

Bassingbourn Village College

# HERON Summer 2023



# Review of the year

It has once again been an incredibly busy year here at Bassingbourn Village College!

It has been wonderful to have so many extra-curricular activities taking place; ranging from our Geography Club poster making its way to the Antarctic, a Colour Run, Remembrance Day activities, Christmas Card competitions, World Book Day and author visits and a number of careers events.

All of these experiences are at the core of our offering here at Bassingbourn Village College ensuring our students enjoy their time with us.





## From the Principal

I am delighted that this term has been exceptionally busy with an abundance of trips and visits, clubs and awards which again continues to bring the curriculum to life; something that is quintessential to our offering here at Bassingbourn Village College. For students that attended the Geography Club, Ms Ward arranged a trip to the Botanical Gardens, our Year 10 D&T students had the opportunity to visit the Living Crafts exhibition and our Year 10 RE students had a trip to Walsingham. Our Creative Arts students put on a spectacular two-night Summer Showcase at the end of term and there have been wealth of sports activities ranging from the Olympic Cup to Sports Day. There have been so many activities taking place that it would simply be impossible to name them all. I do want to take a moment to thank our staff that make these happen, much of which is outside of school hours. These extra-curricular activities are pivotal to the breadth of offering here and allow our students to explore their ideas, individuality while developing their own interests outside of the classroom.

In addition to all of this, this term we welcomed Ofsted into school. I was delighted the report recognised our school's high aspirations and love of learning, as well as how our curriculum is ambitious for all. This report reflects the efforts of everyone within our community; staff, students, governors and families alike, and I thank everyone for their support and efforts.

Sadly, this term we must say farewell to several staff members across both teaching and support staff. We wish Miss Cracknell, Mrs Kuenzi, Mr Carter, Dr Wang, Mr Khan, Mr Rix and Miss Gonzalez lots of luck in their new roles, they will be missed by both students and staff. I am delighted, however with the calibre of teaching staff that will be joining us here in September. We feel incredibly fortunate that we have recruited staff that have a wealth of experience and I know will be an asset to the experienced team already here.

I do need to take a moment to thank and recognise the long standing and dedicated members of our support staff who are very sadly leaving us. Firstly, Mrs Jones who has been a friendly face to us all for so long and Mrs Smith who has been with us for over 15 years and has been a valued PA to me. In addition, Mrs Jenkins who has been central to our exams team for over 16 years and has been pivotal to ensuring the smooth running of GCSE and internal exams. I know I speak for staff, parents and governors when I say the front of school will simply not be the same.

We also say farewell to Mrs Kaymak who has been with us for over 21 years as a dedicated member of our TA team and I know everyone wishes her a happy retirement. Finally, we wish both Mrs Pack and Miss Piggott lots of luck as they take up teaching roles next year.

Wishing everyone a relaxing summer.

**Ms 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 \(www.twitter.com/Bassingbournvc\)](https://twitter.com/Bassingbournvc) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/bassingbournvc](https://www.facebook.com/bassingbournvc)

Alumni can keep in touch with the college by emailing :

[alumni@bassingbournvc.org](mailto: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](mailto:pfa@bassingbournvc.org)

Or follow our PFA Facebook page: [Facebook.com/groups/ParentsandFriendsofBVC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentsandFriendsofBVC)

## Year 7 Spelling Bee

***Throughout this year, all Year 7 students have been competing in the Languages Spelling Bee. There have been three different rounds in which students had to correctly translate and spell (using the French/Spanish alphabet) as many words as they could in one minute.***

The Languages department have been really impressed at the effort and commitment that students have shown in preparing for this. The start of July culminated in the final where five students for each language competed, having learnt the spelling of 150 words. All Year 7 students watched the final and it was fantastic to see the support and encouragement they showed those competing.

Well done to all students involved and especially to our winners Chloe and Diego.



## Japanese Taster Sessions

***“Recently, our Year 9 GCSE Spanish & French class had the opportunity to learn about Japan as a teacher from Hills Road Sixth Form College came to visit.***

We learnt some of the language such as greetings and the importance of polite bowing. We also learnt interesting aspects of Japanese culture such as what they wear—with some students trying on the traditional Kimono. We also looked at some general information about the country as a whole. It was very interesting to learn about how it compares to our country and customs. We tried some fruity Japanese sweets which were delicious, everyone seemed to enjoy the lesson a lot and were grateful for our time with Setsuko.”

Eddie & Imogen

Year 9 Language Captains





## Year 11 Prom

*Oh what a night.....Prom 2023!*

*It was a wonderful evening for both the students and staff with lots of laughter, fun, dancing and mocktails!*

*All that is left to say is we wish our Year 11s the best of luck for their next chapters of their lives and cannot wait to hear all the successes we know they will have.*

*Enjoy the Summer Year 11!*

*Keep in touch as we would love to hear all about the amazing careers you go on to have!*



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## Sports Leaders

*“Over the past year, the Sports Leaders have taken part in a range of sporting activities volunteering and helping encourage sports in young people.”*

We have, in winter, gone to Wimpole Cross Country where we helped out by doing things from the running the race with the children to handing out place cards at the end. Encouraging perhaps the less “sporty” children is another thing we have done when running the “Kurling” activities for the children who may not usually get involved in sports. Our individual courses, such as netball and cricket, have helped us in umpiring games for the children later on so that they can play and be instructed properly during their games. During the netball competition at the primary school , we umpired and helped motivate the children during the games while coaching them a along the way. We have recently done a Dynamos Cricket competition in which we went to Sawston Cricket club and helped to run some games for primary school children.”

Leah, Year 10





## Olympic Cup

A number of our students from Years 7-10 were very fortunate to attend the Olympic Cup at Wilberforce Road Athletics Stadium, Cambridge.

For many it was the first time they had competed on an athletics track.

**Bassingbourn Village College finished in Bronze position out of the 9 schools who took part!**

Well done to all that took part!



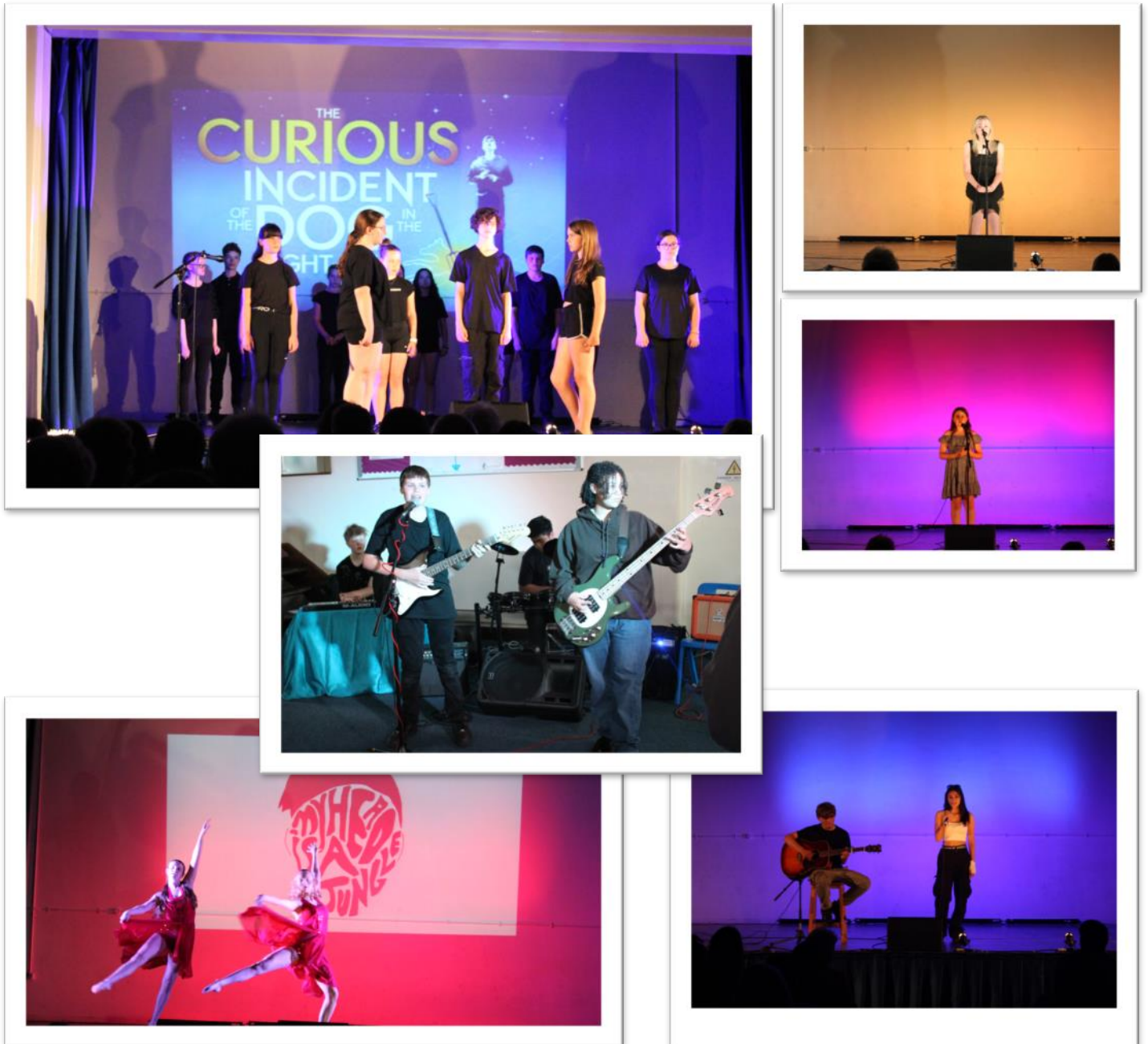
## Summer Showcase

Wow, our Creative Art students didn't disappoint us with their Summer Showcase!

We were enthralled with two nights of outstanding performances from music, drama and dance. To say we are proud of our performers is an understatement!

Congratulations to all those who took to the stage—we have some names to watch for future musicians, dancers and actors. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!

A massive thank you to all the staff that worked so hard on making the night possible before and during the evenings and our Peri teachers who went above and beyond to join us over both nights.



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## Sports Awards

This year saw the return of our Sports Awards and we were delighted to be joined by Ben Cutmore, British Diving Gold medallist and a Basingbourn Village College alumni.

Winner this year were:

Footballer of the Year (KS3) Ted Darlow

Footballer of the Year (KS4) Jayden Chaplin Jennings

Footballer of the Year (Girls) Ellie Varney

Basketballer of the Year Thomas Green

Netballer of the Year (KS3) Francesca Bush

Netballer of the Year (KS4) Lilia Jones

Athlete of the Year (Boys) Eddie Kendrick

Athlete of the Year (Girls) Year 9 Girls Relay team

Lila, Amber, Ruby, Khadija

Rounders of the Year Trinity Robinson

Rounders of the Year Lucia Ralph

Cricketer of the Year Max Davis Roach

Hockey of the Year (KS3) Megan Anderson

Hockey of the Year (KS4) Isabel Parsley

Service to PE Erin Hall

Most Improved Player Holly Davis

Health & Fitness Student of the Year Leah Wylie

Exceptional Talent Lila Belle Nacca

Outstanding Effort Constance Huzzey

Outstanding Performance James Dyke Price

Leader of the Year Bella Darlow





# Sports Day

This year our PE department outdid themselves and our Sports Day was held over two days, with track and field competitions as well as football and rounders!

Well done to everyone that took part!

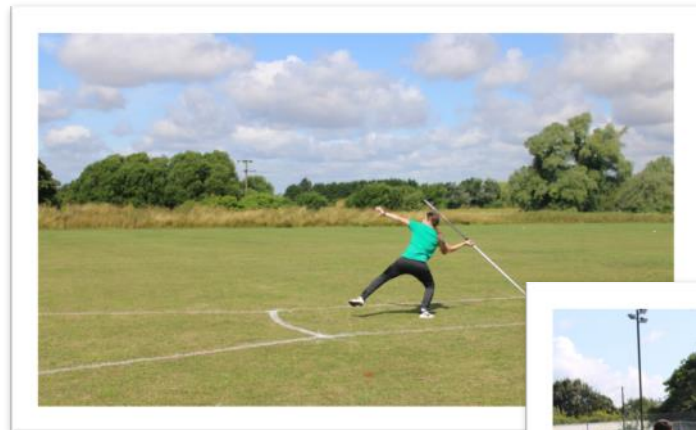
The results were:

4th Place—Keller with 1858 points

3rd Place—Moore with 1932 points

2nd Place—Luther King with 1933 points

1st Place—Shakespeare with 2052 points!!





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## Year 10 Curriculum Day

***“On Thursday 6th July, it was Curriculum Day for Year 10, when students get to participate in different activities based on the subject of the day—this time the theme was education on gender inequity and gender-based violence.***

An award winning social enterprise called Bold Voices, came in to further our knowledge on this subject. The day started with an assembly for them to introduce themselves and teach us about the forms of gender based on sexual violence within wider gender inequality. We then got separated into groups to take part in different workshops. The first workshop involved different tasks relating to the assembly, including a pyramid we had to fill in with different scenarios, fitting them correctly in each layer of the pyramid. Then in the second workshop we had to design and create T-Shirts, banners and flags to promote and help to put an end to gender inequality and the other related subjects we had learnt about that day. Each group came up with a slogan and a design, for example my group chose the slogan “my clothes do not give consent”. Overall, I really enjoyed working with Bold Voices and learning how things mentioned relate to our daily lives.”

Ruby, Year 10



## Debate Club

*"Throughout this school year, debate club has been open to all Year 7s & Year 8s every Monday lunchtime, run by Ms Boxall."*

We started off the year with a Balloon Debate, where we each took a character and argued our case for their survival on a sinking balloon. This was a great introduction for students new to debating. Throughout the year we have had some very serious debate topics (should school meals be free for everyone?), and some that were just for fun, (does pineapple have a place on pizza? - definitely yes by the way!). We have also played games like Rhetoric Tennis, Just a Minute and Chameleon.

We all enjoyed using our rhetorical skills to present our case about who is the greatest superhero, which got very heated at times! We've also practiced using our research skills to support arguments, as well as learning about the format of a formal debate.

We've been planning some of the debates we would like to do next year and hope to increase the number of students coming to debate club. It's an enjoyable way to argue over things!"

Alex, Oliver, Becky & Zach



## Geography Club

The Geography Club finished off the year with a trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens. We worked in groups to explore the glasshouses, trees, and perennial flower borders. One of the highlights were the Giant Redwoods, these were much smaller than in Sequoia National Park and we measured the height and circumference of the trees in comparison. The glasshouses were very hot showing the excellent adaptations of the plants in hot deserts and tropical climates; we also saw some plants that we are more used to keeping as house plants such as orchids. Well done to Megan Anderson who won the photo competition on the theme 'summer has arrived'. The club are already thinking about which trip to do next year.





## PFA Update

The Parents and Friends would like to say a huge thank you to those of you that have engaged with all of our fundraising activities and events this term. From donating sweets and chocolates for our tombola stall at Mayhem, buying tickets in our Spring Raffle, donating pre-loved uniform, buying sweets and drinks at school events and signing up to our monthly giving.

This term we've raised over **£3,000!**

### *How are we spending the money?*

This term we signed off on a revamp of the school's sound, lighting and staging equipment – which will be put to good use through school assemblies, music, dance, arts and theatre productions. The school have put forward new ideas for how we can direct future spend, including supporting the new outdoor classroom project, and buying equipment and tools for the Design Technology, Science and Arts departments.

In the autumn term we'll be running a stall at the Bassingbourn Village Fete on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September and holding our AGM on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm at the School. We'll also be putting on other fundraisers so if you would like to get involved through volunteering then please get in touch.

You can follow us via our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/parentsandfriendsofbvc> or sign up for our termly newsletter and event updates via [pfa@bassingbournvc.org](mailto:pfa@bassingbournvc.org) (note, parent's email addresses do not get automatically enrolled for updates; opt in is required).

The Parents & Friends of Bassingbourn Village College

Registered Charity 1116287



As a school, we would like to say a very big thank you to our PFA for all they do. Not only have they raised an astonishing amount, they support us at events such as, our Year 6 Parents Evening with a second hand uniform sale, and our Summer Showcase. We are very grateful for all you do!

# Environmental Ambassadors Round up

*“As Year 9 Environmental Ambassadors we have attended many events and have made many changes over this year which we believe have all had positive effects on the environment and have allowed us to explore new areas.*

One of our first big events was to attend a COP27 style conference. This was held at Sawston Village College where all the schools in our trust attended. We represented Bangladesh and won a large share of the £100000, by arguing our case. We also listened to talks from the British Antarctic Survey, workshops on trees and bushes, about how to make our land eco-friendlier and much more. This was a great experience as we all learned something new but also presented our ideas to create a plan ourselves of what we want to achieve.



Our second big event was a meeting with our local MP Anthony Browne. We spoke to him about the promises we made at COP27 and also about how we want to improve the environmental impact of the school. In this meeting we covered topics such as composting, recycling, reducing the school’s carbon footprint and gardening. This allowed us to see what was happening in the council about the issues we raised and also from the council's point of view on how students feel about the environment.

From both events we featured in The Royston Crow- which was a great representation for the school.

In June we were very excited to be able to attend the Chelsea Flower show. We were invited by Mr Clayton, our Chair of Governors to protest about a topic we felt strongly about. After careful planning and many discussions, we chose to cover the topic of GreenWashing. This is where a company says they are doing something environmentally friendly but actually they contradict this by other non-eco-friendly practices.





Our main banner said “Gez-Z Against Greenwashing” which we thought would be great as it shows how our generation Gen-Z cares about the environment and does something about it. We spent the day walking around with the banners and homemade shirts with the same message, and many people including the Alan Titchmarsh, the Chelsea pensioners and Kazuyuki Ishihara (a famous Japanese gardener) came to talk to us. We then had a press shoot in front of Geb & Green’s “laundry room” (owned by Mr Clayton) who won a gold for his indoor house plants room. It was a fantastic experience, thanks to Mr Clayton.



While all of this has been going on we have also started our mission to become a Plastic Clever School, where we are trying to minimise our use of single use plastic. We have passed level 1, by delivering assemblies to Year 7s and 8s, and as part of the Year 8 Curriculum Day, Year 8s did a litter sweep. The canteen now has a juice machine which has lowered the amount of plastic we use, but we still have a long way to go. We are working on stage 2 now, which involves an audit of plastic used in our school.



As well as doing all this we have also been working on turning the disused Bowls Green into an outdoor classroom and social area. Year 8s helped with this by creating a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and Mr Beck is now running a gardening club after school to help improve the area which will improve the school and the students by offering them a new space to learn and socialise.



Through-out this year we have done a lot to improve the school's environmental impact and next year with the new student council we hope to continue these projects and be as environmentally friendly as possible.”

# Afternoon Tea for the Over 60's

***"On Thursday 6th July the Hospitality and Catering Year 9 team worked together to host an auspicious afternoon tea for the lovely Bassingbourn over-60s."***

In the morning, we cooked foods such as scones, banana loaves and sausage rolls then after break and mentor time we split into a preparation team and a sandwich team. I worked on decorating the classroom to ensure it looked perfect for when our guests arrived.

After lunch our guests arrived and we had a wonderful afternoon serving them and chatting to them all. Once everyone left, I went to share the left over food with students and staff.

It was a fab afternoon!

Thomas, Year 9

