



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

30 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As I write this newsletter today I have been sampling some very fine cakes. Today there has been a MacMillan coffee morning in school. **Miss Field** (10W Form Tutor) set up a competition for the boys to participate by making their very own show stoppers. The boys have produced some delicious and attractive cakes which can be seen on our Twitter page @BVGS1527. <https://twitter.com/BVGS1527/status/781794862110769152>

Following on with the charitable theme, a week last 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 donations have accrued £3,068. 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. You can also use Parent Pay. Thank you for any help you can give.

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.

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.



Louis Pottinger 11B and **Diran Suraj 11G** have both given assembly presentations about their recent work experience. Louis' two-week placement was at Cundall on Colmore Row, Birmingham where he worked on an exciting range of building engineering projects. Diran worked at two different locations for Service Birmingham, a joint venture company that delivers a range of technology services to Birmingham City Council. Both boys happily undertook the daunting task of speaking in front of their year group and prepared interesting talks that were very well received. Thank you to them both.



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Mr Hutchieson, Head of Year 11, will be running (or attempting to run!) the Birmingham Half Marathon on 16 October. Year 11 Charity Reps have undertaken to support his chosen charity – Cancer Research – and he was delighted to hear that 11W have already raised over £100 in promised donations. Watch this space.

Last Saturday, we held our Annual OVA Dinner. We had 150 guests. It was very interesting to meet, amongst others, the Class of 1966, 2007 and 1991. The Class of 1966 were the founding members of Gold House. Graeme Packman (OV) 1966-73 will be returning to do an assembly for 7 Purple and 8 Purple on his experiences of being part of an emerging House.

Thank you to **Miss Steadman** and **Miss Gilbert** for running a very informative pastoral evening yesterday, tackling such matters as mental health and the Rights Respecting Award. A big thank you to our student Equality Officers (**Omair Quyyam** and **Lauren Newbould**) and the Mental Health Officers (**Zachary Smith**, **Ella Sykes** and **Vinay Jalaf**). They were all superb.

Thank you to **Dr Reilly** who has organised an interesting opportunity today. One of our West Midlands MEPs, Anthea McIntyre, is in school to talk to our Sixth Formers about the fallout of Brexit.

We have had a couple of parental queries as to why we have not published our GCSE for 2016 results on our website. This is because there are still GCSE remarks outstanding. Furthermore there is ongoing correspondence and an appeals process underway between the School and the examination boards regarding the GCSE results of two departments. Once these matters are resolved, we will of course be publishing our GCSE results, in full, on our website. We anticipate we will be in a position to do this by the start of next half-term.

This week's top merit winners from Years 7-11 are **Michael BAIZLEY 7B, Samuel BRYARS 7G, Harvey JONES 7R, Theo KEARNS 7R, Oliver GRAY-NIMMO 8G, Matthew ROBERTS 8P, Alex DIXON 8R, Oliver WILLIAMS 8R, Chirag GUHA 8W, Oliver CURWEN 9B, Jack GLOVER 9G, Matthew McLAUGHLAN 9R, Jack LEES 9W, Ethan ALLEN 10B, Benedict NEWMAN 10R, Luke MOORE 10W, Raul ATHWALL 10W, Samuel SCOTT 11B, Ramandeep MAHAL 11R and Shoaib SHERAZ 11W**. They will be invited for hot chocolate and cookies at breaktime on Wednesday with Mr Robson.

Thank you to **Kwame Oteng-Adusei** who supported **Mr Goodwin** in talking to Year 11 students from his old School, Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College in Kingstanding, about making an application to a Grammar School.

Also thank you to **Martha Davis** and **Tom Reershemius** (OVs) came and delivered an assembly to the new lower sixth on managing their A Levels.

Good luck to **Jonathan Watson** (OV 2014-16) who next week starts his voluntary work in an UN refugee Camp in South Sudan. He will be working with a local trauma team, supporting people who have fled to avoid violence, in the wake of South Sudan's declaration of independence.

On Wednesday 5 October we shall be running another 'BLH Forum for Parents'. This will be between 7.00pm and 8.00pm and will be held in the dining room. Although the evening is mainly aimed at parents, boys would be welcome to attend. Our aim will be to engage parents in an activity to generate a 'Top Tips' list on how we might support our boys with some of the Learning Habits. Please feel free to take this opportunity to get involved with Teaching and Learning at BVGS.

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.

There are a couple of Welcome Evenings coming up soon. Year 9 Welcome Evening is on Tuesday 11 October from 19:00 -20:00 and Year 7 Welcome Evening is on Thursday 13 October from 18:00 - 20:00.

We are legally required to submit information to the Department for Education (DfE) as part of our Termly School Census Return. The DfE have requested the following information for each pupil at the School : Country of Birth and Pupil Nationality. We will be contacting you very soon to request this information, and we would ask for your co-operation and support in ensuring our records are compliant with national requirements by the required deadline.

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>.



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.

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.**

It was good to see the House Spelling Bee taking place this week. The Sixth Form contest was particularly good fun with **Will McCreery** (Red) taking first place with **Georgia Curry** (Blue) in second.

We were delighted to hear of the success of 'Two' our senior production from last December in the Knights of St Columba Drama Awards held at the Birmingham Council House. Our play won the 'Highly Commended Award'.



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

[Year 9 Welcome Evening Letter](#), [Year 11 letter to parents from Mr Hutchieson](#), [Revision Timetable](#), [Homework Timetable](#) and [Rugby Letter](#).

We welcomed back our Senior Hockey Tour from Dusseldorf on Monday. A big thank you to **Mr Howell**, **Mr Doughty**, **Mr Brocklebank** and **Mr Devey** for the generosity and patience. Both our first and second team were unbeaten with the first winning 5-0, 4-0 and 1-0 and the seconds winning 3-0 and drawing two games. Well done to all the boys too - they were fantastic.

On the Hockey theme it has been a fantastic week for junior sides with following results against two very strong hockey schools:

U'15 'a' beating KES Birmingham 3-1 and Solihull 3-0,	U'15'b' drawing with KES Birmingham 1-1
U'14 'a' beating KES Birmingham 3-2	U'14'b' beating KES Birmingham 6-0
U'13 'a' beating KES Birmingham 3-1	U'13'b' beating KES Birmingham 2-0

Walsall Cricket Club held their Junior Presentation Ceremony on Friday 23 September and the following boys received awards: **Qasim Arshad 9B**, **Haider Aqbal 9G**, **Amaan Mandal 7G**, **Samuel Bryars 7G**.

Friday night football on the astro - cost £2 a head with Whittington FC starting this evening 3.30-4.30pm. Trainers essential. In future weeks, football kit will be required.

For all other information about sport this week, including our rugby fixtures against Bromsgrove and QEGS, Ashbourne please visit <http://www.bvgssport.co.uk/>

We were absolutely delighted this morning to hear that **Lucy Parize** in the Upper Sixth has been signed by WASPS Netball, who play in the Netball Super League which is televised on Sky. Lucy took up Netball at the age of eight and later entered the England Pathway System starting in the Regional Academy and progressing

to the National Academy. Obviously we are brimming with pride in Lucy's achievements. To read more about this story visit:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/1302ed_a3aa00c2af414e1ca0365849b1ca46ab.pdf?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn&utm_source=Twitter&utm_content=Wasps+Netball

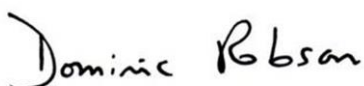
I'm looking forward to the Junior Soloists' Concert on Thursday. We have a full house for this event. If you are interested in great music you might like to attend a concert here at BVGS on Saturday in memory of one of our former students Philip Bates. For more details see:

<http://www.suttoncoldfieldobserver.co.uk/memorial-concert-for-former-vesey-student/story-29763669-detail/story.html>

Finally thank you to all the students and staff for their patience and flexibility yesterday in managing students affected by an incident at Sutton Coldfield Law Courts. Everyone's co-operation was very much appreciated.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

Book of the Week



Wow! What a read. Loved it. Monster-hunting, laughs and unbreakable bonds are made. Try it. Can't wait for 'The Beast of Bone Creek' **Miss Brown**

Curtis Jobling is @ Vesey's on Monday 3 October

Quote of the Week: The empires of the future are the empires of the mind
Winston Churchill

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2016	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 - 19:00
	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?