

1880's ...

Bassaleg School was endowed in 1880 by Rowland Morgan, at a cost of £20 and was built for 70 children initially but was eventually enlarged to cater for 250 pupils. Very soon our school will receive a £30 million site upgrade that will further increase our numbers to 2000 young people by 2023 - a considerable increase from 1880.

Bassaleg Controlled Voluntary School was then built in the last century to serve the workers of Lord Tredegar who worked on his estates. It was his family who had endowed the original school.

Lord Tredegar, who lived at Tredegar Park House was famous for his exploits in the Crimean war, where he survived the Charge of the Light Brigade and is also fondly remembered by the people of Newport for his numerous good works and deeds as benefactor. He died on 11 March 1913 aged 81 and is buried at St Basil's.

Bassaleg School History Timeline

It has been suggested that the site of the church, St Basil's was originally dedicated to Saint Gwladys. Historians have suggested that Bassaleg is the only British place whose name derives from the word basilica, a term used in early Christianity for a church containing the body of a saint.

Close by to the school is Bassaleg Viaduct this is the world's oldest operational railway viaduct, built over the Ebbw River for the Rumney Railway in 1826.

1900's ...

1930's ...

During the Newport Rising of 1839 the Chartist marchers passed through the area of Bassaleg heading into Newport.

In January 1930 Bassaleg Secondary School was recognised as a Grant Aided Secondary School by Monmouthshire Education Committee. The School opened at Rhiwderin, accommodated in the Congregational Chapel schoolroom. Further building extensions enabled 51 pupils to transfer from the Rhiwderin Secondary class, which had been in existence since 1927 which had been housed in the Rhiwderin infant school. By the end of April 1930 there were 85 young people on roll.

On June 11th 1930 there was a Medical Inspection and the school was complimented on the high physical standards of the pupils, but there was criticism 'over the obvious dearth of toothbrushes'!

Bassaleg Secondary School was formally opened on its current site on September 4th, 1935, by Alderman T.J Jones. Mr R.T Harry, the Headteacher commented on the new buildings - 'the Gymnasium, the Assembly Hall, the Practical rooms and the Library are the most noteworthy rooms in the school and we will see a very elevating influence emanating from these facilities'.

1940's ...

1950's ...

1970's ...

The second world war created its obvious challenges for the school and staff and in 1943, to support the war effort 40 older male pupils were part of the School Harvest Camp, where for six weeks they slept in the gymnasium (the small gym) and 'worked on the land' collecting the harvest for the war effort, in the rural areas surrounding the school. At that time 5 teachers of the school and 250 past students were serving in the forces.

By 1948 the school was known as Bassaleg Grammar School.

Graig County Secondary Modern was then established in 1958 to deliver a wide variety of subjects and provide greater vocational pathways for learners. Students from Bassaleg Grammar and the Graig Secondary Modern co-existed 'peacefully' on the same site, with brand new buildings being provided for Graig Secondary behind the Grammar school in the 'Griffin building', as it is now known.

Grammar schools were abolished in Wales in the 1970s to ensure equal opportunity for all learners and Bassaleg Comprehensive School came into existence at this time, shaping the school into one very large campus which has over many years seen a Science block extension built, a new Games and Art Centre and more recently, a purpose built ALN/Geography and RMP centre established.