



**Bishop Vaughan  
Catholic School  
Prospectus  
2021-2022**

## **WELCOME TO BISHOP VAUGHAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

In September 2022 your child will begin a new and vitally important phase of his or her life in transferring from primary to secondary school. Here are some of the reasons we consider Bishop Vaughan to be a wise choice for your child:

- though a large school, we will get to know your child well and look after him or her, not just in Year 7, but as he or she matures and develops in what we hope will be a seven year programme, through to Year 13;
- we offer education in a secure, disciplined environment where pupils will be expected to work hard, do their best and take their academic progress seriously. We expect high academic standards across the ability range and enthusiasm for learning;
- we nurture a religious and spiritual formation that makes central the idea of the Christian way of life, the worship of God and practical concern for others;
- we encourage a pervasive atmosphere of mutual respect, courtesy, friendliness and optimism together with care for the environment and property;
- we afford opportunities for developing talents in a range of activities, be they cultural, musical or sporting. We emphasise enjoyment and excellence. We encourage pupils to 'have a go';
- we make every effort to make the families of our pupils an important part of the life of the school through regular contact and consultation;
- we have a well-qualified, experienced and thoroughly professional staff committed to the Catholic ethos, who are willing always to "go the extra mile" in support of pupils; who provide quality lessons with a judicious blend of traditional and innovative methods.

Examination results are important since, realistically, they are the key to pupil progression. At Bishop Vaughan we have both a strong academic tradition and clear targets for continued improvement that will benefit all of our learners.

Bishop Vaughan is the school established by the Diocese of Menevia to provide secondary education for the Catholic children of this area. Naturally, we hope you will wish to send your child to Bishop Vaughan and that you will make an early application to do so.

We look forward to meeting you and eventually to welcoming your son or daughter as a pupil at Bishop Vaughan; it will be our privilege to guide them towards fulfilment of their potential, within a nurturing environment that fosters personal, spiritual and academic growth.

If you are unable to attend our Virtual Open Evening and you wish to learn more about aspects of pastoral or academic provision, meet with key staff or indeed make any form of enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact us. My Senior Leadership Team and I will be most happy to support you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Pole' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emma Pole  
**Headteacher**

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## Who's Who

### **Senior Leadership Team:**

Headteacher	Mrs E Pole
Deputy Headteachers	Mr J Davies*, Mrs L Owen
Assistant Headteachers	Mr C Walker, Miss K Smith
Associate Senior Leader	Mrs A Jones

*\*Acting postholders*

### **Chair of Governors:**

Cllr S Pritchard

### **Designated Senior Persons for Child Protection:**

Mr C Walker  
Mrs H Owen

### **Student Services:**

The Student Services reception desk is on the left hand side of the Student Services corridor. Mrs Gwyther and Mrs North work within the Student Services office and can help pupils with any questions that they may have. Mrs H Owen, Mrs R Smale and Miss J Sinnott are the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officers.

**School Chaplain:** Father John Browne

## Contacting Us

### General Enquiries

#### If you would like to send an email:

You can send general enquiries to the following email address:

**ServicesS@hwbcymru.net or bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net**

#### If you want to speak with someone:

Parents and carers are advised to contact the Student Services desk in the first instance. The staff will be happy to answer queries and arrange meetings with relevant staff as required.

The contact number is:

**01792 772006 ext 239**

*Although Bishop Vaughan usually operates an open door policy, with parents/ guardians being welcome to come into the school to discuss concerns at any time, during the current pandemic we regret that this will not be possible. Please contact the Head of Year or the Student Services team if you have any queries or would like to arrange to speak with other specific staff.*

*\*Please note that telephone calls may be recorded  
for training and security purposes\**

## Our School

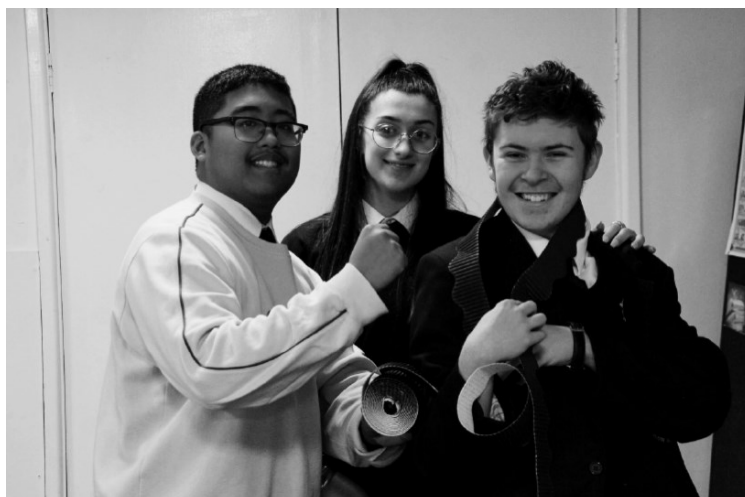
Selecting a secondary school is one of the most difficult and important decisions facing parents today. This prospectus is designed to give you the essence of what it means to be a part of the community that is Bishop Vaughan. Nothing, however, can replace the real thing and we invite you most warmly to visit us, to see us at work and to experience our special atmosphere.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School is a Voluntary Aided school for 11 to 18 year olds in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Menevia and the City and County of Swansea. It was established to provide secondary education for the Catholic population of Swansea, Swansea Valley and Lliw Valley.

For over fifty years, the school has provided an excellent standard of education, its learners being characterised by their commitment to achieving their goals, their diligence and their care for one another.

At Bishop Vaughan, every aspect of what we think and do is based on the Gospel values, as described further on page eleven, which include respect, honesty, compassion and forgiveness, as well as trust in God and a commitment to equality, justice, community and serving others. Each individual is valued as a unique and gifted creation of God.

As the only Catholic secondary school in this area, we take pride in striving for quality, excellence and achievement in all we do.





## Our Mission Statement

Bishop Vaughan is a Christian community in the Catholic tradition. Our mission is to provide an outstanding, whole person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-worth and closeness to God. The key characteristics which we strive to display are well expressed by the diagram:



Prayer and reflection are, of course, woven into the fabric of school life. The traditional prayers of the Catholic community are used and the universal message of the Church and its call to new life encourages us to invite and support all our pupils to reach their potential.

## Our Ethos

The very foundation of Bishop Vaughan Catholic School is based upon Gospel Values. The Gospel values themselves represent the guiding principles by which we strive to live our lives. As a school we ensure an understanding of these by providing all pupils with the beautiful passage of scripture known as 'The Beatitudes', from the Gospel of Matthew, along with an explanation of the values that we draw from this passage.

The eight beatitudes feature in different ways in and around the school, in each pupil's workbooks and files and also centrally within the Main Hall's 'Beatitudes Gallery'. In the gallery each of the eight beatitudes are depicted creatively by our students, based on each of the promises or statements made in Christ's 'Sermon on the Mount':

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

From this gospel, we draw the gospel values of faith, sacrifice and service, courage, truth and justice, peace, hope, love, community, tolerance and reconciliation. Striving to exhibit these values in our daily lives we can develop the 'virtues' of living out the values in all that we do.

The Catholic pupil profile is an approach taken by many Catholic schools to celebrating and encouraging these virtues, or character traits. Essentially, the virtues are the 'habits' or characteristics that are evident when the values are

embedded in day-to-day practice. The virtues are generally represented in pairs and are often depicted in the following diagram:



We aim, then, that our pupils will lead more fulfilling lives by being:

**Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

**Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

**Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

**Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

**Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

**Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

**Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

Throughout the school year, we will be looking at each of these pairs in more detail.

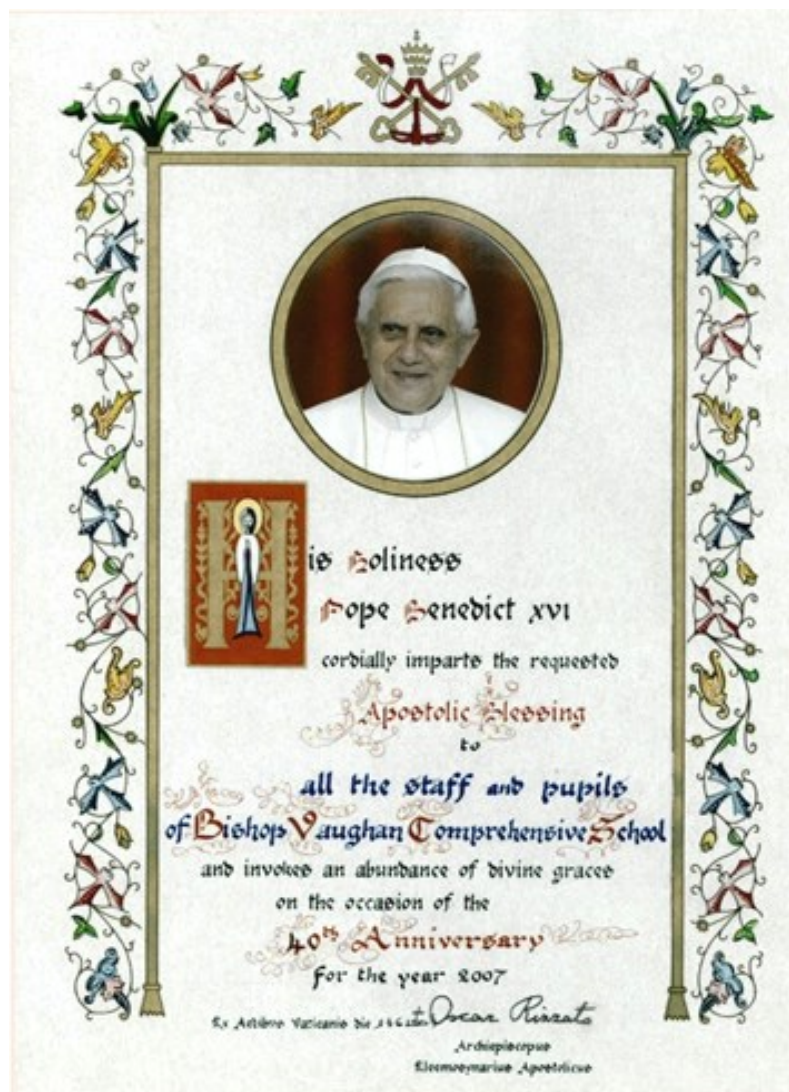




## Prayer Life

We celebrate our commitment to the Gospel values as a community in daily classroom prayer and in a variety of assemblies, events and liturgies. All pupils start each day by participating in a collective act of worship which takes place either in the Main Hall, the Year base or the classroom. Prayers are said regularly throughout the day. Holy Mass, or an alternative liturgy, takes place during Tuesday morning each week and provides an opportunity for quiet witness.

Major feast days of the church are celebrated in school. This provision is part of our programme to help our students to reflect upon their spiritual and faith journey in a peaceful and supportive atmosphere.



## Religious Education

Religious Education is provided for all students throughout the school, including Years 12 and 13. The “People of God” programme, specially designed to implement the Curriculum Directory of the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, is provided for Years 7 to 9 (Key Stage 3). This follows several different themes and focuses on Jesus, the Church, the Sacraments, the Human Person and the Church’s Liturgical Year. All students in these years receive five periods per fortnight and participate in a variety of learning experiences. These build on previous learning and continuously challenge them to go further. Religious Education lessons also incorporate personal, social and moral education. This arrangement allows our young people to learn about the various topics and themes identified in the national framework and to learn about traditional Christian teaching relating to them.

All students in Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) study for national qualifications offered by the WJEC. All students study for GCSE Religious Studies which includes an in-depth study of Christianity in the Catholic Tradition and study of other religious traditions. In recent years, the opportunity has been given to a number of students to study for an AS level qualification alongside of their GCSE. All students in Years 10 and 11 receive five one hour periods of teaching per fortnight.

All pupils in Year 12 and Year 13 are also expected to participate in General RE which is designed to assist the students in their spiritual and moral development.



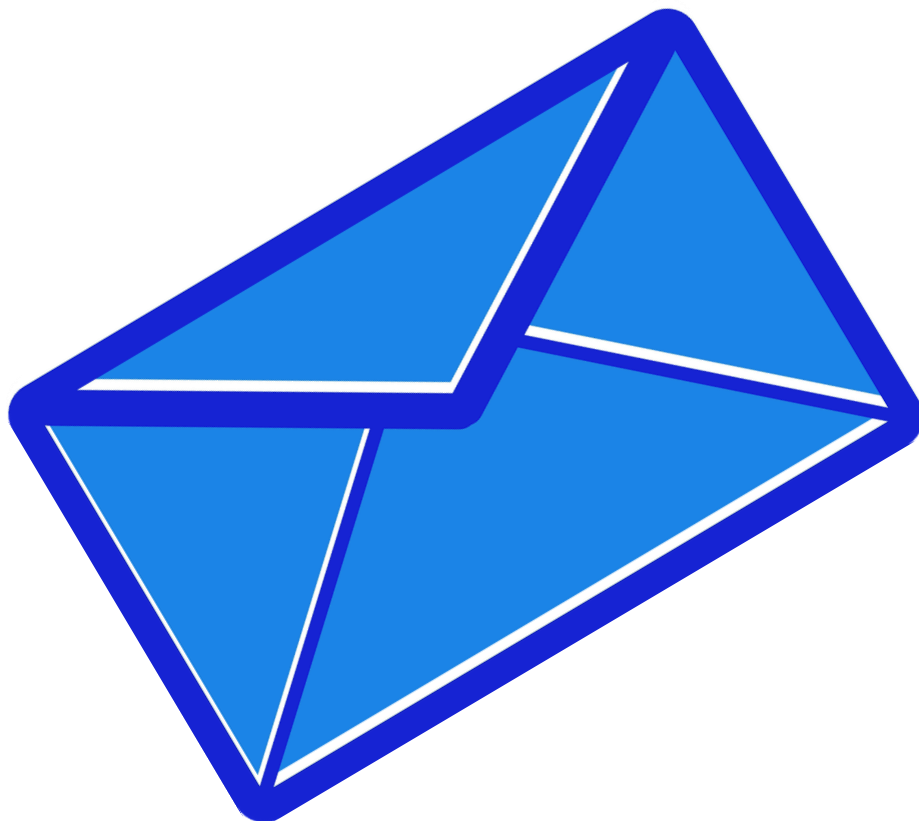
## Communicating with You

Communicating with you about the life of our school and the role that your child plays in it is very important to us. Therefore it is essential that we always have accurate and up to date contact information for you.

Letters that are formally sent out to parents and carers may be sent out via the Royal Mail or be sent home with students. Prior to an important letter being sent home a text will be sent to inform you that a letter is on its way.

Increasingly, we will publish letters on our website and inform you of these letters via text message.

The Headteacher's newsletter is published three times a year on our school website and provides a great insight into the rich diversity of school life through pictures and articles. You will be contacted via text to inform you of its publication.



## Keeping in Touch

There are lots of ways to stay up-to-date with school news. We would recommend that parents and guardians follow the school on Twitter as well as checking the school website regularly:

Website: **[www.bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk)**

Twitter: **[@Bishop\\_Vaughan](https://twitter.com/Bishop_Vaughan)**

We also recommend that parents and guardians download the **MyEd** app. This shows you up to date information about all aspects of your child's school life. Within it,



### My School

allows you to view information and keep up to date with what's going on at Bishop Vaughan.

### My Students

allows you to view key information about your child's school activity, including their attendance and achievements.

### Messaging

allows you to send and receive FREE messages to and from school via your mobile device.



*You can also support the school by downloading the Easyfundraising app or visiting Easyfundraising online. By selecting **Bishop Vaughan** as your registered cause and then connecting from the site or app to your usual shopping sites, you can collect free donations for the school without it costing you a single penny! The funds raised will be used for projects identified by the pupils.*



## High Expectations

In all that we do in school, quality, excellence and achievement is our aim. We have high expectations of all our students. All students are challenged to give of their best. We expect each student to work hard, play hard and to take a full part in the life of our school. We monitor each individual's progress regularly and set them challenging targets. We believe that all our students are talented individuals with potential to achieve. Our aim is to provide them with opportunities to excel.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers at Bishop Vaughan have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In order to discharge these functions effectively this must include the sharing of information if it is thought that a child is, may or will be at risk of suffering significant harm. Staff and volunteers are aware of a clear school Child Protection policy and set of procedures to follow if they have a safeguarding concern about a pupil. Concerns are shared by staff with the designated Child Protection Officers, Mr Carl Walker, Assistant Headteacher or Mrs Hannah Owen, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer. The designated Child Protection Officers can make a direct referral to Social Services or any appropriate external agency if it is thought that a child is, may or will be at risk of suffering significant harm without the consent of parents and guardians where appropriate.

## Pupil Wellbeing

The school has a **Student Services** team dedicated to supporting pupils and their families with day-to-day queries. As stated on page 5, they can be contacted via email at:

**ServicesS@hwbmail.net**

and by telephone on:

**01792 772006 ext 239**

Student Services can help pupils during the day with all matters, from lost property to timetables queries and questions about the cashless catering system. Pupils should use the Student Services desk rather than the Main Reception, as the team there will be best placed to help. Parents and guardians visiting the school should report to the Main Reception initially.

**Headteacher's Surgeries** are held each term. These are open, drop-in sessions with all members of the Senior Leadership Team after the school day. They are intended to support frequent home-school communication and ensure that you have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback in relation to all areas of school life and pupil wellbeing. Information can be found on the website and you will receive a MyEd reminder when the next surgery is due. The dates are highlighted in the school calendar.

**The HWB** is the Health and Wellbeing Base, a house on the school site that caters for pupil wellbeing needs. Within it, there is a full-time Wellbeing and Child Protection Manager and a Wellbeing Officer. The school's Counselling Service also operates from the HWB.

There are several further areas of the school dedicated to providing bespoke support for matters relating to pupil wellbeing. These include:

**Engage:** A Behaviour Support room staffed by behaviour support specialists. Pupils may use Engage to report concerns relating to pupil behaviour, and the team here work with pupils requiring additional support to manage their behaviour. This is a first-line facility aimed at addressing more minor issues as swiftly as possible to support pupil wellbeing and ensure that effective learning is not interrupted.

**Aspire:** Aspire caters for learners at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) that would benefit from an alternative curriculum provision.

**Nurture:** This provision, in room 2, supports pupils with specific medical or wellbeing matters in accessing the curriculum, often with a blend of mainstream lessons and provision of education within the Nurture room.

**Haven:** This serves to support vulnerable learners with an identified need with their learning in order to achieve their potential.

**At lunchtimes, Student Ambassadors and staff are on hand to assist all pupils requiring support in any way. They are based in Rooms 2 and 3. The HeadStart mentors in particular are designated to welcome and support new Year 7 pupils.**

**Internet Safety:** The school places great importance on educating young people about the dangers of using the internet without appropriate guidance. Advice on internet safety is embedded into the curriculum and parental advice sessions are provided at regular intervals.

## Online safety for teenagers

**Teenagers may be experts on using the internet, but they still need guidance and protection. To help keep them safe, make sure you continue talking about what they are doing online.**

- ✓ Discuss and agree your expectations before you allow them to join a social networking site. Check the minimum age requirements.
- ✓ Talk to them about the dangers of oversharing information about themselves that they might then regret – teach them to think before they post.
- ✓ Encourage them to check the policies and privacy settings on any sites and services they use.
- ✓ Remind your child that the same rules apply online as they do at home and at school, eg they shouldn't post anything they wouldn't say face-to-face.
- ✓ Find out what the school's policy is on mobile phone use at school.
- ✓ Ask how the school is teaching pupils about online safety issues.
- ✓ Check your child knows how to report abuse or block contacts.
- ✓ Discuss the use of parental controls.

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For more help and advice visit  
**[www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety)**

or contact the NSPCC **helpline** on  
**0808 800 5000** to discuss any concerns



**NSPCC**   
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.



## Teaching and Learning

Your child will have an exciting new curriculum in September! There will be some subjects that are entirely new to them. All subjects are part of a carefully designed curriculum which is complemented by six discrete Problem Based Learning days for each year group in each academic year. We strive to provide your children with creative and inspiring learning experiences daily in order to foster a love of learning and to help them create links with the real world and also between subjects. We aim to provide well resourced lessons which stimulate independent thinking skills and support the progression of literacy, numeracy and digital skills in your child. Importantly, effective Teaching and Learning is a continued focus of staff professional learning throughout the year and increasingly our school aims to develop evidence informed teacher practitioners who are discerning in their choice of activity and approach to meet the needs of students. We have a significant number of teachers who are engaged with classroom based research and who regularly share their professional learning with others . Our school is a Learning Organisation and staff have been part of developing a shared vision of effective teaching and learning and in also modelling themselves as Lead Learners in a professional sense.

## Tailored Support

We aim to ensure that every pupil is appropriately supported and challenged to fulfil their potential, offering provision tailored to meet the needs of every individual. We remain committed to supporting pupils through a broadly mixed-ability approach, recognising the strengths of this style of provision. However, we also cater for pupils requiring additional support – particularly with Literacy, allowing them to access the curriculum in all its richness – via catch-up groups in Years 7-9, as well as the usual additional mandatory provision. Learners requiring an additional level of challenge are catered for in express groups in Years 7-9. The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo) and the More Able and Talented Co-ordinator work to identify appropriate support and challenge opportunities for all learners.

## Homework

Homework is to be completed regularly in each subject. This takes a variety of forms. Some of the homework will be completed and submitted using our online learning platform, SAM Learning.



Your child will be provided with a unique user ID and password for this site, which also provides a range of resources to support independent learning and again, to ensure consolidation of material learned in the classroom.

The email and Microsoft 365 platform used at Bishop Vaughan is Hwb (unfortunately this resource has the same name as – but is not to be confused with – our Health and Wellbeing Base!).



## Learning Zone

The Learning Zone runs daily from 3.00pm to 4.00pm and is a **free after-school learning and tuition centre** situated in the school library. Staffed by teachers and Learning Support Assistants, your child will be able to complete homework with specialist support, receive help in areas of learning with which they experience difficulty, develop independent learning and revision skills, and access IT provision.

In order to access the Learning Zone, pupils need to bring a completed consent form to the first session. These can be picked up from the Student Services office.



## Welsh at Bishop Vaughan

The Welsh department leads in celebrating our Welsh identity and culture. While the school delivers its curriculum and conducts its business through the medium of English, the Welsh language is integrated into all areas of school.

All pupils in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 study Welsh. All Year 10 and Year 11 pupils follow the GCSE full course in Welsh.

The school is constantly developing the use of the Welsh language in a range of settings, both formal and informal. This includes implementing our policy of dual language signage in the school. There is also a designated member of staff and members of the Sixth Form Leadership Team in charge of promoting the Welsh dimension of school life.

A weekly lunch time club is very popular with pupils in Years 7 and 8 and all pupils are afforded the opportunity to visit Llangrannog.



## Opportunities for Personal Development

A structured programme of Personal, Social and Health Education, Careers Education and Pastoral Care supports the development of each individual, enabling him or her to make informed choices. Opportunities to work outside the school environment are available to all. Field trips (both in this country and abroad), adventure weeks/weekends, one day courses and a variety of work-related activities form a vital and enriching part of our learning programme. There are also many opportunities for reflective retreat at St Cassian's centre in Berkshire.



## Sex Education

The sex education provision within the school is based on the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. It seeks to guide the young person to an understanding of his/her sexuality, a realisation of the importance of stable relationships and to help lay the foundations for adult life.

Areas from the curriculum occur from Year 7 to Year 13 and are taught by experienced staff from the RE department.

Copies of the detailed Sex Education Policy and teaching materials are available on request.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education provided.



# Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

A programme of Careers Education and Guidance is delivered to all pupils in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Throughout the programme the aim is to provide pupils with objective and up-to-date information, to enable pupils to develop decision-making skills, to promote awareness and understanding of the range of career opportunities available, to be informed in the assessment of their own abilities and to develop enterprise and entrepreneurship skills.

Careers days with similar aims are held throughout the year, when the normal time-table is suspended. The activities include mock interviews, sessions on employability, CV writing skills, entrepreneurship, community service as well as a range of topics addressed by speakers from the worlds of industry, commerce, and further and higher education. In Year 13, the focus is on applications to Higher Education, training and employment.

Bishop Vaughan has a designated Careers Adviser who attends parents' evenings and is available to meet parents by appointment at other times. She is actively involved in the Careers Education and Guidance programme both with individual pupils and with class/tutorial groups and especially with students' choices and decisions at 14+, 16+ and 18+.

There is a Careers section in the main school library, which contains a wide variety of information and literature on further and higher education and on training and job opportunities. A variety of software packages help pupils and students to access information and to undertake independent searches. Library resources are updated annually.



The school arranges a varied programme of speakers from local industry, commerce, service organisations and higher education, and a number of links exist whereby pupils work closely with employers. Particular talks may be arranged in response to pupil requests.

The school works closely with Careers Wales on initiatives such as work-related activities and takes full advantage of training and funding opportunities. In recent years the school has achieved a number of awards in recognition of work done in this area, including the West Wales TEC Quality Award for Careers Education and Guidance provision and the Careers Wales Quality Award. The school also organises work experience programmes for pupils.

## Pastoral Care

At Bishop Vaughan, each student is valued as a unique individual. We know our pupils well and work hard to ensure that they are happy here. We have established a well-developed system of pastoral care, based upon sound relationships between pupils, parents, tutors and Heads of Year. This helps to ensure that each pupil has a supportive environment in which to flourish. We keep parents informed with regular reports and we encourage our parents to contact us about any concerns to try to ensure that no problem is ignored or allowed to get out of hand.

## Additional Learning Needs

Pupils with Additional Educational Needs are entitled to the full range of curriculum experiences and will, as far as possible, follow the same class syllabus as that of their peers. Teachers differentiate within the school by using a variety of teaching styles and presentation, different resources, worksheets, pace and complexity of information presented and level of teacher support. Pupils with learning difficulties are educated alongside their peers and additional learning needs department staff support pupils within subject areas across the key stages.

For pupils with specific learning difficulties, either in-class support or withdrawal from certain subject areas is arranged. In some cases, pupils are disapplied from areas of the National Curriculum. This information is provided by the pupil's statement. Pupils with specific learning difficulties are supported by specialist staff.

Outside agencies used by Bishop Vaughan include the Local Authority's Educational Psychology Service; specialist teachers for pupils with visual or hearing impairments; behaviour support team; CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services); Social Services; Community Paediatrician; Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy; EMAU (Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit). These agencies can be consulted to provide expert support and guidance.

Our ALNCo and Transition staff work closely with our primary partners in order to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils with additional learning needs.

## Admission of Disabled Pupils

For a number of years now, Bishop Vaughan has taken steps to enable the admission of disabled pupils. Disabled toilets have been provided as part of all new buildings and refurbishment projects, disabled ramps have been constructed in various places and a lift has been provided in the Main Block. The main problem area remains the Four Storey Block. Proposals have been submitted for the provision of a lift, but funds have not yet been made available by the Welsh Government. When pupils with disabilities apply for admission to the school their needs are assessed and arrangements are made to cater for these needs. A survey of the school has been arranged to assess the implications of legislation relating to disabled persons.

## School Council

Bishop Vaughan School Council has student representatives from each year group – elected from tutorial representatives. The Council meets regularly, seeking to discuss issues that matter to students of the school. Governors are supported in their work by two associate pupil governors. The School Council seeks to promote the voice of the pupil, fundraise for good causes and improve our environment.



## Curriculum Statement 2021 - 2022

The school operates on forty-five periods of 60 minutes and five periods of 55 minutes per fortnight. For all new pupils in Year 7, the school operates a 'foundation year' which acts as an appropriate transition from primary school and enables the individual assessment of abilities.

In Years 7 to 9, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 3. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils study French.

In each of Years 7 to 10, one of the classes is a smaller literacy focus class for those learners who need additional support with the core skills of reading, writing and spelling. This grouping allows pupils to access the curriculum with greater ease and assist them along their learning journey. In this literacy focus class, pupils are taught by a smaller number of teaching staff and supported by a dedicated team of teaching assistants in order to facilitate the progress of key literacy skills whilst still following the National Curriculum.

There are also two express classes in each year group targeted at stretching and challenging more able pupils in order to accelerate their learning and achievement.

The remainder of the year group is taught in broadly mixed ability groups, but with the narrower range of ability allowing for a more intensive focus on the development of skills.

The decision to place a pupil in a particular group is informed by both data and professional judgement. Movement between classes is fluid, reviewed on a half termly basis and can change within the year, according to the needs of the individual pupil.

Year 8 and 9 pupils are also grouped in Mathematics. At Key Stage 3, the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science are studied for approximately 40% of the time.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 4. Core subjects are now studied for approximately 50% of the time, as most pupils study more Science. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 study Religious Education and Welsh to GCSE level, the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus a further three possible option subjects.

## Sixth Form

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School has a growing and flourishing Sixth Form and we are proud of our Sixth Form students, with their achievements speaking for themselves. There is a varied and challenging Sixth Form curriculum including a wide range of advanced level and vocational courses which give the students a high quality preparation for university, higher education and employment within a supportive and friendly environment. We aim to ensure that our pupils will possess qualities such as flexibility, enterprise, global awareness and communication skills which will be at a premium. We provide resources and facilities for our Sixth Formers which allow them to develop these skills and relax in a pleasant environment. As well as offering a range of academic and vocational courses including Mathematics, Science, English, Public Services, Applied Science, Sociology, Religious Studies, Classics and Humanities, all Sixth Formers are offered a curriculum enrichment programme which provides opportunities for first aid, sports leadership, enterprise activities, work shadowing and voluntary work. This programme is delivered during off-timetable days throughout the year.

Sixth Form students have opportunities to contribute to the community life of the school as a whole by acting as prefects, guides and role models to younger students. Our Sixth Form Leadership Team provide an important focus for the pupil body and contribute regularly to the work of the school council.

## Uniform

<b>Blazer</b> (compulsory)	navy, with official school logo
<b>Jumper</b> (non-compulsory)	navy, V-necked with official school logo
<b>Tie:</b>	official school tie
<b>Socks:</b>	with trousers, dark-coloured or white with skirts, standard grey or white
<b>Tights:</b>	should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless NB socks or tights <b>MUST</b> be worn
<b>Blouse/Shirt:</b>	plain white, standard school style. Not denim or fashion.
<b>Skirt:</b>	mid-grey in material and standard design, standard knee length (knife or box pleat permitted)
<b>Trousers:</b>	dark grey and standard design <b>NOT</b> fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, corduroy etc. <b>No 'skinny' tight fitting trousers.</b>
<b>Shoes:</b>	black, dark brown or dark grey with flat or low heels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ankle boots may be worn in winter provided they conform to the above regulation.</li><li>• Trainers are not permitted.</li><li>• Felt/fabric shoes are not permitted.</li><li>• Heavy boots (military, Ugg etc.) are not permitted.</li></ul>
<b>Outer Garments:</b> Pupils may wear mackintoshes, coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be <b>plain, dark and single coloured</b> . Pupils should not wear denim type jackets, hoodies, tracksuit tops or cardigans.	



- A luminous reflective strip is permitted and parents/ guardians are strongly advised to consider this.
- No logos, writing, patterns of any description should be present. Denim is not allowed.
- Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances.
- There is no necessity for anorak hoods to be worn at school.

**Jewellery:** A single sleeper or a single stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden.

**Make-up/ Hair dye:** Make-up is forbidden. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. greens etc. are not permitted); no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts.

**All items of clothing should be clearly marked with pupils' names.**

All items of uniform are available from:

**Bergoni Sportwear**  
**J&S Products**  
**TeamZ Sportswear**



# Discipline for Learning

We set high expectations in relation to behaviour, this being essential to ensuring that there is an appropriate environment in which effective learning can take place. We strive to recognise the good work and actions of our students through our reward merit system and also address any occurrences of misbehaviour through our Discipline for Learning Code of Conduct. This is summarised briefly below:

## Behaviour Blueprint

<b>Rules</b>  1. <b>Be respectful</b> – Show respect to yourself, other pupils and staff  2. <b>Be safe</b> – Your behaviour must not put yours, or other peoples safety at risk. Deliberately putting the safety of others at risk will result in exclusion  3. <b>Be the best that you can be</b> – Always try your hardest to do your best	<b>Routines – Start of lesson</b>  1. Enter the classroom calmly and quietly  2. Sanitize hands before sitting down  3. Clean your desk/ ICT before sitting down with the cleaning equipment provided  4. Get out your books and equipment ready for the lessons	<b>Routines – End of lesson</b>  1. Put away books and equipment  2. Clean your desks/ ICT with the cleaning equipment provided  3. Stand behind desks waiting to be dismissed  4. Sanitise hands when leaving  5. If you remain in the same room get out you reading book and read silently until the next teacher arrives		
<b>Stepped Boundaries</b>  1. <b>Reminder</b> – You will be reminded about the expectations of behaviour.  2. <b>Warning</b> – You will be given a warning, which will be recorded on SIMS and can be seen by your parents on MyEd  3. <b>Teacher sanction</b> – You will be given additional work to complete at home and your parents will be informed (text or phone call)  4. <b>Referral to HoY/ HoD</b> – You will be referred to your HoY/ HoD and receive off-yard detention  5. <b>SLT Rota call</b> – You will be given an after school detention/ exclusion  6. <b>Exclusion</b> – Anyone who deliberately puts their safety or that of others at risk will be excluded. Before pupils return from exclusion a risk assessment and individual behaviour plan will be put in place which may result in a part-time timetable or having to work from home.  <b>Reasons for an immediate exclusion can include deliberate coughing on or near someone and truancy.</b>	<b>Break and Lunch</b>  Remain in your allocated year group areas and don't mix with other year groups  Wear masks indoors  Avoid physical contact with others  No ball games  Sanitize hands at the start and end of lunch/ break	<b>Entering and moving around the school</b>  Enter and exit the school through your designated entrance/ exit  Sanitize your hands on your way in and out of school  Go to your year group zones at the start of the day (before 8.45)  Follow the one way system at all times and wear a mask in corridors		
	<b>Going Over and Above Recognition</b>  1. <b>Support your friends and classmates</b> – If you see someone needs help please help them  2. <b>Offering your own time</b> – Give up some of your own time to support others (including staff)  3. <b>Completing additional work/ research</b> – Go the 'extra mile' and do more than is expected of you	<b>Rewards</b>  Praise from staff  Achievement points recorded on SIMS and shared with parents  Letter/ email/ text/ phone call home  Inclusion in reward breakfast  Entry for 'prize draw'  Letter from the Headteacher		
<b>Support</b>  <b>Time-out</b> – Rooms 19 and A1 will be time-out spaces  <b>Nurture</b> – Room 2 (KS4 pupils only)  <b>Aspire</b> – KS4 only  <b>HWB</b> – Wellbeing support for all year groups				
Truth	Justice	Tolerance	Respect	Forgiveness

## School Meals

Like most schools, Bishop Vaughan uses a cashless catering system. Our system, sQuid, allows parents to make online payments to top up their child's account. Alternatively, pupils may bring cash into school and top up accounts using the machines in the year bases.

The system is designed to allow pupils to make payment using their thumb-print; biometric information will not be collected, however, without your consent and a form will be provided outlining all details at the start of the school year.

The system ensures that pupils do not have to carry cash each day. Pupils in receipt of free school meals will have a sum of £2.40 credited to their sQuid account each day. Spending above this level will only be possible if top-up payments are made by parents. Please speak with the Student Services team if you believe that your child might be eligible for free school meals. Application is quick and easy, and a successful application will also allow the school to access a considerable amount of funding that can be used to support your child's education.



## Transport

For any queries relating to home-school transport, please contact the Student Services desk on 01792 772006 ext 239.

## Sport

We are incredibly proud of our rich sporting tradition and also of our recent successes in a variety of disciplines. All of our sportspeople are encouraged to model the virtues as laid out by the Catholic Pupil Profile and to make the very most of their God given talents. Last sporting season, three of our year groups won the Swansea City schools league. They are pictured below with their trophies. Many other sporting disciplines such as cross country running, athletics, netball and tennis are nurtured. We currently have athletes representing at both county and national level.



## The Masterclass Programme

The Masterclass programme is run in partnership with the Reaching Wider Team based in Swansea University. It is currently in its fifth year and Bishop Vaughan is the only school in South West Wales delivering such a programme with the university. Lecturers and researchers from Swansea University deliver workshops and lectures to our students on a range of subjects. The Masterclasses are open to all students in Years 9 to 13.

### Philosophy

The philosophy of the Masterclass programme is based on two pillars:

1. In order to increase and support successful applications to Russell Group universities, students need access to supercurricular knowledge – this is knowledge that goes beyond the constraints of the school curriculum or exam specifications.
2. As a Catholic school, Bishop Vaughan seeks to develop the God-given talents of its students.

The Masterclass programme offers an opportunity for students to access the latest research and knowledge in a variety of subjects – the topics are not linked to the school curriculum and are designed to focus on subject knowledge, rather than careers.

A selection of recent masterclass topics is highlighted below:

- Medicine – Immunology
- Genetics
- Engineering and biomedicine
- Religion and Theology – The reformation
- Contemporary media - The modern newsroom



The Welsh Government has also developed the Seren Network which supports the most academically able students across Wales ‘to achieve their academic potential and gain access to the leading universities.’<sup>1</sup> In Swansea, the Seren Hub is run by Gower College and is structured around monthly masterclasses delivered by staff from Gower College and Swansea Sixth Forms (including Bishop Vaughan). The Masterclass programme has been informed by and adapted from this structure.

In Swansea, the Seren Network is only open to students who have achieved 7+ A/A\* grades at GCSE. The Masterclass programme has been designed to be open to more students for a number of reasons:

- To support the inclusive Catholic ethos of the school by opening opportunities to as many students as possible.
- To support high aspirations from the earliest stage possible.
- The average Oxbridge applicant has 4 or 5 GCSE grades at A\*/A. Therefore, many of our students are capable of applying to Oxford or Cambridge but may not be eligible for the Seren Network.

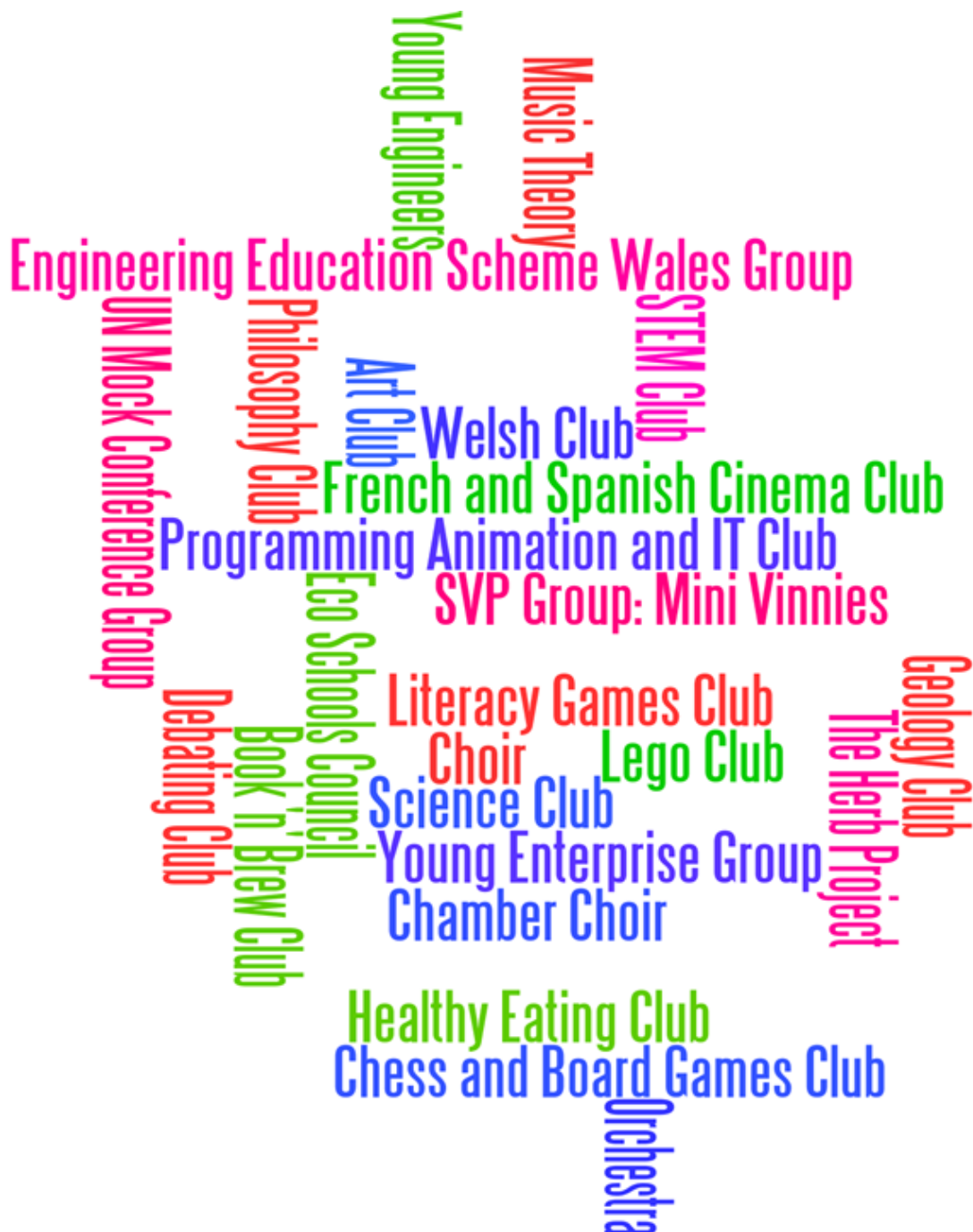
**As a school we are very proud of the achievements of our pupils and fulfill every opportunity that we can to support them achieve their goals.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://hwb.gov.wales/the-seren-network>



## Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a very wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer at Bishop Vaughan. A full timetable can be found on the school website and this is updated regularly. Activities include:



The school also offers the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, from Bronze to Gold level.

## Music at Bishop Vaughan

The Music and Performing Arts department offers a number of extra-curricular activities, from instrumental and vocal lessons to involvement in high-quality musical productions. Liturgical music is an important focus, with the main choir and chamber choir, the *Schola Cantorum*, rehearsing throughout the year and participating in school events and liturgical celebrations.

Should your child be interested in participating in these activities or in accessing music tuition, please encourage him/ her to speak with a member of the Music department at the earliest opportunity.

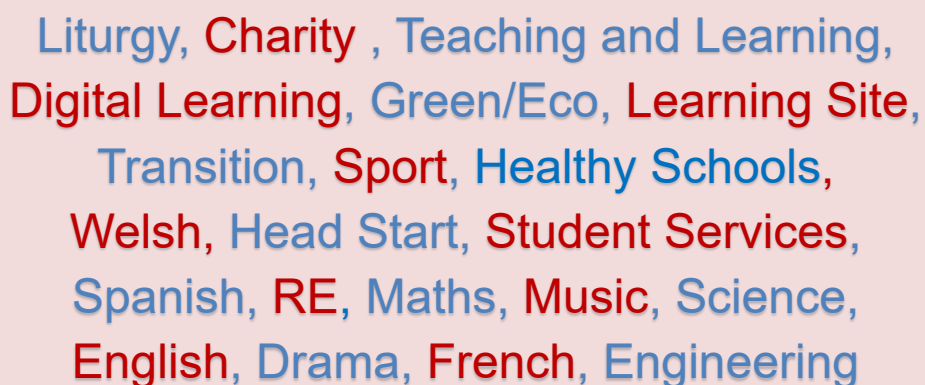
**Please keep an eye on our website for an up-to-date extra-curricular timetable of lunchtime and after school activities.**



## Leadership Opportunities

Bishop Vaughan has an extensive pupil leadership programme, with pupils at the heart of all decision-making in the school. Over 160 pupil leadership posts exist throughout the school, with most committees being overseen by members of the Sixth Form Leadership Team. Pupils are generally appointed after application and interview, with some being appointed after nomination by Heads of Department or Heads of Year. Involvement may lead to SSAT – Student Leadership Accreditation.

Leadership opportunities include those for ambassadors in:



Liturgy, Charity , Teaching and Learning,  
Digital Learning, Green/Eco, Learning Site,  
Transition, Sport, Healthy Schools,  
Welsh, Head Start, Student Services,  
Spanish, RE, Maths, Music, Science,  
English, Drama, French, Engineering

We hope that your child will benefit from these opportunities whilst he/she is in Bishop Vaughan.

## Charging and Remissions Policy

The Governors' policy on charging follows guidelines from the Welsh Assembly Government and is in line with Local Authority procedures. When an activity is part of the basic curricular provision of the school, no charge is made. This would include books and necessary instruments and equipment but not clothing. However, in the case of textbooks, e.g. Science, in some cases a refundable deposit is required from pupils in order to ensure that books are returned at the end of the course.

When the school organises an occasional visit to a museum or theatre then the law requires that such trips (and entrance fees) should be free. Voluntary contributions can be requested but no compulsory payment can be demanded. In practice, the situation in all schools is to make provisional arrangements for an activity, advise parents of the pupil share and request a contribution. If the voluntary contributions are not made, then the 'voluntary' activity may be cancelled.

Educational activities outside school hours do not fall into any of the "no charge" categories. Parents who agree to their child participating must be willing to meet the charge (though the cost may be subsidised by the school, as is frequently the case). Activities in which 50% or more of the time is spent outside school are deemed to be of this 'optional' type (*i.e. subject to a charge*).

## Access to School Policy Documents

Schemes of work are available at the school. Parents should make requests in writing to the Headteacher. Copies of whole school policies are available for download from the school's website [www.bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk). Further copies can be obtained from the school – please contact Mr M Jones, Data Manager, for details.



**BISHOP VAUGHAN**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ACADEMIC

PASTORAL CARE

COVID-19 INFORMATION

## POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

ADMISSIONS



ALN



ANTI BULLYING



ASSESSMENT



ATTENDANCE



CAREERS



CHARGING &  
REMISSIONS



CHILD  
PROTECTION



COMPLAINTS



CURRICULUM  
STATEMENT



DISABILITY  
EQUALITY SCHEME



DISCIPLINE FOR  
LEARNING





## Results

All results are published on our school website, [www.bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk).





# School Inspections Spring 2018

## Diocesan Inspection

We are delighted to share with you the findings of the Section 50 Diocesan Inspection which took place in March 2018. Further information can be found on the school website.

**The inspection judged that Bishop Vaughan School is a good Catholic school that is true to the Church's mission in providing learning and opportunity for all, rooted in explicit values of the Gospel.**

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School is an inclusive Catholic community in which every student is treated with dignity and respect.

Parents are very positive about the school, about its ethos and provision.

Leaders and managers are successful in promoting community cohesion, and the school works creatively to identify and implement ways to promote pupils' acceptance of difference and diversity.

Nearly all pupils are considerate to others and demonstrate care and respect for sacred spaces, sacred times and the religious artefacts in the school.

## **The school places an important emphasis on Gospel values based on the Beatitudes.**

At GCSE, given the high number of pupils entered, the outcomes reached by pupils are very good.

At Post 16, students who opt for advanced level Religious Studies attain very well.

All pupils are comprehensively supported by the school in their moral development, and have a good understanding of right and wrong. This is largely achieved due to the high levels of nurture that teaching and support staff offer for the appropriate systems the leadership team has put in place to nurture and support pupils.

**Pupils are respectful and quiet when gathering for prayer. They listen to what is being said and when invited to, they join in prayer openly and in one clear pupil voice.**

*The systems for tracking and monitoring in religious education are robust, such that the judgements made by the school in respect of the quality of teaching and learning in religious education are accurate.*

**The school chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, is used as a resource for prayer, liturgy, teaching and spiritual growth. Pupils show a good understanding of the respect necessary when present in the chapel.**

The Catholicity of the school is supported and challenged appropriately by the full governing body to ensure the school's Catholic ethos and its capacity to respond to the wider cohort of the school are at the heart of the school's strategic development.

Governors, leaders and managers welcome the diverse nature of the school's population, and are clearly committed to achieve excellence.

Leaders and managers work hard to evaluate and improve the provision for Religious Education, and to plan for improvements in outcomes.

**Governors give their time generously to the school and members include two Catholic priests. Governors challenge the school's standards and success appropriately with an emphasis on the school's Catholic character and success.**

The parish priests are supportive of the school and its link with the parishes and community. The school values their visits and the rota that enables many of them to celebrate Mass during the year.

Pastoral care and guidance is well led and managed by a committed team of Heads of Year. All of these activities have a beneficial impact on the local community, for example through work with the parishes, the Diocesan Youth Service and the HCPT. There is also a long-standing and beneficial link with St Cassian's Retreat Centre in Kintbury, where an exceptionally high proportion of the centre's Retreat facilitators are former pupils of the school.

One especially important example of effective partnership work can be seen in the range of activities regularly and effectively undertaken by the school's part-time Chaplain. He liaises well with a good range of personnel within the school, to ensure that valuable care, guidance and support are offered to individual pupils and staff, and to wider groups within the school.

Local parish priests are supportive of the school, and value and encourage the range of links which support the crucial dynamics between the pupils' homes, their high school and their parish.

**Leaders and managers strongly promote a comprehensive range of partnerships with secular and ecclesial providers, organisations and services, to promote pupil learning and well-being, and for the benefit of the whole school community, and beyond.**

*The provision for prayer across the school is organised and well distributed so that tutors, leaders and pupils can benefit from the weekly focus for prayer during morning worship.*

**Pupils respond well to the impressive range of opportunities for retreats and pilgrimages and those experiences are very positive. These include trips to Rome, and to the national Catholic Flame youth gathering, all underpinned by strong levels of commitment and time from staff across the school.**

## Estyn Inspection

The school's Estyn report was published just before the start of the summer term, and again we are very pleased to share the findings of the inspection team with pupils and their families. We are delighted that the report recognises the very special ethos and the values that bind our school community:

**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School has a caring, inclusive ethos that is based firmly upon gospel values. It is highly successful in developing pupils' spiritual, social, moral and cultural values, and their sense of community. The school provides valuable support and guidance for all pupils which impacts strongly on their wellbeing, learning and personal development.**

Teachers create an inclusive and positive learning environment.

Leadership at all levels contributes successfully to a shared commitment to achieving the school's aims and ambitions.

*The adaptation of the curriculum to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils is a strength of the school. The 'Aspire' programme, for example, provides valuable personalised support for pupils with behavioural issues. This range of provision is successful in securing positive outcomes for vulnerable pupils.*

**Sixth form pupils ... demonstrate enthusiasm, confidence and well-developed subject knowledge. They express themselves clearly and use subject specific vocabulary well.**

**In each of the past three years, performance in the indicator that includes three A level grades or equivalent at A\*-A has been secure.**

The school provides many sporting and cultural extra-curricular activities that cater successfully for a wide range of interests. This includes a variety of clubs, such as the debate club and the 'Book 'n' Brew' reading club, and trips to first world war battlefields, a local radio station and 'Flame', a national Catholic youth gathering. In many of these activities, older pupils provide valuable support for younger pupils. These activities contribute well to pupils' personal and social development.

***Pupils contribute maturely to the development of the school through the school council. For example, pupils have participated effectively in the school's decisions on their uniform. Where opportunities arise, pupils take on leadership roles and responsibilities enthusiastically. These pupils play a full part in the life and work of the school, for example as anti-bullying and language ambassadors.***

The school is highly successful in developing pupils' spiritual, social, moral and cultural values, which are fundamental to all aspects of school life. Whole-school assemblies, tutorial periods and visiting speakers enhance pupils' understanding of their culture, the Catholic ethos and their sense of community.

In many lessons, teachers create an inclusive and positive learning environment that supports pupils' subject understanding and personal development well. They use their detailed knowledge of individual pupils' needs and interests to plan a variety of engaging and stimulating activities that promote progress effectively. These activities build well on pupils' prior learning and are supported by carefully prepared resources.

*Nearly all pupils ... feel that the school provides an extensive range of staff they can approach with any issues that arise, for example, within the valuable 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Aspire' centres.*

There is an effective range of curricular and extra-curricular provision to support the achievement and wellbeing of more able pupils. Links with other providers, such as the local university, are used well to develop the interests and aspirations of these pupils.

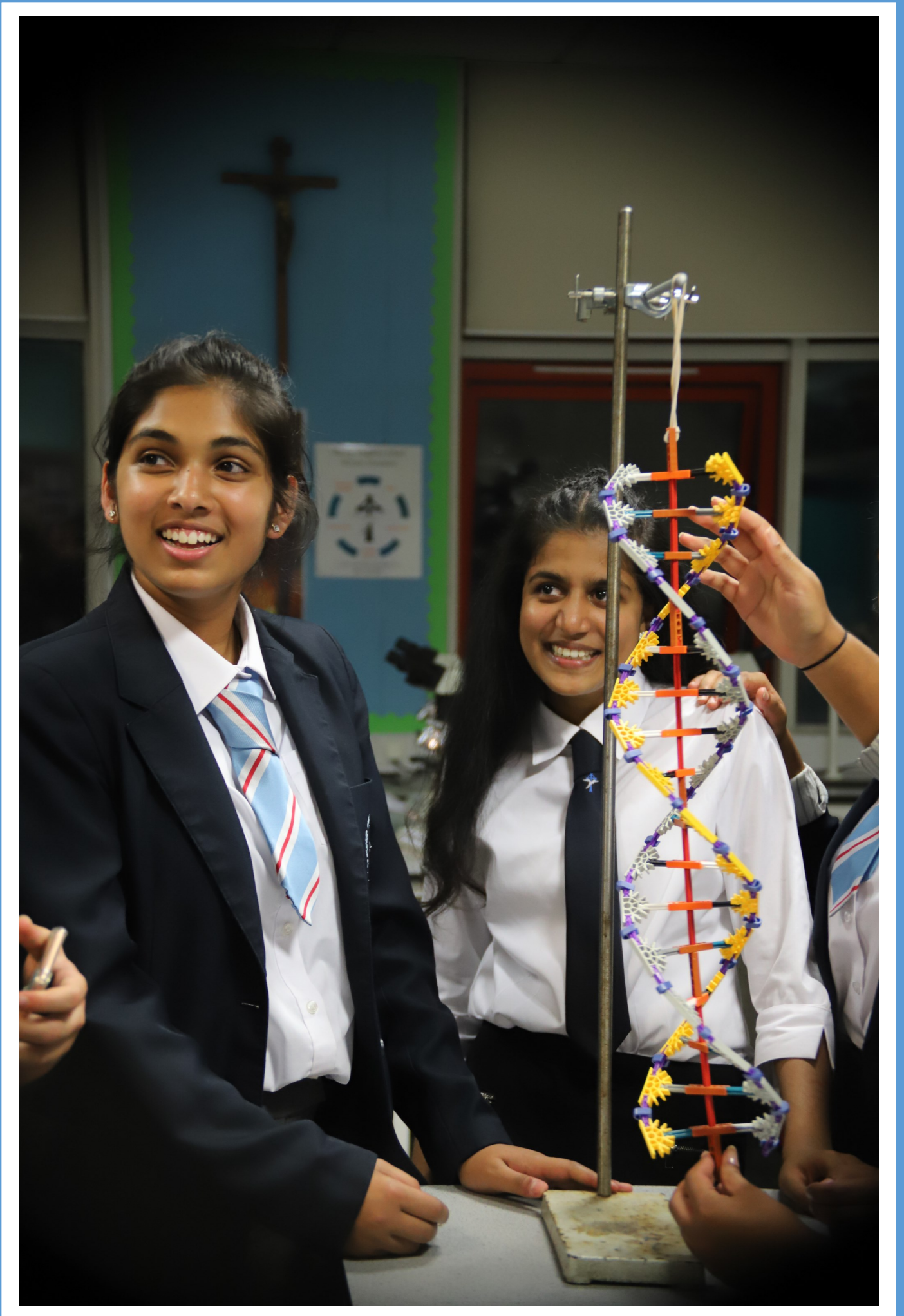
The school plans and adapts its curriculum carefully to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils. This has a positive impact on pupils' progress, personal development and wellbeing.

The school identifies clearly those pupils with weaker skills. It provides these pupils with a range of targeted interventions that have a positive impact on the development of their literacy and numeracy skills.

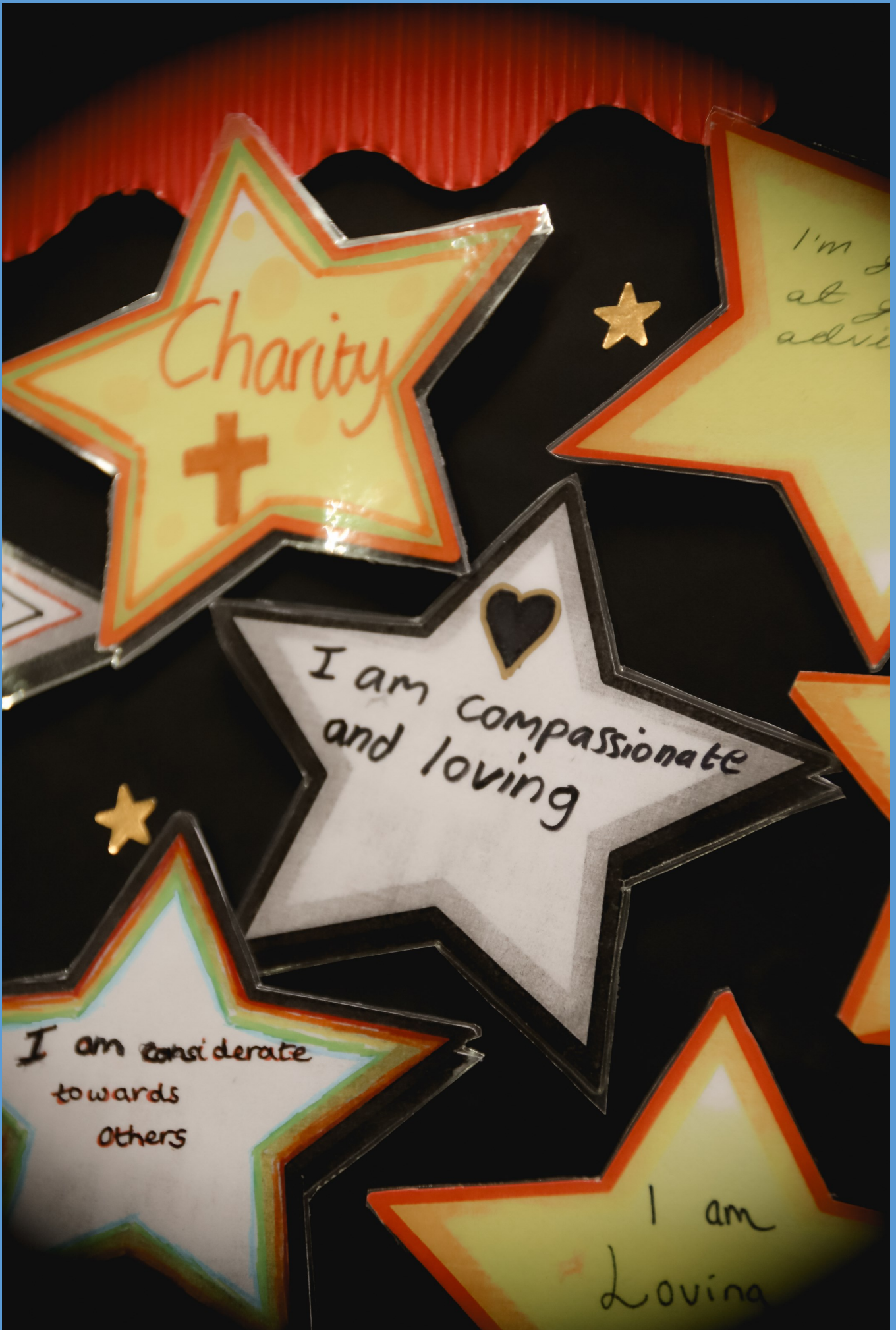
**The school provides pupils with a wide range of opportunities to develop as ambitious, creative and ethically-aware learners. 'Problem-based learning days', for example, enable pupils to develop their thinking and collaborative skills. Activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme develop pupils' team-working and leadership skills, and a range of charity projects supports pupils' empathy and understanding of ethical issues well.**













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