



# Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2017  
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2017



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School



## School Term and Holiday Dates 2017-2018

Term	Term begins	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		Term ends
		Begins	Ends	
Autumn 2017	Monday 4th September	Monday 30th October	Friday 3rd November	Friday 22nd December
Spring 2018	Monday 8th January	Monday 19th February	Friday 23rd February	Thursday 29th March
Summer 2018	Monday 16th April	Monday 28th May	Friday 1st June	Tuesday 24th July



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

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

### Dates for your Diary

The last day of half term is Friday 22nd December 2017; school closes at 3.25pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 8th January 2018. This will be week two on the timetable.

Sixth Form Information Evening is Thursday  
18th January 2018 from 6.00 - 8.00 pm.

Advance notice of Examination Dates January 2018

External units for Years 11 to 13 from 9th January 2018 to 18th January 2018

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

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

# Christmas Services

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

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



Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Christmas Eve

Nativity Mass 5.00pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Artur)

Christmas Eve

10.00pm Polish Mass

Christmas Day 11.00am 9.00 Polish Mass

Sacred Heart Morriston (Father Jason)

Christmas Eve - Nativity Play 5.00pm; Children's

Mass 5.30pm;

Carol Service 11.30pm; Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Mass - 9.30am and 11.00am

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito)

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 6.00pm Mass 10.00pm

Christmas Day 8.30am and 11.00am

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Fr Mansel Usher)

Christmas Eve

Nativity 5.40pm Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.45pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry)

Christmas Eve -

Vigil 8.00pm (Carols 7.30pm)

Holy Cross (Father Thadathil)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry)

Christmas Eve Vigil —5.30 pm

10.00pm - Mass (Carols 9.30pm)

Christmas Day 10.00 am

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am

St. David's (Canon Flook)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.30am

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Fr Benedict)

Christmas Eve

Vigil 6.00pm

Carols 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.00am

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Christmas Eve - 5.30 Carol Service

Vigil 6.00pm

Midnight Mass 11.30 Carols

Christmas Day 10.30am

St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Christmas Eve 6.00 pm

Christmas Day 9.30am

St Bride's Pontardulais (Father J P Thomas)

Christmas Eve 8.00pm



## Christmas Message

Following another exceptionally busy term, as you will see from the diverse items in this newsletter, we are at present focusing on the Advent message at Bishop Vaughan. Our pupils have spent time in reflection and preparation, with the committed team of Liturgy Ambassadors leading Advent assemblies which have this year focused on the theme of journeys.

A great deal has been achieved over the past term, and we have been proud to celebrate the achievements of our pupils – both current and former! The Annual Presentation evening in September was attended by Bishop Tom Burns and a range of special guests who presented awards for both academic attainment and effort to pupils across the age ranges. In November, we were delighted to welcome back former students that have progressed to successful careers in performance, and their contributions to our Fiftieth Jubilee Concert were greatly enjoyed by all present, these contributions ranging from opera to West End favourites, and proving highly motivational to current pupils who were inspired to see how their predecessors at Bishop Vaughan had gone on to develop their musical talents on a national platform.

The commitment of both pupils and staff to identifying opportunities, developing talents and nurturing academic success is, we hope, reflected throughout this newsletter and in daily life at the school. All of this is made possible, however, and guided by the committed Governing Body who sacrifice a great deal of their time and offer their expertise in ensuring that every pupil in the school's care has the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential. This term, we recognise four Governors who have now come to the end of their terms of office as Foundation Governors at Bishop Vaughan School. Each has spent a vast amount of time at the school in a voluntary capacity and the school has flourished under their leadership.

Mr. Steve Smith, Mrs. Frances Rees-Williams and Mr. Rod Bevan have now served the school for over fifty years between them, bringing with them experience from the financial, business and education sectors. During their time on the Governing Body, they have worked alongside Mrs. Jennifer Gomes, who this term concluded nearly thirty years as a governor at Bishop Vaughan, with the majority of these years as Chair of the Governing Body. We are most grateful to all of our Governors, past and present, for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that all of our learners have the opportunity to - as our school mission statement reminds us - grow personally, in faith and in scholarship 'all together in Christ.' We pass on the thanks of parents, pupils and staff, both current and former, to these governors in recognition of their service of the school.

Throughout the term, the pupils have continued to carry out the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy alongside developing their academic achievements, supporting the Welsh National Pilgrimage and a very wide range of charities as you will see on pages 5-7. You can read about the success of the first cohort for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award on page 9 and the publication of work by our Welsh learners on page 20. The numerous super-curricular activities, including the alumni talks from our pupils who have returned to guide pupils on the application processes for Oxbridge, medicine and law, following their own successes, feature on page 22.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the highlights of the last term in this newsletter and we wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and every happiness in the New Year.

Emma Pole



## Welsh National Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes

On Friday 21st July a non school uniform day and bake sale were organised to help support Year 11 and Sixth form students who are members of the Welsh National Youth to Lourdes Group. The money raised supported the students and others from across Menevia and Cardiff Dioceses, who volunteer with the pilgrimage.

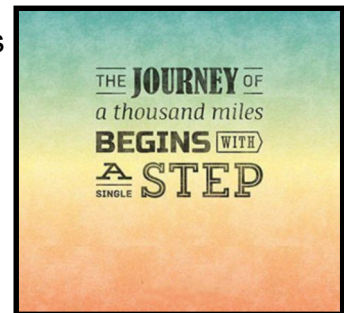
Throughout the pilgrimage in July, the young people assisted in caring for and supporting the assisted pilgrims and enhanced every aspect of the pilgrimage, from the practical to spiritual. They even added to the social side during "Lourdes has Talent" providing entertainment and laughter for all. They really are a true inspiration!

The Bishop noted that the young people were a shining example and should be commended for their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment shown when caring for the assisted pilgrims.

## Advent Assemblies

Our annual Advent services have taken place with the usual mix of music, readings and prayers. The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning approach or arrival.

In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, Christians prepare for the celebration of the arrival of their Lord into the world, and they also look forward to when Jesus will return a second time.



Advent is a time when we are called to prepare a way for the Lord, to reflect and make changes so that we are ready for the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. We are called to deepen our understanding of our faith and to share this gift with others.

This Advent, the theme of our services was 'Journeys', and pupils were offered the opportunity to reflect on where they are in their journey with God. We prayed together that our community will be ready to receive the light of Christ and to share that light with others. Pupils were challenged to help to build a society that can journey towards a future of hope.

## Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service took place in St. Joseph's Cathedral. The choir and orchestra led carols from 'December Prayer' to the traditional favourites. The evening of music and readings was opened by Bishop Tom Burns, who also gave the closing blessing before requesting a reprise of 'O Holy Night', a particular favourite.



## Charity

### Children in Need

Bishop Vaughan supported Pudsey and the work of Children in Need all around the country, raising £100 with a spotted-themed bake sale!



### CAFOD Harvest

Bishop Vaughan supported the CAFOD Harvest and campaign to “Brighten Up this Harvest and Build a Brighter World” by organising a bake sale on Friday 6th October.



Delicious and mouth-watering cakes were donated to celebrate the theme. An impressive £51.60 was raised in support of the campaign.



### Enrichment Fair

As part of the enrichment fair on 19th September the charity group combined forces with the liturgy group and held a stall to display the various ways in which the Catholic Ethos is supported and celebrated at Bishop Vaughan. Students of both groups were able to share their enthusiasm with pupils and staff who attended the fair.





## Operation Christmas Child



Our traditional Shoebox Appeal in aid of the Samaritan's Purse began a little later this year, leaving us with only a week between announcing the appeal and the collection of the boxes.

However, this did not deter the generosity and enthusiasm of the school community. In fact, 75 boxes were donated! We'd call that pretty impressive for only one week!



With assemblies delivered by the charity team, donations came flooding in, from boxes and wrapping

paper to gifts to go inside and donations for transport costs. It was an incredible opportunity to share our faith and hope with those in need this Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who organised, donated, packed and checked the boxes.



## Fundraising Day—Friday 20th October 2017



A series of assemblies were prepared and delivered by Year 11 students and members of the charity team in readiness for the fundraising day held on 20th October.

The day focused on two causes: Show Racism The Red Card and supporting an orphanage in Nepal. It was decided that in support of the annual Show Racism Red Card

Appeal a non school uniform / wear red day would enable the school community to raise awareness as well as funds for the cause.

Students rallied around and organised an array of delicious cakes and sweet treats, all of which sold out within a record 15 minutes – it is fair to say that Bishop Vaughan loves a cake sale!

An impressive £1,050 was raised and divided equally between these worthwhile causes. In addition, a Sixth form student then went to visit Nepal to renovate the orphanage during October half term.



## 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Having celebrated our fiftieth jubilee last academic year, with a Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral to mark the occasion, as reported in the July newsletter, we were delighted this term to welcome back to the school many familiar faces for a further celebratory evening.

The occasion brought together many performers who have gone on to successful careers in their chosen fields, having nurtured their talents during their school days at Bishop Vaughan! These included stars of the West End stage, of international opera, and those who enjoy musical success alongside careers or university studies in other areas.

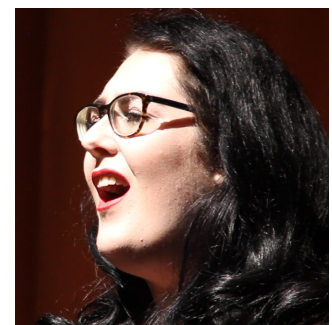
With a varied programme in which current pupils performed several pieces, the evening was enjoyed greatly by the guests, most of whom had a longstanding association with the school themselves. Numerous former staff were able to attend and the money raised constituted the first donation in support of redevelopment at Bishop Vaughan, about which you can read more on page 24!



Natalya Romaniw



Our Current Pupils



Leah Collett

## Anti-Bullying Day 2017

Annual National Anti-Bullying Week was held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Bishop Vaughan school. We are always very grateful to the numerous services who continue to support the school year after year to tackle bullying and to raise awareness of the different services that are available to support our pupils and their families. They enabled us to give pupils another great opportunity to link in with these local services.

We look forward to our ongoing work with such organisations and to next year's event. The following services continue to show us great support in raising awareness of this very important topic:

Choices  
EYST  
YMCA

Local PCSO's  
SNAP Cymru  
Red card

Bullies Out  
EVOLVE  
NSPCC

Swansea Young Active People  
Swansea Children's Rights Department  
BVS Student Ambassadors and Children's Rights team  
The Exchange Counselling Service  
South Wales Police Hate Crime Team

## Duke of Edinburgh Award



Gold participants at the summit of Pen-y-Fan

In September, our first group of Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award participants successfully completing their expedition section, spending four days and three nights walking along their planned route through the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons. The participants did exceptionally well, gaining compliments from their assessor for their time keeping, organisation and unusual aim (to recreate, and film, scenes from John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men' in various locations along their route). The seven pupils involved are now aiming to complete all other sections of the Award by Summer 2018. When this is achieved, their names will be put forward to attend a presentation at one of the royal palaces in London.

We have since launched two levels of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award for this academic year. Twenty Year 10 pupils have started the Bronze level and a new group of Year 12 pupils have started working towards completing the Gold level of the Award. So far everyone has been busy arranging the volunteering, skill and physical sections, with pupils choosing activities such as football, rock climbing, cooking, arts and crafts, dancing and volunteering at a community farm. Both groups have also had their first expedition training, walking along tracks from Bryn Bettws Lodge, to learn how to navigate using a map and a compass. Every participant worked hard, despite the wet conditions, and they are all looking forward to their future training sessions in Afan Argoed and Gower.



# Transition Day



Year 6 transition days took place on 26th and 27th September this term. Pupils took part in a day of team building activities.

They worked with pupils from other schools to work their way through challenges as a team.

Activity examples included an observation round from the Despicable Me 3 movie trailer, building the highest shoe tower and creating their own villain which involved a presentation from each team.





## YEAR 11 PROM FAYRE

On November 14th we hosted our first Prom Fayre in Bishop Vaughan. The event was the brainchild of Caitlin Thomas in 11.1 who has been planning this event since the summer. Caitlin recognised that Prom can be an expensive event and so pupils would appreciate some support and discounts on services. The event took place after school and was a busy evening, with local companies offering prom outfits and beauty services. Meanwhile, the Charity Team and Year 11 volunteers also had stalls offering food and raffle tickets. Many pupils attended from across the year groups, including several Year 10 pupils who were planning ahead!



Thank you to all the companies who attended and or donated raffle prizes. Hansen Suits had some fantastic suits to display. Blinging Stunning Prom has beautiful dresses and kindly donated £100 Gift Voucher which will be donated to a deserving pupil. Rhonda was so lovely and helpful and I would definitely recommend her company for a beautiful Prom dress.

LJ Beauty Boudoir and Bobby Rowden Beauty were busy taking bookings and can be contacted through Facebook.

Thanks for everyone who attended. The event was successful and we hope to run it again in the future.

Through the raffle, we raised over £130 – many thanks to the companies who kindly donated vouchers and products.



The raffle winners were:

Sun Lounge - Elise Marmont  
 Emma Jayne Hair - Hannah Taylor  
 Elexa Elegance - Chloe Smale  
 Irresistible Beauty - Mrs Dorrell  
 Yankee Candle - Miss Delacount  
 Yankee Candle - Bethan Wells  
 Realistic Beauty - Mrs Michelle Thomas  
 Ceramic tongs - Mrs Howard  
 Box of Roses - Mary Wilkins

# Presentation Evening

The Annual Presentation Evening took place this year at Morriston Tabernacle Chapel. Once again we celebrated the many and diverse achievements of the pupils and were delighted to welcome so many of our Governors, several members of the clergy and guest presenters, including Bishop Tom Burns, whose words of encouragement to our pupils in his address were so motivating.





## Sport

Cross country. The first event of the year took place on Monday 9th October and over 40 Bishop Vaughan pupils put themselves forward to run. Out of all schools in attendance we definitely had the most pupils representing the school. We had several outstanding performances, with Cameron Llewellyn winning the Year 7 boys, Oli Mclean winning the Year 8 boys, placing seven Year 9 boys in the top 15, coming second in the Year 10 boys category, with 3 Year 9 girls also finishing in very respectable places with very good times. Congratulations also to Seb Lewis who finished third in the Under-17 boys race at the Welsh Schools Finals.



Jiu Jitsu. Our Jiu Jitsu classes run by Sara have begun and take place on Monday lunch times. It has proved a popular class and the pupils involved have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions so far. We are really looking forward to the tournament in December.

Netball. Netball club for all Year groups is taking place every Monday after school. It has proved popular so far this year. There are also a number of Sixth form pupils helping with coaching which is preparing them for their BTEC and A Level assessments.

Basketball. The KS4 boys' basketball team are now training once a week and are developing well as a squad.

Rugby. Our Rugby teams have all once again started enthusiastically. We have had very high numbers of boys wanting to play and represent the school. Our number one priority is to increase our club link which is slowly improving with a number of pupils starting with clubs within the last four weeks.

Girls Rugby sessions are now starting and will take place every Wednesday after school. We hope to see high numbers attending and potentially moving towards playing fixtures in the New Year.

Indoor Rowing. Wales Rowing coaches were invited in to school and over 80 pupils signed up for hour long workshops. Many pupils did extremely well with Ella Stafford, Aimee Merrick, McKenzie Troy, Peter Crudge and Ben McCarthy all achieving National standard results. From this we have entered an Indoor Rowing League and will be attending the Welsh Indoor Rowing Championships in Cardiff in November.

Weightlifting. Welsh Weightlifting Coaches are now running classes every Tuesday lunchtime. This is something we are strongly encouraging pupils to take part in and look forward to seeing the progress of those who have signed up for a six week programme.

Football. The football teams have had another successful start to the season. All six boys teams are playing a very attractive brand of football in both Swansea and Welsh Cup competitions. Girls football continues to run every Thursday after school. Our Year 8 team recently finished second in their first tournament and qualified for the Swansea Schools Finals which will be played next year.



## Health and Wellbeing at Bishop Vaughan



As part of a new drive to improve health and well-being at Bishop Vaughan, we are now offering 'Body Balance' classes on the PE curriculum.

Students from Year 8 to Year 11 have been enjoying learning how to balance their body, improve core strength and flexibility, and breathe in their new PE classes.

The feedback has been immensely positive and students have been saying how relaxed they feel and how much they have enjoyed the new experience that calms both mind and body.

## Art

During the summer term Year 9 pupils looked at modern day graffiti and an artist called Thomas C Fedro. They worked on designs that used the motifs and styles of the artists to create clay pots and lanterns.

Kira from 9.6 said 'It was very interesting and we all used our imagination and were very creative. The work we produced from studying the artists was unique, especially as we looked at 2D artists and made 3D pots'. Will, also from 9.6 said, 'It was nice to see how other people had created different designs even though we all looked at the same artists'.



## UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:

It is 225 minutes until midnight. What time is it on a 24-hour digital clock?

The solution can be found on page 19



# Geography

## Geography Club

Geography Club is up and running and students have created a timetable of events that coincides with National Days around the world. October, for example, is 'China month' to celebrate China's Independence Day on 1st October. June is Philippines month as the Philippines Independence Day falls on 14th June. We are running various activities including, quizzes, crafts and using the language to celebrate National Days around the world. We will also be looking at and supporting Fair Trade during Fairtrade fortnight during February and Easter and Christmas celebrations around the world.

Two Sixth form students are also in the process of developing a Geography specific Learning Zone for pupils on a Tuesday Lunch time. This will be held in Geography rooms and Sixth form students will provide support for KS3 and GCSE pupils on their Geography work.

## Humanities Problem Based Learning Days – Oxwich Bay



On Friday 6th October the Geography department was involved in taking seventy Year 7 students to Oxwich Bay to have a taster of Geographical field-work skills.

Students completed Beach Profiles, Environmental Quality Surveys and Litter Surveys as part of

their Humanities Problem Based Learning Days on the 'Landscapes of Wales – Physical, Historical and Political Landscapes'. Sixth Form students also supported the day by leading the 'Beach Profile' activity, they were excellent ambassadors to the school and have inspired the Year 7 pupils!

Students are created an iMovie of their day to share in assembly.



## Iceland Trip 2018

Our Iceland residential trip is getting closer. Thursday 12th October saw a well-attended Information Evening for parents and students. Information was given out on flight, hotel and itinerary details as well as the opportunity to order trip hoodies.



# Geography

## GCSE and A Level Fieldwork



Measuring infiltration rates within the sand dunes at Oxwich Bay



Sand dune Plant identification at Oxwich Bay

Both GCSE and A Level Geography students have undertaken fieldwork.

Our GCSE students have undertaken fieldwork in both physical and human geography. Our Students visited the river Ilston in Gower on Wednesday 28th June to investigate changes to the river as it flows downstream. The second study investigated the flow of traffic and mobile data from an urban to a rural area. Both trips were successful and pupils were a credit to the school, despite some wet weather!



Year 12 at Pwll Du, Gower

Our A Level students have planned and carried out their own fieldwork studies as part of their independent investigation for their A2 Geography course. Some students investigated wave characteristics and beach profile at Pwll Du Bay while others investigated plant succession and the impact of tourism within the sand dunes of Oxwich Bay. The hard work and dedicated approach to their fieldwork is commendable. Well done Year 12!

## History Department

### Out of the Shadows Conference

The History department took a group of A Level students to Swansea University this term to participate in a History conference. The Out of the Shadows Conference examined the history of espionage and covert operations. Academics from across the UK attended and spoke to students on a range of topics including the Cold War and the role of MI5 and MI6 in foreign relations.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for students to develop their knowledge for A Level, as well as be introduced to the academic environment of university.



### Being Human Festival

Bishop Vaughan School also participated in the Being Human Festival last month. The annual festival of Humanities and the Arts is celebrated all over the UK and the BVS History department was specially selected to host an event thanks to its close relationship with Swansea University. Dr Luca Trenta, a researcher in History and International Relations, visited the school to deliver a talk to students from Years 10-13 about the Cuban Missile Crisis. The pupils were fascinated by the session and greatly valued the opportunity to participate in the festival.

### Problem Based Learning Day

The History department worked with the Sociology and Geography departments in order to deliver a Problem Based Learning Day which helped pupils develop their wider skills and knowledge. Pupils in Year 7 examined Wales from the perspective of its geography, politics and history. Pupils visited the Big Pit coal mining museum, the Senedd in Cardiff and Oxwich Bay. The day was very successful and hugely popular. The trip will be repeated in Years 8 and 9, so all pupils will visit each location over Key Stage 3.



### Black History Month

A Level History students led assemblies in school in order to mark Black History Month in the UK. The Year 13 students planned and delivered assemblies to every year group about the history of black Britons from the Tudor period to the modern day. The assemblies were well received and the sixth form students provided a fascinating insight into this aspect of history.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results

On November 7th 2017, nine pupils from Years 12 and 13 who are studying A level Maths were invited to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge.

In the test, the students had to answer 25 very challenging Maths questions. The highest scoring student in our school was Gideon Davies who achieved a Gold award. He has also been invited to do an extra challenge paper called the Senior Kangaroo. This is an amazing result - well done Gideon!

The following students were the best achieving in the school.

### Year 13

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gideon Davies	Gold Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jerry Liao	Bronze Award
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jonah Fage	

### Year 12

1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Crudge	Silver Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	James Mason	Bronze Award
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ola Pawlikiewicz	Bronze Award
4 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Hall	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bartosz Wojcicki	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Gawtham Raveendran	

Well done to everybody that took part.

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

The next challenge will take place on Thursday 1st February 2018 and it is open to Years 9 – 11. We will be inviting 50 students to take part based on their problem solving ability.

Good luck to all participants.

## UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

20:15 The 225 minutes are equal to 3 hours and 45 minutes. At 3 hours before midnight the time is 21:00. So 45 minutes earlier than that the time is 20:15.



## Newyddion Yr Adran Gymraeg



Llongyfarchiadau enfawr to the sixteen Year 9 pupils whose Welsh work has been published in 'IAW' – a popular magazine for Welsh learners across Wales. Pupils wrote in Welsh about 'Chwaraeon' (Sports) and

'Gwyllo Fflimiau' (Watching Films) and e-mailed their work to the Welsh magazine. We were

thrilled to appear in the November edition of the magazine and look forward to appearing in the December issue too! Ardderchog bobl bach!



## DIWRNOD SHW'MAE SU'MAE

October 15th - a national day of celebration aimed to encourage everyone to begin every conversation in Welsh. Pupils at Bishop Vaughan celebrated 'Shw'mae Su'mae Day' on October 13th. All pupils voted for their favourite Welsh word, some pupils had a photo in our 'Selfie Frame' and some pupils took part in 'Yr Awr Fawr' at lunchtime playing Welsh games – bendigedig! Edrych ymlaen at flwyddyn nesa'



## Careers Festival

In July forty pupils from Year 10 attended a careers festival at the university. The day was very informative and gave our pupils plenty to think about regarding their future career and education path.

During the day pupils took part in a variety of activities and competitions with Fatima Khalil 10.1 and Beneetta John 10.6 both winning a prize!

Well done to all pupils who took part.

Mrs Jones – Associate Senior Leader  
Mrs Thomas – Careers Advisor



## Sixth Form RE Day

Our Sixth Form had the opportunity to take part in the first RE Day of the year in October. With plenty of activities to be involved in, they were able to think carefully about the issue of poverty. Many thanks to Mr Paul Mort for visiting our school to speak to the pupils about homelessness in Swansea.



Sixth form pupils creating bright symbols of hope for CAFOD Fast Day.



## Super-curricular Enrichment Programme

Bishop Vaughan School continues to develop its super-curricular programme to support the most able pupils in achieving their full potential.

### The Masterclass Programme

The school's innovative Masterclass programme is continuing for the third year. Lecturers from Swansea University have been visiting the school weekly to deliver a range of lectures and workshops on a range of subjects, including History, Psychology, Social Policy, Engineering, Physics and Law. This year, the Masterclass programme has been extended to include Year 9 pupils and turnout has been higher than ever.

Masterclasses take place every Wednesday in A3 and will continue until February. Pupils can see Miss Siddika in C1 for additional information.

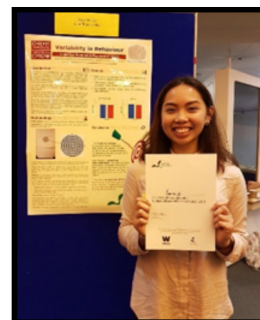


### Alumni Career Talks

BVS has also been developing alumni connections in order to support pupils by offering careers advice and guidance. High achieving former pupils have been invited back to the school to talk about their experiences applying for certain courses and universities. Daniel Minister, an Oxford graduate, returned to discuss how to apply to Oxbridge. Emily Davis, a current Medicine student, gave pupils an insight into the Medicine application process and James McCarthy, who will be training to be a barrister next year, visited the school to discuss Law career options.

### Out-of-School Opportunities

The school's super-curricular programme also supports pupils in applying for work experience, residential summer schools and mentoring programmes run by external organisations. This year, Ira Go, a student in the Sixth Form, completed a work placement at Cardiff University organised by the Nuffield Foundation. Ira worked in the Psychology department and conducted research on variability in behaviour. She presented her work last month at a gala event attended by Nobel Prize winner Sir Martin Evans.



Two students in Year 12, Ola and Johannah, secured places on a Cambridge University Law summer school. The scheme was highly competitive and both students attended during the summer holidays. They took part in workshops and lectures from Cambridge University staff whilst staying in Christ College, one of the oldest colleges in Cambridge.

### Book 'n' Brew Reading Club

The Book 'n' Brew reading club is running again for both Year 12 and 13 students. The club has met twice this term, to discuss books including *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The club offers students the chance to access a range of books, including classics and modern bestsellers, as well as develop their debating skills in preparation for university.





## Science Quiz



Since January 2017, the science department has entered four teams in to the preliminary round of the Cardiff University Life Science quiz. One of the teams scored high enough to move forward in to the quarter finals.

We hosted Ysgol Dewi Sant, a school from St Davids, West Wales, and our intrepid team beat them 37 -24. It was a very close affair until the last two rounds where our team slipped into the groove and moved ahead.

The semi-final was away to Brynteg School in Bridgend. This was again a nip and tuck match where our learners once more pulled away only towards the end of the quiz, winning 41-29.

The Final was hosted by Cardiff University in the Henry Welcome building on 15th September. Our opponents were Whitchurch High school who have won this competition, four out of the last five years (also beating my Cardinal Newman Team in the 2013 final!). They are very large school (2,400) and very competitive.

On the morning of the Final, the team was invited to the BBC Radio Wales studio in Swansea where Katie Bolam spoke to the presenter Gareth Lewis about the quiz and how important the quiz was. She performed exceptionally well, was full of confidence and did the school proud. We took a supporting contingent to Cardiff (using our excellent new minibus facility) and arrived at the University for a free lunch. Our learners were shown around the research laboratories by the postgraduate students and were able to chat about their research.

The quiz was held in a small lecture theatre and from the start was very competitive with outstanding answers from both teams. The quality of response was very high and the competitive nature of our learners really shone, particularly when the mid-quiz scores had Bishop Vaughan marginally ahead. At the end of the quiz it was difficult to tell who had won but we had comprehensively beaten the reigning champions 46-29!

I am very proud of the achievements of the quiz team and the camaraderie they showed

Katie Bolam, Kaitlyn Millis  
William Collins, Troy Panganiban  
Ben McCarthy – stepped in for the semi-final.



## Exciting Changes at Bishop Vaughan!

We are delighted to announce that options for improving the school site are currently being considered by the Local Authority and the Diocese! As parents and pupils will be aware, many schools across Swansea have now had significant improvements made to the school buildings and the facilities within them. At present, plans for redeveloping Bishop Vaughan's site are under consideration, these including exciting proposals for the school as a whole. Technology and sports facilities feature in particular, and we look forward to sharing more detail in relation to these in due course.

### Improving Facilities at Bishop Vaughan: How You Can Help

On a somewhat smaller scale, we are also keen to make improvements in the short-term and have sought ideas from pupils about the changes that they would like to see. A wide range of excellent suggestions have been put forward and will be presented to the year groups by the Site Ambassadors.

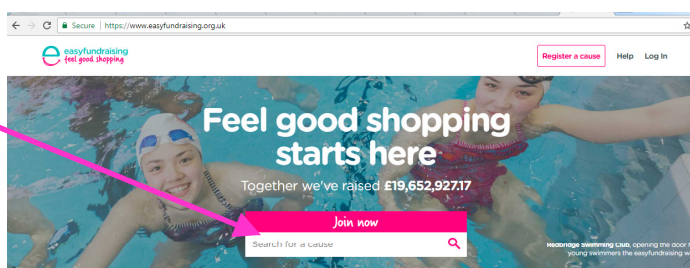
In improving facilities on any scale at all, there are significant costs and parents will be aware of cuts to school budgets that mean that there is increasing pressure on every school in maintaining provision, let alone developing facilities. Nevertheless, we would very much like to put the pupils' excellent proposals into action, and would like to let you know more about an opportunity to support the school with fundraising that will not cost you a penny, and which could benefit the pupils immensely!

## Easyfundraising

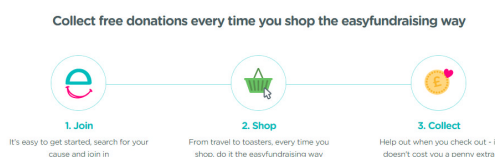
You can support the school every time that you shop online!

Just download the Easyfundraising app or visit Easyfundraising online.

1. Select 'Search for a Cause' and type in 'Bishop Vaughan'
2. When the school's name appears, click on it, then on 'Join Us'.



Each time you then shop online, if you remember to visit the Easyfundraising page before connecting from there to the retailer - e.g. Tesco, Next (in fact most retailers from Amazon to Zavvi!) and doing your shopping in the usual way, you can collect free donations for the school without it costing you a single penny! The funds raised will be used for projects identified by the pupils.



It's easy to get started, search for your cause and join in

From travel to toasters, every time you shop, do it the easyfundraising way

Help out when you check out - it doesn't cost you a penny extra

You can keep track of the donations that you have made so that you can see how this easy step of simply visiting retailer websites via Easyfundraising is making a difference! Thank you in anticipation of your support!



## National Rights of the Child Day - 20th November

Luke Taylor and I attended the day with Miss Smith and Miss Owen to represent Bishop Vaughan. There were many different primary schools and secondary schools present all of which have been awarded the rights respecting level 1 award, including Bishop Vaughan.

There were a number of sessions during the day including a welcome by Huw Irranca-Davis the Minister for Children and Social Services; Chris Sivers from UNICEF; Anna Bolt, Headteacher of Glyncollen Primary School and concluding with a talk from Councillor Christine Richards.

There was also an expert Q&A panel and we all had to write down a question for them. Luke and I asked the question: "What is the most important right and why?" The majority of them said that Article 2, "all children have these rights no matter what", because they believe children wouldn't be the children they are today.

The event was real celebration of our Rights. It made me realise that without my rights I would definitely not be the person I am today, and I will continue my work with children's rights in the school.

Sam McCarthy 9.1

## External Examination

### Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

The JCQ information sheets have been distributed to those sitting exams in January. It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the January 2018 examination series.

DATE	START	LENGTH	SUBJECT
TBA	TBA	TBA	Developing Web Products
Tuesday 9th January 2018	09.00	2 hours	English Literature Unit 1 Higher: Written Paper
Friday 12th January 2018	13.00	1 hour 15 minutes	Health and Social care Unit 2: Written Paper
Thursday 18th January 2018	09.00	45 minutes	Spanish Unit 1 Listening - Higher
Thursday 18th January 2018	09.00	45 minutes	Spanish Unit 3 Reading - Higher

Certificates gained during June 2017 certificates will be available for collection in December 2017. It is important that you collect your certificates from Reception as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months.

## School Uniform September 2017-August 2018

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

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

### Year 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 skirts, standard grey or white
Tights:	should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless. NB socks or tights MUST be worn.
Blouse/Shirt:	Plain white shirt
Skirt:	Grey knee-length skirt
Trousers:	Grey 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.
Outer Garments:	pupils may wear standard length coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be plain, navy blue/black and single coloured. Pupils may not wear denim, hoodies, leather look jacket, no faux fur, tracksuit tops or cardigans.  No logos, writing, patterns or stripes of any description should be present. Hats e.g. Beanies, Baseball caps are not permitted in any circumstances. Head bands must be plain and dark.  There is no necessity for anorak hoods to be worn at school.
Jewellery:	A single sleeper or a single metal stud of minimum size in the lobe. No other piercings are permitted e.g. stretchers, spacers, glass, nose or tongue piercing. A medallion or chain may be worn if discreet. It must be removed for PE/Games. All other jewellery is forbidden. It should be noted that tattoos are not permitted.
Make-up/Hair:	Make-up is not allowed. If hair dye/highlights are used they should be a single natural colour with no extreme contrasts (i.e. purples, reds, dip dyes etc are not permitted), no 'designs' to be shaved into the hair. No 'skin head' type haircuts or shaved patches (not shorter than grade 2). No braiding with a mixture of hair colours. No artificial plaits or braids. No painted nails or nail extensions.



Games Kit

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

Socks (boys & girls): burgundy

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

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

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

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

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Sixth Form Uniform

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

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

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

## Parents' Information

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

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

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

Attendance telephone number (local rate): 0844 239 3548

Attendance text number: 07624 816695

Email: bishopvaughanA@hwbmail.net

Alternatively the school's Attendance Office staff are: Mrs E-J Gwyther and Mrs R Aleman and they 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

Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 219.

## Pupil Information

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

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





## Attendance



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.

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



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

# Attendance

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

School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost	School Days	%	Days lost	Weeks lost
190	100	0		142	74.74	48		94	49.47	96		46	24.21	144	
189	99.47	1		141	74.21	49		93	48.95	97		45	23.68	145	29
188	98.95	2		140	73.68	50	10	92	48.42	98		44	23.16	146	
187	98.42	3		139	73.16	51		91	47.89	99		43	22.63	147	
186	97.89	4		138	72.63	52		90	47.37	100	20	42	22.1	148	
185	97.37	5	1	137	72.11	53		89	46.84	101		41	21.58	149	
184	96.84	6		136	71.58	54		88	46.32	102		40	21.05	150	30
183	96.32	7		135	71.05	55	11	87	45.79	103		39	20.53	151	
182	95.79	8		134	70.53	56		86	45.26	104		38	20	152	
181	95.26	9		133	70	57		85	44.74	105	21	37	19.47	153	
180	94.74	10	2	132	69.47	58		84	44.21	106		36	18.95	154	
179	94.21	11		131	68.95	59		83	43.68	107		35	18.42	155	31
178	93.68	12		130	68.42	60	12	82	43.16	108		34	17.89	156	
177	93.16	13		129	67.89	61		81	42.63	109		33	17.37	157	
176	92.63	14		128	67.37	62		80	42.11	110	22	32	16.84	158	
175	92.11	15	3	127	66.84	63		79	41.58	111		31	16.32	159	
174	91.58	16		126	66.32	64		78	41.05	112		30	15.79	160	32
173	91.05	17		125	65.79	65	13	77	40.53	113		29	15.26	161	
172	90.53	18		124	65.26	66		76	40	114		28	14.74	162	
171	90	19		123	64.74	67		75	39.47	115	23	27	14.21	163	
170	89.47	20	4	122	64.21	68		74	38.95	116		26	13.68	164	
169	88.95	21		121	63.68	69		73	38.42	117		25	13.16	165	33
168	88.42	22		120	63.16	70	14	72	37.89	118		24	12.63	166	
167	87.89	23		119	62.63	71		71	37.37	119		23	12.11	167	
166	87.37	24		118	62.1	72		70	36.84	120	24	22	11.58	168	
165	86.84	25	5	117	61.58	73		69	36.32	121		21	11.05	169	
164	86.32	26		116	61.05	74		68	35.79	122		20	10.53	170	34
163	85.79	27		115	60.53	75	15	67	35.26	123		19	10	171	
162	85.26	28		114	60	76		66	34.74	124		18	9.47	172	
161	84.74	29		113	59.47	77		65	34.21	125	25	17	8.95	173	
160	84.21	30	6	112	58.95	78		64	33.68	126		16	8.42	174	
159	83.68	31		111	58.42	79		63	33.16	127		15	7.89	175	35
158	83.16	32		110	57.89	80	16	62	32.63	128		14	7.37	176	
157	82.63	33		109	57.37	81		61	32.1	129		13	6.84	177	
156	82.11	34		108	56.84	82		60	31.58	130	26	12	6.32	178	
155	81.58	35	7	107	56.32	83		59	31.05	131		11	5.79	179	
154	81.05	36		106	55.79	84		58	30.53	132		10	5.26	180	36
153	80.53	37		105	55.26	85	17	57	30	133		9	4.74	181	
152	80	38		104	54.74	86		56	29.47	134		8	4.21	182	
151	79.47	39		103	54.21	87		55	28.95	135	27	7	3.68	183	
150	78.95	40	8	102	53.68	88		54	28.42	136		6	3.16	184	
149	78.42	41		101	53.16	89		53	27.89	137		5	2.63	185	37
148	77.89	42		100	52.63	90	18	52	27.37	138		4	2.1	186	
147	77.37	43		99	52.1	91		51	26.84	139		3	1.58	187	
146	76.84	44		98	51.58	92		50	26.32	140	28	2	1.05	188	
145	76.32	45	9	97	51.05	93		49	25.79	141		1	0.53	189	
144	75.79	46		96	50.53	94		48	25.26	142					
143	75.26	47		95	50	95	19	49	24.74	143					

## Bus Passes



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



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

## Getting to School

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

## Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

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



## Parking During Parents' Evenings

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

## Mobile Telephones

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



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

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

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





## School Website

The school website can be found at: [www.bishopvaughan.co.uk](http://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk)

## Lost Property

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



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

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

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

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



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

Phone: 01792 772006

Fax: 01792 790565

E-mail: [bishopvaughan@hwbmail.net](mailto:bishopvaughan@hwbmail.net)

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