



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School**  
**Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan**  
**Parents' Newsletter December 2025**



## Headteacher's Message



It's always a joy, in introducing these newsletters, to reflect on the many moments that have shaped the past term. This one began with welcoming our newest pupils – who have settled into the school wonderfully – and has concluded with a tremendously joyful celebration at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral: our Annual Carol Service, at which welcomed countless current and former pupils and staff, as well as the pupils of our cluster primary schools, who joined with our school choir for a service presided over by His Grace, Archbishop Mark O'Toole.

This beautiful service has concluded a wonderful term, in which we've celebrated faith, culture, service and achievement in countless ways within our community. It's truly been a term rich in the experiences that express who we are as a school and what we value most.



Our Year 7 pupils, along with all new members of the Bishop Vaughan family, made an exceptional start. Their confidence, kindness and eagerness to embrace new opportunities have been supported by the outstanding example set by pupils across every year group. Early in September, our established induction days and enrichment fair provided pupils with important information about their new year groups and the wide range of clubs and activities available at lunchtimes and after school. With these opportunities continuing to grow, pupils are encouraged to keep an eye on notices around their year bases to ensure they don't miss out on the latest additions!



September also brought one of the most treasured traditions in our calendar: our Annual Festival of Peace. Now in its fifth year, this event celebrates unity and peace for our community.

This year's theme – Pilgrims of Hope, aligned with the Jubilee Year—was explored creatively by every department. The Science Department's towering lighthouse, complete with a rotating light, stood at the centre of the exhibition as a reminder that Christ is our guiding light. Surrounding it, fairy lights, RE Department light boxes, cultural stalls and extensive artistic contributions from across the curriculum combined to create a space filled with creativity and meaning.



Across the week we welcomed an array of distinguished guests, including civic leaders, diocesan representatives, clergy, governors, headteachers, and pupils from cluster schools. Guided tours by our prefects, followed by refreshments and performances from the choir, showcased our pupils' confidence, as well as their sense of hospitality and pride.

The feedback we received was humbling—our visitors remarked on the warmth, unity, eloquence and hope that they felt throughout their time with us. Many spoke of the “atmosphere of joy,” “the celebration of diversity,” and the pupils' ability to “shine” in every interaction. It was a privilege to share this experience with so many, and we are delighted that the festival continues to set the tone for the year ahead.

## Headteacher's Message

Our commitment to nurturing leadership and confidence was also evident during our Year 6 Open Evening. Many pupils—from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form—gave generously of their time to welcome families, run activities and guide visitors around the school. We received numerous compliments about the pupils' kindness, eloquence and enthusiasm, particularly wonderful to hear given our ongoing focus on developing oracy. The newly appointed prefect team, selected after a competitive process, played an important role, with Jasmine and Joseph, our Head Prefects, delivering thoughtful and heartfelt speeches.

Meanwhile, life outside the classroom has been equally vibrant! Our Year 7 boys' football team celebrated their first Welsh Cup win, and many pupils enjoyed a memorable residential weekend at Llangrannog. These opportunities for teamwork continue to help shape confident young people.



As we moved into October, the theme of hope remained central to our reflections. Our Welcome Masses, celebrated so beautifully by our School Chaplain, Father John Browne, offered meaningful moments for each year group to re-centre themselves at the beginning of the year. Throughout the month, pupils led the praying of the Rosary in our Chapel and Rosary Garden — quiet, beautiful moments of faith in action that enriched our shared spiritual life.

October also ushered in the annual celebration of Shw'mae Day – a special celebration of Welsh language and culture. Pupils and staff alike embraced the chance to use Welsh enthusiastically. Later in the month, our Upper School Awards Evening welcomed former pupils now beginning their university journeys, allowing us to celebrate both past and present achievements. We were honoured to be joined by our keynote speaker, Diana Stroia, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, whose warm and sincere words on compassion, kindness and service deeply really struck our pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

November was an especially busy month, filled with acts of charity, creativity, celebration and remembrance, as you'll see within the pages that follow. We were thrilled to be approached by BBC Radio to contribute to a pre-recorded Advent service celebrating both the season of preparation and the work of Dylan Thomas. Our pupils' readings, reflections and choral performance were therefore shared on a national platform earlier this month, in a service for the Second Sunday of Advent, this being a testament to their talent and maturity. The month of remembrance was also marked with daily prayers for the Holy Souls and moments of stillness on 11th November. At the end of November, pupils participated in a Jubilee Year Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark O'Toole. Our Liturgy and Faith Ambassadors represented the school beautifully, reading during the Mass and leading creative reflections with pupils from our cluster schools, these concluding the Year of Jubilee, which is again described further in the pages that follow!

The term has also seen transition and enrichment activities in abundance, with our pupil ambassadors supporting younger visitors with genuine warmth, while our Sixth Form Information Evening welcomed many prospective students, including large numbers from outside our school. Visitors were full of praise for the articulate, respectful and passionate pupils who represented their subjects so well.



## Headteacher's Message

Behind the scenes, significant progress continues on our new school building—an exciting development that promises state-of-the-art learning spaces, excellent sports facilities and beautiful areas for worship and creativity. We look forward to sharing more details as this transformative project unfolds. This will be a net zero carbon school, and our pupils are already well-versed in re-using and recycling, as was evident in the 'Swish' vintage clothes event and the 'First Friday Bookstalls', both of these being run by pupils and supported by donations from families. The latter promotes reading for pleasure while sustainably recycling books within our community.



The festive season began early with our annual Christmas Fair, where pupils led stalls, sold handmade crafts and welcomed families into a joyful and bustling celebration.

Following this, on the 8th December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, our community had the first of its three carol services, with the Lord Mayor's Carol Service and the Cathedral Carol Service following it. All are described within this newsletter, and were in addition to the Advent Services within school. We are incredibly grateful to our Faith Council pupils, who put together many of these activities, as well as regularly leading the Rosary at break and lunchtimes, and to the pupils in our choir, who give so generously of their time and their talents.



We were honoured to learn, at the start of December, that we have once more been ranked in the top ten schools in Wales by the Sunday Times in its annual 'Parent Power Guide'.

This is a testament to our pupils' hard work in attaining excellent results, and we're utterly proud of them for this ... but more so again – far more so, in fact – for the exceptional young people that they are, exemplifying our school's values through their faith and service, their kindness and their humility.

It's always a privilege to support our pupils in achieving their ambitions, and as we always say in our assemblies, in becoming the 'best versions of themselves, living 'life to the full' in line with our mission statement, derived from John 10:10. They continue to inspire us daily, and we wish them, their families, all in our community and you, as readers of this newsletter, a beautiful and peaceful Christmas and the blessings of joy, good health and happiness in the New Year –

**Mrs. E. Pole**  
Headteacher

## Sixtieth Jubilee!

We are delighted to share the news that Bishop Vaughan officially embarks on its 60th jubilee year in 2026—a milestone that offers us a special opportunity to celebrate six decades of exceptional achievements by our pupils, of spiritual, cultural and academic growth, of memorable experiences and of friendships formed within our school community.

Since opening its doors in September 1966, our school has grown into a vibrant and diverse community rooted in Catholic values and committed to helping every young person who walks through our gates to flourish.



This anniversary year allows us to reflect on our rich history as a school while looking forward with pride and purpose—especially as the opening of a brand new building for our school beckons ever closer!

Throughout the coming months, pupils and families can look forward to a series of events designed to honour the school's legacy and strengthen the bonds that unite us. The highlight of these celebrations will be our **Jubilee Gala Concert**, scheduled to take place at the end of the year. This very special event will showcase the extraordinary talents of our current pupils alongside a remarkable group of former students who have gone on to successful careers as performers across a wide range of musical genres.

We are thrilled that so many Bishop Vaughan alumni—now singers, instrumentalists, composers and professional performers—will be returning to Swansea to share their gifts with our school community once again. Their participation is a testament both to their own dedication, and to the enduring influence of the musical and creative opportunities they first encountered here at Bishop Vaughan. The concert promises to be a joyful, inspiring celebration of everything that makes our school unique. Further details, including ticket information and ways to get involved, will be shared later this term.

We look forward to celebrating this landmark year together and giving thanks for the wonderful community that has shaped Bishop Vaughan Catholic School for the past sixty years—and which continues to shape it today. As we often say to pupil and staff leavers, there is a clear sense of 'family' in Bishop Vaughan, and of remaining closely-connected to the school even once our leavers have departed for pastures new! The year ahead will certainly provide opportunities for a 'family reunion' and we look forward to welcoming all in our extensive community to these!



# School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

		<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</b>			
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends	
Autumn 2025	Monday 1st September	Monday 27th October	Friday 31st October	Friday 19th December	
Spring 2026	Monday 5th January	Monday 16th February	Friday 20th February	Friday 27th March	
Summer 2026	Monday 13th April	Monday 25th May	Friday 29th May	Monday 20th July	



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

*Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda*

**INSET DAYS FOR 2026**  
 Friday 23rd February 2026  
 Monday 16th March 2025  
 Monday 20th July 2025

**Dates for your Diary**

The last day of term for pupils is Friday 19th December; school closes at 3.00pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 5th January 2026. This will be week two of the timetable.



**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.

## Christmas Services

A list of the parishes and their contact details are below. Times of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the different parishes vary.

The liturgical rites for each of the days are an essential support to understanding the Christian message. We urge everyone to attend their parish church this Christmas time.



**Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)**

Tel: 01792 892722

[www.parishofgorseinon.org](http://www.parishofgorseinon.org)

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

Tel: 01792 652683

[www.meneviacathedral.org](http://www.meneviacathedral.org)

**Holy Cross (Father Cyril Thadathil)**

Tel: 01792 586454

[www.holycrossmenevia.com](http://www.holycrossmenevia.com)

**Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)**

Tel: 01792 655336

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

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

Tel: 01792 367283

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

**Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones)**

Tel: 01792 771053

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

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

Tel: 01792 842244

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

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

Tel: 01792 842244

**St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito Reyes)**

Tel: 01792 202447

[www.stbenedictsketty.org](http://www.stbenedictsketty.org)

**St Bride's Pontarddulais (Father J P Thomas)**

Tel: 01792 892722

**St. David's (Canon Paul Watson and Father Greg Beckett)**

Tel: 01792 653343

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

**St. Illtyd's (Canon Paul Watson and Father Greg Beckett)**

Tel: 01792 424107

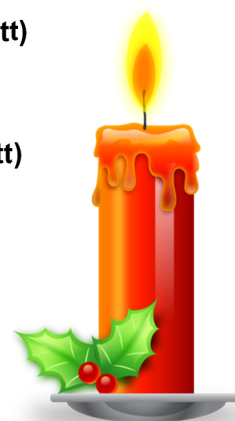
**St Joachim's (Father John Browne)**

Tel: 01792 201046

[www.gowercatholic.com](http://www.gowercatholic.com)

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

Tel: 01792 424107



## Sunday Times 'Top Ten Schools in Wales'



PARENT POWER

### School league tables 2026: the best UK secondary schools revealed

Congratulations to our exceptional pupils!

For the third year in a row, now, the start of December has brought all in our school community the lovely news that we have once more been placed in the 'Top Ten State Schools in Wales' list by the Sunday Times' Parent Power guide to the best schools in the UK!



**Top secondary maintained schools in Wales according to**  
**The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2026**

- 7. Bishop Vaughan RC School, Swansea

Bishop Vaughan has been placed seventh in Wales—this being a real testament to the hard work of our pupils who consistently gain qualifications that exceed predictions, which show exceptional progress from their starting points and which compare very favourably with pupils' results throughout the city and indeed the country!

As we stated this time last year, however, our pupils are never 'a set of grades' to us, or important because of any contribution to school statistics. Our pride in them stems from the young people that they are: the ways in which they model our school's values, living out their faith and showing kindness, humility and dedication to their goals daily.

Of course qualifications **are** important, and we want the young people in our care to gain the best ones that they can, but this is because we want them to be able to follow the paths of their choosing—to be able to follow any career dreams that they have, to nurture their talents, to fulfil their potential and flourish as people. Their hard work, then, opens up paths and life chances for them, and the Sunday Times' recognition of how impressively they accomplish this is a lovely testament to all that is invested by our pupils in approaching their exams, and to the work of the staff involved in teaching them and preparing them for these exams.

## BVS: A Wales 'Top Ten' School

It is important to recognise the role of our cluster primary schools in shaping the young people who come to us, as well as that of parishes, the Bishop Vaughan Society and the external agencies connected with our school who all work together with us to support those in our care to become 'the best they can be.' This involves ensuring spiritual, pastoral, financial and material support alongside academic provision.

Crucially, this national ranking reflects the care and support of our parent and carer community, with whom we work collaboratively. They play an integral role in the school's success.



Sincere thanks to all who contribute daily to Bishop Vaughan's success!



It is particularly special to receive this news at the conclusion of a year which began with a lovely Estyn inspection report—

**Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru**  
For learners, for Wales

—and throughout which we have celebrated the church's Jubilee Year, with its 'Pilgrims of Hope' theme. Our pupils are truly pilgrims of hope, in every way utilising their gifts, talents and the opportunities available to them to shape their own futures and the lives of those around them.



## School Prayer

As we conclude 2025, our pupils would like to take this opportunity to share with you our school prayer.

While our daily prayers are the traditional prayers of the Catholic church, we often offer our school prayer together also, especially in special celebrations, Masses and events, in Advent and Lent services and in assemblies.

This was written by our Faith Council last year, and it reflects our prayers and hopes for our school community, laying them before God:

### Bishop Vaughan's School Prayer

We gather as a community of diverse hearts and minds,  
Sharing our journeys of faith and of learning.  
We thank You, Lord, for the gift of this day,  
Guide us, O Lord, to be wise and discerning.

Lord, we ask that You bless our school  
In which cultures blend and we celebrate difference -  
Each one of us unique, each one loved by You.  
May we grow here in knowledge, compassion and confidence.

We pray, Lord, our classrooms be havens of peace  
In which respect and kindness may flourish,  
That our teachers be filled with Your peace and Your grace  
Ensuring our faith and potential are nourished.

R: Fill our hearts with a spirit of generosity and service,  
A: **That we may be instruments of Your love in the world.**

R: In moments of challenge,  
A: **Grant us courage and resilience.**

R: In times of joy,  
A: **Let us give thanks and share our blessings with others.**

R: We entrust Bishop Vaughan to Your loving care,  
Confident that with Your guidance,  
It is a place where every person is seen, heard, and cherished.  
A: **Amen.**

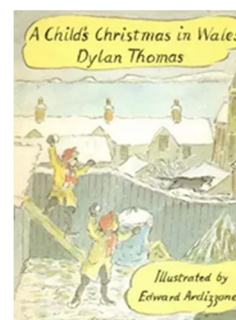


## BBC Radio Advent Service



BBC Radio approached Bishop Vaughan in November with a wonderful opportunity to take part in service to be broadcast on 7th December as part of its 'Sunday Worship' series.

This special programme not only marked the Second Sunday in Advent, but it also celebrated the writing of Dylan Thomas, with a particular focus on the nostalgic Christmas scenes captured in *A Child's Christmas in Wales* - this, as it happens, having been an audiobook that a number of colleagues recorded for our pupils last Christmas. For those of you reading this newsletter electronically, it is linked [here](#) and for those reading print versions, it's found at the foot of this page on our website: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/library-and-wider-reading>.



In BBC Radio's service, which is led by Father Matt Roche-Saunders, the Archdiocese's Director of Vocations and Youth Mission, our pupils answered questions about Advent and what it means to them, as well as speaking about Dylan Thomas and his evocative portrayal of Christmas. They also delivered the readings and prayers for the service. In addition, our school choir was invited to perform 'Light of the World', a piece that perfectly complements the Advent theme.

Following the programme, the producer was in touch with the school to say that Radio 4 were delighted with the programme, and that this is in no small part due to the excellence of our pupils. He also said that one listener wrote in to say he "listened with pleasure to Sunday Worship" and was "so moved by the school choir's rendition of Light of the World" that he would like a copy to download. This listener stated that "other renditions simply do not match this one!" This was wonderful feedback indeed! Our pupils have certainly been outstanding ambassadors for our school once again, demonstrating their talents and the ethos of our school on a national platform.

We hope that you too enjoy listening to a service that celebrates the Advent message through scripture, the work of a beloved local author and our pupils' musical offerings! Details are linked [here](#) and found at this address also: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnds/episodes/player>.

## Advent



Our Advent services were held in school during December, as is the case annually. These services are always an integral part of our Advent preparations for Christmas.

The beautiful prayers, reflections and music on the theme of light and hope picked up on the Jubilee Year theme. Our pupils had the chance to reflect on the blessings of the last year, to consider the ways that they are offered light and hope through their faith, and in turn to offer these to others.

We thank our Faith Council and the school councillors from throughout the year groups for putting together such a faith-filled service and for offering the readings and prayers. In addition, thank you to our choir for their beautiful musical offerings which so enhanced all five of the services that were held.

Throughout Advent, we have also prayed the Examen each Friday afternoon, ending our week with meditation on our blessings, our hopes and our commitment to God. Many of our pupils find this reflective meditation to be a calming, strengthening and hopeful way to end each week, as well as a critical part of our Advent preparations. For those interested in listening to the Examen, it can be found on our school website.

## Parish Service of Carols and Benediction

Early in Advent, on 8th December, our pupils were welcomed to the school's parish church of the Sacred Heart in Morrision for the now-traditional and established 'Service of Carols and Benediction'.

This service, first established by parish priest Canon Jason Jones, was this year led by Assistant Parish Priest Father Rod Teriote while Canon Jason was visiting Fatima.

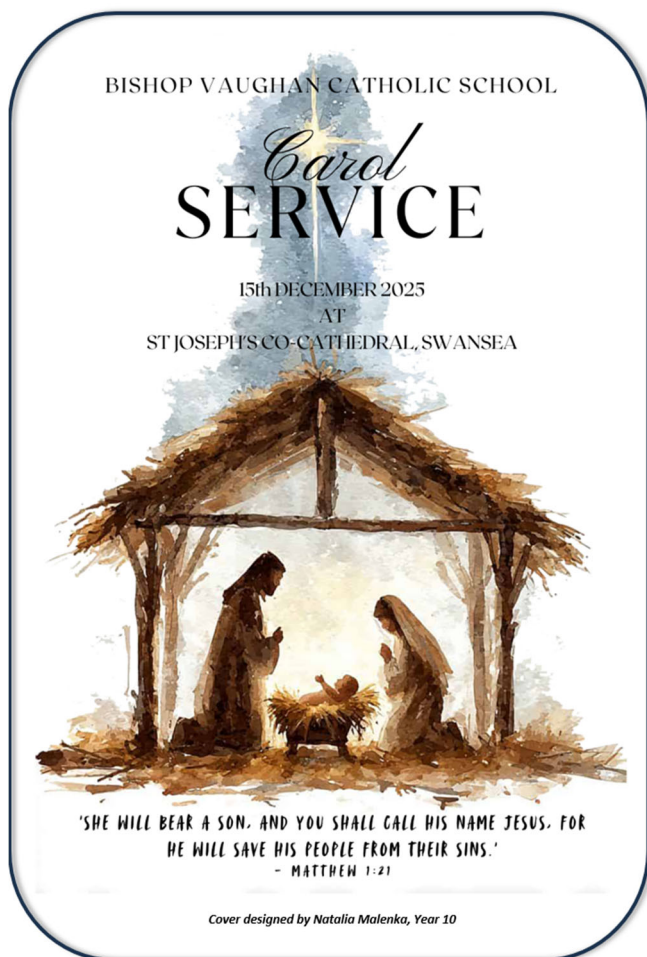
The service is particularly peaceful and reflective, being held by candlelight, with readings from our pupils, choral items from our choir, the *Schola Cantorum*, and congregational carols, as well as a thought-provoking homily and with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



All those in attendance always find this carol service to be the perfect antidote to the busyness and the often frenetic pace of early December, re-centring us on the Advent message, and on peace and stillness as we prepare for Christmas.

## Cathedral Carol Service

Our Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral at the start of the final week of term. We were delighted that His Grace, Archbishop Mark O'Toole, was able to join us for this. The Archbishop offered a beautiful welcome and opening prayer, and he also gave the final blessing before the congregation set out to their homes at the end of this most lovely service.



Bishop Vaughan was also joined by St. David's, St. Illtyd's and St. Joseph's (Clydach) primary schools, with the pupils of these schools singing beautifully throughout. Also within the congregation were many current and former pupils and staff from all of our schools, along with their families and guests.

It's always a special experience to gather within the beauty of the cathedral at this special time of year, and the service reflected both the spirit of Advent and the strong sense of community at the heart of our schools.

Through nine carefully chosen biblical lessons, the story of salvation unfolded from Genesis to the Gospel of John. Each reading was beautifully complemented by choral and congregational music, including much-loved carols such as 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Musical highlights included Bishop Vaughan's choir, the *Schola Cantorum*, singing Chilcott's 'Mid-Winter', Rutter's 'Christmas Lullaby', Daigle's 'Light of the World' and firm favourites such as 'O Holy Night'. 'A Starry Night' showcased the superb voices of the primary choirs and the instrumentalists' talent and dedication was evident as they performed throughout the 'Advent Reflection'.

The Prayers of the Faithful invited all present into further quiet reflection, before closing words from the Head Prefects. The final prayer and blessing from Archbishop Mark filled all present with a sense of the hope and joy of Christmas, and this was followed by an exceptional performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria', which brought together all schools' choirs. This is pictured on the cover of this newsletter! The entire congregation found this to be uplifting, inspiring and the perfect conclusion to a most prayerful and beautiful service.



We know well that our pupils – as we have said previously – are far more than the qualifications that they hold. We are proud that they have such impressive values and that they are the inspiring ‘pilgrims of hope’ that this Jubilee Year calls us to be – shining their light and reminding us of what is possible with sufficient vision, resilience and determination. This is as evident in their acts of service as it was in the joyful scenes that unfolded in the results days, and we’re proud of ‘who they are’, even above what they have achieved.

## Jubilee Year

The end of this term has also seen school events to close the church’s Jubilee Year. In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is celebrated by the Church every twenty five years, and this one concludes on 6th January 2026.

The theme of the Jubilee Year, as our community is aware, was ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. Pope Francis invited Catholics to renew their hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We were also invited to rediscover the beauty of God's creation and to understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

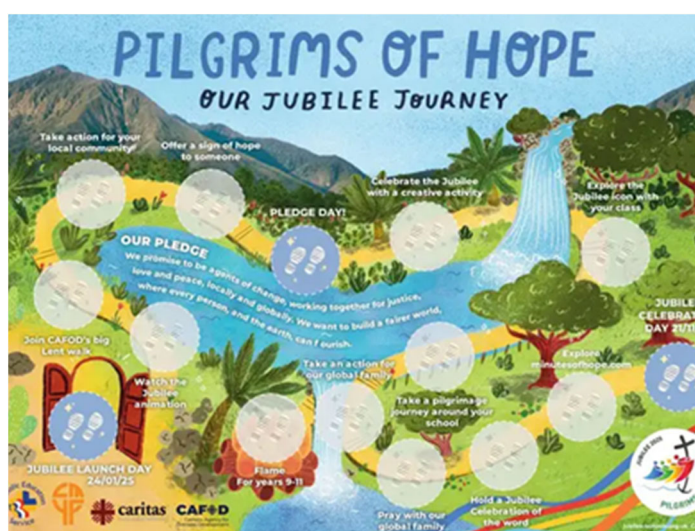
Events and activities throughout the year have celebrated the Jubilee and brought its messages to life in our school. These have included:

- Being a prayer focus in Mass and Chaplaincy activities
- The Legion of Mary trip to Rome
- ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ focus for charity activities
- ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ theme for our Lower School Awards Evening, and its accompanying film
- Theme for our Fifth Annual Festival of Peace, with all departments working on creative pieces linked to being pilgrims of hope through the lens of their academic subject
- Link to our rewards system
- Focus for our School Council
- Art competition theme
- Eco Group theme
- Cluster schools’ Jubilee Mass

... and much more besides!

The last of these events took place at St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral, being celebrated by Archbishop Mark O’Toole and involving all four cluster primary schools as well as our own pupils, as pictured overleaf.

Our pupils have truly embraced the theme and demonstrating their capacity to offer light and hope to this around them in myriad ways.



# Jubilee Year Celebration Mass



As referenced on the previous page, our Jubilee Year celebration Mass was celebrated on Friday 21st November at 10am at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral by Archbishop Mark O'Toole.

Our Faith Ambassadors represented the school, assisting with readings during the Mass. Following the celebration, they joined pupils from our cluster schools to lead reflective activities, including writing prayers and creating artworks inspired by the message of Hope. This was another very meaningful occasion for our pupils to share their faith and creativity, as well as to develop their leadership skills while contributing to a very special celebration of hope across our archdiocesan community.



We're grateful to our cluster primary schools for creating the opportunity for this celebration, which was one of the final celebrations of this particular theme as the Jubilee Year closes. We know that its theme and messages will resonate long after the official end to the Jubilee Year, and hopefully they will have had a lasting impact on our pupils' formation.

# Pupil Leadership Team and School Council

Our Sixth Form Pupil Leadership Team are doing a superb job in leading activities and shaping provision across numerous areas of school life!

Jasmine and Joseph, our Head Prefects, lead teams of Sixth Form Deputy Head Prefects and Ambassadors as shown:

Head Prefects: Jasmine Hoskins & Joseph Jayeola					
Teaching and Learning Representatives	Chaplaincy and Ethos Representatives	Wellbeing Representatives	Pupil Experience Representatives	Year Representatives	Eco, Sustainability and Stewardship Representatives
Deputy Head Prefects: Yasmin Aguilar Omoniyi Bolarinde Alvin John Roshel Kachakaduge	Deputy Head Prefects: Joan Joby Evangelin Joseph Riya Scaria	Deputy Head Prefects: Sia Jibi Kerin Pious Julia Romanowska	Deputy Head Prefects: Lana Agcaoili David Akonoghene Jemima Bekomson Ailbe Maddock	Deputy Head Prefects: Tegan Holohan Rhia Jinu Celeen Yamsuan Skomantas Povilaika	Deputy Head Prefects: Lucy Hoskins Hunny Ward
Ambassadors: Annarose Johnson Shraye Sharma Jrom Shino John Kai Tanikie	Ambassadors: Ethaniel Sebastian Jan Tuibeo	Ambassadors: Jake Abuyan Marian Akinwande Christine Anto Joel Baker	Ambassadors: Harrison Morgans Borys Romanowski Tomi Issah Nelson Mhuru Ogechi Iherobiem Zahra Sillah	Ambassadors: Mary Dychitan Patrick Gardner Lidia Mendes Jophil Jino Biya Biju Siyana Joseph Aaliya Ziam	

Each of these six branches of the Sixth Form Leadership Team is ably supported by a team ranging from ten to thirty School Councillors! These councillors are drawn from every year group, and they meet regularly with Mrs. Thomas, our Pupil Voice Lead, to plan activities and to provide feedback to one another, to staff and to Governors.



We're enormously proud of the work that our School Council do, from Head Prefects speaking at events such as open evenings and information evenings, to the Chaplaincy and Ethos Team organising Advent Services and charity events, to all groups leading the four school festivals and welcoming visitors with warmth and grace.



With all visitors to the school commenting on how friendly, welcoming, articulate and courteous our pupils are, there is no doubt that those who lead them within our school will also prove to be exceptional contributors to society once they have left us, as they already demonstrate such a capacity to do so within Bishop Vaughan. We are confident that they will carry any future responsibilities they hold with the same humility, commitment

and integrity they show each day in our school.

Our sincere thanks go to each of them for the time, dedication and care they invest in helping to make Bishop Vaughan the very best it can be!



## Festival of Peace

A very well-established Bishop Vaughan tradition for September is our Annual Festival of Peace!

This year, we celebrated our fifth annual festival, and our theme was 'Pilgrims of Hope', thus linking our festival to the theme of the Jubilee Year. There were some incredibly thoughtful and creative interpretations of the theme with exhibits from every academic department which were showcased in our Main Hall for a full week.

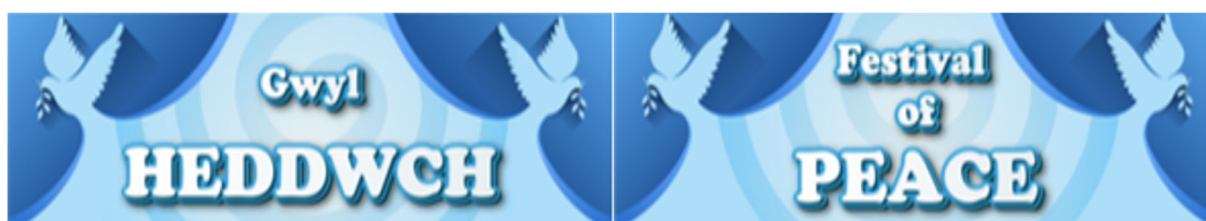
The central exhibit was the Science Department's towering lighthouse in the centre of the hall, with a rotating light as a real lighthouse would have, this symbolising that Christ is our light and that He is at the centre of our lives, making us safe and guiding us on our journey. Similarly, we are called to reflect His light and His message, acting as beacons to others, and the twinkling fairy lights around the remainder of the exhibition symbolised this, as did the beautiful light boxes created by the RE Department.



The Art Department's extensive contribution complemented those of PE, History, Maths, Sociology and in fact every single department, combining with stalls representing the cultures that make up our community and the Junior Legion of Mary's beautifully-decorated stall to remind us of our shared values and to explore the conditions for peace in our world.

During the week, we welcomed very many visitors, including the following:

the Deputy Lord Lieutenant (as the King's representative in the region), the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, the Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, the Leader of the Council, our Assembly Member, the Cabinet Member for Education, the Director of Education, the Deputy Lord Mayor, both Directors of Education for the Archdiocese, local Councillors, the Project Team for our new school, our School Improvement Advisor, Canon Jason Jones, Canon Pelosi, the Vocations Director, several members of the clergy, Governors, Education Department Officers, Headteachers and pupils from cluster schools, Gideons UK, representatives of the Bishop Vaughan Society and numerous further guests.



## Festival of Peace

Guests enjoyed tours of the exhibition guided by prefects followed by refreshments and a performance from the choir. Feedback was extremely positive, and it included the following comments:

“Amazing day – amazing message – amazing young people! Very proud!”

“A beautiful example of unity in diversity!”

“A wonderful and inspirational event!”

“An excellent and uplifting experience!”

“As always, the pupils shone!”

“Thank you for an afternoon filled with hope and joy!”

“If I could bottle this atmosphere, I would!”

“What an honour to have been invited to such a beautiful celebration!”

“Thank you for such a lovely celebration! May it – peace – begin with me!  
“A wonderful celebration of the many cultures that make up the Bishop Vaughan family! God bless your wonderful school!”

“A pleasure to visit! An excellent event – thank you for inviting me!”

“A wonderful occasion – a school that has high values reflected in behaviour!”

“An inspiring, caring and hugely passionate cohort! A pleasure to have attended!”

“A positive celebration of the wonderful values that are clearly embraced in the school! Well done to all of the staff and learners who worked on this!”

“Inspirational, heart-warming and a pleasure to attend ... there was a palpable spirit of celebration inside the hall. ... The enthusiasm for celebrating diversity and peace was authentic, topical and clearly embedded at Bishop Vaughan.”

“Thank you so much for the warm welcome at Bishop Vaughan’s Festival of Peace. It was a truly special experience, and I’m so grateful to have been part of it.”

“I was genuinely impressed by all the pupils I met. Even the youngest in Year 7 spoke with such clarity and pride.... It was clear how much the festival means to them, and how beautifully they’ve embraced the theme of Pilgrims of Hope.”

“I would like to say thank you for the invitation to the wonderful festival. It was quite a privilege ... There was definitely a feeling of peace and harmony.”

This is always such a very special event, and we’re delighted to place it at the start of our school year – aligning with the International Day of Peace in mid-September – so that its message can permeate throughout the remainder of the year. It has been particularly lovely this year to have the Jubilee Year theme with which to work and we very much hope that our pupils will indeed continue to be the ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ that they have proven themselves to be thus far.

# Enrichment Fair

As is now an established feature of the academic year, at the start of September we held an Enrichment Fair in our Main Hall, with stalls advertising each of the dozens of clubs, teams and activities that our pupils can sign up for.

At Bishop Vaughan, we firmly believe in the importance of our pupils engaging fully in school life and all that it has to offer, this helping to nurture well-rounded individuals, enthusiastic young people and inevitably supporting high levels of academic achievement too. In addition, using our gifts and talents fully, and especially in the service of others, makes our school the very best community that it can be!

Clubs and activities are thriving, with good numbers attending the lunchtime and after-school optional activities. The Production Project group (our Performing Arts extra-curricular group) is larger than ever, and now that they have concluded their rehearsals for the Advent and Christmas events, the group will shortly begin rehearsal's for February's musical theatre production, 'Annie Jr'.

# Clubs and Activities

 <p><b>ART CLUB</b> Years 7 - 11: Wednesday &amp; Thursday lunchtimes in T6  Years 10 - 11: Monday lunchtimes in T6</p>	 <p><b>VOLLEYBALL CLUB</b>  MONDAY, TUESDAY AND FRIDAY LUNCHTIMES</p>	 <p><b>GYM CLUB</b>  MONDAY, TUESDAY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY LUNCHTIME YEARS 10 &amp; 11  THURSDAY LUNCHTIME YEAR 9</p>	 <p><b>Faith Council</b>  Monday lunchtimes in the Chapel. All are welcome!</p>
 <p><b>BASKETBALL CLUB</b>  LUNCHTIMES  MONDAY - YEARS 9, 10 &amp; 11 (GIRLS) TUESDAY - YEARS 7 &amp; 8 WEDNESDAY - YEAR 11 THURSDAY - YEARS 9 &amp; 10 FRIDAY - SIXTH FORM</p>	 <p><b>MINECRAFT CLUB</b>  YEARS 7 &amp; 8 MONDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T7  YEARS 9, 10 &amp; 11 FRIDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T7</p>	 <p><b>Chemistry Catch Up Sessions</b>  Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes in Room 9 with Dr Page</p>	 <p><b>LUNCH TIME DROP-IN SESSIONS</b>  Mondays: General drop-in Tuesdays: Evolve Youth Club / BAROD Wednesdays: YMCA Young Carers / Community Schools Nurse Thursdays: General drop-in Fridays: Feel good Friday!  come and join us in... T13</p>
 <p><b>PRODUCTION PROJECT</b>  Mondays after school until 4.00pm  See Mr Eynon-Davies in the Performance Studio for more information!</p>	 <p><b>duolingo classroom club</b>  tuesday and thursday lunchtimes in room t13</p>	 <p><b>MATHS HOMEWORK CLUB</b>  All welcome!  TUESDAY WEDNESDAY &amp; THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES ROOM A6</p>	 <p><b>JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY</b>  Every Tuesday evening after school until 4.15pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to attend!  See Mrs Thomas (C1) or Miss Mainwaring (C4) for more information.</p>
 <p><b>GIRLS FOOTBALL</b>  Wednesday lunchtimes. Week 1. Girls' gym.</p>	 <p><b>NETBALL CLUB</b>  ATTACKERS, DEFENDERS, UNITE!  WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS (WEEK 1)  SEE MISS MAINWARING FOR MORE DETAILS</p>	 <p><b>THIS PLANET IS MAGIC</b>  Eco Club Friday lunchtimes Room G1</p>	 <p><b>Key Stage 4 Computer Club</b>  &lt;/&gt; Friday lunchtimes &lt;/&gt; Room T7 &lt;/&gt; with Mrs Morgan</p>

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!](#)



## Presentation Evening

A particular highlight of the term since our last newsletter was our Upper School Awards Evening, held just before we broke up for the October half-term holiday.

It was incredibly special to welcome back former pupils who have now begun their university journeys, as well as to celebrate the achievements of those currently in Years 10 and above.

Our keynote speaker, Diana Stroia, High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, spoke with great sincerity and warmth about the values of compassion, kindness and service—virtues we seek to nurture daily in all our pupils. Her beautiful and inspiring address was entitled ‘The Future Starts with Kindness.’ Delivered with warmth, humility and quiet conviction, the High Sheriff shared a powerful personal story that captivated our audience of pupils and their families and left a lasting impression.

Reflecting on her childhood in Romania, she spoke movingly about receiving a simple Christmas shoebox filled with gifts sent from Wales — a small act of generosity that crossed borders and helped shape her future. Through this story, she reminded pupils and families that kindness, however small it may seem, has the power to change lives in ways we may never fully see. Her journey from that moment of hope to a life of service, leadership and professional success was presented not as a tale of titles or achievements, but as a testament to compassion, generosity and community.

The message resonated deeply with the values and ethos of Bishop Vaughan School: service to others, humility, faith in action and the belief that true success is measured by how we lift others up. Linking her message to the Church’s Year of Jubilee, she encouraged pupils to see love as something lived out through action, courage and care for others.

The speech was a timely reminder that while we rightly celebrate academic and personal achievements, it is kindness that truly shapes our future and reveals God at work in and through us.



Awards presented during the evening spanned effort and academic excellence in individual subjects, GCSE and Sixth Form achievement, living out the school’s values, charity work, sporting and musical excellence and much more.

The Caritas Award was presented this year to a whole group, rather than an individual, that group being our wonderful young people in the Junior Legion of Mary. The Headteacher’s Award was presented to Janneke Redpath by former Head Girl—and last year’s recipient of the award—Naarani Gowribalan. Naarani, incredibly kindly, travelled back from her university accommodation in London, where she is a student at the London School of Economics, in order to join us! Janneke, a most worthy recipient of this year’s award, is an exceptional student who has utilised every opportunity available to her to strive for excellence and for ‘life to the full’, in line with our school mission statement.

We congratulate each and every pupil on their achievements and we look forward to the Lower School Presentation Evening in the Summer term!

# Sporting Success



Congratulations to the Year 7 football team who won their Welsh Cup game against Bro Dur 8-3 in September!



Well done to Zoey (Year 8) who won the Welsh Archery Championship in October!

Great work!

# Sporting Success



Congratulations to Joseph (Year 11) who won the British Karate Championships in September. What a brilliant achievement - well done Joseph!



Some of our Year 13 Sports and Fitness pupils gaining some experience in the gym for their Sports Instructor Qualification.



Our new Year 7 Silver Sports Ambassadors!

# Sporting Success



The Apollo Teaching Services Afan Nedd Tawe Secondary Schools & Colleges Cross Country Relays took place on 1st October. Fantastic effort by our pupils!



Rafael (Year 9) competed in the World Union of Martial Arts Federation World Championships in September; coming away with four medals - gold, silver and two bronze.

We are so proud of you!

# Sporting Success



The Year 8 football team winning their two games in October against Pontarddulais Comprehensive and Bishop Gore Comprehensive.

Amazing!



Our Years 9 and 10 girl's basketball team won the Swansea School's Tournament this month!

Bishop Vaughan were delighted to host the tournament.

National Champions here we come!

## Christmas Recipes From Around The World

We are thrilled to announce the release of the second edition of *Christmas Recipes From The World*, a delightful cookbook created by one of our very own Teaching Assistants, Ms Shankland.

This wonderful project not only showcases a variety of festive recipes from different cultures but also aims to raise funds for UNICEF and the Bishop Vaughan Society.



A huge thank you to Ms Shankland for her dedication and creativity. We are grateful for the time and effort she has invested in making it a success!

The cookbook is still available to purchase from the school for a cost of £2.

## Welcome Masses

In October, we celebrated a Welcome Mass for each year group for the new academic year. With readings about community and respect for one another, it was a thoroughly beautiful way to start the academic year.

With sincere thanks to Fr John Browne, our School Chaplain, who continues to support our spiritual development in this way. We are also very thankful that we are able to celebrate Mass together on a weekly basis, every Friday morning, in our school Chapel. We have celebrated a Mass of Remembrance, of St Francis of Assisi, and of All Saints of Wales. A wonderful way to start the day!



## 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 on the right.

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 intentional and prophetic

Pupils have investigated what it means to be learned and wise this half-term, not simply academically but more widely in their lives. We have encouraged the practice of reflection and intentional decision making. We have also looked at role models who have shown wisdom in their work and their lives. This has been linked to this important season of Advent, and pupils are encouraged to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

## ALN Department

It has been a busy and exciting term for our ALN and Inclusion pupils!

Year 7 have settled into life at Bishop Vaughan really well and have enjoyed a range of fun and engaging activities. They explored the science labs, experimented with making electrical circuits, and grew their own cress heads. In English, they read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which sparked lots of creativity and discussion.

All pupils contributed to a stunning display for the Festival of Peace, focusing on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Their work highlighted the importance of hope and resilience, and the display was a wonderful celebration of their work and their positive attitudes.

This term saw the launch of our new KS3 behaviour provision, Accelerate. This programme is designed to provide targeted support for pupils who need a more personalised approach to learning and behaviour. Accelerate focuses on building positive relationships, developing emotional regulation strategies, and helping pupils re-engage with their learning in a supportive environment. We are already seeing fantastic progress from pupils involved in the programme.



Pupils in 9E, 10E, 11E and Aspire had the fantastic opportunity to visit Swansea Community Farm. During their visits, they rolled up their sleeves to help with a variety of jobs, including feeding animals, clearing a wildflower area, and even cuddling guinea pigs! These experiences were not only enjoyable but also helped pupils develop teamwork and responsibility.

## ALN Department

Our Year 11 pupils from E classes and Aspire met with representatives from Gower College and the Careers Service to discuss their plans for life after Year 11. These sessions were invaluable in helping pupils feel prepared and excited for the next stage of their education.

Finally, pupils from E classes and Aspire worked hard to prepare for the Christmas Fair, where they ran a range of stalls including a tombola, glitter tattoos, face painting, hair braiding, biscuit decorating, and fairground-style games. These activities were not only a fantastic way to raise money for the Bishop Vaughan Society, but also formed part of their Agored qualifications, giving pupils the chance to develop practical and teamworking skills as well as gain accreditation for their efforts.

## History Department News

In July 2025—and after our last newsletter had already been sent to print—44 pupils embarked on a memorable educational trip to the World War I battlefields of Belgium and northern France. The visit provided an invaluable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the Great War and its lasting impact on Europe.

The group explored key sites across the Western Front, including the Ypres Salient, Langemark German Cemetery and the vast Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery, where they reflected on the immense sacrifices made by soldiers from around the world.

Crossing into France, pupils visited Beaumont-Hamel and the impressive Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, gaining a poignant insight into the scale of the conflict and the stories of those who served.

A particularly moving highlight was attending the Menin Gate Ceremony in Ypres, where pupils joined visitors from across the globe in observing the nightly act of remembrance.



Alongside their historical studies, students also enjoyed sampling traditional Belgian and French cuisine, from delicious waffles and frites to freshly baked breads and pastries — a welcome taste of local culture!

The trip was both educational and deeply thought-provoking, helping pupils connect classroom learning to real-world history while fostering respect, reflection and global awareness.

## Charity Team

**Enrichment Fair:** Charity Team pupils created and manned a stall at the school Enrichment Fair. It was a lovely opportunity to share previous projects and recruit new members. The stall was popular and new members have been gained from across all year groups.

If you would like to join the team – speak to one of the Sixth Form Ambassadors! Everyone is welcome!

**YoungMinds - #HelloYellow Campaign:** Sixth Formers and staff again this year supported #HelloYellow which focuses attention on the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people. Sprinkles of yellow were seen across the school with time set aside for discussion and reflection. There was also a whole school drive and focus with a special PSE session and related activities.



The range of activities—including a photobooth, debate and the sharing of positive affirmations—provided a focal point and opportunities for pupils across the school community to build connections and support one another. Pupils and staff also took part in a “Wellness Walk” during lunchtime.

Additionally, Sixth Form pupils came together for a special wellbeing session which included breakfast refreshments, discussion, quizzes and games. Positive feedback from both pupils and staff has been received.

Theme 2025:  
*Missionaries of Hope  
among all peoples*

*“May the God of hope fill  
you with all joy and peace.”  
Romans 15:13*



**MISSIO Appeal:** As part of the fundraising and awareness appeal for MISSIO 2025, pupils and staff focused on the theme: “*Missionaries of Hope among all peoples*” in several ways. A PSE session enabled discussion, reflection and engagement with activities centred around inclusion for all.

Beautiful reflections, affirmations and empowerment postcards have been collected and will be shared with Canon Paul Watson, Missio Lead for the Archdiocese.

Additionally, a bake sale was held to raise money and come together in solidarity as a whole school community.



# Charity Team

**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, many spotty patterns and bright splashes of yellow could be seen!



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



**Christmas Fayre:** The BVS annual Christmas Fayre took place on Thursday 27th November.

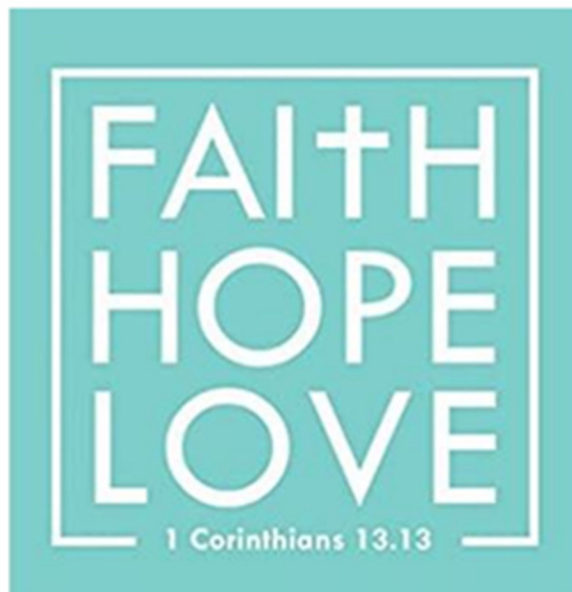
A collection of stalls included those for crafts, games and activities, baked goods and beautiful religious objects. Pupil-led stalls included upcycled eco gifts, crocheted gifts, scrunchies and a tombola just to name a few.

There was a warm and welcoming atmosphere as the wider community poured in to Bishop Vaughan's school hall to support one other, make a few Christmas purchases and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Very many thanks to all involved – this was another shining example of the Bishop Vaughan community working together!

**Advent Focus: Reverse Advent Calendar:** This initiative sees, for each of those taking part, them not *receiving* a gift, but donating an item in each week of Advent to the chosen appeals. In Bishop Vaughan our activities focused on:

- Small Change Makes a Big Difference (SVP Appeal)
- Cards for the Community
- Children's Selection Boxes



# Charity Team

**SVP Christmas Hampers:** The annual collection of food donations continued this year, in support of both the local SVP campaigns, as well as the Faith in Families centres and food banks in the local community. Significant donations of essential food items, cash donations and children’s selection boxes were collected.

We are truly humbled by the generosity of our pupils and their families.



Small Change & Christmas Hamper Appeal  
2025

**Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day:** The annual Christmas Jumper Day provided another opportunity for pupils to have a little fun, embrace the festiveness and raise awareness, while fundraising for Save the Children.

Through a festive themed non-uniform day, Christmas Jumpers, tinsel and festive headwear decorated the halls of Bishop Vaughan.

The term finished with a festive Christmas quiz, with prizes once again awarded to winning tutorials.

As always, very many thanks to all who support the appeals, campaigns and events with such generosity and enthusiasm – we couldn’t do it without you! Diolch!



# Charity Team



“Postboxes” will be placed in C4 & around school for collections.

Collection dates: 15<sup>th</sup>-18th December.

Cards can be written for those in our community or anyone in school. Remember to include the name & tutorial if the card is for someone in school.


**Cards for the Community:** Once again, pupils made, decorated and wrote cards to send to key workers, local parishes and groups across our local community.


Pupils wanted an opportunity to say thank you to all who work tirelessly in the support of others.


Additionally, this year pupils sent cards to fellow pupils and staff as a way of expressing kindness and compassion to those across the school community.



 Share a message of kindness, hope and love this Christmas.

 We are sending cards & messages to those in our local community.

 To key workers, our parishes, hospitals & nursing homes and those in our local community.

 The gift of our thoughts, prayers and love.

# Swish Event

What a great bunch of pupils we have in our Sixth Form! There was so much joy in the room for our third year of running a Swish event for Children in Need. We are very proud of these kind, enthusiastic and generous young people.

This is a vintage clothes sale, and it's now a really popular and established event in the school year, with our pupils looking forward to it immensely. In the weeks preceding this event, our pupils and staff donate unwanted clothes and these are sorted and categorised for 're-sale' - this being an excellent way of recycling!

On the day of the event, items can be bought for £1 each, or swapped with one another at no cost, recycling and fundraising simultaneously!



# Creative Technology Department

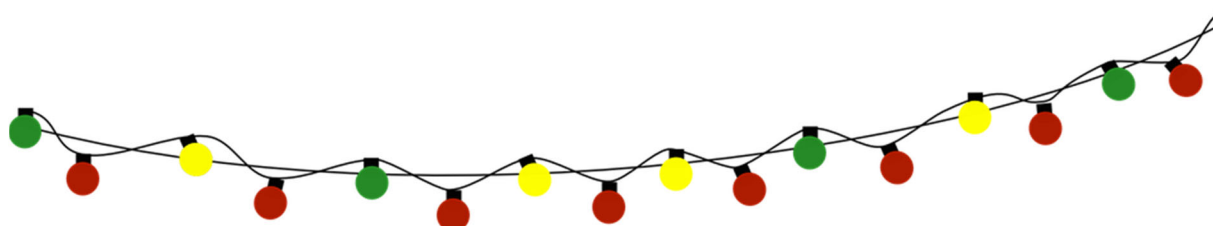
## Collaboration project with Swansea Arena



We are delighted to share the success of a recent creative activity involving 28 Year 7 pupils from Bishop Vaughan. This collaborative project with James Morgan from Swansea Arena encouraged students to explore their feelings about Swansea and reflect on their sense of place through imaginative tasks.

The outcomes were varied and truly impressive, showcasing the pride and value these pupils hold for Swansea as their home. This was particularly meaningful given the cultural diversity of the group, with many pupils not originally born in the city. Their work highlighted a shared appreciation for Swansea and its significance in their lives.

James delivered an engaging and inspiring session, quickly building positive relationships with the pupils. His enthusiasm for working with young people was evident throughout, and the pupils are already looking forward to the next session!



## Creative Technology Department

### Swansea University Visit

We're thrilled to share the highlights of an exciting educational experience for our Year 7 pupils! On Friday 28th November, 32 students visited the Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Materials (CISM) at Swansea University's Bay Campus.



This hands-on workshop gave pupils a unique opportunity to step into the world of advanced technology and engineering.

The activities were designed to spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and provide a glimpse into the innovations shaping our future. Highlights of the day included a guided tour of the CISM facilities, a lithography demonstration, a Virtual Reality (VR) session, and an EESW Circuit activity workshop.

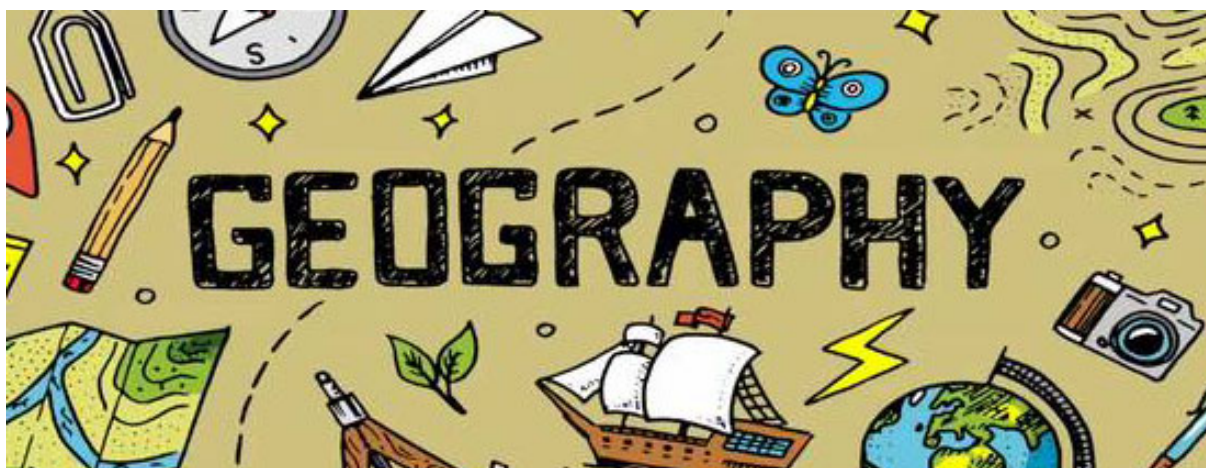


The session was a valuable and enriching experience for our students, allowing them to engage with real-world applications of science and technology. Their enthusiasm and participation were fantastic, and we look forward to more opportunities like this in the future!

## Geography Department

The Geography Department has had an excellent start to the new academic year!

- Year 7 have been introduced to Geography through an overview of the subject and the key skills required to become successful geographers. They also completed their first piece of fieldwork on the school site, investigating biodiversity.
- Year 8 have been studying Australia and preparing for a decision-making activity: *Should tourism be allowed on the Great Barrier Reef?* Pupils have applied their numeracy, literacy, and oracy skills to develop well-reasoned arguments.
- Year 9 have been exploring the theme of a “Frozen Planet” and are working towards a decision-making task on whether the Willow Project, an oil-drilling initiative in Alaska should proceed. They have used their learning about the Arctic environment to form informed viewpoints.
- Year 10 have settled into their new Geography specification and have been studying Sustainability and Migration, with a particular emphasis on public perceptions and evaluating the reliability of different sources.
- Year 11 have been preparing for their NEA next week and continuing their work on Climate Change.
- Year 12 and Year 13 geographers have fully engaged with their A-Level studies. Year 12 have been learning about Changing Places and Coasts, while Year 13 are focusing on Global Systems and Global Governance.



## Geography Department

We are also delighted to share that one of our A-Level geographers, Lucy Hoskins, along with her sister Jasmine, entered a Sony competition exploring the connections between Wales and Japan.

They produced an original rap and accompanying presentation and won the competition! Their achievement was celebrated with a tour of the Sony site in Pencoed, as well as a certificate and camera. We extend our congratulations and thanks to the girls for their outstanding efforts.



## Eco Club

The Eco-Schools group has been preparing for the Christmas Fair by creating a range of crafts made from recycled materials.

The Key Stage 4 and 5 eco team have been focusing on improving recycling across the school and have undertaken an audit of the site. They have also examined methods of travel to school and are developing strategies to encourage more environmentally friendly transport options for both staff and pupils.



## UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Awards 2025

On 9th October 2025, pupils from Year 12 and 13, who are studying A level Maths were invited to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge.

In the challenge, the students had to answer 25 very challenging Maths questions.

There were some fabulous results. The highest scoring student in our school, was Disas Rajapakse Mudiyansele – well done Disas!

Here are the best achieving in our school.

### Year 13

1st	Hannah Iduyan	Bronze Award
2nd	Mary Dychitan	Bronze Award
3rd	Sia Jibi	Bronze Award

### Year 12

1st	Disas Rajapakse Mudiyansele	Silver Award
2nd	Eldhose Saji	Bronze Award
3rd	Vasisht Kavasseri	Bronze Award
4th	Lily-May Crocker	Bronze Award
5th	Oritemisan Awala	Bronze Award

Well done to everybody that took part! We're very proud of what you achieved!

For more information on this competition visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

The next challenge will take place on 28th January 2026 and it is open to Years 9 – 11.

We will be inviting 50 students to take part, based on their problem-solving ability.

Good luck to all participants!



## UK Maths Trust

# Health and Wellbeing



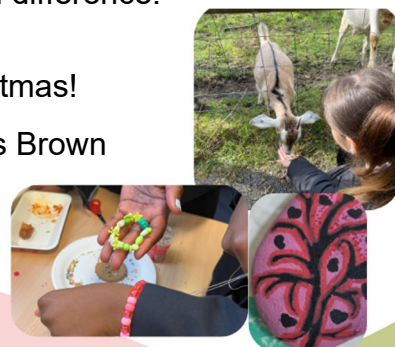
## HWB Update: Supporting our pupils wellbeing

This academic year, the school HWB has been busy running a wide range of support and activities for our wonderful pupils.

- **Daily Drop-Ins:** Every break and lunch we host a drop-in sessions for pupils. We are joined weekly by fantastic outside agencies including **YMCA**, **Evolve Youth Club**, **BAROD**, and our **NHS School Nurse**. Together, we provide advice, support, and engaging activities.
- **Feel-Good Fridays:** One of our weekly highlights is **Feel-Good Fridays** – the final drop-in of the week. Pupils have loved getting creative with slime-making, rock painting, biscuit decorating, and much more. It's inspiring to see them building confidence, seeking support, and caring for their wellbeing.
- **Specialist Collaboration:** The HWB works closely with Caitlin Daives, our **CAMHS School In-Reach Practitioner**. Caitlin has delivered class sessions, small group workshops, and one-to-one support focused on emotional wellbeing and regulation. Next term, she'll also be running workshops for parents and carers – so keep an eye out for details!
- **Tailored Support:** Many pupils have benefited from one-to-one sessions with **Platform Wellbeing**, who are in school three times a week, as well as **YMCA Young Carers**, who provide tailored support for pupils with caring responsibilities at home. Other agencies visiting the HWB to provide individual, family and peer group support include **Early Help Hub**, **CMET**, **Media Academy**, **Women's Aid** and the **Youth Justice Service**. We've also taken pupils to **Swansea Community Farm's Wellbeing Wednesday**, where they've enjoyed learning about and caring for the animals.
- **Peer Mentors:** A huge shout-out goes to our amazing Year 10 and 11 pupils who have completed accredited **Peer Mentor Training** this term. They are now equipped to support fellow pupils both in school and during HWB drop-ins.
- **Thank You:** If you'd like to learn more about these services, or feel you or your child could benefit, please contact us. Finally, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support – it makes a real difference.

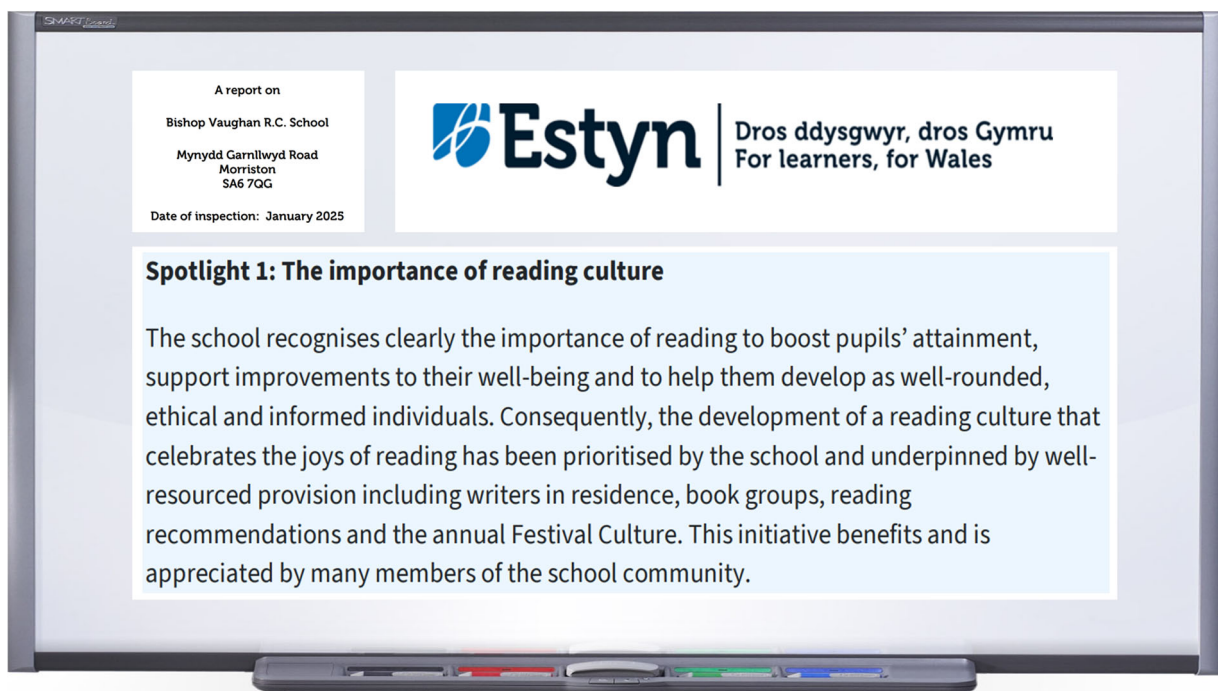


Wishing you a very Happy Christmas!  
From Mr Walker, Mrs Smale & Mrs Brown



## 'First Friday' Book Stall

Each month, on the first Friday of the month, we have a second-hand book stall for pupils and staff! This is part of our wider effort to ensure that all of our pupils develop an enjoyment of reading, have ready access to books: our library and our book vending machines also support this effort. We are keen that a culture of reading truly pervades our school and were delighted that January's 'visitors to the school' (our Estyn inspectors!) picked up on this as an area of real strength, spotlighting it in their report:



December's 'First Friday Book Stall' was incredibly popular with the pupils, who even offered gift-wrapping as a festive touch!



Donations of books are welcomed! There are separate stalls for pupils and staff so books for all age groups will be gratefully received, and donations can be left with the main office!

## Performing Arts Department

It has been an incredibly busy term for our Performing Arts department with various events including the Festival of Peace, the Upper School Presentation Evening, three Carol Services, Advent Services and much more besides. Our choir are pictured here recording their item for BBC Radio!



Our next production will be 'Annie Jr.' and we're already in rehearsals for this! Our talented pupils have been working to bring this feel-good classic to life. From the bright lights of New York City to the warmth of family and friendship, this production reminds us that even when times are tough, 'The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow.'

Follow the school's social media accounts for ticketing details and dates! We look forward to welcoming you!



## 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 part of the week whilst training at the Swansea.com Stadium for the remaining days. We look forward to seeing what they achieve both educationally and in their footballing careers!



# Welsh Department

## Llangrannog 2025:

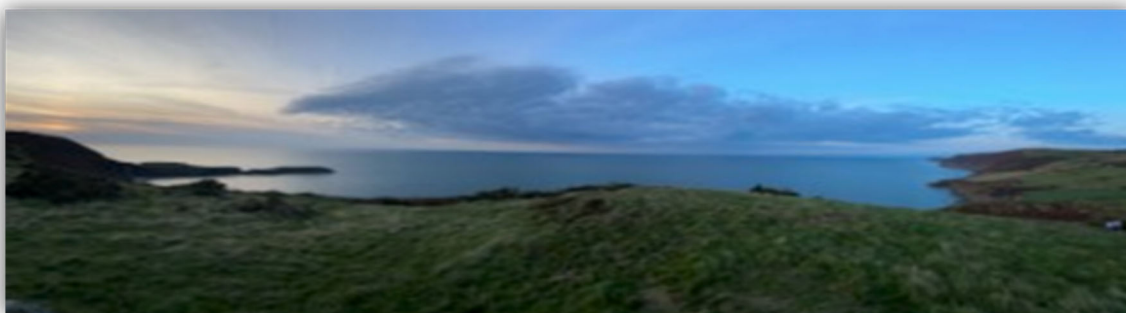
Fifty pupils from Years 8 and 9 thoroughly enjoyed their residential in Llangrannog, West Wales on the weekend of 26th to 28th September.

They spent the weekend immersed in the Welsh language whilst taking part in a range of adventurous activities – go-karting, quad biking, skiing, tobogganing, archery and much more!



This was a great opportunity to experience the Welsh culture in a beautiful part of Wales.

The Welsh department have had approval for a repeat residential trip to Llangrannog for the current pupils in Year 7 and 8 from 3rd to 5th July 2026.



# Welsh Department

## Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae

Pupils had lots of fun celebrating Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae on 15th October this year, posing for photos in our department selfie frame, sharing their favourite Welsh words and making a conscious effort to speak Welsh.

Last year, pupils created beautiful bunting which was used this year to decorate the school!

Staff too enjoyed celebrating with a coffee morning a sgwrs bach in the staff room, where they could collect useful resources to aid them in the classroom with their delivery of Welsh.



## Year Group Duolingo Challenge

The Welsh Department have created year group Duolingo challenges for pupils to practise their Welsh whilst competing against their peers. The links can be found on our Instagram page, @bvs.cymraeg under our highlights section.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11



## Welsh Department

### Glan-Llyn Isa' 2026

Mr Williams has also secured governor approval for a residential to Glan-Llyn Isa', an Urdd residential centre located in North Wales and as the name suggests, 'llyn' meaning lake, is situated on a lake.

Pupils will experience activities such as paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, raft building, climbing, high ropes and much more, all through the medium of Welsh.



There were only 30 spaces on offer and they have now been filled. We are really looking forward to this exciting trip!

### Welsh Department Instagram

The Welsh Department have created a new Instagram account so that you can keep up to date with the Welsh Dimension of the school, and the department's progress. Feel free to follow us at @bvs.cymraeg.



### Useful Apps

Why not join your child on their language learning journey by downloading the following apps?



**ApGeiriaduron** – A free app! This is an excellent Welsh to English and English to Welsh dictionary. Really helpful for homework or when you're out and about practising your Welsh! You will never use Google Translate again!



**Cymraeg i'r Teulu** – Another free app! Get the whole family involved! This is a brilliant app for all the family to use and learn Welsh: songs, phrases, pronunciations and role play. What's not to love?



**Say Something in Welsh** – Yet another free app! Learn completely natural spoken Welsh quickly and easily. Just listen and repeat. Ewch ati – go for it!

## Criminology

Year 12 Criminology students received a visit from retired Police Superintendent Jeff Carroll this term.

Mr Carroll chatted to the class about his experiences in the force, including his varied roles around South Wales and across the country. Mr Carroll had been involved in inspections for potential terrorist attacks, following the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton, in the 1984-85 miner's strike, as well as many notorious cases dealt with by South Wales Police. Policing Swansea vs Cardiff and Swansea vs Leeds football matches were of particular interest to the students, back in a time when hooliganism was rife.

Mr Carroll also worked in anti-racism and met many famous people including Princess Anne, the late Queen Elizabeth II, Prince William and the current monarch, King Charles when he was the Prince of Wales.

The students quizzed Mr Carroll about all aspects of his service and were able to note some of the many changes that have occurred within the police force over the years.



## Worshipful Livery Company of Wales

Mr Henry Gilbert, Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales (WLCOW), and Dr. Kathy Seddon, Former Master, attended the school this term to present the WLCOW to previous Year 13 pupil Emily Cole in recognition of her superb academic achievements.

It was a pleasure to welcome them back to Bishop Vaughan, and we offer our congratulations to Emily!

Emily—we are so proud of you and we wish you every success in your degree studies!



# School Development Plan

As our parents and carers are aware, all schools have in place a school improvement plan to shape their work across the year and in the longer term also. This should encompass the key areas of its work.

At Bishop Vaughan, we recognised the potential for our existing priorities to be organised under the acronym 'PEACE'. We feel that this brings together the key strands of our work in a way that can be readily referenced by staff, pupils, Governors, parents and carers, as well as genuinely reflecting the principles that underpin our work.

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

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

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

## SDP Summary for Pupils

All schools have a School Development plan to guide their work. Ours is shaped around the acronym **PEACE**, and each of the five strands has lots of supporting action steps which ensures that our work as a school remains sharply focused on our priorities.

P	<p><b>Prayer and Worship:</b></p> <p><b>We work together to keep Christ at the centre of all that we do</b></p> <p>This strand of the plan focuses in ensuring that there are varied opportunities for us to engage in prayer and faith life, for example by being in the Faith Council, the Junior Legion of Mary, the Alpha Group, the Charity Team, the School Council, etc. In addition, it focuses on ensuring that we all begin each day with acts of collective worship with our tutorial/ year group which are meaningful, relevant prayer experiences.</p>
E	<p><b>Equity:</b></p> <p><b>Our school supports us to achieve our full potential regardless of any barriers to achievement that we may face.</b></p> <p>Staff understand that some of us may need more support than others in certain areas. This strand of the school development plan therefore has lots of action steps focused on making sure there are many provisions focused on equity, these including diversity and anti-racist work, enhancing additional learning needs provision, developing the Learning Zone, supporting literacy, helping us to maintain our health and wellbeing and much more.</p>
A	<p><b>Ambition and Attitudes to Learning:</b></p> <p><b>We are encouraged to be ambitious for the future and we are supported to develop the positive attitudes to learning that will help us fulfil our ambitions.</b></p> <p>This part of the school's plan has action steps focusing on supporting our attendance, on supporting our parents and carers, on wellbeing provision, careers support and encouraging our creativity, as this enhances our enthusiasm, zest and learning confidence.</p>
C	<p><b>Curriculum and Cultural Enrichment:</b></p> <p><b>Bishop Vaughan is committed to providing us with inspiring, interesting curriculum and extra-curricular experiences.</b></p> <p>It places Christ at the centre of our curriculum and this part of the plan focuses on curriculum development, skills provision and developing provision outside the curriculum, for example through our Entitlement Charter commitments or weekly masterclasses or the dozens of lunchtime and after-school clubs that we can access each week.</p>
E	<p><b>Engagement:</b></p> <p><b>Our school knows that our best chances of success lie in us engaging with all that the school can offer us.</b></p> <p>This part of the plan then has action steps focused on ensuring that we have lots of opportunities to engage in shaping school life, including as leaders and School Councillors. It also ensures that our teachers and support staff are actively engaged in professional learning which will allow them to enhance the provision offered to us across all areas of school life.</p>

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

# Entitlement Charter

As explained in previous newsletters, but repeated for our newest pupils, 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 now commits to ensuring that pupils of Bishop Vaughan will, during the time from Years 7 to 11, have opportunities to become:

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

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

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

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



## Class Charts



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

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

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

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



iPhone QR code:



Android QR code:



# Reading Recommendations Newsletter



# Christmas

## 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**

## BVS Book Group

*When?*  
Wednesday lunchtimes

*Where?*  
Headteacher's Office

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

*All welcome!*

## 'First Friday' Book Stalls

*When?*  
Lunchtimes on the first Friday of every month

*Where?*  
Outside the Main Hall, in the foyer

*Come along and choose from a wide range of pre-loved books for just 50p! New titles are available all year round from our book vending machines in the diners too!*

## Book Group Recommendations

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

Whether you love heartwarming tales, magical adventures or a festive mystery, here are some Christmas reads perfect for this season:

- **'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens** – a timeless classic about redemption, generosity and the spirit of Christmas. Perfect for anyone who loves ghostly surprises and a story with heart, it's one of our favourites!
- **'Hogfather' by Terry Pratchett** – for fans of fantasy and humour, this Discworld tale puts a magical twist on Santa Claus and the power of belief.
- **'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs** – A beautifully illustrated, wordless story that brings winter magic to life and is perfect for a quick festive read.
- **'Skellig' by David Almond** – Not strictly Christmas, but its themes of hope, miracles and new beginnings make it a thoughtful winter read.
- **'Letters from Father Christmas' by J.R.R. Tolkien** – Charming letters written by Tolkien himself, full of whimsy, adventure, and festive cheer.
- **'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis** – Enter Narnia in the heart of winter, where snow, magic and bravery collide in a story you'll never forget.
- **'One Christmas Night' by Diana Hendry** – A touching and evocative tale perfect for those who enjoy reflective, cosy winter stories.

# Reading Recommendations Newsletter

# 2025



## Listen In!

As was shared last year, staff have narrated the wonderful story, set in Swansea, of 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas, where he reminisces about his childhood Christmases in our city! See if you can identify the voices!

Book Group pupils have read the beautiful and much-loved poem 'T'was the Night Before Christmas' for you, read traditionally on Christmas Eve.

For those who enjoy reading or listening to poems, the poem which we heard in the carol service, 'Christmas' by John Betjeman, is read by the poet here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyZL9\\_To0\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyZL9_To0_A) and Mrs. Pole has also recorded it online.

Further members of our school community, including Governors, have also recorded some readings for you. Visit our website to learn more and to listen in!

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/library-and-wider-reading>

We hope you enjoy these festive items!

A range of Christmas short stories can be found free online here:

<https://teaandinksociety.com/classic-christmas-short-stories-read-online/>

Particular recommendations include those by Louisa May Alcott and, of course, Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', which has also been narrated and recorded by staff, as described previously.

## Staff Favourites:

Mr. Jones (Data Manager):  
*'The Secret History' by Donna Tartt*  
"Full of twists and turns!  
I genuinely couldn't put this book down!"

Mrs. Gwyther (PA and Deputy Data Manager):  
I love *'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott*, though I think lots of staff have chosen this previously!  
It's a classic though, and it opens at Christmas ...  
I even named my daughter after one of the characters!

Mrs. Pole (Headteacher):  
I have to revisit *'A Child's Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas* every Christmas, as well Christmas poetry such as *John Betjeman's 'Christmas'* which I unashamedly re-share in each annual Carol Service.  
*'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern* is the book on which *'It's a Wonderful Life'* is based, for those who like the film!

I can recommend too *'Murder on the Orient Express' by Agatha Christie* and *'The Nutcracker' by E.T.A Hoffman!*

Happy reading!

## Wise Words:

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

Fran Lebowitz



## 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 school's website header with navigation tabs: SCHOOL LIFE, ACADEMIC, ATTENDANCE, PASTORAL CARE, and EXTRA-CURRICULAR. Below the header, the 'FIRST EDUCATORS' section is highlighted. The text in this section states: "Our parent and carer newsletter focused on curriculum updates and supporting learning can be found online here:" followed by the URL <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/first-educators>. Below the text are three buttons labeled 'ADDITIONAL', 'FAMILY PRAYER', and 'LITERACY'.

## Headteacher’s Blog



The image shows a desk with a laptop, a smartphone, and several books. The text to the right of the image reads: "The Headteacher’s blog rounds up school news monthly, and this can be found online here:" followed by the URL <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/headteacher-s-blog>.

## ClassCharts



The logo for ClassCharts features five stylized human figures in blue, orange, green, purple, and red, arranged in a circle. Below the figures, the text 'ClassCharts' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

The text to the right of the logo reads: "The ClassCharts app, details of which are provided earlier in this newsletter, allows daily home-school communication to be maintained. You can download this using the QR codes provided on page 49."

## School Website and Social Media

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

# School Uniform

## September 2025 - August 2026

Three of our suppliers are:

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

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

### Years 7-11

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

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

## School Uniform

### Games Kit

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

Shin pads are to be worn for all hockey and football lessons. Gum shields are strongly recommended for hockey and rugby.

**All Items of clothing should be clearly marked with the pupil's name.**

### Sixth Form Uniform

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

Members of Sixth Form are expected to wear the uniform throughout the school day. A single sleeper or a single stud of minimum size may be worn in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, nose or tongue piercing. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. greens etc. are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts. Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances. Any jewellery must be removed if in the judgement of any staff, instructors or technicians it constitutes a health and safety hazard, especially in laboratories, workshops and PE areas.

# Attendance



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

95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

## Absence requests from school during term time

We have been closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. We have written to parents/carers to advise if your child's absence was below 90% in academic year 2024/2025 and that we may require medical evidence for absences this year.

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

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

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

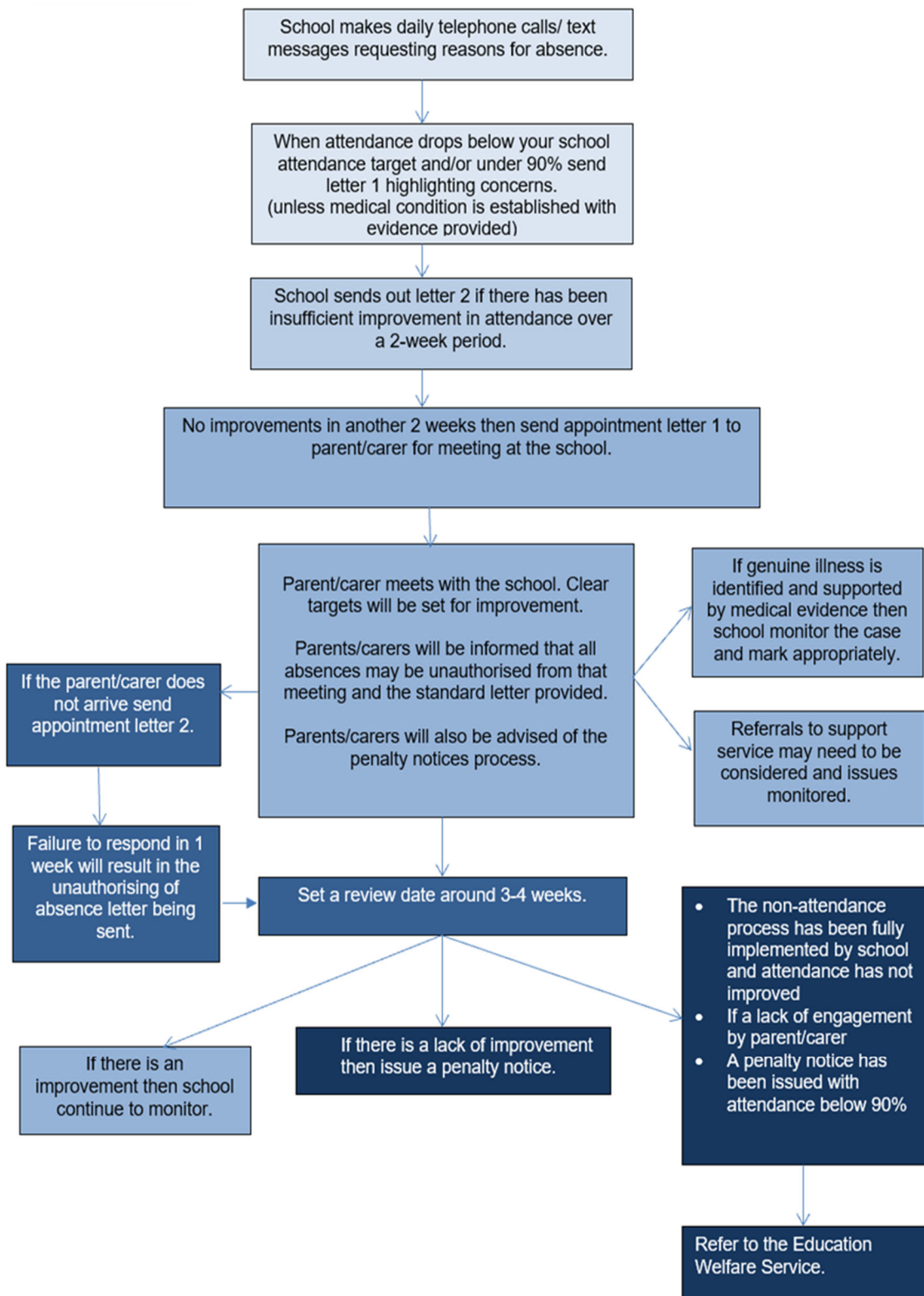
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website:

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

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

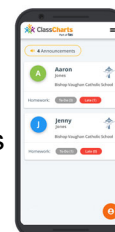


## Parents' Information

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

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

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



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

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

## The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

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

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

## Pupil Information Details

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

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

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



## 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.

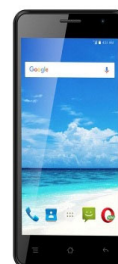
Please park legally, safely and with consideration for our neighbours in our area. Thank you.



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

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

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

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

## Lost Property

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

None of the items are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any items this academic year, please tell them to come and check in Student Services. After a period of time items not claimed will be given to a charity shop as there is no room to store them.

Lost property is available for checking at break and lunch-time.

**PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL  
UNIFORM SO THAT THEY  
CAN BE EASILY RETURNED IF HANDED IN TO  
LOST PROPERTY.**



**Please can all parents and guardians be aware that the school cannot supervise pupils arriving before 8.40am.**



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