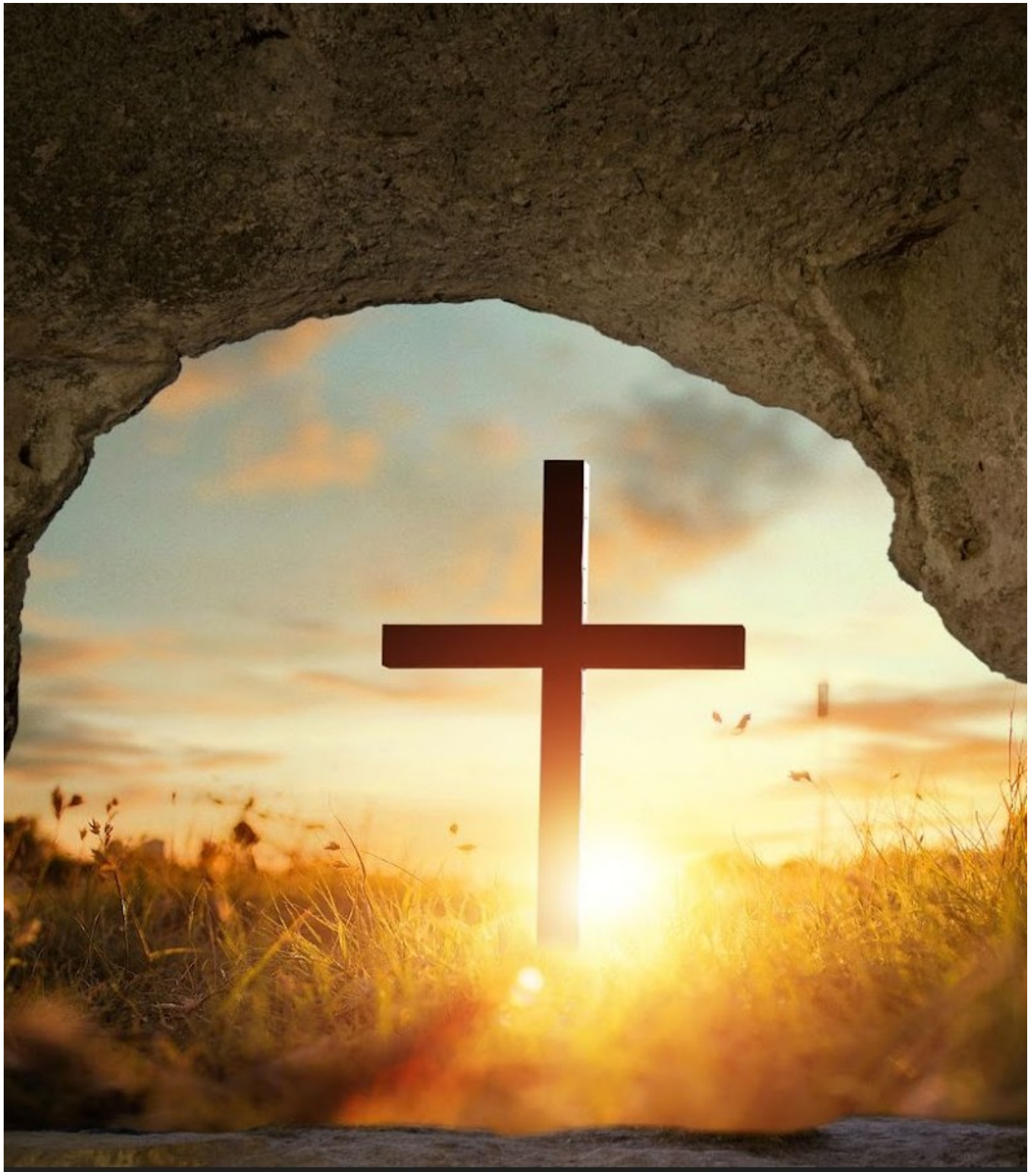




**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School**  
**Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan**

**Parents' Newsletter Easter 2026**  
**Cylchlythyr Rhieni Pasg 2026**



## Headteacher's Message

One of the greatest privileges of being a part of the Bishop Vaughan community is witnessing daily the dedication, compassion and enthusiasm that characterise our pupils. Whether it's through their academic progress, their participation in extracurricular activities or their service to others, they unfailingly demonstrate the very best of what it means to be part of a Catholic school family. Their efforts throughout this term have — as always — been inspiring, and I speak for all staff and governors in saying how immensely proud we are of the way they've embraced the opportunities available to them. We hope you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter!



This term has been focused on our journey of preparation for Easter. In addition to the usual weekly Masses, there have been many further special opportunities for prayer and reflection, and in these our pupils have shown clear willingness to deepen their understanding of faith. The Lenten Programme, centred this year on Pope Leo XIV's message encouraging us to "*cultivate kindness*", has been a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion in our relationships. The activities undertaken have included charitable fundraising and reflective tasks, with these encouraging pupils to think carefully about how they can bring faith to life through everyday actions. I'm very grateful to the Religious Studies department, our chaplaincy team and all staff who contribute to making these vital opportunities meaningful for our pupils.

Alongside these spiritual experiences, this term has seen a wealth of academic and extracurricular achievement. Our Performing Arts department has had a particularly busy term, with a hugely successful school production showcasing the talents of more than sixty pupils. The professionalism and joy evident in each performance certainly highlighted the skill of our performers, as well as the dedication of the staff who supported them. It was particularly special to welcome our cluster primary pupils for several of these performances, about which you can read more on page 6!

In classrooms across the school, pupils have continued to work with determination, and many of them have already achieved great success. The UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge results were excellent, and our congratulations go to all who took part — especially those receiving Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. All departments have also had busy terms filled with trips, competitions and creative learning opportunities. These experiences enrich our curriculum and allow pupils to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.

This has also been a term of exceptional accomplishment within sport. From basketball and football triumphs to national achievements in karate and archery, our pupils have shone across a wide range of sports. As we know, success on this level requires a strong commitment to training, and this level of discipline leads ultimately to success not only in the sport in question, but in life more widely. We wish all teams and individuals all the very best as they move into the summer term's competitions, including those heading to national finals!



## Headteacher's Message

Our Sixth Form pupils have also represented the school admirably, whether through super-curricular involvement, leading the School Council, subject-specific visits, Duke of Edinburgh or university outreach events.

The School Council continue to shape the life of the school in meaningful ways, and I am grateful to them for representing their peers so thoughtfully.

This term has also seen the ALN and Inclusion department's enhancement of already-outstanding with the establishment of the new sensory room, which has quickly become a highly valued space within the school. Pupils' involvement in the Great Big School Clean demonstrated their commitment to our shared environment and to living out the virtues of being intentional and prophetic — this term's focus within the Catholic Pupil Profile.

Reading continues to play a central role in our culture as a school, and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm around World Book Day this term. The creativity of the costumes, the excitement around author visits and the ongoing success of our First Friday Book Stalls all reflect a thriving reading community. As this newsletter highlights, engaging with books is about far more than academic progress; it fosters imagination, empathy and a lifelong love of learning. I hope families will enjoy exploring the reading recommendations included later in this newsletter as we move towards the Easter break.



As ever, I'm deeply grateful to our parents and carers and all members of our school community for your continued partnership. Your support—whether through attending events, encouraging good attendance, helping with revision routines or simply maintaining strong communication with us—makes a significant difference to the lives of our pupils. Education is a collaborative journey, and I am thankful for the trust you place in us each day.

As we now enter the Easter season, I encourage all pupils to take time to rest, reflect and spend quality time with family and friends. For those preparing for examinations, revision will undoubtedly form part of the break, but it is just as important to balance work with wellbeing.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April for what promises to be an exciting and purposeful summer term, filled with events including our 60th anniversary concert and our annual Festival of Culture.

May the joy and hope of Easter bring peace to all members of our community. Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish you a happy, holy and restful Easter—

**Mrs. E. Pole**  
**Headteacher**



## School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

| Term        | Term begins          | HALF TERM HOLIDAYS   |                      | Term ends            |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|             |                      | Begins               | Ends                 |                      |
| Autumn 2025 | Monday 1st September | Monday 27th October  | Friday 1st October   | Friday 19th December |
| Spring 2026 | Monday 5th January   | Monday 16th February | Friday 20th February | Friday 27th March    |
| Summer 2026 | Monday 13th April    | Monday 25th May      | Friday 29th May      | Monday 20th July     |

**The staff and governors wish  
all parents, carers and pupils  
a happy and holy Easter.**

*Gan ddymuno Pasg hapus a sanctaidd ichi.*

### Bank Holidays

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday  
Monday 6th April - Easter Monday  
Monday 4th May - May Day  
Monday 25th May - Spring Bank Holiday

### Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Friday 27th March; school closes at 3.00pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 13th April 2026. This will be week one of the timetable.  
Monday 20th July - INSET Day



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

[www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/term-dates](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/term-dates)



## PLEASE NOTE

The decision was taken by 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. A list of the Parishes and their contact details are below.

We wish you a happy and Holy Easter.



**Blessed Sacrament (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)**

Tel: 01792 892722  
[www.parishofgorseinon.org](http://www.parishofgorseinon.org)

**Cathedral Church of St. Joseph  
 (Rev. Phillip Harries)**

Tel: 01792 652683  
[www.meneviacathedral.org](http://www.meneviacathedral.org)

**Holy Cross (Father Cyril Thadathil)**

Tel: 01792 586454  
[www.holycrossmenevia.com](http://www.holycrossmenevia.com)

**Our Lady of Lourdes (Rev Chriso Titto Neriampampil)**

Tel: 01792 655336  
[www.facebook.com/swanseatownhill](https://www.facebook.com/swanseatownhill)

**Our Lady Star of the Sea (Rev Michael Akpoghiran OP and Rev Jude Akpobasa OP)**

Tel: 01792 367283  
[www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk](http://www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk)

**Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones and Father Roderich Teriote)**

Tel: 01792 771053  
[www.sacredheartmorriston.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartmorriston.org.uk)

**Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Fr Saji Matthew)**

Tel: 01792 842244  
[www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk)

**St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Saji Matthew)**

Tel: 01792 842244

**St. Benedict's Sketty (Father John Browne)**

Tel: 01792 202447  
[www.stbenedictsketty.org](http://www.stbenedictsketty.org)

**St. Bride's Pontarddulais (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)**

Tel: 01792 892722

**St. David's (Canon Paul Watson and Rev Gregory Beckett)**

Tel: 01792 653343  
[www.stdavids.wix.com/website](http://www.stdavids.wix.com/website)

**St. Illtyd's (Canon Paul Watson and Rev Gregory Beckett)**

Tel: 01792 424107

**St. Joachim's (Father John Browne)**

Tel: 01792 201046  
[www.gowercatholic.com](http://www.gowercatholic.com)

**St. Peter's (Father Cyril Thadathil)**

Tel: 01792 586454

## Performing Arts



Our recent school production was a true highlight of the term! Over 60 students from across all year groups were involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. From acting, singing and dancing, to lighting, sound and front-of-house roles, pupils certainly showcased impressive skills and the audiences for all shows were exceptionally impressed!

The performances were high-energy and captivating, showcasing the dedication of both our talented pupils and committed staff. Each evening, we were joined by a different feeder primary school whose pupils formed a fantastic ensemble choir, adding even more vibrancy to the show. It was particularly wonderful to see younger pupils taking part as part of the *Orphan* ensemble, fully embracing the excitement of live performance!



## Performing Arts



## Performing Arts



Our Year 9 students recently took part in an inspiring Careers Day at Swansea Arena focused on the creative industries.

Through a series of engaging workshops led by industry professionals, pupils explored areas such as music production, television design and acting.

This event celebrated the talents of our most creative students and it also helped them to understand the wide range of career opportunities available within performing arts, music and film.

Pupils showed great curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm throughout the day.



We are now looking forward to an exciting upcoming event as we celebrate 60 years of the school with a special celebratory concert in July! This promises to be a fantastic occasion, bringing together past and present students, as well as members of the wider community.

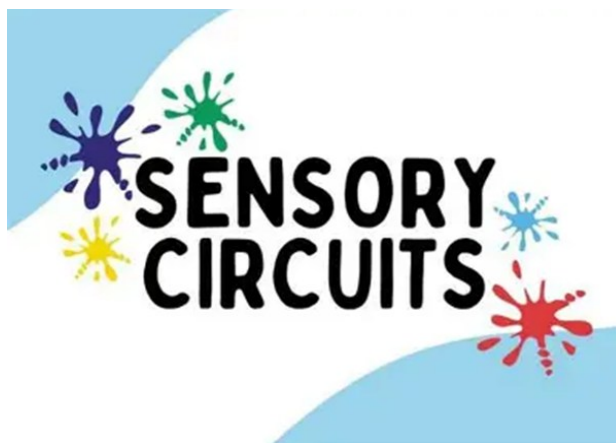
The concert will feature a rich and varied programme including orchestral performances, choir pieces, production work, solos, duets and some special surprise guests!

It has been a pleasure to see so many pupils involved in performing arts this term, developing their skills and also building confidence, forming friendships and — most importantly — enjoying every moment of their experiences within performing arts. Thank you to our parents and carers who support our pupils' involvement in these activities and the associated events throughout the year!

## ALN and Inclusion

It has been another busy term for ALN and Inclusion pupils, who have taken part in a wide range of exciting activities and learning experiences since January.

Pupils across the department have made excellent use of the newly opened sensory room. This dedicated space enables pupils to participate in sensory circuits designed to support regulation and readiness for learning. Activities include resistance exercises, deep pressure input, calming and stimulating scents, and the exploration of sensory materials such as grains and textured objects. These circuits help pupils to either activate their senses and prepare for learning or to calm their bodies when required, and the room has quickly become an important part of the provision.



During March, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9E took part in the Great Big School Clean. They began by surveying the school grounds to identify the areas where litter most commonly collects, before working together with litter pickers and bags to improve these spaces.



Pupils collected a substantial amount of litter and showed real commitment to improving the school environment, tackling even the more challenging areas beneath trees and shrubs where larger quantities of rubbish tends to gather.

In lessons, pupils also explored the wider impact of litter on wildlife, local environments and communities. Their efforts will contribute to the evidence required for the renewal of the school's Eco Schools Green Flag Award, and their dedication to caring for their surroundings has been highly commendable.

## Religious Studies Department News

# Prayer and Worship

### Weekly Mass

Each week, we are blessed to gather together for our voluntary school Mass, a pivotal moment of prayer and community at Bishop Vaughan. Attendance is excellent, with pupils showing great commitment to joining together in worship. The atmosphere throughout is always deeply reverent, reflecting the respect and maturity our pupils bring to these celebrations.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr John, our school chaplain, for leading us with such warmth and kindness. His insight and pastoral care are appreciated by our pupils, and his presence continues to guide and inspire our school community in faith. We are grateful also to all pupils who contribute to making our weekly Mass a treasured part of our school life.

### Special Ministers of the Eucharist

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that a group of our pupils have recently completed their training to become Special Ministers of the Eucharist — a significant ministry within the Catholic Church and a true expression of faith and service within our school community.

These pupils have taken part in formation and training, learning about the meaning of the Eucharist, the responsibilities of the ministry, and the reverence and care required when assisting during Mass.



Their commitment, maturity, and thoughtful engagement throughout the process have been deeply impressive.

Following the completion of their training, the pupils were formally commissioned by Fr John in a special service held in our School Chapel. This was a prayerful and joyful occasion, marking the beginning of their ministry within Bishop Vaughan.

We are incredibly proud of these young people for embracing this important role with such sincerity and dedication. They will now support the distribution of Holy Communion during school Masses, playing a valued part in the spiritual life of our community.

## Religious Studies Department News

### Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Day

This term a group of our pupils took part in the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Day—a wonderful opportunity to step back from the busyness of school life and reflect more deeply on faith. The theme for the day, “Journey through the Desert,” invited pupils to think about the challenges we face, the importance of trust in God, and the hope that guides us towards renewal.

Throughout the retreat, pupils engaged in a range of thoughtful and creative activities, including a guided reflection, small-group discussions, Stations of the Cross, and a beautiful Mass. Each activity encouraged them to explore what the “desert” might symbolise in their own lives and how they can draw strength from faith during times of difficulty or change. Staff were incredibly impressed by the excellent engagement from all pupils. Their willingness to participate, share ideas and support one another helped create a warm, reflective and uplifting atmosphere. It was a joy to see them embrace the theme so openly and thoughtfully.

We are grateful to Fr Matt Roche-Saunders and the Archdiocesan Youth Team for delivering such a meaningful day, and to our pupils for representing Bishop Vaughan so beautifully.



## Religious Studies Department News

### Eisteddfod 2026

In preparation for our school Eisteddfod this year, pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 were given a choice of tasks: they could either research the life and work of Saint David, or they could create a beautiful stained-glass window to reflect Wales and the Welsh culture. We were thrilled to see the standard of entries this year and we congratulate all pupils that took part. Some of our winning pieces of work are pictured below.



## Religious Studies Department News

### ACE Day

Our Year 8 pupils enjoyed a fantastic ACE Day built around the theme of being Curious and Active, a pair of virtues from the Catholic Pupil Profile. The day encouraged pupils to think creatively, work collaboratively and embrace new challenges, all while reflecting on how these virtues can shape their learning and faith journey.

Pupils took part in a range of exciting activities, including:

- Escape Room challenges that required problem-solving, teamwork and resilience
- Faith in Action tasks exploring how small acts of kindness and service can make a meaningful difference
- Building a Shelter, an activity that encouraged practical thinking, cooperation, and perseverance
- Creation of a themed artwork, where pupils expressed what 'Curious and Active' means to them through colour, imagery and symbolism.

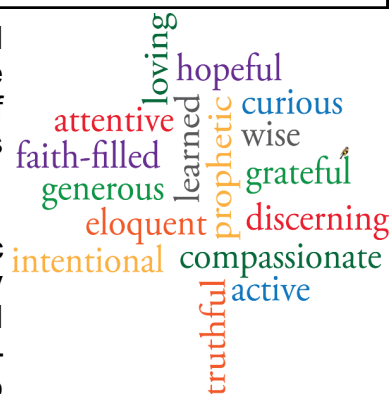
We were delighted with the artwork produced — it showcased creativity and thoughtful reflection. Staff were incredibly impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm shown by all pupils throughout the day.

ACE Days continue to be an opportunity for our pupils to develop their character and grow in confidence, curiosity and compassion — and indeed all of the character traits set out in the Catholic Pupil Profile described further overleaf for parents and carers newer to our school.



## The Catholic Pupil Profile

The Catholic Pupil Profile (CPP) is an approach adopted by many Catholic schools to celebrate and encourage virtues or positive character traits. The profile consists of eight statements, each containing two key virtues as depicted in this diagram:



These virtues come from the gospels and from Catholic tradition, but are fundamentally human virtues shared by all human beings. They express what it is to be a good person living a virtuous life. We think this is what a well-educated and good person who can make a difference to the world looks like.

Therefore, pupils at Bishop Vaughan School are growing to be:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

While we promote all of the virtues throughout school life, each half term we focus on one pair of virtues in order to really explore what these virtues are and how we can cultivate them in our everyday behaviours.

During this term, we have looked closely at being **intentional and prophetic**. These virtues help our pupils to reflect deeply on their choices, their purpose and the difference they can make in the world.

## The Catholic Pupil Profile

### This half-term's CPP paired virtues: intentional and prophetic —

To be **intentional** is to act with thoughtfulness and purpose. Throughout this half term, pupils across the school have explored what it means to make deliberate choices — whether in their learning, friendships or in the ways they use their time and talents. In classroom reflections, pupils identified areas where they could be more mindful and set small, meaningful goals. In group activities, they discussed how intentional actions contribute to a positive classroom community, from including others to persevering with challenging tasks. Our aim has been to help pupils understand that intentional living is not about perfection, but about being aware of how their actions shape who they are becoming.

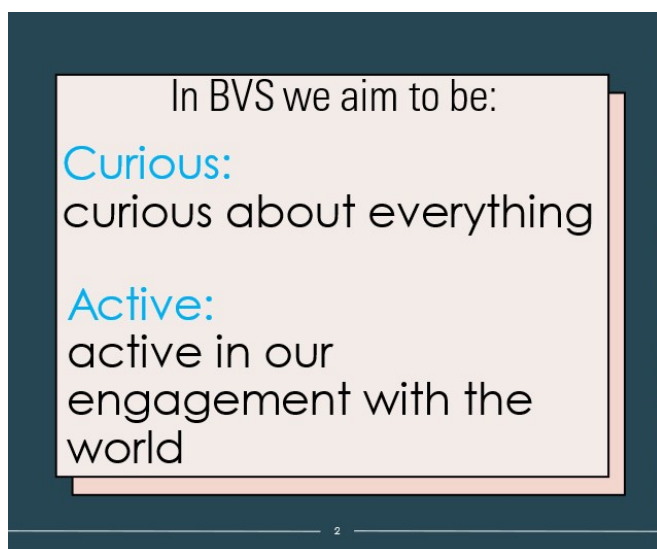
To be **prophetic** means to speak and act with courage, expressing one's beliefs and standing up for what is right — following the example of the prophets in Scripture. This term, pupils have explored how they, too, can be prophetic in everyday life. By focusing on these virtues, pupils have gained a deeper understanding of how faith is lived out not only in prayer but through actions rooted in purpose and courage. It has been inspiring to see pupils recognise that they can make a meaningful impact — both within school and beyond — when they act with intention and speak the truth with love. We look forward to continuing this journey of growth as we move into the next half term's virtues.

## PSE News

### Curious and Active:

In the first half of the Spring term, pupils explored the CPP paired virtues of being “curious and active” with tailored activities during PSE.

Through discussion and debate, pupils engaged with topics from space exploration, the importance of social media for young people and even “does pineapple belong on pizza?” The session saw lots of engagement and enjoyment, with a range of topics for everyone!



## PSE News

### Intentional and Prophetic

In the second half of the Spring term, pupils explored the paired virtues of being 'intentional and prophetic', again with tailored activities during PSE.

In BVS we aim to be:

**Intentional:**  
in the way we live

**Prophetic:**  
in the example we set others




How can we be **intentional & prophetic** in our lives?

Seek the truth

Care for the world around you

Be kind and focus on good actions

Show integrity

Engage with the news & world around you

Stand up for those who need it



# Charity Team

## Lenten Programme of Activities

Once again, the Lenten Programme of Activities provided opportunities for pupils and staff to pause, reflect and engage in a range of meaningful activities as part of our preparations through Lent in readiness for Easter.

This year we are focusing our Programme of Activities on the Lenten message given to us by Pope Leo XIV. In his message, Pope Leo XIV invited us to “cultivate kindness”. We explored what this means to us as a school community as well as in our homes, families and wider communities.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that when we “refrain from words that offend and hurt our neighbour..... hatred gives way to peace and hope.” In turn, this improves the quality of our relationships and the ways we communicate with others.

Through both action and reflection, the school community supported CAFOD, SVP and the local community while engaging in a little fun and community spirit too!



Lenten Programme of Activities:  
How can we get involved in BVS?

Throughout Lent:

- ▶ Pray: Journal – Journeying Together
- ▶ Fast: Heart to Heart Campaign (SVP)
- ▶ Give: Tutorial Challenge – Good Samaritan Bags
- ▶ Pray: Capturing Kindness Podcast
- ▶ Fast: Staff Lenten Lunch
- ▶ Give: Easter Raffle



#LivingLent

#cultivatekindness

**Give: Tutorial Challenge**

**Good Samaritan Bags**

As a tutorial you are asked to collect the following items:

- ✓ Toiletries, small bottle of shower gel / toothpaste & toothbrush / hairbrush
- ✓ Activity book & pencil eg: crossword / word search
- ✓ Pair of socks
- ✓ Pair of gloves
- ✓ Non perishable snacks

Each tutorial is also invited to write a small note or card of kindness.  
This will be included in the bag.



Each Samaritan Bag will also contain a prayer card, designed by a pupil at Bishop Vaughan.

During the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the bags will be collected and shared with the homeless, those living in shelters and people in our local community who have most need of them this Easter.

**Pray: Capturing Kindness**

Capturing Kindness:

Join our BVS Prayer & Pause for Thought Podcast.

Will you accept the challenge and share your reflections with others?

See Miss M in C4 for more details.



## Welsh Department News

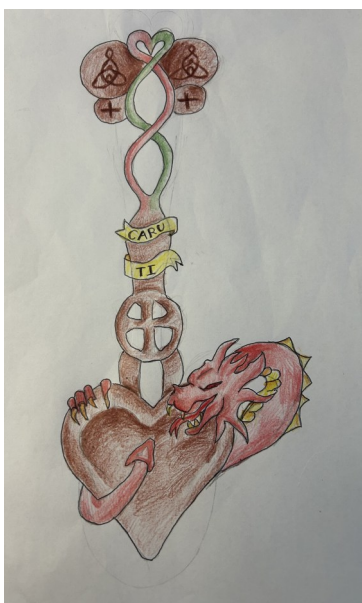
### Welsh Dimension

#### Dydd Santes Dwynwen

Pupils celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen – the patron saint of lovers – by reading about the tale of Dwynwen in tutorial time and by taking part in a creative task to design a love spoon. Pupils learned the significance of the different symbols traditionally found on Celtic love spoons and incorporated these into their designs. As always, the standard of our pupils' creative work was excellent! Below are the entries of those placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Gloria Year 8



Leia Year 9



Katetan Year 8

#### Arholiadau Llafar - Oracy Exams

March is a busy month for Year 11 with a small number of pupils resitting their Unit 1 speaking exams on 10th March, followed by the Unit 2 speaking exams running from 17th to 19th March.

The department have been holding weekly revision sessions on Thursday lunchtimes - well done to all those that have attended, with some staying after school too. We're sure that the hard work will have paid dividends and wish you all the best of luck for the upcoming Unit 2 exams! Pob lwc!



## Welsh Department News

### Yr Eisteddfod – The Eisteddfod

The Welsh Department organised the annual school Eisteddfod, held on Friday 6th March. Pupils throughout KS3 submitted various pieces of work from each department to compete in the event, with winning entries being revealed on-screen throughout the duration of the performances.

A wealth of talent filled the stage, celebrating our Welsh culture and heritage. Both pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the event, especially the Year 7 pupils who were very vocal in expressing just how much they enjoyed it! It was also lovely to see many Year 11 pupils take to the stage for the first time, many of whom had hidden their talents for four years!

In addition, and once again, the pupils did a stellar job in hosting the event and distributed certificates to winning entrants. Llongyfarchiadau, pawb!



## Maths Department News

### UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Results

On 28th January, 50 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. The pupils achieved some excellent results this year with 18 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan. Special mention to **Erin Cobley** in Year 10 who achieved the highest mark in the school - a very impressive result! Erin was invited to do the kangaroo extension paper and we're eagerly awaiting her result. Da iawn Erin!

#### Year 11

|                 |                  |              |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Najmul Riyas     | Gold Award   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Joshua Lock      | Silver Award |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Gabriella Davies | Silver Award |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Nathan Colarina  | Bronze Award |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Niharika Chander | Bronze Award |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Hyness Ogiku     | Bronze Award |

#### Year 10

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Erin Cobley     | Gold Award   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Rhys Casey      | Silver Award |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Natalia Malenka | Silver Award |

#### Year 9

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Hubbee Suhail   | Silver Award |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Johan Jacob     | Silver Award |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Ivan Verona     | Silver Award |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Raphael Afante  | Bronze Award |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Jan Galazka     | Bronze Award |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Ruben Scaria    | Bronze Award |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | Victoria Nije   | Bronze Award |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | Oskar Szulinski | Bronze Award |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> | Xue Yao Lin     | Bronze Award |

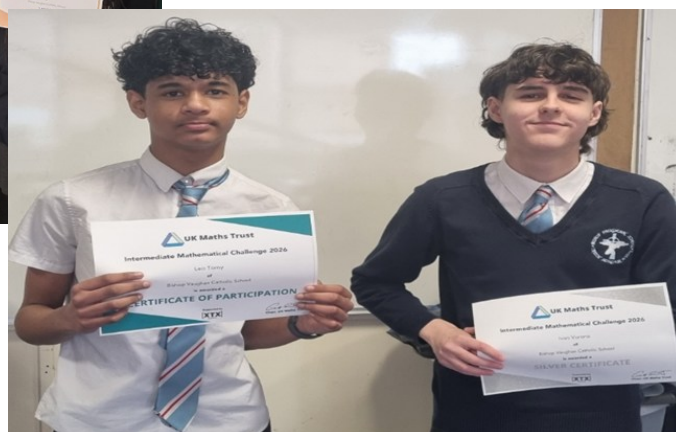
There were some very challenging problem-solving questions and only the top 40% in the country receive awards. Well done to everybody that took part!

The next challenge is on 29th April and this is open to Years 7 and 8 pupils.

For more information on this competition or for a copy of the questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>



# Maths Department News



## Geography Department News

The Geography department have been busy since Christmas preparing for the next term ahead.

**Year 7** have begun their study of Wales, with a particular focus on National Parks. Pupils will complete a decision-making task on proposed development within a National Park. Throughout this unit, students are developing their numeracy, oracy and writing skills.

**Year 8** have been exploring the rainforest and investigating whether areas of rainforest should be developed. They were fortunate to welcome the *Size of Wales* project team, who visited to discuss the impact of palm oil production.



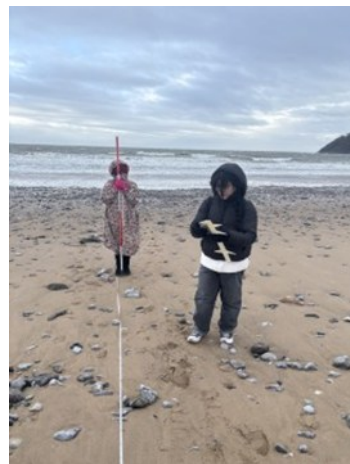
**Year 9** have been examining the theme of conflict, studying geographical conflicts from around the world. Their assessment this term focuses on the proposed High-Speed Rail project in the UK and its implications.

**Year 10** are preparing for their WJEC examinations this summer and are currently studying settlement change.

**Year 11** are focusing on preparation for the Unit 2 WJEC examination and are currently studying development.

**Year 12** students have participated in two fieldwork experiences: one at Oxwich Bay to study longshore drift and coastal erosion, and another at Cardiff Bay to investigate urban regeneration.

**Year 13** geographers have fully engaged with their NEA, which they have now completed. They are continuing to consolidate their learning in readiness for their final examinations this summer.



### Eco-Schools

The Eco-Schools Group has been actively preparing for the renewal of our Green Flag award this summer. Students are developing a new Eco-Code and have launched a competition for Year 7 to contribute creative entries.

Additionally, the group took part in the RSPB Birdwatch and created their own recycling birdfeeders as part of the initiative.

## Creative Technology Department News



In January, 7E were treated to a visit from the Rocketry SwanSEDS team at Swansea University. During a D&T lesson, the team gave a fascinating presentation about space exploration on Mars.

Pupils enjoyed seeing the rocket that the team had designed and asked lots of questions about the process. The whole class participated in a two hour workshop where they built their own moving moon buggy.

This year pupils in 7E class have been supported in D&T lessons by our Sixth Formers, Charlie, Alana, Evangeline, Isabelle, Leila and Harrison. We're very grateful to them for giving up their spare time to volunteer for these roles. They have been most kind, patient and helpful to the pupils in 7E, demonstrating the values and dispositions that we aim to nurture in all of our pupils.

## Rocketry (SwanSEDS)

SwanSEDS are Swansea University's Rocketry and Space Engineering team. We are a branch of the national organisation UKSEDS - the UK Students for the Exploration and Development of Space.

# Health and Social Care Department News



What a fantastic success the Bishop Vaughan Health and Wellbeing Festival has been this term!

Our Year 11 Health and Social Care learners did an amazing job leading educational displays and mini-workshops for Year 7 students, helping them learn more about how to look after their own health and wellbeing. From sharing practical tips to encouraging positive habits, it was wonderful to see our learners supporting and inspiring the younger pupils.



A huge thank you to Mrs Cook and Ms Phelps for organising such a valuable and engaging event and for making the festival possible, and well done to everyone involved – a brilliant example of learners learning from learners and promoting healthy, positive lifestyles across our school community!



## Biology Department News

### A-Level Biologists Evaluate Conservation in Action at Bristol Zoo Project

Our A-Level Biology students recently visited the Bristol Zoo Project, gaining valuable first-hand insight into how modern zoological organisations contribute to global conservation efforts. The trip allowed students to apply their classroom learning to real-world biological issues, particularly the protection of rare and endangered species and the promotion of sustainable practices.

During the visit, students examined the zoo's approach to conservation by observing species-specific breeding programmes, habitat design, and the scientific research being carried out on site. They evaluated how effectively these strategies support long-term species survival, considering factors such as genetic diversity, environmental enrichment, ethical standards of care and the viability of reintroduction programmes.

A key focus of their evaluation was sustainability. Students explored how the Bristol Zoo Project integrates sustainability into its operations — ranging from resource management and eco-friendly enclosure construction to educational outreach aimed at encouraging responsible environmental behaviour. They assessed how successfully these initiatives influence public attitudes and inspire visitors to take practical steps toward biodiversity protection.

By critically analysing both the strengths and the challenges facing modern zoos, students developed a deeper understanding of the complex role these institutions play in conservation science. Many came away with a renewed appreciation for how organisations like the Bristol Zoo Project act as hubs for research, species preservation and public education, far beyond their traditional role as visitor attractions.



The trip was an excellent opportunity for our Sixth Form biologists to connect theory with practice, reflect on the ethical dimensions of animal conservation, and consider the future of sustainable wildlife stewardship.

Students represented the school exceptionally well, and we are grateful to the Bristol Zoo Project staff for sharing their expertise and passion.

## PE Department News

### Sporting Success



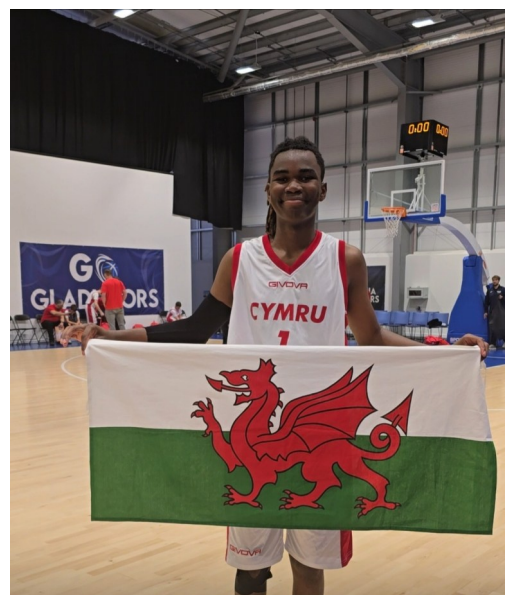
Regional Basketball Champs  
Nationals Finals in April 2026



Year 9/10 Swansea Champions  
January 2026



Congratulations to Joshua who  
represented Wales Under 15's  
against Lithuania



## PE Department News

### Sporting Success



Da iawn to Zoey in Year 8 who won the U14 Welsh Open Junior Archery Indoor Championships!

Second out of nine schools in Swansea, losing to Ysgol Gyfyn Gwyr in the final, amazing play! The team also played in the Regional Finals in February coming fourth overall!



2 wins in one afternoon! Well done to the Year 8 and 9 Football teams!



Congratulations to Joseph Year 11 who won the Welsh Karate Championships!



## PE Department News

### Sporting Success



Another win for the Year 10 Football team!

Year 7/8 boys: third in the Swansea Basketball Tournament in January!



Year 7 & 8 girls' basketball January



Levi Davies has been selected to represent Wales as Captain of the A-team, this year competing in Gibraltar and Cape Town.

Well done Levi!

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

Both the Bronze and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups have been out on training walks around Afan Argoed and Gower during this term, developing their navigation skills. They have been practising using route cards, taking bearings and pacing.

The Bronze group were joined by the Swansea Educational Visits Advisor, who complimented them on their positivity in very wet conditions and was impressed by the navigational skills they displayed.



Pupils have also started basic first aid training, and will soon begin sessions on safely using camping stoves. They will start by making hot chocolate, then have a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' experience where they try to cook a calorific meal from a selection of ingredients that would be suitable for the expedition trips they will be taking in the Summer term.

## Science Department

Our prospective Year 12 medics have recently attended Cardiff University's Science in Health LIVE event. Fifteen students attended on the day and it was highly valuable, giving our students an opportunity to see behind the curtain of a university teaching hospital.

They were given a tour of the laboratory research facilities by PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, ask questions to some of the professors from a range of areas across medicine, dentistry and beyond and take part in a road traffic collision recreation – very much hands on practice of clinical skills!



In addition, there were numerous displays and exhibits for our pupils to view from across the university, many with interactive activities which gave a flavour of the respective degree schemes.. The feedback from the learners was highly positive and we will definitely attend again in the future!

## Supercurricular News

It's been a busy two terms of super-curricular activity so far at Bishop Vaughan! These kicked off with our annual Masterclass program where, in conjunction with Swansea University, students and academics present a lunchtime talk on a range of subjects from computer science to English Literature. In Autumn 2025 these included:

- 'An Introduction to Materials Science' (Engineering)
- 'Do you want to be a doctor?' (Medicine)
- 'Why you can't stop scrolling TikTok' (Computer Science)
- 'Vancouver's Chinatown: The story of a neighbourhood on the brink' (Human geography)
- 'Wildfires: myth vs reality' (Physical Geography)
- 'Amazons: Medieval Wonder Women' (English Literature)

These sessions were very well attended with over 80 pupils across Years 9-13 coming along to learn something new beyond the school curriculum!

In November, we were privileged to welcome Dr Peter Varga from Christ Church, Oxford to talk to Years 11-13 pupils about the links between psychology and music, specifically whether the emotions of a composer are reflected in the feelings of the listener. This was a fascinating talk that introduced students to the wider discipline of Experimental Psychology.



In January, five talented pupils represented Bishop Vaughan in the Seren Year 9 Debate competition in Swansea's Guildhall: Sinclair, Emmanuella, Mutawakkil, Reuben and Klara .

These pupils were excellent representatives of the school community, spoke eloquently and achieved an impressive fourth place in the regional final—well done to all!

In February, our Year 12 pupils attended an open day organised by Step Up to Swansea University. This was a very useful visit that opened pupils' eyes to student life, the kinds of subjects that can be studied at a higher level and the facilities available on the Singleton and Bay campuses.

Pupils were particularly impressed with the university's Zoology museum and the Engineering labs!

More talks and events have been scheduled for the summer term; details will be shared on ClassCharts and Teams with pupils in the relevant year groups, so keep an eye out for news of upcoming masterclasses!



# Engineering Department

## Year 12 Engineering Teams Take on Real-World Challenge



Our Year 12 Engineering teams are proudly taking part in the prestigious EESW (Engineering Education Scheme Wales) Project run by STEM Cymru, where they are working as real engineers to tackle a genuine industry problem. This year's brief challenges the groups to design innovative solutions for maintaining streetlights without the use of a cherry picker or any additional lifting equipment.

With the project deadline set for March, the teams are fully immersed in developing and refining their ideas, drawing on creativity, technical skill, and collaborative problem-solving. Their hard work will culminate in a showcase event in April, where they will present their final solutions alongside schools from across Wales.

It's a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with real-world engineering and demonstrate their talent on a national stage. We're incredibly proud of their dedication and excited to see their innovations come to life!

## Enrichment — Clubs and Activities



There is an exceptionally wide offering of lunchtime and after-school clubs, teams and activities available to pupils throughout the school.

The timetable for activities and an extra-curricular prospectus can be found online on our website.

For those of you accessing this newsletter online: [CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES | Bishop Vaughan](#)

## English Department

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 learners, who recently received their results for the **GCSE English Literature Unit 1 examination**. Their excellent outcomes reflected their dedication, resilience and hard work throughout the year.

Alongside this, students have also completed a **mock examination in English Language**, showing continued determination as they prepare for their final exams. A huge well done to all involved—your commitment is truly inspiring!

### RSC Theatre Trip

The department is excited to announce our upcoming visit to the **Royal Shakespeare Company** to see a performance of *Henry V*. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience Shakespeare's work live on stage, enriching their understanding of themes, characterisation and dramatic technique.



We're very much looking forward to what promises to be a memorable and engaging experience for all!

### KS3 Eisteddfod Poetry

Our Key Stage 3 pupils produced **outstanding poetry** for this year's annual **Eisteddfod**. The creativity, voice, enthusiasm for creative writing and imagination showcased in their poems were truly exceptional.

Congratulations to all participants!

## World Book Day

World Book Day 2026 was a fantastic celebration of stories and the joy of reading here at school! Students and staff marked the occasion — as they always do — with enthusiasm, creativity and a shared appreciation for the power of books!

A wonderful array of costumes was in evidence throughout the school, with pupils and staff alike bringing their favourite characters to life: countless characters from Hogwarts could be spotted in classrooms and corridors, as could Roald Dahl characters and animals from foxes to dinosaurs!

We would like to thank all pupils, parents, carers and staff who contributed to making World Book Day 2026 such a memorable event, whether through creating costumes, having discussions or taking the time to read together, as each and every one played a valued part in celebrating the magic of books!

## World Book Day



On World Book Day this year, many pupils took part in a trip to our local branch of Waterstones, where pupils had the exciting opportunity to meet and listen to an author speak about their writing journey and inspirations.

Our 'reading culture' here at Bishop Vaughan truly permeates the school year, and is not simply reduced to the annual celebration of World Book Day — as important as this is! The day, however, is an opportunity to reinforce the importance of reading for pleasure and learning.

Our pupils are aware, through assemblies and lessons, that research consistently shows that reading can improve vocabulary and support academic success across **all** subjects and — crucially, enhance empathy and promote personal wellbeing. Events like World Book Day and our annual Festival of Culture help to nurture a lifelong love of books and inspire our students to become confident, curious readers.

We look forward to continuing to promote reading throughout the year and to building on the excitement generated by this special day.



# Reading Recommendations Newsletter



## Spring

### Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying.

We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group and genre](#) on our website.

**Happy reading!**  
**The BVS Book Group**

### First Friday Book Stalls News

Our Book Group pupils are thoroughly enjoying running the First Friday Bookstalls, which take place at lunchtimes on the First Friday of each month. With books donated by pupils and staff selling at just fifty pence, this is a great opportunity to pick up books that others have enjoyed—recycling and re-using, as well as promoting a love of reading!

New books continue to be available from the book vending machines in each diner, also at a heavily subsidised cost, though teachers and support staff also give tokens as rewards for effort or demonstrating the school's values in action—so an entirely free book for those lucky recipients!

The school library is also well-stocked for those keen to read books at lunchtimes, after school in the Learning Zone or to loan books.

## Happy reading!

### Forthcoming Events

The **Hay Festival of Literature** takes place in May half-term each year. As always, we warmly encourage families to explore the festival, which this year takes place on 21st–31st May in Hay-on-Wye—a beautiful small town with about thirty bookshops, and which welcomes authors from all over the globe for a world-renowned celebration of books, ideas and creativity each year!



The festival offers over 500 inspiring events for all ages—including author talks, performances and a fantastic children's programme. It's a wonderful day out for families who love stories, learning and the outdoors, all set in the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons.

Entry to the festival site is free, with individual tickets available for events. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a vibrant festival of culture and imagination



Our own **Bishop Vaughan Festival of Culture** will take place in July. Like the Hay Festival, our own festival runs for a whole week and we're looking forward to once again welcoming authors, storytellers, musicians, academics, bands, choirs and speakers for an exciting programme to rival Hay-on-Wye's offering!

# Reading Recommendations Newsletter

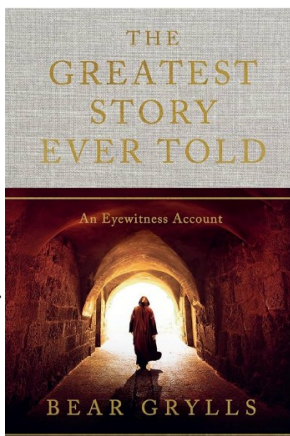
## 2026



### An Easter Reading Recommendation: 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' by Bear Grylls

We highlighted this book last year, when those of our pupils who attended the Flame Conference in Wembley received free copies of this book and had the opportunity to meet its author. We repeat the recommendation this year as it's so very relevant as we enter Passiontide and draw towards Easter:

*In 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', adventurer and survival expert Bear Grylls shares a deeply personal and accessible retelling of the life of Jesus, bringing the message of Christianity to life in a fresh and relatable way for young people.*



*Written in his signature honest and down-to-earth style, this book explores themes of courage, forgiveness, kindness and faith, offering readers both a story and a guide on how to live with purpose and compassion.*

*The book is ideal for young people looking to explore or deepen their understanding of faith; it is full of real-life wisdom, encouragement and hope. Bear draws on his own life experiences to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus in the modern world, making it a powerful read. Inspiring, thought-provoking and heartfelt, this book is a brilliant companion for life's journey!*

### Spring Reading Suggestions

With lighter evenings and warmer weather on the way, Spring is an ideal time to discover a new book! Whether you like gripping mysteries, imaginative fantasy or powerful real-life stories, there's plenty to enjoy!

For a twisty page-turner, try **The Girl Who Lost a Leopard** by Nizrana Farook. Set in the mountains of Sri Lanka, it follows a brave young girl caught up in danger as she protects a rare leopard from poachers. Fast-paced and full of heart, it's a good choice for readers who enjoy adventure with a mystery at its core.

For those who love atmospheric fantasy, **The Last Bear** by Hannah Gold offers a moving and beautifully told story about the impact of climate change. Although written for slightly younger readers, its emotion and message resonate widely.

If non-fiction is more your style, **Black and British** by David Olusoga provides an accessible and thought-provoking insight into centuries of Black British history. It's a brilliant option for anyone keen to broaden their understanding of the past.

**Try making reading a small daily habit during your Easter break!**

### Wise Words:

**"Reading is a passport to countless adventures."**

**Mary Pope Osborne**



# School Development Plan

As our parents and carers are aware, all schools have in place a school improvement plan to shape their work across the year and in the longer term also. This should encompass the key areas of its work. We share it in each newsletter for the benefit of parents and carers who may have joined our school community within the school year.

Our plan outlines our existing priorities, organised under the acronym 'PEACE'. We feel that this brings together the key strands of our work in a way that can be readily referenced by staff, pupils, Governors, parents and carers, as well as genuinely reflecting the principles that underpin our work.

The key components of our three-year plan are therefore grouped into five areas under this particularly apt word for us as a community, because peace – in all its forms – is entirely central to all that we do in Bishop Vaughan. This may be through promoting and celebrating our extremely diverse cultural heritages, through exploring the conditions for peace as we do in our annual festival, through living in accord with our principles in terms of the peaceful and ethical stewardship of creation or through holding the words of the scriptures at the heart of our work, such as those in Colossians 3: 14-15 –

*“Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.  
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.”*

Our 'at-a-glance guide' to our existing improvement plan is therefore shown as follows:

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| P | <b>Prayer and worship</b><br>Keeping Christ at the centre of all that we do.<br>Increasing levels of engagement in the prayer life of the school and building upon our provision in this area for our pupils and our staff. Ensuring consistency in prayer and worship in every classroom throughout the school.                                                                         |
| E | <b>Equity</b><br>Ensuring that all of our pupils are supported to achieve their potential regardless of any barriers to attainment they face. This is in line with our mission statement. Focusing on the standards achieved by our pupils and on qualifications as a passport to opportunity and social mobility. Ensuring equitable learning conditions.                               |
| A | <b>Ambition and Attitudes to Learning</b><br>Shaping and delivering an ambitious and aspirational curriculum. Encouraging our pupils to aspire and to recognise that attendance is central to developing a positive attitude to learning and realising ambitions.<br>Utilising links with external partners to ensure that our learners are supported to achieve their ambitions.        |
| C | <b>Curriculum and cultural enrichment</b><br>Curriculum for Wales development, with cultural enrichment and linked learning opportunities in every phase of education. Ensuring access to culturally enriching experiences: music, reading, trips.<br>Developing our Entitlement Charter.                                                                                                |
| E | <b>Engagement</b><br>Ensuring high levels of engagement in the classroom. Relentless promotion of extra-curricular engagement. Engaging our pupils in leadership activities and engaging ourselves in leadership programmes, research and practitioner development – accessing varied and high-quality opportunities to achieve our ambition of offering an excellent education for all. |

This by no means covers all of our priorities, but we hope that this distilled summary of some of our key focus areas is of interest to parents and carers.

## Entitlement Charter

As explained in previous newsletters, but again a regular item—as with the item on the previous page for parents and carers who may have joined our school community within the school year—our Entitlement Charter is a set of commitments that Bishop Vaughan makes to its learners, setting out experiences and opportunities we commit to offering the pupils in our care during their time with us in the school. The Pupil Voice group collaborated on putting these commitments together, with contributions from staff, parents and carers.

In order to shape the Charter, pupils reflected on the experiences that the school has offered them that they really valued and then they worked together to shape the Entitlement Charter to ensure that all future pupils of the school are offered the same opportunities.

Ultimately, the commitments made are intended to ensure that our pupils have access to a wide range of activities, extending their exposure to the arts and to cultural experiences, giving them opportunities to develop interests and skills that will enhance their lives long after they have left school. They are intended to build cultural capital and to develop their knowledge of the local area, of Wales more widely and of the world.

The entitlement charter now commits to ensuring that pupils of Bishop Vaughan will, during the time from Years 7 to 11, have opportunities to become:

| Ambitious, capable                                                                                                                                             | Healthy, confident                                                                                                              | Ethical, informed                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Enterprising, creative                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Curious and active</b><br><b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b><br><b>Learned and wise</b><br><b>Attentive and discerning</b><br><b>Intentional and prophetic</b> | <b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b><br><b>Compassionate and loving</b><br><b>Curious and active</b><br><b>Eloquent and truthful</b> | <b>Learned and wise</b><br><b>Intentional and prophetic</b><br><b>Eloquent and truthful</b><br><b>Attentive and discerning</b><br><b>Curious and active</b><br><b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b><br><b>Compassionate and loving</b> | <b>Curious and active</b><br><b>Grateful and generous</b><br><b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b><br><b>Intentional and prophetic</b> |

And to do so through the charter commitments that they will, in their time with us, have the opportunity to:

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                           |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Attend a workshop or masterclass in an area of interest                             | Take part in a residential trip or sports tour                                                                                          | Participate in Acts of Worship, including Mass, regularly at school                                                                       | Attend a music concert and hear music performed live |
| Access a very wide range of clubs and societies to develop our skills and interests | Keep fit and healthy by accessing extra-curricular sports and the school gym, as well as through participating in PE lessons            | Visit a local beach and a local castle (or other Welsh heritage site)                                                                     | Learn to play a musical instrument                   |
| Learn a new language                                                                | Represent the school, whether in sports, in a team such as the debating team or as a member of a pupil group such as the School Council | Meet authors and read books of our choice, and have ready access every day to both borrowing and buying books in their time at the school | Take part in a school production                     |
| Learn poetry by heart                                                               | Try healthy foods and develop healthy lifestyles                                                                                        | Be involved in charitable events                                                                                                          | Sing as part of a choir                              |
| Celebrate diversity, our cultural heritage and cynefin                              | Celebrate the end of our time at BVS together                                                                                           | Implement our own ideas to develop our surroundings and engage in eco-work                                                                | Create artwork in a variety of mediums               |

Congratulations to the pupils on their work to draw together this charter, with the support of our Pupil Voice Lead, Mrs. Thomas.

# Bishop Vaughan Society

## CALLING ALL:

Parents, carers and grandparents of both current and former pupils ...

Former pupils ...

Former staff of Bishop Vaughan ...

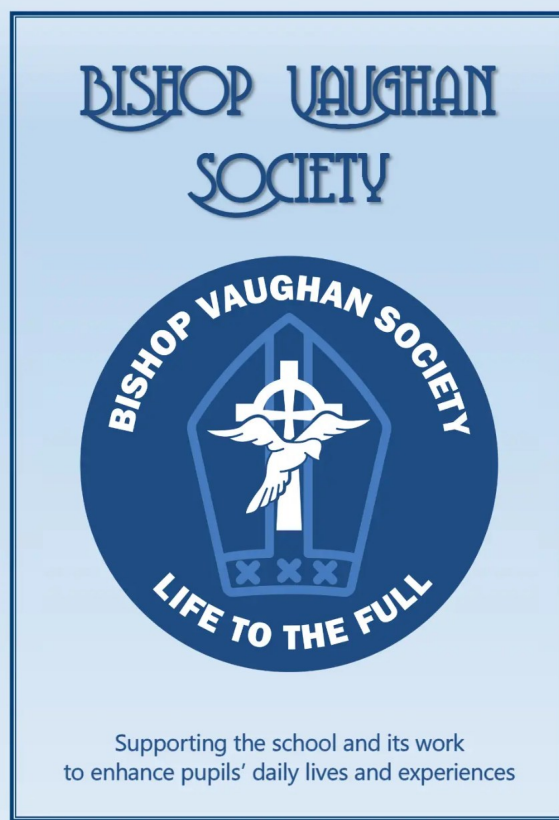
Former staff of our cluster primaries...

Are you interested in joining the Bishop Vaughan Society?

This group raises funds for current and future pupils through social events that connect our school community and in particular school alumni.

A leaflet on the work of the group and further details can be found here:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/bishop-vaughan-society>



## Transition Newsletter

Our Transition Bulletin is provided to parents and carers of pupils in Years 5 and 6 of our cluster primary schools. It can also be accessed here: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/transition>

### Bishop Vaughan Primary Cluster Transition Bulletin

**Information for Parents and Carers September 2023**

The following information is provided to support pupils and their families during the process of transition from primary to secondary school. You will receive two bulletins this year: this one, plus an additional bulletin in May 2024, as your child embarks on the final half term in primary school and prepares to join Bishop Vaughan the following September.

**Welcome to the Bishop Vaughan community!**

We are delighted to be working with your child's school on ensuring that the process of moving to secondary school is enjoyable, positive and managed supportively. This is a very big step for your child—and for you as a family—and Bishop Vaughan aims to support the whole family through its transition work, providing information, contacts, support and opportunities to visit as needed.

This edition of the transition bulletin is intended to provide an overview of the year ahead. We will follow this in May, by which point your child is likely to have visited at several times and we will have collaborated on a number of projects with their current school. May's bulletin will therefore focus on providing information about the summer term activities and on preparation for September.

It truly is a pleasure, then, to welcome you on this journey, in which your whole family become a part of our school community. As many former pupils will attest, once a part of this community, you will always remain so.

With our best wishes and our prayers for you and your family in the academic year ahead,

Mrs. Pats Headteacher

On behalf of the staff and Governors of Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

**Key Dates for Families:**

**Thursday September 28th**  
Year 6 Open Evening  
Come along to meet the transition team, your teachers, other pupils and take a tour of the school!

**Thursday 30th November**  
Christmas Fair  
All primary pupils and their families are warmly welcomed to an evening of stalls, Christmas music, festive treats and fun in the Main Hall here at BVCS!

**Thursday 7th December**  
Parish Carol Service  
A reflective, truly lovely service in the parish church in which our school is situated. This incorporates Benediction and Carols.

**Monday 18th December**  
Annual Carol Service  
Join us in St. Joseph's Cathedral for a traditional carol service. This is a long-established event and an integral part of Advent for families, whether they are currently connected with the school or whether they are former pupils or staff. Many primary school pupils will be performing in the Carol Service this year alongside Bishop Vaughan students.

**Thursday 21st March**  
Spring Concert  
An evening of entertainment provided by pupils throughout the year groups and in a range of genres—classical, musical theatre, jazz, rock etc.

**Friday 22nd March**  
Family Cello Evening  
A traditional cello band will lead an evening of dancing and fun! Refreshments available. A great way to meet other BVCS families!

**Thursday 6th July**  
Year 6 Welcome Mass  
The culmination of the summer transition days, this Mass will be the first one in which the new Year 7 group for September will have Mass together, whether celebrated by our School Chaplain.

**Week Commencing 15th July**  
Annual School Musical: 'Oliver'  
Whether your child's performing following the Project Production sessions offered in the primaries or whether you would just like to attend for an evening of great entertainment, the annual musicals are always of a high quality and 'Oliver' promises to be no exception!

We look forward to welcoming you to these events!

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

**Activities for Your Child:**

**Autumn Term Overview:** Your child's current school may have opted to collaborate with BVCS on any or all of the following activities, and you can learn more about these through the newsletters and blogs on the school site (mentioned overhead):

- The Annual Festival of Peace
- Preparing for the Annual Carol Service (our Head of Music will visit schools regularly throughout the term to help pupils prepare for performing in this)
- A Humanities link project
- The Christmas Fair—primary schools are offered stalls to support their own fundraising, and all pupils and families are warmly invited to this evening of festive fun!
- Carol Services: these are too, as mentioned in the previous column, and your family and friends are welcome to attend either or both!

In addition, planned activities include:

**5th and 6th October 2023**  
Year 6 Transition Days  
Your child will have the opportunity to attend BVCS on one of these dates, according to which primary school they are currently in.

**Week Commencing 23rd October**  
Music Fundraising Week  
Bishop Vaughan's Charity and Faith Ambassadors offer to visit each school to support with this important work that unites our schools.

**23rd and 24th November**  
Year 5 Transition Days  
Year 5 children will have the opportunity to attend BVCS on one of these dates, according to which primary school they are currently in.

**Spring and Early Summer Term Overview:**  
Optional collaboration projects for primaries in these terms include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Design and Technology
- Day retreats led by BVCS Faith Ambassadors
- English
- Science
- May Celebration of Our Lady
- Transition days for Year 5 pupils

The May bulletin will provide further updates.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

**About Bishop Vaughan**

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School opened in September 1980 and has provided a faith-based education for many thousands of students since that time.

BVCS's alumni are now scattered across the globe, working in many exciting capacities—in particular in healthcare and medicine, towards which many of our pupils are traditionally drawn, but also in just about every other field you can think of. They include a world-famous opera singer, a national football manager, countless sportspeople who have played for their country, authors, academics, musicians, leading scientists, artists and highly influential leaders in technology, education and business. The school's aim is to ensure that every one of its pupils is supported to live life to the full, utilising their God-given gifts and talents to fulfil their potential.

Bishop Vaughan is proud to be Swansea's most diverse secondary school. It welcomes pupils of all faiths and of none, and it provides an environment which promotes mutual respect, courtesy to others, tolerance, kindness and care. There are over fifty nationalities within the school and this certainly makes us a truly international school!

Bishop Vaughan's pupils were proud that the school was named as one of the top ten schools in Wales this year in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide. This was on the basis of the pupils' results, for which they worked incredibly hard. It is always our privilege to support them in doing so.

Over the years, our pupils have gone on to pursue careers paths or apprenticeships, or are studying in universities throughout the UK, including two in Oxford, two in Cambridge and many having gained places at other highly selective universities.

While Bishop Vaughan is committed to ensuring its pupils' academic success, this being the passport to their pupils being able to fulfil their hopes and ambitions, this is by no means the most important part of our work: our primary aim is to provide excellent character education, nurturing the attributes for the young people in our care to flourish as happy, safe, kind, resilient and thoughtful individuals. The character traits we try to nurture in our learners are shown in the Catholic pupil profile below:

hopeful  
curious  
grateful  
wise  
discerning  
compassionate  
active  
ambitious  
generous  
eloquent  
faith-filled  
attentive  
kind  
loving  
persistent

The school grows and changes with each new pupil that we welcome, and we know that your child will shape our school community further, and also that it will be our privilege to guide your child into becoming the person that they are meant to be. We look forward to our school 'growing and changing' physically too, as we are currently in the process of working towards a brand new school building! It will be exciting to see how this takes shape.

There is far more to say about BVCS than can be distilled into this newsletter or indeed any other, but we hope that some of the sources of information listed below begin to give you a flavour of school life. Once more then, the warmest of welcomes to you and all of the family as new members of the BVCS community, and please be in touch at any time should you have any questions.

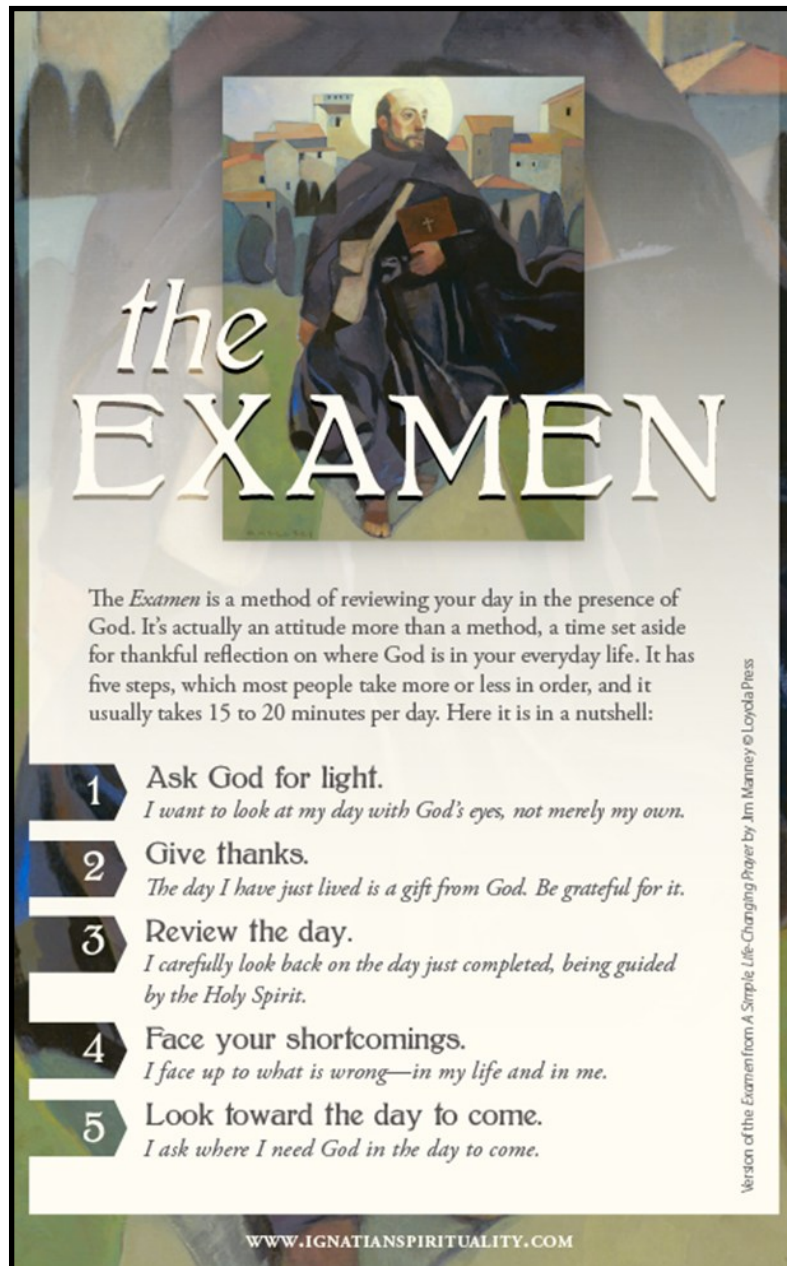
**How to Find Out More About BVCS:**

There are lots of ways to find out more about the school. These include:

- Editions of our family newsletters: [bishopvaughan.co.uk/newsletters](mailto:bishopvaughan.co.uk/newsletters)
- The school website: [bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://bishopvaughan.co.uk)
- The Headteacher's monthly blog: [bishopvaughan.co.uk/theheadteacher-s-blog](http://bishopvaughan.co.uk/theheadteacher-s-blog)
- Our social media accounts: Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bishopvaughan catholic school>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/bishopvaughan co uk twitter>, Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/officialbishopvaughan>

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

# The Examen



*the*  
**EXAMEN**

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.  
*I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.*
- 2** Give thanks.  
*The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
- 3** Review the day.  
*I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- 4** Face your shortcomings.  
*I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.*
- 5** Look toward the day to come.  
*I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

Version of the Examen from *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Marney © Loyola Press

WWW.IGNATIANSPIRITUALITY.COM

During every Advent and Lenten season, we observe a form of prayer called the Examen. 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.

We are continuing this practice throughout this season of Lent, in order to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.

## Class Charts



We use Class Charts as our primary vehicle for communicating on a daily basis with parents and carers. It is being used to keep you up to date with attendance, absence, school announcements, achievements, behaviour and much more.

Over 96% of parents and carers have installed the app on their mobile devices. If you haven't already, we request that you download the 'Class Charts Parents' app from your app store. It is available for iPhone and Android devices. QR codes for both the Apple App Store and Google Play can be found below.

If you need a reminder of your parental code to access the app for the first time, please email our Data Manager, Mr Mark Jones (JonesM1728@hwbcymru.net), who will send your code again to you and instructions on how to sign up.

We hope that you will find the app easy to navigate and use. Please be in touch with us with any questions or feedback.



iPhone QR code:



Android QR code:



## Learning Zone

# Learning Zone

**Come along and access support after school!**



**Monday  
to  
Thursday**

**3.00pm  
to  
4.00pm**

**Free tuition with subject teachers each day.**

**Support with independent learning.**

**Access to computers to complete  
Mathswatch.**

**Opportunities for collaborative learning.**

**Rewards for attending.**

**Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones**

**Location: The Library**

## Examination Information

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 and **check your seat number before large examinations. Seat numbers are posted on Teams and on the Examinations Noticeboard.**
- 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. Hoodies are not allowed in an exam room.**
- 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.** Blazers may be left at home on an exam day only.
- 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 – black 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.
- 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.

## Examination Information

- 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.
- If you feel that something beyond your control 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, airpods and 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.**

### Certificates

Certificates gained during Summer 2026 examinations are available for collection at the school from December 2026. It is important that you collect your certificates as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months. The examination boards charge £50 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!**

## Examinations Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the Summer 2026 examination series.

These sheets can also be found on the school's website at <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/examinations-and-assessment> and also on the JCQ website at <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/>

## Keep Up-To-Date With School News ...

### ‘First Educators’ Parent Newsletter



**BISHOP VAUGHAN**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHOOL LIFE   ACADEMIC   ATTENDANCE   PASTORAL CARE   EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We are delighted to be recognised as one of the Top 10 schools in Wales in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2017

#### FIRST EDUCATORS

The Catholic faith and Catholic social teaching place parents as being of central importance in the education of children. Their role is respected and supported by Catholic schools.

Parents are described, in Catholic social teaching as ‘the first educators’ of their children. We know that many of our parents and carers are keen to support their children in their learning and may find it helpful to access reminders for some of the most commonly used skills.

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of resources here for parents and carers to access whenever needed, these resources are short, video explanations offered by our teachers and are intended to aid parents and carers in supporting their children when completing homework or consolidating their learning.

ADDITIONAL
FAMILY PRAYER
LITERACY

Our parent and carer newsletter focused on curriculum updates and supporting learning can be found online here:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/first-educators>

### Headteacher’s Blog



The Headteacher’s blog rounds up school news monthly, and this can be found online here:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/headteacher-s-blog>

### ClassCharts



The ClassCharts app, details of which are provided earlier in this newsletter, allows daily home-school communication to be maintained. You can download this using the QR codes provided on page 40.

### School Website and Social Media

The school’s website: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/> and its social media accounts (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) also provide regular news for all in our school community.

# School Uniform

## September 2025 - August 2026

Three of our suppliers are:

- Bergoni, Tower Court, Unit 8, St. Davids Road, 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 arbitration of what constitutes school uniform lies with 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:** Fine knit jumper with school logo (navy) - non-compulsory

**Tie:** Years 7-11 official school tie

**Socks:** With trousers: dark coloured, or white  
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

**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.

**Outerwear:** 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.

# School Uniform

## Games Kit

|                                |                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rugby Shirt:</b>            | Navy with blue/white side panels                                            |
| <b>T-Shirt (unisex):</b>       | Navy with blue/white side panels                                            |
| <b>Outdoor PE top (unisex)</b> | Navy with blue/white side panels                                            |
| <b>Shorts (rugby):</b>         | Navy with blue/white side panels                                            |
| <b>Shorts (light wear):</b>    | Navy with white trim                                                        |
| <b>Leggings:</b>               | Navy with white trim                                                        |
| <b>Footwear:</b>               | Soccer and rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as applicable |

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

|                      |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Blazer:</b>       | Pupils may wear the new blazer if they wish, however this is not compulsory for Years 12 and 13.                                                 |
| <b>Jumper:</b>       | Navy, V-necked with official school logo                                                                                                         |
| <b>Tie:</b>          | Sixth Form official school tie                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Shirt/Blouse:</b> | Plain white, standard school style (not fashion)<br><i>NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with Sixth Form logo may be worn.</i> |
| <b>Skirt:</b>        | Navy blue, knee length                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Trousers:</b>     | Navy blue, black, dark grey, standard design. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, corduroy, etc.                                                |
| <b>Socks:</b>        | With trousers: dark coloured, or white<br>With skirts: navy blue or white                                                                        |
| <b>Tights:</b>       | Plain, seamless, navy tights may be worn                                                                                                         |
| <b>Shoes:</b>        | 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   |
| <b>Topcoat:</b>      | 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 7 ½ 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 have been closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. We have written to parents/carers to advise if your child's absence was below 90% in academic year 2024/2025 and that we may require medical evidence for absences this year.

All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases. We kindly ask parents/carers to complete the online form available under the Attendance section of our website. Alternatively please email BishopvaughanA@Hwbcymru.net to request the link to be sent directly.

We will not authorise absence during September or during examination periods.

Headteachers have a margin of discretion to approve holidays and will have regard to a number of factors which include the impact on the continuity of learning. If the Headteacher does not give permission and a parent takes a pupil on holiday the absence will be marked as "unauthorised." We would encourage parents to prioritise excellent attendance and to discuss any proposed holidays with the school well in advance.

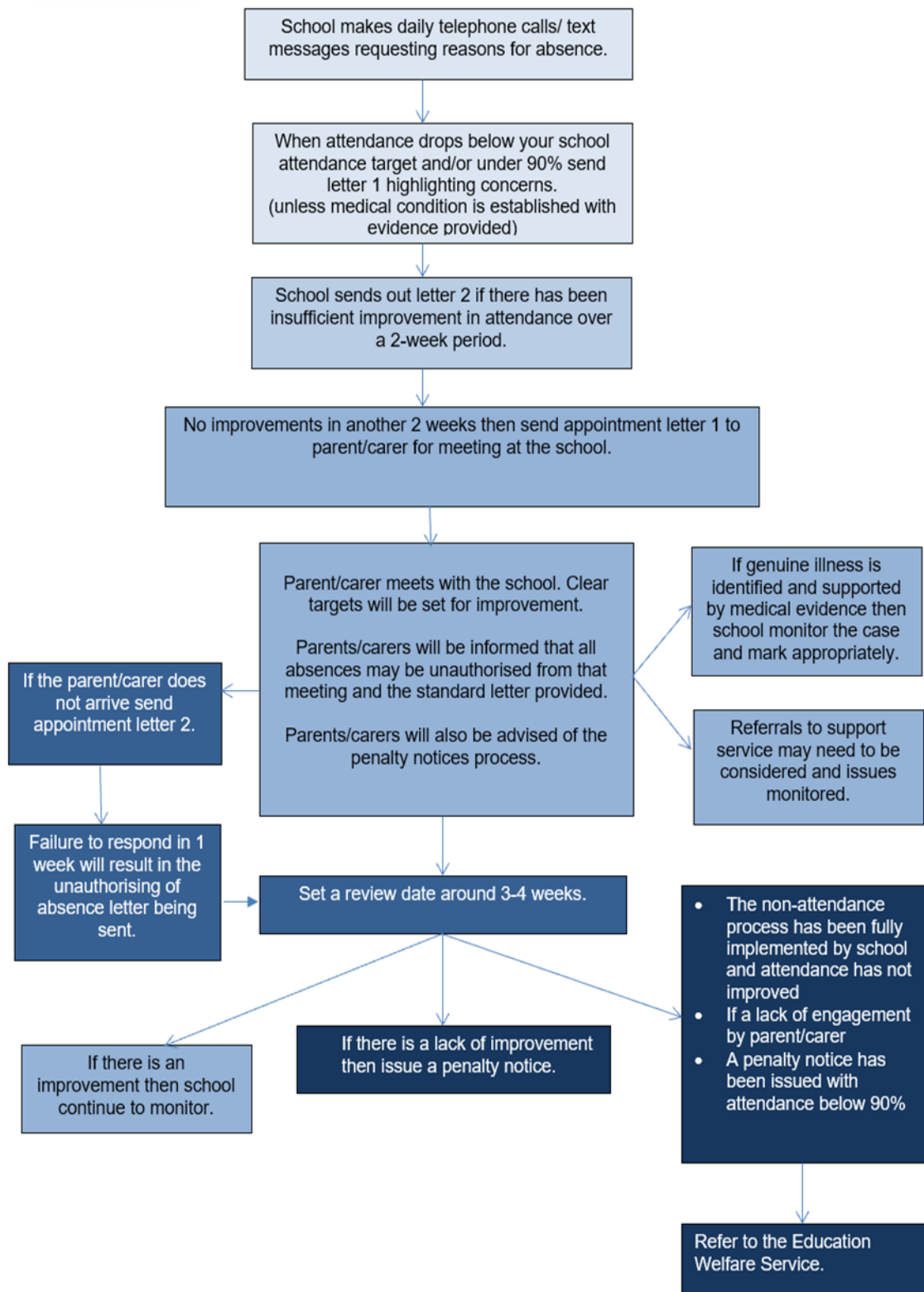
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

The local code of conduct, which explains how penalty notices will operate, is available via this link: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/educationpenalty>

Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/policies-and-documents>

The flowchart below gives parents and carers information of the attendance process if a pupil's attendance falls below 90%.



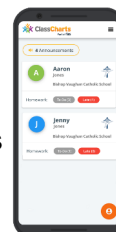
## Parents' Information

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:

**School telephone number:** 01792 772006  
**Email:** BishopvaughanA@Hwbcymru.net

Please also download our 'Class Charts Parents' app from your app store. Links can be found here: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>



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 our Family Engagement Team:

**01792 772006 extension 2218/2219/2239/2247**

## Pupil Information Details

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.

Please note that it is the policy of the Local Authority that we receive evidence of any change of address.

**Could you please pass on to the school any relevant email address that we could use to contact you? Thank you.**



**Education Directorate**

The Guildhall, St Helen's Road  
Swansea, SA1 4PE  
[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Please take time to read this letter about school attendance. As your children settle back into school, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regular attendance at school. As a local authority, we prioritise and support high attendance at school. We believe that **Attendance is Everyone's Business** and this belief underpins our attendance policy and our day-to-day practice.

In the last full year before the pandemic, attendance in Swansea's secondary schools was **93.7%** and attendance in primary pupils was **94.9%** (2018-2019). At the end of academic year 2023-2024, attendance in Swansea's secondary schools was **88.4%** and attendance in primary pupils was **91.1%**.

As you can see, the disruption of the pandemic has had a significant impact on school attendance figures. To give a practical example, a pupil with **80%** attendance is missing one day of school every week. We know that poor attendance at school can impact on progress and well-being.

| Overall Attendance | Number of Days Missed | Number of Weeks Missed (approx.) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 90%                | 19 days               | 4 weeks                          |
| 80%                | 38 days               | 8 weeks                          |
| 70%                | 57 days               | 12 weeks                         |

As parents and carers, you play a critical role in helping your child develop good attendance habits. We also appreciate that sometimes young people have difficulty attending school, whether through illness, emotional worries, family emergencies or even a failure to see the importance in regular school attendance. We understand and we would like to help.

Getting in touch is the first step. Your child's school will have a staff member who will be able to support you if you have any concerns about attendance. Your child's school also has a dedicated Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who is available to help support your child and your family when attendance to school falls below expected levels. We are available to give advice and support in all aspects of attendance.

If you have any questions, please get in touch via the school or by using our email address, located at the bottom of this letter. The Education Welfare Service (EWS) also has a website that offer frequently asked questions (FAQs), including advice on legal responsibilities and penalty notices; the address is also at the bottom of this letter.

We want to work with families to ensure that attendance to Swansea schools returns to the level we saw pre-pandemic. We want our children to have the best possible experiences by ensuring they are in the classroom, learning new skills, building good habits, and developing lifelong bonds with their peers. As I said, **Attendance is**

To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above.

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.



INVESTORS | BUDDSODDYWR  
IN PEOPLE | MEWN POBL

**Everyone's Business and every school day matters for the life chances of children and young people.** The local authority, your child's school and the EWS is here to work with you and your family to ensure high levels of attendance and the support you need when things get more challenging. Please speak with us and we will do what we can to help.

We wish you a happy new term.

Regards

Education Welfare Service

EWS e-mail: [educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk)

EWS website: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/educationwelfareservice>

## Bus Passes



Both parents and pupils should be aware that pupils 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. There have been occasions when 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 the school site. 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

The School Community Police Officer asks us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 2.45pm 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.

Please park legally, safely and with consideration for our neighbours in our area. Thank you.



## 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 they just need to go to Student Services.

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.

## Bishop Vaughan Online

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

<https://www.instagram.com/officialbishopvaughan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bishopvaughancatholicschool>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BishopVaughanCatholicSchool>

## Lost Property

We still have a number of lost property items in the Student Services office.

None of the items are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any items this academic year, please tell them to come and check in 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 8.40am.**



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School**  
**Mynydd Garnllwyd Road**  
**Morrison, Swansea**  
**SA6 7QG**  
**Phone: 01792 772006**  
**Fax: 01792 790565**  
**[bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net](mailto:bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net)**  
**[www.bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk)**