

Headteacher's Message

Where to begin? There is always so much about which to update the readers of our termly newsletters! We certainly hope you will enjoy reading this summer edition and learning more about what our pupils have been doing over the past term.

As I write, I am conscious that there are still activities going on which will have to wait until our next newsletter as we *really* need to print this edition. Since many of you will be reading this having received copies in your primary schools, as Year 5 and 6 pupils, we need to deliver them to you before your summer break begins! If you are one of those readers, or indeed if you are reading this as a current pupil, a family member of a pupil, a parishioner or just out of interest, then we can promise that you will hear all about this week's Belgium trip, the ACE day, the reward trips and the sports day in our next update to you!

What we *can* tell you about here is already very extensive though, as you'll see. Highlights of this term (and the very end of the Easter term) have included our Festival of Peace, about which you can read more on pages 5-7, and our accreditation as a School of Sanctuary, this area of our work being very important to us. We received the news in June that we would have an Estyn thematic inspection of our work related to support of the more vulnerable members of our community - those who are asylum seekers and refugees - and you can read more about that within these pages. Our article on the School of Sanctuary presentation at Swansea Arena also provides a link for you to listen to a group from our wonderful school choir singing: we hope that you enjoy it!

There are also links within this newsletter to further music that our pupils have heard this term! The exceptional BBC National Orchestra of Wales visited our school early in the Summer term and our Main Hall resounded with stunning performances of music from their 'Ten Pieces' repertoire, as described on pages 12 and 13. All pupils in Years 7 and 8 had an amazing experience and we certainly hope to welcome these fantastic musicians to the school again very soon. They provided inspiring examples to us as individuals who have nurtured their talents.

Also inspiring for our pupils have been the author talks, the Hay Festival visits, the pop-up bookshops, the second annual Literature Festival and the countless further activities linked to promoting a love of reading! We are currently refurbishing our library, as referenced on page 17 (donations would be very gratefully received at the link provided!) as we know the importance of reading for pleasure not only in raising achievement and a young person's academic outcomes, but principally for promoting wellbeing, true enjoyment and nurturing a lifelong interest. We are proud that our pupils engage in these activities so well, and committed groups of pupils continue to lead in writing the termly reading recommendations newsletter (copied on pages 28 and 29 and available on our website here: https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/letters-and-notices).

<u>nups://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/iellers-and-holices</u>).

It was a real honour to welcome the Children's Commissioner for Wales and a member of her team to the school in June. Our pupils learned more about her work and had the opportunity to talk about their school experience and their daily lives outside school with her. Her visit is described on pages 14 and 15!

Headteacher's Message

As always, our cluster primary school pupils are also 'guests of honour' when they visit us here in the school. We know they will be integral members of our school community when they join us. It is always incredible to see them on the transition days and their further visits, such as when they are audience members in the school musicals - excited, apprehensive, wide-eyed young people who have not yet embarked on their secondary education journey... and then to see them at the end of their seven year journey with us (the time really does fly by!) - confident young people about to make their way in the world, embarking on degree courses and careers as vets, nurses, teachers, managers, doctors, coders, paramedics, police and countless further pathways. It is supporting the young people entrusted to our care in fulfilling their own dreams and ambitions that is the most rewarding part of our work as a school, ensuring their spiritual, academic, moral and cultural development on the way. We can't wait to see what those who have joined us for the transition days will do in their time with us, and who they will become!

During the last academic year, all in the school have been delighted that Bishop Vaughan has been named in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide as one of the top ten schools in Wales on the basis of our pupils' results. As we communicated at the time, the most important aspect of this for us, as teachers and support staff, is not the actual grade or qualification level as a statistic, but what that translates to for each individual—life chances, ambitions that can be fulfilled and exciting opportunities. We hope that the summer results days will bring this year's exam pupils the outcomes they hope for and which will secure their places on the paths of their choosing. A2 and AS results can be collected on Thursday 17th August and GCSE results on Thursday 24th August. We wish all of our pupils every success and would once again take this opportunity to remind them that results are nevertheless far from the most important thing about them, and that there will be plenty of support and options available from a wide range of staff on both days, should they be needed.

The pages of this newsletter - as always - can only hold a very small amount of information as a distillation of some of the key events and moments in school life over the past few weeks. We hope, however, that you will enjoy reading about the performances of our annual musical ('Sister Act Jr.'; a truly amazing show! Congratulations to all involved!), about the ACE Days (with the planetarium experience in the Main Hall!), about the Welcome Mass, the school proms and so much more.

As always at this time of year, there are poignant and bittersweet aspects to 'new beginnings' for pupils and staff - many will be embarking on paths leading them away from Bishop Vaughan, whether this is towards universities, employment or in the case of some staff (as described on pages 10 and 11), towards new schools or retirement. As previous pupil or staff leavers will confirm, however, no path truly leads 'away' from Bishop Vaughan - all will remain members of our wider community, which though it is now truly spread out throughout the world, remains closely-knit by the experiences we have shared here and the values and bonds we continue to share. Wishing every single member of that community, then, a restful, relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer break, and with our assurance of prayers that that may be the case -

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-2024

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn	Friday 1st	Monday 30th	Friday 3rd	Friday 22nd
2023	September	October	November	December
Spring	Monday 8th	Monday 12th	Friday 16th	Friday 22nd
2024	January	February	February	March
Summer	Monday 8th	Monday 27th	Friday 31st	Friday 19th
2024	April	May	May	July

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Friday 21st July; school closes at 3.00pm.

A2 and AS Results Day is Thursday 17th August 2023.

GCSE Results Day is Thursday 24th August 2023.

All pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023.

INSET Days

Friday 1st September 2023 Monday 4th September 2023 Tuesday 17th October 2023 Thursday 21st December 2023 Friday 22nd December 2023 Friday 12th July 2024

Years 5 and 6 Open Evening

This will be held on Thursday 28th September 2023



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



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.

Prayer and Worship

Since our last newsletter, we have celebrated the Year 11 and Sixth Form Leavers' Masses, celebrating the end of the 'compulsory schooling years' and the end of the Sixth Form journey respectively. Our School Chaplain, Father John Browne, also marked the start of the Bishop Vaughan journey with the beautiful Year 6 Welcome Mass in July, to which we welcomed parents and carers alongside the pupils joining us from a wide range of schools and who will be our new Year 7 pupils in September! This was - as it always is - very special indeed as it represents the first time we gather in prayer as a new school community for this most central celebration of everything that is most important to us here in Bishop Vaughan.

Our weekly Masses continue on Wednesday mornings, and we are again grateful to the Chaplain for his support of the school in coming to offer these so regularly. They continue to be well-attended. They are also supported by further visiting priests throughout the year. We are fortunate indeed at Bishop Vaughan to have three clergy members on our Governing Body, Canon Paul of St. David's Priory, Father Cyril of Holy Cross and Father Rob Davies, also of St. David's Priory and who is our Vice-Chair of Governors. We are also fortunate to have the unwavering support of the Sacred Heart Parish, within which our school is situated, with Canon Jason attending weekly to lead our Junior Legion of Mary and with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart attending monthly to assist with the leadership of this activity.

At the end of the Spring term, we celebrated our second annual Festival of Peace. This took place just after the publication of the Easter newsletter, hence this update to you and the pictures which follow!

Festival of Peace



Festival of Peace

Our week-long exhibition featured displays from every subject area throughout the school on the theme 'Peace: Light and Hope', from the Science Department's 'Periodic Table of Peace' and its display linked to diffraction and the spectrum of light, to the English Department's poetry on the theme of peace. The MFL students' peace doves complimented their 'Hands Around the World' and UN displays and the History Department created many beautiful stained glass windows, linking the themes of peace, light and hope. Our Public Services pupils created origami Japanese peace cranes and in RE, pupils created displays of peacemakers, as well as a peace tree, wreaths, flowers and symbols related to peace.

In addition to these departmental offerings, every single one of the fifty nationalities in the school had a stall in which items of cultural significance were displayed and many of our pupils took the opportunity to wear clothing representing their cultural identities.



Pupils throughout the school visited the exhibition on Monday and Tuesday of the festival week, and on the Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome a range of visitors including the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Cabinet Member for Education, Governors, clergy, representatives of the Local Authority and the Legion of Mary, visitors from other schools and many more. The visitors viewed the exhibition before enjoying refreshments and a programme offered by our wonderful choir, who began their programme by reminding us that diversity is what creates beauty: "if we all sang the same note, we would never have harmony; harmony is beautiful and diversity is to be celebrated."

Festival of Peace

After school on the Wednesday of the festival week, many parents, carers, grandparents and members of the community enjoyed the opportunity to visit the exhibition, guided around it by our pupils who explained the context to the displays with great pride. On Thursday evening, the Festival stalls formed the backdrop for a most vibrant and entertaining Spring Concert. From musicians to dancers and singers, our pupils showcased their talents and the hard work they have put into nurturing them.



On the final day of the festival, we held the Festival Closing Celebration, an occasion to which our pupils looked forward with great anticipation throughout the term! With dance, music, cultural dress and further offerings from all nationalities within the school, the Festival closed on a fittingly harmonious note, and with a powerful reminder that difference can indeed be celebrated, alongside the values that bind us together as a community living and learning together each day.

We aim to live out the values underpinning our peace festival in the daily life of the school. You can read more about some of our work on this on page 8 and 9. Our third annual Festival of Peace will take place earlier in the next academic year as we will hold it in the third week of September to coincide with the International Day of Peace. We look forward to another very vibrant celebration of our rich backgrounds, life experiences and values, as well as to welcoming readers of this newsletter as visitors!



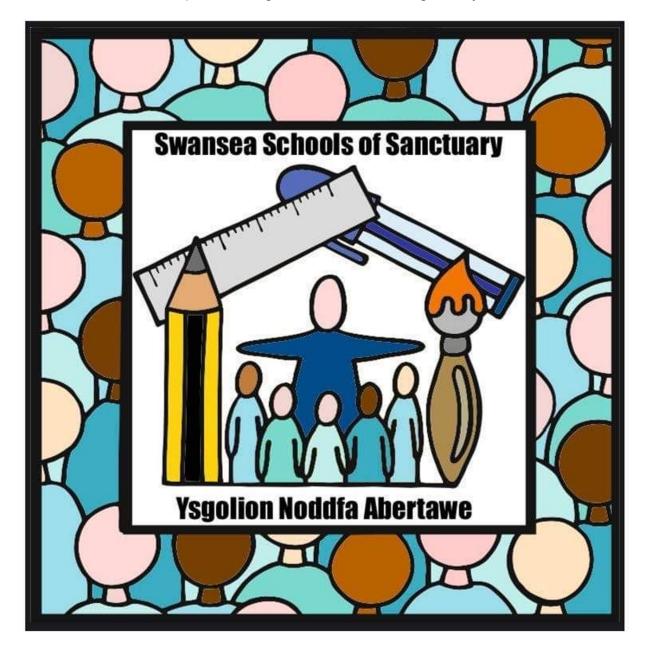
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School of Sanctuary

Our award this term as a School of Sanctuary followed a year-long accreditation process. The School of Sanctuary Award has been made to a number of schools nationally, whether they be primary or secondary schools, nurseries or sixth forms, in recognition that they are all demonstrably committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

The Schools of Sanctuary network of pupils, teachers, school staff, parents, governors and community groups supports the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, and it raises awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system. Through a range of activities and provisions, it challenges misconceptions and builds social cohesion.

Bishop Vaughan began its accreditation journey a year ago and collated an extensive body of evidence on its work with asylum seekers and refugees, which has of course been in place throughout the school's long history.



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School of Sanctuary



Following review of our application pack, a panel of interviewers came into the school to meet with pupils, teachers and support staff. They were very impressed with the way in which our pupils spoke articulately about the importance of engagement in this work, and what it meant to them. The certificate awarded to Bishop Vaughan is shown above.

This application, accreditation and award processes culminated in an award ceremony on 16th June at Swansea Arena. A section of the school choir sang three beautiful choral items to close the awards ceremony and we share the audio clip for one of these items here: <u>https://on.soundcloud.com/SsoHj</u>. This piece is called 'Siyahamba' and it is written partly in the Zulu language, with its chorus translating to 'We are marching in the light of God.'

One of our key cluster primary schools, St. Joseph's Cathedral School, is also a School of Sanctuary and you can read a case study about its work here: <u>https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/2021/08/11/becoming-the-first-school-of-sanctuary-in-swansea</u>

We are proud to support the city's commitment to this cause, as a City of Sanctuary, and we look forward to building on the work that we have undertaken to date over the course of the next year. We also commend all of the very many pupils whose commitment to this project has resulted in this achievement for our school.

National Catholic College



Welcome Collaboration Subjects Contact

WELCOME TO CATHOLIC COLLEGE to the subject being a specialist one WALES

Bishop Vaughan is proud to have taken a key role in establishing the National Catholic College for Wales!

This is an online collaboration between every Catholic Sixth Form provider - schools and colleges throughout Wales, enabling students at any of these providers to access courses online in subjects that may not be offered in their own school due, for example, to lower take-up or for which there is not a teacher in their own setting.

We have piloted this provision over the past two years, offering A-Levels in Classics and Further Mathematics, as well as Level 2 (GCSE-equivalent) Latin. Our pupils have in turn been able to access about eight further courses from our partners in the National College.

This really exciting project has been further advanced by investment in infrastructure - computers and software - through grants and in collaboration with St. David's Catholic College Cardiff. In September, we enter the next phase in the establishment of the NCC. You can explore its website here: <u>https://</u> www.catholiccollegewales.co.uk/

Religious Studies Department

As referenced overleaf, our fantastic Head of RE, Mrs. Hansen, will be retiring this year, following a career in education that has seen her make truly incalculable contributions both to education generally, as an outstanding teacher and as Principal Examiner for two qualifications, and to Catholic education specifically.

With RE being 'the core of the core curriculum' in a Catholic school, Mrs. Hansen's shaping of this subject area has in every sense been at the heart of school life. She has ensured the academic subject has been delivered with skill, rigour and utter dedication, and she has also ensured that our Catholicity and mission is reflected in all that we do in our school, by placing Christ at the centre.

Mrs. Hansen will continue to lead on the examined qualifications following her early retirement at the end of this term, however we will miss her greatly here at Bishop Vaughan. We wish her every happiness in her next steps and, on behalf of the thousands of pupils whose lives she has shaped in some way during her time with us, we offer her a heartfelt thank you!

Staff News

There are a number of changes to the teachers and support staff this summer, about which our pupils and their families will want to be aware, as several of our 'leaving' staff have been with the school for many years, teaching older siblings of current pupils and even, in some cases, their parents!

Some of those joining us also have an existing link with the school, as former pupils. It is always special to see the expansion of our Bishop Vaughan community through welcoming former members of the community in a new capacity, alongside welcoming newcomers.

As we always say to our pupils, however, once a part of the Bishop Vaughan community, always a part of it! The school truly has a sense of family, as countless alumni and former staff will confirm.

Whether those below are leaving the school for pastures new or joining us, we wish them happiness and fulfilment in their next steps!

Staff Leavers, July 2023:

Mrs. S. Morgan (Biology), Miss L. Manley (TA), Mr. H. Davies (Physics), Mrs. L. Davies (Geography), Mrs. H. Hansen (RE), Mr. L. McKay (Psychology), Miss F. Importante (TA), Miss C. Bolton (TA), Miss S. Davies (Welsh), Mrs. C. Matthews (D&T).

In addition, Miss Wilshire will be taking a year's sabbatical to pursue an opportunity in Cannes. Mr. Crudge - a highly experienced Head of Year - will take on her Head of Year role.

New Staff, September 2024:

Mr. M. Neal (Geography and Science), Mrs. C. Davis (Geography), Mrs. H. Jones (Biology), Miss F. Walmsley (Humanities), Miss K. Thomas (Humanities), Mrs. S. Smith (TA), Miss L. Polverino (TA), Mrs. C. Brown (TA), Ms. T. Thomas (TA), Miss S. Baglow (TA).

Several existing staff will take on new roles also:

Miss N. Phelps (teacher of Psychology), Mrs. J. Sinnott (Acting Head of Geography), Mrs. A-M Lloyd (Acting Head of Year), Mr. D. Crudge (Acting Head of Year, as previously referenced), Mrs. A. Thomas (Acting Head of RE).

Diolch a llongyfarChiadau!

Thank you to those who have contributed so much in their roles here at Bishop Vaughan, and congratulations to all on their next steps!

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils had a very special experience indeed at the start of this term, when we welcomed the exceptional BBC National Orchestra of Wales to Bishop Vaughan!

All of our Year 7 and 8 pupils listened to a spellbinding programme, which began with Grieg's '<u>In the Hall of the Mountain King</u>' from Peer Gynt. From its barely audible and tentative beginning to its frantic and dramatic ending, the pupils were hooked.

The concert, introduced by the presenter Lucy Drever and conducted by Chris Stark, included Bologne's beautiful '<u>Allegro</u>' from Symphony No.1 and Anna Clyne's '<u>Night Ferry</u>', which filled the room with its resounding and crashing percussion, intended to be a "sonic portrait of voyages; voyages within nature and of physical, mental and emotional states."

The well-known '<u>Habanera</u>' from Bizet's Carmen captivated the audience with its Cuban dance rhythm and the orchestra kept with a dance theme for the finale: the riotous and vibrant '<u>Mambo</u>' from Bernstein's West Side Story.

We are very grateful indeed to the talented musicians, to the BBC NOW education officers and to the orchestra's support team (the logistics of bringing the orchestra's musicians and all of their equipment to schools are not to be underestimated!). This was truly a memorable experience – one that our pupils will doubtless recall many years after they have left Bishop Vaughan!



BBC National Orchestra of Wales



As was stated to our pupils at the end of the live concert, music is an exceptional example of the way in which our gifts and talents can be nurtured not only for personal fulfilment but to bring joy to others. Experienced live, it is even more special and it is one of our commitments in our pupil entitlement charter that our pupils will indeed have the experience of live music in performance whilst they are with us here in Bishop Vaughan. Later the same week, our pupils had the chance to participate in yet another BBC National Orchestra of Wales event - this time a live-streamed concert: 'Connecting the Dots.' The pieces of music for this, as for the live event earlier in the week, were drawn from their 'Ten Pieces' repertoire, which you can listen to online by clicking on the links to the individual pieces within this newsletter item. Alternatively, to hear the whole programme, you can click here. Separate programmes for key stage three and key stage four are also available on the hyperlinks., and we encourage our pupils to follow the orchestra on social media and on their website.



There are also further opportunities still for our pupils to experience the magic of this particular orchestra: the education team, who were very complimentary of our amazing pupils, have offered to make free tickets available to our pupils for their regular concerts at Swansea's Brangwyn Hall. Further details about how to access these will be shared closer to each concert date.



We are truly proud, then, of our pupils who – through these experiences alongside their spiritual and academic development – are certainly growing to be 'learned and wise' as the Catholic pupil profile advocates, as well as 'ambitious and creative' as encouraged by the Curriculum for Wales.

Children's Commissioner Visit



Comisiynydd Plant <mark>Cymru</mark>

Children's Commissioner for Wales

In early June, we were honoured that the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Rocio Cifuentes, and one of her team, Kath O'Kane, visited us here in Bishop Vaughan, meeting with a range of pupils and staff.

The Children's Commissioner's roles include:

- Supports children and young people to find out about their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Listening to children and young people to find out what's important to them
- Advising children, young people and those who care for them
- Influencing government and other organisations on matters that make a difference to children's lives
- Speaking up for children and young people in Wales on important issues

We are proud that one of our pupils, Eguono in Year 8, is a member of the Advisory Panel to the Commissioner.

The visit provided an opportunity for our pupils to learn more about the work of the Children's Commissioner and her team, as well as for them to explore the school's work on a range of areas from our recent Schools of Sanctuary accreditation process to our projects to celebrate diversity, to enrich the curriculum and to develop our DARA (Diversity and Anti-Racist Action) Group.

Children's Commissioner Visit



Mrs. Cifuentes and Mrs. O'Kane listened to several choir items and viewed a range of exhibits from our recent Festival of Peace during their day with us. We very much hope to welcome them both back to the school in the near future.



Estyn Inspection News

During the summer term, we have had an Estyn thematic inspection. These types of inspection look at a specific theme rather than the full range of a school's work - as is the case with a core inspection. Having participated in a number of thematic inspections on a range of themes in recent years, we were very pleased to engage with the inspectorate on their chosen theme for this inspection and to welcome one of their inspectors to the school in late June.

On this occasion, Estyn were exploring the school's work in supporting asylum seekers and refugees. This is integral to our ethos as a school, and our pupils were once again the school. speaking articulately about their own experiences and about the values that underpin our daily lives at Bishop Vaughan.



This visit in many ways felt like a continuation of previous celebrations of this area of our work, from March's beautiful Festival of Peace to the Children's Commissioner engagement visit referenced previously and our accreditation this term as a School of Sanctuary. We look forward to reading the report when it is published and to sharing it with you.

ACE Day News

While the ACE Day activities for the summer term will be reported in more detail in our next newsletter, given their timing so close to the publication of this edition, we can report that they have gone really well this term.

ACE Days-for those Year 5 and 6 pupils reading this newsletter and their parents—are the 'Alternative Curriculum Experience' Days that we schedule several times a year here at Bishop Vaughan, offering trips, workshops and exciting opportunities spanning all areas of the curriculum.



Here is a sneak preview of the activities about which we'll write more next term's update ...

... an incredible planetarium experience in our Main Hall!

It was a really amazing opportunity for our pupils! Ă sincere 'thank you' to the organisers and providers of the planetarium experience!

School Fundraisers!

We are currently fundraising for two key facilities for our pupils: one a very important indoor facility and the other an outdoor provision!

The **school library** is being refurbished over the summer break as new windows are needed urgently. Following this work (which is not a part of the fundraising project), we would love to add new stock to the library, purchasing extra books of our pupils' choosing and some bright soft furnishings and extra book display units to make the space more welcoming for our pupils.

In addition, as previously referenced in our newsletters, we are developing an outdoor area as a **wellbeing garden**, commemorating the Year of St. Joseph and complementing the Rosary Garden. Central to this is a wooden seating area for which we have received planning permission but for which we need to raise funds.

There will be a series of fundraiser activities in the coming months and we would also welcome donations from any current or former members of the Bishop Vaughan community who feel able to support our work in promoting a love of reading and in providing welcoming spaces dedicated to enhancing wellbeing.

Should you be able to make any contribution, however small, we know that these provisions will make a huge difference to our pupils' daily experiences and we thank you on their behalf.

A link to the fundraising page can be found here: <u>https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/</u><u>fundraising</u>





With thanks for any support you are able to offer, and we look forward to sharing updates on the progress of the fundraiser and the development of these spaces!

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



Charity Team

Mental Health Awareness Week

We celebrated and undertook awareness -raising activities for Mental Health Awareness Week again this year, focusing on the themes of communication and support with anxiety.

Pupils and staff supported one another and came together as a school community through a range of activities including opportunities to discuss and share thoughts, hints and tips, raise the profile and reduce the stigma as well as engage in the ever-competitive tutorial quiz, reflective challenges, the selling of green ribbons and "Wednesday wellness walk".

Thank you to all who took part. We are proud of the way Bishop Vaughan pupils support one another!



At Bishop Vaughan we

are supporting Mental Health Awareness week

2023 by....



Taking part in the

Wellness Walks

Do not be afraid I am with you Isaiah 435

Foundation Classes

It has been a busy term for the foundation classes with several outdoor activities and trips taking place. KS3 pupils have been extremely busy growing fruit and vegetables in the Eco Garden. They have worked hard digging, sowing seeds, planting seedings, watering and weeding.

7E and 8E had a fabulous Woodland Wellbeing Day on Gower at the beginning of July. The day started with a mindfulness session around a fire pit. We then set off with nets and magnifying glasses for a pond dipping session and found numerous exciting creatures in the lake and the stream. Pupils then helped to make hot drinks and food for lunch. After a delicious lunch of sausages cooked on the fire, we whittled sticks to roast marshmallows on over the fire. The afternoon session was all about having fun in the woodland. We learnt about knots so that we could hang hammocks and rope swings from the trees.



9E have recently been out to Gower College for a Forensic Science Trip. It was a brilliant trip. They started off by putting on their Hazmat suits before they were able to enter the crime scene. When they entered the crime scene, they found a dead body and were tasked with completing a full investigation; testing for blood, drugs, fingerprints and DNA. We also enjoyed a tour of the college campus.



Over the last few weeks, 10E have participated in the Phoenix Project. They have had a fire awareness and safety course at the fire station which involved practical activities and drills. They have also been out for some fabulous outdoor pursuits sessions with Inspire. They have had a go at surfing, climbing and kayaking.



History

The History department has had a busy term with a number of activities taking place throughout the department.

Festival of Peace

In March, pupils participated in the Festival of Peace, producing stained glass windows representing what light and peace meant to them. Pupils took inspiration from both medieval stained glass windows and modern memorials to the World Wars and made some beautiful pieces of work. The artwork was displayed as part of the Festival and was very well received by visitors.

Visit to the Houses of Parliament

Earlier in the year, Year 12 and 13 students visited the Houses of Parliament in London as part of their History and Politics A Level studies. We were given a guided tour of both the Commons and the Lords and were also able to sit in on debates in both chambers. The students then took part in a workshop to explore the electoral process, learning about campaigning and voting systems. In between, we were able to squeeze in a visit to Buckingham Palace and Square Trafalgar so that the students could have the full tourist experience whilst in London!



Windrush Day 2023

On 22nd June, the History department marked Windrush Day, alongside the rest of the Humanities faculty. Windrush Day commemorates the arrival of the SS Windrush in Tilbury Docks in 1948, bringing over 400 people from the Caribbean who went on to work in the NHS and other industries to rebuild post-war Britain.

As part of the whole school ACE Day, Year 8 pupils participated in a day of activities to learn more about the Windrush Generation and their impact on British history and culture.

Belgium 2023

The History department will soon be taking a group of 35 students to Belgium in order to visit the battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of the First World War. We are looking forward to sharing the update on our trip in the next newsletter!

Geography



Secondly, our Year 10 GCSE learners carried out a data collection task in June. We weren't so lucky with the weather but managed most of the day in the dry!

Our GCSE geographers were collecting data for their non-examination assessment with will be in November. They have to look at the use of qualitative surveys and the concept of cycles and flows.

Both GCSE and A-Level Geography students have recently been on fieldwork trips to Oxwich Bay, Gower.

Firstly, in March, AS Geography students collected data on the sand dune ecosystem. The data they collected was for their Unit 2 AS Geography exam in May. We had an excellent day and enjoyed the Spring sunshine.





Penderry Community Hub

We have been advised that every Friday morning during the summer holidays, starting on 28th July between 9 am and 10 am, there will be free breakfast available for local children at Sputh Penlan Community Centre.

Cereal, toast, beans on toast, fruit and juice will be available. Parents are also welcome to have breakfast.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

Donations of the above items to help provide breakfast will be gratefully received.

Humanities ACE Day

Year 8 – Sociology and Psychology

One of the school's six ACE days per year fell on June 22nd, the 75th anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving in the UK, carrying passengers from the Caribbean to fill the existing labour shortages.

From a sociological perspective, this provided us with an opportunity to learn about Caribbean culture, blended with a 'dash' of psychology. We started by looking at foods from the Caribbean, then did a mindful eating exercise using mango and coconut – two Caribbean staples.

This was followed up with an outline of the psychology of music and the history of reggae, coupled with a quiz on reggae-inspired songs.

We finished with a look at the Caribbean carnival, and did some mindful colouring of carnival images to complete!



English

The department was delighted to take a selection of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to Hay Festival before half term. Pupils listened to a range of author talks, asking questions and making thoughtful contributions.

In addition, we welcomed Lesley Parr, the author of *Where the River Takes* Us, to the school in April. Year 7 had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of the book and speak with the author.

During our most recent ACE day, Year 7 learners also had the opportunity to create their very own board games. We saw a range of creative and innovative ideas, as our learners demonstrated that they are indeed creative, enterprising contributors.

Finally, a range of learners competed in the Gower Society's "75 Anniversary Competition" in which they created their own poems or artwork reflecting the Gower landscape. Pupils from across Swansea entered and Najiyah Misbah in Year 8 won first prize with her artwork. As part of her prize, she was won £750 for the school to spend on a creative project.



Entitlement Charter

Our pupil 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 the charter commitments together, and staff throughout the school contributed similarly. The pupils reflected on the experiences that the school has offered them that they have 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 currently commits to ensuring that pupils of Bishop Vaughan will, during the time from Years 7 - 11, have opportunities to:

- Participate in Acts of Worship, including Mass, regularly at school
- Learn a new language
- Visit a local beach and a local castle
- Learn to play a musical instrument
- Attend a music concert and hear music performed live
- Take part in a school production
- Sing as part of a choir
- Create artwork in a variety of mediums
- Meet authors and read books of their choice, and have ready access every day to both borrowing and buying books in their time at the school
- Be involved in charitable events
- Keep fit and healthy by accessing extra-curricular sports and the school gym, as well as through participating in PE lessons
- Take part in a residential trip or sports tour
- Attend a workshop or masterclass in an area of interest
- Try healthy foods and develop healthy lifestyles
- 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
- Access a very wide range of clubs and societies to develop their skills and interests
- Celebrate the end of their time at BVS together.

It's likely that we will make two or three further additions to the charter before publishing the version for the new academic year in September 2023. We welcome further suggestions from pupils, parents and carers!

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results 2023

In April 2023, 50 pupils from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils did exceptionally well this year with 17 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan with Clark Whitty achieving the highest score in Year 8 and Erin Cobley in Year 7, achieving the highest mark in the school. Erin had enough points for a gold certificate which is a fantastic achievement. Well done Erin!

Well done to everyone that achieved an award and to all that took part. Let's see what you can do next year!

Year 8					
1 st	Clark Whitty	Bronze Award			
2 nd	Joshua Lock	Bronze Award			
3 rd	Shaun Thomas	Bronze Award			
4 th	Vanessa Lipinska	Bronze Award			
5 th	Stefano Battaglia	Bronze Award			
6 th	Gabriella Davies	Bronze Award			
Jt7 th	Olivia Alex				
Jt7 th	Hyness Ogiku				
Jt7 th	Lily Welsby				
Year 7					
1 st	Erin Cobley	Gold Award			
2 nd	Rhys Casey	Silver Award			
3 rd	Rebekah Buendia	Bronze Award			
4 th	Mathew Minko	Bronze Award			
Jt5 th	Angelina Jojy	Bronze Award			
Jt5 th	Fflori Stephenson	Bronze Award			
7 th	Jovan Wieliczko	Bronze Award			
8 th	Abel Saji	Bronze Award			
9 th	Jac Holohan	Bronze Award			
Jt10 th	Debbie Bekomson	Bronze Award			
Jt10th	Bethany Daet	Bronze Award			



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

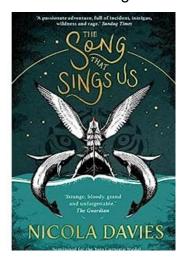
Author Visits



In April, we were delighted to offer the whole of Year 7, plus our reading club members from other year groups, a fantastic workshop led by the author Lesley Parr ('Where the River Takes Us'). The pupils were really interested to hear from this author and then had the opportunity to purchase her book from our pop-up branch of Waterstones and to have it signed.

In July, as part of our sixth ACE Day of the year, author Nicola Davies joined us for a further author workshop session. As parents and carers are aware, we bring authors into the school very regularly to develop a sense of connection and engagement between pupils and the reading material available to them.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed hearing about this author's work as part of their Literature Festival experience, this now being the second annual Literature Festival here at Bishop Vaughan!



Waterstones and On-Site 'Bookshops'



Waterstones are now a familiar and established addition to school events, having been welcomed to each author talk that we have run, in addition to our Festival of Literature this year and last summer.

We are most grateful to Steve and his team at the Swansea branch of Waterstones for their warmth, their encouragement of our pupils and their support to them in shaping their reading choices. The 'pop-

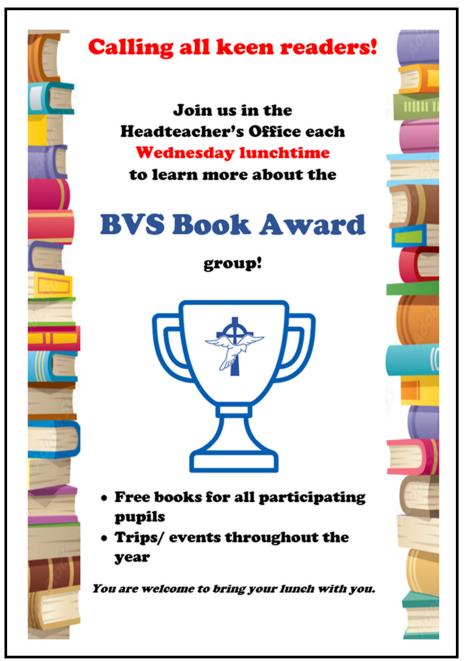
Waterstones up' branches of the store that they create here are always greeted by excitement from the pupils, and we ensure a regular opportunity to purchase books and/ or to receive them as rewards through our provision of book vending machines in all of the year bases and diners. Brand-new books selected on the basis of pupil feedback about preferences and interests are purchased by the school, heavily subsidised and made available at significantly reduced costs. Books may also be purchased with tokens given as rewards. In addition, our library offers opportunities for pupils to borrow books, these again having been selected on the basis of pupil voice engagement work.

BVS Book Club

The BVS Book Group continues to meet weekly and new members are welcome at any time.

The Book Group would also like to begin collecting information on books published by former Bishop Vaughan pupils. We know that there are quite a few authors amongst our alumni! If any readers of this newsletter would like to make us aware of names for inclusion, please do contact the school. We would be delighted to hear about the work of former pupils!

The group' has now published four editions of its reading recommendations newsletter. These can be found on our website and the Summer edition is published overleaf.



Reading Recommendations Newsletter

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

This Pupil Recommends ...

Eguono in Year 8 recommends the following title:

The Box in the Woods Maureen Johnson

This book is the fourth in the *Truly Devious* series.

This series is about a teenager named Stevie solving multiple murders. After solving the now famous 'Truly Devious' case at her school, she is back home for a boring summer, however she gets a message from the owner of Sunny Pines, formerly known as Camp Wonder Falls.

Camp Wonder Falls was formerly known as the site of the notorious unsolved 'Box in the Woods' case. Four camp counsellors were killed in the woods outside the town of Barlow Corners, their bodies left in a gruesome display. The new camp owner offers Stevie a chance to solve this case but there is still something lurking in the dark corners of Barlow Corners and this time Stevie might not come out alive.

This book is wonderful as it leaves you wondering what's going to happen as you read on. If you love murder mysteries this book is for you.

Author Visits!

We have been fortunate to have visits from more amazing authors this term. Lesley Parr and Nicola Davies's visits are described in our summer newsletter. We have also thoroughly enjoyed visiting the regular Waterstones stalls that are set up in our school!

Summer Reading Recommendations

Suggestions from our pupils for good books to read this summer include:

- 'Alpha Force' (series) Chris Ryan
- 'I Capture the Castle' Dodie Smith
- 'Mission Survival' (series) Bear Grylls
- 'A Gathering Light' Jennifer Donnelly
- 'Jackdaw Summer' David Almond
- 'Where the River Takes Us' Lesley Parr
- 'The Song That Sings Us' Nicola Davies
- 'The Hobbit' JRR Tolkien
- 'Everything, Everything' Nicola Yoon
- 'The Summer I Turned Pretty' Jenny Han
- 'Stormbreaker' (first in the Alex Rider series) - Anthony Horowitz

Whatever your interests, there is a book (lots of books!) out there for you. Whether you like graphic novels, non-fiction, 'choose your own adventure' books, howto books, magazines or something else, there really is something for everyone in the world of books.

If you aren't yet a keen reader, talk to friends with similar interests to you about the books that they enjoy and take it from there or look at the reading lists on our website. Be patient with yourself and try and read somewhere you are comfortable—outdoors in the sunshine would be a great choice (if we have sunshine this summer holiday!).

Reading Recommendations Newsletter

BVS Book Group

When? Wednesday lunchtimes Where? Headteacher's Office What?

We meet each week to discuss the book we're reading together, to recommend books to one another and to plan reading-related trips and activities.

You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

All welcome!

All book group members are provided with free copies of the books we read!

Books We've Read This Year:

Where the Crawdads Sing Delia Owens

Jasmine writes: "I liked the premise of the book and found it interesting how Kya survived in the marsh. However I found some of the characters were unlikeable, with the exception of Jumpin' and Mabel. The twist at the end was clever but predictable.

Overall I liked the book and am looking forward to seeing the film. I would rate it 3/5 stars."

Most book club members agreed with Jasmine's views and this book had an overall rating of 57% amongst the group. Still topping the poll is 'Ariadne' by Jennifer Saint!

The surprise success for many group members was '**A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.** The pupils said they had found Dickens' writing much more accessible than they expected and the novel far richer than any film adaptation!

Staff Favourites:

Mr. Davies (Deputy Headteacher): ''Animal Farm'; George Orwell This is my favourite book, but I also love 'Lord of the Rings' and the Harry Potter books! 'Under Milk Wood' is absolutely fantastic too—best read aloud on Audible by Richard Burton!

Mrs. Hutchins (Headteacher's PA): 'The Diary of Anne Frank' - this had a huge impact on me as a secondary age pupil. Everyone should read it!

Mrs. Owen (Deputy Headteacher): "Wonder', R.J. Palacio ,or 'The Girl of Ink and Stars', Kiran Millwood Hargrave, would make great summer holiday reading!

Mr. McHugh (Assistant Headteacher): *'Island of the Great Yellow Ox' , Walter Macken*

Mrs. Gwyther (Student Services): 'Little Women', Louisa May Alcott (this was also Mrs. Pole's favourite book as a child). Mrs. Gwyther also recommends 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Whatever you choose to read this summer, we all hope that you enjoy it!

Wise Words:

"Think before you speak; read before you think."

Fran Lebowitz



Chemistry

Eighteen Year 12 pupils studying Chemistry attended a day at the Chemistry Department in Swansea to carry out a series of practical experiments linked to their WJEC course.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, pupils successfully purified and isolated their products. They were also able to carry out analytical methods to identify the purity of their product.



Many of the pupils enjoyed so much that they have signed up to carry out work experience at the University over the Summer. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils and shows the commitment and dedication of our wonderful Chemists!



Super-Curricular News

Our pupils have taken part in a wide range of supercurricular activities this term, both in school and outside it.

Hay Festival

The Hay Festival is always a highlight in the school calendar and this year was no different! Year 7 and 8 pupils attended talks by the author Nikesh Shukla and the economist Tim Harford (who also proved to be a favourite of the staff attending!) Lots of books and ice cream were purchased, and the sunny weather was an extra bonus. Pupils had a fantastic time and we cannot wait for next year's visit!





ITV Work Experience

Huge congratulations to Ethan in Year 13, who secured a work experience placement with ITV Wales. Ethan spent two days at the news studio in Cardiff Bay, shadowing journalists and crew members and working on social media content. On his second day, Ethan was able to attend the Senedd plenary alongside Adrian Masters, the Political editor for ITV Wales. Adrian was glowing in his report about Ethan, who clearly impressed everyone he worked with. Ethan is going to study Journalism at university in September, so the experience was a valuable starting point for his career. Well done Ethan!

Seren Dissection Masterclass

Pupils from Year 10 and 11 were able to attend a dissection masterclass at Gower College, thanks to Seren, the Welsh Government's scheme for the most able pupils in Wales. Our future biologists were able to dissect a heart and a rat and learn about anatomy in greater depth.

Year 7 Supercurricular Events

Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to participate in two exciting events this term. Firstly, the school hosted author Lesley Parr, who spoke about her historical novel, Where The River Takes Us. Lesley discussed the inspiration for her novel and also provided a crash course in the history of the 1970s! Lesley kindly stayed behind afterwards to sign books and answer questions. Pupils really enjoyed the session and there were lots of copies of the novel being read on the yard afterwards.



A group of Year 7 pupils also visited Swansea University's Bay Campus to participate in a 'Future Me' day, learning about higher education and exploring their aspirations for the future. Pupils had a fun day with activities including a scavenger hunt and Q&A sessions with current higher education students.

Super-Curricular News

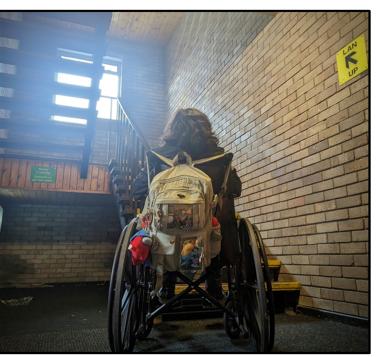
Other supercurricular activities and successes this term...

- Four pupils from Year 11 have secured places on competitive summer schools, including the Christ's College LPN Summer School at Cambridge College and Seren Summer Schools. Competition for places on these schemes was fierce, so huge congratulations to our pupils for their success in gaining a place!
- A group of fourteen pupils in Years 9 and 10 are currently completing the Seren Foundation Award. This scheme involves pupils attending online tutorials with PhD students on specialist topics, and then completing a 1500 word essay that is marked to university-level standards. A further update on the pupils taking part in this ambitious scheme will be available in the next newsletter.
- Year 12 students participated in an innovative scheme with the University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD). The students attended weekly lectures with members of the university's Psychology department, culminating in a presentation based on independent research. The students have been invited to attend a celebration event at UWTSD in July.

Sociology

The Sociology Department is pleased to announce that Toby Whitty in Year 12, has won the up prize runner in the of Cambridge University Sociology Schools Photo Competition 2023. Schools students from around the world were encouraged to think about - and capture in a photo inequality in the world around them.

They were asked to consider some of the big or small ways that inequality manifests in their everyday contexts, what might be causing this inequality and how, if at all, it might be challenged or alleviated. Toby's



entry, "Steps to Success", was praised by judges for being well thought-through, full of insight and grounded in experience and a recognisable reality. They liked the contrast of the optimism of the backpack with the cold environment of the stairwell, and the way the photographer has used perspective to make the viewer understand the challenge experienced by the person depicted.

Art and Design



Pupils in Years 7,8, and 9 produced a wonderful display for the 'Festival of Peace' focusing on sunflowers representing peace.

Bishop Vaughan was asked by St Mary's Church to create a window display for a celebration service on 30th April for 600 guests in Swansea to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III. The Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, Mrs Louise Fleet, wanted the event to celebrate the many organisations within the area who reflect the interests of the Royal Family. This was a great opportunity to promote Bishop Vaughan school and to celebrate who we are as a school and what we do.



At Bishop Vaughan we bring together a variety of faiths and cultures as one community, celebrating diversity through our joint values, faith and Catholic ethos. Our overall theme is inspired by the King's love of nature and our planet.

Our school is a place of sanctuary, by using sunflowers as our main focus it represents the symbol of peace. Each sunflower is unique and individual, uniting a wide range of different cultures and nationalities found within our school.

Year 7: aboriginal style sunflowers celebrating the rich cultures from around the world.

Year 8: patterned sunflowers inspired by local welsh artist Hannah Davies celebrating the creative culture in Wales.

Year 9: ceramic sunflowers inspired by Sonya Wilkins a welsh ceramist who has a love for nature and the environment.

Year 10: natural form pots inspired by Kate Malone, symbolising the beauty and delicate eco system in the natural world around us.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Over the past few months both Bronze and Edinburgh's Gold Duke of Award participants have been working hard to learn the required navigation skills for the expedition section of the Award, as well as making progress in the other sectional activities. Some of these include helping out at youth clubs, having lessons in, and coaching, tennis and basketball, learning to play chess, developing their cooking and baking skills and learning to play a range of musical instruments.

Recently, the groups have been developing their camp craft skills by putting up tents and learning how to use a camping stove. The groups have made hot chocolate and, after being presented with a selection of food items, made up a calorific meal suitable to eat while on their expedition. They were then able to put these skills to the test while camping for residential training weekends in Gower and the Cambrian Hills.

Both groups will soon be completing their final expedition of the Award, the Bronze groups spending two days walking around Gower and the Gold groups spending four days walking through parts of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.



Miss S Crabb (Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager)

Gower Society Winner

We are pleased to congratulate Najiyah Misbah, Year 8, on winning first prize in the Gower Society 75th Anniversary Poetry Art and Photography competition "My Gower". The theme could have been about any aspect of the Gower which was important to them. Najiyah drew a scene of Rhossili beach in coloured pencils capturing the tranquillity and unspoilt natural beauty of the Gower.

The Gower Society would like to present Najiyah with a certificate and cash prize of £50. The school will also receive a grant of £750 to be spent on something special. e.g. a camera, planters and plants, art equipment etc.



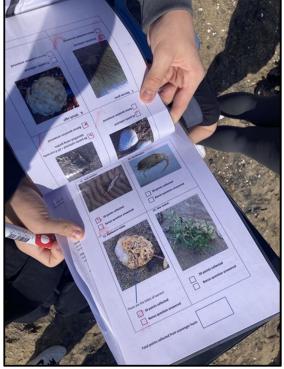
Ecology

Year 10 Ecology field trip with Swansea University at Crymlyn Burrows



On 23rd June, a group of Year 10 students were invited to attend an ecology fieldwork trip. The weather was kind and the ecology lecturers and post graduates from Swansea University led an exiting set of activities along the dunes. Many interesting samples were found along the strandline, nets were used to capture and identify insects plus quadrats were used to estimate percentage plant cover. It was great to have the university lecturers supporting our Year 10 learners - diolch!







Eco- Food Growing Garden

Our food growing garden is now fully up and running for our pupils to enjoy. The recent hot weather has been a challenge to keep it watered but the pupils have really enjoyed getting outside to care for their plants. The strawberries have been a definite hit!

As well as gardening, pupils have loved using the garden for reading and wellbeing activities.



PE and Sport



Huge congratulations to Erin and Lucas who both won the Welsh Boxing Championships in May.

A great achievement! Keep up the hard work, both!

Brogan (Year 10) and Ronan (Year 11) represented Wales U16 in football In May in Finland.

This is a huge honour! Well done, boys. Keep working hard!



PE and Sport

Athletics: We have had two athletics events this term. Well done to all pupils who participated in Neath last month and Swansea this month. A great effort was shown by all with some excellent results too!







Rounders: Our Year 9 and Year 10 girls have played a number of fixtures in Rounders. Both teams entered the county tournaments. The Year 9's put in a good performance while the Year 10's finished 3rd in the county. Well done, girls! We look forward to the Year 7 and Year 8 upcoming tournaments.





Cricket: Our Year 9 cricket team competed in the Swansea festival in June, narrowly missing out on the next round after a tight match. Great effort, boys!

We were proud to host the primary schools' sports day this term. We welcomed Year 5 classes from St Joseph's Greenhill, St Joseph's Clydach, St Illtyd's and St David's. All schools made a huge effort and enjoyed the day! Well done to all pupils who participated.



Ten of our Year 10 BTEC Sport and GCSE PE pupils went to Swansea University in June to help with St Joseph's Primary School sports day. It's great to see our pupils helping our primary schools and enjoying the day.

Pallium Mass



Pupils visited St. David's Cathedral, Cardiff, for the Pallium Mass on Thursday 22nd June. We were delighted to travel to Cardiff with two of our clergy Governors, and our pupils were involved in the Offertory procession.

His Excellency Archbishop Buendia, The Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St James, placed the Pallium on the shoulders of Archbishop Mark O'Toole.

The Pallium is a band of wool, bearing five crosses and worn at solemn Masses. It is given by the Pope to Metropolitan Archbishops as a sign of unity.

Performing Arts



During the Summer term itself, pupils and staff involved with the school choir have sung at the Festival of Peace, as well as other events, including the 'School of Sanctuary' awards, where the pupils had the opportunity to sing on the main stage of Swansea Arena. You can listen to them here: <u>https://on.soundcloud.com/SsoHj</u>. As referenced on page 9, this piece is called 'Siyahamba' and it is written partly in the Zulu language, with its chorus translating to 'We are marching in the light of God.' Believe it or nor, this great sound was produced by a very small section of our full choir - approximately fifteen of its members!

As well as these activities, we have been working tirelessly to produce a lively, energetic production of 'Sister Act Jr.'

The Summer term for Performing Arts has been a busy one, as always!

At the very end of the Spring term, we held a concert, for which the exhibits from the Festival of Peace - also held the same week - provided a beautiful backdrop. Items for the concert were varied and showcased the musical and dramatic talents of our pupils.



Performing Arts

The school production of Sister Act Jr. saw a whole school effort producing the show; including set painting, building, props, costumes, lighting and sound. It has truly demonstrated what makes Bishop Vaughan the very special community that it is. It was amazing to see so many pupils getting involved from Year 7, all the way up to Year 13. It showcased many talented pupils, and resulted in a heart warming show full of energy and comedy (and a finale full of sequins!).

Audiences enjoyed all three evening performances, and we were thrilled to welcome some of our cluster primary school pupils to a matinee performance. We hope they will one day be on the stage here at Bishop Vaughan themselves!

Next year brings us to our usual full calendar of events including our annual carol service on Monday 18th December, the Spring Concert and our forthcoming 2024 school production which will be announced in the new school year. Watch out for details of these events on our social media sites, it would be great to welcome you all to see the talents our pupils have to offer at Bishop Vaughan Catholic School.



Sixth Form Leadership Team

Congratulations to our brand new Sixth Form Leadership Team!

	-
Head Prefects	Naarani Gowribalan Jim Cua
Deputy Head Prefects	Shuvita Chander Annmariya Rejin Calan Wilkins
Charity	Derlyn Gogi Thea Guinto
Digital Learning	Joseph Knight
Sport	Timi Issah Julia Piaszczynska
Creative Arts	Toby Whitty
Eco	Sam Williams
Health & Wellbeing	Mya Johns-Parr Chloe Mpukusa Jasmine Embradura
Teaching & Learning	Diya Joby Angelo Sanorjo
Sixth Form Ambassadors	Erin Brownlie Aisha Foudil Cherif Lanning Aliyah Hodgson Ruby Mckennall Abigail Wade Kevin Pious

From Start to Finish ...

Our transition days this term have ensured a great start to the current Year 6 pupils' time with Bishop Vaughan! We have been thrilled to welcome them to the school for busy days filled with exciting activities, and which culminated in the celebration of the Welcome Mass. We can't wait to see them on the first day of term in September and we wish them a wonderful summer break!

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form proms have taken place this term, in celebration of the end of these important milestone years! Our Sixth Formers thoroughly enjoyed their prom event at the Village Hotel in Swansea, and this marked the conclusion of their seven-year journey with Bishop Vaughan School. Our Sixth Formers have exciting plans for their next steps, and while we will miss them a great deal when they leave us 'for pastures new', like proud parents we wish them every success with the varied career and university plans that they have in place. We look forward to sharing updates on their destinations in our next newsletter.

On Tuesday 27th June, our Year 11 pupils celebrated their prom at the Manor Park Hotel. The pupils were, as they have always been throughout their years in the school to date, excellent ambassadors for Bishop Vaughan. They were impeccably behaved, appreciative of the event and all of the arrangements made for it and – as you can imagine – extremely smartly turned out! The grounds of the hotel (which was once a convent, and whose gardens remain a beautiful setting!) were a sea of vibrant colours, with dresses and suits that were clearly carefully chosen after many months of deliberation. The pupils had a wonderful evening; see the photos below!

Year 11 Prom Photos



Summer Wordsearch



Class Charts



Since last November, we have switched to 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.

At the time of writing, over 94% 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:





School Uniform

September 2023 - August 2024

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 arbitrary 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.	
Jewellery:	A single sleeper or a single metal stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, glass, nose or tongue piercing. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden. It should be noted that tattoos are not permitted.	
Make-up/Hair:	Make-up is not allowed. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a single natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. purples, reds, dip dyes etc. are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts or shaved patches (not shorter than grade 2). No braiding with a mixture of hair colours. No artificial plaits or braids. No painted nails or nail extensions.	

School Uniform

<u>Games Kit</u>

Rugby Shirt:	Navy with blue/white side panels	
T-Shirt (unisex):	Navy with blue/white side panels	
Outdoor PE top (unisex)	Navy with blue/white side panels	
Shorts (rugby):	Navy with blue/white side panels	
Shorts (light wear):	Navy with white trim	
Leggings:	Navy with white trim	
Footwear:	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

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

Members of Sixth Form are expected to wear the uniform throughout the school day. A single sleeper or a single stud of minimum size may be worn in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, nose or tongue piercing. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. greens etc. are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts. Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances.

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

Attendance



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

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

Absence requests from school during term time

Since September 2022 we have been closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. Absence requests will only be authorised where attendance is above 95%. We will not authorise absences during September or during examination periods. All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases.

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.

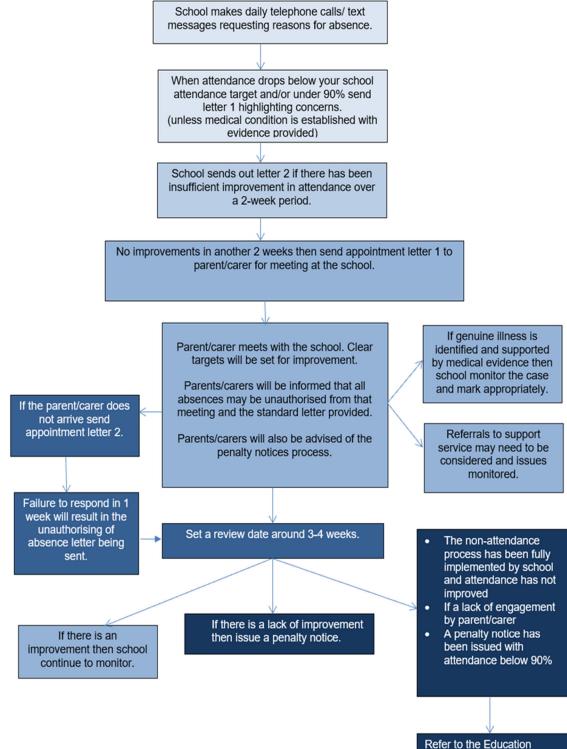
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

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%.



Welfare Service.



Dear Parents and carers,

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to those that have continued to ensure that their child has attended school regularly throughout this difficult period. We understand some parents may have ongoing concerns around safety, however, we are following Welsh Government and Public Health Guidance for the safety of all pupils, staff and the community.

The expectation was set by Welsh Government that from the 12th April 2021 all schools were open, and ALL children were expected to attend.

Regular school attendance is essential in order to support children in achieving their full educational potential and supporting their wellbeing. The Education Welfare Service and schools are concerned that not all children have attended and have missed the opportunity to meet up with their friends and fully engage in their education.

As a Service we need to inform you that Fixed Penalty Notices and court proceedings will be re-instated in the near future. Attendance during this period will be monitored and if children have a high number of unauthorised absences, as well as a pattern of irregular attendance, including missing days each week and poor punctuality: there is a possibility that fixed penalty notices and court procedures may be issued.

The Education Welfare Service and school staff will continue to support children and families through this difficult period. It is now more important than ever that you as parents and carers establish positive, consistent routines with your children. If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Let us work together so that our children can make the most of their education and experiences at school.

GWASANAETH LLES ADDYSG/EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE UNED CEFNOGI YSGOLION/SCHOOL SUPPORT UNIT CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN RHIF FFON/TELEPHONE: (01792) 637648, EMAIL: <u>EducationWelfareService@Swansea.gov.uk</u> Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni. We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.

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: Email: 01792 772006 BishopvaughanA@Hwbcymru.net

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

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 either Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 ext 2218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther (Attendance Manager) on 01792 772006 ext 2239.

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.



Bus Passes



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

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

Getting to School

Parents are politely reminded that pupils who cycle to school **must** wear a helmet and dismount once they enter 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

A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 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.

LOST PROPERTY

Bishop Vaughan Online

www.bishopvaughan.co.uk

https://twitter.com/Bishop_Vaughan

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 articles are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any item, please tell them to come and check with Mrs Gwyther or Mrs North 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.

