



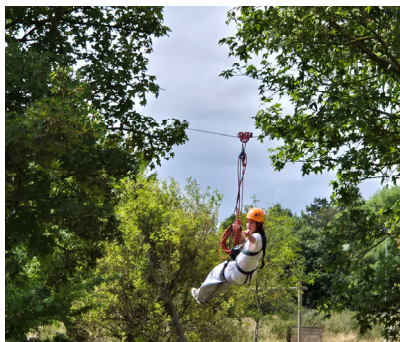
# Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter July 2025  
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Gorffennaf 2025



FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

July 2025



## Headteacher's Message

Here at Bishop Vaughan, we can't quite believe it's the end of another academic year already! There's certainly been no sense of 'winding down', and it's fair to say than in fact these last few weeks have been busier than ever!

As it is indeed the end of the year, however, this presents the perfect opportunity to reflect on what has been a rich and rewarding summer term for our school community, and indeed a highly successful academic year for Bishop Vaughan and its pupils. This is, after all, a year which has seen our pupils flourish in myriad ways, in which the project to bring to fruition a brand new school building for Bishop Vaughan has advanced enormously, in which we have had a lovely inspection report published and in which we have seen our pupils – as is always the case – living out our school's values in ways that enrich their own lives and those of the people around them. As ever, we are deeply proud of our pupils, staff and the families who together form the heart of the Bishop Vaughan community.

Focusing on the summer term alone, and the weeks since our last newsletter to you, these have been filled with achievement, celebration, service and growth. One of the many highlights of the term was our Lower School Awards Evening, this focusing on the achievements of pupils currently in Years 7 to 9. This year, the event was inspired by the powerful theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', the Jubilee Year theme for the Church. Our pupils showed great creativity in putting together a film that was shown throughout the Awards Evening (you can read more about this later in this newsletter!). This reflected our school's mission to journey together with faith, purpose and compassion. It was a moving celebration of the accomplishments of our younger pupils, reminding us that education is not just about knowledge but about character, courage and becoming the people God calls us to be.

Another standout experience was the opportunity for several of our pupils to join a pilgrimage to Rome. These pupils, members of our Junior Legion of Mary, had planned to be in Rome for the canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, and had undertaken fundraising to do so in both the school and the Sacred Heart Parish. As we are all deeply aware, however, events took a very different turn and our pupils were unexpectedly in a position where they were in Rome for the funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis. During their pilgrimage, they visited beautiful places in both Rome and Assisi and the experience left a lasting impression on all who went. Pilgrimage is, after all, a central part of our Catholic identity, being not just a journey to a place, but a journey of the heart.

For our Year 11 pupils, the summer term marked a significant milestone as they concluded their GCSEs and celebrated the end of their time at Bishop Vaughan with a beautiful Prom. It was a special evening, full of laughter, pride and memories. The Year 13 pupils have similarly celebrated the end of their school-based studies in a range of ways, and we send our heartfelt prayers and best wishes to all of our 'leavers' as they begin the next stages of their journeys – whether those be returning to us as Sixth Formers, going to college, moving on to University, taking up apprenticeships or entering employment. Our pupils leave us as confident, compassionate young people not only ready to make a difference in the world, but in reality already doing so!

It is always inspiring to see so many of our pupils step out of their comfort zones and embrace the challenge of the great outdoors through participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, of which there have been several this term. From navigating difficult routes to supporting each other through wet weather and long treks, the pupils undertaking these have shown true grit, teamwork and leadership. These are life skills that go far beyond any classroom, and we are incredibly proud of them. Thank you to the staff that give so generously of their time to support this invaluable activity.



## Headteacher's Message

Sporting success has also featured prominently this term, with many of our pupils excelling in competitions both locally and regionally. Across the full range of sports, we have seen exceptional dedication and teamwork. These achievements are a testament not only to our pupils' talent but also to the hard work and commitment of our PE department, as was in evidence in this term's highly successful and very enjoyable Sports Day.

Our pupils' commitment to and interest in the arts continues to flourish, with wonderful choir concerts and the exciting opportunity for a group of pupils to attend the Hay Festival – a world-renowned celebration of literature and ideas. Pupils returned inspired, having listened to authors, thinkers and speakers from around the globe. In fact, some of our pupils spoke rather inspiringly themselves, as detailed later in this newsletter! In school, our art competitions have showcased the incredible creativity and talent of our students, with entries that have been as impressive as they have been diverse in approach and artistic medium.

The end of this term also saw the return of our annual Festival of Culture – a vibrant event that celebrates music, literature and the arts in all of their forms. From music performer showcases and instrument workshops with Swansea Music Service, to a male voice choir performance, an Irish ceilidh band, Swansea Arena music workshops, storytelling, inspirational talks and a great deal more besides (read on for more information!), this has been a really exciting week to end the year. The pop-up bookshops and ice-cream certainly proved popular, as always, and it has been clear that our pupils have really enjoyed and benefited from this rich Festival programme!

Meanwhile, we are making great progress on our new school building. The planning is moving forward at pace, and we are excited by what this new space will offer our students – impressive and light-filled gathering spaces, excellent sports facilities, inspiring classrooms and beautiful areas for worship, collaboration and creativity. We thank all those involved in the project and look forward to sharing further updates in the new academic year.

As the term draws to a close, we also prepare to say a fond farewell to several colleagues, as detailed on page 5, however it is only right to make additional mention here of our highly-respected Deputy Headteacher, Mr Jonathan Davies, who will be leaving Bishop Vaughan after an extraordinary 33 years of service to take up a headship of his own at Haverfordwest High School. Mr Davies has been a pillar of this school – a compassionate leader, a wise mentor and a true example of servant leadership. His contribution to Bishop Vaughan is immeasurable, and while we are sad to see him go, we know that the new journey he is beginning is a most exciting one, and he carries with him our deepest gratitude and every blessing.

Finally, I want to thank all our pupils, staff, families and all in the Bishop Vaughan community for all that you have contributed – in any capacity – to the life of our school this year. Education is a shared endeavour, and it is through your support and trust, and through our shared values, that Bishop Vaughan continues to thrive.

I hope that the summer break proves relaxing, enjoyable and fulfilling. With every good wish and blessing for a safe and happy holiday –

**Mrs Pole**  
**Headteacher**

## School Term and Holiday Dates 2025 – 2026

		<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</b>		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2025	Monday 1st September	Monday 27th October	Friday 31st October	Friday 19th December
Spring 2026	Monday 5th January	Monday 16th February	Friday 20th February	Friday 27th March
Summer 2026	Monday 13th April	Monday 25th May	Friday 29th May	Monday 20th July

### Dates for your diary

The last day of term for pupils is Friday 18th July, school closes at 3.00pm.

A2 and AS Results Day is Thursday 14th August 2025.

GCSE Results Day is Thursday 21st August 2025.

All pupils return to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

#### Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025  
 Tuesday 2nd September 2025  
 Friday 7th November 2025  
 Friday 23rd February 2026  
 Monday 16th March 2026  
 Monday 20th July 2026

#### Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

This will be held on  
 Thursday 25th September 2025  
 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm.



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



### PLEASE NOTE

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

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



## Important News

# Staff Leavers

We have a three key members of staff leaving this year, of whom many in our parent and wider school community will, like our current pupils, have fond memories! These include:

### **Mrs Pauline Morris**

Mrs Morris has been a teaching assistant here at Bishop Vaughan for the past fourteen years, working closely with numerous pupils over this time, helping them with their learning and their wellbeing, and supporting them at every stage. Most recently, Mrs Morris has been our Literacy Intervention Specialist, carrying out invaluable work in the ALN team. Friends, colleagues and pupils throughout the school will miss her enormously and we wish her a happy, healthy retirement, in which she has some exciting travels planned!

### **Miss Khudeza Siddika**

Miss Siddika, Head of History, is renowned not only for her work as a subject leader but for the incredible range of trips, from local to international, that she has run over the years, many of these forming some of the most treasured memories that former pupils have of their 'Bishop Vaughan years'. In addition, as Supercurricular Co-ordinator, she has ensured that pupils have access to an exceptional weekly masterclass programme, this bringing in academics, medics, journalists and countless high-profile individuals, all successful in their chosen field, to inspire and guide our current pupils. Notably, the programme brings in our alumni — our former pupils — so many of whom are keen to 'give back' to the school, perhaps having benefited from the programme themselves during their time with us! Miss Siddika will be missed by all, but we wish her every success and happiness as she moves on to take up an Assistant Headteacher position at Coedcae School from September!

### **Mr Jonathan Davies**

Mr Davies is something of a BVS legend, having taught here for no fewer than 33 years! As our Deputy Headteacher, he is renowned for the exceptional pastoral support that he provides, with many families over the years requesting that they meet with him whenever they come into the school as his support and advice is so highly respected! As a dad of five himself — as he sometimes references in the meetings — he can empathise and guide in most situations!

Mr Davies is also renowned for his excellent teaching (his set-up of a 'crime scene' as part of his delivery of the Forensics course is something to behold!), for his assemblies, for his Rubik's Cube challenges and notably too for his sartorial choices (his dress sense!). Many former pupils will refer to his smart attire — he is never without a waistcoat — and to the respect they have for him due to his kindness as well as his professional expertise.

Mr Davies is now moving to Haverfordwest High as their newly-appointed Headteacher and we congratulate him warmly, wishing him every success and happiness and recognising that our loss is very much their gain.

## Important News:

# New School Building

Our exciting new school project, which is being led by Swansea Council, is well under way, with frequent meetings now between the design team and the school!

The project proposes a brand-new, purpose-built school for Bishop Vaughan Catholic School on the former Daniel James Community School site. The new school build aims to provide 1400 school places for Bishop Vaughan, catering for our pupils until the end of their Sixth Form studies. There will be an emphasis on providing an environment that enhances and promotes community use.

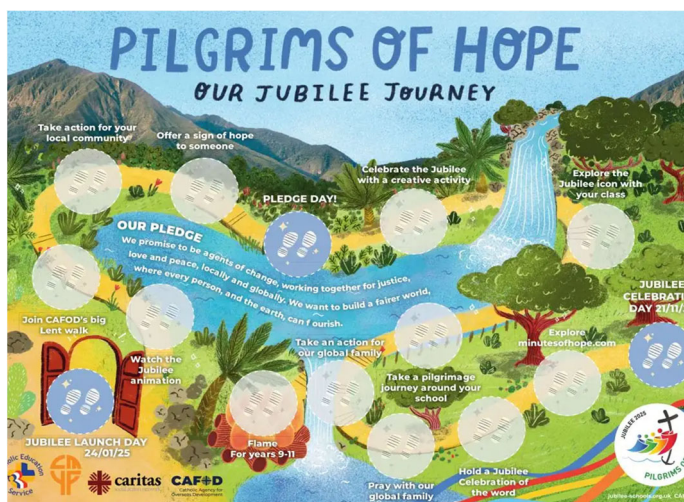
The design remains in the early stages, however, it is seeking to provide a sustainable net-zero operational carbon facility with an emphasis on biodiversity and promotion of well-being.

Project progress to date has included submission of a business case to the Welsh Government, and this received ministerial approval in January 2025. Swansea Council are also engaging regularly with key stakeholders, including ourselves as a school and the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia.

Wider engagement will continue as the project progresses, to include parents/carers and the wider community. The project lead for Swansea Council has already met with learner groups to hear about their priorities and ideas, with these being factored into planning decisions.

It is envisaged this exciting new building will be open for the school to relocate during 2029-2030.

## Jubilee Year Updates



There have been numerous creative approaches to ensuring that the Jubilee Year theme is truly present and celebrated in daily life at Bishop Vaughan! Our pupils work imaginatively to ensure that they are indeed acting as 'pilgrims of hope' with a sense of mission and being a beacon for others. The theme has also underpinned our Annual Lower School Awards Evening, our Festival of Culture and the preparation work for the forthcoming Festival of Peace in September!

## Festival News



### FESTIVAL OF CULTURE

July 2025

Bishop Vaughan School's annual Festival of Culture — held in the last week of the academic year — was once again a vibrant and inspiring celebration of the arts and intellectual curiosity, with a particular focus on literature, music, dance and history! Across several exciting days, students from all year groups immersed themselves in workshops, performances, talks and competitions that showcased the richness of cultural experiences.



The festival opened with a musical highlight – a showcase from Swansea Music Service, followed by a lively Q&A where students gained insights into the world of professional music. This set the tone for a week filled with creativity!

This also introduced pupils to a song which, by the end of music workshop sessions provided by the Music Service over the course of the first Festival day, they were able to play and perform themselves on a range of instruments! These included ukulele, drums, P-Buzz woodwind and All Things String sessions, all of which gave students the chance to pick up new instruments and express themselves musically.

The Phoenix Male Voice Choir of Wales then filled the hall with soaring harmonies in an inspiring performance which ranged from Calon Lan (written by Daniel James, whose Bardic name was Gwrysydd, and who lived very locally to our school), to 'Skyfall' from James Bond, musical theatre items, and classical and contemporary items! We have a well-established connection with this superb choir and our own choir has had the honour of performing alongside them many times.





## Festival News

For literature lovers, the festival offered a wealth of opportunities. Jess Webb, an acclaimed author, led writing workshops that challenged students to stretch their imaginations and develop their voices. Jess, a co-writer with Michael Sheen, brought real energy to her sessions. In addition, Sam Stewart, a previous Festival contributor, and the author of 'Fireblood', a novel greatly enjoyed by our pupils, launched a writing competition. The school also proudly launched a further Bishop Vaughan Writing Competition.

A storytelling session with Sion Tomos Owen captivated younger students, this blending humour, folklore and some great advice on creative writing.

Visual art took centre stage in our Bishop Vaughan Festival Art Competition and alongside this, students engaged in workshops preparing creative pieces for the upcoming 2025 Festival of Peace, laying the foundation for September's celebrations.

Academic curiosity was also nurtured through unique and thought-provoking experiences. Phil Hobbs of the Egypt Centre led engaging Egyptology activities, allowing students to handle artefacts and learn about the mysteries of the ancient world.

A standout moment was the inspirational talk, "Walking the Andes", delivered by former pupil Oliver Treviso, whose journey through South America proved a powerful reminder of how far passion and perseverance can take you.



Swansea Arena collaborated with the school to run music sessions and workshops, giving students a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes workings of live performance and sound production. The Festival's music focus and cultural energy continued with a joyful Irish ceilidh band performance and workshop which had students and staff dancing together in celebration of Celtic tradition!

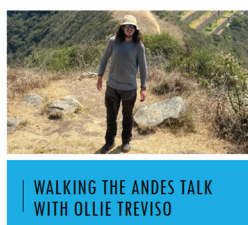
For those who enjoy a bit of healthy competition, the BVS Inter-tutorial Quiz tested knowledge, teamwork and school spirit in equal measure! Pop-up bookshops encouraged reading for pleasure with both new books and book swaps available to suit all interests — and of course, Joe's ice cream added a sweet touch to the festivities!

## Festival News

It was particularly rewarding, as it always is, to see how greatly our pupils value these cultural experiences, with one pupil exclaiming as he approached the bookshop “This is just heaven!” and another pupil, a Year 10 pupil who is herself a keen reader, spotting a Year 8 pupil in the midst of purchasing four (!) books. Despite not knowing the pupil previously, she leaned across as the pupil prepared to pay, and said “Here, let me get those for you. Just keep reading!” This exceptional expression of kindness encapsulates so much of what we strive for at Bishop Vaughan — kindness to others, ‘paying it forward’, striving for academic and personal enrichment through reading and being a person who inspires others! Throughout the week, there have been so many examples of our pupils living out our values — evident not least in their gratitude, thoughtful questioning and vocal appreciation of all festival contributors, this making it a pure privilege to have the opportunity to create these experiences and programmes of events for them!



The Festival of Culture 2025 was more than just a timetable of events, however — it was a vibrant celebration of the talents, interests and creativity that make Bishop Vaughan such a special place. With music, art, writing, dance, history and storytelling at its heart, it was certainly a week that students will remember for a long time, as well as being an energetic, inspiring and vibrant conclusion to the academic year and springboard into the summer break!



## These were the activities:

1. Swansea Music Service Showcase with Q&A
2. BVS Inter-tutorial Quiz
3. Preparing creative work for the 2025 Festival of Peace
4. Phoenix Choir of Wales performance
5. Egyptology activities with the Egypt Centre
6. Launch of our Bishop Vaughan writing competition
7. Sam Stewart, author, launching a further writing competition
8. Swansea Arena music sessions and workshops
9. Storytelling session with Sion Tomos Owen, author
10. ‘Creating a Universe’ creative writing workshop
11. BVS Art Competition
13. Ukelele music workshop
14. Drumming workshop
15. P-Buzz woodwind workshop
16. ‘All Things String’ music workshop
17. Author Jess Webb, co-writer with Michael Sheen – creative writing workshop
18. Irish ceilidh band performance and workshop
19. ‘Walking the Andes’ – inspirational talk from former pupil Oliver Treviso
20. Pop up bookshops: new books and book swaps!
21. Joe’s ice cream!

## Lower School Presentation Evening

On Tuesday 24th June, our annual Lower School Presentation Evening was held — a joyous occasion that celebrated the fantastic achievements of students in Years 7, 8 and 9. This vibrant celebratory evening highlighted the hard work and dedication that has defined this academic year.

The evening began with a warm welcome from Mrs Spencer and an entertaining short film, further segments of which were then shown throughout the evening. This film, produced by pupils with the support of several staff, focused on our collective mission as 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this Jubilee Year for the Church.

Pupils had put together and acted a script that saw them as 'special agents' ('Mission Impossible' style!), charged by the 'Spes Non Confundit' Agency in Rome to gather a range of evidence over the course of the evening that would exemplify their school's commitment to 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Love' in action in daily life. With clips of their 'mission' threaded through the evening, and the physical collection of evidence which was brought into the Main Hall by the conclusion of the event, this was a theme that managed to entertain, amuse and have a sense of poignancy too, with evidence of truly beautiful acts and expressions of these values being shared with our parent, carer, staff, governor and guest audience!



Throughout the evening, awards were presented to recognise students for their outstanding achievements, including academic, faith-based, sporting, cultural, artistic and charitable ones, as well as for effort and commitment to their studies. These accolades therefore celebrated not only academic success but also personal achievements, including improvements in behaviour, participation levels and engagement in school life and all that it has to offer.

The Caritas Award was this year presented to a group of pupils, those in the Junior Legion of Mary, for their exceptional work and commitment to the physical and spiritual acts of mercy, and Ruben collected this on their behalf.



Before presenting the Headteacher's Award, Mrs Pole shared reflections on the importance of personal growth within our students. Our pupils are truly 'Pilgrims of Hope' in countless ways, often humbling to witness. The award was then presented to a pupil who has shone in her exemplification of this and of the school's values, Natalia Malenka in Year 9.

Huge congratulations to all of the pupils involved, including our wonderful choir and soloists, and sincere thanks to the staff whose investment in the evening, whether through presenting, conducting, nominating or in any capacity whatsoever, made the event so very special.

We look forward to our Upper School Awards Evening next term, which will celebrate the achievements of those currently in Years 9 to 13!



## Lower School Presentation Evening



## School Council News

We are enormously grateful to our outgoing Head Prefects, Justine and Aaron, their team of dedicated Deputy Head Prefects plus all other Year 13 members of the School Council. Their work has been exceptional, highlights being their leadership of the Festival of Peace, presenting to Swansea Council in the Guildhall Chambers, speaking at Awards Evenings and Open Evenings, leading some highly successful charity work and contributing every day — in numerous ways — to making our school a better place to be. Their generosity with their time and their talents has been truly selfless!

We will soon be recruiting our new pupil leaders! Details of our School Council are below, and Mrs Thomas will circulate information on the application process shortly to all pupils.



### **The Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Council is made up of over 160 School Councillors!**

These School Councillors are members of either:

- our Pupil Senior Leadership Team (Pupil SLT)
- our team of School Ambassadors

**All** pupils on the School Council represent the school and their fellow pupils.

### **Becoming a School Councillor:**

Sixth Form pupils are recruited to the Pupil SLT via an application and interview process. There are two pupils selected each year as Head Prefects and two for each of the Deputy Head Prefect categories.

Pupils from throughout the school are recruited to most School Ambassador roles through an application process. Year reps are nominated by fellow pupils from their year groups.

Please see Mrs Thomas, Head of RE and Pupil Voice Lead, if you would like to learn more about becoming a School Councillor.

## Joining the School Council

### Why become a School Councillor?

- ♦ School Councillors have the opportunity to shape school life and provision – they help to make the school the best it can be. They have the chance to put forward ideas, to speak with Governors directly and to liaise with the Bishop Vaughan Society (who raise money for pupil resources and experiences). The Pupil SLT meets with the Headteacher fortnightly and a Pupil Reference Group drawn from the School Council even works with the project team building our new school!
- ♦ School Councillors become role models for other pupils
- ♦ School Council work provides great experience that pupils can write/speak about in job and university applications
- ♦ School Council members meet lots with one another — building friendships and bonds between people with shared goals.
- ♦ School Councillors exemplify our school's values through their actions and their service to others:



**We work together to make our school  
the very best that it can be!**



## News from the Catering Team



Our school kitchen has recently been working with one of the parents in our school community to perfect cooking a Nigerian dish! This has been on offer as one of our Thursday lunchtime options, this being when we introduce a variety of different foods.

Parents and carers have been asked to contribute favourite family recipes so that we can introduce diverse dishes both to enhance our pupils' dining experience and to foster an appreciation of the exceptionally rich and diverse cultural heritage of our pupil body! The dishes trialled so far have been extremely popular!



Thank you to the parents who have kindly contributed recipes or given of their time to demonstrated these.



## Clubs and Activities


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

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



## Religious Studies Department News

### The Catholic Pupil Profile

The Catholic Pupil Profile is an approach adopted by many Catholic schools to celebrate and encourage virtues or positive character traits. The profile consists of eight statements, each containing two key virtues as depicted in this diagram:



These virtues come from the gospels and from Catholic tradition, but are fundamentally human virtues shared by all human beings. They express what it is to be a good person living a virtuous life. We think this is what a well-educated and good person who can make a difference to the world looks like.

Therefore, pupils at Bishop Vaughan School are growing to be:

**Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

**Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

**Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

**Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

**Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

**Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

**Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

While we promote all of the virtues throughout school life, each half term we focus on one pair of virtues in order to really explore what these virtues are and how we can cultivate them in our everyday behaviours. During this term, we have looked closely at being compassionate and loving.

Pupils have investigated what it means to be compassionate and loving, and we have reflected on how our school community shows love and compassion to others. Following his sad death, pupils looked at the example of Pope Francis, and the legacy of love and compassion he leaves in his memory.

# Religious Studies Department News

## Leavers' Masses

We offer our sincere thanks to Fr John Browne, our School Chaplain, who celebrated our Leavers' Masses for Year 11 and Year 13 in May. Each Mass was a beautiful and moving occasion that marked the end of a significant chapter in our students' lives. Together with staff and pupils, we gave thanks for the journey to date and prayed for God's continued guidance as they take their next steps. The Masses were a fitting tribute to the hard work, growth and faith shown by our students throughout their time with us. We send them forward with our prayers, pride and warmest wishes for the future.

## Bible Study sessions

We are delighted to share that two of our key stage three learners have taken the initiative to lead weekly Bible study sessions for their peers and teachers on the theme of 'Who Am I?' These reflective sessions explore identity through Scripture, encouraging thoughtful discussion and personal growth rooted in faith. It's inspiring to see our young people leading others in deepening their understanding of themselves and their relationship with God. With thanks to Natalia and Ruben for their continued support of the spiritual growth of our community.

### What is love?

Love, it's a term that everybody uses daily. We hear it everywhere and anywhere. We hear it all of the time. But what does it actually denote? The English dictionary defines love as an "intense feeling of deep affection". Love is remarkably a feeling of deep affection, warmth, and attachment to another person. It can be experienced in different ways depending on the person, but it generally involves strong feelings of kindness, caring, and admiration.

As shown, there are many definitions of love, but, overall, we all have our own preferred, and designated versions of the word itself. However, one that stands out to me, is what The Bible states about love, its summary, "The Bible defines love as a way of relating to others that is patient, kind, and sacrificial. It is a love that is greater than a feeling or emotion". Scriptures certainly reveal to us that love is:

- Kind and patient 1 Corinthians 13:4
- Sacrificial John 3:16
- Selfless John 13:34
- Truthful Romans 12:9-21
- An act of change Psalm 50:10
- Faithfulness Lamentations 3:22-23

### Bible Emergency Numbers

Overshamed.....Matthew 12:28-29  
 Worried.....Philippians 4:6-7  
 Scared.....Joshua 1:9  
 Lack of Faith.....Proverbs 3:5-6  
 Tempted.....1 Corinthians 10:13  
 Stressed.....Matthew 6:25-34  
 Sick.....Psalm 137:1  
 Drained.....Psalm 23  
 Lost.....Romans 8:38-39  
 Sad.....Deuteronomy 31:8  
 Bitter.....John 16:33  
 Lonely.....Hebrews 13:5



### Jesus loves you



2. Love according to the Bible

### Love Bible Study



### "LAZARUS, COME OUT!"

-John 11:43b

Faith can change anything, and faith can change everything. A calling to faith, to be saints is in the background of each mind. God Calls us individually, in different ways to essentially come and lay close to His Heart, to praise Him, to glorify Him. God Reveals Himself to each and every single of His Creation. He Knocks on the door of separation and choice between human nature and spiritual life: yet He Leaves us with a chance of choice. Choice is a Grace Sourced from God. However it is left in our hands to decide and take the just path.

Spiritual growth is essential to meeting God. Singing praises, seeking Him Himself and reading His Word is crucial. We are all invited to read His Word, but do we understand all of the hidden concepts inside His Message?

Bible Studying can reveal. Reading God's Word can transform us. A new club, dedicated to Bible Studying will be hosted:

**Every Tuesday lunchtime  
 At 13:30  
 In the school Chapel**

Every single one of you is invited to join and to make the first step. In this new club, we will be discussing and untangling the hidden messages sourced from God's Word. Bringing your Bibles in is very encouraged, however, if you do not own one or need to borrow one, just let us know, and we will happily lend you one!

St Jerome, Patron saint of Biblical study, pray for us  
 St Faustina, pray for us  
 Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

**GOD  
 FIRST**





## Religious Studies Department News

### Junior Legion of Mary

Our Junior Legion of Mary group meets weekly and is a vibrant part of our school's faith life. Rooted in prayer, service of others and devotion to Our Lady, the group encourages pupils to grow in their faith while actively living it out through small acts of kindness, outreach and spiritual reflection.

With a focus on humility, commitment and love for others, the Junior Legion nurtures a sense of responsibility and joy in serving both God and the school community. We were thrilled to send some of our members off on the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Rome in April, with our prayers and well wishes.

We have also enjoyed visits from Fr Matt Roche-Saunders, the Diocesan Director of Priestly Vocations and Youth Mission, and Fr Marvin, who is visiting the Sacred Heart parish from Guatemala, under the continued leadership of Canon Jason Jones, Father Rod Teriote, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Mrs Anne Lear and our pupil Faith Ambassadors, alongside Mrs Thomas, Head of RE, and Miss Mainwaring, Head of Ethical Citizenship.



## Religious Studies Department News

### Day Retreats

This term, our Year 8 pupils have taken part in their annual retreat, centred on the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The retreat offers a valuable opportunity for students to pause, reflect, and explore what it means to journey with faith, hope and purpose.

Through prayer, discussion, creative activities and quiet time, pupils are encouraged to consider how they can be signs of hope in the world around them. It's a meaningful experience that supports their spiritual growth and sense of community.

Pupil feedback has been extremely positive and we look forward to the next retreat experiences! In a busy world, and with a packed school schedule alongside many other competing pressures on our daily lives, the importance of stillness and prayerful reflection can't be underestimated. Our pupils certainly benefited from these lovely day retreats!

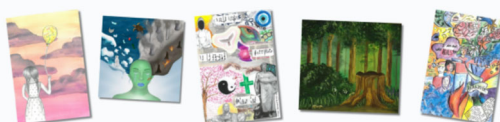


### Year 9 ACE Day

Our Year 9 learners spent their ACE Day exploring profound questions about religious and non-religious worldviews and creating an artistic expression of their ideas. Using creativity as a form of expression, students produce thoughtful and imaginative pieces inspired by a range of themes, such as justice, identity, and the environment. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to reflect on their beliefs and values while showcasing their artistic talents.

The top ten pieces of art will win a prize and be entered in to the Spirited Arts competition in July. This competition is a national initiative that invites young people to explore big questions about faith, belief and the world through art. These will also feature in the next edition of the Parents' and Carers' Newsletter!

#### SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION 2025





## Welsh Department News

### Llangrannog Residential Trip opportunity

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been given the opportunity to attend a residential trip in September 2025. Pupils and members of the Welsh department will spend the weekend immersed in the Welsh language whilst taking part in a range of adventurous activities, these including go-karting, quad biking, skiing, tobogganing, archery and many more. This is a great opportunity to experience the Welsh culture in a beautiful part of Wales.



### Glan-Llyn 2026

Mr Williams is currently exploring the option of running a trip to Glan-Llyn for next academic year for pupils in next year's Year 9 to 11. Glan-Llyn is an Urdd residential centre located in North Wales and as the name suggests, 'llyn' meaning lake, it is situated on a lake. Pupils will experience activities such as stand up paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, raft building, climbing, high ropes and much more, all through the medium of Welsh. So, Years 8 to 10, watch this space!





## Welsh Department News

### Y Criw Cymraeg

The Criw Cymraeg presented their vision for developing the school's Welsh ethos to governors on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May and blew them away with their pitch. Governors were also treated to a preview performance of 'Clair de Lune' offered by Rachel-Christine Skinner in Year 7 – a fantastic flautist who competed in this year's Eisteddfod yr Urdd Dur a Môr in Margam Park, 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May. They were extremely complimentary of her exceptional playing of this challenging and poignant piece of music.

Starting now and continuing next year, the Criw Cymraeg plan to strengthen the school's Welsh ethos and will be working towards achieving the Siarter Iaith's Bronze Award. The Criw perfectly outlined to governors what that would look like, and the governors were very impressed with the plans that are in place.

In addition, the Criw are currently giving up part of their lunchtimes regularly to:

- work on the beautiful Shwmae Sumae Day bunting that pupils created this year in order to decorate the school for next year's Shwmae Sumae Day.
- assist the Welsh department in creating display boards for the school's four festivals that we hold, annually, namely the Festivals of Culture, Peace, Belonging and Health.
- aid the department in transforming and updating the display boards in the Welsh corridor to showcase how the language is celebrated in school.

### Eisteddfod Dur a Môr 2025

As mentioned above, Rachel-Christine Skinner of Year 7 competed at Eisteddfod yr Urdd Dur a Môr in Margam Park on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May where the competition was fierce! Rachel-Christine has qualified for the National Eisteddfod, which will take place in Wrexham between August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.

Llongyfarchiadau enfawr/ huge congratulations, Rachel-Christine!



## Welsh Department News

### Apiau Ddefnyddiol – Useful Apps

Why not join your child on their language learning journey by downloading the following apps?



**Welsh Trainer** – Practice your Welsh skills! Perfect your Welsh skills through engaging practice. This app is designed for learners who want to reinforce and practice their Welsh language knowledge. Whether you've learned through classes, other apps, on your own ... Welsh Trainer provides the perfect environment to strengthen your skills.



**Welsh – Listening Speaking** – Speak Welsh confidently with Welsh – Listening Speaking app. Improve your skills with audio and video lessons, plus fun mini-games. Download now for free!



**Welsh for Beginners** – Welsh for Beginners is a learning tool to begin, or enhance your Welsh vocabulary on the go. The National Anthem audio file will also help you sing along and learn 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' in the simplest way possible.

## Maths Department News

### UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results 2025

In May 2025, 60 pupils from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils did exceptionally well this year with 17 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan with **Hubbee Suhail** achieving the highest score in the school and **Denzil Okwuegbue** achieving the highest score in Year 7. Both boys earned themselves a place in the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round and they both achieved a Bronze certificate in this extension paper. An amazing achievement!

Well done to everyone that achieved an award and to all that took part, as detailed on the following pages! Let's see what you can do next year.

For more information on this competition or for a copy of the questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

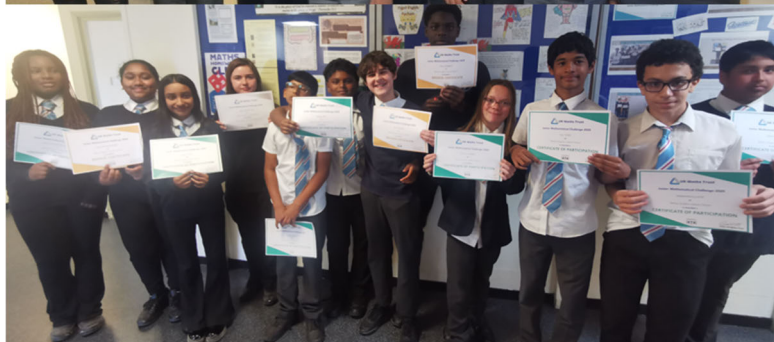
## Maths Department News

### Year 8

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hubbee Suhail	Gold Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Victoria Njie	Silver Award
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oskar Szulinski	Silver Award
4 <sup>th</sup>	Oliwia Skrzypczak	Silver Award
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ivan Verona	Bronze Award
6 <sup>th</sup>	Neja Rathnaweera	Bronze Award
7 <sup>th</sup>	Hilary Ohabor	Bronze Award
8 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Tomy	Bronze Award
9 <sup>th</sup>	Abin Bobby	Bronze Award
Jt 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sinclair Adolphus	Bronze Award
Jt 10 <sup>th</sup>	Johan Jacob	Bronze Award
Jt 10 <sup>th</sup>	Aidan O'Driscoll	Bronze Award

### Year 7

1 <sup>st</sup>	Denzel Okwuegbue	Gold Award
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nkenna Ekenna	Silver Award
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dwayne Okwuegbue	Bronze Award
4 <sup>th</sup>	Akshit Bhatt	Bronze Award
5 <sup>th</sup>	Adon Santhosh	Bronze Award





# Maths Department News



# Maths Department News

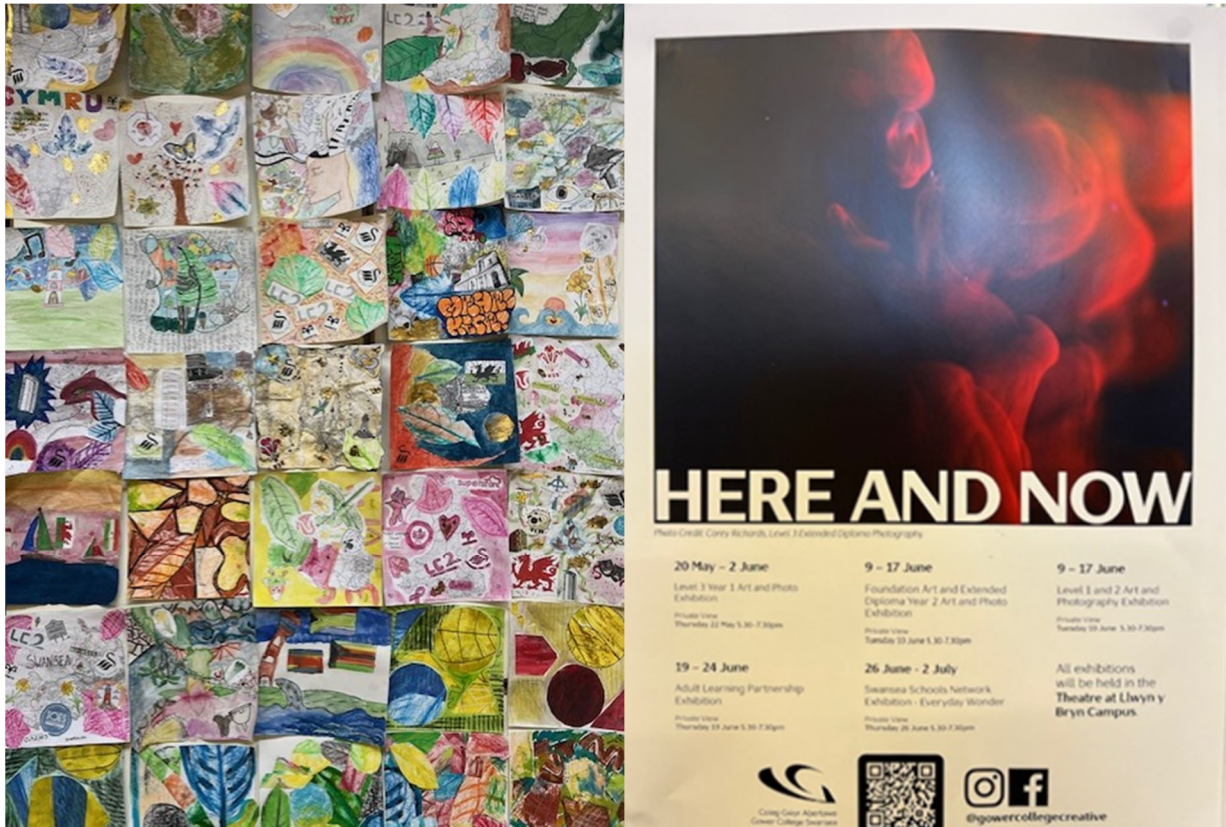




## Art Department News

### Art and Design

A selection of Year 8 pupils' work was exhibited at Swansea College, Llywn y Bryn campus as part of the Swansea School network exhibition 'Everyday Wonder'. The exhibition was held from 26<sup>th</sup> June until 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.



At this exhibition, our Year 8 pupil, Leia Agcaoili won 'Most creative piece'. Leia was presented with her prize by Rosie Wyllie, the artist in residence. Neja Rathnaweera and her family attended the evening to see Neja's wonderful artwork on display. It was a lovely evening celebrating creatively and the diversity of arts across Swansea.





## Art Department News

KS3 pupils have also enjoyed contributing and participating in the Art Eisteddfod competitions this year.



We also had an Art competition for this year's Festival of Culture with the theme of 'HOPE' - see our social media channels for the results!



### Art Competition Festival of Culture

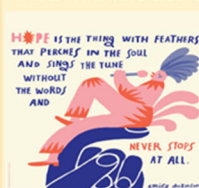
We are inviting you to produce a piece of artwork to celebrate the theme of 'HOPE'.

Your artwork can be of any size or shape. You can use any materials you want, as well as digital art. You can paint it, draw it, photograph it.

This is a celebration of hope through our traditions, heritage and our history. It is a chance to deepen our understanding and appreciation of each others cultural backgrounds, and to share the unique stories that inspire hope in Bishop Vaughan school through Art.

If you need any materials or guidance, come down to T6 for resources or help.

Artists who have created art inspired by the theme of hope:



Artist Denitsa Boyadzhieva



Artist Daniela Yankova



Artist Teo Georgiev

Some Ideas to get you started:

- A bright future after a storm
- A personal goal or dream
- People helping each other in hard times
- Kindness in the world
- Nature growing or healing
- A symbol of strength, hope or resilience

#### Symbols Of Hope

1. **Anchor:** Historically used by sailors during storms, it represents safety and resilience.
2. **Hook:** A tale of triumph over adversity.
3. **Dove:** A bird of hope.
4. **Lotus Flower:** Symbolizes renewal and inner strength.
5. **Olive Branch:** Represents peace.
6. **Phoenix:** symbolises rising through the ashes

Entries must be handed in by 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to T10. Prizes will be given out for first, second and third winners.

## Science Department News

### **Year 10 Salters Chemistry Day at Swansea University – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Twelve pupils were chosen to take part in the Salters Institute Chemistry Festival in the Singleton campus. Salters had arranged for guest speakers to present their research and for the pupils to spend time in the state-of-the-art laboratories synthesising aspirin. The pupils demonstrated excellent laboratory skills and acquitted themselves admirably. The morning speaker was Professor Andrew R. Barron. His research focused on the capture and removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere with reactions that directly link in to Year 10 GCSE topics, so the presented content was very accessible. Pupils had an amazing time and hopefully this has planted a seed that might lead to a career in the sciences.

### **Year 10 Chemistry trip to Swansea University — 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

A group of Year 10 GCSE Triple Award Chemistry pupils visited Swansea University, for lots of practical experience in their state-of-the-art Chemistry laboratories. After making sure they were kitted out with lab coats, gloves and goggles, they performed experiments, making esters and carrying out titrations. This learning enhances parts of the GCSE course and gives pupils a taster of what they will learn at A level. This was also an opportunity to speak to A level students who were there as assistants and to the university staff who work there, to ask questions about university courses and career opportunities. The pupils were amazing ambassadors for the school, showing an exemplary positive attitude. They found the experience enjoyable and inspirational. Thank you to the university for hosting a fantastic event for our pupils!

### **Year 9 ACE day Trip to Pembrey Country Park – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Science department took 115 Year 9 pupils to Pembrey Country Park to investigate the different habitats around the park. Pupils learnt how to use quadrats and enjoyed a interesting walk through the park, seeing the diversity of the woodland, pond and dune areas. Even though Pembrey is on our doorstep, many pupils had not visited the park previously and this was an excellent extra-curricular activity to enhance their experiences. All pupils behaved exceptionally well, and it was a pleasure to take them. Enthusiasm and interest were shown by the pupils in each group and staff feedback of pupil engagement was very positive!

Lunch was taken on the beach, with lots of ball games taking place and the pupils thoroughly enjoying the fresh salt sea air. The weather was amazing, almost too hot if anything! Unfortunately, the wildlife at the park was difficult to spot, probably due to bubbly chatter from our learners! Despite this, the pupils were still able to demonstrate key attributes of confidence and resilience, as well as the virtues of being curious and active. All learners were engaged and interested in broadening their knowledge on the importance of biodiversity.

Thanks to the staff for making it a successful day out. A special mention goes to the pupils of 9E who helped to carry the heavy bags!



# Reading Recommendations



## Summer

### Welcome to our reading recommendations newsletter!

Each term, we will share with you reviews and information about books our pupils are currently enjoying.

We encourage our pupils and their families to look through these to see if any may be of interest to them. In addition, we have reading lists by year group and genre on our website.

**Happy reading!**  
**The BVS Book Group**

### Our 2025 Festival and Our Love of Bookshops!

We've thoroughly enjoyed this year's Festival of Culture and the authors who have visited us! The pop up bookshops also allowed us to purchase both new books (at the greatly discounted rate of £1.50!) and pre-read favourites donated by pupils and staff. It was great to browse through the stalls, with many of us leaving for the summer laden down with reading material that guarantees many hours of entertainment!

BVS loves a bookshop and we're really delighted that two of our Sixth Formers (in fact, one being a founder member of the BVS Book Groups!) have recently gained internships with Waterstones following a competitive selection process. This is a dream opportunity for them!

From all in our Book Group, we wish all pupils and their families a happy summer holiday and we hope that you are all able to take interesting and inspiring travels ... with books!

### Festival Author Spotlight:

**Jess Webb** (co-author with Michael Sheen)

Jess Webb's collaboration with actor Michael Sheen on 'A Home for Spark the Dragon' has attracted much attention. This heartwarming picture book about the importance of home, by much-loved actor and activist Michael Sheen and co-author Jess, who visited our Festival of Culture, is proving popular with children (indeed many of our pupils bought copies for younger siblings!). The story tells of Spark the dragon waking up to find a storm has destroyed his cosy nest. He must find a new place to live, but Spark soon discovers that a house needs more than just walls to feel like home, and he starts to wonder if he will ever find the right place for him. This beautiful story is brought to life by Sarah Massini's stunning illustrations.

Jess's visit to Bishop Vaughan gave our pupils a behind-the-scenes look at her writing process and her passion for storytelling. We encourage all pupils to become readers, and Jess urged all readers to turn their hand to writing, providing them with expert advice and lots of encouragement, drawing on her own experiences in getting published to provide great insights into what it is to be an author!







# Foundations Newsletter

2025



## Festival Author Spotlight:

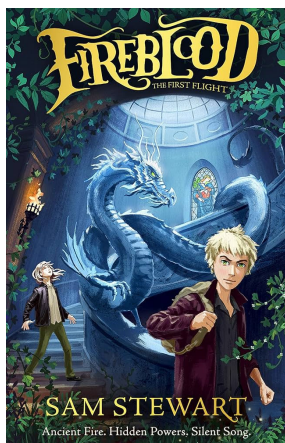
**Sam Stewart** (author of 'Fireblood')

If you love gripping fantasy and fierce protagonists, 'Fireblood' by Sam Stewart should be at the top of your reading list!

The book follows a young girl with a deadly secret in a world where fire is power and betrayal lurks at every turn. Sam's writing is immersive, vivid and action-packed. Her stories are thrilling, emotional and filled with twists that will keep you hooked.

Sam led sessions in last year's Festival and followed up this year by launching a writing competition which she will judge. This is intended to inspire students to unlock their creativity!

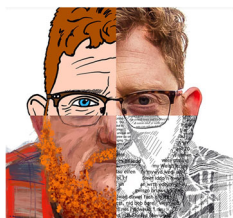
We are grateful to Sam for her commitment to her link with our school.



## Festival Author Spotlight:

**Siôn Tomos Owen**

Poet, illustrator and broadcaster Siôn Tomos Owen brings a unique blend of humour and heart to his work.



Known for celebrating Welsh culture and the everyday magic of life, Siôn's storytelling elicits laughter, creativity and inspiration.

We recommend his stories, as they capture the voice of modern Wales with style. If you enjoy poetry that's accessible, fun and meaningful—or you're interested in telling your own stories—Siôn Tomos Owen's work is a brilliant place to start.

## Reading Recommendations from Pupils:

Looking for a book to get lost in this summer? Try **The Inheritance Games** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes—a fast-paced mystery full of riddles, rivalries and hidden fortunes. Or dive into **Amari and the Night Brothers** by B.B. Alston, where a magical world meets a real-world heroine on a mission. Both are perfect for long afternoons and are packed with twists, humour and heart.

Quick reads with big impact are always a good idea and the summer break is the perfect time for short, powerful reads. Try **Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo—a verse novel about grief, family and finding your voice. Or **Boy Everywhere** by A.M. Dassu, which tells the timely story of a refugee's journey with compassion and clarity. If you prefer graphic novels, we've previously recommended **Heartstopper** by Alice Oseman, which offers a heartfelt and relatable story of friendship and love.

All of these books are ideal for dipping into during a busy holiday or screen break. Remember, reading just 20 minutes a day can make a huge difference—and might just be the best part of your summer. Visit your local library, check out a bookshop or swap titles with friends—you might discover your new favourite!

## Wise Words:

"Today a reader,  
tomorrow a leader"

Margaret Fuller



## Sociology Department News

In April, Year 13 sociology students went on a trip to Bristol to see 'Tina: the Musical'. The trip was courtesy of the £500 won by our British Sociological Association Young Sociologist of the Year, Kirsty Davies.

We travelled up on the school minibus, enjoyed a meal at Bristol Harbourside, then attended the brilliant show at the Hippodrome. We laughed and cried, and were all up on our feet dancing and singing during the encore. It was 'simply the best' day out, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended!

This was a perfect way to say goodbye to this year's Sociology student leavers - thanks again to Kirsty, whose impressive win and accolade made this possible!





## Creative Technology Department News

### Creative Technology ACE Day

Year 7 students had an exciting and hands-on experience during their recent Creative Technology ACE Day, where imagination met innovation in a series of engaging activities!

Pupils explored the art of God's Eye weaving, a traditional craft that challenged their patience and precision while allowing them to express their creativity through vibrant patterns and colours.

Next came the thrilling Egg Drop Challenge, where students put their engineering minds to the test. Using limited materials, they designed protective contraptions to keep their eggs intact during a high-stakes drop, resulting in a mix of spectacular saves and some very messy landings!

The day wrapped up with an exhilarating Escape Room activity, where teamwork, logic, and problem-solving were key. Students worked in groups to crack codes, solve puzzles, and race against the clock to "escape" in time.





## Geography Department News

The Geography department has had another busy term!

Year 7 have focused on Tectonics and have been learning about the Japan earthquake in 2011 and have compared it to the recent earthquake this year in Myanmar. Pupils have considered whether wealth makes you vulnerable.

Year 8 have been learning about Weather and Climate. Pupils have completed a survey of the school site focusing on Microclimate. They collected data and developed their numeracy skills through analysing this data and concluding their findings.

Year 9 have been looking at Climate Change by investigating natural changes versus the enhanced changes made by humans. Pupils have been developing their literacy skills by writing a speech that could be used in a Climate Change conference.

At GCSE, Year 10 have completed their Unit 1 studies and are getting ready to complete their fieldwork in July. Years 11, 12 and 13 have been working hard on their recent examinations. We wish them the very best for their results in August.

Some Year 10 pupils enjoyed a coastal visit to Borth where they put theory into practice and saw the developing coastline for themselves. Pupils learned about longshore drift, spit development and management of the coastline.



## History Department News

This term, our Year 10 pupils engaged in a unique and thought-provoking workshop exploring disability in the 1800s. Led by Dr Ryan Sweet from Swansea University, the session introduced pupils to a board game titled *Legless in London*, which Dr Sweet developed to highlight the experiences of people with disabilities during that period. The game, which is both educational and engaging, provided pupils with valuable insights that directly support their current coursework topic. Feedback from the session was very positive, with pupils appreciating the opportunity to learn through an interactive and meaningful format.

In addition, we were honoured to host a talk organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, delivered by Michelle Richman, daughter of Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper. Michelle shared her father's powerful story, including his experiences in Auschwitz. The talk was especially poignant for pupils and staff who recently visited Auschwitz as part of our school trip, offering a deeply personal perspective that enriched their understanding of this important historical event.

## Health and Social Care Department News

Our Year 10 Healthcare pupils had an exciting visit to the SA1 campus as part of Trinity St David's Next Steps programme. Pupils were treated to three interactive workshops as part of a Health and Wellbeing day.

Thank you to former pupil Corey Edwards and the Health and Social Care team at the university for a highly entertaining and informative day for our pupils.





## Supercurricular News

### Supercurricular News

In May, a group of pupils attended the Hay Festival, where they had the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers, including Alastair Campbell. One of our pupils, Brooke, was invited on stage to share her thoughts on inequality, delivering a confident and passionate speech that was very well received.



Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have also been broadening their horizons through visits to Swansea University. These events focused on higher education and employability, helping pupils to begin thinking about their future aspirations and the pathways available to them.



Meanwhile, a group of Year 12 pupils took part in the Blue Light Challenge Day at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The event offered hands-on experiences related to careers in law and public services, including driving simulations and firefighting challenges. Although our team did not win the overall challenge, pupils found the day enjoyable and informative, gaining a clearer understanding of potential career routes.



## Supercurricular News

### Bishop Vaughan Pupils Dive into Outdoor Adventure at PGL Liddington

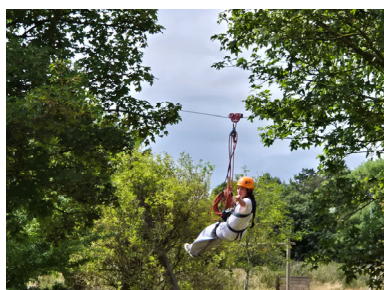
Earlier this term, Years 7 to 9 pupils embarked on a four-day residential to PGL's Liddington Centre in the Cotswolds — a trip packed with challenge, adventure and personal growth.



From the moment they arrived, pupils threw themselves into a wide range of activities including archery tag, climbing, laser clay pigeon shooting, axe throwing, canoeing and survival skills. Each task offered opportunities to build communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills, often without pupils even noticing how much they were learning!

Beyond the physical challenges, the trip also focused on emotional wellbeing. Learners stepped out of their comfort zones, cheered each other on, and showed genuine resilience and care. Staff witnessed pupils developing confidence, independence and a real sense of camaraderie.

Evenings brought a slower pace, with relaxed games and marshmallows roasted around a campfire — creating space for reflection, laughter and connection. These simple moments often proved just as powerful as the activities themselves.



We're proud of our pupils for embracing every experience and returning with new skills, closer friendships and lots of great stories.



Trips like these remind us of the value of learning beyond the classroom — and the incredible things our young people can achieve when given space to explore, grow and have fun!

## Aspire Department News

### The Bake Off comes to Aspire

We have ended the year in Aspire with a cake baking and decorating task. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed designing, baking and decorating their own cakes in a two-hour, fast paced bake off. They were very proud to show off the fantastic results!

We have had a very productive Summer term, making jacket potatoes and delicious sausage rolls. Much to the delight of everyone involved, the group managed to have a shout out from Chris Evans on his Virgin Radio breakfast show!





## ALN Department News



Years 7, 8 and 9 Foundation classes took part in the VE Mail project. This gave them a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about a shared story that connects the past, present and future. They received two letters from two World War 2 veterans. These men told their stories with such sensitivity and enough detail so that the pupils could understand the hardship and sacrifice of their lived experiences.



Year 7 received a letter from Sgt Mohammed Hussain, aged 100. He recounted the tale of running away and enlisting in the army at the age of 16, along with a thrilling tale of setting off explosive charges that saved a burning bridge by creating a wave of water to extinguish the fire. Year 7 were on the edge of their seats when listening to these details!

Years 8 and 9 received a letter from John Eskdale, aged 100. He survived the sinking of Charybdis by German torpedo boats near the Channel Islands in late 1943 and went on to see action in Normandy and in the Far East. The pupils were fascinated with this story as John was one of only 107 people that were rescued from the sinking ship. Years 8 and 9 listened intently to the details of John's rescue and commented that it sounded just like the plot from a movie!



*Thank you for your letter, it was an unbelievable story. I don't think I could've been so brave to have fought! Your story was inspiring because you have been to lots of countries and, if you had done nothing then we all might not be able to travel today. Thank you for serving for our country, even throughout the hard times you endured.*

*I was sad to hear about your ship being torpedoed and that you had to be rescued from the sea. I think you were very brave. I think I might have given up, but you did not. After reading your letter, I don't think I would like to experience a war and fight the way you had to.*

Everyone agreed that the experience of hearing the stories from real war heroes was exciting and exceptionally interesting. We all enjoyed this project and gained so much respect for everyone who fought for our freedom. We thank all veterans for their service.



## PE Department News

### Basketball Wales Junior NBA Tournaments

We are incredibly proud that our ALN pupils recently had the exciting opportunity to compete in two prestigious Basketball Wales Jnr. NBA tournaments. One team took part in a thrilling wheelchair basketball event, showcasing impressive skills and teamwork. Meanwhile, another group made history by participating in the very first ALN-specific basketball tournament — where they performed brilliantly and secured third place, proudly bringing home bronze medals. Both events provided an inclusive and inspiring platform for our pupils to shine and celebrate their passion for sport.



Max competed in the John Carver Whitsun Tennis Tournament during May half term and made it through to the men's single final!

Max won the U18 doubles. Well done Max!



Josh has been selected for the 2025 Under 15 Boys Wales Basketball Squad.

He is now preparing for the Four Nations Tournament in Scotland.

We would love to hear of your child's sporting success outside of school!

If you are happy to share photos or information, please email:  
**BishopvaughanH@Hwbcymru.net**

## Charity Team

### **Bishop Vaughan Staff Complete Coast-to-Coast Challenge, Raising Over £8000 for Latch**

Staff have successfully completed a demanding coast-to-coast challenge, travelling over 300km from Caernarfon to Swansea, while also conquering the Welsh Three Peaks — Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen y Fan.

The challenge, which took place over three days, involved both cycling and hiking, beginning in Caernarfon and following a route through some of Wales' most scenic landscapes. The team cycled from Caernarfon to Dolgellau via Snowdon, before tackling the ascent of Cadair Idris. They then continued cycling to Builth Wells, after which they climbed Pen y Fan, before finishing the journey with the final leg into Swansea.

This incredible effort was undertaken in support of Latch, a charity that provides essential assistance to children undergoing cancer treatment and their families. Thanks to generous donations, the total raised has now exceeded £8000.

The school community extends its thanks to all those who have supported the initiative, helping to make a meaningful difference for families in need.





## Eco Club

### Eco-Schools

Pupils have been hard at work clearing weeds from the school eco-garden, litter picking around the grounds and planning exciting new projects to enhance biodiversity. We're also thrilled that shortly, the Eco Committee will be attending the 'Schools 4 Species' conference at the WWT Wetlands Centre in Llanelli. Our pupils will take part in a range of hands-on conservation activities including a white-tailed sea eagle talk, a bee workshop, moth trapping and bird ringing.

## Wellbeing

### Supporting Pupil Wellbeing at Bishop Vaughan: Workshops with 'Mind of the Student'



This term pupils in Years 7, 9 and 10 enjoyed a series of engaging and impactful wellbeing workshops delivered by *Mind of the Student*. The sessions focused on key issues that many young people face — particularly stress and anxiety around exams and assessments, and the importance of understanding mental health.

Each workshop was designed to be age-appropriate, interactive and thought-provoking. Pupils explored strategies to recognise and manage anxious thoughts, learned how to support peers and reflected on the role mental wellbeing plays in everyday life. Importantly, the sessions helped to normalise conversations around emotional health, encouraging a more open and supportive school environment.

Feedback from pupils was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the chance to speak openly and gain practical tools to cope with exam pressures and personal challenges. The calm and engaging atmosphere allowed students to share their experiences while building resilience and self-awareness.

We are proud to work with organisations like *Mind of the Student*, whose expertise helps nurture confident, emotionally literate learners. As a school, we remain committed to supporting the wellbeing of all pupils, inside and outside the classroom.





## Duke of Edinburgh's Award News

Five Year 13 pupils have recently completed the expedition section of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, spending four days and three nights journeying through the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. They worked well as a team, keeping each other motivated, and looking after one another during some difficult weather!



At the end of each day of walking they added their experiences from that day to a flag, with images ranging from wildlife, plants, terrain and people they had encountered along their route. Well done to Evan, Ioan, Nia, Mariya and Jay.

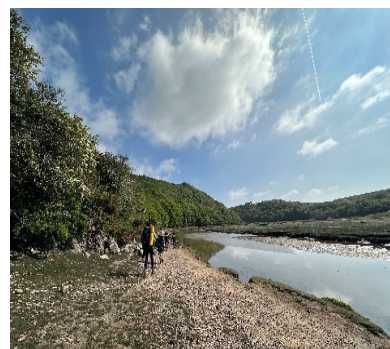
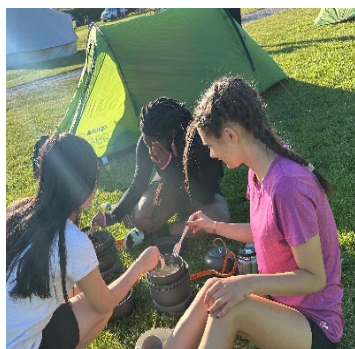


In May some of our Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils were presented with their badges and certificates for completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Over the past few months, the Year 10 Bronze Award participants have been working hard to learn the required navigation and camp craft skills for the expedition section of the Award, as well as making progress in the other sectional activities. Some of these include volunteering at charity shops, having lessons in tennis and swimming, developing their cooking and baking skills, learning sign language and helping run children's activity groups.



In June the Year 10 pupils completed the expedition section by spending two days walking, and one night camping, in Gower. They all showed great determination to complete their routes and coped well with the unexpected rain at the campsite!



## Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11 Prom at Manor Park Hotel was a lovely celebration of the culmination of our pupils' Year 7 to 11 journey with us! From the moment our pupils arrived (in an exceptional variety of methods of transport!) to the moment they left, they enjoyed every moment. Their appreciation of the evening was communicated throughout it, and behaviour was — without exception — excellent, as befitted young people who exhibited 'star quality' as they gathered for countless photos, just as they showed star quality daily at school! We wish all of those leaving us for pastures new every success — they will always be part of our Bishop Vaughan family — and we look forward to welcoming the majority of the year group back in September to begin their journey as Sixth Formers!



## Taliesin Concert with the Phoenix Choir



Our choir had the wonderful experience at the end of June of performing at the Taliesin Theatre at Swansea University, alongside the Phoenix Male Voice Choir of Wales, of whom you will have read in the article regarding our Festival of Culture, and who joined us for a Christmas Concert back in December.

The Phoenix Choir's programme, which was compered by Kev Johns, was complimented by a wide range of items from the *Schola Cantorum*, our school choir. This was a highly entertaining evening that played to a packed theatre, and all in the audience were extremely complimentary of the talents of our pupils, who were under the direction of Mr Eynon-Davies, Head of Music, and who were supported by several staff.

Sincere thanks to Mr John Mills, Musical Director of the Phoenix Choir, to Mrs Jan Mills and Mrs Gaynor Fury for their organisation of the evening and to all in the Phoenix Choir for this lovely opportunity for our pupils.







# School Development Plan

As our parents and carers are aware, all schools have in place a school improvement plan to shape their work across the year and in the longer term also. This should encompass the key areas of its work.

Our priorities are organised under the acronym 'PEACE'. We feel that this brings together the key strands of our work in a way that can be readily referenced by staff, pupils, Governors, parents and carers, as well as genuinely reflecting the principles that underpin our work.

This is a particularly apt word for us as a community, because peace – in all its forms – is entirely central to all that we do in Bishop Vaughan. This may be through promoting and celebrating our extremely diverse cultural heritages, through exploring the conditions for peace as we do in our annual festival, through living in accord with our principles in terms of the peaceful and ethical stewardship of creation or through holding the words of the scriptures at the heart of our work, such as those in Colossians 3: 14-15 –

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

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

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

This by no means covers all of our priorities, but we hope that this distilled summary of some of our key focus areas is of interest to parents and carers.

# Entitlement Charter

As explained in previous newsletters, our Entitlement Charter is a set of commitments that Bishop Vaughan makes to its learners, setting out experiences and opportunities we commit to offering the pupils in our care during their time with us in the school. The Pupil Voice group collaborated on putting these commitments together, and staff throughout the school contributed similarly. Parents and carers have also been invited to contribute ideas.

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

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

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

Ambitious, capable	Healthy, confident	Ethical, informed	Enterprising, creative
<b>Curious and active</b> <b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b> <b>Learned and wise</b> <b>Attentive and discerning</b> <b>Intentional and prophetic</b>	<b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b> <b>Compassionate and loving</b> <b>Curious and active</b> <b>Eloquent and truthful</b>	<b>Learned and wise</b> <b>Intentional and prophetic</b> <b>Eloquent and truthful</b> <b>Attentive and discerning</b> <b>Curious and active</b> <b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b> <b>Compassionate and loving</b>	<b>Curious and active</b> <b>Grateful and generous</b> <b>Faith-filled and hopeful</b> <b>Intentional and prophetic</b>

And to do so through the charter commitments that they will, in their time with us, have the opportunity to:

Attend a workshop or masterclass in an area of interest	Take part in a residential trip or sports tour	Participate in Acts of Worship, including Mass, regularly at school	Attend a music concert and hear music performed live
Access a very wide range of clubs and societies to develop our skills and interests	Keep fit and healthy by accessing extra-curricular sports and the school gym, as well as through participating in PE lessons	Visit a local beach and a local castle (or other Welsh heritage site)	Learn to play a musical instrument
Learn a new language	Represent the school, whether in sports, in a team such as the debating team or as a member of a pupil group such as the School Council	Meet authors and read books of our choice, and have ready access every day to both borrowing and buying books in their time at the school	Take part in a school production
Learn poetry by heart	Try healthy foods and develop healthy lifestyles	Be involved in charitable events	Sing as part of a choir
Celebrate diversity, our cultural heritage and cynefin	Celebrate the end of our time at BVS together	Implement our own ideas to develop our surroundings and engage in eco-work	Create artwork in a variety of mediums

Congratulations to the pupils on their work to draw together this charter, with the support of our Pupil Voice Lead, Mrs Thomas.

## Class Charts



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

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

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

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



iPhone QR code:



Android QR code:





## Learning Zone

# Learning Zone

**Come along and access support after school!**



**Monday  
to  
Thursday**

**3.00pm  
to  
4.00pm**

**Free tuition with subject teachers each day.**

**Support with independent learning.**

**Access to computers to complete  
Mathswatch.**

**Opportunities for collaborative learning.**


**Rewards for attending.**

**Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones**

**Location: The Library**

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

### ‘First Educators’ Parent Newsletter



**FIRST EDUCATORS**

The Catholic faith and Catholic social teaching place parents as being of central importance in the education of children. Their role is respected and supported by Catholic schools.

Parents are described, in Catholic social teaching as ‘the first educators’ of their children. We know that many of our parents and carers are keen to support their children in their learning and may find it helpful to access reminders for some of the most commonly used skills.

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of resources here for parents and carers to access whenever needed, these resources are short, video explanations offered by our teachers and are intended to aid parents and carers in supporting their children when completing homework or consolidating their learning.

ADDITIONAL
FAMILY PRAYER
LITERACY

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

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


### Headteacher’s Blog



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

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

### ClassCharts



The ClassCharts app, details of which are provided earlier in this newsletter, allows daily home-school communication to be maintained. You can download this using the QR codes provided on page 46.

### School Website and Social Media

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

# School Uniform

## September 2024 - August 2025

Three of our suppliers are:

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

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

### Years 7-11

**Blazer:** With school logo (navy) - compulsory garment

**Jumper:** Fine knit jumper with school logo (navy) - non-compulsory

**Tie:** Years 7-11 official school tie

**Socks:** With trousers: dark coloured, or white  
With skirts, standard grey or white

**Tights:** Should be flesh-coloured, medium grey or black, plain and seamless.  
NB socks or tights **MUST** be worn.

**Blouse/Shirt:** Plain white

**Skirt:** Grey knee-length skirt

**Trousers:** Grey trouser, **NOT** fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, skinny style etc.

**Shoes:** Black formal school shoes (leather/artificial leather) with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter provided they conform to the above regulations (not with skirts). Trainers are not permitted. Felt/fabric or canvas shoes are not permitted. Heavy boots (military, Ugg etc.) are not permitted. No forms of logo.

**Outerwear:** Pupils may wear standard length coats, anoraks or cagoules. However, all outer garments, of whatever type, must be plain, navy blue/black and single coloured. Pupils may not wear denim, hoodies, leather look jacket, no faux fur, tracksuit tops or cardigans.

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



# School Uniform

## Games Kit

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

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

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

## Sixth Form Uniform

<b>Blazer:</b>	Pupils may wear the new blazer if they wish, however this is not compulsory for Years 12 and 13.
<b>Jumper:</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>	Navy blue, black, dark grey, 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.

# 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 7 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

## Absence requests from school during term time

We have been closely monitoring absences from school, particularly where attendance falls below 90%. We have written to parents/carers to advise if your child's absence was below 90% in academic year 2024/2025 and that we may require medical evidence for absences this year.

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

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

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

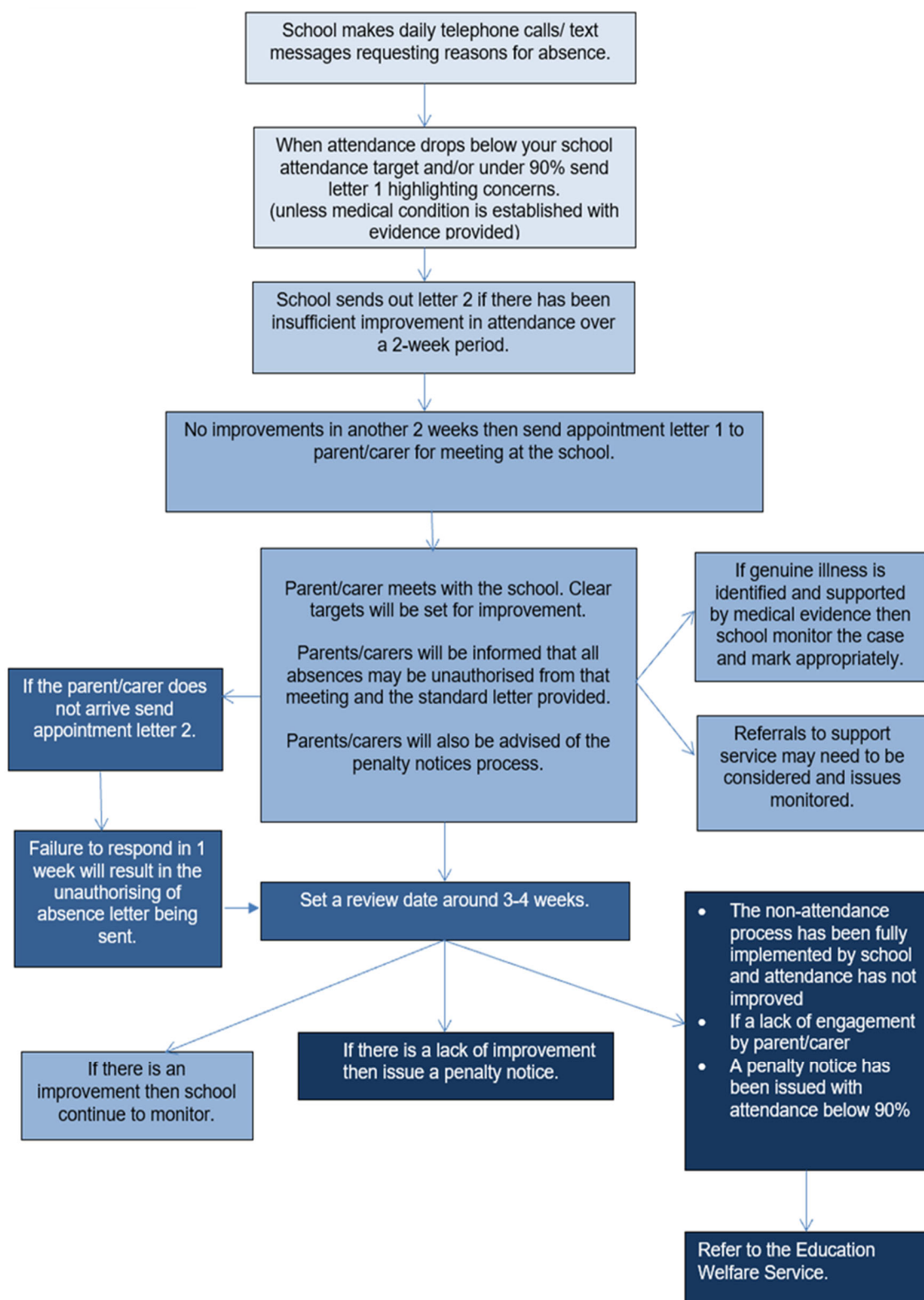
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

Our Attendance Policy is available on the school website:

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

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





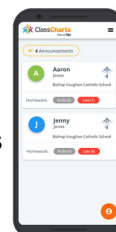
## Parents' Information

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

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

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

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



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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

## The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

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

**Mrs K North (Family Engagement Officer): 01792 772006 extension 2219**

## Pupil Information Details

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

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

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



**Education Directorate**

The Guildhall, St Helen's Road  
Swansea, SA1 4PE  
[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Please take time to read this letter about school attendance. As your children settle back into school, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regular attendance at school. As a local authority, we prioritise and support high attendance at school. We believe that **Attendance is Everyone's Business** and this belief underpins our attendance policy and our day-to-day practice.

In the last full year before the pandemic, attendance in Swansea's secondary schools was **93.7%** and attendance in primary pupils was **94.9%** (2018-2019). At the end of academic year 2023-2024, attendance in Swansea's secondary schools was **88.4%** and attendance in primary pupils was **91.1%**.

As you can see, the disruption of the pandemic has had a significant impact on school attendance figures. To give a practical example, a pupil with **80%** attendance is missing one day of school every week. We know that poor attendance at school can impact on progress and well-being.

Overall Attendance	Number of Days Missed	Number of Weeks Missed (approx.)
90%	19 days	4 weeks
80%	38 days	8 weeks
70%	57 days	12 weeks

As parents and carers, you play a critical role in helping your child develop good attendance habits. We also appreciate that sometimes young people have difficulty attending school, whether through illness, emotional worries, family emergencies or even a failure to see the importance in regular school attendance. We understand and we would like to help.

Getting in touch is the first step. Your child's school will have a staff member who will be able to support you if you have any concerns about attendance. Your child's school also has a dedicated Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who is available to help support your child and your family when attendance to school falls below expected levels. We are available to give advice and support in all aspects of attendance.

If you have any questions, please get in touch via the school or by using our email address, located at the bottom of this letter. The Education Welfare Service (EWS) also has a website that offer frequently asked questions (FAQs), including advice on legal responsibilities and penalty notices; the address is also at the bottom of this letter.

We want to work with families to ensure that attendance to Swansea schools returns to the level we saw pre-pandemic. We want our children to have the best possible experiences by ensuring they are in the classroom, learning new skills, building good habits, and developing lifelong bonds with their peers. As I said, **Attendance is**

To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above.

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.



INVESTORS | BUDDSODDWR  
IN PEOPLE | MEWN POBL

**Everyone's Business and every school day matters for the life chances of children and young people.** The local authority, your child's school and the EWS is here to work with you and your family to ensure high levels of attendance and the support you need when things get more challenging. Please speak with us and we will do what we can to help.

We wish you a happy new term.

Regards

Education Welfare Service

EWS e-mail: [educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfareservice@swansea.gov.uk)

EWS website: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/educationwelfareservice>

## Bus Passes



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

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

## Getting to School

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

## Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

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

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

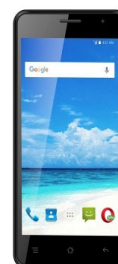
Please park legally, safely and with consideration for our neighbours in our area. Thank you.



## Mobile Telephones

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

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



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

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



## Bishop Vaughan Online

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

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

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

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

## Lost Property

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

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

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



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

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



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