

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## **Update from the Headteacher**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I very much hope this week's update finds you and your families well as we approach the final week of the first half of Spring Term.

Firstly, I'm very pleased to report that both our GCSE and 6th Form Options processes are up and running with Year 9 and Year 11 pupils engaged in considering their next steps and pathways. Please see our school website for subject information in the form of documents and videos which staff are in the process of uploading. All subject documentation is now on our site for both processes and all of our subject videos should be online by the middle of next week to help guide our young people to make informed choices

For our Year 9 students and their families, we have posted a Year 9 Options guide to the website page which clearly explains the process and this guide will also be shared by Miss Parfitt on the Year 9 Google Classroom. A video to accompany this guide will be posted next week. The written guide has full dates and deadlines clearly broken down for both pupils and parents/carers.

For our Year 11 students and their families there are two videos on our website which go into detail about application to our 6th Form. Year 11 will next week be asked to complete a survey telling us their intentions for next year whether this be a return to our 6th form or a different destination such as college or an apprenticeship. Year 11 parents and guardians will have also received an email with links to the 6th form options pages of all our Newport West Collaboration partner schools with whom we work to provide a very wide range of A Level and level 3 options.

This is such an important time for young people approaching such junctures in their education pathways; an exciting one too and I want to take this opportunity to thank all staff contributing to ensuring that our young people are given the best possible support and guidance in making such choices. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Clayton-Jones with any questions about Year 9 or Year 11 options at [Justin.Clayton-Jones@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Justin.Clayton-Jones@newport.gov.uk)

As we approach half term, we felt it most important to schedule a reflective discussion with staff on how we are managing and prioritising our own wellbeing in such pressurised circumstances. To this end, **we have stood down period 5 on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February** so that all staff can engage in **#wellbeingmatters** reflections. There will be no work set for this lesson as we would encourage our young people too, to take time to reflect on the extent to which they are looking after their own wellbeing and perhaps use the time to do something positive for either themselves or someone else.

You will be fully aware of our mantra at Bassaleg to: *'Look after yourself and look after each other;'* never has this been more poignant a message and I would like to thank you for your continued support in working with us to reinforce such important messages to our young people. I hope you too take some time to do something kind for yourselves this weekend.

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Victoria Lambe  
Headteacher

