The Vaughan

Alumni Magazine 2019

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY
Hear from Old Vaughanians from around the world

INSIDE THE ARCHIVES
A look back at the evacuation

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL
Catch up on the year's events

WELCOME

From the Headmaster

The beginning of a new decade always throws a sharper focus on the present, seen through the lens of the past. So now that 2020 has arrived, you could be forgiven for feeling that Cardinal Vaughan has receded one step further into your past. In a strictly chronological sense, that is of course true. But, for me, this is the start of my thirty-second year working at the School and I have learned a valuable lesson from the continuity that this unbroken span affords: regardless of the decade. Be it (in my case) the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s or 2010s – Cardinal Vaughan never changes. It does alter and grow, of course, but at a fundamental level, it never changes. Its job is to carry on providing a top quality Catholic education, and to do that, it cannot – must not – remain static. That way lies ossification. It must, on the contrary, continually adapt, so that the fundamental experience of the boys and girls it educates stays the same, regardless of the decade in which they were here. To put it rather grandiosely, the School, rooted in time, must be timeless.

This has consequences for you all. It means that although you may chronologically have left the Vaughan, you are as much a member of it as those pupils currently doing their five or seven years here, and you always will be. I cannot stress strongly enough how true that is. Please remember as you read this magazine that love and service is a motto not for schooldays alone, but for life.

Paul Stubbings, Headmaster

Paul Stubbings, Headmaster 2011 - present

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Nikolaos Kazantzis, Australia

Lessons learned and the lasting impact of Cardinal Vaughan

The Vaughan's motto 'Amare et Servire,' has underpinned every good decision I have made since leaving the Vaughan. The career I have chosen — clinical psychology, has meant I have been privileged to serve others in their most distressing and darkest hours. If you will humour this old man just for a moment, I would like to share a few of my experiences in my working career and at the Vaughan that convey how these values have been my guide. These are shared in the hope that others can find parallels in their own experiences.

I have been a psychologist for almost 19 years. The final examination was to see a real client for the first time, with only a brief paragraph handed to us 30 minutes before the initial assessment and with three live examiners observing us behind a one-way screen. If we failed, we had to repeat the entire year. I allowed my session to go over time by 15 minutes, disrupting the entire schedule of examinations. My client had revealed childhood sexual abuse just before the end of the interview, and I didn't want her to leave highly distressed. I was later told if I hadn't done that I would have failed immediately. It is in our most confusing and uncertain moments that we as psychologists must be calm, composed, and have at our fingertips all the learning we have received, the evidence that underpins our practice, and draw on our inner strength and values. The same is true for all of us; if we want to be of the best help to others, we must have a clear sense of who we are in our most pressured and unchartered moments.

Mr Pellegrini, who was Headmaster during my time at Cardinal Vaughan, taught Religious Education to those in Form 1. For our first assignment, we were told to choose a Saint who had inspired us to be a better person. I chose Blessed Tadeusz Dulny who, while being starved and worked to death in a Nazi concentration camp (Dachau), would share his food with other prisoners. Despite acknowledging the relevance, Mr Pellegrini was not happy with my writing, and asked me to completely re-write it. When I did, I only achieved a passing grade. That was a key lesson I learned at the school which I carried in life. Do your best in everything, but it still might not be good enough. You will fail, and you will likely fail often. It is just the way life is.

Mr Lakomy taught us Mathematics, and pupils grumbled frequently about his demand that everything written in pen be clear, and any errors were to be crossed out and redone. I remember distinctly one year when he brought some of his own books to class to show us. During his own education, he was not allowed to use pen and erasers were not permitted. If an error was made, he had to re-write the entire page, and all the accompanying work on reverse sides of pages in his exercise book as pages could not be removed. He was proud of it. Both through his instruction and his fine example, he taught us that there is a satisfaction and sense of accomplishment in attending to the details in work, and that all the details matter. Therein was another lesson. Strive for the best in whatever you do, always, regardless of how high the expectations may be. Aim to exceed them. The work itself is the reward.

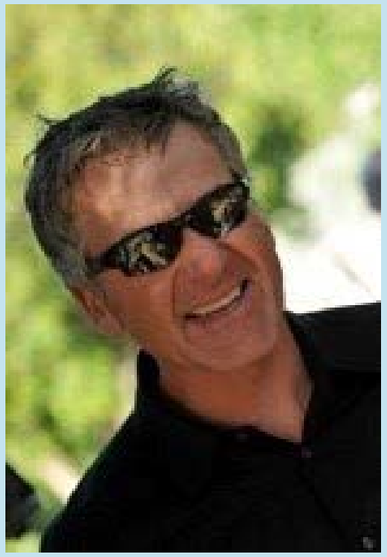
Decades later, the guidance of Pellegrini, Lakomy, Gormally and so many others at the Vaughan continues to light the path. Their lessons are an example of how any one person can be an inspiration and have a lasting impression on another. These are just some of the memories and lessons learned. Help and serve others. Know that life is hard and unfair, and you will fail often. Work hard. If you act in accordance with your values, when times are the toughest and if you never give up – it is then that the light within you will shine most brightly.

'Amare et Servire.'

Nikolaos Kazantzis
CVMS 1984-87

John Murphy, USA

From Shepherd's Bush to the States: a journey to scientific innovation



After leaving the Vaughan and completing undergraduate studies in Computer Science in London, I departed for the United States 30 years ago! It was the CVMS inaugural course in Computing (taught by Mr Phelan on a Commodore PET) that inspired my interest in high-tech, and a six-week Greyhound bus trip with classmates around the States that fuelled my love for America. Like several of us, I grew up locally in Shepherd's Bush and was the first person in my family to attend university, later going on to MSc and MBA graduate studies in Chicago and Phoenix. My career in Aerospace, Life Sciences and Medical Devices brought me all around the world and to live in Illinois, Arizona, Japan, South Carolina, Kansas, Massachusetts and California, where I've been in the East Bay of San Francisco since 2001 with my wife Liz and four children (Jack at MIT, Patrick at the University of Chicago, Christopher at Amherst College and Katie at Middlebury College).

After running several large businesses for public companies as well as a couple of private equity CEO roles, I am now part of the founding team at Virtual Incision, a surgical robotics start-up company focused on mini-robots for General Surgery abdominal procedures, starting with colon resection. We've raised about $50m to date, have approaching 200 patents/applications and are planning a clinical study in Nebraska and South Dakota later this year — so it's a very exciting time. As you know, Silicon Valley and the Bay Area is an incredible innovation ecosystem so I also recently co-founded Tri-Valley Ventures where we make early-stage venture capital investments in areas like enterprise software (SaaS), artificial intelligence, biotech and smart devices.

For fun, I love biking, golfing, skiing and my band BATCH22... and then there's my QPR affliction!

John Murphy
CVMS 1977-84

Juliet Wingate, Mexico

Setting up a school and impacting young lives

I recently saw a Facebook post about the Vaughan's Schola Cantorum. It filled me with pride and good memories of the two wonderful Sixth Form years I spent at CVMS. I arrived in the UK from Mexico in the summer of 2001; it was a really hot summer and London managed to fool me into believing that the weather truly wasn't as bad as everyone had led me to believe. Of course, London soon proved me wrong.

My adjustment to London was hard. People spoke of *Big Brother*, I had no idea what that was, and my American accent made me feel like an outsider. However, I soon settled into school, made friends and had a truly great education at Cardinal Vaughan.

I came back to Mexico City 10 years ago. My family and I have set up a British international school in the city. The Wingate School has just started its fourth academic year; 280 children are enrolled, the secondary school building is nearly complete and, if I may boast, the school has made a great reputation for itself in its short life. Now, working with the soul and inner structures of a school, I probably appreciate CVMS even more than before. The academic level, true community, values and life skills I received have been invaluable when setting up and running The Wingate School. Thank you, CVMS, I hope I make you proud.

Juliet Wingate
CVMS 2001-03

Rev Fr Michael Toomey, Ireland

A path to the priesthood

My vocation to priesthood took a little longer than most. When I left school I knew college was not the correct path. I began as a management trainee in WH Smith in Notting Hill Gate and within three months became an assistant manager.

In 1994 I left for Ireland as I had many family and friends there. It was in a conversation in 2003 with a very good priest friend of mine, the late Fr Colm O'Brien who encouraged me to follow my dream which I had put on hold for many years.

So I began my studies for the priesthood in St Patrick's College Maynooth and, for six years, excelled in studying. On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi in 2009, I was ordained in my local parish church, the same church where my parents were married in Clonmel, County Tipperary. I was so humbled and delighted that Fr Tony Pellegrini, my former Headmaster and a man who taught me so much about my life and faith, was a main concelebrant at the ordination.

My first appointment was as curate in Tramore on the coast of County Waterford, and now I am back in my home parish in Clonmel, where my mother now also resides in our family home.

My faith was truly formed through my family, my parish in St James' Spanish Place along with the Rector and another Old Boy, Fr Terry Phipps, and especially at the Vaughan. I was always inspired by the board of 'Boys who have been Ordained Priest.' Mr Gormally (who gave me my nickname of 'Seamus' from my first day in school), welcomed me back to the school to celebrate Mass after my ordination and I was delighted on my tenth anniversary to be with the school again last May, along with a dear friend Francis and to see the new building and the fantastic new facilities the school has to offer.

The Vaughan has, and I pray always will be, a place of educating the whole person, and maintaining its principal role, as a Catholic school allowing its students to flourish for the apostolic mission of the Church and be upstanding Catholics. Above my desk in my office is a picture of the Old Building presented to me after my Ordination. It allows me to ensure the Vaughan is always in my thoughts and prayers, and allows me to daily give thanks to God for the blessings and memories I received, which has formed me into the priest I am today.

Every year, I offer Mass for the school, and I send to you all every good wish and blessing and remember those who have gone to their eternal reward.

Rev Fr Michael Toomey
CVMS 1982-90

Lucinda Murphy, UK

An amazing law career shaped at the Vaughan

Ten years ago this year I left Cardinal Vaughan. I may have only been there for two years, but it shaped my future education and career and left me with lifelong friends.

After Cardinal Vaughan I studied Law at the University of Exeter, followed by my Legal Practice Course at the University of Law. Then it was into the real world of work; I dabbled in marketing before getting back into law with Howard Kennedy LLP. After a year and a half as a paralegal I took a year out to travel before re-joining as a trainee solicitor. Upon qualifying in 2018 I moved to Lewis Silkin LLP to specialise as an Intellectual Property and Media Litigation Associate. I love litigation as no two days are the same. You never know what potential case is going to come across your desk and, in Intellectual Property, I work alongside household names which makes it all very tangible. On the media side, I act for individuals and companies whose reputations are threatened or harmed by the publication of information. This can involve privacy and libel issues and I have been involved in injunction applications at short notice on these sensitive matters. I also do pre-publication clearance for various media outlets ranging from traditional print and online reporting to podcasts.

It's not all black letter law. A lot of what I do involves a commercial analysis of my client's position; I assess the potential merits and costs of their case against the ultimate outcome they are aiming for. The novelty of visiting Court hasn't worn off (yet!) and working alongside barristers in litigation means there are lots of interesting discussions around tactics, as well as their experiences of the judge in your case.

On top of that my education days aren't quite behind me; I'll be doing a part time postgraduate course in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Oxford this year. I was encouraged to pursue a career in law by my incredible teachers at Cardinal Vaughan and, safe to say, I haven't looked back since!

Lucinda Murphy
CVMS 2007-09

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

From the Development Director

I am delighted that 2019 has brought together alumni as far apart as New York and Sydney; I look forward to developing our events programme further in 2020 and meeting many more members of our community. As always, it is a pleasure to meet with Old Vaughanians and hear stories of your time at the school, as well as what you are doing now.

We are particularly grateful to members of our community who are involved in the life of the school; this might be by attending an event, volunteering time or donating. Like all state schools in the country, it has been increasingly difficult for us to bridge the gap between what we receive and what we provide for our pupils. We currently rely on receiving £500k every year from voluntary donations from parents, alumni, former parents, staff and friends of the school. These gifts allow Cardinal Vaughan to retain its extensive extra-curricular provision and as well as enabling the school to provide additional Lower School sets and hours of Sixth Form teaching that we receive no funding for.

I am delighted that a family have chosen to share with you a little about how and why they have decided to give to their old school on the next page. Do consider supporting the Vaughan in whatever way you can. The school has always relied on the support of its community from its very foundation; it is the cornerstone of the school which has enabled it to grow, thrive and continue to support pupils for over a century.

If you would like to get involved in any way, or have any questions, please email me directly at ov@cvms.co.uk or visit **www.cvms.co.uk/alumni** for further information.

Hannah Thackwray

The Nugent Family

Creating the Angela Nugent Travel Award

Nullus argento color est avaris/abdito terris
Horace Odes II.2: Silver has no colour when it is hidden away in the miserly earth

It was at the Vaughan that our family first learned Latin. And it was during those years that our mother, Angela, listened to hours of ancient texts (picture Odysseus strapped to the ship). We were spiritually and intellectually nurtured by the Vaughan and, for that, we will always be grateful.

Our mother had the Sisyphean task of single-handedly raising three children. Money was never abundant despite her always working. Luckily for us, financial assistance came in many forms such as Free School Meals and the Educational Maintenance Allowance.

So our mother and her children give today because we can, and we know only too well how much even a small amount can help.

***The Angela Nugent Travel Award* will enable a classicist each year to go on the school Classics trip.**

Hopefully such travel might transform their perspective and that's worth every penny.

According to HMRC, just 5% of the UK's ultra wealthy (those with £10 million or more) gave to charity during 2016/2017. The median amount they donated was only £240. Most of us are nowhere near that level of wealth, yet we still choose to give.

Perhaps listening to Horace works after all: nullus argento color est…

The Nugent Family

Crispian Cuss, Singapore
From tanks to banks

Tell us a bit about your current role.

I work for Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore, where I look at non-financial risk. Banks typically look at risk from a credit perspective, i.e. how safe is the transaction. My role is to examine the wider context, and assess how human actions and geo-politics can impact our investments. The skill sets I bring actually stem from the grounding in history, economics and politics that I gained at the Vaughan. In this respect, school was perhaps more formative than university.

How did you come to work in Singapore?

We came here with my wife's job. She works for an oil company, and was brought here to look at new energy solutions. The company I was working for at the time had a lot of clients in Asia, so they were keen for me to come here and open an office. After doing that, I then moved into banking.

You spent seven years in the British Army. How did that experience shape you and your career?

After university, following a year at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, I commissioned into the British Army, where I served as a tank commander.

The Vaughan's motto 'Amare et Servire' is not dissimilar to that of Sandhurst's 'Serve to Lead' – although I think that was lost on me at the time. Both exemplify putting a higher sense of duty above yourself, and probably capture the essence of what any leadership or managerial role is about.

Being in the British Army is a privilege, huge responsibility and tremendous fun all at the same time. It provides a series of challenges, and the means to meet them, unique to any profession. I was fortunate to train and deploy operationally across the world. Its constant appeal was the variety and intensity of experiences offered, and the camaraderie of those I served with. While I am aware of a few other Vaughanians who did join, I've always been surprised more don't. They would do well.

Tell us about some of your career highlights.

Banking and the military are two very different professions. In my current role, I enjoy the insights it provides into how the world really works. Everything that happens has a financial component and financial impact, even if the vast majority of people don't recognise it.
The military had many highlights. The thrill of being on operations is impossible to replicate and is something I still miss.

The environment is very important to you; when did it become a passion?

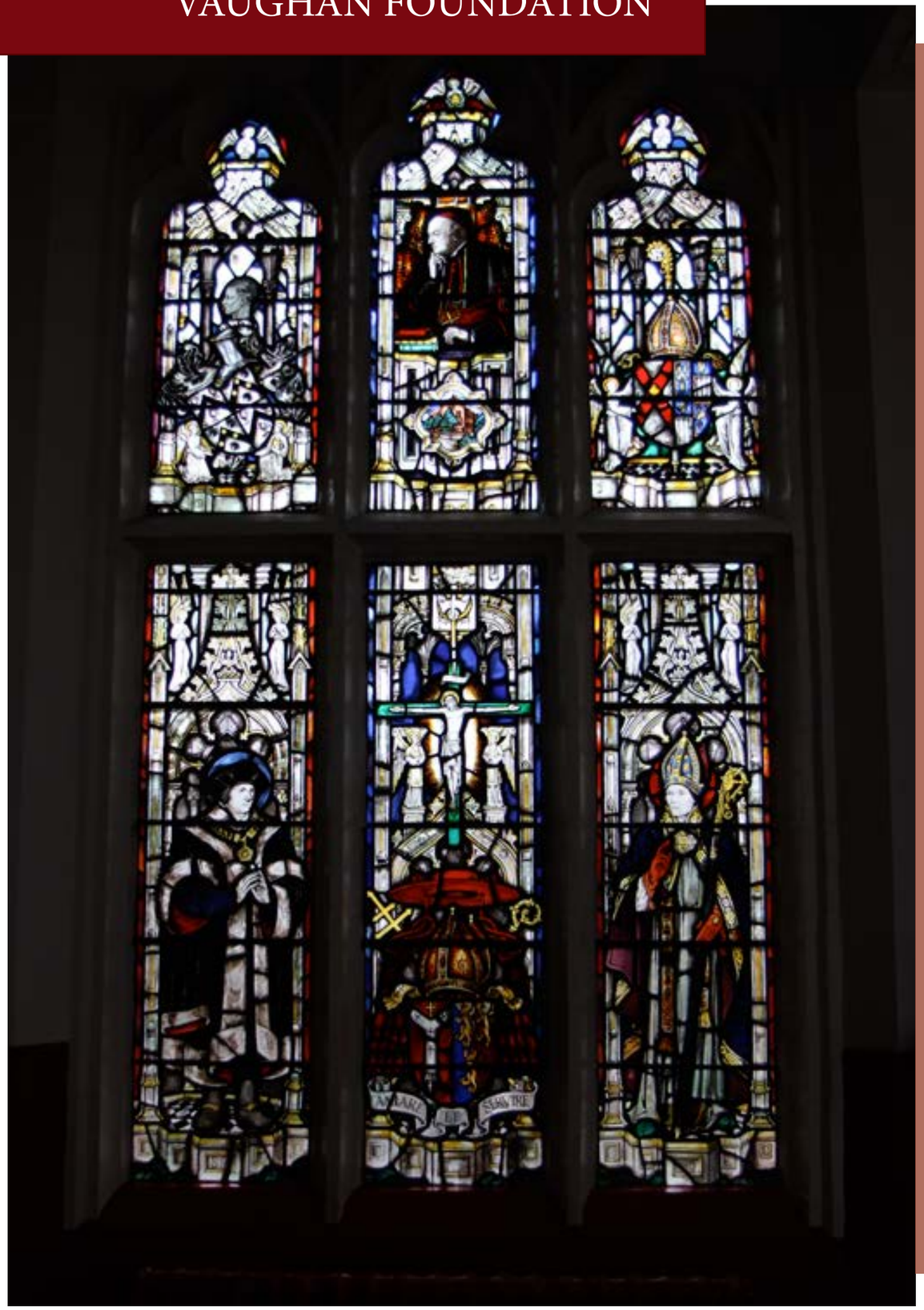
I've always found something deeply depressing about the destruction of nature. This has only become more intense since living in Asia. If you live in Europe, you are shielded from a lot of the impact. It has a temperate climate, and much of the production of the goods you use happens elsewhere. Hence, you don't see first-hand the unbelievable destruction caused by palm oil, or the extent of the pollution caused by single-use plastic.

Finally, what are your fondest memories from your time at the Vaughan?

I enjoyed the autonomy and freedom that came in the Sixth Form. When you were not in class you were left alone. I understand the argument that A Levels are too restricting in terms of scope, but for me I benefitted from the ability to focus on three subjects I was interested in.

Crispian Cuss, CVMS 1984-91

VAUGHAN FOUNDATION



Vaughan Foundation: From the Chairman

The Vaughan Foundation is the school's charitable arm which works to advance the education of the pupils of the Vaughan and the broader public, as well as provide extra-curricular facilities and pupil support to ensure young people develop their skills and talents to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible adults.

The Foundation is made up of the following organisations:

The Vaughan Sports Association
The Vaughan Music Association
The Old Vaughanians Association
The Old Vaughanians Football Club
The Vaughan Parents Association

During 2019 our events ranged from the Vaughan Foundation Ball, to our popular Golf Day and the school's first International Burns Night. We have seen staff, alumni and parents come together and run the Ealing Half Marathon, and welcomed around 800 members of our community to Twickenham for the Summer Fete. Thank you to every person who has been involved and given their support to the Vaughan and its pupils.

I would appeal to all of you to get involved in the life of the School and the Foundation. Come along and support the wide range of events being held each year. Whether it is a more formal evening or Saturday morning football with the pupils, I can promise that it is always enjoyable.

It is only by everyone working together and providing whatever help they can, be it financial or time, that we can continue to develop and provide the support which the School and local community needs.

Frank McGettigan OBE
CVMS 1962—69

Desmond Seamen recalls the evacuation and the billets which housed pupils during World War II

When the school arrived in Windsor on September 16th, many billets had been taken, several by Clapham girls. I joined a queue in King's Road where an elderly lady had two of us foisted on her. She was only able to cope for a week. From there, it was to Forest Park, a mansion opposite to where Legoland now stands. The young master in charge of eight of us was Phillip Daniel. We were spoiled by the servants; a privilege was to be invited below stairs for supper. But, all good things come to an end. The master of the house simply tired of having us around. It was then early October.

It became apparent that class distinction played a part in which billets were offered. One ' middle class' lady referred to us as refugees as we filed past her detached house. It was essentially 'council house' tenants that offered shelter. There was the modest five shillings a week and the ration book. They were invariably good people. My billet until Christmas was on my own in Elm Road. I slept on a camp bed over the scullery in a very cold bedroom. Master Mr Luke got me a duvet. After four months I saw home for the first time. Ah!

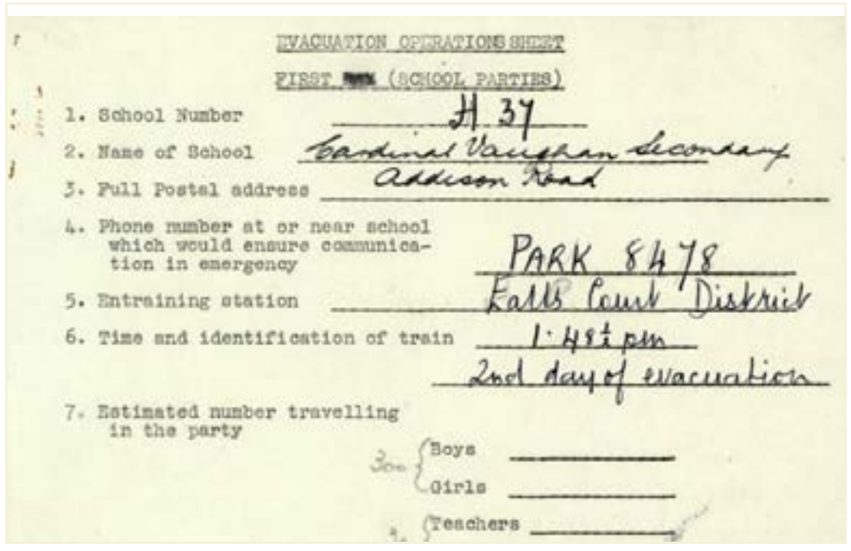
The breakthrough came in January 1940. A disused Victorian hospital was acquired to house some 30 of us. It was marvellous to be with friends again, Fr Clayton and J W Murphy were the masters in charge. The winter was severe, but open fires kept us comfortable. There we stayed until the Easter. Next door in Hatch Lane another acquisition happened- Wardens Lodge. There we were in comfortable bedrooms of about six. It was a happy and fun billet for varying ages. Fr Kenefeck was in charge. I was surprised when Mrs Smith offered me a private billet at Dedworth. It turned out to be a blessing. I spent two happy years with the Hill family who had a son and daughter. Mr Hill worked for the court as an usher and he became the Sergeant Wilson when the Home Guard was formed. But, he was a veteran of the Great War; a sergeant in the Hampshires. The officer was appointed because he owned the Vale Road stores and ran a car. Years later, the Hills came to my wedding.

During that time The Lawns was another hostel opened near Wardens Lodge; Fr Clayton oversaw. What should be mentioned were the long days some masters spent at school then, supervising hostels. His final such duty was at King's Road. For me it was back to Wardens Lodge when Mrs Hill took up war work. I kept in touch regularly. In 1944 I cycled to help them when a doodlebug struck the nearby incinerator chimney. It was at Wardens Lodge that a few of us joined the newly formed army cadets. The HQ was opposite the castle. Who should be the first to drill us but Sergeant Harry Hill.

The last hostel was founded in 1942; a three-storey spacious house with a basement. Mr Honan and Mr Kellet were resident masters at 35 Osborne Road. A Windsorian coach stopped to take us to Beaumont. In June 1944 a flying bomb (doodlebug) flew close at about 10pm. The next morning we passed the ruins of the pub at old Windsor where Dr Vance took his lunch. No more Bells of Ouzeley; another few yards and it would have plunged into the river. With all that taking place we also had School Certificate to deal with. We had learned to cope very well over the years and were none the worse for it. When it came for goodbyes, I think there were just a few regrets. A lot of friendships had been formed, and there had been much laughter. No harm done.

Desmond Seamen, CVMS 1939-44

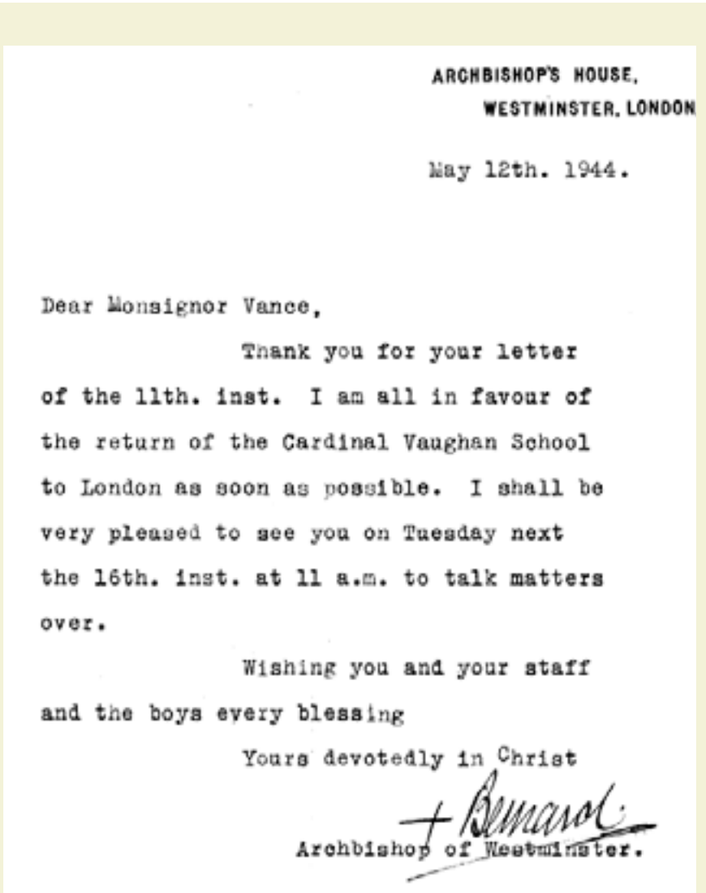
Beaumont, Windsor



EVACUATION OPERATIONS SHEET

FIRST [redacted] (SCHOOL PARTIES)

1. School Number — H 37
2. Name of School — Cardinal Vaughan Secondary
3. Full Postal address — Addison Road
4. Phone number at or near school which would ensure communication in emergency — PARK 8478
5. Entraining station — Earls Court District
6. Time and identification of train — 1·45 p.m. 2nd day of evacuation
7. Estimated number travelling in the party — 300 { Boys ____ Girls ____ Teachers ____



ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON

May 12th. 1944.

Dear Monsignor Vance,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th. inst. I am all in favour of the return of the Cardinal Vaughan School to London as soon as possible. I shall be very pleased to see you on Tuesday next the 16th. inst. at 11 a.m. to talk matters over.

Wishing you and your staff and the boys every blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ Bernard

Archbishop of Westminster.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

ACADEMICS AND CAREERS

Examinations

2019 saw another fantastic year of results for Cardinal Vaughan pupils. At GCSE, grades 9 and 8 (equivalent to A* and above) were three times the national average for boys. The proportion of 9s attained in English Language were over seven times higher than boys nationally. Overall, our results made the school the highest performing boys' comprehensive in the country, according to *The Times*.

At A Level, 13.9% of grades attained were A*, 46.1% were A* and A, and 69.5% were A* to B, again keeping us at the top end of the national tables for Catholic comprehensive schools.

Congratulations go to our pupils and staff for such outstanding results.

Careers

Pupils were supported through a range of activities from the Careers Department this year. One highlight was National Careers Week which included talks from Old Vaughanians Deborah Conte (née Skinner) and Joshua Desouza. The Fourth Form enjoyed a careers networking session with alumni from across a range of industries, and also embarked on a variety of placements in July for work experience. In the autumn, Old Vaughanaians returned to the school to provide mock interviews for this year's Oxbridge applicants. Throughout the year, alumni also came into the school to give assemblies to the Lower School and Sixth Form.

Thanks from the Vaughan goes to all those involved in helping our pupils in the last year.

Music

Music-making at the Vaughan remains exceptional. Concerts of note over the last year have included the Spring Concert, held in Wathen Hall, St Paul's School with wonderful playing from the First Orchestra, Concert Band, Senior Strings and Second Orchestra. The St Cecilia Concert in November also saw amazing performances from the Sixth Form, Schola and School Choir. Lent Term included the annual collaboration with Southbank Sinfonia; after just a few hours rehearsal our orchestral players sat side-by-side with their Southbank Sinfonia partners and gave an incredible performance of Rachmaninov's *Second Symphony*. The end of term then saw an amazing collaboration as our boys, along with boys from the Vaughan's Monday evening primary music school, pupils from St Joseph's Primary Cadogan Street, and professional singers Peter Davoren and Jerome Knox (both Old Vaughanians) came together to perform Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

The Schola Cantorum remains as busy as ever under Mr Price's leadership. They recorded music for the *Rocketman* soundtrack which came out in May, and travelled to Germany and France to perform. The end of the year saw large audiences for their incredible performance of *The Messiah* in St John's Smith Square and of course the ever-popular annual Carol Service. Our boys have also been busy in Covent Garden, providing chorus boys for Britten's *Billy Budd* and Puccini's *Tosca*.

At the end of the year, preparations were already underway for the Schola's fortieth birthday celebrations taking place at **Cadogan Hall** on Tuesday 3 March. We look forward to seeing lots of you there as we continue to celebrate musical excellence at the school.

You can follow the Music Department on Twitter (@cvmsmusic) and Facebook (Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Music)

Drama

The Vaughan has built up a reputation for its impressive end-of-year school production and the 2019 musical, *Kiss Me, Kate*, did not disappoint. Running during the last week of Trinity Term, the exceptionally talented cast and crew delivered a charming homage to the razor-sharp wit of Shakespeare and a sparkling tribute to theatre.

An additional delight during the year came with the newly-formed Sixth Form drama club's production of *Hamlet*. Emotional and intense, the play was a triumph.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the productions and offered their support.

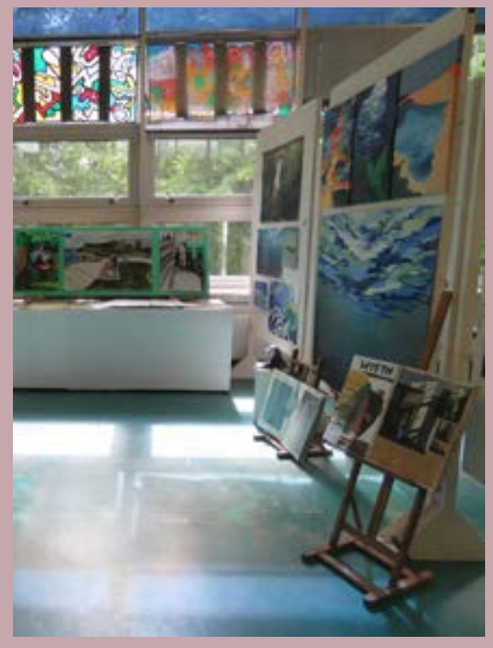
Photograph: Weenson Oo

Art

This has been another fantastic year for Art at the Vaughan. The CVMS Portrait Award is in its fourth year and once again the First Form created some incredible portraiture and self-portraiture. In May, their work was displayed in the Library for our whole community to enjoy.

Outside of the Vaughan, students joined talks from Turner Prize winning artist Grayson Perry and the world-renowned Marc Quinn at Godolphin & Latymer School . There were also many opportunities to visit a variety of London galleries to enhance their learning.

Parents, teachers, pupils and visitors came together in June for one of the highlights of the school year, the Summer Art Exhibition, which celebrates the achievements of our Sixth Form Art students.



Football

The senior football team have played some outstanding football recently. The 2018-19 squad were very unlucky not to win the year's QPR Final but will be hoping to take away the prize in 2020.

Things are looking promising this term as this year's 1XI have finished 2019 with a 100% win record for the season.

Rugby

Rugby continues to grow at Cardinal Vaughan and is particularly popular amongst the Lower School. The 2018-9 season saw Lower School teams go unbeaten in 78% of all matches and success is breeding success.

Highlights in 2019 included the annual rugby day held at Wasps RFC and the Under-14 Tour to Italy which saw some exceptional rugby being played. The start of 2019-20 has seen our new Under-14 team as runners up in the Middlesex RFU U-14 plate final, whilst our new First Formers placed third in the Under-12 competition.

Rowing

The Rowing Club has continued to grow in numbers with a number of victories in 2019 over local schools.

Huge congratulations must go to all the CVMS rowers who competed in the National Indoor Rowing Championship in March. The many successes included a win from Upper Sixth pupil Vwaire Obukohwo who was named National Champion.

Athletics

The Vaughan's track and field team have delivered fine performances over the last year. Of particular note is pupil Dominic Ogbechie whose many sporting achievements in 2019 include achieving a World Record for his age in the High Jump, and winning Gold for Great Britain at the European Under-18 Championships in July. In an amazing team achievement, the First Form Indoor Athletics Squad came second in the London competition. This was the first time the Vaughan had won a medal in this competition for over 16 years.

Netball

Netball continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of staff and pupils. There have been a number of wins against schools and we look forward to more in 2020.

Sixth Formers Grace Fradgley and Darcy Griffin, as netball coaches for Hammersmith & Fulham, won a hugely impressive Silver medal at the London Youth Games in June. This is the highest placed position that the borough has ever received in 18 years of entry into the competition.

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