



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter July 2021
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Gorffennaf 2021



Head Prefects



Deputy Head Prefects



Year of
ST. JOSEPH

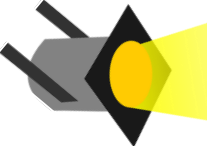


Headteacher's Message


Welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of the newsletter. What an eventful year it has been! I hardly know where to begin in describing it. It has certainly placed enormous pressures on all in our school community, however we know that we have shared this time of pressure and worry with communities throughout the nation and indeed across the globe.

In my last virtual assembly of the year with all year groups, I reflected on the fact that this has been a truly exceptional year and an exceptional journey to have travelled together. The analogy of a journey is used—and over-used—in so many contexts, but I can think of no better way to describe the experience as we have all travelled so very far and experienced so much since the time of the first lockdown in March 2020. At the time of our last newsletter's publication, we were able to update you on school news from the first lockdown and from the first term of the year. Even then, there seemed to have been so much 'distance travelled': our school had been re-purposed as a childcare setting and then transformed back into a school, and our pupils were responding wonderfully to the very different school experience to which they had returned, showing maturity and good grace given all of the strict mitigation measures in place to keep them safe— from sanitisation and masks to staggered lunchtimes and separate 'zones' of the school.

Since that newsletter, however, our pupils have proved even more exceptional than we could have imagined, coping incredibly well with a further lockdown and remote learning in the Spring term and then with the full return to school that began shortly before Easter. I would like to take the opportunity, then, as in past issues of the newsletter, to 'shine a spotlight' on a few of the countless, countless areas that deserve mention. Realistically, we cannot contain all of the achievements of our wonderful pupils in these pages, however we hope you enjoy reading about these examples!

A stylized icon of a spotlight with a yellow beam of light shining outwards.

We are incredibly proud of all of our 'exam year' pupils. Our pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 have coped with a great deal of uncertainty as to how they would be assessed this year, with conflicting messages throughout the year and information coming to schools far later than any of us would have hoped. Despite this, they adapted quickly to the demands of the assessments, which were to be used to enable schools to shape centre determined grades for qualification awards. Their hard work was evident throughout the early weeks of the summer term. The many smiling faces seen when these pupils collected their provisional results on June 18th demonstrated that their commitment had paid off and it truly was a pleasure and a privilege to see these year groups—who have had such a different experience to any before them—achieve the excellent results that reflected their hard work and their achievement. You can read more about this on page 13.

A stylized icon of a spotlight with a yellow beam of light shining outwards.

In commending the pupils' achievements, I must also commend their teachers, who have worked with dedication against a backdrop of the same uncertainties. Their absolute determination to support their pupils throughout this process has ensured that in excess of three thousand qualifications will be awarded this summer—a simply enormous undertaking given that Bishop Vaughan is a school, and not an examination board, the latter having hundreds of staff whose role it is solely to process exam papers. The teachers have managed this in conjunction with teaching classes across the age ranges to pupils who were all adapting to the return to school, and for this, I thank them. Their work means that

Headteacher's Message

our pupils can move on to the next stage of their education with the qualifications that they deserve.

I am also thrilled to be able to congratulate our Sixth Formers, who are such an important and integral part of our school community. The Sixth Form Leadership Team supports all areas of school life with energy, creativity and care. Our 'outgoing' Head Prefects had to serve for a longer period than usual as our appointments process was delayed by the Spring lockdown, however they showed dedication to their roles and the accompanying responsibilities, for example by making a valued contribution to our Sixth Form Information Evening in January, about which you can read more on page 12.

Our new Sixth Form Leadership Team has now been appointed, and what a fantastic group they are! Over the course of their years in the school, they have contributed a very great deal and I have no doubt that they will go from strength to strength, shaping provision and creating opportunities for other pupils. The panel interviewing them stated that they were "absolutely blown away" by their outlook, their positivity, their reflections on how they had felt supported by the school throughout the pandemic and their determination to "give back" by working as head prefects. Their appointments are thoroughly deserved and you can read more about them on page 9 .

Those reading about our head prefects will note, on reading another article (on page 8), that one of our head prefects has been awarded the first prize in the national Catholic Young Writer of the Year Award. Sam was commended most highly by the award's director for his thoughtful essay, which had been prompted by his reading of a piece by CS Lewis. Huge congratulations to Sam, who received a wide selection of books and a monetary prize in recognition of his achievement.

Another member of our head prefect team, Ashwin Sibi, has also gained recognition at a national level, having been a finalist in the Linklaters 'Making Links' Schools Challenge. As one of just twenty finalists selected from across the United Kingdom, Ashwin's prize of £1000 will be used to fund a business and law library so other Bishop Vaughan students can develop their knowledge and understanding of these fields in preparation for future university applications. The school extends its congratulations to Ashwin on his fantastic achievement!

As stated, then, at the start of this message, the information in this newsletter represents just a fraction of the activity that has taken place since the last newsletter to you. We are prouder than can be put into words of the young people that we serve here in Bishop Vaughan. It has been an honour to travel the 'journey' of this last year with them, and I can think of no better group of fellow travellers to have undertaken it with than the Bishop Vaughan community. We wish each of its members—and their families also—a safe, happy and enjoyable summer break. We offer our prayers for their happiness and health and we look forward to welcoming all of our pupils, including our new Year 7 pupils, in September!

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

All pupils return to school on Monday 6th September 2021. This will be week one on the timetable.

INSET Days

Thursday 2nd September 2021
Friday 3rd September 2021
Friday 22nd October 2021

Year 5 and 6 Open Evening

This will be held on
Thursday 23rd September 2021
from 6.00 - 8.30pm.



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

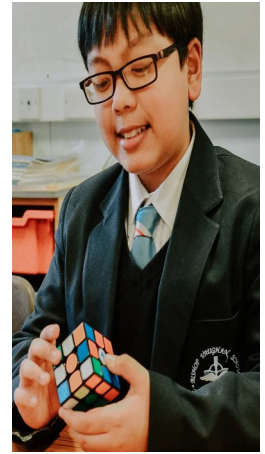


PLEASE NOTE:

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.

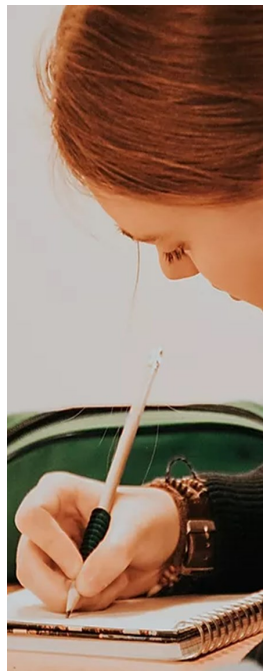
Years 5 and 6 Open Evening



We warmly welcome Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families to our Open Evening, which will be held on Thursday 23rd September.

While we await confirmation of the arrangements that will be in place at that point in the term with regard to visits to school premises, we are busy shaping a programme that will enable all of our prospective pupils and their families to learn more about life at Bishop Vaughan from the staff and from the current pupils.

We look forward to sharing more information with you early next term and to seeing you on 23rd September!



"If you have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

The Celebration of Mass

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.



We are exceptionally grateful to our School Chaplain, Father John Browne, whose celebrations of Mass have enabled all of our pupils to participate in Holy Mass, the “source and summit” of our shared faith, throughout the school year.

The regular Masses have provided spiritual sustenance in the midst of school life. On behalf of all in the school community, thank you, Father John!

Canon Flook: A Message

As mentioned in our Christmas newsletter, we were pleased to be able to present Canon Flook with a gift on the occasion of his retirement. Canon Flook has been a long-standing Governor, visitor to and supporter of the school and we are grateful for his enormous contribution over the years.

Canon Flook has asked that we convey his thanks to the school community in this edition of the newsletter. He has assured all of our pupils and their families that he will continue to take an interest in the school and its development, just as he has for the past 45 years! He has also conveyed the fact that he knows, due to his long connection with the school, just how many people have benefited from what the school has provided to them.

We are all grateful for his words of kindness, and grateful too for the very important part of our school community that he continues to be. With our prayers for you, Canon Flook, and our very best wishes!



The Year of St. Joseph

Our pupils throughout the school have focused this year on the example of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster-father of her son, Jesus. St. Joseph is an example to us of goodness and generosity, and of what it means to protect others. St. Joseph's role on earth was to lead, protect, provide, guide and love.

Pope Francis decreed that this year should be dedicated to honouring him. In *Patris Corde* ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis wrote that Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as 'the son of Joseph', "with a father's heart." He stated that:

"Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all."

We have looked, over the course of many Acts of Worship, at numerous examples of great generosity, compassion and service. We have also looked at the "quiet ways" of serving others, as Pope Francis references above, and at the idea of "creative courage", modelled so perfectly and beautifully by St. Joseph.



Our prayer groups have looked to the example of St. Joseph and we have sought ways to bring the Year of St. Joseph to life here at Bishop Vaughan.



Combining our honouring of St. Joseph with our work on 'Laudato Si', the Pope's letter to the faithful, encouraging us to care better for our common home, pupils were inspired to create a new wildflower garden area to promote biodiversity, their thinking supported by the idea of sowing the seeds of the Gospel, and they are working to design wooden shelter structures and seating areas in tribute to St. Joseph, the carpenter. We look forward to sharing more images of this work as the garden flourishes.



Catholic Young Writer Award



One of the most important life lessons that Bishop Vaughan has taught me is that when an opportunity is given to you, you must take it; so, when this essay competition presented itself to me, I knew I had no other option but to enter. This annual competition is open to all Catholic secondary school students across England and Wales. This year's theme was 'Jesus Christ: Son of God', looking at the key question: 'who was Jesus Christ?'

Using a quote from C.S. Lewis as my foundation, I began the essay. With most essays, the most difficult part is deciding on the essay title. In the end I decided to keep it plain and simple and entitled the essay 'Who was Jesus Christ?' The essay presented so many different avenues of exploration, from scholars' views on Jesus through a historical context, to looking at who Jesus was in terms of his influence in the Abrahamic religions. However, I finally decided to write about Jesus in terms of the Incarnation, as this would help provide a clear answer to who Jesus was.

I entered the competition as I thought it was a great opportunity to write about a topic I felt so passionately about. I submitted the essay having enjoyed both researching and writing it and thought nothing more about it. To learn that I had won first prize – of a national competition – was absolutely astounding!

Taking part in the competition has been such an amazing experience and I encourage everybody to make full use of the opportunities that are presented to them as you never know what might come of them!

Sam McCarthy, Year 12

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Many congratulations to the newly-appointed Sixth Form Leadership Team for 2021-2022. We have no doubt that they will continue to be excellent role models for all pupils and to be key to shaping provision for all pupils.

Head Prefects:

Samuel McCarthy and Ciara Caparas

Deputy Head Prefects:

Alexi Jaimon, Carys Lear, Nirmal DeBritto and Ashwin Sibi

Charity Prefects:

Dilna Isaac and Ann Justin

Catholic Ethos/Liturgy and Faith Prefects:

Naomi Day and Lloyd Hayden Reeve

Health and Wellbeing Prefects:

Angel Johnson, Hannah Thomas (ALN link) and Tianna Wilkins

Teaching and Learning Prefects:

Megan Morgan and Charlotte O'Malley

Eco Prefects:

Ffion Griffiths and Mohamed Riyaz

Digital Learning Prefect:

Cauley Glover

Performing Arts/Music Prefects:

Hannah Crudge and Michael Pole

Sports Prefect:

Elijah Molina

Welsh Prefect:

Lili Stephenson

Sixth Form Ambassadors:

Jay Evans, Rebecca Fender, Elisheba Haroon, Keira Ingham
Shane Kumarasiri, Caitlyn Preece, Harri Thomas
Dione Wambui and Daisy Watts



'Journeys' Project

During the Spring term, curricular learning continued across the age and subject range remotely, however we were also delighted to launch a new extra-curricular project for our pupils.

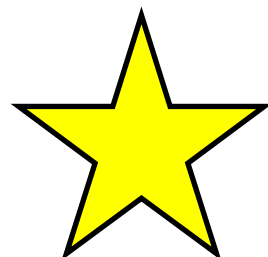
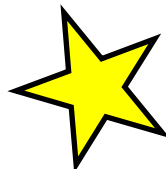
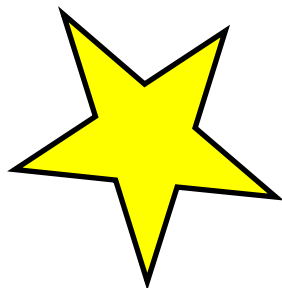


At a time when we were largely confined to our homes, we endeavoured to group extra-curricular activities around the central theme of journeys, on the premise that journeys are not confined to physical travels, but may also be journeys into literature, music or other cultural areas that develop skills and understanding.



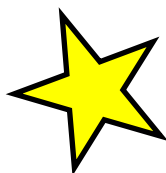

Teachers and support staff provided weekly activities and challenges within this dedicated area on Teams, with additions from numerous departmental areas.

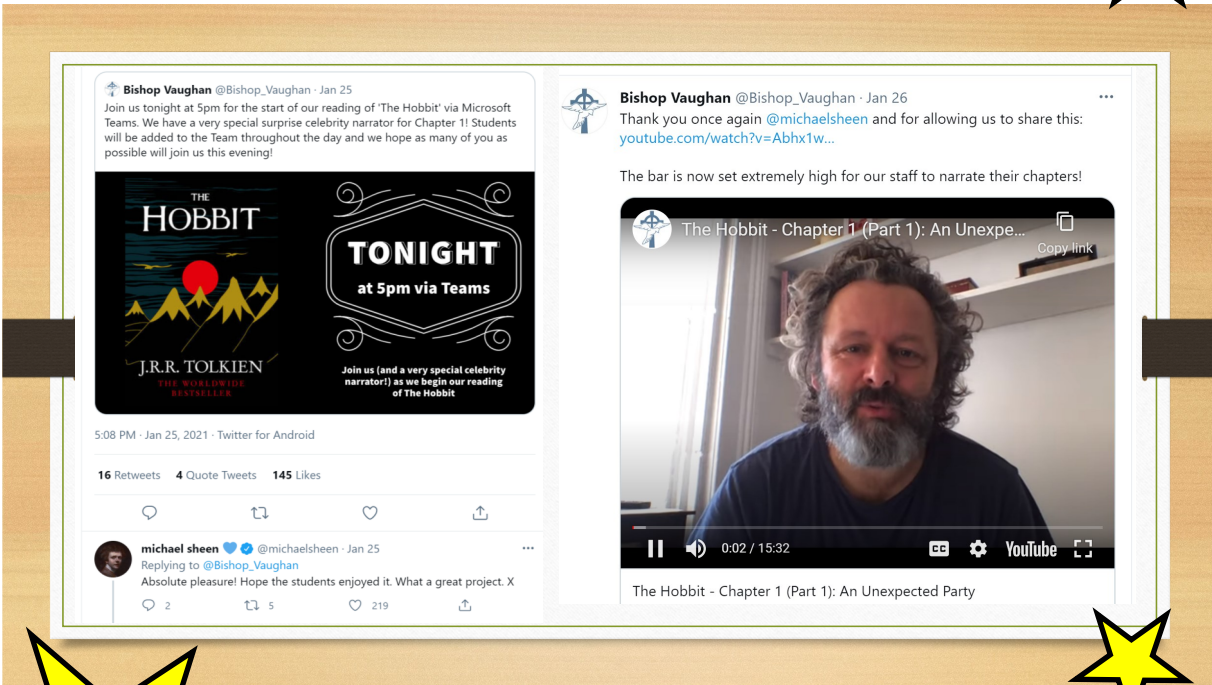
The 'Lockdown Journeys' section of the Team introduced our pupils to different destinations around the world through the descriptions of their teachers, with short films and presentations.

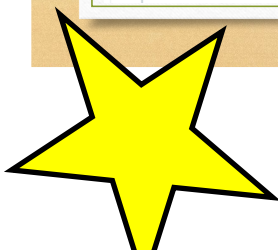


'Journeys' Project

The central activity was a reading one: a shared reading of Tolkien's novel 'The Hobbit', the subtitle for which is 'An Unexpected Journey.' Three times a week, a different member of staff (this including support and administrative staff) narrated a section of the novel, this building literacy and feeding the imagination but also ensuring that our pupils hear from a wide range of staff with whom they would normally have had contact during their school week. The readings were streamed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for the whole duration of the remote learning period.

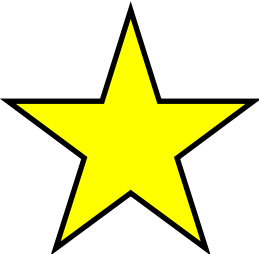
 We were overjoyed when Hollywood actor Michael Sheen kindly and graciously agreed to launch the reading of 'The Hobbit' at a time when many pupils were missing the daily rhythm and routine that attending school provides. His warm introductory message for the pupils at the start of the project and his enthralling reading of the first section of the novel enthused our pupils immensely and encouraged their engagement in the project designed to support them in exploring new places, characters, ideas and words through fiction at a challenging time. 



 We have the very highest aspirations for our pupils and receiving such an uplifting message of positivity from an esteemed actor was a great encouragement for them. It certainly gave everyone a boost and created a buzz of excitement!

All of the resources are still available on Teams for pupils who wish to look at these in the summer break.

Well done to all of the pupils who participated in this project on top of all of their remote curriculum learning!



Working Virtually

In these times where gathering together of people outside contact groups, or 'bubbles' has not been possible, we have worked to find ways of holding the normal school events, from the concerts described in the last newsletter to the Parents' Evenings and Options Evenings that normally thread throughout our school year.



Huge thanks to all of our parents and carers for their engagement in and appreciation of all of these events. We have been overwhelmed by your support and we are delighted to have found ways to maintain the close links that exist between our pupils' homes and the school.

Sixth Form Information Evening

As referenced above, it was vital this year to find alternative ways of holding important pupil, parent and carer events, and one example of this was the occasion of our Sixth Form Information Evening in January.



With the hard work of Mr. Jones, our Data Manager, who designed the site that brought all of the many, many subject films, talks and resources together, and which facilitated live chat throughout the evening in breakout rooms for each subject area, we were able to hold a lovely event and to chat with pupils and their families.

Our Head Prefects, Ayoub Ghattas and Emily Paradise-Ruan, made a truly valued contribution to this and it was wonderful to see so many pupils involved!



All of the resources and information provided for this event can be found at this link:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/sixth-form-virtual-open-evening>

and while the live chat event is now over, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions about our Sixth Form and the subjects on offer!

Year 11-13 Provisional Results Days

What a fantastic sense of accomplishment and achievement pervaded the provisional results day for our three examination year groups on Friday 18th June!



We might have had to remain socially distanced and to hold each of the results distributions in different venues, but the sense of shared effort and of sheer joy was tangible for the whole of the day!

The results were the product of weeks of assessments and a demanding process for gathering evidence to support the award of centre-determined grades. Our pupils showed enormous resilience given the challenges they faced, having returned to school after a period of remote learning, like their peers throughout Wales.

Our processes for determining these grades were shared with parents, carers and pupils throughout the weeks and months during which we worked together on them. A short film about the CDGs can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlqbhZTSdLQ> and all of the relevant information is provided at this link: <https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/qualifications-2021> .

Very many congratulations to the hundreds of learners receiving qualifications this summer! They are impressive and very well-deserved!

Year 11-13 Celebrations

None of us could have imagined this time last year that school proms would be out of the question for a second year running! Given that this year, however, we were not actually in a lockdown, we were able, with careful planning, to arrange events that would allow each year group to celebrate their achievements.

From gazebos to food trucks and ice cream, screened messages from teachers, balloon arches and photo booth frames outdoors, we were determined that our exceptional pupils would be able, even in these exceptional times, to mark the milestones of completing their school-based education or their GCSEs.



Congratulations to all of those celebrating their achievements! It was a privilege to support them in working towards fulfilling their dreams and aspirations.

Our school mission statement is based on John 10:10—"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Whilst qualifications themselves are no real measure of the

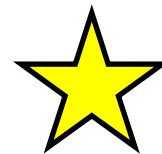
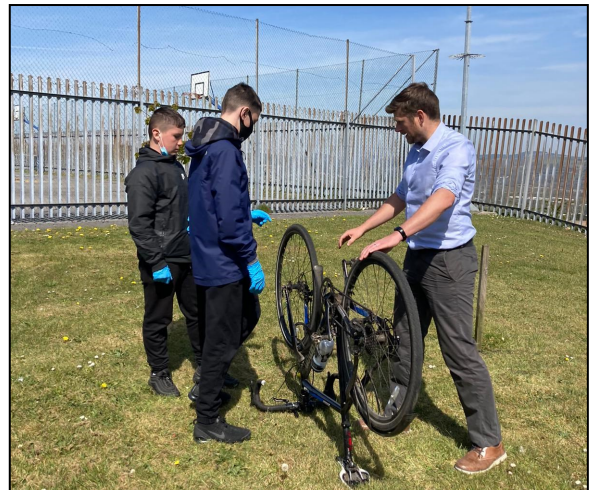
fullness of life, the use of one's God-given abilities is to be commended, and we congratulate these pupils on utilising their time and talents as they have!



Bicycle Maintenance

A group of Year 9 pupils have been working over the summer term on completing a course in bicycle maintenance with Cycle Gower, where they have learnt skills such as repairing punctures, replacing brake pads, setting up gears and completing safety inspection checks. So far, seven pupils have completed their Agored Level 1 qualification and are now on course to complete their Level 2 qualifications before the end of term.

Next term we hope to open up the opportunity to a wider group of pupils who might be interested in gaining the same experience and qualifications. In an attempt to encourage more people to cycle safely to school, we have also installed a new bike storage facility within the school for staff and pupils.



Performing Arts

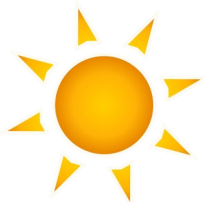
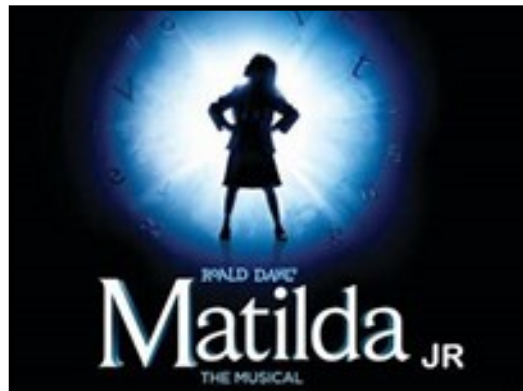
This year has been a challenge for everyone, but here at Bishop Vaughan we have been finding new ways of adapting and making things work, particularly in Performing Arts. At Christmas time we held our first (and hopefully last) 'Virtual' Christmas concert. It wasn't the same as holding our usual Carol Service in the beautiful setting of St. Joseph's Cathedral, but it was magical to see all the pupils performing again and doing that they do best. The pupils and staff adapted well to rehearsing and recording with strict Covid guidelines in place, and we could not be prouder as a school. The proceeds of the concert were able to fund some new equipment for the department, as well as half of the proceeds being given to the charity team to distribute to many worthy causes.

Our peripatetic music lessons have been thriving during the pandemic with our existing pupils, as well as an amazing intake in our current Year 7 who are really developing as instrumentalists. We have exciting instrumental projects such as 'Band Along' for all pupils joining us in September, and the new Year 7s will also as always have the opportunity to learn an instrument. If any current pupils would also like to learn an instrument, please see Mr Eynon-Davies, our Head of Music and Performing Arts, for more details.

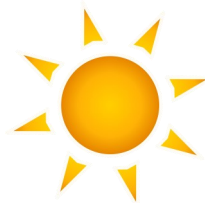


Next year we have two exciting events to look forward to. Our Autumn concert will be 'A Night at the Oscars' and it will feature music and songs from many award-winning films performed by our talented musicians and vocalists.

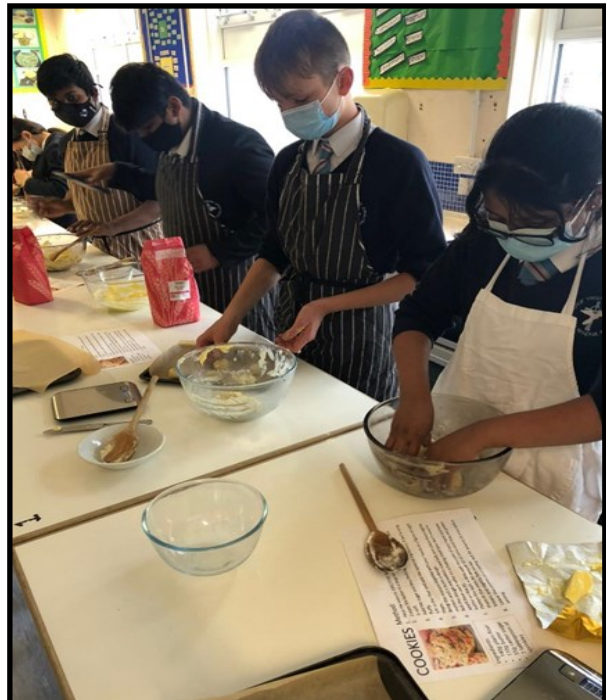
We are also VERY excited to announce that our Summer 2022 music will be 'Matilda-The Musical Jr.' Specific details for both events will be published in due course, in line with any guidance and restrictions nearer the time.



We hope you have a lovely summer and we look forward to an exciting year ahead nurturing talent here at BVS.



Design and Technology



After a hard year with numerous restrictions in place, pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 are now able to return to the food technology and woodwork rooms to engage in skills-building activities.

Pupils have been making scones and rainbow shortbread biscuits to take home and enjoy in cooking lessons, creating a marble maze drop game in woodwork lessons and using MicroBit devices to code in STEM coding lessons.

They have thoroughly enjoyed the lessons to date and their enthusiasm shows in the quality of the work they have produced!

National Finalist

Year 12 Student Wins £1000 Prize For School!

A student in Bishop Vaughan’s Sixth Form has won a £1000 prize for the school after taking part in a business competition.

Ashwin, in Year 12, was a finalist in the Linklaters Making Links Schools Challenge. The Making Links Schools Challenge aims to help young people to develop their commercial awareness and presentation skills. Ashwin was one of twenty finalists selected from across the United Kingdom after a rigorous process.

After participating in the virtual grand final, Ashwin was awarded a personal prize, as well as winning £1000 for the school.

The prize money will be used to fund a business and law library so other Bishop Vaughan students can develop their knowledge and understanding of these fields in preparation for future university applications.

The school extends its congratulations to Ashwin on his fantastic achievement.



Linklaters



“Go Extra”



‘Go Extra at Bishop Vaughan’ is our bespoke loyalty card scheme.

Our aim is to promote and encourage pupils to get involved, join clubs and have some fun. While this has been difficult during the past year with its restrictions, current guidance means that we should be able to resume this in September!

Pupils receive a ‘Go Extra’ card and points/a stamp for activities attended each half term.

Completed cards are then entered in a prize draw with awards for different categories including:

- Try something new
- Most dedicated
- Pupil leader / ambassador
- Most enthusiastic

Every week there are over forty different activities and clubs available!

We want to recognise the importance of the academic, spiritual and extra-curricular opportunities available to all.

The scheme helps us to celebrate and reward students who get involved, use their God-given gifts and talents and have fun across the school community.

As Albert Einstein said, we are here to “awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

Will you accept the challenge and “Go Extra” at Bishop Vaughan?

Charity Group

Christmas Hamper Appeal

In light of current restrictions, our annual SVP Hamper Appeal was scaled back this year. Rather than collecting small change, we decided to collect essential food items instead. We linked with local SVP groups, as well as the local Foodbank Appeal.



Pupils prepared a recorded assembly, items checklists, posters and donation boxes were placed in each “bubble area” for collections to be made.

In addition, children’s selection boxes were donated, a small token from our pupils to other children and families this Christmas.

As always, the generosity of the BVS community was overwhelming, but we are especially thankful this year. All donations received went to support local families this Christmas.

Messages of Kindness

With a focus on spreading love, hope and kindness, as well as saying thank you to those in our communities, we sent cards and messages of kindness to our parishes, local hospitals, nursing homes, community groups and key workers.

Pupils prepared a note to accompany the card so show their appreciation for the dedication and example they give to others.

The messages symbolised the very many ways our pupils, staff and indeed wider school community could share kindness and positivity with each other at this precious time of year.



Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Quiz



Festivities came to Bishop Vaughan sooner than expected during the Christmas term with our Christmas Jumper Day moving forward a week, practically overnight, as we adapted to the changes made by the Welsh Government and Local Authority in December.

For those staff and pupils who were able, Christmas Jumpers were worn with festive cheer, tinsel was added to hair styles and sparkly-ness and smiles were fixed on Friday 11th December!

Standard collections from pupils were halted as a gesture of good will and cheer. The Charity Group still ensured that a donation was made to Save the Children to support the appeal.

Charity Group

Staff Fitness February Challenge

As part of the wellbeing activities to support staff across our school community, the PE Department organised a 'Fitness Feb' challenge. Staff who signed up were grouped into teams of four, with the task of walking each day in February. Each day the total distance per team was calculated. With final steps recorded, prizes were awarded for the most steps at the end of the month. The challenge provided a boost for staff morale and a sense of coming together as a community.

During February we learned the tragic news that a past pupil and inspirational young man had passed away. He was an avid campaigner for the British Heart Foundation and staff wanted to honour his memory, so decided to combine the 'Fitness Feb' challenge with a fundraiser.

A JustGiving page was set up and over the course of the month over £500 was raised for British Heart Foundation.



Lenten Programme of Activities

Facing disruption and remote learning, pupils considered the activities available and decided upon a series of activities, which would allow for pupil participation as well as reflection and focus during the Lenten season.

The activities selected provided an opportunity for us to focus on **Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2021: "Reviewing faith, hope and love"** as well as a chance to come together as a community & have a little fun.

An assembly was prepared, with a PowerPoint and voice over, and it was shared with pupils on the Whole School Assembly Team.



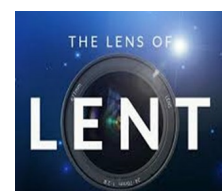
Activities included were:

- **Lent Walk for Water** – linking to and supporting CAFOD. Led by school Eco Team – walk 10,000 steps each day of Lent. This went extremely well! There was lots of positivity, counting of steps and images from the walking shared. A Just Giving page was set up for fundraising.
- **Lent Journal: Jar of Gratitude** - this called on pupils to reflect during the Lenten Season and to focus on those things that they were grateful for, recording this once or twice a week.
- **Lent Quest** – this linked to and supported Missio. There was a range of activities to "rediscover" Lent in the ordinary and daily tasks, also providing opportunities for pupils to get creative, get out into the fresh air and complete them with their families
- **Lent through a Lens** – this also supported Missio, and was a photography competition.

Evidence of the challenges completed by pupils and their families has been lovely to see.



missio



Charity Group

Mental Health Awareness Week

With restrictions in place, the annual fundraiser and events weren't able to run as normal. Instead, a programme of activities for the week was prepared and distributed.

The focus of the activities placed importance upon taking time out of the business of the day, to reflect, spend time with others and to share with one another.

Activities included spending time in nature with friends or family, reading a chapter of a favourite book and taking five minutes to focus on ourselves and activities we enjoy.

To accompany each day and activity, a biblical quote was included. The quotes were carefully chosen to provide a calm and encouraging focus throughout the day, serving as a reminder of the presence of God in our lives and the strength our faith can provide, even in the most testing of times.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK MAY 10 - 14 SUPPORTIVE CHALLENGES TO TRY ACROSS BVS & OUR WIDER COMMUNITY. | MONDAY 10TH MAY 2021 Read a chapter of your favourite book. <i>Do not let your heart be troubled.</i> John 14:1 | TUESDAY 11TH MAY 2021 Make and share a hot drink with someone in your family. <i>Be anxious for nothing...in prayer, let your requests be made known to God.</i> Philippians 4:6 |
| WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY 2021 Spend some time outside or in nature with friends or family. <i>Be strong & let your heart take courage.</i> Psalm 31:24 | THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2021 Text or Facetime a friend for a catch up. <i>Do not be afraid, for I am with you.</i> Isaiah 41:10 | FRIDAY 14TH MAY 2021 Be kind to yourself & spend five minutes doing something you enjoy. <i>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.</i> Philippians 4:13 |

The activities and moments of reflection were well received by both pupils and staff.

United Race Campaign 2021

United Race Campaign focuses on the importance of unity and cooperation in the face of discrimination and adversity.

To celebrate and mark this important campaign pupils and staff completed two activities:

Tutorial Unity Pledge cards - these were distributed to each tutorial for completion as a symbol of unity, showing our community coming together in support of one another, against discrimination and injustice in its many forms. The pledges will be displayed in school.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Unity Pledge

We stand in support of our friends and classmates. We recognise the value and contribution of all. We thank God for each member of our school community and focus on sharing kindness, love and compassion.

Thank you for all our friends our classmates & out teachers. Together we can support one another. Bishop Vaughan should be a place of safety and happiness for everyone.

As a tutorial we support and encourage everyone to be the best they can be. A school community filled with encouragement, laughter and good memories is important to us. It is what we work for.

#UNITEDRACE

Walk for Unity - at allocated times and locations, each year bubble came together, in support and unity for one another across our school community. Pupils and staff walked for seven minutes and forty six seconds as a stand against hatred and injustice.

Charity Group

Air Ambulance – Walk Wales

Led by the charity team, pupils and staff took part in the Walk Wales Campaign in support of Air Ambulance.

The target was to walk the equivalent distance from Cardiff to Oystermouth Castle (45 miles or 95,040 steps).

Distances, steps and photos of the routes were recorded and shared as evidence, with sponsorship raised throughout.

It was a great way to get out into the fresh air, explore the local area, all while having a little fun and making a difference for this worthwhile charity!



BHF Skydive Sponsorship & Raffle



This summer, one of our wonderful Year 13 pupils is completing a skydive in memory of her mum who passed away two years ago.

We are very proud of her and in addition to sponsorship, have organised a raffle to support her. Prizes include a sweet hamper and chocolate treats. The winners will be announced in the last week of term. Good luck to everyone who has bought a ticket!

Note of thanks

A special note of thanks to everyone who has supported the recent campaigns mentioned in this newsletter and indeed those previously mentioned over the last year.

All pupils involved have adapted to the changes with enthusiasm and have worked tirelessly to ensure the events and activities, although altered from usual practice, have been able to continue.

Charity, fundraising appeals, events and activities are at the heart of our ethos and the Bishop Vaughan school community. We thank God for the talents, the compassion and the awareness of social justice of all involved.

Enjoy a restful summer break everyone! We're looking forward to even more activities and events in September!

**THANK
YOU!**

Kier Construction Award



We are very proud to share the successful completion of our Year 10 boys' community-based vocational project with Kier Construction.

Supported by Swansea Council, Kier Construction offer unique learning opportunities for pupils to enjoy such as virtual work experience, online careers mentoring and environmental sculpturing.

A small group of Year 10 boys over the past term have worked extremely hard taking part in this uplifting project, supporting our local community whilst developing confidence, personal skills and employability skills.

All pupils who participated successfully achieved a Kier Vocational Development and Community Award, a General First Aid qualification and a Prince's Trust Award. In addition, our Kier pupils are invited as special guests to the grand opening of the new Tan Y Lan Primary school on completion.

WELL DONE, EVERYONE!

Ms Murray
Cynnydd Learning Coach



Science News



On 11th June, thirteen Year 12 Biology students took part in the Biology Olympiad.

✨ The students did really well. Out of the thirteen that took part, there were three commended, one highly commended and one silver award. ✨

Well done to all!

Year 12 Biology and Geography Field Work



On 29th June, 33 Year 12 students went on a joint Biology and Geography field work trip. We studied some Year 13 fieldwork content and examples of activities included - random quadrat sampling, line transects and shoreline shell search.



This was the first trip out of school since Covid emerged. The staff and pupils really loved studying outside the class room. A huge thanks to the drivers who gave lifts to the students!



Geography Department

A-Level Geography and Biology Fieldwork 2021

Nearly 18 months without any fieldwork has certainly been strange for the Geography Department! However, Tuesday 29th June saw the first fieldwork since the pandemic in a joint effort with the Biology department. An excellent day was had at Crymlyn Burrows looking at sand dune succession and beach profile. Pupils were exceptional and appreciated the chance to get out of the classroom and take part in some outdoor, hands-on learning. The fieldwork undertaken by both A-Level Geography and Biology students will help towards their A2 studies. Further GCSE geography fieldwork is planned for the final week of term.



UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Brianna has £20, all in 5p coins, and £50, all in 2p coins. How many coins does she have in total?

A 200 B 290 C 1000 D 2540 E 2900

Solution can be found on page 28.

Geography Department

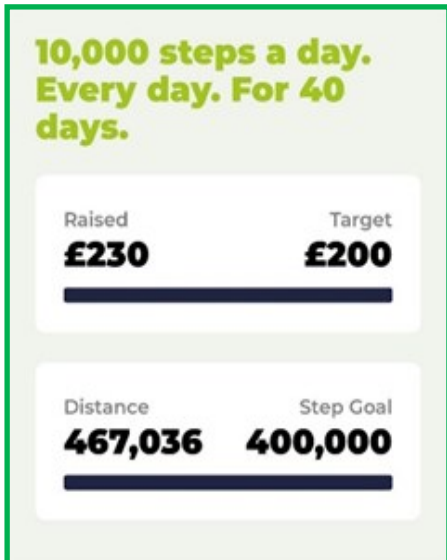
Eco-Schools News



Despite Eco-Schools not being able to meet in person since March 2020, we have still managed to grow as a group and develop areas of the school grounds. Firstly, in February of this year, 400 trees were planted through a government scheme led by Keep Wales Tidy.

Secondly, an application was made to the Gower Society for a grant to develop an outdoor learning environment. The pupils in our KS3 foundation classes produced exceptional plans and designs of the 'eco-garden' they would like as well as writing letters to support this application process. We were successful and have received £750 towards our new eco area. Work has started with our amazing caretakers creating paths using wood chippings supplied by the council.

Over the coming months, we hope to see this outdoor learning area develop further and pupil involvement will be crucial. As well as this new garden area, Aspire pupils and staff have been busy improving areas of the school grounds by clearing old raised beds and planting new 'wildlife friendly' plants. A huge amount of effort has already gone into improving our school grounds and increasing the biodiversity of the school. Watch this space for further developments as we move into the 2021/22 academic year!



The Eco-Schools team also took part in CAFOD's Walk for Water campaign, raising over £200 to improve people's access to safe, clean water across the globe.

We challenged ourselves to walk an average of at least 10,000 steps a day between us. Although, difficult at times, it was a really rewarding experience for many of our staff and pupils.

If any pupil or member of our school community would like to be part of the Eco-School plans, please get in touch with Mrs L. Davies or email DaviesL1885@hwbcymru.net



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

**Please speak with Mrs Jones or your Head of Year for
details of the location for your 'bubble'!**

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

Answer is E

£20 is equivalent to 2000p and £50 is equivalent to 5000p. So the number of coins Brianna has is $2000 \div 5 + 5000 \div 2 = 400 + 2500 = 2900$

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

Games Kit

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Rugby Shirt (boys): | Navy with blue/white side panels |
| T-Shirt (boys): | Navy with blue/white side panels |
| T-Shirt (girls) | White polo shirt with blue/white side panels |
| Shorts (boys): | Navy with blue/white side panels |
| Shorts (girls): | Navy with white trim |
| Footwear: | Soccer and rugby appropriate studded boots and training shoes as applicable |
| Socks (boys & girls): | Navy |

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

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

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Sixth Form Uniform

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

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

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

Parents' Information

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

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

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

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

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

- Medical related absences
- Religious day of observance

The School Can Help

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

- Bullying
- Exclusions
- Child Protection
- Advice and Support

If you want any help and advice about your child's attendance, please contact **Mr S Richards (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 239.**

Pupil Information

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

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



Attendance



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

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 95-100% attendance | Best chance of success | Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity. |
| 90-95% attendance | At least 2 weeks of learning missed | Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work. |
| 85-90% attendance | At least 4 weeks of learning missed | Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work. |
| 80-85% attendance | At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed | Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning. |
| Below 80% attendance | At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed | Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution. |

Absence requests from school during term time

We ask Parents/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 our Attendance Manager Mrs E-J Gwyther on extension 239 or via email GwytherE3@hwbccymru.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.

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. Thank you.

Mobile Telephones

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

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



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