



# **Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan**

**Parents' Newsletter July 2015  
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Gorffennaf 2015**

## **Year 9 Fundraising**



Year 9 were inspired to raise money for a younger sibling of one of our Sixth Form pupils. They spent a week asking people for help and donations and staff and pupils gave generously.

More details can be found on page 21.

## Welcome to our new Headteacher

We are pleased to welcome our new Headteacher, Mr Paul White, who was appointed by the governors in March and took up his new post on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. Mr White came to us from St John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School, Llanelli where he was Headteacher for 10 years. He has considerable experience of working in Catholic education across the 11-18 age range. He was Head of Geography, Head of Year, Head of Transition and Assistant Headteacher at Saint Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form Centre in Port Talbot and also worked at Saint Thomas More Catholic 11-18 School in Haringey, North London. Mr White studied for his degree in Geography at Swansea University where he also went on to gain his PGCE qualification, completing his teacher training at Bishop Vaughan and Clwyd Primary School. He has taught Geography, English, Religious Education and Physical Education.

Mr White is married to Ann and has two sons who both attended Bishop Vaughan School. Mr White, whose family originally hail from Wexford in Ireland, was born and educated in Ealing, West London and has lived in Swansea since 1989. He is a member of St David's Parish and has served as a Governor at St David's Primary School, West Cross.

Mr White was a keen sportsman having competed in Athletics and Cross Country for Thames Valley Harriers and Swansea University in the past. More recently he has been a middle distance coach, team manager and time keeping official with Swansea Harriers. Mr White also enjoys Outdoor Education, holds the National Mountain Leadership Certificate and has run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in several schools.

We welcome Mr White to Bishop Vaughan and wish him every happiness and success as our new Headteacher.

## Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parent / Guardian

I feel privileged to have been appointed by the Governors as Headteacher of Bishop Vaughan School and would like to thank you, the pupils and staff for the very warm welcome which I have received. I would like to start by paying tribute to the achievements of my predecessor, Mr Blackburn, during 16 years of loyal and dedicated service to the school. During this period Mr Blackburn not only raised standards, bringing the school to Band 1 status but also led sector leading partnership working which helped to protect and develop Post-16 Catholic Education in Swansea. Together with the Diocese and Governors he was also instrumental in protecting the transport service to the school and has made a major contribution to Catholic Education within the Diocese of Menevia and further afield. I wish Mr Blackburn every happiness in his retirement and hope he will be a regular visitor to the school.

I have been extremely impressed by our pupils and by the dedication and commitment of the staff. I look forward to building on these solid foundations and past achievements and to working in close partnership with you to continue to raise standards and to provide the best possible quality of education and pastoral care for the children you have entrusted to our care.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and reading about the many successes and achievements of our pupils.

*Paul R. White*

# School Term and Holiday Dates 2015-2016

HALF TERM HOLIDAYS				
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2015	Tuesday 1st September	Monday 26th October	Friday 30th October	Friday 18th December
Spring 2016	Monday 4th January	Monday 15th February	Friday 19th February	Friday 24th March
Summer 2016	Monday 11th April	Monday 30th May	Friday 3rd June	Wednesday 20th July

## Dates for your Diary

The last day of term is Friday 17th July 2015; school closes at 3.25 pm.

All pupils with the exception of Year 13 return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2015. This will be week one on the timetable. Year 13 will return on Friday 4th September 2015.

## Inset Days

Tuesday 1st September 2015

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Thursday 22nd October 2015

Friday 23rd October 2015

Monday 4th January 2016

Year 6 Open Evening is being held on Thursday 15th October 2015 - 6.30 - 9.00pm

Examination Results - A2 & AS Results - Thursday 13th August 2015 (9.00 - 12.00)

- GCSE Results - Thursday 20th August 2015 (9.00 - 12.00)

Please see page 4 for further information about collecting examination results.

**The full academic year school calendar is enclosed with this newsletter and is also 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.

## School Day

### Changes to the timing of the school day

In order to increase the length of time available for staff and students during tutorial and assembly (from 20 to 25 minutes), it has been necessary to alter slightly the timing of the school day. The additional time will be used to improve the provision of pastoral care by allowing form tutors and Heads of Year greater opportunity for interaction with their students. Please note there is now only one lunch time for all year groups. We are hoping this will allow staff more free rooms and therefore an increase in lunchtime clubs for pupils.

REGISTRATION	8.50 am - 9.15 am
PERIOD 1	9.15 am - 10.15 am
PERIOD 2	10.15 am - 11.15 am
BREAK	11.15 am - 11.30 am
PERIOD 3	11.30 am - 12.30 pm
PERIOD 4	12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
LUNCH	1.30 pm - 2.25 pm
PERIOD 5	2.25 pm - 3.25 pm
END OF SCHOOL DAY	3.25 pm

## Examination Results

If you gave a stamped addressed envelope to the office before the end of your Exams, your results will be posted on your behalf.

If you cannot collect the results in person you can ask an adult member of your family to collect your results on your behalf. If you do this they **must** bring with them a signed letter from you authorising them to collect your results.

Unfortunately, we cannot give out results over the phone.

### CERTIFICATES

Certificates gained during these examinations will be available for collection in December 2015. **It is important that you collect your certificates as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months**

## School Uniform September 2015-August 2016

The school colours are based on burgundy for years 7-11.

Three of our suppliers are:- Bergoni, 1 Cambrian Court, Ferryboat Close, Enterprise Park, Swansea SA6 8QN Tel 01792 796880, J&S Products, 74 Tychoch 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. Please do not rely on information obtained from elsewhere.**

### Year 7-11

- Pullover:** burgundy, v-necked with official school logo.
- Tie:** years 7-11 official school tie.
- Socks:** with trousers, plain 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 light blue, standard school style. Not denim or fashion.  
*NB During the summer term only light blue polo shirt with school logo, may be worn.*
- Skirt:** mid-grey or black in material and standard design, knee length
- Trousers:** dark grey or black and standard design **NOT** fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings etc
- Shoes:** black 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
- 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, 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 forbidden. 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. No braiding with a mixture of hair colours.

**Games Kit**

<b>Rugby Shirt (boys):</b>	burgundy with blue/white side panels
<b>T-Shirt (boys):</b>	burgundy with blue/white side panels
<b>T-Shirt (girls):</b>	white polo shirt with blue/white side panels
<b>Shorts (boys):</b>	burgundy with blue/white side panels
<b>Shorts (girls):</b>	burgundy with white trim
<b>Footwear:</b>	soccer, rugby boots and training shoes as applicable
<b>Socks (boys &amp; girls):</b>	burgundy
<b>Hooded Top (girls):</b>	black with school logo (hooded top is optional)
<b>Tracksuit bottoms (girls):</b>	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, football and rugby.

Pupils in year 8-11 can continue wearing the existing kit.

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

## **DISCIPLINE FOR LEARNING**

At Bishop Vaughan School unacceptable or criminal behaviour is not tolerated. This includes:

- fundamental disrespect for the Catholic faith, school liturgy and prayer
- violent, abusive or threatening behaviour; possession of offensive weapons
- dangerous breaches of safety rules and instructions
- wanton damage, destruction or theft
- possession and/or use of **drugs, tobacco, alcohol** or any **illegal substance** on the school site, on school trips, on journeys to and from school
- inappropriate use of school computers and the internet.

In the event of any such unacceptable or criminal behaviour, direct and appropriate action will be taken to safeguard the common good.

Parents will be informed; police involved as necessary.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

1. WARNING - verbal warning only, giving pupil a chance to alter behaviour
2. IMPOSITION -v recorded in the Pupil Planner (e.g. lines, extra work etc.)
3. FURTHER IMPOSITION – recorded in the Pupil Planner (e.g. teacher detention etc.)
4. LETTER HOME - parents and Senior Tutor informed
5. SLT Call Out - further appropriate sanctions (e.g. detention, report, internal exclusion etc.)

Repeated failure to comply with Good Conduct Code will result in the following:

- ON REPORT with tutor
- SERIOUS LETTER home
- FURTHER STEPS (e.g. internal isolation or fixed term exclusion)

## SCHOOL RULES

### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

**Mobile Phones and other technology:**

If pupils have mobile phones (or MP3s/iPods, etc.) 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 **switched off** and out of sight **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 mobile, (phone call 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.

Any pupil using a mobile phone to record sound or video in school faces the likelihood of exclusion.

The school will also invoke a '**mobile phone ban**' for any pupil not obeying the rules.

No headphones should be worn or be visible at anytime.

**Bullying:**

Bullying is not tolerated at Bishop Vaughan. It must be reported to a member of staff as soon as possible.

**Equipment:**

Being equipped for study is essential to being in school. Parents, guardians and pupils are reminded that pupils should come to school every day with a school bag for carrying books, kit and other equipment. Pupils should have at all times, pens, pencils, rubbers and rulers as well as their homework diary/planner. Pupils coming to school without the basic equipment needed to work will not be permitted to join their class.

**Food and Drink:**

Only water may be consumed in lessons. All other food and drink is confined to the dinner halls. No 'energy drinks' are permitted. The **SELLING** of any items including sweets is not permitted.

**Detention:**

Failure to follow school rules may result in detention. Detentions take place during break time, lunchtime and afterschool.

**Behaviour Reports:**

Pupils may be put on a report to monitor their behaviour. Parents are required to sign this report every day.

Full copies of the Good Conduct Code, School Rules and all policies are available on the school website or in the school office on request. [www.bishopvaughan.swansea.sch.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.swansea.sch.uk)

## School Uniform September 2015-August 2016

### Sixth Form Uniform

<b>Pullover:</b>	navy, v-necked with official school logo
<b>Tie:</b>	Sixth Form official school tie
<b>Shirt/Blouse:</b>	plain white, standard school style (not fashion) <i>NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with Sixth Form logo, may be worn.</i>
<b>Skirt:</b>	navy blue, knee length
<b>Trousers:</b>	Trousers: navy blue, black, <u>dark grey</u> , standard design. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, corduroy etc
<b>Socks:</b>	with trousers: dark coloured, or white with skirts: navy blue or white
<b>Tights:</b>	plain, seamless, navy tights may be worn
<b>Shoes:</b>	dark coloured with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter and sandals in the summer. Trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted
<b>Topcoat:</b>	dark blue/black/grey – single coloured only

Members of Sixth Form are expected to wear the uniform throughout the school day. A single sleeper or a single stud of minimum size may be worn in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, nose or tongue piercing. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. greens etc are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts. Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances.

Any jewellery must be removed if in the judgement of any staff, instructors or technicians it constitutes a health and safety hazard, especially in laboratories, workshops and PE areas. 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.

## School Uniform Recycling

Do you have any unwanted items of uniform that are in good condition?

If you would like to donate them to another family, please could you ask your child to drop them off with Leanne in the First Aid room. Please only send in clothes that are in good condition. If you are donating gym kit, please can you check that it is the latest strip (boys: maroon t-shirt with blue stripe and maroon shorts; girls: white polo shirt with blue stripe and maroon shorts).

If you are looking for second-hand uniform, please call in to see Leanne between 3.30 - 4.00pm on Mondays, from 1<sup>st</sup> September onwards.

Thank you.

# HAPPY RETIREMENT



A celebration took place on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> to mark the retirement of Mr Joe Blackburn. The hall was full of both current and former students and staff and transformed for an evening of song and dance.

One of the evening's performers Karl Morgan, a former pupil and now a professional singer/songwriter said, "it was a great honour to be asked to perform as Mr Blackburn has always supported my talents both as a student of Bishop Vaughan and as a professional."

As requested by Mr Blackburn, donations for two charities of his choice were collected. Everyone contributed generously and over four hundred pounds was raised.

It was an evening enjoyed by all and fitting of sixteen years of service.



## Classics Trip



On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Bishop Vaughan Classics students from Years 10 – 12 had a day at Swansea University. We attended a series of lectures on a diverse range of topics, such as story-telling in Homer's Odyssey, Ancient technology and (of course) Roman gladiators, as well as visiting the Egypt Centre at lunchtime ... and (of course) Costa!

We are very grateful to Dr Evelien Bracke of Swansea University for organising and funding such an informative and enjoyable day, giving everyone a taste of what it might be like to study Classics at University. And thanks to Mrs Reed, too, for coming along and (of course) generally organising us.

Mrs M Richardson

## Latin Achievements

Congratulations to Bethan Cart, Courtney Kent and Abbie Tossell and Anju Thomas, who all received their Stage 4 Latin Certificate from Cambridge in June, after studying at lunchtime. They are now working towards Stage 8 which they hope to achieve by the end of term.

Mrs M Richardson



## Children's University

Congratulations to the following students for taking part in various accredited activities out of school hours and achieving an Award with the Children's University in Swansea, part of the Children and Young People's University Cymru:-

Hannah Thomas 7.7 - Silver Award  
 Leon Morgan 11.7 - Silver Award  
 William Nedin 12.3 - Bronze Award

The annual Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday 1st July at the Taliesin Theatre in Swansea University.



# Mega Maths Challenge



We were invited to Swansea University to take part in a Mega Maths Challenge. There were 36 teams and in total there were eight schools. We were team one for BVS the Mathletes. The first round contained three questions for each team and four questions in a buzzer round.

The second round was an observation round where you had thirteen questions on a quiz programme we watched. There were twenty points on offer during this round, so it was all to play for.



The third round was thirty minutes long, where you had to answer two sheets containing ten questions each on statistical literacy. This was a very intense round and again lots of points were on offer.

At the end of the three rounds we qualified for the final with forty two points. We had to compete against four other schools in the final round. We were given a sheet and there were eight questions called out; we had six of these right. The second part was a buzzer round with

another eight questions. We had eleven out of sixteen, narrowly beating Birchgrove who got ten. We took the title of Mega Maths Challenge winners for the second year in a row.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results

On the 30th April 2015, 80 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 problem solving questions. The pupils in year 8 did particularly well with 17 of them achieving a certificate. Here are the results from the best achieving in our school. The highest mark attained was from Kaitlyn Millis. Well done Kaitlyn!

### Year 8

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kaitlyn Millis	Gold Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ethan Fage	Gold Award
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Crudge	Silver Award
Jt4 <sup>th</sup>	Ans Sibi	Silver Award
Jt 4 <sup>th</sup>	Zoe Rees	Silver Award
6 <sup>th</sup>	Artur Varosyan	Silver Award
7 <sup>th</sup>	Joyal George	Silver Award
Jt8 <sup>th</sup>	Ben McCarthy	Silver Award
Jt8 <sup>th</sup>	Arun Sibi	Silver Award
Jt10 <sup>th</sup>	William Collins	Bronze Award
Jt10 <sup>th</sup>	Chase Clark	Bronze Award
Jt10 <sup>th</sup>	Kristyn Thomas	Bronze Award
Jt13 <sup>th</sup>	Marc Pagalanan	Bronze Award
Jt13 <sup>th</sup>	Alwin Saji	Bronze Award
15 <sup>th</sup>	Natalia Romanello	Bronze Award
Jt16 <sup>th</sup>	Bavan Gowribalan	Bronze Award
Jt 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Williams	Bronze Award
Jt 18 <sup>th</sup>	Maryam Balogun and Georgia Ridd unfortunately just missed out on an award by 1 mark.	

### Year 7

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gina Romanello	Gold Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Geo Reji	
Jt 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ayoub Ghattas, Maya Ingham, Oisin Griffin Barr	
Jt 6 <sup>th</sup>	Evan Cotter, Jennifer Parry, Nathan Walsh	

Well done to everyone who took part. There were some very challenging questions and only the top 40% in the country receive awards. The next challenge is on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 for years 12 and 13. For more information on this competition or for a copy of the questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

## UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

**Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:**

On Monday last week Dilly started to learn the Tlingit language. Every day she learned five new words, but when she woke every morning she had forgotten two of the words learned the day before. When did Dilly first achieve her target of learning fourteen words?

A: Friday    B: Monday    C: Saturday    D: Thursday    E: Wednesday

The solution can be found on page 20

## Geography Field Trip



Over the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June, more than 100 Year 10 Geography students took part in an investigation of the River Ilston on the Gower Peninsula. Pupils worked in groups throughout these days, recording changes in the river's characteristics between its source on Fairwood Common and its mouth at Three Cliffs Bay. We were fortunate to have excellent weather for both days and the behaviour of our students was exemplary throughout. The data gathered will be used in class by the pupils to write their controlled assessment.



## Comenius Project

Mrs L Williams, Miss K Neucker and two year 12 pupils, Katy Demery and Michael Monteiro Mudresh travelled to Starogard in Poland. During the visit we had to present two pieces of work based on our love of Sport in Wales and traditional games that we play. We presented our sport presentation using 'Scratch' and the presentations had been prepared by Bishop Vaughan's year 7 pupils. Our second presentation was about traditional dances.

We presented a video of the year 10 drama class performing a traditional Welsh dance to the traditional Welsh folk song - Migldi Magldi. During this meeting we were able to view the project recipe book to which all five countries had contributed. This included a starter, main course and dessert recipe from each country. We visited a medieval castle, the city of Gdansk, a medieval settlement with many interactive opportunities to dress up and take part in medieval life, we ate traditional Polish food and visited the local Catholic Cathedral. The trip to Poland was such a wonderful experience for the pupils and they are still in touch with their host families.

Mrs L Williams

## Herb Garden



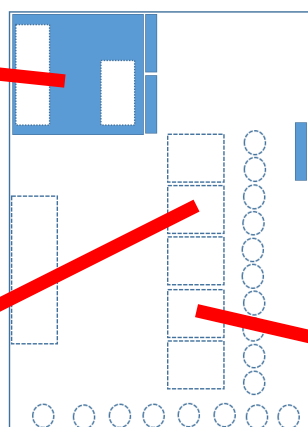
Canolfan Organig Cymru  
Organic Centre Wales



This term pupils at Bishop Vaughan have been working hard at developing horticulture around the school site. The school council, Eco Committee representatives and Welsh Baccalaureate pupils have been help developing the courtyard garden. Students have set up a gardening rota where they water, harvest and tend to the herb garden which we have installed. The herb garden now has over thirty varieties of herbs which are being used by the school's canteen and healthy eating club run by Mrs Thomas.



Layout of Herb Garden



## School Orchard



This term we have made some exciting developments in the school grounds with the planting up of the herb garden in the courtyard but also started marking out and planting an orchard of fruit trees.





Welsh Baccalaureate pupils in Year 11 helped with the hard work of digging holes, and hammering in heavy stakes to support the young trees. Organising the trees into straight lines turned out to be a case of putting Pythagoras in action!

Initially we have planted six apple trees. Some of the varieties are suitable for eating and others for cooking. The varieties themselves have been selected because they are traditional and unique Welsh varieties, each with a particular story and features to be discovered by future generations at the school.

For the time being, Welsh Baccalaureate pupils and members of the eco-club are tending the young saplings which have had flowers and are growing healthily. We are looking forward to planting six more trees with Paul Davies of Dolau Hirion Nurseries in the autumn and learning about skills such as pruning and grafting. This will add some pears, plums and cherries to the orchard.






# ESDGC

## How are we doing as a school?

Topic	Symbol	Past	Present	Future
Biodiversity		A few years ago our school had few habitats for our local wildlife.	We have set up an Herb garden and orchard. We are currently using our own produce and are currently training pupils in basic horticultural techniques.	We would one day like to be able to cuttings of our plants and transplant them around the school. Also we would like to make a link with other schools to help train pupils.
Energy		Our school was built in the late 1970's and building design and efficiency has developed since then.	The eco-committee regularly monitors our energy use as a school. Campaigns such as 'Switch off fortnight' are introduced to promote energy conservation and to encourage pupils to close doors and windows.	Introduce more energy efficient technologies to our school such as a sustainable energy source.
Global Perspectives		Previously our global perspectives as a school focused on departmental trips abroad.	Global Citizenship features highly in our schools curriculum and there have been numerous international links including the recent COMMENIUS PROJECT. We also promote and take part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal.	Continue to promote international links and twin with schools in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> world. As a school we have interest in developing more European links.
Healthy Living		Healthy living has always been seen as important but as a school we did participate in many initiatives and schemes.	Today in school pupils are offered well balanced meals. Fair Trade products are also available to students and recently a 'Healthy Eating Club' has been set up. Herbs from the school garden is now used in cookery lessons and by the school canteen.	By continuing to develop horticulture in school we would like to provide more produce for the school canteen. We are also looking at opportunities at visiting a farm to see the link between producers and consumers.
Litter		Litter is always a problem in schools but previously we did not monitor where litter was being	We regularly promote anti-litter campaigns (Year 7 – Re-hash your trash / Year 8 – Litter Collage	As a school we need to continue to reduce litter levels and would look to create a rota

# ESDGC

## How are we doing as a school?

		dropped. We were also unsure if the bins were in the correct place.	Competition) in school and monitor litter levels throughout the year. Pupils now eat their meals in the House Halls and there is a high concentration of bins near exits. As part of PHSE lessons pupils also carryout litter picks.	for litter pickers in the school. We would like to also upgrade our litter picking equipment.
<b>School Grounds</b>		Our school is situated on a very large site and has around 1,400 pupils crossing the site. Previously attempts had been made to plant trees along the fence line. Previously the Eco-Committee won an Eco competition run by the Co-Operative Group.	We have recently been awarded a grant by BOBL for £1500. We have used the grant to strengthen our Herb Garden and we have recently planted an orchard. The orchard promotes rare varieties of fruit trees.	We need to continue to work on improving our school grounds. We would be very keen to establish a wildflower meadow within the school and promote an afforestation programme for the school site.
<b>Transport</b>		A high percentage of pupils travel to school by bus due to our large catchment area.	A transport plan has been drawn up between the eco-committee and the local council in order to improve safety around the school site. A 'no parking area' has been designated around the front and side of the school and is regularly monitored by the Police.	We need to continue to promote safe travel and sustainable transport. We would look to increase car sharing wherever possible and for pupils to walk and cycle to school.
<b>Waste</b>		Due to the large number of pupils and size of our school site waste is a problem. Previously all of our waste was collected by the council.	Waste paper recycling bins are available in all classrooms. We also recycle plastic and have a food waste bin available in our staffroom. Teachers are also encouraged to purchase school resources which come from a sustainable source.	We would like to introduce a composting. We could use green waste as nutrients for the school garden.
<b>Water</b>		Water consumption is high in schools due to the large number of pupils and staff. Previously toilets had traditional taps which would run until they were turned off.	We have recently introduced a water harvesting system in the Herb garden. We also have introduced an irrigation system to reduce water consumption in the school garden.	To further reduce our water consumption we are considering introducing 'Water Hippos' and look into how we could use grey water.

## Sports Day

This year sports day took place at Bishop Vaughan. All pupils in year 7 to 10 participated and year 12 pupils assisted with the running of events which included refereeing, scoring and general organisation of equipment.

Activities this year included traditional athletic events (100m, 300m, 800m, relay, long jump and shot put) along with the popular tug of war. There were some excellent performances and many events were closely contested. The sixth form still claim that they beat the staff in the tug of war!!!

Other activities included separate five a side football competitions for boys and girls in each of the age groups and a softball competition for boys whilst the girls competed in rounders.

Our pupils participated enthusiastically throughout the day and the general feeling was that people had had a fantastic day.



## Atheltics

The following boys have been selected to represent Afan Nedd Tawe at the Welsh Athletics Championships in July. Congratulations to:

Jordan Draisey  
Osaze Aghedo

Scott Harris  
Kieron White

## Kintbury

Year 9 enjoyed their time on retreat at St. Cassian's in Kintbury. It was a truly spiritual, reflective and thought provoking experience for all. It was wonderful to share the experience with staff and students from St. Joseph's Port Talbot and I know the memories made at Kintbury will stay with our pupils throughout their lives.

Mrs K Spencer

For me Kintbury has to be the best experience of my life. The activities were fun and there is endless joy in Kintbury. It is unexplainable how great the place is. The people are nice and very friendly and you meet new people and socialise. I would definitely go again.  
Mayamiko Buliyani 9.7

I really enjoyed myself at Kintbury. It was a life changing experience. The team there really made it a trip to remember. I met so many lovely people and I suggest if you have the chance to go, take it!  
Abigail Shepherd 9.3



When I first arrived at Kintbury I did not know what to expect. When I got in it was an amazing place. I loved the groups that we were put in and I made loads of new friends, it was an amazing experience. The staff there were brilliant.  
Nicole Davies 9.7

I didn't know what to expect from going to Kintbury. It was an amazing experience. I learnt so much about myself and others. The memories I made there will stay with me forever. Take the opportunity if you get the chance to go.  
Lucy Evans 9.7

At first I was a bit scared about going to Kintbury because it was such a big place with so many people there but they made me feel so welcome and it felt like I had been there for years. My favourite part was when we were in our small groups because it was very funny and I laughed constantly. I met so many different people and I didn't want to leave. I hope I can go again next year!  
Ellie Leonard 9.7



I really enjoyed my time at Kintbury it was so much fun. The team at Kintbury were so nice, they made the trip so much better. I had the best time and if it's possible I would love to go again sometime. I met lots of amazing people and I suggest that other people should go if they get the chance.  
Harley Wheatley 9.3

## Kintbury



Kintbury was great. I made friends with a lot of new people who I am still in contact with. I am hoping to go again next year, I enjoyed it so much. My favourite part of Kintbury was the night prayers in the quiet room. I found it so relaxing.  
Tommy-Jay Lloyd 9.3

I had a great time in Kintbury. It was so much fun. All of us had a great good laugh. The prayers were beautiful and so relaxing. I had a great time doing the group activities and the team were so

kind to us. We really enjoyed the cedar room (bean bag). I had an amazing experience.

Johannah Dalangin 9.3

Kintbury was amazing. I had an incredible time. The volunteers were so nice and they were so fun to be around. There was a lot of dancing and singing. It was so nice and relaxing. The prayers were so peaceful and very reflecting. I got to know people better and I felt great meeting new people. I loved it so much and hope I can go again.

Sheha Riyaz 9.3

Kintbury was really good. I enjoyed meeting new people. I'm so glad I went and I hope to go again next year. I enjoyed listening to the presentations and being in the small groups

Ethan Power 9.3

Kintbury was a great experience for everyone who attended. We did lots of different activities with intervals to explore our beautiful surroundings. We had small groups where we had discussions and great leaders who were always around to help. Every day was something different and I really didn't want to leave.

Bethan Carl 9.7

When I was on my way to Kintbury I didn't know what to expect. It was the most amazing experience of my life and I didn't want it to end. It was so much fun getting to know new people and people I had lost touch with. It was amazing to talk to them. I learnt new things about myself and learned to understand myself more. I would love to get a chance to go again.

Kirsty Tanner 9.7

# Fundraising for Nepal

## Fundraising for Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund

After recent trips to Nepal, hiking to Everest Base Camp, Sixth Form pupils who attended the last trip wanted to raise some money to help the people of Nepal. A name the baby competition and a cake sale were organised which together raised over £500. This money was taken directly to people who needed it and who had not yet received any help. With the money people's homes were rebuilt and two schools are being repaired, we hope to build links with these schools in the future.

A big thank you to all pupils and staff who helped out, baked cakes and donated money!

Local high school in Khumbu valley and repairs



Rebuilding Nyrang's family home (Head Sherpa from all our expeditions)

Some of the people money raised has gone to help.

### Maths Challenge Solution is D

When Dilly woke on Thursday morning she had learned fifteen new words but she had forgotten six of these so she knew nine words. On Thursday she learned five new words so this was the first day that she reached her target of fourteen words.

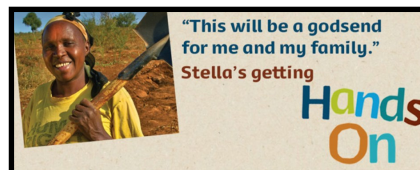
## Hands On

Ten years ago the diocese of Kitui in south eastern Kenya was a green and fertile area. Deforestation and a changing climate changed that, drying out the soil and filling the dam with sand. Water became very hard to find, and local people have had to walk miles to reach a river. But thanks to Year 8 pupils at Bishop Vaughan, work is well underway to fix this broken landscape.

The Kitui committee in Year 8 have been collecting weekly small donation to help fund this important Cafod project.

Kieran O'Brian, Cafod's Manager for South Wales, said that we are the only school he knows who are supporting this particular project. Kieran went on to say it is marvellous that the pupils are promoting the Cafod message. The committee are currently organising a bake sale and hope to raise more money to go towards the £250,000 required.

'It is great that we can use our small change to make a big change for the people of Kitui, we are helping them to improve their environment damaged by climate change. Helping them to have a sustainable future.'



## Year 9 Fundraising

Pupils in Year 9 have been raising money to support Rhianna Chellew who has recently been diagnosed with brain stem glioma. Rhianna's sister Ellie is a member of our Sixth Form. Pupils in 9.6, were moved to do something to help Rhianna and asked the year group to participate in an inter-form charity challenge. A fundraising site had been set up:- <http://www.gofundme.com/s58cpg8> and the pupils were eager to contribute.

Year 9 responded generously and their tutors were inspirational in providing ideas and support. The fundraising activities included penalty shoot outs, a sponsored silence, raffles and a dance competition. The boys in 9.3 even participated in a sponsored leg waxing and Brandon Jones offered to have his head shaved to help. A total of £1125 was raised in five days; an exceptional effort.

Special mention must go to 9.7 who raised £512 towards the total. In their feedback they spoke of their desire to do something practical to help and of how they appreciated the opportunity to support a young person and their family. They acknowledged the idea that we are all individual parts of a whole and how working together to support others in their time of need is an important part of our school ethos.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rhianna and her family at this time.



## Health and Social Care

Our level three Health and Social Care Sixth form pupils have recently been out and about on work placements.

Carter Perry and Ernest Isay spent a week at our neighbouring school, Pen-y-Bryn where they supported staff and pupils in a range of activities including cooking and gardening at Cadle Community Farm. Megan Scannell particularly enjoyed a challenging week at Arfryn Educational referral unit working with Key Stage 2 children, where staff were extremely complementary about her contribution. Over at Portmead School, Kiana Lattka gained hands on experience, providing childcare for two year olds in the new Flying Start initiative. The remaining twelve pupils have been placed in many of our feeder primary schools and local 'Faith in Families' centres. These placements are a mandatory requirement of the Btec National Diploma in Health and Social Care.



Through a process of comprehensive reflection and evaluation that ensues shortly after the placement, pupils have a clear vision of their career pathway. Furthermore, pupils gain new skills and the confidence to work in a broad range of care setting.

**If there are any parents who have contacts in either a Health or Social Care setting, the department would welcome further opportunities for these placements for future students.**

Mrs J Cook

## Sixth Form Charity Group - the Great BVS Bake Off

Since the Christmas term the Sixth Form have been busy planning and identifying charitable events which

they would like to

take part in. This term the Charity Group have decided to take part in Fair Trade Fortnight. Pupils organised a bake sale and setup the 'The Great BVS Bake Off'. Teachers had to decorate a cake in teams of two with one partner blindfolded and the other giving instructions. Once completed the teachers had to sell the cake for the biggest profit. The winning member of staff was Mr Jenkins earning a profit of £5.00.



The event raised over £240 for Fair Trade farmers. A big thank you to everyone who was involved.



## Healthy Eating Club

This term, we have split into two groups, one for year 7 and one for year 8. Prior to this, the group was too large and we were unable to get the quantity of products cooked in the hour.



This is working well and we have made some savoury tartlets, pasties and pancakes. We try to enhance the ingredients by using fresh herbs from our Eco garden and the fresh chives in our pasties added an extra dimension to the flavour.



We talked about gluten free products and we had a tasting evening trying homemade 'Naked' bars with Mrs Goss who then made gluten free brownies with us, using coconut oil, and they proved to be delicious.

Mrs P Thomas

## Aspens Chef of the Year



At the end of March Liam Sullivan and Keely Williams had an early start and travelled to Priory Community Academy in Western-Super-Mare by train accompanied by Mrs Parker and Mrs Lewis, Aspens school catering manager, to compete in the Southern regional round of the Aspens Chef of the Year 2015.

The competition was to cook a two course meal for under £10. Liam made braised liver casserole with lemon cheesecake and Keely made a seafood medley with linguine and tropical fruit tart.

The heat was definitely on in the kitchen and both pupils did very well to represent the school. They were both highly commended by the adjudicators and received certificates for their achievement. Well done both !!!



## 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: bvs-attendance@swansea-edunet.gov.uk**

Alternatively the school's Attendance Officer's Mrs S Grigg and Mrs E-J Gwyther are 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

**Mrs J Rees (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or**

**Mr N Williams (Senior Tutor for Attendance and Inclusion) on**

## 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



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.

The decision was taken by ERW, our regional education consortium, that no absences due to holidays during term times will be authorised by Head Teachers. This means absences that are due to pupils being taken on holiday 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.

## 100% Attendance

Congratulations to Year 7 for having the most pupils with 100% attendance during the Spring term 2015.

Year 7	-	78
Year 8	-	68
Year 9	-	71
Year 10	-	52
Year 11	-	65

# Attendance

## PENALTY NOTICE FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

The Education (Penalty Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2013 introduced fixed notice penalties for regular non-attendance/lateness at school. This was implemented in Swansea from January 2015.

The Welsh Government states that penalty notices are one option among a number of different interventions available to promote better school attendance.

The introduction of these regulations mean that parents may now be fined for their child(ren)'s regular non-attendance at school.

The local code of conduct, which explains how penalty notices will operate, is available on the Swansea Council website.

### Penalty notices can be issued for the following reasons:

- When a pupil has a minimum of 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to unauthorised absences during the current term and bringing the overall school attendance to below 90% in the school year to date.
- 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to holidays in term-time if the absence takes the whole school attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date.
- 10 sessions of persistent lateness after the register has closed in a term bringing the attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date, or a combination of the above.



May we remind you to telephone the 24 hour absence line

**0844 2393548** (local rate number)

or send a text message to **07624 816695** on a **daily basis**.



### **DID YOU KNOW ?**

*5 minutes late each day amounts to  
25 minutes late each week amounts to  
16 hours 15 minutes education missed during a school year!*



## 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.

Mr P White, Headteacher

## 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.swansea.sch.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.swansea.sch.uk)



## Paying for trips

Remember, if your child is paying for a school trip, the Finance House is open from 8.30am until registration and at morning break and lunch times. **All cheques should be made payable to 'Bishop Vaughan Catholic School' and the pupil's name, tutorial and trip should be clearly written on the reverse.** Thank you.

## Lost Property



We still have a number of items in 'lost property', which is now located in the Main 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 Hancock or Mrs Aleman in the Main Office. 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.**



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School  
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road  
Morriston, Swansea  
SA6 7QG**

**Phone: 01792 772006**

**Fax: 01792 790565**

**E-mail: [bishop.vaughan.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:bishop.vaughan.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk)  
[www.bishopvaughan.swansea.sch.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.swansea.sch.uk)**