

DGR/sw

1 March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Growing up Gifted: BVGS Outreach**

As a School, we are committed to social mobility. We have had a fairer admissions policy in place for Year 7 (since 2017) and Sixth Form (since 2016). We work with primary schools and secondary schools to raise aspirations.

It was nice to see our work noted on BBC2 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. This followed a student from St John Wall secondary school in Handsworth, who wants to attend Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Sixth Form. The clip pertaining to Bishop Vesey's Grammar school takes place within the first 10 minutes of the programme

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0002td6/growing-up-gifted-year-2-episode-2>

Elsewhere, this week, our Sixth Formers have been working with Year 11 students at Washwood Heath secondary school. We received a lovely letter from the Head of Year 11 at Washwood Heath:

**"I wanted to say a huge thank you to both yourself and the pupils for coming over to see us yesterday. They were absolutely fantastic and a real credit to your school. I was impressed by their confidence, not just in the presentation but also when they then talked to our pupils in the smaller groups, especially as some of ours were very shy at that stage.**

**Our pupils found it extremely useful and wanted me to pass on their thanks and their appreciation. Two of the year 11 boys at the end came up to me and thanked me for arranging it and said it was one of the best things we have done with the year 11s which is very high praise indeed considering the study companies and motivational speakers that we have had in this year so please can you let your pupils know. Myself and Ms Bowen, one of our academic mentors, also found many of the things they said really helpful and I found myself repeating parts during the Year 11 Parents evening so thank you. I especially liked that they talked about smart use of time and still giving yourself time for the things you enjoy, something that many of our better pupils don't really understand. We find that some get very stressed and burnt out towards the end, so I was really pleased that they heard these messages from pupils who had just gone through the process and achieved fantastic grades. They also talked about the importance of being consistent and making sure they were doing something everyday which again is good advice for our pupils, who often do work in large chunks rather than cutting it down. A couple of other pupils have applied to you for Sixth Form and were particularly appreciative of the opportunity to hear from your students and then to speak to them."**

A huge thank you to the Sixth Formers who made this happen: **Joshua Russell, Elliot Brown, Miles Shelley, Alice Tinsley, Ellen Concannon, Freya Robinson, Sebastian Smith, Amy Lowe.**

**We are very proud of them all. Well done!**

### Intermediate Maths Challenge success, 2019

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February all students in years 9 and 10 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a 1 hour multiple choice paper consisting of 25 challenging Mathematical problems.

Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are awarded to the top 40% of students nationally in the ratio of 1:2:3. At BVGS a total of **173** students achieved a Bronze award or better, with 75 Bronzes, 69 Silvers and 29 Golds.

We have **16** students in year 9 and **12** students in year 10 who have qualified for the 'Kangaroo' follow up round.

We also have **8** students who have qualified for the prestigious Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad. Only around the top 500 students in the whole country in each year group qualify for this.

In year 9, **Harry Downen** (Best in year 9), **Daniel Fisher**, **Matthew Keeling** and **Suleman Ahmed** have all qualified for the Cayley Olympiad paper. In year 10, **Moonis Haider** (Best in school), **Duncan Schaafsma**, **Alistair Kitchin** and **Nader Takruri** have qualified for the Hamilton Olympiad paper. A massive well done to all students who have qualified for the Olympiad; it is a fantastic achievement! All follow up rounds are taking place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Thank you to Mr Beasley, Second in Mathematics, for making this opportunity happen.

### Zero behaviour points

I am delighted to report that so many boys in Years 7-11 did not receive any behaviour points in the last half term. They will all be receiving letters from the Head. Well done gentlemen.

### Safeguarding update

This week Kraig Gaynor from the Children's Society has been delivering presentations on Anti-Knife Crime through assemblies to all Key Stages of the school looking at the reality of knife crime, what is happening from a legal perspective and encouraging young people to take a stand against knife crime. Organised by Kate Steadman, this issue is extremely relevant not just nationally but in Birmingham with a number recent of recent fatalities.

Earlier this week, you may have seen the MOMO challenge reported in the media and received some guidance via school comms about it. The 'challenge' has now been reported as a malicious hoax. However, please do be aware that the digital world can be dangerous for young people and regular discussions about conducting themselves safely on line are vitally important both at school and home.

### BVGS through to Youth Speaks Regional Final

Well done to all involved in the Youth Speaks competition, which was hosted at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. We welcomed five esteemed

members of the Wylde Green Rotary Club who listened to a debate regarding the place of the Western canon in the modern school curriculum. Engaging presentations from Matthew McLaughlan and Pierce O'Reilly Spears led to their gaining a place in the regional finals of Youth Speaks.

#### Music For Youth: BVGS Choir sing at Symphony Hall



**Well done to Mr Buxton and the school choir for a fine performance at Symphony Hall on Monday for Music for Youth. It was a privilege to be asked to perform. It was a fantastic performance, which stole the show. A very fine example of outstanding secondary music education in action and support for the arts from BVGS.**

#### Sporting success

Well done to our Girls Rugby team, who played on Thursday in a tournament at Wisbech Grammar School, Cambridgeshire under the floodlights. They finished top on points with a fantastic win over Oundle School 42-32. Brilliant!



Elsewhere, it has also been a strong week of sport for both rugby and hockey as we near the end of their season for 2018/19. With 7s matches for both Seniors and Under 12s, the fixtures have been coming thick and fast.

The week, however, started with the Under 15 A and B hockey team drawing 3-3 and winning 6-2 respectively on Monday, over King Edward's School Birmingham. These results were then followed up by 3-2 and a 1-0 wins over Queen Mary's Grammar School on Tuesday for the U14 A and B sides to extend the unbeaten hockey run. The following day featured the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> teams who all managed to beat Queen Mary's Grammar School. The 1<sup>st</sup> team weren't quite able to reach the 11-0 score line they managed against Queen Mary's earlier in the season, however did still win comfortably 5-2. The 2<sup>nds</sup> won 5-0 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> team ended the run of results with a final 3-0 victory. The final year group in action this week for hockey, was the Under 12s, who played Bromsgrove School. The A team drew in a high scoring affair, 6-6 whilst the B team also drew but this time 1-1 in a fierce 7s match on Wednesday.

In rugby, the Under 18s played in a 7s tournament at Solihull School, playing 5 matches in their group before progressing to the quarter finals. They started off with a 20-14 victory over Monmouth School for Boys, before beating RGS Worcester 36-5 in their next match. 2 consecutive losses to St Peter's RC High School, Gloucester and Bloxham School: 17-22 and 14-28 respectively threatened their progress however a final victory over Stourport High School & Sixth Form Centre 29-24 cemented their 2<sup>nd</sup> place and progression from the group. In the quarter finals, however, they became unstuck against Bromsgrove School, losing 15-33. The experience was no doubt bitter sweet, as they had beaten the plate winner Stourport in the group having been knocked out to eventual winners Bromsgrove. Fantastic individual performances from the likes of **Matt Hurley** facilitated their fantastic run to the quarter finals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament of the day was hosted at Monmouth Schools for Boys for the Under 12 side (pictured below), who performed fantastically to end as runners up to Marling School, Stroud in the final for what was, for many, their first experience playing rugby 7s.



### Parents Teachers Friends Association

The PTFA remind you of ways in which you can help raise money for the school.

- Easy Fundraising - see the link [here](#) showing how
- 50/50 Club - details [here](#) NB: in order to make sure records are up to date, anyone not re-subscribed in September but still with a Standing Order for the 200 club can they please send Maxine Hanley their contact details, email and address by the 29th March

### Comedy Night

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend Friday's Comedy Night and a huge thank to **Luke Butcher** (10W) for managing the sound & lightning so expertly on the night

### Forthcoming Events

- **Annual Quiz - Friday 22 March in Big School (see details [here](#))**
- **Race Night - Friday 17 May**
- **Family summer party - Saturday 13 July**

## Lunch at Tiffany's - 6 March 2019 at Moor Hall Hotel and Spa

In response to the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural Spring Lunch, we have scheduled Lunch at Tiffany's on **Wednesday 6 March** at Moor Hall Hotel and Spa. The event begins at 10:30 am with a drinks reception on arrival; two course lunch and coffee; fashion show by Obsessions, Streetly Village; goodie bag; premium shopping; and musical entertainment throughout the day until the events close at 4:00pm. Tickets are £40 per person, or as tables of ten, and can be booked through Claire Bolton in the Development Office [c.bolton@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:c.bolton@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk). Payments can be made either via the School Club office; Heidi Middleton (Obsessions, Streetly Village) 0121 353 8825; or Julie Gray (Event Organiser, Amici) 07979 075877. We would be happy to group parents together on 'Year' tables, so please make this request known when booking tickets.

## Easy Fundraising

Did you know you can help support BVGS simply by booking your holiday this year? Use #easyfundraising to book your flight, package holiday or travel extras with over 250+ travel operators like First Choice, TUI, Thomas Cook, Expedia, Virgin Holidays, Booking.com, Jet2, Flybe and you'll raise a free donation for the school at no additional cost to you. The average family holiday booking could raise over £50 for us! Find out more, visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopveseysgrammar>

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Before School Activities					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Hall		Senior Rowing Weights 07:30 - 08:30		Rowing Fitness 07:30 - 08:30	Y8 Badminton 08:30
Music Centre				Brass Band 08:15	
Break-time Activities					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music Centre	Guitar Ensemble	Keyboard Club	Saxophone Ensemble	Guitar Club	Clarinet Ensemble Flute Ensemble
Lunch-time Activities					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music Centre	Wind Band	Vesey Corps - Drumline	Lower school Choir (Y7-10)	Funky Bishops Percussion Ensemble	String Ensemble Lest We Forget - Boys Chamber Choir
Old Big School		Y7 Drama 13:30 - 14:00			
Hive				MedSoc in the Hive	
B4				Christian Union	
Room 7	Debating 13:15-13:50 (all years)				
Room 8					DofE Y10 13:45
Room 11					DofE Y9 13:45
FF9		Chess all years 13:15-14:00	Robotics Club		Code Club
Room 20	German 13:25 - 13:45			Polish Club Room 20	

<b>Room 19</b>	Spanish Charla y Chacharea Y11				Spanish Charla y Chacharea Y13
<b>Room 26</b>				Clay Club	
<b>Room 28</b>	KS3 Batik Art Club				
<b>Room 48</b>			Y7 Science Club		BP Stem Challenge

### After School Activities 15:30 - 16:30

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Music Centre</b>	KS3 Music Tech Composers Club	Orchestra	Keyboard Ensemble	Senior Choir (Y10-13) (M2) GCSE Extra session	
<b>Big School</b>	Y9/10/11 Drama until 16:45	Y8 Drama until 16:45			
<b>Room 19</b>	Spanish Y11 Boot Camp/Mentor Monday				
<b>Room 24</b>				Strategy Board Games 15:30 - 17:30	
<b>FF9</b>	Mandarin 15:30 - 16:30			Mandarin 15:30 - 16:30	
<b>Astroturf</b>	Senior Hockey Year 8 Rugby	Year 7 Hockey Senior Rugby	Year 8 Hockey Year 7 Rugby	Year 9 and 10 Hockey and Rugby	
<b>Powell's Pool</b>	Senior and Y10 Rowing		Y8 and 9 Rowing 16:00 - 17:30		
<b>Pavilion</b>	Y8 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00	Senior Rugby 15:30 - 17:00	Y7 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00	Y9 & 10 Rugby 15:30 - 17:00	Girls Rugby 15:30 - 17:00
<b>Sports Hall</b>					Y8 Badminton 15:30
<b>Astro</b>	Senior Hockey	Y7 Hockey	Y8 Hockey	Y9&10 Hockey	

### Astro Turf Activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Basketball	Y8/9 Table Tennis	Y10/11 Table Tennis Running Club Y7-10 (Meet @ the Pavilion 13:15)	Y7 Table Tennis - Sixth Form Leaders	Basketball
<b>Indoor Rowing Room</b>	Y9 Indoor Rowing - Y11 Leaders	Y8 Indoor Rowing - Y10 Leaders	Indoor Rowing - Y10 Leaders	Y7 Indoor Rowing - Y10 Leaders	Y10 Indoor Rowing - Sixth Form Leaders
<b>Middle Field</b>					
<b>Pitch 3</b>	Y 7/8 Football	Y 7/8 Football	Y 7/8 Football	Y 7/8 Football	Y 7/8 Football
<b>Pitch 2</b>	Y9/10/11 Football	Y9/10/11 Football	Y9/10/11 Football	Y9/10/11 Football	Y9/10/11 Football
<b>Pitch 1</b>	Y7 Rugby Senior Hockey	Y8 Rugby Y9 Hockey	Y10 Rugby Y7 Hockey	Y9 Rugby Y10 Hockey	Senior Rugby Y8 Hockey

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



**Dominic Robson**  
Headteacher

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## Quote of the Week

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“A room without books is like a body without a soul” (Cicero)

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### Dates for your Diary

#### Spring Term 2019

Tuesday 5 March	An Inspector Calls production at school for Y11 8.55-10.55am
Tuesday 5 March	HE evening 6.30-7.45pm
Wednesday 6 March	School closes for training at 2.40pm
Wednesday 6 March	Ladies' Lunch at Moor Hall
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day with visit from author, Joe Craig
Tuesday 12 March	Open meeting for parents on exciting plans for the future of BVGS, 7.00-8.00pm
Wednesday 13 March	50 Year 10 students at Big Bang Fair
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Welcome Morning for new Year 7 parents and families, 9.15-10.30

Thursday 14 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Tuesday 19 March	Oxbridge Conference
Tuesday 19 March	Open meeting for local community on exciting plans for the future of BVGS, 7.00-8.00pm
Friday 22 March	Comic Relief non-uniform day
Friday 22 March	PTFA Annual Quiz
Thursday 28 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening 16:00 - 19:00
Friday 5 April	Year 7 and 8 PA Disco at SCGSG
Tuesday 9 April	Spring Concert 19:00 - 21:00
Thursday 11 April	DofE Parent/Student Information Evening (Bronze/Silver)

<b>Thursday 11 April</b>	<b>Students break up for Easter</b>
Friday 12 April	DofE Training Day in school and Sutton Park 08:45-16:00 (Silver only)

**Friday 12 April** **Staff Training Day**

#### Summer Term 2019

**Monday 29 April** **Summer term commences**

Saturday 4 May - Practice Expedition - Bronze

Sunday 5 May  
Saturday 4 May - Practice Expedition – Silver

Monday 6 May  
**Monday 6 May** **May Day Bank Holiday**

Thursday 9 May New Year 7 Induction Evening 18:00 - 20:30

Thursday 16 May Junior Sports Dinner at Veseyans

Friday 17 May PTFA 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 and possible Alumni Concert pm
<b>Thursday 27 June</b>	<b>School closes at 12:15</b> <b>Open Day 16:00 - 19:00</b>
<b>Friday 28 June</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
Friday 5 - Sunday 7 July	DofE Qualifying Expedition Silver
Saturday 6 July	DofE Qualifying Expedition Bronze
Sunday 7 July	
Saturday 13 July	PTFA Family summer party
Monday 15 July	KS3 Main School Presentation Evening 19:00 - 21:00
<b>Friday 19 July</b>	<b>Break up for summer holiday</b>

**Parents' Evenings 2018-19:**

Thursday 14 March	Year 10	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 28 March	Year 8	16:00 - 19:00
Thursday 2 May	Year 7	16:00 - 19:00