

## Update from the Headteacher

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been such a delight to welcome so many of our young people back on to site this week; whilst we fully anticipated there would be much apprehension amongst our pupils, especially given the number of adjustments to our environment, it was so lovely to see them relax throughout the course of the morning and look very happy to be back 'in the classroom!' It's equally pleasing to note the positive engagement of our learners whilst working remotely from home on this bespoke timetable of pre-recorded and subject-specialist video workshops.



I want to thank and congratulate all of our learners for embracing this 'check in, catch up & prepare' stage with such positivity and also thank you parents/carers for your continued support in enabling our young people to do so with such confidence. The ease with which pupils and staff returned to site this week is testimony to the incredible amount of planning and preparation undertaken behind the scenes and to our site staff in particular who have done a really exceptional job in making everything as safe as possible for us all.



As you will be aware, these preparations continue as we think ahead to September. The Welsh Government has yet to announce what is expected of schools in the Autumn term in regard to social distancing measures, numbers of pupils permitted to be on site each day etc. and I know that you will fully appreciate the extraordinary efforts required to 'react' to any directive at this stage. To this end, at Bassaleg, we have drafted a contingency plan for four possible models to ensure that we are fully prepared for any announcement at this late stage:

MODEL A	MODEL B	MODEL C	MODEL D
Full re-opening of school site with no social distancing requirements. <b>'Full-time learning'</b> resumes for all pupils and staff <b>on site</b> as normal. Staggered Induction for all pupils	All pupils and staff return to a <b>'full timetable' on site</b> and via <b>blended learning approaches accessed remotely from home to include 'live online' teaching</b> . Some social distancing measures in existence so site only partially open. <b>'Full-time learning'</b> resumes for all pupils and staff but with updated and more purposeful pedagogical 'blended learning' strategies. Staggered Induction for all pupils	All pupils and staff continue with the current structure 'June – July 2020' as strict social distancing measures remain in place. Bubble groups essential so specialist 'live' teaching not possible on site; <b>'full timetable' delivered predominantly through remote learning with some opportunity to receive face-face teaching on site</b> . Staggered Induction for all pupils	Site in lockdown <b>'Full-time learning' facilitated through remote learning</b> timetable of Model B inclusive of blended learning strategies. <b>'Full-time learning'</b> resumes for all pupils and staff but with updated and more purposeful pedagogical 'blended learning' strategies to include <b>'live online' teaching</b> . Staggered Induction for all pupils

Please be reassured that whichever model is in operation, because of the extensive action research and trials in effective pedagogical practice, your child will receive the best possible learning provision whilst being fully supported in their wellbeing. In fact, my colleagues and I feel incredibly excited about the innovative practice we are currently trialling in 'blended learning' and I very much look forward to sharing more detail on how you can support your child with this moving forward.

I hope that you will fully appreciate that I am not in a position to share any further detail about plans for September until we hear from Welsh Government. In the meantime, we will continue to shape and prepare for each of the four models and I hope to update you with more information next Friday. Such is the uncertainty of how September will look for all of us, what we absolutely must commit to is the plan for the first two weeks in September to enable all of our learners (and parents/carers) to know what to expect in the first few days of a new term. To this end, next Friday, I will share the staggered induction plans for all year groups. We will also look forward to all of our pupils wearing full uniform in September; Mr Batten, Assistant Headteacher, will be in touch shortly with a reminder of our uniform policy.

Once again thanks for your continued support; please continue to take good care of yourselves.

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Victoria Lambe  
Headteacher