



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School **Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan**

Parents' Newsletter Easter 2018
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Pasg 2018

Papal Nuncio's Visit to Menevia



Photographs by Mr Lewis Mitchell

School Term and Holiday Dates 2017-2018

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2017	Monday 4th September	Monday 30th October	Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December
Spring 2018	Monday 8th January	Monday 19th February	Friday 23rd February	Thursday 29th March
Summer 2018	Monday 16th April	Monday 28th May	Friday 1st June	Tuesday 24th July

Dates for your Diary

The last day of half term is Thursday 29th March 2018; school closes at 3.25pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 16th April 2018. This will be week one on the timetable.

Inset Days

Monday 23rd July 2018 and Tuesday 24th July 2018.

Advance Notice of Examination Dates 2018

The main external exam period begins on Tuesday 8th May 2018 and will continue to the end of June. Please be aware, however, that some examinations, especially orals and practical examinations are normally held before this date.

There will be National Reading and Numeracy tests for Years 7, 8 and 9 to be taken between Thursday 26th April and Friday 4th May 2018.

The full academic year school calendar is available to view on our website, alternatively parents can collect a paper copy from the school's Main Office.

PLEASE NOTE:

The decision was taken by ERW, our regional consortium, that no absences due to holidays during term times will be authorised by Headteachers. This means absences that are due to pupils being taken on holidays during term time will be recorded as unauthorised.

As a school we actively encourage parents not to take holidays during term time so that children can fully benefit from the opportunities their school provides. If children are not in school, they cannot learn.

Easter Services

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the central focus of the Church's year. The liturgical rites for each of the days are an essential support to understanding the Christian message. We urge everyone to attend their Parish church for the three occasions. Times of the services in the different parishes are printed below. We wish you and happy and Holy Easter.

Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.00am Mass

Sacred Heart Morriston (Father Jason Jones)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Good Friday 11.00am Children's Stations
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.30pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.30am/11.00am/6.30pm Mass

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Fr Mansel Usher)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.30am Walk of Witness
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.30 am/10.30am Mass

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry)

Holy Thursday 6.00pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 Holy Saturday 6.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.00am Mass

St. David's (Canon Flook)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's
 Supper
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 11.00am/6.00pm Mass

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Holy Thursday 6.30pm
 Good Friday 10.00am Stations of the Cross for
 children
 3.00pm Solemn Passion &
 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass

St Bride's Pontardulais (Father J P Thomas)

Easter Sunday 8.30am Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Artur)

Easter Sunday 9.00am Polish Mass
 11am Mass

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito)

Please confirm these times with the Parish

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.30am/11.00am Mass

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm
 Good Friday 6.30pm Solemn Passion
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 11.30am Mass

Holy Cross (Father Thadathil)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.00am Stations of the
 Cross for children
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Holy Thursday 6.30pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion and
 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.00am Mass

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Father Benedict)

Wednesday 11.30am Chrism Mass
 Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's
 Supper
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 6.30pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.00am/10.00am Mass

St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Holy Thursday 7pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm
 Easter Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am

Introduction

It is with the greatest sadness that we acknowledge here the loss of our Chair of Governors, Mr. Terry Jones, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Saturday 10th February. This news came as a great shock to all of his Governor colleagues, and to all staff, whom he addressed collectively in the first week of February following the school's Estyn inspection.

Very many pupils and their parents met Mr. Jones at school events including the Awards Evenings, and are aware of the great commitment and energy he devoted to his work on the school's behalf. Similarly, through his voluntary work as Chair of the Penllergaer Trust, with Gwyrosydd School and with several choirs, Mr. Jones ensured that every organisation with which he was involved benefited immeasurably from the time that he has spent with them due to the expertise and dedication that he brought to his roles. Mr. Jones will be missed greatly for his warmth, humour, kindness and true generosity of spirit. We pray for his family in their time of loss and for Mr. Jones, that he may rest in peace.

Just one of the many contributions that Mr. Jones made in his time as a Governor, and latterly as Chair of Governors, was in playing a key role in the school's recent inspection. He took great pride in the school's work and it was characteristic of his kind and supportive nature that his last visit to the school was one in which he congratulated all of the staff for their work, having been present for the provisional feedback at the end of the visit.

On the first day of the Spring term the school received a call to say that an Estyn inspection would be taking place from Monday 29th January until Thursday 2nd February 2018. A team of eight inspectors visited Bishop Vaughan, and we are delighted to report that the visit went very well. The school's position in terms of its recent improvements in both categorisation and examination results were noted and celebrated. Representatives from the school, the Diocese and the Local Authority present for the meeting with the team on the final day of the visit were particularly pleased to hear feedback that reflected so positively upon the character of the school and the centrality of the school's ethos, this being based firmly upon the Gospel values. Our pupils' spiritual, moral, academic, social and cultural development remains our priority and as always they proved to be outstanding ambassadors for their school, exemplifying the school's ethos in every way and they certainly have a very great deal to be proud of. The final report will be published on 4th April and will be available electronically via the Estyn website and the school's website, as well as paper copies being available upon request.

The Section 50 Diocesan inspection which took place a little later in the term provided a further opportunity to celebrate the school's ethos. The judgements of the team closely reflected the findings of the Section 28 (Estyn) team and the school received some very pleasing feedback in relation to its work in the teaching of Religious Education and to its progress with the recommendations from the last Section 50 inspection. We have certainly had a busy term, therefore, with these two inspections taking place, however we are delighted that they have provided opportunities for celebrating our pupils' achievements and talents, and above all the way in which they collectively embody the Gospel values through, for example, their service of others and their compassion.

Many pupils were involved in the major Diocesan event depicted on the cover of this newsletter: the visit to Menevia of the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams. Pupils from the *Schola Cantorum*, a section of the larger school choir, performed at an evening reception held at the Marriott Hotel in Swansea. On the following day, Ash Wednesday, a number of the school's Liturgy, Charity and Music Ambassadors attended a service at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea. During this service, the pupils and accompanying staff from the RE Department had the opportunity to present the school's Mission Statement to Archbishop Adams, to meet him and to have their photograph taken with him. It was a very special occasion and one which they will remember for many years to come!

Introduction

This term has also been one in which there has been a great deal of activity in preparation for the external examinations at key stages four and five next term. Learning Zone, held after school daily, continues to be well-attended, as do the range of extra-curricular provisions. The Spring Concert, held on 15th March, featured a programme compiled by the pupils themselves and, as with so many areas of school life, it is good to see the pupils leading to an ever-increasing degree. Their leadership skills have certainly been evident also in the very wide range of charity work undertaken this term, with numerous events organised by the pupils in support of charities close to their hearts. Our Liturgy Ambassadors have taken a leading role in organising and delivering several elements of our Lenten preparations and services, and their hard work has been evident in these and in the assemblies that they have delivered to all of the year groups.

It has been a privilege to meet with pupils from our primary schools during February and we look forward to the events planned for next term, including welcoming them as both performers and audience members in our forthcoming musical production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'! We warmly invite all pupils, their families, parishioners and friends of the school to this production which will be held from 11th –13th July.

This newsletter can only convey a small proportion of the very many exciting events, achievements and opportunities that pupils have experienced during this very busy term. These range from the visit of the Papal Nuncio, as previously mentioned, to trips to Iceland, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, a vibrant school Eisteddfod, gaining scholarships and some truly exceptional offers for University places. We hope that you will enjoy reading more about these in this newsletter, and on behalf of all at Bishop Vaughan, we wish you and your families a happy and a blessed Easter.

Emma Pole

Pupil Voice Forum



We attended the Big Conversation in Portarddulais Comprehensive School on the 15th March and discussed well-being in schools.

The main activity was making our own stress balls. This was fun, creative and exciting. We then collaborated and discussed with other schools how we are protected in school and what we already do to safeguard our well-being. We also discussed



what we can do to improve by taking ideas from other schools. It made us realise what we already do as a school, such as the anxiety workshops every Wednesday, Student Services office and drop in (Room 3) and what more we can do.

It was a great evening!
Tianna and Kristyn

BVS Charity Group

Parish Christmas Mass & Party

As part of the Christmas celebrations members of the local parishes were invited for Mass and a Christmas Party.

A celebratory Mass was organised by the Liturgy Ambassadors and the charity group supported this by providing "silver service" and refreshments at the party.

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all. As part of the entertainment pupils performed a mini cabaret while the visitors enjoyed a light selection of light refreshments. Many thanks to all who came to support the event. Keep an eye out for future events and activities!



HCPT Talent Show

The annual HCPT talent show showcased the fact that BVS really does have talent! The charity group prepared and delivered assemblies highlighting the importance of the HCPT charity and the close ties it has with the school. They then planned the talent



show, preparing posters, tickets and a programme of light entertainment. They held auditions and sold tickets at break and lunchtimes. After tough auditions, the final line up was selected and the group set about preparing logistics for the event. In a bid which could have rivalled Ant & Dec, Ben & Pete perfected a script as they prepared to host the show. On the

day a crowd 400 strong witnessed a jam packed and fun filled show with acts which included singing, dancing, a magician and even a few funny teacher acts. Laughter and song filled the hall. The charity team collected the donations and all money raised was sent to HCPT

Swansea group 158. In total an impressive £653.79 was raised for the local group, of which many of our pupils are members. This will enable one and a half fares for the trip to Lourdes, and is another brilliant example of Bishop Vaughan giving back and supporting the local community.



BVS Charity Group

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas jumper day was celebrated to support the Save the Children Appeal on the last day of term.

Bishop Vaughan was awash with sparkly jumpers, Christmas tree earrings and reindeer antler headbands! A Christmas-cracking £656.74 was

raised and the festive spirit was alive and thriving throughout the school community.



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Charity Group – Merit Assembly

As a way of thanking the pupils who have played an important part in organising and delivering the numerous charity events over the last term, a special award assembly was held in the Chapel. This was a chance to give thanks and reflect on the events and campaigns of the last year. It recognised the incredible effort by all involved, as members of the Charity group and wider supporters of the BVS community. Thank you for all you do – we couldn't do it without you! Looking forward to planning the next set of events!



Fundraiser – Velindre Cancer Care and Cystic Fibrosis

As part of the “wear red for Velindre” campaign, students wore red on a non-uniform day. The money was split

between the “wear red” campaign and

Cystic Fibrosis, a charity close to the hearts of students and staff at Bishop Vaughan. A generous £638.76 was raised – brilliant effort, ardderchog! The money will benefit both local centres in supporting young people and their families through treatment and respite care.



**Cystic
Fibrosis Trust**

Music and Performing Arts Department

This term has been yet another busy one for the Bishop Vaughan Performing Arts Department. We were given the opportunity to perform at two events this term including representing the school at the Marriott hotel, where the Schola Cantorum performed for the Papal Nuncio, as part of a prestigious diocesan event.



During the second half of the term many pupils performed in our 'Spring Concert', which showcased many of our extra-curricular groups, as well as encouraging pupils to come up with their own repertoires

to perform in the concert. The pupils enjoyed rehearsing songs which they had chosen to perform.

The evening included the Schola Cantorum performing contemporary choral music, including music by Adele and local composer Karl Jenkins, as well as Project Production performing a variety of musical selections such as those from Grease, Fame and High School Musical. It was encouraging to see



many instrumental and vocal performances including solo items as well as our ensemble group and our growing orchestra. The KS3 drama group also performed a short piece they had developed based on morals, with the subject of bullying, set in a school environment.

It was an enjoyable evening for both the audience and performers alike with the added bonus of a cream tea in the interval!



Next term there are two events planned:

A Celtic Evening -
Friday 20th April, 7pm till late. An evening of Celtic music with a live band.
More information to follow.

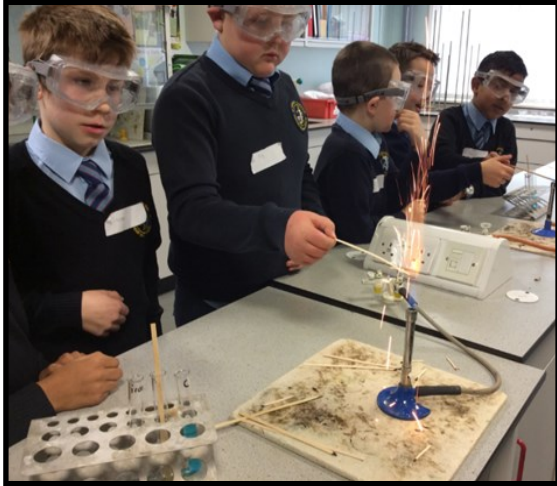


School Production

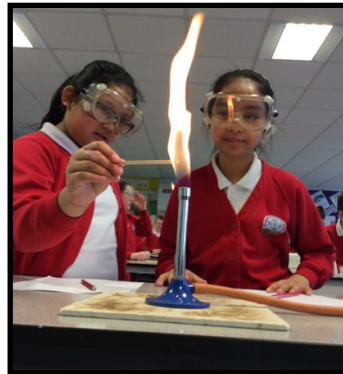
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Tuesday 10th July - Thursday 12th July
7pm Nightly | Adults £7 | Children £5
Tickets available from school.

Transition

On February 12th and 13th Year 5 spent the day at Bishop Vaughan where they took part in a carousel of three different lessons.



During the first lesson pupils took part in a science lesson where they investigated what makes fireworks burn with flames of different colours.



They participated in a triple jump session led by the PE department in lesson 2. During this session, pupils attempted all parts of the discipline, recording their scores to investigate strength and weaknesses. Pupils competed against each other and got to see how their scores compared to some Olympic athletes!



The third session of the day was ICT where pupils were shown how to use formulae in spreadsheets.

The pupils were tasked with planning a 'Minions' party where they had to use the spreadsheet to calculate costs.

Thank you to all staff who were involved! The day was a tremendous success and Year 5 pupils and staff had a great day!

Eisteddfod March 1st

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi - Yr Eisteddfod



“Be joyous and always believe in God, and do the little things you saw and heard from me.” Dewi Sant

March 1st marks the festival of Saint David, the patron Saint of Wales, and Bishop Vaughan pupils celebrated in style at our annual school Eisteddfod on Friday 16th March.

In the run up to the Eisteddfod, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 entered homework competitions in all subjects, frantically trying to win points for their Houses and many pupils enjoyed success. Competitions varied from writing poetry, designing posters, Maths co-ordinates and characterising Welsh leeks (!) – all with a Welsh theme.



The stage competitions allowed pupils to showcase their talents and get in to the spirit of the day. The audience enjoyed many performances including raps about Wales, Welsh poetry, a super-cool drummer and guitarist, vocalists, the choir performing Calon Lân and a thoroughly entertaining historical presentation. The highlight of the day was the outstanding Year 8 boys and defending champions from last year performing their rap about Wales - anhygoel!



Mabyn house led the way from the start with Cadog nipping at their heels, but as the day went on Mabyn increased their lead to finally be crowned worthy winners of the day – da iawn tŷ Mabyn!

Congratulations to everyone who took part and entered homework and stage competitions – the day would not have happened without your participation!

Llongyfarchiadau tŷ Mabyn! - Congratulations Mabyn house!



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On February 1st 2018, fifty pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. They did exceptionally well this year with 25 of them gaining a certificate.

The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan, with Ethan Fage achieving the highest mark in the school. Ethan, along with William Collins and Ashwin Sibi were then invited to do the kangaroo extension papers last week and we are now awaiting the results of these. Very impressive!

Well done to everyone that took part, particularly those who achieved a certificate.

Year 11

1 st	Ethan Fage	Gold Award
2 nd	William Collins	Gold Award
3 rd	Alwin Saji	Silver Award
4 th	Ans Sibi	Silver Award
5 th	Arun Sibi	Silver Award
6 th	Ystffan McCambridge	Silver Award
7 th	Artur Varosyan	Silver Award
8 th	Zoe Rees	Bronze Award
9 th	Chase Clark	Bronze Award
10 th	Hannah Williams	Bronze Award

Year 10

1 st	Daniel Felton	Silver Award
2 nd	Oisin Griffin-Barr	Silver Award
3 rd	Tharanibavan Gowribalan	Bronze Award
4 th	Hannah Thomas	Bronze Award
Jt5 th	Jennifer Parry	Bronze Award
Jt5 th	Kristian Morgan	Bronze Award
7 th	Maya Ingham	Bronze Award

Year 9

1 st	Ashwin Sibi	Gold Award
2 nd	Jack Measday	Silver Award
3 rd	Lili Stephenson	Silver Award
Jt4 th	Adam Murphy	Bronze Award
Jt4 th	Alaxi Jaimon	Bronze Award
5 th	Keira Ingham	Bronze Award
6 th	Hannah Crudge	Bronze Award
7 th	Ffion Morgan	Bronze Award

Geography

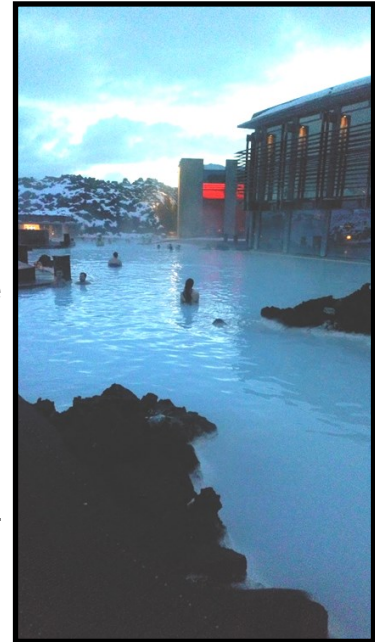
Iceland 14 -18 February 2018

As a Geography teacher, I couldn't believe that we had travelled to Iceland to see the incredible tectonic activity and- whilst we were away- Swansea had an earthquake!!

It all started one bright and incredibly early morning in February. A group of intrepid explorers met in the car park of Bishop Vaughan ready for our adventure to Iceland. This adventure began on arrival in Iceland with a trip to the Blue Lagoon, a bathing area heated by geothermal energy. This was a perfect start to our Iceland experience after a day of travelling. We arrived at the Lagoon just before the sun set so we were able to experience it in daylight and darkness, a lovely beginning! On our first full day we were lucky enough to have a bright and sunny day. The day before the roads had all had to be closed after a sudden blizzard came in. As we travelled to our first destination we kept seeing cars abandoned in the snow.

Our first stop was Pingvellir, where the Eurasian and North American plates are pulling away from each other. This has created a huge drift valley which we could clearly see. It was also the place of the first ever people's parliament. We continued on to see the geyser- after which all geysers in the world are called. This one erupts into a huge plume of boiling water that stretches up to 30 metres in the air every 10 minutes. From there we journeyed to the Gullfoss Waterfall, a majestic 3 tiered waterfall where the water appears to disappear into the earth itself. These amazing natural sights were followed by a visit to a Geothermal power plant where we learnt how all of Iceland's heating is free as it comes from the heated water in the earth's crust. We then visited the largest shopping Centre in Reykjavik, Kringlan for a little shopping and something to eat.

During our stay we also visited several waterfalls, one of which was frozen in parts as it was so cold. We went to the black sandy beach of Vik where we saw basalt columns caused by volcanic eruptions and the volcano that had caused them. Nearby was a glacier and it is this combination in such close proximity that gives Iceland its nickname of 'The Land of Fire and Ice'. A trip to Iceland wouldn't be complete without attempting to see the Northern Lights. We were very lucky and saw them not once but twice! The first time was on an official tour when basically all the buses in Reykjavik drive round until they see them and then there's a dash to get to the best viewing spot. The second time was when we went for a night walk around the capital city of Reykjavik and we just looked up to see them in the sky above the harbour. On our last day we visited a lighthouse and bubbling silica mud pools. It was an unforgettable experience. The pupils did us proud with their exemplary behaviour! Thank you one and all.



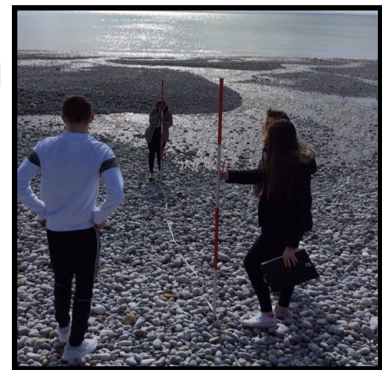
Geography

During the trip I inundated the parents with photos of our expeditions. I could only fit a few in here...



Geography Fieldwork

On Tuesday 20th March Year 12 pupils went to Pwll Du Bay in the Gower to collect data on coastal processes and landscapes for their forthcoming AS examinations. Pupils measured the slope of the beach, investigated pebble characteristics as well as measured wind speed and air temperatures around the Bay. A great day of team building and fieldwork was had by all!



Geography Club

UNICEF Christmas Fundraiser

During the lead up to Christmas Geography Club pupils designed and sold a 'Christmas Around the World' recipe book to fellow pupils and staff. Pupils decided to raise money for UNICEF and successfully raised £310.15, an excellent achievement! UNICEF have sent a certificate and a thank you letter.



Fairtrade Fortnight:

26th February – 6th March 2018

Geography Club have also celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight by having a Fairtrade break with some chocolate treats as well as undertaking a quiz competition as well as playing Fairtrade-related games during lunch times.

History Department

History Department Marks Holocaust Memorial Day

January 27th marked Holocaust Memorial Day, an annual event to commemorate those that died during the Holocaust and other genocides. Sofia and Alicia, Year 11 GCSE History students, worked with the RE department and the school's Liturgy Ambassadors to deliver assemblies to each year group to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.



The pupils also organised a special lunchtime event to allow pupils to reflect on what they had learned by writing postcards to Holocaust survivors and victims. The postcards were then sent to the HMD Trust, who will use postcards from across the nation to create a memorial.

PE Department

GCSE Moderation

Our GCSE Moderation took place on 15th March and proved a real success. This a very important day in the PE calendar as it results in 50% of the pupils' overall grades. Our moderator was absolutely blown away with some of the Year 11 performances and was very complimentary in her feedback.

A special mention for Peter Crudge who scored 84/84 for his three practical activities (basketball, rowing and badminton) and 16/16 for his Personal Fitness Programme coursework, giving him the full 100 marks available. We are very proud of this achievement, Peter. Well done!!

Cross Country / Athletics

Congratulations to Cameron Llewellyn, Callum Honey, Taylor Smith, Louis Oats, Seb Lewis and Jonah Fage for all being selected to run for Afan Nedd Tawe in the Welsh Schools Finals in Brecon.

Special mention to Cameron Llewellyn for winning the County Championship race. We look forward to the Summer Term and the teaching of Athletics in preparation for the various County competitions in May and June.

Rugby

Well done to our Year 9 Rugby Team who have reached the Swansea Schools Plate Final. This is a huge achievement for a great group of boys who epitomise what school sport is all about with their effort and level of commitment.

Girls' Rugby

Sessions have started and are every Thursday after school. We hope to see high numbers attending and potentially moving towards playing fixtures in the Summer Term.

Football

It has been another good season for all of our football teams who qualify for the Swansea Schools semi-finals. Special mention for our Year 9 team who have also reached the Welsh Cup semi-final to be played on 27th March versus Lewis School.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:

Nicky counted a total of 60 birds perching in three trees. Five minutes later, 6 birds had flown away from the first tree, 8 birds had flown away from the second tree and 4 birds had flown away from the third tree. He noticed that there was now the same number of birds in each tree. How many birds were originally perched in the second tree?

A: 14 B: 18 C: 20 D: 21 E: 22

Answer can be found on page 20

USA Soccer Scholarship

Congratulations to current PE A Level student Evan Daley who has secured a two-year soccer scholarship to the USA.

Evan will be attending Anoka Ramsey Community College for two years starting in early August 2018 and running to July 2020. Anoka Ramsey is situated in Coon Rapids, Minnesota and Evan will hopefully be majoring in Sports Management during his time there.

In an interview with Mr Davies (PE) Evan said “my ultimate goal is to play at the highest standard of football possible. After my two years I hope I can continue with my education and impress enough to move on to a NCAA Division 1 College”.

I am very proud of the fact that Evan has shown willingness and determination to break the mould and look for opportunities to ply his trade further afield. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for a very pleasant and polite young man who wants to achieve an ambitious goal and to experience life in totally new surroundings.

We want to wish Evan the very best of luck for the remainder of his studies here at Bishop Vaughan and hope that he has a successful future in the USA. Well done, Evan; we wish you all the best!

Mr Davies and Mr Boucher-Hamon



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Over the past few months both Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have been working hard to learn the required navigation skills for the expedition section of the Award, as well as making progress in the other sectional activities. Some of these include helping out at church youth groups, having karate lessons, learning to play chess, developing their cooking and baking skills and rock climbing.



Recently, the groups have been developing their camp craft skills by putting up tents and learning how to use a Trangia. The groups have made hot chocolate and, after being presented with a selection of food items, made up a calorific meal suitable to eat while on their expedition.

Miss S Crabb



Super-curricular Enrichment Programme

Bishop Vaughan School continues to develop its super-curricular programme to support the most able pupils in achieving their full potential.

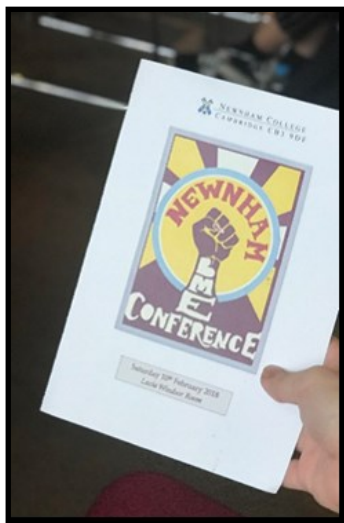
LeadHerShip Event at the Senedd

In February, Johannah in Year 12 participated in the LeadHerShip event at the Senedd in Cardiff. The event was run by Chwarae Teg, a charity that promotes equality for women in the workplace. Johannah was one of seventeen young women selected from over 100 applicants. She spent the day at the Senedd, the home of the Welsh Assembly Government. Johannah shadowed Suzy Davies AM to experience life as a female politician and discuss the challenges faced by women in public life.

In the afternoon, Johannah made a speech in the Senedd Chamber on the issue of women's rights and the continuing challenges faced in achieving true equality. She also gave an in-depth interview to the ITV Wales News programme about her experience. Johannah said: 'It was such a positive experience and a fascinating insight into political life. I am really glad I could take part.'



Newnham BME Conference



Sixth Form students attended a conference at Cambridge University aimed specifically at black and minority ethnic (BME) students.

The conference was designed to support BME students and encourage high aspirations. Giezl, one of the students who attended, said: 'The conference was a really empowering event. The speakers were very inspiring and encouraging.'

University Success for BVS Sixth Formers

A number of Year 13 students have achieved significant successes in their university applications.

Hollie has been offered a place at Cambridge University to read Theology at Christ's College – this year, only two places were available for this course at the college, making Hollie's achievement even more notable.

Many students have also been offered places on prestigious and highly competitive courses. LJ has a place to study Social Work - she underwent a gruelling interview process and was up against 400 applicants for her course. Meanwhile, Lauren has been offered a place to study Occupational Health, a very competitive university degree.



Students have also won scholarships and been given unconditional offers in recognition of their academic ability and potential. Carla has a scholarship to study Psychology at Aberystwyth University whilst Shayla has an unconditional offer for the same subject at Keele University.

Book 'n' Brew Reading Club

Book 'n' Brew Reading Club Attends Hay Scribblers Tour

The Book 'n' Brew Reading Club took a group of Years 9 and 10 pupils to Swansea University to participate in the Hay Scribblers Tour. The tour was organised by the Hay Festival, an annual literary festival. At the event, pupils participated in creative writing workshops and met authors, including Gemma Cairney. The pupils also took part in a language workshop where they identified the Latin, Greek and French origins of many English words that are used on an everyday basis.

The pupils' enthusiasm and excellent behaviour was commented on by the organisers of the Scribblers Tour. Mr McKay, who organised the trip, said: 'The day was a fantastic opportunity to promote reading for pleasure. The pupils really enjoyed themselves and were excellent ambassadors for the school.' Arwin, in Year 9, agreed, saying: 'We had a great day and I am glad we had the opportunity to take part.'



External Examinations

Outside each examination room will be a copy of the regulations which have been agreed by all the examination boards. This sheet gives you further guidance to help you through your examinations so that you are quite clear as to what is expected of you. **Make sure you read both documents carefully and if there is anything you are unsure about, please ask.**

Some important points:-

- Follow your personal examination timetable closely. Keep it in a safe place.
- Make sure you know your personal candidate number. It is shown as 'Exam Number' on your timetable.
- Morning examinations start at 9.00am and afternoon examinations start at 13.00 (1.00pm) unless otherwise indicated.
- Aim to arrive at the examination room at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. If you are late it will cause you unnecessary anxiety, and if you are very late you may not be allowed in.
- You are expected to attend examinations in correct school uniform. **You will not be allowed into the examination room if you are not correctly dressed.**
- If you attend with unsatisfactory uniform, **entry in to the examination will only be allowed after your parents have been contacted and asked to deliver the correct uniform to the school.**
- Wait outside the examination room until you are called in. Remember to visit the toilet before you enter the exam – you could have a long desperate wait otherwise!
- Bags, coats and blazers must be left at the back of the exam room. You will be allowed to take in **only what you need.**
- Pencil cases are not allowed unless they are clear. Pencil tins, boxes and 'solid colour' cases are not acceptable. A clear plastic 'sandwich-type' bag is just as good as a clear pencil case.
- Make sure you have the appropriate equipment for each exam – pen (plus spare), pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener are essential. For certain exams e.g. Geography, Science, and Maths you may need to add compass, protractor, calculator, coloured pencils to your list. Check with your teacher. **You will not be allowed to borrow any equipment during the exam.**
- As soon as you enter the examination room you must not communicate in any way with anyone other than an invigilator (supervisor) until you leave the room after the exam.
- If you become unwell during the examination, raise your hand and inform an invigilator. If you have a specific medical condition, e.g. diabetes, make sure you bring the appropriate drink and snack which should be placed on the floor alongside your desk.
- You must remain in the examination room for the time allocated to the paper. If you have any time remaining use it wisely to check your work – you will not have another opportunity, and a correction made may result in a better final grade.
- If you are too ill to come to school you must let the school know by telephone at the earliest opportunity. You must also obtain a medical note from your doctor and send it to Mr Slater as soon as possible. It may then be possible to apply to the Examination board for special consideration so that you are awarded a grade.

External Examinations

- If you are suffering from distress for a particular reason, and you feel it has affected your performance in an examination, inform Mr Slater and bring a letter from home.
- You may be entitled to special arrangements in your examinations such as extra time or help with reading. You will be informed of these arrangements before the examinations affected.
- **Mobile phones, iPods or MP 3/4 players and smart watches are not allowed in the exam room.**
- **If you have an examination clash you must report to the main hall at 8.40AM on the day of the clash.**

The Summer 2018 exam timetable is now available on the Bishop Vaughan website. Students will receive their exam timetables in the week beginning Monday 19th March.

Certificates

Certificates gained during Summer 2018 examinations are available for collection at the school from December 2018

It is important that you collect your certificates as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months

The examination boards charge £35 for a replacement certificate

Procedure to collect Certificates

Students that have left Bishop Vaughan need to phone the school giving their name and the date they sat their examination. Your certificate will be ready for collection from the school the next day.

Finally, plan your examination preparation carefully and thoroughly, but most of all GOOD LUCK!

Mr J Slater, Exams Officer

Examinations

Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

Enclosed with this Newsletter are JCQ information sheets (Pupils in years 10-13). It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the June 2018 examination series.

Pupils will be receiving these information sheets as a booklet in assemblies in the coming weeks before the Easter holidays. They can also be found on the JCQ website at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/>

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

E; Let the number of birds remaining in each tree be x . Therefore $x + 6 + x + 8 + x + 4 = 60$, which has solution $x = 14$. Hence the number of birds originally perched in the second tree is $14 + 8 = 22$.

School Uniform 2017-2018

School Uniform September 2017-August 2018

Three of our suppliers are:- Bergoni, Tower Court, Unit 8, St. Davids Road, Swansea Enterprise Park SA6 8RU Tel: 01792 796880 / 771070 and J&S Products, 74 Tycoch Road, Swansea, SA2 9EQ Tel: 01792 206658 and Teamz Sportswear, 4 Shoppers Walk, Picton Arcade, Swansea, SA1 3AZ, Tel: 01792 655281.

Parents who have any doubts about what is acceptable should contact the school for guidance. The final arbitrary of what constitutes school uniform lies with the Headteacher and Governors of the school. Please do not rely on information obtained from elsewhere.

Year 7-11

Blazer	With school logo (navy) - compulsory garment
Jumper:	Fine knit jumper with school logo (navy) - non-compulsory.
Tie:	years 7-11 official school tie.
Socks:	with skirts, standard grey or white
Tights:	should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless. NB socks or tights MUST be worn.
Blouse/Shirt:	Plain white shirt
Skirt:	Grey knee-length skirt
Trousers:	Grey trouser, NOT fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, skinny style etc
Shoes:	black formal school shoes (leather/artificial leather) with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter provided they conform to the above regulations (not with skirts). Trainers are not permitted. Felt/fabric or canvas shoes are not permitted. Heavy boots (military, Ugg etc.) are not permitted. No forms of logo.
Outer Garments:	pupils may wear standard length coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be plain, navy blue/black and single coloured. Pupils may not wear denim, hoodies, leather look jacket, no faux fur, tracksuit tops or cardigans. No logos, writing, patterns or stripes of any description should be present. Hats e.g. Beanies, Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances. Head bands must be plain and dark. There is no necessity for anorak hoods to be worn at school.
Jewellery:	A single sleeper or a single metal stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, glass, nose or tongue piercing. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden. It should be noted that tattoos are not permitted.
Make-up/Hair:	Make-up is not allowed. If hair dye/highlights are used they should

School Uniform 2017-2018

Games Kit

Rugby Shirt (boys):	burgundy with blue/white side panels
T-Shirt (boys):	burgundy with blue/white side panels
T-Shirt (girls):	white polo shirt with blue/white side panels
Shorts (boys):	burgundy with blue/white side panels
Shorts (girls):	burgundy with white trim
Footwear:	soccer, rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as applicable
Socks (boys & girls):	burgundy
Hooded Top (girls):	black with school logo (hooded top is optional)
Tracksuit bottoms (girls):	plain black (only to be worn in cold weather).

Shin pads are to be worn for all hockey and football lessons. Gum shields are strongly recommended for hockey and rugby.

All Items of clothing should be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

Sixth Form Uniform

Blazer	Pupils may wear the new blazer if they wish, however this is not compulsory for years 12 and 13.
Jumper	navy, v-necked with official school logo
Tie:	Sixth Form official school tie
Shirt/Blouse:	plain white, standard school style (not fashion) <i>NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with Sixth Form logo, may be worn.</i>
Skirt:	navy blue, knee length
Trousers:	Trousers: navy blue, black, <u>dark grey</u> , standard design. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, corduroy etc
Socks:	with trousers: dark coloured, or white with skirts: navy blue or white
Tights:	plain, seamless, navy tights may be worn
Shoes:	dark coloured with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter and sandals in the summer. Trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted
Topcoat:	dark blue/black/grey – single coloured only

Members of Sixth Form are expected to wear the uniform throughout the school day. A single sleeper or a single stud of minimum size may be worn in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, nose or tongue piercing. 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. Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances.

Any jewellery must be removed if in the judgement of any staff, instructors or technicians it constitutes a health and safety hazard, especially in laboratories, workshops and PE areas.

Attendance



The Education (School Day School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2006 states pupils are expected to attend school for 190 days a year. Moreover, there is a strong correlation between good attendance and high achievement as set out below:

95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least 7½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

Absence requests from school during term time

We ask Parents/Carers that absences from school during term time should be kept to a minimum so that pupils are not missing vital lessons and examinations. All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases by the Headteacher.

Please download a Request for Absence form from our website. Details can be found under Our School > Attendance or alternatively please contact Mrs E-J Gwyther Attendance Manager on extension 267 or via email Gwythere3@hwbmail.net who can assist you further.



Please download our free new school app MY Ed. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance and are you are able to send us messages directly free of charge regarding your child's absence from school. You are required to report your child's absence on a daily basis.

We hope you find the following table helpful for academic year 2017/2018; the table breaks down days lost into weeks against percentage attendance.

Attendance

School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost
190	100	0		142	74.74	48		94	49.47	96		46	24.21	144	
189	99.47	1		141	74.21	49		93	48.95	97		45	23.68	145	29
188	98.95	2		140	73.68	50	10	92	48.42	98		44	23.16	146	
187	98.42	3		139	73.16	51		91	47.89	99		43	22.63	147	
186	97.89	4		138	72.63	52		90	47.37	100	20	42	22.1	148	
185	97.37	5	1	137	72.11	53		89	46.84	101		41	21.58	149	
184	96.84	6		136	71.58	54		88	46.32	102		40	21.05	150	30
183	96.32	7		135	71.05	55	11	87	45.79	103		39	20.53	151	
182	95.79	8		134	70.53	56		86	45.26	104		38	20	152	
181	95.26	9		133	70	57		85	44.74	105	21	37	19.47	153	
180	94.74	10	2	132	69.47	58		84	44.21	106		36	18.95	154	
179	94.21	11		131	68.95	59		83	43.68	107		35	18.42	155	31
178	93.68	12		130	68.42	60	12	82	43.16	108		34	17.89	156	
177	93.16	13		129	67.89	61		81	42.63	109		33	17.37	157	
176	92.63	14		128	67.37	62		80	42.11	110	22	32	16.84	158	
175	92.11	15	3	127	66.84	63		79	41.58	111		31	16.32	159	
174	91.58	16		126	66.32	64		78	41.05	112		30	15.79	160	32
173	91.05	17		125	65.79	65	13	77	40.53	113		29	15.26	161	
172	90.53	18		124	65.26	66		76	40	114		28	14.74	162	
171	90	19		123	64.74	67		75	39.47	115	23	27	14.21	163	
170	89.47	20	4	122	64.21	68		74	38.95	116		26	13.68	164	
169	88.95	21		121	63.68	69		73	38.42	117		25	13.16	165	33
168	88.42	22		120	63.16	70	14	72	37.89	118		24	12.63	166	
167	87.89	23		119	62.63	71		71	37.37	119		23	12.11	167	
166	87.37	24		118	62.1	72		70	36.84	120	24	22	11.58	168	
165	86.84	25	5	117	61.58	73		69	36.32	121		21	11.05	169	
164	86.32	26		116	61.05	74		68	35.79	122		20	10.53	170	34
163	85.79	27		115	60.53	75	15	67	35.26	123		19	10	171	
162	85.26	28		114	60	76		66	34.74	124		18	9.47	172	
161	84.74	29		113	59.47	77		65	34.21	125	25	17	8.95	173	
160	84.21	30	6	112	58.95	78		64	33.68	126		16	8.42	174	
159	83.68	31		111	58.42	79		63	33.16	127		15	7.89	175	35
158	83.16	32		110	57.89	80	16	62	32.63	128		14	7.37	176	
157	82.63	33		109	57.37	81		61	32.1	129		13	6.84	177	
156	82.11	34		108	56.84	82		60	31.58	130	26	12	6.32	178	
155	81.58	35	7	107	56.32	83		59	31.05	131		11	5.79	179	
154	81.05	36		106	55.79	84		58	30.53	132		10	5.26	180	36
153	80.53	37		105	55.26	85	17	57	30	133		9	4.74	181	
152	80	38		104	54.74	86		56	29.47	134		8	4.21	182	
151	79.47	39		103	54.21	87		55	28.95	135	27	7	3.68	183	
150	78.95	40	8	102	53.68	88		54	28.42	136		6	3.16	184	
149	78.42	41		101	53.16	89		53	27.89	137		5	2.63	185	37
148	77.89	42		100	52.63	90	18	52	27.37	138		4	2.1	186	
147	77.37	43		99	52.1	91		51	26.84	139		3	1.58	187	
146	76.84	44		98	51.58	92		50	26.32	140	28	2	1.05	188	
145	76.32	45	9	97	51.05	93		49	25.79	141		1	0.53	189	
144	75.79	46		96	50.53	94		48	25.26	142					
143	75.26	47		95	50	95	19	49	24.74	143					

Parents' Information

It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their children receive a full time education – THIS IS THE LAW.

Parents must ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time.

It is a parent's responsibility to let the school know if their child is going to be absent by contacting the school using any one of the following methods:

Attendance telephone number (local rate): 0844 239 3548

Attendance text number: 07624 816695

Email: bishopvaughanA@hwbmail.net

Alternatively the school's Attendance Office staff are: Mrs E-J Gwyther and Mrs R Aleman and they are available via the school's telephone number 01792 772006 Ext 219.

Remember the **only legally acceptable reasons** for not being in school are:

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

If you are worried or feel there is a problem with your child's attendance, it is always best to talk to the school first, however, the school can help with a variety of issues such as:

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

If you want any help and advice about your child's attendance, please contact

Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 267.

Pupil Information

If any of your details have changed, please write or email the school so that our records may be updated. This includes any change to address, contact telephone numbers (especially mobile telephone and emergency contacts), place of work, doctor, or any new medical conditions of which we should be aware.

Could you please pass onto the school any relevant email address that we could use to contact you?



Attendance

PENALTY NOTICE FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

The Education (Penalty Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2013 introduced fixed notice penalties for regular non-attendance/lateness at school. This was implemented in Swansea from January 2015.

The Welsh Government states that penalty notices are one option among a number of different interventions available to promote better school attendance.

The introduction of these regulations mean that parents may now be fined for their child(ren)'s regular non-attendance at school.

The local code of conduct, which explains how penalty notices will operate, is available on the Swansea Council website.

Penalty notices can be issued for the following reasons:

- When a pupil has a minimum of 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to unauthorised absences during the current term and bringing the overall school attendance to below 90% in the school year to date.
- 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to holidays in term-time if the absence takes the whole school attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date.
- 10 sessions of persistent lateness after the register has closed in a term bringing the attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date, or a combination of the above.



May we remind you of the following ways to contact the Attendance Department, you are required to report the absence of your child on a daily basis.

- Call us on our 24 hour absence line **0844 2393548 (local rate number)**
- Send us a text message to **07624 816695**
- Send us a direct email via our website www.bishopvaughan.co.uk **Our School > Attendance**

Bus Passes



Could both parents and pupils be aware that the children should carry their bus pass with them at all times. Pupils could be asked at any time whilst travelling on a school bus, to produce their bus pass as evidence that they are allocated a seat. If pupils have misplaced their bus pass please contact the school office who will organise a replacement.



Also pupils are not allowed to travel on any other bus other than the one that is printed on their bus pass. On several occasions lately pupils have tried to travel on different buses, e.g. to go over to a friend's place after school. This is not allowed and the drivers have the right to refuse entry to pupils who are not allocated to their bus. It is parents' responsibility to collect their children and take them to alternative venues after school.

Getting to School

Parents are politely reminded that pupils who cycle to school must wear a helmet and dismount once they enter school property. Students must not come to school by scooter as this is dangerous to both the user and to pedestrians. We would very much appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 3.00pm every afternoon. Police Officers will be patrolling regularly outside the school to take positive action regarding any vehicles which are parked in contravention of road traffic legislation.



Parking During Parents' Evenings

Local residents have expressed their concerns in relation to parking outside the school and vehicles causing obstructions. Similarly parents using the school bus bay on Parents' Evenings must ensure that they do not block their car in or obstruct exits or entrances. Please park with due care and consideration at all times.

Mobile Telephones

If pupils have mobile phones they should note that they are **not** to be switched on or in use inside the school. This includes the buildings, playground and playing field areas, before, during and after the school day.



Mobile phones are to be kept out of sight, either on the person or in the school bag. The school can take no responsibility for any loss or theft of mobile phones.

Parents and guardians are asked **not** to contact their children by phone or text during the school day. If an emergency message needs to be conveyed the school office will take the call and pass the message on. Similarly if a pupil needs to make an emergency call home he or she just needs to approach the office.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in the phone being confiscated and kept in the school office for collection by a responsible adult.



School Website

The school website can be found at: www.bishopvaughan.co.uk

Lost Property

We still have a number of items in 'lost property', which is located in Student Services

None of the articles are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any item, please tell them to come and check with Mrs Stewart in the Student Services.. After a period of time items not claimed will be given to a charity shop as there is no room to store them.



Lost property is available for checking at break and lunch-time.

**PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM SO THAT
THEY CAN BE EASILY RETURNED IF HANDED IN TO
LOST PROPERTY.**

**Please can all parents and guardians be aware that the school cannot
supervise pupils arriving before 8.40 am.**



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
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