



## Update on Blended Learning for Lockdown and Firebreak Mr M Maughan Deputy Head Teacher

Dear Parents / Carers

As you will know we have been instructed by Welsh Government to only open the school premises to Years 7 and 8 in the week following half term. Meaning that all other year groups will be following our blended learning system. In addition to this pupils in Year 8 are accessing home learning this week.

Please find following a reminder of how to make the most of our blended learning system and how best to support your children.

The most useful document for you is our '**Blended Learning; A Practical Guide for Pupils and Parents**' document. This can be found on the school's **Digital Learning Zone**, which is in the pupil area of the school website. I have pasted the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1geqaqUlyyyiUyLLQkUdNI3eoeUkIHwBynEtTvC3StPU/edit?usp=sharing>

This document contains an outline of what types of lessons pupils will experience as well as practical videos on how to access these lessons. The following videos are all in the document:

- How to login to your Bassaleg School Account
- How to use Google Classroom
- How to use Google Drive
- How to use Google Meet to Access Live Online Teaching
- What is the Digital Learning Zone?

We will be showing some of these videos in form time this week, but it is certainly worth parents and pupils watching the videos together prior to blended learning starting. You will also find that the videos address some areas of questions that you might have, and troubleshoot some of the potential issues you may encounter.

There is also a section on the etiquette that we have agreed with pupils with regards to how they should engage with their online lessons. We will be refreshing this in an assembly this week, but again, it is worth reviewing at home.

Finally in response to queries that have come into school over the last few hours, please be aware of the following expectations:



1. Pupils are expected to follow their normal timetable. All lessons are scheduled to start at their normal time. Lesson 1 will start at 9.00, lesson 2 at 10.00, lesson 3 at 11.20, lesson 4 at 12.20 and lesson 5 at 2.05.
2. Teachers will meet students online at the start of every lesson. Teachers will take an attendance register. From that point the lesson may continue live for the full hour, or the teacher may set tasks and check in live at various points in that hour.
3. There is no expectations for pupils to have webcams or microphones turned on. At times in lessons teachers might ask for a microphone to be turned on for a response, or a webcam to see a piece of work. **Students must join meetings with their webcam and microphone turned off.**
4. To access this provision pupils do not need a laptop or tablet. All of the provision will work on a smartphone.

I know there is understandable parental anxiety regarding pupils moving into this phase of learning, particularly in regards to access and to the progress that pupils will continue to make. Rest assured that the provision is planned and practised to the best of our ability, and that we are very mindful that blended learning is not just a 'place holder' until normal school resumes, we intend to continue to engage pupils and challenge them to make progress as we usually would.

If there are any concerns or any help is required during the process, please contact the school via the usual channels.

Kind regards

Mr M Maughan  
Deputy Head Teacher  
Bassaleg School