

14th May 2021

Dear parent/carer,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as Headteacher, also Mr Ford, Director of Wellbeing for our new Year 7 pupils, Ms Williams, Deputy Director of Wellbeing and Mr Batten, Assistant Headteacher. I trust this letter finds you and your families well at a time when we can hopefully all look forward to coming out of lockdown very soon at the end of what has been another extraordinary year for all.

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:

- ✓ Be honest, kind, be true to yourselves;
- ✓ Be respectful of others and celebrate diversity;
- ✓ Be positive about what you can achieve now; think BIG for the future;
- ✓ Be resilient in the midst of challenge;
- ✓ Be curious and confident in your questioning about the world in which we live;
- ✓ Be active and proud members of our community;
- ✓ Look after yourselves; look after each other.

I appreciate you and your child will have some questions about how ‘transition’ from Primary to Secondary will take place this year with there still being many unknowns about lockdown restrictions, so I wanted 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.

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 in a ‘physical way’ at this time. Determined that such challenges do not act as barrier to a successful transition, we have created a digital portal inclusive of a wide range of information. We have also planned a schedule of ‘Virtual Transition Days’ for pupils alongside ‘Virtual Parent Information Evenings.’

Furthermore, in June, Mr Ford and Ms Williams will be visiting the Partner Primary Schools to meet Year 6 pupils and to provide information on Bassaleg School, outlining their hopes and aspirations for the year group for when they become members of Bassaleg School’s community as Year 7 leaners in September 2021. Access to all of these features will shortly be made available to you; the complete

package will ensure you and your child have everything you need to know in preparation for your child's transition to Bassaleg in September.

Rest assured that we continue to work 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. 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 and HTLA 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 predominantly digital transition. 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