



# Bassingbourn Village College

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have seen another shorter week fly by, and it seems hard to believe that we are now only two weeks from half-term. The recent bank holiday weekend saw a number of our Year 7-9 students visit the Hertfordshire Sports Village to watch London Mavericks vs Cardiff Dragons in the netball super league, (for those of you that don't know this is the equivalent of the football premier league!). My thanks to the PE team who made this possible and reported back that our students were fantastic and a real credit to our College. As we look to this weekend, a number of our Year 10 students embark on their Duke of Edinburgh training expedition, and we hope they have an enjoyable time.

On Tuesday, we started the main GCSE exams. Our Year 11s have a number of exams next week, with the exam season firmly now in full swing. If you are a parent of a Year 11 student, please do let us know if there is any additional support you feel we could offer at this very stressful time.

The exam period requires us, as a whole community, to support Year 11. I therefore thank you in advance for your support in reinforcing with all students the importance of not entering fenced off areas and being quiet around the College. This allows us to ensure the exams can be sat in a disruption free environment as we respect this significant period which all students will face over the coming years.

Finally, I wanted to use this letter as an opportunity to pause and reflect, as the nation has been, with the 80th anniversary of VE day this week. Part of our role as a village college is to celebrate and remember the significant role our local community played at key moments in history, and this includes the Second World War.

As many of you will know, Bassingbourn barracks was formally an airforce base used by both the Royal Air Force and the 91st Bomb Group of the United States Army Air Force. It became one of the most famous of the war, in large part due to the film *Memphis Belle*. This was the name of the aircraft based at Bassingbourn which, with its crew, was the first to complete 25 missions. I am told that some residents of the village still remember the sound of these enormous planes returning.

With all that is going on in the world currently, for me, VE day is a message of hope; the prospects for conflict to come to an end and countries' capacity to work together to achieve this. It also brings into sharp focus the role we play as a school in providing an education which enables students to positively affect change in society.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stoneham  
Principal