



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

**Parents' Newsletter Easter 2022
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Pasg 2022**



Our Lady of Kyiv

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this term's newsletter and what a busy term it has been! We hope that you will enjoy reading the news of some of the activities and the achievements of our pupils in this second term of the year. As ever, this newsletter can only provide a (very!) distilled version and a snapshot of school life. More detail and a wider range of news can, of course, be found on our school website and via our social media accounts.

Central to our many Lenten preparations this term has been the human suffering seen in Ukraine and we are so proud of our pupils' compassion and their determination in raising significant sums of money for the Caritas International appeal to help Ukrainian refugees. As a faith school we are distinctive and as a school community we thought it important to open a dialogue about the values and virtues that help to create the conditions for peace both 'near', in our schools and communities, but also 'afar', in areas of conflict around the world. The ideas of the pupils have been shared during the last week of this term in a **Festival of Peace**. Through their contributions to the festival pupils have received a valuable opportunity to process questions, thoughts and concerns that they may have about the images of war, conflict and human suffering that they have seen through the media. The product of their thinking has created a most unique, vibrant and hopeful display in our Main Hall. The pupils explored the themes of identity, connection, conflict, partnership and hope creatively through the lenses of academic subjects and we are truly impressed with their inspiring thinking. Our pupils have constructed many clever twists on concepts and examples are included overleaf and on our social media pages.

Importantly there are 43 different first languages spoken in our school community and we are therefore a truly international school. Difference and diversity characterise our community. We were delighted and incredibly proud to see many of our pupils dress in their national costumes and to witness the pride they have for their cultural heritage. It is also a privilege to see the respect shown for the cultural diversity in Bishop Vaughan.

In academic matters, our examination pupils are focusing their efforts on refining the knowledge, skills and understanding which are necessary for the examinations and we are supporting their endeavours by sharing revision gift packs containing all the necessary supplies for a flying start to the Easter holiday revision! We also congratulate our four A level students who have secured places to read Law, Theology, English and Psychology and Behavioural Sciences at Oxford and Cambridge Universities - very well done!

Developing pupils' reading skills is a key school focus and we celebrated World Book Day joyfully, with many pupils and staff dressing as their favourite book character! We also held a successful book sale, hosted a professional story teller and a number of pupils visited a local bookshop. The pupils shared some of their favourite book titles with us which have been purchased by school ready to stock our new book vending machines due for launch in the summer term. Books can be purchased with reward tokens provided by teachers. We hope in each pupil to discover a love for reading and for the power of words.

We have also been delighted to welcome to school a number of eminent speakers this term including the Deputy Editors of The Sunday Times and The Financial Times to support the ambitions of our pupils and to provide them with inspiration for all that can be achieved. Equally we have also supported a number of worthwhile educational visits to Dynamic Rock Climbing Centre, Pwll Du and Duke of Edinburgh visits as restrictions have eased.

As many of you are aware the copy of the painting on the front cover is probably the most famous icon of Our Lady and it displays the great tenderness of Our Lady for her Divine Child. Known as 'Our Lady of Kyiv', it is an important work of world art and a treasure of the Ukrainian cultural heritage. We pray for those affected by conflict around their hearts, homes or around the world.

His Grace the Archbishop has sent this prayer out for our use during this time of war in Ukraine:

Mary, Our Lady of Kyiv, Mother of God,
We ask you to intercede for the people of Ukraine,
For their government, and all who suffer as a result of war.
Be with them as you stood beside your Son,
Suffering on the Cross at Calvary.
Give them strength and courage
Through faith, hope and justice.
May we, in our turn,
Support them through prayer and generosity
That human lives may be saved,
That the injured may be healed, That the dead may rest in peace,
That there will be peace after war.
Amen

Wishing you and your family a peaceful, joyful and blessed Easter. We look forwards to seeing our pupils return in the summer term.

With all best wishes,

Mrs. Pole
Headteacher



School Term and Holiday Dates 2021-2022

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2021	Thursday 2nd September	Monday 25th October	Friday 29th October	Friday 17th December
Spring 2022	Tuesday 4th January	Monday 21st February	Friday 25th February	Friday 8th April
Summer 2022	Monday 25th April	Monday 30th May	Friday 3rd June	Friday 22nd July

Dates for your Diary

The last day of term is Friday 8th April 2022; school closes at 3.00pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 25th April 2022. This will be Week 2 on the timetable.

Bank Holidays

- Friday 15th April - Good Friday
- Monday 18th April - Easter Monday
- Friday 29th April – Additional Bank Holiday for the Queen’s Jubilee.
- Monday 2nd May - May Day
- Thursday 2nd June - Spring Bank Holiday
- Platinum Jubilee - Friday 3rd June



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.

Easter Services

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the central focus of the Church's year. The liturgical rites for each of the days are an essential support to understanding the Christian message. A list of the Parishes and their contact details are below.

Please note Easter services may differ this year due to the current circumstances; please check with the parish in question before attending. Booking a place is required in most cases.



We wish you and happy and Holy Easter.

Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas) Tel: 01792 892722
www.parishofgorseinon.org

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Canon Benedict) Tel: 01792 652683
www.meneviacathedral.org

Holy Cross (Father Cyril) Tel: 01792 586454
www.holycrossmenevia.com

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Clement 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) Tel: 01792 842244
www.sacredheartystradgynlais.org.uk

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Henry) Tel: 01792 842244

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito) Tel: 01792 202447
www.stbenedictsketty.org

St Bride's Pontarddulais (Father J P Thomas) Tel: 01792 892722

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

Prayer and Worship

The Examen

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 is taking place in every classroom each Friday afternoon, and pupils (and staff) are invited to spend a few minutes reflecting on their week. It is an opportunity to identify the positives and negatives, and to feel a sense of gratitude for our gifts and blessings. We are continuing this practice throughout the season of Lent, in order to stop, reflect and make the changes that will help us to be the person God calls us to be.

Advent Prayer Chains

It was wonderful to see pupils and staff creating our Advent prayer chains in December. It was a great way to focus our minds on those who needed our prayers.

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

WWW.IGNATIANSPIRITUALITY.COM



Prayer and Worship

Ash Wednesday

On March 2nd we observed Ash Wednesday which is the first day of the season of Lent – a time of prayer, reflection and charity in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

This year our Service of Ashes was online, and we were all invited to ask for God’s help to turn away from sin and make a new start. We recognised that God loves us even with our faults and failings, and we prayed for forgiveness and strength in our lives to come back to a place where we belong – to the heart of God.

Prayers for Ukraine

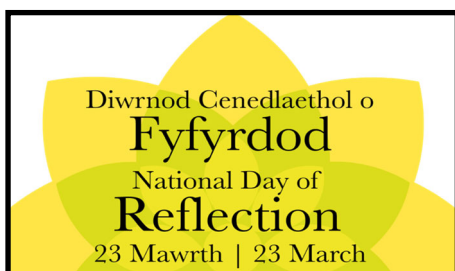
At the end of a busy Ash Wednesday, a service for peace took place in response to Pope Francis’ call to pray for peace. Staff joined together for reflection and quiet prayer.



What a wonderful response from pupils and staff during our Friday lunchtime ‘Open Chapel’. All members of our community were invited to visit the Chapel to write a prayer or message of peace and hope for the future, seen here in the flower petals, and light a candle to represent peace in the world.

National Day of Reflection

March 23rd was the second anniversary of the first UK lockdown and has been designated the National Day of Reflection. It was a day to join together, reflect on the last two years, and celebrate the lives of all who have died. We marked the day with a special assembly, and a moment of quiet reflection and prayer.



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 curious and active, and grateful and generous. Pupils have investigated what it means to be curious and active, finding God in all things. We looked at the example of St Ignatius of Loyola, and discussed the impact that he has had on the world.

Pupils were reminded that all things are worthy of our attention, curiosity and study because in each one of them there is the possibility of finding God. Curiosity is needed to sustain learning and it opens up new horizons. Learning is something to be actively engaged in by probing, seeking, asking, challenging, and questioning until the truth is plain – it is to think for oneself and to become an independent and lifelong learner.

Our pupils have the opportunity to change the world, so we have challenged them to ‘think globally and act locally’, to get involved, changing what they can and using what they have learned to make small differences, so that they are ready for the day when they can make a big difference. Their homework was to do small acts of kindness for others over the space of a week and to observe the impact of this.

We help our pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be grateful for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be generous in the service of others. Our Lenten spiritual exercise, the Examen, begins with gratitude. Pupils have been encouraged to reflect on the gifts in their lives: health and family, shelter and security, enough to eat, plentiful clean water, friends, freedom, the rights and protection of the law, education, talents and pastimes, the love of God in Jesus Christ, and all the small daily blessings that, when noticed, bring joy to life.

Just as the Examen begins with gratitude, so it concludes with generosity. As we become more practised at being grateful, we realise just how gifted and blessed we are. Generosity is the inevitable consequence of the practice of gratitude. We have certainly seen this in the actions of our pupils in supporting Ukraine and others across the world who are suffering or in need of prayer.

Careers Wales

Some Year 10 pupils were involved in a team building activity day in partnership with Careers Wales and the Royal Navy and it was a huge success.

Pupils fully participated in all activities and were very respectful and engaged well with our visitors. In addition to this we have gained brilliant evidence of team building activities that will contribute to pupils' future course work in GCSE PE, BTEC Sport, Public Services and The Prince's Trust.



Religious Studies Department

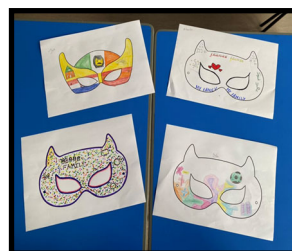
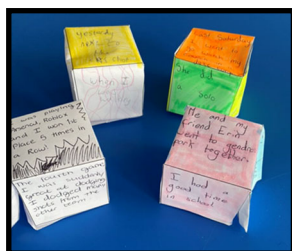
This term, pupils in Years 7 to 9 have been exploring the life and example of St David, our patron Saint. They have been encouraged to think about how to 'Do the little things / gwneud y pethau bychain' and to write prayers for our beautiful country of Wales. Here is just a snapshot of some of the amazing work that has been produced. Well done to all!

The recent concerning events in Ukraine have led our pupils to ask questions about the situation and to ask how our community can support those in need. In our RE lessons, we have talked about how prayer can be a powerful tool in supporting others effectively, and some of our Year 7 pupils have produced some beautiful pieces of work.



ACE Days

Our recent ACE days have been a great opportunity for pupils to be creative and show how their skills in RE have developed. Well done to all who used their gifts and talents to participate so well in all the different activities!



Lenten Programme of Activities

The annual Lenten Programme of Activities focused on four areas this year:



Lenten Action: Humanitarian Appeal

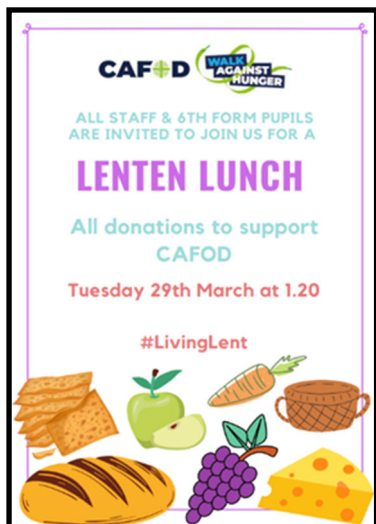
Pupils and staff collected small change and joined together for a “blue and yellow” and sunflower themed non-uniform day, in support and solidarity for those facing conflict and upheaval because of the ongoing war in Eastern Europe. An incredible £947.73 was raised from this appeal. Thank you to all for their generosity. The money has been sent to support Caritas, who are working with families on the front line, directly affected by the conflict.



Lenten Reflection: #GiveItUp Photobooth & Missio

Pupils reflected on their Lenten journeys and the acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving they have undertaken this year.

The #GiveItUp photobooth was very popular, as pupils enjoyed noting the treats they had given up for Lent, while recongising how this supports and strengthens them on their Lenten journey towards Easter.



Lenten Fast: Lenten Lunch & #WalkAgainstHunger for CAFOD

Our staff and Sixth Form pupils came together in support of CAFOD and the #WalkAgainstHunger appeal.

In all weathers, the steps were collected and images of scenery and photographs from the walks shared.

In addition, a Lenten lunch was arranged, with staff and Sixth Form pupils enjoying a simple lunch together. It was a moment of calm and focus during the busyness of the school day. A chance to come together and give thanks for what we have, as well as recognising the importance of supporting others.

Lenten Action: Community Focus

An Easter Raffle was arranged with prizes including Easter Egg and sweet hampers, gift and candle sets.



On the last day of term, the school community came together for a non-school uniform day and tutorial quiz in aid of the Michael Cura Foundation and the MS Trust.

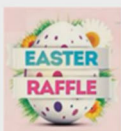

Once a final total is known, we will share an update. Thank you as always for your continued support and generosity.



Lenten Action: Community Focus

- 30 March – 6th April – Easter Raffle
- 8th April: Non uniform Day & Tutorial Quiz
- Fundraising for Michael Cura Foundation & MS Trust

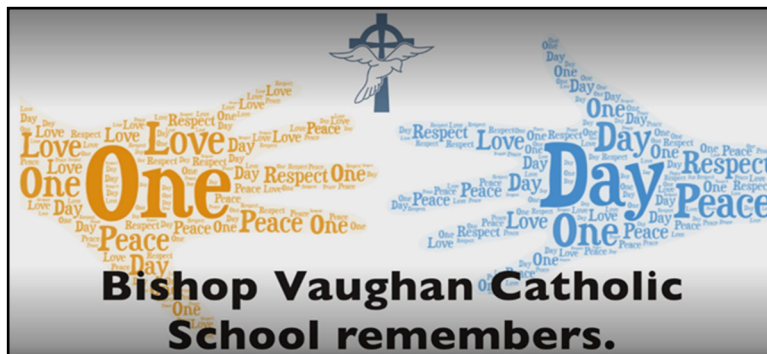
#LivingLent

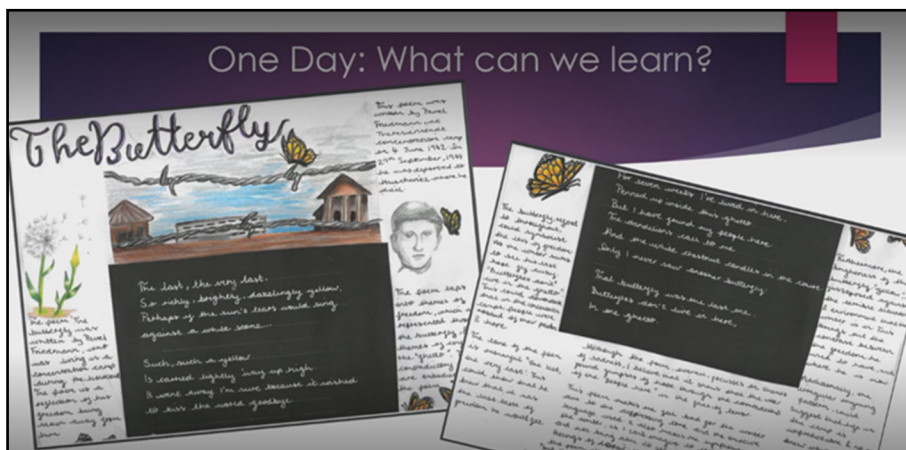
Holocaust Memorial Day



Bishop Vaughan were invited to contribute to a project organised by Swansea Council for the commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day 2022.

Based on the theme “One Day” our GSCE pupils reflected on and recreated a live broadcast report from Richard Dimbleby. The Faith and Ethos Prefects led a beautiful prayer focus and the charity team prepared visual representations and poetry based on diary extracts from Holocaust survivors.

We are exceptionally proud of all pupils involved and have been congratulated on the wonderful collaboration of our project by Council organisers.



Legion of Mary

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

Pupils have been preparing crafts and ideas for their Easter Stall, which will be held in the Sacred Heart over Palm Sunday weekend, with all proceeds going to support the school St Joseph Garden Project.

We look forward to seeing the photos from the stall and hearing about the group’s success when we return after the Easter break.



SVP Christmas Hampers

The annual collection of food donations continued at Christmas in support of both the local SVP campaigns, as well as the Faith in Families centres in our local community.

Significant donations of essential food items, cash donations and children's selection boxes were collected. From all donations received, over 40 hampers were provided to families in our local communities. Thank you as always, for your ongoing support.



Cards for the Community

Once again, pupils made, decorated and wrote cards to send to key workers, local parishes and groups across our local community. Pupils wanted an opportunity to say thank you to all who work tirelessly in the support of others.

A special note of thanks to a Sixth Form pupil, who designed a beautiful card, illustrating the true meaning of Christmas, while incorporating the school logo and spirit of festiveness into the design.



Save the Children—Christmas Jumper Day



The annual Christmas Jumper Day provided another opportunity for pupils to have a little fun, embrace the festiveness and raise awareness, while fundraising for Save the Children.

Through a festive themed non-school uniform day, Christmas Jumpers, tinsel and festive headwear decorated the halls of Bishop Vaughan, raising £650.

The term finished with a festive Christmas quiz, with prizes once again awarded to winning tutorials.

Cystic Fibrosis

As part of our fundraising and awareness campaign for Cystic Fibrosis, candy messages and words of kindness were shared and distributed across the school community, slightly later than planned, due to storm Eustice.



The donation from the messages sent has been gone to support the invaluable work of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust in our local area.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Exactly one of the following five numbers is not prime. Which is it?

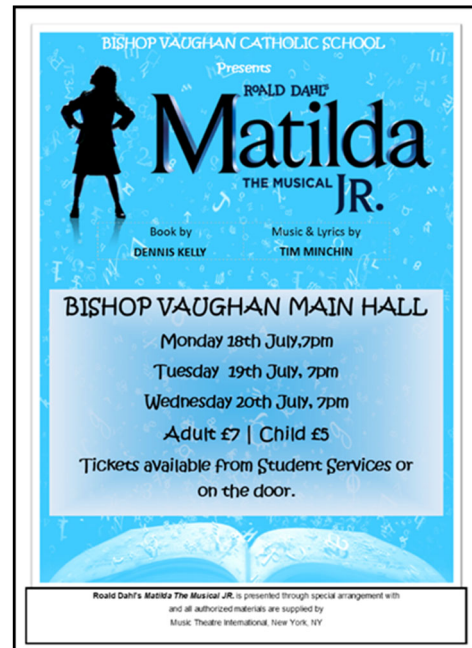
A 101 B 103 C 107 D 109 E 111

Solution can be found on page 29

Performing Arts

Over the past few weeks we have held auditions for our forthcoming production of 'Matilda-The Musical Jr.'. This will be our first production with an audience since before the pandemic. To say the pupils are excited is an understatement. They worked so hard to prepare for the auditions with students from across all year groups wanting to take part in this year's school production. You will be in for a treat if you come and see it. The talent here at Bishop Vaughan is in abundance.

This year's production will include not just pupils and staff from Performing Arts, but very much a whole school effort. Elements such as costume, set, lighting and sound will be supported, created and designed by pupils and staff from across the school from various departments. It is clear to see the eagerness from pupils and staff alike to get back to some 'normality'. Here at Bishop Vaughan we nurture all talents, and what a better way to put them to use in a school production?



We would love to see you at our school production in July. It is open to anyone to come and watch. Tickets can be purchased by ringing the school, or if you have a pupil in the school, tickets can be purchased through Student Services nearer the time. Some tickets usually can be purchased on the door, but it is anticipated that tickets will sell like hot cakes.

In other Performing Arts news, the choir, even though we have not had any concerts since our 'Virtual Carol Service' back in December, have been learning and recording songs for the pre-recorded mass which has been shown to every tutorial in the school. The addition of the songs in mass have been greatly appreciated.

Computer Science

Technocamps Visits GCSE Computer Science

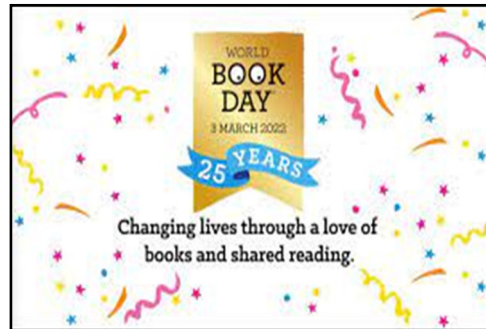
After two years of not being able to have Technocamps in school, it is fantastic to have them return to deliver an all-day session for the Year 11 Computer Science pupils. They have been looking at Assembly Language and Machine Code using Little Man Computer. They also went on to look at Greenfoot coding in preparation for their exams in June.



Technocamps is linked with the Computer Science department at Swansea University and provides a range of STEM Enrichment Programmes and will be returning next term to deliver a range of sessions across all year groups that study Computer Science.

World Book Day 2022

During the first week in March, all Key Stage 3 English classes celebrated the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. This involved completing a range of reading and writing activities as well as watching clips of authors giving masterclasses, entering competitions and taking part in quizzes.



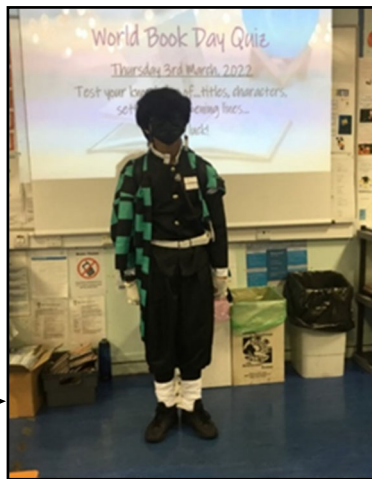
All Year 7 classes and some Year 8 were fortunate to receive a visit from local storyteller, Carl Gough. They were captivated by the very entertaining stories he told.

The week's celebrations culminated on World Book Day with many Year 7 pupils and some members of staff dressing up as their favourite book characters. Members of 7A had lots to say about the celebrations.

World Book Day was a magical day to celebrate the joy of reading.
Megan Bosomworth

It was such a fun week to celebrate books. We could buy books, read books, write stories, listen to stories or even dress up.
Kacper Szymkowiak

It was so exciting as it was my first World Book Day in three years. I really enjoyed dressing up as Levi.
Shaun Thomas



My favourite part was the storyteller as he explained that we all interpret stories differently. This was my first World Book Day.
Evie Brown

The storyteller was so funny. Listening to him really brightened my day.
Tirron Thomas

World Book Day is an amazing day to go to a new world where book characters and stories come to life.
Elin Stephenson

It was a wonderful day to get together to share our thoughts about our favourite authors and books and to have fun.
Archie Williams

World Book Day 2022 - Book Sale



Reading is such an important tool in our students' learning and reading for pleasure is a key part of this. So it was such a privilege to welcome Cover to Cover bookshop of Newton Road, Mumbles, to Bishop Vaughan as part of the World Book Day celebrations.

The visit was a huge success. Pupils were able to visit the Main Hall throughout the day to redeem their World Book Day tokens against a book of their choice. There was a wonderful buzz in the Hall as pupils perused the blurbs of a wide range of novels and a range of £1 book token books.

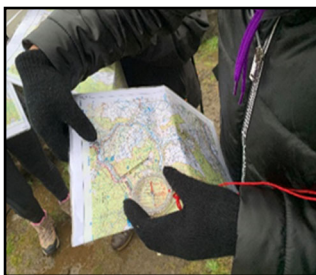


We must extend our sincere thanks to Cover to Cover Book Shop for bringing in such a wonderful selection of books for our students to choose from. Lynn and Nik were with us from just after 9am until 2.30pm and they even took some orders from pupils. Many pupils have requested another book sale soon. We have plans for another one in the Summer term so we will keep you posted!



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Since the school became its own Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre in 2019 we have been investing in expedition kit to lend out to participants. We have received some funding from DofE Wales and the Winter of Wellbeing Fund to help us with this. Some of the items purchased through the funding have been camping stoves, compasses, maps, first aid kits and gump shelters.



Our current group of Bronze DofE participants have been the first to use some of this new equipment during their training walks, and recently tried out the stoves in an after-school meeting. They were given a selection of items and had cook a suitable meal to have after a long day of walking. The group enjoyed experimenting with the food available, making some tasty dishes, and learnt how to safely use the stoves.



Geography - Year 12 Gower Fieldwork



On Tuesday 29th March Year 12 students experienced their first ever Geography fieldtrip! With Covid restrictions easing we can finally get back to some sort of normality with outdoor learning! We visited Pwll Du Bay to collect data on the profile of the beach and analysed the shape and size of the pebbles. This data will be used directly in the students' summer examinations. We also took the opportunity to observe wave-cut platforms, coastal erosion and visit many of the locations along the rural urban continuum that students have studied in the class room.



Thank you to all the Year 12 students who attended - an excellent day!

Eco-Schools



There is a huge amount going on with our 'Eco-Team'. Firstly, we have received our wildflower seeds from the Tower of London, for our very own 'BVS Superbloom'. This will be created by our Eco -Team in a newly formed Jubilee Garden over by the Bus Bays. Pupils will be sowing the wildflower seeds and other plants as well as adding a log seating area. Swansea Council have kindly supplied us with the logs.



As part of the Superbloom partnership with the Tower of London, we will be having a creative workshop on 5th May delivered by the Superbloom team in London. Our 'BVS Superbloom' should mirror the wildflower meadow currently being planted around the moat of the Tower of London throughout the summer.



Finally, we have been invited to a VIP experience at the Tower of London in early July! This is something that both staff and pupils are very much looking forward to.

Bishop Vaughan has also signed up to Keep Wales Tidy Litter Free Schools campaign. We have received litter picking equipment and hope that our efforts can significantly improve the quality of the environment around our beautiful school site.

The Eco-Team continue to meet fortnightly during a Wednesday tutorial time. Mrs L Davies would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of them for their enthusiasm and patience.

ACE Day



Humanities ACE Day

As part of the recent Additional Curriculum Enrichment Day, the Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages departments addressed the theme of 'peace' with our Year 9 students. We began the day in the hall as a large group looking at the reasons we need peace globally, a sensitive issue that Year 9 students addressed with real maturity. We had a period of reflection to address inner peace and undertook team building activities to promote communication skills and conflict resolution.

The final element of the time in the hall was spent having a continental breakfast together, consisting of croissants, jam and orange juice. After break, students took part in a carousel of tasks promoting peace. The Year 9 students were excellent throughout the day and we would like to thank them for their efforts and enthusiasm.



Bishop Vaughan Climbing Club

This term, 28 pupils have been taking part in an introduction to climbing course at Dynamic Rock in Clydach. The aim of the course is to improve physical wellbeing and provide pupils with an opportunity to gain new experiences, develop teamwork and communication skills and resilience.

Pupils have been learning how to climb safely by learning how to tie knots, how to belay and climbing technique. All the pupils that have taken part have had a lot of fun and enjoyed the experience.



Clwb Cymraeg



The Welsh Club run by Mr Williams and assisted by Lili Stephenson (the Sixth Form prefect assigned to the Welsh Department), is up and running for another academic year.

The popular Welsh Club takes place in room 39 Thursday lunchtime and is open to pupils in Years 7 and 8.

Activities include Welsh language games and Welsh crafts – cyffrous!

Welsh Department

Dydd Santes Dwynwen

We celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh patron Saint of Love, on January 25th by thinking about love and gratitude with the help of Lili Stephenson, the Sixth Form prefect assigned to the Welsh Department. All pupils were invited to fill out a gratitude slip highlighting what they feel grateful for, send an anonymous compliment to someone and have a friendship photo in our lovely selfie frame.

Lili has made a lovely display of the gratitude slips in the Library - diolch yn fawr, Lili.



Mae pawb yn edrych yn wych!

Dydd Miwsig Cymru

We were very fortunate to welcome the very talented Bronwen Lewis to Bishop Vaughan to help us celebrate Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Music Day) on February 1st 2022, just days before she began her sell out 'Live From The Living Room Tour' across Wales.

A group of 40 pupils attended a music workshop with Bronwen, where they worked on writing their own songs bilingually and performed them alongside Bronwen – anhygoel!

Later that morning, Bronwen performed her favourite Welsh and English songs for Year 8, who thoroughly enjoyed every minute! Ardderchog!

We wish Bronwen all the best for her tour and hope she returns next year!



Blasu Bwyd Cymreig



As part of the celebration for Dydd Gwyl Dewi (St David's Day) on March 1st, pupils were invited to taste some traditional Welsh food during their lunchtime.

Traditional Welsh foods such as – cocos (cockles) bara lafw(laverbread) bara brith (speckled bread) pice ar y maen (Welshcakes) and Loissin Dant (traditional Welsh hard boiled sweets) were offered to all pupils and proved very popular!



The overwhelming favourite with pupils was bara brith, a traditional Welsh tea bread usually served with orange marmalade. Pupils also really enjoyed the cocos (cockles) locally sourced from Penclawdd and served with some vinegar then washed down with a Loissin Dant – be careful not to crunch! The brave few sampled the bara lafwr (laverbread) locally sourced from South Gower. The rich and salty seaweed is a Welsh delicacy which tastes delicious thinly spread on crackers or sour dough bread, and who can resist pice ar y maen (Welsh cakes) archwaethus?



Head down to Swansea Market and give them a try!

History and Politics Department News

Digital Dialogue Sessions



Students in the A Level Politics classes participated in two Digital Dialogue sessions this term. These were online Q&A sessions with local politicians in order to find out more about the political process and ways for young people to engage with democracy. The first session was with Mike Hedges MS, who provided an insight into the work of the Senedd. Councillor Sam Pritchard joined the class for a second session and discussed the work of the local council and its impact on the lives of the students themselves. These Q&A sessions were very insightful and the students were thankful to both Mr Hedges and Councillor Pritchard for giving up their time.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 10 History students made a powerful contribution to this year's commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme was 'One Day' and the students decided the 'one day' they wished to focus on was the day of the liberation of the Belsen concentration camp. On this day, a famous radio news report of the camp's conditions and the horror of the Holocaust was broadcast by journalist Jonathan Dimbleby. The students decided to record their own version of this broadcast, repeating Dimbleby's words over 70 years later as an act of continued remembrance. This audio memorial formed part of Swansea's commemorative events of HMD.

Update On Proposed History Trip To Normandy

The History department is pleased to announce that the trip to Normandy in July is scheduled to go ahead. Consent letters are available from the History department and the trip is open to Years 10, 11 and 12. We anticipate this will be a popular trip and spaces are limited, so if you are interested, don't miss out!

Year 7 Humanities ACE Day

In December, Year 7 students participated in their first Humanities ACE Day. The Additional Curriculum Enrichment Day offers an opportunity for students to explore their school subjects beyond the curriculum. Students took part in a Christmas themed day, exploring the celebration of Christmas across history, as well as in different cultures. Students learned about the origins of Christmas celebrations, as well as how they have changed over time. This included learning about Victorian Christmas cards, the Christmas truce during the First World War and the banning of Christmas by Oliver Cromwell! The day was highly enjoyable and developed the historical skills and knowledge of the students.

Super-Curricular Enrichment at BVS

KS3 Super-curricular Activities

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have engaged enthusiastically in a number of super-curricular activities over the last term. Year 7 students attended a World Book Day event at Waterstones in Swansea, where they participated in a spooky storytelling session with Owen Staton. The students learned about some of the myths and legends of Wales and then took advantage of their World Book Day tokens!

Fourteen students in Years 7 and 8 have signed up for the Seren Foundation Award. This programme, conducted entirely in their own time, requires students to spend a week attending university-style tutorials and then completing a mini-dissertation. Despite the demanding and challenging nature of this programme, all fourteen students are keen to get started later this term. There will be more on their progress in the next edition of the newsletter.

Year 8 students took part in an oracy workshop led by 'Talk the Talk', a literacy and oracy skills charity. The students spent a day exploring the skill of public speaking and writing their own speeches, which they presented individually to the whole class. Despite many nerves, all the students made their speeches and were commended for their supportive encouragement for one another.

A large number of students across KS3 also attended a special virtual Q&A session presented by Bridget Kendall, a former journalist for the BBC. She was answering questions about the invasion of Ukraine from schools across the country, including Bishop Vaughan. Our students submitted many thoughtful questions to the events and were able to understand the background and causes of the war, as well as gain reassurance about some of their own fears.

Sixth Form Super-curricular Activities

Twenty-five students in Year 12 attended a Paramedic Science Day at Swansea University this term. The students were introduced to a career as a paramedic through a day of hands-on activities and use of cutting edge technology, such as electronic resuscitation monitors. The students were also given an insight into career progression opportunities and the role of paramedics within the healthcare system. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time on campus and were grateful for the opportunity to develop their knowledge of available careers.



UWTSD has also been piloting a new and unique programme with Bishop Vaughan students. The Diabetes Research project offers students lessons on this condition and its management, whilst also developing their academic skills through research and analysis of the topic. The pilot has been so successful that UWTSD have asked to deliver the project again with more of our students.

Finally, over twenty of our students have been selected to take part in the Step Up to Swansea scheme. This scheme introduces students to higher education through workshops, lectures and a residential summer school. Those who complete the scheme are entitled to a reduced offer when they apply to university next year. The scheme is conducted entirely in their own time, and demonstrates the commitment and dedication of our students in all aspects of their life.

Speakers for Schools Events

Over the last term, the school has worked with Speakers For Schools, a charity that organises talks from individuals in high profile careers.

We were lucky enough to host Ben Taylor, Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times, and Patrick Jenkins, Deputy Editor of the Financial Times. Both guests spoke at length with the students about their career trajectories, politics and other current affairs, offering wise words of advice to budding journalists.

The talks were well attended and we are thankful to both Ben and Patrick for visiting the school.



Engineering Education Scheme for Wales – STEM Project



The Sixth Form Engineers have entered a competition with the EESW (Engineering Education Scheme for Wales), and will be competing against the finest students from across 76 schools within South Wales. Working with Associated British Ports (Swansea), we have been challenged to create a solution to prevent excessive rusting to their machinery, which handles plant fertiliser.

They travelled to the site to observe the problem first hand – where we were told that due to the chemical composition of the fertiliser it accelerates the rusting process by three times. For example, the machine that we are standing by in the picture below should last fifteen years in normal use but instead it lasts only five years. As a result of our research, we have created an experiment testing various coating which should be eco-friendly, cost effective and easy to apply, which in turn should prolong the lifespan of the machinery. We are also attempting to work towards a GOLD CREST award, awarded by the British Science Association.



Swansea University's Online Chemistry Quiz

Top of the Bench 2022
RSC South Wales West Section
Department of Chemistry, Swansea University

Year 9

Christine Anto
Evie Morgan
Jasmine Hopkins
Lucy Hopkins
Skomantas Povilaika
Caitlin Saunders
Shreya Sharma
Hunny Ward

Year 10

Nia Bibi
Michael Flynn
Anto Francis
Hannah Iduyan
Grace O'Malley

With special recognition to Marietta Sulaiman in Year 9 for achieving a Gold Certificate

Year 11

James Courtney
Thea Guinto
Rhys Jenkins
Jayvee Manibo
Abigail Sibanda
Abbie Thomas
Shayne Thomas

With special recognition for achieving a Gold Certificate to...

Harry Collins
Leo Gambetesa
Tyronne Hwarari
Sam Kalenga
Cameron McKnight
Katelin Michael
Efren Sebastian
Aimee Sullivan
Aran Vamanan

***Huge congratulations to the above pupils for taking part in this online competition.
We have some very promising Scientists in the making!***

Pupils from Year 12 took part in the Swansea Analyst Competition 2022 at the Department of Chemistry, Swansea University:

Emmanuel Destin	Gold Award
Alwin Gince	Silver Award
Michael Jino	Silver Award
Allen Tomy	Silver Award



Learning Zone

Learning Zone

Come along and access support after school!

**Monday
to
Thursday**



**3.00pm
to
4.00pm**

**Free tuition with subject teachers every 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

Location: The Library

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Answer is E:

It is clear that 111 is a multiple of 3 since the sum of its digits is 3. Therefore 111 is not prime.

School Uniform

September 2021 - August 2022

Three of our suppliers are:

...# Bergoni, Tower Court, Unit 8, St. Davids Road, Swansea Enterprise Park, SA6 8RU
Tel: 01792 796880

...# J&S Products, 74 Tycoch Road, Swansea, SA2 9EQ Tel: 01792 206658

...# Teamz Sportswear, 4 Shoppers Walk, Swansea, SA1 3AZ Tel: 01792 655281

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

Years 7-11

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

Games Kit

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

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

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

Sixth Form Uniform

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

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

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

Attendance



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.*

Attendance



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

95-100% attendance	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95% attendance	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90% attendance	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80-85% attendance	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed	Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least 7½ weeks of learning missed	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

Absence requests from school during term time

We ask parents and carers that absences from school during term time should be kept to a minimum so that pupils are not missing vital lessons and examinations.

All absence requests within term time will be viewed as individual cases by the Headteacher.

Please download a [Request for Absence form](#) from our website; alternatively forms are available for collection from Student Services.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact our Attendance Manager, Mrs. E-J Gwyther, on extension 2219 or via email GwytherE3@hwbcymru.net who will assist you further.



Please download our free school app, [MyEd](#). The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance and are you are able to send us messages directly free of charge regarding your child's absence from school. You are required to report your child's absence on a daily basis.

Parents' Information

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

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

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

Attendance telephone number (local rate): 0844 239 3548
Attendance text number: 07624 816695
Email: bishopvaughanA@hwbcymru.net

Alternatively, the school's Attendance Manager is Mrs E-J Gwyther and she is available via the school's telephone number 01792 772006 Ext 2219.

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

- ..# Medical related absences
- ..# Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- ..# Bullying
- ..# Exclusions
- ..# Child Protection
- ..# Advice and Support

If you want any help and advice about your child's attendance, please contact **Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 2218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 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.

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 school property. Students must not come to school by scooter as this is dangerous to both the user and to pedestrians. We would very much appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan



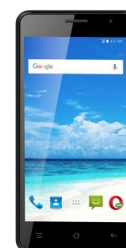
A letter has been received from the School Community Police Officer asking us to pass on the concerns of local residents in relation to parking and vehicles causing obstructions outside the school from 3.00pm every afternoon.

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

Mobile Telephones

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

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



Parents and guardians are asked **not** to contact their children by phone or text during the school day. If an emergency message needs to be conveyed the school office will take the call and pass the message on. Similarly if a pupil needs to make an emergency call home he or she just needs to 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 items in 'lost property', which is located in Student Services.

None of the articles are labelled and cannot, therefore, be returned to their owner. If your child has lost any item, please tell them to come and check with Mrs 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 8.40 am.



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
Morrison, Swansea
SA6 7QG
Phone: 01792 772006
Fax: 01792 790565
E-mail: bishopvaughan@hwbcymru.net
www.bishopvaughan.co.uk**