

Digital Transition Q&A:

1: What is the best thing about being at Bassaleg School?

The best thing about bassaleg is that it gives you a lot more freedom than primary school does. You can go anywhere you like for break and lunch, in some lessons they even let you sit by your friends, and usually in the last lessons before a half term or holiday, they let you play games!

2: What made you most anxious about coming to Bassaleg?

I was most nervous about being bullied by the older children. I was worried that the older children would tease me and that I would be hurt by bigger students. This rarely happens. Sometimes the older children will say you are small and call you babies because you are in year 7. The same thing probably happened to them which is why they do it to you. If you did ever have a problem with the older children there are many many people you can talk to about it and there are many people that can help you.

3: What lessons do you enjoy the most?

My favourite subjects are drama and r.m.p.

I like drama as we often do games and group work. We will be given a theme and then in our groups we usually have to create a scene or freeze frame representing that theme itself. I like doing this as we get to compete with the other groups and we get to be as creative as we like! I also like r.m.p because we get to debate and show our opinions. They also give us lots of choice on how we present our work.

4. What is the food like?

I think the food is one of the best parts of the school. I hold this view because there is a range of different foods (sweet, savory, hot, cold) for people's different tastes.

The school canteen offers healthier versions of the foods that you would eat day to day

5. Was there anything unexpected?

The top 3 surprises I discovered once joined bassaleg were:

- I had never expected how much GCSEs were talked about even in Year 7.
- I was surprised about how different each teachers' approach to lessons were
- I also did not expect that technology would be used so much in lessons but we often get to use our phones to help us complete tasks.

6. Did you worry about making friends?

I have never struggled to make friends. I would even go out to a soft play alone as a child and make friends. But I did worry that I would be alone in a different setting like high school. There are 10 classes/ forms in our year group meaning that you have 300 children to make friends with. If you fail to make friends with people in your form, you have several other classes to communicate with. Your teachers can also recognise when you are struggling to make friends and will help you to find your way.

7. How did you find traveling around the school?

You are given a timetable at the start of the year, with class names, rooms, and teacher names. If you know your next lesson is over the other side of the school, make sure not to mess around and to make sure you get to your lessons as safely and as quickly as you can. When you arrive at your classroom, make sure to line up on one side of the corridor quietly and ensure that you enter the classroom with all the equipment you need. You are not going to like every teacher that you have. But despite your opinions on the member of staff, you must be polite, respectful, and work just as hard in every lesson you walk into.

There are certain subjects where the teachers will collect in and carry around whilst other teachers will ask you to keep your books at home. If you know you have only 2 lessons' books at home, only bring those books in. Most people bring in every single book into school everyday causing them to be unorganised, and may even cause back pain from carrying heavy books around.

8. Who do I approach if I need help?

There are posters displayed around the school naming many many people you can go to with a problem. This states people like, form tutors, any class teacher, head of year, a school counselor and many more. Each of these people will provide you with the best help possible.

9. What about the homework?

Homework is a topic often talked about a lot by staff but mainly students. Children often complain about the difficulty and the amount of homework that we get. We often get 1-3 pieces of homework per day and sometimes even less than that. If we know we have an assessment the next day, the teacher may set us revision homework. Meaning that we must revise over and look over work in our books that we have done in the past to get into our memory. Often we get homework that we find very difficult. We can ask our teachers for help (the next day or via email), ask our parents/ carers or even a friend.

10. What exactly happens in the school day?

First, we would have assembly as a year group led by a member of staff, or (depending on the day) we could have form time. This is just half an hour in the morning that you get to spend with your form tutor and talk about, issues in class, recent events in the news etc. Then we have 2 lessons (each 1 hour long) before a 20 minute break time. In this break we can eat, go to the canteen, walk around, speak to a teacher, sit and socialise in the hall. Then we have 2 more lessons before a 45 minute lunch break where we can again do the same thing. Then we have 1 more lesson before home time where we can then drive, bike, bus, or walk home and finish school for the day.

11. What events do you participate in as a school community?

We often participate in our own clothes days or colour clothes days. To support the Lucy Ellis foundation, in the past as a school/ year group we have all worn a piece of pink clothing and brought in £1 to be put towards the charity. This often happens with lots of different colours for lots of different charities. This also happens for rugby matches (we wear red) or children in need, red nose day, and sport relief. We have recently participated in world book day where we dressed up as a book or tv character, brought in the book with the character we dressed up as in it, and read that book, comic, or magazine in form time for 30 minutes.