6th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our new students

Changing school is a significant and often daunting event. Our new students, Year 7 and Lower Sixth, have had an excellent new week. Well done to them! We look forward to seeing them develop and grow, both personally and academically, during their time here at Vesey.

Celebrating success

This summer we celebrated fabulous results. The headline of the article in the Observer on the 30th August aptly sums up the mood of our boys, their families and teachers: ‘It’s GCSGLEE as students create Bishop Vesey record with results’. With 72.4% of all entries awarded at grades 7,8 and 9 and the most common grade the highest possible, grade 9, there was a lot for the school to be proud of. Our ‘A’ level students accomplished outstanding grades too, with 76.1% of entries achieving A* to B. Seven students secured places at Ivy League or Oxbridge universities, and 11 students achieved an outstanding 3 or more A*s.

Link to ‘A’ Level results here: [https://bvgs.co.uk/2019-level-results](https://bvgs.co.uk/2019-level-results)


Link to GCSE results here: [https://bvgs.co.uk/2019-gcse-results/](https://bvgs.co.uk/2019-gcse-results/) (Alexander Tripp now has eight grade 9s).

GCSE Results Grid: [https://bvgs.co.uk/examinations/](https://bvgs.co.uk/examinations/)
Outside of the classroom, our Veseyans continue to make their mark. A special congratulations to Alex Bailey (U6V), gaining second place in the prestigious Keble College Religion and Theology Essay Competition of 2019. Congratulations also go to Luke Spencer (10B) who has been selected to represent Birmingham County Scout Association at the European Jamboree in Poland in July 2020.

In sports, The Forty Club (Patron HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT) has awarded the cricket XI team with the Spirit of Cricket Award in the West Midlands District. The award recognises exemplary sportsmanship and playing skills.

Drama continues to go from strength to strength, with two successful performances of the Jaberwocky last term. Results are coming in from the most recent LAMDA examinations and these will be communicated to the boys on Tuesday. Look out for the results breakdown, as well as stand out students, in next week’s letter.

Curriculum vision

Our mission (intent) for our curriculum is inspiration and excellence. We want all our learners, irrespective of background, to be scholars, well equipped for life beyond school, with a deep knowledge, understanding and life-long enthusiasm for the subjects they are studying.

Through our curricular and extra-curricular provision, we want to develop students of excellent character, responsible global citizens, who will make the world a better place through their kindness, thoughtfulness, confidence and resilience.

Mandarin Excellence Programme

We are once again offering our prestigious Mandarin Programme to students from Year 7. We held a meeting about this on Thursday evening. If for any reason, you missed this meeting but would like your son to be part of this programme, please contact m.wang@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk.

Enriching opportunities for Sixth Formers

The intern programme ran internally here at BVGS for Year 12 Students gives participants the chance to learn professional skills and gain practical work experience, all onsite under supervision. Follow this link for further information.
We are always looking at ways of enhancing our Sixth Form offer for students. On Wednesday 11th a weekly Zumba session will commence. If demand is there, a circuit session may be incorporated too. Students should be ready and changed for a 2pm start in Big School. An external coach will be coming in to run the sessions- all sixth formers welcome! Try something new during your first term at Vesey.

Activities Timetable Week Commencing Monday 9th September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</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>
<td>Basketball - KD</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>Yr10 Introduction to Weights</td>
<td>Scrum-Half/Fly-Half Technical Skills Session - DW</td>
<td>Basketball - DW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indoor Rowing Room</strong></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><strong>Pitch 3</strong></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><strong>Pitch 2</strong></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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<td></td>
<td>Senior Hockey – WS</td>
<td>Yr9 Hockey - WS</td>
<td>Yr7 Hockey - WS</td>
<td>Yr10 Hockey - WS</td>
<td>Yr8 Hockey – WS</td>
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Being part of the solution

This year, BVGS has gained Eco School Status. As part of our commitment to being as environmentally friendly as possible, single use plastic bottles will no longer be sold onsite. Please remind your children to bring in a reusable water bottle, which can be refilled at the station next to the staff room or in the dining hall.
Peter Randon Memorial Service

Mr Peter Randon (OV) (04.03.40 - 03.07.19)

We remember a Vesey great, who died this July.

Mr Peter Randon OV followed in the footsteps of his father Alfred George Randon and joined Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School in 1956. He went on to become a Governor for 23 years, 18 of those as Chairman (1987-2005) and what a fruitful period of development this was for the School.

For many years, we have held an annual get together, known as the Shaggy Dogs Tea Party, for senior Old Veseyans at the Randon family home. This year, despite Peter’s death, was no exception and it was fitting that Headteachers, Marie Clarke (1989-2002) and David Iddon (2003-2013) were both there for the occasion.

Peter was a huge servant of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School. He was a significant benefactor and instrumental in delivering strategic infrastructure development such as the Randon Centre, the Tennis Courts and Cricket Nets. He loved attending school music concerts and was a huge supporter of Vesey cricket, umpiring many a school game here at BVGS on Saturdays, while serving as Chairman of Governors. Above all, Peter was a gentleman with a commitment to whole-person education and his courteous values had a huge impact on the development of the culture of Bishop Vesey’s Grammar School.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the school, as a mark of respect the school will close on Friday 18th October at 2.20pm and a memorial service will be held that afternoon, commencing at 3.15pm.

Read of the week

Series of the Week

"It is action-packed and full of many different characters. If you liked fighting books and a bit of comedy, this is definitely the book for you."

Roan Kang 8B

"It has a mix of comedy and action. This book has many great characters such as Naruto and Sakura."

Jacob Large 8B

"It’s action packed, exciting and especially in the later novels, it can make you think and change your opinion even on real world problems."

George Makwandi 9P
Quote of the week

“Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic.”

Dumbledore

Letters sent out this week

Home to school transport
Welcome letter
SIMS Parent App - Reminder
Sports Kit Letter

Dates for your diary

Michaelmas Term 2019

Monday 2nd September       Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd September      Staff Training Day
Wednesday 4th September   Yr 7 and L6 Start
Thursday 5th September    All Other Year Groups Start
Tuesday 24th September    Students finish at 12.15
                           Open Evening at 16.00
Tuesday 1st October       Year 13 (U6) Parents Evening
                           16.00-18.30
Monday 15th October       Open morning 9.00-10.30
Tuesday 16th October      Open morning 9.00-10.30
Wednesday 17th October  Open morning 9.00-10.30

Friday 18th October  Peter Randon Memorial Service
                   School closes at 2.20pm

Friday 25th October  Founders Day
                   Break up for half term

Monday 4th November  Term recommences

Wednesday 6th November  Students finish at 12.15
                         Sixth Form Opening Evening
                         16.00-19.00

Wednesday 20th November  Year 9 Parents Evening
                         16.00-19.00

Thursday 21st November  Staff Training Day

Friday 29th November  Students finish at 12.15
                      Speech Day 18.30-21.15

Thursday 12th December  Year 12 (L6) Parents Evening
                        16.00-18.30

Friday 20th December  Break up for holidays

Lent Term 2020

Monday 6th January  Term recommences

Thursday 23rd January  Year 11 Parents Evening
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th February</td>
<td>Break up for half term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th February</td>
<td>Term recommences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>Year 10 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>16.00-19.00</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>Year 8 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>16.00-19.00</td>
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<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
<td>Year 7 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>18.00-19.00</td>
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<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>Term ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd April</td>
<td>Staff training day</td>
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<td><strong>Summer Term 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20th April</td>
<td>Term recommences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd May</td>
<td>Break up for half term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1st June</td>
<td>Term recommences</td>
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<td>Friday 17th July</td>
<td>Term ends</td>
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I hope you have found the first full weekly letter of the year informative, and for new parents and carers congratulations on supporting your child through their first week of secondary school or Sixth Form.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Dominic Robson
Headteacher