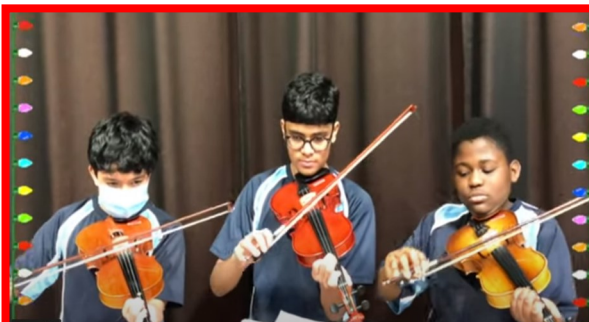




Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2020
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2020



*It is the beautiful task of Advent
to awaken in all of us
memories of goodness and thus
to open doors of hope.*

-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



School Term and Holiday Dates 2020-2021

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS				
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2020	Tuesday 1st September	Monday 26th October	Friday 30th October	Tuesday 22nd December
Spring 2021	Monday 4th January	Monday 15th February	Friday 19th February	Friday 26th March
Summer 2021	Monday 12th April	Monday 31st May	Friday 4th June	Friday 16th July



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

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term is Friday 18th December 2020; school closes at 3.00pm. (Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December are INSET days).

All pupils return to school on Monday 4th January 2021. This will be week two on the timetable.

Our virtual Sixth Form Information Evening is Thursday 21st January 2021. It will be streamed live from 4-6 pm and will be accessible online thereafter.

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

Christmas Services

The usual times of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the different parishes are printed below.

Please note that these may differ this year due to the current circumstances; please check with the parish in question before attending; booking a place is required in most cases.



Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Christmas Eve
Nativity Mass 5.00pm
Carol Service 11.30 pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10.00am

Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason)

Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass 5.30pm;
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Mass - 9.30am and 11.00am

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

Christmas Eve
Nativity 5.40pm Vigil 6.00pm
Carols 11.45pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 9.30am

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry)

Christmas Eve Vigil - 5.30 pm
10.00pm - Vigil Mass
Christmas Day 10.00 am

St. David's (Canon Watson and Father Robert)

Christmas Eve
Vigil 6.00pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 11.00am

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Christmas Eve - 5.30 Carol Service
Vigil 6.00pm
11.30 Carols Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement OP)

Christmas Eve 7.00 pm
Christmas Day 11.00am

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito)

Christmas Eve
Children's Mass 6.00pm Mass 10.00pm
Christmas Day 8.30am and 11.00am
(Times not confirmed by Parish)

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry)

Christmas Eve -
Vigil 8.00pm (Carols 7.30pm)

Holy Cross (Father Cyril)

Christmas Eve
Vigil 6.00pm
Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 9.30am
Boxing Day 11am

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Christmas Eve
Vigil 6.00pm
Christmas Day 9.00am

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Canon Benedict)

Christmas Eve
Vigil 6.30pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10.00am

St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Christmas Eve 6.30 pm
Christmas Day 9.30am

St Bride's Pontardulais (Father J P Thomas)

Christmas Eve 8.00pm
Christmas Day 8.30am

Headteacher's Message



In the introduction to each of our newsletters, I always attempt to encapsulate the key news for our pupils, their families and all our readers. The introductory message generally reflects on all that has occurred over the last term and draws out some highlights. While it is difficult to know where to begin on this occasion, it having been the most challenging of years for all in the school community just as it has nationally and globally, it is only right that, in selecting highlights, our focus falls upon our truly exceptional pupils.

Without doubt, the challenges they have faced have been significant. None of us could have imagined this time last year that we would have endured many months unable to see family or friends, or trying to adapt to the challenges of online learning and 'virtual' socialising. The idea of social distancing would have sounded like the contradiction in terms that it is: I am sure that we can all agree that the necessity of staying a distance from one another at all times is anything but 'sociable'. Our pupils, however, have not only responded to all of the demands upon them in terms of following the guidance, but have done so with characteristic good grace, resilience and maturity.



A further spotlight should fall upon our dedicated Governing Body, who have overseen all elements of the return to school that followed the initial lockdown, and we thank them for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the safety of all pupils, staff and visitors.

It is only right also to highlight here the work of those who have carried out truly critical work throughout the pandemic. So very many of our parent community work in the NHS and we are more grateful than we can put into words for their contribution and dedication in carrying out their work in such a challenging context. We were pleased to be able to support them in some small way during the later spring and the summer months, when the school was 're-purposed' as an emergency childcare setting for the children of critical workers. We worked closely with our partner primaries throughout these months, to centralise the provision at Bishop Vaughan for children from 3-14 years old. It was truly a pleasure to be able to work together and to welcome children from our extended community of schools to Bishop Vaughan, some of them for the first time.



During those summer months, in addition to working to provide childcare, numerous staff volunteered to deliver food parcels to pupils and their families across the city, to make personal protective equipment such as visors and scrubs, and to deliver it across the city to hospital wards, pharmacists, doctors' surgeries and countless other settings. We know that this voluntary work was appreciated and it was a real testament to the strength and teamwork that always come to the fore in times of pressure.



Similarly, the Local Authority's tireless work over the summer months to prepare for a safe return to school deserves special mention. The sourcing of many thousands of items of PPE, the creation of risk assessments to keep pupils and staff across the city safe, the arrangement of food parcels and payments to all eligible families and the organisation of school transport within the



Headteacher's Message

context of the pandemic were absolutely gargantuan tasks. We are enormously grateful to all in the LA team for working so hard to make the return to school safe, and grateful too to our amazing site team who worked tirelessly to put all those plans into practice, moving all but essential furniture into storage, reconfiguring classrooms, working on increasing ventilation and marking out classrooms and diners to ensure distancing. We hope that they all have a very well-earned rest over the Christmas break!

As mentioned previously, there are countless members of our parent community and former pupils working in NHS settings at present, and besides our gratitude to them, we also thank those who support them in their roles: the volunteers, transport workers and caterers who enable them to do the critical work that they do. Part of their 'support system' includes the hospital chaplains, whose work is highlighted on page 6 with the work of Canon Jason Jones, of our own parish. It is certainly true to say that it's in the toughest times that strength emerges; every single one of the people highlighted here is a testament to that fact.

Despite the circumstances of this challenging year, then, there have certainly been happier times and even celebrations too. The planned activities for the Year of the Word may have been curtailed, but the focus upon the Word of God has remained and proved especially sustaining for us all in this time of adversity. The first lockdown enabled many pupils to explore creative talents in a way that might not have been possible previously with their evenings having been filled with after-school activities. The talents explored and developed will, in many cases, be with them for life.

Also, the pressure upon us all to learn how to work together 'virtually' has ensured that we have all developed our skills and it has also been valuable when it comes to putting in place alternatives to the usual school events, such as Open Evenings, Services and the Christmas Concert. Our Oxbridge applicants had their interviews virtually this year, via Zoom, and of course our talented pupil Justine, winner of The Voice: Kids, had the unusual experience of performing to audience members *not* in the studio, where only the judges were seated, socially distanced. Undeterred, she gave a breathtaking performance and we are so very proud of the way that she has worked so hard to develop her God-given talent, as well as of her dedication and humility. If you would like to listen to her remarkable performances in the Christmas Concert, the link can be found on page 15.

While, then, there have been challenges, there have certainly been blessings for which we have the deepest gratitude, examples of unity, moments that have sparkled and times when joy has resonated in the heart of the school. We pray that there will be more of these in the year ahead, that it will bring some much needed reassurance and clarity for our Year 11-13 pupils in terms of the ways in which they will be assessed and graded, that it will allow us all to gather together once more in Mass, concerts, the musicals and next year's Carol Service, and that above all, you and your families remain healthy and safe. *Ad meliora!* To better things!

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and the blessings of good health and happiness in the New Year.



Mrs. E. Pole
Headteacher

Retirement of Canon Michael Flook



We congratulate Canon Flook most warmly on the occasion of his 75th birthday and his retirement.

Canon Flook has had a long association with the school and supported it most generously with his time over the 45 years of his priesthood, both as a member of the clergy and as a Governor.

He has celebrated countless Masses at the school and has always been a warmly welcomed guest at school events, such as the annual Presentation Evenings, where he has presented awards for many years.

To mark this special occasion, a piece of calligraphy was commissioned and completed by

Nicholas Crook, the Queen's

Scribe, to be presented to Canon Flook in gratitude for his service to the school.

While current restrictions have meant that we were unable to gather to mark the occasion and make the presentation at the school, we hope to welcome Canon Flook back to the school when circumstances permit; he will always be a most honoured guest.



With Thanks: Canon Jason Jones

In these exceptionally challenging times, there are so many people to whom we need to pay tribute and offer our thanks as a school community. Several are mentioned throughout this newsletter, be they staff or former pupils (many of those former pupils now being parents of current pupils also!). We begin those thanks by highlighting the work of Canon Jason Jones.



Canon Jason, as priest of the parish in which the school is located, also has another key role as hospital chaplain and, as many of our families will know, he has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic attending to patients in particularly challenging circumstances. Responding to calls at short notice, and at all hours of the day and night, Canon Jason has had to adapt to the difficult circumstances in which all hospital-based staff work and to be trained in the use of PPE for his work with patients in the intensive care unit in particular.



At the bedside of a parishioner as he received the news that he was to be discharged from ITU

Canon Jason has expressed his thanks to Swansea Bay Health Board for having allowed and supported his continuing work, which ensures access to the Sacraments, especially given that numerous other health boards have not permitted this work to continue.

We are all aware of what it means to families that Canon Jason's work can continue, and his sacrifice of his time and his dedication to serving others are examples of those values and virtues that we aim to nurture in our pupil community.

There is no doubt whatsoever that this work is even more mentally and emotionally draining than it is physically so, yet it is carried out with utter dedication and commitment, and it is something upon which countless families in our community have relied in the toughest of times.

On behalf of all in the school community, then, thank you to Canon Jason for his work as hospital chaplain; it will not be forgotten when, as we hope and pray, the pandemic is over. We offer our prayers for his continued health and safety as he carries out his work.

Gyda diolch a gweddiau, Canon Jason!

With Thanks: Mr. Steve Avo

We offer a further thank you here to Mr. Avo, who has served the school as both a Foundation Governor and as the Chair of Governors during his term of office. While he is now stepping down due to increased work commitments, his expertise in terms of health and safety has been invaluable to the school and he chaired the Buildings, Health and Safety Committee for several years. We thank him for the time he has given so generously and send him the best wishes of the pupils, staff and his Governor colleagues. In turn, he has asked that his own thanks to them is noted, and he commends the staff for their commitment and dedication.

BVS: Supporting the Community

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Supporting the Community
 May 2020

Busy Times at BVS!

What a time this has been! Since schools were closed for the purpose of formal education on Friday 20th March, school staff and volunteers have nevertheless been exceptionally busy!

With the 're-purposing' of schools as emergency childcare settings to support key workers and their families, there was a great deal to be done in preparing for this new work!

In addition to welcoming children aged 3-14 each day whose parents are currently working in healthcare and other areas critical to the national response, the staff have been supporting home learning activities daily, creating engaging and imaginative challenges and overseeing learning activity for all pupils, despite the temporary closure of formal education.

Working With Our Cluster Primaries

Our childcare setting is run in partnership with St. Illtyd's primary schools, who have remained open. We have been delighted to welcome pupils that, between us, we can cater for families throughout the city.

We miss each and every one of our pupils a great deal and we're delighted to find new ways to continue teaching and learning throughout this time. Teachers are also currently working extremely hard to ensure that all of our pupils achieve fair grades for their qualifications—ones which reflect all of their hard work following the cancellation of the summer examination series.

Here, though, we'd like to share news with you about some of the voluntary work that is being undertaken in numerous areas. We hope you enjoy learning more about this!

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Easter artwork from the childcare group, and paintings of the tulips in the Rosary Garden

So much has happened since our last full newsletter to parents! The usual newsletter for when school is in session was replaced by very many update letters and also by mini-newsletters focused on particular topics.

One of these was the newsletter pictured on the left: 'Supporting the Community.' If you did not have a chance to read it in the Summer term, it is linked here:

[Newsletter: Supporting the Community.](#)

We hope that you enjoy reading about the work that was carried out over the Spring and Summer months, during which we worked closely with our cluster of schools in our repurposed role as an emergency childcare setting.

You can also read about the work of staff in making and delivering PPE, and in the work that the school community engaged in to support and thank all in the frontline services for their exceptional work during this time!

Sewing Scrubs for Swansea

Mrs. Cook has been busy making up masks, headbands and laundry bags for medical and healthcare staff!

She has delivered these settings through Swansea, Carmarthen, and to Carmarthen.

In addition, she has delivered material taken all completed items to NHS and that she has done an amazing job!

Delivery Day at BVS!

Monday is delivery day here at Bishop Vaughan!

At the start of the school closure period, daily grab and go bags were provided to families of pupils eligible for free school meals, as it is vitally important that no pupil misses out on their entitlement due to the unforeseen closure of schools. This provision has been refined to reduce the need to travel each day and is currently in the form of weekly food parcels.

Families will also soon be able to take up the option of BACS transfer payments should they prefer it and wellbeing staff have been in contact with all eligible families, however until this system is in place our staff have been proud to support the community by delivering the provisions to which our pupils are entitled each week!

Each Monday morning, therefore, our dedicated teams of volunteer staff arrive at the school to collect the hundreds of food parcels that the catering team have been working to put together throughout the morning.

Whilst some of these are collected in person, most are delivered by the volunteer staff who each have a route allocated allowing them to get the parcels to families across the city and its surrounding areas. As Bishop Vaughan is not a community school, but a faith school which draws pupils from a very wide area, these routes are wide ranging, yet a huge number of staff have volunteered for this work to ensure that all of our families receive the support to which they are entitled.

Not All Heroes Wear Capes ...

Staff at Bishop Vaughan have been hard at work producing medical visors as part of a city wide strategy.

A team of specialised stocks social

... But Many Wear Visors!

Mr. Smith has been assisted in this work by Mr. Green, our Creative Technology Department Technician, and Mrs. Lawrence, Cover Supervisor.

It has been a privilege for our staff to serve our local medical and healthcare community during this difficult time. The skill, dedication and determination of the production team and so many other colleagues has been exceptional. All staff are humbled by the work of front line workers and say that they are proud to make a small contribution to support them in any way they can.

also very positive to see Swansea's schools & together in this project to support front line workers; efforts have harnessed expertise and facilities from across the city.

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Ryan join the team effort!

Technology Department - PPE

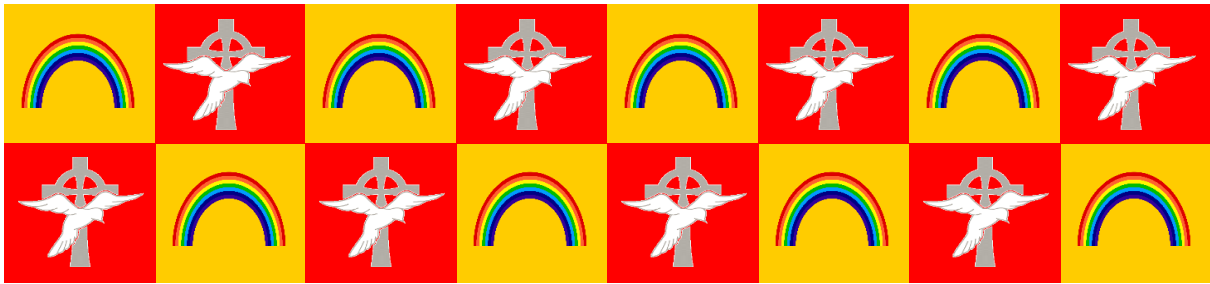
During the lockdown the Technology Department were busy making and distributing Personal Protective Equipment.

Mr Smith started by 3D printing headbands, which took just over one hour to make one band, then the 3D printer stopped working! He then had an idea and changed tack and, with the help of Mr Green, they started fabricating a new style of band using the laser cutter, which was a much quicker process once set up!

They went on to make and distribute 110 medical visors with the help of Mrs A Lawrence and Mrs A Jones. The visors were distributed to Morriston and Singleton Hospital along with brand new boxes of goggles. They also delivered 15 visors to Cefn Coed. They continued to produce the visors throughout the lockdown and made in excess of 300 visors for a wide range of medical services i.e. medical centres and chemists across Swansea.



BVS Alumnae—NHS Heroes



For very many years now, Bishop Vaughan pupils have, historically, moved on to careers in medicine, social care and the healthcare sectors above all others.

Each year, our pupils are successful in gaining university and training places and go on to become paramedics, doctors, anaesthetists, nurses, surgeons, radiographers, midwives, physiotherapists, psychiatrists and health visitors, amongst countless further medical and care-related roles, many following in the footsteps of their parents.

We are so very proud of them always, and now - more than ever - we are keen to recognise the enormous contribution that they are making each and every day during this time of global challenge.

In June this year, we put together a record as a testament to all that they have achieved, a tribute to their resilience and determination in a time of unprecedented challenge and a small indication of the tremendous pride that the whole Bishop Vaughan community has in them.

This tribute can be found here: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/alumni>

You will find that there are more than sixty pages of news about our former pupils. If you are currently working in this sector and are happy to be featured in this tribute, or if you know somebody else who should be included here, please email us with details (BishopVaughanH@hwbcymru.net).



BVS Alumnae - NHS Heroes

One of our very talented Sixth Formers painted this on behalf of Bishop Vaughan and our cluster primary schools to say a big 'thank you' to all who work in the NHS. This has been presented to one of Swansea's hospitals to be displayed for all to see!



A massive thank you from Bishop Vaughan staff and pupils to our

HEROES NHS

New Ways of Learning

In recent months our pupils have made admirable efforts in developing their digital skills to support learning. Pupils have increasingly developed familiarity with Wales' online learning platform, Hwb, and have received 'walkthrough' lessons in school delivered by our teachers. These preparation lessons aimed to equip pupils with the skills needed to continue their learning should there be a need for isolation during the pandemic.

Lessons at the start of the year focused on the practicalities of using this platform to engage with recorded lessons, to complete work online through various applications including Microsoft quizzes and also engaging with live wellbeing check ins. In many pupils, we see a rising confidence in their technical abilities. Our pupils have approached the pace of digital upskilling and a new way of learning with characteristic ambition and willingness!



As a faith school, the education that we provide is distinctive and as you are already aware we place explicit emphasis on the formation of the person and academic rigour. It is then with sheer admiration that we have seen so many of our pupils becoming more intentional, active, wise and discerning learners through their blended learning endeavours. We are also exceptionally proud of the feedback that learners have given us as our pupils play an important role in gauging the effectiveness of the school's blended learning offer for isolating year groups.

We continue to focus in school on our five goals for 2020-21:

- Keeping our learners, staff and school community safe
- Maintaining high levels of wellbeing support
- Developing our teaching and learning plans so that they are flexible enough for all possible delivery models
- Supporting staff in new ways of working
- Adapting to possible paths regarding exams in 2021

A mix of questionnaires and group discussions are used to review the work set for pupils. These views of learners have direct impact of the type of work that we set, the quantity and the way that it is set. We thank them for the views offered, for their discernment and maturity as we shape a new way of learning together.

We wish to thank all parents and carers for their support of their children's learning and also for their feedback as we work in partnership to pursue the shared goal of ensuring the very best outcomes for their children.

Blended Learning

Until March 2020 the term 'blended learning' was rarely used in schools, however now teachers across the country use it almost daily! The term refers to the blend of the teaching approaches list below to pursue a course of study following approaches for pupils:

- Face to face teaching
- Online Teams tasks (useful for students to consolidate knowledge and understanding)
- Recorded Lessons (can be viewed multiple times, allow students to work at their own pace and reduces pressure on devices and internet connectivity within a household)
- Live Lessons (can be useful for when direct exchange of dialogue is needed, or to check understand and also useful for wellbeing check ins)



The mix of approaches used in a blended learning approach is important to ensure that we 'keep learning going' in the face of continuing uncertainty. We have found that our teaching plans have had to change quickly following the notification of any positive COVID cases and the isolation of identified contacts.



The ongoing uncertainty is one of the biggest challenges that schools have faced in recent decades, nevertheless teachers at Bishop Vaughan have been determined to meet this challenge successfully! Staff have worked hard to learn from each other and to swap skills and knowledge, despite having had to upskill in their use of digital platforms at a rapid rate. It would be fair to say that never before has professional learning had so much centrality, immediacy and relevance to teachers.

We remain proud of the efforts that our teachers have invested in the interests of serving our pupils.



New Ways of 'Gathering'



Undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges that 2020 has presented to all of us has been that presented by being unable to gather. For all of us at a personal level, this is difficult. We miss seeing family members and friends enormously. In terms of 'school life', those difficulties are also significant. We have endeavoured, however, to find ways to overcome the obstacles and we begun our foray into the world of 'virtual events' with the prayer services that begin the school year, during the induction weeks. This continued in the form of the assemblies each week and, notably, in the larger scale events such as the Year Six Virtual Open Evening. We were delighted to welcome our prospective pupils to the school in this way, and assure them that their welcome is no less warm than it would be in any other year. We look forward to welcoming them in person when circumstances permit; in the meantime, the welcome can be viewed here: [TRANSITION 2020-2021 | Bishop Vaughan](#)

Advent Service



The possibilities and opportunities offered by the use of recorded assemblies are many, and one of the key ones is that it allows pupils to access these numerous times. We are also able to reach a wider audience that may now include younger siblings, parents, Governors and parishoners. The Advent Service put together by the Faith Council is one such example of this. It offers a beautiful and reflective way to prepare for Christmas, and it has been well-received by all who have viewed it. With thanks to Mrs. Thomas for her support of the Faith Council in producing this. If you have not yet had the opportunity to do so, it can be viewed at this link:

[Bishop Vaughan Advent Service 2020 - YouTube](#)



Virtual Christmas Concert



We hope that many of you enjoyed the virtual Christmas Concert this year, on which our pupils across the school have worked hard, with solo, duet, choir and instrumental performances and artwork from our exceptional ALN department.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to view this, it is accessible here: [Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Virtual Christmas Concert 2020 - YouTube](#)



Estyn Inspection

Following a visit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, our school has been celebrated in the recent Estyn thematic report 'Preparing for the Curriculum for Wales' published last month. The report highlights the worthwhile work undertaken in different settings across Wales in preparing for major curriculum reform.

The first case study in the report focused on our school and how we have worked together to deliver a vision and a strong foundation for the design of our new curriculum with the aim of ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils. With a carefully considered vision for our new curriculum, we hope that we can serve our learners to become the very best that they can be. Furthermore, with the rapid development of digital skills both by learners and teachers this will only serve to strengthen our curriculum planning.

An excerpt from the report is highlighted below:

- 30 Leaders at Bishop Vaughan Catholic School have taken a measured and carefully planned approach when developing their whole-school approach to curriculum reform. They have engaged all staff in developing their whole-school vision and have planned their actions well with clear timeframes to ensure all staff have time to develop and test approaches and to avoid 'change fatigue'.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Action

The senior leadership team has worked effectively with all staff to establish a clear vision to develop the curriculum and support all pupils. The vision focuses on their core Catholic belief that everyone is created in God's perfect image and has their own unique God-given talents and abilities. The school strives to ensure every pupil is supported towards being the very best they can be academically, morally and socially. This has helped them to engage all staff in discussions around how to develop their curriculum and ensure that it remains pupil-focused.

The school has worked closely with all staff to engage them in discussion about the pupils they are trying to develop and to identify what the four purposes mean for the school, its pupils and the wider community. All staff views have been valued and listened to and this has enabled leaders to develop a common understanding and a motivated staff who understand the reasons for change, and are ready to plan for change.

A strength of this approach is the way in which senior leaders have involved all staff when creating and sharing their expectations. Together, they have developed a common understanding of the attitudes and dispositions they wish to include as part of their curriculum planning, teaching and learning to ensure all pupils develop as active, informed and positive citizens.

Outcomes

The school has ensured that their Catholic ethos is rooted in their whole-school vision. The leaders' approach to engaging all stakeholders has established a vision that is well understood and supported by staff and pupils. This has led to improved staff engagement and a positive attitude toward curriculum reform. Leaders have also noted an improvement in attitudes and engagement of pupils during lessons.

Education Minister Visit



In February, Kirsty Williams, Education Minister, visited us at Bishop Vaughan. She was interested in hearing about the school's preparations for the new Curriculum for Wales. Her visit followed the Estyn inspection on the same topic. She also visited our Pupil Voice representatives in the school library and dropped into a Sixth Form Government and Politics lesson!

The Minister then visited the school chapel where the pupils of the *Schola Cantorum* sung Karl Jenkins's *Adiemus*. She was also presented with a posy of spring flowers by our Head Boy and Head Girl.

Throughout her visit, the Minister was accompanied by Mr. Mike Hedges, our Senedd Member.

Senedd Members' Visits



As referenced above, Mr. Hedges visited the school in February. He is a frequent visitor to the school when circumstances permit, attending, for example, on both GCSE and A-level results days and supporting school events such as the annual Carol Service in St. Joseph's Cathedral.



He continues to support the work of the school and the Diocese in seeking redevelopment—a new school building under the 21st Century Schools programme.

During November, his Senedd colleague, Rebecca Evans, also visited the school to learn more about the challenges faced and the context for seeking a new building.

We are grateful to both of our Senedd members for their time, their support and their commitment to the school.

‘The Voice: Kids’—Justine Afante

One of the highlights of the year has undoubtedly been the success of Justine, who this year triumphed as the winner of ‘The Voice: Kids.’



Justine was already well-known to pupils throughout the school following her exceptional performances in school talent shows, and she was also a familiar face to others across the city due to her participation in parish events and due to having been selected to sing the anthem for the city’s 50th anniversary celebrations last year. For those celebrations, she sang “This Is Our City” which was played on the Big Screen in Castle Square throughout the 50th celebrations and performed across the city at a number of high profile events and performances.

Ahead of the final, the Lord Mayor of Swansea, Cllr Mark Child, said: “It is always nice to see one of our young people excelling and Justine is a wonderful ambassador for Swansea. I would like to wish her the very best on behalf of all at Swansea Council and indeed the city but whatever the outcome Justine has already made us all very proud.” She certainly did just that!

While many had followed Justine’s progress from her first incredible performance on the show, without doubt, there were countless families across Swansea glued to the screen for the grand final on Saturday 29th August. We are positive that the collective cheer of pupils, staff, parishioners, Governors and Justine’s many supporters was audible for miles around when the verdict was given!



Throughout her time on the show, Justine was mentored by the chart-topping singer Pixie Lott, who said of her: “I’m so, so, so proud of you, you’ve worked so hard, the proof is in the pudding. What a series and what talent!”



During the semi-final, she sang ‘One Moment In Time’ and she followed this, on the night of the final, with an emotional performance of ‘Listen’ and a simply incredible rendition of Stevie Wonder’s ‘Don’t You Worry ‘Bout a Thing’ which she performed with her mentor.

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Many congratulations to the newly-appointed Sixth Form Leadership Team for 2020-2021.

We have no doubt that they will continue to be excellent role models for all pupils and to be key to shaping provision for all pupils.

Head Girl: Emily Paradice-Ruan

Head Boy: Ayoub Ghattas

Deputy Head Prefects: Maya Ingham and Jennifer Parry

Charity Prefect: Laduna Alkarim

Catholic Ethos and Faith Prefect: Angela Tomy James

Health and Wellbeing Prefects: Hind Almaqdisi and Noemi Panaccio

Teaching and Learning Prefects: Hannah Thomas and Ffion Williams

Eco Prefects: Alicja Markiewicz and Faye Measday

Digital Prefect and Performing Arts/Music Prefect: Gregory Williams

Sports Prefect: Daryl Bryant



BISHOP VAUGHAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL



“Go Extra”



‘Go Extra at Bishop Vaughan’ is our bespoke loyalty card scheme.

Our aim is to promote and encourage pupils to get involved, join clubs and have some fun.

Pupils receive a ‘Go Extra’ card and points/a stamp for activities attended each half term.

Completed cards are then entered in a prize draw with awards for different categories including:

- Try something new
- Most dedicated
- Pupil leader / ambassador
- Most enthusiastic

Every week there are over forty different activities and clubs available!

We want to recognise the importance of the academic, spiritual and extra-curricular opportunities available to all. The scheme helps us to celebrate and reward students who get involved, use their God-given gifts and talents and have fun across the school community.

As Albert Einstein said, we are here to “awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

Will you accept the challenge and “Go Extra” at Bishop Vaughan?

Charity Group

The charity activities and celebration of Caritas and Faith in Action have continued in earnest at Bishop Vaughan, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic.

To the whole of the school community – thank you for your generosity and for getting involved to make a difference for others!

Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser

This year our annual fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis fell on Friday 14th February.

In addition to non-uniform and bake sale, pupils and staff were able to purchase “kindness tokens” which were distributed across the school community.



The idea was to spread a little love and live out the paired virtues of being loving and compassionate, while raising money for an amazing cause.

In record time all cakes, sweets and confectionery were sold out as the BVS community showed their support for this amazing charity. Over £1,000 was raised – thank you to all who supported and promoted the activities!



Lasallian Project

One of our Sixth Form students was due to spend five weeks in Africa building a school this summer. To support her, members of the team organised a coffee and quiz morning back on 31st January. The event was well attended and gave pupils the chance to learn more about the charity and the work involved, whilst sharing and spending time with each other. Obviously, due to Covid-19 the visit to Africa has been postponed. We received a lovely letter of thanks from the Lasallian project for the £137.80 which was raised.



Charity Group

Sports Relief

With the arrival of Sports Relief we launched the Inter Tutorial Dodgeball Competition from 9th to 13th March. The “official” sport of BVS saw pupils grouped into teams, tactics were drawn out and costumes selected.

Throughout the week there was fierce competition as pupils cheered, critiqued and appealed almost every decision to be crowned champions. After much excitement and enthusiasm the winners for each year group were:

Year Group	Winners
Year 7	7.3/5 Team A
Year 8	8W
Year 9	9A
Year 10	10.4
Year 11	11.7
Sixth Form	Year 13



Additionally on 13th March our “Old School Sports” races included an egg ‘n’ spoon and three- legged race against the teachers.

All competitions were focused on getting active and doing something different. Congratulations also to Mrs Morris (TA) who won the staff sweepstake.

It’s safe to say there was clearly FUN in the FUNdraising! Amazing effort from the whole school community!

Charity Group

CAFOD Summer of Hope

As part of the CAFOD Summer of Hope Appeal students prepared a 'Message of Hope' video which included recorded reflections, memories and prayers. The video message was then shared with students and staff.



The focus was to spread hope and stay connected with others during the restricted and uncertain time, while harnessing a shared faith, hope, love and friendship across the school community.



In their recorded messages pupils made written and voice recordings, artwork and even shared small actions and quotes to support one another and spread a little positivity and happiness with others.

In these, and so many other ways, our pupils are shining examples of faith in action and they truly live out the Gospel Values.

Virtual Camino

Normally the spring and summer term for the charity team would mean lots of organisation and collaboration in readiness for a plethora of different activities. This year however, restrictions meant that a different approach would be needed. Not to be deterred, the pupils decided to organise a virtual 'Camino'/ pilgrimage event instead.

The event saw pupils, staff and their families cover the distance from Bishop Vaughan to Santiago and the return journey "virtually". Everyone who got involved covered a series of distances and sent their images, screenshots and distance updates through to our countdown tracker. A fundraising page was created and two charities selected – the Michael Cura Foundation and Young Minds. The pupils



wanted to raise awareness as well as fundraise for two causes close to our hearts at Bishop Vaughan. Normally pupils would have completed a mini Camino during their Easter Stay Awake event and a Race for Life in the summer term. The virtual Camino event provided the opportunity to do something worthwhile and make a difference while having a little fun.

The response and level of participation was overwhelming with many getting involved, both from our school community as well as the wider community, with family members participating as far as the USA and Philippines. This event highlights the compassion and strength of our entire school community.

Charity Group



Missio 2020

To support the annual Missio Campaign, members of the charity team prepared and delivered a recorded assembly for all year groups in October. As we continue to adapt to current restrictions, the focus was to raise awareness of the campaign: 'Here I am, Send Me!' The assembly explored the theme given, picking up on the scripture verse from Isaiah and the values of Missio.

Pupils were then asked to complete two tasks; a "Jigsaw of Mission" and a Book of Prayers. The jigsaw squares represented ways in which the pupils had chosen to support Missio and spread God's love this October. All jigsaw pieces would be collected and collated to create a display in school.

Secondly, pupils were invited to write a short prayer, with all intentions added to our book of prayers and kept in the Chapel. The Missio work continues to support and enhance the Parish links we are developing through our activities and events.



Children In Need



Pupils and staff showed their support (and spots) for Pudsey with a non-uniform day to celebrate Children In Need. Across the whole school community, spotty patterns and bright splashes of yellow could be seen. We raised an impressive £628 – diolch to all for your continued support!

Additionally, pupils took part in a special tutorial quiz with winners in each year group winning prizes, as well as kudos amongst their rival tutorials! BVS certainly harnessed its competitive spirit to have a bit of fun, all in the name of Pudsey!

Charity Group



Christmas Hamper Appeal

In light of current restrictions, our annual SVP Hamper Appeal was scaled back this year. Rather than collecting small change, we decided to collect essential food items instead. We linked with local SVP groups, as well as the local Foodbank Appeal. Pupils prepared a recorded assembly, items checklists, posters and donation boxes were placed in each "bubble area" for collections to be made.

In addition, children's selection boxes were donated – a small token from our pupils to those children and families this Christmas. Very many thanks to all for the donations! We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of the BVS community, but we are especially thankful this year. All donations received have gone to support local families this Christmas.

Messages of Kindness

With a focus on spreading love, hope and kindness, as well as saying thank you to those in our communities, we have sent cards and messages of kindness to our parishes, local hospitals, nursing homes, community groups and key workers.

Pupils prepared a note to accompany their cards to show their appreciation for the dedication and example the recipients give to others. Thank you to all those groups of people across our communities. We have found it rewarding and thought-provoking to focus on the small yet significant ways we can share kindness and positivity.

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Quiz

Festivities came to Bishop Vaughan sooner than expected this term with our Christmas Jumper Day moving forward a week, practically overnight, as we adapted to the changes made by the WG and LA and move to online learning for the final week of term.

For those staff and pupils who were able to do so, Christmas jumpers were worn with festive cheer, tinsel was added to hair styles and sparkliness and smiles were fixed on Friday 11th December! A donation was made to Save the Children to support the appeal but standard collections were halted as a gesture of good will and cheer for all.

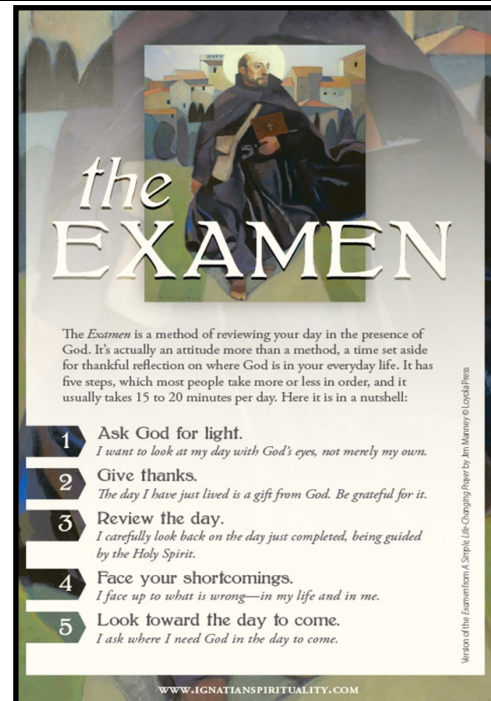


The Examen

Once again during Lent and Advent, we continued with our observance of 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 has taken place in every classroom each Friday afternoon, and pupils (and staff) are invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week.

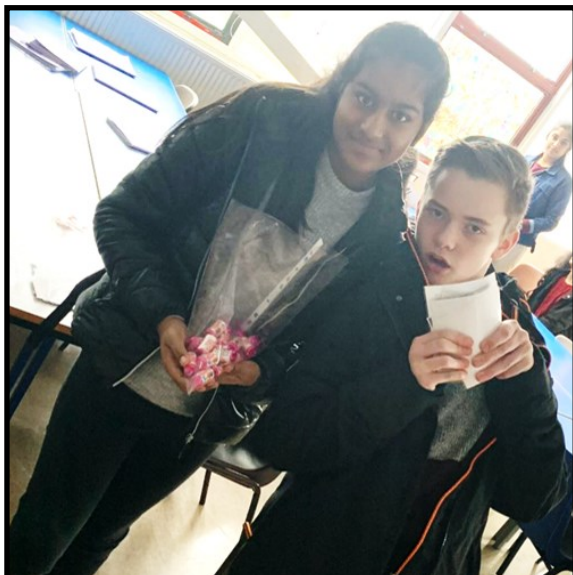
It is an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings. It allows us to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.



Year of the Word

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

Back in February, our pupils were been busy organising a range of events and activities to help others celebrate, live and share God's word. On St Valentine's Day, our Faith Council distributed biblical quotes and sweets to pupils in our school yard. The quotes were based around the theme of God's love, and pupils enjoyed the opportunity to share these with their peers.



Retreats



Once again this year (prior to the pandemic!), our pupils have enjoyed fantastic experiences at St Cassian's Centre in Kintbury. Each retreat lasts from Monday to Thursday, and pupils have the opportunity reflect on their lives through the themes of Awareness, Reconciliation and Good News, surrounded by the beautiful Berkshire countryside.

Our Year 11 pupils attended their retreat in January and our Year 10 pupils attended in March. Both groups have reported that it was both an invaluable and enjoyable opportunity to have a break from their busy lives to look at what really matters to them.



Ash Wednesday



On February 26th, we observed Ash Wednesday which is the first day of the season of Lent – a time of prayer, reflection and charity in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

In our Service of Ashes, led entirely by our Faith Council and Sixth Form Leadership team, we asked for God's help to turn away from sin and make a new start. We recognised that God loves us even with our faults and failings, and we prayed for forgiveness and strength in our lives to come back to a place where we belong – to the heart of God. We then received ashes on our foreheads, expertly applied by Chloe, Caitlyn and Alicia.

Sports News



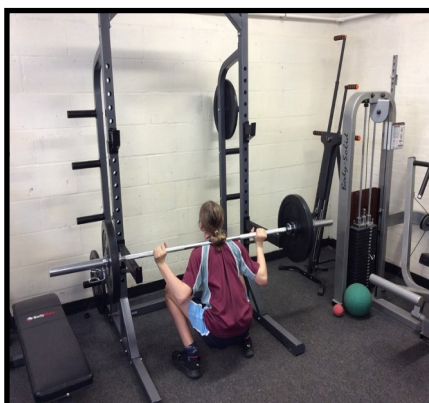
Sports Ambassadors

Our Silver Sports Ambassadors have attended training and have started their roles to promote participation in school sport.

They met back in February and reshaped the extra-curricular programme which has had a big impact on participation. We look forward to these high numbers taking part in clubs when it is safe to do so. Our Sports Ambassadors will continue to promote sports and implement their fantastic ideas when possible. Thanks for all your hard work!

Strength and Conditioning

We have invested in some new strength and conditioning equipment for our multi-gym. This has sparked the interest of pupils across Years 9-13. The gym will be open to pupils when possible, with specific strength and conditioning sessions being run.



Basketball

Our Years 7 and 8 Basketball team won the Swansea and regional tournaments to qualify for the national finals in Aberystwyth.

We look forward to attending this event when it's rescheduled.

Well done to all!



Swansea Sports Awards



Our male athletics team were shortlisted for 'Team of The Year' in the Swansea Sports Awards. Nine of the team attended the event in March with staff from the PE department, where the strength of sport in Swansea was showcased throughout the evening inspiring all in attendance. We narrowly missed out to Gower College Football team, who were actually represented by a former pupil of BVS! Well done to all of the Athletics team for their performance last year!

Tyler Beddows

Tyler attended a masterclass January with Louis Spence, where he was offered an invitation to audition at Addict Dance College, Leicester. Well done Tyler!



Dylan Perkins

Congratulations to Dylan Perkins who has been offered a scholarship with Swansea City Football Club.

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 6th February 2020, 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 did amazingly well this year with 23 of them gaining a certificate and 6 pupils did so well that they have been invited to do an extension paper called The Kangaroo which is an marvellous achievement!

The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan, with Ashwin Sibi in Year 11 achieving the highest mark in the school. Very impressive Ashwin!

Year 11

1 st	Ashwin Sibi	Gold Award	Pink kangaroo
2 nd	Isaac Williams	Gold Award	Pink kangaroo
3 rd	Alan Varosyan	Gold Award	Pink kangaroo
3 rd	Joshua Manantan	Gold Award	Pink kangaroo
5 th	Samuel Harvey	Silver Award	
6 th	Nirmal De Britto	Silver Award	
7 th	Lili Stephenson	Silver Award	
8 th	Leon Maristela	Bronze Award	
9 th	Alexi Jaimon	Bronze Award	
10 th	Hannah Crudge	Bronze Award	
11 th	Luke Taylor	Bronze Award	

Year 10

1 st	Liam Owen	Gold Award	Pink kangaroo
2 nd	Emmanuel Destin	Silver Award	
3 rd	Anet Tomy	Silver Award	
4 th	Jeremy Andrews	Silver Award	
5 th	Dominic Parry	Bronze Award	
6 th	Isabela Angeles	Bronze Award	
7 th	Santino Courtney	Bronze Award	
8 th	David O'Neill	Bronze Award	

Year 9

1 st	Matthew Buendia	Silver Award	Grey Kangaroo
2 nd	Alex John	Silver Award	
3 rd	Jim Cua	Bronze Award	
4 th	Kyle Pesario	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.

We will give details of the next challenge, which will be open to Year 7 and 8 pupils, as soon as they are available. For more information on this competition or for a copy of previous questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

A train carriage has 80 seats. On my journey I noticed that all the seats in my carriage were taken and 7 people were standing. At Banbury, 9 people left the carriage, 28 people entered it and all seats were taken. How many people now had no seat?

A: 0 B: 7 C: 16 D: 26 E: 35

Art

Below are some of the winners from the Art Eisteddfod competition which took place on 6th March 2020.



Year 7



Year 9

Art Club are currently working on a grafitti piece of art work towards the latest exhibition 'The Year of the Word.'



Year 8

Year 12 and 13 pupils have been involved in workshops run by the Mission Gallery.

Art Work at Home During Lockdown

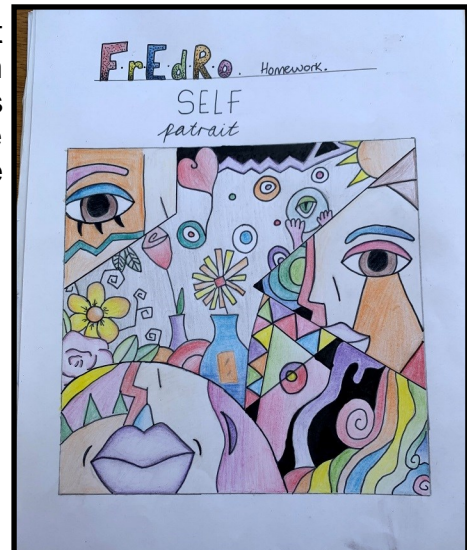
It was so lovely to see all the beautiful artwork sent to the Art Department whilst we were all in lockdown. Here is a small selection which includes work from Year 7 and Year 9 pupils. They were asked to create their own designs based on the style of 'Wassily Kandinsky and Fedro'.



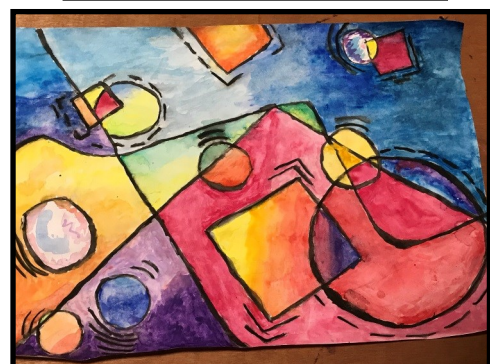
Maya Brooks - Year 7

I'm sure you will agree that Bishop Vaughan has some very talented artists!

Ms Thorburn



Megan Gwyther - Year 9



Alicia Santhosh - Year 7

Art



Over the past three years Bethan Shirley has been working on a painting for the library during Art Club. During lockdown Bethan took the painting home to finish. Bethan's painting is designed to inspire and encourage pupils to read and to be creative. The painting will be displayed on the wall at the foot of the library stairs.

We are sure you will agree that both the concept and the artwork are excellent!
Well done, Bethan!

Eco Schools

Eco-Schools



Fairtrade Fortnight 2020

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event to promote fairly traded products. It ran from Monday 24th February to Sunday 8th March 2020. Our newly formed Eco Committee were very keen to run activities in school to join in with this global event. A tutorial 'Fairtrade Quiz' competition took place throughout the fortnight, and saw 12.2 and 12.3 taking the winner's slot! Da iawn!



On Friday 6th March, a small sub group of our Eco Committee planned and carried out a 'Fairtrade Friday Fun' event in the school library. Various games including 'Snakes and Ladders', 'Name the Chocolate Hen', and 'Guess the Origin' were very well attended by pupils of all ages. Pupils had the opportunity to read information about Fairtrade and take part in the 'Read and Share' initiative creative by the Fairtrade Foundation.



The school staffroom also benefited with a Fairtrade chocolate, tea and coffee delivery! The Eco Committee aims to keep the staff room stocked up with Fairtrade tea and coffee!



Home Learning Eco Challenges During Lockdown

Biodiversity



#EcoSchoolsAtHome

Palm Oil

Acres of Rainforest are cut down everyday to produce palm oil leading to a loss of habitat for many endangered animals.

How many products containing palm oil can you find in your home?

Nursery

Do any of these items have the sustainable palm oil logo? Count the number of logos you can find.

Primary

Research the effects of palm oil and write a persuasive e-mail to one of these companies encouraging them to switch to sustainable palm oil or stop using palm oil altogether.

Secondary/College

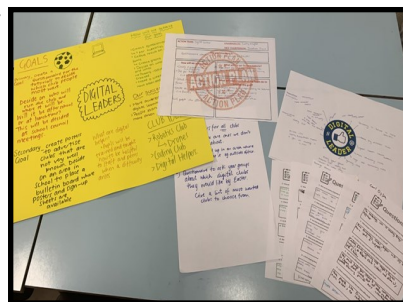
Use the internet to research alternative products containing sustainable (or no) palm oil.

During this unprecedented time, it has been difficult to put into practice some of the ideas that have been offered with such enthusiasm by our new eco-team, particularly during the lockdown, however all was not lost! The whole school had the opportunity to take part in the national 'Eco-Schools' challenges that were trending as #EcoSchoolsAtHome. They were posted online weekly at <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/category/news/> and shared on each year group's Teams pages as part of the weekly school challenges. So far, we have seen 'biodiversity' and 'energy' challenges set for all ages, real fun activities for staff and students to take part in with all the family.

Pupil Voice Forum

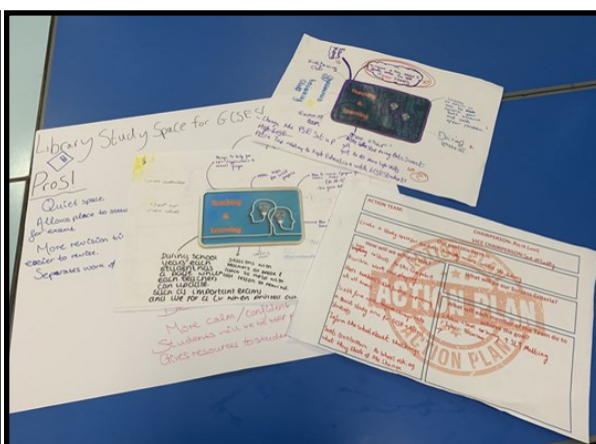
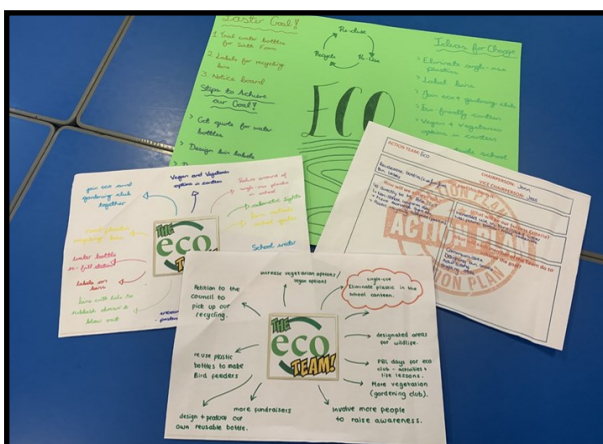


On Monday 9th March, we held our first Pupil Voice Forum at Bishop Vaughan School. With almost 100 pupils involved, this was an excellent opportunity for pupils to have their voices heard on a range of important matters.



With invaluable input from our Sixth Form Leadership Team, including our former Head Boy and Head Girl, each pupil was put into an Action Team, and asked to come up with an important idea to make a positive change in our school.

Each Action Team is now working hard towards their goal. We look forward to their updates in the next Student Council meeting!



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation

Before the lockdown in March, a number of our Year 11 pupils completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and were presented with a badge and certificate each to recognise their achievements. Between them they volunteered in churches and helped coach younger sports teams, played rugby, football and cricket, or completed work-outs in the school gym, for their physical section and developed their cooking, drama, woodwork or music skills. They also all worked hard last year training for, planning and completing their expedition around Gower.

Well done to all the participants and we hope they've all gained useful skills for their future.



Year 12 Home Cooking



The Year 12 home cooking skills class pictured here completed their end of course assessment in February.

They were asked to prepare a two-course nutritious meal. As you can imagine, we had lots of volunteers to sample the food!

Health Care



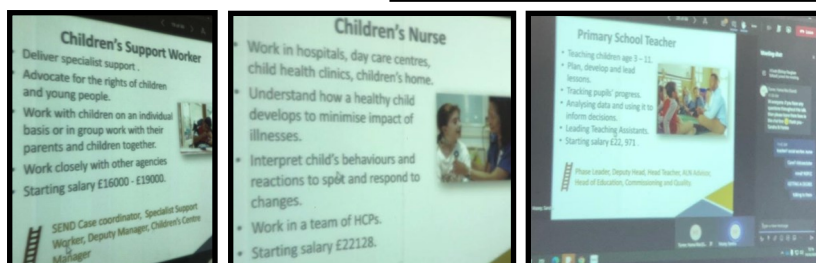
In Health Care this term, Year 13 pupils have been learning about the importance of effective communication skills in a care setting. Our students have been taking part in one to one and group interactions. They had good fun teaching one other 'new' skills such as making tea whilst blindfolded. These skills play an important role at interviews for nursing and other health care professional degrees.

It was so good to see our pupils engaging in these simulated activities with confidence and enthusiasm.

Year 11 Health and Social Care pupils were recently invited to take part in a Webinar with Cardiff Met University. Two of the lecturers delivered a presentation on Health and Social careers and the pathways to achieving these roles. They provided a comprehensive overview of the undergraduate degree courses available to our students following Sixth Form.



Year 11 enjoyed engaging with the Q&A session and listened attentively to opportunities available to them in the future.



Geography Department

A-Level Pwll Du Fieldwork

We managed to get one field trip in before the restrictions came into force! Our Year 12 students braved the elements to collect data on the characteristics of the beach at Pwll Du Bay, Gower. We also experienced Ms Wilshire's guided tour of the Gower peninsular to strengthen our understanding of key local case studies.

We had a lovely day, despite the typical Welsh weather! Year 12 Geographers are excellent ambassadors for our school, and it was a pleasure to spend the day with them.



Be an #ExcellentGeographer 6th April 2020

What could you do this week to improve your geographical knowledge and understanding?

Watch	Read	Listen																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tales from the Coast – Tuesday 8pm, ITV Nature's Nighttime World – Tuesday and Wednesday 1.45pm, BBC 2 Yorkshire Wolds Way – Thursday 7pm, BBC 2 Grand tours of Scotland Lochs – Thursday 7.30pm, BBC 2 Griff's Great Australian Adventure – Thursday 8pm, ITV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear skies due to CV- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-52120114 Dinosaurs walked through Antarctic Rainforests - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52123369 Oceans can be restored by 2050 - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52122447 	<p>For more than a century, the world has revolved around fossil fuels. Wars have been fought over them. The nations that had oil and gas had power. What will happen as countries develop enough renewable energy to end their dependence on fossil fuels? Listen here to find out: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000d6sc</p>																							
Country of the Week	Window Geography	Trivia																							
<p>This week it is Zimbabwe, complete the key facts below!</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Flag</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Population</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Capital</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Birth Rate</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Death Rate</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>GDP</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Famous landmarks</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Flag		Population		Capital		Birth Rate		Death Rate		GDP		Famous landmarks		<p>What Geography exists out of your bedroom window....</p> <p>We want you to take a photo and annotate it (can be on the computer) to show the Geography you can see!</p>	<p>Can you work out these capital cities without their vowels?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Rg</td> <td>Bgt</td> <td>Crdff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bnglkt</td> <td>Tky</td> <td>Mnsk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brln</td> <td>Cnbnr</td> <td>Kbl</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bonus: can you tell me which country they are the capital of?</p>	Rg	Bgt	Crdff	Bnglkt	Tky	Mnsk	Brln	Cnbnr	Kbl
Flag																									
Population																									
Capital																									
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Death Rate																									
GDP																									
Famous landmarks																									
Rg	Bgt	Crdff																							
Bnglkt	Tky	Mnsk																							
Brln	Cnbnr	Kbl																							

Home Learning During Lockdown

The Geography department adapted to 'home-learning' exceptionally well. All year groups were set assignments through our Microsoft Teams pages, however, a greater emphasis was placed on more 'fun' yet geographical tasks.

Although, we found ourselves in a unique and challenging time,

we used this time to find new ways of thinking geographically! Weekly challenges were set to inspire and engage our geographers, geographical podcasts and free online academic courses posted for our present and future A-Level students. We also sent links to the BBC Naturalist, Steve Backshall's weekly live lesson which explores the wonders of the natural world.

All Key Stage 3 pupils took part in the Brecon Beacons National Park Young Ambassadors program that ran during the initial lockdown. Pupils completed an online booklet of activities that encouraged them to make the most of the lockdown sunshine and get outdoors! They were asked to identify species of birds that visited their gardens, create a bird box and design and formulate an 'eco-pledge' for the National Park.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

Answer is D

At Banbury 9 people left the carriage and 28 entered it. Therefore after the stop at Banbury there were $28 - 9$, that is, 19, more people in the train carriage than before. Therefore, as all the seats were taken, the number of people who were standing went up from 7 to $7 + 19$, that is, to 26. Therefore there were now 26 people who had no seat.

Supercurricular Enrichment at BVS

Trip to the Hay Scribblers Festival

A group of students from across Years 7-10 participated in the Hay Scribblers Festival back in February. The Festival took place in the National Waterfront Museum and students were able to meet authors and journalists to discuss their work, as well as take part in a creative writing workshop. The day was ended with a



Welsh poetry slam which was well received by all who attended. The trip was made possible thanks to a grant from the Arts Council of Wales.

Sixth Form Trip to Bristol Zoo

Sixth Form students visited Bristol Zoo in January, arranged by Caitlyn Thomas, Events Prefect. The trip was an opportunity for Sixth Formers to bond and relax, whilst also allowing the Biology students to develop their supercurricular knowledge on debates about animal conservation. All the students had an enjoyable day together.

Launch of the Student Newspaper

The new BVS student newspaper, the Bishop Vaughan Bureau, was launched in February. Following a competitive application process, an editorial and reporting team was selected from across Years 7 to 12. Led by editor Emily Paradise-Ruan, the team writes and produces the entire newspaper themselves, focusing on stories that are relevant to our students. Articles cover in-school events, such as sporting fixtures, Eisteddfod and pupil voice events, news from the wider world as well as reviews and opinion pieces. The first issue was launched in March and was available in both paper format and online at:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/student-newspaper>

The newspaper team continued publishing during the school closure. Keep an eye out on the link above and the school's social media for further editions!

Book 'n' Brew's Culture in Quarantine

The Book 'n' Brew reading club was disappointed that the school closure meant they were unable to discuss their latest read – having initially focused on British and American literature, the group had chosen to expand their reading repertoire to include Japanese fiction. However, they did not let distance interfere with their literary activities! The group participated in #CultureInQuarantine activities. A whole range of theatre and cultural groups made their work available for free during this period – the Book 'n' Brewers top picks are below:

- The National Theatre released a filmed play each week on their YouTube channel (search for National Theatre on YouTube). The NT is one of the most prestigious theatres in the world and their plays are often based on famous works of literature. New plays were released every Thursday at 7pm.
- The Globe Theatre is a recreation of the theatre which originally performed the work of Shakespeare in the Tudor period. The Globe released a filmed Shakespeare play every fortnight on its YouTube channel, starting with Hamlet. The plays are performed in a way that is as close to Shakespearean methods as possible. Other performances included *Romeo and Juliet* which was really helpful with English Literature studies.
- The Royal Shakespeare Company was showing some of its plays on BBC4. Unlike the Globe plays, the RSC uses modern costumes, settings and music to show the relevance of Shakespeare in the 21st century.

History and Politics Department



AS Politics Class Meet The Education Minister

The Year 12 Politics class met the Welsh Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, as part of her visit to school in February. The Minister visited during a lesson on the issue of the EU referendum and Brexit, and discussed some of the key issues with students. Kirsty Williams was highly impressed by the detailed knowledge and understanding of the students and commented that her Government and Politics lessons were the driving force behind her career decisions. It is very possible that some of our students will be following in her footsteps given their commitment to the subject!

Year 13 History Study Group

The cancellation of exams provided Year 13 students with a rare opportunity to indulge in their love of history without the pressure of exams and grades. In particular, students in the 13C A Level History class were keen to continue their historical studies, despite the school closure. Chloe Williams, a student in the class explained: 'We all loved our History lessons as they gave us the chance to consider some really big issues. We studied Nazi Germany and Civil Rights in the USA and we often engaged in debates and discussions over the continued relevance of these topics in the modern world. We didn't want to lose that feeling of learning together, debating and challenging each other.' As such, the class set up an online study group. They enrolled on an online history course run by FutureLearn and have used their class Team to learn alongside each other. They are currently studying the History of Royal Fashion, providing an insight into how fashion and clothing were used as forms of propaganda and power in the Tudor, Stuart and Georgian eras. Their next topic is Protest and Reform in the 19th century. Katie Bolam, another member of the group encourages other students to do the same: 'It's important when stuck at home, especially if home alone, to keep our minds active – so a FutureLearn course, or open university module comes highly recommended from me!'

Supercurricular Enrichment at BVS

Bloodhound Rocket Car Project

Before the lockdown, students in Years 9-12 took part in an Engineering programme run by the Bloodhound Supersonic Car project. The Bloodhound Car project is aiming to break the world land speed record by building a car that can travel at more than 1000 mph. Members of the Engineering Department at Swansea University visited the school and worked with teams of students to design their own rocket-powered mini cars. The students applied their knowledge of physics and engineering to build cars that could carry a rocket pack whilst still meeting aerodynamic principles. Although none quite reached the speed of the Bloodhound Car, the winning team reached an impressive speed of 28mph in the school yard!



Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and access support after school!

**Monday
to
Thursday**



**3.00 pm
to
4.00 pm**

**Free tuition with subject teachers every day
Support with independent learning**

**Access to computers to complete
SAM Learning and Mathswatch**

**Opportunities for collaborative learning
Rewards for attending**

Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones

**Please speak with Mrs Jones or your Head of Year for
details of the location for your 'bubble'!**

School Uniform September 2020-August 2021

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

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

Year 7-11

Blazer	With school logo (navy) - compulsory garment
Jumper:	Fine knit jumper with school logo (navy) - non-compulsory.
Tie:	years 7-11 official school tie.
Socks:	with skirts, standard grey or white
Tights:	should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless. NB socks or tights MUST be worn.
Blouse/Shirt:	Plain white shirt
Skirt:	Grey knee-length skirt
Trousers:	Grey trouser, NOT fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, skinny style etc
Shoes:	black formal school shoes (leather/artificial leather) with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter provided they conform to the above regulations (not with skirts). Trainers are not permitted. Felt/fabric or canvas shoes are not permitted. Heavy boots (military, Ugg etc.) are not permitted. No forms of logo.
Outer Garments:	pupils may wear standard length coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be plain, navy blue/black and single coloured. Pupils may not wear denim, hoodies, leather look jacket, no faux fur, tracksuit tops or cardigans. No logos, writing, patterns or stripes of any description should be present. Hats e.g. Beanies, Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances. Head bands must be plain and dark. There is no necessity for anorak hoods to be worn at school.
Jewellery:	A single sleeper or a single metal stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, glass, nose or tongue piercing. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden. It should be noted that tattoos are not permitted.
Make-up/Hair:	Make-up is not allowed. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a single natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. purples, reds, dip dyes etc are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts or shaved patches (not shorter than grade 2). No braiding with a mixture of hair colours. No artificial plaits or braids. No painted nails or nail extensions.

Games Kit

- Rugby Shirt (boys):** navy with blue/white side panels
- T-Shirt (boys):** navy with blue/white side panels
- T-Shirt (girls):** white polo shirt with blue/white side panels
- Shorts (boys):** navy with blue/white side panels
- Shorts (girls):** navy with white trim
- Footwear:** soccer, rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as applicable

Socks (boys & girls): navy

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.

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:** Trousers: navy blue, black, dark grey, 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.

Parents' Information

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

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

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

Attendance telephone number (local rate): 0844 239 3548

Attendance text number: 07624 816695

Email: bishopvaughanA@hwbmail.net

Alternatively, the school's Attendance Office staff is Mrs E-J Gwyther and she is available via the school's telephone number 01792 772006 Ext 219.

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

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

Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 219.

Pupil Information

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

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



Attendance



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

95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least 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 ask Parents/Carers that absences from school during term time should be kept to a minimum so that pupils are not missing vital lessons and examinations.

All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases by the Headteacher.

Please download a **Request for Absence form** from our website; alternatively forms are available for collection from Student Services.

If you have any queries please feel free to our Attendance Manager Mrs E-J Gwyther on extension 219 or via email Gwythere3@hwbcymru.net who will assist you further.



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

We hope you find the following table helpful for academic year 2018/2019; the table breaks down days lost into weeks against percentage attendance.

Bus Passes



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



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

Getting to School

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

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 3.00pm every afternoon.

Police Officers will be patrolling regularly outside the school to take positive action regarding any vehicles which are parked in contravention of road traffic legislation.



Parking During Parents' Evenings

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

Please park with due care and consideration at all times.

Mobile Telephones

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



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

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

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



School Website

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

Lost Property

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

None of the articles are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any item, please tell them to come and check with Mrs 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 8.40 am.**



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
Morriston, Swansea
SA6 7QG**

Phone: 01792 772006

Fax: 01792 790565

**E-mail: bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net
www.bishopvaughan.co.uk**