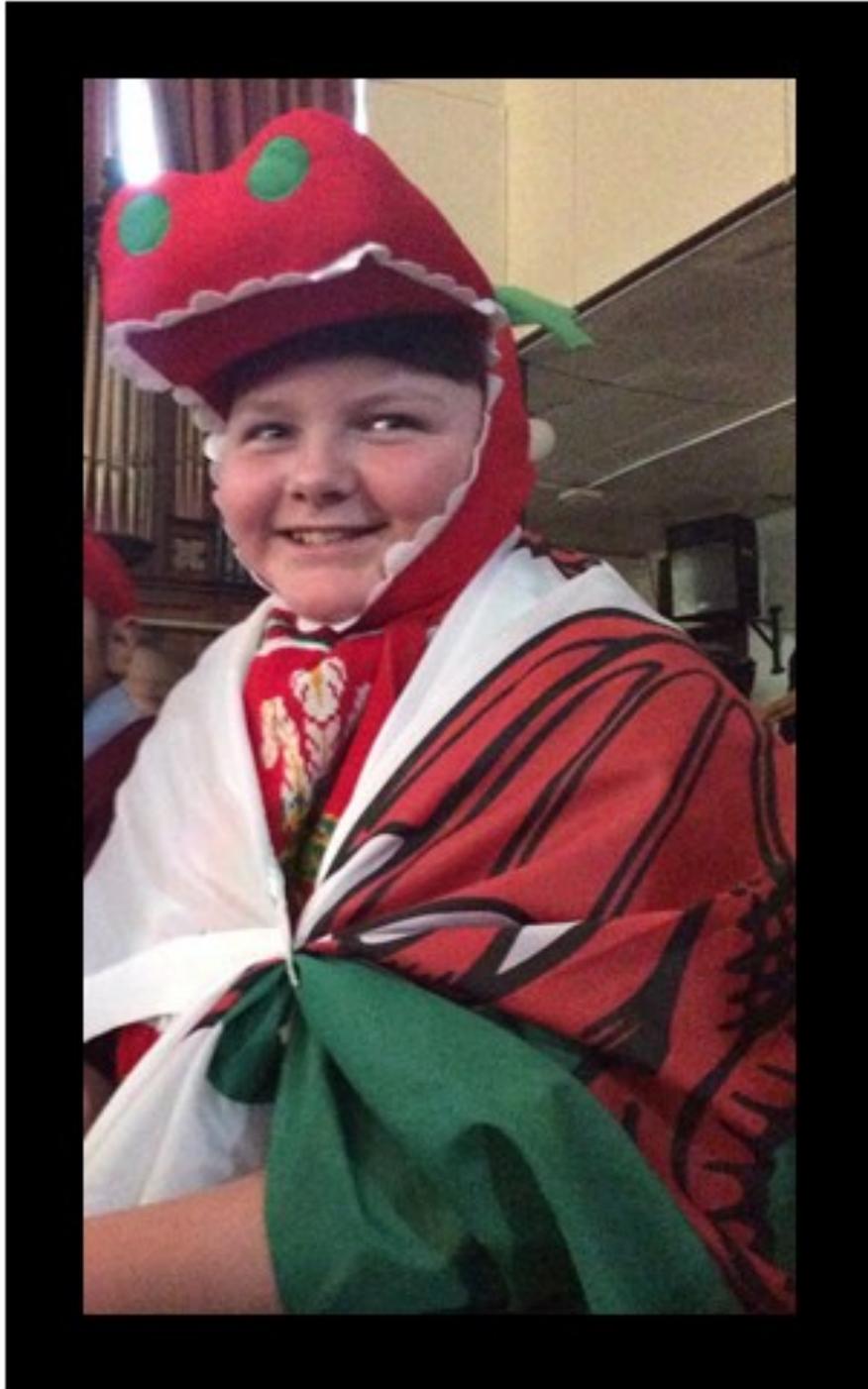




Bishop Vaughan Catholic School
Ysgol Gatholig Esgob Vaughan

Parents' Newsletter March 2016
Cylchlythyr Rhieni Mawrth 2016



Yr Eisteddfod 2016

School Term and Holiday Dates 2015-2016

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	Term begins	Begins	Ends	Term ends
Autumn 2015	Tuesday 1st September	Monday 26th October	Friday 30th October	Friday 18th December
Spring 2016	Monday 4th January	Monday 15th February	Friday 19th February	Thursday 24th March
Summer 2016	Monday 11th April	Monday 30th May	Friday 3rd June	Wednesday 20th July

Dates for your Diary

The last day of half term is Thursday 24th March 2016; school closes at 3.25pm. All pupils return to school on Monday 11th April 2016. This will be Week One on the timetable.

Advance notice of Examination Dates 2016

The main external exam period begins on Friday 13th May 2016 and will continue to the end of June. Please be aware, however, that some examinations, especially orals and practical examinations are normally held before this date.

There will be National Reading and Numeracy tests for years 7, 8 and 9 to be taken between 27th April and 6th May 2016.

The full academic year school calendar is available to view on our website, alternatively parents can collect a paper copy from the school's main office.

PLEASE NOTE:

The decision was taken by ERW, our regional consortium, that no absences due to holidays during term times will be authorised by Headteachers. This means absences that are due to pupils being taken on holidays during term time will be recorded as unauthorised.

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

Easter Services

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are the central focus of the Church's year. The liturgical rites for each of the days are an essential support to understanding the Christian message. We urge everyone to attend their Parish church for the three occasions. Times of the services in the different parishes are printed below. We wish you and happy and Holy Easter.

Blessed Sacrament (Father J P Thomas)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.00am Mass

Sacred Heart Morriston (Father Jason Jones)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass
 Good Friday 10.00am Morning Prayer
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.30pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.30am/11.00am/6.30pm
 Mass (There is also a Polish Mass at 8.00 am)

Our Lady Star of the Sea (Fr Mansel Usher)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.30am Walk of Witness
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.30 am/10.30am Mass

St. Benedict's Clydach (Father Michael Burke)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.00am Morning Prayer
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 10.00am Morning Prayer
 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.00am Children's Mass

St. David's (Canon Flook)

Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's
 Supper
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 11.00am/6.00pm Mass

St. Illtyd's (Father Saji Matthew)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.00am Solemn passion for
 children
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes (Father Artur)

All Easter Services this year are being held at
 Holy Cross, Gendros except
 Easter Sunday 11.00am Mass
 12.30pm Polish Mass

St. Benedict's Sketty (Father Carlito)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.30pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.30am/11.00am Mass

Sacred Heart Ystradgynlais (Father Michael Burke and Fr Keith Evans)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 5.00pm Solemn Passion
 12.00 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 11.30am Mass

Holy Cross (Father Thadathil)

Holy Thursday 7.00pm
 Good Friday 10.00am Stations of the
 Cross for children
 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass

St. Peter's (Father Saji Matthew)

Holy Thursday 6.30pm
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion and
 Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 9.00am Mass

Cathedral Church of St. Joseph (Father Benedict)

Wednesday 11.30am Chrim Mass
 Holy Thursday 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's
 Supper
 Good Friday 3.00pm Solemn Passion
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday 8.00am/10.00am Mass

St Bride's Pontardulais (Father J P Thomas)

Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass

From the Headteacher

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bishop Vaughan Newsletter. This has been another very busy and fruitful term. As we look forward to Easter and in preparation for Holy Week our pupils have been preparing and attending special Lenten services and Assemblies. Our senior students have also been working very hard in preparation for their external examinations which begin next term. They have been attending a wide range of revision activities at lunchtime and after school. It is important that they continue to work hard and to prepare over the holiday. I would like to wish everybody well for the examinations and we look forward celebrating some excellent results in the Summer.

We were very proud to achieve the Platinum Eco-Award earlier this term. This is the highest accolade that a secondary school can achieve and recognises our commitment to sustainability and global citizenship which are at the heart of our ethos. Although this was a whole school effort over many years, special thanks are due to Mr Richards and the Eco-Committee for leading the initiative and to our catering, cleaning and caretaking staff for all of their hard work and support.

On the 4th March we held our school Eisteddfod. This year was probably the best ever with pupils enthusiastically participating in a range of literary, musical and dance activities to celebrate our Welsh culture, language and heritage. There was a wonderful atmosphere as pupils enjoyed healthy competition between the different Houses. Congratulations to this year's winners, Mabyn, and to Mr Jenkins and the Welsh department for organising such a successful and enjoyable event.

We are also proud of our sports teams who have also been very successful as they compete in local, regional and national competitions.

We are very proud of the many achievements of our pupils outlined in this newsletter across a whole range of curricular and extra-curricular activities. I encourage you to visit our school website at www.bishopvaughan.co.uk for our latest news and for further information about school life. We now have over forty extra-curricular activities on offer and encourage all of our students to get involved. Thank you to Mr M Jones for organising our extra curricular programme and to all of the staff who take or lead activities.

You will be aware that one of our main priorities this year has been to continue to improve attendance as this is one of the key factors in supporting our learners to achieve their full potential at school. At the moment due to your support we are on track to move into the first quartile for this indicator which would be an excellent achievement but I would ask all of our pupils to make a special effort over the coming weeks to aim for 100% attendance.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Easter.



Mr P White
Headteacher

Inclusive Futures Sports

On Friday 15th January, a group of pupils from year 7 and 8 went to an Inclusive Futures Sports day at Llandarcy Academy of Sports. There were also other schools from South Wales taking part in the event. We met some inspirational athletes including former Bishop Vaughan pupil James Ledger. We were put into a group led by Rhys Jones a 100m and 200m T37 para Olympian. Our first activity was Boccia. Boccia is like bowls but you sit down. This was fun. Next we had a go at wheelchair basketball. It was quite difficult to control the wheelchair and I nearly fell off! This was my favourite activity. The third activity was to get to know Rhys Jones better and we even got to see his medals. After this we had lunch ready to give us more energy for the next activities. After lunch, we did athletics. We had a go at shot put and javelin and also some obstacle courses. The next activity we tried was sit down volley ball. I enjoyed this and now go to sit-down volleyball every Friday in school. Our last activity was rugby. We passed the ball around and then raced against the girls. We won the first round but the girls won the second round. We were meant to have a go at rock-climbing but we didn't have time. Hopefully, next time we will.

Overall, the day was really a lot of fun and we all enjoyed. I would be happy to do it every Friday if I could!
Oliver Pearson 8.1



Bishop Vaughan Football 2015-2016 Season

Our boys have performed very well this year in both the Swansea Schools League and the Welsh Cup competitions. We have now completed all League fixtures and are very proud to say that we have won 26 of our 30 league fixtures. Averaging less than 1 loss per year group for the season.

These results see all of our teams qualify the semi-final stages of the Swansea Schools competition and the boys are relishing the opportunity of facing teams from the West of Swansea. We are confident after our league performances that if we turn up with the right attitude then we have the ability to reach five Swansea Schools Cup Finals this year.

There has also been some success in the Welsh Cup with both Year 7 and 9 reaching the quarter-final stages where they narrowly lost out to Bishop of Llandaf and Chepstow respectively. Both teams were beaten by break away goals that went totally against the run-of-play and our boys will certainly use those losses as motivation for this seasons remaining fixtures and next years Welsh Cup.

As we look to put Bishop Vaughan Football more firmly on the map in National competitions, it has also been very positive to see us field a Sixth Form team this year. Although a little late for this season, we very much look forward to seeing these boys entering the Welsh Cup next year and playing on a far more regular basis. We hope to continue the success gained whilst in Key Stage 3 and 4.

Freedom of the City



In December 2015, 215 City of Swansea Squadron were granted the Freedom of the City and County of Swansea in recognition to the squadron's fundraising achievements in the past twenty-five years. In the past twelve years the squadron has raised over £500,000 for the Poppy Appeal, £50,000 for RAFA Wings Appeal, and were made the official collectors for the Welsh Rugby Union Injured Players Charity five years ago and have raised over £60,000 for the appeal.

On Saturday 12th March 2016, the squadron exercised their right to parade through the city, with a cadet force of over sixty cadets and over fifty ex-members of the squadron. Eight members of Bishop Vaughan School, ranging from Year 8 to Year 13, took part in the parade, with one member who joined the night before the parade. Throughout their time as a member of the squadron these cadets have had the opportunities to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh awards, learn new skills such as kayaking, archery and climbing, with qualifications available in all of these areas.

Lillie 8.8 Tyler-Lousie 13.2, Michelle 9.7, Jacob 12.5, Charlie 10.6, Zoe 9.3, Sarah 11.8, Kristian 8.5. (Left to Right)

Yr Eisteddfod 2016



Bishop Vaughan staff and pupils celebrated Welsh culture, literature, music and performance on Friday 4th March with our annual Eisteddfod concerts for years 7-10. Pupils bravely showcased their huge range of talents on the big stage – ranging from solo artists, group performances, recitations, dramas and off stage competitions. A huge congratulations to all participants placing 1st, 2nd & 3rd and well done to all who took part.



Diolch yn fawr iawn! Thank you very much!

Eco Award-Platinum Status



Bishop Vaughan Catholic School pupils are celebrating being awarded the highest Eco-award – Platinum Status. There are only fourteen other Secondary Schools in Wales to achieve this. It means that we have been part of the Eco-school initiative for over 8 years and the Platinum Award is a milestone achievement that shows sustainable development and global citizenship is well embedded into daily school life.

The Eco-schools inspector was particularly impressed with the whole school approach and recent developments including the herb garden project, European Comenius exchange project and the numerous local and international charity initiatives at the school.

The hard work and achievements of all teachers, pupils and support staff need to be acknowledged. In particular: Mr Crudge, Ms Davies, Ms Williams, Ms Thomas, Ms Hughes, Mr Walter, Mr Jenkins, Mr Evans, Mr Bean, Mr Dunn, Caretaker, Ms Lewis, Aspens Manager, Mrs Jones, Supervisor. Huw Richards, Bishop Vaughan Eco co-ordinator, said: "This award recognises the support, passion and commitment that our school community gives to promoting ESDGC". A big well done Bishop Vaughan!

Young Enterprise 2015/16

This year, the Young Enterprise company have been kindly supported by **ASDA**.

MAX WAX was given the opportunity to sell their beeswax candles in **ASDA**, Gorseinon branch.



The company researched the market to understand the health benefits associated with using beeswax as opposed to paraffin wax candles and traded in-store on Wednesday 10th February. I am delighted to report that MAX WAX sold all their current stock at this event, and made £100 in sales.

The company would like to thank **ASDA** management for this significant marketing drive for **MAX WAX**.

Ms Wynne (Business Studies and Young Enterprise Link Teacher)

Christmas Jumper Day



Thank you to all pupils and staff that supported Christmas Jumper Day 2015 by wearing their Christmas jumpers with pride on the last day of term. £560 was raised in support of the global, national and local charities supported by the school this academic year: CAFOD, HCPT and Swansea Community Farm.

Some members of 8.3 proudly displaying their Christmas jumpers.

Miss D Davies

Year 10 GCSE Catering Class

Congratulations to all pupils in the Year 10 GCSE catering group on successfully completing a programme of training and achieving the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Level 1 award in Food Safety Awareness.

Pupils involved are: Courtney, Holly, Ellie, Lauren, Liam, Jacob, Saffron, Tyler, Chloe, Jessica and Kieran.

Mrs J Parker



Healthy Eating Club

This term we have made Swiss roll, rock cakes, coleslaw, a delightful risotto with mozzarella and spinach and a supper dish of minty lamb and apricot meatballs with pearl barley and tomato. Pancakes were also made and flipped without any being dropped and we served them with fresh fruit to add colour and texture.

We were delighted to have one of the staff, Mr McKay to demonstrate how to make Welsh cakes. Diolch yn fawr!

We meet on a Wednesday evening after school from 3.30-4.30pm, alternate weeks for Year 7 and Year 8/9. Do come and join us!

Thank you.

Mrs
Thomas



EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Outside each examination room will be a copy of the regulations which have been agreed by all the examination boards. This sheet gives you further guidance to help you through your examinations so that you are quite clear as to what is expected of you. **Make sure you read both documents carefully and if there is anything you are unsure about, please ask.**

Some important points:-

- Follow your personal examination timetable closely. Keep it in a safe place.
- Make sure you know your personal candidate number. It is shown as 'Exam Number' on your timetable.
- Morning examinations start at 9.00am and afternoon examinations start at 13.00 (1.00pm) unless otherwise indicated.
- Aim to arrive at the examination room at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. If you are late it will cause you unnecessary anxiety, and if you are very late you may not be allowed in.
- You are expected to attend examinations in correct school uniform. **You will not be allowed into the examination room if you are not correctly dressed.**
- If you attend with unsatisfactory uniform, **entry in to the examination will only be allowed after your parents have been contacted and asked to deliver the correct uniform to the school.**
- Wait outside the examination room until you are called in. Remember to visit the toilet – you could have a long desperate wait otherwise!
- Bags and coats must be left at the back of the exam room. You will be allowed to take in **only what you need.**
- Pencil cases are not allowed unless they are clear. Pencil tins, boxes and 'solid colour' cases are not acceptable. A clear plastic 'sandwich-type' bag is just as good as a clear pencil case.
- Make sure you have the appropriate equipment for each exam – pen (plus spare), pencil, rubber, ruler, sharpener are essential. For certain exams e.g. Geography, Science, and Maths you may need to add compass, protractor, calculator, coloured pencils to your list. Check with your teacher. You will not be allowed to borrow any equipment during the exam.
- As soon as you enter the examination room you must not communicate in any way with anyone other than an invigilator (supervisor) until you leave the room after the exam.
- If you become unwell during the examination, raise your hand and inform an invigilator. If you have a specific medical condition, e.g. diabetes, make sure you bring the appropriate drink and snack which should be placed on the floor alongside your desk.
- You must remain in the examination room for the time allocated to the paper. If you have any time remaining use it wisely to check your work – you will not have another opportunity, and a correction made may result in a better final grade.
- If you are too ill to come to school you must let the school know by telephone at the earliest opportunity. You must also obtain a medical note from your doctor and send it to Mr. Brown as soon as possible. It may then be possible to apply to the Examination board for special consideration so that you are awarded a grade.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

- If there are particular circumstances such as recent illness or you are suffering from distress for a particular reason, and you feel it has affected your performance in an examination, inform Mr Brown and bring a letter from home.
- You may be entitled to special arrangements in your examinations such as extra time or help with reading. You will be informed of these arrangements before the examinations affected.
- **Mobile phones, iPods or MP 3/4 players are not allowed in the exam room.**
- **If you have an examination clash you must report to the main hall at 8.40AM on the day of the clash.**

Certificates

- **Certificates gained during summer 2015 examinations are available for collection at the school from December 2015**
- **It is important that you collect your certificates as they will be returned to the examination board after 12 months**
- **The examination boards charge £35 for a replacement certificate**

Procedure to collect Certificates

- Students that have left Bishop Vaughan need to phone the school giving their name and the date they sat their examination. Your certificate will be ready for collection from the school the next day.

Finally, plan your examination preparation carefully and thoroughly, but most of all
GOOD LUCK!

Mr A Brown, Exams Officer

Examinations

Information for Candidates Sitting External Examinations

Enclosed with this Newsletter are JCQ information sheets (Pupils in years 10-13). It is important that both parents and pupils familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations of external examinations prior to the June 2016 examination series.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Here is a Maths Challenge question for you:

There are 81 players taking part in a knock-out quiz tournament. Each match in the tournament involves three players and only the winner—the other two players are knocked out. of the match remains in the tournament. How many matches are required until there is an overall winner?

A: 20 B: 40 C: 60 D: 80

The solution can be found on page 19

Murder Mystery-Transition Day



On the 22nd and 23rd February, Year 5 pupils from five local primary schools spent the day at Bishop Vaughan school and took part in a Murder Mystery Experience!

It was a fantastic day and fun was had by all (apart from Mrs Williams who was the unfortunate victim).

Mrs Williams was indeed found dead in the main hall after she was deliberately pushed off her chair whilst cleaning.

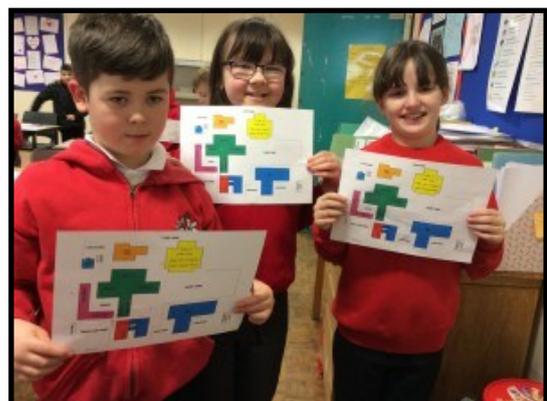
Pupils were invited to watch a short video showing the eight suspects and their motives. They then had to take part in numerous events throughout the day, which involved experiencing subjects such as Science, Maths, Spanish, History and English, to try and solve the fictitious crime.

Coincidentally all suspects were staff at the school!

The climax of the day was when the year five pupils had to question the suspects before the imminent arrest, led by PC Craig. He then revealed that it was none other than the Science teacher Ms Armstrong-Twigg who had committed the loathsome crime. Her motive was that Mrs Williams had callously stolen Ms Armstrong-Twigg's cure for the common cold and had reaped the reward by winning the Nobel Peace Prize, as well as receiving a £10,000 reward! Scandalous!

Poirot and Miss Marple have nothing on Year 5's detective skills!

Thank you to all staff who were involved! The day was a tremendous success and Year 5 pupils and staff had a great day!



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 4th February 2016, 90 pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. In the test, the pupils had to answer 25 multiple choice Maths questions. The pupils did exceptionally well this year with 23 of them gaining a certificate. The following were the best achieving in Bishop Vaughan with Ethan Fage in Year 9 achieving the highest mark in the school. Ethan did so well that he has been invited to do an extension paper called the Grey Kangaroo. Very impressive Ethan!

Year 11

1st	Alex Caswell	Silver Award
2nd	Aodhan Griffin Barr	Bronze Award
3rd	Jonah Fage	Bronze Award
4th	Rhys James	Bronze Award
5th	BJ Pasion	Bronze Award

Year 10

1st	Paul Crudge	Silver Award
2nd	Harrison Doherty	Silver Award
Jt3rd	Megan Yeomans	Bronze Award
Jt 3rd	Senan Clarke	Bronze Award
5th	Ola Pawlikiewicz	Bronze Award
Jt6th	Kaine McCambridge	Bronze Award
Jt6th	James Towell	Bronze Award
Jt6th	Aron Abraham	Bronze Award
Jt6th	Wiktoria Szymczak	Bronze Award

Year 9

1st	Ethan Fage	Gold Award
2nd	Ben McCarthy	Silver Award
3rd	Peter Crudge	Silver Award
4th	Kristyn Thomas	Bronze Award
5th	Gracjan Golebiewski	Bronze Award
Jt6th	William Collins	Bronze Award
Jt6th	Arun Sibi	Bronze Award
8th	Aeryn Smith	Bronze Award
9th	Ans Sibi	Bronze Award

The following pupils also did very well but they just missed out on a certificate: Nia Charlton, Callum Williams, Daniel Duffy and Ben Cutajar.

There were some very challenging problem solving questions and only the top 40% in the country receive awards. Well done to everybody that took part.

The next challenge is on 28th April 2016 and this is open to Years 7 and 8 students. For more information on this competition or for a copy of the questions visit <http://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

'Catch Up' Numeracy Intervention



During the Winter Term, many pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 took part in 'Catch Up' Numeracy Intervention. 'Catch Up' Numeracy is a structured one-to-one intervention programme which helps learners to develop and enhance their numeracy skills. These extra lessons have enabled learners to make excellent progress.

Testimonials:

"Last term I really enjoyed the Catch Up Numeracy programme, it was fun. It helped me improve my numeracy skills which made me more confident when in Maths. I now know most of my times tables and I am able to divide which I couldn't do before."
Maisy 8.2

"I enjoyed the Catch Up Numeracy programme. The lessons were really fun and they helped me to become more confident when in Maths as my numeracy skills have improved. I really found it hard to learn my times tables but I now know most of them."
Katelyn 8.2

World Book Day 2016



Staff and pupils had a great time celebrating World Book Day on 3rd March with lots of fun activities in the classroom and in the library during lunch.

Young Writers' Squad



The Young Writers' Squad spent a thoroughly enjoyable Saturday morning at the end of January at the Dylan Thomas Centre meeting and working with the award-winning author, Tyler Keevil. Tyler is a novelist, screenwriter and writes short stories. Originally from Canada, he now lives in Abergavenny and lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Gloucester. During the morning the Squad enjoyed working on writing short stories and screenwriting. It was very exciting to meet Tyler and try some of his methods for writing. Some of the stories produced were hilarious!



Abby, Lilly, Carys, Caitlin, Aoife and Bethan Year 7; Casey and Harvey Year 8; Kristin Year 9.

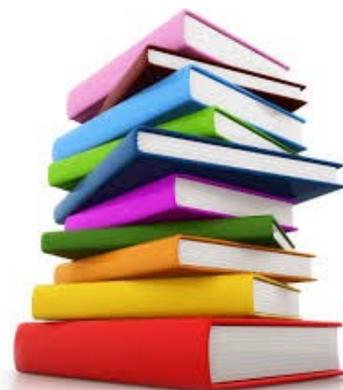


We were delighted to welcome new members from Years 7, 8 and 9 and are now looking forward to our next meeting in March. Our next meeting is Saturday March 12th at the DTC between 10 -12.30 where we will be working with the poet, Paul Henry. We are also planning on meeting the following week to join the Neath Port Talbot Squad in Victoria Gardens in Neath. If you would like to join us, please see Miss Lewis for further details. Everyone is welcome from Years 7–13.

Book Sale March 2nd 2016

Cover to Cover Book Shop of Mumbles kindly attended Bishop Vaughan and supplied a wide range of books for all year groups. The sale was extremely well attended and lots of pupils attended. They were able to exchange their World Book Day tokens for a special World Book Day book or money off any book of their choice. It was lovely to see the pupils' enthusiasm for reading!

A big thank you to Sarah from Cover to Cover Book Shop without whom the book sale would not have been possible.



There will be another book sale in the summer term. We are looking forward to it!

Lee Trundle Visits Bishop Vaughan



As part of our continuing bid to promote Literacy and facilitate engagement of boys reading skills, Miss Neucker’s Year 8 class have been taking part in the National Literacy Trust’s Premier League Reading Stars Programme. This has involved the class reading books of their choice related to football and keeping a log of their improved motivation and reading skills.

As part of the reward programme, Lee Trundle came to meet the class and took part in a question and answer session about why reading is important whatever your career path. Pupils in the class thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to a tour of the Liberty Stadium and meeting a popular sports writer at the National Waterfront Museum to complete the project.

Bishop Vaughan ‘Selfie’ Competition

Bishop Vaughan staff and pupils have been enjoying reading this term and took some great ‘selfies’ to show what books they had for Christmas. Displays of the photographs are due to be put up around the school and the winning entry was from Joseph Gaffney 7.1. Joseph was presented with a Kindle Fire on World Book Day.



Ms Nicholson, Director of Literacy

Sixth Form Visit to The Wave



A group of Year 12 students enjoyed a very successful day at The Wave radio station to record the jingle for the Sixth Form Information Evening that took place in Bishop Vaughan School on Thursday 21st January 2016. Students enjoyed a tour of the station before meeting the presenters and undergoing a brief seminar on the persuasive techniques used to attract their audience.

They were then given the opportunity to record their own jingle and mock radio show with two of the current presenters and sit in on part of the live afternoon show! The recorded jingle was then played regularly on The Wave in the week before the Sixth Form Information Evening. All students enjoyed the experience immensely and the presenters said they were some of the most professional student broadcasts they had ever heard! It was a fantastic opportunity and a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone involved in the visit.

Student Investor Challenge 2016

Each year a National competition is organised for teams of four aged between 14 and 18. The aim is to invest £100, 000 of virtual money in the Stock Market over three months.

Bishop Vaughan entered fourteen teams for the first time this year from Years 9 to 12. Over ten thousand teams entered from schools across the UK. My own team came 3,600th and I was feeling very proud of that but five of the student teams finished even higher up the leader board.

A team of Year 11, Pythagoras' Angels, led by Charlotte Matthews finished 54th in the UK out of 10,000. They will now move onto the semi-final consisting of the best five hundred teams predicting closing prices of selected assets at the close of trade on the four Fridays leading up to Easter.

We wish them the best of luck but only the top eight teams will move onto the final in London.

Mrs Power

Welsh BaccaLaureate Department

Year 12 Community Challenge

Year 12 pupils have been busy carrying out their 30 hour Community Challenge activities. Activities range from helping in the local community at care homes or sports centres to setting up clubs in school and fundraising for a particular charity. Read more about some of the activities below:

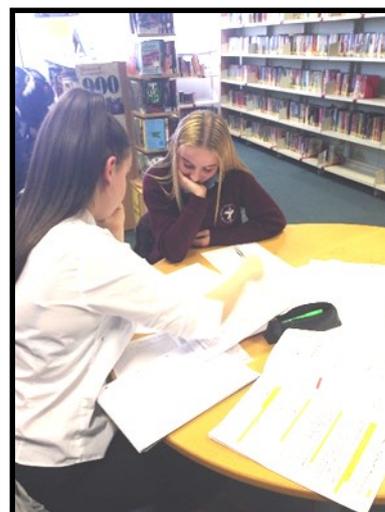


As part of my Community Challenge for my Welsh BaccaLaureate 'A' Level course, I helped look after the elderly residents of a local care home. My time was spent playing music on the piano for the residents, helping at mealtimes, and also fundraising for the care home (which involved a sponsored silence and the washing of many, many cars!) The experience was immensely rewarding because I was fortunate enough to spend some time chatting with the residents of our community, and the experience enabled me to further develop some fundamental skills.

Olivia Collins 12.1

When I found out I was able to offer one-on-one mentoring sessions as a part of my Community Challenge I thought it was a really good idea. My community activity involves tutoring year 11 students in any subject they are struggling with. I wish I had been offered this mentoring when I was going through my GCSE's as the extra help would have benefitted me a lot. This is also something I will be able to add to my UCAS form next year.

Natalia Wislocka 12.4



For our Community Challenge we decided to set up a Minecraft Club for all pupils. There are currently 24 students attending the club. The club allows the students to feel secure and comfortable in a community where they all share the same interest. It improves numerous skills such as communication, creativity, mathematical and team building skills. It is a comfortable place which the pupils from lower school

can look forward to attending at the end of each week. Callum O'Connor 12.1, Genevieve Matthews 12.4, Keefe Montebon 12.5, Rory Flynn 12.1

Cardiff University Inspiration Day



In January, a group of thirty pupils from Year 11 visited Cardiff University to participate in their 'University Inspiration Day.' Cardiff University is part of the Russell Group of twenty-four leading UK universities and the day was designed to provide pupils with an insight into studying at one of these institutions. Pupils had the opportunity to attend a variety of subject workshops, including Architecture, Biology, Engineering, History, Law and Medicine. The pupils also met with lecturing staff and current students to discuss entry requirements for courses.

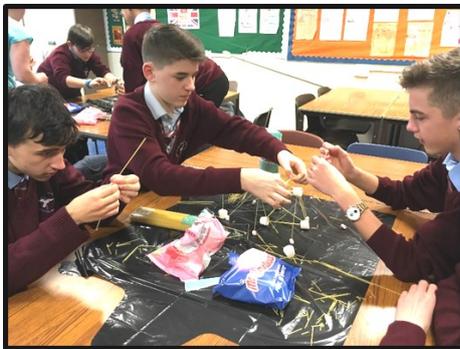
The day was highly enjoyable and informative. Many pupils found the visit particularly valuable in helping them make plans for the future, such as in which degrees they are interested and what A Level subjects they should opt for to achieve these goals.

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge Solution

- B: 40 Two players are knocked out as a result of one match. To leave a winner 80 players must be knocked out. Therefore there must be 40 matches.

University Master Classes

In November, the school began a partnership with Swansea University to provide masterclasses for pupils in Years 10-13. These are university-style talks designed to extend pupils' subject knowledge in order to assist them with applications to top universities in the future. Since the last newsletter, pupils have received masterclasses in subjects including Psychology, History, Geography and Physiotherapy. Bishop Vaughan has also arranged masterclasses from staff at the University of South Wales and many more topics are lined up for the rest of the year, including Medicine, Sports Science, Law and Criminology and many more.



These masterclasses are a fantastic opportunity for pupils and have been very well received. Hollie Wright, a Year 11 pupil, explained the value of the sessions:

“The masterclasses have allowed us to meet lecturers and academics in a variety of fields who have talked to us about their latest research or topics we don't study in school lessons. I've found the sessions really helpful in developing my

knowledge about a number of subjects which I know will help me when it comes to applying to university in a couple of years.”

School Uniform Recycling

Do you have any unwanted items of uniform that are in good condition?

If you would like to donate them to another family, please could you ask your child to drop them off with Leanne in the First Aid room. Please only send in clothes that are in good condition. If you are donating gym kit, please can you check that it is the latest strip (boys: maroon t-shirt with blue stripe and maroon shorts; girls: white polo shirt with blue stripe and maroon shorts).

If you are looking for second-hand uniform, please call in to see Leanne between 3.30 - 4.00pm on Mondays.

Thank you.

School Uniform

To All Parents and Guardians

Please note that during the summer term only, students are permitted to wear the school uniform polo shirt instead of shirt/blouse and tie. There is no **requirement** to change to the polo shirt, it is an option if you so choose.

Please note if the weather is chilly and a jumper is needed this must be the standard school uniform jumper worn over the polo shirt if necessary. No other variations are permitted and students incorrectly attired will not join their class for lessons.

A noticeable minority of pupils are wearing jumpers which are not of the required uniform colour of maroon. The jumpers are several shades lighter than what has been the standard in the school for many years.

It seems as if there is a supplier passing off these jumpers as meeting Bishop Vaughan requirements when in fact they do not. Parents/guardians are being misled.

I am well aware how expensive these items are, and there is no suggestion that they should be replaced or not worn.

However, when the time comes for natural replacement, through wear and tear or loss, I ask, please, that the correct colour is purchased. Two suppliers who sell the proper version are:

Bergoni
1 Cambrian Court
Ferryboat Close
Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA6 8QN
Tel: 01792 796880

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

Please could parents/guardians of students also note that felt/fabric shoes, even if black in colour, are not considered suitable footwear for school. Please adhere to the footwear requirements as stipulated in the uniform dress code, a copy of which follows. Can I also underline that our school dress code does not permit hair colouring other than in natural colours (i.e. no green/blue for example).

Parents/guardians and students are respectfully reminded that if you choose to come to Bishop Vaughan School it is important you follow the requirements in respect of school dress and appearance. High standards in these areas support the school's high reputation. Students failing to meet this expectation, without good reason, cannot expect to be allowed into their class for lessons. Repeated failure to cooperate, quickly becomes defiance of school authority and there is the likelihood of serious sanctions.

The school is most grateful to the vast majority of parents/guardians and students who cooperate and support us in these matters.

Mr P White
Headteacher

School Uniform September 2015-August 2016

The school colours are based on burgundy for years 7-11.

Three of our suppliers are:- Bergoni, 1 Cambrian Court, Ferryboat Close, Enterprise Park, Swansea SA6 8QN Tel 01792 796880, J&S Products, 74 Tycoch 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. Please do not rely on information obtained from elsewhere.

Year 7-11

- Pullover:** burgundy, v-necked with official school logo.
- Tie:** years 7-11 official school tie.
- Socks:** with trousers, plain 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 light blue, standard school style. Not denim or fashion.
NB During the summer term only light blue polo shirt with school logo, may be worn (see note on previous page).
- Skirt:** mid-grey or black in material and standard design, knee length
- Trousers:** dark grey or black and standard design **NOT** fashion or jeans. No denim, leather, flares, leggings etc
- Shoes:** black 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
- 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, 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 forbidden. 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. No braiding with a mixture of hair colours.

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 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, football and rugby.

Pupils in year 8-11 can continue wearing the existing kit.

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

Sixth Form Uniform

Pullover:	navy, v-necked with official school logo
Tie:	Sixth Form official school tie
Shirt/Blouse:	plain white, standard school style (not fashion)
<i>Sixth Form</i>	<i>NB During the summer term only navy blue polo shirt with logo, may be worn.</i>
Skirt:	navy blue, knee length
Trousers: No denim,	Trousers: navy blue, black, <u>dark grey</u> , standard design. 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: worn in canvas shoes are	dark coloured with flat or low heels. Ankle boots may be worn in winter and sandals in the summer. Trainers and 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.

The decision was taken by ERW, our regional education consortium, that no absences due to holidays during term times will be authorised by Head Teachers. This means absences that are due to pupils being taken on holiday 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.



100% Attendance

Congratulations to the following tutorials for having the highest attendance during the first half term

- 7.1 - 97.1%
- 8.3 - 97.5%
- 9.7 - 94.7%
- 10.2 - 96.9%
- 11.3 - 94.4%

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: bvs-attendance@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Alternatively the school's Attendance Office staff are: Mrs E-J Gwyther and Mrs R Aleman and they are available via the school's telephone number 01792 772006 Ext 219.

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

Mrs J Rees (Education Welfare Officer) on 01792 772006 Ext 218 or Mrs E-J Gwyther on 01792 772006 Ext 219.

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

PENALTY NOTICE FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

The Education (Penalty Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2013 introduced fixed notice penalties for regular non-attendance/lateness at school. This was implemented in Swansea from January 2015.

The Welsh Government states that penalty notices are one option among a number of different interventions available to promote better school attendance.

The introduction of these regulations mean that parents may now be fined for their child(ren)'s regular non-attendance at school.

The local code of conduct, which explains how penalty notices will operate, is available on the Swansea Council website.

Penalty notices can be issued for the following reasons:

- When a pupil has a minimum of 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to unauthorised absences during the current term and bringing the overall school attendance to below 90% in the school year to date.
- 10 sessions or 5 school days lost due to holidays in term-time if the absence takes the whole school attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date.
- 10 sessions of persistent lateness after the register has closed in a term bringing the attendance to below 90% in the current school year to date, or a combination of the above.



May we remind you to telephone the 24 hour absence line

0844 2393548 (local rate number)

or send a text message to **07624 816695** on a **daily basis**.



DID YOU KNOW ?

*5 minutes late each day amounts to
25 minutes late each week amounts to
16 hours 15 minutes education missed during a school year!*



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.

Mr P White, Headteacher

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

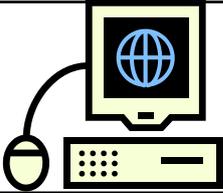
As referenced on page 6, if pupils have mobile phones they should note that they are **not** to be switched on or in use inside the school. This includes the buildings, playground and playing field areas, before, during and after the school day.



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.swansea.sch.uk



Paying for trips

Remember, if your child is paying for a school trip, the Finance House is open from 8.30am until registration and at morning break and lunch times. **All cheques should be made payable to 'Bishop Vaughan Catholic School' and the pupil's name, tutorial and trip should be clearly written on the reverse.** Thank you.

Lost Property



We still have a number of items in 'lost property', which is now 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
Mynydd Garnllwyd Road
Morrison, Swansea
SA6 7QG
Phone: 01792 772006
Fax: 01792 790565
E-mail: bishop.vaughan.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk
www.bishopvaughan.co.uk**