

# Bassingbourn Village College

# HERON

## Autumn 2019

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# Jon's vision for improving third world hygiene

**Year 11 student Jon Cheeseright enjoyed his time working with a Cambridge technology company - never thinking that he would end up being shortlisted to win a national Industrial Cadet Award.**

The awards ceremony took place at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in London, followed by a celebration reception at the Savoy Hotel.

Jon's participation was part of an outreach program run by technology company ARM, which saw him spend a week working with other school students from across the region. *Here he explains:*

"At the start of the week, we were given a presentation by UNICEF, who gave us problems such as how to keep track of refugees and improving access to clean water in slums and then challenged us to find effective solutions. My group's idea was to attach a light to a tap that would highlight the dirt and grime on people's hands, which could be used in slums to try and improve hygiene."

"Each of us then became independent 'investors' and were able to 'invest' up to 750,000 imaginary dollars into other groups, based on which group would do the best when their idea would be bought to market. My group managed to achieve the greatest amounts of investment, which meant we had the most money to develop our product."

"Finally, all the groups presented their business solutions to a group of Arm employees, and everyone else in the program, who rated how likely our idea was to succeed in the real world. In the end, my team's idea was considered objectively the 'most likely to succeed in the real world', which meant that we earned 'money' from our 'business'."

"On top of this, it turned out that I had made the best investments, which meant I made the most 'money' from the program, and therefore won!"

"Throughout the week, we were given various presentations by employees at ARM, who told us what their role in the company was, and discovered things such as the what the ARM business model is, and generally how awesome ARM is."

"I would like to thank the sustainability team at ARM for giving us all an absolutely amazing experience on the program, and to the company as a whole for inspiring me to go into engineering."

Simon Humphrey, general manager on the project at ARM explained: "The overarching theme of the programme was 'technology for good', demonstrating an empathic understanding of realworld problems being faced by young people."

"All the students are transformed during the week from quiet and reserved individuals to confident and exuberant team members. Jon's team stood out amongst the others on the 2019 programme. Their UV dirt identifying technology for taps was by far the most innovative of all the solutions developed. Their teamwork was excellent both in terms of how they worked generally and how they managed critical debate with positive outcomes. Their group presentations were outstanding and they were the only team to make money in the virtual financial game that ran through the week."



## Paying their respects

Brother and sister Benjamin and Lottie Bond represented BVC at the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Bassingbourn.

The duo read aloud during the exhortation and then laid a posy of poppies at the war memorial.

Poppies made by BVC students were also made into a wreath and hung in the church during the service.

Students had their own opportunity to remember those who have died in warfare with assemblies taking place during mentor time in school.

## From the Principal

**It's hard to believe that my first term as Principal is almost over already, but when I look back at all the brilliant lessons, activities, opportunities and events that our students have enjoyed I wonder how we have managed to pack so much in!**

It has been good to see the emerging confidence of the new school council, led by the Heads of House, which is giving a vibrancy to the school and a true voice for all our students. They have been working on a number of projects to improve student experience, not least a recycling project, supported by the Parents & Friends Association, which will see new recycling bins next term.

I have enjoyed seeing the school full of excited students with events such as Open Evening and Curriculum Day. It has been a joy to see how easily our Year 7 students have made the transition between primary and secondary school - their enjoyment on their year group trip to Lambourne End was evident in the broad smiles they wore all day.

Unfortunately the end of term will see us saying goodbye to staff members Ann Lynn and Rhiannon Spencer. I wish them well for the future. We also have three teachers starting maternity leave and I wish the very best of luck to Chordess Harris, Kelly Murfet and Jo Nettleton as they welcome their babies in the new year. Congratulations to staff members who will be joining us, as well as those who are taking on additional responsibilities: Alex Cracknell (Maternity cover for Years 7&8), Elizabeth Howell (Maternity cover for Year 9), Di Leake (Maternity cover for Year 10), Daniella Thake (English), Adrian Miller (Science), Peter Radics (Maths) and Roxanne Shaw (Geography).

Across the school site we have seen a number of improvements, not least the completion of the rewiring work and the installation of access controls on all the external doors. Future plans include re-roofing the Hive and improvements to school heating and plumbing.

As I write this, students are in the midst of rehearsals for Matilda which looks set to bring the term to a close in magnificent style. I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year. **VP**



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](http://www.twitter.com/Bassingbournvc)) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/bassingbournvc](http://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](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/8369302)) or by emailing

[alumni@assingbournvc.org](mailto:alumni@assingbournvc.org)

and asking to be added to our database.

Parents interested in helping with our Parents and Friends Association can email [PFA@bassingbournvc.net](mailto:PFA@bassingbournvc.net)

Or follow our PFA Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/BVCPFA/](http://www.facebook.com/BVCPFA/)



## BVC turns yellow!

**#HelloYellow was the theme at BVC as our students dressed in sunshine colours to raise awareness of Young Minds UK, a charity that works with young people who are struggling with their mental health.**

As part of World Mental Health Day, students were encouraged to wear yellow and donate £1 for the privilege of doing so. Almost £200 was raised.

Mental health and student well-being is a key focus for the college. In a bid to address students needs we have a YMCA councillor in college each week offering support for self-esteem, emotional management, social skills and transitions.

Mrs Piggott also runs a drop-in session in The Hive, our student support centre, on a Friday lunchtime for students who would like to talk about any emotional concerns they might have. In addition, all students are encouraged to Think Pink and fill out (anonymously) a pink slip if they feel a friend needs some support.

## Bassingbourn Bookworms compete in book quiz

**What was the vegetable that caused such discomfort for the princess? Which God wears winged sandals? Who is the hero of Tomorrow Never Dies?**

These are just some of the questions faced by our students in the regional final of Kids Lit UK, held at Comberton Village College. The BVC team – Bassingbourn Bookworms – comprised year 8 students Eli Curtin, Cara Button, Emma Rosevear and Matthew Crafter who acquitted themselves well, coming an impressive 7th place out of 32 schools taking part.

Cara describes the experience: “We had a jam-packed afternoon filled with challenging but fun questions, books and biscuits. Our favourite moments was when Eli saved the day with his enviable botanical knowledge that Rapunzel is actually a vegetable!

“We would also like to thank our English teachers for teaching us the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner as we were the only team that got that one right. We worked really well together and were very pleased with our result.”

Mrs Lynn, BVC librarian added: “This is the fifth year that I have taken a BVC team to the regional finals and I have to say that this year I was really impressed by their focus and commitment to competing – well done to them!”

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





## Students debate current issues

Students from both Bassingbourn Village College and Sawston Village College took part in the first ever Anglian Learning debating challenge.

The event was held in the Henry Morris Hall at Sawston, the scene of previous successful debating competitions for both schools.

Teams debated topics such as Are supersized classes the future?, Could we live without single-use plastics?, Is gaming good for you?, Do we expect too much from sports people? and Are robots a threat to humanity?

The Bassingbourn teams were made up of Junior Debate Club members Amelia Taylor, Hamish Lievesley, Gabby Snook, Sam Oddy, Tom Formstone, Noah Curtis, Lottie Bond, Anna Wylie, Rory Oakley, Amelia Peace, Alanis Aguiar Jacintho, Matthew Kendrick, Sophie Palmer, Leah Wylie and Trinity Robinson.

Noah, Gabby, Leah and Matthew were judged to be best speakers in the tournament.

Unfortunately, due to timing problems, one team from each side were unable to compete – but they have been assured that they will be first to speak at the next fixture.

Bassingbourn and Sawston are both founding members of the Anglian Learning Multi Academy Trust which was formed in 2016.

## Talking aloud tips from performance poet

A group of Year 9 students took part in a public speaking workshop run by Amber Moss from Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

The workshop was the initial stage of the Talking Aloud competition which will see 10 schools from across the region compete at Peterhouse in February.

Amber is not only a brilliant public speaker but is also a professional performance poet so had lots of tips for our students.



## Diverse activities for Curriculum Day

Students enjoyed a Curriculum Day of non-timetabled lessons and instead had the option to take part in a huge variety of activities.

For Year 11 students there was the opportunity to look ahead to adulthood with guest speakers advising on such topical subjects as politics, learning to drive, money matters, mindfulness, contraception and mental health. An impromptu – but timely – mock election showed our students favouring the Lib Dems by a large majority.

Year 10s studied the Holocaust with a special assembly featuring the life of survivor Harry Spiro who visited along with his daughter Tracey.

A trip to the V&A museum in London was the main choice for Year 9 students, with some electing to take part in a combined sports/first aid day instead.

A series of STEM challenges faced Year 8s as they endeavoured, among other tasks, to build weight-bearing structures from newspaper and to create working parachutes which they had great fun testing.

All our younger students in Year 7 were able to have a taster of a multitude of different languages – Portuguese, German, Japanese, Catalan and Italian. The students also had great fun creating mosaics, getting to grips with chopsticks and dressing in authentic Japanese clothing.



# Holocaust survivor Harry visits BVC

**Holocaust survivor Harry Spiro BEM visited Basingbourn Village College as part of our termly Curriculum Day.**

Harry was accompanied by his daughter Tracey Moses during the visit which was organised by RE teacher Mrs Jess Miller and the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). Tracey spoke to Year 10 students about her father's experiences.

Tracey's talk was followed by a question and answer session with Harry himself to enable students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth. The visit was part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's extensive all year round Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK.

Vickey Poulter, Principal of BVC, said: "It was a privilege for us to welcome Mr Spiro and his daughter to our school and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing Harry's testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

*Harry's story:* Harry was born in 1929 in Poland. When the Nazis occupied Poland, the area where Harry and his family lived became part of the Piotrkow ghetto, where all of the Jews from the area now had to live. Whilst here, Harry worked in the glass factory.

In 1942 there was an announcement that everyone in the ghetto had to stay in their homes except for those who were working in the glass factory. Whilst Harry was at work, the ghetto was liquidated and all 22,000 inhabitants, including Harry's family were taken to Treblinka and killed. The factory workers were then moved into a smaller ghetto. Eventually this ghetto was liquidated and all of the inhabitants were sent to Czestochowa. Here, they worked making munitions for the German Army.

As the Russian Army was advancing, the prisoners were put onto trains and sent to Buchenwald in Germany. After a short time here, Harry was sent to Rhemsdorf. As the War was coming to a close, the prisoners from Rhemsdorf were put on trains to be transported to another camp. However, the train line was bombed so all of the prisoners were forced to march the rest of the way to Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. Harry was one of only 270 survivors of this march and was later liberated by Russian soldiers.

Harry was permitted to enter the UK in 1945 as part of an initiative to allow 1,000 child survivors of the Holocaust into the country. Today, Harry lives near London and, with the aid of his daughter Tracey, travels round schools to talk to students about the Holocaust.



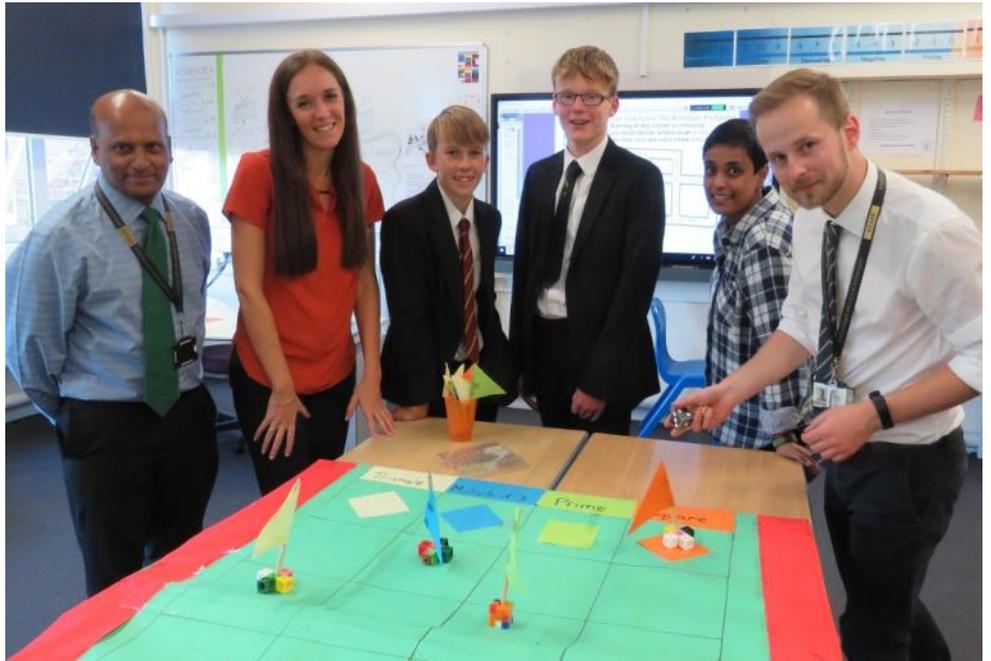
## Open Evening

Almost 200 potential students and their families visited our annual Open Evening.

Staff and students pulled out all the stops to give demonstrations in all their favourite subjects – Science, English, Maths, Spanish, French, Latin, Dance, Drama, Music Technology, Craft, Fashion, Catering, History, Geography and RE – the very best of what BVC has to offer.

Principal Vickey Poulter addressed a packed hall with her Principal's Talk alongside students Eddie Cook (yr 7) and Katie Cheeseright (yr 11).





## What a good iDEA!

**Year 10 student Fraser Clapham is celebrating becoming the first BVC student to be awarded his Bronze iDEA award.**

As a subject ambassador for Computing, Fraser now spends lunchtimes mentoring other students who are working for their awards. Senior BVC students are encouraged to work towards gaining their awards in their free time.

The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as **iDEA**, aims to equip people with digital and enterprise skills.

Learners take part in a series of challenges in order to win awards. For every new skill and learning experience mastered, iDEA learners are awarded a digital badge. Each badge carries a number of points. When participants earn enough points, they are awarded the Bronze, Silver or Gold Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award.

There are badges which can help you to be safe online, and pick up tips and techniques on topics such as web design, cyber security, cloud computing, animation and how to use colours in digital creations.

Digital skills are all about developing the ability to tell a computer what to do, to make, to build, to get creative and to gain confidence. Enterprise skills set you up for success in the world of work. iDEA helps equip people to be digital workers, makers, entrepreneurs, gamers and citizens of the future.

Inspired by The Duke of Edinburgh Award (which has supported 8 million young people since its inception), iDEA helps young people learn how to make, create, build and shine in the digital world.



Congratulations to Megan, Carla, Lucia, Maggie, Isabel & Gabby who were the BVC winners of the Year 7 DNA poster competition.

The competition was launched by scientists at the Wellcome Trust Genome Centre, with the prize being to spend a day researching the human genome at their campus near Cambridge. BVC students were praised by the organisers for being the most enthusiastic school to enter the competition with posters researching the DNA of such diverse subjects as Spiderman, the Little Mermaid and the Greatest Showman.



Our Art department is now gaily decorated with these amazing interpretations of the Mexican Day of the Dead festival.



## Christmas decoration winners

Year 7 students enjoyed homework with a difference this term - the annual Christmas decoration challenge.

Students had to produce a 3D decoration in the shape of their initial, using mainly recycled materials. The Christmas tree in the dining hall was soon groaning under the weight of all the entries. College points were awarded to:

Olivia Coleman  
Ben Osborn  
Erin Hall  
Lily Torance  
Ollie Harrison  
Ruby Gater  
Finn Sargeant

## Art Exhibition

Work from our top young artists was featured in a Cambridge art exhibition.

**Platform 19** was a collection of art by pupils from the four secondary schools and sixth form of Anglian Learning.

Showcasing the artistic talent of the trust's GCSE and A level pupils, the exhibition was held in the Michaelhouse Centre, Trinity Street, Cambridge.

Jonathan Culpin, CEO said: "We are proud of the artwork that our pupils have created to be on display at our 'Platform 19' exhibition at the Michaelhouse Centre. The Arts are important to Anglian Learning, we actively seek to work with others, the Arts Council England, for example, to further enhance our Arts provision."



Craft student Zoe Worboys produced this magnificent 3D piece featuring the books of Roald Dahl - it has been on display in Mrs Myles-Baker's classroom for students (and staff!) to admire.



Roald Dahl's  
**MATILDA**  
THE MUSICAL  
Book by Dennis Kelly  
Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin



7pm  
Monday 16th December

One night only!

Bassingbourn Village College  
South End  
Bassingbourn







**Careers within the Creative Arts were the focus of an event at Cambridge Junction – all eagerly sampled by a group of BVC students.**

A coach-load of our senior students attended the event which gave them an insight into such behind-the-scenes activities as stage lighting, sound engineering, song writing and improvisation. A question-and-answer session with staff from the Junction allowed students to gain further information about courses and apprenticeships available to them.



**Year 8 Enterprise Day saw budding stars of The Apprentice be mentored by local professions, who worked with them to develop their own business ideas.**

Well done to all the prizewinners, especially the teams that came up with the ideas for Walter Washer (best pitch) and WizBank (Most innovative idea)

## Careers Events

This term has seen a number of careers events for students across all years.

Working in partnership with Cambridge-based careers advisory company Form the Future, we ensure that every student benefits from our careers programme. This is made up of regular modules taught through PSHE, whole year group events which enable our students to meet employers, workshops and visits by employers and education providers and workplace visits.

In Year 7 students begin to look at their skills and qualities and interact with employers through a "What's My Line?" event, where they have to ask probing questions to guess the job. In Year 8, entrepreneurial skills are brought to the fore with an Enterprise Day with the students creating and pitching their own businesses. There is also a focus on their Options process with all students having an individual meeting to discuss future plans. Year 9 continues the focus on the skills needed for the future and research starts on life after Basingbourn. They take part in a Scavenger Hunt careers event to find out more information about the different opportunities available to them. Year 10 start their visits to sixth form colleges, learn about CV writing and enhance their understanding of apprenticeships through a careers carousel (above). Next term Year 11 will focus on their post 16 applications and interview skills, including a mock interview with a local employer.



## Construction Eco Day

**Construction students from Years 9&10 enjoyed a day off timetable to work with visiting professionals from business and development firms.**

Their challenge was to form their own company, choose a professional role, and work in a team to create an inspiring Eco Classroom - a sustainable building and outdoor learning space designed to teach people how to care a little more for their planet.

Organizer Alex Grounds (below with the winning teams) complimented our students on their ideas and behaviour throughout the whole day.





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

Raising funds for Save the Children, everyone who participated paid £1 for the privilege of brightening up their school uniform with the addition of a festive jumper.

Staff also took over the kitchen and served a two course Christmas dinner to students.





Members of the English department celebrated national Poetry Day by hiding their favourite poems around school. Those who were lucky enough to find a green scroll were rewarded with a sweet treat from Reception.

## Science & Poetry

This term has seen students participate in a Science & Poetry competition run by AstraZeneca and Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge.

The Connections project - when scientists, university academics and school students collaborate on writing and performing their poetry - culminated in an event at Lucy Cavendish in October.

Bassingbourn students who were chosen to attend were:

Robert Kendrick	Matthew Kendrick
Leah Wylie	Amelia Taylor
Lucy Whiteley	

Their poems will also be featured in a book, alongside the professional poets performing at the event.



Thank you to the Library elves who helped decorate the tree in the Prom – and a HUGE thank you to Fieldgate Nurseries who donated the tree to help put us in the festive spirit



Congratulations to all the Year 7 students who completed an amazing array of homework tasks over the summer holidays. Owen Harris and Lucia Ralph were the lucky students to have their names drawn out of a hat to win a £10 Amazon voucher each.

## Team building for Year 7

All our year 7 students took part in a team building day at Lambourne End. Despite unfavourable weather, a great time was had by all, new friendships were made and they all returned home wet, muddy and happy. *Trinity Robinson describes the trip:*

“It took us about an hour to reach Lambourne End which is an activity centre in Essex with many activities such as crawling through underground tunnels, an obstacle course over water and so much more.

“My favourite activities were the marble run – we each had to get a piece of guttering and set them in a straight line, one under the other, so the marble could travel along it. The aim was to get the marble into a bucket without it falling on the floor. That was for 5 points, however if you managed to go through a tunnel at the same time then you won 15 points. Our team did really well to get 45 points.

“The other activity I enjoyed the most was called Swamp Crossing – we had to get our whole team across a swamp using just five tyres. At first my team wasn’t doing too well, but after a while we thought of a plan and we got across just in time and bagged ourselves 15 points.

“Overall, I think everyone really enjoyed the day out. It was a chance to get to know each other and have a break from our new, tiring secondary school life. A huge thanks to Mrs Nettleton, Ms Poulter, Mr Brock, Miss Price, Mr Bolton, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Cairns and Mrs Lynn who made the trip possible.”



# GCSE celebrations

**Our students are celebrating yet another successful haul of GCSE results.**

The sun shone as they collected their results, with lots of happy faces – and a few happy tears – as those all-important brown envelopes were opened.

Vickey Poulter, Principal, said: “We are delighted with this year’s results as staff and students worked exceptionally hard and many students achieved above expectations in all subject areas.

“It is fantastic to see the success of such a dedicated and enthusiastic year group and I wish them every success in the future in their chosen courses/careers.”

73% of all pupils achieved a good pass level 4+ in English and Maths, with a quarter (24%) of all exam results at level 7-9 (A/A\*). Over 80% of exams sat achieved level 4+.

## Leavers’ celebration evening

**Our former year 11 students were welcomed back to college in November for the annual GCSE Heron Awards evening.**

Students, along with family and friends, attended the event which saw awards being presented for overall attainment and progress, alongside individual subject achievement.

Prizewinners were:

**Principal’s Award for Attainment:** Diaan Gill, Eve Morris, Annie Baigent, Alfie Duckett, Edward Evans, Becca Hannon, Noah Telford-Reed, Cassie Evans, Ed Weekes, Rebecca Day & Katie Wilkins

**Principal’s Award for Progress:** Diaan Gill, Edward Evans, Eve Morris, Lucy Daws, Rachel Mingay, Meg Hollidge, Emma Kitely, Katie Wilkins & Leila Joy

**Principal’s Award for Services as College Captain:** Edward Evans, Cassie Evans, Diaan Gill, Jenny Burgess, Alfie Duckett, Rebecca Hannon & Katie Brown.

**Art** Ben New

**BTEC Media** Teagon Collins

**Drama** Emma Kitely

**Dance** Rachel Mingay

**Music Tech** Noah Telford-Reed

**English Literature** Edward Evans

**English Language** Cassie Evans

**Hospitality & Catering** Meg Hollidge

**BTEC Construction** Ellie Meehan

**Craft** Sam Daniels

**Textiles** Lucy Sherratt

**Geography** Hazel Shipsey

**History** Eve Morris

**Computing** James Baxter

**Maths** Diaan Gill

**GCSE PE** Patrick Robinson

**VCERT Health & Fitness** Anthony Georgiou

**Religious Education** Katie Brown

**Sociology** Ava Stallworthy

**Joint Linguist** Max Jenkins

**Spanish** Emma Foley

**Latin** Max Crane

**French** Becca Hannon

**Synergy Science** Leila Joy

**Biology** Alfie Duckett

**Chemistry** Annie Baigent

**Physics** Ed Weekes





## Adventures in Albacete

Students enjoyed the first leg of our third annual Spanish Exchange in October. *Lucas Esparza Weimann describes the trip:*

We left very early in the morning and we were all very tired but excited. Our flight to Valencia went smoothly, and we headed straight for the beach! Afterwards, we spent the afternoon in a massive aquarium, where we saw dolphins, whales and lots of other interesting creatures.

We drove to Albacete to meet our exchange partners. Some of us met up in groups, but most were exhausted and after meeting our exchange families, we went to bed. The next morning, we had a tour of the school in Albacete and enjoyed delicious 'churros con chocolate' in a café. We then learned about the city's history, including their famous link to penknives and got to know the city some more by competing in a treasure hunt. We then spent the evening learning a traditional dance and trying new foods, which was great.

We spent the weekend with our host families, doing various activities they had planned for us. Some went to Madrid, and others to the beach or countryside. On the final day, we returned to the school to take part in some lessons, including learning some new Spanish phrases and playing some traditional games. Then, we were up early the next day to sadly say goodbye to our new friends and head to the airport. It was a great trip and all of us enjoyed it and learned a lot!

## PFA gifts

Students have been enjoying the generosity of the BVC Parents and Friends Association who have fulfilled a number of wishlist items for staff. Items purchased this term have included games for the Hive; a new dishwasher for the Hospitality & Catering room; display screens for Drama; a fridge and goggles for Science; language revision courses for MFL; calculators for Maths and book storage for English.



# CALA Homes opens doors

A generous donation from local builders CALA Homes means we are now able to extend our provision for our construction students.

Thanks to the bursary of £1,500 from the award-winning housebuilder, we have been able to bring our construction department up to scratch thus allowing for a third cohort to start their practical studies.

At BVC we know that not all students are alike and it is important to us to provide, in addition to a range of traditional academic subjects, additional vocational subjects to their students, from sports and health, to catering and construction.

CALA Homes, which is currently building its Bassingbourn Reach development in the village, launched the CALA Community Bursary in Cambridgeshire in February and invited organisations, charities and groups in the area to apply for a share of £12,000 to help fund projects that make a difference in the community. Bassingbourn Village College was chosen as a recipient of the bursary, with the money being spent on a fire door for our construction building. CALA representative Philippa Morton Potts (Below) visited BVC to see our new construction facilities.

Vicky Poulter, Principal, said: "We are delighted that CALA Homes chose us as a recipient of its Community Bursary scheme.

"Following a recent fire safety inspection, we were told we had to change the fire door to our construction out-building, and have since been unable to utilise the space. This funding from CALA means we've been able to improve the safety of the building so that we can continue to offer the vocational subject to students, who have the opportunity to develop their construction skills in a safe environment."

Duncan Jackson, Managing Director at CALA Homes (North Home Counties), said: "We're so pleased to support Bassingbourn Village College so that they can continue to provide a diverse and well-rounded education to students, providing them with hands-on experience and widening their skills landscape."



## Thai trip of a lifetime

This summer saw a group of our students celebrate the end of their BVC journey – by making the trip of a lifetime to Thailand.

For the 19 former Year 11 students, the World Challenge expedition was the culmination of two years of planning and fundraising.

After flying into Bangkok, the students spent some time there experiencing the vibrant markets and Grand Palace before trekking in the Erawan National park which is home to the famous 7 tiered waterfalls and the infamous Hellfire pass, the name given to the largest of 1000m series of cuttings allied POWs were forced to work on during WW2.

During their project phase students worked with a local organisation which has been supporting local communities in Singbun since 2008. Based close to the village of Tha Tham, the students worked on a local community construction project.

Student Meg Hollidge summed up the trip in three words: “Sweat, tears and sunshine!

“For me the highlights were seeing the King of Thailand, snorkelling, the food, the beaches and building a temple. It was really exciting learning about a new culture and meeting different people.”

Fellow traveller Ed Evans added:” What surprised me was that within a matter of days the entire team ceased being students, and became young, mature adults. We were no longer a group of teens, but a team of level headed explorers.

“My personal highlight of the trip was swimming with in Erawan falls, a cool off in the pools was just what we all needed after a hot and sweaty hike – and the pedicure from the local fish was an added bonus!

“I’m not sure what I expected from the trip, but I know it was a fantastic experience. The variety in what we completed was mind blowing. In only 16 days we managed to fly 12,000 miles, explore Bangkok, engage with the local communities in a project to build a monastery, trek through Thai jungle and much more; all whilst immersing ourselves in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of Thailand – a truly life changing experience.”



## Sports News



The BVC Cross Country runners had a great morning on Tuesday when they travelled to Netherhall School in Cambridge to compete in the district championships. *Max Evans and Ava Rawlins wrote this report:*

16 BVC students from years 7,8 and 9 went to Netherhall Village College for the cross-country competition.

We left at 10:10am it was a cold start, but Mrs. Edwards livened us up by playing Christmas songs and music.

When we arrived, we saw our opponents who were warming up - then we saw the course which was wet and muddy.

The hot chocolate they served was nice after the 1 ½ miles of running. The run was really fun. The run-up hill was quite hard but as soon as you got into it was ok and the area we ran in was lovely, especially the trees. There was no litter - it was such a lovely place to spend the morning.



The annual Staff v Student (Pussycats v Bulldogs) volleyball match took place in the last week of term - raising cash for the Year 11 Prom.

Captained by Mr Khan, the staff team snatched a late victory 21-19.

# Alumni News - Naomi Wallen, Dance Teacher

## When were you a pupil at Bassingbourn Village College?

I'm the Year of 1988. My year were the first cohort to sit the new-fangled GCSEs! I left the same year the former Headteacher, Mrs Strong left – I don't think those two facts are related....

## Any stand-out memories of BVC?

So many silly stories to tell! The day our Science teacher walked around beeping, very seriously, pretending to be a Geiger counter; the Music project I lovingly created all about my idols Five Star; my inability to get any kind of vaguely musical sound out of a trumpet despite a term's lessons (I did rather better on the violin); lunchtimes sitting with my friends on the mound behind the Hall wondering what the statue was meant to represent ... One of my best times was a happy term spent preparing for Panto. I wasn't one of the 'cool kids' and didn't usually volunteer to put myself forward but I'd auditioned expecting to get one of the ensemble roles. My English teachers, Mr Campbell and Mr Mullen, must have seen something promising in my audition and I was cast as Aladdin's brother, Wishee Washee. I was basically the pantomime's comedy character and had far more lines than I'd anticipated but I had a ball. I still have my costume somewhere! It really brought me out of my shy shell and gave me such confidence.

## Memorable or inspirational teachers?

Mr Mullen (English) and Mr Roberts (History). They loved their subjects and made lessons fun. They made me feel a valued member of the class even though I wasn't one of the largest personalities. I try to emulate that in my own teaching – sometimes the quietest student has the most significant thing to say; they should be heard and included.

## Where did you go after BVC?

A Levels at Hills Road Sixth Form College and later trained and qualified as a teacher of dance at The Dance College.

## What is your current career?

I run the local community dance school, DanceMatters. We offer classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Linedancing for dancers aged from preschool to retirement age. It's really rewarding when adult dancers return to Ballet and Tap and re-find their love of dance. I'm 'dancer in residence' at a Cambridge primary school which is such fun! I also work with companies bringing dance into the workplace – a great way for companies to think about their



staff's wellbeing. One fabulous offering from DanceMatters is creating First Dances for nervous wedding couples – it's such a joy to be a little part of couples' Big Day.

I love my job! I haven't met a dancer I haven't liked!

## What led you to that?

I've always danced. I started Ballet aged 6 in the village dance school run by Mrs Page. We've stayed in contact – she even came to my wedding last year!

I spent nearly 20 years working at Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge ending up as Head of Dance. At Christmas

2011, it was time to commit myself to my poorly parents and I went freelance. It was the best decision I've ever made. I'm so glad to have been able to look after both Mum and Dad in their latter years whilst growing the DanceMatters brand. I know how worried my folks were when I handed in my notice but they were both very proud of everything I and DanceMatters have achieved. Being my own boss has given me the freedom to say yes to things that I would never have had the chance to do whilst still working for someone else.

DanceMatters has taken me to 10 Downing Street as we were given an award as one of the UK's most inspirational small businesses, and last year I was invited to the House of Lords as I was recognised as an inspiring woman in business for running DanceMatters whilst being my Mum's carer. I always talk about 'the DanceMatters family'; we're more than just a dance school.

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

Don't stress the small stuff – do your best and doors will open for you.

Be kind to people. Don't be an accidental bully by only thinking about yourself.

Don't feel like you have to map out your entire life now. Careers change and opportunities you can't even imagine will come along.

Get some exercise! Even if you feel swamped with deadlines or revision, stick with your dance lessons, sporting activities or just walk the dog. You'll feel better for it and work smarter when you get back down to it.

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