



Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2NH, 0121 250 5400, www.bvgs.co.uk

DGR/sw

06 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

A Touch of Basil Concert

BVGS hosted the Philip Bates Trust Concert 'A Touch of Basil' on Saturday 30 September in Big School. Please see link to the percussion ensemble in action. youtu.be/cWz6hJ1_4RU

Duke of Edinburgh

This week 30 Year 11 students and 29 Year 10 students received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards. This represents a huge commitment of time and effort on their part to achieve an internationally recognised award. There are six students who are awaiting approval of their awards by the admin team, after which the School will have achieved a remarkable 100% completion rate. The boys are photographed with their certificates and badges.



Meaningful Marking

In response to the Department for Education working party on teacher workload, we are seeking to implement this academic year, meaningful and manageable marking. This means that every department will be marking the minimum of:

- Years 7/ 8/9: one core assessment per half term (September to Easter) and summer examinations (June)
- Years 10/11/12/13: two core assessments per half term (September to Easter) and summer examinations (May/June)
- Every core assessment will have a clear formative comment, followed by DIRT (directive, improvement and reflection time for every student) including the use of exemplars and model answers

Of course many departments will be marking much more than this, as is appropriate to support the students in their learning.

The purpose of this policy is to be more effective and targeted in our use of marking across the school to further raise standards.

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The Governors of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School are a registered charity (No: 517907)



MedSoc

Thank you to **Dr Rohan Ahmed** (OV 2005 -2012) who hosted MedSoc this week, offering invaluable advice on medical admissions. It was great to see students from the years 7-11 attending MedSoc for the first time.

Meanwhile in other Socs ...

The success of MedSoc has encouraged the creation of other societies. This year we have a DentSoc for would-be dentists led by **Tia Bahia** (U6), PolSoc, a politics society led by **Dr Adrian Reilly**, Head of Economics and a STEMsSoc led by **Mr Bradley**, Head of Physics.

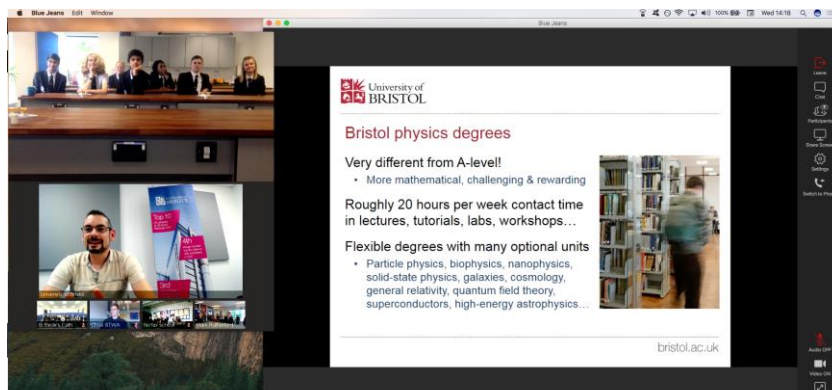
BVGS named one of the top STEM schools in the country

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School has been given the accolade of being named one of the top STEM schools in the country (43rd nationally) according to new rankings produced by Government backed education campaign Your Life.

Your Life, which aims to boost uptake of A Level Maths and Physics, has worked with data science company Starcount to analyse school performance table data from the Department for Education on England's 2,500 secondary schools.

Physics university webinar

William Heap (U6), Laura Morgan (U6), Oksana Zimina (L6), Arjun Pyda (L6), Jaan Johal (L6), Esther Ojo (L6), and Anthony Wilshere (L6) got involved in a web seminar with a number of Russell Group universities on Wednesday to find out more about undergraduate Physics courses and admissions. Opportunities like this are key to making well-informed choices when it comes to UCAS applications.



Mini Medical Interview Day

Organisation is currently under way with an Old Veseyan to organise a MMI (Mini Medical Interviews) Day at BVGS on Saturday 18 November from 9-5pm. This is a unique opportunity for approximately 20 of our students to be interviewed by 8 current doctors/medical students.

Year 8 Welcome Evening

Thank you to all who supported the evening. Great presentations from Head of Year **Mr Bousfield** and **Ellis McKenzie** (Y9)

Year 11 Revision Resource Check

This has been very successful this week. Clearly lots of excellent materials have been produced by the boys. Well done everyone. However there is still a bit of work to do until we get ready for the mocks in five weeks time.

Assemblies this week

We have had some great assemblies this week. Dia di Hispanidad with **Miss Slater**, Alexander The Great and the Growth Mindset with **Mr Nowek**, Celebrating Hidden Figures, a Black History Month celebration by the Mental Health Officer Team and last, but not least, an assembly from **Miss Hearn**, Deputy Head on the Be Kind Campaign.

Anti Bullying Message - Be Kind Campaign

Why not watch this with your children? It spells out the importance of courteous and considerate behaviour on line.

<http://www.itv.com/thismorning/hot-topics/pledge-to-share-our-anti-bullying-message>

Lesser Spotted Science

Five Year 11 students, **Harry James, James Ward, Seb Smith, Harrison Casey** and **Finlay Port**, attended the 'Lesser Spotted Science Conference' at University of Oxford. They were able to experience lectures on Philosophy, Engineering, Earth sciences and Biomedical Sciences.

Top Merit Winners

Thomas HANLON 7B, Jasper FREER 7G, Alfie HOLDSWORTH 7P, Rayhan AHMED, Fraser PRATT, Ross DRYHURST 8B, Amaan RAJA 8G, Dylan STEER 8G, Uzair ZAHIR 8P, Thomas CARTMILL 8R, Oliver JARVIS 8W, Joel STAINTHORPE 9B, Arjan SHOKER 9G, Ellis MCKENZIE 9P, Harkirpa TAKHAR 9R, Riley BEVAN 9W, Charlie RICHARDS 10B, Oliver GREGORY 10B, Jay MITTAL 10B, Arsh IQBAL 10B, Jacob HIGGINS 10B, Bruno PRESTRIDGE 10B, Ethan CRISP 10B, Ayub MOHAMMED 10G, Sam WOOD 10R, Elijah NIX 10W, Matthew MARTIN 11B, Matthew PRINCE 11G, Joseph BARDSLEY 11R, Luke BEVERIDGE 11W. All will be invited to the Headteacher's office on Thursday at break-time.

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.

PAC New Parents' Welcome Curry Night

The PAC are holding their annual Year 7 and Lower Sixth new parents' Welcome Evening on Thursday 9 November. This is a light hearted, friendly evening at the Asian Grill, Sutton Coldfield (further details attached).

The next PAC meeting will be held on Monday 9 October (19:00 - 20:30) in The Hive.

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@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk or John Beggan himself on johnb@feltonconsult.co.uk.

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!

Dodgeball

House Dodgeball for Year nine on Thursday.



Sporting Success

Some excellent senior hockey results with the 1st team beating Loughborough in the Warwickshire league 9-0, with **Archie Sansome** scoring a hat-trick and **Marcus Fu** in year 11 scoring his first goal in the 1st XI. The second team also beat Loughborough 1-0 with **Matthew Freer** scoring.

U13 Tennis win a marathon match vs Princethorpe to win the repechage final! Well done boys!

As you know, we like to be competitive at sport. But the most important thing for us, is the spirit in which it is played. We have always sought to play with dignity and respect for the opposition and each other. Thank you to all of the parents for your encouragement of the boys in this.

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

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Robson".

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Craggs".

John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

AUTHOR OF THE WEEK BALI RAI



The Crew

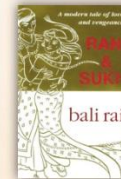
Meet Ellie, Jas, Della, Will and Billy. They're tough. They're street-smart. They're the Crew and they live in what they call the Chetto -- the housing around the city centre where everyone is broke and it's important to stick together. No one bothers you when you're part of a gang except, sometimes the older gangs, who can be dangerous. bookbuzz.com

Also Rani & Sukh

A powerful and gripping novel that sweeps the reader from modern-day Britain to the Punjab in the 1960s and back again in a ceaseless cycle of tragedy and conflict.

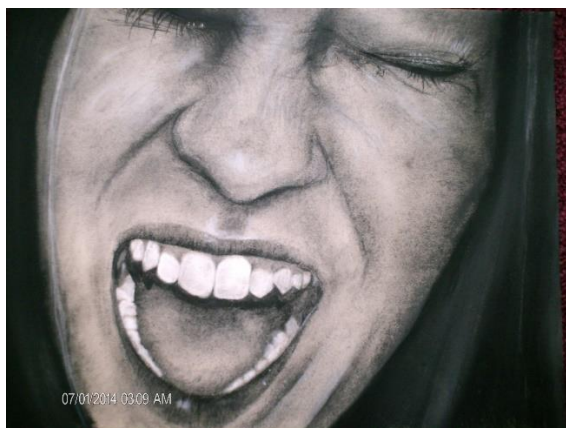
1950s Punjab - a secret affair goes terribly wrong and the bride commits suicide after her lover is attacked by her family. The two families part in violence and conflict.

2004 Leicester - Rani and Sukh fall in love, unaware of the terrible legacy of the past and the conflict between their two families-Can tragedy be averted or will the two young people be able to escape the cycle of violence and draw the families together for the future? bookbuzz.com



All Bookbuzz books have gone out to Year 7 this week

Art Star of the Week



Madeleine Muir, U6. Madeleine is working on developing, extreme expressions in her portraits. She started her project with realistic pencil studies, she is now pushing darker tones in charcoal.

Quote of the Week: **Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds.**
George Eliot

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2017

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| Monday 09 October | PAC Meeting 19:00 |
| 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, Asian Grill 19:00 for 19:30 start. |
| 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) |
| Saturday 18 November | 09:00 - 17:00 Mini Medical Interviews OBS |
| Wednesday 29 November | Year 9 Options Evening 16:30-18:30 |
| Friday 1 December | PAC Year 7/8 Disco |

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| 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:

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|-----------------------|---------|---------------|
| 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