



Bassingbourn Village College

HERON Autumn 2022

Message from our Chair of Governors



The LGB this term welcomed Charlotte Fernandes, who has a huge amount of experience in the educational sector. As a current teacher, she brings knowledge of the sector and has been a huge help with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in particular. We were very sad to see Rachel Ward complete her 4 year term of office as Staff Governor at the end of November. Ms Ward has been a huge help in enabling us to understand the pressures on Staff and her contributions have been invaluable to the Governors when making many important decisions. Elections for a new staff governor are now in progress.

There will also be parent Governor elections in the new year as Laura Sims (Deputy Chair) transitions to being a Trust appointed Governor. We are particularly keen to meet anyone with Safeguarding experience who would be willing to support our outstanding

Safeguarding Link Governor, Mike Urquhart. Keeping all members of the School community safe is the top priority of the School.

We are incredibly grateful to all members of Staff who have supported us this term. Despite all members of Staff being incredibly busy, we have been made to feel informed and welcome when in meetings or around the school. One highlight for us this term was having the privilege to meet a group of year 11 students who made an outstanding presentation at our Governing Body meeting recently. Student voice can really enhance a School and it was wonderful to hear about some of the things that matter to this group.

We hope that everyone in the BVC community has a wonderful festive season.

Will Clayton

Inter-house Competitions

Our interhouse competitions play an integral part of school life here at Bassingbourn Village College.

Whether it is the weekly quiz in mentor time or bigger competitions such as Remembrance Day, 5 aside football or European Day of Languages they form part of the rich extra curricular activities we offer. In addition they foster a culture of belonging and community.

Well done to all the students that have taken part, we had some truly beautiful entries to our Remembrance Day competition.



From the Principal

This term it has been a real pleasure to run the wide range of extra-curricular activities put on for our students. We have had an array of clubs running, including, PE, Singing, Chess and Debating Club to name but a few. Coupled with the trips and visits that have run alongside the rich and diverse curriculum we offer at Bassingbourn Village College, we really are able to bring learning to life for our students.



I know the staff have already planned a number of exciting events next year for our students ranging from an author visit, careers events for our Year 9 students as well as the return of our popular Dance Show.—showcasing the talents of creative arts students.

All of these clubs, trips and events are offered because of the dedication of the team of incredibly talented and hardworking staff and I want to take a moment to thank each and everyone for all they do.

I also want to thank our students who continue to show the values of Bassingbourn Village College with Respect, Resilience and Responsibility to each other and our wider community—which has really been seen this term.

Finally, I do want to take a moment to thank our dedicated PFA who have been amazing this term and have raised an incredibly amount. I will let them share this with you later in the newsletter, but I do want to acknowledge the efforts they have put in. It has been wonderful to have second-hand uniform being offered, to have the PFA support events such as our Christmas Concert as well as running a disco for our Years 7 & 8. They make a significant contribution to our community and for that we are very grateful.

In January, we welcome back Mrs Howell from maternity leave so we thank and say goodbye Ms Nadeem who has been with us in Science during this time.

I wish all the families within our community a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year.

Ms V Poulter

Principal

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

To keep up to date with what's happening in college, please make sure you have subscribed to our Parentmail service.

The student PowerPoint and parent mailing keeps 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/Bassingbournvc) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/bassingbournvc)

Alumni can keep in touch with the college by emailing

alumni@bassingbournvc.org

and asking to be added to our database.

Parents interested in helping with our Parents and Friends Association can email pfa@bassingbournvc.org

Or follow our PFA Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/groups/ParentsandFriendsofBVC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentsandFriendsofBVC)

Open Evening

It was wonderful to be able to host our Open Evening once again this term, and it was a delight to welcome over 400 visitors to our school, split over the two sessions.

As always here at Bassingbourn Village College, every department put on engaging activities, showcasing the rich and personalised curriculum on offer and how we bring learning to life.

For the young students and families considering joining us, they were able to join in a variety of physical activities such as trampolining and table tennis.

Our modern languages department had a fun photo booth for students to take part in and learn about the different cultures. Our drama students put on amazing and dramatic performances throughout the night. Hospitality and Catering were cooking up some lovely treats for us all to enjoy, as well as other many student lead activities in other departments.

And a thank you to our new catering team, Innovate, who showcased the healthy and variety of dishes available every day in school—which were enjoyed immensely given the empty canteen at the end!





To support the night, we had a wonderful dedicated team of student helpers who all did an amazing job of directing our visitors around our school and answering all the questions before the evening finished with a talk from Ms Poulter.

Ms Poulter said "It has been a few years since we have been able to invite visitors into school to witness for themselves the incredible talents of teachers and students and what we can offer here to foster a sense of enjoyment, aspiration and achievement in our students.

Our student helpers were, as always, a credit to us and their parents and showing the values of the school with their respect and responsibility.

Curriculum Day

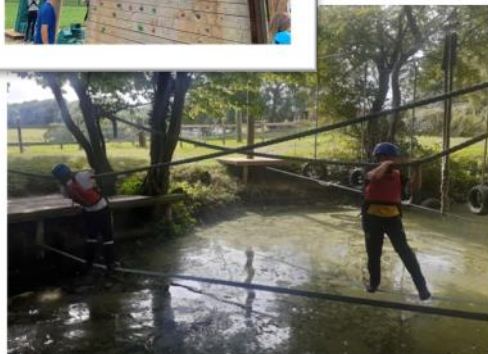
On Thursday 22nd September the whole school took part in the first of our Curriculum Days—organised at the start of academic year to foster and develop relationships, as well as to inject some fun to the start of term.

Given that multitude of trips and visits that have been missed and cancelled over the last few years, our achievement leaders wanted to bring enjoyment to learning and to take year groups out. Miss Harris and Year 7 visited Lambourne End, taking part in a range of team building activities. Mr Beck and Ms Leake with our Year 8s & 9s enjoyed a day of thrills and excitement at Thorpe Park and Ms Cracknell and Year 10 spent the day at Vertigo Adventures, spending the day at dizzying heights.

For Mr Rix and our Year 11s, they had the whole school to themselves as they had activities to focus them on the year ahead and beyond.

“We had so much fun and it was great to spend the day making new friends.”

“Over the course of the day, we participated in a variety of different team building activities that gave us the opportunity to learn new skills and work with other pupils.”



Message from our PFA

We've had a fantastic term of fundraising and everyone at the Parents & Friends would like to say a huge **thank you** for all of your support and contributions, especially with everything that's going on.

This term we are on track to raise a very impressive **£2,500** which will go towards funding new sound and lighting equipment for BVC's shows and productions.

How did we do it?

- The PFA put on our first school disco for years 7 and 8, with over 100 students attending we raised £500;
- Another first - we got access to one of the big supermarket's charitable giving schemes and thanks to your continued help, we look like we'll win first prize £500—please keep voting via the link on the PFA page of the school website
- Purchased second-hand uniform;
- Bought drinks, sweets and snacks at the Christmas Concert and the Open Evening;
- Remembered the school through your online shopping at [Amazon Smile](#) (search for BVC PFA) and [Easy Fundraising](#);
- Played the Xmas 50:50 Cash Draw, raising over £350 for BVC
- And continued to contribute through monthly giving

If you have any ideas of events we can put on during the Spring term, then please get in touch over email or on Facebook.

We'll be holding our AGM in the New Year, and if you'd like to come along and meet the team then you'd be more than welcome (don't worry, you won't leave with actions!).

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 7 Careers Event

As part of our careers activity in school, our Year 7s had a visit from a range of guests who came in to talk about their chosen careers.

With jobs ranging from engineering, photography, recruitment, curating and project management it was certainly a diverse mix.

Run in small groups, our Year 7 students had the opportunity to ask a number of questions to our visitors to guess their careers. Once discovered, they then had the opportunity to learn more about it and how the guests had decided on their careers.

This event is run every year and is an intrinsic part of our diverse curriculum and introduces, to our younger students, the importance of thinking about career choices.

As always, our students were praised for their questions and respect for our visitors.



Environmental Conference

On Wednesday 16th November, our student ambassadors joined 13 other local schools at Sawston Village College for a special youth COP27 climate conference.

The Keynote speaker on the day was Dr Simon Morley, from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Dr Morley shared how the research conducted by BAS informs and reinforces what actions are required to protect the Antarctic as well as the impact this has to the global climate.

To demonstrate the complexities of global cooperation, part of the conference was run as if the students were taking part in global negotiations. Every school had been assigned a country in advance and asked to prepare statements on the main environmental issues facing the country, ideas on how they could overcome them, as well as make a request of an allocation from the Climate Resilience Fund of £100billion. Countries then voted on what proposals they would consider.

Finally, students were given the opportunity to discuss how they can impact change to their own communities. Students explored ideas such as recycling initiatives, creating gardens and planting trees to name a few.

Our student ambassadors feeling empowered to make positive changes in our school, have already been in to meet with Ms Poulter to discuss their ideas and how they can be implemented.

“It was a really interesting day. It was great to hear from Dr Morley and the work he does in the Antarctic, especially when he showed us samples of the sea creatures that live there. I really enjoyed the part where we represented countries. It really demonstrated the importance of global cooperation and why getting a unanimous decision is hard.”





Year 8 Enterprise Day

“On Tuesday 15th November, Year 8 had Enterprise Day, a Dragon’s Den style day which was great fun and helped us build our teamwork skills.

The idea of Enterprise Day was to create an idea for a business that would solve a problem. Most of us focused on an idea to do with the environment or climate change.

We had the whole day to plan and create a business idea—we had to come up with a logo, pricing structure, marketing strategy and prepare a pitch. In the afternoon, we pitched our ideas to the rest of the class to vote on. The winning pitch from each class went on to compete to be the best pitch overall—the winner of winners. In the final we had to pitch to the business volunteers who had been helping us for the day and Ms Poulter who asked lots of questions about our product. Our pitches were streamed to the rest of the year group who were watching in their classrooms as if it was an episode of Dragons Den.”

Well done to our winners:

Best overall pitch—Ecoza,

Most Innovative Business Idea - Naturalis Amicus



Museum of London

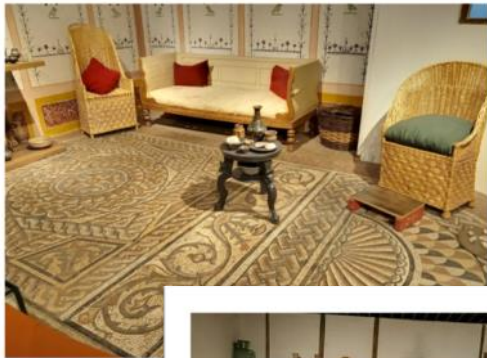
“On 11th October, the Year 10 Latin class went on a trip to the Museum of London.

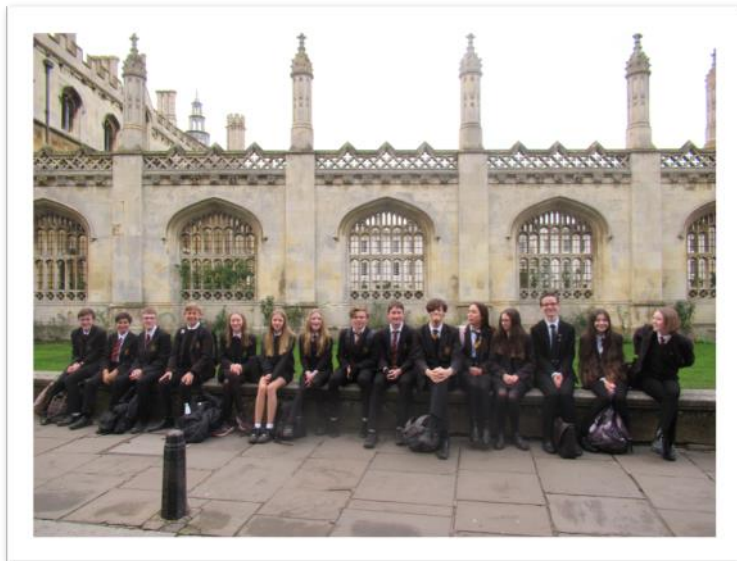
In the first session we were given time to walk around the Roman gallery of the museum and were given a sheet to complete about different artefacts and what they were used for.

In the afternoon we had a lesson teaching us about the Roman invasion and how London became the capital of England.

We were given artefacts, such as musical instruments and a heating system used for baths. We were allowed to handle them and given time to think of where they would belong in Roman London. We then had to work out which buildings they might have been found in.

We really enjoyed the day and would recommend it to future Latin classes.”



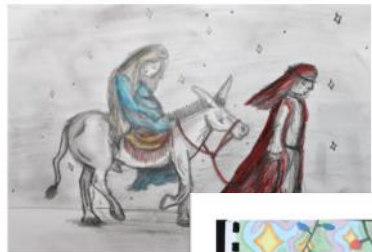


15 of our students were lucky enough to join the Carol Service at King's College along with around 300 children from a number of other Cambridgeshire primary and secondary schools.

Kings College



Christmas Card Competition



We had some truly amazing entries to the annual Christmas Card competition for The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul Bassingbourn.

Well done to Sisley Curtain who won and her art work will be the front of the Christmas Cards the church sent out to the community.

Sports

Our dedicated PE department has been very busy this term, organising a number of fixtures and events for our students to be involved in.

We have had fixtures for both Year 7 & 8 and Years 8 & 9 Girls hockey as well as Years 7 & 8 Girls Football Tournament - who won!

Our Sports Leaders have been busy supporting the primary Cross Country event at Wimpole which saw over 900 children taking part, they played a crucial role in encouraging the young participants throughout the day.

And our Year 9 Health & Fitness students took part in British Dodgeball Young Leaders Workshop.



Wimpole Colour Run



A group of our Year 8 students were lucky enough to take part in the 5K Colour Run at Wimpole.

Joining over 32 other schools and nearly 500 runners, our students had a wonderful time soaking up the atmosphere, getting covered at the colour stations and having lots of fun!

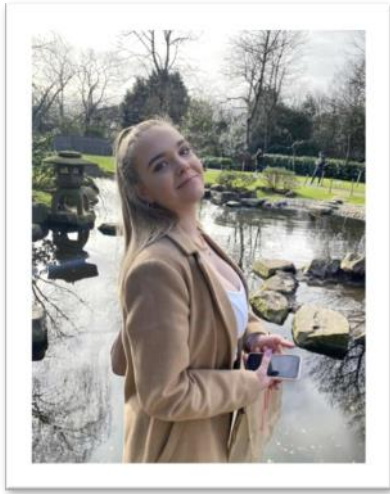
“We had such an amazing time, it was great fun and I would love to do it again—thank you Ms Gilder for taking us.”

Christmas Concert

The end of term finished with a wonderful Christmas Concert showcasing our incredibly talented musicians. Thank you to Mr Cowlan and all the staff that helped put on such a fantastic event, our PFA for supporting with drinks and snacks and, of course, our students for putting on such wonderful performances.

“we wanted to say how much we enjoyed the concert yesterday evening. It was great to see so much talent and such a friendly encouraging environment for the children to get up and perform in.”





What is your current career?

I work as a senior support worker which I absolutely love.

What led you to that?

Having studied health and social care while at Bassingbourn Village College I knew that it was something I wanted to pursue for a career.

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

Take any opportunity that you are offered whilst at BVC. They are the best years of your life and it's all about what you put into it, you will miss the school days when you are gone, and they will be the best memories that you reminisce on.

Alumni News - Koebe Collins

When were you a pupil at Bassingbourn Village College?

I was a pupil at Bassingbourn Village College from 2012-2016.

Any stand-out memories of BVC?

There are a number but I think my favourite has to be re-enacting the battle of Hastings with our home-made sword and shield with Mr Margett.

Memorable or inspirational teachers?

There were so many wonderful teachers and staff but Ms Shortt, Mr Margetts, Miss Boxall, Miss Murugan and Miss Dean top my list.

Where did you go after BVC?

I went on to Cambridge Reginal College

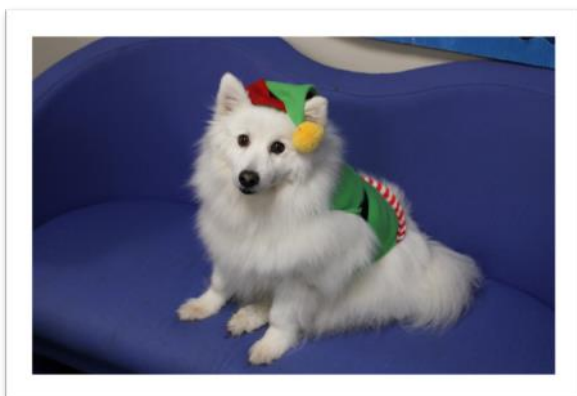
Where do you live now?

I still live with my parents, locally

Festive Fun!



Festive Fun!



Staff and students celebrated the end of term in traditional style - by wearing an assortment of Christmas jumpers!

Raising funds for Cambridge City Foodbank, everyone who participated made a donation for the privilege of brightening up their school uniform with the addition of a festive jumper.

Even Ben the dog joined in!