



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter Easter 2024
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Pasg 2024



Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter!

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Bishop Vaughan newsletter! And Spring is certainly truly upon us here at Bishop Vaughan, with the daffodils blooming around the school grounds, the Rosary Garden springing back to life and the longer hours of daylight being uplifting for all of us. The sense of renewal and positivity that Spring offers has certainly been reflected each day in the life of the school this term, with our pupils embracing each new opportunity made available to them and making progress in all areas of their lives.

This term, the school has had the simply excellent news that the proposal for a brand-new school building has been approved by the Local Authority, this announcement being the culmination of extensive work on the part of the LA, the Diocese and Welsh Government. All of us in the school community are tremendously excited by the prospect of the opportunities, facilities and resources that the new building will offer and we know that we will all be counting down the days until the opening of the new building. We look forward to sharing more detailed information with you shortly.

As our parent and carer community are aware, one of the cornerstones of our educational philosophy at Bishop Vaughan is the integration of the Catholic Pupil Profile into every aspect of school life (you can read more about this on page 10). This supports us in nurturing the holistic development of our students by instilling values such as compassion, generosity, gratefulness and faith, binding those values with an all-encompassing sense of integrity and of service to others. Throughout this term, we have witnessed countless examples of our students embodying these values, both within the classroom and beyond it. From acts of kindness to displays of empathy, such as were seen in our pupils' engagement in the Holocaust Memorial Day, each gesture serves as a testament to the profound impact of our shared ethos.

As referenced in the last newsletter, our Pupil Voice Group developed the Pupil Entitlement Charter (see pages 16-17) and it has been great to see the ways that our pupils have engaged in the activities offered in connection with the Charter commitments – from the learning of new skills to the trips, masterclasses and clubs in which our pupils engage. Once more, we invite your suggestions for additions to the Charter (see page 17).

Following two years of highly successful Festivals of Literature in the final week of the summer term, and our three years of Festivals of Peace, which draw together so much of our work as a school and which are so very well-received by pupils (and indeed all in the school community), we are working towards, within the next year, having four festivals threaded throughout the school year. The first new addition will be the Festival of Family early in the Summer term. Family is at the very heart of our school. The Holy Family of Nazareth provides us with the very strongest example of light, hope, strength, courage, trust and faith. This festival will celebrate the themes connected with the family, our school as a family and the ways in which family life can be supported by the school. As with our Festival of Peace, all departments throughout the school will be involved in exploring the key themes in ways relevant to the subject area. We look forward to sharing news on this new event in our next newsletter.



Headteacher's Message

The Festival of Health will be introduced in Spring 2025, to build on the extensive work that is carried out in relation to promoting healthy choices and lifestyles. The four festivals are being shaped to align, broadly, with the four core purposes that underpin the Curriculum for Wales, this aiming to create learners who are:

- Ambitious and capable, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising and creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society



The existing Festival of Literature will be broadened this year to become a Festival of Culture, and we look forward to offering some new activities and events as a result of this, for example bringing in musicians and workshop activities in addition to the now-established offering of author visits, writing workshops and the ever-popular Waterstones 'pop-up bookshop'!

On a literary note, we continue our efforts throughout the whole of the academic year (not just within the festival weeks!) to promote reading as a fundamental pillar of academic achievement. Through initiatives such as our reading challenges, book clubs, workshops and author visits, we aim to ignite the imaginations of our students and cultivate a lifelong passion for literature. It has been gratifying to see the enthusiasm with which our students have embraced these opportunities, eagerly immersing themselves in the diverse worlds that books have to offer.

On the sporting front, we are thrilled to celebrate the successes of our talented athletes. From victories on the basketball courts to outstanding performances on the track, our pupils have demonstrated dedication, resilience and real sportsmanship. Whether competing at the local, regional or national level, they consistently showcase the values of teamwork, determination and fair play that are the hallmark of our school community.

Our Lenten preparations for Easter have, as always, provided opportunities for reflection. Our individual acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving have collectively permeated the whole school community. It has been heartening to witness the atmosphere in the Lenten assemblies, with their poignant and moving focus on the Stations of the Cross, and our pupils have made thoughtful and meaningful contributions to our Lenten prayer wall. Very many took up the opportunity to access the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered by our school Chaplain, Father John.

This month, we have seen the terms of office for no fewer than five of our exceptional school Governors draw to a close. We are grateful beyond measure for their selfless service to the school, with all of the sacrifices of their time that that has involved and with the school benefiting so greatly from their expertise and experience. We offer, therefore, our heartfelt thanks to Mr Jason Williams, Mrs Helen Fage and Mrs Christine Steward as parent Governors, and Mr Phil McCarthy and Captain Keith Dias as Foundation Governors. Each has truly modelled servant leadership and we hope they will continue to be a part of the school in the years to come.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter which follows, and on behalf of all here at Bishop Vaughan, I wish you a blessed remainder of Lent and a joyous Easter –



Mrs. Pole
Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-2024

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

Bank Holidays

Friday 29th March - Good Friday
Monday 1st April - Easter Monday
Monday 6th May - May Day
Monday 27th May - Spring Bank Holiday

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Friday 22nd March; school closes at 3.00pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 8th April 2024. This will be week two of the timetable
Friday 12th July is an INSET day.



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.

Easter Services

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the central focus of the Church's year. The liturgical rites for each of the days are an essential support to understanding the Christian message. A list of the Parishes and their contact details are below.

We wish you a happy and Holy Easter.



Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Tel: 01792 892722
www.parishofgorseinson.org

**Cathedral Church of St. Joseph
 (Canon Benedict Koledoye)**

Tel: 01792 652683
www.meneviacathedral.org

Holy Cross (Father Cyril Thadathyl)

Tel: 01792 586454
www.holycrossmenevia.com

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)

Tel: 01792 655336
www.facebook.com/swanseatownhill

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

Tel: 01792 367283
www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk

Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones)

Tel: 01792 771053
www.sacredheartmorriston.org.uk

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Canon Pelosi)

Tel: 01792 842244
www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk

St. Benedict's Clydach (Canon Pelosi)

Tel: 01792 842244

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito Reyes)

Tel: 01792 202447
www.stbenedictsketty.org

St Bride's Pontarddulais (Father J P Thomas)

Tel: 01792 892722

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

Tel: 01792 653343
www.stdavids.wix.com/website

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 01792 424107

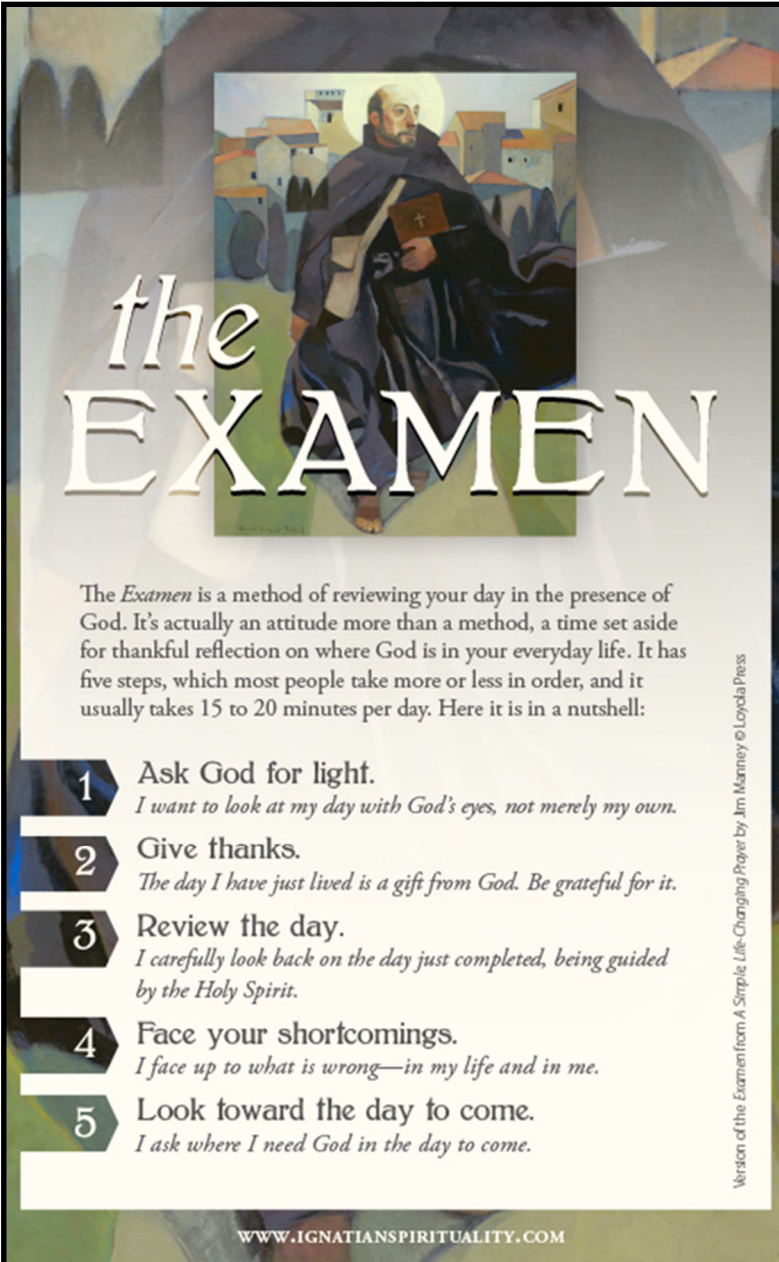
St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Tel: 01792 201046
www.gowercatholic.com

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 01792 424107

The Examen



the
EXAMEN

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

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

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

WWW.IGNATIANSPIRITUALITY.COM

For a number of years, we have observed a form of prayer called the Examen during Advent and Lent. 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 throughout Advent, and pupils (and staff) were invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week. It is an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings.

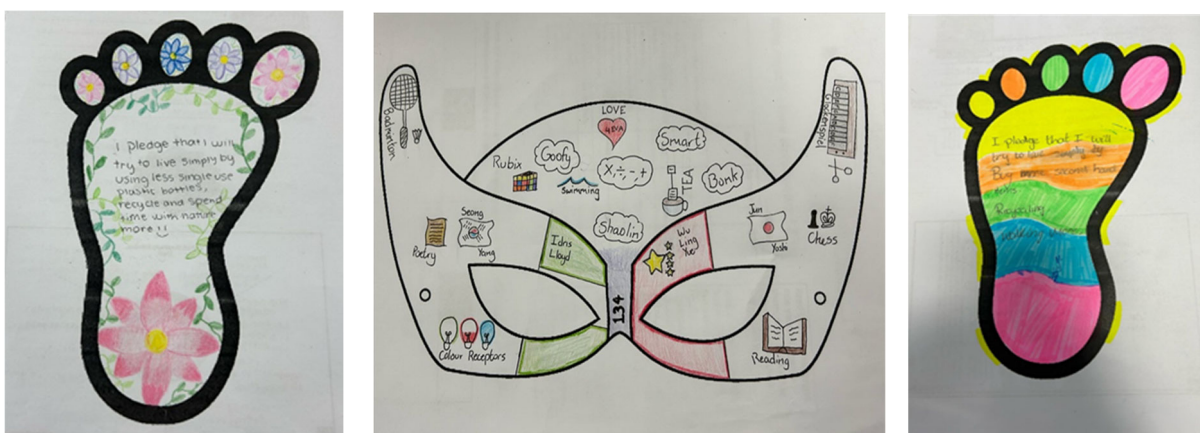
We are continuing this practice throughout this season of Lent, in order to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.

Religious Studies Department News

This term, pupils in Years 7-9 have been exploring the life and example of St David, our patron saint. They have been encouraged to think about how to 'Do the little things / gwneud y pethau bychain' and to write prayers for our beautiful country of Wales. Well done to all for their efforts!

ACE Days

Pupils in Year 8 took part in their ACE Day this term. They focused on using their own unique gifts and talents to look after others and the world around them. They focused on Laudato Si and the important message from Pope Francis to look after 'our common home'. Year 8 pupils enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and we are proud of their excellent efforts!



Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is marked each year on 27th January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Each year, schools, communities, and faith groups across the UK join in national and local events to commemorate the victims of the Nazis and their collaborators, and to consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust.

This year, our Year 9 pupils gathered in the Main Hall to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor. Through a webcast facilitated by the Holocaust Educational Trust, we heard from Hedi Argent MBE about her life as a Jewish child in Austria during the Second World War.



It was an incredibly moving and special event and some of our pupils have written to Medi Argent to tell her about the impact of her words. Our thanks go to the Holocaust Educational Trust for offering us this amazing opportunity.

Religious Studies Department News

On Friday 26th January, some of our pupils were invited to take part in the Swansea Holocaust Memorial Day event at the Swansea.com stadium. Joining with schools from across the city, our pupils read a poem and a prayer, and our choir sang 'When You Believe' from 'The Prince of Egypt'. It was wonderful to hear from primary and secondary pupils, and we really enjoyed the experience.



Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau: Two of our Sixth Form pupils have been given the opportunity to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz programme. This involves online learning and webinars, along with a one day trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. This invaluable experience took place in February, and our pupils, Nia Bibi and Mereesa Jinu, were proud to represent Bishop Vaughan on the trip where they learned more about the experiences of the Jewish people during World War II.



Following a 'Next Steps' project, where our pupils will share what they have learned with our school and wider community, Nia and Mereesa will become Holocaust Education Ambassadors. They will share more about their experiences in the next edition of our Parent's Newsletter.



**SWANSEA
UNIVERSITY**



Bigger Picture Festival

On Tuesday 5th March, 30 of our Year 7 pupils joined with schools across Swansea to take part in the 'Bigger Picture' festival at Swansea University. This was a celebration of the various faiths and cultures that exist in the Swansea community, and we were delighted to attend as representatives of Bishop Vaughan School.

In an environment that encourages equality, diversity and inclusivity, the Bigger Picture Festival promotes freedom and opportunity to pupils to share, explore, question and understand the varied faiths and cultures that are represented in the community and beyond. An enjoyable day was had by all!

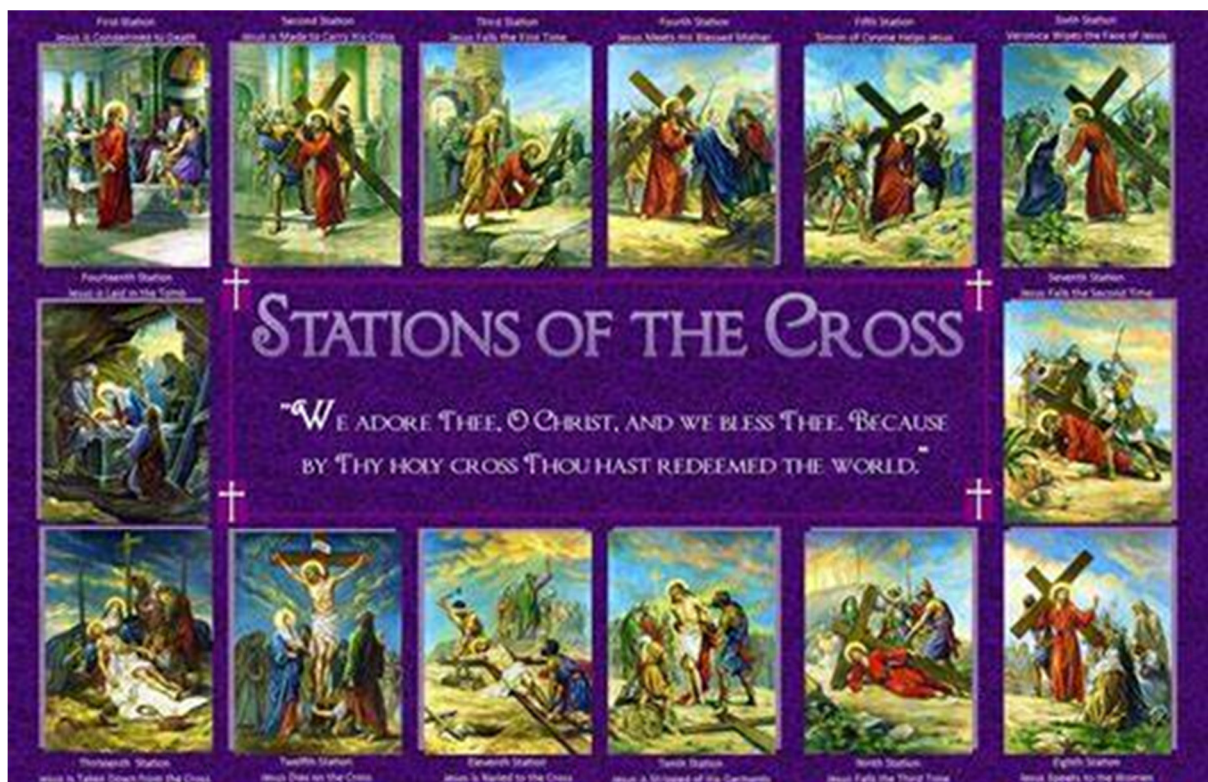
Religious Studies Department News

Lent Services

Well done and a huge thank you to the pupils in the Faith Council for putting together such beautiful Lenten Services, with the support of Mrs. Thomas. Thank you also to Mr. Eynon-Davies and the Music Department for the items that they contributed to these.



The Lenten Services are an integral part of our preparations for the great celebration of Easter, and with a focus on the Stations of the Cross, the beautiful prayers, reflections and music were appreciated by pupils in every year group and staff throughout the school.



The Catholic Pupil Profile

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

While we promote all of the virtues throughout school life, each half term we focus on one pair of virtues in order to really explore what these virtues are and how we can cultivate them in our everyday behaviour. During this term, we have looked closely at being Faith-filled and Hopeful, and Compassionate and Loving.

At Bishop Vaughan, we encourage pupils to look at role models of faith. This term, we have looked at the example of St David, including his life of faith and his message that we should concentrate on "doing the little things in God's presence with conscientiousness and devotion."

We ask pupils to stop and notice how others are experiencing their lives and how they may be feeling. Ultimately, it is what makes us kind and, at a deeper level, opens up the possibility of being loving through our just and merciful actions and forgiving words. Pupils have studied the idea of forgiveness this term, with a focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which they have been offered in the final week of the term.

English Department News

What a whirlwind term for the budding literati at Bishop Vaughan Catholic School! We were thrilled to welcome author AJ Clack to share her insights and inspiration with our Year 9 learners on a career in writing and the media. The visit undoubtedly sparked new ideas and a love for storytelling.

The creative energy continued with the Hay Scribblers event, where Year 8 students showcased their talents ahead of Hay Festival. It's fantastic to see their written works come to life! And the festivities culminated with the Eisteddfod poetry competition, where our students impressed us with their lyrical prowess.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a round of applause for all who participated! This term has been a testament to the flourishing literary scene at our school.



Clubs and Activities

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

For those of you accessing this newsletter electronically, it is hyperlinked [here!](#)

explore life faith meaning

Wednesday lunchtimes in G3 with Mrs Thomas

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Wellbeing

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2024 took place on 6th February. We are delighted to share the highlights of the celebrations and learning experiences centred around the theme, 'Inspiring Change? Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online.'



On the day, we organised workshops for students in Years 7-11, delving into crucial topics:

- Young People's Perspective on New and Emerging Technology
- Using the Internet to Make Change for the Better
- The Changes Young People Want to See Online
- The Factors Influencing and Shaping Young People's Thoughts, Emotions, and Actions Online and Offline
- Understanding the importance of equipping our learners with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly, we invite you to read our latest guidance for parents on supporting young people online <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/semFNtFCPyaFrpCo?ref=Link>.

Explore Our New Wellbeing Hub for Parents!

Exciting news – our school website now features a special section just for parents: the [Wellbeing Hub!](#) Tailored to your needs, it's a one-stop-shop for guidance on supporting your child's wellbeing.

What's Inside:

- **Helpful Links and Guides:** Find practical tips on topics like online safety and mental health to empower you in guiding your child.
- **Support Agencies:** Discover trusted agencies ready to assist with any questions you may have about parenting, mental health, or online safety.
- **Stay Updated:** The hub is dynamic, regularly updated with the latest insights and solutions for parenting challenges.

Follow Us on Twitter: For bite-sized tips, event updates, and useful links, follow [@bvs_wellbeing](#) on Twitter.

Take a moment to explore the [Wellbeing Hub](#), and let's work together to support the overall wellbeing of our students. Visit today for a wealth of resources in one convenient place!

Wellbeing

Staffing News

It is with mixed emotions that we share news about a transition within our Safeguarding and Wellbeing team. After Easter, our esteemed Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager, Mrs. Thomas, will be stepping down. While this brings a sense of sadness, we are also excited to announce that Mrs. Smale, our current Deputy Wellbeing Manager, will be stepping into the role.

Mrs. Thomas has been an invaluable part of the Bishop Vaughan family for the past decade, contributing significantly to the support and growth of our learners. Her dedication and hard work have left an indelible mark, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering commitment.

As we bid farewell to Mrs. Thomas, we look ahead to a seamless transition with Mrs. Smale taking the reins as our new Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager. Mrs. Smale's experience as Deputy Wellbeing Manager has equipped her well for this role, and we are confident that she will continue to uphold the high standards set by Mrs. Thomas.

In the spirit of continuity, we are actively seeking a new Deputy Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager. The recruitment process is underway, and we aim to fill this role promptly to ensure a smooth and efficient operation of our support systems.

We take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks to Mrs. Thomas and wish her the very best in her future endeavours. Her impact on Bishop Vaughan has been profound, and her legacy will undoubtedly endure.

As we embrace these changes, rest assured that our commitment to the safeguarding and wellbeing of our students remains unwavering. We look forward to continued collaboration and support from our dedicated staff, parents, and the entire Bishop Vaughan community.



Health and Wellbeing Day

Year 11 Healthcare classes have taken the lead in running an interactive Health and Wellbeing event for our Year 7 classes. Pupils designed their own campaigns and activities to promote a range of topics from healthy eating to avoiding risky behaviours. The resources they planned contributed to their Health and Social Care GCSE non-examined assessment and as you can see both year groups thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Design and Technology Department News

Two classes of our Year 10 Engineering students participated in the Discovering Engineering Day at Swansea University on 6th March. This event provided them with a hands-on experience that immersed them in the world of engineering.

Throughout the day, our students were involved in multiple engaging activities carefully created to expand their understanding of engineering principles. From the Solar Lab, where they explored the power of renewable energy in power cell development, to the Lego Racers challenge that tested their problem-solving skills, each activity was designed to captivate their minds and foster a deeper appreciation for the world of engineering.

One of the highlights of the day was undoubtedly the Egg Drop Challenge, where students were tasked with designing a contraption to protect an egg from a high fall. This not only encouraged creativity but also instilled the importance of practical application and innovation in engineering.

Moreover, activities such as Superstructures and Powering the Future allowed our students to delve into the complexities of building design and energy solutions, offering them valuable insights into the real-world applications of engineering principles.

Overall, the Discovering Engineering Day proved to be an invaluable experience for our students, enriching their academic journey and inspiring a newfound passion for the field of engineering. We believe that events like these play a crucial role in shaping the future of our budding engineers.



Entitlement Charter

As explained in our last newsletter, our Entitlement Charter is a set of commitments that Bishop Vaughan makes to its learners, setting out experiences and opportunities we commit to offering the pupils in our care during their time with us in the school. The Pupil Voice group collaborated on putting these commitments together, and staff throughout the school contributed similarly. Parents and carers have also been invited to contribute ideas.

In order to shape the Charter, 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:

- 1) Participate in Acts of Worship, including Mass, regularly at school
- 2) Learn a new language
- 3) Visit a local beach and a local castle
- 4) Learn to play a musical instrument
- 5) Attend a music concert and hear music performed live
- 6) Take part in a school production
- 7) Sing as part of a choir
- 8) Create artwork in a variety of mediums
- 9) 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
- 10) Be involved in charitable events
- 11) Keep fit and healthy by accessing extra -curricular sports and the school gym, as well as through participating in PE lessons
- 12) Take part in a residential trip or sports tour
- 13) Attend a workshop or masterclass in an area of interest
- 14) Try healthy foods and develop healthy lifestyles
- 15) 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
- 16) Access a very wide range of clubs and societies to develop their skills and interests
- 17) Celebrate the end of their time at BVS together

Parent and carers remain welcome to make three further suggestions that will take our charter to twenty commitments. The commitments are intended to be, as stated, ones that will enhance our pupils' spiritual, cultural and academic development. You are welcome to email your choices to the email address shown here:

bishopvaughanh@hwbcymru.net

Entitlement Charter

Pupils have been learning, through our assemblies, about why we make these commitments, over and above the curriculum and in addition to the extra-curricular clubs and activities available to them. We have looked at the school's mission statement, taken from John 10:10:

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

We have looked at what it means to have 'life to the full' and linked it with living lives in which we exhibit the character traits set out in the Catholic Pupil Profile, as described on page 10 of this newsletter. Pupils have learned the word 'eudaimonia', and heard about what it is to live a eudaimonic life: a life of fulfilment, one that is well-lived, due to the development of character. We have focused on our reason for foregrounding character development—this being because we want our pupils to flourish spiritually, academically, morally and culturally. The idea of 'living our best lives' often focuses on material comforts, however we aim to nurture pupils who are 'living their best lives' - 'lives to the full' - because they are ethical, confident, ambitious, compassionate and faith-filled. We hope that the Charter commitments support them in this journey and have been delighted to see them enjoying the opportunities within it that they have accessed this term, such as the castles visit and the author events!

Legion of Mary

Our committed Junior Legion of Mary continues to meet weekly after school in the Chapel. The group are always full of excellent ideas and they are currently planning their second annual Easter Fair, which takes place in the Sacred Heart Parish.

The pupils are creating handcrafted items for the stalls (these were also popular at their stall for the Christmas Fair!), and they will be offering a cake stall, a tombola, a raffle, a craft stall, a chocolate fountain and a toy stall. This will all be offered after the Easter Vigil Mass at the Sacred Heart and after Mass at 9.30am on Easter Sunday. All are welcome!

As always, we commend the pupils on the energy, imagination and dedication they demonstrate as members of this group, and we give thanks to Canon Jason, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Mrs Anne Lear for their continued support of the Junior Legion and our pupils.

Everyone is welcome to join the group which meets from 3.15-4.15pm every Tuesday in the school Chapel.



Geography Department News

The Geography Department have been busy organising various trips for the spring and summer term. Year 12 Geographers will shortly be going out to gather data for the fieldwork questions on their AS exam and we are planning numerous Humanities trips for Years 8-10. We have trips going to Cardiff Castle, the National Botanic Gardens and Cardiff Bay.

Pupils who attend our Going Places lunchtime club have become more aware of where our food comes from and the positive and negative impacts of transporting food from different countries. We have focused on the growth of cocoa and the production of chocolate. We tasted chocolate with different cocoa percentages to see what our favourite was. The group was quite divided! This made us think of our carbon footprint and our personal impact on the planet.

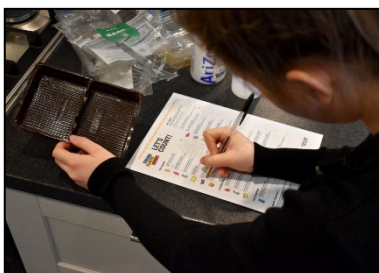
Eco Club News



The Eco Club are preparing for spring! We have started to think about the fruit and vegetables we are going to grow this year and pupils have been voting for the seeds they would like to order. We can't wait to start sowing seeds, producing our own food and spending time learning outside again this year.



We have also put bird feeders out around the school grounds to try to attract more birds. We are hoping to participate in The Keep Britain Tidy Big School Clean and The Big Plastic Count.



History Department News

Trip to Poland, February 2025

At the start of the year, the History department launched its trip to Poland for February 2025 and we have already filled all the places available! Pupils in Key Stages 4 and 5 will be visiting sites associated with the Second World War, such as the Warsaw Ghetto and Schindler's Factory, culminating with a poignant visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum. Pupils study WW2 and the Holocaust in depth at GCSE and A Level, so it is hoped this visit will provide context and depth to their studies, as well as being a vital opportunity to learn about one of the most important and tragic events in history.

Indigenous Soldiers Remembrance Event

In November, the department commemorated Remembrance Day by participating in a memorial event with schools across the UK and in Canada. The event was organised by Big Ideas and taught our pupils about the role of Indigenous Canadians in the First World War. This was a topic that pupils were totally unfamiliar with and they were fascinated to learn of this hidden history. Pupils took part in a First Nations remembrance ceremony as part of the event, which was a unique and moving opportunity for all.

Parliament Visit

Pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 visited the Houses of Parliament in January. Pupils toured both the Commons and the Lords and took part in a workshop to learn more about the parliamentary process of passing laws. The day was a valuable opportunity to learn about the democratic history and system of the UK and provided important knowledge and context for the pupils' studies of History, Politics and other humanities subjects.



Eisteddfod – Celebrating Welsh History

As part of the school's Eisteddfod celebrations, the History department asked pupils to create 'Museums of Welsh Heroes'. Pupils were asked to research Welsh individuals who had made a significant contribution to history and create a museum exhibit or gallery showcasing their findings. The results were superb, with pupils investigating a range of important Welshmen and women, ranging from medieval figures such as Gwenllian and Owain Glyndwr to modern individuals, including Aneurin Bevan and Roald Dahl. Many pupils took the opportunity to research lesser-known (but equally important) individuals, such as Cyril Cupid and Iris de Freitas.

Supercurricular and MAT News

Supercurricular News

It has been another busy term for supercurricular activities and support at BVS!

Key Stage 3 Supercurricular Events

At KS3, pupils have been taking part in a range of national competitions, including the Seren Debate Competition, which took place in the Guildhall earlier this term, and a Classics competition in association with Oxford University. These pupils received masterclasses from Oxford University staff on Athena and will travel to New College in June to learn more about it and present their competition entries! KS3 pupils also attended the Hay Scribblers Festival in Swansea University. This event is organised by Hay Festival and celebrates creative writing. Pupils took part in writing workshops and heard from published authors about their creative process.



Supercurricular and MAT News

Key Stage 4 and 5 Supercurricular Events

The school has worked closely with Seren, the Welsh Government's scheme for more able and talented pupils, to provide university visits this term for KS4 and KS5. A group of Year 12 pupils stayed at Churchill College, Cambridge and learned about life at the university. The pupils enjoyed touring the university colleges and had the chance to explore Oxford itself. Year 10 pupils had the chance to visit Exeter University and were able to explore the campus and learn more about paths into competitive universities.

Staff from the Psychology department at UWTSD have visited the school over the last term to deliver masterclasses and workshops covering topics such as brain function, stress management and mental health. These have been popular talks and provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their knowledge and experience of independent learning.



Fundraising News

Ardeche Adventure Trip

Pupils attending the Ardeche Adventure trip in June have been fundraising towards the cost of the trip. As part of their efforts, they organised a karaoke party for Years 7, 8 and 9 just before half term. Pupils faced off against one another in karaoke sing-offs, managed by our brilliant MC, Gabriella! The pupils set up arranged the entire event, from promotional activities and selling tickets, to managing the party and selling refreshments.

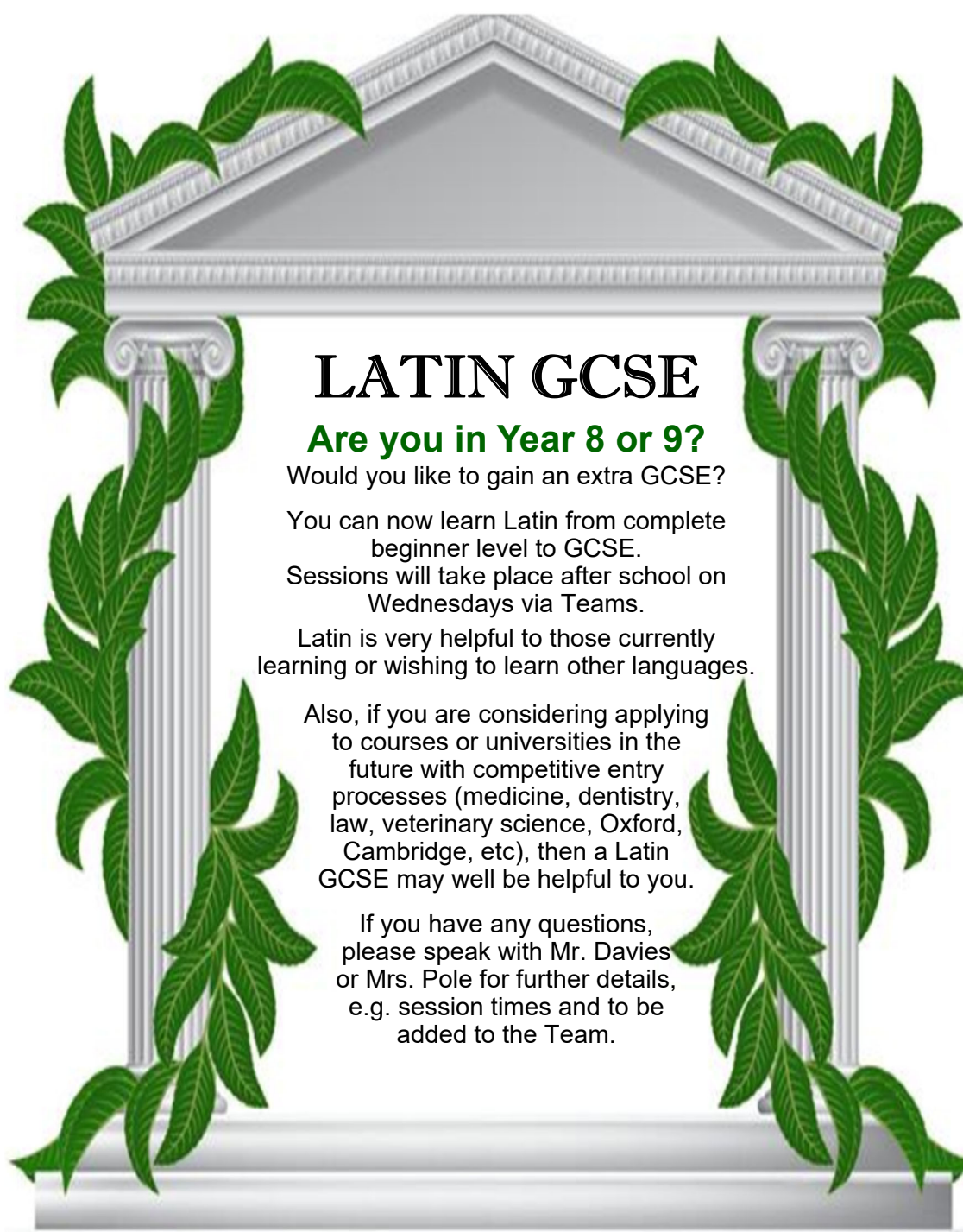
The event was so successful that the fundraising group is organising a second event for upper school pupils!



Classics Department News

Congratulations to Brooke, Mary and Riya on achieving such outstanding results in the Latin Level 1 examination in January! Equivalent to half of a GCSE course, these pupils have achieved A* and A grades in this course, which is taken over and above their existing studies and on a reduced time allocation! Their achievements are therefore very impressive! They are now progressing to Level 2 (GCSE) and we wish them every success!

Students from throughout the schools across Swansea have now joined BVS pupils online, with a new group starting the Latin course - see below for details. New pupils are welcomed!



LATIN GCSE

Are you in Year 8 or 9?

Would you like to gain an extra GCSE?

You can now learn Latin from complete beginner level to GCSE.

Sessions will take place after school on Wednesdays via Teams.

Latin is very helpful to those currently learning or wishing to learn other languages.

Also, if you are considering applying to courses or universities in the future with competitive entry processes (medicine, dentistry, law, veterinary science, Oxford, Cambridge, etc), then a Latin GCSE may well be helpful to you.

If you have any questions, please speak with Mr. Davies or Mrs. Pole for further details, e.g. session times and to be added to the Team.

Para Sports Festival Launch

7E were invited to the Para Sports Festival Launch Day on 14th March, in Swansea University's sports complex, to celebrate the Para Sports Festival coming back to Swansea in the summer. All the pupils had a great day, where they could take part in a wide variety of sports, including dance, wheelchair rugby, Boccia, golf and many more options. They are full of enthusiasm to take part in another event in the future!



Football Academy

The school continues to work in partnership with the Swans as the official educational partner for its Football Academy.

The Academy pupils study at Bishop Vaughan for two days a week whilst training at the Swansea.com Stadium for the other three days. We look forward to seeing what they achieve both educationally and in their footballing careers!



Sporting Excellence

The Years 7 & 8 girls' basketball team won the Swansea schools competition and finished second in the regional championship.



Year 11 girls won the regional championship. They now progress to nationals in June.



The Years 11-13 boys' basketball team came 2nd in the Swansea schools competition.



Our Years 7-10 badminton teams participated in the Swansea schools meet. The boys teams finished second, narrowly losing to Bishopston.



Sporting Excellence

Our Year s7 & 8 boys' basketball team won the Jr NBA south conference. They now progress to nationals in June.



Four pupils qualified at the Swansea Schools' cross country meet. They then represented Afan Nedd Tawe at the national event in Bangor.



Our Year s7-10 girls participated in the Swansea Schools' cricket competition. All of the girls thoroughly enjoyed this activity.



Maths Department News

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Results

On the 31st January, 50 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils achieved some excellent results this year with 17 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan. Special mention to Leo Merchant in Year 11 who achieved the highest mark in the school, Steve Mathew in Year 10 for coming a close second place and Hyness Ogiku for gaining a silver award in her first year doing the intermediate challenge. Very impressive results!

Year 11

1 st	Leo Merchant	Gold Award
2 nd	Alicia Santhosh	Silver Award
3 rd	Augustine Saji	Silver Award
4 th	Sanal Suresh	Silver Award
5 th	Yasmin Aguilar	Bronze Award
6 th	Alvin John	Bronze Award
7 th	Mary Dychitan	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Nicole Colarina	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Joan Joby	Bronze Award

Year 10

1 st	Steve Mathew	Gold Award
2 nd	Ben Angeles	Silver Award
3 rd	Eldhose Saji	Bronze award
4 th	Esther Joji	Bronze award
5 th	Eryn Thomas	Bronze award
6 th	Reymiele Osorio	Bronze award

Year 9

1 st	Hyness Ogiku	Silver Award
2 nd	Joshua Lock	Bronze Award



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

The next challenge is on 25th April and this is open to Year 7 and 8 students. For more information on this competition or for a copy of the questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

Lenten Programme of Activities

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

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!

Lenten Programme of Activities:



Throughout Lent:

- Lenten Reflection: Journal & #GIVEIT UP Photobooth (MISSIO)

Week three:

- Lenten Fast: Lenten Lunch for 6th Form & Staff (CAFOD)

Week four:

- Lenten Action: Whole School Community Focus





**“Through the desert,
God leads us to freedom.”**

Pope Francis

#LivingLent



Lenten Reflections: MISSIO

Activities to support reflection & focus on ways we can grow in faith and understanding, including:



- Reflection videos
- #GIVEITUP photobooth



Lenten Action: Community Focus

- 12th to 21st March: Easter Raffle
- 22nd March: Non uniform Day & Tutorial Quiz

#LivingLent


ALL STAFF & 6TH FORM PUPILS
ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A


LENTEN LUNCH


All donations to support
CAFOD

Friday 15th March at 1.20

#LivingLent







Transition News

It has been wonderful to welcome pupils from our cluster primaries for transition days this term. The energy with which they have engaged in the Performing Arts workshops with Mr Eynon-Davies, our Head of Music, bodes very well for the forthcoming production of 'Oliver' for which they will join the cast members here at Bishop Vaughan! Rehearsals have started in their schools, with Mr Eynon-Davies visiting the schools to lead these, and we are really looking forward to bringing all of our schools together for this performance! Follow the school on social media for links to ticket sales in the summer term!

Pupils are also enjoying the new Cluster Languages Club a great deal and we are most impressed at how well they are picking up new skills! Très bien, muy bien and molto bene!



Transition Newsletter

**Bishop Vaughan Primary Cluster
Transition Bulletin**

Information for Parents and Carers September 2023

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

Welcome to the Bishop Vaughan community!

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Headteacher

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

Transition Team

That's right! We have a whole team of staff here at BVS dedicated to ensuring that your child enjoys the process of preparing for the move to 'comp'! The key staff within this team are:

- Mr. McHugh**
Assistant Headteacher and Transition Lead
- Mrs. Dorell**
Transition Co-ordinator
- Miss Smith**
Assistant Headteacher and Admissions Needs

Key Dates for Families:

- Thursday September 28th**
Year 6 Open Evening
Come along to meet the transition team, your teachers, other pupils and take a tour of the school.
- Thursday 30th November**
Christmas Fair
All primary pupils and their families are warmly welcomed to an evening of stalls, Christmas music, festive treats and fun in the Main Hall here at BVS!
- Thursday 7th December**
Parish Carol Service
A reflective, truly lovely service in the parish church in which our school is ably assisted. This incorporates Benediction and Carols.
- Monday 18th December**
Annual Carol Service
Join us in St. Joseph's Cathedral for a traditional carol service. This is a long-established event and an integral part of Advent for families, whether they are currently connected with the school or whether they are former pupils or staff. Many primary school pupils will be performing in the Carol Service this year alongside Bishop Vaughan students.
- Thursday 21st March**
Sixties Concert
An evening of entertainment provided by pupils throughout the year groups and in a range of genres—classical, musical theatre, jazz, rock, etc.
- Friday 22nd March**
Family Celtic Evening
A traditional celtsid band will lead an evening of dancing and fun! Refreshments available. A great way to meet other BVS families!
- Thursday 4th July**
Year 6 Welcome Mass
The culmination of the summer transition days, this Mass will be the first one in which the new Year 7 group for September will have Mass together, celebrated by our School Chaplain.
- Week Commencing 16th July**
Annual School Musical: 'Oliver'
Whether your child is performing following the Project Production sessions offered in the primaries or whether you would just like to attend for an evening of great entertainment, the annual musicals are always of a high-quality and 'Oliver' promises to be no exception!

Activities for Your Child:

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

- The Annual Festival of Peace
- preparing for the Annual Carol Service (our Head of Music will visit schools regularly performing in this)
- a Humankinds link project
- the Christmas Fair—primary schools are offered skills to support their own fundraising, and all pupils and families are warmly invited to this evening of festive fun!
- Carol Services: there are two, as mentioned in the previous column, and your family and friends are welcome to attend either or both.

In addition, planned activities include:

- 5th and 6th October 2023**
Year 6 Transition Days
Your child will have the opportunity to attend BVS on one of these dates, according to which primary school they are currently in.
- Week Commencing 23rd October**
Music Fundraising Week
Bishop Vaughan's Charity and Faith Ambassadors offer to visit each school to support with this important work that unites our schools.
- 23rd and 24th November**
Year 5 Transition Days
Year 5 children will have the opportunity to attend BVS on one of these dates, according to which primary school they are currently in.
- Spring and Early Summer Term Overview:**
Optional collaboration projects for primaries in these terms include:
 - Arts and Crafts
 - Design and Technology
 - Day retreats led by BVS Faith Ambassadors
 - English
 - Science
 - May Celebration of Our Lady
 - Transition days for Year 5 pupils

The May bulletin will provide further updates.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events!

Our Transition Bulletin is provided to parents and carers of pupils in Years 5 and 6 of our cluster primary schools. It can also be accessed here:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/transition>

About Bishop Vaughan

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School opened in September 1968 and has provided a faith-based education for many thousands of students since that time.

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

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

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

Last year's leavers are now pursuing exciting career paths or apprenticeships, or are studying in universities throughout the UK, including two in places as other highly selective universities.

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

attentive, loving, hopeful, curious, faith-filled, tenacious, wise, generous, eloquent, discerning, intentional, purposeful, grateful, compassionate, truthful, active.

There is far more to say about BVS than can be distilled into this newsletter or indeed any other. We hope that some of the resources of information listed below begin to give you a flavour of school life and all of the family art and science projects you will be able to see here this takes shape.

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

- Editions of our family newsletters: bishopvaughan.co.uk/newsletters
- The school website: bishopvaughan.co.uk
- The Headteacher's monthly blog: bishopvaughan.co.uk/blogs/headteacher-a-blog
- Our social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

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Young Sociologist of the Year



This year's Young Sociologist of the Year competition run by the BSA - the British Sociological Association, an international competition—asked the question, 'To what extent, and in what ways, is patriarchy alive and kicking'.

Students competing in this were required to complete research into the topic and to submit their entries.

We are delighted that our wonderful Year 12 pupil, Kirsty Davies has won first place! She has won an iPad mini and £500 for the school's Sociology department. We congratulate her on her excellent achievement!



Parent and Carer Workshops

The Spring workshops for parents and carers were a great success! These are held to support families of pupils in Years 10-13 in preparing for examinations. Sessions were offered on revision skills, metacognition and supporting a healthy approach to revision.

In addition, as the school has now offered for several years, pupils and their families were able to pick up free revision packs containing lots of helpful revision resources, from bespoke revision guides to paper, pens, revision cards, highlighters, prayer cards and some treats to enjoy whilst revising. We consider it a privilege to support pupils and their families throughout the years in which they are with us, and it is always rewarding to work together in ways such as this to promote our pupils' achievement and wellbeing.

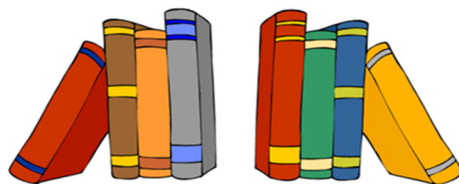


Wellbeing

Metacognition

Revision

Support



BVS Reading

Spring

Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying. We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by [year group](#) and [genre](#) on our website.

Happy reading!
The BVS Book Group

Family Activity Recommendation

During the May-June half-term break each year, the tiny town of Hay-on-Wye in Powys holds a literature festival. This is now world-renowned, with authors and celebrities visiting from all over the globe to speak about their work.

The town is worth visiting at any time of the year, as it has more than twenty bookshops as well as other popular shops and activities. During the festival, however, it really comes alive!

Bishop Vaughan runs an annual visit to the festival and pupils typically participate in workshops and listen to talks. Speakers have included those whose work we read in school, such as Michael Morpugo, Malala Yousefzai, Carol Ann Duffy and Margaret Atwood.

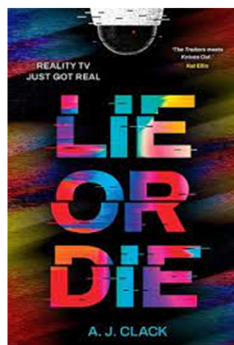
Hay-on-Wye is about one hour and fifteen minutes from Swansea (from the school's postcode) and is well worth a visit. You can read more about the town and about this year's festival programme here:

<https://www.hayfestival.com/wales/home>



HAY FESTIVAL
HAY-ON-WYE

Author Visits!



It was fantastic to welcome author AJ Clack to BVS this term! Her book can be found [here!](#)



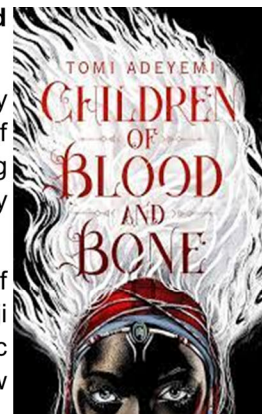
Book Group Recommendations

'Children of Blood and Bone' by Tomi Adeyemi

Embark on an epic journey through the mythical land of Orisha in this spellbinding fantasy novel inspired by West African mythology.

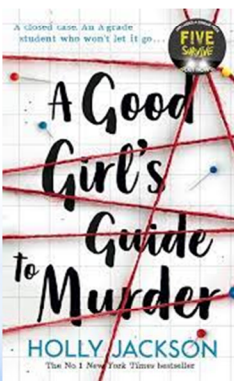
Follow the adventures of Zélie Adebola, a young maji determined to restore magic to her people and overthrow a tyrannical regime.

Full of action, adventure, and rich world-building, 'Children of Blood and Bone' is sure to captivate readers of all ages.



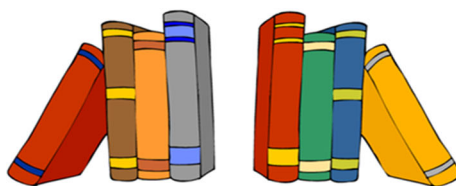
'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson

Join amateur sleuth Pip Fitz-Amobi as she investigates a cold case in her small English town in this gripping mystery novel. Combining elements of thriller, suspense and whodunit, 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' is a page-turner that will keep you guessing until the very end.



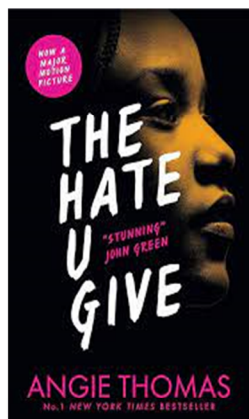
g Newsletter

2024



Book Group Recommendations

'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas



Dive into this powerful and timely novel that follows the life of Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old girl who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend by a police officer.

With its poignant exploration of race, identity, and activism, 'The Hate U Give' is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of our world.

'Good Omens' by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

Prepare for a laugh-out-loud adventure with this collaboration between two literary giants.

Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman



GOOD OMENS

'Wickedly funny'
Time Out

Follow the unlikely duo of an angel and a demon as they join forces to prevent the apocalypse and save the world from destruction.

With its witty humour and memorable characters, 'Good Omens' is a true masterpiece of modern fantasy.

A Poem for Spring

With its themes of renewal and hope, '[God's Grandeur](#)' by Gerard Manley Hopkins is the perfect poem for Spring, and particularly for the Easter season.

Staff Favourites:

Dr. Page (Science):

'The View from the Mirror' (series); Ian Irvine

Mrs. Jones (Business Manager):

'Dracula'; Bram Stoker

Mrs. Cole (History):

'The Great Gatsby'; F. Scott Fitzgerald

This Pupil Recommends ...

Amidat in Year 8, an avid reader, recommends the following:

'Malory Towers' (series) by Enid Blyton

'The Diary of a Wimpy Kid' (series) by Jeff Kinney

'Dork Diaries' (series) by Rachel Renée Russell.

Harrison in Year 11 is enjoying the horror genre and recommends:

'Natural Beauty' by Ling Ling Huang

'Needful Things' by Stephen King

He has also enjoyed:

'Anxious People' by Fredrik Backman

Wise Words:

"I can feel infinitely alive curled up on the sofa reading a book."

Benedict Cumberbatch

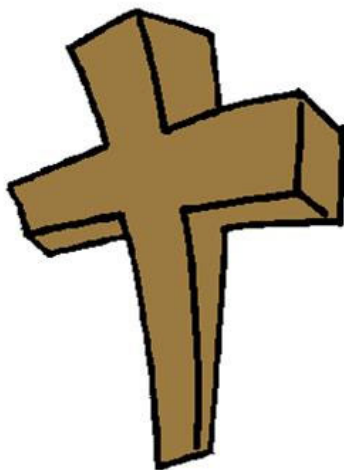


Easter Trivia

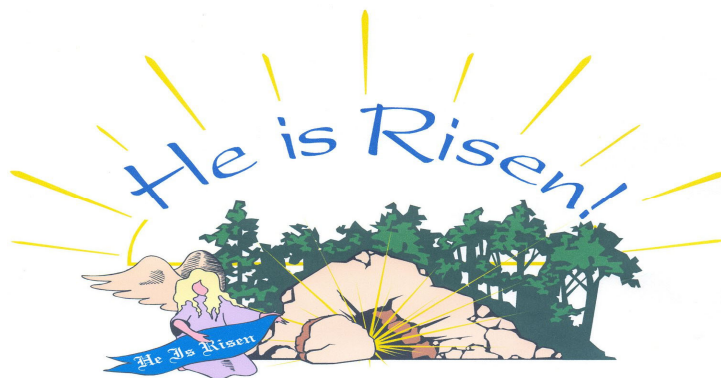
Easter Word Search

B M A L M H B B K I N G R N R
 N O I T C E R R U S E R E O O
 A P O S T L E S E Y S C D I O
 S E C I F I R C A S H J E T S
 N S N A M O R O O R R E M A T
 R C D S G T T R I I K S P V E
 O Y R A M B C S S V Z U T L R
 H L O V E L T E M M A S I A Y
 T C R O W N N Y L O H S O S Z
 X C R U C I F I X I O N N K Q

APOSTLES
 CHRIST
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 HOLY
 JESUS
 KING
 LAMB
 LOVE



MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 ROMANS
 ROOSTER
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SAVIOR
 THORNS



Exam Information

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

Some important points:-

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

Exam Information

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

Certificates

- Certificates gained during Summer 2024 examinations are available for collection at the school from December 2024.
- It is important that you collect your certificates as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months.
- The examination boards charge £50 for a replacement certificate.

Procedure to collect Certificates

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

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

Examinations Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the Summer 2024 examination series.

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

Class Charts



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

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

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



iPhone QR code:



Android QR code:



Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and access support after school!

**Monday
to
Thursday**



**3.00pm
to
4.00pm**

Free tuition with subject teachers each day.

Support with independent learning.

**Access to computers to complete
Mathswatch.**

Opportunities for collaborative learning.


Rewards for attending.

Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones

Location: The Library

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

‘First Educators’ Parent Newsletter




The screenshot shows the Bishop Vaughan Catholic School website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with categories: SCHOOL LIFE, ACADEMIC, ATTENDANCE, PASTORAL CARE, and EXTRA-CURRICULAR. Below the menu, the text reads: "We are delighted to be recognised as one of the Top 10 schools in Wales in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2017". The main heading is "FIRST EDUCATORS". Below this, there is a paragraph: "The Catholic faith and Catholic social teaching place parents as being of central importance in the education of children. Their role is respected and supported by Catholic schools." Another paragraph follows: "Parents are described, in Catholic social teaching as 'the first educators' of their children. We know that many of our parents and carers are keen to support their children in their learning and may find it helpful to access reminders for some of the most commonly used skills." A final paragraph states: "We are pleased to be able to offer a range of resources here for parents and carers to access whenever needed, these resources are short, video explanations offered by our teachers and are intended to aid parents and carers in supporting their children when completing homework or consolidating their learning." At the bottom of the screenshot, there are three buttons: "ADDITIONAL", "FAMILY PRAYER", and "LITERACY".

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

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

Headteacher’s Blog




The image shows a desk with a laptop, a smartphone, and several books, suggesting a workspace or study area.

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

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

ClassCharts



The ClassCharts logo features five colorful stick figures (blue, orange, green, purple, and red) arranged in a circle, with the text "ClassCharts" below them.

The ClassCharts app, details of which are provided earlier in this newsletter, allows daily home-school communication to be maintained. You can download this using the QR coded provided on page 35.

School Website and Social Media

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

School Uniform

September 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 arbitration of what constitutes school uniform lies with the Headteacher and Governors of the school. Please do not rely on information obtained from elsewhere.

Years 7-11

- Blazer:** With school logo (navy) - compulsory garment
- Jumper:** Fine knit jumper with school logo (navy) - non-compulsory
- Tie:** Years 7-11 official school tie
- Socks:** With trousers: dark coloured, or white
With skirts, standard grey or white
- Tights:** Should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless.
NB socks or tights **MUST** be worn.
- Blouse/Shirt:** Plain white
- Skirt:** Grey knee-length skirt
- Trousers:** Grey trouser, **NOT** fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, skinny style etc.
- Shoes:** Black formal school shoes (leather/artificial leather) with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter provided they conform to the above regulations (not with skirts). Trainers are not permitted. Felt/fabric or canvas shoes are not permitted. Heavy boots (military, Ugg etc.) are not permitted. No forms of logo.
- Outerwear:** Pupils may wear standard length coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be plain, navy blue/black and single coloured. Pupils may not wear denim, hoodies, leather look jacket, no faux fur, tracksuit tops or cardigans.

No logos, writing, patterns or stripes of any description should be present. Hats e.g. beanies, baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances. Head bands must be plain and dark. There is no necessity for anorak hoods to be worn at school.

School Uniform

Games Kit

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) <i>NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with Sixth Form logo may be worn.</i>
Skirt:	Navy blue, knee length
Trousers:	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.

Attendance



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

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

Absence requests from school during term time

We have been closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. We have written to parents/carers to advise if your child's absence was below 90% in academic year 2022/2023 and that we may require medical evidence for absences this year.

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

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

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

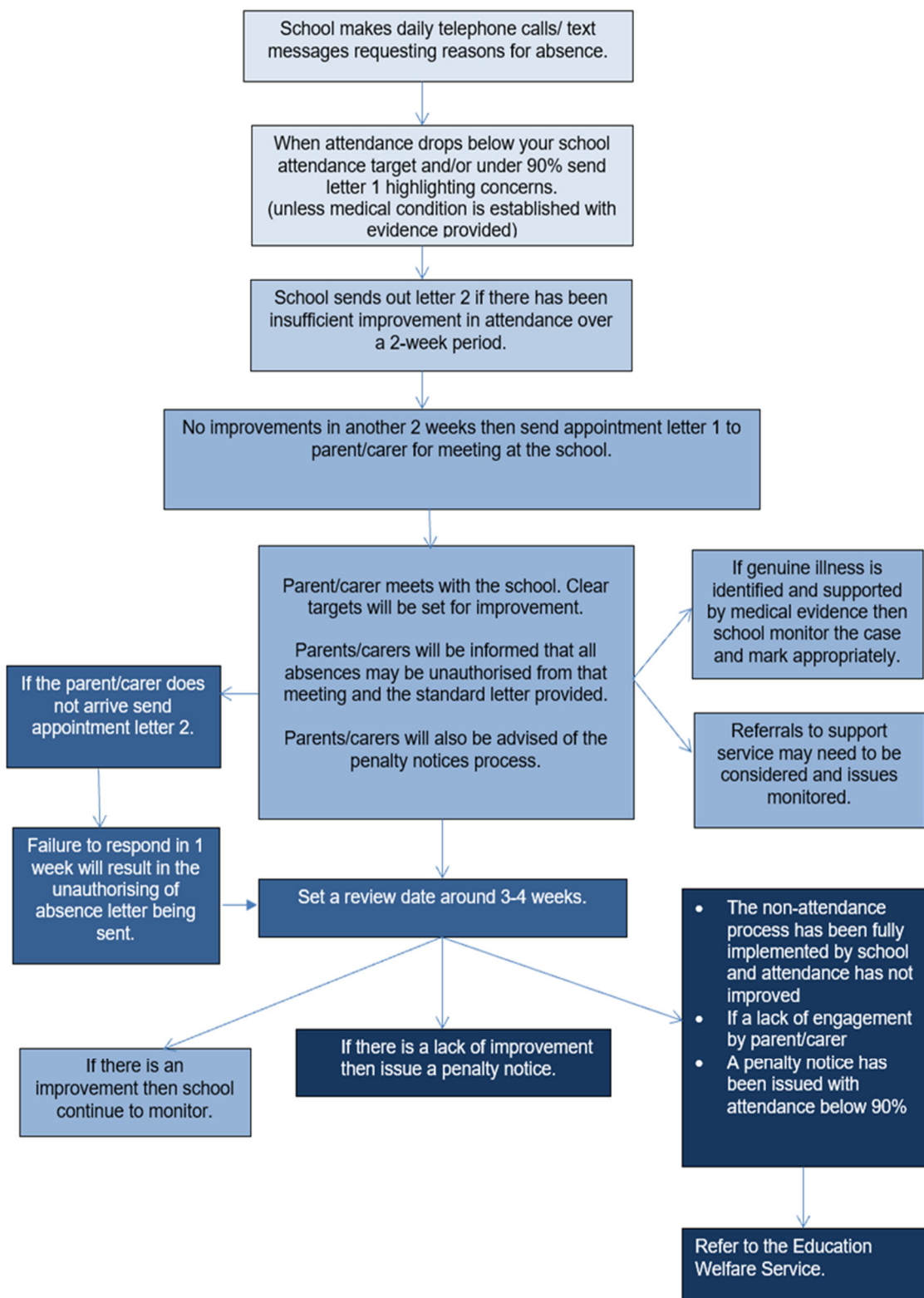
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website:

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

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

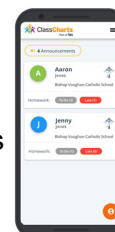


Parents' Information

It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their children receive a full time education – THIS IS THE LAW. Parents must ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time.

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

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



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

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

If you want any help and advice about your child's attendance, please contact our Family Engagement Team:

Mrs E-J Gwyther Family Engagement Manager on 01792 772006 extension 2239
Mrs K North Family Engagement Officer 01792 772006 extension 2219

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



Both parents and pupils should 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.

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.



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