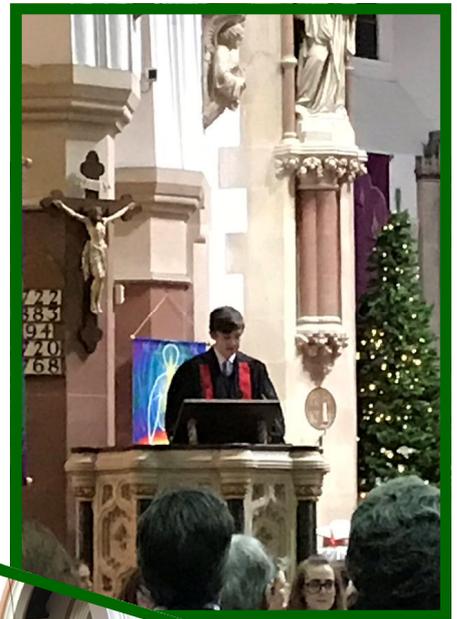




Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2018
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2018



School Term and Holiday Dates 2018-2019

Term	Term begins	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		Term ends
		Begins	Ends	
Autumn 2018	Monday 3rd September	Monday 29th October	Friday 2nd November	Friday 21st December
Spring 2019	Monday 7th January	Monday 25th February	Friday 1st March	Friday 12th April
Summer 2019	Monday 29th April	Monday 27th May	Friday 31st May	Monday 22nd 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 half term is Thursday 20th December 2018; school closes at 3.25pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 7th January 2019. This will be week two on the timetable.

Friday 21st December 2018 is an INSET day

Sixth Form Information Evening is Thursday 17th January 2019 from 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Advance notice of Examination Dates January 2018
 External units for Years 11 to 13 from 9th January 2018 to 10th January 2019

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

Christmas Services

Times of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the different parishes are printed below.

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)
 Christmas Eve
 Nativity Mass 5.00pm
 Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 10.30am

Sacred Heart Morriston (Father Jason)
 Christmas Eve - Nativity Play 5.00pm;
 Children's Mass 5.30pm;
 Carol Service 11.30pm; Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day Mass - 9.30am and 11.00am

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Father Mansel)
 Christmas Eve
 Nativity 5.40pm Vigil 6.00pm
 Carols 11.45pm - Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 9.30am

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry)
 Christmas Eve Vigil - 5.30 pm
 10.00pm - Vigil Mass
 Christmas Day 10.00 am

St. David's (Canon Flook)
 Christmas Eve
 Vigil 6.00pm
 Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 11.00am

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)
 Christmas Eve - 5.30 Carol Service
 Vigil 6.00pm
 11.30 Carols Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 10.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Artur)
 Christmas Eve
 10.00pm Polish Mass
 Christmas Day 11.00am 9.00 Polish Mass
 (Times not confirmed by Parish)

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito)
 Christmas Eve
 Children's Mass 6.00pm Mass 10.00pm
 Christmas Day 8.30am and 11.00am
 (Times not confirmed by Parish)

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry)
 Christmas Eve -
 Vigil 8.00pm (Carols 7.30pm)

Holy Cross (Father Cyril)
 Christmas Eve
 Vigil 6.00pm
 Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 9.30am
 Boxing Day 11am

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)
 Christmas Eve
 Vigil 6.00pm
 Christmas Day 9.00am

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Fr Benedict)
 Christmas Eve
 Vigil 6.30pm
 Midnight Mass
 Christmas Day 10.00am

St Joachim's (Father John Browne)
 Christmas Eve 6.30 pm
 Christmas Day 9.30am

St Bride's Pontardulais (Father J P Thomas)
 Christmas Eve 8.00pm
 Christmas Day 8.30am

Christmas Message

As we draw to the close of another tremendously busy term, the highlights have truly been too numerous to list here! Certain of these, however, deserve particular mention. The start of this term was very special in so many ways, with our induction days welcoming pupils—both those new to the school and those returning from the summer break—through a carefully-planned programme to ensure an excellent start to the school year. Sessions included pupil voice work, Resilient Learners workshops, introductions to our online learning platform, First Aid training and a great deal besides, however the firm focus was upon our school's ethos, grounded as it is in the Gospel values. This year, we will be extending this work by adopting the Catholic pupil profile, about which you can read more on the website.

Particular thanks are due to our School Chaplain, Father John Browne, who celebrated six Welcome Masses in the opening days of the term, with that for our new Year Seven pupils being a guided Mass. The first week of term ended with a group of pupils and staff travelling to the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool, and the weekend proved inspiring for all of those attending both from the school and as part of the larger Menevia group.

The Enrichment Fayre, held the following week, allowed all pupils to visit stalls advertising the very many enrichment activities on offer, from clubs to sports teams, and from charity groups to the Learning Zone. It also provided an opportunity to welcome a wide range of external groups with which the school works closely, as well as CADW, the Libraries Service, the St. John Ambulance Group, the YMCA, the Prince's Trust, the Urdd and Welsh Assembly representatives. The latter of these inspired one of our pupils, Ruth, about whom you can read more on page 18, to stand for election in the Welsh Youth Parliament and we are delighted to report that she fought off fierce competition and was elected to represent her constituency for a period of two years! We are tremendously proud of her achievement and know that she will carry out great work in her new role!

As ever, we are grateful both to Swansea's superb Music Service and to our very talented pupils for their musical endeavours this term. Year Seven pupils were encouraged to take up instrumental tuition through their attendance of a 'Musical Minds' event at the Brangwyn Hall in October, and many pupils put their vocal talents to impressive use over the course of the term, from their contributions to the very moving Remembrance Services to the vibrant Autumn Concert and the beautiful Carol Services that always form such a central part of our Advent preparations.

A new addition to our Advent preparations has been the Examen, a reflective meditation that has been used to end each week during the Advent period, this encouraging our pupils to focus on the blessings within their lives and upon discerning their paths and direction as a consequence of this. This has complemented the well-established Advent assemblies, so effectively led by the pupil ambassadors.



Christmas Message

On a rather different note, the first pupils to receive the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award gained this during the Autumn term and we are sure that their success will inspire our current cohort! We look forward to recognising their incredible achievement in next term's Presentation Evening. The numbers of those deserving recognition for their talents, academic success and efforts are now so numerous that we will be holding separate Presentation Evenings this year for Key Stage Three (Years Seven to Nine) and for Key Stages Four and Five (Years Ten to Thirteen). It is always a pleasure to welcome pupils and their families to these celebrations of the diverse talents of those in the school community.

The achievements of those in the school community continue, of course, long after school-based education has finished! We know of many former Bishop Vaughan pupils that have gone on to achieve at exceptional levels in sports, music, academia and in so many more fields. We are currently collating details of our alumni both to recognise these individuals and to inspire current pupils, and we would therefore be delighted to hear from you as parents, grandparents, parishioners and members of the wider school community if you know of former pupils that could be recognised and celebrated in this way. You are welcome to contact the school through the usual channels—via the website, by telephone or in person. We look forward to hearing from you!

The extensive Bishop Vaughan community was very well-represented at the Carol Services during the final weeks of this term. We were delighted to join with St. David's RC Primary School for a beautiful service at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Mumbles, this being led by Father Mansel, who works hard to support pupils of our schools in his role as a school governor in both! Further work linking with our primary schools has meant that our pupils have been privileged to attend the parish Mass for St. Joseph's School in Clydach and also to sing at their Christmas Fayre. With very many of our pupils being former pupils of these schools, they always consider it a particular pleasure to return to see the teachers that nurtured and supported them! Our second Carol Service was that at the Cathedral and here the choir and orchestra, supported by the Music Service staff, led in encouraging us to reflect on the traditional Nine Lessons, interspersed with popular traditional and modern carols.

While, as stated, it is not possible given our very large school and the talents and achievements of those within it to reference all of these in our termly newsletters, we invite you to read the fortnightly blog which endeavours to provide regular updates as to school activity and news, in addition to the usual website items. This can be found here: <https://bishopvaughan.co.uk/headteachers-blog> and we hope that you enjoy this addition to the website.

On behalf of the Governors and staff of Bishop Vaughan School, I wish all pupils and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in the New Year. Gyda phob dymuniad da—
Emma Pole



Adoremus

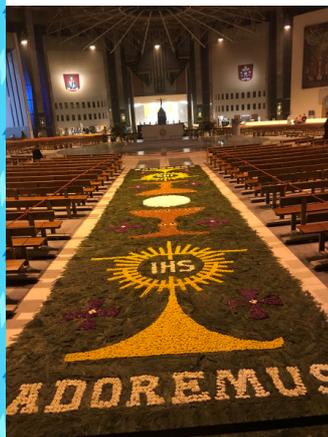
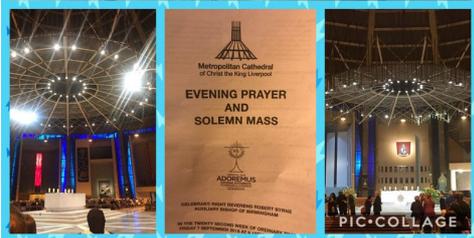
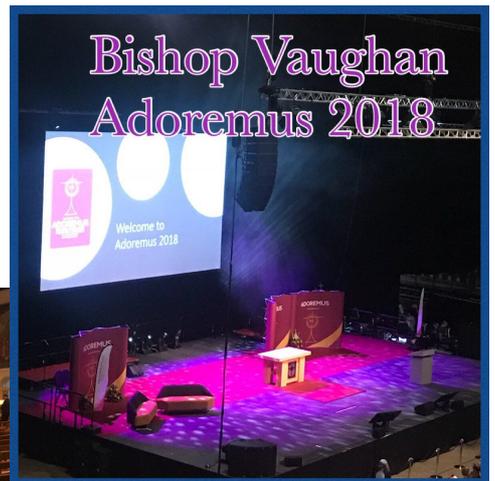
On Friday 7th September, a group set out from the school to make our way to Liverpool for the 2018 Eucharistic Congress, a faith-enriching event bringing together Catholics from all over Britain to celebrate the gift of the Eucharist.

Throughout the weekend, talks, discussions, workshops, prayer opportunities and cultural events complemented the main events held in Liverpool's Echo Arena. We were privileged to attend Mass at Liverpool Cathedral on Friday evening, meeting with Bishop Tom alongside the other representatives of the Diocese from various parishes and from St. Joseph's School in Neath. From there, we prepared for all that the event had to offer, and indeed it was a great deal!

On Saturday, the inspiring talks by Bishop Robert Barron gave us a great deal to think about and to encourage us, as did the testimonies given in the Youth Presentations and all other elements of the programme. The highlight, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, followed by a reflection by Cardinal Vincent Nichols was incredibly moving and we will remember this opportunity for a very long time to come!



The Liturgy and Chaplaincy Teams



Enrichment Fayre



This vibrant start to the term introduced us to the activities on offer throughout the rest of the year! Lots of different clubs and teams encouraged us to consider joining. From Lego to choir, debating to Latin, netball to Art and football to the charity team, there really is something for everyone!



If you are keen to join in with lunchtime or after-school activities, why not check the website for details and ask the lead teacher in school for more information?

BVS Charity Group

Race for Life

Over 200 students participated in the Bishop Vaughan Race for Life Event in July. The event included fancy dress, awards for effort and even a staff relay at lunchtime! All money raised has been sent to Cancer Research and in return all participants received a medal.

As part of the celebrations a special assembly has been organised so that all participants can receive their medals. A special note of thanks must go to the Year 11 pupils who returned from study leave to support and help organise the event. Their dedication and willingness to give so freely of their time resulted in a successful and hugely enjoyable event for all involved!



BVS Charity Group

Talent Show

A small talent show was organised during the last week of the summer term. A range of entertainment from both students and staff included dance, song and drama performances, all culminating in some great audience participation to end the show! It was certainly an afternoon of laughter, song and joy! Events like this showcase not only the talent, but also the community spirit that embodies Bishop Vaughan!



Retreat – Transition Day

As part of the transition programme, some of our Liturgy and Charity Ambassadors delivered a retreat day for the pupils of St Joseph's Primary School. The day was held in Gendros and through the theme of light and sharing of talents we explored how we can celebrate and share as a community. The day finished with the Celebration of Mass. The day was beautifully peaceful, reflective and enjoyable for all involved.

Charity Ambassadors – New Challenge for 2018

This year, we have seen the charity group grow dramatically in size, and with a fantastic team that has been working very hard, we have had a very successful start to this year.

The team organised a stand for the Year 6 Open Evening in order to build on the sense of community and showcase all the possibilities on offer at Bishop Vaughan. As part of the stand, a mini bake sale for CAFOD took place – a perfect



snapshot of the many activities on offer, not to mention an energy boost for all those with a sweet tooth! Pupils from Year 6 were also invited to write their hopes and attach them to the board in readiness for them joining the school community in September 2019. We can't wait to get them involved!

Additionally, as it is the first term of a new year here at Bishop Vaughan, we have given pupils from each year group the chance to have their say in charity events. The team has worked diligently to organise assemblies so that each year group can choose a few representatives to join the charity team. It has been amazing to see so many people who want to be more involved in the charity work that goes on. Each year group now has a Sixth Form representative who will work alongside the year group representatives. We look forward to all the great causes that we can fundraise for in the coming months as well!

BVS Charity Group

The Shoebox Appeal

The Shoebox Appeal arrived once again at Bishop Vaughan and this time with a time limit of only ONE WEEK!

The campaign was launched in assemblies and the tutorials worked hard to collect gifts, shoeboxes, wrapping and donations to cover postage.

As incredible 85 boxes were made in total - a massive thank you to all who supported. We are so proud and this generosity is the perfect example of BVS spirit – we couldn't have done it without the commitment and energetic support of so very many pupils!

Special thanks also to the members of the charity team who organised the 'check, wrap and pack' sessions to ensure the boxes were prepared and ready on time.

Children in Need

Children in Need saw Bishop Vaughan show its spots for Pudsey. As part of the celebrations, there was an eclectic range of spotty tops, socks and accessories in evidence!

In addition the 'Name the Bear' competition and bake sale were perfect ways to raise money, have some fun and enjoy a sweet treat.

Over £900 was raised – diolch for all your support!



Autumn Concert

“Don`t be anything less than everything you can be!”

SNOOPY-THE MUSICAL

Towards the end of November many pupils performed in our Autumn Concert which showcased many of our extra-curricular groups including the Schola Cantorum, Production Project and orchestra, as well as performances from the various instrumental groups and soloists.

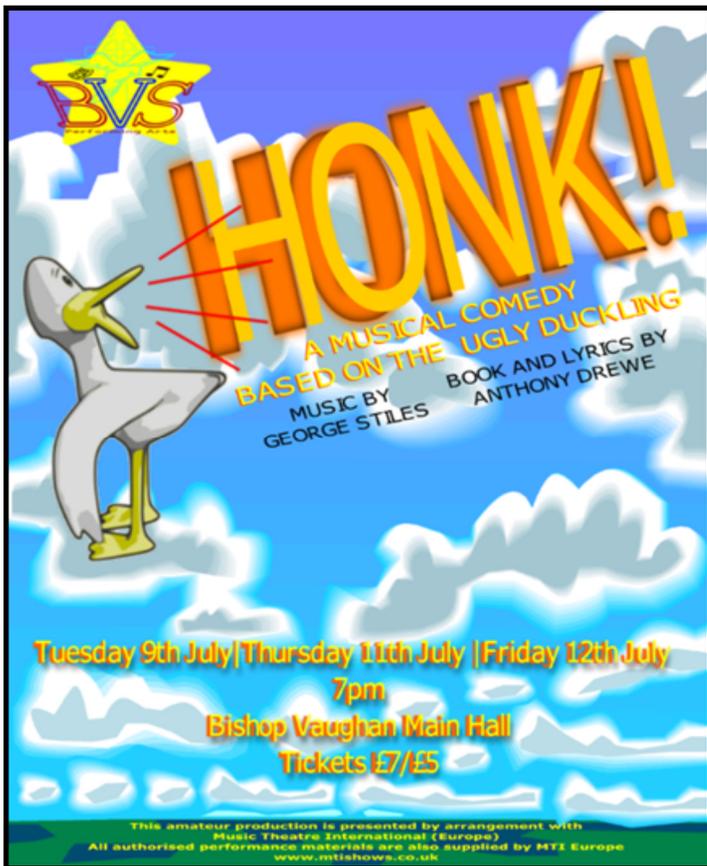
The evening included a large repertoire including songs from ‘Shrek’ and ‘Snoopy: The Musical’, ‘The Greatest Showman’, Queen and even Camille Saint-Saëns’ ‘The Swan’ from ‘The Carnival of the Animals’, to name just a few! The evening was a true testament to the wealth of talent our pupils have to offer!



It was the first event we have had since purchasing our new stage curtains, which made a huge difference to the overall appearance of the event. Usually we hire curtains, but due to the tremendous efforts made over the concerts, fundraisers and our school production last year, we were able to purchase our own for the benefit of the whole school!

The evening was enjoyable for both the audience, and performers alike. During in the interval there were treats such as mulled wine and mince pies to get everyone in the festive mood!

Keep a look out for the rest of our events throughout the next few months including our 2019 school production ‘Honk!-The Musical’-based upon the story of The Ugly Duckling.



Anti-Bullying Day 2018



On Friday 16th November 2018, Bishop Vaughan Catholic School held an anti-bullying day. During the day we welcomed a range of organisations including 'Bullies Out', EYST, South Wales Police, the NSPCC, Barnardo's, Women's Aid and the YMCA. All came together to help support the school community to be free from all forms of bullying and distinguish the school by its anti-bullying culture.

The students received information from the different organisations about the help available for them if they needed it. Working alongside the various agencies were our Student Services Ambassadors. They helped throughout the day to support the year groups with the activities organised.

The day was based on the 'Power of Words' and how easily words or sentences can be used to cause negative emotions and feelings and how hurtful words can be to others. The assemblies for each year group demonstrated how bullying can not only affect someone's life, but that of those around them and also their performance in school.

Student Services provided guidance for pupils on how they can find support if they are being bullied; how to avoid such situations and raised awareness of various ways in which people are bullied.

Bishop Vaughan aims to provide equal opportunities for everyone to achieve their full potential and to provide a safe and caring environment. The day was very successful in building on these aims.



PE Department

Pupils are working extremely hard in Physical Education lessons and making excellent progress in a very wide range of activities!

In terms of extra-curricular activities, the ECA programme has started strongly with over 300 pupils already taking regular opportunities to attend clubs and teams. Netball Club is back up and running on a Monday and boys' training and fixtures are being played regularly. We also run clubs at every lunch time.

We have emphasised throughout all activities that those hoping to represent the school in its sports teams should also uphold its ethos, both on and off the field. An important part of our work is fostering the right ethics and values at all times and we are proud to focus on nurturing players that demonstrate respect for others and commitment to our ethos.

We have already had some notable performances this term:



Cross Country County Relays competition saw all Bishop Vaughan teams finishing in Top Ten positions and several teams finishing top three with one of our Year 8/9 teams becoming County Champions.

Welsh Indoor Rowing Championships
Seb - 1st place 2km in 6 minutes 44 seconds
Ben - 2nd place
Peter - 4th place



Ieuan won first place in the Welsh Tumbling Championships.



Taekwondo
Congratulations to Jiyun Baek for getting 1st place in the British Taekwondo Championships.

Netball -
Congratulations to Megan in Year 8 on her selection to the Afan Nedd County Netball Squad.
Well done also to Teagan, Sophie and Madison for making the County Development Squad.



PE Department



KS3 and KS4 Basketball teams who recently both won their respective area cup competitions now qualifying for the regional rounds. Their commitment to lunchtime sessions has been superb and it has been a pleasure to watch them develop.

Congratulations to Kyle Pesario for his selection to the Wales Tennis U12 squad who has recently competed vs Scotland winning 2 out of his 5 games.



Former pupil Evan pictured says that:

"I have been awarded a college scholarship for soccer to study at Anoka Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, majoring in Sports Science.

The experience here has been amazing and one that can only keep getting better. At the start of the season I was named captain of the soccer team and started every game scoring a goal.

As a team we won our conference and then went on to win the regional final as well. We then faced eventual national champions Richland from Texas in the district semi finals where our season unfortunately came to an end."

We are very proud of Evan for pursuing more adventurous offers in pursuit of furthering his education whilst achieving a very high standard of sport and gaining real life experience."

Mr Davies PE

Advent Events

We have enjoyed taking part in a very busy but very rewarding range of events as part of our Advent preparations for Christmas. Our pictures are taken from the Carol Services in Mumbles and in the Cathedral, from our lovely Christmas Fayre which was a great opportunity for buying Christmas craft gifts, and from our Advent Mass and lunch for senior parishioners, attended also by Father John and Canon Jason. All events were very enjoyable and were supported well.

Carol Services



Christmas Fayre



Advent Mass and Christmas Lunch

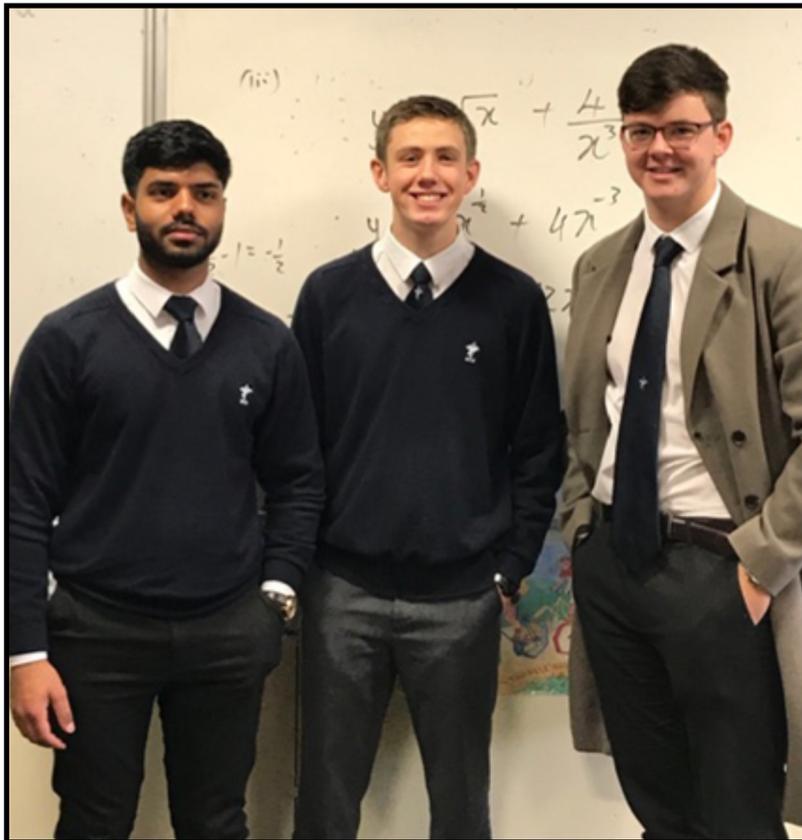


Senior Team Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 26th November, Bishop Vaughan sent a team, including myself, to the West Wales Team Maths Challenge at Gower College in Gorseinon. My team, which comprised of the four pupils who achieved the highest marks in the Senior Maths challenge, faced a selection of schools throughout South West Wales. The rounds stretched our curriculum-based knowledge forcing us to utilise different mathematical and analytical skills that do not present themselves in the curriculum.

The three 40-60 minute rounds flew by and, not surprisingly, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves even though we did not finish within the top three. We were also welcomed with great hospitality as we were presented with a magnificent buffet. I hope that we are to be the first of many Bishop Vaughan teams to participate in this event.

Benjamin Year 12



UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:

A bookmark-maker sells bookmarks for £1 each or 7 for £6. What is the smallest amount you could pay for 2017 of her bookmarks?

The solution can be found on page 17

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Results

On 6th November 2018, ten 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. The competition was so popular with our Sixth Form that we had to hold a random draw for the last few places.

In the test, the students had to answer 25 very challenging Maths questions. The highest scoring student in our school was Ethan Fage who achieved a Silver award. Well done Ethan. We'll look forward to seeing what you can achieve in Year 13!

Year 13

1 st	Paul Crudge	Bronze award
2 nd	Liko Gondwe	Bronze award
3 rd	Ola Pawlikiewicz	Bronze Award

Year 12

1 st	Ethan Fage	Silver award
2 nd	Arun Sibi	Bronze award
3 rd	Ben McCarthy	Bronze award
4 th	Peter Crudge	Bronze award
5 th	Alwin Saji	
6 th	Artur Varosyan	

Well done to everybody that took part.

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

The next challenge will take place on Thursday 7th February 2019 and it is open to Years 9 –11. We will be inviting fifty students to take part based on their problem-solving ability. Good luck to all participants!

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

£1,729

Since $2017 = 288 \times 7 + 1$, you can buy 288 lots of 7 bookmarks at £6 each. Hence the smallest amount you could pay for 2017 of the bookmarks is $£6 \times 288 + £1 \times 1 = £1,729$

Sociology Department

The Sociology Department organised an educational visit to Swansea Crown Court for Year 13 pupils. Pupils sat in on a variety of cases in order to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for the Crime and Deviance Unit of their A-Level course. At the end of the morning session, the judge requested to speak to the pupils about the purpose of their visit and answered any questions that they had about the CJS. He also spoke to them about his personal career development. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the two pupils that are currently in the process of applying to study Law at university.



Welsh Youth Parliament Success!



Elections for the first ever Welsh Youth Parliament were held throughout the month of November. Nearly five hundred candidates, aged between 11-18 years old, stood for election throughout the whole of Wales for a total of 60 seats!

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School is delighted to announce that Ruth, who stood as a candidate for Swansea East, has been elected to represent the constituency for two years!

Representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government visited the school in

September as part of the school's Enrichment Fair; many pupils took the opportunity to register as voters and Ruth was inspired to put herself up for election.

Ruth is hoping to use her position to highlight issues related to homelessness, free healthcare and the voting age limit. Ruth, a Year 9 pupil, had this to say: "I feel overwhelmed to have been chosen to represent Swansea East. I'm one of 60 people to be chosen from a few hundred candidates. It's amazing."

Huge congratulations, Ruth! Everybody at Bishop Vaughan is tremendously proud of you!

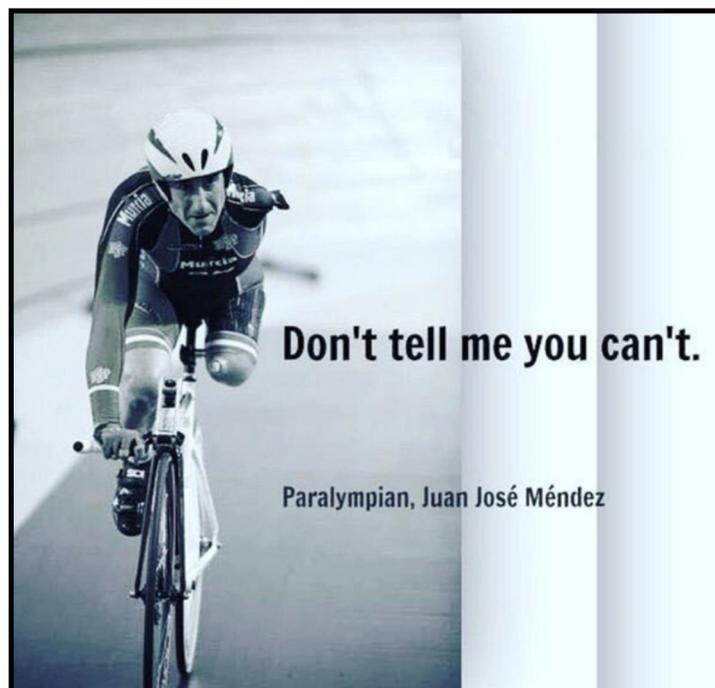


Year of Challenge



In our aim to encourage every pupil to become the very 'best they can be', we are setting all Year 7-10 pupils a series of challenges this year! This programme is designed promote holistic development, encouraging each pupil to stretch themselves and see their full potential, in line with our school's mission statement.

We know that there is so much more to learning than just the subjects we offer! We are seeking to awaken within each pupil a realisation that they are unique, that they have endless possibilities before them, and while not all can be famous, all can be fulfilled and successful in countless ways.



All of these challenges support our pupils in **becoming the best that they can be**, in **contributing to our shared ethos** and in **living out our mission statement**:

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

Ten Challenges

You may not like all the challenges, so it is worth remembering:

The Challenges you're afraid of in life ...
are the ones you most need to face up to.

Challenge	What and When	Extra points for:
Attendance	If you haven't managed to keep to 100% for the four weeks to Christmas, don't worry, you just have to complete 100% for 4 consecutive weeks at some point during the year.	GOLD – over 98% for the year SILVER – over 96% for the year BRONZE – 100% for any 4 consecutive weeks during the year
Rubix Cube	All you have to do is learn to complete the cube in under 10 minutes by 30th June 2019. Order a cube from Santa! New club starting in January to help you learn!	GOLD – in under 90 sec SILVER – in under 3 min BRONZE – complete in under 10 min or at least one full side!
Performance	Take part in one of the following: Talent Show, Music events, Comic Charity Event, Eisteddfod, Choir, Summer Show, Assembly. The comedy charity event need not be on stage – just do something fun for charity!	GOLD – Gain special recognition from staff SILVER – show more than one talent BRONZE – take part in one event
Memory (1)	Your mind is incredible and capable of far more than you believe! Learn the memory technique to memorise 25 items (forwards and backwards!!) JANUARY	GOLD – 100 items challenge SILVER – 50 items challenge BRONZE – 25 items challenge
Creativity (New Eisteddfod competitions)	Complete one creative competition entry for the Eisteddfod using a skill of your choice, from many categories such as: storytelling, poetry, model making, etc. FEBRUARY	GOLD – gain top 3 in any category SILVER – receive special recognition from staff BRONZE – one entry in the competition
Reading	Reading is key to all of your studies and growth as a world-aware person. Take part and read two of the recommended books for your year group. We will be checking! MARCH and APRIL.	GOLD – 6 books SILVER – 4 books BRONZE – 2 books
Participation	It's so important to find new interests. Join a school club, choir or sports team, or even start to attend Learning Zone. Some outside school clubs accepted. Get involved!	GOLD – three clubs SILVER – two clubs BRONZE – one club
Memory (2)	Memorising useful things this time! Special lists from several subjects vital to your summer exams. We will teach you new memory techniques to help you learn. MAY.	GOLD – complete the GOLD list SILVER – complete the SILVER list BRONZE – complete the BRONZE list
The Pledge	Take part in our one week challenge – No Social Media or Gaming! Research suggests you will be happier! JUNE – during exam revision time!	GOLD – Surrender your phone! SILVER – Complete our mood monitor record BRONZE – Make the Pledge!
Physical Fitness	Take part in our summer charity running events. As a minimum follow the 'Couch to 5K' programme. JUNE and JULY. If you cannot run much, you can always make it a fun event and do it in fancy dress!	GOLD – Complete the 10K run SILVER – Complete the 'non-stop' 5K BRONZE – Complete Couch to 5K programme!

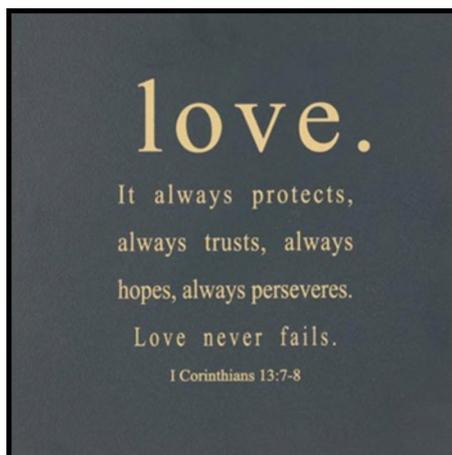
Advent Assemblies



Our pupils have received the opportunity to reflect on the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas during our annual Advent services. The theme of this year's services was Faith, Hope and Love, and pupils were encouraged to think about how they share their gifts with others.

With fantastic contributions from Year 7 and Sixth Form pupils, we were invited to reflect on how we can bring light to the lives of those in need. Our talented Choir shared their gifts with

us so that we were able to listen to some wonderful musical items. Many thanks to all the pupils involved in the services; they really helped us with our Advent observance and preparations for Christmas!



External Examination

Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

The JCQ information sheets have been distributed to those sitting exams in January. It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the January 2019 examination series.

DATE	START	LENGTH	SUBJECT
TBA	TBA	TBA	Developing Web Products
Wednesday 9th January 2019	09.00	2 hours	English Literature Unit 1 Higher: Written Paper
Wednesday 9th January 2019	09.00	2 hours	English Literature Unit 1 Foundation: Written Paper
Thursday 10th January 2019	13.00	1 hour 15 minutes	Health and Social Care Unit 2 Written Paper

Certificates gained during June 2018 will be available for collection in December 2018. It is important that you collect your certificates from Reception as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months.

School Uniform September 2018-August 2019

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

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

Pupils, parents and carers are reminded that following the one-year phasing in of the new school uniform, all pupils in Years 7-11 now need to wear the new uniform. Items of uniform in the old style are no longer available for purchase.

Games Kit

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

Socks (boys & girls): burgundy

Hooded Top (girls): black with school logo (hooded top is optional)

Tracksuit bottoms (girls): plain black (only to be worn in cold weather).

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

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

Sixth Form Uniform

Blazer	Pupils may wear the new blazer if they wish, however this is not compulsory for years 12 and 13.
Jumper	navy, v-necked with official school logo
Tie:	Sixth Form official school tie
Shirt/Blouse:	plain white, standard school style (not fashion) NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with Sixth Form logo, may be worn.
Skirt:	navy blue, knee length
Trousers:	Trousers: navy blue, black, <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.

Parents' Information

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

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

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

Attendance telephone number (local rate): 0844 239 3548

Attendance text number: 07624 816695

Email: bishopvaughanA@hwbmail.net

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

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

If you want any help and advice about your child's attendance, please contact Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 219.

Pupil Information

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

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



Attendance

attendance MATTERS

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

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

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.



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

Attendance

We hope you find the following table helpful for academic year 2017/2018; the table demonstrates how days lost accumulate to weeks lost and affect the percentage attendance.

Green	Above 95% attendance
Yellow	Between 90% and 95% attendance
Red	Below 90% attendance

Days	Attendance	Days Lost	Weeks Lost
190	100%	0	
189	99.47	1	
188	98.95	2	
187	98.42	3	
186	97.89	4	
185	97.37	5	1 School Week
184	96.84	6	
183	96.32	7	
182	95.79	8	
181	95.26	9	
180	94.74	10	2 School Weeks
179	94.21	11	
178	93.68	12	
177	93.16	13	
176	92.63	14	
175	92.11	15	3 School Weeks
174	91.58	16	
173	91.05	17	
172	90.53	18	
171	90	19	
170	89.47	20	4 School Weeks
169	88.95	21	
168	88.42	22	
167	87.89	23	
166	87.37	24	
165	86.84	25	5 School Weeks
164	86.32	26	
163	85.79	27	
162	85.26	28	
161	84.74	29	
160	84.21	30	6 School Weeks
159	83.68	31	
158	83.16	32	
157	82.63	33	
156	82.11	34	
155	81.58	35	7 School Weeks
154	81.05	36	
153	80.53	37	
152	80	38	
151	79.47	39	
150	78.95	40	8 School Weeks
149	78.42	41	
148	77.89	42	

Bus Passes



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



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

Getting to School

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

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 3.00pm every afternoon. Police Officers will be patrolling regularly outside the school to take positive action regarding any vehicles which are parked in contravention of road traffic legislation.



Parking During Parents' Evenings

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

Mobile Telephones

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



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

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

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



School Website

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

Lost Property

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

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



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

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

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



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