

# HERON

SUMMER 2021

## Bassingbourn Village College



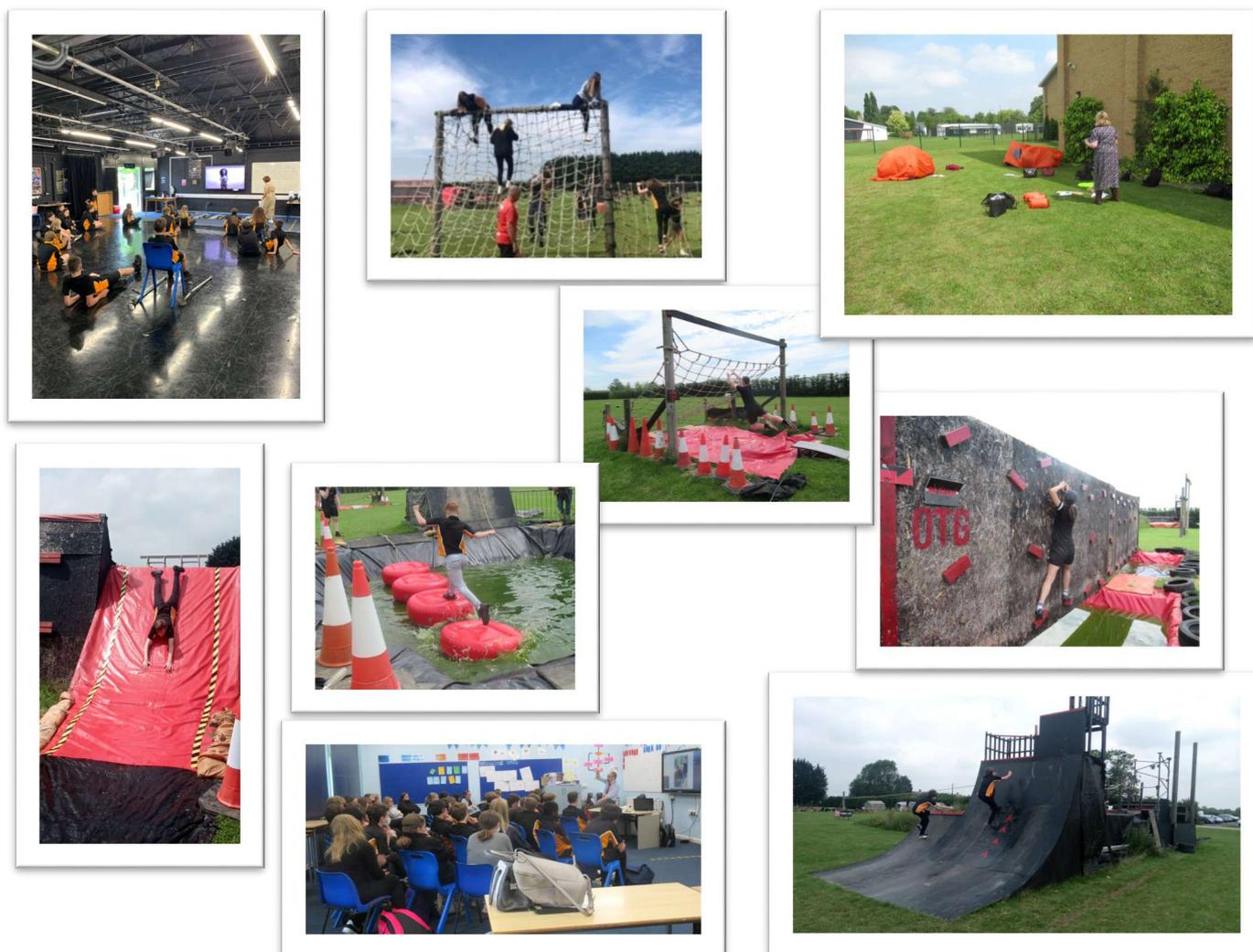
## Curriculum Day

While many extra curricular activities were put on hold this year, we were delighted that our Curriculum Days were still able to proceed with a few modifications from our normal schedule.

For our Year 10s this was a two day Scaling Everest Challenge. The aim of the Curriculum Days was to explore the Himalayas through teamwork, navigation and first aid training. The students spent Thursday morning at the Obstacle Training Ground (OTG) and the afternoon learning about and researching the Himalayas. On Friday students completed a carousel of activities including first aid, team work and navigation.

For our Year 9s their day was focused on Preparing for the Future: Staying safe, Study Skills and Well-being. We ran a variety of activities throughout the day including an introduction to study skills and revision, a presentation from former Sergeant Phil Priestley on Staying safe as a young adult including the risks associated with county lines and staying safe in relationships; and a session on personal and team building challenges at the Obstacle Training Ground (OTG).

For Year 7 & 8 they took part in a carousel of six different activities, which consisted of a mixture of sport, craft, drama and problem-solving based tasks. These activities focused, amongst many others, on developing their ability to work effectively in a team, improve their listening skills and continue to build resilience.



## A message from our Principal



Once again I am writing at the end of one of the hardest years we, as a community, have faced. As a school, this year has been one of constant change from home learning via Google Classroom, returning once again with year group bubbles and mass lateral flow testing and then home testing.

I am continually proud of how our staff body have responded in such adversity, continuing to provide our students with the support they need with such ever changing routines, as well as the exceptional teaching our students have continued to receive. It would be remiss of me not to thank parents and carers who this year have been asked to do so much with home learning and your support with this has once again ensured our students remain in the best possible position.

I am delighted however that even in times as such adversity as a community we ran two events, one to raise money for charity and one for our school. I know Tom's Trust was delighted to receive the £4,289.8 we collectively raised, as fundraising for all charities has been incredibly hard hit. I was also astonished by the level of support you showed when donating for our school defibrillator with donations hitting £1934.

As always at this time of year there are a number of staff we have to say farewell to. This year we wave goodbye to Mrs Myles-Baker, Mr Philip, Mrs Perry and Ms Taylor. I want to thank them for their commitment to our students while they have been with us and wish them a huge amount of luck in their future endeavors.

As we look to a new academic year, I am thrilled to be welcoming, Mrs K Abughannam, Miss H Chapleo and Mrs B Edwards who all join our Maths department, Mrs C Wakeling who is joining Technology, Ms A Well who is joining our Inclusion team and Mrs C Sadler who is joining the Student Support Team. I am excited about what they will bring to Bassingbourn Village College and the impact they will make to students.

For next year our Achievement Leaders will be:

Year 11 - Miss Harris

Year 10 - Mr Rix

Year 9 - Miss Cracknell

Year 8 - Ms Leake

Year 7 - Mrs Nettleton

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Summer holidays and I cannot wait to welcome everyone back to school in September!

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

To ensure you are up to date with what's happening at Bassingbourn Village College, please make sure you have subscribed to our ParentMail service.

The weekly Weekly Mailing keeps parents 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 ask 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: [www.facebook.com/BVCPFA/](http://www.facebook.com/BVCPFA/)

## Year 7 Review of the Year

Welcoming Year 7 to Bassingbourn Village College last September seems a distant memory now; so much has happened in the intervening 10 months. From settling into life at the college to adjusting to home learning, Year 7 have had a first year at the college unlike any other before them. Starting secondary school is usually an exciting yet unnerving time for students, and it is a credit to your children how well they have adjusted in a year which has thrown up many unexpected challenges.



The academic year began with students meeting their mentors and new classmates, and all staff were highly impressed by the students' excellent approach and engagement in lessons. Of course, after the Christmas holidays came the news that all students across the country would return to home learning. Demonstrating their resilience, Year 7 enthusiastically participated in this new form of learning and we received much positive feedback from their teachers about their contributions in online lessons and superb work ethic. It was fantastic to welcome the students back in March and to witness their happiness at returning – a clear reflection on how well they have settled at the college.



Given the challenging nature of this year, the Year 7s above national average attendance of 96% illustrates their continued commitment to their studies, and their hard work and positive attitude towards college life has resulted in them exceeding an astonishing 5,800 merits this year.

Whilst the college has not been able to offer the usual wide variety of supplemental enrichment activities, there have still been a number of wonderful opportunities available to the year group. Throughout the year, numerous sports clubs have run and those who have participated in these have thoroughly enjoyed them. Students also had the opportunity to indulge their love of reading, by sharing and discussing a number of books in the school's Carnegie Book Club. Additionally, this half-term the whole school enjoyed a Curriculum Day, which for Year 7 focused on developing their social skills, with a strong focus on team work, communication and resilience. The students immersed themselves fully in the activities and their feedback reflected the enthusiasm we saw throughout the day. With the departure of Year 11, Year 7 are now able to use a variety of subject specific rooms around the college, including the Science rooms, the Cookery room and the Drama Studio. Accessing these rooms has provided the students with the opportunity to see additional areas of the school outside of the Year 7 bubble, but also to provide them with a taste of the practical lessons they will participate in next year.



We have both very much enjoyed meeting and working with your children this year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming the students back as Year 8s.

Ms Leake & Mrs Nettleton, Year 7 Achievement Leaders

## Year 8 Review of the Year

I would like to start by congratulating our Year 8 pupils on another fantastic year at Bassingbourn Village College. As you are aware, this year has not gone without its challenges, and I am always impressed by the resilience and positivity of our students.

Despite the challenges we have faced due to the pandemic, Year 8 attendance remains good. The achievements and effort of pupils within lessons has also not gone unnoticed, with Year 8s receiving an amazing 6,000+ merits between them since the start of the academic year. Our weekly Powerpoint in mentor time has also showcased some of the excellent work produced, with a special mention most recently to 8 Clare English, who created some superb Shakespeare stagecraft displays.



During mentor sessions, as well as keeping up-to-date with school news through the weekly Powerpoint, students have discussed a 'Theme of the Week', covering a variety of topics, including Pride, Money Matters, Black Lives Matter and Environment, amongst others. Students have also utilised resources for 'Wellbeing Wednesday' to highlight issues and coping strategies to promote positive wellbeing and mental health. All groups have also completed weekly quizzes in order to win points for their Houses. This half term, all mentor groups have taken part in a Euros sweepstake and have been assigned several quizzes and tasks related to their teams and the Euros, for example designing a football kit. I would like to thank our wonderful Year 8 mentors for all of their hard work in supporting students this year.



On Friday 2nd July we were able to take part in a Curriculum Day, with Year 8s focusing on all aspects of team-building through a variety of activities, such as sport, problem-solving, arts and crafts and tower-building. Students worked with others in their House, winning points for their Houses in each activity. Extra points were awarded for excellent teamwork and lots of names were put forward as 'top team players', which was really fantastic to see. Feedback from students and staff alike was very positive, with teachers really impressed by the students' effort

and attitude throughout the day. It was brilliant to see students working so well together, encouraging each other and fully embracing the spirit of the day.

A big thank you to the PE department for enabling students to attend sports club on Thursdays after school and also a thank you to Miss Parris and Mrs Daniells for organising the Carnegie Book Club, which I know our students have enjoyed immensely.

This term, students have been able to move around the school buildings more and use our specialist rooms for subjects such as Science, Drama, Music and Technology. This has given them more freedom around school, despite remaining in bubbles, and a taste of what Year 9 has in store for them.

This term, our Year 8 students have undertaken the important process of choosing their Options subjects, this likely being the biggest milestone in their education so far. In speaking to students about their Options, I, Miss Hiels and Year 8 mentors have been impressed by their maturity and consideration in making these choices.



I am very much looking forward to taking our current Year 8 cohort into Year 9 as their Achievement Leader. I hope that students are also excited about starting their GCSE courses and are optimistic about the opportunities and experiences that next year will bring. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the year and wish you a safe and happy Summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming our students back to BVC in September.

Miss Cracknell, Year 8 Achievement Leader

## Year 9 Review of the Year

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to share with you some of the things that year 9 have been up to this year. Firstly it is important to congratulate the year 9 students for their resilience and positivity which they have shown throughout this most challenging of academic years. Despite these challenges due to COVID, Year 9 have maintained their good attendance and worked hard throughout the year – accumulating nearly 4000 merits along the way. We also have the lowest number of demerits in the school which is really pleasing.

In mentor times this year we have had our weekly bulletin which has included our ‘Theme of the week’ - featuring many topical issues such as Pride, the Black Lives Matter campaign and recently online abuse. These topics have sparked lively debates in the mentor groups. We have also had ‘Wellbeing Wednesday’ to highlight issues and coping strategies to promote positive wellbeing and mental health. Mr. Beck has also continued to lead the inter-college weekly Quiz – the results of which will be announced at the end of term.

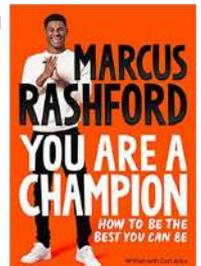


Clearly this has been a year like no other but with year 11 leaving, Year 9 students have had the opportunity to restart practical lessons – especially in science, where they have been reacquainting themselves with lab skills and attempting the required practicals which they could only watch on video throughout the year. Students in 9 Clare were particularly excited to see Miss Turland’s live heart dissection last week.

Earlier during this half term, Miss. Ward and Mr. Carter launched the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme to year 9 and we have had a fantastic 59 students– nearly half of the year group - sign up for the award. We are looking forward to the start of the award in year 10 and the expeditions to come. Also after May half term, Ms. Taylor started a Rainbow group for a number of students in year 9 – to support diversity, inclusion and tolerance.

I am also grateful to Mr. Church for leading a new initiative, a boys reading and book club for year 9. The boys have shared reading the Marcus Rashford book – ‘You are a champion – How to be the best you can be.’

The students have also been grateful to the PE department for running the year 9 afterschool club throughout the Autumn and Summer terms – especially on Fridays! It has been wonderful to see so many year 9s attending regularly. Thank you Mr. Budd, Miss. Gilder and Mr. Beck!



I am delighted that the year group will be staying as year mentor groups going into year 10, though we will be mixing up the mentor groups for September. The students will find out changes to mentor groups in the final week of term. I am really looking forward continuing to be their Achievement Leader through to year 11 as they face the challenges of GCSE exams ahead.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to the year 9 mentor team (Ms. Nutley, Mrs. Piggott, Ms. Price, Mr. Cowlan, Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Pack, Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Murfet) for their help and support to year 9 this year. In particular I would like to mention Ms Taylor – mentor of 9 Darwin, who is leaving the school at the end of the term to take up a post in a new school. I know the students appreciate everything that Ms.Taylor has done for the year group and we all send her best wishes for her new job. I am also delighted to welcome Ms. Shortt to our year team, who will be taking over from Ms Taylor with 10 Darwin in September.



Thank you also for your continued support throughout the year. I hope that you and the students all have a restful, enjoyable and most importantly a safe summer holiday; and I look forward to meeting them all again in early September 2021 for the start of what will be a busy Year 10.

Mr Rix, Year 9 Achievement Leader

## Year 10 Review of the Year

Despite the challenges faced this year, Year 10 have had another successful and engaging year. It is always a real delight to hear staff talk of student successes and regardless of the pandemic, this year has been no different. Independent and creative mind sets have blossomed and resilience has been displayed even in the darkest of days.

There are many moments I could share with you - as an Achievement Leader, I have had the privilege to drop into classes and mentor groups. When learning was online the Year 10 community kept each other going. Mentor sessions continued and conversations were mature and candid – students worked hard amongst themselves to dispel fear and I have to say the Year 10 family simply tightened.

For their Curriculum Days, the focus was to gain outdoor skills through the ethos of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was an excellent couple of days coordinated by Ms. Ward and her team.

On the Thursday students visited the OTG. Three students were awarded prizes; Dominic Gray and Rory Oakley, for the completion of an advanced obstacle course; and Rebecca Parr for sustained enthusiasm. All students were extremely positive of the experience and all felt they had challenged themselves regardless of their physical ability – the atmosphere buzzed on the return walk back to College.

The Friday was a carousel of activities and students were in small groups. Sessions included orienteering, tent construction, first aid, team work, emergency scenarios and map work. While the day was hugely enjoyed by all there were some notable highlights. Within Miss Turland's 'team work' session, the main 'event' was the '3 person skis', credit needs to be given to the team 'Big Shackleton & Co' who not only won the standard race, but won racing in silence, walking backwards and in the final, walking sideways on the skis – incredible! Further highlights included Hayden Stutely's outstanding tent construction skills, which left a number of staff speechless and the two student teams (consisting of Penny Smith, Sophia Malocca, Eve Kellythorn, Mia Davies, Archie Bracewell and Ella Cann / Emma Jones, Maia Blackburn, Lottie Bond, Alanis Aguiar-Jacinto, and Amelia Peace) for completing the orienteering challenge of all 20 Geocache points in the correct order within a restricted timeframe – no easy task!

During the final weeks of the term, students have returned to the science rooms. Year 10's have enjoyed a selection of practical work including a heart dissection with Miss Turland and the use of the ripple tank to demonstrate wave properties with Mr Rix.

Throughout the year the drama studio has been used by the year 10 option group. It has been a delight to see students rehearsing and exploring a really interesting array of topics ranging from a piece exploring the Vietnam conflict to discovering how women who commit crimes are portrayed by the media. It has been an equal joy to see students rehearsing after school as some enrichment activities for drama have been possible.

Earlier in the year, the year group were magnificent in their contribution of raising money for Tom's Trust by walking, cycling and running miles to get to Colombo in Sri Lanka. Of particular merit were; Jarred Atkins-Clark who cycled 410 miles; Rosina Summers who ran 17.5 miles; and Abi Buchan who walked 66 miles.



I am delighted to confirm that I will be taking forward the Year 10's into Year 11 along with our existing excellent mentor team. We are so pleased to be able to continue to journey with the year group as they work towards their final GCSE's. I certainly look forward to welcoming the Year 10 cohort back in September as Year 11, and I wish you all a safe and restful summer.

Miss Harris, Year 10 Achievement Leader

## Class of 2021—Year 11 Leavers

For the Class of 2021, the ongoing pandemic and lockdown has impacted their last year with us from their last 18 months in school, their exam process and how we were able to say goodbye. However, while our farewell was not the usual glitz and glamor of our Prom, we were delighted to hold a party on the school field and our amazing year 11 team put on a great show and it was clear fun was had by all!

We hope this unusual end to your time with us has not overshadowed your wonderful and enriching experience here at Bassingbourn Village College. It has been a real pleasure to have had you with us for the last five years and we have watched you flourish into exceptional young adults. Over the testing times of the pandemic you have shown resilience beyond your age and we wish you tremendous luck in all future endeavors.

We do hope that current rules continue to allow for you to collect your results in person as staff are looking forward to sharing this last experience with you.

See you on the 12th August!



## Classical Conversations

“Doctor Holmes-Henderson came to visit us from Oxford University to answer some of our questions about aspects of Roman life. We chatted about Roman punishments, weddings and the role of women at this time. She also told us about her research into whether studying Latin is influential in cognitive development.

We learnt about the different punishments, including how criminals were ‘immured’ which means the person being literally ‘built’ into a wall, and dying a horrible death! We also learnt that during wedding processions, a sieve would be carried to distract evil spirits – apparently they would be counting the holes in the sieve rather than causing trouble to the procession! It was really interesting and we have been promised a visit next year too.’

**Georgina and Annie**



## Konnichiwa!



“Earlier this term my classmates and I took part in a Japanese taster session, led by a teacher from Hills Road called Setsuko. It was very fun, interesting and I can’t believe how much I learnt. We learnt about Japanese culture, geography as well as learning our very first Japanese words and how to greet each other. In addition we were taught some signs and signals that Japanese people use to communicate, which are very different from in England.

Did you know that at the end of each school day, the Japanese students clean the school? I think our teacher had a few ideas after hearing this.....!

Thanks to the MFL department for such an interesting and enjoyable afternoon (oh, and the nice Japanese sweets we got at the end!!)”

**Anna**

## St.Peters and St.Pauls

Before our Year 11s left, Mrs Miller , Head of RE, was delighted to be able to organise a trip for our Religious Studies students to visit to St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church in Bassingbourn. They listened to an enlightened talk from Nick Jones and Rev. Amanda O'Neill about the importance of worship and what Church actually means for Christians.



## Duke of Edinburgh

This year has looked very different for the DofE Award; students have adapted and carried on as if it were another challenge to take on. Our Year 11s were unable to complete the expedition, but many have been able to complete the Certificate of Achievement by changing their activities to suit the Government guidelines at the time.

Our current Year 10s have completed their expedition through temporary changes to the Award by completing the Climbing Everest challenge over two curriculum days. During the summer term we launched the Bronze Award to Year 9 and we are very pleased to have 63 students taking part.

Over the summer students are going to start their activities ranging from sports coaching, water polo to litter-picking. Hopefully we will be able to get out into the countryside next summer for our expeditions.



## School Athletic Records

Our Athletics Records are not easy to beat but this term we have had two new records set:

Lila-Belle Nacca broke the Year 7 school record for the 200m - with a time of 28.98!

And our Year 8 school record for 4 x 100m relay now goes to, Carys Anderson, Erin Hall, Isabel Parsley, Leah Wylie with a time of 1:01.41!



***A fantastic achievement—Well done ladies!***

## Fundraising



At the end of this term we held a non-uniform day to raise funds for a much needed school defibrillator. The sudden collapse of Christian Eriksen during the Denmark vs Finland Euros game highlighted to us all what a lifesaving piece of equipment this truly is.

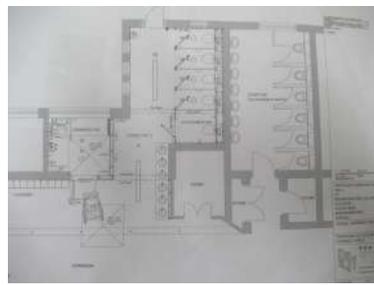
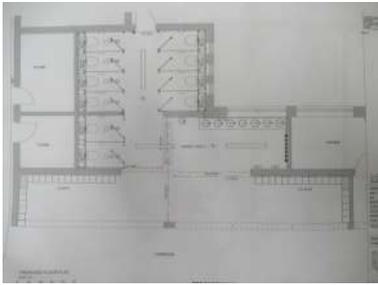
However with the cost incredibly high we needed your help to raise the funds to support this purchase. And WOW you most certainly didn't let us down! The final amount raised stands at £1934 and we are beyond thrilled! With your support we have been able to raise enough to support the purchase of TWO defibrillators, one for the main building and one to be placed outside the Sports Centre so the wider community can also benefit. Once again you have shown what a truly remarkable community we are a part of!



Thank you!

## School Refurbishment

Once again we have been awarded funding from Anglian Learning for more refurbishments of our school. Over the Summer we are delighted that our main toilet block will be refurbished to also include much-needed water fountains (plans are below) new carpets fitted in some of the classrooms, reception area, and work is being carried out outside to path ways.



## Key dates to remember

- On Thursday 2nd September our Year 7s will have their first lateral flow test. They will start school on Friday 3rd September
- On Friday 3rd September our Year 8s and Year 11s will have their first lateral flow test and will start school on Monday 6th September
- On Monday 6th September our Year 9s and 10s will have their first lateral flow test and will start school on Tuesday 7th September
- Ms Poulter will be putting out a student welcome address via video w/c 24th August
- Emails and questions will be responded to after 24th August

## Happy Holidays

As we say goodbye to school for the Summer, it is important that our students, teachers, parents and carers take time over the holidays to unwind and relax from what has been a very challenging few months.

Our students need time to enjoy the easing of restrictions and once again enjoy contact with friends and family.

We hope that whatever you spend your holidays doing—you have fun and stay safe!



## Alumni Interview—Ben Ritsema

### Cranes Drinks

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

I attended BVC 2002 to 2006—Year 8 to Year 11.

*Any particular memories of what you did at BVC?*

I have a lot of fond memories from Bassingbourn, some of my closest friends are ones that I made there. A lot of my memories are from time spent with friends in different classes like Resistant Materials and Drama and I remember winning Sports Day with my tutor group.

*Memorable or inspirational teachers?*

Mr Starkey was my tutor so I remember him, Mr Gair was our Drama teacher I remember as well.

*Where did you go after BVC?*

After BVC I went to Long Road Sixth Form and then went to University of Exeter.

*Where do you live now?*

I live between London and Cambridge. No children, maybe one day.

*What is your current career?*

Straight after University, my twin brother and I set up a business called Cranes Drinks. We made cider, liqueur and gin. We now sell our cider into Morrisons, Tesco, Ocado, East of England Co-Op and Amazon.

*What led you to that?*

We have always been quite entrepreneurial, having set up a car washing business at BVC when I was 12 and doing gardening to make extra cash. I came up with the idea when I was Exeter so we decided to just go for it.

*Have you travelled during your studies/career?*

Before University I did take a gap year and travelled to Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, LA and New York.

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

When I was at Bassingbourn Village College, I didn't really have that much of a thirst to learn, this is something that came to me later, but knowledge has so much value so always be inquisitive and enjoy learning new things. I didn't have the best predicted grades but that didn't stop me. You can do anything with a drive to work hard.

