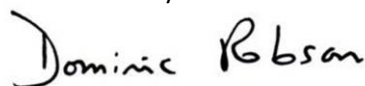
All parents should have received a letter reminding you that our whole school Academic Review Day is scheduled on Monday 13 February. Normal lessons are suspended on that day and all students are invited into school for an Academic Review Meeting. Please could you make sure that you return your permission slips as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for students to take stock of their current progress and to set themselves targets for improvement. Parents are encouraged to attend where possible. Please also note that this is a normal school day from an attendance point of view, so if your son or daughter is ill on that day, you still need to call or email the school.

The school are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. If you do have some, please take them to Mrs Foster in the School Club Office.

Well done to this week's top merit winners. **Zachary Deakin 7B, James Padley 7P, Jordan Adoghe 72, Krishan Patel 8B, Mackenzie Davis 8G, Jay Cartwright 8W, Nektarios Kourtidis-Sextos 9B, André Bean 10G and Elliott Brown 10W.** I look forward to seeing them for hot chocolate and cookies on Friday 3 February.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

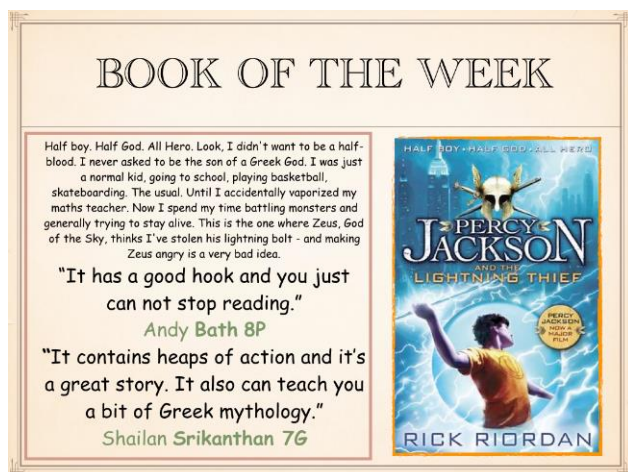


Dominic Robson
Headteacher

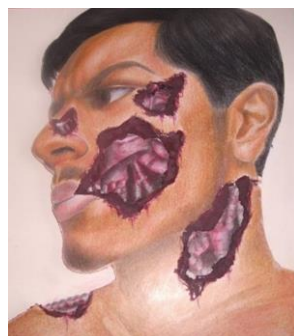


John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week



Art Stars of the Week



Ali Lakhnarpal 11G. Ali's portrait work is exceptional. His imaginative way of merging realism with layers of cyborg and anatomy, have resulted in this A grade final piece for his coursework. Ali has a creative Instagram page, also showing his talented artwork.

Quote of the Week: The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.
Chief Joseph

Letters issued this week:

[Bardonecchia ski trip travel details](#)

[Letter to accompany Year 9 report](#)

[Ski Trip - February 2018](#)

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2017

Sunday 29 January	Cambridge University Debating Competition at Solihull Sch
Monday 30 January	Year 7 at the CBSO Concert, Symphony Hall
Monday 30 January	Y8 Art trip to Pitt Rivers Museum
Thursday 2 February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 2 February	Harry Potter Book Night
Thursday 2 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Monday 6 February	Year 10/11 Art Trip to Coventry
Thursday 9 February	AS Geography Field Trip
Monday 13 February	Review Day
Friday 17-24 February	Ski Trip
Friday 17 February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 27 February	Spring Term recommences
Monday 27 February	Y13 Articulation Prize Regional Heat at Ikon Gallery
Tuesday 28 February	Elevate Y10 Parents' Evening 18:00 - 19:15
Thursday 2 March	Non-uniform Day for 'Book Aid'
Thursday 2 March	Y9 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 7 March	Higher Education Evening 19:00 - 20:00
Wednesday 8 March	Swimming Gala 13:30 Wyndley
Thursday 9 March	New Year 7 Open Morning
Monday 13 - 15 March	Geology Trip
Wednesday 15 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
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
Friday 21 July	Break up for Summer Holidays