



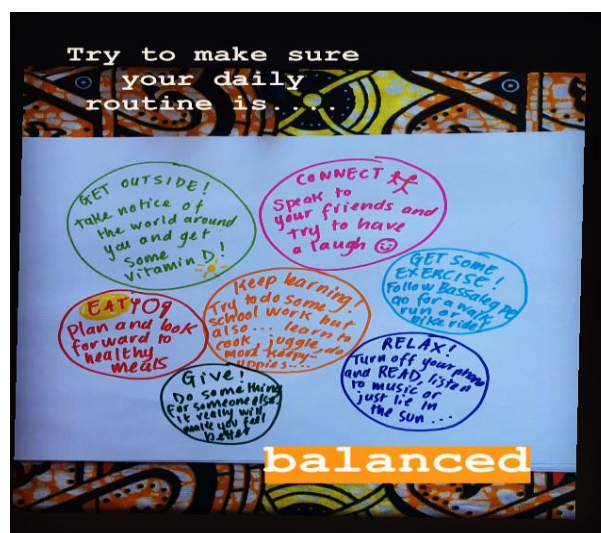
Dear parents/carers,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. I must firstly extend my deepest sympathies to those of you within our school community who have lost loved ones and extend our love and thoughts to all those who are caring for family members/friends who have become unwell in recent days; please know that the school community is here to support you however we can.

Times such as these call on us to help in ways we probably could never have imagined but I'm pleased to report that the school was able to donate 115 pairs of laboratory goggles to the Aneirin Bevan Health Board this week and will continue to liaise with a number of agencies to donate further resources should they be needed.

The FSM hub (for those eligible for free school meals) has continued to operate for the Bassaleg cluster from our school site and through deliveries all week and I'm pleased to say will continue to be open throughout the Easter holidays to ensure that our most vulnerable families have access to food. I'm also very proud to confirm that all 6 of our childcare hubs for key worker families of primary age to Year 7 children, are open throughout the Easter holidays including bank holidays to continue to enable our key workers to get to that front line. I must acknowledge the fantastic commitment of our staff across the cluster to ensure that this essential provision is maintained: thank you teachers, Teaching Assistants and wider support staff – you are all incredible!

Thank you once again to you, our parents/carers for continuing to support our young people in their home learning; feedback from staff across the board is that the response from pupils has been nothing short of outstanding, so keep up the great work but also remember that home learning is likely to only form part of your child's day; striking that balance is the important message we want everyone to take away:



I trust that further communication from Mr Maughan, Deputy Headteacher in regard to “examinations and grading” will have given you and your child further reassurance that we continue to ensure that our young people are given the most up-to-date advice and guidance and importantly feel that they have purpose to their current studies.

I once again have to thank you, our parents & carers for the considerable correspondence we have received about many aspects of home-learning/communication in general; your feedback is very much appreciated and it makes me feel certain that the bonds within our school community are stronger than ever. It’s why I feel it is a good a time as ever to raise the next point. Since the beginning of the current academic year, there has been a lot of activity in the school community in regard to exploring and reviewing our current school mission statement and core values.

So what is our current Mission Statement and what are our Core Values?

“A Tradition of Excellence”

- We will be a happy and caring community where there is encouragement and opportunity for all students to realise their potential.
- We will ensure that students are both recognised and cared for as individuals.
- We will endeavour to ensure that teaching and learning is innovative, focusses on progress and is of the highest quality.
- We will recognise the needs of all students and endeavour to meet those needs in a manner that suits them as individuals.
- We will welcome all stakeholders and play an active part in the local community.

Why the need to change?

It has been a privilege to watch how our school has grown in so many ways over the last couple of years. I believe wholeheartedly that in evolving to being a school which places as much emphasis on looking after ourselves & each other alongside how “successful” we are requires us to review the language which defines us as a school; to explore how much more effectively we can capture the heart of our school through a branding, visible for us all to see and embody.

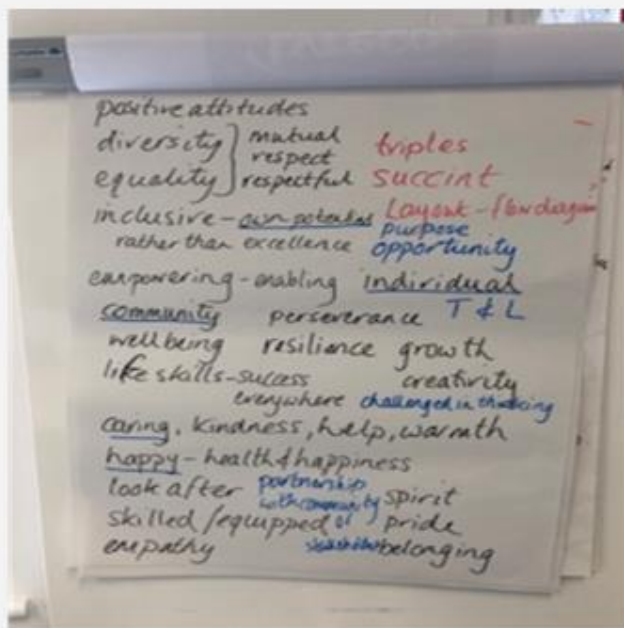
As a staff we feel very strongly that the symbol of the Bassaleg “stag” is iconic; it’s strong in every way and represents so much about our culture, tradition and aspirations. Its tag line, our “mission statement” some may argue does not necessarily complement it. I’m keen for all members of the school community to consider the connotations of “tradition” and “excellence” and whether or not they appropriately define who we are as a school community. That’s not to say that we should not strive for excellence in everything we do; for me it’s more about finding more appropriate and inclusive phrases which symbolise so much more than this. Whilst the core values of the school are ones I wholeheartedly agree with, many have argued that it is time to review them; to move with our time and say more about the values in which we have grown to believe and practise.

THE PROCESS SO FAR...

SLT STRATEGIC DAY

We asked ourselves these questions...

- What values underpin our school community?
- Which words best describe our vision?
- What is our vision? Which images best represent us?
- What should our mission statement be?



We talked about words and values most important to us...

The Next Stage...

Prior to “breaking-up” a couple of weeks ago, our plan then, having synthesised all of the words, themes and ideas so critical to our school community was to engage our pupils, parents & governors in the consultation process. We feel that we have come up with an incredibly powerful “new brand” for Bassaleg School; one which symbolises the spirit, ambition and hope within our whole school community:

The Mission Statement:



Mission Statement and Core Values:



What are your thoughts?

We are incredibly interested in eliciting the views of all of our stakeholders so please spare a few minutes to click on the following link, which will take you to some key questions on aspects of the “new brand:”

<https://forms.gle/WKrGxTCnKjA6tKx98> (please hold down the Ctrl key and click on this link)

Your child is also being asked for their views on the possible new brand via their year group google classroom, so it could be something you might like to discuss together.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you in advance of your response; as ever your opinions are so important to us.

Finally, as we approach the Easter holidays, it’s important for me to clarify that there will be no expectation for any of our young people to engage in home-learning over the Easter-break. Similarly, I have told my staff that they will not need to set or collect work in over this fortnight; it’s so essential that wherever possible, families “down-tools” and spend quality time with each other and our loved ones, whenever you can.

Please continue to take good care of yourselves over this fortnight, thinking of you all.

Victoria Lambe

Headteacher