26 October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

**Founder's Day**

Today we mark the founding of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School in 1527. As usual we finish the October half-term with our annual service for people of faith or none at Holy Trinity Church where John Vesey’s tomb is located. Our guest speaker is [Mrs Mahmooda Qureshi](#) from the organisation Hope not Hate. Photos to follow.

**House Competition Half-Term Scores**

The scores are:

- Blue 129
- Red 128
- Gold 115
- White 110
- Purple 85

These scores are accurate as of 25 October, but don’t include House Bake-Off Competition results. Everything is to play for in the second half of the Michaelmas term.

**The Craggs Shield Junior House Music Competition**

Congratulations to all our House Music Finalists. The worthy winners were: Third: Alex Dixon, Second: Ethan Miller, First: Jeevan Braich. A big thank you to [Mr Buxton](#), Director of Music for organising with the support of the fabulous peri team, [Mrs Overton](#), [Mr Wamsley](#), [Mr Boyle](#) and our adjudicator [Mr Stuart Birnie](#), Head of the Birmingham Music Service.

**Goodbye to Dr John Craggs**

On Tuesday we honoured our retired Chair of Governors, Dr John Craggs MBE. Thank you to all who attended. We wish John and his family the very best for the future.
LGBT Themed Bake Off

On Thursday 25 October, we had a House Bake-Off competition for Key Stage Three. Cakes were designed based upon a rainbow theme. The entries were very impressive ranging from a seven layer sponge with each layer being a different colour of the rainbow to a cake with skittles inside it. The competition was organised by Equality Officers, Joshua Littleford, Vivienne Roberts and Haleema Shireen and was judged by House Officers, an experience they particularly enjoyed for the taste testing! In Year 7, the winning entry was by Charlie Morris (7B) for his chocolate creation covered in multi-coloured smarties (pictured above, centre). In Year 8 the joint winners were Ben Birch (8B) and Ben White (8R) (cake pictured above, left) and Year 9 was Ben Faulkner (9W). Congratulations to all who took part. All entrants will receive merits and a certificate. The cakes were sold at lunchtime raising in excess of £80 for the Birmingham LGBT charity. Pictured is Reece Marsay (8G) with his cake. Thank you to Miss Hearn and Miss Steadman for supporting this event.

Erdington Youth Parliament

On Monday 22 October, four of our L6 students were part of the fourth Erdington Youth Parliament, chaired by Jack Dromey MP for Erdington. Elliot Brown, Anas Fasih, Grace Orimoyegun and Finlay Port debated motions related to Youth Services and Mental Health in Education during the sessions in the committee rooms of the House of Commons. They were also treated to addresses from Preet Gill MP and John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. All of our students spoke excellently and impressed Jack Dromey with their passion and participation. The students had a really fun day out and came away with a new appreciation for the processes of democracy and parliament. Their next step is to help Jack launch the manifesto back in Erdington. It is inspiring to see students standing up and pushing for positive change in their local communities.
Year 7 Bookmark Competition

Well done to the winners of Year 7 Bookmark Competition organised by Miss Hearn and Miss Brown. Here they are following a trip to Waterstones on Thursday.

The winning bookmarks

Year 7 Thrive

This week’s Thrive mission was Morse Code. Thank you to Miss Hearn and the Thrive Team for pioneering this new character education initiative.
Netball Winners

Well done to our County Championship winning Netball Team. Both sets of girls played exceptionally well in the recent tournament.

Thank you to Mrs Clarke for leading Netball in another year of success and pressure.

Charity Chess Competition

A big thank you to Ethan Chan-Smith and Tighe Crook for running a very successful Chess competition for Years 7 and 8 this week.

Congratulations to the Merit Winners

Extra-Curricular Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before School Activities</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sports Hall</strong></td>
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<td>Senior Rowing Weights 07:30 - 08:30</td>
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<td>Rowing Fitness 07:30 - 08:30</td>
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<td>Y8 Badminton 08:30</td>
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<td><strong>Music Centre</strong></td>
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<td>Brass Band 08:15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Break-time Activities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Music Centre</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guitar Ensemble</td>
<td>Keyboard Club</td>
<td>Saxophone Ensemble</td>
<td>Guitar Club</td>
<td>Clarinet Ensemble Flute Ensemble</td>
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### Lunch-time Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music Centre</td>
<td>Wind Band</td>
<td>Vesey Corps - Drumline</td>
<td>Lower school Choir (Y7-10)</td>
<td>Funky Bishops Percussion Ensemble</td>
<td>String Ensemble Lest We Forget - Boys Chamber Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Big School</td>
<td>Y7 Drama 13:30 - 14:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hive</td>
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<td>MedSoc in the Hive</td>
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<td>Room 7</td>
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<td>Christian Union</td>
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<td>Debating 13:15-13:50 (all years)</td>
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<td>Room 8</td>
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<td>DoFe Y10 13:45</td>
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<td>Room 11</td>
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<td>DoFe Y9 13:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>FF9</td>
<td>Chess all years 13:15-14:00</td>
<td>Robotics Club</td>
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<td>Code Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 20</td>
<td>German 13:25 - 13:45</td>
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<td>Polish Club Room 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 19</td>
<td>Spanish Charla y Chacharea Y11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spanish Charla y Chacharea Y13</td>
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<td>Room 26</td>
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<td>Clay Club</td>
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<td>Room 28</td>
<td>KS3 Batik Art Club</td>
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<td>Room 48</td>
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<td>Y7 Science Club</td>
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### After School Activities 15:30 - 16:30

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music Centre</td>
<td>KS3 Music Tech Composers Club</td>
<td>Orchestra</td>
<td>Keyboard Ensemble</td>
<td>Senior Choir (Y10-13) (M2) GCSE Extra session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big School</td>
<td>Y9/10/11 Drama until 16:45</td>
<td>Y8 Drama until 16:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 19</td>
<td>Spanish Y11 Boot Camp/Mentor Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 24</td>
<td>Strategy Board Games 15:30 - 17:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mandarin 15:30 - 16:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>FF9</td>
<td>Mandarin 15:30 - 16:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astroturf</td>
<td>Senior Hockey Year 8 Rugby</td>
<td>Year 7 Hockey</td>
<td>Year 8 Hockey (Y7) Rugby</td>
<td>Year 9 and 10 Hockey and Rugby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powell’s Pool</td>
<td>Senior and Y10 Rowing</td>
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<td>Y8 and 9 Rowing 16:00 - 17:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>Y8 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Senior Rugby 15:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Y7 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Y8 &amp; 10 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Girls Rugby 15:30 - 17:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Hall</td>
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<td>Y8 Badminton 15:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Astro</td>
<td>Senior Hockey</td>
<td>Y7 Hockey</td>
<td>Y8 Hockey</td>
<td>Y9&amp;10 Hockey</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We are hearing lots of good reports of the Junior Hockey Tour to Scotland (photos to follow)
Have a great half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Robson
Headteacher

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### Astro Turf Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK1</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports Hall</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Yr8/9 Table Tennis</td>
<td>Yr10/11 Table Tennis Running Yr 7-10</td>
<td>Yr7 Table Tennis – 6th Form Leaders</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Rowing Room</td>
<td>Yr9 Indoor Rowing – Yr11 Leaders</td>
<td>Yr8 Indoor Rowing – Yr10 Leaders</td>
<td>Indoor Rowing – Yr10 Leaders</td>
<td>Yr7 Indoor Rowing – Yr10 Leaders</td>
<td>Yr10 Indoor Rowing – 6th Form Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Field (Wk1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitch 3</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Football - GG</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Football - GG</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Football – GG</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Football - GG</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Football - GG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pitch 2</td>
<td>Yr9/10/11 Football</td>
<td>Yr9/10/11 Football</td>
<td>Yr9/10/11 Football</td>
<td>Yr9/10/11 Football</td>
<td>Yr9/10/11 Football</td>
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</tbody>
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### Book of the Week

"It's humorous and full of action. It's a great series and it hooks you in. One of the best and most interesting anime series."
**Jordan Adoghe 9W**

"It is funny yet full of action and has a great story."
**Noah Green 10W**
**Art Star of the Week**

**Jack Lees 11W.** Jack continues to develop work which is highly skilful and unique. He has kept to the theme of Natural Forms for his G.C.S.E coursework, however his experimentation of surface, colour and texture has conveyed even the simple 'orange' into an eye-catching and creative study. Jack has the ability to work with lots of different media, to an exceptional grade.

**Quote of the Week**

Don’t count the days, make the days count.

Muhammad Ali

**An advert from one of our corporate partners programme:**

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Delivering high-quality solutions to businesses across a range of sectors, Honeybourne is a leading construction expert and property management company with a passion for innovation. Whether it be assisting with an office refurbishment or providing temporary facilities, Honeybourne has the expertise needed to address every enquiry effectively. Look at their website for further details https://honeybourne.uk.com

**Letters issued this week:**

- Match Fees
- Year 11 Mock Examinations
- L6 Parent Handbook Letter
- L6 Parent Handbook
### Dates for your Diary

#### Autumn Term 2018

- **Friday 26 October**: Founder’s Day, Break up for half term
- **Wednesday 31 October**: Oxbridge Admissions Tests
- **Monday 5 November**: Autumn Term recommences
- **Wednesday 7 November**: School closes 12:15, Sixth Form Open Evening 16:00
- **Friday 9 November**: Remembrance Day Services in School
- **Friday 9 November**: Oxbridge and early entry interview afternoon 13:00
- **Saturday 10 November**: MEP intensive learning day
- **Wednesday 21 November**: Year 9 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Friday 30 November**: School Closes 12:15
- **Saturday 10 November**: MEP intensive learning day, Year 9 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Monday 7 January**: Spring term commences
- **Thursday 17 January**: Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
- **Friday 18 January**: Year 7 and 8 disco at BVGS
- **Thursday 24 January**: Year 11 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00, Six Nations Rugby Event
- **Friday 1 February**: Senior Soloists’ Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 8 February**: Whole School Review Day and Careers Fair, PA Comedy Night
- **Friday 15 February**: Break up for half term, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Monday 25 February**: Term recommences, Ladies’ Lunch at Moor Hall
- **Wednesday 6 March**: Year 10 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 14 March**: PA Annual Quiz
- **Friday 22 March**: Year 8 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 28 March**: Year 7 and 8 PA Disco at SCGSG, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 5 April**: Students break up for Easter
- **Tuesday 9 April**: Staff Training Day
- **Thursday 11 April**: Summer term commences
- **Friday 12 April**: Summer term commences
- **Monday 29 April**: May Day Bank Holiday
- **Monday 6 May**: New Year 7 Induction Evening 18:00 - 20:30

#### Spring Term 2019

- **Monday 7 January**: Spring term commences
- **Thursday 17 January**: Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
- **Friday 18 January**: Year 7 and 8 disco at BVGS
- **Thursday 24 January**: Year 11 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00, Six Nations Rugby Event
- **Friday 1 February**: Senior Soloists’ Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 8 February**: Whole School Review Day and Careers Fair, PA Comedy Night
- **Friday 15 February**: Break up for half term, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Monday 25 February**: Term recommences, Ladies’ Lunch at Moor Hall
- **Wednesday 6 March**: Year 10 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 14 March**: PA Annual Quiz
- **Friday 22 March**: Year 8 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 28 March**: Year 7 and 8 PA Disco at SCGSG, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 5 April**: Students break up for Easter
- **Tuesday 9 April**: Staff Training Day
- **Thursday 11 April**: Summer term commences
- **Friday 12 April**: Summer term commences
- **Monday 29 April**: May Day Bank Holiday
- **Monday 6 May**: New Year 7 Induction Evening 18:00 - 20:30

#### Summer Term 2019

- **Monday 7 January**: Spring term commences
- **Thursday 17 January**: Year 9 Options Evening 16:30 - 18:30
- **Friday 18 January**: Year 7 and 8 disco at BVGS
- **Thursday 24 January**: Year 11 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00, Six Nations Rugby Event
- **Friday 1 February**: Senior Soloists’ Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 8 February**: Whole School Review Day and Careers Fair, PA Comedy Night
- **Friday 15 February**: Break up for half term, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Monday 25 February**: Term recommences, Ladies’ Lunch at Moor Hall
- **Wednesday 6 March**: Year 10 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 14 March**: PA Annual Quiz
- **Friday 22 March**: Year 8 Parents’ Evening 16:00 - 19:00
- **Thursday 28 March**: Year 7 and 8 PA Disco at SCGSG, Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
- **Friday 5 April**: Students break up for Easter
- **Tuesday 9 April**: Staff Training Day
- **Thursday 11 April**: Summer term commences
- **Friday 12 April**: Summer term commences
- **Monday 29 April**: May Day Bank Holiday
- **Monday 6 May**: New Year 7 Induction Evening 18:00 - 20:30
Thursday 16 May       Junior Sports Dinner at Veseyans
Friday 17 May        PA Race Night
Thursday 23 May      Students break up for half term
Friday 24 May        Staff training day
Monday 3 June        Term recommences
Friday 7 June        Golf Day
Friday 21 June       Year 7 and 8 Disco at BVGS (tbc)
Saturday 22 June     OVA Sports Reunion
Thursday 27 June     School closes at 12:15
                      Open Day 16:00 - 19:00
Friday 28 June       Staff Training Day
Saturday 13 July     PA Family summer party
Monday 15 July       KS3 Main School Presentation Evening 19:00 - 21:00
Friday 19 July       Break up for summer holiday

Parents' Evenings 2018-19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 November</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>16:00 - 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 January</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>16:00 - 19:00</td>
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<td>Thursday 14 March</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>16:00 - 19:00</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>16:00 - 19:00</td>
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<td>Thursday 2 May</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>16:00 - 19:00</td>
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