



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2023
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2023



Headteacher's Message

Well, I think I say exactly the same at the start of most newsletters, but my goodness, it is always true, and never more so this year: what a term it's been! And how can we possibly even begin to capture even a snapshot of all that within this newsletter?

On each occasion, we try to draw out some highlights in these pages by way of an introduction to the newsletter that follows, but where do we start on this occasion? With the joyful and affirming Festival of Peace (pages 10 and 11)? With the Enrichment Fair (page 9), in which it is always truly a marvel to see how engaged our pupils are in all that is on offer? With the Upper School Presentation Evening (page 16), at which our pupils' achievements and efforts were celebrated - including those of former pupils - so beautifully? The film tribute to our alumni in the medical and healthcare professions created for this occasion was exceptionally moving.

This term, there was the once-in-a-lifetime chance for our pupils to hear in person from former President of the USA, Bill Clinton, from Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, and from First Minister, Mark Drakeford, at the University's Great Hall. You can read about that too within the pages of this newsletter!

Early December's Benediction and Carol Service at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Morrision is always a particularly lovely highlight of the academic and liturgical year for us, providing as it does stillness and time for reflection by candlelight in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The care taken by the RE and Music departments in selecting just the right items to enhance this beautiful occasion is always evident, and the sense of peace is tangible within the service, sustaining those in the congregation long after the service has ended.

The Annual Cathedral Carol Service held at the end of the term is similarly a highlight, and even more so this year, as we welcomed pupils from three of our primary schools to sing as a Primary Transition Choir, alongside the *Schola Cantorum* (Bishop Vaughan's choir for liturgical events) and with the staff choir, the evening ending with a simply spellbinding performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria'.

Our pupils also continue to shine academically, and it has been rewarding for them to achieve outcomes reflective of their efforts, from learning earlier in the year that the school had been placed in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide for 2023 as a school in the top ten in Wales on the basis of our pupils' collective outcomes, to seeing the joy at individual level as our pupils opened their results envelopes on the Year 11 and Sixth Form results days just before the start of this term.



It has also been wonderful to keep in touch with pupils as they have pursued their paths following their years with us here at Bishop Vaughan, and it was a pleasure, during the second week of December, to welcome two of the pupils that went on to study at Oxford and Cambridge last year. Sam and Ceira kindly returned to us to support this year's Oxbridge applicants by running a masterclass. This willingness to give of their time was appreciated by all who attended!

Headteacher's Message

The term, then, has been rich, as it always is, in uplifting and special times for our school community, 'bookended' by the Welcome Masses for each year group celebrated by our school chaplain, Father John, and by the Advent assemblies, which began in darkness and then were illuminated by candlelight, reminding us of the Advent message of hope.



As I spoke of at the start of this year's Annual Cathedral Carol Service, while the busy-ness of putting up lights and decorations, of choosing gifts and arranging gatherings can, in their own way, reflect the Christmas message and help us to grown in compassion and generosity, at this time of year, our community focuses on preparing ourselves for Christmas through prayer and reflection. In the service, I read an excerpt from John Betjeman's poem, 'Christmas', which illustrates beautifully the Advent message. The poet paints evocative images of a typical early December in 1950s Britain. He writes of the decorating of homes and churches, of the London shops sparkling with decorations, of the pubs with blazing log fires and town halls festooned with bunting – all so festive and certainly to be enjoyed. He then focuses, however, on what is at its heart – and I share the latter part of the poem with you here, in which we read of the poet's gratitude and awe for the gift of the Christ-child. We cannot help but concur with him that there is nothing - in all of this busy-ness, that can compare with that gift and that truth.

And is it true? And is it true?
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie, so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling on frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.



All of us here at Bishop Vaughan wish you and your families a blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas, as well as every happiness and good health in the New Year.

Mrs. Pole
Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Dates 2023-2024

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



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

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Wednesday 20th December; school closes at 3.00pm. Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December 2023 are INSET days.

All pupils return to school on Monday 8th January 2024. 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.parishofgorseinson.org

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

Tel: 01792 652683

www.meneviacathedral.org

Holy Cross (Father Cyril Thadathyl)

Tel: 01792 586454

www.holycrossmenevia.com

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)

Tel: 01792 655336

www.facebook.com/swanseatownhill

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

Tel: 01792 367283

www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk

Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones)

Tel: 01792 771053

www.sacredheartmorriston.org.uk

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Canon Pelosi)

Tel: 01792 842244

www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk

St. Benedict's Clydach (Canon Pelosi)

Tel: 01792 842244

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito Reyes)

Tel: 01792 202447

www.stbenedictsketty.org

St Bride's Pontarddulais (Father J P Thomas)

Tel: 01792 892722

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

Tel: 01792 653343

www.stdavids.wix.com/website

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 01792 424107

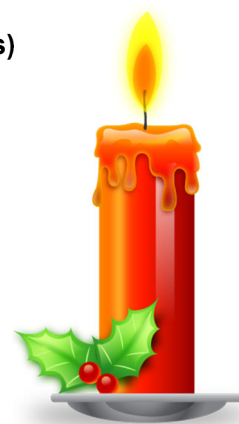
St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Tel: 01792 201046

www.gowercatholic.com

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 01792 424107



Advent Assemblies

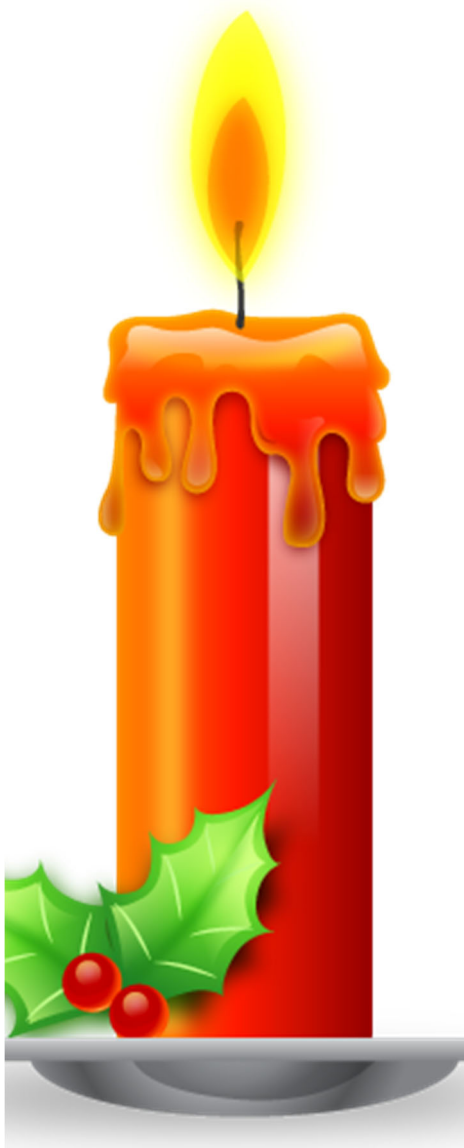


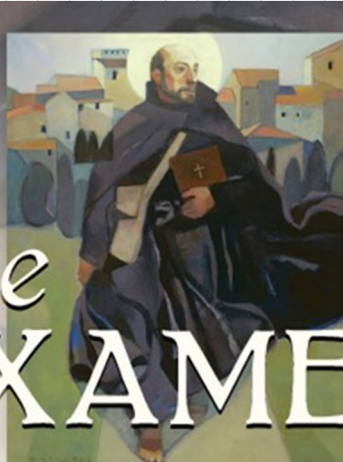
Well done and a huge thank you to the pupils in the Faith Council for putting together such beautiful Advent assemblies, with the support of Mrs. Thomas. Thank you also to Mr. Eynon-Davies and the Music Department for the items that they contributed to these.

The Advent assemblies are an integral part of our Advent preparations for Christmas, and the beautiful prayers, reflections and music were appreciated by pupils in every year group and staff throughout the school.



The Examen





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EXAMEN

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

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

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

For a number of years, we have observed a form of prayer called the Examen during Advent and Lent. This is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day or week in order to detect God’s presence and discern his direction for us.

The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God’s hand at work in our whole experience. The Examen has taken place in every classroom each Friday afternoon throughout Advent, and pupils (and staff) were invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week. It provided an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings.

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

The Catholic Pupil Profile

While the following information is well-known to the pupils in the older year groups and their families, we include it here for the benefit of those in Year 7 who are just coming to the end of their first term with us here in Bishop Vaughan!

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 behaviours. During this term, we have looked closely at being attentive and discerning.

Pupils have investigated what it means to be attentive to their experience and to their vocation; and discerning about the choices they make and the effects of those choices. We have encouraged the practice of attentive reflection and discerning decision making: in teaching, in the Examen, prayer and worship; and through the practice and example of school leaders and staff.

Enrichment Fair

The annual Enrichment Fair, which this year was held on 14th September, is always a lovely event, which essentially it follows the format of a university 'Freshers' Fair'.

As we have dozens of clubs and activities every week here at Bishop Vaughan, each group has its own table and stand in the fair, providing information to pupils and advertising the opportunities available. This is not only useful for our new pupils, but a helpful reminder to all pupils of just how much is on offer in terms of extra-curricular activities.

We are keen to nurture active, engaged and enthusiastic learners here at Bishop Vaughan. Involvement in even one or two of the groups can significantly enhance the school experience.



Clubs and Activities

ART CLUB Years 7-11 Monday & Tuesday lunchtimes in T6 Wednesday after school in T10 Years 10-11: Wednesday to Friday lunchtimes in T6	VOLLEYBALL CLUB EVERY MONDAY LUNCHTIME!	GYM CLUB MONDAY LUNCHTIME YEARS 10 & 11 TUESDAY LUNCHTIME YEARS 8 & 9 (INVITE ONLY) WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME GIRLS ONLY THURSDAY LUNCHTIME YEARS 10 & 11	BASKETBALL CLUB LUNCHTIMES MONDAY - YEARS 10 & 11 TUESDAY - YEARS 8 & 9 THURSDAY - YEAR 7 AFTER SCHOOL TUESDAY - GIRLS ONLY
STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING MONDAYS AFTER SCHOOL	LATIN CLUB Every Tuesday lunchtime in T6 All year 10-11	MINECRAFT CLUB YEARS 7 & 8 TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T7 YEARS 9, 10 & 11 THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T7	BOARD GAMES CLUB TUESDAYS 3.30PM ROOM 3 BRING YOUR A-GAME!
MATHS HOMEWORK CLUB TUESDAY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES ROOM A8 All welcome!	JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY Every Tuesday morning after school until 4.30pm. All are welcome to attend. See Mrs Thomas for more information.	DE Year 10 - Junior Award Year 11 - Award Year 12 - Award Award - Wednesdays after school See Miss Crabb for full details on how to sign up!	the book club EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME IN MRS POLLEY'S OFFICE Wednesday lunchtimes in G3 with Mrs Thomas

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

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

explore
 life faith meaning
 Alpha

SCIENCE CLUB LAB COATS AT THE READY! AN EXTRA SLICE OF SCIENCE... ...FOR YEARS 7 AND 8 WEDNESDAYS 3PM ROOM 21	THIS PLANET IS MAGIC Eco Club Friday lunchtimes Room B3	CROCHET CLUB Friday lunchtimes in Room 5 with Mrs Lloyd
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Festival of Peace

We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to our third annual Festival of Peace held from 18th to 22nd September. The Festival was once more a wonderful celebration of who we are, both collectively and individually. At Bishop Vaughan, we are proud beyond words to have no fewer than sixty-seven languages spoken by our pupils and their families! We therefore endeavour to celebrate cultural diversity.

The very vibrant Festival included exhibits from every department with creative responses, within the subject disciplines, to the theme of peace. In addition, there were stalls and displays curated by our pupils, celebrating our pupils' cultural heritages. Visitors to the exhibition were welcomed with music from two of our talented Ukrainian pupils and shown around by our Sixth Form pupil guides. They later enjoyed refreshments and a programme of music from our choir, who performed items reflecting the theme of diversity, including the beautiful Siyahamba, which is sung in both English and the Zulu language, and which our pupils also performed at the School of Sanctuary Awards in Swansea Arena back in June. You can listen to their recording from Swansea Arena by visiting the June blog page [here](#).



Some of the absolutely lovely feedback from visitors is shown here:

What a fabulous event. I was very impressed by the energy in the room and your very eloquent pupils who gave me true insights into their countries, including culture, political histories and of course foods. A thoroughly enjoyable session! (Welsh Government Visitor)

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Bishop Vaughan with your students. They were so mature and passionate when talking about the cultures of their families. They are such a credit to you. The choir absolutely blew me away! (LA Visitor)

It [was] an honour and a huge pleasure to be invited to school to join in with your Festival of Peace celebrations, so thank you very much for inviting me ... being around your pupils and witnessing their pride, knowledge and enthusiasm for their cultural heritages...goes a long way to my own personal feelings of rejuvenation, helping me to reflect on and to absorb the messages of peace and acceptance. (LA Visitor)

It was a privilege and a pleasure to be with you for this amazing experience. Your young people are such a credit to your school, their parents/carers and themselves. It was both fascinating and touching to listen to them share their exhibition work and their respective cultural heritages. I was really moved by the pride that they showed in doing so. ... The choir was also superb, with every member of the audience inspired by their wonderful harmony. (LA Visitor)

Festival of Peace

It really was a fantastic afternoon. The pupils did the school community proud. They were amazing. So knowledgeable, so confident and most importantly so proud to speak and share their traditions, beliefs and culture. It was a huge success. I certainly learnt new things. Please pass on my congratulations to everyone involved. (Cluster Schools Visitor)

I thought the Peace Festival was truly remarkable: the passion and enthusiasm the students showed towards each country was amazing. I've attended numerous other open days but none of them touched my heart as much as the Bishop Vaughan Peace Festival succeeded in doing – ardderchog.

I think every teacher in Wales should get the opportunity to experience the Festival so maybe next year you might consider filming it! (Welsh Government Visitor)



The school's work on celebrating diversity continues throughout the year, led by pupils and staff in the DARA (Diversity and Anti-Racist Action) group that was established last academic year.

Our 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.

Our plan has recently been re-shaped, as we saw 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 and pupils, as well as genuinely reflecting the principles that underpin our work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

bishopvaughanh@hwbcymru.net

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 enjoyable way to start the academic year. With sincere thanks to Father John Browne, our School Chaplain, who continues to support our spiritual development in this way.

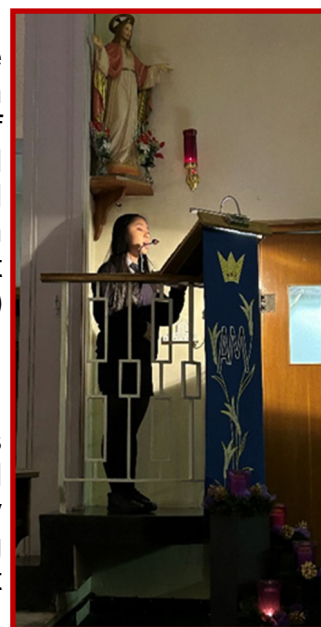
We are also very thankful that we have been able to celebrate Mass on a weekly basis, every Wednesday morning, in our school Chapel. Themes have included a Mass of Remembrance, and the first Mass of Advent. A wonderful way to start the day!

Benediction and Carols Parish Service



Our first Carol Service took place in the Sacred Heart Church in Morrilton on 7th December. It was a service of Benediction and Carols - a beautiful and reflective one with readings and with musical items from our pupils in the *Schola Cantorum* (the choir that sings for the school's liturgical events) and a truly wonderful start to Advent.

Thank you to Canon Jason Jones, within whose parish the school is situated and who supports the school with weekly visits, for such a lovely welcome and for the thought-provoking homily which focused on the Advent message of hope.



During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, we had the opportunity to pray by candlelight, finding peace and stillness in prayer. While it was a very cold evening outside, the beauty of the service and of the message that it offered, strengthened and warmed all of those present.



Cathedral Carol Service

On Monday 18th December, we held the second of our two carol services at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea. It was a special joy this year to welcome pupils from several of our cluster primary schools who sang 'Tonight' by Graham Kendrick, this following visits to their schools by Bishop Vaughan's Head of Music, Mr. Eynon-Davies to hold rehearsals. They also joined the Bishop Vaughan choir (the *Schola Cantorum*) and the staff choir for 'O Holy Night' and a truly beautiful rendition of Vivaldi's Gloria to end the carol service. Our pupils and staff found it a privilege and a joy to sing with them and to join our schools together for this very special carol service.



The evening begun with opening prayers and a welcome led by Father John Browne, our school Chaplain, and then we listened to excerpts from John Betjeman's poem, *Christmas*, which tells of the busy preparations for Christmas—the decorating, the gift-buying and the excitement of children, set in a beautifully nostalgic 1950s Britain. While all of those elements can be special, however, and often heart-warming, the poem however then focuses on the true Christmas message and on the most precious gift of all - the gift of the Christ-child.

The primary school pupils, the readers, the musicians and our soloists, all contributed to making the evening very special, and once more, the support of Swansea's Music Service in preparing and performing alongside our musicians was greatly appreciated.

As always, the evening brought together many former pupils and staff and their families amongst the congregation, and it served as a reminder of how much it means to us all to be able to gather in this way.



Father John offered a closing blessing and our head prefects then delivered a message of thanks before the last congregational carol and the beautiful Vivaldi Gloria.

Thank you to all who gave of their time and who offered their gifts and talents to make this such a lovely service, and to all of those who joined us at this gathering.

Presentation Evening

This term saw the return of our annual Upper School Presentation Evening. This event celebrates the many different talents our students have demonstrated over the last academic year.

Held on Thursday 26th October, the theme of this year's awards evening was centred around the idea of choices, and during the course of the evening it was clear to see that all of the students who attended the event had made excellent personal choices resulting in really impressive academic achievements and progress.

The guest speaker was Mr. Rob Phillips, our former School Advisor, who gave a thoughtful presentation about the power of education. His message to our students focused on encouraging our pupils to believe that even the seemingly impossible can become possible.



There were a range of musicals items skilfully performed by the choir as well as a bilingual solo from Justine Afante!



All attending the evening were invited to pause for a moment to reflect on the prizes given in memory of some of our former students and former members of staff, the memory of whom has been, and always will be, an integral part of the Bishop Vaughan community. They will be remembered for all that they stood for and held always in our prayers. This year a new set of awards were given in memory of our former Headteacher, Mr. Joe Blackburn, a man who dedicated his life to education and to Bishop Vaughan.

The event was extremely well attended and we look forward to recognising the achievements of many more students in the future, and in particular to the Lower School Presentation Evening in the Spring term.

Legion of Mary

The Junior Legion of Mary, the charity and prayer-focused group, continues to meet every Tuesday. Pupils have been reflecting on what their faith means to them and how they can live their faith to the full and share their experience with others.



Over the last half term pupils have prayed the rosary, taken part in reflections, created a stall for the Festival of Peace and been more actively involved in their parishes.

As part of the stall for the Festival of Peace pupils added to their previous contributions and focused on the theme “People of Peace”, illustrating their ideas and contributions in creative and imaginative ways.



Pupils continue to be actively involved in parish life, supporting events and initiatives at the Sacred Heart as well as across the wider school community.

During the last week of October pupils planned and led the Rosary and Devotion to Our Blessed Lady at the Sacred Heart. It was a beautiful and peaceful evening with readings, reflections and music to accompany the decades of the rosary. Additionally, pupils lit candles to symbolise our prayer intentions for each decade and presented Our Lady with roses.

Pupils have also enjoyed creating items to be sold at the school and parish fayres.

The members of the group are growing in confidence and becoming more and more creative with their ideas as they share and grow together, all within the context of faith.

We give thanks to Canon Jason, Sister Mini and Mrs Anne Lear for their continued support of the Junior Legion and our pupils.

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



English Department News

The Power of Speech

Speaking and Listening is an integral part of our teaching of English across all key stages. The skills needed are essential for demonstrating understanding, critical thinking and effective argumentation. In addition, they undoubtedly have a significant impact on students' self-confidence and self-expression.

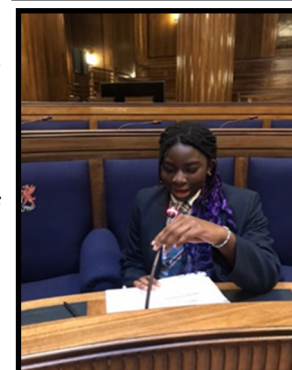
This term, a number of our Year 9 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in two very rewarding and exciting experiences. Two students from 9N share their reflections on these below.

A Matter for Debate

On Friday 10th November the Swansea Council Chambers at the Guildhall were reserved not for council members, but rather a group of eight Year 9 students, accompanied by Mr Walters and Miss Riggeard, who would soon learn the wonder of the world of debate. This incredible opportunity was orchestrated by the Seren Academy (and Ms. Siddika too!). Seren is a programme run by the Welsh Government to allow Wales' most able students to flourish through a multitude of super-curricular activities, in this case, through a whole day of engaging in debate.



The students would soon learn of a debate style called MACE, which is far more formulaic than British Parliamentary or Lincoln-Douglas debate styles. This specific type is structured into four segments, Introductory, Exploratory, Extension, and Summary speakers, who all engage in opposing stances to a proposed statement, or 'motion'. The proposition is in favour of the motion - for example, "This house believes it is morally just for vaccines to be mandated in Britain" – while the opposition is against it.



The debate begins with a ten-minute segment, the first half of which is given to the Introductory proposition speaker, where they will define their motion, model, and introduce around two or three of the proposition's arguments. The opposition then does the same; however, they may also rebut whatever the proposition speaker has said. Each speaker will have five minutes, the first and last minutes being "protected time". This process is then repeated with the Exploratory and Extension speakers, until it is the Summary speaker's turn. The role of Summary speaker is vastly different, as they must synthesise the information they have heard throughout the entire debate, and may even be penalised for bringing in a new argument.



The day was fascinating, as the lucky few who were chosen got a taste of debate in its entirety, perhaps one of the best opportunities Bishop Vaughan has yet offered. Currently, they are set to engage in the Swansea finals in January, and if successful in those, the national finals a few months later at Oxford University, a truly enriching moment for all.

Brooke Walters – Evans, 9N

English Department News

Talk the Talk

Talk the Talk is an educational charity which helps hundreds of eager students improve their verbal communication skills every year, and our school is one of its lucky beneficiaries. A group of Year 9 pupils were offered the opportunity to practice their oracy skills under the guidance of Claire – a communication expert, whose experience made the workshop enriching, entertaining, and most importantly, fun.

I was one of the lucky few to be chosen for the opportunity, and so spent an entire school day not only learning about oracy, but practising it too. My friend and I began the workshop with a miniature speech about each other, and despite being introverted, we both did rather well (mostly due to Claire's guidance!). After an hour of ruminating over our juvenile attempts at oracy, came the time to polish and practise the skills we had newly uncovered, in preparation for a final speech. For my final speech, I decided to focus on my personal passion – Latin, and its use in the modern world. To my delight, the engagement from my peers was constant, and I was awed to have been able contribute to the workshop so greatly.

To conclude, this opportunity was a spectacular look at oracy in an amusing, casual context, something sorely overlooked in modern curricula. We find ourselves so enveloped in the formulaic nature of oracy examinations that we forget who we are speaking to – other people. I am endlessly grateful for the once-in-a-school-year opportunity that I was offered, and so was everybody else who was involved. Thank you, Claire!

Brooke Walters-Evans 9N

Talk the Talk was a thrilling experience for those of us fortunate enough to be chosen to participate. I did not know quite what to expect, but I was certainly looking forward to the day ahead. Before we even began to think about what to talk about, we were told how important it was for us to think about the way we look and act while delivering our talk. It was stressed that we should try to have a straight posture and to maintain eye contact, while ensuring we were not distracted by anything or worse still, fiddling with any objects such as pen.

We then went on to plan a short speech which we would deliver to the rest of the group. The aim was to use any techniques we had been taught and to ensure we kept a formal register. We were allowed to choose any subject we wished. As cricket is a passion of mine, I had no doubt what I was going to choose. I chose to talk about Australia cheating in the 2019 Ashes series, as this is something I have strong opinions on. My audience were soon left in no doubt of this!

It was a fantastic experience from start to finish. It certainly helped us to think about not only *what* we said, but *how* we delivered our speeches. I believe it will help us by improving confidence in any form of public speaking, in interviews, and it may even give us more options for future careers. It was without doubt one of my favourite extra-curricular activities that I have ever participated in since coming to Bishop Vaughan.

Shaun Thomas 9N

Religious Studies Department News

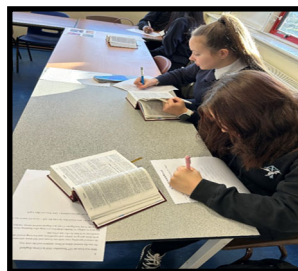
The patron saint of the RE department is St Teresa of Avila. Her feast day is on 15th October, and our pupils have learnt more about her and her extraordinary life. Here is a prayer she wrote that the pupils reflected on during their lessons:



May today there be peace within.
 May you trust God
 That you are exactly where you are meant
 to be.
 May you not forget the infinite possibilities
 That are born of faith.
 May you use those gifts that you have re-
 ceived,
 And pass on the love that has been given
 to you.
 May you be content
 Knowing you are a child of God.
 Let this presence settle into your bones

Father Gregory Beckett

Our Sixth Form pupils were fortunate to receive a visit from Father Gregory Beckett in their RE lessons this term. Father Greg, who is currently based in the Sacred Heart Church in Morrision, was kind enough to prepare a presentation on Divine Revelation and the Biblical canon. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the classroom activities and learnt lots from his vast knowledge.



We are very grateful to Father Greg for taking time out of his busy schedule to deliver the lesson and we look forward to welcoming him back in the New Year.



Performing Arts Department News

The autumn term is always a busy one for the Performing Arts Department. We started off within the first two weeks singing in our school's 'Festival of Peace.' The pupils sang an array of songs that promoted unity, peace and told of personal journeys, including 'How Far I'll Go' from Moana, and 'Siyahamba' a traditional Zulu song which translates as 'We are marching in the light of God'. The festival is a highlight of the school year which brings together our diverse cultures to be celebrated under one roof.

Over the festive period we have had a multitude of events from Christmas carol services to Christmas markets and Advent assemblies to name just a few. One external event we attended was singing at CREST Swansea's Christmas market. CREST is a Recovery College, Day Centre and mental health service based in Cwmbwrla. The pupils sang a collection of their choral Christmas pieces, as well as traditional carols, and secular Christmas songs. The pupils sang to a high standard as always and feedback was very positive indeed from the attendees. We are grateful to CREST for inviting us to sing, and we even bought some cakes to eat from the stalls after we sang.



On the same day as the CREST Christmas market we had our own Christmas Fair at school where we offered the same songs as we had earlier in the day. It was a lovely event with pupils, parents and friends of the school attending.

Over the past few weeks, the department has been preparing for our carol services. Our parish community carol service took place at the Sacred Heart in Morriston on 7th December, where we sang traditional carols and a sacred Christmas repertoire as part of the service of 'Benediction and Carols'.

We finished off the year with our Annual Carol Service at St Joseph's Cathedral on Monday 18th December. This service always takes the traditional form of 'Nine Lessons and Carols'. The choir sang a wide variety of pieces in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral. This year we were joined by a Primary Transition Choir from some of our feeder primary schools. They have been rehearsing with our Head of Performing Arts, Mr. Eynon-Davies. The Primary Transition Choir performed their own piece, and also collaborated with our school choir, the 'Schola Cantorum', singing some carols, as well as our very special piece at the end of the Carol Service, which this year was Vivaldi's 'Gloria'.

Some forthcoming events to mark in your diaries include:

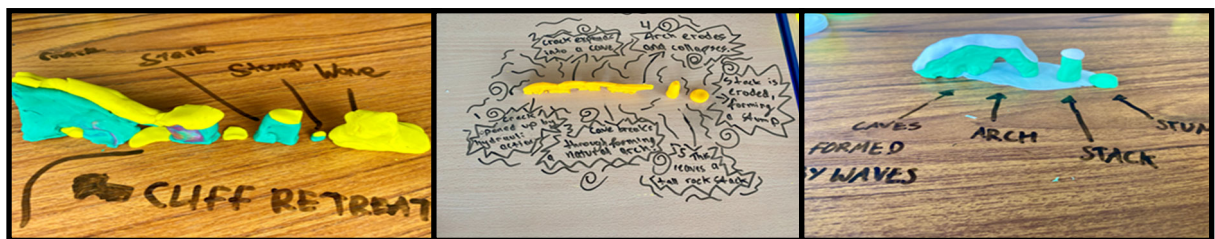
- Thursday 21st March at 7pm — Spring Concert
- 16th, 17th and 18th July at 7pm — School Production

Geography Department News

The Geography Department has had a busy term. All Key Stage 3 pupils contributed to an lovely display of hands symbolizing the idea that God has 'got the whole world in His hands' for the Festival of Peace in September.



Year 10 Geographers are really getting into their GCSE Geography course. We have been studying landscapes with a focus on coasts. They have created landforms out of Playdoh! Pupils are looking forward to seeing the features we have been learning about when we go out on some field trips in the new year.



Going Places – Geography Club

We have an exciting new Geography Club for younger geographers in school this year called 'Going Places'. The club meet every Tuesday and it is very well attended. Pupils are incredibly enthusiastic about the various projects they can get involved in. So far this year, pupils celebrated Autumn and linked it to their 'places' studies in Year 7 by painting pumpkins with the world map.

They turned out brilliantly!



Since half term, pupils have focused on looking at plastic in our oceans and how this affects marine life. Pupils are collecting plastic bottle tops and producing collages of marine life to present what they have learned in classroom displays.

In the lead up to Christmas, pupils will be making Christmas decorations from recycled materials.

Thank you to all those wonderful pupils and staff who make this club such a lovely place to be!

History Department News

The History department has had a very busy term!

Belgium Trip

At the end of the summer term, the History department took a group of Year 10 and 11 pupils to Belgium in order to visit First World War battlefields and memorials.



The group toured locations such as Langemark and Tynecot cemeteries, the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial and also attended a moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial. The group stayed in the beautiful Belgian town of Diksmuide where they were able to explore the area. This included a visit to the funfair and regular games of football in the town square!

ACE Day Trip to Cardiff Castle

For this term's Additional Curriculum Enrichment (ACE) Day, the Humanities department took Year 7 to visit Cardiff Castle. This was an opportunity to explore Welsh history and culture.



Pupils explored the castle grounds, visiting the medieval keep and the WW2 air raid shelters, as well as touring the living quarters of the Bute family. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit and the castle staff were very complimentary about the pupils' behaviour, manners and attitudes during the day.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK and the department marked this month through a series of assemblies exploring the experience and contribution of Black Britons over time. Pupils learned about the role of Black soldiers in both world wars and the subsequent race riots of 1919. These assemblies are part of the department's broader work to diversify the History curriculum.

Humanities News



The Geography and History departments enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate in planning the aforementioned Year 7 pupils to visit Cardiff Castle. The Humanities teachers are now busy planning a number of new and exciting trips for our pupils for the coming year.

Borth, June 2024 – All Year 10 GCSE Geographers will be offered the chance to go on a one-night residential trip to Borth in Ceredigion. We are planning on taking our GCSE pupils to the coastline around Borth to help them to understand the concepts studied in the Coasts unit of work. This is intended to be a fun but educational trip to enhance pupils' understanding of their GCSE Geography course.

Ardeche, June 2024 – Open to all pupils in Year 9 and above, this exciting trip will develop outdoor skills and provide an opportunity to learn about the geographical and geological features of the Ardeche region of France. Pupils will take part in outdoor activities such as orienteering, kayaking and coastering. This is a fantastic trip that will develop a range of skills as well as creating many memories! We have a few additional places available if anyone else is interested in joining us, please come and see one of the Geography or History teachers.

Poland, February 2025 – The History department is organising a trip to Poland to visit a range of sites, including Auschwitz. This trip will be open to Years 10-13 and will provide an important learning opportunity. More information will be provided in the new year.

Classics Department News

LATIN GCSE

Are you in Year 8 or 9?

Would you like to gain an extra GCSE?

You can now learn Latin from complete beginner level to GCSE. Sessions will take place after school on Wednesdays via Teams.

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

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

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

Physical Education Department News



Early this term we advertised positions for Year 11 young ambassadors to support the extra-curricular activities for pupils in lower year groups. We had a large number of applications from pupils, and the department appointed five ambassadors who began their roles this half term. We look forward to seeing the impact of their enthusiasm and hard work.



In September we took some of our Year 11 pupils to Swansea University to experience the science behind the World Cup.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and got to explore different careers in sport.

Football Academy

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

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



Sporting Excellence

Congratulations to Isaac (Year 11) who has secured a two-year apprenticeship at Swansea City Football Club.



Dylan (Year 11) took gold at the Judo Welsh Championship.

Erin and Michelle (Year 8) have been chosen to represent Afan Nedd Tawe in Netball. They are playing a year group above their ages!



Rylan, Borys (Year 11) and Tesfaye (Year 13) took first place in the Year 10 - Year 14 Cross Country Relay Championship. There were teams from across the whole of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

The Year 9/10 boys' basketball team took second place in the county tournament!



George (Year 9) has been chosen to represent Wales in Table Tennis.

Maths Department News

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Results

On 3rd October, twenty-six pupils from Years 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 test, the students had to answer twenty five very challenging Maths questions. There were some brilliant results. The highest scoring student in our school was Joel Destin in Year 12, whose result was amazing. Well done, Joel.



- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th

Charles Mamalias
Rhys Magsino
Matthew Buendia
Kevin Pious

Silver award
Silver award
Bronze award
Bronze award



Year 12



- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- Jt5th
- Jt5th
- 7th
- Jt8th
- Jt8th
- 10th

Joel Destin
Timopheyy Vorona
Ioan Phillips
Evan Davies
Carl Offia
Aaron Thomas
Rhys Kuriakose
Gladvin Benny
Anto Francis
Alona Jaimo

Silver Award
Silver Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award
Bronze Award



Well done to everybody that took part. We're very proud of what you achieved. The next challenge will take place on 31st January 2024 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!

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

Creative Technology Department News



The ACE Day in October was very successful with Year 9 pupils having the opportunity to take part in the Design Ventura competition. The whole year group took part in the school stage of the competition and five groups will be selected to move forward to the actual competition that is organised by Design Museum London and sponsored by Deutsche Bank.

Pupils are challenged to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop with the winning product manufactured and sold at the shop. This year's theme was Colour or Community. Pupils worked in groups of four to six and they had to develop a sustainable product that could be used for families, adults or children that would meet the theme and improve the lives of their target audience. Pupils were engaged throughout the day and produced some excellent ideas and prototypes. Members of the Creative Technology department will now look at the entries and select the entries that will move forward.

Eco-School News



Our Eco Group has started the new year as enthusiastically as it finished last year. The pupils are full of ideas of things they would like to do around school to improve and enhance the environment.

In September, our eco-garden was still providing us with delicious homegrown fruits and vegetables thanks to the hard work put in by the Eco Group and our Foundation classes in the spring and summer. We had a very successful crop of cucumbers which went down very well with everyone lucky enough to try them.



We have big plans to grow even more produce in the garden this year and trying to plant more bulbs and wildflowers around the school site.



To fund the purchase of essential items such as compost and seeds, the brilliant Eco Group pupils have spent the last few weeks making fabulous eco-friendly items to sell at the Christmas Fayre.

Supercurricular Enrichment at BVS



Leadership for Future Generations Event with Bill and Hillary Clinton

Year 12 pupils were invited to a very exciting event earlier this term – a meeting President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton! The Clintons visited Swansea University Law School, which is named after Secretary Clinton, and hosted an event to discuss the challenges facing future leaders, such as global conflict and climate change.



The Clintons were joined by First Minister Mark Drakeford and they talked about a huge range of issues, as well as answering questions from pupils.

Secretary Clinton encouraged young people to focus on 'citizenship, not just leadership' and the First Minister reiterated this when he spoke of the collective power of individual actions. Pupils and staff had a fantastic day experiencing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Key Stage 3 Supercurricular Events

Year 9 pupils have taken part in a number of exciting supercurricular activities this term, as mentioned in the English Department News section. Thirty pupils participated in a Talk the Talk workshop – this is a national organisation that promotes oracy and public speaking skills. The pupils spent a day practising different elements of public speaking, culminating in a 2 minute speech delivered in the Main Hall.



As previously mentioned also, a group of Year 9 pupils are also taking part in a national debate competition, organised by the Seren Network, a Welsh Government scheme to support the most able pupils. The team attended a debate boot camp at Swansea Guildhall, where they learned the rules of debating competitions and techniques for debating, followed by a mock debate. Pupils will be participating in their regional final in January.

Supercurricular Enrichment at BVS



Pupils benefited from a trip to the BBC Cymru Studios in Cardiff to learn about careers in the media.

Pupils toured the state of the art equipment and studios and were able to present their own news bulletin and weather report.



Key Stage 4 and 5 Supercurricular Events

The Masterclass Programme has returned for its eighth year and continues to grow! Our unique partnership with Swansea University sees lecturers and researchers visit the school to deliver workshops and mini-lectures on a range of topics.

This year, masterclasses have included 'The Monster in the Medieval Mind' and a Chemistry masterclass on how to cook the perfect steak! The sessions have been very well-attended and we are looking forward to inviting the Psychology department of UWTSU to the school in January, for a special series of masterclasses on the brain.

A group of pupils from Years 11 and 12 participated in a workshop with ATiC, a Swansea-based company that develops assistive medical technology. The pupils visited the ATiC building and learned about 3D modelling and its application in healthcare settings.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The new Bronze Award participants have been busy arranging the volunteering, skill and physical sections, with pupils choosing activities such as netball, judo, cooking, knitting and volunteering at a local library.

Pupils have also had their first expedition training session, walking along tracks from Bryn Bettws Lodge, to learn how to navigate using a map and a compass. Every participant worked hard, despite the cold and misty weather, and they are all looking forward to their future training sessions in Afan Argoed and Gower.

National Catholic College



The National Catholic College, which our school helped to found and establish, allows our pupils the opportunity to study an even wider range of options than the dozens that we currently offer.

Our teachers here at the school offer Further Mathematics and Latin to students in the Catholic schools throughout Wales and in St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College.

By offering these subjects online, over and above the in-school provision, we are able to share the expertise of our staff, to link our pupils with their peers nationally and to access courses ranging from German to Spiritual Reflection. This model has proven highly successful in the pilot phase. Current Year 11 pupils will once more have the opportunity to take one of their A-level courses next year through the NCC, should they so wish. Please speak with Mr. Davies for further details.

SUBJECTS

academic year 2022-2023, the following course options are being offered to Year 12 students via online co

<p>French</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>	<p>Further Mathematics</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>
<p>Geography</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>	<p>German</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>
<p>Latin (Level 2)</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>	<p>Personal Finance</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>
<p>Polish</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>	<p>Spiritual Reflection</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>
<p>Vocational Welsh</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>	<p>Welsh (2nd Language)</p> <p>Click here for further information</p>

Student Newspaper

Megan Bosomworth in Year 9 is keen to re-establish the Bishop Vaughan student newspaper, and she has taken on the challenge of running this - ardderchog, Megan!

The newspaper, formerly named the Bishop Vaughan Bureau, will be re-launched as 'Inklings.'

BVS Inklings



Why 'inklings'? The inklings were a well-known group of writers in Oxford who became famous for their work as authors.

The word 'inkling' also means an indication of things that have happened or are going to happen ... and the newspaper will provide news about what is going on here at BVS and about forthcoming events!

Pupils interested in joining the editorial team should speak with Mrs. Pole or Miss Siddika.

Sixth Form Success!

**THE WORSHIPFUL
LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES**

The Honourable Society for
Arts, Science and Technology
Nurturing Welsh Talent



**CWMNI ANRHYDEDDUS
LIFRAI CYMRU**

Y Gymdeithas Anrhydeddus
tros Gelf, Gwyddor a Thechnoleg
Meithrin Dawn Cymru

The WLCOW awards 2023



Annabel receiving the WLCOW award

This year Annabel has received the **WLCOW Award** that recognises students for outstanding academic achievement. We are extremely proud of Annabel who first joined us in 2016.

During her time at Bishop Vaughan, Annabel has always been a highly motivated and well-respected student. She was always polite, hardworking, caring, courteous, respectful, and reliable. She showed an exceptionally mature attitude towards her own learning and was keen to develop her knowledge and understanding in any way that she could.

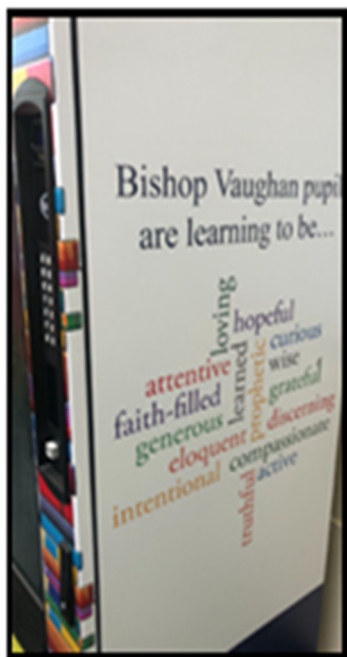
Annabel successfully applied to study Neuroscience with Professional Placement in the University of Exeter. On 17th August, Annabel was awarded A* at Psychology, A* in Biology and A in Chemistry for her A levels. She has also been a dedicated member of the charity group and she achieved a position in the Sixth Form Leadership Team at the end of Year 12, no doubt as she is such an excellent role model for younger students.

Annabel has been a thoroughly delightful student of exceptional ability. She has always been conscientious, courteous. Every teacher who knows Annabel would state that it has been truly a pleasure to teach her. We will miss her dearly but we wish her every success. Thanks to the WLCOW Award, Annabel will without doubt be able to purchase additional books that she may need to study Neuroscience in the University of Exeter. Llongyfarchiadau, Annabel!

Reading News

BVS Festival of Literature

At the end of the Summer term, we held our second annual Festival of Literature here at BVS! This once more included author visits, activities and a pop-up bookshop! The Festival is always a great way to end the academic year!



Reading Rewards

The book vending machines in each of our year bases continue to be popular! All books are available for the heavily subsidised price of £2 each!

Each week, form tutors and the senior team give out reward tokens too, allowing pupils to select a book of their choice in recognition of achievement, effort or putting the school's values into practice.

BVS Book Club



The BVS Book Club continues to meet weekly in Mrs. Pole's office on Wednesday lunchtimes. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you!

The Book Group has put together the Reading Recommendations bulletin published later on in this newsletter!

Pupil Voice News



Some of our Sixth Form Leadership team and other ambassadors from throughout our school attended a conference at the Welsh Youth Parliament in Cardiff in September. This unique opportunity for our young people allowed them to give their views on a significant piece of Welsh Youth Parliament work on education in Wales and the structure of the school day at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.

Our pupils learnt about the work of the Youth Parliament, spoke directly to a panel of Senedd members about the proposed changes to the school day in Wales, and took part in workshops about education in Wales. We are very proud of their contributions and look forward to hearing the outcome of this work from the Senedd in due course.



Our pupils have also taken part in the creation of a Swansea Pupil Manifesto. They met with learners from schools across the county, and discussed matters of importance for young people. They then put forward their ideas for positive change and suggested ways these changes could be implemented.



These ideas will now be collated into a Pupil Manifesto and our pupils will have the opportunity to speak to local councillors about their ideas. Well done to all involved for such enterprising creativity and for their confident, capable delivery of ideas.



Pupil Voice News

Well done to our Year 7 pupils who attended a special event at the Waterfront Museum in Swansea on World Children’s Day, on behalf of the Bishop Vaughan community. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, and had an enjoyable day listening to presentations from Swansea Council, young people and schools from across Swansea. They also took part in an interactive market place, with lots of information and fun activities being shared.



DARA Group

The school’s DARA (Diversity and Anti-Racist Action) Group now comprises pupils and staff, and its work is focused on celebrating diversity and our varied cultural heritages, alongside celebrating being pupils in Wales. It also works on diversifying the curriculum, enhancing pupils’ understanding of cultural and race-related matters, and works to stand against racism in all of its forms.

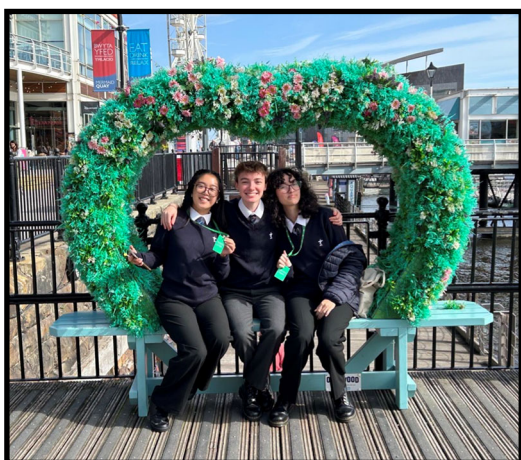


Should any pupil wish to join this group, we meet on Thursdays in room B4, and you can speak with Mrs. Pole or Miss Siddika for further details.

Pupil Voice News

Mental Health Ambassadors

Members of our Sixth Form have trained to be Mental Health Ambassadors in school. After looking at different mental health disorders and strategies with a view to helping others look after their physical and mental health, our ambassadors were proud to achieve their certificates of completion. They can be identified in school by their green badges, and will be delivering assemblies to pupils in the new year about the importance of good mental health. They are also available at lunchtimes in the Hwb to chat through any issues pupils may want to discuss.



What does the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child say?

 2 All children have these rights	 6 I should be supported to live and grow	 24 I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food	 27 I have the right to have a proper home, food and clothing
Article 2 of the UNCRC states you must be protected from all kinds of discrimination. Mental health services should be provided for everyone regardless of their age, gender, religion or disability. You shouldn't be discriminated against because you have poor mental health or a mental health condition.	Article 6 of the UNCRC says you have the right to be alive, survive and develop. The government has a responsibility to keep you safe from harm.	Article 24 of the UNCRC states that you have the right to the best possible standard of health and that governments must provide good quality healthcare and education on health and well-being so that you can stay healthy. If you are ill, you have a right to good health services. You have the right to live in a safe, healthy environment which helps you stay well.	Article 27 of the UNCRC says the government must make sure that you have a decent standard of living that allows you to develop fully – physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and socially.



Christmas Reading Recommendations

The BVS Book Group, which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes, recommends the following:

'The Dark is Rising' by Susan Cooper



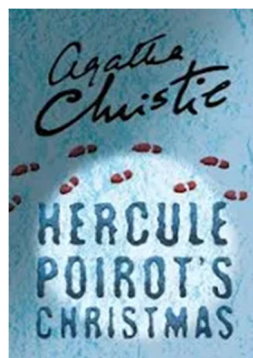
The Book Trust says of this novel: "This is probably one of the greatest fantasy sequences ever written. Darkly magical and intense, Cooper weaves her storytelling wonder over fully realised characters and worlds, drawing in the reader and leading them on a journey that will leave them clambering for the rest of the series."



'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern

This is the book upon which the iconic film 'It's a Wonderful Life' was based. That is reason enough to read it!

The tale apparently came to the author as a dream one night, and it went on to become a short novel (it would take only a small part of a single afternoon to read it!) and then it inspired the classic film by Frank Capra. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did!



'Hercule Poirot's Christmas' by Agatha Christie

Who doesn't love a Christmas mystery? And what better author than the queen of detective fiction, Agatha Christie?

Christie's famous detective, Poirot, is called to solve a Christmas Eve murder, and finds that there are more suspects to choose from than he might have imagined ...



'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Lucy wrote of this book: "This is a touching story filled with generosity and change ... the perfect book to fill you with the Christmas spirit! It's a story with a message that everyone can enjoy!"

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

<https://teaandinksociety.com/classic-christmas-short-stories-read-online/> These include Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.'



Christmas Reading Recommendations

We have repeated some recommendations from previous newsletters here for the benefit of our newest pupils!

Listen!

Poetry: 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



and Dick Van Dyke reads the Christmas classic 'T'was the Night Before Christmas' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLnhn1VOAoM>

Stories: For those of you prefer listening to stories, we have a full audio version of 'The Hobbit' here:

<https://on.soundcloud.com/9DsC1>

Our younger pupils and their families will not have had the opportunity to listen to this fantastic tale recorded especially for the school community and introduced by none other than Hollywood star Michael Sheen!

During the spring lockdown of 2021, we contacted the actor to ask whether he would consider beginning the narration of this wonderful tale of journeys and adventure as part of some extra-curricular activities we were putting together on the theme of journeys for our pupils, since we were all of course mostly confined to our homes. We were thrilled when he agreed and you can hear his message to Bishop Vaughan and his characterful narration of the tale's opening chapter.

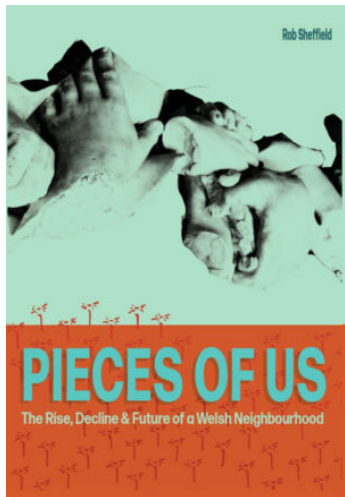
From there, teachers and staff throughout the school take up the story and the book was streamed three times a week throughout the Spring term, finishing just before Easter. You can now listen to the whole book on the link above (just type the address into your browser if you are not reading this newsletter electronically). See how many of the staff you can identify from their reading of the story! We hope that you enjoy it!



Bishop Vaughan Alumni

It is always a pleasure to hear of how our former pupils are getting on and, with their permission, to bring you news of the many and varied ways in which they are forging exciting paths and contributing to the world around them.

In each newsletter, we aim to bring you news of a former pupil.



Congratulations to former pupil Rob Sheffield, now a consultant and Visiting Fellow at the University of West of England, on the recent publication of his book, 'Pieces of Us.'

Rob's book charts the social history of Greenhill, Swansea, where Welsh and Irish people lived and worked together. Cambria Books refers to the book's "vivid descriptions and heartfelt anecdotes" stating that it is "a moving tribute to the people who made up this distinct part of Wales."

Congratulations, Rob! All in Bishop Vaughan send their best wishes to you!



BISHOP VAUGHAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- HOME
- OUR SCHOOL
- SCHOOL LIFE
- ACADEMIC
- ATTENDANCE
- PASTORAL CARE
- EXTRA-CURRICULAR
- NEWS
- CONTACT

- WELCOME
- ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS
- ADMISSIONS
- CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS
- ETHOS AND MISSION STATEMENT
- FRIENDS OF BISHOP VAUGHAN
- GOVERNORS
- PROSPECTUS
- SIXTH FORM
- STAFF
- VACANCIES
- YEAR 9 OPTIONS INFORMATION

ALUMNI

At Bishop Vaughan we are incredibly proud of the rich and varied careers and life experiences that members of 'the family' go on to have. On this page we proudly present some of those who have kindly got in touch with us to share their stories. We hope you enjoy reading about their successes as much as we have!

 <p>Louise Ashton 2006</p>	 <p>Annie Bass 2015</p>	 <p>Dom Brennan 2000</p>
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You can read more about our alumni on our website here: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/alumni>

Please contact the school if you are a former pupil and would be happy to feature on the website or on this page of future newsletters!



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

Open Evening

Pupils prepared a stand to showcase a sample of the work and activities carried out by the team across the Bishop Vaughan community. Pupils were eager to show and emphasize their work which goes on outside the curriculum.



Enrichment Fair

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.

Festival of Peace

The team worked diligently and enthusiastically again this year to contribute to and lead a number of aspects of the Festival of Peace. In addition to their stalls which represented their culture and heritages, they accompanied the visitors, giving them guided tours of the exhibition.



The work on display included:

Hearts of Peace & Peace around the World: breaking down the barriers with an international peace Jenga activity, prayer flowers, prayers in different languages, and signs and symbols of faith around the world.

Sign of Peace: linked to the celebration of Holy Mass.

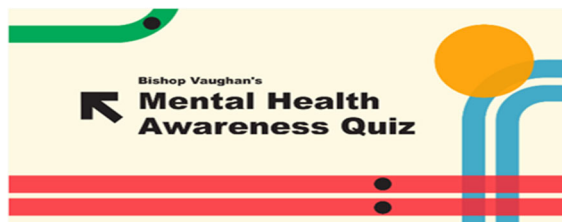
Cultural Music Suggestion Box: Music suggestions and requests were gathered spanning all cultures and traditions.

Cultural Clothing: Pupils took the lead and wore their cultural dress throughout the week. This was a way to raise the profile of the event, express identity and instil a sense of pride while encouraging others throughout the school community to get involved too. Discussion and dialogue strengthened peer understanding as pupils learnt more about the different cultural dress from their peers.

Photo Booth: This was decorated with flags to represent different countries. The photo booth style frame was circulated around the hall and festival event to capture photos and memories across the week.

Dove Fingerprinting: All visitors and guests were invited to place a fingerprint in the dove template as a sign of solidarity and expression of unity for those countries facing conflict, war and disaster. The dove template will be displayed in the school.

Bishop Vaughan Charity Team



From 10th – 13th October pupils and staff came together to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Week. Pupils organised the following activities:

- Selling of green ribbons, to be worn in solidarity with others across our community
- Wellness Walk for all year groups
- Tutorial quiz for all year groups

Additionally, the team organised a Sixth Form focused event named 'Tea and Chat,' providing an opportunity for the Sixth Formers to come together as a community, share and spend time with one another while having a moment to pause at the end of a busy term.

As part of the activities, there were discussions and reflections, prayer time, a photobooth and breakfast refreshments. Positive feedback from both pupils and staff has been received.



ACE Day: Wellbeing Focus for Sixth Form

Based on pupil feedback and the success of the Mental Health Awareness activities, the team organised a wellbeing focus for the ACE Day in October. The pupils chose a range of activities including reflections, crafts, sports and games. It was a wonderful example of pupils utilising their talents, enjoying each other's company and supporting one another.



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

MISSIO Appeal

As part of the fundraising and awareness appeal for MISSIO 2023, pupils and staff have focused on the theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." (Lk 24: 13-35) in several ways.

A PSE session enabled discussion, reflection and engagement with activities centred around community action. Beautiful reflections, affirmations and empowerment postcards have been collected based around the theme 'A Day to Shine' and will be shared with Canon Paul Watson, Missio Lead for Menevia.



SUGGESTED YEAR GROUP
 COLOURS:
 Year 7 – pink
 Year 8 – purple
 Year 9 – orange
 Year 10 – green
 Year 11 – yellow
 Year 12 – blue
 Year 13 – red

£1
 All money
 to support MISSIO
 & the recent
 earthquake
 appeal

SWISH Event

Sixth form pupils organised a pre-loved 'swish' event for staff, Sixth Formers and Year 11 pupils. Donations were collected and a pop-up shop decorated ready for the event. A bake sale provided an opportunity to buy a sweet treat after browsing the selection. All items were on sale for £1 with all donations going to support the most disadvantaged through the Children In Need appeal.



Children In Need

Pupils and staff supported the 'Spots for Pudsey' appeal on Friday 17th November with spotty accessories worn in addition to school uniform. The Pudsey photobooth proved popular, as did the bake sale – selling out in just 10 minutes!



Pupils and staff embraced the Pudsey Tutorial Quiz. Congratulations to the winning tutorial.



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team



School Christmas Fair

Bishop Vaughan's Christmas Fair took place on 30th November with a range of stall holders from pupil-led groups and clubs to external stall holders. Stalls included crafts, games and activities, baked goods and refreshments as well as beautiful religious objects.



A special mention to the pupils who were involved in and supported the event, making and decorating the hall, running stalls and making crafts for sale as well as those who made games. Thank you also the choir who provided musical entertainment to add to the festive ambience. It was wonderful to see the whole community come together at this time of year!



Christmas Jumper Day

Bishop Vaughan was once again full of Christmas cheer as we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children. Lots of Christmas jumpers, sparkly accessories and tinsel could be seen far and wide! The Christmas quiz proved very popular as tutorials embraced their competitive spirit! Very many thanks to all who supported the event!



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team



Advent Activities

Once again, pupils supported the SVP Christmas Appeal by collecting small change, donations for food hampers and children’s selection boxes in order to give a little back to those in our local area.

Additionally, the Messages of Kindness Appeal proved even more popular this year. Messages of kindness, gratitude and love were shared with local parishes and the hospital, as well as across the school community, this being a simple yet beautiful way to share the true meaning of Christmas!



End-of-Term Activities



The last couple of weeks of term have been filled with some lovely activities and also fundraisers for those in need this Christmas.

On Wednesday 13th December, pupils throughout the school enjoyed Christmas lunch together. Thank you to the catering team for their great job in managing a lunch on this scale!

Sixth Formers also enjoyed a trip to Bath’s Christmas market.



Christmas Trivia



Christmas


WORD SEARCH

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

<p>JINGLE BELLS BOW CANDY CANE CAROLERS CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS ELVES</p>	<p>FIREPLACE GARLAND GINGERBREAD HOLIDAY JOLLY SANTA MISTLETOE</p>	<p>NORTH POLE ORNAMENTS PRESENTS REINDEER SNOWMAN WREATH WRAPPING PAPER</p>
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Christmas Trivia



1. Which iconic brand was responsible for Santa's red suit?
2. On a Christmas wreath, Holly represents what?
3. Which country provides the iconic Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square each year?
4. In many countries, Boxing Day commemorates the life of which Saint?
5. In 1847, Tom Smith invented which Christmas items?

Merry Mental Maths



To decorate our giant Christmas tree, we'll need lots of decorations!

We need 6 meters of tinsel, 12 red baubles and 1 giant star.
Tinsel costs £6 per 2 meters.
Red baubles cost £3 for a pack of 6, and a giant star costs £5.
How much does it cost to decorate our tree?

Class Charts



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

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

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

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



iPhone QR code:



Android QR code:



Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and access support after school!

**Monday
to
Thursday**



**3.00pm
to
4.00pm**

Free tuition with subject teachers each day.

Support with independent learning.

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

Opportunities for collaborative learning.


Rewards for attending.

Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones

Trivia and Maths Quiz Answers

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


'First Educators' Parent Newsletter



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

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


Headteacher's Blog



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

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

ClassCharts



The ClassCharts app, details of which are provided earlier in this newsletter, allows daily home-school communication to be maintained. You can download this using the QR coded provided on page 47.

School Website and Social Media

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

School Uniform

September 2023 - August 2024

Three of our suppliers are:

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

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

Years 7-11

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

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

School Uniform

Games Kit

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

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

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

Sixth Form Uniform

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

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

Attendance



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

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

Absence requests from school during term time

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

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

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

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

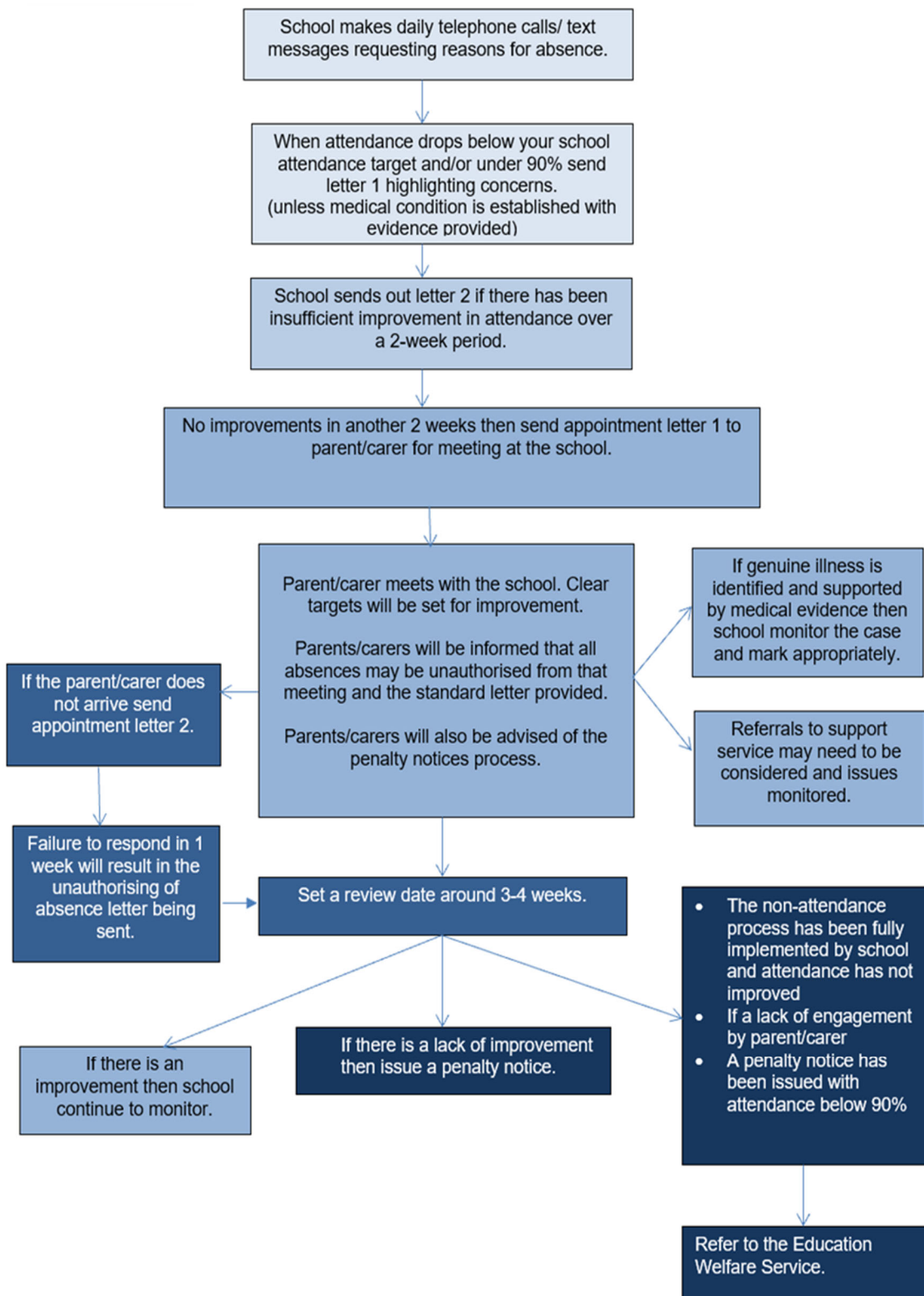
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website:

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

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

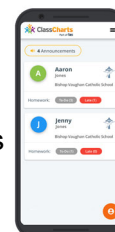


Parents' Information

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

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

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



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

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

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

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

Pupil Information Details

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

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

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



Bus Passes



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

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

Getting to School

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

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 2.45pm every afternoon.

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

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



Mobile Telephones

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



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

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

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

Bishop Vaughan Online

www.bishopvaughan.co.uk

https://twitter.com/Bishop_Vaughan

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

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

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

Lost Property

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

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

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



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

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



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
Morrison, Swansea
SA6 7QG
Phone: 01792 772006
Fax: 01792 790565
email: bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net
www.bishopvaughan.co.uk**