



NEWSLETTER

CYLCHLYTHYR

GYM & DANCE DISPLAY



On 10 March 2016, performers from Bassaleg School took part in the annual Gym & Dance Display. The five partner primary schools were invited to watch the dress rehearsal, providing the performers with an audience of 300 amazed Year 6 pupils. The evening performance was just as enthralling, culminating in the school's Big Band accompanying the gymnasts in the event finale. The PE Department would like to thank all pupils

and staff who were involved in the many months of hard work that precedes the display.

Spring 2016
Y Gwylwyn 2016

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Rugby - Congratulations to the Senior Rugby Team for achieving the Under 18's Winners Cup at the Chwaraeon yr Urdd (National Rugby Tournament).



Gymnastics - Congratulations to the U19's squad who came second in the Welsh Schools Floor and Vault Competition held at the National Sports Centre. The team was also awarded their Welsh Schools Feathers

for representing Wales in the British finals last year. Congratulations to our Sports Acro Gymnasts who have also had a successful year representing the school in the Welsh Schools Final with Lauren Clark and Emily Gill gaining 3rd place. We would also like to wish Olivia Rabaiotti good luck as she is about to take part in the British finals as part of the full Welsh team and is currently training with Wales as part of the Commonwealth Games selection squad.

Football - Congratulations to Nathan Wood for his selection for Wales U18's football team. Well done also to our Year 7 team who are through to the semi finals of the Newport Cup and are set to play for a place in the final, to our Year 10 team who are through to the semi finals and to our Senior football team who are through to the quarter finals.



Netball - Congratulations to our Year 9 Netball team who competed in the County Championships. The girls in the team are Ellie Lawrence, Lily Scaplehorn, Elinor Kenward, Catrin Phillips, Beth Proctor, Millie Browning, Olivia James and Imogen Huckle.

Cross Country - Congratulations to the following pupils who represented South East Wales schools Cross Country Team in Brecon: Bethan Wainwright, Catrin Phillips, Max Harris, Owen Evans, Holly McCorquodale and Elin Griffiths. Added congratulations to Elin who gained team silver.

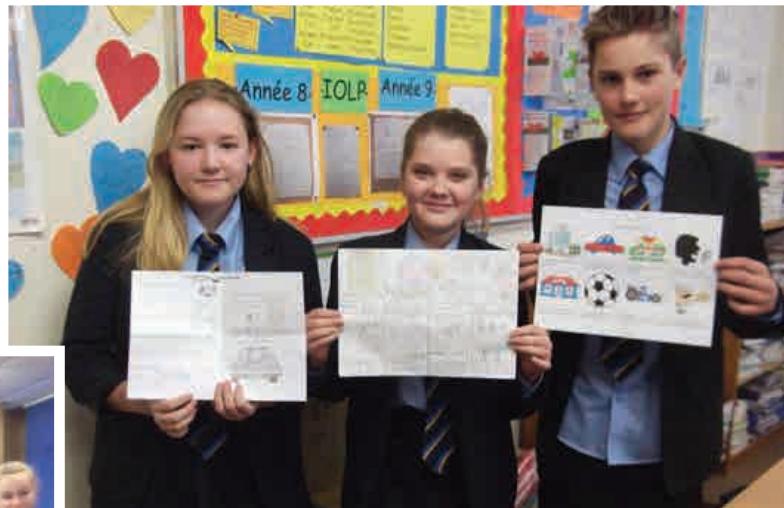
Athletics - Congratulations to Catrin Phillips who gained a Bronze Medal in the 800m in the Welsh indoor championships. Following that is Isabelle Davies who is the 300m indoor Welsh champion. Excellent work and good luck to all in the pending track and field season.

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



Spanish - Year 7 really got into the Eisteddfod spirit this term, with the Spanish classes choreographing and practising some exuberant dance routines to the Macarena. This year marks the first time that Spanish in Year 7 has taken part in the School Eisteddfod! Pupils in 7AL had a lot of fun practising "Conjugations Back" - a Spanish grammar song they went on to perform for the whole of their Year Group. ¡Estupendo!

French - Year 8 students have created imaginative story boards to help them learn the perfect tense in French.



Year 9 French students have been developing their speaking skills. They have been learning how to book into a hotel, find out about facilities and make a complaint in French. They have enjoyed playing board games to practise their newly acquired skills.



Year 9 students developed their creative writing skills by writing Valentine's Day poems in French.

The French Department has also been involved in this year's Eisteddfod where French groups learnt and sang French



Modern Foreign Languages Department proud on the stage! Fantastique!

songs, accompanying the lyrics with some fantastic actions and dance moves! They spent time in lessons and even at lunchtime refining the performances and did the

HISTORY DEPARTMENT



Imperial War Museum Visit - In July AS Level History students spent the day at the Imperial War Museum in London. As part of their A2 studies , students have to produce an historiographical piece based on the Holocaust. Having visited the Holocaust exhibition the students were able to look at the other displays recently completed for the centenary celebrations.



Visit to Auschwitz - "The trip to Auschwitz- Birkenau was a life changing experience for us all. The first part of our trip took us to the small town of Oświęcim, where we visited the site of the former Great Synagogue, destroyed by the Nazis in 1939. Following this, we had the opportunity to listen to Rabbi Marcus, a truly inspirational man and speaker. Then came the visit to Auschwitz 1. We were given a tour of the photos taken of prisoners, and of all the desperately ordinary possessions collected, including clothes and toys. Then we visited Auschwitz 2. A few wooden huts were visible, but the chimneys from hundreds more still remained. We saw the long railway used for transport, and the rubble of hastily destroyed gas chambers. The day ended with a incredibly thought-provoking memorial service. The glow from the many candles lit and placed by the memorial itself served as an important reminder of why we took part in this visit, and why the Holocaust must never be forgotten". - Alice Sharp

Chartist Memorial - History students have been asked to design a memorial to the Newport Chartist Rebellion of 1839. This will cover the six principles of the People's Charter. Rogerstone Community Council will choose the winning design and will create a lasting memorial in Rogerstone. This activity is not only making students more politically aware but allows them to recognise the History that we have in our own communities and the role Newport played in the fight for political rights.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



Intermediate Mathematical Challenge - The Mathematics Department would like to congratulate our Year 10 and 11 students who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge this year. Twenty seven pupils achieved awards! Year 11: Gold: Matthew Arden (Plus Best in School Award), Elliot Morgan, Thomas Whiting, Jonathan Davies, Silver; Rayan Raham, Glyn Wells, Rachel Morris Andre Phipps; Bronze: Adam Levesconte, Millie Pyrah Barnes, Isobel Smith, Tom Stanley, Mahalla Mlewa, Morgan Peacock, Natasha Gargan. Year 10: Gold: Ben Taylor (Best in Year Award); Silver, Matthew Coates, Aaron Hayes, Cornell Parr, Elliot King, James Silcox; Bronze: Ben Hoppe, Gethin Lavery, Andrew Williams, Lana Fox-Smith, Bethan Davies, Tomos Phillips. In addition Matthew Arden, Elliot Morgan and Ben Taylor have qualified for the next round which is the Intermediate Kangaroo Challenge, so well done and good luck Matthew, Elliot and Ben. Well done to all who were involved - we are very proud of you all!

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Bassaleg Sixth Form would like to congratulate the following pupils who have been selected as Senior Prefects:

Head Boy - Danny Fisher

Head Girl - Megan Jeffery

Deputy Headboys

Joshua Worman, Lewis Waters and George Tresilian

Deputy Headgirls

Thea Huckle, Sri Gobderhan and Grace Scaplehorn

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 12 student, Megan Jeffery was honoured by The Royal Geographical Society with an Excellence Award. The Society's Excellence Awards recognise and celebrate the hard work and success of the pupils who achieve the highest marks in the geography exams each year. Students from schools across England, Northern Ireland and Wales are eligible for the awards.

Steve Brace, the Society's Head of Education and Outdoor Learning, said: "The Royal Geographical Society is thrilled to give Excellence Awards to those pupils who have achieved the highest marks nationally in their 2015 Geography exams. *The pupils receiving these awards have all demonstrated their excellent understanding of geography as a subject and how it can inform us about the world we live in. Their exceptional marks highlight their ability as geographers, as well as the high quality teaching that takes place in their schools.*"

Mrs Kirkham, Head of Geography at Bassaleg said: "We are delighted for Megan - to achieve the top mark out of almost 14,000 candidates across England and Wales is an amazing accomplishment.



hoping to add some new institutions and their names to the map!



Megan always put 100% into her geography and she regularly attended after-school 'Geography plus' sessions. It is wonderful to see all her hard work being recognised."

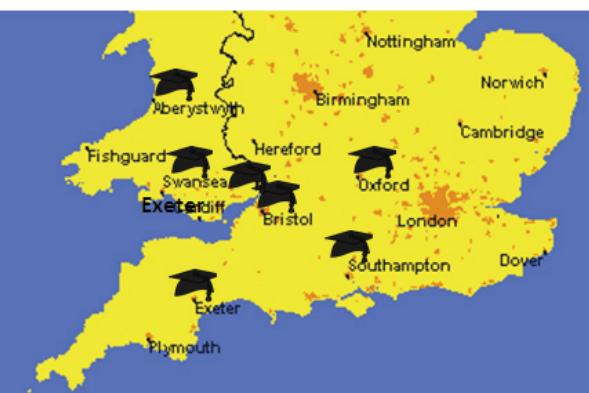
Year 13 Geographers, Sian Carrell, Roisin Ellis and Kieron Peddle are all planning to study Geography at university. They acted as exemplary ambassadors at the Year 9 Options Evening. In the last three years, twelve Bassaleg alumni have gone on to higher education Geography courses and being geographers, we decided to map their destinations. Sian, Roisin and Kieron are

University of Abervystwyth
Jessica (2015)

University of Swansea
Aimme & Joe (2015)
Luke (2014)
Julia & Rob (2013)

University of South Wales (USW)
Billy (2014)

University of the West of England (UWE)
Beth (2014)

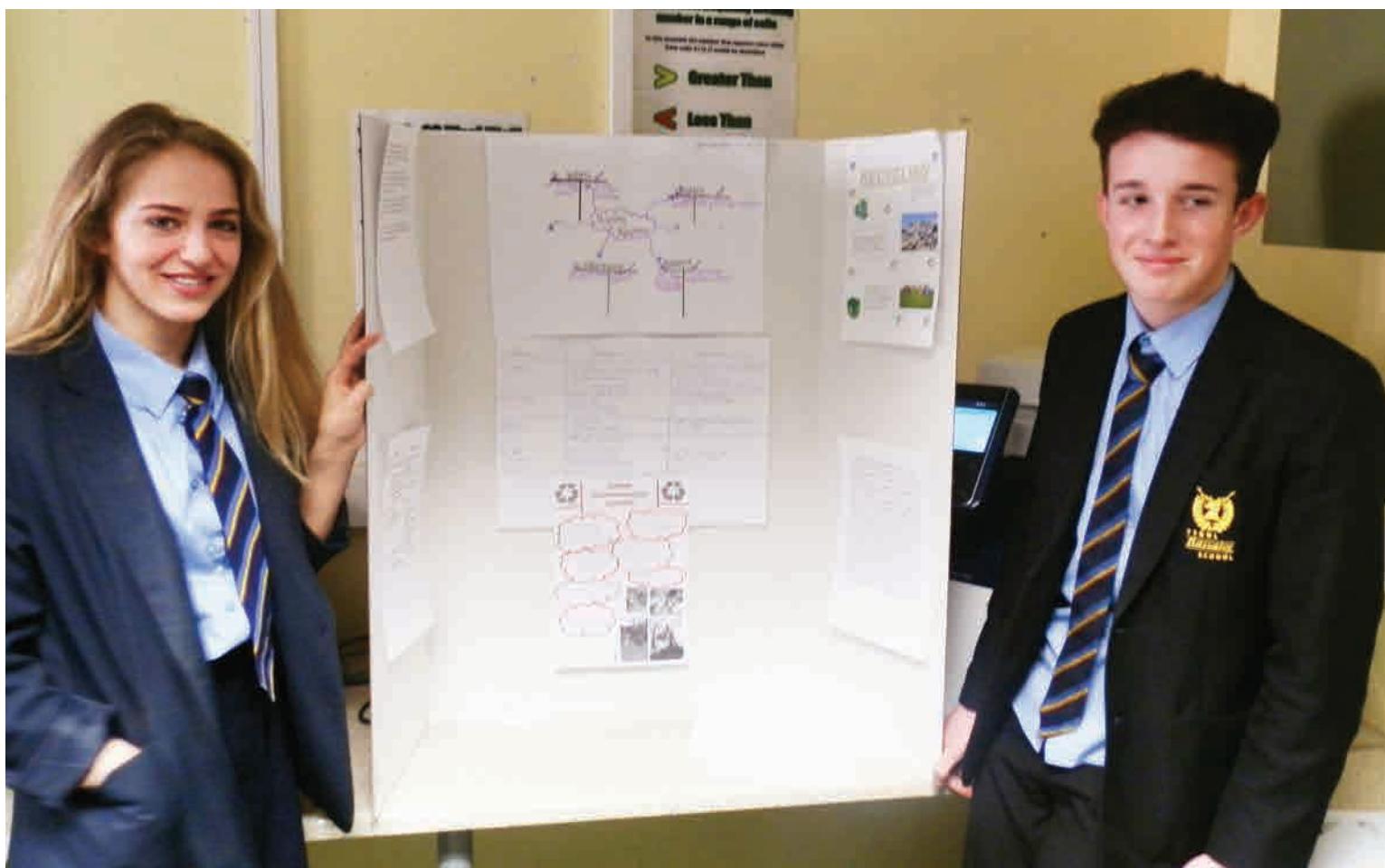


University of Exeter
Emma (2015)

University of Southampton
Simon (2014)

University of Oxford
Laura (2015)
Ryan (2013)

WELSH BACCALAUREATE



Year 10 - Students in Year 10 have been completing their assessment for the Global Citizenship challenge which involves generating and evaluating ideas for raising awareness about the global issue of encouraging recycling. They had to select one idea, develop it and design an implementation strategy. The results have been presented to their group in a controlled assessment. The standard of materials and resources students have produced has been excellent; they have come up with innovative and creative ideas to raise awareness. Da iawn Year 10, you truly are Global citizens.

Year 12 - Students in year 12 have been completing their first Welsh Baccalaureate exam where, as part of the assessment, they have produced a Global Conference Contribution

where they have generated and evaluated ideas on how to tackle a global issue. They have selected and implemented one idea using appropriate problem solving and decision making techniques. The standard of materials and resources to be used in the conference has been outstanding; it has been a pleasure to witness and moderate.

Da iawn Year 12

ART DEPARTMENT



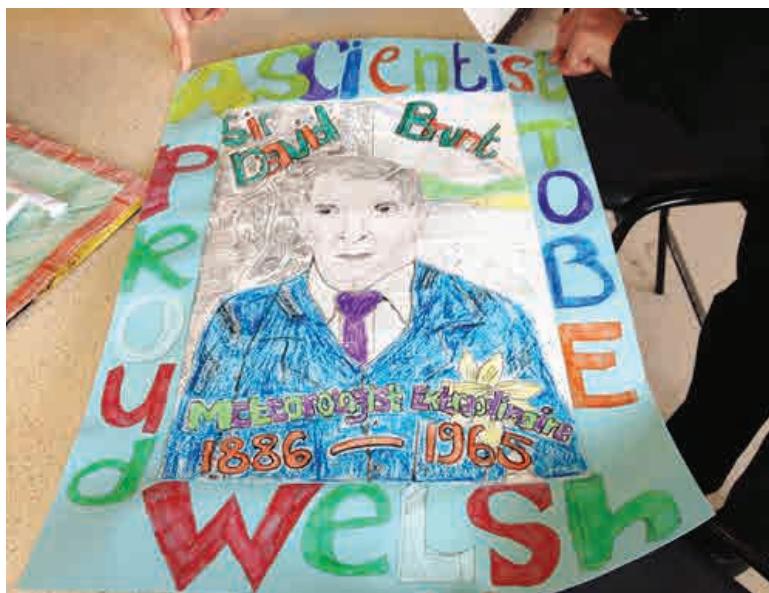
Visiting Artist - Year 10 pupils doing GCSE had an opportunity to work with Valerie Coffin Price, a Welsh speaking artist/sculptor who has worked as a public artist throughout Britain. Valerie inspired pupils to stylise their drawings into small scale models using wire, clay, cardboard and mod-roc. Pupils will conclude their work using text, photography and digital manipulation.



Art & Design Christmas Card Competition - Out of hundreds of entries, Newport County Council awarded three Bassaleg school pupils: Gabriella Moss 1st, Hannah Burridge 2nd and Jess Kerrigan 3rd prize in their annual Christmas Card Competition. All pupils were invited to the Mayor's parlour for high tea and prize giving. Da iawn Gaby, Hannah and Jess!



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



A big thank you to all Key Stage 3 pupils who entered the Bassaleg Eisteddfod this year. We had some fantastic entries which took a while to judge!

Year 7

- 1st Place - Tegan Williams
- 2nd Place - Skye Goodwin
- 3rd Place - Edan Jefferson

Year 8

- 1st Place - Olivia Chidlow / Bethan Wainfur
- 2nd Place - Lewis McLoughlin
- 3rd Place - Angelina Morris

Year 9

- 1st Place - Abigail Smith

SCHOOL NUTRITION ACTION GROUP

SNAG is the School Nutrition Action Group. Our aim in SNAG is to continue to make the food in Bassaleg Canteen healthier and more enjoyable; also we want to make the canteen an all-round better environment for the students at the school. We started last year by finding out pupils' opinions of the canteen. We asked them seven different questions including questions on the portion size and how healthy they think the food is. Using the responses, we changed the portions and now there are more foods available at break including many more pots of wedges.

Later in the year, we started a new topic focussing on pupils' likes and dislikes. We also wanted to find out what pupils wanted to see in the canteen. One of the main things pupils wanted on the menu was fish fingers and now every Friday you can buy them instead of the normal fish.

As well as this, we decided we needed to advertise the menu more. Now the menu is shown on the screens all around the school. SNAG has had a meeting with Chartwells about prices. This is because we discovered that the healthier options in our canteen i.e. fruit pots were more expensive than unhealthier options like brownies. A lot of pupils are then encouraged to buy the cheaper option which consequently is less healthy. SNAG has now changed this so that they are now at an equal price. This year SNAG's aim is to change the payment method and we have had many complaints about students not using their cards. We will keep monitoring and listening and trying to represent the views of the student body.

WELSH DEPARTMENT



Miss Greentree, Mrs Thomas, Mr Scott and Mr Roberts braved the elements in North Wales with 45 of our wonderful Year 9 pupils to spend a weekend canoeing, climbing the high ropes course, raft building and lots more! Our pupils had an absolutely fantastic time and we are thrilled with how amazing they all were at getting involved with all the activities. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to hear Welsh being used outside of school as well as developing their teamwork skills, not to mention dusting off their dancing shoes for the disco! All 45 pupils were excellent representatives of our school and we are so proud of them! Diolch pawb for a fantastic weekend!



WELSH DEPARTMENT



Eisteddfod 2015 - What an incredible Eisteddfod we had this year! Pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 highlighted their fantastic skills and talents by entering a wide range of competitions from every subject in school. This year, we were able to add something a bit special and 7TMO and Year 8 were taught to sign the National Anthem in British Sign Language (BSL). The infamous Year 7 'dance off' saw even more forms getting involved this year with 7BDA & 7RHA raising over £300 for the charity Meningitis Now by being sponsored to dance. Everyone was so supportive and encouraging to all of the acts on the stage and the atmosphere in every session was superb. A huge well done and diolch to all involved and to every subject for participating. Diolch yn fawr and we



look forward to next year's Eisteddfod!

BASSALEG CAREERS FAIR



On Thursday 25 February, Bassaleg School held its annual Careers Fayre. We had a fantastic 40+ companies attending from a variety of business sectors, from local employers to multi national companies. This event was attended by the 6th form in the afternoon, who made the most of the opportunity to discuss career options with the various business representatives and following that by year 9 parents and pupils who were able to gain first hand knowledge about potential future careers. The event coincided with Options

Evening where staff were available to talk to students about their choices for GCSE. This was a really successful event and the feedback from the companies and the pupils has been excellent.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



It has been a busy last few months for the department. A group of Christmas elves visited Rogerstone Primary School to help with their Fete and Grotto. The students also helped on the arts and crafts stall. It was a lovely experience and the students were exemplary as usual. At Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students have experienced a number of guest speakers from Health and Social Care settings visiting the school and sharing their experiences. They included representatives from Flying Start (health visitor and early years coordinator), youth worker, dentist and GP. A visit to the Serennu



Children's Centre offered the opportunity for students to discuss job roles with Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Family Liaison officer for children with disabilities, Social Care workers and Occupational Therapists. This vast amount of knowledge was invaluable in not only supporting their coursework but informing their career pathway.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Bethesda Chapel - On 16 December, the Senior Choir was invited to perform at Bethesda Chapel in Rogerstone for their annual community Christmas Celebration. After performing several Christmas items ourselves, the audience was invited to join in for some lively community carols. 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' proved to be particularly exhausting and left everyone in much need of the tea and cakes

Christmas Concerts - The Concerts showcased most of the school's fantastic music groups and, as usual, the standard of music-making was impressive. The Senior Choir joined

the Brass Ensemble for a spectacular performance of the 'Gloria' from 'Pinkham's Christmas Cantata' while the Junior Choir rocked the night away to 'Jingle Bell Rock' adorned with Christmas hats! The Jack Watts Orchestra, the String Orchestra, the Big Band and the Chamber Choir performed festive items on one night. The award-winning school Wind Band played superbly on both evenings, summing up a wonderful celebration of Christmas.

Members of the school chamber choir went carol singing around the school and raised more than £300. From all the musical and Christmas events, a total of £1,809.45 was donated to Eden Gate, a charity which looks after the homeless in Newport. In a Year 7 assembly, members of the charity spoke



about the work they were undertaking in the Night Shelter and other projects to help homeless people in our city, many of whom are young and in need of guidance and support. They were most appreciative of the large donation from the school.



Rotary Young Musician - On 14 January, 11 AS and A Level Music students took part in the the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition. All of the students gave fantastic performances, some performing items from their forthcoming A-Level Music recitals. Each

pupil was presented with a certificate and an Amazon voucher from the local Rotary club. Bryony Evans and Veryan Clark, Year 13, won the vocal and instrumental competitions respectively and were subsequently invited to take part in the next round of the competition. This was held on 4 February at Caerphilly Music Service, Pontllanfraith, where both performers gave superb recitals.

Eisteddfod - Congratulations to pupils in years 7, 8, and 9 for giving such fantastic musical performances in the school's three Eisteddfodau on St David's Day. The musicians were enthusiastically received by their year group and presented performances as vocal soloists, instrumentalists on a wide range of instruments, and as members of ensembles. This year the best musician awards were presented to Natasha Jones, Year 7, Harry Bagwell & Connor Cooper, Year 8 and Erin Burke, Year 9.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



RAF Big Band Visit - On Friday 22nd January, Bassaleg School was fortunate to host the RAF Shades of Blue Big Band. The band arrived and quickly set up before a large number of the school's musicians were treated to an hour-long concert which incorporated a number of classic big band hits. The quality of the musicians on show was clear for all to see as was the way in which they communicated with the pupils. Audience participation was warmly encouraged and Mrs Williams was invited to perform a trombone solo with the band, causing much hilarity as she had never played the trombone before! Many pupils spoke with members of the band after their performance and it was fantastic to see the band taking time to speak with the young musicians of the school. We currently have one former student playing in the band of the Blues and Royals (on horseback). Following the RAF band's visit, we could see further Bassaleg musicians following this career pathway in the future.



Gym and Dance Display - The school Big Band performed at the PE department's Gym and Dance display, supporting the work of our outstanding young gymnasts and dancers. Their programme ranged from jazz classics like Tuxedo Junction to the more modern Uptown Funk. Well done to all performers.

An Evening of Music with Cantorion Ardwyn Caerdydd - On 4 March, four Music students from Year 13 were invited to be guest soloists with Cantorion Ardwyn Caerdydd (Cardiff Ardwyn Singers). Jack Williams (saxophone), Rhodri Ward (tenor horn), Veryan Clark (cello) and Lloyd Cottrell (clarinet) gave outstanding solo performances as part of an excellent evening of music from a talented choir. They helped to raise more than £500 for the Archbishop of Wales Fund for Children, a charity which supports

children in Wales who suffer abuse and violence at home or in care. Well done to all our soloists; we are sure we will hear more of these young musicians in a professional setting in the years to come.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2016 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 GOOD FRIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	26
27	28	29	30	31		
EASTER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED						

2016 APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
EASTER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	30

2016 MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 MAY DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 YEAR 12 STUDY LEAVE BEGINS	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 LAST DAY FOR YEAR 13	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS						
29	30 HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED	31				

2016 JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS						
12	13 YEAR 12 RETURN TO SCHOOL	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2016 JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
COMMUNITY DAYS						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SUMMER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED						
31						

2016 AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SUMMER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED						
14	15	16	17	18 A LEVEL RESULTS DAY	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 GCSE RESULTS DAY	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Please note all dates are subject to change. Please check our website (www.bassalegschool.com) our Facebook page (Bassaleg School Official) or our Twitter Feed (BassalegSchool1) for updates and/or additional dates.