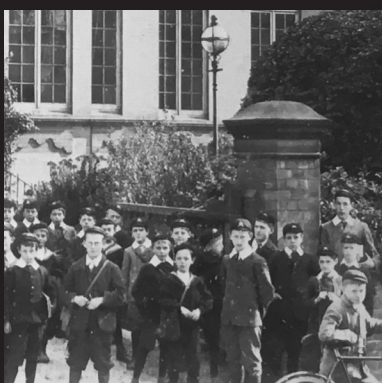




Bishop Vesey's Grammar School



Leaving
a Legacy





Message from the head

We know that Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is an outstanding Top 50 state school with outstanding students. But we pride ourselves on providing more than just academic excellence.

The Vesey Experience means teaching young people to have challenging and enquiring minds, enabling them to become well-rounded individuals with the breadth of skills and interests that go above and beyond academic excellence, and give them that competitive advantage when applying to University. Our parents, staff and students have come to expect this, and as the Headteacher, I strive to deliver this.

However, the funding landscape in which we operate has changed. Like many schools we are facing a reduction in our funding and this presents for us a challenge. As a school, we are working hard to ensure that the Vesey Experience – the thing that makes this school so special to our pupils – is not threatened. But to do this, we need the help of all stakeholders across the Vesey community; students, parents, staff and alumni.

We have already experienced the power that the generosity of our parents, Governors and friends working together can achieve. Without your help, we would not have raised £3.1 million for the Growing Vesey, Growing Minds twelve classroom STEM Block complete with robotics suite, completed in December 2016.

Without donations from the Patrons and Friends of Vesey Music, we would not be able to sustain such a rich calendar of musical activities and enrichment.

Without donations from parents to the Inspiration and Excellence Fund, we would not have been able to pay for our new tennis and netball courts for floodlights on Middle Field, or subsidise wonderful academic and sporting enrichment opportunities for some many of our students.

We would like you, as an Old Veseyan to consider the importance that the school played in shaping your life. Legacy gifts can be an excellent way to give financial support to the school. Legacy gifts can offer huge tax benefits and help the school to ensure it is as wonderful place to learn as it was during your time as a student.

Dominic Robson
Headteacher
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

Benefits of leaving a legacy

Leaving something behind you for the benefit of future generations will show the gratitude for the benefits you have received from the school. It also maintains the historic and prestigious nature of the school, where Old Veseyans come together to support the new.

Your legacy will help support greater accessibility to beyond the classroom experiences and learning. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is renowned for the many opportunities on offer for the current Veseyans – including sporting tours, foreign exchanges, and educational excursions and these opportunities are just a handful of those provided outside of school hours. These allow the students to create fond memories, build lasting relationships and grow into confident, articulate and valuable members of society.

Generous giving will enable the school to not only keep providing the vast array of opportunities to current Veseyans, but also help improve the school for future generations. It will help with the upkeep of the beautiful and historic campus and will uphold and enhance our high standards, which have accelerated in recent times.

A financial benefit of leaving a legacy to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School is the reduction of the value of the giver's estate. If the value of your estate is less than £325,000 (as of October 2018), then your estate is exempt from Inheritance Tax.

You can also cut the Inheritance Tax rate on the rest of your estate from 40% to 36%, if you leave at least 10% of your 'net estate' to a charity. Your net estate is the difference between the value of your estate minus the £325,000 tax threshold.



We are really successful at GCSE. With a performance typically of around 70% grade 7 or better, we are one of the top 20 boys' schools in England. In October of 2014, the school achieved outstanding in all categories by OFSTED when they visited.

Academically, we are in the top 25 state schools for performance at A level: 83% A*-B. Almost 3/4 of students going on to university at 18 study at the prestigious Russell Group universities.

In 2018, 15 students won places at Oxbridge.



How legacy gifts will make a difference

The cutbacks in the public sector against a backdrop of possible increasing inflation, means that revenue budgets will be under continuing stress to balance the ongoing expenditure, much of which is not under the schools' control.

Individuals and educational institutions alike need to plan for the future. For the individual, making a will is an important responsibility. Most independent schools have benefitted greatly from the generosity of former scholars, trusts and supporters.

It is now time for Old Veseyans and others closely associated with BVGS to step up and really make an impact.

Some benefactors have already come forward and many of the recent new additions to the fabric of the school bear testimony to this generosity in the names of buildings, rooms, the music centre, STEM block, indoor sports centre and artificial pitch. All reflect the traditions

and commitment of former generations.

A legacy to BVGS is one of the most meaningful and enduring gifts you can make and will provide, on a continuing basis, the resources to achieve all that is necessary.

Whether your gift is large or small, either way it has a tremendous, long-lasting effect on the school and significantly helps us to maintain the high quality of education and extra-curricular activities needed for a school sitting within the top 2% of state schools in the country.

Gifts may be directed toward specific areas of school life such as, major improvement projects including new or refurbished buildings, academic or sporting equipment or for 'general purposes'. The latter allows the school a much-needed degree of flexibility in directing funds where they are most required.

Making a bequest

There are several types of legacy. It is strongly advised that you seek professional legal advice when deciding which is the most appropriate for you.

1. The Residuary Legacy

This is a gift of a percentage of the residue of your estate after specific bequests have been met. This overcomes the disadvantage of the pecuniary legacy.

2. The Pecuniary Legacy

This specifies an amount of money or a gift. This has the disadvantage that inflation will, over the years, reduce its value.

3. The Reversionary Legacy

This type of legacy only passes to the Inspiration and Excellence Fund after the death of a spouse or relative. This enables the priority to be given to protecting the interest of those closest to you who are left behind. This means that they enjoy your assets during their lifetime, but afterwards your legacy reverts to The Vesey Foundation.

4. The Conditional Legacy

This legacy benefits the school should those whom you have nominated as heirs not survive you.

5. Life Assurance

A difference, but effective way of benefitting the school after your death is to take out a Life Assurance policy on your life with the school as beneficiary. For a modest premium the school will enjoy substantial benefits.

6. A Substantial Legacy

This means that you can leave your estate to a particular person or persons but, if

they predecease you, then the bequest could go to the Inspiration and Excellence Fund.

Including a legacy in your will is very straightforward. It can be done at the time you make your will or you can change or update an existing will by adding a codicil to provide your bequest.

If you are interested in discussing these options further please contact Finance Director and School Business Manager, Graham Swindells via inspiration@bishpovesey.bham.sch.uk, or on 0121-250-5400.



Timeline of the school

- Bishop Vesey's Grammar School was founded in **1527** by John Vesey who was a native of Sutton Coldfield (born around 1462)
- The original School was off Blind Lane (later Trinity Hill) near Holy Trinity Parish Church, but in **1729** a new School was built on its present site in Lichfield Road.
- In **1861** there was an extension on the north side of the School House. The number of pupils at the School increased from 51 to 105 in **1875**
- A more substantial extension was built on the south side in 1887 and a further extension to the rear of the 1887 building was added in **1906**.
- Further land to increase the size of the School Playing Fields was purchased in **1910** and **1929**, and in **1924** the Governors bought the land between the School House and Boswell Road.
- The Games Pavilion was built in **1938** and in **1939** Big School and other buildings behind the School House were opened.
- By **1943**, the number of pupils rose to 532.
- School fees were abolished following the passing of the **1944** Grammar School Act and in **1952** the School became a Voluntary Aided School under the 1944 Act (i.e. a school set up by private donation but largely supported by public funds).
- A new science block was built in **1955**, and the school dining-hall and the northern block linked to the rest of the School by a covered bridge were opened in **1967**.
- Pupil numbers increased from 602 in **1954** to 750 in **1958** and to 865 in **1971**.
- The boarding establishment, on the top floor of the Old School House, was finally closed down in **1969**.
- In **1992**, the Governors sold land off Tamworth Road for development and with the money were able to build the Randon Design Centre.
- In **1993**, a new library was added on the corridor overlooking Big School.
- In **1999** the Sports Hall was built.
- **2000** the School continued to grow in size – now over 900 students.
- The Clive Richards Music Centre was built in **2006**
- A new artificial pitch on Middle Field was opened in **2008**.
- Tennis courts resurfaced in **2013**.
- New four-lane outdoor Cricket nets opened in **2013**.
- Expansion of the school role starts in **2015** over a 5-year period which will take the total amount of pupils to 1200.
- STEM block (consisting of 12 new classrooms) opened in **2016**.
- Planned further expansion to school role begins in 2019 over a 5-year period to take the total number of students to **1400**.

