



# 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](http://www.bvgs.co.uk)

DGR/sw

13 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## BVGS 2027 launch presents plans for school transformation

The future is bright for Bishop Vesey's Grammar School (BVGS), as plans to redevelop major areas of the school were officially announced at this week's London launch event. An audience of current staff, students and Old Veseyans turned out for the big announcement, which took place at the prestigious Reform Club in London. Among the evening's guest speakers were Campaign Chair, **Clive Richards**, Chair of Governors **Dr John Craggs** and Headteacher, **Dominic Robson**, as guests heard plans to renovate key facilities at the school to mark its 500th anniversary in 2027. It was also wonderful to hear from our students as to how the Vesey 2027 Campaign could benefit them. Thank you to School Captains **William Hennessy** and **Sophie Lloyd** as well the Old Veseyans of 2024 **Tadhg Parize** and **Rohit Kooner** from Year 7.



The three key developments will see the total modernisation of the existing Pavilion building, the expansion and renovation of the sixth form facilities, and the design and construction of a state-of-the-art sports hub overlooking the school's pitches. Attendees were shown a short video (<https://twitter.com/BVGS1527/status/917859702847008769>) which went into greater detail about the proposed plans, speaking to students past and present about the impact such a project would have on the future of the school. We are hoping that the first construction project will commence in 2018-19 and will be scheduled for completion 2019-20.

Dominic Robson, commented: "It was fantastic to see so many people turn out for the launch, including some 60 ex-pupils, who will be invaluable in helping raise the necessary funding for the project.

As our school grows and the number of students increases, we must be able to upgrade the existing facilities to offer the best experience for new and existing pupils. I believe we owe it to the school's history to strive for excellence, and give all of our pupils the best chance of succeeding in later life.

What makes the project so special is the involvement and interest of so many Old Veseyans, which clearly demonstrates the high regard in which they hold the school.

It also highlights the overwhelming community spirit that surrounds Bishop Vesey's, with everyone pulling in the same direction to transform the school into a modern education complex."

*Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is Company Limited by Guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 7986921. The Registered Office is at Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2NH*

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



**Brian Davies**, BVGS Corporate Partnership Director, commented: "It's only right that a monumental achievement like a 500th anniversary is celebrated with an equally impressive redevelopment project.

The proposed plans will completely revolutionise the school, transforming it into a beautifully modern complex that pupils will be able to thrive within.

For us, it's about generating interest and making sure that everyone is on board with the project – the success of the London launch event clearly shows that people are.

We're very excited for redevelopment work to get underway, and it will be great to see the school receive a well-deserved makeover that future students can enjoy."

### **Outstanding Progress 8**

Thursday saw the publication of the national provisional results for Progress 8 for all schools in England. We were delighted that our GCSE results in August were excellent and the Progress 8 score achieved of +.59 was one of the best in England, certainly the best of all the Sutton Coldfield schools, and also of the five boys' grammar schools in Birmingham, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School came second, to Camp Hill Boys. Most encouragingly the data shows excellent performances in English and Mathematics and it is very clear that students from all backgrounds are attaining well. For a more detailed look at the numbers please visit <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137988>.

### **Meeting with Nick Gibb MP, Schools' Minister**

This evening I will be meeting the Schools' Minister, along with other Headteachers in Sutton Coldfield. One of the concerns I will be raising is what government can do to encourage more students to take Modern Foreign Languages at A Level, as well as improving the quality of mental health services for young people.

### **Music Masterclass**

Last Friday we welcomed **Richard Meyrick** to the department. He gave an insightful masterclass to 65 students who were astonished by his playing ability. Two students wowed Richard and have been offered trial scholarship lessons in London with a team of concert pianists. Well done to **Dan, Harkirpa, James, Kieran, Lawrence, Ned and Nickeal** for excellent performances.



### More Music News

Next week is the deadline for the European Concert Tour. We only have a few spaces left. Information about the trip can be found on the music department VLE page or contact Mr Buxton.

Year 7 have been invited to take part in the Bishop Vesey's Super 7s Choir this Christmas, they should have received a letter about this on Wednesday. They will have the opportunity to perform at the School Christmas Concert on the 19 December 2017 7:00pm. We may also have a 2nd performance on the 21 December if the 19 is a sell-out. This will be confirmed at a later date on the Music Department Twitter feed @MusicBVGS

Tickets for the Christmas concert go on sale 30 October and will be £9 for adults and £5 for concessions and can be purchased from Mrs Foster in the Clubs office. Tickets for the 21 of December will only be released once the 19 of December is sold out.

### DentSoc

Dentsoc has been introduced to Bishop Vesey's and has got off to a great start. We have had sessions on dentistry basics and this week a third year dental student came in and gave a great presentation, encompassing what dentistry entails as a career and a degree option. The Dentsoc members were given insight into modules that are typically involved in the course, the clinical skills that are taught, examples of how patients are diagnosed and the problem solving involved. The students seemed to take in the information well and it definitely provoked thought on whether or not they would like to study dentistry in the future. They asked a lot of questions and said they found the talk very useful and interesting. Future Dentsoc meetings will hopefully give an opportunity for more guest speakers to give us invaluable talks. Dentsoc will be held every Monday at 1:15 in room 6. **Tia Bahia U6**

Please contact Mr David Goodwin at [d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) if you would like to contribute to this brand new academic society.

### Year 7 Welcome Evening

It was great to see everyone at Year 7 Welcome Evening. The year group seem to be developing really well. Thanks to **Mr Doughty** and **Mrs Arrandale** as well as all the tutor team and staff for their support for the boys.

### Year 7 Report Card

Year 7 will have received the report card this week. As a parent and Headteacher my advice would be to focus on the commitment grades at this stage. Are they doing their best? If so, progress will follow in time.

### Open Mornings next week

Congratulations to all students with their 11+ results received this week. For any students wishing to have a look around BVGS as families make up their mind about school places, we are open for Open Mornings at the following times next week:

Tuesday 17 October 9.00-10.30am

Headteacher talk followed by Q&A at 9.50

Wednesday 18 October 9.00-10.30am

Headteacher talk followed by Q&A at 9.50

Thursday 19 October 9.00-10.30am

Headteacher talk followed by Q&A at 9.50

## Library

The Library are selling poppy pin badges. They are £3 each and the money will go to the British Legion Appeal. Coming soon are Pudsey pin badges at £1 each for Children In Need.

If anyone has an old Rubik's Cube or chess set that they no longer need, please let **Miss Brown** know.

## German Exchange

If your son is in Year 10 and would like to go on the German exchange (they don't need to be studying German) please see **Mr Götschel**. We are also seeking volunteers to host a German student in March for the German return visit.

## Vacancy for Parent Governor

There is a vacancy for 1 parent governor on the school's board of governors. A letter has been sent to all parents and carers providing details of the vacancy. All governors are expected to attend regular meetings of the Full Board and join one of the Governors' Committees. Meetings are usually held on Monday or Tuesday evenings at 5pm. If you would like a further copy of the letter or a copy of the nomination form please contact Mary Mellor, Clerk to the Governors, [m.mellor@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:m.mellor@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) or 0121 250 5400 x237. If you would like to discuss the role and what it entails, Dr Craggs, Chairman of the Governors can be contacted via Mrs Mellor.

## Assemblies this week

A big thank you to all staff involved in delivering great assemblies this week: **Dia di Hispanidad (Miss Slater), Black History Month (Miss Steadman and Tia Bahia, Laura Morgan and Ben Smith and European Day of Languages (Miss Slater and Mr Keeble).**

## French Poetry Reading Competition

Exciting opportunity to win house points after half-term. Take a poem from your French teacher and get involved. Talk to your teacher next week.

## Parent Charter

We are always grateful to our parents for their engagement with the school. We are so lucky in that respect. Please have a read on our protocol for parental communication. <http://bvgs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Parents-Charter.pdf>. We are updating the list of key email addresses on the website and will provide you with the link in next week's newsletter.

## Top Merit Winners

Thomas MITCHELL 7B, Sunny JOSHI 7B, Aditya MUTHUKUMAR 7G, Josh SINGH 7G, Lasha ASATIANI-KALANDADZE 7P, Cameron LOVELL 7P, Alex HEIRBAUT KITTERIDGE 7R, Viraj GUPTA 7R, James WHITTAKER 7R, Luke DOUGLAS 7W, Michael BAIZLEY 8B, Dylan STEER 8G, Jack STEVENS 8P, Rajveer CHAUHAN 8R, Ethan WHITE 8W, Joseph DEAN 9B, Jun PARK 9G, Owen BOXALL 9P, Benjamin PAGET 9R, Riley BEVAN 9W, Bruno PRESTRIDGE 10B, Aadam AHMED 10G, James WHITEHOUSE 10G, Doiminic LYNCH 10G, Fintan BRENNAN 10R, James KEELING 10R, William COWLEY 10W, Israr KHAN 11B, Matthew BATE 11G, Alexander BAILEY 11R, Raul ATHWALL 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) Application forms are available and have been sent via SchoolComms, places are limited and this event always sells quickly.

### **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](mailto:d.robson@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) or John Beggan himself on [johnb@feltonconsult.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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!

### **Sporting Success**

**Cross Country:** There were great performances on Tuesday in a zonal regional round. BVGS came first and have now qualified for the Midland finals in Warrington on 11 November, where, hopefully, they will reach the National finals the following week. Well done to the team: **Ethan Patel, Jack Wakefield, Theo Kearns, George O'Connor, Jamal Rahman** and **Joseph Hill**.

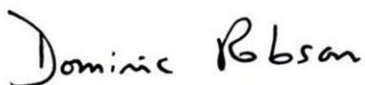
For more details please visit [www.bvgssport.co.uk](http://www.bvgssport.co.uk).

### **Sutton Observer Articles**

Please find attached two recent Sutton Observer articles about BVGS.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher



**John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

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## AUTHOR OF THE WEEK JAMES DASHNER



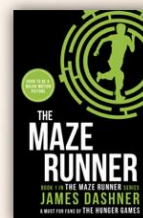
### The Maze Runner

If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.. [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)



### The Eye of Minds

Michael is a gamer. And like most gamers, he almost spends more time on the VirtNet than in the actual world. The VirtNet offers total mind and body immersion, and it's addictive. Thanks to technology, anyone with enough money can experience fantasy worlds, risk their life without the chance of death, or just hang around with Virt-friends. And the more hacking skills you have, the more fun. Why bother following the rules when most of them are dumb, anyway? [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)



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## Art Star of the Week

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**Shamsuddin Ellahi 11R.** Shamsuddin has mastered his pencil tone and become very confident when drawing portraits. He continues to develop his faces, by exploring different expressions and even merging them with iconic comic figures. A very unique idea.

**Quote of the Week:** **Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek**  
Barack Obama

## Dates for your Diary

### Autumn Term 2017

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
Monday 6 November	PAC AGM and Meeting - The Hive
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.
Friday 10 November	PAC Year 7 and 8 Disco Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
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 at BVGS
Monday 4 December	PAC Meeting - The Hive
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
Monday 15 January	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Monday 5 February	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Friday 9 February	Whole School Review and Careers Day
Monday 5 March	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Friday 9 March	PAC Annual Quiz
Friday 16 March	PAC Quiz Night - Big School
Friday 27 April	Year 7 and 8 Disco BVGS
Friday 22 June	Year 7 and 8 Disco Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

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**