

Supporting the Community

May 2020



Busy Times at BVS!

What a time this has been! Since schools were closed for the purpose of formal education on Friday 20th March, school staff and volunteers have nevertheless been exceptionally busy!

With the ‘re-purposing’ of schools as emergency child-care settings to support key workers and their families, there was a great deal to be done in preparing for this new work!

In addition to welcoming children aged 3-14 each day whose parents are currently working in healthcare and other areas critical to the national response, the staff have been supporting home learning activities daily, creating engaging and imaginative challenges and overseeing learning activity for all pupils, despite the temporary closure of formal education.

We miss each and every one of our pupils a great deal and we’re delighted to find new ways to continue teaching and learning throughout this time. Teachers are also currently working extremely hard to ensure that all of our pupils achieve fair grades for their qualifications—ones which reflect all of their hard work following the cancellation of the summer examination series.

Here, though, we’d like to share news with you about some of the voluntary work that is being undertaken in numerous areas. We hope you enjoy learning more about this!

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Working With Our Cluster Primaries

Our childcare setting is run in partnership with our cluster of primary schools. We have been delighted to welcome pupils and staff from St. Joseph’s Clydach and St. Joseph’s Cathedral School to Bishop Vaughan and we work closely with St. Illtyd’s and St. David’s who have remained in their current settings to ensure that, between us, we can cater for families throughout the city.



Easter artwork from the childcare group, and paintings of the tulips in the Rosary Garden



Not All Heroes Wear Capes ...



Staff at Bishop Vaughan have been hard at work producing medical visors as part of a city wide strategy.

A team of three specialised staff has manufactured stocks of visors for NHS and social care workers.

The team led by Mr. Smith of the Creative Technology department created a small scale production line at the school to support the local supply of personal protective equipment. Mr. Smith stated, 'Since the start of April we have been in our workshops using our laser cutter machine to manufacture medical visors which have been shared with staff at Swansea hospitals, the Adult Social Care Teams, GPs and also local pharmacies. We are proud to be doing this work to support our community.'



... But Many Wear Visors!

Mr. Smith has been assisted in this work by Mr. Green, our Creative Technology Department Technician, and Mrs. Lawrence, Cover Supervisor.

It has been a privilege for our staff to serve our local medical and healthcare community during this difficult time. The skill, dedication and determination of the production team and of so many other colleagues has been exceptional. All staff are humbled by the work of front line workers and say that they are pleased to make a small contribution to support them in any way that they can.



It is also very positive to see Swansea's schools working together in this project to support front line workers; efforts have harnessed expertise and school facilities from across the city.



Mrs. Jones and Mr. Ryan join the team effort!





Sewing Scrubs for Swansea

Mrs. Cook has been busy making up masks, headbands and laundry bags for medical and healthcare staff!



She has delivered these to settings throughout Swansea, ranging from Oxwich Community Centre to Cwmtwrch.



In addition, she has delivered material to sewers assisting in this effort and has taken all completed items to NHS and social care staff. We're sure you will agree that she has done an amazing job!



Mrs. Thorburn has also been industriously making masks and laundry bags! Her conservatory is now a dedicated sewing room and she has been pleased to be able to donate these items to staff working at Singleton Hospital in Swansea.

As you can see, Mrs. Thorburn has had some help in terms of creative inspiration! Her children are working hard here to create rainbows to decorate the windows as a tribute to NHS workers.



We'd love to see images of the rainbows that you have made. Don't forget to send these through to the Home Learning Team's email address!



Delivery Day at BVS!

Monday is delivery day here at Bishop Vaughan!

At the start of the school closure period, daily 'grab and go' bags were provided to families of pupils eligible for free school meals, as it is vitally important that no pupil misses out on their entitlement due to the unforeseen closure of schools. This provision has been refined to reduce the need to travel each day and is currently in the form of weekly food parcels.

Families will also soon be able to take up the option of BACS transfer payments should they prefer it and wellbeing staff have been in contact with all eligible families, however until this system is in place our staff have been proud to support the community by delivering the provisions to which our pupils are entitled each week!

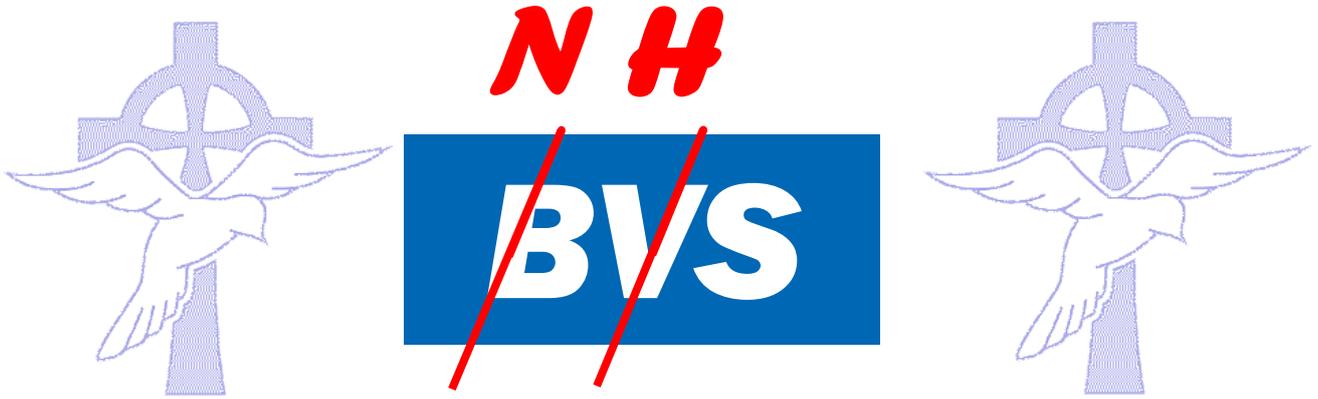


Each Monday morning, therefore, our dedicated teams of volunteer staff arrive at the school to collect the hundreds of food parcels that the catering team have been working to put together throughout the morning.



Whilst some of these are collected in person, most are delivered by the volunteer staff who each have a route allocated allowing them to get the parcels to families across the city and its surrounding areas. As Bishop Vaughan is not a community school, but a faith school which draws pupils from a very wide area, these routes are wide ranging, yet a huge number of staff have volunteered for this work to ensure that all of our families receive the support to which they are entitled.

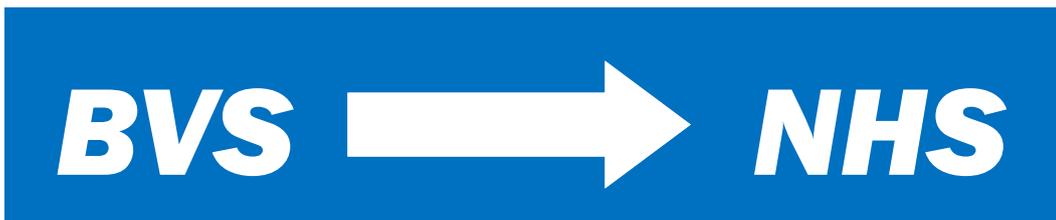




Did you know that Bishop Vaughan pupils have, historically, moved on to careers in medicine and the healthcare sector above all others?

Each year, our pupils are successful in gaining university and training places and go on to become paramedics, doctors, anaesthetists, nurses, radiographers, midwives and health visitors, amongst countless further medically-related roles, many following in the footsteps of their parents.

We are so very proud of them always, and now more than ever we are keen to recognise the enormous contribution that they are making each and every day during this time of global challenge.



With their permission, we are looking forward to sharing with you some of their names, roles and contributions to the national effort shortly. Until then, here are some images of their former teachers and their families paying tribute to their work and their service to others:



Our Pupils: Our Heroes

We are tremendously proud of our pupils for the resilience and faith with which they have faced these times of unprecedented challenge!

We are proud of you for the way in which you are following the directive to 'Stay at home and protect the NHS', and we know that this is enormously difficult for you as you are missing your friends and wider family. We are proud of you for the excellent work that you are doing in continuing your learning activities and also for the imaginative ways in which you are participating in the home learning challenges each week, many of which require very creative thinking on your part!

We have been incredibly impressed to hear of the ways in which many of you are supporting your parents, many themselves healthcare workers, as they carry out their essential roles, and to know too of the ways in which many of our older pupils are caring for their younger siblings. Some of you are doing some excellent work in supporting younger brothers and sisters with their own home-schooling! In fact we're quite sure that some of you will soon return to us as teachers (we certainly hope so!). In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you back as our pupils: to seeing you each day, guiding you and caring for you as you flourish, as truly exceptional individuals, to fulfil your God-given potential.

Your school is waiting for you, and each day you and your families are in our prayers.



*Lord Jesus Christ, You taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for You.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to
assure the isolated of our love, and Your love, for Your name's sake, Amen.*



Publish Your Work!



We have been simply astounded by some of the work that you have been sending us, from poems to prayers, letters, paintings, diary entries, reflections and countless photos of your models and creations. We've been delighted also to see the images you have sent of your own family tributes to the NHS and of the activities that have kept you occupied during lockdown.

We'd love to create a lasting record of the experience of the BVS community during this moment in history and will therefore be publishing an anthology of some of your work as soon as we are able to do so. This will be in paperback form and we hope that for many of you it will be a record that you will be able to keep throughout your lives of what this time meant to you, your friends and your school community.

We would like to invite you and your family members to make submissions for this anthology. All work submitted will be considered for inclusion and we will let you know in advance if your work will be published.

What we are looking for:

- Artwork contributions
- Poetry
- Prayers
- Reflections in prose
- Journal entries
- Photos



Submissions can be made to:
bishopvaughanH@hwgmail.net

Don't forget to include your name and the names of anyone else in your family making submissions, along with their relationship to you!

Any of these could encapsulate –

- * your feelings at this time
- * your views of/ feelings about the local/ national/ global situation
- * your 'heroes' at this time
- * what your days are like during lockdown
- * details of the skills and talents that you have nurtured
- * the people, experiences and things that you miss
- * the things for which you are grateful
- * what you look forward to

Competition!



We're currently making plans for a dedicated outdoor area that will mark this period of time, provide space for reflection and which can be cultivated in the years ahead. We want this space to be designed by **YOU!**

Just to make this more of a challenge, we're going to ask you to incorporate some features into your designs, and ask you also to think of further features yourselves! You can submit drawings, paintings, photos of models, computer-aided designs—it's your choice!

The features we **definitely** want you to include are:

- ◆ A herb garden (*this being symbolic of healing!*)
- ◆ A rainbow path (*with individual stones painted by pupils throughout the school*)
- ◆ A seating area

The rest is entirely up to you!

This competition is open to all year groups.



- First Prize: £50 Amazon voucher
- Second Prize: £25 Amazon voucher
- Third Prize: £10 Amazon voucher



We look forward to seeing your designs and to creating the garden together when we return to school once more.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

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We'll leave you with this great image of Singleton Hospital Radiology staff wearing PPE donated by BVS! From all of us in BVS, to all our NHS heroes: **thank you!**

