



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

16 November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Responsible Parking

In recent weeks there has been some irresponsible parking by parents on Boswell Road and the vicinity. Please can I respectfully ask that parents **do not** drop students off, or collect them, from Boswell Road or the surrounding estate. Please be respectful to our neighbours. Please also 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 parking responsibly.

Children in Need

Our non-uniform day raised £916.59 for Children in Need. Additionally, there has been some other fundraising activity around the school. Monies are yet to be counted. However well done to 7B who arranged a sale of cakes and sweets in Room 30, 8P raised over £30 for Children in Need through a penalty shootout competition. Many thanks to all in 8P and U6 who helped make the event a success. A particular vote of thanks to **Stuart Wood** for organising the event. 9P and 9G have been dyeing hair with spray paint for Children in Need today. For a pound students got blue or green glittery hair for the day until it (hopefully) washes out! 8B have been collecting pennies and small change this week and handed in a very good collection this morning. 9W ran a raffle for a small hamper full of sweets and chocolates – one raffle book sold out. 8W did a 'guess the sweets in the jar' and on Monday some members of the form will be completing a sponsored row in the rowing room at lunchtime. Their aim is to complete 3 miles in 30 minutes between them. The Charity Team in the Sixth Form also arranged a treasure hunt. Well done also to the Form Tutors for encouraging charitable activity.

Collection of food to donate to the local foodbank

Year 8 are getting involved in a brilliant initiative to help the local community this season. They are hoping to organise a collection of food to donate to a local food bank. According to the Trussell Trust, demand for its foodbanks in the West Midlands has soared in recent years - with 52,537 donations of three-day emergency food supplies handed out during six months between April and September this year. If each student in Year 8 were to bring in three suitable items (list issued), we would be able to make a donation of nearly 500 items which would help to provide a life-line for local families temporarily in need. Please ensure that any sell-by date is after February 2018. Students should take donations between Monday 20 November and Monday 11 December to Room 21b either between 08:30 and 08:40 or at break-time. Thank you **Miss Slater** for co-ordinating this operation.

Road Safety

Please remind your son and daughter to take great care crossing roads. Wherever possible they should use pedestrian crossings. Please reinforce this important health and safety message.

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)



Easyfundraising to support Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

Thank you for all those who have already signed up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopveseysgrammar/>. On average every person who signs up will generate £254 for the school with their usual on-line activity.

Corporate Partnerships

We are fortunate to have over 30 corporate partners who are supporting the school. Please see [here](#) to see the list of companies involved. Every time you use the services of one of these companies, you will be benefiting BVGS.

If your company is interested in becoming a corporate partner please contact Brian Davies, Development Director & Deputy Director of Sport on b.davies@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk. We are holding a Business Networking meeting here at school on Wednesday 22 November from 18:00 - 20:00 in the Stem Block. Please come along if you would like further details of our partnership scheme.

Year 11 Mock Examinations Proceeding Well

The Year 11 mock examinations fortnight began on Monday 14 November. The boys appear to be taking the experience seriously. We have established a Year 11 mock certificate event for the boys in December. I am sure there will be a lot of learning for all to help the boys do themselves justice in the summer.

MedSoc

A huge thank you to BVGS parents, **Dr Amina Hashmi** and **Dr Simon Clay** for hosting the last two MedSoc meetings, which are now attracting in excess of 50 students, from Year 10 and upwards. For more details contact Mr Goodwin, Assistant Headteacher on d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

We will remember them

On Sunday 12 November our School Captains, **Sophie Lloyd** and **Will Hennessy**, along with **Dr John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**, Chair of Governors, laid wreaths at the annual Sutton Coldfield Remembrance Service. Also present was **Matt Price**, Deputy School Captain, the Headteacher and a large array of Vesey Scouts and Cadets, along with other people, young and old, from across the district. I was particularly impressed by **Charlotte Frazer-Morris**, U6, rendition of the Last Post.



Staffordshire and West Midlands Army Cadet Force

Congratulations to **Larissa Isham**, who is currently serving as a Cadet in the County Army Cadet Force, Corps of Drums, who has been selected to perform at Beating Retreat in London in June. This is a colourful pageant of military music and drill carried out in front of members of the Royal Family and senior politicians, including the Prime Minister.

Christmas Concert

We are proud to say that the 19 of December has sold out! We were planning to put on an extra night on the 21 December. Unfortunately, this clashes with Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls' Christmas Concert. We are planning to have our extra concert night on the 15th December to avoid the clash of dates. Sorry for any inconvenience this causes and we would appreciate it if you could complete reply slips stating if your son/daughter can perform for the concerts. Slips are to be returned to myself or form tutors by Friday 24 November. Letters are available from the Music Department VLE or Mr Buxton

Top Merit Winners

Thomas HANLON 7B, Sunny JOSHI 7B, Aditya MUTHUKUMAR 7G, Matthew AKPOBARO 7P, Ben WHITE 7R, Yousuf ALAM 7W, George O'CONNOR 8B, Jack WAKEFIELD 8G, Aleksander ROTTER 8P, Rajveer CHAUHAN 8R, Charlie WOOD 8W, Alistair KITCHIN 9B, Matthew WHITEHOUSE 9G, Ellis MCKENZIE 9P, Joseph MCCLAFFERTY 9R, Ted BOYLE 9W, Luke BARRIOS 10B, Jai SINGH 10G, Omar SYED 10G, Matthew McLAUGHLAN 10R, Pierce O'REILLY-SPEARS 10W, Patrick ANDREWS 10W, Elijah NIX 10W, Mithun PADMANABHAN 10W, Harvey QUINN 11B, Zain ASIF 11G, Johnathan CARTWRIGHT 11G, Aiden HILL 11R, Henry GUEST 11R, Ibrahim ALIWI 11W, Rhys WEBB 11W. All will be invited to the Headteacher's office on **Thursday 23 November**.

Thank you to John Beggan

John Beggan stepped down as Chair of the BVGS PAC on Monday night. John has done a great job in sustaining and developing the work of the PAC over the last few years. He is a great 'people person' and organiser and has been a pleasure to work with. Luckily he is still very much in touch with the school, as an ex-parent now, and as one of our corporate partners. Thank you for everything John. John Beggan has written to me to say: 'It just leaves me to say that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with the PAC and BVGS. I'm honoured to have played just a small part and delighted in knowing that it's handed over to such a determined and hardworking team – ensuring that the PAC continues to play a vital part in the Vesey Community. I've met some wonderful people over the years and look forward to continuing these relationships in attending both BVGS and PAC events in the future. Finally, can you extend my thanks to the support team and staff working so hard in the background – which to be honest – without their assistance we'd have been lost a long time ago'.

Welcome to our new PAC Committee

Following the AGM on Monday 13th November, I'm pleased to announce that we have proposed new members to the BVGS PAC for 2017/18 : **Co-Chairs:** Maxine Hanley, Mark Abbott, Richard White. **Treasurer:** Richard White **Sports Liaison / Officer:** Richard White, **Events co-ordinator:** Caroline Moore, Sam Khan. **Year 7/8 Disco:** Maxine Hanley, Sam Khan, Elizabeth Mitchell. **200 Club:** Anne Troman : remains as 200 club, **Uniform / Lost Property:** Tracey Prescott

Lovely Feedback

A Year 7 parent wrote to us this week with some lovely feedback which I would like to share with you.

Thank you very much for your message- we are very proud and happy that our son is thriving at Bishop Vesey's. He thoroughly enjoys being a pupil at the school and as his parents we feel that he has found 'his' place- a place where he belongs, it feels so right and I do not think there is any other school that could have suited him more as a person, it's not just about academia- there's a great atmosphere surrounding Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, this isn't something that can be consciously 'made', it's something that happens, (perhaps over time) and is created by the place and the people (staff etc.) who work hard to maintain the high standards set over many years. I imagined Grammar School would be very strict with a 'stiff upper lip' attitude but it seems that the teachers can be very relaxed, have interesting and fun teaching methods which I think is helping the children achieve their best- Harry even enjoys PE/games! I'm amazed, I imagined it would be all 'rugger', cricket and hockey but it seems the teachers have found activities to suit different personalities and this has worked very well for Harry...as a parent this is a dream come true and I love dropping him off every morning and seeing the School- it is an honour to have a Veseyan in our home and it has allowed me to see into a world that I could never have had access to through my own endeavours..... so I thank my lucky stars and all the wonderful teachers and staff at BVGS.... Thank you.

BVGS in the Twittersphere

Follow @BVGS_English for tweets from the English Department. But also you can follow @BVGSRowing, @BVGSHistory, @BVGSCharity, @MusicBVGS and @BVGSEconomics as well as @VeseyNetball or just follow us on the mother ship @BVGS1527.

Cross Country

The following boys in year 8 won the West Midlands Regional final and have qualified for the National finals on Saturday 25th at Sevenoaks school in Kent. This is a first for the school and a magnificent achievement. Well done to **George O'Connor, Jack Wakefield, Ethan Patel, Theo Kearns and Jamal Rahman.**



Mountain Biking



Connor Smith 10W on the winning podium at the National Championships for Downhill Mountain Biking. Following this he went on to win the English Champs and Regional Champs, and has subsequently got the award for British Cycling overall points. He will be attending the British Cycling Award Ceremony in Feb 2018 to receive his awards.

U15 Rugby Success

On Monday the U15s played away at King Edward's Five Ways in the 3rd round of the NatWest Cup. Despite this team never having beaten Five Ways before, the boys played superbly well to beat their rivals 29-12. It was an excellent team effort which means we will take our place in the area semi-finals alongside Loughborough, Bromsgrove and Warwick. This marks progress to the final 32 schools of the competition which is a remarkable feat.

Hockey

Two more wins yesterday for hockey both against KES Birmingham.

U'13 'a' – WON 4-0

U'13 'b' – WON 2-0

OVA Dinner

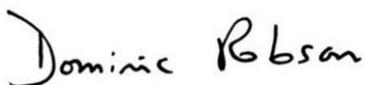
We hosted our annual Old Veseyan Association Dinner in Big School last Saturday with 109 guests and ages ranging from 18 - 88. One Old Veseyan travelled to be with us from the Cayman Islands (cue lots of jokes about his tax arrangements). Both our School Captains made excellent speeches at the event. Christmas cards were also on sale in support of the BVGS World Challenge conservation trip to Costa Rica 2019. The Christmas cards are fantastic, designed and organised by an impressive group of students in the Lower Sixth. There may be even scope to sell some of these cards more widely amongst the parent body. Watch this space.

First 2017-18 Chess Fixture for our U13s

Well done to **Ethan Chan Smith, Uzair Zahir, Robert Holmes, Tighe Crook, Amar Nahal, Fraser Pratt** and **Stephen Bowman** who played in last week's Chess contest at KES, Edgbaston. Uzair was man of the match with two excellent wins.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dominic Robson
Headteacher



John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA
Chairman of Governors

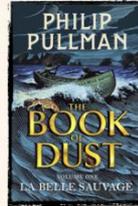
AUTHOR OF THE WEEK PHILIP PULLMAN



The Book of Dust

Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead and his dæmon, Asta, live with his parents at the Trout Inn near Oxford. Across the River Thames (which Malcolm navigates often using his beloved canoe, a boat by the name of La Belle Sauvage) is the Godstow Priory where the nuns live. Malcolm learns they have a guest with them, a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua...

goodreads.com



Ruby in the Smoke

After Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives an anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man die of fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel.

everreading4kids.com

Art Star of the Week



Archie Sansome L6CW. Archie achieved an A* at GCSE and he is now developing his skills further using painting and colour. This piece shows how Archie has persevered to master pencil tone work.

Quote of the Week: **Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door**
Charles Dickens

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2017

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 08 January	Spring Term Commences
Monday 15 January	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Monday 5 February	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Friday 9 February	Whole School Review and Careers Day
Friday 16 February	Break up for half term
Monday 26 February	Spring term recommences
Monday 5 March	PAC Meeting - The Hive
Friday 9 March	PAC Annual Quiz
Friday 16 March	PAC Quiz Night - Big School
Thursday 29 March	Training Day
Monday 16 April	Summer Term commences
Friday 27 April	Year 7 and 8 Disco BVGS
Monday 7 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 25 May	Break up for half term
Monday 4 June	Summer term recommences
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