



**THE INVESTING IN  
EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN:**  
A new Learning Resource Centre  
for Bishop Vesey's Grammar School



# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

At Bishop Vesey's Grammar School our mission 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 develop students of excellent character – responsible global citizens, who will make the world a better place through their kindness, thoughtfulness, confidence,

and resilience. We are proud of the outstanding results we consistently achieve.

As we approach our 500th anniversary we must address our facilities, beginning with our new Learning Resource Centre. Through this, and the other improvements to our estate it will enable, we will bring our environment up to the same level of excellence as the education we deliver.

**Dominic Robson**  
Head Teacher



## We are passionate about equality, diversity and inclusion.

Our inspiring Outreach and Partnership Programme has been created to widen access to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, raising aspirations and encouraging gifted students to take the entrance test to join the school at Year 7, or to join our Sixth Form in Year 12. 20% of our places are reserved for these students as part of our commitment to our region and to promoting social mobility.

Our Programme works closely with primary schools to offer 11+ workshops and English and Maths classes, along with exciting extra-curricular opportunities such as Art and PSHE. Our student-led competitive sports programme involves over 20 primary schools across North Birmingham.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

As the parent of a student at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, I have seen first-hand the excellence in education, pastoral care, personal development and extracurricular opportunities afforded by this outstanding school. Moreover, in my professional life as Chief Executive of one of the region's leading tourism and learning facilities, Millennium Point, I recognise the important role the School plays more widely.

Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with 40% of the population under the age of 25. At the same time, our region is ranked the 7th most deprived area in England. I have seen the

importance of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in delivering on social mobility and life opportunities for students from across the West Midlands. The new Learning Resource Centre will be a crucial step towards building on its already outstanding reputation and to giving even more talented young people the inspiration and aspiration that will help them succeed and give back to society.

## **Abbie Vlahakis**

Campaign Chair

Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Point



## **Campaign Board**

- Abbie Vlahakis**, Campaign Board Chair
- Partha Guha**, Chair of Parents Committee
- Clive Poole**, Chair of Business Committee
- Geoff Fletcher**, Chair of Old Veseyan Committee
- Andrea Wesson**, Governor
- Dominic Robson**, Head Teacher
- Graham Swindells**, Finance and Operations Director

# OUR VISION

**Founded in 1527**, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is one of the UK's leading state grammar schools, with a long-standing reputation for high academic standards and an outstanding co-curricular programme. We are a selective school for boys with a co-educational Sixth Form.

Located in Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, we have over **1,350 pupils** from Year 7 through to Sixth Form. Academic performance is consistently amongst the best schools nationally. The Sunday Times annual Parent Power League Table, based on 'A' level and GCSE results, has placed Bishop Vesey's

Grammar School as a **top 50 state school** every year since 2013. Progress 8 data shows students make excellent progress irrespective of their background. Our students go to the best universities nationally and internationally. Since 2017, over **70%** go on to **elite Russell Group universities** with, on average, 11 receiving offers from **Oxford** and **Cambridge** universities.

**As we look to our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are ambitious to renew our mission of inspiration and excellence: to become a top 20 state school, a centre for scholarship and community, outward-looking and innovative.**



Some of our notable alumni are pictured above, including **Lord Peter Ricketts GCMG, GCVO** former Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ambassador to France; **Paul Rimmer CBE**, former Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence; **Anna Fielding**, Chair of the Economic Change Unit; **Richard Baker**, prominent businessperson and former CEO of the Boots Group; **Rohit Kachroo**, Global Security Editor for ITV News; **Sir Julian King**, former European Commissioner for the Security Union and Ambassador to Ireland, and **Lord Indarjit Singh CBE**, journalist and broadcaster and leader in Sikh and interfaith activities.



# REALISING OUR VISION

## Our School now faces urgent challenges:

- Insufficient existing Sixth Form study capacity means students are studying in spaces that are inadequate and unsuitable for collaborative working.
- The result of our successful Lower School expansion in recent years means that from 2024 there will be fewer spaces available for external students to join in year 12. Unless addressed, this will restrict our offer providing fewer places for external disadvantaged students and negatively impact the post-16 gender balance, so important to the vibrant Vesey experience.
- New classrooms are needed for growing subjects currently housed in temporary classrooms.
- Our library is inadequate and doesn't meet the needs of our students.
- Our internal dining space restricts mixing between all ages of the school community at recreational times.
- Much of the school estate is tired and in need of refurbishment.



We now have ambitious plans to address these challenges and to bring our physical facilities up to the same levels of excellence as the education we provide.



Central to this is a new Learning Resource Centre located at the front of the School. The new 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> facility, set over three floors will be home to a dedicated Sixth Form Centre, additional subject-specific classrooms, library, flexible social space and improved dining facilities. It is designed to enrich the student experience and promote new ways of working such as collaboration and 'incubation spaces' for student entrepreneurship, helping students develop the skills demanded in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, better preparing them for university and the workplace.

**The Centre will enable us to expand our Sixth Form**, opening more opportunities for students beyond BVGS, ensuring that we sustain the gender balance, and importantly, serve more disadvantaged students from across the region, building our 'social capital'. It will also attract more funding for the School.

Flexible social space will be available to our community out of school hours, which as well as generating income for the School, will improve well-being, foster talent and support businesses so that people, as John Vesey wrote 500 years ago in the 1527 Foundation Charter, 'might more happily live'.

Our new building will be informed by 'green' principles and will provide BVGS students with 'hands-on' learning opportunities about sustainable architecture and building processes.

We aim to have the Centre open in 2024, allowing us to undertake other much-needed refurbishments to the older parts of the School in preparation for our 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year in 2027.

The Lower Ground Floor will be a flexible space adaptable to both study and social activities, which can also be used for **workshops, presentations, drama and community use**.

This floor will be eventually linked to the Grade II listed School House, which when completed, will become a new entrance for students to the School.







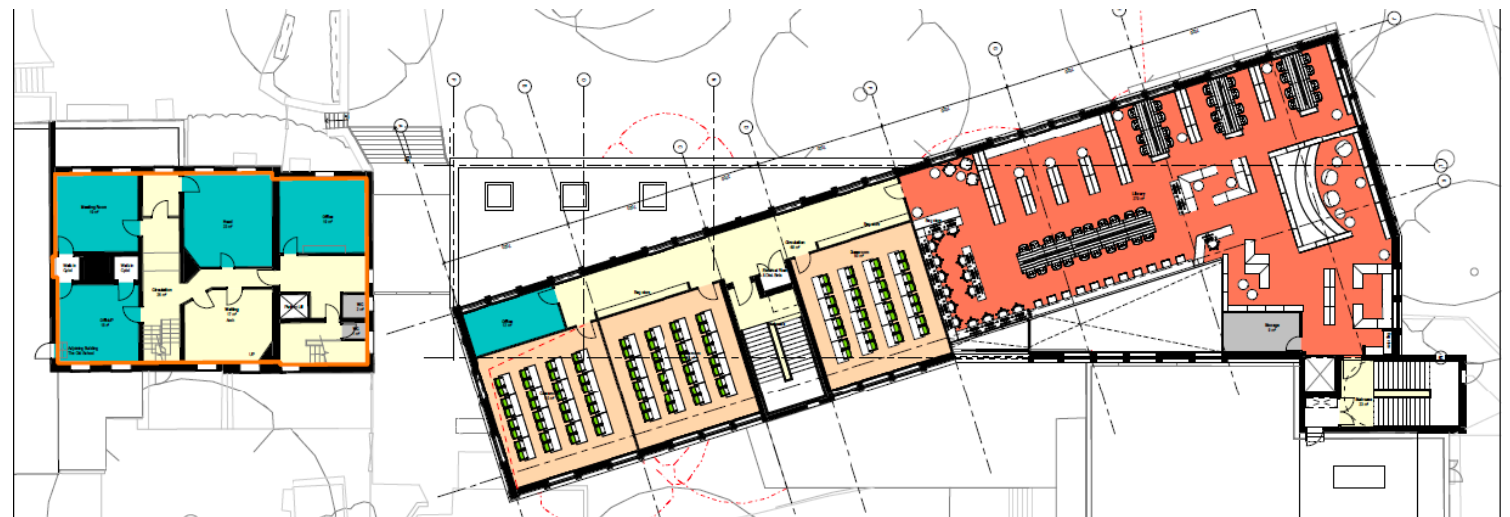
The Upper Ground Floor provides a **flexible Sixth Form study space**, which can be configured to suit private study, collaborative working and innovation, helping our students to hone the skills they will need for higher education and working life.

A **new dining room**, leading out on to external green spaces and connected to the existing dining facilities will enable year groups to mingle during break times.

Eventually, this floor will also be linked to the old School House.

**Three subject-specific classrooms** on the first floor will enable more capacity to study increasingly popular subjects.

A **new library** for the whole school will provide valuable research and study space for all year groups.



# INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE

## The new Centre and refurbishment of tired spaces across the school is expected to cost over £6 million.

The Foundation Charity of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is contributing £2.7 million and a grant of £2 million from the Department for Education has been received.

We aim to raise the remaining £1.5 million through our Investing in Excellence campaign, which will engage with trusts and foundations, businesses, parents and alumni.

The campaign offers tax effective giving opportunities for supporters, including Income, Corporation, Capital Gains and even Inheritance Tax Relief, and a high level of engagement with and accountability to all our supporters.

It also provides meaningful and appropriate recognition for supporters at all levels, ranging from a certificate of appreciation, to a plaque in the new Learning Resource Centre, to named areas and classrooms. As a guide, here are the levels of support we are seeking.

Supporters are also invited to consider a legacy to the Foundation in their Wills. Legacies will be added to our endowment fund, which will make us less reliant on major fundraising programmes in the future.

Please join us with your investment to help us sustain and enhance the excellence for which Bishop Vesey's Grammar School has been renowned for half a millennium now.

Annual Gift £	Total Gift (Over 5yrs) £	Number Required	Total £
50,000	250,000	1	250,000
20,000	100,000	1	100,000
15,000	75,000	2	150,000
10,000	50,000	5	250,000
5,000	25,000	10	250,000
2,000	10,000	20	200,000
1,000	5,000	30	150,000
500	2,500	40	100,000
200	1,000	50	50,000
		159	1,500,000

**For more information on how you can help,  
contact: [j.cagney@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:j.cagney@bishopveseys.bham.sch.uk)**



A warm, outward-looking and

supportive COMMUNITY,

and promoting

Y and equality,

**The Foundation Charity of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School**

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield. B74 2NH.

Registered Charity number: 517907

