



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter July 2022
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Gorffennaf 2022



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to a very packed edition of the termly newsletter! This may be our longest newsletter to date and it is certainly true to say that our pupils have been very busy indeed!

At the time of writing, we have a group of pupils and staff in Normandy, finally able to enjoy a visit planned to take place two years ago! Our Main Hall has been filled with the sound of pupils rehearsing for this year's summer musical, 'Matilda', for several weeks and our sports teams have had numerous fixtures in this first term of anything resembling real 'normality' for over two years!

Our pupils have absolutely embraced the opportunities that 'normality' offers! Our extra-curricular activities are thriving and well-attended, and it has been incredibly special to hold events such as the Festival of Peace, our sports day and the Year 6 Welcome Mass. Each of these has represented a milestone in the journey that we have taken together as a school community over the last two and a half years.

We have been so proud of the way in which our exam year groups have tackled the challenges of a full exams series, despite even our Sixth Form A-level students not having sat a full exams series ever before, and having had disruptions to their school-based learning. We know that they have acquitted themselves exceptionally well and that, whatever their outcomes, the incredible gains that they have made over the last two years can not be measured in grades. Their maturity, resilience, good grace, mutual support of one another and their real embodiment of all of the character traits we endeavour to instil in this community will be carried with them throughout their lives. We are more proud of them than we can put into words here.

The week-long Festival of Peace, for which we were able to include just a few photographs in our last newsletter to you as it started on the day of publication, was a real highlight of the year. You can read more about it on pages 11 to 13. The Main Hall and the quad outside it were simply bursting with artwork, models, display boards, written work, prayer resources, filmed content, choir performances and interactive exhibits all themed around the concepts of diversity and peace. It was a most vibrant and reaffirming event, and we now plan to make it an annual one!

The embodiment of our school's values has again been evident in the many beautiful liturgical celebrations this year, these including of course the Welcome Mass for the current Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. We were delighted to attend the installation of His Grace Archbishop Mark O'Toole as Bishop of Menevia and pupils from the Legion of Mary group in the school were honoured to offer the gifts in the Offertory Procession. You can read about this on page 5. The extensive work of the Charity Team, so closely linked with the Chaplaincy Team, is also described in this newsletter on pages 9 and 10.

Our Eco Team were absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to visit the Tower of London this term, following their involvement in the SuperBloom project. Thirty pupil representatives of the team visited London to see the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration garden, with ours having been one of fifty schools across the UK chosen to create a SuperBloom garden within our school grounds on the same theme with support and involvement from the Platinum Jubilee team. It was an honour for them and a wonderful experience, and you can read about it on pages 15 and 16.

There has also been a great deal of activity on promoting and developing a love of reading! Some popular additions to the rewards system have been the installation of book vending machines in each of our year base diners! Filled with books appropriate to each of the age groups and chosen by the pupils following a whole school reading survey, they allow our pupils to buy books for the heavily subsidised price of just £2 per book, and in addition, dozens of tokens are given out every week as part of our reward system, allowing our pupils to choose a free book in recognition of effort, achievement or reflecting the school's values through their actions!

The book vending machines and the first two pupils to receive books are pictured here:



In addition, we have been delighted to host local bookshop Cover to Cover and also Waterstones for book fairs, alongside storytelling events. We are looking forward to a further festival at the end of this term also, this one celebrating books and reading! Throughout the year too, our pupils will benefit from the complete refurbishment and re-stocking of the school library. Many thanks to our Sixth Form pupils and our pupil ambassadors for their help in sorting out the 'old' stock which has been donated to pupils throughout the school so that no book 'goes to waste!'"

The excellent sporting achievements this term deserve special congratulation too, and on pages 29 and 30 you can read about the successes of very many pupils, each of whom demonstrates real skill, but also hard work, dedication, discipline and a team spirit - even if theirs is an individual sport - as they are all truly a part of 'Team BVS'!

We look forward to sharing images from our performances of this year's musical, 'Matilda', in the next newsletter, as well as articles, no doubt, celebrating the achievements of what will then be our newest pupils, the incoming Year 7 pupils, many of whom might be reading these words. If you are, we look forward to welcoming you and to sharing the next stage of your educational journey with you.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter, and we wish all pupils and their families the blessings of a healthy, happy, restful and enjoyable summer break -

Mrs Pole
Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Dates 2022-2023

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2022	Monday 5th September	Monday 31st October	Friday 4th November	Friday 23rd December
Spring 2023	Monday 9th January	Monday 20th February	Friday 24th February	Friday 31st March
Summer 2023	Monday 17th April	Monday 29th May	Friday 2nd June	Monday 24th July

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Thursday 21st July; school closes at 3.00pm. Friday 22nd July 2022 is an INSET day for staff.

A2 and AS Results Day is Thursday 18th August 2022.

GCSE Results Day is Thursday 25th August 2022.

All pupils return to school on Tuesday 6th September.

INSET Days

Monday 5th September 2022
Friday 28th October 2022
Thursday 22nd December 2022
Friday 23rd December 2022
Monday 24th July 2023

Years 5 and 6 Open Evening

This will be held on
Thursday 22nd September



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.

Archbishop's Installation Mass



Installation of the
Most Reverend Mark O'Toole
as
Bishop of Menevia

St. Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea

23rd June 2022

On 23rd June, representatives of the school attended the beautiful installation Mass of His Grace Archbishop Mark O'Toole as Bishop of Menevia.

The Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral and our pupil representatives presented His Grace with handmade welcome cards from every school in the diocese during the offertory procession. The pupils attended in their capacity both as students of our school and as representatives of the Junior Legion of Mary branch within it. They were accompanied by Mrs Pole, Miss Mainwaring and Mrs Romano.

The Mass was an uplifting and very memorable event marking this most special occasion.

The school's staff, pupils and Governors have offered their prayers for Archbishop Mark as he embarks on his ministry within our diocese and have assured him of their continuation in the years ahead.

Ad multos annos!



Calon Lân Society

On 9th May, we were delighted to welcome visitors from the Calon Lân Society to the school. Our visitors included representatives of the society, of which our Chair of Governors, Councillor Sam Pritchard, is a member, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Louise Fleet, a number of additional councillors and a local stained glass window artist, Sian Stanford.



The society presented the school with a beautiful and specially-commissioned stained glass window of Daniel James, designed by Mrs Stanford.

Daniel James, as our pupils are aware was generally better known by his bardic name, Gwrysydd. He was a Welsh poet and hymn-writer who lived very locally indeed and he is best known for writing the words of the popular and beloved hymn, 'Calon Lân', which was published in 1892.

The window designed by Mrs Stanford was commissioned by the Calon Lân Society who work to preserve Gwrysydd's legacy. The design included elements that reflected the hymn, the life of its writer and our school, which is situated in the area he knew so well.

We are most grateful to all members of the society, or Councillors, the Lord Lieutenant and the most talented designer. The window will have pride of place in our Chapel.

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y byd na'l berlau mân:



Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onest, calon lân.

St. Joseph Garden

During this academic year, we have been planning and fundraising to establish a new garden area in the school as mentioned in our Christmas newsletter!

Year of St. Joseph

As our pupils are aware, the last liturgical year was dedicated as the Year of St. Joseph. In his Apostolic Letter *'Patris corde'* - "With a Father's Heart", Pope Francis describes St Joseph as a beloved, tender and loving father; and as a man who is **creatively courageous**. The Holy Father also describes St Joseph as: "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence" and he states that he was **"an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."** We know well also that Joseph was a **carpenter**, earning an honest living in order to provide for his family.

We have looked carefully at ways to draw together the strands of what we know about St. Joseph to create a garden at Bishop Vaughan that commemorates the Year of St. Joseph. Looking at the words that are above in bold, you can discern why we have chosen to make this garden:

- One which our pupils have designed, using their *creativity*.
- One which can be used by pupils seeking a *quiet* space: somewhere they can reflect; somewhere where our *wellbeing ambassadors* and *prefects* will be available, should any pupils want the support and friendship that they can offer
- One which has a *wooden structure* at its centre. This will be a large wooden gazebo with seating all around the inside.



The pupils in the newly-formed prayer group referenced on the next page have worked hard to craft the design for this garden and have considered further ways too of ensuring that the purpose of the garden is reflected in their design - as a place for both **commemorating St. Joseph** and for **promoting wellbeing**. The pupils have looked to the design of the existing Rosary Garden for inspiration, with it being structured in a cross layout and with its statue of Our Lady at the centre, as this reflects the holy rosary. It has flowers in each of the four beds in colours linked to the rosary mysteries: the glorious, luminous, sorrowful and joyful mysteries. There are benches for reflection and it has flowers around the statue of Our Lady that are appropriate: forget-me-nots (which are also known as *Eyes of Mary*, reminding us that Mary has her eyes upon us and salvation in her heart) and marigolds (originally known as *Mary's Gold*).

We look forward to sharing our pictures of the completed garden with you in the Spring.



The amazing work of our Charity Team has meant that we have been able to raise money for the gazebo that we planned!



This will be installed in the school very soon and the garden will be bordered by four seven foot tall cherry trees, kindly donated to us by the National Trust!

A group of pupils will be choosing plants and the garden will have, as mentioned in the newsletter entry copied above, lots of features that remind us of the nature of St. Joseph. The wooden structure reflects the fact that he was a carpenter and the tall trees remind us of the strength and protection that he offered.



We look forward to the garden being used both by classes in lesson time and also during break and lunchtimes. It will be an area in which our pupil ambassadors and prefect team provide a presence and a welcome to any pupils wishing to spend time in the St. Joseph garden. Buddy benches - a concept with which the pupils joining us next year from primary schools are familiar - will be added in the new academic year.

Legion of Mary

The Junior Legion of Mary, about which you can read more on the next page, has now been meeting for a whole academic year! The group was founded in the prayer group's centenary year and is the only Junior group in Wales, so we are proud to add to the work of this worldwide organisation.

We meet weekly after school to pray together, reflecting on those things that are closest to our hearts—worldwide events, those we love and who need our prayers, our worries and our hopes. We pray for those in need and we try, every single week, to commit to a corporal or spiritual act of mercy. Most people think of these actions as 'random acts of kindness. We try though to really think about where our help is most needed, so perhaps our acts aren't really 'random' acts. We hope, then, that they are making a difference!

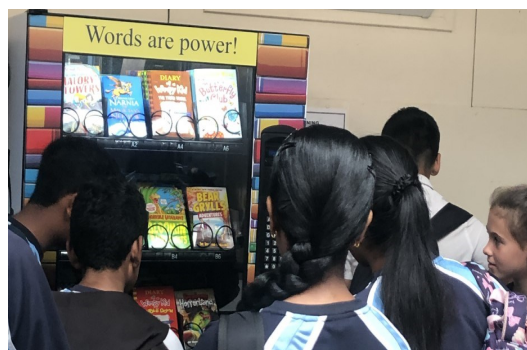
Our acts of charity have ranged from prayers for those taking exams to fundraising for Ukrainian families staying nearby. We have also held some fundraisers this year to develop our school grounds by establishing the St. Joseph garden described in this newsletter.

Our group is very grateful, as noted on the next page, to Canon Jason Jones of the Sacred Heart Parish for his weekly visits to the school, and to Mrs Anne Lear, one of our parent community, who joins him in leading the weekly meetings. In addition we are thankful to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Convent who visit monthly for their support of the group, and like Canon Jason and Mrs Lear, for their talks to members, their prayers, their kindness and their warmth.

The support of the adult groups both locally and across Wales has also meant a very great deal to us.

We were pleased to receive from the school some certificates and treats—including book tokens for the school book vending machines—to thank us for our work embodying the virtues of being faith-filled, compassionate, loving and generous.

We look forward to next year's work and to welcoming new members!



Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

Legion of Mary

The Junior Legion of Mary, a charity and prayer-based group, is growing from strength to strength. Thanks to Canon Jason, the Sisters at the Sacred Heart and Mrs Lear for their support and leadership.

Pupils enjoyed preparing crafts and ideas for their Easter stall, which was held in the Sacred Heart Parish over Palm Sunday weekend, with all proceeds going to support the school's St. Joseph Garden Project. The event raised an incredible £615. A special thank you to all who supported the event.



LEGION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1921



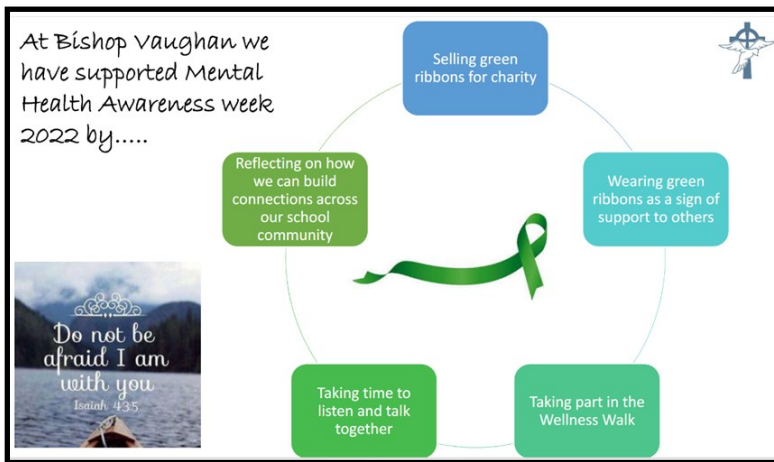
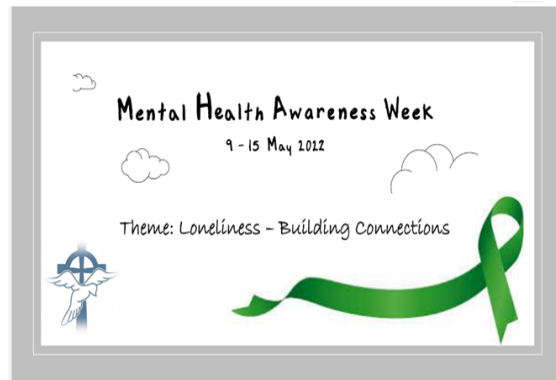
As part of the Summer focus pupils prepared and served a "Cream Tea" after Mass over the Feast of the Sacred Heart. It was a chance to come together as a community, relax and enjoy time together. Donations made £203 which will be put towards our efforts in support of the Ukrainian Appeal. As part of our ongoing work with the Ukrainian Appeal, pupils and staff have also been preparing welcome hampers and cards for the Ukrainian families who have joined our local community. We wish them a warm Welsh welcome!



Mental Health Awareness Week

The focus of the appeal week was Loneliness - Building Connections, with a particular focus placed on “You are not alone” and how we support one another across our school community.

Throughout the week green ribbons were made, sold and worn in solidarity and friendship. We held a “wellness walk” and organised PSE activities to support the campaign.



The events were a great way to come together as a community and will be introduced more regularly from September following lots of positive feedback from pupils and staff. Keep an eye out of how you can get involved next time!

Noah's Ark Appeal

Our end of term focus is supporting the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.

Linking to our paired virtues of “loving and compassionate” this half term, our assembly focused on the importance of sharing love with others.

What can we do at Bishop Vaughan?

To support the campaign at Bishop Vaughan we will:

- Raise awareness of the campaigns & charities in tutorials
- Hold a non-uniform day for £1 (optional theme: wear your favourite colour)
- Hold a tutorial quiz

All of these events will allow us to show love and support of others and help us to live out the Gospel values in a number of different ways.

Pause for Thought:

Charlie Mackesy artwork: symbol of hope and unity

Jesus: Greatest Commandment
“Love one another as I have loved you.”
 John 15:12

“Why are we here?”

“To love and be loved with the world.”

Pupils selected Noah's Ark as their charity, as a way of recognising the tremendous work of the appeal, as well as supporting children across Wales who are most in need.

The end of term saw bright colours worn on non uniform day and a healthy competitive spirit shown during the tutorial quiz.

Thank you to all involved for your enthusiasm and kindness.

Festival of Peace

Ours is a school of more than forty nationalities and languages, and our diversity is a cause for celebration rather than division. We are proud that our pupils from all cultures live and work together harmoniously.

This chimes with what is called for in the Vatican document *'The Identity Of The Catholic School For A Culture Of Dialogue'* which states that the Catholic school should combine "attention to one's own identity with the understanding of others and respect for diversity". Pope Francis observes that "Only a strong and united action by the Church in the field of education in an increasingly fragmented and conflict-ridden world can contribute both to the evangelising mission entrusted to her by Jesus and to the construction of a world in which human persons feel they are brothers and sisters [living] ... in peace."

Having begun the second half of the Spring term with the news of conflict in Ukraine, our pupils were moved to find new ways to pray for peace and to reflect all that is so special about our community— one in which we are able to flourish as individuals, celebrating and respecting all that makes us different alongside all that binds us together, such as our shared values. The idea of a Festival of Peace was developed, this being calendared for the final week of the Easter term.

Despite the short window of time to prepare this, all departments throughout the school worked energetically to produce contributions to an interactive and vibrant exhibition.

Careful consideration had to be given to visitor numbers, due to the remaining risk mitigation measures at that time, therefore the primary focus was on ensuring that all pupils were able to access it in groups over the course of a week. We were delighted that a number of external visitors were able to join us also, and the feedback from all has been extremely complimentary of our pupils and of the very clear demonstration of our school's ethos that was evident. We hope that the festival was a testament to the efforts of our pupils and staff in this regard.



Visitors to the exhibition inscribed their messages and prayers for peace on the colourful wooden letters crafted by our D&T Department.



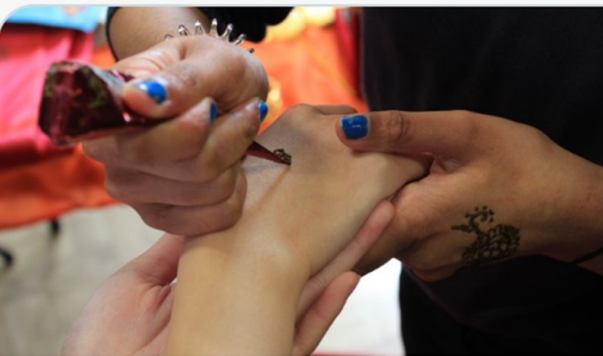
Many pupils chose to wear clothing reflecting their nationality. Each of the nations represented in our school had a 'stall' in our exhibition showcasing items reflective of the nation on question. These ranged from books in numerous languages to artefacts, national dishes, prayers, photographs, maps and national plants and flowers.



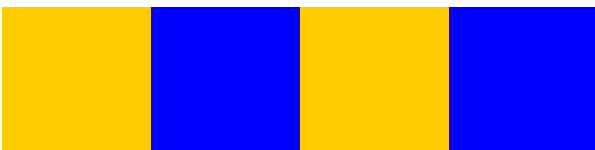
Doves, symbolic of peace, hung from the ceilings of the Main Hall exhibition space.



From the Science department's amazing and imaginative 'periodic table of peace' to the interactive exhibits whereby, for example, every visitor contributed to the painting of a dove in Ukraine's national colours, there was a riot of colour and creativity throughout both the indoor exhibition space and in the quad, where the choir assembled during the exhibition to entertain exhibition visitors with music centred on the event's themes of diversity and peace.



Our pupils enjoyed the festival so much - and we learned such a great deal more about one another - that we plan to make this an annual event!



Improving our School Environment

Our pupils, as you will see from this newsletter, have countless ideas and boundless energy when it comes to improving our school environment, whether by designing and planting our Superbloom garden (see the next page!), by fundraising for the St. Joseph garden or creating beautiful artwork.

Our 7E class, however, have the very grandest of designs! They recently worked to design a whole new school building, having decided what features this should have.

Parents and carers will be aware that we are working with the diocese, Welsh Government and the Local Authority to discuss how and when we will be able to redevelop the site with a brand new school, equipped with excellent facilities. 7E have saved the architects a huge job, however, working out dimensions and logistical issues, and creating models which they worked on in pairs.

Mrs Pole met with the class to look at each model and to hear the rationale for the decisions made, from the space-saving retractable seating in one of the school's large halls to the interconnected cookery rooms and the excellent First Aid facilities.

A leisure centre with a swimming pool was deemed essential for promoting health and wellbeing and every element had been considered very carefully to ensure that future pupils have a most impressive school indeed.

Well done, 7E! We hope to see some of your ideas come to fruition in the years to come!



Eco-Schools



As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Bishop Vaughan has had the privilege of being one of fifty UK partner schools to the Tower of London's SuperBloom initiative.

Over the last few months members of our schools Eco Team and pupils from 7E have worked extremely hard to not only sow the 'SuperBloom' seeds but also create and maintain a new 'Jubilee Garden' area within the school grounds.



These are the seeds that were sent to school back in February directly from the Tower of London.



Members of the Eco Team clearing the grass to create our crown shaped bed, ready to sow the 'SuperBloom' seeds.



This is our crown shaped bed with lavender bushes planted as jewels.



The image above shows our Sixth Form Eco representatives welcoming visitors from the Tower of London to our very own 'SuperBloom' garden. This visit took place in early May and the wildflowers had only just started to grow. On their visit the Tower of London staff led a creative workshop with our Eco Team and 7E on pollinators. Students created their own pollinator models and learnt about the Tower of London's SuperBloom.

In the images below you can see examples of the pollinator models created by our pupils.



By mid June, the seeds had grown significantly and we looked forward to seeing the burst of colour. We didn't have to wait long, by the start of July our 'SuperBloom' was blooming!



On Tuesday 5th July , 30 pupils from our Eco Team along with Ms Smith, Ms Shankland, Mr Eynon-Davies and Mrs Davies had the opportunity to go on a VIP trip to the Tower of London. We were invited to a once in a lifetime experience visiting the SuperBloom as well as full access to the Tower of London, including the crown jewels. We had such a brilliant day in London. The pupils were amazing; a real credit to the Bishop Vaughan community. We are extremely proud to have been part of the 'SuperBloom' Platinum Jubilee Celebration alongside the Tower of London and we have been awarded a wooden plaque for our achievements. The following images were taken on our Tower of London trip along with the photograph on the front cover.



Religious Studies

ACE Days

Our recent ACE day took place with Year 9, and was an opportunity for them to begin exploring their Relationships and Sex Education. Looking at important topics such as Healthy Relationships and Consent allowed pupils to discuss the issues that affect them and to develop their knowledge and understanding in a safe space. We were very proud of the pupils for their respectful and thoughtful contributions.

What does a healthy relationship look like?



Ace Days

You will see throughout the newsletter references to activities that have occurred on ACE days across the year. These ACE days have been running for many years as a way of adding Additional Curriculum Enrichment opportunities for pupils. For six days a year, once every half-term, the normal timetable is stopped so that each year group can get involved in a set of activities to add new experiences to our pupils' education. We have been structuring these days around the New Curriculum Areas of Learning, and departments have worked together to run trips and activities based on:

- Humanities
- Health & Wellbeing
- Creative Technology
- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Science & Technology
- Catholic Ethos
- The Welsh Dimension

This had led to pupils experiencing Biology field trips, Geography field trips, visits to Cardiff Castle, The Sennydd, Pwlldu, Oxwich, Kidwelly Castle, Big Pit, Saint Fagans, Techniquet, theatres, and in-school wellbeing days.

Creative Technology

Technocamps Visits

Pupils in Year 7 have had the opportunity to take part in Technocamps Computational Thinking and Computer Coding session this term, this is part of a 5 course project to develop their skills and understanding in computer science. Technocamps ambassadors from Swansea University have been in delivering sessions that are engaging and developing pupils understanding of a variety of computer science skills. The program begins with Computational Thinking, then progresses to include programming through Scratch, Python and Greenfoot integrating Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology respectively. This program will run throughout next year for Year 7 and Year 8.

For more information on Technocamps, please visit their website: <https://technocamps.com>

ACE Day Trip to Swansea Museum, Waterfront Museum and Tour of Swansea Arena

Pupils in Year 7 have had the opportunity to go on a visit to the Museums of Swansea, as well as a tour of the new Swansea Arena. James Morgan, the Creative Learning Producer at the new Swansea Arena, took groups of pupil on a tour both outside and inside the building and even into the auditorium and onto the stage. James was able to discuss the design principles of the arena and reasons for choices of materials and specific structures used within the building. This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain further understanding of design principles in engineering and product design.



Pupils enjoyed having the opportunity to visit the different places and once again go out on school visits.



History and Politics

Year 8 Humanities ACE Day

Year 8 pupils visited Cardiff Castle for their ACE Day activity this term. The Additional Curriculum Enrichment Day offers an opportunity for students to explore their school subjects beyond the curriculum. Pupils learned about the political and social role of the castle throughout history, as well as using map skills whilst on site. Pupils also participated in a workshop on the topic of medieval weapons and warfare, where they were able to handle armour and equipment used in the Middle Ages. The teachers on the trip also suggested a few pupils should try out the stocks (purely for educational purposes, of course!). Pupils and staff had a very enjoyable day and learned a great deal about Welsh history in the process.



Revision and Exams

Pupils from Years 10 through to Year 13 sat exams in History and Politics this term – the first time exams in these subjects have taken place since 2019. The department held numerous revision sessions which were well attended and teaching staff have been impressed by the hard work and preparation put in by the learners. Results for all year groups, including Year 10, will be published in August and we look forward to celebrating our pupils' successes with them.

History Trip To Normandy


The History department will be taking a group of pupils to Normandy in the penultimate week of term – we will share our experiences in the next issue of the newsletter!

BVS Book Award

**Calling all keen readers
in Years 7-9!**

**Join us in the library each
Wednesday lunchtime
(beginning Wed. 8th June)
to learn more about the**

**BVS Book Award
group!**



- **Free books for all participating pupils**
- **Trips/ events throughout the year**

You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

We are delighted that this year has seen a return to the normal offering of extra-curricular activities, many of which bring together our pupils with similar interests from across the year groups.

One such activity is the 'BVS Book Award' reading group! Our dedicated readers have greatly enjoyed pooling their thoughts on their very favourite books. We are working our way through this 'long list' together, each reading the books nominated by other members of the group. We meet every Wednesday to chat about what we have read and from this list we will select our top three, and ultimately our 'winner' - the book that we can agree deserves the title of BVS Book Award Winner 2022!

Our reflections on our reading are also being combined, by many members of the group, with 'bullet journaling' - a lovely way of reflecting on what we have read and keeping a record of our reading in a creative and artistic way!

With the library currently being redesigned and refurbished, we meet in the Headteacher's office for our weekly reading group. We have a stack of brand new books to work our way through and we are enjoying chatting about them, as well as journaling about them.

Readers from all year groups are most welcome to join us!



We have some literary visits planned and activities themed around our chosen books.

We look forward to sharing more about our group with you, and to letting you know of our winning book!

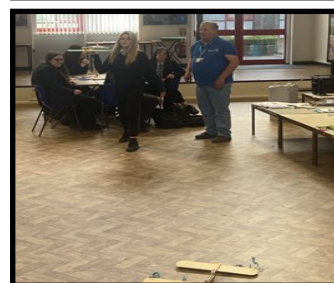
Science

Year 9 STEM Day

On Monday 27th June, sixty Year 9 pupils took part in a STEM day event organised by the Smallpiece Trust. As part of the event, pupils had to design and build a powered glider, using knowledge about aerodynamics, electronics and engineering. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event, especially at the end of the day when they finally had a chance to fly their creations! All of the gliders flew brilliantly, but ultimately Team 10 came out on top, when their glider narrowly avoided Ms Morris at the opposite end of the hall!



Andy Bruno, from Smallpiece, was very impressed by the behaviour and calibre of our students, saying "one of the most enjoyable and I believe successful STEM days I have had the pleasure of delivering ... a most delightful group of young people... [who] made the most of the opportunity, keen to learn and develop skills".



Untapped Innovation Project – Girls into STEM

Three groups of Year 12 girls have started a very new and inspiring STEM project.

The aims of this project are to raise the aspirations of Year 12/13 female students for a career in STEM. The objectives of the project-to develop a series of podcasts featuring year 12/13 female students interviewing successful female STEM role models.

Research has shown that there is a correlation between students' exposure to STEM role models and their subsequent aspirations to have a career in STEM. This project will address this. All completed podcasts will be available to schools/colleges and each will showcase a successful STEM role model telling her story through being interviewed by Year 12/13 female students.

Each group of girls have chosen a female STEM role model to interview via a brochure of volunteers. The range of choice has been incredible. All girls are then prepped on how to interview and how to interview via a podcast. Once prepped they record their podcast. The girls are working with a very successful female run organisation based in London.

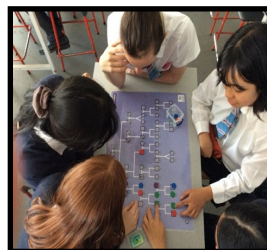


Untapped Innovations is a company headed by females that are passionate about enthusing the next generation of female STEM professionals. Please visit their website:

<https://www.untappedinnovation.com/our-approach/>

‘Cells on tour’ workshop

On 14th June, ninety pupils took part in an exciting Techniquiest workshop ‘Cells on tour’. The Techniquiest specialist discussed microbe identification, disease diagnosis, microbe contamination and the importance of DNA and mitochondrial DNA. The workshop was filled with different challenging activities.



The Prince’s Trust



Last year a Prince's Trust qualification was introduced within Aspire as part of the alternative curriculum provision. We are very proud to share that this term, several Aspire pupils have successfully completed the qualification. They have achieved a Level 2 Certificate in Personal Development and Employability skills, awarding them the equivalent of two 'B' grades at GCSE level.

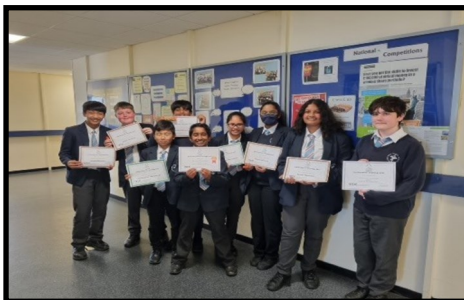
The pupils had to create a portfolio of work, including topics such as Career planning, money management, team building and wellbeing. The pupils have worked extremely hard and despite the challenges of the pandemic, have achieved the highest level qualification within the department to date. We are extremely proud of them and wish them every success for their future.

Achieve Award

Tutorials 9E and 10E have been spent much of this year working towards the Achieve Award through the Prince’s Trust. Once complete, they will have attained a qualification that is the equivalent to two B grades at GCSE. To reward them for all their hard work, the Prince’s Trust hosted a celebration event at Heatherton World of Adventure, inviting schools from all over Wales to come and enjoy free entry to the park and its attractions. Nearly all of the students from 9E and 10E attended the trip and had a fantastic day driving go-carts, riding dragon slides, and shooting pellet pistols. The sun shone throughout and behaviour was exceptional from all who came. It was a lovely way to round off a great year and celebrate the effort and achievement of our Foundation learners.



Junior Maths Challenge 2022



81 Participants

The Maths Challenge is back! In April 2022. Thirty pupils from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils did exceptionally well this year with 16 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan with **Romeo Maccarinelli** achieving the highest score in Year 7 and **Eldhose Saji** achieving the highest mark in the school.

Well done to everyone that achieved an award and to everyone that took part. Let's see what you can do next year!

Year 8

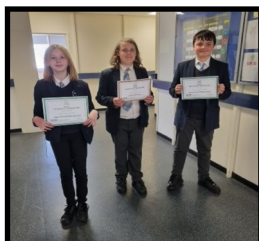
1 st	Eldhose Saji	Silver Award
2 nd	Preston Cardone-Silva	Silver Award
3 rd	Aldrin Jose	Bronze Award
Jt4 th	Seyi Olasunkanmi	Bronze Award
Jt4 th	Milan Stankevic	Bronze Award
Jt4 th	Jacob Watkins	Bronze Award
7 th	Lacey Fisher	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Aleena Sajeevan	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Ezekiel Zason	Bronze Award
10 th	Nehara De Britto	Bronze Award
Jt11 th	Benjamin Angeles	Bronze Award
Jt11 th	Steve Jawahar	Bronze Award

Year 7

1 st	Romeo Maccarinelli	Silver Award
2 nd	Lily Welsby`	Bronze Award
3 rd	Joshua Lock	Bronze Award
4 th	Jake Manibo	Bronze Award
5 th	Megan Bosomworth	
5 th	Logan Bevan	



8A Participants



7A Participants



7I Participants

Latin and Classics

Our Latin pupils are making excellent progress and are about to take their first Cambridge Latin test with the aim of achieving a certificate from Cambridge University! They will continue their studies next term and we will also be able to welcome a brand new group of beginners.

Pupils from all year groups from Year 7 to Year 13 are welcome!

Salvete, discipuli! Welcome, pupils!



LATIN CLUB

Are you in Year 7, 8 or 9?

Would you like to learn more about Ancient Rome, with its tales of **gladiators** and **gods**, and **myths** and **monsters**?

Join us in **Room 37** on **Tuesday lunchtimes** for an introduction to Ancient Rome and to begin learning Latin. The sessions will include creative activities, language learning and lots more.

You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

Those interested in continuing language learning next academic year can start working towards **GCSE Latin**. 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 Mrs. Pole.

Newyddion Cymraeg

Dawnsio Gwerin

The Welsh Department welcomed representatives from the Urdd to the school in May to work with pupils in Year 7 with team building activities and Welsh folk dancing through the medium of Welsh, despite the bad weather on the day, everyone had a great time – anhygoel!



Pupils learned three Welsh folk dances - Jac y Do, Ffaniglen and The Llanofre Reel - plus the famous Mr Urdd dance. Everyone got stuck in and had a great time – llawer o hwyl!

Welsh Whisperer

On 24th June we welcomed the famous Welsh Whisperer to Bishop Vaughan to work with pupils throughout the day in Welsh language music workshops. Pupils enjoyed writing a song and composing the accompanying music with the Welsh Whisperer, before performing the masterpiece alongside the Welsh star in a gig at the end of the day – rhagorol!

There's a school in Swansea
overlooking the city and the sea
big and tall like a castell
filled with culture and diversity

All the plant are unique
skills and talents and nationalities
meeting friends that make us feel complete
we all have responsibility

**Croeso i bawb i Ysgol Esgob Vaughan
full of friendly people, open is the door
by the city, by the sea
Bishop Vaughan, the best in Swansea**

All the athrawon are supportive
always pushing for us to do our best
always gwrandu, and helpu
guiding us all to success

Our passion is creadigol
bringing joy to our cymuned
by performing and expressing ourselves
Bishop Vaughan is one big teulu

**Croeso i bawb i Ysgol Esgob Vaughan
full of friendly people, open is the door
by the city, by the sea
Bishop Vaughan, the best in Swansea
x2**



The Welsh Whisperer is very popular Welsh Musician who performs all over Wales and at all the Welsh festivals – Tafwyl, Yr Urdd, Yr Eisteddfod Genedalaethol, Y Sesiwn Fawr, Triban, Tregaroc to name a few and is a regular on S4C Noson Lawen. Follow him on Facebook and Instagram 'Welsh Whisperer' or ask Alexa to play some of his tunes at home. Ni'n Beilo Nawr!



Art and Design

Pupils have enjoyed exciting new group work activities during our ACE days this term. Year 9 pupils produced oil pastel pop art animals based on the Welsh story 'The Lady in the Lake'. Work will possibly be exhibited in the school library.



Year 8 pupils created colourful mixed media abstract artwork in the style of Sonia and Robert Delaunay.

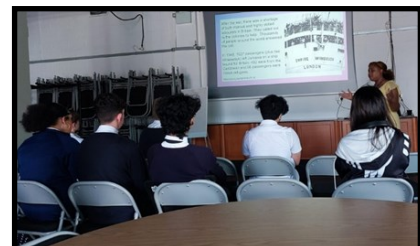
Emily Paradise-Ruan, a former pupil of A Level Art, painted a picture of the keyworkers during lockdown. She included in the painting fingerprints from the children in the childcare setting. This painting was presented to Morrision Hospital this term. We are very proud of Emily, and her contribution and commitment during the difficult times.



Mission Gallery

Pupils in Year 7 to 9 have been attending Criw Celf Secondary workshop sessions in collaboration with Mission Gallery. Pupils have been enjoying pinhole photography, stain glass and stencilling and mosaics, followed by an exhibition in August.

Recently Sixth Form pupils had the opportunity to go to the Waterfront Museum to be involved in Refugee Week. Pupils learnt about Windrush and were able to experiment and be creative in cyanotype photography in collaboration with UWTSD. Pupils enjoyed the experience.



And finally, as the school production Matilda rehearsals are well on their way, the department has been very busy developing the scenery. All Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils have been getting creative in producing large letters for the set which all pupils are enjoying.

Health and Social Care

In their final school term, Year 13 planned a Health and Wellbeing day for pupils in Years 7 and 8. Students planned around ten 'stalls' in the Main Hall each with its own health related topic. They had spent time researching current Government recommendations to create a wonderful, interactive display that our younger pupils really appreciated.



Paramedic Day at Swansea University

Year 12 students were the first group to return by invitation to the Health Faculty in Swansea University last month. Students enjoyed a day in the Paramedic Department and were treated to an interactive workshop on a range of techniques used to support patients in an emergency. Students learned about the entry requirements to the Paramedic degree, the career opportunities and what the role of a paramedic involved.



Performing Arts

This term has seen Bishop Vaughan's return to the stage, having our first school production since 2019. Pupils and staff alike have been working tirelessly to produce a lively, energetic production of Matilda - The Musical Jr.! It has been amazing to have our first live performance to an audience, and it has made such a difference to the department and the whole school ethos.

The production saw a whole school effort with many departments coming together to produce the show including set painting, building, props, costumes, lighting and sound. It has showed truly why Bishop Vaughan is a unique school to be a part of. It was amazing to see so many pupils getting involved from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13. There has been a genuine buzz about the school with eager anticipation for the show. We would like to thank all who attended and support us for the run of this year's production.

BISHOP VAUGHAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Presents
ROALD DAHL
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.
Book by DENNIS KELLY
Music & Lyrics by TIM MINCHIN
BISHOP VAUGHAN SCHOOL HALL
Monday 18th July, 7pm
Tuesday 19th July, 7pm
Wednesday 20th July, 7pm
Adult £7.50 | Child £5 | Family £20 (2 adults/2 Children)
Tickets available online from
"Ticket Source"
ticketsource.co.uk/bishop-vaughan-school
Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical Jr. is presented through special arrangements with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY



In conjunction with the Welsh department, many pupils took part in a Welsh song writing workshop with the 'Ymweliad Welsh Whisperer' This was a great day of creativity and developing our sense of Welsh identity and culture. The day concluded with a gig for Year 7, with performances of songs created in the workshops from our own pupils.

Next year brings us to our usual full calendar of events including our annual carol service, Spring Concert and our forthcoming 2023 school production which will be announced in the new school year. Watch out for details of these events on our social media sites - it will be great to welcome you all to see the talents our pupils have to offer at Bishop Vaughan again!

PE and Sport

Football

Year 11 finished their season and Swansea Schools champions, with a 2-1 win over Pentrehafod at Briton Ferry FC football ground. A great was to finish their school football journey.

Year 9 reached the final of the Swansea schools cup, unfortunately losing to Olchfa 1-0.

Good luck to the following boys who have secured football scholarships:

Sebastian Dabrowski – Swansea
 Lewis Evans – Chippenham
 Cole Gibbins – Plymouth
 Ewan Griffiths – Swansea
 Cameron Llewellyn – Swansea
 Cameron McKnight – Port Vale



Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 9 rugby team for reaching the final of Swansea schools plate competition, narrowly losing to Penyrheol 42-37.

Athletics

A successful season for our athletes this year! We attended both the Afan Nedd Tawe county championship and cup competition.



Highlights from county championship:

Megan Gwyther - 1st 80m hurdles
 Marek Warzocha - 1st 100m, 2nd 200m
 Julia Piaszcynska - 3rd 200m
 Tesfaye Shugi - 2nd Javelin, 2nd 800m
 Bella Fussell - Qualified for final of 300m (finished 4th)
 Chloe Jones - 1st Javelin
 Harley-Rose Hodge - Qualified for final of 200m
 Rylan Carroll - Qualified for final of 200m

Highlights from the cup competition:

Ben Angeles - 1st Long Jump, 5th 100m
 Rylan Carroll - 3rd 300m
 Ronan Kpakio - 3rd 1500m
 Connor Moriarty - 2nd High Jump
 Dylan Muledi - 7th 100m

Surfing

Using funding from the Winter of Wellbeing grant, we have been able to provide the opportunity for pupils to access surfing lessons from Surf School Wales on Aberavon beach. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed and we hope to make this an annual trip.



Squash

Squash Wales spent the day at Bishop Vaughan delivering beginner sessions to pupils across KS3 and KS4. We hope this has sparked the interest of some of our pupils and will be something they continue to participate in outside of school.



Year 5 Cluster Sports Cup

Year 5 spent the day with us competing in rounders, 'Capture the Flag' and athletics.



Individual Success

Ronan Kpakio and Brogan Popham represented Wales in Croatia at the U15 international tournament.

Lucas Jenkins became Welsh Boxing Champion.

Max Cichon qualified to compete in the Tennis Europe competition in Poland.

Albie Redpath has received two rugby caps for representing Swansea School boys and West Wales.



Football Academy

We're delighted to announce that our partnership with Swansea City Academy has expanded. After a positive relationship with the club last year, three of our Year 11 boys were offered full-time scholarships at the club. From September, we will see a number of Swansea City youth players study A-Levels and BTEC courses with us at Bishop Vaughan.

We are extremely proud to be the only school in Swansea to offer this education programme with the club.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This term the current Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants have been preparing for their final expedition. They recently had their first experience of camping and walking with rucksacks full of expedition kit, with a night at Nicholston Farm followed by a day navigating their way around Three Cliffs Bay and Cefn Bryn. Despite the full range of weather we experienced over the weekend everyone showed a sound development in their campcraft and navigation skill, and both groups displayed good teamwork while helping each other set up tents in wet and windy conditions.



In July they will be completing their final two-day expedition, walking along the routes they have planned in Gower. We're all hoping the weather will be better this time!



Super- Curricular Enrichment at BVS

'Letter From The Future' Writing Competition

Students across the school entered a writing competition organised by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.



Students were asked to write a letter to themselves from the year 2040, imagining the impact of climate change on the world around them. There was a high number of entrants and the quality of work was so high that the Future Generations Commissioner awarded six prizes in total, rather than the traditional three! Joint first prize winners were Jerry John and Layla Horlick, second place was awarded to Julia Szewczyk and Nicole Colarina and in joint third were Megan Bosomworth and Maya Brooks. The pupils won vouchers ranging from £25 to £100 for their efforts. Well done to all!

Hay Festival

In May, the school was able to return to the Hay Festival for their first in-person festival since 2019. A group of students from Year 7 and Year 8 attended thanks to a generous grant from the Arts Council of Wales. Students attended talks by the authors Sophie McKenzie and Natasha Bowen, browsed the festival bookshops and enjoyed ice cream and strawberries in the sunshine. A fantastic day was had by all and students returned to school with a library-worth of books between them!

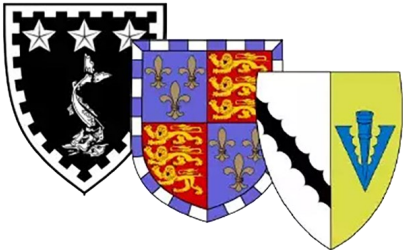


UWTSD Open Day

As shared in the last newsletter, a group of Sixth Formers participated in a diabetes research workshop with UWTSD last term. To celebrate the completion of the course, the students were invited to the UWTSD Open Day at their new Swansea Bay campus. Students attended a range of healthcare related masterclasses and workshops, learning about topics such as mental health counselling and personality types in psychology.

Summer School Success

A huge congratulations to Kyle Pesario in Year 11 who has been offered a place on the Christ's College Summer School at Cambridge University. Applications for the summer school are highly competitive, with far more applicants than available places. We look forward to sharing Kyle's experience in the next newsletter.



Sixth Form Visit to the Imperial War Museum

The school took a group of Year 12 and 13 students to visit the Imperial War Museum in London earlier this term. The museum houses galleries on the First and Second World Wars and students were particularly keen to visit the Holocaust exhibition, where they saw contemporary artefacts and learned more about this terrible chapter in history. Following on from this visit, students had some free time in Southbank and enjoyed exploring the area, particularly the view of Parliament from across the Thames.



The visit was particularly meaningful to Year 13 students, who have missed out on many super-curricular opportunities due to the Covid pandemic, and we were glad so many were able to join us. Staff and students would like to extend particular thanks to Councillor Sam Pritchard, who is also the Chair of Governors, for his kind donation towards the transport costs for this trip.



Author Meet and Greet at Waterstones

Students in Year 7 recently met the author Nicola Davies at an event at Waterstones in Swansea. Nicola is the author of over eighty books and was discussing her new novel, 'The Song That Sings Us'. She discussed her writing process and gave tips to the many aspiring authors within the group, as well as discussing the importance of creativity in learning.

The talk was followed by a very thoughtful Q&A session, where students asked Nicola questions on a range of topics, including her inspiration, writer's block and her book recommendations. Nicola also kindly signed a copy of her new book for the school library, which will be available to borrow from September.



Finally...

Our KS3 pupils had an amazing time watching the cricket last week in Sophia Gardens! We watched a record-breaking game from Glamorgan Cricket, won a whole bunch of freebies and took a photo with our favourite player, Prem Sisodiya!

A fantastic evening out for us all!



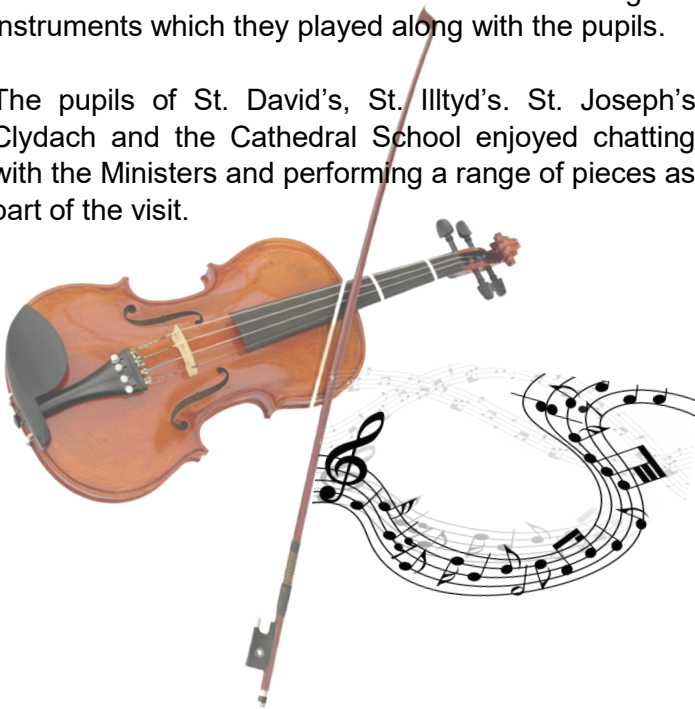
Ministerial Visit to Cluster Schools



On Monday 16th May, the First Minister, Mark Drakeford, and the Education Minister, Jeremy Miles, visited St. Joseph's Cathedral School to speak with pupils accessing Swansea's fantastic Music Tuition Service.

The Ministers listened to performances from pupils in each of the cluster schools and tried out a range of instruments which they played along with the pupils.

The pupils of St. David's, St. Illtyd's, St. Joseph's Clydach and the Cathedral School enjoyed chatting with the Ministers and performing a range of pieces as part of the visit.

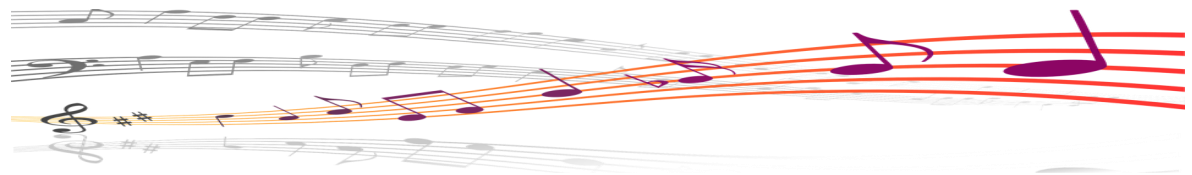


The visit was linked to the Ministerial statement on investment in music tuition for pupils throughout Wales. This important aspect of education certainly enhances pupils' experiences within and beyond school.

The work of the Music Service allows many of Bishop Vaughan's pupils to learn musical instruments and the service also supports the schools in its numerous shows and performances throughout the year, from the Carol Services to the musical theatre productions. The school is always appreciative of their efforts which bring real vibrancy and energy to so many aspects of school life.



Thank you to St. Joseph's Cathedral School for their warm welcome to us and to all schools in the cluster, and congratulations to all four primaries and to Swansea Music Service on such a successful and enjoyable visit!



Transition Days

Transition has been in full swing this term and we have been very excited to welcome back pupils from our cluster primary school to Bishop Vaughan.

Pupils from Years 4 and 5 have had lots of opportunities over the term to experience some of what our school has to offer. Mrs Morgan has been to the primary schools to deliver Scratch sessions. Pupils used computational thinking and problem-solving skills to create their own interactive games.



We have also hosted days at Bishop Vaughan centred around Science and Technology.

In Science, pupils were challenged to make roller-coasters on which a marble could travel and end in a cup. There were points awarded for the number of loops, hills and slops created. We saw some wonderful, imaginative creations.

In Design Technology, pupils designed block prints and decorated pencil cases with the using different reactive paints. Some glow in the dark, some change colour when heat is applied to them and many more. Pupils are all working towards becoming enterprising, creative contributors.

On Tuesday 21st June we held our first Cluster Challenge Cup for Year 5 pupils. The day was such a success we hope to turn this into an annual event. Pupils from all four feeder schools complete against each other in a range of events from rounders to 'Capture the Flag'.

In the afternoon, we held athletics events rounding the day off with some old school sports day classics with the egg and spoon race and tug of war. Tug of war really was a highlight!

Winners of each event were awarded points for their school and a cup was presented to the winning school to take back with them. It was very close but the results were as follows:

- First place - St. David's
- Second place - St. Joseph's Cathedral School
- Third place - St. Illtyd's
- Fourth place - St. Joseph's Clydach

Well done to St. David's! We look forward to welcoming next year's Year 5 classes. We wonder who will win?



Sixth Form Leadership Team Roles 2022

We are delighted to announce our new Sixth Form Leadership Team for 2022-2023. Following a rigorous application and interview process, our new team was appointed in April. These roles are an integral part of life at Bishop Vaughan, allowing pupils to take the lead in all areas of school life and to be positive role models within our school community.

Our Head Prefects and Deputy Head Prefects are ambassadors for our school. They set high standards in behaviour and personal presentation, and will be taking an active part in a range of events and activities.

We are pleased to introduce this year's Head Prefects as Lauren Powell and Lloyd Thomas, and our Deputy Head Prefects as Ethan Allagosta, Michael Jino and Cameron Millis.

Our prefects are excellent role models and will take the lead in key areas within our school, assisting the Head Prefects and staff. They will ensure they uphold our school values and bring positive change within their area of responsibility. We are thrilled to introduce our prefects for this year:

Ethos/Liturgy/Faith - Katie Demery
 Charity - Annabel Parry
 Digital Learning - Aisha Balogun
 Sport - Matthew Thomas
 Music/Performing Arts - Charley Davies
 Eco - Mia Cutler and Alice Davies
 Health & Wellbeing - Matilda Harries, Saniya Jibi and Julia Salim
 Teaching & Learning - Emmanuel Destin and Madison O'Connor
 Sixth Form Ambassador - Deborah Mpiana

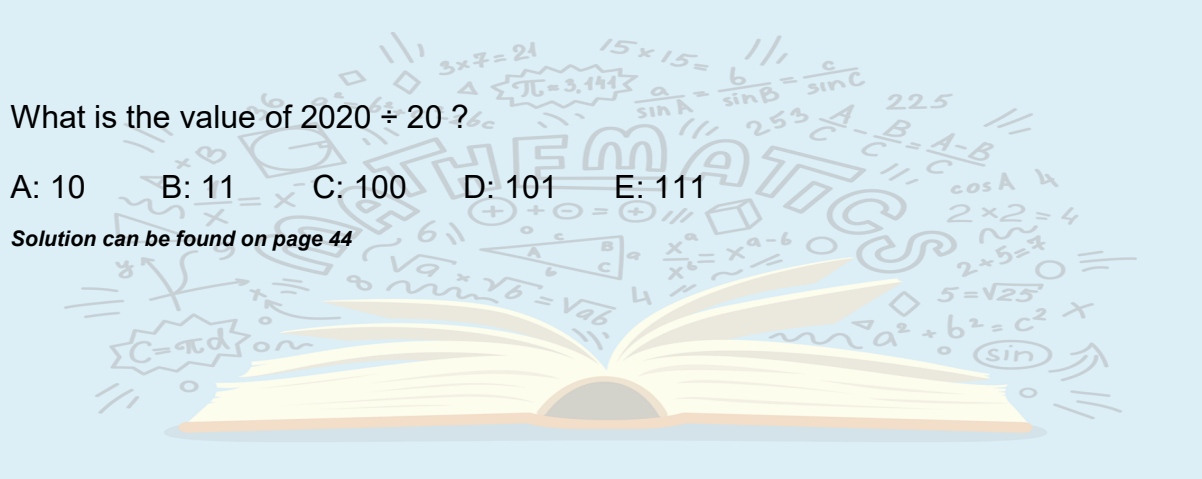
Many congratulations to all pupils who have been successful in achieving a role of responsibility this year. With their numerous ideas and suggestions, we are excited to see the positive contribution they will undoubtedly make to our school.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

What is the value of $2020 \div 20$?

A: 10 B: 11 C: 100 D: 101 E: 111

Solution can be found on page 44



Year 11 Leavers 2017-2022

I was very proud of Year 11 on their Leavers Day on Thursday 26th May. It was great to spend time with them reflecting on their time in Bishop Vaughan. Firstly we took part in Mass and then we looked back at photos and events that have taken place in school during the last five years.

For me, it is not the end of their journey but only the start. I think it is fair to say that this has been the most challenging year group I have ever carried through. That isn't to say that they were challenging but their school experience and mine over the last five years have been very unexpected. They have all shown so much resilience and have genuinely made me very proud.

The results they get this summer will be the most deserved set of results during my professional career. They have had to work twice as hard to get to where they are today than any other year group. They had to re-motivate themselves every time they came back to school, cope with the lockdowns as well as life's usual challenges.

Whether they go onto Sixth Form or leave for college, I know that they will all achieve great things because life isn't just about a set of grades on a piece of paper.

All the best Year 11!

Ms Wilshire, Head of Year 11

Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom took place on 29th June. For the first time it was held at the Towers Hotel and Spa.

Thankfully the weather held whilst the pupils arrived. What a fantastic evening! The pupils all looked amazing and conducted themselves incredibly well.

Thank you to all of the staff who gave up their time to make it such a special event, to the parents who put in huge amounts of effort and to the pupils who were a credit as always!

Year 13 Leavers

Our Year 13 students have been amazing and have shown such resilience and maturity during their time here, especially during the pandemic. We are immensely proud of all of them.

On Friday 27th May we said goodbye to our outgoing Year 13 with all the traditional Leavers' activities. In the afternoon, students and staff attended a beautiful Mass in the Common Room, followed by pizza provided by the school, a trip down memory lane with photos of their time at Bishop Vaughan and shirt signing in the sun. We all appreciated the chance to say an appropriately emotional goodbye.

We are sad to see them leave, and we wish them the absolute best of luck as they go off in their different directions. We hope that we have given them the tools they need to succeed in their next challenges, whether that be at university, apprenticeship, or something different. We look forward to celebrating their future accomplishments.

Our Head Boy, Sam McCarthy, delivered an emotional and inspiring speech which is included below:

Change and the Future

Over the past seven years here at Bishop Vaughan we have been fortunate to meet a number of different people. Most recently we were honoured by a visit from the Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan who spoke about how we are the future of this community and this country, and while I was showing her around the exhibitions at our 'Festival of Peace' she remarked on how impressed and inspired she was at the effort that our students had put into making this festival. She then said something that made me reflect on my time here at Bishop Vaughan – "Take every single opportunity that comes your way". This phrase has been said repeatedly during the past seven years, and it made me realise that only through taking opportunities we are able to grow and develop. And with development comes change. Changes can be both subtle and dramatic, and we as a year group have experienced some major changes, most recently the coronavirus pandemic.

A pandemic that nobody really saw coming. Literally overnight our entire learning environment changed. Confined to a bedroom, or a kitchen table these settings could not be further removed from a classroom. These changes to our learning environment led us to realise how we like to be taught, what suits us best, and what allows us to engage in the subject. However, online classes with all their technical issues, the lack of communication between peers and the hesitancy to message on the TEAMS chat can be frustrating, but it encourages us to be resilient.

Looking at the experiences we have faced, it's clear to see that changes allow people to be resilient. Because when things change at a rapidly and dramatic pace it can be difficult to keep up and know what is happening, especially when things have been static and predictable for so many years. The way in which our exams were to be conducted changed twice, and thus the way we prepared and revised changed, and so when things changed so many times it can be easy to just throw in the towel and call it a day. Such changes develop a level resilience within us and allow us to carry on.

Change can also be internal. The transitioning from one perspective to another. Prioritising and focusing on things that we may not have focused on before. Having new interests, spending time with new people, and going to new places – these are all changes. Even in a short period of time we ourselves have changed. If you think about who you were at the beginning of Year 12, you're a different person to who you are now at the end of Year 13. And when you think about who you were in September of 2015, I think we can all agree that we have changed. But most of the time you may not even realise that you are changing and thus, this change is subtle.

Even though change happens all around us, all the time, we are surrounded by constants. There is always someone or something that we can turn to, friends, family, teachers, school, and faith; and it is with these constants in our lives that we are able to continue and move forward.

It is often when we reflect on something, we mainly focus on the negative, but we can learn from change, by the way in which we adapt to it. We are almost at the end of a very challenging and unprecedented Sixth Form experience, but the very fact that we have been able to get to this point, right here, right now proves that we are able to take on any future changes that come our way and do so meaningfully so that we can have life, and have it to the full.

And now we are approaching the final hurdle, where all these changes will amount to something. And life will go on, and in a few months times there will be more changes as we prepare to set off for the next chapters of our life. But I am reminded by a quote from Philippians, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me".

On that note, on behalf of all the students, I would like to express of vote of thanks.

To Mrs Pole, our Senior Leadership Team, Mr Boucher, Mr McKay and Mrs Price: thank you for assemblies and words of wisdom that have inspired and motivated us to work towards our goals and develop into the people who aim for a better tomorrow.

To our subject teachers: the past two years have been filled with uncertainty, sudden changes, and new ways of doing things. We thank you for your stability and unwavering supporting, without you we would have not been able to get through it all. Under your guidance, we have achieved an impressive and important milestone.

All the other members of staff who have helped, guided, and shaped us into the people we are today.

And finally, to our tutors for your support over the past two years. With our references, personal statements, interviews, admissions tests and any other pastoral or academic issues that you have helped us through. Your willingness to help and support us has not gone unnoticed – please accept these gifts as a token our appreciation – thank you.



Year 13 Prom



On Wednesday 29th June, Year 13 had their Prom. Due to the pandemic, this year group missed out on their Year 11 Prom, so this one had a special importance for them. The Dragon Hotel was a perfect setting to celebrate the end of their educational journey with us at Bishop Vaughan. Everyone in attendance looked amazing and the dance floor was never empty.



BVS Alumni

At Bishop Vaughan we are incredibly proud of the rich and varied careers and life experiences that members of 'the BVS family' go on to have. We have a dedicated section of our website (<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/alumni>) for our alumni, our former pupils, and in it we proudly present some of those who have kindly got in touch with us to share their stories.

It was particularly special when so many of our former pupils who progressed to careers in the medical, healthcare and social care sectors contacted us, during the pandemic, to tell us how they were supporting the national effort. The 'directory' of our NHS heroes remains on the alumni section of the website.

We invite any former pupils—whether they left the school decades ago or just last year—to be in touch with us if they have news to share about their education journey or career path which they feel might be of interest and perhaps inspiration to our current pupils. We look forward to sharing with you a selection of their stories in the next few editions of the newsletter!



Greg is originally from St Thomas in Swansea and attended Bishop Vaughan Catholic School between 1998-2005, achieving 4 A*s, 6As and a B at GCSE in 2003 and taking English Literature, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Sociology for AS levels. Greg was Head Boy of the school from 2004-2005, when he completed his A levels and took up a place to study Theology at St Benet's Hall, University of Oxford.

Since graduating, he has worked as a Widening Access Coordinator at Oxford, organising events for school students to attend; trained as a teacher at the University of Cambridge and studied for his Masters in Education through Cambridge whilst working as a teacher. Greg has moved in to the third (charity) sector, first as a Leadership development officer with Teach First, coaching and mentoring new teachers in Wales, and now he is the National Manager for Wales with The Brilliant Club, overseeing relationships with Universities, colleges, schools and external partners to deliver programmes to stretch and challenge young people and raise their aspirations towards attending top universities.

If you would like to share your career journey as a former BVS pupil, please contact Mr L McKay on the following email address: McKayL5@hwbcymru.net

aspire



WHEN I START SOMETHING NEW, I OFTEN THINK BACK TO WHAT MY HEAD OF YEAR SAID IN AN ASSEMBLY ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO - "BISHOP VAUGHAN HAS ALL THE TOOLS REQUIRED FOR AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IT COMES DOWN TO YOU." THIS ADVICE GOES FAR BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES AND HAS ALLOWED ME TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE EXPERIENCED SO FAR.

I left Bishop Vaughan in 2016 with A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Religious Studies and went on to study a degree in Biochemistry at the University of Bristol. Over my time at Bishop Vaughan, I was fortunate enough to have brilliant and supportive teachers who encouraged me to work hard to pursue my interests. The compassionate ethos and diverse community within the school instilled in me values that continue to inspire me today. I am currently a PhD student within Bristol University Medical School, looking into cardiac regeneration in paediatrics undergoing open heart surgery, with my project funded by the British Heart Foundation.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES I FACE AS A DYSLEXIC STUDENT IS HAVING TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP MY SCIENTIFIC WRITING SKILLS. THE SUPPORT FROM THE TEACHERS I HAD AT SCHOOL ALLOWED ME TO DEVELOP WRITING TECHNIQUES, RESILIENCE, AND CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITY. I STILL USE SOME OF THE SAME TECHNIQUES WHEN I WRITE NOW, AS WELL AS NEW ONES I HAVE ACQUIRED ALONG THE WAY. IF YOU ASKED 11-YEAR-OLD ME IF I WOULD EVER BE AN AUTHOR ON A PAPER I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LAUGHED!

I thoroughly enjoyed my degree from which I graduated in 2019 with first class honours. Over my time at Bristol I have worked on several outreach projects for which I was presented with the Biochemistry Good Citizen award. Outside of my research, I am involved with Bristol University Music Society, which has provided me with some great experiences including concerts, orchestra tours, and playing at the Edinburgh Fringe festival. This year I have been elected as Welfare Officer for the society. I am also a keen yogi and ballet dancer, I enjoy leading yoga sessions for fellow researchers in lunchtimes, as well as for the music society.



After attending St. Thomas Primary School Michael started at Bishop Vaughan in 1998. He continued in the Sixth Form studying Mathematics at AS level and PE, Biology and Chemistry at A level. He was deputy Head Boy (Social) organizing numerous parties and events for his peers.

MICHAEL THEN COMPLETED MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY'S MBCHB MEDICAL DEGREE, STUDYING AT KEELE UNIVERSITY, WITH HONORS BETWEEN 2005-2010. AFTER GRADUATING HE BEGAN HIS JUNIOR DOCTOR TRAINING IN THE SOUTH THAMES AND KENT, SURREY AND SUSSEX REGIONS BEFORE MOVING TO NORTH LONDON TO CONTINUE HIS CAREER.

Whilst working at both world-renowned hospitals, The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital and The Royal London Hospital, Michael completed his Masters Degree in Trauma Science with a Distinction. In 2015 he obtained his Specialist Training Number in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery on the prestigious Percivall Pott Rotation in North East Thames, London.

MICHAEL CONTINUALLY MENTORS JUNIOR DOCTORS TRYING TO ACHIEVE THEIR AMBITIONS IN THE EARLY PART OF THEIR CAREER AND TEACHES ON VARIOUS COURSES FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS.

He is currently pursuing a Sub-Specialist Shoulder and Elbow Surgery Fellowship beginning in 2021 at The Gold Coast University Hospital in Queensland, Australia and an additional career as a pre-hospital trauma doctor working at Silverstone Motor Circuit.

achieve

Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and access support after school!



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

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

The value of $2020 \div 20$ is equal to the value of $202 \div 2 = 101$

Answer is D:

School Uniform

September 2021 - August 2022

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.
Jewellery:	A single sleeper or a single metal stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, glass, nose or tongue piercing. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden. It should be noted that tattoos are not permitted.
Make-up/Hair:	Make-up is not allowed. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a single natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. purples, reds, dip dyes etc. are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts or shaved patches (not shorter than grade 2). No braiding with a mixture of hair colours. No artificial plaits or braids. No painted nails or nail extensions.

Games Kit

Rugby Shirt:	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

From September 2022 we will be closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. Absence requests will only be authorised where attendance is above 95%. We will not authorise absences during September or during examination periods. All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases.

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>



Dear Parents and carers,

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to those that have continued to ensure that their child has attended school regularly throughout this difficult period. We understand some parents may have ongoing concerns around safety, however, we are following Welsh Government and Public Health Guidance for the safety of all pupils, staff and the community.

The expectation was set by Welsh Government that from the 12th April 2021 all schools were open, and ALL children were expected to attend.

Regular school attendance is essential in order to support children in achieving their full educational potential and supporting their wellbeing. The Education Welfare Service and schools are concerned that not all children have attended and have missed the opportunity to meet up with their friends and fully engage in their education.

As a Service we need to inform you that Fixed Penalty Notices and court proceedings will be re-instated in the near future. Attendance during this period will be monitored and if children have a high number of unauthorised absences, as well as a pattern of irregular attendance, including missing days each week and poor punctuality: there is a possibility that fixed penalty notices and court procedures may be issued.

The Education Welfare Service and school staff will continue to support children and families through this difficult period. It is now more important than ever that you as parents and carers establish positive, consistent routines with your children. If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Let us work together so that our children can make the most of their education and experiences at school.

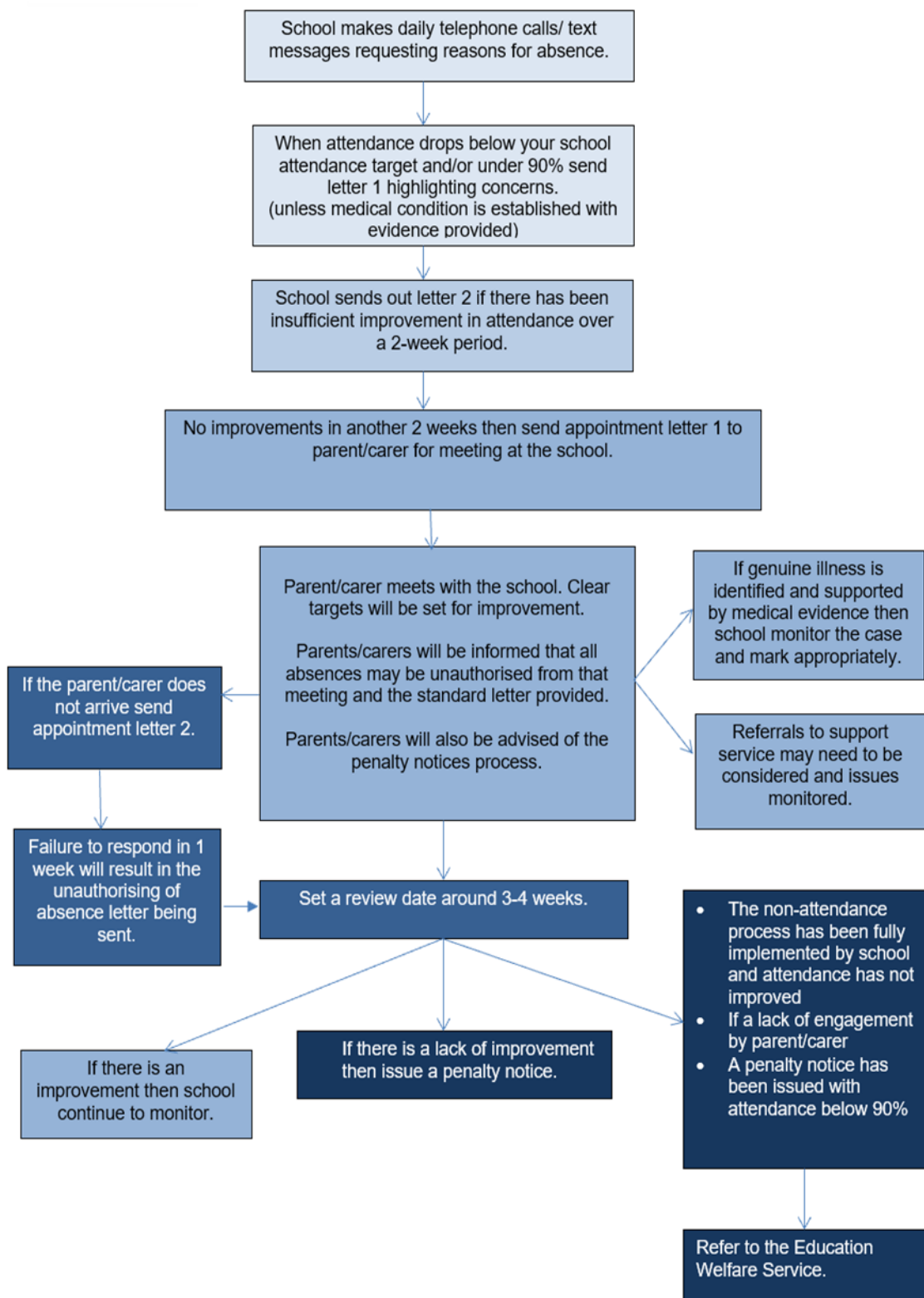
**GWASANAETH LLES ADDYSG/EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE
UNED CEFNOGI YSGOLION/SCHOOL SUPPORT UNIT
CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWA SA1 3SN
CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN
RHIF FFON/TELEPHONE: (01792) 637648, EMAIL: EducationWelfareService@Swansea.gov.uk**

*Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.*

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 MyEd school app <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/>

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 either **Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 ext 2218** or **Mrs E-J Gwyther (Attendance Manager) on 01792 772006 ext 2239**.

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



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 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

E-mail: bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net

www.bishopvaughan.co.uk