

BASSALEG SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

EASTER EDITION 2020

YEAR 7 VISIT TO LONDON

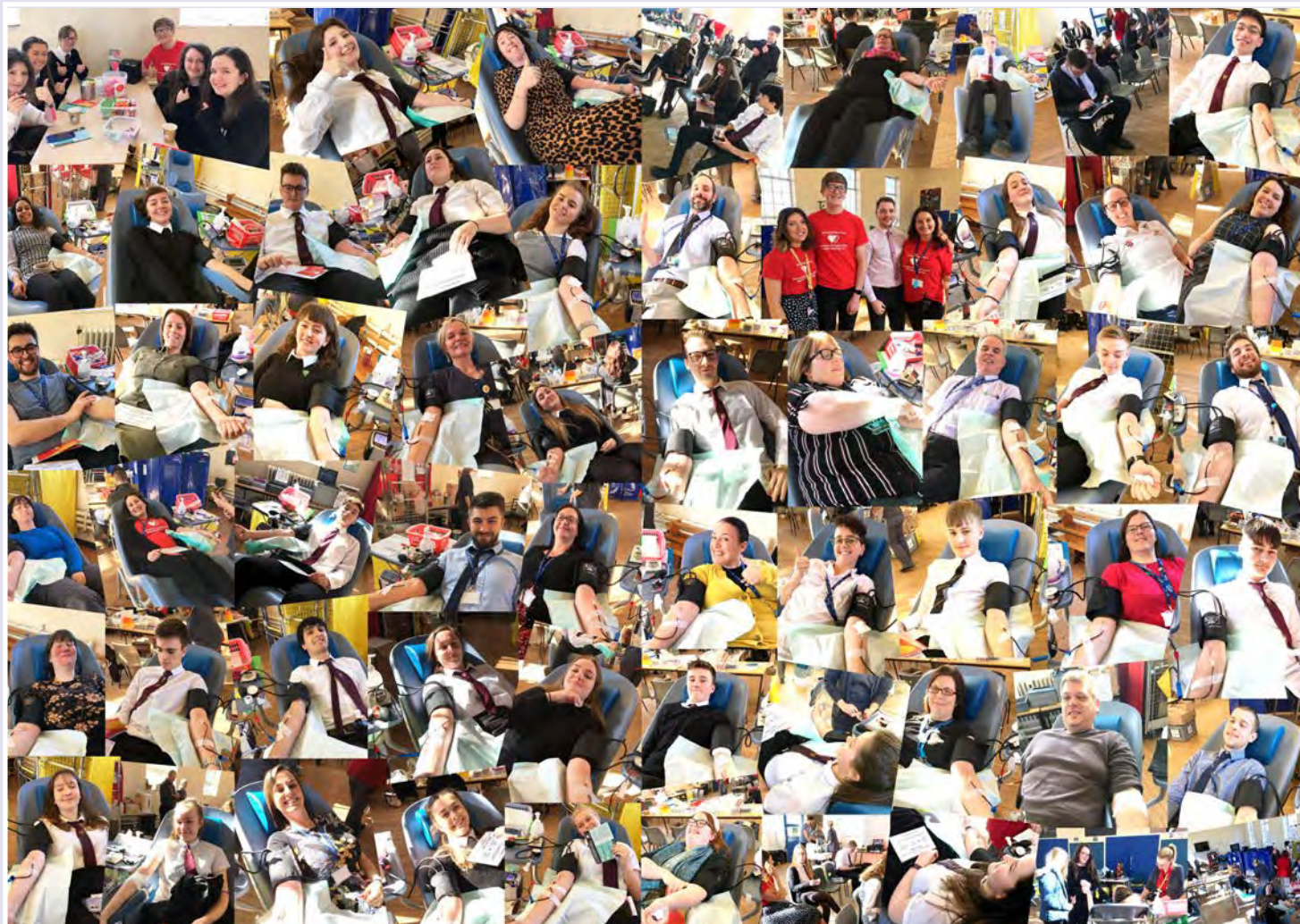


Year 7 enjoyed a long but successful trip to London, where they visited the British Museum and then went on to see a magical stage performance of Disney's the 'Lion King'.

Everyone had an amazing time; students and staff alike! A massive thank you to all the staff who organised and supported all the students throughout the day!



FIRST BASSALEG BLOOD DRIVE



Congratulations to all the Bassaleg Staff and Sixth Formers who generously donated to the first 'Bassaleg Blood Drive' run by the Welsh Blood Service. 54 donations were made on the day in total, with 50 of those being first time donors. We also had 18 people sign up to the Wales Bone Marrow Donor Registry. The donations made have potentially saved 162 lives or 324 new borns in Wales, so well done to all involved.

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION AWARDS



We would like to share the lovely news that our HLTA, Mrs Booth was presented with an "Above and Beyond" Award at the Schools & Education Awards at the Celtic Manor. For more than 20 years, Mrs Booth has been instrumental in providing pupils with complex additional needs, the care, support and guidance required to enable them to successfully access mainstream education. Her unwavering determination to break down barriers to learning, to empathise with all stakeholders and to consistently adopt an innovative approach has been fundamental to her success and to the high esteem in which she is held among pupils, parents, staff and external agencies. All unanimously agree that the bespoke manner in which she supports pupils and their families is absolutely worthy of wider recognition.

It was a very special night for Bassaleg School being the only school to receive three nominations; a huge congratulations to Mrs Beard, Learning Coach also nominated in the "Above and Beyond" category and to Dr Jones, Director of Standards for Biology who was nominated for Secondary Teacher of the Year; we are very proud of each of you!

BASSALEG AWARDS EVENING



Congratulations to the wonderful "Class of 2019!" Such a privilege to share your incredible successes at the annual Bassaleg School Awards Evening; we are so proud of you all! Big thank you to ex-pupil and Welsh International star Aaron Wainwright for coming along as our guest speaker and to the Bassaleg School Big Band for providing the musical entertainment. A great night was had by all!



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



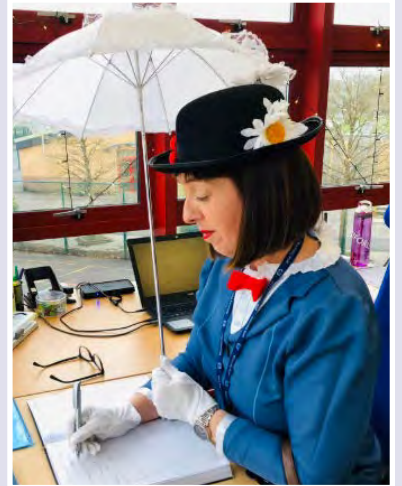
In December, the English department took a group of pupils from Years 11-13 to the Jane Austen Centre in Bath. Pupils were able to gain a greater understanding of the historical and social context of Jane Austen's work and immerse themselves into a different time period. The time spent in the Christmas markets was a well-deserved treat to support the wellbeing of pupils at the end of a busy and productive term! Maddie Conlan, Year 12, summarised her experience of the trip: *"Bath is a wonderful city filled with history that stands the test of time. The Jane Austen Centre, accompanied with some time spent in the magical Christmas market, brought the stories and life of Jane Austen to existence in an exciting and interesting way. With the highlight being able to dress up in period specific clothing of varying degrees of hilarity that really helped embed the context of what society would have been like in Austen's life time. The walking tour of places important to Austen in Bath was also enlightening. Though the academic aspects were interesting and helped expand our knowledge of Austen and her works the Christmas Market that sprawled over the city also added to the experience. We were free to roam different areas and see a variety historic buildings, including Bath Abbey with a heart-warming carol service, that gave a lovely festive atmosphere to the experience".*

Year 8 Feel The Love Poetry - On Friday the 14th of February, local rapper and poet Danny Pandolfi joined a selection of our most deserving Year 8 students to run a workshop on how to create poetry that can change the world. Danny showed the students how rap originated from poetry, and how the roots of this sort of music are deeply ingrained in a need to create social change.

The students then wrote their own poems about issues they care about; we were blown away by the quality of these poems, and are looking into creating an anthology of them so students can have their own copy of their very own published poetry.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



If you didn't know any better, you might have thought that the school had been taken over by literary characters who came to life on World Book Day. Mary Poppins ran the school, while a number of 1930s migrant workers were seen on site and the Maths department transformed into Cruella De Ville and her ill-fated Dalmatians! The Welsh department paid tribute to Roald Dahl, and Captain Hook could be seen "ooh argh"-ing from time to time. Pupils read their favourite books during registration, and learnt all about the value (both educational and personal) of reading for pleasure. A large number of pupils also engaged with fancy dress; there were many Thing 1s and Thing 2s, Hogwarts students, and perhaps best of all, a shed (of which Mr Sheldon was a big fan!). The English Department had great pleasure in giving a number of prizes for best dressed to students and staff, and our wonderful sixth formers inspired the younger students by reading extracts of their favourite books at lunchtime. As well as having fun with the day, we managed to raise a fantastic £287.79 - for the National Literacy Trust.



BASSALEG SCHOOL COUNCIL

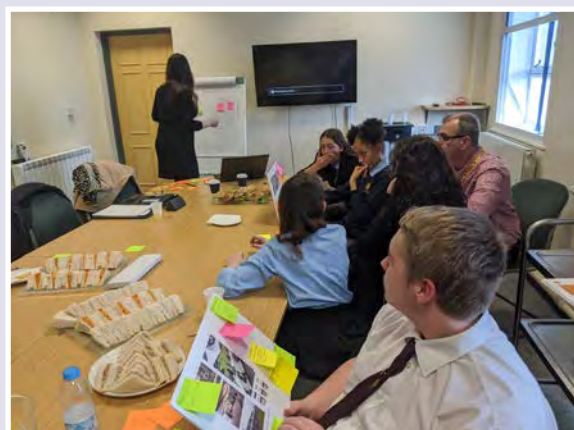


Bassaleg's School Council have been extremely busy this term. At the start of this term, chef Fay Yeng led a session on 'Plant Power' where School Council learnt all about the nutritional and environmental benefits of using more plants in our diets, and reducing the amount of dairy and meat we consume. They then got to create a wonderful mix of vegetarian dishes from scratch using beans and pulses.

The caretakers were extremely impressed with the quality of the food! This will help us to reconsider the options on the canteen menu at Bassaleg, and the impact we are having on the earth.



They also met with the team of architects who have the task of designing our exciting new build. As they represent all year groups, they were able to offer a number of perspectives; how could we make the buildings more pleasant to be in? How could we optimise learning through classroom design? No doubt that their contributions will have had impact on the final design.



BASSALEG SCHOOL COUNCIL



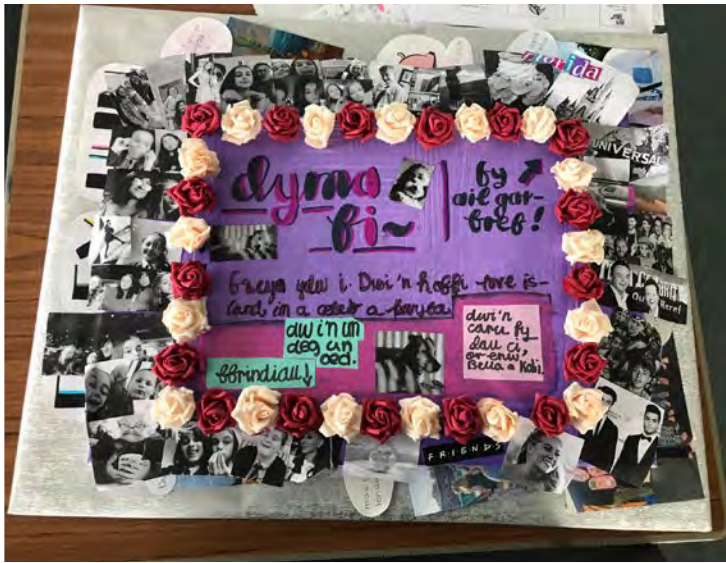
In addition, School Council had the pleasure of meeting MP Ruth Jones of Newport East, and Finlay Bertram from the Newport Youth Council. The students engaged in a Q & A session where they asked valuable questions about how to encourage more young people to be interested in politics, how to know who to vote for, and which skills would be most valuable in a future where young people's voices can be used to change the world. Ruth and Finlay both commented on how mature and engaged our School Council were, and how much hope this had given them for the future of our country.



The School Council also got the opportunity to visit the Senedd in December to watch the First Minister's Questions. The visit happened to be extremely well timed, as the education system in Wales and investment into the NHS were topics for discussion. The Council wished they could have contributed to the debate; they came out of Y Siambr (the Chamber) brimming with ideas, responses and questions about what they just witnessed. Following this, they even got to have a debate in the old chambers. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the way that politics operates in Wales, and a few of our School Council members saw Y Siambre as the place they want to be one day. They will definitely be returning to the Senedd in the future.



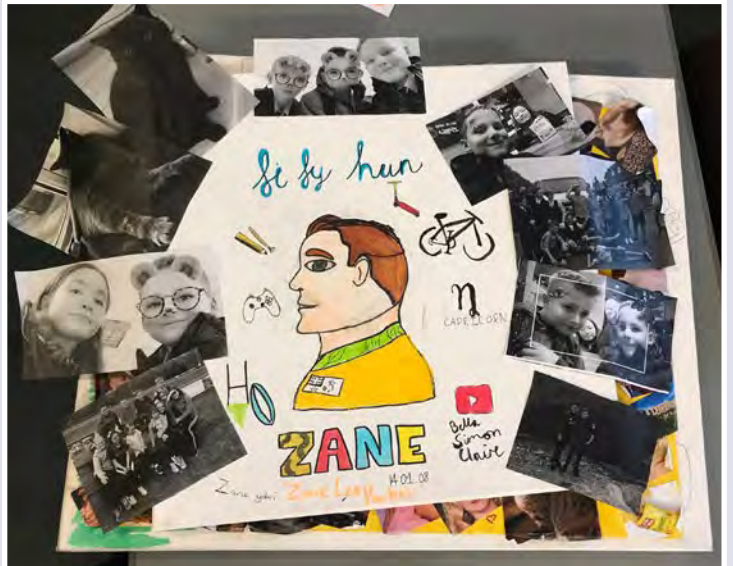
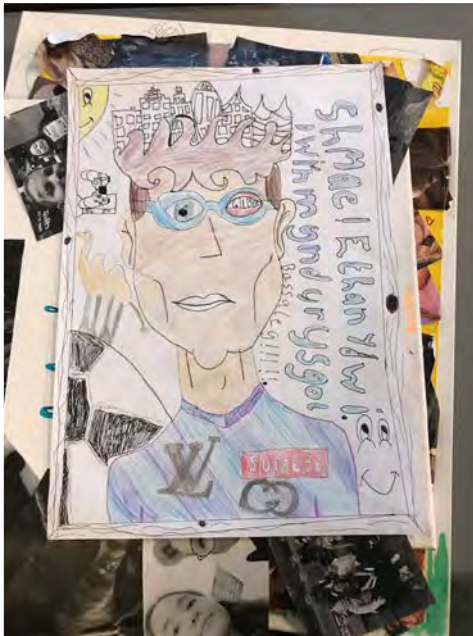
BASSALEG EISTEDDFOD 2020



The Eisteddfod showcased such wonderful skills from our pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 and it was such a fun filled and enjoyable day for all involved. Pupils submitted

various homework tasks to be able to win off stage points (some of which are shown here). The Welsh department were blown away by the creativity shown by pupils. As well as showcasing the brilliant homework pieces on the day of the Eisteddfod, we saw excellent displays of dancing, singing, comedy sketches and recitation from pupils. We also saw fun filled competitions completed by staff on the day, which involved a Welsh cake eating championship by teachers

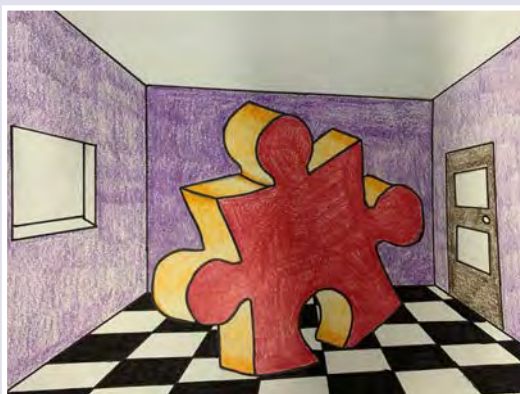
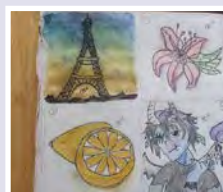
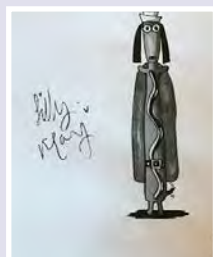
within the Maths and Welsh department. A huge thank you to all involved in organising such a lovely day, with a particular mention to the Music department and Miss Greentree, Miss Parfitt and Miss Scott for hosting each Eisteddfod.



ART DEPARTMENT



What a wonderful way of ending the Autumn term of 2019 by doing paper sculpture with Year 7 - I'm sure you'll agree they did a fantastic job! The art department would also like to give a shout out to all year groups for the amazing artwork they created last term and to all those pupils honing their artistic abilities whilst self isolating at home. Keep it up!



HISTORY DEPARTMENT



In February accompanied by Mrs Bowen, Mrs Rogers and Mr Morey, students from Years 12 and 13 visited Berlin as part of their A Level History studies. Berlin has acted as a focal point for many of the pivotal events throughout the 20th century and the students spent 4 days visiting the major historical, sporting, architectural and artistic landmarks including the Reichstag; Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp; Checkpoint Charlie; The Olympic Stadium; Memorials to the victims of the Holocaust, as well as the museums dedicated to Terror and the Holocaust.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT



In collaboration with the 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project, Bassaleg School sent four of their students on a day visit to the infamous death camp. The day consisted of a guided tour of the two camps, Auschwitz and Birkenau, and challenged the students to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust, understanding the roles of victims and perpetrators in the events that took place as a result of Nazi persecution. Students Lottie Evans, Sophie Way, Oliver Cook and Anna Morris began their journey with a seminar in Cardiff where they, amongst a crowd of teachers and students from all across Wales, listened to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke. The trip itself lasted only one day, after an early start at Cardiff airport the visitors explored the two camps whilst accompanied by expert guides that provided extra insights into life in Auschwitz. This then culminated with London Rabbi, Barry Marcus, giving an emotional speech about the modern relevance of the Holocaust.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



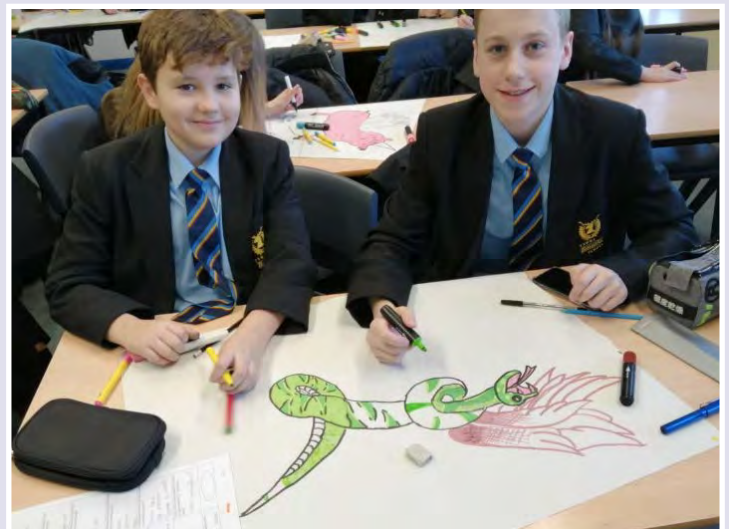
52 Year 11 students experienced wonderful Iceland highs in October including Northern Lights every night, spectacular scenery and awe-inspiring geography. Probably most memorable was 'Jens vs Fence' when our brilliant driver managed to steer our coach as a huge gust of wind came off the glacier. We had a real sense of the challenges of Icelandic weather! The amazing experiences were matched by the wonderful behaviour of our young people who were courteous, positive and helpful throughout and managed to sing harmoniously on every journey!



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



In other Geography news, 9K3 completed a very impressive mock court trial. Well-researched speeches were delivered with clarity and confidence! And well done 8G1 for applying their knowledge of the rainforest biome to invent fantastic rainforest animals, da iawn!



GCSE CATERING



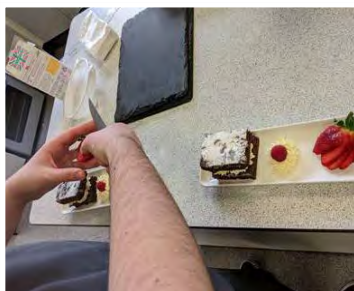
Christmas proved to be a busy time for our fabulous GCSE Caterers, as they not only catered for the Year 11 Awards Evening and Beauty & The Beast they also prepared their own three course Christmas dinner from scratch for forty people! Some of amazing dishes created were - apple roses, homemade puff pastry sausage rolls, chocolate log, cinnamon mince pies and brandy snaps. To say the caterers were - super impressive, would be an understatement! Well done everyone.



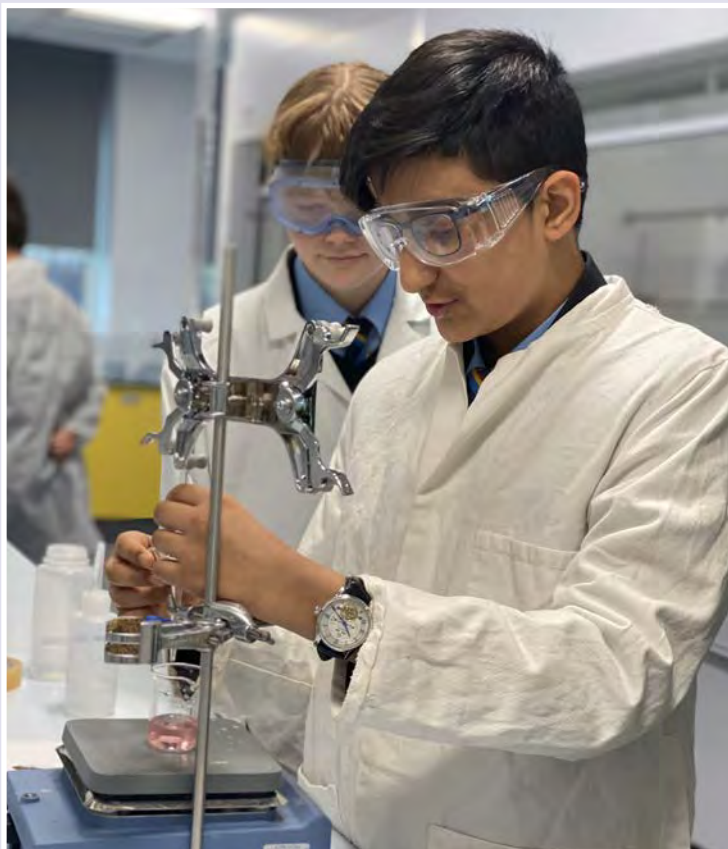
GCSE CATERING



And here's a snippet of this year's catering coursework. What a talented bunch - from homemade chicken and pancetta ravioli, panettone bread, buttermilk chicken, fish pie, pastas, ciabatta and even Baked Alaska with homemade ice cream. A remarkable selection of skills displayed throughout.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to Elin Griffiths, Kian Vinh, Sonia Marwaha, Tom Rowe, Daanish Sheikh, Isla Williams, Holly Beachus and Emyr Thoms for competing against other school in South Wales in the 'Top of the Bench' science competition at Swansea University. The first round was a lab based round in which pupils were given a practical that they have never done before and had to follow the lab procedure to carry out the experiment as accurately as possible. Kian Vinh and Emyr Thomas achieved the highest practical



marks in their lab session! The pupils then had a general knowledge Chemistry round – all pupils showed great enthusiasm and had the nerdiest chemistry conversations on the bus on the way back we've ever heard from pupils of their age. We are super proud of how well they represented the school!



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Year 12 Forensics attended the University Hospital of Wales during 'National Pathology Week' in November to watch a 'living autopsy' with pathologist Dr Suzy Lishman CBE. There was a 'volunteer' and Dr Lishman went through the autopsy step by step, showing the tools that are used as well as what she might find to help determine the cause of death. It was really interesting and the students loved it (even if I felt a bit queasy at the time!) Just to note... there was no dead body and nobody died during the lecture!!



Well done to our Year 13 chemists for using their practical skills and knowledge of organic chemistry to successfully make some azo dyes. The products were then used to dye some material to show the commercial importance of such substances. Good luck for the future.

Well done to 11K4 applied science for successfully growing microorganisms on agar plates by taking swabs from a number of surfaces from around the department. It is fair to say they were shocked at how much bacteria are on mobile phones! Good luck for the future.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



During stand down, our Year 7 pupils considered the purpose of learning a Modern Foreign Language and why it was on their timetable. We are very proud of how confidently they articulated their thoughts on the benefits of learning another language and they thoroughly enjoyed creating vlogs in groups to share their ideas with others. Some of them were very creative indeed! Meanwhile, Year 9 studied more cultural aspects such as the origins of the Day of the Dead and the relevance of 'le bleu' in France on Armistice Day. These sessions were rather creative too! Some of our Year 9 and 11 MFL pupils have thoroughly enjoyed working with Joe and Claire, their mentors from Cardiff University. They have engaged in discussing themes such as language and identity, language in performance and translation. We look forward to continuing to work with the university and Joe and Claire next term!

MISS WILKINS LEADING THE WAY



A huge congratulations to Bassaleg School's own Welsh International Rugby Star, Miss Wilkins, who was recently interviewed by the WRU. Miss Wilkins is not only a full time science teacher at Bassaleg, but she is also a member of the Welsh Women's Rugby Squad. She also finds time to coach girls rugby at Bassaleg and at the recent URDD WRU7!



I.C.T. DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to our very own Cyber Security Club who have been working hard on the #matrixchallenge2020, where they have been exploring Cyber Security challenges and absolutely smashing them, da iawn pawb! And well done to Year 8 for developing their oracy skills. They did this by giving verbal feedback to their peers on how to improve their websites by recording screen casts using the excellent @Screencastify



BASSALEG FUNRAISING



Well done to our Year 8 pupils who generously gave their food donations to a local Newport food bank. This is only some of the donations made. And to our amazing Sixth Form team who did the same for the local Salvation Army Da lawn!



On Friday 25 October, Bassaleg School celebrated #HELLO YELLOW day. Pupils had the opportunity to dress in non-uniform, for a donation of £1 (but with a splash of something yellow!) to raise money for the Jacob Abraham Foundation, Young Minds and Newport Mind. The total at the end of the day was £912.60, well done to all those who donated.

Also well done to the Sixth Form team for arranging a 'friendly' football fundraising match between staff and pupils! The total money raised for this event was £100.50 (and the pupils were victorious!)

BASSALEG FUNRAISING



Bassaleg pupils came out in force wearing red or pink in September 2019, in aid of World Sepsis Day. Monies raised during the day were divided between World Sepsis Day and Ty Hafan, and the total raised was an astounding £1,339.42. A huge thank you and well done to all those who generously donated.



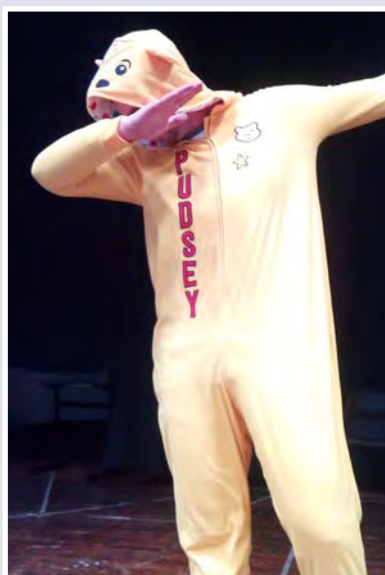
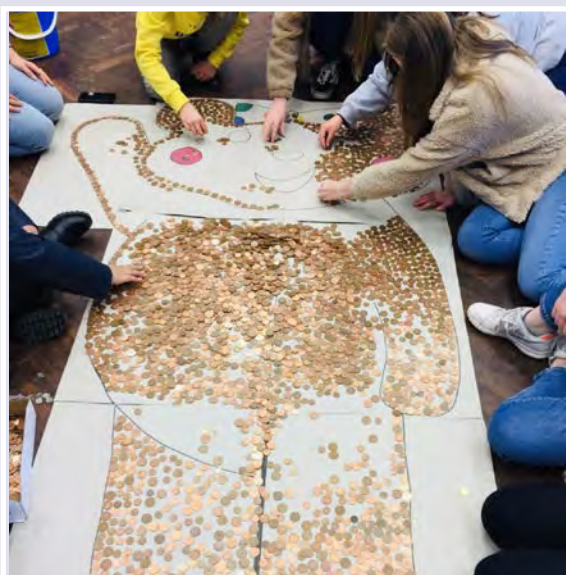
Fantastic achievement by Luke Korczynski, Sho Hill, Elinor Kenward and Jasmin Pardoe who raised an astounding £1,010 for the Jacob Abraham Foundation at a quiz/curry night (all organised by themselves), in memory of their good friend Tom Rowe, as part of their Welsh Bacc Community project.

BASSALEG FUNDRAISING



March 2020 saw the Bassaleg School community once again raising funds, this time for Sports Relief. Pupils and staff took part in the Bassaleg Mile as well as wearing sporting clothes for the day. The total raised was £586.79.

BASSALEG FUNDRAISING



There was a monumental effort from our fabulous sixth form back in November 2019, when they coordinated the activities for #ChildrenInNeed2019. A "Blush" was recreated using old in pennies and that proved to be a real hit with the school community! A massive thank you to everyone who donated & to Mr Rothwell-Scott of course - aka Pudsey in disguise! The whopping sum of £1,073.03 was raised in total. We also raised £1,056.76 for Australia Day, to help with the relief efforts for the devastating Bush Fires that happened in January 2020.

We would like to extend a huge shout out to all the Bassaleg Staff (and pupils) that took part in the Cardiff Half Marathon last year. Lots of money (and awareness) was raised for UK Sepsis Trust, Ty Hafran and The Jacob Abraham Foundation. A mind blowing £7,500 was raised. Well done to all those who took part.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Our Year 10 Health & Social Care students were given the opportunity to visit Summerhill residential care home in February. The students chatted to residents and were able to see 'care values' used effectively'. The students were a credit to school, well done all.



Our Year 11 Health & Social Care students were lucky enough to have a visit from a local Dental Practitioner. She shared her typical day to day experiences with them, and explained everything that was involved with a career as a Dental Practitioner. This will form part of their final coursework.

BASSALEG ECO COMMITTEE



Well done to our amazing Eco team for winning the Chartists competition. Thank you to Rogerstone Community Council for having us and presenting us with this award. The £300 prize money will be so useful in continuing to make Bassaleg more eco friendly.



NEWPORT LIVE SPORTS LEADERS



Congratulations to Jack Dent who completed his Sports Leaders Level 1 last year, here he is presenting Ethan Morgan & Hugh Coles with their awards after they completed the course in half term. The award is the 1st level qualification run by Newport Live. Well done boys!

NEWPORT LIVE
CASNEWYDD FYW
Inspiring people to be happier and healthier

HEALTH & WELLBEING @ BASSALEG



Yr 7 & 8 enjoyed performances from the @smashedproject and learnt about the issues of alcohol misuse as part of their new Health & Wellbeing Curriculum. We were also lucky enough to be joined by Jane Bryant, AM for one of the events. Mrs Bryant commented on her twitter feed - 'It was brilliant to visit Bassaleg School year 7 pupils taking part in the @smashedproject'. A huge thank you to our guests.

**SMASHED
PROJECT**



Congratulations to Mr Batten and Mr Lane for talking about the importance of Mental Health and Wellbeing as part of the school curriculum at the 'Senedd Insight's Mental Health in Schools Conference' in February 2020. Bassaleg School is being used as a case study in this important area of work!



HEALTH & WELLBEING @ BASSALEG

Congratulations to Year 9 pupils for representing Bassaleg School at the Mental Health Debate in November 2019. We are absolutely thrilled and incredibly proud of Lula Nodder and Jasmina Binions for their amazing, winning debate! Da iawn merched - Winning Team!



Thanks to Lewis School Pengam's '@Pride OfPengam' for meeting with some of Bassaleg's QSA members in December 2019. We're feeling inspired and looking forward to our work together this year! @PrideofPengam is a pupil group at Lewis School in Pengam that supports gender and sexual diversity equality and inclusion.

Well done to the pupils who took part in a two day training session with Public Health Wales and Cardiff University in December 2019. The "Frank Friends" initiative is a peer led drug prevention training scheme, with really engaging and informative sessions where pupils research and identify the effects of drugs on the body and mind.



MATHS DEPARTMENT



In January the Maths Department hosted Jack William-Barotta, a student studying Maths and Applied Science in Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, USA. Jack was part of the MIT Global Teaching Lab programme where students from MIT have the opportunity (during their time off between semesters) to gain some valuable teaching experience abroad. It was a very exciting three weeks for everyone involved as Jack shared complex maths problems with students of all ages from Year 7 to 13. All students could see Jack's enthusiasm and passion for the subject through his delivery of these lessons and I am certain that this inspired many of our students to pursue a future career in the subject. Students were also able to ask Jack questions about his upbringing and what life is like back home and this was also a valuable insight for students to hear about education in the United States. Meanwhile, Jack has been in touch to say that his research group have been heavily involved in the social distancing advice during the COVID-19 outbreak. They have been studying fluids and the transmission of diseases in particular and

his research advisor was recently quoted on BBC News! It was great to host Jack during those three weeks and we would definitely have him back next year!

Intermediate Maths Challenge - 60 students from the Maths Department entered the Intermediate Maths Challenge in March 2020. We were blown away by the fantastic results of our students! The achievements were as follows: Best in Year 9, Best in School and through to the Grey Kangaroo competition: Ryan Leather. Best in Year 10: Holly Beachus. Silver Award: Curtis Hinder-Thomas, Garv Sharma, Holly Beachus and Ryan Leather. Bronze Award: Cameron Winn, Camille Cooksley, Emma Atkinson, Jake Slater, Josh Evans, Kabir Saleem, Noah Hargreaves and Sonia Marwaha. Thank you to all students that entered the competition!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Congratulations to all the hardy DoE's Award crew in year 11 (Code name "Team Echo":) who braved the elements to achieve their Bronze Award in September 2019. They had trained hard throughout the summer evenings, learning many new skills and preparing for the challenge of the expedition section. The Usk Valley beckoned, and Team echo, who looked like seasoned adventurers had a clear mandate to "Get Expeditioning Done". Each group successfully navigated their way to the campsite at Chain-bridge. The assessment team was very impressed with how quickly and efficiently they set up camp. Team Echo then settled down to cook themselves a hearty meal and rest up. After a night of heavy rain, they woke up in soaking tents and sleeping bags, put on cold wet clothes and boots and did their best to sort out some sort of decent breakfast. Amazingly the team faced these hardships with a shrug and they all just got on with striking camp and getting on with the journey; Team Echo battled on and continued to demonstrate excellent teamwork, self-discipline and support for each other, ensuring that everyone got safely to the end. Each group arrived at the final check point, soaked through and a bit smelly but in high spirits.



We would like to say a big thankyou to: Mrs Redfern, Miss Backhouse, Miss Allford, Mr Scott, Mr Parnell as well as Mr Lockwood and Mr Igguden, from the Newport Youth service, for all their hard work and support getting everyone trained, properly equipped and supported in country. Miss Moss and Miss Satherley in the office for organising the transport, our cover and doing all the communications. Mrs Hunt and Mrs Hawkins in finance for dealing with the money, Mr Brain, Mr Sheldon and Miss Lambe for overseeing the whole thing and providing the overnight emergency contact cover. Miss Crompton for her medical expertise and provisions as well as Mr Griffiths for managing to find us and take us back to Bassaleg.



Well done to all of you and we hope you continue with your DofE into Silver and Gold.

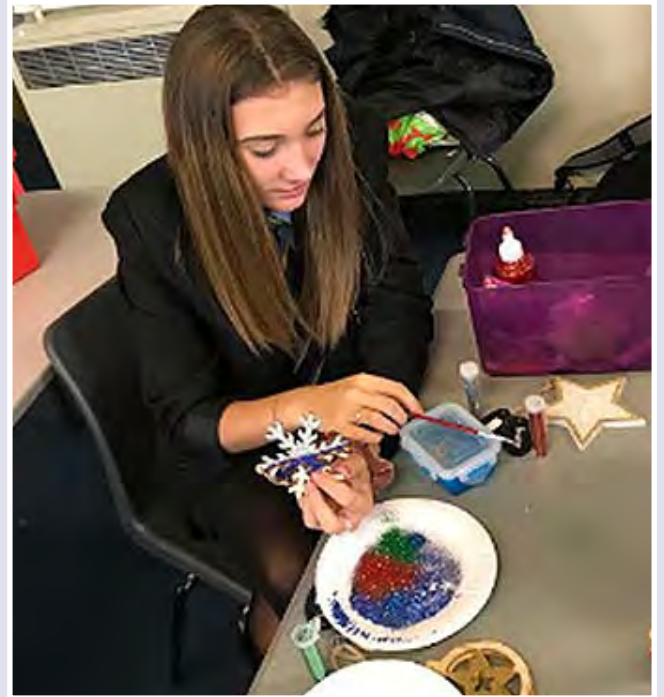
WELSH BACCALAUREATE



The Year 10 WBQ class have been developing a massive range of skills since September working towards the Enterprise Challenge. They were asked to develop a Christmas business and to design a range of products which would be made and sold with all proceeds being donated to the charity of their choice, which is The Alzheimer's Society. The group visited Festive in Cwmbran to see how this Global Company sell their products. They had a very informative tour of the facility.

Whilst developing their entrepreneurial skills they have been improving ICT skills, communication, creativity and confidence. They have now completed 20% of their Skills Challenge GCSE qualification - Amelia Flynn, Harry Walden, Ross Wathan, Connor Prowse, Finlay Millington, and Dan Edwards have worked together to design the logo, the name, choose the charity, design, make, and sell the products. The pupils designed the campaign to sell reindeer "A stag is for life, not just for Christmas" which Aaron Wainright was happy to support.

A huge thankyou also to Ms Blud who has been an incredible support to this group and an excellent



role model as a business entrepreneur. So far the group has raised £200.

We have had lots of fun, and enjoyment along the way, and in January we will be starting the Community Challenge.



AFTERNOON TEA WITH MISS LAMBE



Miss Lambe really enjoyed her Christmas “Afternoon Teas” with a fantastic group of Bassaleg stars; each nominated by their Directors of Wellbeing for a wide variety of achievements during the Autumn term 2019! Congratulations to every single one of you!



PE DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to all the pupils who took part in this year's amazing Gym and Dance Display. The pupils wowed 300 plus primary school children during the dress rehearsals and then went on to perform for parents and guests. The standard and commitment shown by all the performers this year was outstanding, and a big shout out must go to Mrs Charles for organising the event.



PE DEPARTMENT

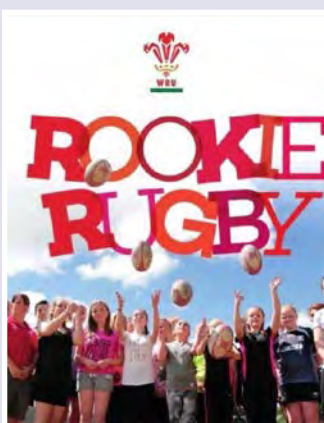


Well done to our Year 10 pupils who successfully completed their referee course at Risca Rugby Club. They will be a huge asset to the PE department!

Well done & thank you to all our pupils who have represented Bassaleg during the 2019/2020 season, in one sport or another. There are too many to include below, but here are photos of a few...!



Well done to all the girls who participated in the 'Rookie Rugby' Festival held by the Welsh Rugby Union. It was a brilliant day with our pupils receiving a fantastic new experience in rugby and activity and all its benefits. A big thanks to the @WRU_Community



MUSIC DEPARTMENT



September saw Big Band jump straight in and perform at the launch of the new teacher training program at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Based on their program from our recent trip to Belgium, they performed their set to great acclaim.

September also saw us begin our new curriculum working alongside Art and Drama, we launched our 'Formal Elements' topic and have seen so many good performances across Year 7 and we look forward to this continuing with some exciting news and performances coming up.



Well done to our Sixth Form students who performed at the Rotary Young Musician of the Year. Congratulations to all the competitors and especially to the winners Maia and Amy!

In November a number of our students joined members of the Gwent Music performance in the Albert Hall, we are extremely proud of all you for taking part in this and gaining some amazing experiences.

The Bassaleg Big Band were privileged to be invited to perform at the Graig Community Christmas event, featuring stalls, food and even a visit from Santa. We first heard Pentrepoeth choir perform a few songs under the leadership of Mrs Gifford-Berry, our piano peripatetic teacher and we look forward to seeing some of the those pupils join us in the future. Big Band performed traditional jazz music, arrangements of pop music and even some christmas songs. There was a lovely warm atmosphere in the hall and we have since received some lovely comments about the performance.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT



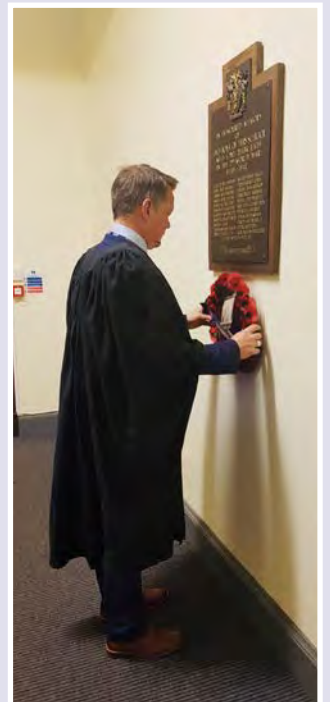
The Music Department was delighted to be a part of the school carol services. Some wonderful performances from Junior Choir and Mrs Davies in St. Basils church with solos and an array of festive music set the backdrop for the services. The Wind Band performed in Forge Hall, performing for the 14th year running 'Jingle Bells' amongst other works including 'Somewhere in Your Memory' and 'The Lion King'. They also contributed music to accompany the carols. Wind Band also took part in what has become a new tradition in the 'Best dressed stand' competition. Standards have improved since last year and thanks to Mrs Batten for being our judge - a very hard decision.



The Music Department was also proud to have their fabulous pupils represent Bassaleg School at the South Wales Argus Schools & Education Awards held in the Celtic Manor.

On Monday 11th November the school took part in the school remembrance service. Again we were thrilled to have Chamber Choir under the direction of Mrs

Davies perform 'In Flanders Field'. We also had Hannah Gatehouse, Sian Fernandez and Noah Berry performing the Last Post at various points across the school. Eve Tonner performed the Last Post and Reveille in the main Forge building. We are also fortunate to have links with the local community and one of our trumpet players, Hannah Gatehouse, performed the Last Post in a local church service on the Sunday before. Many other of our pupils took part in various other Remembrance events over the weekend. Along with the thoughtful and sombre assembly, the school community helped raise funds by selling poppies and the total raised was £175.67.



EXTRA CURRICULAR SUCCESS



Rebecca Forey

Becca was selected for the Cricket Wales U17s squad for the forthcoming season and was also selected for the Hockey Wales U16 test series against Scotland.

Olivia Forey

Liv was selected for the Cricket Wales U13s squad for the forthcoming season and played for the UK Lions Hockey team in Wellingborough.



Cameron Eley

Cam won the East Wales Gold Medal in the U15s 60m Hurdles at the Welsh Regional Championships with a new PB of 9.86.

Darcey Taylor

Darcey was selected to play for the Wales Table Tennis team and became the U11 Girl's Champion at the Dragons Final.



Fletcher Stenniford

Fletcher was nominated for the prestigious Prop Star 2019 Award. It was great to see all pupils, parents and friends of Bassaleg School showing their support and voting for Fletcher.



Harper Leigh

Harper competed at the West of Scotland Badminton Championships in Glasgow and became a finalist in the Singles and a semi-finalist in the Boy's Doubles & Mixed Doubles. He also played in U15s Irish Open in Dublin and won a silver medal in the Boy's Singles.



Iwan Jones

Iwan Jones was selected for the Cricket Wales U13 squad, he also played on the winning Wales U12s Cricket Team in the Kings College Taunton cricket Festival.



Yasmin Davies

Yasmin was selected to play for FAW select side vs Man Utd in July, also for the South Wales Regional side in the North Wales festival in August. She has also signed a contract with Bristol City U14's for the upcoming season!



EXTRA CURRICULAR SUCCESS



Leo Stark

Leo became a double Welsh Indoor Champion 2020 for the 800m and 1500m races. He then went on to compete in the u15 800m Welsh school's XC UK indoor championships and achieved his 2nd fastest time ever of 2.09.

Melody-Rae Blackmore

Melody was selected to be part of the girls Wales U13 Cricket Squad for the 2020 season.

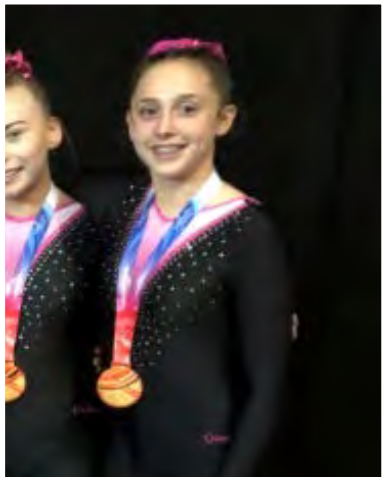


Ellie-Mae Wainwright

Ellie won the Bronze Medal in the combined events at the Welsh Athletics Indoor Championships, she was also selected for the Welsh team for the combined events at the international in Glasgow.

Sophia Gage

Sophia was awarded the Lucy Ellis Award for dedication to Acrobatic Gymnastic. She was presented with the award by former Bassaleg pupil Alex Jones. Sophia is part of the Welsh acrobatic gymnastics squad

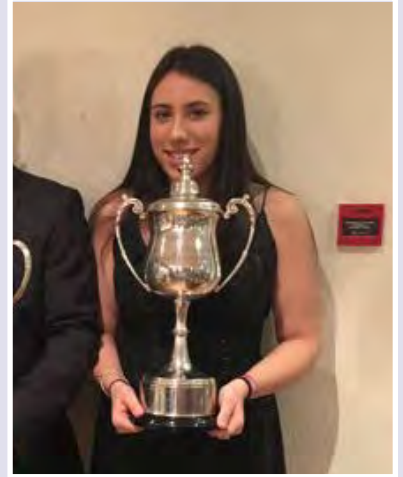


Olivia Gauregui

Olivia has has been called up to the GB gymnastics squad and will be competing in the European Championships in Denmark later this year.

Maisie Beale

Maisie became the Parc Golf Club Ladies Champion 2019!



Freya Morris

Freya competed at the Welsh Gymnastics Championships, where she won a Bronze medal for the vaulting event. She was also on the Bronze winning team for the South East Area.

Rhiannon Hawkins, Emily Smith, Natasha Gargan, Joanthan Kerl & Catrin Phillips

The above pupils have all been offered places at Oxford and Cambridges Unis in September 2020.



BASSALEG VISITORS



It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Graham Donaldson to Bassaleg. It was great to have the opportunity to engage in purposeful dialogue about our curriculum journey. Thank you to everyone who made it such a successful visit.



We were also absolutely delighted to welcome the Mayor of Newport to school. Pupils are very excited about a return visit to the Mayor's chambers - many thanks for the invitation!

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Congratulations to our fabulous new Head Prefect Family and to Laura Wilson, in particular, elected as Head Student - thoroughly deserved! Well done to the whole team; we are hugely proud of all of you!



Well done to Sixth formers Daisy Rockett, Oliver Cook & Emily Smith who were proud to represent Bassaleg School at the opening of the Chartist Mural in its new home in Rogerstone.

Thank you to Cllr Stephen Bowen for the kind invitation and congratulations to all involved

OPTIONS EVENING & CAREERS FAYRE



Bassaleg School held another brilliant Careers and Options Evening in January 2020. The evening was open to Years 9 to 13 and we had an eclectic mix of outside companies on hand to offer advice about their chosen career paths, as well as all subject areas being represented by Bassaleg staff to give pupils help with their option choices. A huge thank you to our brilliant staff, our visiting employers and most of all our fantastic pupils who helped make the event such a success.



BEAUTY & THE BEAST



Words can't describe the incredible journey of the recent production of Beauty and the Beast from initial rehearsals to the scenes as the curtain draw on the last night. Stand-out performances from all the principals and a commitment from the chorus members meant that we had some incredible scenes. The work behind the scenes was incredible with everyone playing such an important role, from marketing and our new hospitality packages. Through to the support we received from all in the admin team. The site team and technicians were incredible in bringing the set together and giving us the platform to deliver it on. Sound, Lighting, backstage help were just amazing. The costumes team led by Mrs Jackson were just incredible with all their work throughout the whole process. We couldn't do it without you. Mrs Davies and Mrs Fisher directed and choreographed the whole show which brought widespread praise. The orchestra made up mainly of pupils and augmented by some of our peripatetic team from Gwent Music and returning pupils led by Mr Keates, performed incredibly well over the three nights. The final word goes to the cast, led by our principals Belle as Amy Williams and the Beast as Connor Cooper. You were superb! It was incredible to be part of and we hope you will all remember being part of something so special as this.



GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK



Farewell to Year 13 - Wishing our fabulous year 13 class of 2020 the absolute best for all of your future endeavours. Whilst we were not able to say goodbye in the way we had planned, we most certainly can look forward to a special reunion at some point in the near future when we will celebrate just what an incredible year group you have been. Your strength, resilience and true friendship will be a lasting legacy at Bassaleg School; thank you for being such a wonderful group of young people!

"You regret the things you don't do more, now go out there and live life to the max! Be kind; smile often; work hard; stay humble; expect a little, give a lot; be thankful; have fun; laugh more; love always"



Farewell to Year 11 - Congratulations to our fabulous year 11 class of 2020 who have collectively achieved so much during your first five years at Bassaleg School. Whilst I know many of you looked forward to finishing this chapter of your lives in a more fitting way with your peers and staff who've been there for you throughout your journey, it is heartening to know that so many of you will resume this journey at sixth form and we can't wait for this new adventure to begin! Thank you year 11 for being a wonderful group of young people and for investing your hearts and souls into so many aspects of school life - we are incredibly proud of you all!

