Dear Parents/Carers

This time of year is full of welcomes and departures. We had a lovely Leavers’ Ball at Villa Park last Friday and today we welcomed our new Lower Sixth for their Induction Day. I loved the innovation in evidence from our new Officer Team with the introduction of a murder mystery activity!

New Year 7 Induction

What do you remember about your first day at secondary school? On Wednesday 4 July, we held our new Year 7 induction day. They all had a great first day. Thank you to the Prefects and Registrars who so brilliantly supported the induction day: Registrar team – led by Jack Lees, Senior Registrar, spent most of the day supporting the new Veseyans: Vraj Shah, Sam Gill, James Whithouse, William Jackson, Luke Barrios, Gabriel Plume, Mohammed Al-Hussein, Sam Godsell, Akshay Gogna. The prefect team who supported at the beginning of the day were: Sanam Hashi (Senior Prefect), Mithun Padmanabhan (Senior Prefect), Charlie Richards (Senior Prefect), Ravi Sharma, Matt Connell, Dan Jones, Oliver Pratt, Jack Glover, Omar Syed.

Year 8 Reward Day

On Thursday our Year 8's were rewarded for their positive contributions to BVGS of the past year, whether that is in, or outside the classroom. They were enjoyed playing on the inflatables which included a total wipeout sweeper, bouncy castle and assault course. The fastest house of the day through the assault course was White House and Dan George of Red House recorded the fastest individual time of the day.

Parliamentary Debating

Well done to School Captain, Shoaib Sheraz and Bethan Davage, who did a very fine job of representing B VGS in the Sutton Schools’ Parliamentary Debating Competition. As the 2017 winners, it was a pleasure to host last night’s excellent event. Well done to Fairfax, who won the overall debate.
Art Exhibition

The Art Exhibition last night was a huge success. We have been so lucky, thanks to Jenny Anderson, to host our exhibition at the Argentea Gallery on St Paul's Square, Birmingham. What an honour and a privilege! We had a packed crowd for the event, including Bob Warman, ITV newsreader. And the art on display was just brilliant. We had lots of lovely emails from parents including: 'It was truly wonderful to see all of the art work and hugely inspirational for my son to see the journey and some of the outstanding creativity of both peers and older students. there was some very thought-provoking and captivating art we very much enjoyed. My son has come home and dived straight into a new project, burning with inspiration and energy'.

Music Tour 29 June - 3 July

This year, the BVGS Music Department travelled to Europe for the first tour in over two decades! As one parent put it 'A great time was had by all and some wonderful memories in the bank.' Led by Mr Buxton, they stayed in Belgium performing there, as well as in Germany and the Netherlands. The performances were all outdoors and featured everyone from the Orchestra to the Dhol and Tabla Ensemble. Thank you to Mr Götschel, Mr Davis, Miss Field, Mr Lavelle, Miss Jones, Mr Ali and Mr Buxton for supporting a wonderful experience.

Oxbridge Seminar

Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School are hosting an Oxbridge Seminar from 4.30pm on Wednesday 11 July, which will be led by; Dr Sam Lucy, Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges and our Oxford link College, Keble. We would like to extend the invitation to all students and parents from Year 10 upwards. Please e-mail Mr Goodwin at d.goodwin@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk to book your place. The event will be over by 5.30pm; which will allow enough time for everyone to watch the World Cup Semi-Final, which might feature the England Football Team.

Student safety over the summer

In the remaining few weeks of the school term, and over the summer holidays we would like to take the opportunity to raise awareness with parents and students regarding simple measures for our students to stay safe. We advise all students who walk to and from school, to avoid walking alone; students are always advised to walk in pairs or small groups. We always advise students to trust their instinct and if a stranger was to approach them and they were to feel scared or uncomfortable, students are advised to be assertive, try to get away as soon as possible and find a safe place to be where they can speak to a responsible adult. It is important note that incidents of this nature are extremely rare in the UK but we should never become complacent.
Following a recent increase in water safety related incidents during the hotter weather we would like to remind parents and students of the Water Safety Code which gives clear guidance and can be summarised as : Spot the Dangers; Learn about the safety advice given on noticeboards, signs or flags; go to locations with water together and with an adult; learn how to help people who get into difficulty. Further detail on the Water Safety Code can be accessed via - https://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/children-young-people/

We would also like to take the opportunity to provide some guidance on the use of the internet and social media applications over the summer break. Internet matters.org is a well-recognised and up-to-date source of information for parents and schools regarding the every changing nature of social media applications, online gaming etc. There is age-related guidance which is extremely useful as well as how to use parental controls to manage your child’s usage of the internet. Further information can be accessed here: https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/

### Man Up

On Monday 2 July, Manic Arts performed their drama entitled 'Man Up' to all Year 10 students. The drama is the company’s response to the growing number of suicides amongst young people and, in particular, young men. Suicide is now the biggest cause of death in young people under the age of 25 and 80% of them are young males. Every day 2 people in England under 24 take their own lives. Organised by Kate Steadman, the drama told the story of 4 male friends aged fifteen and sixteen and the students were able to ask the characters questions about their thoughts and feelings. After the play, the students were split into smaller groups for a workshop which focused upon how to talk to your friends about your own and their feelings. At the end of the session, all students wrote a message of support to anyone with suicidal thoughts which will be displayed in school.

At Bishop Vesey’s, we take the mental health of our students very seriously. Students are encouraged to talk to a trusted adult about their concerns and feelings. Papyrus, a charity established by parents whose children have died by suicide, have an advice line which is free to contact for those under 35 seeking help and those concerned about a young person. The number for HOPEline is 0800 068 4141. There is further information and support for the prevention of suicide at www.papyrus-org.uk and www.cwmt.org.uk, the website for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust.

### Millennium Point to provide Science funding for BVGS

Birmingham’s Millennium Point Trust has awarded more than £21,000 to the Design and Robotics Club at Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School for new robotics machinery and a 3D printer, which will be ready for use in September. The presentation was made by Judith Armstrong, Chief Executive of Millennium Point, during a tour of the school.
This year's UCAS Fair took a slightly different format with a large number of Russell Group universities in attendance running subject-specific sessions and personal statement workshops. Academic staff from the Universities of Nottingham, Sheffield, Birmingham, Durham, Loughborough, Sheffield, Imperial College and Edinburgh delivered seminars on a variety of topics. We were particularly delighted to welcome back Suliman Ali (OV) who has just completed his third year in a medical degree at Imperial College, London. Thank you to Dr Reilly for organising this event.

**Centrestage - Speech lessons 2018/9 - Places available**

We have 40 new Year 7 pupils beginning Speech lessons at BVGS in September, but we also have some places available in our classes for pupils from Yr 8 - 11. Classes cost £85.00 for a term of ten lessons, and pupils will be prepared for at least one LAMDA examination each academic year. Speech lessons take place during the school day on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you are interested in your son learning this essential skill, and would like further information, please email admin@centrestageschool.org.uk by 12.07.18. Thank you.

**Y10 GCSE speaking and listening presentations in English**

Fascinating and exceptional, Year 10 have conducted themselves brilliantly during their GCSE speaking and listening presentations for English this week. From the bombing of Dresden, the rise of the theatre to anabolic steroids and an evaluation of the education system, we have been amazed by the wide range of presented topics and the effort that has gone in to the preparation of each presentation. As an audience, they have listened to one another with the greatest respect. A superb way to end Year 10 English lessons – well done to you all.

**RAF Cosford visit**

Miss Langham visited RAF museum in Cosford on Wednesday with Oliver Gray-Nimmo, Joel Stainthorpe and Ellis McKenzie where they collected their certificates for their entries to the 'Never Such Innocence’ poetry writing competition commemorating WW1. Ellis read his poem out.

**Duke of Edinburgh**

This weekend sees our 97-strong DofE cohort undertake their Qualifying Expedition. Our Silver students, together with Mr Greenwood and Mr Brown are currently in the Peak District, tomorrow the Bronze students join them. The Bronze students should re-read the information on the letter about the expedition if they have any queries, and make sure to bring hats, sun cream and drinks with them.
Sutton Community Games

Year 12 students are again taking part in The Sutton Community Games, to be held in Sutton Park this Saturday and Sunday. Last year’s Games saw record numbers of visitors, with over 10,000 local people taking up the offer of free sports at Wyndley Leisure Centre. Our students are volunteering as ‘Games Makers,’ helping to provide an unforgettable experience for all the visitors. Why not come and celebrate the summer down in Sutton Park?

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who gained awards in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (C3L6): Nina Adriano – Gold, Molly Castagna – Silver, Chester Powell – Silver, Kieran Thiarya – Silver, Neddy Tsoi – Silver, James Tunstall – Silver, Oksana Zimina – Silver, Lewis Brett-Iverson – Copper, Bethan Durham – Copper, Matthew Goring – Copper, Alison Hewitt – Copper, Madonna Jonhera – Copper, Julia Kwasniewska – Copper, Molly Markham – Copper, Rebecca Powell – Copper, Vivienne Robert – Copper, Shoaib Sheraz – Copper, Jake Smith – Copper, Holly West – Copper.

Library

Have you organised your summer holiday reading? You can borrow up to 4 books for the summer. Ask in the library or take a look at the box next to the staff room...

Summer Barbeque

Dear Parents and Alumni, Would you like to come to our BVGS Business Networking session on Thursday 12 July? 6-8pm at school for a fabulous summer BBQ. Please e-mail b.davies@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk if you are interested in attending.

Merit Winners

Hockey selection

I am pleased to announce that the following students have been selected to represent the West Midlands at U15 hockey for the 2018/2019 season: Dan George 8R, Morgan Davage 9G and Oliver Gray-Nimmo 9G. This recognition is an important step up from playing County hockey and represents their progression on the official England Hockey pathway. Well done boys!

Rowing

On Tuesday we went to Birmingham Schools Regatta where our year 7 and 8 raced in training boats and demonstrated boat skills in a series of challenges. It was a great day that tested our boys against some other schools across the city. Out of some great performances across both year groups there were 4 medals won in year 7 by George Howell, Alex Kitteridge Heirbaut, Stuart Gardner and Dom Higginbotham and Lucas Nix in year 8 also picking up a medal.

Last Friday our senior rowers went to Henley Royal Regatta. We raced in two coxless quads in the qualifying time trial for selection for the regatta. Some excellent performances from both crews saw us beating a crew from Maidenhead Rowing Cub and The Leys School, Cambridge. To compete at such a high level in rowing is excellent and is a real testament to the work that goes into our rowing programme by our young men and the staff that support rowing who train out of sight on a daily basis throughout the whole school year. Well done!

House Tennis

Y9 House Tennis won by 'Indigo' House after a combined effort from Purple and Blue House.

Cricket

U’15 ‘a’ had a convincing win over Kings Worcester to finish off their season. BVGS amassed 275 for 8 in 35 overs with Clarke Wells 75, Oliver Curwen 62 and useful contributions from Qasim Arshad and Mithun Padmanabhan. Kings were rolled out for just 65 in reply with Curwen and Wells both taking 3 wickets each.

The Under 14A cricketers were left agonisingly short in the Warwickshire Cup Final against Rugby School last Friday, losing by just 2-runs. Batting first, Rugby scored a 121/8 from their 20-overs thanks to some excellent bowling from Sachin Dubb 3/16, Shailan Srikanthan 2/18 and Arjun Bala 0/15.

In response, Vesey were 99/1 with 6-overs remaining before two wickets in consecutive deliveries accounted for Dubb (61) and Umair Choudhry (22) turned the game in favour of the hosts. The team were able to shake off the disappointment on Saturday with a 137-run victory over Kings Worcester. Sachin Dubb top-scored again with 65, before late cameos from Oliver Gray-Nimmo (23) and Louis Cole (25*). Vesey then bowled Kings out for just 64, with Bala 3/24, Murria 2/5 and man-of-the-match Cole (3/11) all bowling well.

**Cricket Awards Dinner**

This year's Cricket Awards Dinner are to be held at Moor Hall Hotel on Friday 13 July from 19:00. The speaker has been confirmed as Brinder Phagura (OV), who plays for Staffordshire CCC. Tickets are £25 for adults and £15 for under-18s, to include a three-course meal and can be purchased from Mrs Foster in the School Club Office.

**Parking in the vicinity of the school**

We would like to remind all parents/carers to please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your sons from Boswell Road, or the surrounding area. 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.

Wishing Year 10 an excellent work experience and a fantastic summer and a warm welcome to our Chinese visitors tomorrow (thank you to Mr Buxton, Mr Bowen and all our host families.

Have a great weekend.

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

John Craggs DL MBE
Chairman of Governors
**Book of the Week**

*BOOK OF THE WEEK*

Haunting, tragic and distressing, in what it reveals about man’s inhumanity to man, *Refugee Boy* is also an affirming story of one boy’s amazing courage and several other individuals’ goodness and integrity. Caught up in the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Allen’s life is in danger at times. To make sure he survives, Allen’s father brings him to Britain and abandons him to seek asylum and find a new and better life. The story of how Allen retains his dignity and independence in the most challenging of circumstances while also adapting to the demands of a new life is strongly told.

“It has loads of feelings and emotions packed into one book. Despite this, none of these are over-powering. It’s also a great book for someone who doesn’t enjoy reading.”

*Cameron Chauhan 9B*

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**BVGS Art Exhibition**

The Argentea Gallery is a sought after contemporary space which attracts many international artists, so this is an excellent opportunity. There will be work on display and sale from many students across all Key Stages, as well as work from staff and stakeholders of the school. You are all invited to attend either of the evenings. This event is free, includes refreshments for adults, and I can guarantee you will find the work amazing.

**Argentea Gallery:** 28 St Paul’s Square, Birmingham B3 1RB

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**Quote of the Week**

We stepped up when it mattered

*Harry Kane*
Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2018

Friday 29 June - Tuesday 3 July  
Music Tour
Friday 29 June  
Leavers' Ball
Monday 2 July  
University Fair
Wednesday 4 July  
Y7 Transition Day
Thursday 5 and Friday 6 July  
Art Exhibition Argentea Gallery, St Paul's Square
Thursday 5 July  
Parliamentary Debating Competition, 18:00 - 21:30
Friday 6 July  
Sixth Form Induction Day
Friday 6 July  
DofE Silver Expedition
Saturday 7 July  
DofE Bronze Expedition
Saturday 7 July  
Sutton Community Games
Saturday 7 July  
Chinese exchange visit begins
Monday 9 July  
Work Experience fortnight for Year 10 beings
Tuesday 10 July  
Holocaust survivor, Janine Webber, visits school
Wednesday 11 July - Sunday 15 July  
Rhineland Trip
Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 July  
Y7 Whitemoor Lakes
Wednesday 11 July  
Shaggy Dogs Tea Party
Friday 13 July - Saturday 21 July  
World Challenge to Norway Group 1
Monday 16 July  
Main School Presentation Evening, 19:00 - 21:00
Friday 13 July  
Junior Cricket Dinner at Moor Hall 19:00 - 22:00
Sunday 15 July - Monday 23 July  
World Challenge to Norway Group 2
Tuesday 17 July  
A Midsummer Night's Dream at The Pavilion, 17:00
Wednesday 18 July  
Y7 trip to Kenilworth Castle
To be confirmed  
House Music Festival
Friday 20 July  
School breaks up at 12:15

Term Dates can be found here.