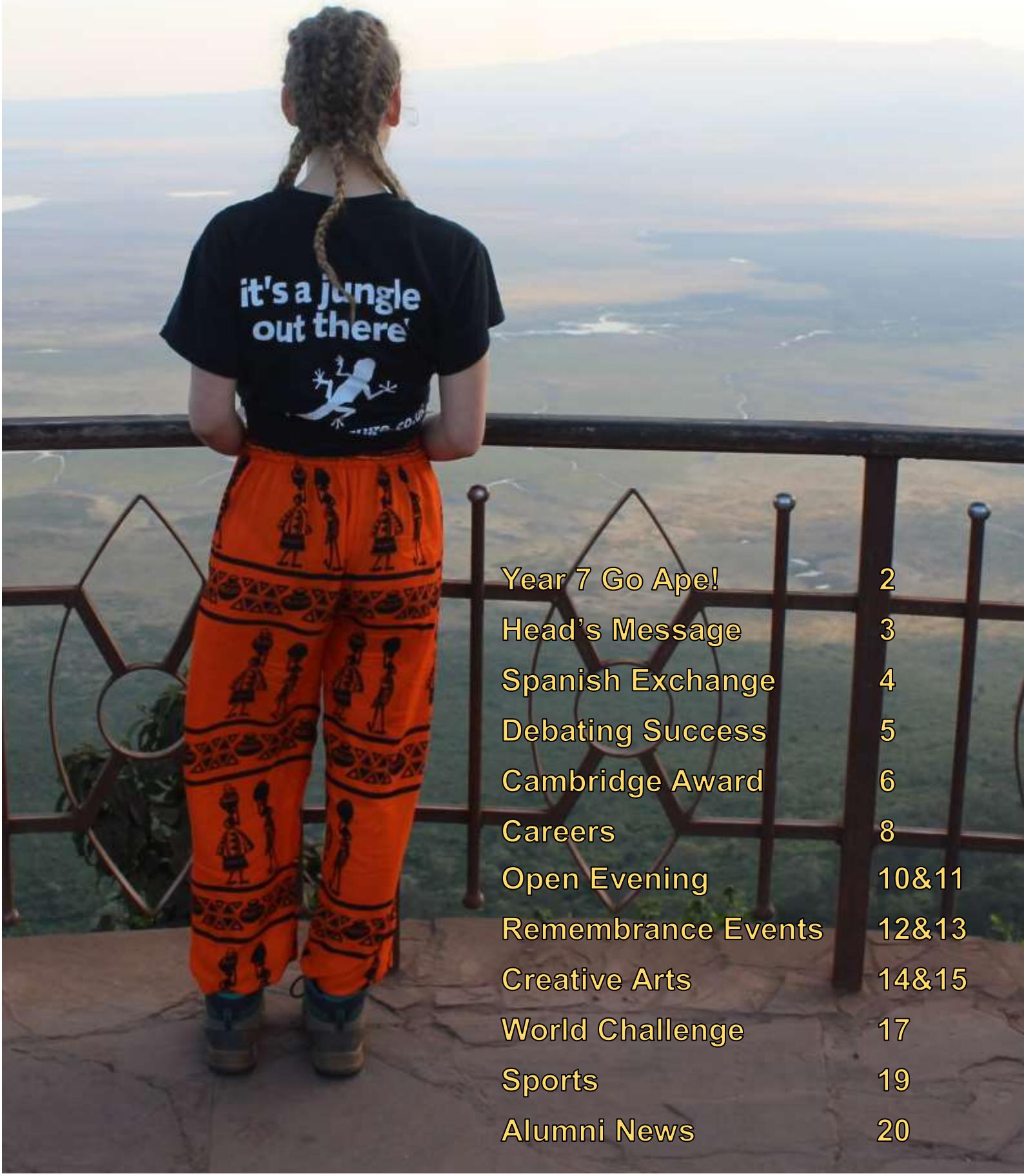


Bassingbourn Village College

HERON

Autumn 2018



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Year 7 Activities

Steeple Morden and Bassingbourn Primary Schools joined our Year 7 chess players for the annual BVC Primary Liaison Chess Tournament.

Six students from each school played three games each with the scores added to reveal the winning teams. Adjudicator Fraser Clapham, a year 9 BVC student, was on hand to iron out any quibbles.

Despite a very close-run tournament, Steeple Morden retained their winning title – by just 1 point.

All competitors enjoyed some of our legendary BVC cookies and juice before being presented with their certificates.

The BVC team (right) comprised: Alex Cheeseright, Iris Forde, Sam Haley, Tom Makower, Emma Rosevear and Cameron Sims.



Year 7 students enjoyed a bonding trip to Norfolk outdoor attraction Go Ape in September.



Head's Message

At last we have reached the end of a very busy, successful term! I know it has been a long term and everyone has worked extremely hard, staff and students alike.

Looking back it's great to see an ever-increasing number of activities and opportunities for students and I'm sure parents will join me in thanking members of staff for their work in making this possible.

Students have successfully competed in football, reading and debating competitions – all the more impressive because all of these have seen victory from new teams formed and certainly show the power of good teamwork.

Congratulations, too, to individual student for their successes – from international diving to humanities research projects – I am hugely proud of all our student achievements.

This term has seen BVC continue our positive partnership with CCSS. New groups have already started Year11 Maths support and Year10 GCSE Psychology. Many congratulations to last year's Psychology cohort who achieved excellent exam results (below).

We held a Community Christmas Tea for members of the Bassingbourn Over 60s which was hosted by the College Captains (right). The food was baked by the GCSE catering students and entertainment was provided by Year 11 students. The afternoon was greatly enjoyed by young and old alike.

The National Citizen Service is growing in popularity amongst our 16+ leavers and this summer saw over 30% of our Year11 students take advantage of the marvelous opportunities it offers. I was honoured to attend the annual NCS awards dinner in November where Bassingbourn was awarded the Schools Champion Gold Award.

I am delighted to say that 35% of our GCSE students achieved at least 3 or more 7+ (A/A* equivalent) grades and 25% of all grades were at 7 or above. We are particularly delighted with the grades for languages again this year – in Spanish half of the cohort achieved a 7-9 grade for the second year running and in Latin 58% of the cohort secured the top grades. 52% of all students achieved 5+ in English and Maths and 71% at 4+ in English and Maths. Year 10 students sat English language a year early with 71% achieving level 4 and above.

Unfortunately we have said goodbye to two members of staff this term – Barbara Isherwood and Christina Nash – they will both be greatly missed and I wish them well for the future. On a more positive note, our new members of staff have settled in well so I'd like to add a belated welcome to Kevin Cornwell, Hannah Fixter, Gregory Carter and Kelly Murfet.

Many thanks for your support this term and very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Vickey Poulter



We are very proud of all our students' achievements and like to share them publically 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 weekly 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 through our dedicated LinkedIn Bassingbourn Village College group (www.linkedin.com/groups/8369302) or by emailing alumni@bassingbournvc.net and asking to be added to our database.



Spanish Exchange

The Spanish Exchange trip ran for a very successful second time to Albacete, in the sunny south-east of Spain.

Under clear blue skies, our students visited the beach and Science museum in Valencia before travelling to the city of Albacete to meet their exchange partners and host families. The students wasted no time in getting to know their new friends through completing a treasure hunt of Albacete, visiting the famous penknife museum and eating 'churros con chocolate'. Well done to all of the pupils involved, who showed great resilience and enthusiasm in communicating with their partners and immersing themselves in Spanish culture. BVC staff also had a reunion with Ms Rios who met up with them in her hometown.

We look forward to welcoming the staff and students from Escolapios school back to BVC next February.

Zoe Button & Megan Bonley report:

"Jumping on the coach at 4am on October 4th was so exciting. We drove to Stansted airport and boarded the plane. 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ hours later, we arrived in Valencia to 25°C sunshine. Immediately, we began activities in Spain - relaxing on the beach! We then proceeded to the interactive science museum, very popular to locals. After 3 hours in the science museum, we met our exchange partners in person for the first time. This was a very exciting moment as most of us had been talking to our exchanges for weeks before meeting them. After spending the evening bonding with our exchanges we became very good friends with them. My personal highlights were watching a chick hatch in the science museum, meeting my exchange's family and eating chocolate con churros. Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Spain and think that it was a great experience. It helped immensely with my Spanish and I would encourage anyone to participate in the exchange in the future. **"Zoe"**

"From the moment I arrived I knew I wouldn't want to leave, as everybody there were so happy and welcoming. Eating dinner the first night felt surreal, and talking to a family of a different culture and language made me feel very privileged. Waking up the next morning in Albacete was a great feeling. Our families took us to many thrilling places, and made us feel part of the family. We had so much freedom to enjoy and explore with our partners and friends. We explored nearby towns, a castle, a traditional church, and I didn't know they could shop so much! Visiting the Spanish school was incredible, and flamenco dancing was embarrassing but so enjoyable! They treated us to dinner so we could get a taste of typical Spanish foods. I loved every minute of this great experience, and I can't wait to reunite with my exchange partner again." **Megan**



Debating & Public Speaking

A new group of BVC students found their voice this term as they competed in their first ever Rotary public speaking competition.

The national Youth Speaks competition is run every year by Rotarians as an initiative to encourage teenagers to speak out and find their voice.

As a keen advocate of student voice, Bassingbourn Village College was keen to accept the invitation to take part and had no trouble forming two teams of Year 10 students who were keen to compete.

Bea Makower, Katie Cheeseright and Ciara Free spoke on the topic *Why feminism is something to be celebrated*, while Jon Cheeseright, Josh Ding and James Clark spoke on the topic *Is the modern state education system fit for purpose?*

The competition was held at Sawston Village College and attracted teams from The Perse, Bottisham and Sawston Village Colleges with BVC girls' team winning through to the next round which will be held in Cambridge in February.

Organiser Hugh Paton (above with our winning team) said: "The BVC teams certainly performed well, especially as this was their first effort at this event. I thought all the presentations were good with some interesting topics explored."

Twins Jon and Katie Cheeseright were also chosen to represent BVC at the Cambridge heat of the English Speaking Union's Mace debating competition which was held at the Perse School.

BVC competed alongside teams from Bishop's Stortford High, Culford School, the Perse, the Heritage school and County Upper School.

Motions included: *This house would ban the sale and consumption of meat*, *This house would build homes on the green belt* and *This house would weight votes such that the younger the voter, the more powerful their vote*.

The BVC team were supported by other Year 10 members of the school's senior debating club along with Mrs Boxall and Mrs Lynn.

Next up for the BVC debaters is the ESU Churchill Schools' Public Speaking competition early next term.



MFL

French students who have signed up to take part in our annual exchange visit were delighted to hear from their host families.

The French students wrote to introduce themselves before making the trip to stay with BVC families next term.

This will be the third exchange trip with students from Collège Joseph Bédier which is situated in a small village called Le Grand Serre, halfway between Lyon and Grenoble, in the south-east of France. BVC students will travel there in June.

Humanities

Year 10 student William Pack has been praised for his work on women's suffrage as part of a competition run by a Cambridge college.

William was one of a small group of BVC students chosen to attend the inaugural Millicent Fawcett Humanities & Social Sciences workshop hosted by Newnham College, Cambridge, during the summer.

The workshop explored suffrage through a range of humanities and social sciences subjects, and gave students the opportunity to practise researching, writing and presenting their own project.

Following the workshop, students were invited to create their own research project based on the theme(s) they found most interesting. Students were then invited to attend a Project Exhibition showcasing all entries which took place last Friday in Newnham College.

William's project – an in-depth essay looking at the illustrated propaganda used by the suffragettes, such as postcards, banners and posters – earned him a Highly Commended award plus a runner's-up prize of book tokens and a signed book by Newnham Fellow and classicist Mary Beard. William is pictured (right) with some of the Newnham academics who ran the workshop.

Organiser Sophie Parry said: "We designed the Millicent Fawcett workshop not only to commemorate Vote 100, but also with the aim of introducing young people to the interdisciplinary world of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.



"As a college, we think it is incredibly important to work closely with pupils and schools in our local community, and it is amazing to see the outstanding levels of hard work and creativity that can come from this work."

"William's research project on the impact of art in achieving suffrage was extremely well researched, and showed a great flair for developing a historical argument. We wish him, and all of the other entrants, the very best in their next steps."

Kids' Lit Challenge

Some of our young bookworms showed off their literacy skills at the annual Kids' Lit competition.

The Year 8 students – Emma Jones, Robert Kendrick, Amelia Peace and Iona Scott – came top in the school's Kids' Lit competition held before half term. Their win meant they went forward to represent Bassingbourn Village College at the Central England heat held at Comberton Village College.

24 teams took part from across the country and although the BVC team didn't win a place in the national final, they were delighted when their team mate Emma won an individual prize.

Those taking part not only pitted their knowledge against other schools, but also a team of local authors including Chris Priestley, Julian Sedgwick, Katie Dale, Inbali Inserles, Helen Moss and Andy Briggs. The BVC students took the opportunity to speak to the authors and even get some autographs.

The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual world-wide literature quiz for students aged 10 – 13 years.



BVC staff and students celebrated National Poetry Day by carrying poems in their pockets!

Anyone carrying a poem proudly wore a sticker saying 'I've got a poem in my pocket' and were challenged with reading their poem to anyone who asked. There was also a chocolate reward from Mr Clover (below).

This year's theme for National Poetry Day was CHANGE and students were able to enter a special poetry competition run by Mrs Daniells on that theme.

Well done to all students who participated and thanks to the Y11s for judging the competition. Our winners were:

4th place Eleanor Spicer

25 college points

3rd place Rachel Sutton

50 college points

2nd place Eleanor Murfitt

75 college points

1st place Amelia Taylor (below)

100 college points and a box of chocolates.

Amelia's poem is below:



Aisle 4

As I'm walking down the aisle
Of my favourite grocery store
I wonder what new things there will be
On the ever-changing aisle 4.

January brings the snow,
As most people know,
In January there will be
Several un-sold Christmas trees.

In February people celebrate Valentine's Day.
I just hope you don't get a card that says: Go Away!

March! Hurrah! Spring has sprung
But there's still coats, the cold's not done.

In April we have a chocolate feast
Where we let out our inner chocolate beast!

Blow-up crowns are sold in May
As we celebrate the Queen's birthday.

In June the stores sell us Summer
But there's still school; what a bummer.

July! The Summer holidays are here,
But the back-to-school aisle is giving us fear.

It's August! Still the Summer holiday!
Please make the back-to-school aisle go away!

September. Uh! Back to school.
But I'm seeing my friends though, that's cool.

October. Halloween is near.
Let's get spooked; it's that time of year.

Sparks of colour light up the November sky,
We let out a cheer for bonfire night.

December. It's the end of the year.
And Santa's visit with presents is near.

It's been a year in the grocery store,
Let's see what you find on aisle 4.



Careers



Senior students were able to get up close to an assortment of professionals at our Careers Carousel.

Year 10 students received short talks on a range of diverse occupations including accountancy, photography, science and the Army.

Our thanks to Trina Hill from BCS Accounting, Irene Zaccari and Jemma Allan from CDTL, Lucinda Price from Lucinda Price Photography and Emma Williams from EJW Solutions.

The event was organised by Mariana Soberon of Form the Future who said: "The morning went really well – the workshops were great, the professionals volunteers did amazingly and the feedback forms from the student show that they got a lot out of it."

Maths



Whoever thought Maths was boring has obviously never been in Mr Khan's class!

His Year 8 classes have been working in small groups and their task has been to work out the dimensions of a shipping box to send 1000 items to various countries in time for Xmas.

The task involved working out the volume of each item, then working out the actual volume of a shipping box filled with the max amount of each item.

Just the sort of Maths Father Christmas relies on!!

Chess



Year 9 student Fraser Clapham won the termly Chess prize - gaining the most points in the weekly Chess Club matches

Community

Students from BVC played host to a group of local senior citizens for what is hoped will become an annual celebration.

Members of the Bassingbourn Over60s club were treated to a festive afternoon tea – all made by the Year 9 GCSE catering students.

College Captains organised and hosted the event which was supported by a £100 grant from South Cambs County Council's Community Reach Fund. The students welcomed and chatted to their guests, with entertainment provided by Max Bowen and Freya Jackson.



GCSE catering students, under the guidance of Ms Taylor, made a generous spread including sausage rolls, scones, lemon cake and ginger biscuits.

Daisy Deller, organiser of the Bassingbourn Over60s said: "Thank you to everyone involved. It was a lovely afternoon and the food was smashing. It was a real treat to be invited into the college."

The event was held in the main hall and also featured a display of archive photographs which sparked many memories of schooldays and friendships from the early days of BVC.



Specialist talk

Staff, students and parents attended presentations at BVC by education adviser and memory expert Robin Launder.

A former prison officer and teacher, Robin specialises in evidence-based teaching, mindset theory, teacher-student relationships, memory skills and neuroscience for teachers.

Robin's fast-paced and often humorous presentation introduced memory techniques to aid revision to Year 10 and 11 students, followed up by a similar support session for over 200 parents in the evening.

Year 11 student Cassie Evans said: "We have studied memory in Psychology so it was really interesting to hear Robin's presentation on how the different techniques really work. He was fascinating and funny!"

Students from our partner schools in Cambridge – Netherhall and Cambridge Centre for Sixth Form Studies – also attended the sessions.

BVC teachers received a session on student behaviour from Robin during their weekly staff training session.

Further information about Robin and his techniques can be found on his website

www.behaviourbuddy.co.uk

Robin is photographed right with BVC students.



Open Evening



Over 500 visitors were welcomed at our annual **Open Evening** with all departments pulling out the stops to show BVC at its very best with a range of activities on offer.

Young students and their families who are considering a move to BVC were treated to flame-throwing and robotics in Science, dance and drama rehearsals in Creative Arts, creating a ghost story in English, fashion, catering and 3d modelling in Design, as well as student-run activities in Humanities, Art, PE, Languages and Maths.

The Hive, our specialist student-support centre, was also open with College Captains on hand to answer any questions put to them by potential students.



Open Evening

The Year 8 tour guides did a marvellous job keeping everything running smoothly and the evening ended with a presentation by Head of School Vickey Poulter and students Edward Evans and Hannah Nussey.

Ms Poulter said: "It was an extremely busy evening and the school looked fabulous. It is the amazing work by staff and students alike that makes BVC such a fantastic school.

"So many visiting parents were really positive about us and the feedback was excellent.

"Edward Evans and Hannah Nussey were truly amazing in their talk to parents – they were a hard act to follow!"



Battlefields

Year 11 History students visited the WW1 Battlefields. *Rebecca Day & Max Bacon describe the trip:*

Our Battlefields trip featured many rewarding experiences and helped us all to gain an important perspective on WWI, especially as it was the centenary of the ending of the First World War. We visited many cemeteries whilst we were there which were not only atmospheric but also incredibly interesting since we learnt lots about the people themselves and what each individual grave meant.

On top of this, we also ventured out to many museums which helped us to gain some visual understanding of the history; the Passchendaele Memorial Museum was my personal favourite because not only did we get to experience what walking through the trenches felt like but we also got to go underground where we saw figures which represented soldiers from WWI which was very interesting.

One of the most shocking parts of the trip was going through the trenches and seeing the craters because it was so crazy how much earth was destroyed due to shells; it was also all extremely emotional because it was sad to see how many people died and were injured while protecting their country.

The trip was enjoyed by everyone and it was also beneficial in regards to our learning as well; there was lots to do (and buy) but also lots to learn from our tour guide Tom. We went to Last Post Cemetery where we paid our respect to the soldiers by joining in with the community during a two minute silence.

We also had independent fun like shopping in Bruges and going to chocolate shops in Ypres where everyone spent lots of money!

Everyone had such a great time because we were constantly busy and doing something; this trip has really benefited my knowledge on WWI whilst at the same time being a lot of fun.

The trip left everyone feeling touched and emotional but also happy since they had such a good time together. I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone who gets given this opportunity since it was such an eye opening experience.



BVC students marked Remembrance Day 2018 in a variety of ways, with everyone agreeing that the effects of war will never be forgotten.

Staff and students alike contributed to the college's various remembrance projects, from making poppies and writing poems to painting stones and researching local war records.

Tutor groups worked collectively to make individual poppies and to choose their favourite war poem. Those who wished to could write their own.

The BVC History Club looked at the individual WW1 soldiers from local villages who had died during the war, along with creating a box of typical artifacts from the period.

GCSE History students visited the WW1 battlefields last month in the lead up to the Armistice celebrations (see page 14). Where possible they visited the memorials and searched for the names of Bassingbourn men who had lost their lives during the First World War, along with any men known personally to them. Their photographs and personal accounts were formed a thought-provoking display.

The individual stories of Bassingbourn and Kneeworth men who died during the fighting 100 years ago were researched and displayed alongside photographs of the memorials in France and Belgium. Researching personal details of the men was particularly poignant for many students who recognised local family names and locations of where the men had grown up.

The BVC Craft for Mindfulness group also produced individual pebbles with hand-painted poppies and the names of each of the fallen painted on them as an everlasting keepsake.

The display of remembered soldiers and the battlefields trip were displayed in Bassingbourn Parish Church over Remembrance Weekend as part of the village commemoration.

Organiser Vic Nickson said: "I would like to thank the Village College for the massive level of work on the church displays and the superb and thoughtful input by the students coordinated by Ann Lynn and Mark Christie."

The displays were then moved back to the college where they have joined the student poppies and poems on show in the Prom (photographed below).



Creative Arts

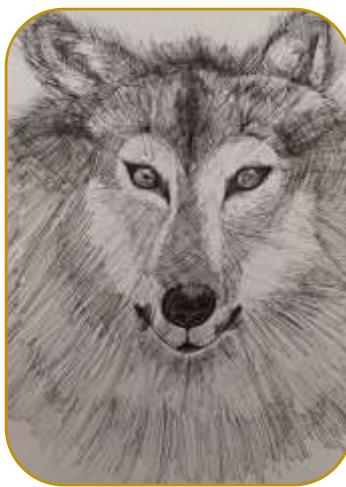


Dancing snowmen set the scene for a festive celebration at this term's **Creative Arts Showcase**.

Students from years 7-11 entertained a full house with their drama, singing, dancing, musical excerpts and self-composed monologues. College Captains introduced the acts along with updates on the many and varied activites that students have enjoyed throughout this term.



Creative Arts



This term has seen the introduction of 3 year courses for GCSE and option subjects - meaning that students start their courses in Year 9. For these Year 9 students that has meant starting their GCSE Art coursework - something they are very pleased about. *Elise, Lily and Drew explain:*

"In Year 9 we have already started our Art GCSE. With the extra time we have been able to explore different techniques and materials such as silk screen printing and pottery. It has helped broaden our creativity as we have more time to develop our ideas. Over this term we feel that we have begun to understand the meaning of Art.

We are thoroughly enjoying our experience as it gives us a break from our academic subjects."

Here are some examples of Year 9 artwork.



Exams and Awards

It was a brilliant summer for our GCSE students who scooped excellent results in August.

Our students gained an impressive haul of level 8 and 9s in their GCSE exams – that's A/A* in old money.

Vickey Poulter, Head of School, said: "It's an excellent achievement and the hard work of our staff and students has been rewarded in a year where the exams in all subjects have become more challenging and harder to secure these top grades. I am incredibly proud of them all."



Year 10 students at BVC sat English

language a year early with 71% achieving level 4 and above. Four students achieved grade 9 – Ed Evans, Cassie Evans, Rebecca Day and Eve Morris. A group of Year 10 students also sat GCSE Psychology in association with the Cambridge Centre for Sixth Form Studies – all achieved A*-C.

GCSE Heron Awards

Our summer leavers returned for their last BVC event – the annual GCSE Heron Awards evening.

Former Year 11 students, along with family and friends, attended the evening event which saw awards being presented for overall attainment and progress, alongside individual subject achievement. Three students were also honoured with Principal's Awards for their overall contribution to school life during their 5 years at the college.

Prizewinners were:

Principal's Award: Holly Derrett, Aiden Free, Sophie Perumalla.

Principal's Award for Attainment: Grace Anderson, Adam Castle, Beatrice Cornwell, Lucas Hockley, Iain Lynn, Callum Sargeant, Imogen Sole.

Principal's Award for Progress: Amelie Anderton, Hayden Byles, Holly Derrett, Jasmine Ho, Jessica Sams, Keira Sibbons.

Principal's Award for Services as College Captain: Adam Castle, Beatrice Cornwell, Lydia Cornwell, Holly Derrett, Aidan Free, Ethan Phillips, Billy Reader, Imogen Sole.

Subject awards:

English Language Grace Anderson

Dance Grace Anderson

Health & Social Care Charlotte Beck

Hospitality & Catering Ruben Beukes

GCSE PE Thomas Bolt

Sociology Hayden Byles

Drama Nathaniel Campbell

Geography Adam Castle

BTEC Media Freddie Chamberlain

Joint Linguist Beatrice Cornwell

French Holly Derrett

Leisure & Tourism Ellienne Groom

History Joseph Heavey

Further Additional Science Lucas Hockley

BTEC Construction Cormac Hosie

Maths Jake Kimberley

Synergy Science Daniel Lamberton

Religious Education Ethan Phillips

VCERT Craft Joshua Richardson-Game

Art Jessica Sams

Computing Oliver Sharpe

English Literature Keira Sibbons

Latin Keira Sibbons

Spanish Libby Taylor

Music Technology Reece Turnbull

ECDL Christopher Turrell



World Challenge

Whilst most post-GCSE students enjoyed a summer of fun and relaxation, a hardy group of BVC teenagers travelled to Africa to help support a school in need.

Our intrepid Year 11 students spent two weeks in Tanzania as part of their World Challenge expedition – using their time to explore their environment as well as carry out badly-needed repairs to a village school.

BVC teacher Jude Shortt, who accompanied the students alongside fellow teacher Rachel Ward, said: “World Challenge is what it says on the tin – it is a challenge. It makes the young people step out of their comfort zone and tests their leadership, communication and resilience skills to the max. The students are basically in charge and learn how to organize transport, accommodation, food which is no mean feat in a foreign country miles from home with a different language and culture.

“Our young people came up trumps as always and it was wonderful to see them hone and develop a raft of skills that will all be hugely beneficial to them as they set out on the new phase in their lives.”

Highlights of the trip included trekking in the foothills of Kilimanjaro; finding a great supply of local produce from a frenetic and rather daunting marketplace; a group of boys joining in with a local acrobatic team’s limbo routine by firelight; hysterical laughter when a rather large and intimidating baboon decided to hop into the safari jeep without an invite; managing the team finances and learning the local language.

Student Iain Lynn commented: “The best part of the trip was meeting people who were so profoundly happy – we see them as destitute and poverty-stricken and technically we are right, economically they have very little, but their outlook showed that they had their priorities right, that happiness is paramount and money secondary.

“Kilimanjaro was an indescribable sight – its size is beyond comparison, nothing can describe the monumental size of the mountain. Needless to say we were spoilt for sights, there were glorious views all around us.

“Ngorongoro Crater – a floor of 100 square miles – is a crater that rivals comparison. If you ever get a chance, go just for the sight as you travel down the crater edge – as you look down from the vantage point it is hard not to feel divine, as you see the land sprawl beneath you with the 2,000 ft tall walls of earth rising like some sort of “end of times” vision. The collapsed volcano is also home to huge amounts of wildlife and tourists.

Fellow student and traveller Ellie Groom added: “I enjoyed everything about the trip! I will always remember the waterfall shower with the crabs & monkeys, and also trying new foods like pili pili salt and all the different types of fruit and veg.

“I feel that the experience has made me think about how we take so many things for granted. Silly things like a bath and a ceiling in school – at the school the ceilings were awful, there were holes in it and bits falling but it didn’t stop all the kids from smiling!

“I think I’ve become more independent and less of a fussy eater. Also I think about things in a bigger way, like transport and how long I actually need to get somewhere or allowing extra time in case it doesn’t go to plan. I also feel like I’ve improved my management of money – I haven’t been spending it all at once like I used to.”



Festive Fun



The last week of term saw a host of festive fun in college. From Santa popping in to test the chimneys in Construction to a topical sock-themed Nativity in RE, students and staff entered into the spirit of the season. Our annual Christmas Jumper Day was held on the last day of term with money raised going to the Save the Children Fund.





The annual Staff v Student (Pussycats v Bulldogs) volleyball match took place in the last week of term - raising cash for the BVC charity, UNICEF. Captained by Mr Khan, the staff team snatched a late victory 27-23.

All Year 9 and 10 sports students have undertaken a Basic First Aid course during their lessons this term.

Run by a local First Aid training company, they covered how to deal with a casualty, CPR techniques and the recovery position. Students were also taught how to treat shock and to recognise the signs of injury. Additionally, they learnt about asthma, anaphylaxis, how to treat choking, sprains and how to use a defibrillator.

All the students enjoyed learning about these skills and hopefully will feel confident to use them if needed.



The BVC Under 13 girls football team has gone from strength to strength - romping through the initial rounds of the national Championship Cup.

The girls travelled to Luton for the 4th round match, winning by a convincing 11-1. Coach Mr Budd said: "The girls have played amazingly well together - I am looking forward to seeing just how far they can go in the Cup." Their next match will take place in January - good luck girls, go wow them!!

Alumni News

Nicholas (Nick) Burr is the Fundraising and Promotions Officer for Cam Sight, a charity set up to improve the lives of people with blindness and low vision. Nick is photographed below with his guidedog Amber.

When were you a pupil at BVC? I attended Bassingbourn Village College between 2000-2005, my younger siblings, Joshua Burr and Elliot Burr also attended the Village College.

Any particular memories of what you did at BVC? My most memorable moment has to be when I was captain of the football team and the drama teacher Mr Gair had been nominated referee for a semi-final cup match. My teammates and I made it very obvious we thought that Mr Gair had made a few wrong decisions throughout the game which we believed caused the defeat. I was quickly prompted to write an apology letter to smooth things over! I never did pick drama as a GCSE, I was far too shy and didn't have the confidence to even attempt to act in front of others. However doing it in younger years with Mr Gair has definitely helped me with my public speaking going forward.

I also remember the cold lessons we used to have in the very archaic museum class, with its random items stored around the classroom and it resembling not much more than a shed!

Memorable or inspirational teachers? My most memorable teacher was Mr D'Cuna. He was a brilliant form tutor and science teacher throughout my time at Bassingbourn. I always remember we had a fundraising day where Mr D'Cuna organised our tutor group to hold a barbecue to raise funds - I really enjoyed this day because of the cooking (which I later carried on with professionally) and with the fundraising aspect, too.

Where did you go after BVC? I attended Long Road Sixth Form College and then took a gap year. I travelled the world with three fellow students from Bassingbourn Village College, we visited Brazil, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, Fiji and Thailand. It was an amazing seven months travelling with great friends who are still good friends today.

I then attended Nottingham Trent University where I achieved a 2-1 in Accounting and Finance. From the age of 16 I also worked as a chef at Palazzo, Ad Hoc and a wedding catering company, all based in Royston. My first job out of university in 2012 was for PA consulting company as a tax advisor.

Where do you live now? What is your current career?

I now live in St Neots and work for a charity called Cam Sight as their fundraising and promotions officer. Cam Sight is a charity based in Cambridgeshire and aims to

improve lives of local people living with low vision and blindness.

The reason I now work for such a charity is because in 2014 I lost my eyesight overnight due to cancer. Luckily I survived this terrible disease, however it did take my eyesight away. Cam Sight were there to help me and I was a client for several years. I then started to volunteer for the charity, then moved onto an internship and then a job offer in February 2018. My role is very varied from holding public talks to schools and companies to organising fundraising events across Cambridgeshire.

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

Advice I would give the students is always be positive through any difficulties that may come their way.

Nicholas Burr

Fundraising and Promotions Officer

167 Green End Road, Cambridge, CB4 1RW

Tel: 01223 420033 Ext. 29 or 07375674768

www.camsight.org.uk



If you are a former pupil of Bassingbourn Village College and would like to be kept up-to-date with college news and future reunions, please email your details to alumni@bassingbournvc.net