



# NEWSLETTER

## CYLCHLYTHYR

Spring 2018  
Y Gwanywyn 2018



# O L I V E R !

Oliver! By Lionel Bart. This was first performed in the West End in 1960 and first performed at Bassaleg School in 1973, to much acclaim in the local press. The 2018 performance was much anticipated and did not disappoint. Audiences were laughing, tapping their toes and spontaneously applauding our talented cast. As the young orphan Oliver escaped the brutal workhouse of Mr Bumble to follow adventures with loveable rogues and true Victorian villains on the journey to his ultimate reunion with his family. With over 150 pupils in the cast, orchestra and crew, nine different departments, the Parents' and Friends Association and sponsorship from eleven local businesses, it was an extra-curricular extravaganza not to be missed. If you did, don't worry 'we'll be back soon'!



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Cross Country** - Congratulations to the following pupils who represented South East Wales at the Welsh schools Cross Country Championships: Ceri Griffiths, Elin Griffiths, Lily Hart, Bethan Wainwright, William Lewis, Leo Stark and Ryan Sutton. Ceri placed 4th in the Year 7 girls race which is incredible! She also received a silver medal placing 2nd in the team event. Elin And Lily placed 3rd in the team event. Congratulations everyone!!



**Netball** - Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team who placed 3rd in the recent South East Wales County tournament. Also congratulations to the Year 9 Netball team who reached the semi-finals of the County League competition. The year 9 girls won the pool and reached the semi finals of the league.

**Cricket** - Congratulations to Nathan Berry, Year 11, for his selection to the Wales U17 cricket squad as their wicketkeeper. He toured Australia over the Christmas break playing regional teams and was very fortunate to watch the boxing day Ashes test match between England and Australia.

**Athletics** - Congratulations to Hannah Bidwell, a Welsh Triathlon member, for competing in the recent British Duathlon Championships in Bedford.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



**Gymnastics** - Congratulations to our U14 sports acro teams who took part in the Welsh Schools' finals in Sophia Gardens, gaining 3rd and 4th position in the competition. Well done to Mia Jones, Isabel Cross, Lily Hart, Cerys Palmer. Emily Fry, Ellie-May Wainwright, Leah Hatherall, Abbie Harris, Kiah Thomas, Catrin Allen, Lucy Allen, Daisy Hart and Hannah Catchpole. Also congratulations to Hannah Watson, Hannah Catchpole, Ellie-May Wainwright, Ffion Buttigieg, Katie Lewis, Liam Harris, Daniel Goodfellow, Oliver Larkins and Tomos Best for competing in the South East Wales Tumble & Vault Championships. Katie, Hannah, Ellie-May, Ffion and Liam have now qualified for the Welsh Finals. A huge well done to Katie Lewis, Year 10, for placing 4th in the National Gymnastics Grade 1. This means that Katie will now go to the British Finals to compete for Wales!

**Rugby** - Congratulations to Tom Fitzpatrick, Morgan Mohring and Joe Peard, Year 11, for selection to the Dragons U16 regional rugby squad. They will now play the Scarlets, Blues and Ospreys U16 teams over Easter.



**Football** - Congratulations to the Year 7 boys team, who reached the quarter finals of the Newport Cup against Caldicot and the Year 8 team who have reached the quarter finals against Caerleon. Also well done to the Year 11 team as they have reached the final of the Newport Cup and the Senior football team who have reached the quarter finals of the Gwent Cup against St Albans and they have also reached the quarter finals of the Newport Cup to play against The John Frost School.

**Social Media** - Please check out the new Bassaleg PE Twitter and Instagram accounts, where you will find news, information, photos, interviews and messaging regarding all Bassaleg PE activities.

# HISTORY DEPARTMENT



Students from Years 12 and 13 visited Berlin as part of their A Level History studies. Berlin has acted as a focal point for many of the pivotal events throughout the 20th century and the students spent 4 days visiting the major historical, sporting, architectural and artistic landmarks including the Reichstag; Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp; Checkpoint Charlie; The Olympic Stadium; Memorials to the victims of the Holocaust, as well as the museums dedicated to Espionage, Terror, Opposition and Resistance.



# HISTORY DEPARTMENT



In collaboration with the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project, Bassaleg School sent three of their students on a day visit to the infamous death camp. The day consisted of a guided tour of the two camps, Auschwitz and Birkenau, and challenged the students to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust, understanding the roles of victims and perpetrators in the events that took place as a result of Nazi persecution. Students Isobel Stokes, Holly Ford, and Roberto Morris began their journey with a seminar in Cardiff where they, amongst a crowd of teachers and students from all across Wales, listened to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke. The trip itself lasted only one day, after an early start at Cardiff airport the visitors explored the two camps whilst accompanied by expert guides that provided extra insights into life in Auschwitz. This then culminated with London Rabbi, Barry Marcus, giving an emotional speech about the modern relevance of the Holocaust.

## BASSALEG FUNDRAISING



Well done to all the Year 7 pupils that took part in the 'Run for Cancer', they raised a huge £2,221.76.

# D & T DEPARTMENT



In Year 10 GCSE Product Design, pupils are busy designing and manufacturing pewter jewellery with retro styling, taking inspiration from nature, cars, films, eras, architecture, bikes and so much more. The project involves creating a wax model which is cast into pewter. Pupils are really enjoying this engineering manufacturing experience and are currently experimenting with casting before modelling in wax.



# D & T DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to the Year 10 Level 2 Hospitality and Catering class who successfully prepared, cooked and served an amazing three course Christmas dinner for their classmates and staff.

The pupils applied for their job roles and planned all the elements of the meal carefully. Sourcing ingredients, innovating, experimenting and tweaking recipes until they had the perfect menu.

It was all cooked from scratch on the day and served at lunch time. The professional service was overseen by Head Chef Amber Taylor and Chief Sommelier Stephen Cook.

Thank you to the class for the amazing meal and to Miss Curtis who planned this fantastic pupil experience.

# LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



Our PLAs (Pupil Language Ambassadors) have had a busy term organising events and raising money for worthy charities. The 'MFL Bake Off' saw 3 worthy winners with Phoebe Jones-Murray and Emily Rodway's USA cake, and Mari-Louise Medhurst's cake of France. The girls then sold slices of their amazing cakes and raised £36 between them. On the first Monday of the month, croissants, pain au chocolat, gauffres au chocolat (chocolate waffles), crepes, chocolate, galletas / biscuits and magdalenas were donated and sold during break time. As a result of our PLAs and aspiring ambassadors, Garv Sharma and Ibrahim Ahmad, £30 was raised for Nabugabo Community Learning Centre, £30 for Mind and £100 for Cancer Research.

## ALUMNI SUCCESS



Thank you to ex-pupil and Olympian Mica Moore for visiting Bassaleg to speak to Year 7 students about her epic journey to the Winter Olympic games, where she and her partner finished an incredible 8th place. We are so proud of you Mica; you're such an inspiration to us all and a brilliant example of what hard work, determination and self-belief can achieve!

# I.C.T. DEPARTMENT



The 'Game of Codes' competition is a pan-Wales coding competition organised by Technocamps, where pupils of all ages are asked to create a game or app on a given theme; this years theme was Space. The Curry Club, consisting of Joshua Chuter, Euan Hartland, Joshua Hayward, Iwan Sherlock and Tomos Sherlock successfully navigated the preliminary round and made it to the final with their game Orbit Defend. The final took place at the Cardiff University School of Computer Science and Informatics, with pupils of all ages, from Primary to Sixth Form attending. The Bassaleg team took part in various activities during the



morning, including learning to develop web pages to programming in Minecraft using Raspberry Pi's. In the afternoon they then had to demonstrate their game to the judges as well as explain the process they went through in the development of it. The judges were very impressed with not only the game but how well they worked together and as such they only narrowly missed out on the award for Best Game, but won the award for Best Teamwork. This was an excellent result for their first attempt and the team is already working on their skills to prepare for next year's competition. You can play the game here <https://goo.gl/UKwvYG>.

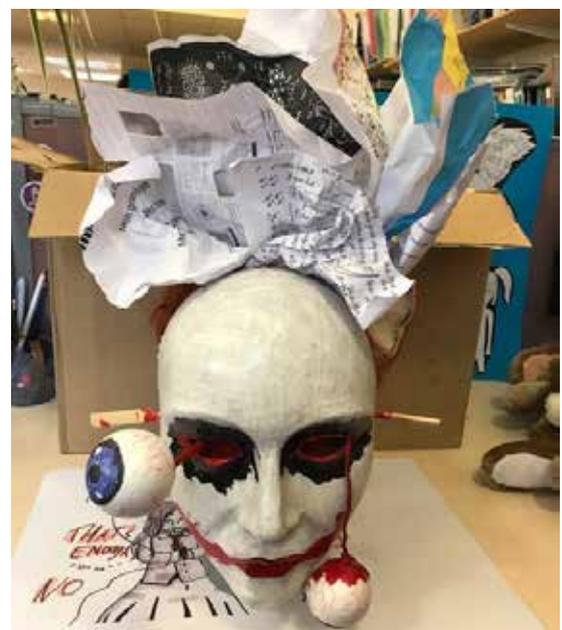
# STUDENT WELLBEING



Students from High Schools across Newport met at Bassaleg School on 1st February 2018 to debate the motion 'Is School Bad for Your Mental Health?' The event formed part of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Debates (#RCPsychDebates) and was organised by Professor Alka Ahuja (Chair of the Child & Adolescent faculty, Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales), Dr Christina Evans (Principal Educational Psychologist, Newport City Council) and Siobhan Conway (RCPsych in Wales, Manager).

The debate was opened by Professor Ahuja and Dr David Williams, Divisional Director of Family and Therapies, who was joined by colleagues from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Newport City Council, Welsh Government and school staff. The debate chaired by Mark Griffiths (Consultant Child Psychiatrist) opened with a vote on the motion "Is school bad for your mental health?" The result was 19:20 in favour of a no vote. The debates were judged by Lowri Reed and David Tutton from the Welsh Government who were impressed by the quality of the presentations. "We had a diverse range of speakers who presented with humour, passion and gravitas," said Lowri Reed.

The winner of the best individual speaker competition was Izzie Mawhinney, year 9, who gave a passionate argument in support of school being bad for your mental health: The closing vote on the notion was 18:17 in favour of school being bad for your mental health. Alongside the debate artwork, essays and poetry were also on display from across Newport's secondary schools.



# STUDENT WELLBEING



Andrew Caress who works for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, a charity that promotes positive mental health, came into school in January to present at the Parent Forum. This event was very well received, offering excellent guidance and strategies for parents to support their child. Andrew has already presented to all staff on the very important aspect of wellbeing and he will be returning in the summer term to deliver sessions to our students.



**paul** DRUG AWARENESS hannafor

Mr Paul Hannaford visited Bassaleg School to deliver a hard hitting, informative and entertaining talk to pupils in Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 on the difficult, but important, topics of drugs, alcohol and knife & gang culture.



Mr Hannaford travels all over the UK visiting 100s of primary / secondary schools, youth centres, young offenders and many professional football clubs on their 'football in the community' projects, speaking with around 50,000 young people every year.

The feedback from Bassaleg students was overwhelmingly positive. *"The speech was awesome, thank you!", "Such a brilliant morning thank you for such an educational and eye opening talk", "Very inspirational... to not do drugs", "What a guy, so inspirational".*

A big thank you to Mr Hannaford for telling us about his personal journey.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**BASSALEG SCHOOL**  
(In Conjunction with St. Basil's Church)

presents

**'An Evening of Stage & Screen'**

Thursday 26th April 2018  
6.30pm @ St Basil's Church, Bassaleg

Tickets - £5  
Available from Bassaleg Post Office  
Mr Keates, Bassaleg School  
Parish Fundraising Team - 07740 797672 (Kay)

Proceeds to support the Parish of Bassaleg & the School

The majority of this term has been taken up with our preparations for our show *Oliver!* which took place the week before February half term. We all loved every minute of the show and the cast received a standing ovation from the whole hall on the Thursday night. Many congratulations to all our talented pupils who took part both on and off stage. Bring on the next one!

The Sixth-Form pupils just completed their A' level recitals performing to a previous WJEC chief examiner Alun Guy. All of our pupils played and sang superbly and Mr. Guy was incredibly impressed by the standard of performance and the variety of music in the programmes – Well done to all!

In the Eisteddfod we saw lots of talented musicians perform on stage and we congratulate all of them and all the winners of the various competitions. Special congratulations goes to Mariam Hoosein (Year 7), Ella Laughton (Year 8) and Natasha Jones (Year 9) who won Musician of the Year for their respective year groups. Well done to all! We look forward to a summer term packed with events.

**National Honours** - Isobel Soper from Year 12 has gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Wales on Cello. Well done.

**Rotary Young Musician** - Our year 13 A Level Music pupils all took part in the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition in January. Everyone played or sang really well in the first round of this competition. Many congratulations to violinist Maddie Colebrook and vocalist Matthew Chung who both won their heat and represented the school superbly in the next round of the competition.



Watch out for future concerts in St. Basil's Church in April (see poster above) and in school in June

# MATHS DEPARTMENT



Intermediate Mathematics Challenge - The Mathematics Department would like to congratulate our students from years 9 to 11 who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge this year. Twenty five pupils achieved awards! Year 11: Silver; Aidan Hayes, Morgan Mohring (Plus joint best in year award), Jon Hendy, Imogen Huckle, Nadine Aziz and Nathan Thomas. Bronze; Bethany Proctor, Mohed Farooq, Olivia Rabaiotti, Ying Lau, Katie Lewis, Rhys Jones, Umar Khan and Joshua Whiteman. Year 10: Matthew Turner (Plus best in year award), Jacob Shaw and Owen Jones. Bronze; Grace Coghlan. Year 9: Silver; Elin Griffiths (Plus best in year) and James Adams. Bronze; Abbie Jordan, Sam Hart, Izzie Mawhinney and Kian Vihn. Well done to all who were involved - we are very proud of you.

## INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



**Cardiff Metropolitan University Lead Partnership School** - Bassaleg School successfully bid to become a Lead Partner School in Initial Teacher Training from 2019. We are currently engaged in piloting training days with current trainee teachers and have so far welcomed 25 Cardiff Met students to three 'in school' days looking at Personalised Learning, Assessment and Teaching Styles. This is an exciting opportunity for the school to be at the heart of training new teachers in partnership with the University and seeing the theoretical side of training delivered as part of school experience from 2019. It is also a testament to the very high standards of teaching and learning at Bassaleg School that we were successful in our bid.

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Bassaleg's belated World Book Day, on March 21st, was a rousing success full of costumes, readings and doughnuts! The English Department would like to thank all the staff members who made the day so successful by dressing up as their favourite book characters and providing much entertainment for all. It was great to see Fantastic Mr Fox, Jane Eyre, Harry Potter and his friends from Hogwarts, Mary Poppins and even Miss Trunchbull walking the halls throughout the day. Miss Lambe and Mr Cresswell won 'Best Dressed' for their exceptional efforts. Pupils enjoyed a day of searching the school for books in our mystery Book Hunt and listening to various readings in the library. Thank you to everybody who brought and hid books as part of the Book Hunt - they were all gone by lunchtime! Well done to all the pupils who participated in our book exchange at lunch



time too; we hope you enjoy getting stuck into your new reads over the Easter holidays. Miss Scott and Ms Takhar would like to thank everybody for their enthusiasm and participation in what was a really exciting day that promoted a love of books. We can't wait until next year already!

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



The annual Newport Duke of Edinburgh awards evening saw many year 11 Bassaleg students, Bassaleg alumni and their families braving the pre-snow cold to celebrate their participation in the award and to collect their award certificates. The Chair of Governors', Councillor Williams and Mr Parker took to the stage to congratulate each student and individually present them with their bronze award certificate. It was also great to see past students collecting Silver and Gold awards completed through the Newport Youth Service, Open Award Group. Once again Bassaleg school had the largest representation at the event demonstrating the continuing popularity of the award with students.

To achieve any Duke of Edinburgh award, takes great commitment and lots of hard work from each young person who participates, and is additional to their study and family commitments. Mr Parker, Miss Cheshier and all the other staff would like to congratulate all the pupils who have achieved their Duke of Edinburgh award this year.

Well done to all the new applicants in year 10 who have enthusiastically attempted all the selection activities thrown at them, no matter how strange! And all in the pouring rain on a cold Friday afternoon. Miss Cheshier and Mr Parker were very impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment already shown by the new Bronze group and are both looking forward to what is looking to be a great group and memorable expedition season.

"Well done and Good Luck to all you Newbee's!!"



# CAREERS NEWS



**Year 9 and Sixth Form Careers Fayre** - On Thursday 1st February we held our annual Careers Fayre for Year 9 and Sixth Formers. We were very fortunate to have 37 employers exhibiting and speaking to our young people about career opportunities in a huge range of companies. It was a privilege to welcome a really diverse group of employers from the brewers, Tiny Rebel, to Christian Malcolm's Sports Academy. The event was really well attended and pupils and parents commented on the vibrant atmosphere and range of opportunity on offer. As always, huge thanks must go to Mrs Williams for her organisation of this very successful and well received event and to Miss Satherley & Mrs Wheatley.



**Year 9 Careers Day** - On Thursday 18th January we held a Careers Day for all Year 9 pupils. Working with our Careers Wales Business Class partners Lloyds Bank, Year 9 spent the day in workshops looking at aspects of work such as employability skills, personal resilience and coping with change. The day was a great success and Year 9 were a real credit to Bassaleg School in the way they engaged with the day and with a large number of visiting trainers from Lloyds.

WESTERN MAIL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

## Welsh students get a skills boost from Lloyds Banking Group

LLOYDS Banking Group has partnered with 21 secondary schools across Wales to boost skills for students looking to kick-start their career.

The "Schools to Work" initiative was set up by the Group in collaboration with Knowledgepool (Capita) to establish training programmes for young people across the UK and aims to boost employability skills and provide work experience.

As part of this commitment, the Group has announced it will host a series of employability workshops across 21 schools in Wales during 2018. The first event took place at Newport-based Bassaleg School, which was attended by 260 pupils.

The event saw 13 colleagues from the Group host a full-day session for Year 9 students currently preparing to select their GCSE options.

The lessons focused on helping students identify personal strengths and interests and offered practical advice on how to enter the world of work. Students also learnt how to build their own personal resilience and deal with change.

Justin Clayton-Jones, assistant headteacher at Bassaleg School, said: "The careers day with Year 9 has been a huge success. The staff from the



Emma Stacey (assistant manager, people and productivity, Lloyds Banking Group) and Justin Clayton-Jones (assistant headteacher at Bassaleg School) with Year 9 pupils

Group and Knowledgepool (learning and development transformation experts) have given our students a fantastic opportunity to focus on

their personal skills and dispositions as they start on their journey towards a career.

The sessions were both creative

and very engaging and feedback from our pupils have been extremely positive.

Sessions such as personal

resilience and coping with change are so valuable to our young people as they choose their GCSE options and look towards A-levels, college or apprenticeships."

The workshops are hosted by the Group as part of its Helping Britain Prosper plan, which has seen the Group work with more than 100 schools across the UK to help students navigate their options when leaving education.

In the past 12 months, colleagues from the Group have hosted interview days, work experience and one-to-one sessions for more than 5,000 students across the UK.

Allan Griffiths, the Group Ambassador for Wales, said: "Our aim is to inspire the minds of tomorrow, while also addressing the recruitment challenges faced by many firms.

"Having access to the right skills is crucial for any business or organisation to thrive, which is why investing in the next generation as they look to enter the world of work is so important.

"Our colleagues have hosted employability events for 35 Welsh schools since the launch of the "Schools to Work" programme and we're now building on this momentum in 2018 by working with

# WELSH DEPARTMENT



On Friday March 16th Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils gathered together in Griffin and Forge Hall to experience a variety of music and literary performances, celebrations and friendly competition as we held our annual Eisteddfodau. Pupils competed in a range of competitions including Welsh recitations, sketches, class songs, instrumental performances and class choral competitions. Musicians of the year were Mariam Hoosein year 7, Ella Laughton year 8 and Natasha Jones year 9. The Welsh & Music Department would like to thank the pupils and staff for their hard work and efforts leading up to the Eisteddfod. Llongyfarchiadau pawb! Congratulations everyone!



40 year 9 pupils attended Glan Llyn in North Wales for a weekend of fun filled activities. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and threw themselves into every activity. It was lovely to see so many pupils testing out their Welsh language skills with the staff in Glan Llyn and lovely to see that they made such a great impression on the staff there. Da iawn pawb!



# BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



This term Years 11 and 13 have been immersed in the enterprise challenge. They have been developing innovative business ideas in response to challenge briefs. They have been working in groups to devise, develop and present their business ideas to visitors from the business world. Both year groups have come up with innovative business ideas including a recycling app, utilising shipping containers for gym and fitness and using vending machines for tech products. Both Years 11 and 13 have impressed the Dragons with their entrepreneurial skills and the high quality of their presentations. The Dragons were particularly impressed with the students' use of digital skills in developing and presenting their business concepts. Well

done everyone! If anyone is willing to take part as a Dragon next year, we would greatly appreciate your support!



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## May 2018

| SUN | MON                     | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |                         | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | MAY DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | Parent Forum 5          | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  |                         | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  |                         | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |                         |     |     |     |     |     |

## July 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

## April 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

## June 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |