

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2019 Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2019



School Term and Holiday Dates 2019-2020

		HALF TERM		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn	Monday	Monday	Friday	Friday
2019	2nd September	28th October	1st November	20th December
Spring	Monday	Monday	Friday	Friday
2020	6th January	17th February	24th February	3rd April
Summer	Monday	Monday	Friday	Monday
2020	20th April	22nd May	29th May	20th July



The staff and governors wish all parents, carers and papils a happy and holy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Dates for your Diary

The last day of half term is Friday 20th December 2019; school closes at 3.00pm.

All pupils return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2020

(Monday 6th is an INSET Day)

This will be week two on the timetable.

Sixth Form Information Evening is Thursday 16th January 2020 from 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Advance notice of Examination Dates January 2020 External units for Years 11 to 13 from 8th January 2020 to 9th January 2020

The full academic year school calendar is available to view on our website.

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.

Christmas Services

Times of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the different parishes are printed below.

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 this Christmas time.



Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Canon Benedict Koledoye)

Christmas Eve Vigil 6.30pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.00am

Blessed Sacrament (Rev J P Thomas, VF)

Christmas Eve

Nativity Mass 5.00pm

Carol Service 11.30 pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.00am

Holy Cross (Rev Cyril Thadathil)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Boxing Day 11.00am

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement Oluruntoba OP)

Christmas Eve 7.00pm Christmas Day 11.00am

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Rev Michael Akpoghiran, OP)

Christmas Eve

Nativity 5.40pm

Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.45pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am

Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones, STB)

Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass 5.30pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am and 11.00am

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry Nevin, SDS)

Christmas Eve

Carols 7.30pm Vigil 8.00pm



St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry Nevin, SDS)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 5.30pm Vigil Mass 10.00pm Christmas Day 10.00am

St. Benedict's Sketty (Rev Carlito Reyes)

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 6.00pm Mass 10.00pm

Christmas Day 8.30am and 11.00am

St Bride's Pontarddulais (Rev J P Thomas, VF)

Christmas Eve 8.00pm Christmas Day 8.30am

St. David's (Canon Michael Flook, VF)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11.00am

St. IIItyd's (Rev Saji Mathew)

Christmas Eve

Carol Service 5.30pm Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.30am

St Joachim's (Rev John Browne)

Christmas Eve 6.30pm Christmas Day 9.30am

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm Christmas Day 9.00am

Headteacher's Message

With the summer events that took place following the last newsletter - such as the annual musical production which featured the very talented pupils from our feeder primary schools - seeming but a distant memory, the new term begun with the now well-established Induction Days which always create such a purposeful and positive atmosphere! These were centred on our shared ethos, on academic resilience and on skills development. Our School Chaplain led a Mass for each year group and pupils also participated in tutorial-based activities focused on our faith. We were delighted to welcome the St. John Ambulance Brigade for the second year running, with all pupils developing their first aid skills, learning about CPR and defibrillator use following the kind donation of a defibrillator by the 'Cariad' charity in the summer term. They also refreshed the skills learned in September last year and we are very proud to be able to say that all pupils in the school have now had the opportunity to participate in this training. Further activities during these days included challenges on SAM Learning, our online homework portal, and charity tasks. These days were closely followed by the pupils attending our Enrichment Fair, in the style of a University Freshers' Fair, at which the very many clubs, teams and after-school activities were advertised to all pupils with opportunities to sign up for these.

Pupils' achievements across the year groups were recognised at our Annual Awards Evening in the second week of September, and we were delighted to welcome Lord Mayor Councillor Peter Black, our Diocesan Director Paul White, Assembly Member Mike Hedges, the President of the Catenian Association and numerous further guests, in addition to our keynote speaker, Mr Jonathan Roberts, Editor of the South Wales Evening Post. The guests of honour were, of course, our pupils and their families and the diverse talents of our school community were recognised. You can read more about this very special evening on page 10. There were so very many awards to be presented this year, for example those made to our Sixth Form pupils who achieved record-breaking results in the summer, more than doubling the percentage of A and A* grades and achieving the highest proportions of A*-C grades in the school's history. These results have enabled them to pursue a wide and impressive range of degree studies and courses across the UK and we know that they will make a great contribution in their chosen careers. Well done to each and every one of our pupils!

Perhaps one of the most special highlights of the term, and indeed of the last year, was the exhibition held on September 21st, 'Catholic Swansea: The Faith That Binds Us.' This celebration of our faith drew together representatives from the parishes across the city, with our Boys' Gymnasium given over to parish stalls with exhibitions on the history of each parish—carefully collated over many months by parishioners—as well as to a very popular refreshments area offering home-made cakes donated by staff! The Girls' Gymnasium housed a Children's Festival of Faith with story-telling, art activities, a 'Letters to God' activity and a corner dedicated to 'God's Creatures, Great and Small', the star of this undoubtedly being the giant tortoise! The Main Hall was filled with artwork from pupils not only of Bishop Vaughan, but of all four Catholic primary schools across the city, this work being based on the theme of faith.







Headteacher's Message

Particular highlights of Bishop Vaughan pupils' contribution to the exhibition included a colourful stained-glass window depicting the virtues embodied in the Catholic Pupil Profile, such as those of generosity, compassion, hope, faith and love, as well as bunting between the pillars of the room to which every pupil in the school had contributed a pennant depicting what it means to be a pupil in a faith school. Pupils also created a large model of a DNA helix suspended from the ceiling of the hall, this showing the characteristics of those created in *Imago Dei*, striving to fulfil God's will.

With these lovely events having taken place in our Main Hall, we were very disappointed to see the flood damage that occurred in the storms of late September and which affected so much of the city, but thoroughly impressed too by the swift work undertaken to construct a temporary replacement Hall. Pupils have already taken exams in our New Hall, and it has housed our Advent Assemblies, primary transition days and also our staff Christmas pantomime! Pupils have been pleased too to see the completion of a new canopy/ covered walkway connecting several parts of the building. We are looking forward to the conclusion of the roof work in early Spring, by which point the work of our Eco-Committee will be well underway, creating new garden spaces in the school. We look forward to sharing news on these with you!

The 'Mission Together' work of both primary and secondary schools, for which the Charity Team raised several hundred pounds in a very short space of time, was celebrated in a beautiful 'Missio' Mass at the Cathedral which brought all schools in the Diocese together on October 16th. The energetic work of this team of pupils has continued throughout the term and you can read more about this on pages 12-13.

The 'Year of the Word' has started in Bishop Vaughan as it has across the parishes of the Diocese and across the country. Our pupils are focusing on the Word of God in numerous ways and, echoing their work for the exhibition on 'The Faith That Binds Us', they are working on several pieces for a Diocesan exhibition in July next year. We look forward to sharing with all parents and members of the Bishop Vaughan community the activities, events and celebrations associated with this.

We were delighted to welcome pupils, their families and their friends to the Christmas Fayre on Tuesday 10th December which had such a diverse range of stalls with local crafts, delicious treats and homemade gifts. Our Carol Services also brought together many members of the school community, both current and former, these being held at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Mumbles, on Wednesday 11th December and at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Monday 16th December. Our exceptional choir worked hard to prepare for these beautiful and reflective services which are always a highlight of the term.

As will be evident in the pages of this newsletter, this has been a most busy and productive term and our pupils thoroughly deserve a very well-earned rest from all of their endeavours. We wish them well with their January exams and, above all, we wish every member of the Bishop Vaughan community a happy and Holy Christmas, and every blessing in the New Year.

Mrs E Pole







School Events News

Catholic Swansea: 'The Faith That Binds Us'

At the start of this term, the school held a very special event linking all parishes and Catholic schools, organisations, charities and individuals across Swansea.

We welcomed members of the school community, members of our primary feeder school communities and of the parishes to Bishop Vaughan on Saturday 21st September for a celebration of Swansea's Catholic history in the form of an exhibition entitled 'Catholic Swansea: The Faith That Binds Us'.

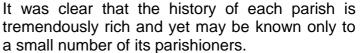


The stained glass window created by Bishop Vaughan pupils for the exhibition

Representatives attended from the full range of parishes, schools and organisations, each putting together a 'stall' or display within the event, which was held in the school's Main Hall and gymnasia. Each attendee curated a small record of their history – photographs, documents, items of interest, records, etc. – and together these formed a fascinating insight into the Catholic life of the city over very many years.

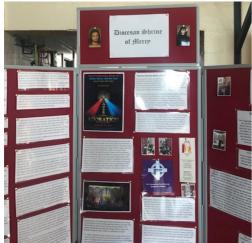
'The Faith That Binds Us'











It was wonderful to bring together so many old friends, and those who could reminisce about the history, buildings and people connected with the parishes, with all of the Catholic schools, with St. Winefride's Convent on what is now the Ffynone School site in Swansea, and about the convent in Clydach whose site is now occupied by the Manor Park Hotel. There was also representation from The Diocesan Shrine of Mercy and the Union of Catholic Mothers.







'The Faith That Binds Us'

Bishop Vaughan also invited all pupils currently in the feeder primary schools to participate in an art exhibition on the same date. The exhibition of artistic work in a range of formats brought together St. Joseph's Cathedral School, St. David's, St. Illtyd's, St. Joseph's, Clydach, and Bishop Vaughan.

'THE FAITH THAT BINDS US'

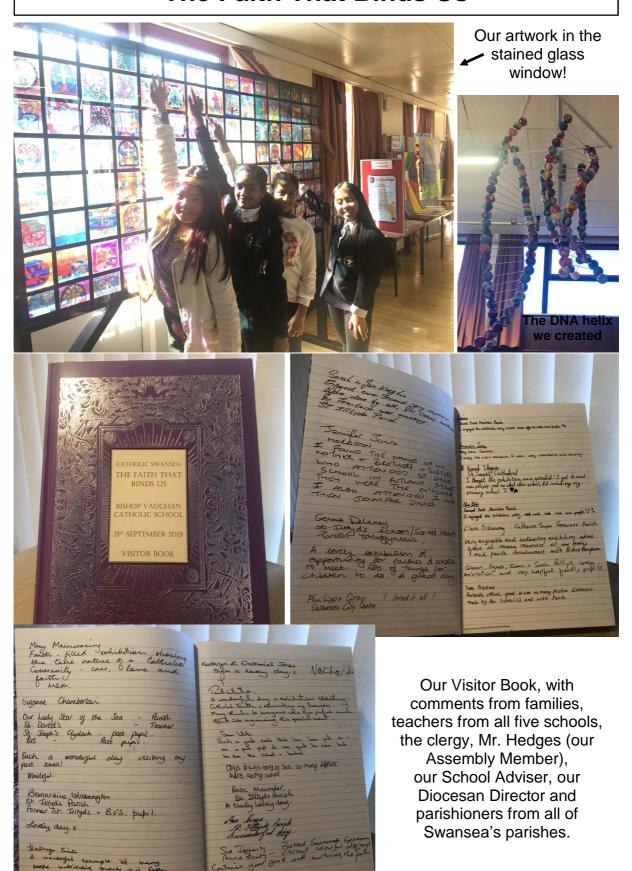
The thought provoking artwork produced by pupils in Year 12 depicts people of all different backgrounds who are connected by faith. It demonstrates the sense of connection and sense of belonging between very different people who are bound together by faith, symbolised by the red ribbon. The sharing of loaves and fish represents the gifts that our Lord has given to us and for which we are grateful.





Pupils from all schools exhibited work in a range of mediums that explored their Catholic faith, what it means to them and how this could be put into expression using their God-given gifts and talents. This art exhibition was reflected in the name of the event as a whole, 'The Faith That Binds Us', in recognition of the fact that - while the ways in which we have been spiritually formed, and that ways in which that finds expression, are different - we are bound together by our faith as one Catholic community. It was wonderful to see so many children and their parents, grandparents, friends, teachers and the clergy attending to look at their work which showed such imagination and creativity.

'The Faith That Binds Us'



School Events News

Annual Presentation Evening



Earlier this year we recognised the hard work and diligence of pupils throughout the school at our annual Presentation Evening.

The joyous event was filled with celebration of both record-breaking academic achievements and the fulfilment of the faith and ethos that has formed our school community.

Furthermore, it was a pleasure to welcome our guest speaker, the editor of the South Wales Evening Post, Jonathan Roberts.

We would like to thank Mr Roberts for his inspirational words on the path of life that we choose to take, and we thank him for sharing his story of success and hardwork. Many thanks to all of our guests and to all who attended to celebrate with us!

Ethan Fage, Head Boy

Annual Christmas Carol Service







Our Christmas Carol Service, held at St. Joseph's Cathedral, was a beautiful and reflective service which focused fully on the true Christmas message. The Nine Lessons were interspersed with favourite carols, including such firm favourites as 'O Holy Night' and 'Carol of the Bells', with newer inclusions also such as 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' and Gardner's arrangement of 'The Holly and the Ivy.' It was a particular honour to welcome Bishop Emeritus Tom Burns, whose presence over the years has meant so much to all. Very many former pupils and staff also attended and enjoyed the service a great deal.



Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and visit us in the library!

Monday to Thursday



3.00pm to 4.00pm

Free tuition with subject teachers every day.
Support with independent learning.
Access to computers to complete SAM Learning and
Mathswatch.

Opportunities for collaborative learning. Rewards for attending.

STAFF
Learning Zone Co-ordinator: Mrs A Jones

Mon	Mrs Price	Mr Crudge	Ms Wilshire	Mr Davies
Tues	Mrs Cook	Mr Walters	Mr Samani	
Weds	Mrs Williams	Mrs Dorrell	Mr Rowland	
Thurs	Mr Crudge	Mr Samani	Mr John	Mr Jones

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:

Which of the following could have a length of 2010 mm?

A a table B an oil tanker C a teaspoon D a school hall E a hen's egg

The solution can be found on page 32.

Charity Group News

The charity activities and celebration of *Caritas* and *Ethos* continue to go from strength to strength at Bishop Vaughan with increased participation from students across the school.

To the whole of the Bishop Vaughan community – we salute you – thank you for your generosity. We are incredibly proud of all students involved as we celebrate faith in action!

The Charity Team

Race 4 Life



In order to raise awareness and money for Cancer Research, a Race4Life event was arranged.

In a different vein to normal fundraising days, the event saw members of staff and students raise money and sign up for a fancy-dress fun run.

The charity was selected based on pupil voice feedback, with Cancer Research and the

activity of a fun run being the most popular options.

The event included face painting, the raising of sponsorship and the creation of a memory wall, indicating the names of those in whose memory staff and pupils were participating.



This event raised the most money from a single event with over £2,000 raised.

Enrichment Fair and Year 6 Open Evening

We have looked at different ways of attracting younger pupils to our work and encouraging them to join the Charity Team, therefore a stand was arranged as part of the school's Enrichment Fair. This was a chance to showcase the work already undertaken whilst gaining new ideas and generating interest.

As an extension of this event, Charity Team leaders also represented the team at the Year 6 Open Evening. This provided an opportunity to link with our feeder primary schools and highlight the opportunities available to prospective students.



Young Minds

In order to raise awareness and money for Young Minds and support the work currently being undertaken by the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team, a unique fundraising day was arranged.

As part of the events, a special General RE workshop for Sixth Form students was organized by the Charity Team. The event included a coffee morning with a selection of games and a photo booth.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and get people discussing the topic of mental health in a relaxed and secure environment. Through the coffee morning a sum of £80.92 was raised. It is hoped that future events will continue to support this worthwhile cause.



Charity Group News

Missio Launch & Mass

The month of October was dedicated as an extraordinary month of mission by Pope Francis. Missio, which is his official Papal Charity was selected as the focus.

By way of supporting this, the Charity Team have met with the Diocesan lead in preparation for events during the year. On 16th October lead representatives of the team attended the Diocesan Mass, which launched the events and celebrated the work being undertaken by all primary and secondary schools in Menevia.



As part of the celebrations our students presented prayers and reflections as part of the offertory. As a token of gratitude, our Charity Leader was presented with a Missio candle which will be used and displayed during future events.

Our own school launch for Missio occurred on 23rd October. Pupils and staff wore non-uniform and treated themselves to something sweet in the bake sale at lunchtime. In record time all cakes, sweets and confectionery sold out! The total raised through all activities was £851.92. This will be sent to support children in Third World countries. We are looking forward to continuing our support of this very special charity throughout the



Children in Need

Once again Bishop Vaughan showed its 'Spots 4 Pudsey'. An eclectic mix of spots were showcased from spotty jumpers, to socks and headbands. Each tutorial from Year 7-13 completed a Pudsey Quiz with the winner from each year group winning a prize.

The bake sale sold out swiftly and the games and activities—which included a hook a duck competition and photo booth—were

enjoyed by all. The focus was to come together as a school community, have some fun and raise both money and awareness for brilliant causes which are supported through Children In Need in our local area.



We raised a SPOTacular £900 - congratulations all!

Shoebox Appeal

Once again, BVS rallied to support the Shoebox Appeal. In just one week we donated and produced an incredible 107 boxes.

Through your generous donations, dozens of children in Africa will have gifts to open this Christmas. Alongside the gifts, we are spreading the Gospel message of love, hope and community at this special time of year.



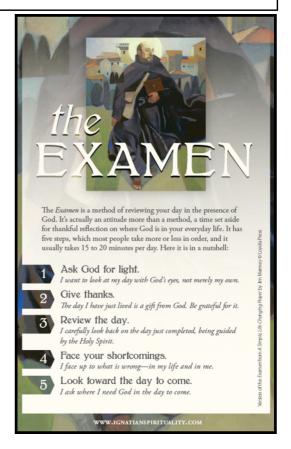
RE Department News

The Examen

During Advent, we are continuing with the Examen, following its success last year. This is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day or week in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us.

The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience. The Examen is taking place in every classroom each Friday afternoon, and pupils (and staff) are invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week.

It is an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings. It allows us to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.



Year of the Word

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has designated 2020 as 'The God Who Speaks': A Year of the Word to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin.

Therefore, 2020 will be a year of celebrating, living and sharing God's word, through a range of events, activities and resources in school. We aim to encourage our pupils, staff and governors to listen afresh to the word of God and to embark on a deeper engagement with the Holy Scriptures.

As part of our celebration of the Year of the Word we are studying the Gospel of Matthew during Advent on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays before school in the chapel. Staff and students are all welcome.



RE Department News

The Higher Tour In September we received a visit from the Higher Tour. The Higher Tour is an initiative of The Message Trust, and visits young people in schools and communities to share the hope that faith in Jesus Christ brings. Pupils were treated to songs from the band 'Soul Box' and the message heard about the human identity in Christ. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed this event. It was a really inspiring experience for them.



Kintbury Retreat

Bishop Vaughan School has continued to support the retreat programme offered by St. Cassian's Centre, Kintbury. We see this as a valuable opportunity for pupils to engage in spiritual reflection on their personal relationships and their relationship with God.

Pupils in Years 12 and 13 are always very positive about their experiences and highly value the time that they were given to retreat from the busy-ness of school life, have fun and form new friendships. This time is also an invaluable time for prayer and reflection. This year our Sixth Form joined with St. Joseph's Port Talbot, Archbishop McGrath School, St. Simon Stock and Campion School.

Problem Based Learning Day – Year 7

The focus of the PBL Day was based on the paired virtues of being 'Attentive and Discerning' - a fitting theme for the season of Advent. Pupils reflect upon the meaning of Advent for their lives on a personal level as well as for the Church community.



Advent Services

As usual, our pupils received the opportunity to reflect on the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas during our annual Advent services. The theme of these services was 'The Word', and pupils were encouraged to think about how they can share the Word of God with others.

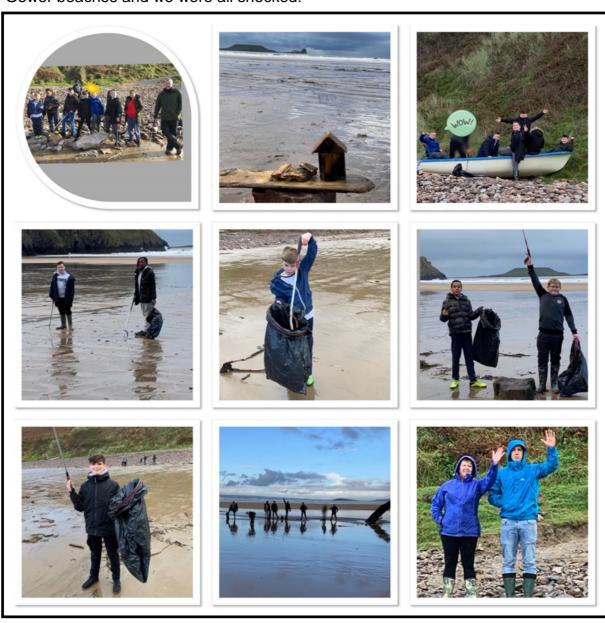
With fantastic contributions from our Faith Council representatives, we were invited to reflect on how we can bring light to the lives of those in need. Our talented Choir also shared their gifts with us so that we were able to listen to some wonderful musical items. Well done to all involved for offering us a moment of calm in a very busy term.

Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service at St Joseph's Cathedral took place on Monday 16th December, with all who attended enjoying an evening of music, prayer and reflection. Our pupils entertained us with a mix of traditional and contemporary music, and their singing was superb! The evening was a wonderful way to observe the season of Advent and to look forward to Christmas.

Years 7 and 8 News: Visit to Rhossili

In November, Mr Rowland's and Mrs Williams' classes visited Rhossili to work in partnership with the National Trust to tackle plastic pollution. This is an important topic in Bishop Vaughan Catholic School at the moment. 7E and 8E are working in conjunction with the Sixth Form Eco Committee to raise the importance of this issue in our school. We saw the plastic pollution that is being washed up on our beautiful Gower beaches and we were all shocked!



Fundraising News: Macmillan Coffee Morning

The BVS staff bake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer support raised £300 this year. There was a fantastic array of cakes on sale in the staffroom throughout the day, ranging from walnut cake and lemon drizzle cake, to cheesecake and cupcakes. The diets took a day off and some worthy competitors to the Great British Bake Off crown were evident!



PE Department News

Girl's Netball has had a fantastic start to the season. All year groups have played a number of fixtures against local schools, most of which they have won. Many of the girls are new to netball and are now seeking to join local netball clubs in the community. They have not only had success in their games, but have met new friends, learned how to work as a team and gained confidence in their ability.











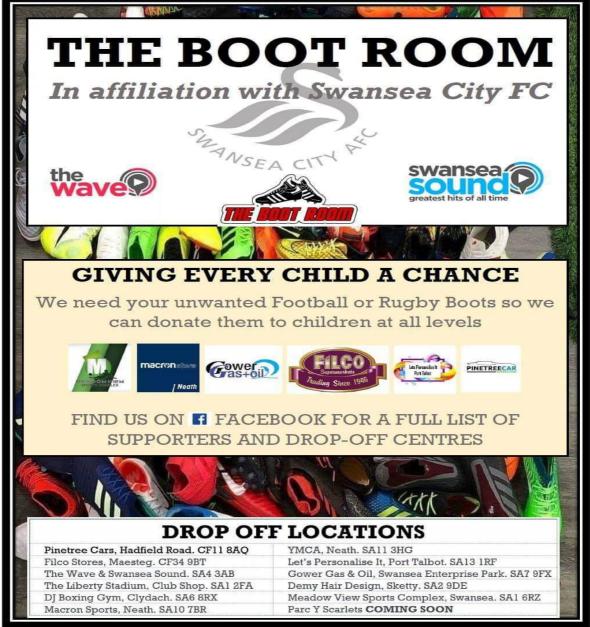




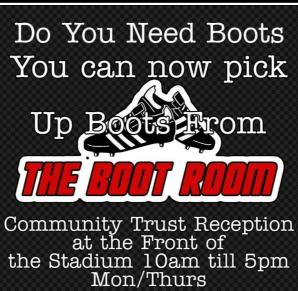
We had a lot of interest in the Sports Silver Young Ambassador roles this year. We had a large number of applications from Year 9 and Year 10 pupils, who were then shortlisted and interviewed. We are delighted to appoint the four ambassadors pictured below. These pupils will receive training in January in conjunction with Birchgrove pupils. They have some fantastic ideas on how to strengthen sport at Bishop Vaughan and we look forward to their input to the department.



The Boot Room



As football and rugby boots generally only fit for one season, why not consider donating yours when you have outgrown them ...



... and then choosing a new pair from 'The Boot Room'?

Art and Design News

On Saturday 21st September the school held an exhibition on 'The Faith that Binds Us'. The Art Department contributed towards the exhibition with four pieces of art work and held a workshop on the day.







Year 7 pupils created a beautiful stained glass; Year 8 pupils created a DNA structure of their faith bound together; Year 9 pupils illustrated the Virtues.





Year 13 Art pupils created life size sculptures of people from all different walks of life in which their faith binds them together.

The Mid and West Wales Fire Service came to surprise one of our pupils who had created a sculpture of a fireman. Morgan now has a volunteering job with the fire service which he hopes will be the start of his future career.



'Raising the Bar' and 'Portfolio': In collaboration with the Mission Gallery, seven pupils in the school are having the opportunity to gain a wider experience of visual and applied arts - two pupils in Year 11 GCSE and five pupils in Sixth Form benefiting from this. The pupils will be expanding their creative practice by enjoying access to outstanding facilities, process and technical workshops. The workshops are running through the year.



Health and Social Care News

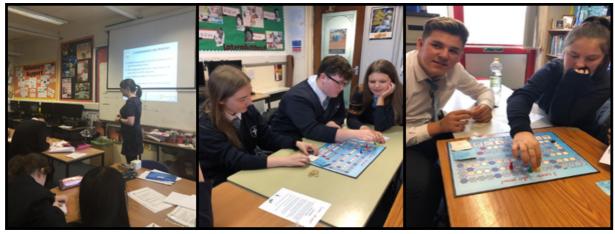
Year 11 have had a busy term, enjoying visits from a variety of speakers to support their GCSE assessments. Several voluntary agencies have delivered lessons and presentations and our pupils have listened to the care that they provide in supporting vulnerable young people in the community. We are very grateful for these visits as they foster an understanding of the issues young people face and often motivate our pupils to engage in voluntary work experience themselves. Each speaker has been impressed by the interest our pupils have shown and the way they have confidently engaged with the activities presented.















Year 12 Work Skills Course News

There are eight enterprise teams operating this academic year.

Name of Enterprise Activity	Logo	Description of Activity
Footballology	POOTBALLOLOGY TEST TO BE THE BEST	Weekly Euro Style (5 a side) football session for Year 7
Hand Sanitiser	HAND SANITIZER HAND DOWN: KILLS 99% OF BACTERIA	Selling miniature hand gels in different scents
Balm	The Balm .com	Selling lip balm in different scents
Sensation		Selling named personalisation labels to old T shirts
Candle Creations		Selling beeswax and only wax scented tea light candles
Set and Snatch Netball Club	SET AND STATES TEAM BET FAST SECURITY	Weekly Netball session to Year 7 (Starting after Christmas)
Bracelets for Life		Selling custom made bracelets in copper, beading in various colours
J & J Sports	TERM WHOM IS KEY	Weekly World cup style basketball session (starting after Christmas)

This class have been developing a business plan that enables each team to plan and run its own enterprise activity. All of these teams had a stall in the Christmas Fayre, to promote and sell their entrepreneurial products/services. Orders were taken at the event and delivered by the end of the Christmas term.



Year 12 Level 2 Skills Passport Course News

Year 12 greatly enjoyed making the Jamie Oliver pizza recipe to practice their home cooking skills!

This term we have also made omelettes, toasted sandwiches and learnt how to portion a chicken!





















Welsh Department News



Mae Adran Gymraeg yn dathlu Diwrnod Shw'mae Su'mae!

Diwrnod Shw'mae Su'mae is celebrated on October 15th each year and is a day where the use of Welsh is encouraged throughout the day – syniad gwych!



The Welsh Department in Bishop Vaughan asked all tutorials to take part in a Welsh themed quiz – the winners were 7.3, 8W, 9W, 10.3, 11.3 – da iawn i bawb!

We asked each tutorial what their favourite Welsh word or phrase was and the top three choices in Bishop Vaughan are as follows: sbwriel, popty ping, ta ta tan toc – can you guess what they mean?



And for a bit of fun we invited people to have a photo with our banner – roedd hi'n llawer o hwyl! Here's some of our favourites. Why not get involved next year?









Physics News: Going For Gold In Astrophysics

Thirty-eight pupils in Year 8 and Year 10 took part in the very first BPhO Junior Astro Challenge earlier this term. The BPhO organises several prestigious Physics competitions every year, with the top scorers being offered the opportunity to attend a one day workshop at the University of Oxford.

The Astro challenge had pupils using their knowledge of Astronomy and Astrophysics to answer an online test. Of the 38 that competed, 34 achieved a Gold certificate, placing the majority of Bishop Vaughan students in the top 9.4% in the country, with only 80 pupils nationwide achieving a Gold award. The pupils now look forward to further success in the general physics competition in May next year.

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Results

On November 7th 2019, ten of our A level Maths students were invited to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge.

In the test, the students had to answer 25 very challenging Maths questions. The highest scoring student in our school, for the 2nd year in a row, was **Ethan Fage** who achieved a **Silver** award. He was only one mark off a Gold award. Well done Ethan – an amazing effort.

Year 13

1 st	Ethan Fage	Silver award	
2 nd	Peter Crudge	Silver award	
3 rd	Alwin Saji	Silver award	
4 th	Arun Sibi	Silver award	
5 th	Ben McCarthy	Silver award	
6 th	Artur Varosyan	Bronze award	

Year 12

1 st	Jennifer Parry	Bronze award
2 nd	Ayoub Ghattas	Bronze award
3 rd	Kristian Morgan	Bronze award
4 th	Hannah Thomas	Bronze award
•		2.01120 a

Well done to everybody that took part.

For more information on this competition visit http://www.ukmt.org.uk/ The next challenge will take place on Thursday 6th February 2020 and it is open to Years 9-11. We will be inviting 50 students to take part based on their problem solving ability. Good luck to all participants.

External Examination Information

Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

The JCQ information sheets have been distributed to those sitting exams in January. It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the January 2020 examination series.

DATE	START	LENGTH	SUBJECT
TBA	TBA	ТВА	Developing Web Products
Wednesday 8th Jan 2020	09.00	2 hours	English Literature Unit 1 Foundation: Written Paper
Wednesday 8th Jan 2020	09.00	2 hours	English Literature Unit 1 Higher: Written Paper
Thursday 9th January 2020	13.00	1 hour 15 minutes	Health and Social Care Unit 2 Written Paper

GCSE Science Practicals will also be taking place in January and pupils will be informed in due course regarding arrangements.

Certificates gained during June 2019 are now available for collection. It is important that you collect your certificates from Reception as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award News



This year Bishop Vaughan has become a Directly Licensed Centre for The Duke of Edinburgh Award, and we were invited to attend a presentation ceremony at The Liberty Stadium, along with other Swansea schools, to receive a plaque. The guest speaker at the event was Tori James, the first Welsh woman to climb Mount Everest, and she spoke about how completing The Duke of Edinburgh Award as a teenager inspired her to continue exploring and testing her limits.

We were unable to complete the Gold Award expeditions in September due to terrible weather conditions, but the participants are still working hard to complete their other sectional activities, and we are hoping the weather will better when we attempt this again in April.

The new Bronze participants have been busy arranging the volunteering, skill and physical sections, with pupils choosing activities such as netball, horse riding, cooking, and volunteering at a local youth club. They have also had their first expedition training session, walking along tracks from Bryn Bettws Lodge, to learn how to navigate using a map and a compass. Every participant worked hard, despite the cold weather, and they are all looking forward to their future training sessions in Afan Argoed and Gower.



ICT Department News

Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 have had the opportunity to take part in Technocamps Computational Thinking and Computer Coding sessions throughout the first part of this term. Technocamps ambassadors from Swansea University have been in delivering sessions that are engaging and developing pupils' understanding of a variety of computer science skills. The program begins with Computational Thinking, then progresses to include programming through Scratch, Python and Greenfoot integrating Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology respectively. This program will run throughout the school year and will also start later in the year for Year 7 pupils.



For more information on Technocamps you can view their website https://technocamps.com/en

Lego Mindstorm and Coding Club

Coding Club continues to be successful and has recently visited the DVLA for a second year running to walk away with a free coding kit, such as a programmable drone and Raspberry Pi and Car Kit for the Raspberry Pi.



Pupils are currently working with Lego Mindstorm kit to complete a challenge for a First Lego League Competition in January 2020. The Lego Mindstorm club are thoroughly enjoying learning to code the Lego Mindstorm to solve real world problems with the theme of City Shaper, where pupils must find solutions to aid cities and towns face big issues, like transportation, accessibility and even natural disasters. Considering solutions on how they can shape a better future for everyone.

EESW (Engineering Education Scheme Wales)

Year 12 Engineering pupils have all been working on a project in conjunction with Engineering Education Scheme Wales Ltd and the Valê Refinery in Clydach. They are developing a device for collecting CO₂ emissions and will present their planning and design in March 2020 in Swansea University. This is an excellent educational experience for these pupils and they have always been incredibly successful in previous years.

Creative Technology Department

Once again, Problem Based Learning days have been successful in October with pupils having the opportunity to take part in both STEM and Computer based activities from developing products to compete in 'The Apprentice' themed tasks and develop products to solve a specific problem. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed and the winners of each class received Merits and 'A Front of the Dinner Queue' Pass.

Year 11 pupils in Cida ICT are currently preparing for their exam in January 2020, where they will be expected to develop a website for a specific purpose. Results in this exam have always been positive in the past and hopefully this year will be no exception. With 100% pass rate grades A*-C for the Cida qualification, the department hopes to maintain these excellent outcomes. Throughout the year the quality of the work has been good and some pupils have showed exceptional skill and creativity with regards the development of the graphic products and photo editing elements of the project. Engineering, Food Technology and Electronics also had excellent outcomes at the end of KS4 with Food Technology and Electronics gaining 100% pass rate for A*- G and Engineering have less withdrawals from the course than in previous years.

History and Politics Department News

GCSE and A Level History Talk



Professor Martin Johnes from Swansea University visited the school in September to deliver a lecture on Wales during the Second World War. He offered a fascinating insight into the Welsh experience of war. The talk was attended by GCSE and A Level History students, who study aspects of World War 2 as part of their exam courses. The lecture provided additional depth to their studies, as well as providing a glimpse of university style teaching.

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

The History and Politics A Level classes visited the Houses of Parliament in London at the start of term as part of their studies. The students toured both the Commons and the Lords, as well as taking part in a workshop on types of electoral systems. The visit was a valuable opportunity to place their studies into context - in History, students in-depth about learned development of parliamentary democracy in Britain during the nineteenth century, whilst the Politics classes have focused on both the workings of Parliament as well as democracy in Britain. The students particularly enjoyed touring the House of Commons, a building they are very familiar with through the news. The day was enjoyed by all who attended.



Year 7 Problem Based Learning Day

Year 7 pupils enjoyed a series of trips as part of their Humanities Problem Based Learning Day, where they learned more about the history and culture of Wales. Pupils visited Big Pit, St Fagan's Museum and the Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre. The excellent behaviour and attitude of the new Year 7 cohort was commented on by many people, including the Education officer at St Fagan's Museum, who rang the school to directly pass on her compliments!

UK Parliament Week 2019



The Year 12 Government and Politics class organised a series of events for UK Parliament Week in November. The students arranged a week-long programme of activities, games and challenges to help their peers learn more about how Parliament works in the United Kingdom. The week was very successful, with large numbers of students attending the lunchtime events and winning prizes for their participation. The Year 12 Politics class are now looking to organise more events to share their political knowledge further.

Faraday Engineering Challenge



Students from Bishop Vaughan took part in an IET Faraday Challenge Day. Students became real-life engineers for a day when they researched, designed and built solutions to real engineering problems as part of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) Faraday Challenge Day on 28th November.

A total of 210 events are taking place across the UK to host 2019-20 IET Faraday Challenge Days. Six teams of six Year 8 students competed to find the best solution to an engineering-related challenge.

This year's challenge is in association with Airbus and is based on humanitarian aid but the brief for these young engineers is shrouded in secrecy to avoid unfair preparation and research. Teams must race against the clock to solve a real-life engineering problem, putting their engineering and technology knowledge and skills to the test.

The events aim to encourage more young people to study and consider exciting and rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering and Maths (STEM) by using creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills.



Team 2 Winners: Tia, Phoebe, Ethan, Charlie, Hollie and Lola

The products made by each team were all fantastic, but ultimately Team 2 won the day with their invention, winning a £10 voucher each, as well as a trophy for the school. The top five teams from across the UK will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the national final at Airbus in Bristol in 2020 to compete for a cash prize of up to £1,000 for their school.

Super Curricular Enrichment at BVS

The Book 'n' Brew' Reading Club

The Book 'n' Brew club has also made a return this year. Open to Years 10-13, this club encourages reading for pleasure, with a particular focus on classic books in a range of genres. Students read the books and then meet to discuss their opinions over a cup of tea. So far this year, the club has read 'To Kill A Mockingbird' and 'Little Women', engaging in spirited debate about the latter book in particular!



New members are always welcome – please see Mr McKay in C3 for further information.

Super Curricular Enrichment at BVS

Summer activities

Several students from across the school participated in super curricular activities over the summer to strengthen their knowledge and understanding of their chosen subjects, as well as prepare for university.

A large number of Sixth Formers participated in the Step Up to Swansea University Programme. run by the university. This programme offers tailored support, such as study skills and taster days, as well as a residential summer school to introduce students to university life.



This scheme culminated in a graduation event at the Great Hall in the Swansea University Bay Campus. This was a very enjoyable evening, with staff and parents present to celebrate the achievements of the students.

Eight students also completed Nuffield Research Placements over the summer. These are 4-6 week long placements in university, laboratories and museums. Students worked alongside academics to complete research projects in subjects ranging from Psychology to Engineering and Biomedicine. The students created scientific posters to display their findings, which were then presented to Professor Sir Martin Evans, Wales' first Nobel Prize winner. This was another important and enjoyable evening that reflected the hard work of students.

Two Year 11 students attended the Christ's College Summer School at Cambridge University, spending a week at the university and participating in masterclasses and university life. The scheme is highly competitive and the successful applications made by the Bishop Vaughan students reflects their academic talents. The tutors at Cambridge University were highly impressed by our students and sent on their praises, as well as encouraging both students to consider applying to Cambridge University in the future.

The Masterclass Programme

The school's innovative collaboration with Swansea University returned this year. Every week, researchers and academics from Swansea University visit the school to deliver a lecture on their specialist subject – these lectures are usually on topics not studied in school and offer the chance for students to extend their knowledge beyond the curriculum, a key asset in university applications. This year, topics range from Criminology to Philosophy to Marketing and the sessions are open to anyone in Tears 9 -13. The 2019-2020 academic year marks the fifth anniversary of the scheme and Bishop Vaughan remains the only school in Swansea to offer such a programme. To celebrate, masterclass attendees are entered into a weekly prize draw to win gift vouchers and reward attendance.

School Uniform September 2019 - August 2020

Three of our suppliers are:

- Bergoni 8 Tower Court, Swansea Enterprise Park, SA6 8RU Tel: 01792 796880
- J&S Products 74 Tycoch Road, Swansea, SA2 9EQ Tel: 01792 206658
- Teamz Sportswear 4 Shoppers Walk, Swansea, SA1 3AZ Tel: 01792 655281.

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

Years 7-11

Blazer: With school logo (navy) - compulsory garment

Jumper (if worn): 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 trousers, **NOT** fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares,

leggings, skinny styles, 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 be a

single natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. purples, reds, dip dyes etc. are not permitted); no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts or shaved patches (not shorter than grade 2). No braiding with a mixture of hair colours. No artificial plaits or braids.

No painted nails or nail extensions.

Games Kit

Rugby Shirt (boys): Navy with blue/white side panels

T-Shirt (boys and girls): Navy with blue/white side panels

Shorts (boys): Navy with blue/white side panels

Shorts (girls): Navy with white trim

Footwear: Soccer, rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as

applicable

Socks (boys & girls): Navy with blue trim

Hooded Top (girls): Black with school logo (hooded top is optional)

Tracksuit bottoms (girls): Navy with white trim (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 pupil names

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)

NB During the summer term only, navy blue polo shirt with Sixth

Form logo may be worn.

Skirt: Navy blue, knee length

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

What does 'good attendance mean?

Many people think that 90% attendance is good; after all, if you got 90% in a test you would feel pleased with your achievement. However, if we look a little closer 90% attendance means half a day missed every week, and over a school year that means four whole weeks of lessons and learning missed!

Research shows that good attendance is linked to achievement with students who have attendance above 95% achieving a grade higher on average at GCSE than pupils with an attendance figure below 90%. When we take a closer look 90% attendance is not as good as it first seems.

What can we do, as a school and parents, to increase your child's attendance?

If your child is ill please inform the school on the first day of absence. Only allow your child to take days off for genuine illness (you will know!). At Bishop Vaughan we have a First Aid member of staff on hand at all times to deal with pupil illness should a problem occur during the day.

Keep an eye on your child's pattern of illness. Do they always feel ill on a Monday? Do they feel ill when they have a certain subject? Does something worry them at school? If so, let us know. There are plenty of good listeners at Bishop Vaughan who can support your child to work through any issues they may have.

Avoid taking holidays in school time wherever possible.

Some students feel inclined to take time off in the run up to tests and coursework deadlines. Don't encourage your child to work at home as the problem grows and more often than not the work is substandard. The best place to be is in school where bespoke learning support is readily available.

Remind your child that catching up with missed work is important. A missed day shouldn't mean missed work.

And finally -

If your child's attendance is over 95% they are doing well and deserve praise. Let them know that we are proud of their sense of responsibility and resilience.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

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 manager is Mrs E-J Gwyther and she is 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 219.

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 on to the school any relevant email address that we could use to contact you.

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; alternatively forms are available for collection from Student Services.

If you have any queries please feel free to our Attendance Manager Mrs E-J Gwyther on extension 219 or via email GwytherE3@hwbmail.net who will assist you further.



Please download our free 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 above table helpful as it breaks down days lost into weeks against percentage attendance.

Bus Passes

Could both parents and pupils please 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.

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



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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.

Any pupil using a mobile phone to record sound or video in school faces the likelihood of exclusion.



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 the Student Services office.

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 Morriston, Swansea SA6 7QG Phone: 01792 772006

Fax: 01792 772000

Fax: 01792 790565

E-mail: bishopvaughan@hwbmail.net

www.bishopvaughan.co.uk