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1st June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as Headteacher, also Miss Curtis, the Director of Wellbeing for our new Year 7 pupils and Mr Batten, Assistant Headteacher. We would firstly like to acknowledge all the hard work you have been putting in at home to ensure that your child is feeling safe and well during these uncertain times, whilst also balancing the complexities of home study.

Our new school mantra: '*Believing & Belonging*' '*Credu a Pherthyn*' very much accentuates our commitment to you that your child will feel very much part of a strong, inclusive community at Bassaleg; in this nurturing environment we will support them to aspire to be the very best they can. It's a privilege to present to you our seven core values which lie at the very heart of everything we do and ones which I know as a partnership we will always embody:



Whilst I appreciate you and your child will be experiencing some anxiety over how 'transition' from Primary to Secondary will take place with so many uncertainties around us, I want you to feel incredibly reassured by the extensive and purposeful communications taking place between Primary Headteachers and their staff and those of us here at Bassaleg to ensure that all of our young people are fully supported through this process in a safe and caring way. When we are more certain about the practicalities of how this transition will happen, we will of course be in touch but in the meantime we wanted you and your child have access to everything you would have seen and heard on the planned 'transition days' in the summer.

When 'lockdown' began, Miss Curtis and Mr Batten (Assistant Headteacher responsible for Transition and our Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding), immediately turned their attention to our Year 6 transition programme. Ordinarily, this programme would include a series of visits to Bassaleg School by way of transition talks, school induction activities and planned wellbeing days, however, due to the meeting and travel restrictions and social distancing placed on us by COVID-19, it means that these activities are unable to go ahead at this time. Determined that you and your child do not miss out on the receipt of important information, we have created a digital information package, to ensure as smooth a transition to Bassaleg School as possible.

To access these details please click on the pink 'Transition September 2020' tab on our website: <https://www.bassalegschool.com>

Parent/Carer Section:

Powerpoint: This contains all the information you would typically receive during the Transition Evening that was due to take place at Bassaleg School this year, including: *Wellbeing, Our Core Values, Timings of the School Day, Subjects, Behaviour for Learning, Awards and Consequences, Google Classroom, Classcharts, School Gateway App, Uniform, Attendance and Pastoral Support.*

Uniform Policy: Please familiarise yourself with our guidelines for regulation school uniform.

FAQ: This document covers a wide range of questions including *free school meals* and bus travel.

DATA Collection Forms: These documents include vital data collection information regarding pupil health and various consent forms, it also includes an *About My Child* questionnaire where this information will help us in building a picture of your fabulous child. We request that you download and complete all seven forms by hand and return them to Mrs Patricia Williams, Bassaleg School, Forge Lane, Bassaleg, NP10 8NF.

However, if printing and posting is not your preferred option, then you can digitally complete the forms and send them to:
Patricia.Williams@newport.gov.uk

Staff Videos: Messages from key personnel.

Virtual Tours: We have split Bassaleg School into three parts for you and your child to get a feel for our campus facilities.

Parent Questionnaire: We would welcome your feedback to assess how we have managed the transition process in these current circumstances.

Pupil Section:

Staff Videos & Virtual Tours: As per Parent/Carer Section.

What Our Pupils Say: Our digital transition team has collaborated to make a series of videos and PowerPoints to address typical Year 6 concerns. We consider this team to be our *resident experts*; they are a selection of current Year 7 pupils so their experience is very real and recent.

Activities: Our digital team has compiled a selection of small tasks to get your child thinking about secondary school and organisation for the forthcoming year.

Subjects: In order to alleviate any anxieties about studying at secondary school, we would like to encourage you to sit down with your child to review the subject specific areas. Our Directors of Standards have provided information about our pioneering new curriculum at Bassaleg, so that pupils can familiarise themselves with topics of study when they commence in September. Many subjects have also included some research tasks and with consent from our Partner Primary schools; we would like to invite your child to use these resources in last few weeks of Summer Term to gradually work their way through the subjects - these are not compulsory, but we see great value in providing peace of mind and familiarity for many pupils who might have concerns about areas of study next academic year.

One Page Profile: We want to know as much as we can about your child, from the child them self. Please encourage your child to complete this profile any way they wish - they could draw pictures and diagrams, recreate it using ICT or simply write their answers. It would be of great benefit if your child could complete this document over the next few weeks; you may send this One Page Profile, along with the data collection sheets mentioned above, to the email or postal address listed above.

Quiz: After pupils have reviewed all the information, we would like them to answer this final quiz to ascertain what they have learnt about joining us. We would advise that they click on 'View Score' at the end of the quiz where some answers are given more detail.

FAQ: A newsletter version appealing to your child.

Photos of our current Year 7 pupils and a look at the latest *Bassaleg Newsletter* to get **A Sneak Peek of Bassaleg Life**.

Rest assured that we have worked hard in partnership with your child's primary school to get to know and understand your child's needs and behaviours from an emotional, academic, and social perspective - albeit in a 'virtual' way. Given these unprecedented times, we have made the decision to inform pupils of their form class when they arrive on their first day in September. Please be reassured that we will ensure your child is correctly placed in a form we believe to be of maximum benefit to their learning, as well as their social, emotional wellbeing and development. We will ensure that there will be at least one other child from their school in their form and quite possibly many more. *Please note that pupils assigned to our ALNCO, Mrs Booth, will have already been contacted with regards to their form group.*

We are committed to pupil health and wellbeing at Bassaleg, this was recognised as 'excellent' in our May 2019 Estyn inspection and as a dedicated team of teachers, leaders and support staff, we are committed to ensuring your child feels happy and excited about their transition to Bassaleg School. Our 'Health&Happiness' agenda will give them all an opportunity to prioritise their wellbeing and have some fun in school!

Finally, we would like to say a big 'thank you' for your support in guiding your child through a digital transition. Should you have any further questions that are not answered in the documents listed, then please do not hesitate to use one of the following channels and we will endeavour to get back to you:
Email bassaleg.school@newport.gov.uk (Title: Transition Q)
Follow [@askbassalegyr6](https://twitter.com/askbassalegyr6) on Twitter, where we will respond to all questions on a weekly basis. You could also join in on the live Twitter chat every Thursday at 12pm where Miss Curtis will be available to answer your queries:
[#askbassalegyr6](https://twitter.com/askbassalegyr6)

We cannot wait to welcome the year group in September; we look forward to meeting and getting to know you and your child at the earliest opportunity.

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Victoria Lambe, Headteacher
Charlotte Curtis, Director of Wellbeing Year 7
Marc Batten, Assistant Headteacher