Dear Parents/Carers

It always makes me smile at this time of year when friends who aren't teachers ask me the question 'are you winding down for the summer?' As you will see from this newsletter, the annual 'wind-up' to the end of term is in full flow!

On Sunday we opened officially our outdoor cricket nets. It was a pleasure to welcome our good friend, Vesey Ambassador, Peter Randon OV (former Chair of Governors and former Chair of the OVA) who made a lovely speech to a good crowd of parents, staff and Old Veseyans. We held two exciting cricket matches to mark the occasion with the 2nd XI losing to the Elephants and, in an exciting finish, the school 1st XI defeating the Old Boys with one ball to spare. Some excellent cricket was played. It was wonderful to see Oliver Wem Year 11, smashing the ball out of the ground with one six and three fours from one over. A big thank you to Phil Baker, Graham Swindells, Dave Goodwin, Chris Howell, Bob Brown, Jim Carr, Harwoods Accountants and all supporters and helpers for making it a great day.

Elsewhere last weekend BVGS crews were acquitting themselves with some distinction on the water at the Henley Regatta. Ian Bousfield, Teacher i/c Rowing and Min Egan were delighted to see BVGS beating more teams than last year.

Last weekend also saw the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition to Malvern for Year 10 boys. Cara Lawson, Helen Pitt and Dave Ellis OV were all delighted with the positive way in which the boys engaged with the expedition.

At the start of the week we welcomed top educationalist, Graham Powell, to school. Graham led a team of BVGS staff volunteers to observe 75 lessons with a focus on how students learn. This is part of us implementing the Building Learning Habits programme at BVGS. This programme is designed to make our students better learners: to encourage them to ask more questions, to be more curious and more independent and resilient. This is not a fad. We believe that improving how students learn is central to improving the school further over the coming five years and beyond.

Many of our students already have excellent learning habits. On Monday afternoon Beth Gainford, New Head of Year in the Sixth Form, organised a cream tea celebration event for the L6 Extended Project students. The Extended Project is a superb qualification which encourages students to investigate a particular academic issue they are interested in. In between mouthfuls of scones and strawberries, we were treated to three excellent presentations by the L6. Leo Tsoi gave a thoughtful presentation on why Art is interpreted differently by people. Oliver Ayto gave a charismatic presentation on his investigation about the causes of the 2011 English summer riots. Finally Chris Wood presented on the way in which he had designed and created a new superhero mask for a DC character. Such a range of intelligent responses!
On Tuesday we held our annual Year 7 Performance Evening. It was brilliant to see our students performing on stage whether that be singing, playing a brass instrument, reading out excerpts from their short stories or acting sketches they had written. All the parents I spoke to on the evening really enjoyed it. Thanks to Maryann Dye, Director of Music and Sarah Slater, Second in English in particular for masterminding this fun event.

Every week we carefully track achievement and behaviour points across the school. Currently for Year 7-10 students are attaining 15 achievement points to every behaviour point. By year group this breaks down as follows: Year 7 - 15:1, Year 8 - 19:1, Year 9 - 11:1 and Year 10 - 11:1. Well done to Year 8 who are leading the pack currently and well done also to the Year 8 and Year 9 students who enjoyed their reward trips to Drayton Manor this week.

On Wednesday we welcomed our new Year 7 to Induction Day for some taster lessons. According to the boys the highlights included setting alcohol on fire in Chemistry and a crash course in Spanish speaking as well as lunch of course! Thanks to Kevin Doughty, Head of Year 7 and Angela Kite i/c Admissions and all the teachers for putting on a great first day for all the new boys. It was also nice to see the Year 10 registrars and prefects doing a fantastic job of looking after the new Year 7s. One Year 10, without prompting, even paid for a new Year 7 student’s lunch after the horrified young man realised he hadn’t got any money with him!

Today it is the turn of our new Lower Sixth to be inducted. Thanks again to the student officer team and staff for organising a valuable day.

Our German Exchange party have returned from a fun packed week in Bayreuth thanks to Rudi Gotschel, Head of Languages, Laura Diprose and Nicole Stodian for organising a great trip.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of adjudicating the Year 9 House Music Festival with the support of two A Level Musicians, Ellen Rhodes and Jessica Ridout. We were blown away by the confidence and skill of all the performers. Well done to them and the competition winners: Tom Parkes, Harrison Payne, Philip Reader, Joe Perrin, Jon-Jon Tian, Balamrit Sokhal, Edward Stanley, Ben Wallace, Amarpal Johal, Daniel Jolaosho, James Cutting, Luca Beech, Eben Gutteridge, James Batten, Louis Kill-Brown.

It is always great to welcome Old Veseyans back to school. Yesterday we had the pleasure of the company of Jack Whiting OV who has just completed his second year at Bristol University reading Medicine. He gave an excellent talk to our MedSoc. Well done Jack

It has been really good hearing about the successes of our Sixth Form Chemists in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Jerry Cao, Sofia Chowdry, William Dutton, Alexander Stavrou, Joseph Adams, Robert Huskisson, David James, James Nesbitt, Daisy Powell, Ellen Rhodes, Harry Porter, Dylan Thiarya, Madeleine Turner, Suliman Ali, and Katherine Wharton.

Today we have held non-uniform day for the Multiple System Atrophy Trust. Thanks to your generosity we have raised: £574.70.

Good luck to all Year 10 who embark upon work experience for the coming fortnight. We wish them a profitable summer holiday and thank them for their hard work and commitment through this academic year.

Please note the sport section of the website http://bvgs.co.uk/index.php/about/sports/sports-fixtures-and-results. You will see that all of as all of next season’s Hockey and Rugby fixtures have already been loaded.

A big well done to Team Cohesion, our award winning Midlands Envision Team who won the Community Apprentice Award last week.
And finally, what a brilliant opportunity our rowers had this week. They had special VIP treatment at Henley on Wednesday and enjoyed meeting Sir Steve Redgrave. Wow!

Have a great weekend and make sure you have got your Artsfest tickets for Tuesday.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Robson  
Headteacher

Dr John Craggs DL PhD FCMA  
Chairman of Governors

Quote of the Week:
What we have to do... is to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities.

Hillary Clinton

Dates for your diary:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 July</td>
<td>Artsfest 7.00pm til late</td>
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<td>Wednesday 9 July</td>
<td>House Music Festival (Years 7 and 8)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 July</td>
<td>Bastille Day Celebrations (three days early)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15 July</td>
<td>Main School Presentation Evening</td>
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<td>Friday 18 July</td>
<td>Break up for Summer Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2 September</td>
<td>First day back, Year 7 and L6</td>
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<td>Wednesday 3 September</td>
<td>Autumn term commences - all years</td>
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