

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



BASSALEG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2020-2021 EDITION



It gives us enormous pleasure to share the incredible news that our very own Miss Chase, has been announced as a Silver Award Winner of the Pearson National Teaching Award for 'Teacher of the Year' in a Secondary School. I know you will join us in congratulating Miss Chase on this really wonderful achievement. Miss Chase will now proceed to the 'final round' to potentially win one of just 15 'Gold Awards' in a ceremony in November; such lovely news for Miss Chase and the whole school community.

It's hugely important that we thank in particular those pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who spoke about Miss Chase so brilliantly in the footage that we recorded for the judging visit and to our fabulous teams in Year 10 and Year 12 who were such a pivotal part of the judging day; your contributions have clearly had a massive impact so well done and thank you!



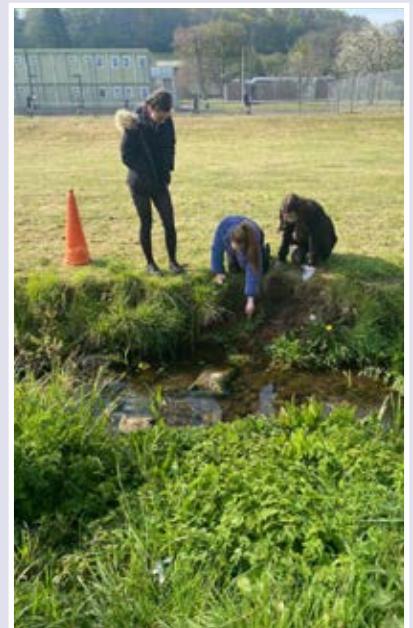
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



As part of their final assessment, Year 13 Forensics assessed a mock crime scene – all pupils were absolutely fantastic. Thank you to John Hookway from British Transport Police for playing the part of our First Attending Officer at the scene.

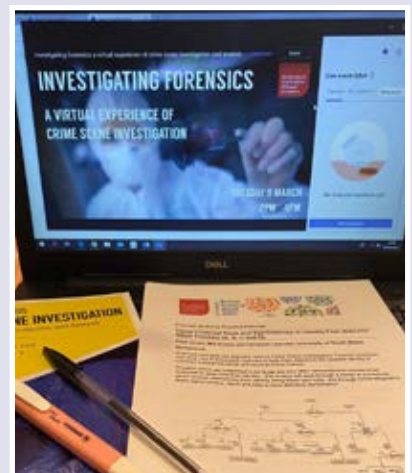


Our Year 12 Forensics class practised soil sampling and analysis techniques. We have been studying how soil can provide vital evidence in forensic investigations.



Our Year 12 & 13 Forensics students 'virtually' met with the British Transport Police to discuss careers and crime scene investigations, it was really fascinating.

The students also had the opportunity to join in with a virtual experience of Crime Scene Investigation and analysis. Thank you to the University of South Wales.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Mrs Thomas's Year 8 Science classes were lucky enough to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2021. Pupils of 8B2 and 8A2 took part as they were at home learning via the Blended Learning Model due to COVID restrictions. The Bird Watch particularly developed pupils' bird species identification skills, tally chart numeracy skills and patience! The results from all over the UK have now been analysed; the top 10 bird species can be seen on the

RSPB Website; <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/results>

This year's Birdwatch saw record numbers of people enjoying nature and counting the birds. But while this may have been a bumper year for Big Garden Birdwatchers, we're not living through a bumper time for birds. The sad truth is that there are actually far fewer birds around. Over the last 50 years, 40 million birds have vanished from the UK's skies. And it's not just birds that are suffering. The latest 'State of Nature' report found that around two-fifths of UK species are in decline including turtle doves, red squirrels and water voles. Nature needs our help like never before and year 8 spent time reflecting upon this stark reality.

Name of bird	Tally	Total
blackbird		2
blue tit		3
starling		1
magpie		5
robin		1
wood pigeon		2
Total		14

Bird Watch 2021 29/01/21		
In collaboration with a UK wide research team		
Name of bird	Tally	Total
Blackbird		4
Blue tit		4
Chaffinch		1
Coal tit		1
Collared dove		4
Dunnock		1
Great tit		4
Greenfinch		1
House sparrow		4
Long-tailed tit		1
Magpie		4
Robin		1
Starling		4
Woodpigeon		4
Other		1



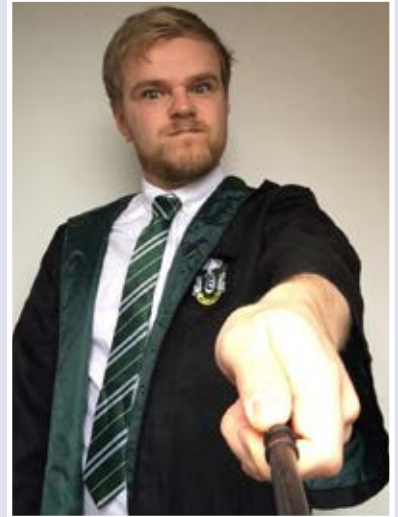
Congratulations to 7CDA for their fantastic newspaper articles on 'Mega Dairies'.

And also well done to all the pupils who created these fabulous garden tray submissions that represent the work we have done on our Earth theme so far.

7ERW had a gorgeous day to carry out their traffic survey at the front of school.

Pupils surveyed traffic on Forge Road and will be concluding and evaluating their results next lesson.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



We may have had to do it a little differently this year, but Bassaleg School once again went all out for World Book Day 2021. Well done to all the staff (and a few pets!) who raided their wardrobes to re-invent themselves as famous literary characters and a massive thank you to all those who provided a list of Escape and Adventure book recommendations! Have a look and add some of these titles to your reading lists!

BASSALEG STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

World Book Day

Teacher, the world is not a machine is my recommendation. Haven't actually read it this year, but I reserve my top recommendation for true adventure story. If they can get back from the moon they find themselves in anything is possible kind of stuff. - Mr Thomas

The best one I've read so far is **Rob** by Michael Smith. It's a great mix of action, adventure, and a bit of a mystery. - Mr Thomas

My favourite book I've read was **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien. I read it when I was 12 and it's still a great read. It's a classic and it's a great mix of action, adventure, and a bit of a mystery. - Mr Thomas

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A book I have enjoyed during lockdown is **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien. I read it when I was 12 and it's still a great read. It's a classic and it's a great mix of action, adventure, and a bit of a mystery. - Mr Thomas

These books were chosen by Bassaleg staff as the books that helped them 'escape' over the past year.

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!

BASSALEG STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

World Book Day

One of the books which has helped me through this year is **Break Point** by J.K. Rowling. It's a great mix of action, adventure, and a bit of a mystery. - Mr Thomas

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BASSALEG STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

World Book Day

My author and book(s) which have meant a lot to me over the past year are **J.K. Rowling and Harry Potter**.

I started reading the **Harry Potter** books to the 'Sump' last April when we found out he was in there. One chapter or so every other day throughout the year. When he arrived, I had just started my third book.

Now, it's a bit of a shame that I haven't been able to read it all yet, but I'm sure I will eventually. - Mr Thomas

My favourite book for lockdown is **The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien. I read it when I was 12 and it's still a great read. It's a classic and it's a great mix of action, adventure, and a bit of a mystery. - Mr Thomas

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IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!

SCHOOL COUNCIL



Congratulations to all the nominees and subsequent winners in this year's Bassaleg School Council Election. Candidates' videos which were created and presented this year exceeded all expectations and everyone nominated should be incredibly proud of themselves. The winners were:

Sixth Form - Bennet Olegasegram, Aimee Dutton, Ethan Macey, Joshua Harper, Charlie Turner

Year 11 - Ella Clarke, Jasmine Smith, Mari-Louise Medhurst

Year 10 - Jessie Channing-Craig, Daanish Sheikh

Year 9 - Elis Jones, Davon Olegasegram, Millie Webster

Year 8 - Thomas Galletly, Amelia Edmunds, Christie Wassall

Year 7 - Owen Harris, Will Morgan, Clara Rhodes

Well done to everyone involved.

While students in Y11, 12 and 13 were gearing up to vote in an election for the very first time, Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were learning about how the Welsh democratic process works. Project Vote's resources were enormously helpful for encouraging our younger pupils to take an interest in politics; many of them finished the sessions truly excited to be able to vote! After learning about our constituencies, the pupils took part in a parallel virtual vote which gave them the opportunity to research the candidates standing for election in both their constituency and their region, and to cast their vote for both. This will undoubtedly have given our pupils a lasting impression of how their voices truly are important, and how important it is for them to have a say in the way their country is being run.

BASSALEG WELCOMES BAXTER



We are thrilled to welcome the brilliant Baxter to the Bassaleg family! Baxter and his owner, Dave O'Driscoll, visit local high schools every week as part of The Baxter Project. Dave is a former probation officer and youth worker with experience in trauma recovery, and he's passionate about making a positive impact. That's how he realized Baxter was the perfect way to help pupils build trust and feel comfortable! *"It is far more than putting a dog in a school and hoping for the best. It's targeted early intervention,"* Dave said. *"Baxter is a way in. The young people like to take the dog out, and it's easier to talk while you are walking."* During each visit, the two of them take at-risk students on hour-long walks. Baxter's presence is disarming, and as the teens build rapport with them, they start opening up about their struggles.

BASSALEG FUNDRAISING



Huge thank you to Miss Butler, Mr T Lewis, Mr P Lewis and Mr Griffiths for creating these wonderful reindeers to help raise money for the Lucy Ellis Foundation. A grand total of £671 was raised. Thank you to everyone supported this endeavour by purchasing a Bassaleg Reindeer!



We had a fantastic response from students and staff to the Hello Yellow Day last year. As a school we raised £583.83 which was donated to Young Minds UK, Newport Mind and The Jacob Abraham Foundation. These are charities close to the heart of Bassaleg School and it is so important to continue raise awareness about young people never being alone.



£100 was also raised by Bassaleg School for the Wish Upon a Star Foundation.



COVID 'LOCKDOWN' 2020



A huge thank you to our army of staff who worked extremely hard during the first Covid lockdown in 2020, to ensure that front line key workers in our community have their essential PPE i.e. scrubs, masks and visors. Big shout out to this amazing team.



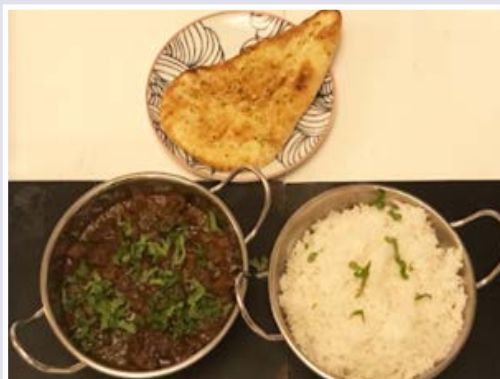
A heartfelt well done and thank you must also go to our fabulous staff and pupils for their hard work, perseverance and dedication during the extended period of home learning. Miss Lambe is bursting with pride at how well staff & pupils engaged with the live online learning. This includes our fabulous Teaching Assistants who have brilliantly supported the online



lessons, our wonderful support staff who carried on the 'day to day' by working from home and our amazing site team who kept everything at Bassaleg School 'ticking' over ready for our return. Diolch!

WELSH DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who entered the Welsh Department Cooking Competition as part of this year's, 'virtual' Bassaleg School Eistedfodd celebrations. Here are the year group winners:



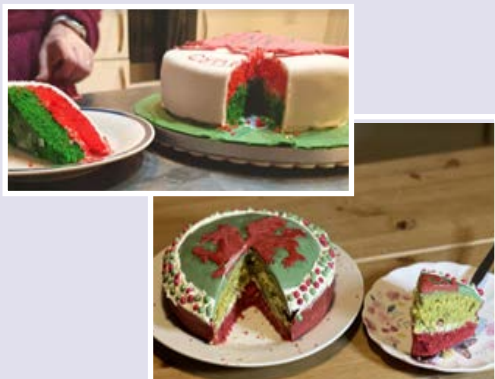
1st Place: Maya Cañellas-Parish
7BPA



2nd Place: Bronny Rogers
7CDA



3rd Place: Olivia Robinson
7TMO



Joint 1st Place: Ben Maniatt, 8KJE
and Charlotte Pain, 8RSS



2nd Place: Caitlin Stokes,
8BCR



3rd Place: Lilly-May Smith,
8RSS



1st Place: Emily Dainty,
9EMR



2nd Place: Annie Duque,
9CSI



3rd Place: Teille Brenton-Davies,
9EMR



1st Place: Darcy Kent
10RGA



2nd Place: Amelia
Wilson-Hesp, 10RGA



3rd Place: Rufaro
Chiripanhura, 10CBY



1st Place: Haydn
McGrath. 11CW

RMP DEPARTMENT

Big shout out to 7TMO for their work on activism and Marcus Rashford's campaign for free school meals. Such maturity and interest shown and detailed work produced as a result (some completed multiple pieces of work!). We are so proud of this amazing work!



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have undergone a workshop from Fearless / St Giles Trust. The workshops aim to debunk myths and stereotypes around crime, weapons, gangs, county lines and related issues. Messages in social media and popular culture are challenged, de-glamourising the lifestyle and exposing the realities of negative choices such as carrying a weapon or drugs. The aim of the workshops is to equip our young people with practical tools and strategies that they can use to build resilience to risks, such as negative peer pressure and grooming, giving them real knowledge and insights that will help them to make positive choices. Feedback for our young people was extremely positive and they engaged with the sessions in an extremely enthusiastic and mature way.



BASSALEG NEWS & MESSAGES

Huge congratulations to our very own Miss Wilkins for receiving her 50th Cap for the Wales Rugby Union team, this is thoroughly deserved. Thank you for being such a wonderful role model for our young people & good luck for future games.



Thank you to MK Studio Wales for creating this wonderful mural in memory of Sam Pearce and Ross Morrish (and club legend Mike Grancha Powell). The mural forms the backdrop of the Whiteheads rugby pitch side dugout for all to see. Well done to all involved.

"A massive thank you to year 12 for sharing your feelings and supporting each other so brilliantly during such a desperately difficult time"

#teambassaleg - Ms Gray



BASSALEG HEAD STUDENTS



Congratulations to Maddie Conlan and Matt Turner, Year 13, who were elected as Bassaleg Head Students. Along with Maddie and Matt we had a fantastic group of Senior Prefects also elected, these pupils were Will Clements, Nicole Fitzgerald, Naima Natasha, Aimee Mitchell. Emma Haggett, Sophie Haggett, Jess Foster and Joshua Harper.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



Well done to our Year 13 geographers for carrying out their A-level investigations with such enthusiasm and rigour!! Even with social distancing, fieldwork is magic! Many thanks to our Chair of Governors, Cllr David Williams for access to a brilliant fieldwork site!

YEAR 8 NEWS



Congratulations to all the incredible Year 8 Super Stags that have been nominated by our fabulous tutor team this year. Well done Year 8! We are very proud of your efforts.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS



Massive well done to Darcey Taylor, 8KS, who is not only current U11 Table Tennis National Champion, but after a year of training at home has competed against some of the top England seeds winning several matches in the process! Fantastic Darcey!

Congratulations to Yasmin Davies, 9DAG for earning her 1st cap for the Football Association of Wales Trust U15's vs England Schools! What an amazing achievement and hopefully first of many!

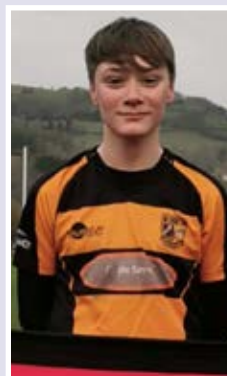
Congratulations to Harrison Halpin, 7RHA for signing a two year deal with Newport County Football Club.



And to Ewan Bagwell, 11MDA who has been selected for the Wales U18's hockey team.

Congratulations also to Jak Cosker, 8JUT and Harry Wallace, 7LP for their selection to the Wales U13 Cricket Squad.

Well done to Rhys Williams, 8JUT for being voted as the Dragon's Rugby 'virtual' Junior Mascot.



Special shout out to Harper Leigh, for winning the Young Sports Personality of the Year Award and for being the Welsh badminton champion (Harper has won seven national titles and claimed a European Tour victory at his second attempt!) Well done Harper!



Congratulations to Iwan Jones, 9HWS scoring 63 for Wales v Hereford.



Well done to Olivia Forey, 9HWS who represented Wales Hockey U16's Flag of Wales against Ulster. Olivia, along with her sister, Rebecca Forey, 12AJ, were also selected for the Cricket Wales U18s and U15s girls team for this forthcoming season.



BASSALEG REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Bassaleg School held its annual Remembrance Service again this year, although due to Covid-19 restrictions it was a 'virtual' service, watched by the whole school via google meet. Thank you to Miss Lambe and Mr Batten for presiding over the service, Mr Ramsay for laying the wreath and Head Student Matt for delivering the reading. Special thanks to Eve, Hannah and Sian for playing such a moving Last Post and Reveille.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Congratulations to all the Year 11 pupils who completed their final practical project for their Construction qualification. Well done!



FUNDRAISING



Well done to Maia and Sophie in Year 9, who walked a marathon, outside of school, to raise money for Cancer Research. Currently the girls have raised **£445** for a fantastic cause. We are very proud of you girls - what an amazing achievement.



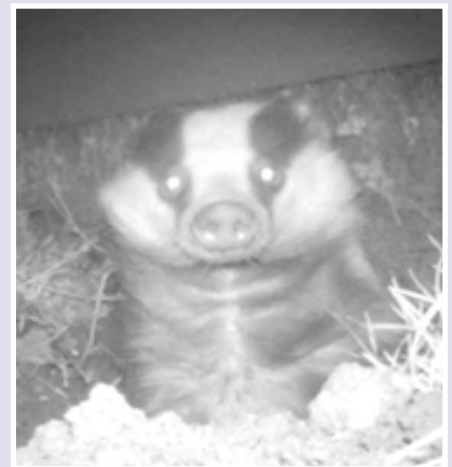
BASSALEG ECO COMMITTEE

The Bassaleg Eco Committee has been very busy this term. We completed a survey of the litter around the school to enable us to measure how successful our actions in combating litter have been and what areas of the school need the most intervention. Our school site is home to many beautiful animals who are put at risk by the litter dropped at school. We want to change this. We are hoping to share these findings with you all very soon and work together as a school to care for our school environment and make Bassaleg a litter free school!

Another exciting project we have been working on is the recycling of batteries here at Bassaleg School. Did you know that thousands of tonnes of CO2 emissions could be avoided if we met recycling targets? And less than half of all batteries in the UK are not recycled. From now on, you will be able to bring in any used batteries to be recycled at school in the following zones:

- Year 7** - Griffin bottom floor next to Miss Curtis' office,
- Year 8** - Art block entrance/glass entrance
- Year 9** - Entrance to new demountables - under the stairs,
- Year 10** - M8 and Griffin & Forge staff rooms (for staff only)

Look out for our bright green posters and boxes around the school for more information! Do you have a passion for caring for the environment? Do you believe that young people are the key to making our world more environmentally friendly and sustainable please? Contact Miss Murray (RMP teacher) for more information. We are always happy to welcome students who share our passion for the environment and making our school a more Eco friendly place! Keep your eyes peeled for more Eco friendly projects happening around the school!



GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

The day finally came to say farewell to our fabulous Year 11 & Year 13 students. You have made us so very proud, but particularly over this last extraordinarily challenging year with your incredible resilience. Enjoy everything that comes your way & keep looking up! - Miss Lambe



Mr Sheldon, Mr Ford, Miss Allford and the Year 11 form tutor team bid a fond farewell to the year group, during a celebration day with them on Friday 28th May. It was a great afternoon in the company of so many lovely young people, and a memorable way to mark their time with us in school. The Year 11 team would like to thank all staff for their extraordinary efforts in helping the year group complete their CDG assessments last half term, and indeed all of their support for the year group over the last five years.



Mr Powell and the Sixth Form team wish good luck to all the wonderful Year 13's, who we also said goodbye to on 28th May. We wish them all the very best for the future.