



Bassingbourn Village College

HERON Spring 2023



Message from our Chair of Governors

The LGB have been incredibly impressed with the work of all teams of Staff at Basingbourn Village College this term.

Governors have enjoyed multiple school walks, link governance visits, Staff drop-ins and a magnificent dance show. We are delighted that Liz Lock has joined as a parent Governor.

We especially enjoyed meeting some passionate students at the recent LGB meeting. Interacting with all members of the School community and acting as a link to the Anglian Learning Trust is at the heart of what we do.

We hope that everyone enjoys a wonderful and well-deserved break over the Easter period.

Will Clayton, Chair of Governors

Update from our PFA

This term we took receipt of a very over-sized cheque from the ASDA Foundation (always a pleasure!) - as we won £500 from their charitable community giving scheme.

On the last day of term we'll be meeting with the Cambridge MP, Daniel Zeichner, explaining how these funds will be spent upgrading BVC's sound and lighting equipment. The College are currently finalising the scope of the upgrades and we'll shortly be reviewing these. Thank you to those who bought a drink from us at the Dance Show this month, as you supported the students and helped raise even more funds (almost £200) for the cause.

Next term we'll be heading outside as, hopefully, the rain stops and the sun shines. We're looking to fundraise again at Basingbourn's "Mayhem" event over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, launch our Spring online raffle and bring back "Fun Food Friday's". If you have any ideas of events we can run in the Summer term do get in touch.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to fundraise for the school including via:

- Purchasing second-hand school uniform
- Remembering the school through your online shopping at Easy Fundraising— which has everything from high street stores, supermarkets, airlines and insurance!
- And continued to contribute through monthly giving

Thank you!

Tom Lock, Chair of PFA



From the Principal

Wow what a busy term we have seen in school. It has been truly wonderful to see the rich and diverse curriculum we offer our students at Bassingbourn Village College and to see the vibrancy return to school once again.

This term we have spent mentor time looking at our school ethos of our three Rs—Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. We have also seen this in all the amazing activities taking place, such as our student lead assemblies, our curriculum days, practice exams as well as events like our Dance Show. Our students continue to show their resilience by undertaking new challenges, their respect to their environment by supporting our environmental initiatives, as well as responsibility to their future through their commitment to studying and practice exams. I am very proud to be the Principal at such a wonderful school and I hope this end of term newsletter reflects all the fantastic achievements and activities that have been taking place. I would also like to thank the dedicated teachers who put so much time and effort in nurturing our students.

As we look to next term, I would like to announce we will have a new member joining our Leadership Team. Mrs Pattison is taking on the new role of Vice Principal, and will be joining us on 1st May. Mrs Pattison is currently Vice Principal at Nene Park Academy and is joining us with a wealth of experience to enhance our already highly experienced Leadership Team.

In May, we also enter into the GCSE period for our Year 11s. Once again the Exam Workshops run by subject teachers will be taking place to support our students, and the timetable for this has now been shared. It goes without saying that we wish our Year 11s lots of luck and we know they will do the school, their families and most importantly, themselves proud with the effort they put in to these.

Finally, I wish you all a very relaxing and restful Easter holiday with your family and loved ones and I look forward to seeing you all at the start of the new term after a well deserved break.

Vickey 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)

Author Visit

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Anthony McGowan into school on Wednesday 11th January. Anthony is a renowned author, winning the Carnegie Media for his book Lark in 2020 and has written over 50 books throughout his extensive career.

Anthony was able to spend the day with us and gave presentations to both Year 7 & 8s as well as giving smaller group workshops to a mix of all year groups.

Our students were totally enthralled to hear about his childhood and how this has given many creative ideas as he became a writer in later life.

Anthony also imparted some valuable advice about how to develop ideas into short stories and books as well as how to break into the industry.

It was wonderful to see our students demonstrating our core values and the respect they showed Anthony. Equally wonderful was hearing from Anthony afterwards that he was so impressed with one of our students that it was in fact *“one of my favourite moments in 20 years of doing school visits”*.



Anthony Browne, MP for South Cambridge, visits

In January we were delighted to welcome Anthony Browne, the Member of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire, to Bassingbourn Village College.

During his visit, Mr Browne had the opportunity to meet with a number of the Student Ambassadors and hear about the projects they have been working. The Environmental Ambassadors outlined the recycling initiative they have introduced, their ambition for the school to achieve a no single use plastic school policy and the obstacles that would need to be overcome.

Mr Browne is passionate environmentalist having previously worked as the environmental editor for both The Observer and The Times prior to becoming an MP.

Ms Poulter, commented: "It was a pleasure to show Mr Browne around the school. I am delighted he was able to meet with some of our students so they could explain some of the initiatives they are leading in school."

Mr Browne, MP added: "I was delighted to meet and hear from young members of the community. It was encouraging to learn about the environmental initiatives the students of Bassingbourn Village College have introduced along with their plans for the future. I look forward to being kept updated on how these progress and I am here to support in any way I can."



Dance Show

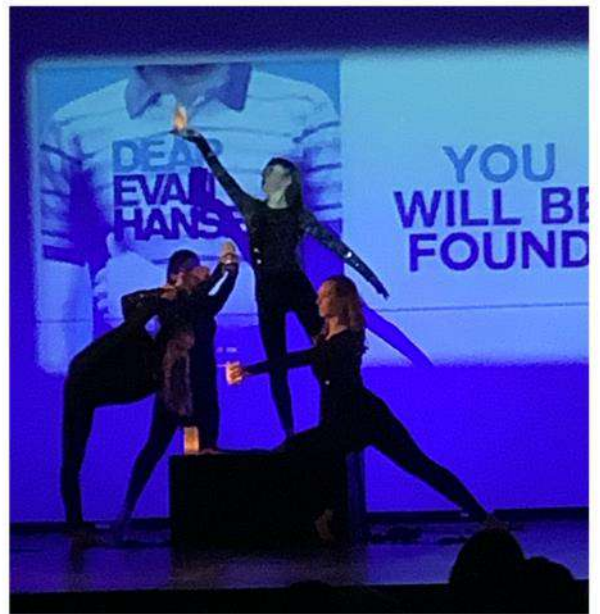
Wow—oh what a night! Our Dance Captains and Ms Shortt did not disappoint us at all.

Parents and visitors were treated to an evening of amazing performances showcasing our talented students arranged by our wonderful Dance Captains who have been fantastic ambassadors promoting dance throughout the school.

Our dancers from Year 7 to Year 11 were also joined by two ex students who returned to perform with us once again, embracing the Henry Morris ethos of how Village Colleges are about community and links to the school doesn't end when you leave. It is also hugely inspiring for our younger students to learn and be inspired by our talented alumni.

Not only did we have dancers on the night but we were delighted to hear from some of our talented singers and musicians too.



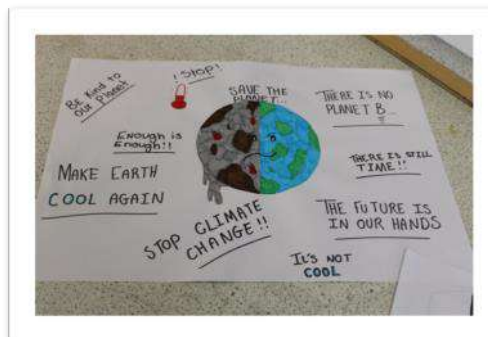


Curriculum Day

Earlier this month we held our second Curriculum Day and following all the initiatives our Year 9 Ambassadors have done to enhance our environment as well as promote positive changes to reduce waste, our carbon footprint and to educate students on their impact to climate change, the day was very focused on the environment for our Year 7 & 8 students.

Our Year 8s spent the day, planting seeds, hedgerow and saplings as well as starting to develop our out door classroom area—and thank you to for all the donations we received to support this activity. For our Year 7s they took part in a number of workshops throughout the day, making environmental posters while also learning about fast-fashion and food miles—both significant contributors to our individual carbon footprints.

For our Year 10, Mrs Miller and Miss Harris organised a trip to the National Arboretum and a write up has already featured in our Weekly Mailing. For our Year 11s they took part in a number of workshops including art and music.



Careers Activity

We are very fortunate at Bassingbourn Village College to be supported by Form The Future with our careers activities in school.

This term our Year 9s have had a Careers Carousel which featured a wide range of careers such as finance and project management. Cambridge Regional College also took part

so that students could find out about the technical and vocational qualifications available for post 16 study.

For our Year 11s they took part in mock interviews to give them practice for their guidance meetings and any future employment opportunities.



"For the past six weeks myself and four other students from Year 9 got the opportunity to attend a course to help us understand our education futures better and to help motivate us for school.

I think this course wouldn't have been as good if it wasn't for our mentor, Connor. He was really great at helping us understand any of queries.

I think that this six weeks has helped me see how my future might look and how I can help myself get there."

Rose, Year 9



PE @ OTG

“For PE we have been going to the OTG (Obstacle Training Ground) for our PE lessons.

The instructors told us about each obstacle and then we got to try them for ourselves for the first lesson and in our second lesson we were allowed into the water. There were many different obstacles such as monkey bars, trapeze, swinging, The Wall and more.

I enjoyed it very much and I am sure everyone is excited to do it again. “

Megan , Year 7



Sports Captains



This term our Sports Leaders ran an afternoon of Kurling for the local primary schools; it was a delight to see what a truly fantastic job they do!

Our interviews for our Year 8 Sports Captains have taken place which involved students writing an application letter and then three interviews by our older sports leaders and after some deliberation they have chosen: Ted , Fenya, Alfie , and Thomas — well done to them all!

Year 9 First Aid Course

Our Year 9 Health and Fitness students undertook first aid training this term which is offered here at Bassingbourn Village College for those students taking this course.

We believe it is an essential life skill and demonstrates the additional enrichment activities we add to our students' learning, whilst also supporting the teaching of the Health and Fitness course content.

Our students learnt how to do the recovery position, CPR as well as using a defibrillator and how to bandage injuries.



Sports

Our dedicated PE department has been very busy this term, organising a number of fixtures and events for our students over the last term—and its mainly been about the netball!

Well done to all the students that have represented us this term, they are a credit to us and the work the PE teachers put in.



The end of term finished with a Year 11 netball match against the teachers and was watched by the Year 11s to raise money for The Prom.

It was a toughly fought match but the Year 11s snatched victory at the end with the final score seeing them win 9-8.

Roy Burrell Awards



In March, a select few of our Year 11 students were invited to the Roy Burrell awards; a celebration of the excellence, participation and sportsmanship across Cambridgeshire.

Nominated for an exemplary attitude for school sports, we were delighted that a number of our students were winners on the night! Well done to Sophie who was recognised for Netball, Arlo who was recognised for athletics, Max who was recognised for Hockey and Lilianna who was recognised for Rugby.

Fantastic achievement—well done!

Geography Club

This year the Bassingbourn Village College Geography Club ran a competition with the UK Polar Network to design a flag for Antarctica Day. Adam Symon's flag has been taken to Antarctica.

We are thankful to Jamie Bailey who volunteered to take our flag on board the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The picture was taken in the Weddell sea which often freezes over during winter. Jamie is the lab manager aboard the ship, and it is his job to get the scientists set up, make sure everything runs smoothly, fix anything that breaks and to generally look after the labs. We look forward to discussing this and other careers on the ship when we return after Easter.



Year 8 Options Evening

For our Year 8s our term has finished with their Options Evening where they have had a chance to discuss subject options and talk with their parents to subject teachers and Heads of Departments before making their choices in May.

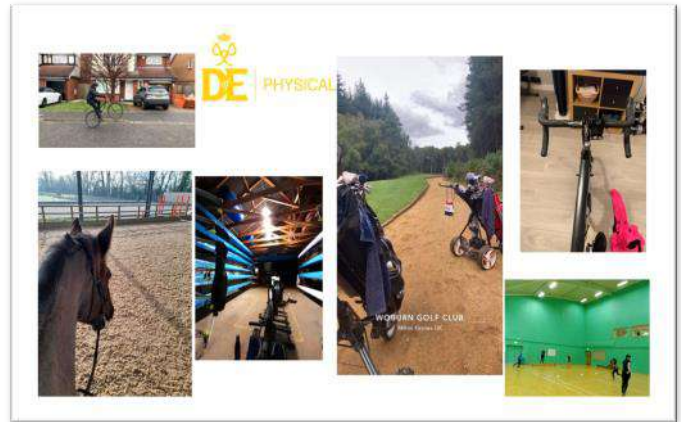
It was a busy night, and it was wonderful to see so many families in school. Thank you to our older students and subject ambassadors who supported the evening and offered insight into the course choices here at Bassingbourn Village College.



Duke of Edinburgh

Our Year 10 students have been working hard to complete their skill, volunteering and physical sections.

They have got involved in a huge variety of activities from crochet and canoeing to sports leader and scouts.



Well done to all the Year 11s who have completed their award this term.

Early in the term the Year 11s took part in a day of planning and exploring routes around the village for their Bronze award. In groups they planned routes, took photos for their write ups and then answered quiz questions from their peers about the day.



Modern Foreign Languages

It has been a busy term for our Language department. We launched a challenge to our Year 8 students to write a poem in Spanish or French. This could be have been an acrostic poem, a phrase with a different ending, a rainbow poem or a poem based on adjectives - or something entirely different.

The teachers were delighted with the number of entries they received and well done to our winners: Elaine, Aurelie, Lilian, Elise, Francesca .



This term we also had the first round of our annual Spelling Bee for our Year 7 students—a fun and engaging way for our students to learn more vocabulary in another language.

Well done to all the students that entered, once again our students did an amazing job. The next round will take place after Easter before our finals at the end of term.

And finally, our Year 10 Latin students have also been busy this term too.

Part of their GCSE, there is a civilisation element and to support this they created models of buildings that would have found in the city of Rome which were proudly displayed in reception.

