



# 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

12 January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## University Offers

Over the last half term, I have been delighted by lots of positive news from across the Upper Sixth of offers received through UCAS of places to study at great universities throughout the United Kingdom. These offers should spur the students on to do well in their 'A' levels in the summer. This week the students are undertaking their mock examinations and I can report that these seem to have been prepared for with great seriousness by the students.

This week has also seen the publication of offers at Oxford and Cambridge universities. Commiserations to those who applied and narrowly missed out – Oxbridge is a very competitive international 'field' and, moreover, does not always suit every candidate. However, my warm congratulations go to the following 15 students (a record number for the School and surely one of the best of any school, state or independent in the country):

Phoebe Abbott	Law	Cambridge	Queens
Oliver Bardsley	Veterinary Science	Cambridge	Magdalene
Benjamin Clay	Medicine	Cambridge	Gonville & Caius
Emily Coleman	History	Cambridge	Pembroke
James Cutting	French & German	Oxford	Worcester
Tom Edwards	Mathematics	Cambridge	Corpus Christi
Charlotte Fraser-Morris	Biochemistry	Oxford	Hertford
Louis Kill-Brown	Modern Languages	Oxford	New
Will Kirby	Arabic & Spanish	Cambridge	Pembroke
Daniel Leyva	Law	Oxford	Wadham
Sheamol Obeda	Engineering	Cambridge	Kings
Charles Pottinger	Earth Sciences	Oxford	University
Nickeal Sidhu	Natural Sciences	Cambridge	Gonville & Caius
Juliette Thomas	Spanish & Portuguese	Cambridge	Jesus
Caleb Woodall	History	Cambridge	Pembroke

## Physics Olympiad

Following the results from the British Physics Olympiad in November, congratulations go to **Nickeal Sidhu** and **Daniel McRae** who won silver awards (finishing in the top 350 students in the country) whilst **Thomas Edwards** won gold and finished in the top 50! Tom now goes onto round two of the competition. All three have achieved the highest ever positions the school has received in the competition. Well done to all!

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



### **Youth Speaks, Tuesday 23 January, 18:00 - 22:00, Sutton Coldfield**

Calling all public speakers. Can you speak for 6 minutes on a chosen subject? If so please email your 6 minute speech to [d.robson@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.robson@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) by the end of Monday 15 January. I would like to enter at least one KS3 team (intermediate) and one Year 10/11/12 team (senior) for the local Rotary competition. Anyone interested in know more, please email Mrs Weblin [s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:s.weblin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) and she can send you a copy of the competition rules and parental consent forms.

### **Cambridge University Union Schools Debating Competition, Saturday 10 February, 09:00 - 18:30, Solihull School**

Are you Lower Sixth and interested in quick fire debating against some of the best minds in the Midlands? This one is for you. Email [d.robson@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:d.robson@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk) for further info.

### **PA Disco for Y7 and Y8**

The PA disco will be on Friday 19 January from 19:30 - 21:30 in Big School. Tickets will be on sale in Room 30 at break-time on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

### **Training Resumes**

It has been good to see the astro packed before, during and after school with rugby, hockey and rowing training. Great to start to the new year!

### **Netball v Wrekin College**

A depleted netball team (minus the Upper Sixth) lost 43-20 at Wrekin this week. There was some good play. Good preparation for when we meet Wrekin again at the Regional Finals on the 28th January.

### **Weekend fixtures**

We have a feast of rugby this Friday and Saturday to start 2018. On Friday, our U12 A to D teams are away at KES Edgbaston. Meanwhile on Saturday, our 'A' teams from U12 (home),13 (away),14 (home) and 15 (away) play Five Ways. Meanwhile, our B teams for the same year groups are involved in a triangular tournament at BVGS with Abraham Darby and King Henry VIII.

### **Connor Smith, Y10**

I was delighted to hear that Connor has successfully secured a two-year sponsorship deal with Wide Open Magazine which will cover the 2018/19 race seasons for his Downhill Mountain Biking. This is largely due to his amazing achievements last season: Midlands Champion, English Champion, National Champion and Overall Downhill Mountain Biking points award.

He will be receiving these awards at the British Cycling Awards ceremony on Sat 10th Feb 2018. Well done Connor!

### **Staffordshire County Cross-Country Championships**

George O'Connor (8B), achieved his first County vest at the Staffordshire County Cross Country Championships at Sandwell Valley Country Park yesterday. He finished a very respectable 6th place a great improvement on his 25th place last year. He will now represent the Staffs County at the Inter County Championships in March.



George in the final 400m of the race.

### **Old Veseyan Celebrates his 100th Birthday**

Congratulations to **George Groves** from Lichfield who celebrated his 100th birthday this week. Is George our oldest living Old Veseyan?



### **Hockey**

2nds WON 6-0 vs Adams Grammar 2nds

3rds WON 3-0 vs Queen Mary's 3rds.

### **Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (UK)**

We had a nice letter from this charity thanking us for selling red ribbons marking World AIDS Day. This raised £30. Thank you for your support.

### **Non-uniform Day for Cancer Research, Friday 26 January**

There was a tragic car crash that affected one of our Year 9 families before Christmas. The chosen charity of the family is Cancer Research. We are holding a non-uniform day for that cause. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **University Application**

To support our sixth formers in their applications to leading universities, the school is hoping to set up an academic wider reading library, in addition to our main school library, to allow students to develop their UCAS applications with reading and knowledge of university level texts. This will be based in the HIVE, the sixth form study centre. This is one of the most important aspects of showing an interest in a subject beyond the curriculum, and is necessary for students applying to Russell Group and other selective universities.

To help with this, we are seeking donations of any university level texts that yourselves, or your children, no longer have use for. These could be books purchased to use as part of the course, or any

academic reading that goes beyond the A Level curriculum. If possible, we would prefer published non-fiction to university textbooks, as these texts are often more accessible to A-Level students and provide an introduction to the subject as well as detailed treatments of more complex material.

Any books can be sent in with your children, or left for the Sixth Form Team at the Main School Office.

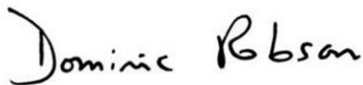
### Top Merit Winners

Lewis WHITEHALL 7B, Dominic HIGGINBOTHAM 7B, Jasper FREER 7G, Max MCCABE 7P, Seth ALLEN 7P, James EMMS 7P, Luke CHOWN 7R, Stephen BOWMAN 7W, Ross DRYHURST 8B, Edward STEVENS 8G, Hitesh JHALL 8G, Ryan GASCOYNE 8P, Harry TURTON 8R, Suleman AHMED 8W, Alistair KITCHIN 9B, Ethan FINNEY 9G, Humza AJAZ 9P, Toheed SAJID 9R, Ruben SIDHU 9W, Bilal QASIM 9W, Jamie HIGGINBOTHAM 10B, Jack GLOVER 10G, Kamran HUSSAIN 10G, Dan JONES 10R, Benedict RESCH, Israr KHAN 11B, Matthew BATE 11G, Fraser CHAPMAN 11R, James WARD 11W

### Colour Newsletter for Michaelmas 2017

Please find [here](#) the link to the termly colour newsletter. Hope you enjoy reading about an action packed term.

Yours sincerely

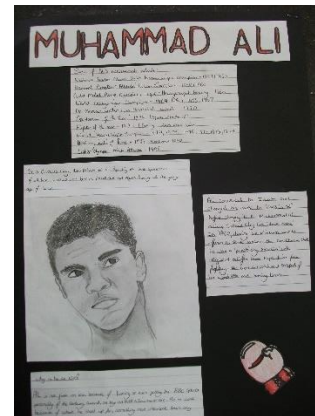


**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher



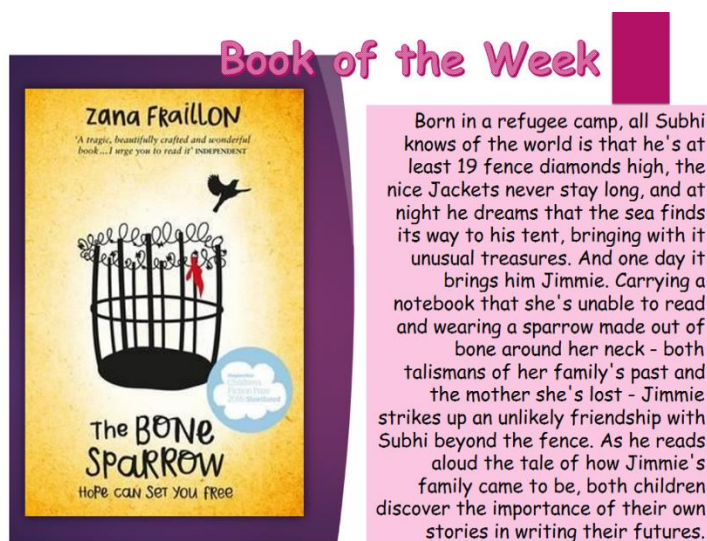
**John Craggs DL BSc PhD HonDUniv FCMA**  
Chairman of Governors

## Art Stars of the Week



**Year 7 projects:** have been selected for Star of the Week. Several students put so much time and effort in their work, to develop incredibly successful and creative studies.

## Book of the Week



Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie. Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone around her neck - both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost - Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence. As he reads aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be, both children discover the importance of their own stories in writing their futures.

**Quote of the Week: 'Learning is light'** (Mother of Syrian refugee children in Jordan)

**Letters sent this week:** [Six Nations Rugby](#)

[Academic Societies](#)

[Academic Wider Reading Library](#)

## Dates for your Diary

### Spring Term 2018

Monday 15 January	PA Meeting - The Hive
Thursday 18 January	Sports and Music Photographs
Friday 19 January	PA Year 7/8 Disco at BVGS
Monday 22 January	Year 11 Poetry Live
Tuesday 23 January	Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening 18:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 23 January	Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition 18:00 - 22:00
Thursday 25 January	Vesey Business Networking at Moor Hall 18:00 - 20:00
Wednesday 31 January	Harry Potter Book Night 15:30 - 17:00
Monday 5 February	PA Meeting - The Hive
Friday 9 February	Whole School Review and Careers Day
Saturday 10 February	Cambridge University Union Debating Competition at Solihull School
Monday 12 February	Guest Speaker from University of Sheffield
Thursday 15 February	Ski trip to Canada departs

Thursday 15 February	Year 7 and 8 Parents' Curry Night (venue tbc)
Friday 16 February	Break up for half term
Thursday 22 February	Ski trip returns
Monday 26 February	Spring term recommences
Thursday 1 March	Romeo and Juliet trip at the Town Hall
Thursday 1 March	NFER sample tests for Year 11 (as required by DFE)
Thursday 1 March	Sixth Form trip leaves for Berlin
Thursday 1 March	Sixth Form Parliamentary Debating Competition chaired by Andrew Mitchell MP. Refreshments from 18:00, competition in Big School until 22:00
Friday 2 March	Chris Bradford author visit
Monday 5 March	PA Meeting - The Hive
Saturday 3 March	World Challenge training on Cannock Chase
Tuesday 6 March	HE Evening
Wednesday 7 March	New Year 7 Welcome Morning
Wednesday 7 March	Ladies Lunch ( <a href="#">Ladies Lunch - Bishop Vesey's Grammar School</a> )
Friday 9 March	PA Annual Quiz
Tuesday 13 March	Senior Soloists' Concert 19:00 - 21:00
Friday 16 March	Jerrard 100 celebrations. Lunch OBS followed by service, Big School
Friday 16 March	PA Quiz Night - Big School
Saturday 17 March	Rugby Sevens Tournament
Thursday 22 March	Senior Sports Dinner at BVGS
Friday 23 March	Drama production of Macbeth (£9 adults, £5 concessions/students)
Saturday 24 March	Successful candidate afternoon
Monday 26 March	Sri Lanka Cricket Tour leaves
Tuesday 27 March	Training Day
Thursday 29 March	Break up for Easter
Thursday 29 March	Break up at 15:25
Wednesday 28 March	Training Day
Thursday 29 March	Training Day
Monday 16 April	Summer Term commences
Tuesday 24 April	Spring Concert
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**