



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter July 2017
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Gorffennaf 2017



School Term and Holiday Dates 2017-2018

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

Dates for your Diary

The last day of half term is Friday 21st July 2017; school closes at 3.25pm. All pupils with the exception of Year 13 return to school on Wednesday 6th September 2017. This will be week one on the timetable. Year 13 will return on Thursday 7th September 2017.

INSET Days

Monday 4th September 2017
 Tuesday 5th September 2017
 Friday 27th October 2017
 Monday 23rd July 2018
 Tuesday 24th July 2018

Year 6 Open Evening will be on Thursday 5th October 2017 from 6.00 - 8.30pm.

The full academic year school calendar is enclosed with this newsletter and is also available to view on our website.

Examination Results

A2 & AS Results - Thursday 17th August 2017 (9.00 - 12.00)

GCSE Results - Thursday 24th August 2017 (9.00 - 12.00)

Please see page 16 for further information about collecting examination results.

Easyfundraising

Did you know that you can support the school every time that you shop online?



Just download the Easyfundraising app or visit Easyfundraising online.

By selecting Bishop Vaughan as your registered cause and then connecting from the site/ app to your usual shopping sites, you can collect free donations for the school without it costing you a single penny! The funds raised will be used for projects identified by the pupils.

Introduction

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2016-17 academic year! This seems an appropriate point at which to reflect upon the fact that the year has been a rich one in terms of the spiritual life of the Bishop Vaughan community and the spiritual growth of the young people entrusted to our care.

The Christmas term saw numerous opportunities for reflection, from the Memory Tree and Remembrance Services of November - during which month we also had the moving and powerful Mass for the visit of the Lampedusa Cross - to the Advent Services, Benediction and carol services at the school, the Sacred Heart Church and the Cathedral. While there was the closure of the Year of Mercy, there has been an emphasis on retaining its principles and demonstrating both the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy in our day-to-day lives together at Bishop Vaughan.

Pilgrimages throughout the year have included September's pilgrimage to Rome – our sixth to date – and the retreats at St. Cassian's in Kintbury, where our pupils had the opportunity to link with those in other Menevia secondary schools. The choir tour also visited Rome, their Papal Audience and performances in the Vatican forming key experiences in the lives of all that participated and the Flame Conference in March proving another most memorable experience. Lunchtime Mass and prayer services continue to be well attended. The school is grateful to the many members of the clergy who have given of their time to visit the school and celebrate Mass, and to the School Chaplain who has celebrated Masses for each year group as well as those for the Year Eleven and Sixth Form leavers.

Charity work throughout the year has included a record number of donations to Operation Christmas Child's shoebox appeal and fundraising on behalf of CAFOD, the Haiti appeal, the refugee appeal, HCPT, the Welsh National Pilgrimage and Swansea Foodbank to name but a few, with pupil-led groups such as the Sixth Form Committee and the Mini Vinnies – our 'branch' of the St. Vincent de Paul Society - selecting projects and leading the work.

We are proud that our pupils continue to embody the Gospel values through their actions, and indeed these are present in their interactions with one another, their daily prayers and their acts of charity. The centrality of these values is emphasised at every level: every exercise book now carries a copy of the Beatitudes, these forming the basis of acts of worship, and our commitment to living the Gospel values constitutes the first and most important strand of our whole-school development plan.

We are so proud of our new pupil leaders – all one hundred and forty of them – who have given up their time to take on ever increasing levels of responsibility within numerous areas of school life, be they liturgical, academic, pastoral, sporting or cultural. Very many of our pupils have truly excelled over the past year in a wide range of fields - it was also a pleasure to witness so many talented performers participating in this month's production of 'Annie', about which you can read more on page 9. Our pupils have diverse talents, however, and are unafraid to aim high: we are so proud that we have at Bishop Vaughan a Junior Sportsman of the Year, the National Under-16 Mentee of the Year, the winner of a prestigious Nuffield Research Placement, a British representative for the International City Cultural Summer Camp in China and a truly exceptional MegaMaths team that has once again fought off all opposition to take first place!

Introduction

Having begun the year with an uplifting celebration of our pupils' academic achievements at the Brangwyn Hall, in the presence of Bishop Tom Burns, our Governors and our guest speaker, Mr. Chris Coleman, we were delighted to finish the academic year with a fiftieth jubilee Mass celebrated by Bishop Tom and many of our clergy at the Cathedral; we also look forward to a fiftieth anniversary concert in November, for which details will be circulated in September.

Over the past year, the school community has experienced the tragic losses of Michael Cura and former pupils Kristy Lear, Marcin Porczyk and Michelle Evans. They and their families are remembered always in our prayers. A special Mass will be said in the month of November to commemorate these well-loved young people, and this month also, several members of our staff will travel to Santiago on Michael Cura's first anniversary taking with them our love and our prayers as a whole school. We thank the Governors for allowing this journey to be made, the staff who have contributed in order to enable it and those making the journey itself.

As always at the end of a school year, we have a number of staff retiring or leaving for new roles, and we wish them every happiness. Between them, they have amassed many years of experience and their contribution to Bishop Vaughan has been incalculable. Our sincere thanks to each and every one!

Finally, may we wish all of those within and connected with our school community a restful summer after this tremendously busy and productive school year: diolch yn fawr i chi i gyd.

Emma Pole

Year 6 Welcome Mass

On Wednesday 28th June, our school chaplain, Fr John Browne, visited our school to celebrate the annual Mass for Year 6 pupils and their families. Fr John welcomed the new pupils and spoke about sharing our talents with others. With readings and music from Bishop Vaughan and Year 6 pupils, the Mass was lively and enjoyable. We are very grateful to Fr John for celebrating this important event, and we look forward to the pupils joining us in September.



50th Anniversary Mass

This year, Bishop Vaughan School celebrates its 50th jubilee. To mark this momentous occasion, Mass was held at St Joseph's Cathedral on Friday 7th July. Many people attended, including past pupils and staff, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces there.

Bishop Tom was the lead celebrant and he was ably assisted by Fr Benedict, Fr John Browne, our School Chaplain, Fr John Patrick Thomas, Canon Flook and Fr Mansel Usher. During his homily, Bishop Tom talked about the importance of commitment, and how we can all achieve great things if we persevere.

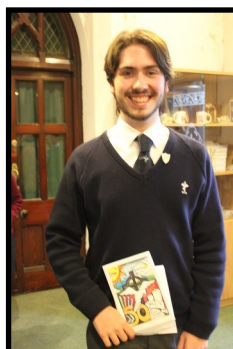
Our school choir was joined by some of our past pupils and sounded wonderful. The readers and the altar servers all did their jobs superbly and with great enthusiasm. The congregation participated fully in the mass and there was a great sense of joy and belonging together.

Needless to say the celebrations did not end with the final blessing. Everyone moved to the church hall after Mass for a cup of tea and some cake!

To echo the words of Mrs Pole in her reflection:

As we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We hope that we will continue to make God's love known among us.

A further celebration of our jubilee year will take place on 17th November 2017 in our school hall. We hope you will all be able to join us!



Year 11 Kintbury Retreat



Our residential retreats have been a great success again this year. Recently Year 11 visited St Cassian's Centre when our pupils were joined by pupils from St Joseph's Comprehensive in Port Talbot. Many new friendships were made during the course of the week, while several pupils had been on retreat together in Year 10, and were able to continue to develop their friendships.

The three days at the retreat centre were really enjoyable with a mix of fun and games, reflection and quiet time; the pupils were certainly kept busy! The retreat allowed our pupils to take time out from their lives to reflect on the place of faith in their lives and to learn more about themselves and the people around them. Pupils were placed into small groups, each with a youth leader.

It was particularly encouraging to see two former pupils doing a fantastic job of working with the young people. Chana Sidaway was in charge of leading the retreat and worked with quiet authority to ensure everything ran smoothly. Mary-Ellen Courtney was one of the small group leaders, and was excellent in gaining the pupils' trust and allowing them the freedom and support they needed to share their ideas in small group sessions. Three more of our current pupils have also applied to St Cassian's for next year. We concluded with the celebration of Mass, which encouraged all pupils to be involved in some way, showing the great variety of gifts and talents our pupils have.



The pupils were very positive about the experience and many have said that they would like to take up the opportunity to visit St Cassian's in the Sixth Form, and some looking into attending a 'Yes' week in July.



Year 11 Prom



Year 11 Prom



The Year 11 Prom was held at the Manor Park Clydach on Monday 3rd July. It was an evening of good taste and fabulous style! The winners of the 'Bishop Vaughan Prom Style Awards' were:

Best Dressed: Abbi Crocker

Best Dressed: Rhys Brock

Most Coordinated Couple: Brooke-Jayde McCarthy and Joey Harris

Best Shoes: Lily Measday

Best Hair: Roselynn Mbwembwe

Best make-up: Evie Childs

Best Transport: Thomas Dobbs

Year 11's Last Day



School Production 2017 - Annie

Once again the pupils of Bishop Vaughan excelled themselves in this year's school production of *Annie*. The buzz that a production creates around the school is palpable and this year was no exception. There was much hard work and hours of rehearsal involved and congratulations must go to the entire company for another outstanding show.



Each year we try and build on the success of the last production and hope again to be nominated for an award from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. Two years ago school's production of *Pirates of Penzance* won Best Youth Production and Thomas Lamnea won Best Youth Individual for his performance as *The Pirate King*, and last year the production of *Beauty and the Beast* was nominated for Best Youth Production. This is a huge credit to the school and demonstrates that the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of all those involved really does produce excellence on stage.



There were some very fine performances with some new talent being seen from Year 7 and a special guest star this year, Michu the Bichon Frise in the role of *Sandy the Dog*! Thanks go to the entire production team, without whom the show would not happen, the band for their hard work and all those who helped in some way whether they were pupils, staff or parents. Here's to next year's show...!



Sports Day at Pen-y-Bryn

The school received a request from Pen-y-Bryn to help out with their Sports Day. We were asked to bring sixteen students if possible, to assist with the running of the different activities.

Our pupils needed little encouragement and the number of volunteers quickly rose. Bishop Vaughan pupils worked in small groups and were stationed at the different activities ranging from boccia (a form of bowls), basketball and football shooting to obstacle courses and welly throwing.

Their interaction with the Pen-y-Bryn pupils and their enthusiasm when demonstrating and encouraging individuals helped to make the day extremely successful. We have already been asked to help out again next year!



Sports Day 2017

Sports Day finally took place on Thursday 6th July after one postponement due to wet weather. Fortunately the sun shone on that day and pupils in Years 7-10 participated in athletics events (100, 300m, 800, long jump, shot putt, relay and the tug of war), 5-a-side football competitions and rounders/softball tournaments. All events were performed with good team spirit but also quite competitively!! Many records (40 in total) were broken in the athletics events which is a good indicator of our pupils' attitude and progress this year. A thank you to the Year 12 students who helped with the general running of the day - football referees, scorers, tuck shop helpers, but it needs to be said that the staff once again beat the Sixth Form at tug of war!

Tag Rugby

A group of KS3 pupils were invited to attend a series of tag rugby sessions delivered by an outside agency. At the end of the coaching sessions pupils took part in a tag rugby festival which was attended by pupils from other Swansea schools. The pupils skills developed throughout the course and they had great fun at the same time.



Transition Days 2016-2017

10th –11th October 2016 - Year 6 – Maths + ICT

Year 6 transition days took place 10th-11th October where lessons were delivered on Maths and ICT. Pupils were presented with a mathematical problem in the morning where they worked in groups to solve. Year 6 were able to use some of the skills learned in primary and were encouraged to use the iPads/books/teacher to explore new mathematical skills they required. The afternoon's ICT session involved pupils working with spread sheets with a minion theme. Year 6 were taught to use formula in the spread sheets to multiply and total values for a 'minion party'.



18th-19th October 2016 - Year 4 – Languages

The Year 4 transition days followed a languages theme on the 18th-19th October. Pupils experienced a carousel of Welsh, French, Spanish and Food Technology. Pupils were taught new vocabulary in all languages and had the opportunity to use this in a conversation with their peers. In Food Technology pupils were given a range of fruits where they discussed the type of fruit and taste. Year 4 were shown how to use a knife correctly to cut fruit and made a fruit salad to take home.



15th-16th November 2016 - Year 5 – Drama, Geography, RE, and Art

Year 5 had their first visit of the year on 15th-16th November. Pupils followed a carousel of lessons including Drama, RE, Geography and Art.



Transition Days 2016-2017

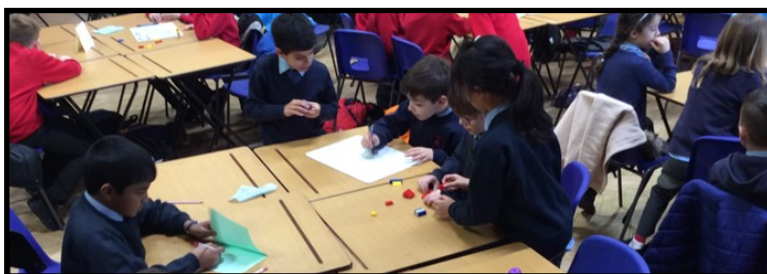
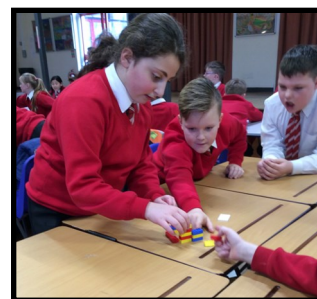
14th-15th February 2017 - Year 5 - Murder Mystery

The second Year 5 visit took place 14th-15th February where pupils took part in a 'Murder Mystery'. Pupils were shown the murder scene and the eight teacher suspects on their arrival, then had the rest of the day to find the culprit. The pupils worked through sessions including Maths, English, Spanish, Science and History in order to reveal clues surrounding the murder. The arrest took place at the end of the day and was made by the school's PCSO link officer much to the delight of the pupils.



21st-22nd March 2017 - Year 4 - Team building activities

The last visit for Year 4 pupils was a day of team building activities. They worked with pupils from other schools to work their way through challenges as a team. Activity examples included an observation round from the *Despicable Me 3* movie trailer, building the highest shoe tower and creating their own villain which involved a presentation from each team.



27th-28th June 2017 - Year 6 – Team building activities

The Year 6 pupils followed a similar day to the Year 4 team building day with many similar activities. As this day was for pupils who have been accepted for Year 7 it was an opportunity for Year 6 to meet their peers who will form the same year group. Year 6 had an additional sporting activity to their team building day, 'Capture the Flag.' This required the pupils to work as a team to invade and capture the flag from the opposition whilst attempting to protect their own.

This activity was a firm favourite when asked for feedback from pupils.

We look forward to welcoming all of the current Year Six pupils in September, and the Year Four and Five pupils in the subsequent years!



Mathematics

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results

On the 27th April 2017, 50 pupils from Years 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils did exceptionally well this year with 24 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan with Dominic Parry in Year 7 achieving the highest mark in the school. Both Dominic and Ashwin were then invited to take part in a further round of the challenge called the Kangaroo. They both did very well and Ashwin achieved a merit award which is the highest award available. Well done to both boys on their achievements. We're excited to see how you're going to do next year!

Year 8

1 st	Ashwin Sibi	Gold Award
2 nd	Isaac Williams	Gold Award
3 rd	Nirmal De Britto	Silver Award
4 th	Cadan Jones	Silver Award
Jt5 th	Ffion Morgan	Silver Award
Jt5 th	Keira Ingham	Silver Award
7 th	Alexi Jaimon	Silver Award
Jt8 th	Adam Murphy	Silver Award
Jt8 th	Jack Measday	Silver Award
Jt 10 th	Luke Taylor	Silver Award
Jt 10 th	Joshua Manantan	Silver Award
12 th	Michael Pole	Bronze Award
13 th	Samuel Harvey	Bronze Award
14 th	Leighon Otteson	Bronze Award

Year 7

1 st	Dominic Parry	Gold Award
2 nd	Jeremy Andrews	Silver Award
3 rd	Liam Owen	Silver Award
4 th	Santino Courtney	Bronze Award
5 th	Rhys Williams	Bronze Award
6 th	Sam Sarsero	Bronze Award
7 th	Isaac Halimi	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Joel Screen	Bronze Award
Jt8 th	Kinga Ardouin	Bronze Award
10 th	Cameron Millis	Bronze Award

The following pupils also did very well but they just missed out on a certificate: Jay Evans, Angel Johnson, Alan Varosyan, Ben Thomas, Lemuelle Rosales and Jack Cable. Well done to everybody that took part.

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

Mathematics

Maths Challenge Success in Bishop Vaughan 2016-2017

During this academic year, 120 pupils from Years 7-13 have taken part in the UKMT Maths Challenges. 49 of our pupils achieved a certificate and here are a selection of the winners. Well done everyone.



Junior Challenge winners



Intermediate Challenge winners



Senior Challenge winners



English

Scholastic Book Fair

Bishop Vaughan held another '*Scholastic Book Fair*' at the end of June. Many pupils from Year 7 to Year 12 purchased books, stationery and posters on popular fiction and non-fiction texts. Due to the amount spent by pupils, Bishop Vaughan Library will receive some free books as a reward for their commitment and enthusiasm to reading! Many thanks to all pupils and staff who supported the fair, especially Lloyd Thomas in Year 7 who came every day to help out!

Swansea Young Writers' Squad

Several of our students who have a real interest in creative writing continue to be part of this group who are fortunate enough to enjoy free creative writing workshops led by a variety of writers. The session in March involved working with Eloise Williams whose latest novel '*Gaslight*' is set in Victorian Cardiff. In May the squad were able to work with the poet Jonathan Edwards who won the prestigious national award, the Costa Poetry prize, and also the Terry Hetherington Award for Welsh Writers. This meeting was so enjoyable that Jonathan joined the squad again for the final meeting of the year at the Dylan Thomas Centre on July 8th.

National Young Writers' Award



Sam, Michael, Cauley, Isaac, Sam, Bethan and Keira

Seven pupils in Year 8 were awarded with certificates in recognition of the fantastic stories they entered into this national competition. There were over 10,000 entries and our pupils were commended for their efforts.

Debate Club

Some students from Key Stage 4 have attended a lunchtime Debate club where they have had the opportunity to discuss current affairs.

History Department



The History department at Bishop Vaughan School has been the first in Wales to participate in the 'Out of the Shadows' project. The project is run by Dr Luca Trenta of Swansea University and explores the role of espionage and covert operations in influencing political developments in history. The project has only recently launched and the first session was trialled with the Year 10 History classes. Pupils learned about the background to the 1948 Italian elections, including the role of the CIA

in trying to influence outcomes. The pupils then staged their own version of the election, complete with covert operations and electoral interference, in order to examine the tactics used to undermine the democratic process.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and mock election, especially as it was a topic that they were previously unfamiliar with. Dr Trenta was so impressed by the groups he worked with that he has invited BVS pupils to a conference on covert operations that he is organising in September.

Examination Results

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

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

Unfortunately, we cannot give out results over the phone.

CERTIFICATES

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

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

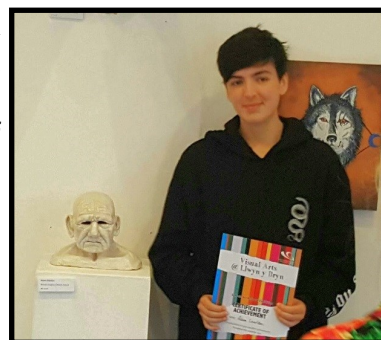
Niko counted a total of 60 birds perching in three trees. Five minutes later, 6 birds had flown away from the first tree, 8 birds had flown away from the second tree and 4 birds had flown away from the third tree. He noticed that there was now the same number of birds in each tree. How many birds were originally perched in the second tree?

A : 14 B: 18 C: 20 D: 21 :E 22

Solution can be found on page 28.

Art Department

At the beginning of July I had two pieces of my art work in an exhibition in the Grand Theatre. The work was part of selection of work from schools across Swansea. On the opening night I went along expecting to see two of my paintings displayed. To my delight and surprise, I found that I had won an award for the best art work; I didn't even know there was an award!



I'm very thankful to my art teachers Mrs Jones and Mrs Gwilliam for selecting four pieces of my work to put into the exhibition and for giving me this opportunity.

Adam Charlton Y12

Adam also designed the 50th Anniversary artwork on our front cover.



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

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



Year 9 Critical Thinking Day

As part of the school's programme to support more able and talented pupils across the school, a group of Year 9 pupils attended a Critical Thinking Skills Day at Swansea University.

The pupils participated in a workshop examining the issue of media depictions of teenagers. The focus was on discussion and debate in order to develop pupils' skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. The pupils looked at newspaper headlines about teenagers and considered why these perceptions existed.

The pupils took an active part in the day and were praised by university staff for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour. The skills developed by the pupils will prepare them for the demands of the GCSE courses they start next year, as well as introducing them to the opportunities offered by the MAT programme.

Healthy Eating Club

We are coming to the end of the academic year of the club and what better way to finish than with a party?

During the year, the pupils have gained a lot of experience, looking after their own cookers and controlling the times for recipes and preparation.

They are able to weigh out ingredients with confidence and they are able to try different ingredients like spices and herbs for flavour and strength.



We have had some 'guest teachers' to bring their own favourite recipe to the group and that has always been very successful. I think that our top favourite must be the Spanish paella from Dr Felton which was delightful and substituted the prawns ("Ugh" from the pupils) with chorizo sausage.

I will be retiring from Bishop Vaughan in July so I hope that the club goes from strength to strength and I wish all the pupils a Healthy future.

Mrs P Thomas

Geography Department

Both GCSE and A Level Geography students have undertaken fieldwork this term. Firstly, our GCSE students have undertaken fieldwork in both physical and human geography. Our Students visited the river Ilston, Gower, on Wednesday 28th June to investigate changes to the river as it flows downstream.



Top Right: Year 10 at River Ilston, Gower.

Right: Year 12 at Pwll Du Bay, Gower.

Below Left: Sand dune Plant identification at Oxwich Bay, Gower.

Below Right: Measuring infiltration rates within the sand dunes at Oxwich Bay, Gower.



The second study investigated the flow of traffic and mobile data from an urban to a rural area. Both trips were successful and pupils were a credit to the school, despite some wet weather!



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

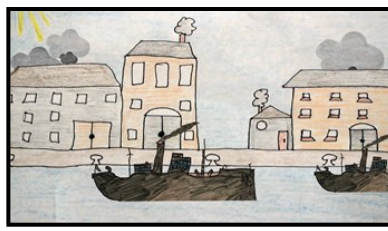
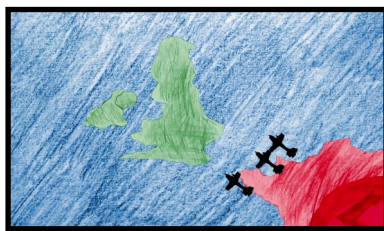
approach to their fieldwork is commendable, well done Year 12!

Lead Creative School

A group of Year 9 pupils were selected to take part in the Arts Council of Wales: Lead Creative Schools Project. The pupils looked at five creative habits of mind, which were to be used to benchmark their development. The areas of focus were collaboration, inquisitiveness, persistence, imagination, and discipline.

The pupils were selected from a wide range of abilities and have were selected because they had made great efforts to improve in attainment in earlier years. The pupils had the opportunity to work with two Creative Practitioners, who have been helping the pupils develop their creative skills using writing and animation techniques.

A visit to Swansea City Centre had pupils looking at the difference between Swansea now and in the past. In groups, they selected an interesting historical event that took place in Swansea and used this to help them write a creative story and develop their imaginative skills through animations.



The project took place over two terms and the pupils spent ten days working with the Creative Practitioners. Kelly Rees, the writer, helped the pupils advance their creative writing skills and helped the pupils refine and alter the stories until they were fit for purpose. Dan Evans, the animator, worked with the pupils to develop a range of animation techniques including stop motion and key frame animations. The result of this were five animations that are to be compressed, so that they can be embedded into an app that pupils produced during their visit from Technocamps.



Lead Creative School



The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the project and developed skills in all areas of the creative habits of mind. They found that there were times that they had to persevere with a task even though they found them to be difficult or repetitive. They had to work in groups collaboratively and share the roles to ensure everybody had their part to play. For some this was easy, but for others, they had to become more cooperative or more interactive learners. This became easier as the project went on and the teams became stronger.

St Joseph's Primary School took place in order to showcase all the work the two schools had produced during their Lead Creative School projects and the Year 4 pupils are looking forward to coming to Bishop Vaughan for future transition events where they will be able to take part in animation sessions.

Finally, parents were invited to attend an evening showcasing all the work that pupils had created throughout the Lead Creative Schools Project. The art work was placed on display boards and parents were able to view booklets that included each group's creative writing tasks. After a quick introduction from Mrs A. Jones and Mrs M. Morgan, the animations were shown to parents and pupils in attendance. The feedback from parents was excellent, with parents requesting copies of the animations and copies of the creative writing booklets. Many felt that it was a great way of engaging pupils through creating the animations as well as engaging those viewing the animations.



The project was highly successful and the pupils enjoyed the opportunity to develop their creativity and digital competency skills. As teachers, we also learnt a great deal about how to be more creative in our teaching to keep pupils engaged and motivated.

Mrs Jones and Mrs Morgan

BISHOP VAUGHAN PUPIL WINS NATIONAL MENTORING AWARD

Kaitlyn, a Year 10 pupil, has won a national award for her participation in the Mullany Fund e-mentoring scheme. The Mullany Fund works closely with the school to support pupils interested in careers in health, medicine and the life sciences. The scheme links pupils with online mentors working in these fields, who offer advice, guidance and answer questions from the pupils. Kaitlyn, who is interested in veterinary science, participated actively in the scheme. Her mentor was so impressed that she nominated Kaitlyn for a Brightside Mentoring Award, a national award recognising mentors and mentees. Kaitlyn attended the awards evening in London at the start of July, where she won the prize for 'Under 16 Mentee of the Year', beating three other nominees from across the UK.

Invite your MP to School Campaign**Visit by Carolyn Harris MP on 7th April 2017**

Carolyn Harris MP visited Bishop Vaughan on the last day of the Spring Term. This visit was organised through the Catholic Education Service 'Invite your MP to School' campaign. It started with an extended assembly in the Main Hall in which a group of students from across the key stages had the opportunity to learn about the day to day job of an MP, and to listen to Carolyn's own journey from being a young mum who tragically lost a son, to becoming an MP with the desire to make a positive difference to people's lives. Students in turn asked very intelligent questions on relevant matters such as the leadership in her own party, opportunities for young people or the rights of EU citizens living in the UK after Brexit.

After meeting with the SLT, a more 'informal' Q&A session was held with the Sixth Form Committee. It was clear that students had really prepared for this meeting and, once again, the discussion ranged from issues regarding education such as university tuition fees or decreasing funding for music services, to very current matters about party politics in the UK. Carolyn's visit ended back in the Main Hall where she had the opportunity to see the work of the Charity Team and, in particular, the start of the Stay Awake fundraising event in memory of Michael Cura.

BVS Charity Group

Fundraising Day – In memory of Michael Cura

The charity group arranged a fundraising day in memory of Michael Cura on 7th April 2017. There was a non-uniform day for the whole school with the Sixth Form and charity team adopting a pirate theme as this was a favourite of Michael's. In addition there was a bake sale at lunchtime. As an accumulation of events the charity group / Sixth Form held a sponsored 24-hour 'Stay Awake' through the night.



As a special way of celebrating his memory the group set themselves the challenge of cycling the Santiago distance in his honour with their own "camino". Three spin bikes were donated by Swansea University and over the course of 24 hours students and staff cycled the distance to Santiago. All who cycled were sponsored and through generous donations a total of just over £1,500 was raised, a remarkable achievement for a special young man. This money will be shared between charities and causes close to Michael's heart. We will link with Michael's family to decide on the causes.



Activities throughout the 24 hour Stay Awake included completing the cycling, games, quizzes, takeaway treats and a mini concert by the band JayCee. At the start of the evening a prayer service, which the Cura family joined and contributed to was a beautiful and reflective way to celebrate Michael's life and share memories. Fr John also came along to support the family, students and staff. The focus was on Michael as the light who shines and supports us – linking us all together in a special way. We continue now to keep his light shining bright by living his example in our lives.

The whole event embodied fun, faith and friendship!

Later on in the summer term a memorial and art work piece is to be organised as a lasting memorial at the school.



BVS Charity Group

MIND – Bake Sale

As part of the activities organised for Mental Health Awareness week the charity team organised a bake sale. A delicious selection of cakes and treats were available. A grand total of £175 was raised and donated to Swansea MIND, a brilliant example of the BVS community supporting local organisations.



Mental Health Awareness Week

Bishop Vaughan School marked Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) with a series of events in May. MHAW is a national campaign designed to encourage discussions about mental health and reduce the stigma around mental health issues. Throughout the week, pupils received assemblies from the Sixth Form Leadership Team on the topic of mental health. There were also many lunchtime activities, including mindfulness sessions led by Mr McKay, a talk from MIND, the mental health charity and a fundraising bake sale which raised over £160 for MIND.



FirstGive Initiative

As part of their Welsh Baccalaureate Community Challenge Year 10 pupils collaborated with FirstGive in order to raise money and awareness for local charities.

Each class selected a local charity, planned and prepared their presentations and competed for a place in the school final. On the 5th July each class winner then competed in the FirstGive Schools final, in the hope of winning money for their chosen charities.



The six charities represented were:-

Cystic Fibrosis	HCPT
Cancer Research	Air Ambulance
Alzheimer's UK	Ty Hafan

The judging panel comprising of Mrs Pole, Head Girl Laity Watters and Deputy Head Boy Jonah Fage were joined by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Swansea. A competitive final followed, in which the students presented to the judging panel and a live audience made up of members of Year 7 and 8, invited family members and representatives from the charities.

After much deliberation the winners were announced:

£1,000 – Cystic Fibrosis
 £250 – Cancer Research
 £250 – Alzheimer's UK



Each group deserve to be congratulated on their passion, creativity and desire to raise awareness for their chosen charities. As the competition was so tight all six charities represented will benefit from a fundraising day in the autumn term, in which each charity can be represented and funds raised for such worthwhile causes close to students' hearts.



Sixth Form Prom

On Wednesday 28th June the Year 13 prom took place in the Village Hotel.

It was an opportunity for our year group to have one final celebration together before we all go our separate ways.



We were treated to a delicious three course meal followed by a disco where some of the boys showed us all how to dance!



A definite highlight of the evening was the photo booth with dozens of props that allowed us to capture some funny photos that will forever remind us of our prom.

Many staff attended the prom including Mr and Mrs Davies with baby Hywel who enjoyed being passed around the pupils.



Sixth Form Prom

The evening was filled with laughter and it was a great opportunity to celebrate the friendships we have made over the last few years.



Everyone was dressed to impress and it was a lovely way to end our time at Bishop Vaughan!



More Able and Talented in Year 12



Year 12 pupils at BVS continue to participate in a number of schemes and summer schools as part of the school's programme to support more able and talented pupils.

A number of Year 12 pupils are attending the Oxford University UNIQ summer school and the Sutton Trust summer schools. Both these programmes are highly competitive and our pupils were successful against thousands of other applicants. During these summer schools, pupils participate in tutorials and research academic topics linked to their choice of degree subject.

Some Year 12 pupils also visited Cambridge University as part of the HE+ programme. Whilst there, they attended workshops on writing UCAS statements and were given tours of the university colleges. Many pupils from the school are also attending the Swansea University Summer School and two pupils, Lauren Hutfield and Lowri Davies-Warwick, successfully obtained places on the Swansea University Law residential summer school. Jennifer Thomas also attended a prestigious veterinary surgery residential course at Cambridge University.

Finally, the school extends its congratulations to Ira Go, who has been offered a Nuffield Research Placement. This is an extended work experience placement in a science or technology-related field. Ira will be working in a laboratory over the summer conducting biomedical research. She is the first BVS pupil to attend a Nuffield Placement.

These opportunities have encouraged our pupils to aim high with their university applications and we anticipate several pupils applying for Oxford, Cambridge or other Russell Group universities as a result. If any prospective Year 12 students or their parents wish to discuss the opportunities available to them, please contact Miss Siddika, the More Able and Talented Co-ordinator at the school.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

- E Let the number of birds remaining in each tree be x . Therefore $x + 6 + x + 8 + x + 4 = 60$, which has solution $x = 14$. Hence the number of birds originally perched in the second tree is $14 + 8 = 22$

Introducing the Sixth Form Leadership Team

As the newly appointed Sixth Form Leadership Team, may we introduce ourselves?

We look forward to supporting pupils across the school by representing their viewpoints, introducing initiatives for improving different areas of school experience and celebrating our school and its community.



Head Boy:
Steffan Cushion

I am passionate about helping improve your school life in any way I can. Please don't hesitate to forward your suggestions to either myself or anybody else in the Leadership Team!



Head Girl:
Laity Watters

It is a privilege to be your Head Girl this year. I am looking forward to supporting and representing you all throughout the year and helping to lead and encourage the whole Leadership Team.

Deputy Head Boy:
Jonah Fage

It is a privilege to be deputy head boy because with me as Deputy Head Boy the school will be consecratio excellentiae (in pursuit of excellence).



Deputy Head Girl:
Lauren Hutfield

Having been a student here at BVS for almost six years, I'm honoured to have been chosen as Deputy Head Girl and look forward to building upon relationships and improving the school along with our fantastic team.



Music Prefect:
Alisha Moran

It is an honour to have been selected to become the music prefect. I look forward to working with the musical community at BVS.



Sports Prefect:
BJ Pasion

I'm looking forward to sharing my passion for sports, promoting it within the school and getting us more active! I hope that my in-depth knowledge of sport will benefit my role and allow me to be as good as I can be.



Sixth Form Wellbeing:
Amelia Reynolds

It is a privilege to have been appointed as your Sixth Form Wellbeing prefect. I look forward to hearing all of your suggestions and striving to make BVS a better and more caring environment.



With sincere thanks to our predecessors:

Thomas Hutchins, Muyembe Mwamza, Louise Morris, Bethan Jones, Naseem Otim, Felix Thomas, Rhiannon Griffith, James Cornell, Charis Fage, Dion Peter, Jerome Mathew, Ailin George-Moolepparambil, Ozase Aghedo, Nazanin Pourdaneshmand, Khama Buliyani, Elizabeth Crudge, Laurie Stevens, Megan Williams, Kimberley Holmes, Elin Street, Chloe Sargeant, Caleb Chanda, Mary James, Aimee Spicer-Jones, Sidney Ndungu and Sophie Brock

We look forward to continuing your excellent work!

Introducing the Sixth Form Leadership Team

Year Seven Prefects



Soffia Cahill

I'm looking forward to welcoming the newest members of our school and helping them settle in.



James Necrews-Morgan

It will be a pleasure to work with the Year Sevens and help them with any problems they may face in their first year of school.

Year Eight Prefects

Jennifer Thomas

It's a privilege to represent the Year Eight group and help them to develop within the school. I am also looking forward to inspiring the year group.



Maricci Basa

I am happy to be able to guide Year Eight in the right direction and support them as they continue their BVS journey.



Year Nine Prefects



Molly Courtney

I am looking forward to helping the Year Nine pupils as they start preparing to begin GCSEs and supporting them when they need.



Jolia Ghattas

I am incredibly honoured to be a prefect and I look forward to helping, supporting, and witnessing the change that this team will make across the whole school!

Year Ten Prefects

Ira Go

It's a privilege to be appointed as Year Ten senior prefect, I look forward to supporting the younger pupils in their first step to their GCSE year!



Emma Burns

It is a privilege to be able to help the Year Tens at the start of their GCSEs and I hope to help make the experience as far from stressful as possible!



Year Eleven Prefects



Gian Hernandez

I am excited to be part of an enthusiastic team with the potential to do great things for the school. I am ready to support Year Eleven students.



Hollie Wright

I'm proud of the opportunity I've been given to guide Year Eleven through an exciting and important time in their school career.

School Uniform

School Uniform September 2017-August 2018

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

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

Years 7-11

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

School Uniform

Games Kit

Rugby Shirt (boys):	Burgundy with blue/white side panels
T-Shirt (boys):	Burgundy with blue/white side panels
T-Shirt (girls):	White polo shirt with blue/white side panels
Shorts (boys):	Burgundy with blue/white side panels
Shorts (girls):	Burgundy with white trim
Footwear:	Soccer, rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as applicable
Socks (boys & girls):	Burgundy
Hooded Top (girls):	Black with school logo (hooded top is optional)
Tracksuit bottoms (girls):	Plain black (only to be worn in cold weather).

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

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

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, a navy blue polo shirt with a Sixth Form logo may be worn.</i>
Skirt:	Navy blue, knee length
Trousers:	Trousers: navy blue, black, <u>dark grey</u> , standard design. No denim, leather, flares, leggings, corduroy etc.
Socks:	With trousers: dark coloured, or white With skirts: navy blue or white
Tights:	Plain, seamless, navy tights may be worn
Shoes:	Dark coloured with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter and sandals in the summer. Trainers and canvas shoes are not permitted
Topcoat:	Dark blue/black/grey – single coloured only

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

Attendance



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

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

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



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

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

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

Bus Passes



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



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

Getting to School

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

Parking Outside Bishop Vaughan

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



Parking During Parents' Evenings

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

Mobile Telephones

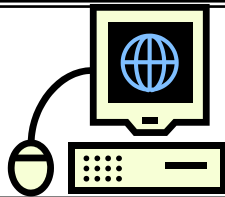
If pupils have mobile phones they should note that they are **not** to be switched on or in use inside the school. This includes the buildings, playground and playing field areas, before, during and after the school day.



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

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

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



School Website

The school website can be found at: www.bishopvaughan.co.uk

Lost Property

We still have a number of items in 'lost property', which is located in the Main Office.

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



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

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

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



**Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
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