



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

DGR/sw

22 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Open Evening

We held our Open Evening on Tuesday 18 September. There was lots of lovely feedback about the school, and as usual our students were a fantastic asset. A big thank you to all staff, the tour guides and helpers. Thank you also to the Big School musicians and those making speeches: **Will Hennessy** and **Sophie Lloyd** the School Captains, **James Padley**, **Ethan Patel**, **Alex Chan** and **Ibrahim Abdalla**.

Welcome Back to Andy Quach ...

Fresh from attaining a First from Cambridge in Economics, we welcomed back **Andy Quach (OV 2007-2014)** who hosted Friday's Upper Sixth assembly entitled 'The meaning of success'. Andy also met and offered advice to three Upper Sixth Economists who are in the process of making an application to Oxbridge.

... and Professor Robert Lowndes (OV)

This week we also welcomed back, after over 50 years since he was a student here, **Professor Robert Lowndes OV**, formerly of MIT and Northeastern University, Boston. He was delighted to tour his old school with School Captains, **Sophie** and **Will**, and was keen to hear about the recent weather balloon launch over lunch with **Mr Dan Bradley**, **Sheamol Obeda**, **Nickeal Sidhu** and **Ed Stanley**. When delivering an assembly to Year 10, Professor Lowndes encouraged them to work hard, look for opportunities, look for links between subjects and never lose sight of the importance of Mathematics and English. He said good scientists also need to be good communicators. I received an email from Professor Lowndes today, *'It was a great pleasure to meet you and the students, I came away very impressed indeed, not only with the building changes, but especially with the calibre of the students I met, and the wonderful diversity of the options for students that are in place'*.

Parliamentary Review

Our School was chosen to be in this year's Parliamentary Review for Education, sharing some of our excellent practice with other school nationally. **Mr Bowen**, Deputy Head, attended the launch in the House of Commons dining room last night, along with one of our Governors, **Mr Mohammed Uddin** MBE. The evening was compered by the former Sunday Times Editor **Andrew Neil**. We have attached the article appearing in this year's Parliamentary Review to this newsletter.

Debating

Debating this year re-starts on Wednesday at 13:15 in Old Big School with Mr Robson. This week's motion is: **This house believes Donald Trump is right to stand up to North Korea**. A controversial motion to get us all talking! Students can bring sandwiches to the session in Old Big School

UNICEF - Rights Respecting Award

On Thursday 21 September, **Leon Yamin-Ali, 9B**, **Callum Foster, 10R**, and Harry James, 11B, recited their Children's' Rights poems at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London. The boys, accompanied by **Kate Steadman**, had been invited by **Frances Bestley**, Head of UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award, after



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she heard them at the Birmingham Rep in July. Leon, Callum and Harry all received huge applause after superb recitals from an audience of over 350 consisting of UNICEF employees and associates including **Michael Penrose**, executive director of UNICEF UK. Mr Penrose personally congratulated the boys and said how impressed he was with them. Well done!



Centrestage LAMDA Timetable for this Week

Week	Grp 1 - Yr 8	Grp 2 - Yr 8	Grp 3 - Yr 9	Grp 4 - Yr 10	Grp 5 - Yr 13 Form	Grp 6 - Yr 13	Grp 7 - Yr 13	Grp 8 - Yr 7	Grp 9 - Yr 7	Grp 10 - Yr 7	Grp 11 - Yr 7	Grp 12 - Yr 7
Monday 25/09/2017	N/A	N/A	2:25pm	N/A	2:25pm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tuesday 26/09/2017	9:55am	11:45am	N/A	12:15pm	N/A	2:25pm	8:55am	8:55am	9:25am	9:55am	10:25am	11:15am

Centrestage Lunchtime Drama Workshops

Lunchtime Drama Workshops will run on Tuesdays beginning Tuesday 3 October. This will lead to after school sessions from January, where the students will use the skills they have learned to prepare for a performance. Sessions will then take place on either Monday or Tuesday from 15:25 to 16:45. The KS3 performance is planned for the end of the summer term 2018. Pupils who sign up the classes in the Autumn term are more likely to be considered for roles in the summer performance. To secure your child's place initially for the autumn term lunchtime drama, please send full fees of £60 (£50 for LAMDA students) to Mrs Foster at the School Club Office by **Tuesday 26 September**. A form (already emailed to parents) must also be returned with the fees to confirm the place.

Columba Trophy for Find Me

Warm congratulations to Centrestage School of Speech and Drama and the cast of Find Me who secured an award of 'Highly Commended' for our senior production of 'Find Me' last December. Our prize was presented in the Council Chamber, Birmingham today by **Councillor Anne Underwood**, the new Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who incidentally is a former Vesey parent and Governor. Congratulations also to **Madeleine Muir** who received a Judges Commendation for Outstanding Acting in Find Me. We were also pleased that two members of the public made unprompted comments about how well behaved the students were on the train to Birmingham.



Merit Winners

Well done to: Usairam ABDULLAH 7B, Dominic HIGGINBOTHAM 7B, Tadhg PARIZE 7G, Freddie BRAID 7G, James EMMS 7P, Rayhan AHMED 7R, Luke DOUGLAS 7W, Michael BAIZLEY 8B, Dylan STEER 8G, Thomas CARTMILL 8R, Harvey JONES 8R, Joshua FRANKS 8W, Morton GRIMES 9B, Joel STAINTHORPE 9B, Jun PARK 9G, Samuel MOORE 9P, Joshua EAGER 9P, Alex DIXON 9R, Chirag GUHA 9W, Finlay SLY 10B, Haidar AQBAL 10G, Rohan BASSI 11G (plus Daniel BARTLETT from last week). All will be invited to the Headteacher's office on Thursday at break-time.

Walk to Africa - Non Uniform Day

As part of our charitable fundraising, we supported Buyuni One Primary School, Tanzania. Last year students raised over £10,000 for the school which enabled the building of a new well, refurbishment of core buildings and provision of teaching materials. Four of our students even spent the summer in Tanzania helping with this work. This year, we aim to complete our project by raising funds to rebuild current classrooms and erect new ones. Repeating last year's success, students today walked the distance between Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. We have measured the distance as the crow flies and each student was asked to walk four and a half miles. It was a pleasant end to the week and luckily, despite threatening otherwise, it remained dry. Thank you to **Dr Reilly** for masterminding a very successful event and the whole school community for getting behind this charity event with cheerfulness. We will give you the totals next week.

PAC Chair Vacancy

Could you be the new Chair of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School PAC? **John Beggan** is stepping down as the Chair of the PAC after a number of years of great service to the school. We are looking to find a new Chair from the parent body. We have a wonderfully supportive committee who will be very helpful in supporting any new Chair. If you would like a chat about what's involved, don't hesitate to contact me on d.robson@bishophevesey.sch.uk or John Beggan himself on johnb@feltonconsult.co.uk.

Parking

Please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your sons from Boswell Road or the surrounding estate. Please note that traffic cameras are regularly in operation on Boswell Road. **It is essential that we avoid traffic congestion on Boswell Road - traffic problems are a nuisance to our neighbours and pose a health and safety risk to our children.** Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Pavilion Re-Vamp

Many thanks to **Maxine Hanley** and the band of parents assisting with the re-vamp of The Pavilion. We appreciate the support being given by one of our corporate partners, and Old Veseyan, **Doug Hunt** from Honeybourne. However, as the saying goes 'many hands make light work'. If you are interested in helping, please email maxinehanley@icloud.com. We would welcome donations of black gloss Cuprinol, white masonry paint and white exterior wood paint. We will especially need some painters.

Some excellent ideas have been submitted about what to do with our tyres. Watch this space!

Senior Cross Country

The Cross Country team made a strong start to the season, taking part in a very close, competitive race, finishing first equal with the hosts, Warwick School. **Tom Parkes** performed solidly to take second place, followed by excellent debut runs from **Matthew McClafferty** in 4th and **Charlotte Best** in 5th. They were ably supported by **Ben Gordon, James Ward, Ciaran Weir** (Year 11) and **Lewis Canham**. Well done all.

Sporting Success

Great 3-0 win for First XI team against Solihull School.

U13b and U15b tennis teams progress to Regionals with victories over Bishop Challoner.

We were also delighted by the performance of our Rugby team against Nottingham High School last week.

For more details please visit www.bvgssport.co.uk.

Rowing Inspiration



Music Update

We have had a great week, with confirmation that the European tour is happening with over 50 students signing up. We only have a few spots left and it is not too late to sign up.

Funky Bishops are planning to record an album this year. Meanwhile, the KS3 and Senior choir have been invited to perform at Symphony Hall in February.

We are all looking forward to our Junior Soloists' Concert on Tuesday, our first of the year, at 19:00 on Tuesday. If you would like to attend, please let us know by Monday lunchtime.

Never Such Innocence

BVGS were pleased to be at the Council House this afternoon in Birmingham for the launch of the Never Such Innocence Competition. Some of our students were reading out poems to the assembled audience. This is an annual, international poetry and art competition.

<http://www.neversuchinnocence.com/>. Thank you to **Miss Steadman, Miss Hearn and Miss Langham** for supporting this event.



Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson

John Cragg

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

AUTHOR OF THE WEEK
SOPHIE MCKENZIE

The Medusa Project
The Set-Up

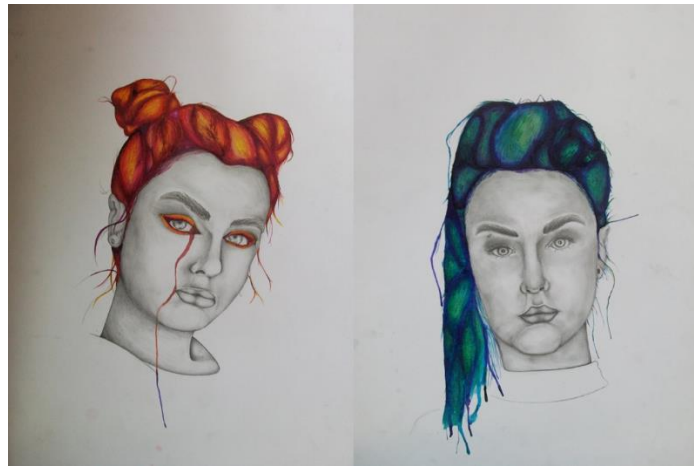
Thirteen years ago, Professor William Fox discovered DR6124 - a gene for psychic abilities. By synthesising it, he managed to implant it in a series of embryos, knowing that the gene would be kick-started at puberty. But Fox was killed by his business partner, Jack Linden, before he saw his experiment come to fruition. Jack has big plans for the kids with the psychic gene - if he can track them down... though Fox's brother, Fergus, is determined to stop him and keep the kids safe: Nico - telekinetic and cocky with it; Kitty - clairvoyant and terrified she's seen her brother's murder; Dylan - a mind-reader with morals; and Alicia - able to withstand physical pain through the power of her mind. Can Fergus keep them - and his brother's experiment - a secret?

Also Spilt Second

Charlie's life is torn apart by a terrorist bomb in a London market. Months later she meets Nat, whose family has been left devastated by the same explosion. But as Charlie gets closer to Nat she starts to wonder if he knows more about the attack than he is letting on...
Life can change in the blink of an eye - whether you're ready or not.




Art Star of the Week



Elliot Brown, 11W. Elliot has been selected for his exceptional ideas and skill, with his portrait work. Elliot enjoys developing new techniques, to create his own interpretation of beauty and form. He continues to juxtapose his excellent pencil tone, with intense colour.

Quote of the Week: **Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.**
Benjamin Franklin

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2017

Tuesday 26 September	Junior Soloists Concert 19:00 - 21:00
Thursday 28 September	Year 10 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 19:15
Saturday 30 September	Philip Bates Trust Concert @BVGS 18:30
Tuesday 3 October	U6 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 5 October	Year 8 Welcome Evening 18:00
Tuesday 10 October	Vesey 2027 launch at Reform Club, Pall Mall
Thursday 12 October	Year 7 Welcome Evening 18:00 - 19:15
Tuesday 17 October	Open Morning 09:00 10:30
	Lower Sixth Welcome Evening 18:00-19:15
Wednesday 18 October	Open Morning 09:00 - 10:30
Thursday 19 October	Open Morning 09:00 - 10:30
Friday 20 October	Founder's Day with Bishop of Birmingham
	Break up for half term

Tuesday 31 October	Autumn Term recommences
Friday 3 November	Oxbridge and early entry interview afternoon 13:00
Tuesday 7 November	School closes 12:15 Sixth Form Open Evening 16:00
Thursday 9 November	PAC Year 7 Parents' Welcome Event
Saturday 11 November	Old Veseyan Dinner
Friday 24 November	School closes 13:15 Speech Day - Sutton Coldfield Town Hall 18:30 -21:00 with Sir Julian King KCVO CMG (OV)
Wednesday 29 November	Year 9 Options Evening 16:30-18:30
Friday 1 December	PAC Year 7/8 Disco
Thursday 14 December	Lower Sixth Parents' Evening 16:00-18:30
Tuesday 19 December	Christmas Concert 19:00
Wednesday 20 December	Swimming Gala at Wyndley
Friday 22 December	Christmas jumper day School closes at 12:15 School breaks up for Christmas
Friday 9 February	Whole School Review and Careers Day
Friday 9 March	PAC Annual Quiz
Friday 13 July	BVGS PAC Ball at Moor Hall

Parents' Evenings 2018:

Thursday 18 January -	Year 11	16:00 - 19:00
Wednesday 7 March -	Year 9	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 15 March -	Year 10	16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 27 March -	Year 8	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 19 April -	Year 7	16:00 - 19:00

Term Dates can be found [here](#) on our website