



YSGOL
BASSALEG
SCHOOL

Governors Report to Parents Academic Year 2021/22

CREDU A PHERTHYN • BELIEVING & BELONGING



Annwyl Parent/Carer

I am very pleased to write my annual letter to parents and carers as Chair of Governors.

I am immensely proud to be the Chair of Governors and have the support of a team of governor colleagues who are exceptionally dedicated. We now have remote termly meetings on Thursday evenings for committee and meet on site for full Governing Body meetings. Bassaleg is a forward thinking school with outstanding leadership, the very best of teachers and with a support team who provide a rounded and first class and education for all your children.

I value the support and encouragement you give your children both at home and at school. I am always so pleased to talk to parents and pupils and I believe most are very happy with the school. Of course there are always some people who are dissatisfied and I do my best to resolve any issue that may arise.

This year saw a return to examinations being sat in school; we continue to build on our very strong academic performance which is shown in the results achieved during the Summer term.

The partnership which exists between governors, staff, pupils and parents creates excellence in all that it does. Indeed, that pursuit of this excellence drives both staff and governors to provide the best possible educational and cultural experience for your child, seeking to develop the whole person in preparation for life after school in whatever arena he or she chooses. It is always a delight to speak to our pupils who are polite, well-mannered and engaging.

My thanks again to you for your support as parents and carers and also to the governors and senior staff who contribute positively and constructively at meetings. I am, as always, heartened by the time and experience they give to the school and am very grateful for their support, tenacity and strategic approach to the governance of Bassaleg School.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Mr D T Williams
Chair of Governors



GOVERNORS

Election of Parent Governors

When a vacancy arises on the governing body for a parent representative, the school will inform all parents of the vacancy and will make the necessary arrangements for the subsequent election. Every parent of a registered pupil at the school will be entitled to stand as a candidate and to vote at the election, and will be given the opportunity to do so. Each parent will be provided with a letter, which will indicate eligibility to stand, nominate and vote in elections and which will include a nomination form which provides for a proposed nomination, seconded, acceptance of nomination and any personal statement the nominee wishes to offer, to be returned to the school concerned by a set date. Elections will be by secret ballot.

The next scheduled election of Parent Governors will take place during Spring Term 2023.

Annual Parents' Meeting

There were no meetings held during the course of this year.

Parental Petition Meeting

No meetings were held under Section 94 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Mr D T Williams
Chair of Governors

Bassaleg School Governing Body (as at January 2023)

Chair: Mr D Williams

Clerk to the Governors: Mr H Mason

Contact Details

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GOVERNOR

TERM ENDS

Community Governors appointed by Governing Body

Mr S Bowen	18.09.23
Mr A Evans – Reserve Vice Chair	02.09.25
Mrs A Huckle – Vice Chair	18.09.23
Mr S Rayer	02.09.25
Mr J Watts	16.05.26

Local Authority Appointed

Councillor Mr J Harris	18.07.26
Councillor Mr G Horton	27.01.26
Councillor Mr J Jones	23.11.24
Councillor Ms L Lacey	24.11.25
Mr D Williams – Chair	10.10.25

Parent Representatives

Mrs S Cook	09.05.25
Mrs R Meredith	09.05.25
Mrs B Mungur-Bundhoo	14.01.24
Dr A Seymour	14.01.24
Mr J Wightman	07.06.26
(Vacancy)	-

Teacher/Staff Representatives

Miss R Gateley	31.08.24
Mrs R Richards	07.03.27
Mr R Jones	07.03.27

Non Voting co-opted Linked Governor

Mr T Lewis	06.07.26
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Headteacher

Miss V Lambe

Observer

Mr M Maughan
Mrs C Batten



SCHOOL TERM DATES

Academic Year 2022-23

	Term Starts	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2022	02 September 2022	31 October 2022	04 November 2022	23 December 2022
Spring 2023	09 January 2023	20 February 2023	24 February 2023	31 March 2023
Summer 2023	17 April 2023	29 May 2023	02 June 2023	21 July 2023

INSET DAYS 2022/2023

02 September 2022, 28 November 2022, 23 December 2022, 17 February 2023, 13 March 2023, 30 June 2023

Academic Year 2023/24

	Term Starts	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2023	01 September 2023	30 October 2023	03 November 2023	22 December 2023
Spring 2024	08 January 2024	12 February 2024	16 February 2024	31 March 2024
Summer 2024	08 April 2024	27 May 2024	31 May 2024	19 July 2024

INSET DAYS 2023/24

TBC

Timings of school day

Start	Finish	Lesson
8.35 am	9.00 am	Registration / Assembly
9.00 am	10.00 am	Lesson 1
10.00 am	11.00 am	Lesson 2
11.00 am	11.20 am	Breaktime
11.20 am	12.20 pm	Lesson 3
12.20 pm	13.20 pm	Lesson 4
13.20 pm	14.05 pm	Lunchtime
14.05 pm	15.05 pm	Lesson 5



SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION RESULTS 2022

Performance Measures

For the year 2021 2022, due to the interruption of the normal examination period, there is no school to school comparative outcome data to be shared. A full update on changes to school performance reporting arrangements, due to the impact of coronavirus on schools can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/school-performance-reporting-arrangements-important-update.html>

At A Level the school uses the ALPS system which looks at value added outcomes at A Level compared to GCSE. For 2021 2022 Bassaleg school continued to appear into the top 25% of A Level providers nationally in terms of A Level outcomes compared to GCSE outcomes.

At GCSE pupils achieved a capped 9 score, which indicates the average score of pupils best 9 GCSEs including an English, Maths and Science GCSE, of 405, compared to a target of 410. Within this score pupils secured 5 GCSE outcomes at %* - C at 89%.

Bassaleg School

Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2022

2020/21 Outturn		2021/22 Outturn
£	Employees	£
5,713,313	Teachers	5,918,490
1,230,636	Support Staff	1,379,040
50,916	Caretakers	69,515
25,861	Midday Supervisors	72,937
0	Cleaners	0
Other Employee Costs		
66,120	Supply Insurance Premium	77,752
116,572	Agency Staff	207,206
2,614	Lunch Time Meal Entitlement	13,035
0	Foreign Language Assistants	0
691	Exam Invigilators	3,781
1,906	Advertising	1,905
0	Interview Expenses	0
328	Misc Employee Costs	874
Energy		
47,518	Gas	54,607
42,872	Electricity	64,014
0	Oil	0
315,913	Capitation and ICT	329,673
0	SCC, EIG and PDG Expenditure	0
Premises Related		
0	Hire of Facilities	0
133,750	Rates	133,750
30,107	Building Maintenance and Alarm Lines	76,066
30,393	Grounds Maintenance	32,868

7,175	Water	13,140
202,281	Building Cleaning Contract	200,619
5,902	Refuse Collection	15,296
9,438	Miscellaneous Premises	29,294

Communications		
1,714	Postage/Fax/Telex	2,871
12,242	Telephones	16,383

Transport		
3,884	Vehicle Maintenance	2,226
0	Purchase of Vehicles	0
664	Vehicle Hire	26,096
41	Car Allowance	107
16	Travel Expenses	0

135,761	Exam Fees	95,876
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External Courses		
19,483	School Funded Training	14,933
0	Alternative Curriculum Provision	0
10,000	Sixth Form	41,046

130,620	Central Services	131,078
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Income		
0	Lettings	0
-78,712	Sales Income	-40,302
0	Music Service Income	0
-1,315	Donations	0
-21,626	Miscellaneous	-4
-167,241	Supply	-186,731
0	Exam Fees	0
-757	Interest	-451
0	Rental Income	0
0	EIG	0
0	PDG/EYPDG	0
0	Energy Compensation	0



0	Coaching Fees	0
-2,103,513	Other Grant and Contributions	-2,377,687
0	Reserve Transfer	252,000
0	After Schools Club	0
5,975,567	Total Net Expenditure	6,671,303
6,507,995	Total Funding	6,853,323
532,428	In Year Surplus / Deficit	182,020
218,531	Prior Year Surplus / Deficit	750,959
750,959	Accumulated Surplus / Deficit c/fwd	932,979
11.54%	Balance as % of Funding	13.61%

Members of the governing body have not received any payments for travel and subsistence.

Small gifts received by the school (i.e. chocolates, wine) are donated to the PFA.

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School Prospectus is currently under review and is being incorporated into the new re-design and re-development of our website.



CAREERS AND THE WORLD OF WORK

Bassaleg School recognises that a vital part of a student's education is impartial careers advice, information and guidance; this is delivered through our Form Time Programme and through a series of bespoke events targeted at different age groups throughout the academic year. We make effective use of our link Careers Wales to achieve this. Bassaleg School has recently been awarded the Careers Wales Careers Mark for ongoing improvement in the delivery of Careers Education.

Careers Information

All students are entitled to seek specific guidance from: Directors and Wellbeing and support staff alongside Careers Wales who interview students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and other year groups on request.

Careers and Work Related Experience

We are working with all AOLEs to embed this statutory provision into our curriculum in line with our School Improvement Plan.

CURRICULUM

Bassaleg's Pillars Curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced, flexible, relevant, challenging and inclusive, matching the needs of individual learners.

The school now follows the Curriculum for Wales framework and has designed the Pillars Curriculum to ensure that pupils work towards the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, while striving to be the very best version of themselves. The curriculum aims are to help pupils develop the core values at the heart of our Believing and Belonging ethos, through challenging lessons and learning experiences which are rich in skill development and help pupils develop lifelong learning capacities.

Each Area of Learning and Experience reviews its curriculum offer regularly to ensure that there is breadth, depth and challenge, and to assure that all teaching and learning experiences have our Pillars of Pedagogy, after which the curriculum is named, at their heart.



ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

The school has adopted the Additional Learning Needs Policy of the Newport Local Education Authority and continues to review and adapt practice in line with the ALN Transformation Act to ensure that:

- all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential
- planning and delivery of support for learners with an ALN places learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process
- focus is placed on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes.

Pupils are initially identified as having additional learning needs through close links with all partner primary schools. Visits and consultations with teaching staff in partner primary schools take place while pupils are in year 6 and the ALN Coordinator attends the Annual Reviews of Statemented pupils in year 6 provided that they live within the catchment. In addition, all pupils undertake Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) at the beginning of year 7, which further helps the identification process.

The school's Universal Provision approach requires all teaching staff to ensure that the following strategies are present in every learning experience:

- Deliver no more than two or three instructions at a time
- Ensure pupils are not required to copy work
- Chunk all learning activities
- Model how to successfully engage with learning experiences
- Provide sufficient processing time

The approach outlined above aims to support a wide range of pupils with additional needs (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) while also being proven to support the learning experiences of all pupils.

Pupils with needs that may require the school to make reasonable adjustments, outside of that provided through the school's Universal Provision, are provided with a One Page Profile that identifies how best to adapt teaching and learning experiences to support the pupil's need. This support may require withdrawal support (to the school's Progress Centre) by teachers or Learning Support Assistants and may also include regular monitoring/advocacy by ALN and Pastoral teams with the support of external agencies.



Pupils who have significantly greater needs than that of their peers have Individual Development Plans (IDPs). Due to their significant needs these pupils may require additional in class support and may require structured withdrawal to the school's Progress Centre.

Both the One Page Profile and IDP documents are devised after consultation between staff, parents and pupils and are reviewed in line with the ALN Code of Practice and new ALN Act.

Currently, all pupils are placed in mixed ability registration groups. Those pupils who have been identified through transition as requiring skills development are provided with the opportunity to join the school's Skills Development Group. This group aims to develop a wide range of core skills while the pupils study in KS3. At Key Stages 4 and 5, pupils pursue courses appropriate to their needs.

DISABLED PUPILS

The school makes every effort to accommodate pupils who have various disabilities subject to the access constraints to some of the buildings. Further information is available from Newport City Council.



COMMUNITY LINKS

Mental Health – supporting our young people, parents/carers and staff.

As a school we have once again been working hard in improving emotional wellbeing and mental health for our school community.

Newport Mind have provided much needed guidance and intervention with two projects to help our young people manage their emotional health and mental wellbeing. **The Boost Project**, and the **Piece by Piece Project** – interventions which are one to one or small group clinics are designed to support young people addressed many issues and have significantly helped to develop confidence and resilience, providing helpful coping strategies.

Our parents and carers received helpful information via our social media platforms, providing strategies and guidance to our parents and carers on how to listen to their child, the signs to look for regarding low mood and dark thoughts and strategies to help overcome a variety of mental health and wellbeing issues and difficulties. This information was shared via guidance information which signposted a wide variety of interventions available.

The school decided to create an even more impacting partnership with Newport Mind and we funded Toby, our **Newport Mind Mental Health practitioner**, who was on site four days a week. Toby's work was extensive and varied from one to one sessions with young people, counselling staff and also providing supervision for those members of the wellbeing team who were dealing with challenging issues on a regular basis.

New and exciting initiatives to support our school community regarding **emotional wellbeing and mental health include our plans for September 2022 - Mindful Families**, to offer a staged approach to developing mindful practice in our schools.

This mindfulness course is an 8 week twilight course that is held online. This supports staff wellbeing and provides them with strategies to support young people that they encounter in class and in one to one situations.

Another exciting initiative that we are keen to embrace for September 2022 is The Mental Health In-Reach to Schools Team consists of NHS Practitioners working within wider Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). One of the core aims of the team is to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people by working in collaboration with the school staff that support them on a daily basis.



Community

We as a school work hard to ensure that our young people's needs are met and supported, in and out of school. Some examples include:

- **The Baxter Project** – we are currently in our third year of the project and this excellent **Mental Health initiative, supporting those most impacted upon by trauma** offers support to some of our most vulnerable learners. It has been a real wellbeing boost to all our school community seeing Cerys and Blue moving around the site and many have commented on how comforting they have found them being around. They have worked with over 40 young people and have identified many major issues and difficulties which have been addressed and they have also played a significant role in helping reduce levels of anxiety and improve low mood.
- **CRUSE** Bereavement Service have supported a number of our staff and pupils last year;
- We offer our young people the opportunity to self-refer to the **Talking Zone** counsellors or they can be referred by a Director of Wellbeing. Once again we have been indebted to the work of this team who provided much needed support throughout the year.
- **Gwent Police**, the school has forged an excellent relationship with Gwent Police through the work of our new School Liaison Officer PC Karen Hartshorne, who regularly comes into school to deliver important messages and training to the year group, class or small group 'raising awareness' sessions.

Careers Fayre

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have not been able to hold the annual Careers Fayre. This event will be run in Spring term 2023.

CHARITIES

The following monies were raised as part of the Health & Happiness @Bassaleg agenda:

Event Name	Month	£ Raised
#Hello Yellow "Splash of Yellow" day to support children and young people's mental health: Young Minds; Newport Mind; Jacob Abraham Foundation	Friday 8 October	£1061.16
Poppy Appeal Money raised for the Poppy appeal	5-9 November	£273.14
Children in Need Quiz and non-uniform	Friday 19 November	£982.76
Christmas Bonanza Christmas jumper Day & donations to Newport Food Bank	Friday 17 December	NA
Keep Wales Tidy & Eco Committee Litter picking for a week and dress down	28 January	£656.96
Little Hearts Matter charity	Friday 18 February	£700.19
World Book Day	Thursday 3 March	NA
Comic Relief and The Ukraine Crisis (Red Cross)	Friday 18 March	£1162.71
Brain Tumour Research cake sale with the Year 10's	Friday 8 April	£372.30
Dementia awareness	Thursday 30 June	£819.51
Health and Happiness Week to be arranged by Miss Lambe	July	NA
TOTAL £4866.02 for 2021-22		



ASSOCIATION OF THE PARENTS & FRIENDS OF BASSALEG SCHOOL

The Association of the Parents & Friends of Bassaleg School strive to raise much needed funds. The main aim of the P.F.A. is to organise enjoyable fund-raising events/projects which benefit the children's learning experience across all areas of the school and curriculum. The current fundraising project is generating funds for a school minibus, but their efforts have been affected by Covid restrictions which has meant that this enthusiastic group have faced restrictions in meeting.

By supporting the school through the P.F.A. you can be sure that all pupils in the school will feel the benefit. We often provide refreshments at school music concerts and parents' evenings and it was good to support the school summer concert in July 2022 which was our first large gathering since Covid and we will be targeting the school production of Annie in December 2022 to generate much needed funds for the school.

The P.F.A always welcomes new members and further information is available via the school website.

SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

The School Student Council meet on a regular basis, as do year councils, the Health & Happiness Council and the team of Head and deputy students. The School Council has drawn up their own constitution which each council member signs following their election.

The Council has experienced a comprehensive election process which requires candidates to create a short campaign video that outlines their strengths and their intentions if election. Every member of the school is given the opportunity to ask questions to their candidates, and candidates utilise their skills developed on the Year Council to canvass ideas from their year groups. This has allowed every child at Bassaleg to experience a real election in preparation for real-life elections. This is so important for all of our young people as those aged 14 and 15 are now able to register to vote and 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in Welsh Parliament (Senedd) elections and Local Government elections. Tutor groups have experienced sessions which educated them on the organisation of the Welsh Assembly, how the election works and who their own candidates were. All of this helps us to achieve our goal of developing ethical, informed citizens who are socially aware and can contribute to society.



The School Council continue to take an active role in the development of mental health in school, and will be working to explore how LGBTQ+ issues and mental health can be integrated into our curriculum. They have also been instrumental in the designing of our proposed new building, having had multiple meetings with the architects of the project.

The school has a wide range of Listening 2 Young People Councils in addition to the School and Year Councils who focus on different aspects of school life these include the Eco Council, Behaviour for Learning Council, Lead Learners Council, N2R (No 2 Racism) and AOLE (Area of Learning and experience) Councils which have allowed further opportunity for pupils to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. Our school website details the focus for each of our L2YP opportunities.

More recently a group of students have met to discuss how we can coordinate the work of all of our councils and how we can better communicate and celebrate the impact of the work of our young people.

YSGOL BASALEG – DWYIEITHRWYDD / BASSALEG SCHOOL: BILINGUALISM

In Bassaleg, we pride ourselves on the use of bilingualism across the school. We have developed new initiatives to incorporate and encourage incidental Welsh to be used across the school. Each Department actively promotes bilingualism in their teaching with incidental Welsh being used and bilingual resources are on display across the school. All departments have been given links to key subject specific terminology and offered support in the translation of new material. All staff have participated in a skills survey which has been analysed for planning for provision for the next academic year. Pupils are involved in the organisation of the Eisteddfod and developing bilingualism, creating a sense of ownership and responsibility which ensures that pupils are aware of the importance of bilingualism and its promotion. Each department is actively involved in contributing to the Eisteddfod celebrations which creates a whole school community. A 'Cryw Cymraeg' has also been created within the school with members from each year group actively promoting new opportunities to celebrate Welshness across the school. The 'Cryw Cymraeg' successfully organised and implemented a charity event for Welsh Valentine's Day (St Dwynwen's Day) whereby students were able to purchase Welsh Valentine's Cards and send them to whomever they wished using Welsh vocabulary. The 'Cryw Cymraeg' are hoping to set up a Languages Café in the near future so that students can develop their language skills whilst enjoying lunch with friends.

Bilingualism is continuing to improve and is a whole school priority. Bassaleg School is an English Medium Secondary School.



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Staff at the school give generously of their time, running an extensive range of extra curricular activities. These include:

Athletics	Junior Choir
Debating	Netball
Drama	Orchestra (others e.g. Wind band)
Duke of Edinburgh	Rugby
Eco-Club	Science
Football	Senior Choir
Gymnastics	Tennis
Hockey	Cricket
Health and well being	

TOILET FACILITIES

The toilets are all cleaned at the end of every day, and during the day we have a day cleaner who visits all toilets to make sure that there is an adequate supply of toilet paper and the soap dispensers are full, clean as necessary. Toilet facilities are zoned by year groups.

ATTENDANCE RETURN

Attendance percentage of possible sessions for pupils on roll and leavers of compulsory school age only.

Group	Presents	AEA	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Possible	% Attend
Year 7	102109	774	6259	1985	111146	92.6
Year 8	107071	1378	7377	3724	119553	90.7
Year 9	96418	1215	8369	3487	109490	89.2
Year 10	86628	2645	6454	3303	99057	90.1
Year 11	70154	3945	9813	4575	88497	83.7
Totals	462380	9957	38272	17074	527743	89.5

The attendance target for academic year 2021/22 is 94.6%.

The attendance target for academic year 2022/23 is 91.5%.

POLICIES

The following policies have been reviewed and approved by the Governing Body during academic year 2021/22:

- Accessibility Policy
- Additional Learning Needs Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Antibullying Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Looked After Children Policy
- Safeguarding Policy