



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter December 2022
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Rhagfyr 2022



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the newsletter! As ever, it is very difficult to capture all of our pupils' news, activities and achievements in a termly update such as this, but we hope you will nevertheless enjoy reading about all that *is* encapsulated here! The school website's 'news' section and our social media accounts of course provide much more information again for those of you who wish to follow them.

Since our last newsletter to you, there have been some truly lovely events about which you can read more within these pages, from the Literature Festival on the very last day of the summer term to the summer results days. And what special days those were! Our pupils' achievements simply astounded us! Their hard work, especially given that this was the first full exams series following the disruptions of the last few years, certainly proved fruitful. On the Sixth Form results day, the Main Hall was full of smiling faces and tears of joy as pupils opened their results envelopes. Incredibly, half of all grades received were A and A* grades and pupils across the year group found that they had met their offers for university courses - these being pathways to careers that many have aspired to since childhood! A special day indeed! Read on to find out more about this...

The following week, Year 11 results day was equally special. Once more our pupils were thrilled to see that the hard work had paid off! We were delighted to hear later on in the term that the combined efforts of our pupils meant that Bishop Vaughan now features in the Sunday Times' Parent Power Guide to the top ten state schools in Wales. As a school, we know that 'grades' and 'statistics' are not important in and of themselves, but the importance that they *do* have lies in the pathways that they open up for our pupils. Each qualification gained means that our pupils are likely to be able to have the careers, opportunity and life chances that they dream of, and that means everything to the staff and Governors here at Bishop Vaughan. We love hearing about our former pupils' achievements and seeing the lives that they go on to lead. You can read about some examples within these pages!

The term began with those events that, while ordinary or routine, have come to have more significance and value because we were unable to hold them for a period of time: 'in-person' assemblies, the annual Enrichment Fair and so on. In addition, the beautiful Welcome Masses for each year group were celebrated by our school chaplain, Father John, and even the first couple of weeks of the year were filled with trips, workshops and activities. The pace has in no way lessened throughout the term, and indeed the final couple of weeks of this term are filled with Advent assemblies, charity fundraisers, carol services, Christmas lunches, activity days and reward trips.



The carol services have certainly been beautiful this year, and as ever they have brought together the current pupils and staff with former ones, many of whom have made it a tradition to attend our annual services at the Cathedral, in so many cases saying that it feels like an integral part of their preparations for Christmas. It is always a pleasure to see so many familiar faces gathering for such a lovely reason!

Headteacher's Message

The beautiful design on the front cover of this newsletter was created by Riya Scaria for a Christmas card competition for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot health boards. We were incredibly proud of her for winning this competition and touched to hear that the proceeds from her card sales will be used to purchase toys and to pay for a therapy dog to visit children who need to stay in hospital over the Christmas period. You can hear from Riya and from one of the judges later on in this newsletter.



Receiving the Green Flag Award meant a great deal to all of us at Bishop Vaughan, and particularly to our very hard-working Eco Team, who will be working during the Spring to build a new garden area with raised beds for fruit, vegetables and herbs, having received all of the supplies needed for a 'food growing garden' from the Local Places for Nature scheme. We commend them on their success in this, so soon after their success in being selected for the Platinum Jubilee Superbloom garden project.



It meant a great deal to the school to receive a thank you letter in July sent on behalf of the late Queen Elizabeth II. This was sent to the pupils of 7E, who had written cards to Her Majesty describing the school's establishment of the special garden area to commemorate this event. The garden will remain a poignant reminder of 2022 - the year which saw both the Platinum Jubilee and the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

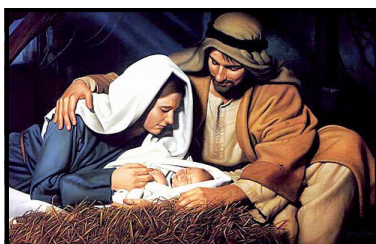
You will find lots of news from our charity team within these pages, as well as updates, as always on the sports achievements of pupils across the age ranges. Further highlights of the term have included the online Q&A session with the First Minister and welcoming the BBC in late September for the 'Share Your Story' event. We have no doubt that 2023 will be filled with even more activities of this kind and we look forward to sharing details with you as the year progresses.

In the meantime, enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter. All of us at Bishop Vaughan thank you for your support of the school and we wish you and your families a blessed, peaceful and joyful Christmas, and happiness and good health in the New Year.

Mrs. Pole
Headteacher

School Term and Holiday Dates 2022-2023

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



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

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term for pupils is Wednesday 21st December; school closes at 3.00pm. Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd December 2022 are INSET days.

All pupils return to school on Monday 9th January 2023. This will be week two of the timetable.



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.

Christmas Services

A list of the Parishes and their contact details are below. Times of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the different parishes vary.

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



Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Tel: 01792 892722

www.parishofgorseinson.org

**Cathedral Church of St. Joseph
(Canon Benedict Koledoye)**

Tel: 01792 652683

www.meneviacathedral.org

Holy Cross (Father Cyril Thadathyl)

Tel: 01792 586454

www.holycrossmenevia.com

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement Oloruntoba OP)

Tel: 01792 655336

www.facebook.com/swanseatownhill

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Rev Michael Akpoghiran OP)

Tel: 01792 367283

www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk

Sacred Heart Morriston (Canon Jason Jones)

Tel: 01792 771053

www.sacredheartmorriston.org.uk

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Henry Nevin)

Tel: 01792 842244

www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry Nevin)

Tel: 01792 842244

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito Reyes)

Tel: 01792 202447

www.stbenedictsketty.org

St Bride's Pontarddulais (Father J P Thomas)

Tel: 01792 892722

St. David's (Canon Paul Watson and Father Robert Davies)

Tel: 01792 653343

www.stdavids.wix.com/website

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 01792 424107

St Joachim's (Father John Browne)

Tel: 01792 201046

www.gowercatholic.com

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Tel: 424107



Parish Benediction and Carol Service

On Thursday December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our pupils had the lovely experience of offering the first of two carol services, and of course the first 'in-person' one since 2019!

Canon Jason Jones, within whose parish the school is situated and who supports the school with weekly visits, welcomed our choir, the *Schola Cantorum*, along with readers and staff, for a service of lessons and carols centred around Benediction.

The evening was a most beautiful part of our Advent preparations for Christmas—the complex musical harmonies in some parts of the service contrasted with the simplicity and silence of others. The bidding prayers provided us with the opportunity to reflect upon some of the challenges facing the world at this moment in time, and the readings reminded us of God's love.

Canon Jason's words during his reflection offered hope and assurance to pupils and indeed all attending, some of whom will naturally be carrying worries or concern given the pressures facing so many at present. They embodied the message of Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, we had the opportunity to pray and to remember that all things are indeed possible with God. This part of the service was held by candlelight, and the peace and prayerfulness within the church felt very special. The congregation joined in final carols before going out in to the cold December evening, strengthened, warmed and with joy after the beauty of the carol service.



Cathedral Carol Service



On Monday 12th December, the second of our two carol services was held at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Swansea. The service began with a warm welcome and with an opening prayer led by Canon Paul Watson, one of our school Governors. The traditional service of nine lessons and carols contained many 'firm favourites' and also some lovely new musical items.

We began by listening to John Betjeman's poem, *Christmas*, which describes the busy-ness of a typical early December in 1950s Britain. Just like today, there is often lots of rushing around to buy gifts and to put up decorations. The poem however then focuses on what is at its heart - the gift of the Christ-child. One of the choir's soloists, Justine Afante, followed this with a beautifully-sung Advent call to prayer.

The readers, musicians and one of our other soloists, Amelia John, who led the lovely 'O Holy Night' supported by the choir, all contributed to making the evening very special, as did the staff choir with their item, the traditional Basque carol 'The Angel Gabriel'. The support of Swansea's Music Service in preparing and performing alongside our musicians was, ever, greatly appreciated.

It was wonderful for our pupils and staff to see so many former pupils and colleagues amongst the congregation and it was a real reminder of the way in which events such as this bring communities together and what they mean to us all.

Canon Paul, who was accompanied by our Vice Chair of Governors and fellow priest of St. David's Priory, Father Robert Davies, offered a final blessing to close the service.

We were delighted to welcome Governors, families, the Diocesan Director of Education, Mr. Paul White, Sisters and parishioners—and as so many school communities are, Bishop Vaughan's community is very grateful to be able to return to holding events such as these as they are key to our Christmas preparations and indeed to our school year as a whole. Thank you to all who contributed their talents to make this such a lovely service and to all who attended.

Bishop Vaughan: Sunday Times Top Ten!

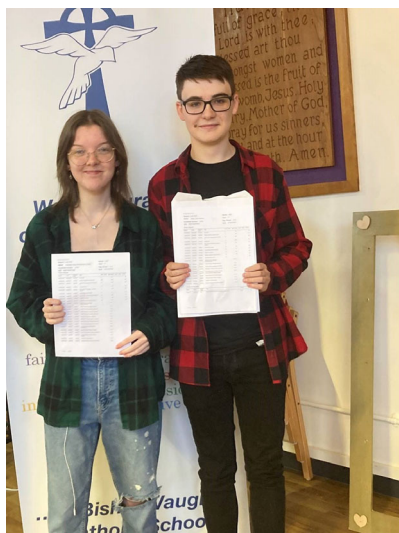
The results days for our Year 11 and Sixth Form students were certainly very special this year! It is always wonderful to see our pupils being rewarded for the incredible effort that they put in each and every day here at Bishop Vaughan. It is fair to say though that the last two years have been particularly demanding, and the pupils facing the first full set of examinations following this experience had a tough task in preparing for them. Even our most senior students, the Year 13s, had after all never had the experience of sitting their GCSE examinations!



With the true Bishop Vaughan spirit, however, those pupils demonstrated incredible determination and resilience, preparing thoroughly and with a sense of focus and calm that served them exceptionally well. Supported by their families, by thorough teaching, with a broad offering of extra-curricular support and with a very strong focus throughout months leading up to the exams on wellbeing, our pupils absolutely excelled themselves.

The first of the two results days, as referenced in the introduction to this newsletter, was the Sixth Form results day, and — quite literally — every other grade collected was an A or A* grade! This meant that, across the range of our pupils, ambitions for university places, courses and careers opportunities were fulfilled! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces amongst our pupils, their parents and their teachers who were gathered in the Main Hall for the distribution of the results.

The second of the results days, that for Year 11, was similarly an occasion for celebration! The qualifications gained by our pupils meant that they could pursue their chosen courses in our Sixth Form or pursue other paths of their choosing, and their teachers were thrilled to see that our fantastic pupils were rewarded for their efforts with qualifications that reflected their hard work.



CONGRATULATIONS

**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING PUPILS
ON THEIR
HARD WORK AND
THEIR RESULTS**

SUMMER 2022



Bishop Vaughan: Sunday Times Top Ten!



It was, then, the ‘icing on the cake’ to hear later on in the Christmas term that our pupils outcomes placed them in the Sunday Times’ top ten state schools in Wales. The Sunday Times publishes a ‘good schools guide’ annually and, despite the challenges of the last two years, it is evident that Bishop Vaughan pupils really did excel.

This is a testament to their characters as much as it is to their academic abilities, and we are so proud of each and every pupil. In fact, we know that it is the focus throughout the school on nurturing moral and spiritual growth, resilience and character that has been key to our pupils’ achievements.

There was a determined effort in the approach to the examinations to ensure that all of our pupils kept a sense of proportion and perspective — to remind them that none of us is ‘a set of grades’ and that their wellbeing is paramount. This translated into our pupils working hard to do their best, but with that sense of perspective at the core of their work and safe in the knowledge that they are supported by their faith, their families and their school.

As stated by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors in the Evening Post article in early December, the school recognises the input of so many in nurturing our pupils’ characters, talents and skills — our fantastic primary feeder schools, the agencies with whom we work, those who offer masterclass programmes and workshops — therefore this is truly a testament to a collective effort.



Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary group has now been running for over a year! The only Junior group in Wales, this prayer group continues to meet each Tuesday after school in the Main Hall to pray the Rosary together, to listen to readings and reflections, and then to consider ways of working on behalf of others each week.

The pupils involved commit to actions each week that will help others in some way, and they have certainly helped very many people in this time! From fundraising for Ukraine and to support the refugee families in our community, to working to improve the school grounds, holding parish events, sending cards to those in hospital and much more besides, they have much to be proud of.

The group continues to be led and supported each week by Canon Jason Jones, Mrs. Anne Lear, and Sister Mini, Sister Jacqueline and Sister Miriam, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Mrs. Thomas, Miss Mainwaring and Mrs. Pole work alongside the pupils to support them with their plans and with their creative endeavours.



In October, the pupils put together a programme of musical entertainment that they offered for Canon Jason’s Silver Jubilee of ordination, in gratitude for his ministry and support. They are pictured presenting Canon Jason with a gift from the school.

All pupils are welcome to join this group. Please see one of the teachers mentioned above if you would like further information!



JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY

Every Tuesday evening after school until 4.15pm. All are welcome to attend!

See Mrs Thomas (G3) or Miss Mainwaring (G6) for more information.

The logo of the Legion of Mary is displayed on a blue background. It features a white dove with its wings spread, holding a red cross in its beak. Below the dove is a shield containing a blue and white image of the Virgin Mary. At the bottom of the logo is a globe of the Earth.

Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

Big Green Week

As part of Big Green Week, pupils prepared two assemblies and PSE lessons linking to the Season of Creation and Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si.

Activities included learning more about the world around us and how to care for creation, as well as practical ways we can do this in Bishop Vaughan.



Supported by the Eco Team, pupils completed a litter pick at break and lunch times and created a display to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and protecting our school environment.

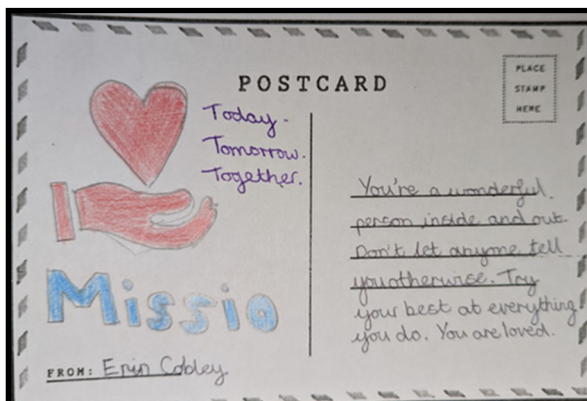
Pupils also prepared a Big Green Week quiz for tutorials, with prizes for the winning tutorial! Great effort by all involved!

MISSIO Appeal

As part of the fundraising and awareness appeal for MISSIO 2023, pupils and staff have focused on the theme: "You shall be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8) in several ways.

A PSE session enabled discussion, reflection and engagement with activities centred around empowerment in education.

Beautiful reflections, affirmations and empowerment postcards have been collected and will be shared with Canon Paul Watson, Missio Lead for Menevia. Additionally, a non-uniform day was held to raise money and come together in solidarity as a whole school community.



Bishop Vaughan Charity Team

YoungMinds - #HelloYellow Campaign

Monday 10th October saw Sixth Form and staff support #HelloYellow which focuses attention on the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people. Sprinkles of yellow were seen across the school with time set aside for discussion and reflection.

Friday 14th October saw a whole school drive and focus with a special PSE session. The range of activities including photobooth, debate and the sharing of positive affirmations provided a focal point and opportunities for pupils across the school community to build connections and support one another.



Pupils and staff also took part in a “Wellness Walk” during lunchtime. Additionally, Sixth Form pupils came together for a special wellbeing session which included breakfast refreshments, discussion, quiz and games. Positive feedback from both pupils and staff has been received.



Public Services

Bishop Vaughan joins the fashion for pre-loved clothes



On 26th October our very creative Year 12 Public Services students organised a preloved swishing event.

Sixth Form pupils and members of staff were asked to bring any items of nearly new clothing or accessories for which they no longer had use. These were then displayed in the common room for staff and pupils to 'Swish'.

The event caused quite a stir in school with many vintage bargains to be had, with the added bonus of homemade cakes sold by the Sixth Form Charity Team. It was a really lovely event, and well received by pupils. The team were thrilled with the money they had raised for Ukraine, whilst supporting the school's sustainability goals.



Advent Assemblies



Well done and a huge thank you to the pupils in the Faith Council for putting together such beautiful Advent assemblies, with the support of Mrs. Thomas. Thank you also to Mr. Eynon-Davies and the Music Department for the items that they contributed to these.

The Advent assemblies are an integral part of our Advent preparations for Christmas, and the beautiful prayers, reflections and music were appreciated by pupils in every year group and staff throughout the school.



The Examen



the
EXAMEN

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1** Ask God for light.
I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.
- 2** Give thanks.
The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.
- 3** Review the day.
I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.
- 4** Face your shortcomings.
I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.
- 5** Look toward the day to come.
I ask where I need God in the day to come.

Version of the Examen from *A Simple Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press

For a number of years, we have observed a form of prayer called the Examen during Advent and Lent. This is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day or week in order to detect God’s presence and discern his direction for us.

The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God’s hand at work in our whole experience. The Examen has taken place in every classroom each Friday afternoon throughout Advent, and pupils (and staff) were invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week. It provided an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings.

We commit to this practice throughout this season of Advent, in order to provide moments of stillness and peace: to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.

End-of-Term Activities



The last couple of weeks of term have been filled with some lovely activities and also fundraisers for those in need this Christmas.

On Wednesday 14th December, pupils throughout the school enjoyed Christmas lunch together. Thank you to the catering team for their great job in managing a lunch on this scale!

On Friday 16th December, Bishop Vaughan was a sea of brightly-coloured jumpers for our annual Christmas jumper day!

From elves to reindeer, snowmen and sequins, the variety of designs and styles certainly brightened up the cold December day!

All funds raised were donated to Save the Children.



At the time of writing this newsletter, our pupils are very much looking forward to the staff pantomime, held this year to raise funds for those in need throughout the local community.

We're sure that the pupils will enjoy the festive show and we're proud to have raised approximately £400 for a great cause!

End-of-Term Activities

ACE Day!

On Tuesday 20th December, we will be holding our second ACE Day of the year. These 'Alternative Curriculum Experience' days provide our pupils with some great opportunities and typically they participate in trips, creative projects and fun activities that further their learning in a range of contexts.

We look forward to reporting back in the next newsletter on the variety of activities our pupils have participated in.

Reward Trips!

On the final day of the Christmas term, our pupils are looking forward to a range of in-school activities and reward trips, including a cinema visit and, for Sixth Form pupils, a trip to Bath's Christmas market. The pupils have worked incredibly hard this term and we hope they will enjoy all of the reward activities on offer.



Performing Arts



It has been a great start to this academic year having all extra-curricular clubs running as normal following the challenge of the past few years.

The 'Production Project' club which is our musical theatre/drama club has seen over forty students attend regularly to build their skills in readiness for our forthcoming spring concert and our school production which this year will be 'Sister Act Jr.!' This will take place in the Main Hall in July, so watch this space for more details in the coming months. The show is based on the 90's classic film of the same name, with new music from Alan Menken composer of many classic Disney films. It will be a show not to be missed.

A selection of BTEC Performing Arts Students took part in filming for a Swansea University research project promotional video which will be seen by many young people all across Wales. This was a great opportunity for the pupils to use their skill and explore a different skillset of film making and acting for screen rather than stage which is something that they don't get a chance to do through the curriculum.



Some of our choir sang at St Joseph's Cathedral school fete at the start of December to begin our advent season. The pupils had a great time entertaining the crowds buying their Christmas crafts and gifts. This was followed a week later with a heart-warming community carol service at Sacred Heart, Morriston.

On Monday 12th December we held our carol service at St Joseph's Cathedral. It was lovely to be back singing in this beautiful setting at this time of Advent. Christmas really starts when the BVS carol service has happened. We could not be prouder of our students who sang and played in the concert. It is so amazing to see so much talent shining through.

The Performing Arts department would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Competition Success!

We were thrilled to be able to publish, for the front cover of this newsletter, the winning design for Swansea Bay Health Charity's Christmas card competition. Riya Scaria, one of our pupils, designed the beautiful card which was selected amongst hundreds of entries!

Cathy Stevens, pictured below, who presented Riya with her prize, explained the charity's work: "Swansea Bay Health Charity is the official charity of Swansea Bay University Health Board. We aim to improve patient care by providing equipment, staff training, funding research and completing special projects which go above and beyond what the NHS is able to provide. This also includes the South West Wales Cancer Centre Fund.

Our aim is to create a better experience and environment for all of our patients, staff and their families. Many of our charity supporters want to give back and show their appreciation for the Health Board where their experience of certain areas has gone over and above their expectations. With their donations, we can enhance areas of patient settings and improve the wellbeing of all staff who work for Swansea Bay University Health Board."

Cathy explained that the proceeds raised from selling packs of Riya's cards would be used to support children in hospital over Christmas.



Riya stated: "I am grateful for this opportunity to express my creativity in making this card. For me, the process was fascinating.

I started sketching a rainbow design on paper. There are many cards with traditional drawings of Christmas, but I decided that they needed a little twist. I added some calligraphy using John 3:16's words from the Bible. I am delighted I got to put my faith into my card because it reflects my identity as a Christian. I did not expect to win, but I hoped the judges would like my design. When my mum told me I had won the competition, I was thrilled that my design had won. I loved the idea that my design would be on an actual Christmas card!

The charity managed to raise £300 from selling packs of my cards! They used the money to get toys and will get a therapy dog for the children! My heart was touched when I heard this because it meant I had helped people and performed an act of kindness. I hope that I can do more things like this in the future."

Congratulations, Riya! We hope that you are very proud of this excellent achievement!

History and Politics

History Trip to Normandy in July 2022

At the end of the summer term, the History department took a group of students to Normandy to visit Second World War battlefields and memorials. The jam-packed trip included visits to the American Cemetery and the Normandy landing beaches. Students also visited the Caen Memorial Museum and the Pegasus 360 Museum, which provided a vivid insight into the experience of the D-Day landings. The visit coincided with Bastille Day, so students and staff participated in local celebrations, including a fireworks display.



Our students took to French life with aplomb, trying French cuisine such as escargot and camembert! The glorious weather, combined with the excellent behaviour of the students, made the trip a wonderful experience for all who attended.



The department is organising a visit to the First World War battlefields in Belgium and France in July 2023. There are limited spaces still available – contact Miss Siddika for more details.

Year 7 Humanities ACE Day

Our Year 7 pupils visited Cardiff Castle for their ACE Day activity this term. The Additional Curriculum Enrichment Day offers an opportunity for students to explore their school subjects beyond the curriculum. Year 7 learned about the political and social role of the castle throughout history, as well as using map skills whilst on site. They also participated in a workshop on the topic of medieval weapons and warfare, where they were able to handle armour and equipment used in the Middle Ages. Students and staff had a very enjoyable day and learned a great deal about Welsh history in the process.



History and Politics

Mark Drakeford Digital Dialogue and Digital Dialogue USA

The Year 12 and 13 Politics students have had a very busy term so far with the fast-moving political developments at the start of the academic year! The students have also participated in two unique events in conjunction with The Politics Project. Firstly, students were able to take part in a digital Q&A session with First Minister Mark Drakeford. Bishop Vaughan was one of only 5 schools in Wales invited to this session and asked a range of questions on local and national issues. Our students were particularly flattered when the First Minister described one of their questions as the best one of the day!

The Politics students also participated in an online Q&A with two American politicians who have served in Congress – former US Representatives Elizabeth Esty and Rob Woodall provided a fascinating insight into the American political system and the differences with UK politics.



Supercurricular Enrichment at BVS

Step Up Graduation

A group of Year 13 students participated in the Step Up to Swansea Programme. This was a 3 month programme that provided online academic support and in-person subject tasters, as well as a week-long residential summer school at Swansea University.



Those students who successfully completed the programme are entitled to a reduced UCAS offer at Swansea University and were invited to a special graduation ceremony at the Great Hall in Swansea Bay.



The Masterclass Programme Returns

Now in its eighth year, students from Years 10 to 13 have been attending a range of lectures and workshops delivered by Swansea University academics. Topics this year have included law, criminology, respiratory science and literature, with many more topics to come! As ever, the sessions have been well attended and students are making the most of this unique opportunity.

Year 12 Study Skills Support

In October, Swansea University's Step Up team visited the school to provide a day of study skills training and support to the whole of Year 12. Students learned about the science of learning, as well study, revision and motivation techniques. The sessions were followed up by a visit to the Swansea University campuses in November, where students were able to learn more about higher education.

Wales Women's World Cup Qualifier

In September, a group of KS3 students attended the Wales Women's match against Slovenia at the Cardiff City Stadium. With a record stadium attendance, our students had some help in making a lot of noise to support the team! The students had a fantastic time (and enjoyed using their vuvuzelas!) and were glad to watch the team win the match.



Physiotherapy Work Experience

At the end of the summer term, Sixth Form students had the opportunity to apply for Physiotherapy work experience that was arranged through the Mullany Fund, one of the organisations that we work with to provide supercurricular opportunities. Matthew, currently in Year 13, was the successful applicant and spent two weeks working alongside the medical team for the Scarlets rugby team at Parc Y Scarlets. Matthew had a fantastic time and is now planning to apply to university to study physiotherapy.



Pilgrimage



In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette journeyed on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once-in-a-lifetime event provided an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them.

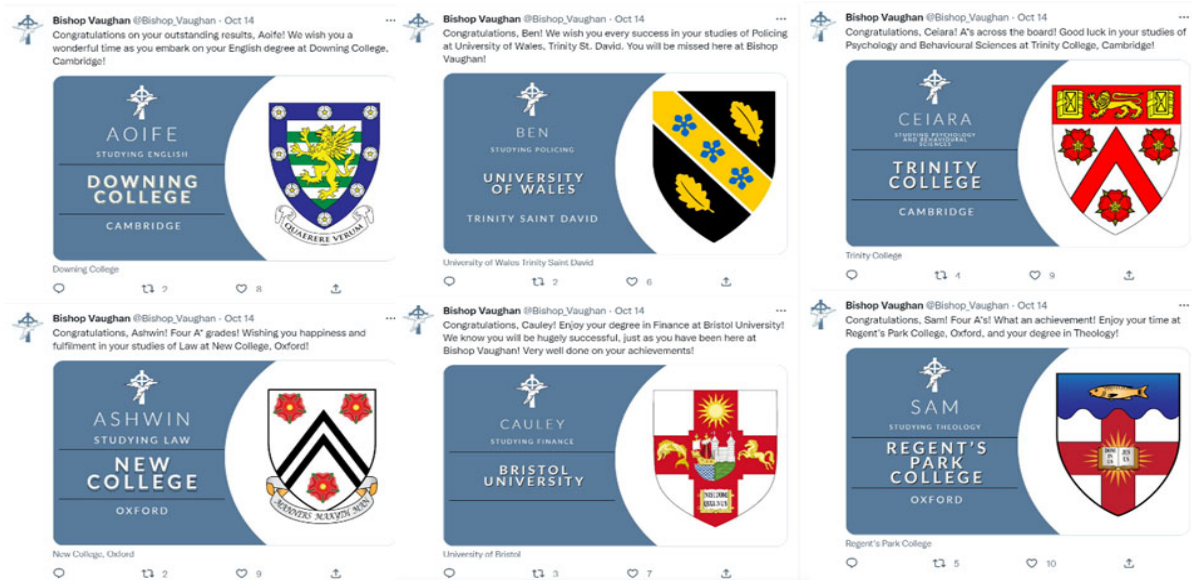
Representatives of one of the school's prayer groups attended St. Joseph's Cathedral and had the beautiful experience of joining in prayer with pilgrims from all over the Diocese. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Pole attended with the pupils and Miss Mainwaring, who was already present in the Cathedral in her capacity as Director of the Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes, welcomed the pupils and the other pilgrims and led them in prayer.

While this very special opportunity brought the pilgrimage experience to us here in Wales, the Welsh National Pilgrimage has travelled to Lourdes for over fifty years. For those interested in joining them, Sixth Form pupils are able to support the pilgrimage as team members supporting with fundraising and the care of others making the journey. Please see Miss Mainwaring for further details.



Sixth Form Success!

The first week of October was one in which countless of our former pupils set off for universities the length and breadth of the UK! We wish them all every success! With their permission, we were delighted to congratulate some of them personally via our social media accounts.



These successes and the dozens of other paths being pursued are the fruits of a great deal of very hard work, as referenced earlier in this newsletter.



Incredibly, four of our pupils this year have gone on to study at Oxford and Cambridge universities. While this is by no means the most important measure of what Bishop Vaughan offers, we are proud to have supported these pupils in achieving all that they have aspired to, despite significant national and international competition for every place.



We congratulate these pupils and every former pupil on their attainment and we are proud to have shared their secondary school journey with them.

Bishop Vaughan Alumni

It is always a pleasure to hear of how our former pupils are getting on and, with their permission, to bring you news of the many and varied ways in which they are forging exciting paths and contributing to the world around them.



Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Cullen,
PhD and MEng on his recent (third?) graduation!
Your former teachers send their
best wishes and their congratulations to you!

You can read more about our alumni on our website here: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/alumni>



BISHOP VAUGHAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HOME	OUR SCHOOL	SCHOOL LIFE	ACADEMIC	ATTENDANCE	PASTORAL CARE	EXTRA-CURRICULAR	NEWS	CONTACT
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- WELCOME
- ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS
- ADMISSIONS
- CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS
- ETHOS AND MISSION STATEMENT
- FRIENDS OF BISHOP VAUGHAN
- GOVERNORS
- PROSPECTUS
- SIXTH FORM
- STAFF
- VACANCIES
- YEAR 9 OPTIONS INFORMATION

ALUMNI

At Bishop Vaughan we are incredibly proud of the rich and varied careers and life experiences that members of 'the family' go on to have. On this page we proudly present some of those who have kindly got in touch with us to share their stories. We hope you enjoy reading about their successes as much as we have!



Louise Ashlon
2006



Annie Bass
2013



Dom Browne
2000

Please contact the school if you are a former pupil and would be happy to feature on the website or on this page of future newsletters!



Senior Maths Challenge 2022

On November 4th 2022, fourteen pupils from Years 12 and 13, who are studying A level Maths were invited to take part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Senior Maths Challenge.

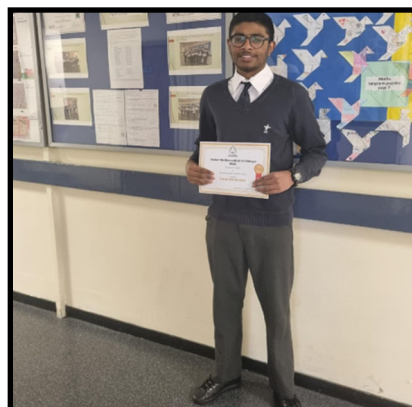
In the test, the students had to answer 25, very challenging Maths questions. There were some brilliant results. The highest scoring student in our school was **Emmanuel Destin** who achieved a **Gold** award which was amazing. Emmanuel was then invited to the extension kangaroo paper. Well done Emmanuel.

Year 13

1 st	Emmanuel Destin	Gold award
2 nd	Alwin Gince	Bronze award

Year 12

1 st	Jim Cua	Silver award
2 nd	Kyle Pesario	Silver award
3 rd	Angelo Sanorjo	Bronze award
4 th	Matthew Buendia	Bronze award
5 th	Kevin Pious	Bronze award
6 th	Alex John	Bronze award
7 th	Charles Mamalias	Bronze award
Jt8 th	Rhys Magsino	Bronze award
Jt8 th	Ben Syriac	Bronze award
10 th	Lukas Boborowski	Bronze award



Well done to everybody that took part. We're very proud of what you achieved. For more information on this competition, visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

The next challenge will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023 and it is open to Years 9 – 11. We will be inviting 50 students to take part, based on their problem-solving ability. Good luck to all participants!

Eco-School News

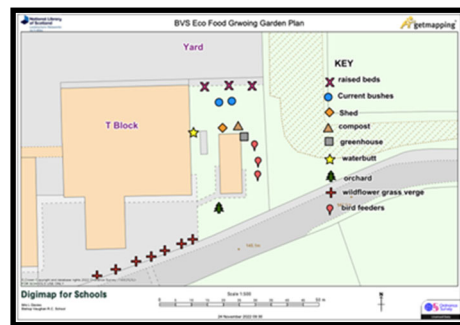
Current Eco Projects

The Eco Team have applied for a 'Local Places for Nature' Grant through Keep Wales Tidy, and we are pleased to inform you all that we will soon be having a 'Food Growing Garden'. This will include raised beds, a greenhouse, shed, compost area, water-butt, wildflower meadow, fruit trees, habitat boxes and more! This is all fully funded through Welsh Government. Please see images below for an idea of what we will see on the school grounds before the end of this academic year.



The Food Garden will be located around the community changing rooms behind T block.

Our aim is for this garden is to become a bookable space where staff can take students for outdoor learning activities, wellbeing sessions etc. It will hopefully also provide produce for our canteen and teach students the skills of 'growing their own'. Although the Eco Team will take a lead on keeping the garden maintained etc, it will be a space for all. We are so excited about this project and cannot wait to get muddy creating our new garden!



The free My Tree, Our Forest package will include:

In addition to this, we also have 60 trees being delivered next month which will add to our newly planted woodland area as well as creating a new hedgerow. This project is part of the national 'My Tree, Our Forest' government scheme.

- ✓ 60 or 120 tree saplings – native Welsh tree varieties, supplied by Woodland Trust.
- ✓ Tree guards, canes and mulch mats to help the trees grow successfully.
- ✓ A small selection of tools to help with the planting, including two spades, two watering cans, 20 pairs of gloves, and a mallet.
- ✓ Practical support from Keep Wales Tidy to help your pupils plant the trees on your site.
- ✓ A workshop from Keep Wales Tidy to go alongside the tree planting session, educating pupils on native tree planting, forest care and the importance of habitats for biodiversity and climate change.
- ✓ A workshop from Size of Wales that will engage pupils in an educational workshop that focuses on global tree importance, reforestation, and minimising deforestation in the fight against climate change.

Eco-Schools News

Green Flag Award!

We are delighted to inform you that we have achieved our Eco-Schools Green Flag award this term. The Eco Team and staff have worked really hard over the last few years to meet the criteria.

The feedback from the assessor was extremely complimentary, and it included the following comments:

'I am delighted to inform you that your application for Bishop Vaughan Eco-Schools Green Flag Award was successful.'

Many thanks for the time given by you, the staff and pupils during the recent visit. I was very pleased to see your school's enthusiasm for the programme.

There were so many highlights during my visit, but the major stand out was the outstanding commitment and enthusiasm for Eco-Schools shown by you all. The level of knowledge demonstrated by the pupils for their Eco-actions and the reasons behind doing them was brilliant. In particular, I loved hearing about the biodiversity projects especially the Tower of London in bloom ...'

The Green Flag award is a fantastic achievement, and we feel proud of our hard work and commitment.



English: BBC Share your Story



All pupils in Years 7 to 10 took part in the BBC's centenary education project 'Share Your Story.'

The aim of the project is to inspire young people to achieve their goals and realise their ambitions.

Students had the opportunity to listen to stories from Sammy Jenkins, a Journalism Coordinator with West Online. She shared her story about the challenges she faced growing up and how she overcame these difficulties.

Additionally, Florence Craig, a journalist with Global News, shared her story of living her life with a serious illness.



Both speakers were both inspirational and motivational. Pupils took the opportunity to a range of thoughtful questions to the speakers and the host. All members of the BBC took time to praise the attentiveness of all pupils as well as the quality of their questions.



At the start of the second half-term, two Year 7 classes had the opportunity to take part in a creative writing workshop with the author Rebecca F. John.

Rebecca is a local author and grew up in Pwll, a small village on the south Wales coast. She holds a BA in English with Creative Writing and an MA in Creative Writing from Swansea University, as well as a PGCE PCET from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Pupils engaged with a range of activities encouraging the creative development of character. Pupils also had the opportunity to ask Rebecca questions about her background and her profession.

We look forward to welcoming another Welsh writer in the spring term.

PE and Sport



This term has seen a vast number of pupils taking part in the extra curricular activities that we offer in Bishop Vaughan, and it has been exciting to be back playing fixtures against other schools and seeing the pupils thrive and develop.

Girls' football is flourishing this year with all year groups taking part in tournaments with our Year 7 team finishing 3rd place in their age. A huge thanks to Harley-Rose Hodge of Year 10, who gives up her time to coach the Year 7 girls.

Our Year 9 and 10 girls basketball team are through to the next stage of the Welsh Schools Championships after winning their tournament.



Congratulations to former pupil Meg Gwyther, who left Bishop Vaughan in June of this year, as she has been selected for the Netball National U17 Academy.

A huge well done to Kian Smith-Maynard of Year 11 who competed in the Welsh National Judo Championships 2022 and placed 3rd in his category.

Through achieving his place on the podium, he has now been selected to become a member of the Welsh Cadet Squad for 2023 and is now also eligible to apply for the Talent Cymru Development programme.



PE and Sport



A big well done to Dominic Overment, our Year 11 pupil who represented the Wadokai Wales team in the European Championships in Skopje Macedonia. Dominic also competed in the solo Kata for under-16 and was part of the Welsh under-16 fighting team. A great achievement, Dominic. Keep it up!

Congratulations to Sixth Form pupil Seb Dabrowski, who signed his first professional contract with Swansea City FC. Seb has been offered a 3 year professional contract at age 17. We wish him the very best of luck!



Year 13 BTEC Level 3 Sport and Fitness students attend Robert Davies Health and Fitness Centre in Llanelli every Friday. As part of their course they will conduct physical assessments, explore methods to exercise safely and instruct sessions in an exercise environment.

Congratulations to Ronan Kpakio (Year 11) and Brogan Popham (Year 10) who represented Wales Under-16 in the Victory Shield football tournament. Ronan and Borgan played against Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. A huge honour for them both.



A great effort from our pupils who competed in the Cross-Country event at the Elba. Well done to all pupils who entered. A Special mention to Tesfaye (Year 12) who finished 5th in the Senior Boys race!

Football Academy

The school continues to work in partnership with the Swans as the official educational partner for its Football Academy.

There are currently twenty two pupils studying at Bishop Vaughan for two days a week whilst training at the Swansea.com Stadium for the other three days. We look forward to seeing what they achieve both educationally and in their footballing careers!



Reading

We continue with our focus on promoting reading for pleasure and we are pleased to include here some excerpts from the termly reading newsletters put together by the pupils in our 'BVS Book Award' group:

Book Group Feedback

Since we formed our group in June this year, we've worked our way through some great books! Currently sitting at the top of our leaderboard, we have ['Ariadne'](#) at 85%! Jennifer Saint's fantastic re-telling of a Greek myth is one of several re-workings she has written, looking at ancient stories from feminist perspectives.

Coming a very close second at 84%, we thoroughly enjoyed ['They Both Die at the End'](#) by Adam Silvera (bet you can't guess what happens in this one!).

['Everything, Everything'](#) by Nicola Yoon currently stands at 61%, though there are still a couple of us who haven't finished it and added our scores, and ['Where the Crawdads Sing'](#) by Delia Owens is at 57%.

We are currently reading ['Never Let Me Go'](#) by Kazuo Ishiguro, a dystopian science fiction novel which was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2005, the year in which *Time* magazine also named it the best novel of the year! Why don't you join us and see what you think?

All book group members are provided with free copies of the books we read!

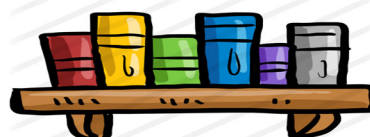
Reading Together

In our tutorials, we have the opportunity to read both independently and together. Mrs. Dorrell's tutorial read Marcus Rashford's biography together last term and we have now moved on to a new book.

We also read books together as part of our studies across the curriculum. Particular favourites from others in my reading group have included 'I Am Malala' which they read with Mrs Davies in Geography and 'Around the World in Eighty Days', with Miss Wilshire, also in Geography.

It is also good to have the opportunity to read our own books, which we can choose from the library, the vending machines or bring in with us. Each book really is a window into a whole new world.

Eguono Idiegbe, Year 8



Reading

BVS Festival of Literature

On the last day of the Summer term, we held a Festival of Literature here at BVS! The day included a reading from storyteller Huw Davies on the set of our reading-themed school musical, 'Matilda', and we had an amazing pop-up branch of Waterstones in the Rosary Garden!

£7 book tokens were distributed to every pupil, allowing us to take home a book of our choice for the summer break, and there was an ice cream van on site too!

It was a great way to end the school year!

Bishop Vaughan @Bishop_Vaughan · Jul 22
 What an incredible end to the year! We held a Literature Festival in association with our friends in @swanseaestones. Thanks to a generous grant from @Books_Wales each one of our pupils had a voucher to purchase a book of their choice to read over the summer. 1/



Bishop Vaughan @Bishop_Vaughan · Jul 22
 We also had a visit from @huw7777, author of the fantastic 'Scrambled' @fireflypress, who talked about his book & performed a reading for our pupils! 100s of books were purchased; we can't wait to hear our pupils share their book reviews in September! 2/ #SchoolsLoveReading

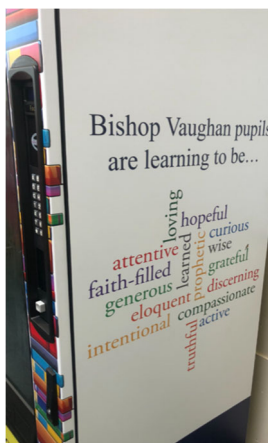
BVS_TeachingandLearning @BVS_Learning · Jul 21
 What a lovely day to end a great academic year! Books, an author visit and ice cream in the sunshine! Thank you to @swanseaestones, @huw7777, @LyfrDaFabBooks, @Books_Wales, @FireflyPress and everyone who contributed to our Festival of Literature!



Reading Rewards

The book vending machines in each of our year bases continue to be popular! Filled with books chosen by us as pupils on the basis of a whole-school reading survey we participated in, the books are available for the heavily subsidised price of £2 each! Each week, form tutors and the senior team give out dozens of reward tokens too, allowing us to select a book of our choice in recognition of achievement, effort or putting the school's values into practice.

Pictured here are the first pupils to use the machines back in the Spring. They chose 'Dork Diaries' books, plus a reading-themed treat bag each!



Christmas Reading Recommendations



The BVS Book Group, which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes, is currently reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. Year 10 pupil Lucy Hoskins finished the book incredibly quickly, and she wrote of it:

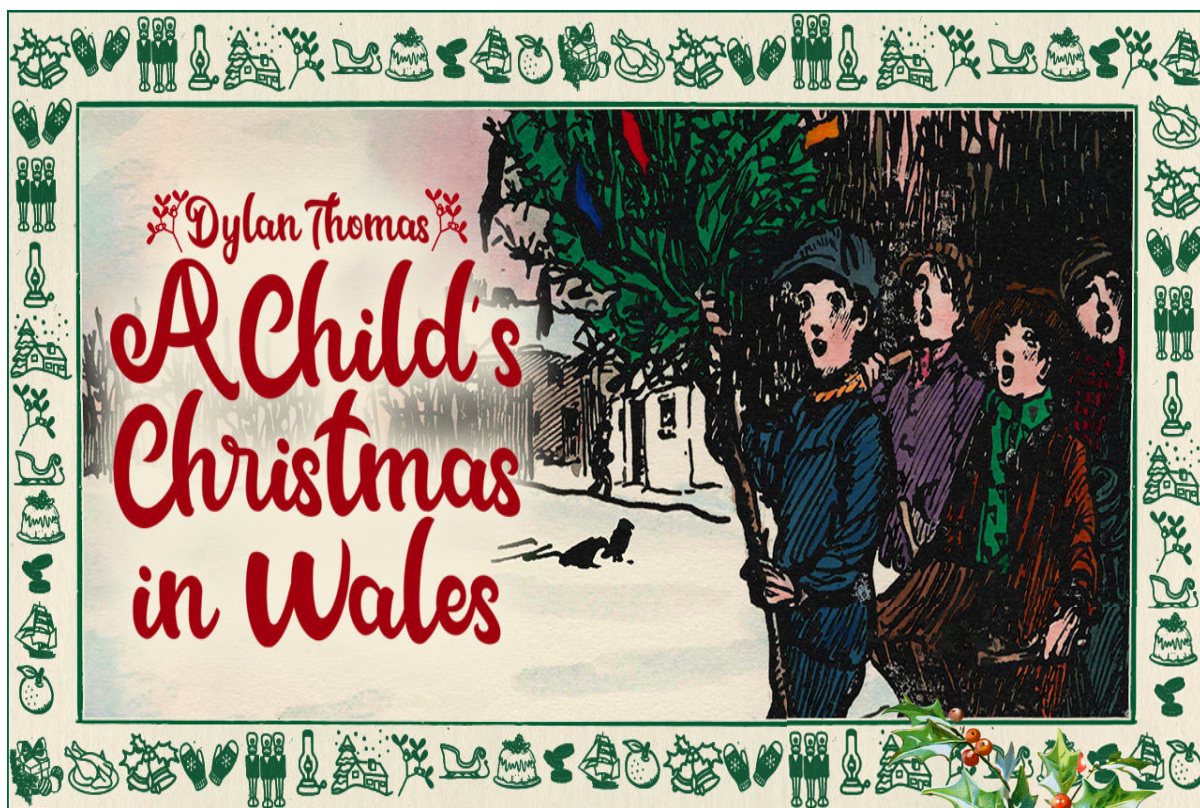
"This is a touching story filled with generosity and change ... the perfect book to fill you with the Christmas spirit! It's a story with a message that everyone can enjoy!"



The Book Group also enjoyed reading a range of Christmas short stories, several of which can be found free online here:

<https://teaandinksociety.com/classic-christmas-short-stories-read-online/>

Particular favourites included those by Louisa May Alcott and, of course, Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.' They plan to read some Agatha Christie books in the Christmas holidays!



Christmas Reading Recommendations

Listen!

Poetry: For those who enjoy reading or listening to poems, the poem which we heard in the carol service, 'Christmas' by John Betjeman, is read by the poet here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyZL9_To0_A

and Dick Van Dyke reads the Christmas classic 'T'was the Night Before Christmas' here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLnhh1VOAoM>

Stories: For those of you prefer listening to stories, we have a full audio version of 'The Hobbit' here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_OABT6e10w



Our younger pupils and their families will not have had the opportunity to listen to this fantastic tale recorded especially for the school community and introduced by none other than Hollywood star Michael Sheen!

During the spring lockdown of 2021, we contacted the actor to ask whether he would consider beginning the narration of this wonderful tale of journeys and adventure as part of some extra-curricular activities we were putting together on the theme of journeys for our pupils, since we were all of course mostly confined to our homes. We were thrilled when he agreed and you can hear his message to Bishop Vaughan and his characterful narration of the tale's opening chapter.

From there, teachers and staff throughout the school take up the story and the book was streamed three times a week throughout the spring term, finishing just before Easter. You can now listen to the whole book on the link above (just type the address into your browser if you are not reading this newsletter electronically). See how many of the staff you can identify from their reading of the story! We hope that you enjoy it!



Enrichment Fair

The Main Hall was similarly packed for the Enrichment Fair on 29th September! This is always a lovely event, and essentially it follows the format of a university 'Freshers' Fair'.

Given that we have dozens of clubs and activities every week here at Bishop Vaughan, each group had its own table and stand here in the hall, providing information to pupils and advertising the opportunities available. While this is, of course, particularly useful for our new pupils, it is a helpful reminder to all pupils of just how much is on offer in terms of extra-curricular activities.

We are keen to nurture active, engaged and enthusiastic learners here at Bishop Vaughan. Involvement in even one or two of the groups can significantly enhance the school experience.

ART CLUB
BISHOP VAUGHAN
Years 7 - 11:
Monday & Tuesday
lunchtimes in
T6
Wednesday after
school in T10
Years 10 - 11:
Wednesday to Friday
lunchtimes in T6

VOLLEYBALL CLUB
BISHOP VAUGHAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EVERY MONDAY LUNCHTIME!

GYM CLUB
MONDAY LUNCHTIME
YEARS 10 & 11
TUESDAY LUNCHTIME
YEARS 8 & 9 (INVITE ONLY)
WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME
GIRLS ONLY
THURSDAY LUNCHTIME
YEARS 10 & 11

BASKETBALL CLUB
LUNCHTIMES
MONDAY - YEARS 10 & 11
TUESDAY - YEARS 8 & 9
THURSDAY - YEAR 7
AFTER SCHOOL
TUESDAY - GIRLS ONLY

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING
MONDAYS AFTER SCHOOL

LATIN CLUB
Every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 37. See Mrs Pole for more information!

MINECRAFT CLUB
YEARS 7 & 8
TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T13
YEARS 9, 10 & 11
THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES IN T13

BOARD GAMES CLUB
TUESDAYS 1.30PM, ROOM 3
BRING YOUR A GAME!

MATHS HOMEWORK CLUB
All welcome!
TUESDAY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES ROOM A6

JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY
Every Tuesday evening after school until 4.15pm. All are welcome to attend!
See Mrs Thomas (G3) or Miss Mainwaring (G6) for more information.

DE
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD
Year 10 **Bronze** Award - Tuesdays after school
Year 12 **Gold** Award - Wednesdays after school
See Miss Crabb for full details on how to sign up!

the book club
EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME IN MRS POLE'S OFFICE

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!](#)



explore

life
faith
meaning

Alpha

Wednesday lunchtimes in G3
with Mrs Thomas

SCIENCE CLUB
LAB COATS AT THE READY!
AN EXTRA SLICE OF SCIENCE...
...FOR YEARS 7 AND 8
WEDNESDAYS
3PM
ROOM 21

THIS PLANET IS MAGIC
Eco Club
Friday lunchtimes
Room B3

CROCHET CLUB
Friday lunchtimes in Room 5 with Mrs Lloyd

Christmas Trivia



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O	P	R	I	N	L	I	G	G	Q	Q	R	G	L	U	N	H	Z	E	F
C	H	Z	Q	E	J	A	O	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	I	R	L	Q
M	B	M	O	L	S	Z	T	V	W	U	P	O	B	N	D	T	T	V	V
N	H	N	J	O	L	L	Y	N	U	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	C	E	U
X	P	M	N	P	S	F	I	A	G	K	A	C	L	Y	V	H	S	Z	
D	L	A	E	H	X	C	E	L	B	S	F	P	G	C	E	T	Q	E	G
Z	O	M	N	T	H	E	D	A	Y	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	R	G	M
S	D	Z	I	R	V	T	Q	P	S	G	S	B	W	C	C	P	W	V	Q
P	U	I	Z	O	V	A	J	A	E	O	R	U	A	C	F	S	O	G	S
G	R	E	H	N	X	R	L	B	P	Y	N	N	N	H	R	S	O	I	L
B	N	Z	C	S	T	B	H	J	O	M	D	P	I	M	O	A	B	V	M
Y	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	Y	R	D	E	E	S	M	C	I	U
G	O	C	N	O	R	L	D	K	C	O	Q	O	N	R	T	T	W	N	B
W	K	Y	Q	C	Z	E	J	A	G	O	V	T	D	R	Y	S	D	G	Q
L	O	R	T	K	L	C	N	I	C	G	P	N	R	Y	L	I	N	X	S
J	N	X	J	I	R	E	F	B	A	V	A	P	J	E	H	R	D	C	Z
X	L	W	O	N	H	T	A	E	R	W	V	I	I	L	E	H	A	Y	E
W	L	R	D	G	Z	G	Y	L	D	J	C	G	N	X	E	C	M	B	O
M	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	L	S	U	H	J	A	W	N	Z	A	M	J
I	X	P	D	B	T	V	H	S	K	M	W	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	U

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| BELLS | RUDOLPH | ELVES | JOY |
| CANDLES | SANTA | FROSTY | MERRY |
| CANDY CANE | SEASON | GIFT | MISTLETOE |
| CARDS | SLEIGH | GIVING | NOEL |
| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTH POLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |



Christmas Trivia

1. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish?
2. How many candles on an Advent wreath?
3. What is the chemical formula of snow?
4. How many presents in total were given in the 12 days of Christmas?
5. The most popular toy of 1980, designed by a professor of architecture in Budapest to teach his students about spatial awareness. What is it called?

Merry Mental Maths

1. Start with counting the number of days of Christmas
2. Multiply it by 3
3. Divide by the number of 'Geese a-laying'
4. Take a third
5. Square it

Class Charts



Since the beginning of November, we have switched to 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.

At the time of writing, over 82% 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
SAM Learning and Mathswatch.**

Opportunities for collaborative learning.

Rewards for attending.

Learning Zone Co-ordinator — Mrs A Jones

Maths Quiz Answers

Answers
Trivia Q1 = Feliz Navidad, Q2 = 4, Q3 = H2O, Q4 = 364, Q5 = Rubik's Cube
Merry Mental Maths = 4

School Uniform

September 2022 - August 2023

Three of our suppliers are:

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

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

Years 7-11

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

School Uniform

Games Kit

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

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

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

Sixth Form Uniform

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

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

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

Attendance



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

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

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

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

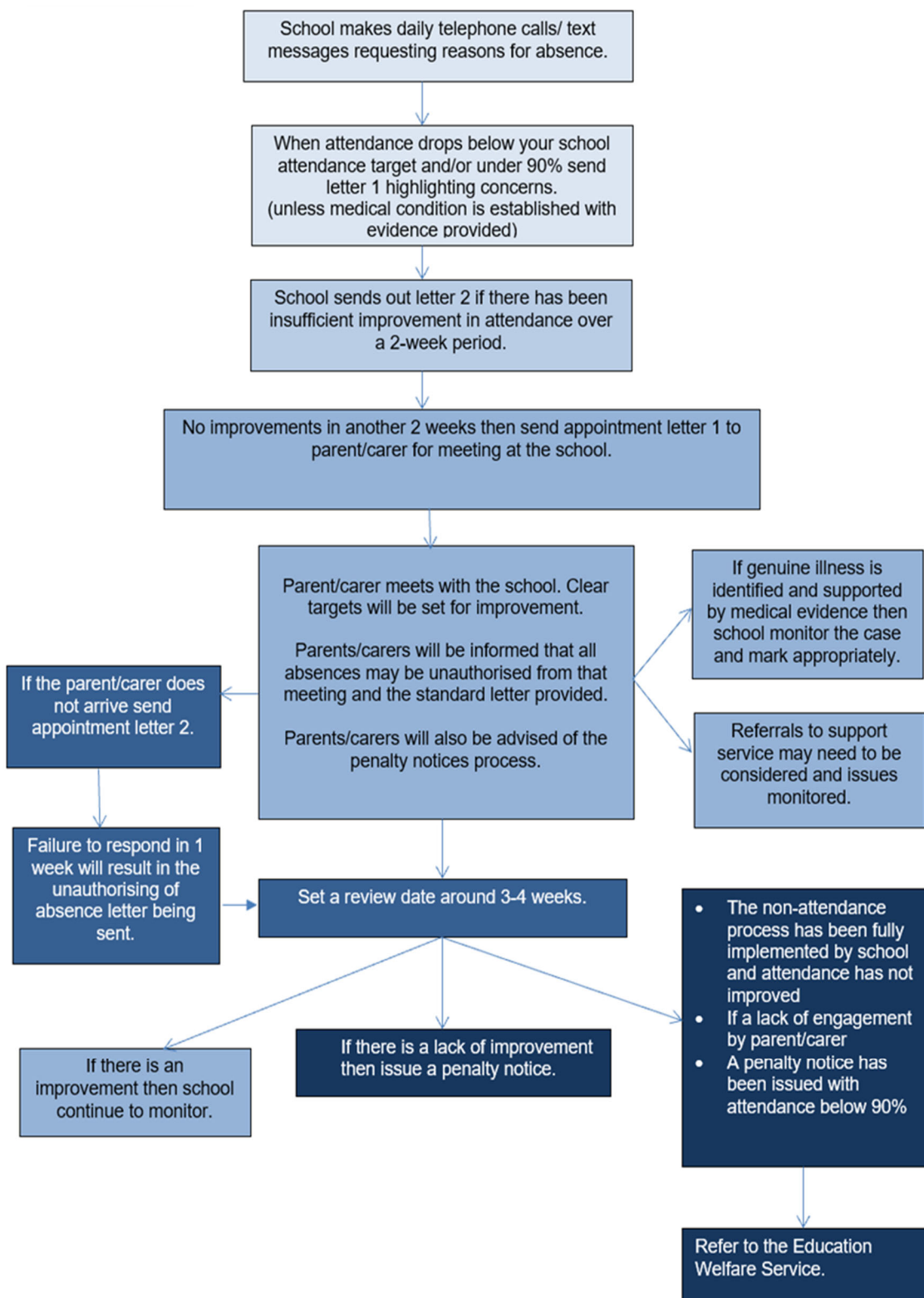
If the holiday is not authorised then you may receive a penalty notice if the holiday means your child misses 10 school sessions and your child's attendance falls below 90% in the school year to date.

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

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%.





Dear Parents and carers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

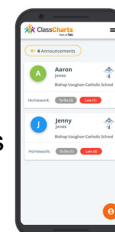
*Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth Gymraeg a Saesneg i'r un safonau ac amserlenni.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and will deal with Welsh and English correspondence to the same standards and timescales.*

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

Pupil Information Details

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

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

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



Bus Passes



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

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

Getting to School

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

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

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

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

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



Mobile Telephones

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



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

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

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

Bishop Vaughan Online

www.bishopvaughan.co.uk

https://twitter.com/Bishop_Vaughan

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

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

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

Lost Property

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

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

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



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

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



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
Morrison, Swansea
SA6 7QG
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Fax: 01792 790565
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www.bishopvaughan.co.uk