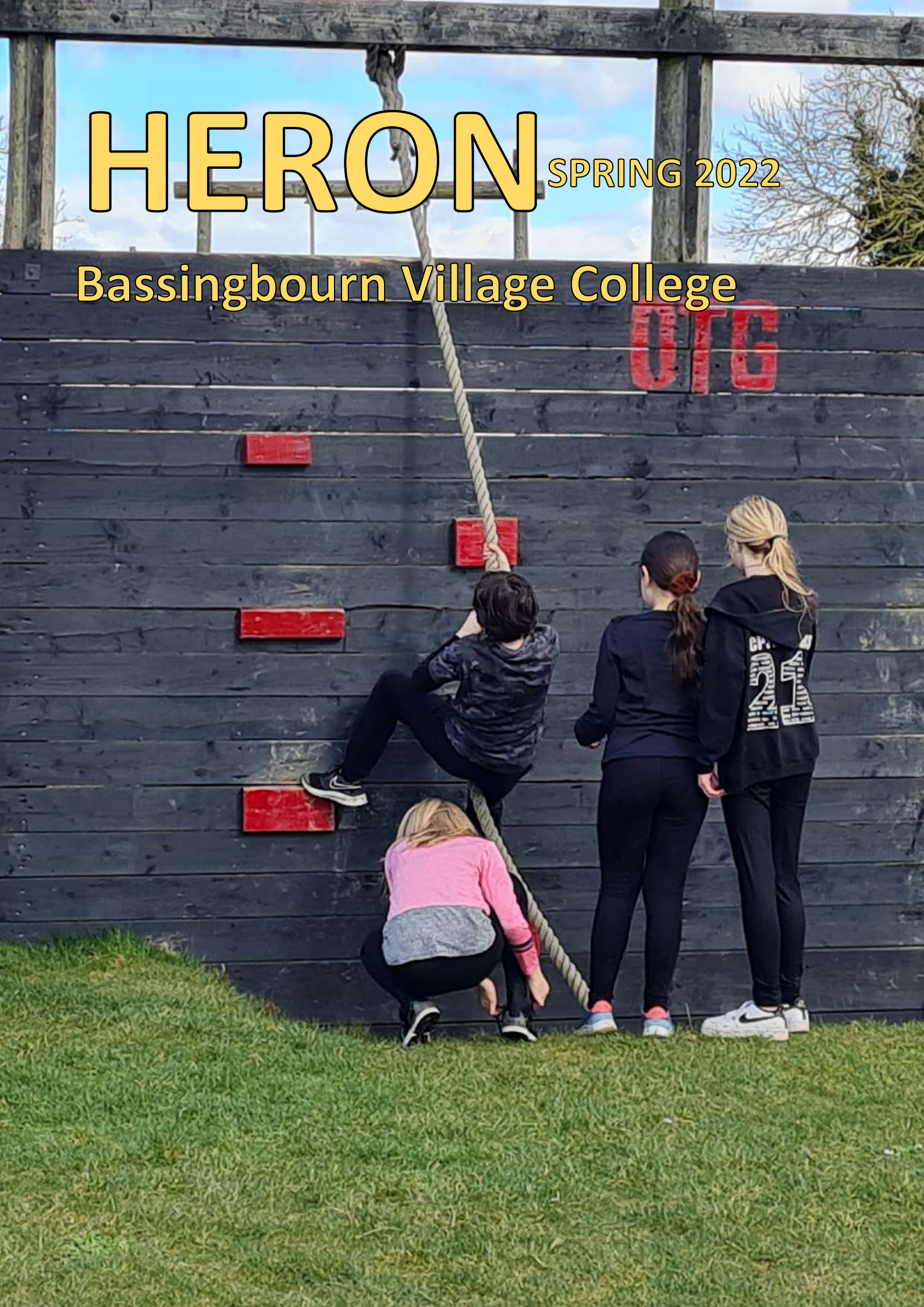


HERON

SPRING 2022

Bassingbourn Village College



Introducing Ben the Dog

Hi - my name is Ben.

I am 9 years old and I am a Japanese Spitz, which is quite an usual dog breed in the UK. I have lived with my family since I was rescued at 9 months old. I have grown up with my family's two children, so I am use to spending a lot of time with children and teenagers.

I like to go for long walks and swim in rivers. At home I like to have cuddles with my family and sleep on the sofa. I am really friendly; I love company and have lots of human and dog friends. I am very intelligent and learn tricks quickly. I really enjoy making people happy and I can easily tell how humans are feeling.

At school, my role is to support my handlers, Ms Wells (mum) and Mrs Edwards, to support students and staff with social, emotional and mental health. I am trained to help in many areas including: anxiety reduction, attachment and relationship building, communication and social anxiety, stress coping strategies and attention and behavioral difficulties.



We are delighted that Ms Wells and Mrs Edwards completed training with The Dog Mentor Programme and Ben will be joining us in School after Easter.

The presence of a dog in School can provide a really positive impact on children in many areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills; with these improvements resulting in improved academic achievement.

For many of our students the last couple of years has been incredibly challenging, living through lockdown and uncertainty. We hope Ben will provide us all with some joy and spend time with students that really need some additional support.



A message from our Principal

This term it has been a pleasure to witness the return of more clubs and trips to our College calendar once again. As I write this our Pompeii trip has left for their four day visit and I wish all those going a wonderful time. Extra-curricular activities remain an important element of a students' journey with us and I am excited that even more trips and visits are planned for next term.



In addition, we have also been able to begin to invite external visitors into our College once more. As a result our Year 8s had a wonderful Enterprise Day this term and I know the team running the event for us were very enthusiastic about our students and their ideas. We were also able to hold our Year 8 Options Evening in person and it was fabulous to have an opportunity to speak to many parents who attended with their child during the event, for many this would have been the first time we have been able to welcome you into College.

Following our parents evenings this term we asked parents and carers to provide us with feedback so we can understand your thoughts and opinions. I thank all those that took the time to respond and the many kind words we received. We have indeed listened to all opinions shared, and you will see later in this newsletter our new initiative around anti-bullying. I would like to remind parents that our curriculum maps, which allow parents and carers to see in detail what their child is learning, are on our website and, lastly, next term we are excited to introduce a new style end of term report which provides the opportunity for more information on the progress of your child.

Finally, I do want to thank our PFA for their amazing fundraising efforts this term. The money they raise makes such a difference within the College and we are very lucky to have such a dedicated team.

I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 19th April.

V Poulter
Principal

We are very proud of all our students' achievements and like to share them publically as often as we can.

To ensure you are up to date with what's happening at Basingbourn Village College, please make sure you have subscribed to our ParentMail service.

The weekly student PowerPoint and Weekly Mailing keep both parents and students informed of events that have happened and calendar dates to look out for.

For a more 'instant fix', why not follow our news feed on Twitter (www.twitter.com/Basingbournvc) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/basingbournvc)

Alumni can keep in touch with the college by emailing sboydan@basingbournvc.org and ask to be added to our database.

Parents interested in helping with our Parents and Friends Association can email PFA@basingbournvc.org

Year 8 Enterprise Day

It was wonderful to welcome back our Year 8 Enterprise Day into school this term. One of our winning teams describes the day:

“On Thursday 10th February, the Year 8s took part in Enterprise Day. We had to come up with an idea to pitch to the other teams we were competing against. The winning team from each class had to pitch to 6 entrepreneurs and in front of the whole year on a video call. We were awarded certificates for best idea, best marketing or best class pitch. We also won a book called “Cumulative Advantage”.

As a team we were all very nervous but we challenged our fears and carried on and tried our hardest. Our pitch was a animal sanctuary where we take in hurt or stray animals and care for them. Our company was called HAS (Help Save Animals). We sold pet food, collars and food/water bowls. We also had an app where you could find your pet if it became lost by loading a picture of it. When it is found and the app matched the image of the lost pet, the owner would be notified.

Our group won an award for best class pitch and best marketing.”

By Eva, Emma, Olivia, Heather, Tara



Geography Field Trip

Our Year 11 Geographers were able to explore Cambridge this term, looking at the concept of place using qualitative survey methods.

In groups they explored whether Cambridge's identity differs depending on the person (tourist, students or locals) or the location (iconic area such as King's Parade compared to the Grand Arcade). Our Geographers used data collection techniques including land use surveys, emotional mapping and annotated field sketches. The groups will now present their data and reach conclusions of their investigation in class.



MFL Spelling Bee

Our keen Year 7s took part in our annual Spelling Bee competition.

This is a fun and dynamic way for our youngest students, who are new to a foreign language, to engage and improve their vocabulary. The Spelling Bee proves very popular, and while voluntary to enter, it is always wonderful to see how many students enjoy the experience and get involved. The top 20 students in both French and Spanish will go through to our semi-final which will be held in April, with the top five going through to our final which will be held in July.

Good luck to our semi-finalists!



The Cambridge Junction

Teachers have been keen to arrange trips this term. Emma, from Year 10, shares her experience of the recent Drama and Dance trip.

“On Monday the 14th of March, the Drama and Dance students in Years 9 and 10 took part in some workshops at Cambridge Junction. We had a choice of workshops, between lighting, sound, physical theatre, and spoken word poetry, all of which gave us new, valuable skills from industry professionals. After the workshops, we also took part in a tour of the venue, as well as a staff Q+A, during which we learned about the many paths and opportunities into and in the arts and theatre industry.

During each workshop, we had the chance to work with industry professionals and take part in rigging lights, writing poems, recording sound, and learning how to use our bodies to tell a story. We worked with parts of the Junction team, the spoken word performer and poet Desree, and GymJam’s (a physical theatre company) co-artistic director, Will. Overall, it was a very fulfilling day and something we all enjoyed and will remember.”



As a treat for all our Year 7s, 8s and 9s the PE department arranged for all students to visit OTG. Abigail in Year 8 tells us why she loved it:

“Over the course of two weeks in March, Years 7, 8 and 9 went to OTG for our PE lessons. One of the best bits about OTG is the fact that we’re still exercising but having loads of fun and getting a bit messy at the same time. My favourite obstacles were the monkey bars over water and the muddy water pit because everyone kept getting stuck and falling over.

Next week when we go again, I’m excited to do the obstacles that I didn’t get to do last time. I’m also excited for more of the obstacles to be filled up with water, which will make it more challenging but still fun. Hopefully it’s still really sunny so it’s not as cold when we are wet.”

PE @ OTG



Fixtures @ BVC

It has been wonderful to see fixtures return to the school calendar once more.

This term we have witnessed the return of football and basketball matches for a number of our year groups—and have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We have even been able to reinstate the annual Bulldogs vs Pussycats Volleyball match as well as introduce a staff vs students netball match. Staff were victorious in both matches and now looking for new ideas for the next staff vs Year 11 next competition.



MFL Visit from Hills Road

It was a pleasure to welcome Amelié Bowers, Head of MFL at Hills Road virtually into school.

During her online chat our students were able to hear the opportunities of studying a modern foreign language for A Level and beyond. It was a great chance for our students to understand the future potentials of studying a language for their future careers as well as the details of the course and activities that Hills Road offers.

We were delighted with the number of students that joined in as well as the engaging questions asked.



Year 8 Options Evening

It was a pleasure to open our doors once more for our Year 8 Options Evening, for many parents and careers this was the first time to spend time in College.

Throughout the evening, parents/careers and students were able to explore the different options available as our students start to consider their future and choices for their GCSE. This is only the start of the process and over the course of the coming weeks students will have a chance to discuss options more in lesson as well as have 1:1 meetings for those who feel they need to talk through their choices.



Bassingbourn Virtual Trek 2022

As part of our drive to encourage our students to be physically active and to fundraise for the local community, we have once again holding a sponsored virtual walk/run/cycle for staff and pupils.

The Trek started on Monday 28th March, finishing on Sunday 10th April to allow students to participate over the first week of the Easter holidays. We have a current goal to cover a collective distance of around 9000 miles, which equates to approximately a mile a day for each member of the school community over the fortnight!

This year we have chosen to travel around the USA, starting at Harvard University and ending at MIT, both in Cambridge, Massachusetts, going via places such as Orlando, Los Angeles and Seattle and will visit a range of different states and landmarks. We will be updating our website and social media each day to show the progress being made along our virtual trek and how the different colleges are doing.

For 2022 we are raising funds for East Anglian Air Ambulance, a local charity that delivers highly skilled doctors and critical care paramedics by air to seriously ill or injured people. More information about the East Anglian Air Ambulance can be found here: <https://www.eaaa.org.uk>.

We will be using a separate JustGiving page for each college to be able to see how much each has raised and ask that those donating use the following links:

Keller: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/keller-college>

Luther King: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/luther-king-college>

Moore: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/moore-college>

Shakespeare: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/shakespeare-college>

Whole school: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/BVCStaffandStudents2022>

Thank you for the support and encouragement we have already received!



Anti-Bullying Initiative @ BVC

We are very excited that our new Anti-Bullying Ambassador training took place in February.

This 12 month scheme is being delivered by The Diana Award and its team will work with our ambassadors over the course of the ongoing months to develop meaningful change to create a safer, kinder school community for us all. We are incredibly proud of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who made successful applications to lead on this project. They have already spent time with our senior leadership team to discuss changes they would like to initiate and as well as provide feedback to help us draft a new anti-bullying policy which is currently being ratified by our Governors.

We look forward to sharing more exciting news next term and the impact our Ambassadors are having.



PFA @ BVC

After a couple of years of not being able to fundraise, our wonderful PFA has come back with a bang and a fantastic Easter Raffle.

With over £1,400 raised we could not be more thankful for their hard work, in particular Tom Lock our new Chair.

Thank you to all the parents that supported this fundraising activity, as well as the local businesses who kindly donated prizes. We are very grateful to be part of such a supportive community

Easter Raffle!
Bassingbourn Village College Parents & Friends Association
All funds raised will go to supporting the students at Bassingbourn Village College

PRIZE LIST:

- £50 John Lewis Gift Voucher from Johnson Matthey
- 1 month's full membership at Royston Leisure Centre
- Afternoon Tea for Two at Teacake, Shepreth
- Meal for two at The Pig & Abbot, Abington Piggots
- Meal for two at The Hoops, Bassingbourn
- 10 swims at Royston Leisure Centre
- x2, Family tickets to OTG, Bassingbourn
- Bury Lane Easter Hamper, worth £35
- Two entry passes to Shepreth Wildlife Park
- Back Massage at Hush, Royston
- £20 voucher for Yuva, Kneesworth
- £20 voucher for British Raj / The Guardhouse, Royston
- Easter Egg Hamper from Tesco, Royston
- "Pamper Hamper" from Asda, Cambridge
- Bag of Coffee from Hot Numbers, Shepreth
- x3, 1hr Soft Tissue Release Massages from Rowena Gardiner
- Two dance lessons from Stephanie Prior

£1 per ticket

Point your camera phone at me to enter!

Or click [HERE](#) to enter

Ticket numbers will be emailed to you. Last entry - 10am on the day of the draw
Prize draw will be held on Friday 1st April 2022

Bassingbourn Village College Parents & Friends Association, Registered Charity 1118281
Raffle under license by South Cambridgeshire District Council; players must be 18 or over.
Contact: Tom Lock, Bassingbourn VC, South End, Bassingbourn SG8 5NU tdl@bassingbournvc.org

Alumni @ BVC—Gemma O'Connor



When were you a pupil at Bassingbourn Village College?

I was a pupil at Bassingbourn Village College from 2005 -2010

Any particular memories of what you did at BVC?

When I was at BVC, my year group was very sporty (definitely will always be the best!!!). We played every sport going and we would do very well at all games and tournaments against other schools. I was made sports captain in year 11 and some of my best memories came from things like sports day and the dance show and just being around such a great group of people.

Memorable or inspirational teachers?

I have a number of different teachers inspired and helped me in their own ways whilst I was at school. Education was hard for me and I really struggled academically (later found out I was dyslexic) but all my teachers from my English teacher which was my most hated subject, to my form teacher, to my head of year, all helped me get through.

However, my most inspirational teacher by far was and still is Mrs Gilder. She was the reason I enjoyed sport so much and now is the reason I became a PE teacher and now I am trying to inspire the next generation. She became my teacher in year 7 and taught me all the way through until year 11. She pushed me to be the best I could be, not just at sport and through my GCSEs but by allowing me to be myself and supporting me from being a baby year 7 to now a 28 year old.

Where did you go after BVC?

After BVC, I went to Long Road Sixth Form College to study a National diploma in sport for 2 years. From here I went to Brunel University London to study Sports Science Human Performance for 3 years and finished with a Bachelor in Science degree. I worked for a few years in London and trained as an elite athlete in Taekwondo, gaining many opportunities to travel the world and compete in numerous World and European championships, winning a World title in 2016 and 3 European titles in 2013 and 2015.

What is your current career? What led you to that?

I am currently a PE teacher at a school in Burnley, I have been at my present school since I finished my PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University in 2019. I love my job, I have loved sport since I was young so I always knew I was going to end up in a career in the sports industry but I never imagined myself becoming a teacher. I am also an Army reservist and have been for nearly 2 years. I will be going full time into the Army in the next few months after being inspired by my dad who was in and this was how I ended up at Bassingbourn, as this was his last posting in the military.

Any advice you'd like to pass onto BVC students now?

You might feel like the 5 years you spend at school will never come to an end, but it will faster than you think. Take every opportunity you can whilst you are there, learn from the teachers as well as seeking their help and advice as it was the best thing I ever did. You can achieve anything you want to if you put your mind to it. I am only just figuring out what I want to do in life, 12 year after I left BVC and I couldn't be happier. There is no rush to work out what you want to do, but take every opportunity you have and give it your all.