

# BVC THE HERON

RELAUNCHED 2025

Issue #03

March 2026

## Happy Easter

## We want YOU!

The end of term has finally arrived in what feels like a term that has totally whizzed by!

Our team have a term full of super news to share with you, from maths department competitions, school trips, external achievements, and an exciting visit from an award winning author!

Don't forget, if you have a story to share, or would like to get involved in one way or another, please drop the media team an email!

[media@bassingbournvc.org](mailto:media@bassingbournvc.org)

Every term **The Heron** team produce a bumper issue, to show the very best of everything **BVC**. Anyone can get involved... Why not come and join us!



**Cartoonist**



**Photographer**



**Journalism**

**Recipe Ideas**



**Interviews**



**Reviews**



**News / Stories**

## Dates for your diary...

- **15<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 8 Options Evening.
- **15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 9/11 Drama Trip.
- **22-23<sup>rd</sup> April** - Year 10 Parents Evening.
- **Week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 8 Practice Exams.
- **30<sup>th</sup> April** - Colour Run (Nominated Students in Year 7/8).
- **5<sup>th</sup> May** - GCSE Exams start.
- **15<sup>th</sup> May** - Practice D of E expeditions start.

## School Clubs



### Drama Club

Monday (15:30 - 16:30)

### Dance Club

Wednesday (15:30-16:30)

### Musical Theatre

Thursday (15:30-16:30)



### Various sports clubs

see the sports page



### School Band

Thursday (15:30 - 16:30)

### Woodwind Band

Friday (afternoon during 3b)

### Vocal Pop Choir

Wednesday (lunchtime)

Respect

Resilience

Responsibility

# The Principal's View...



With a super busy term here in the College, it is now time to enjoy a couple of weeks off to recharge in preparation for the final term of this academic year.

Year 11 are now on the last leg of their journey here at the College, and we wish them all the very best with their GCSE exams next term!

We have had a term of adventure, fun, celebration, competitions, and reflection as we remembered those who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Fixtures as always have kept the PE Department busy. It has been wonderful to see many students taking up the opportunity to learn archery after school, and also the launch of the Years 7 and 8 Girl's cricket club.

This edition's **'Principal's View'** comes from our Assistant Principal, Miss Manley.

## Assistant Principal's Note

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have enriched life at Basingbourn Village College.

This term, we proudly launched the National Year of Reading, with a range of activities taking place during mentor time. It has been wonderful to see you developing a love of reading and sharing your enthusiasm with peers and school staff. A huge well done to those of you that participated in the World Book Day challenges and continue to submit your completed bookmarks. Our celebrations for World Book Day were a particular highlight, especially the inspiring visit from author Inbali Iserles, who spoke to Year 7 about her creative writing journey despite facing various challenges along the way.

Beyond the classroom, our students have excelled in a variety of ways. The recent musical extravaganza showcased incredible talent and dedication, while trips to Rome and a range of Maths visits provided valuable cultural and academic enrichment. Alongside all of this, many of you have approached your exams with maturity and determination.

We have also introduced 'Hush' pouches for every student, helping to ensure that mobile phones do not disrupt your learning—an important step in maintaining focus and engagement.

Finally, well done to all students and staff for a fantastic term. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Best wishes, *Miss Manley*



Respect

Resilience

Responsibility

# Latest news...

## Math's Dept News...

On the 14th January, Mrs Edwards embarked on a math's adventure with 6 Year 9 students to participate in an event run by the Cambridge Maths School.

The 6 students had a great time participating in many challenges and did really well. In the relay challenge Bassingbourn managed to get placed second!



A huge well done to Oliver, Tom, Freddie, Richard, Eliza and Holly for taking part, and a huge thank you to Mrs Edwards for organising and running the trip.



However, the biggest achievement of the day went to Holly and Eliza who won the competition for making the longest paper structure to hold a weight.





# All Roads Lead to Rome...

By Sophie. H



## Latin Trip to Rome - 2026

After gathering in the back car park at 2:45 in the morning, we set off for Stansted Airport. We said goodbye to England at quarter past 7 and landed in Rome two hours later. Before long, we took a coach to Ostia Antica - the Port of Ancient Rome, as well as Rome's main military base and mouth of the River Tiber. We thought we could leave the Great British weather behind in the UK, but unfortunately, it was pouring down with rain, which (quite literally) dampened our spirits!



Despite the rain, we carried on down the road of Ostia. As it was buried for centuries by sand, the city is very well preserved; we were able to see the ruins of shops, bars and houses as well as a theatre. One of the highlights was seeing a lararium (a shrine to the household gods). In the evening, we had our first taste of real Italian food, carbonara, and then to bed, as it had been an early start!



The following morning, we set off to Palatine Hill where the city of Rome was first founded by Romulus in 753BC. From the Palatine Hill, we had a bird's eye view of the Forum Romanum, the centre of political and commercial life in Ancient Rome. It is a huge site of temples and basilicas, so we headed down to explore more closely. As we wandered along the flagstone paths, the ancient ruins of temples with huge columns rose up on every side.

These included the Temple of Saturn, the Temple of Romulus (and Remus) and the Temple of Julius Caesar with his tomb. It was then onto the Colosseum, a place that we were all dying to visit. It really was colossal with countless corridors and arches on every side from which the gladiators would emerge into the arena. Incredibly, the arena was built on top of a great lake which meant the arena could flood for naval battles!



# All Roads Lead to Rome...



On the way to dinner, we passed Trajan's Column and the (not Roman but impressive nevertheless) Victor Emmanuel II Monument. After dinner, we went on a long wander (passeggiata) around Rome, and were able to see the Trevi Fountain, the Piazza Navona, Castel Sant'Angelo and the Spanish Steps (overrated, according to Mrs. Trocmé-Latter!). We were even able to get a glimpse of the Pantheon ahead of Saturday's visit.

After our very late night (or very early morning!), we were able to have a more relaxed start on Saturday. Following our quick lunch, we headed straight to the Pantheon, a temple rebuilt by Hadrian in c.128AD, dedicated to all the gods (although it is now a church); it holds the record for the largest unsupported dome in the world! After a mandatory stop for gelato, we carried on to the Villa Borghese, where we could see a panoramic view of Rome. We made "friends" with some ducks and geese briefly by a picturesque lake, before continuing on to the Vatican. Although we didn't think we would have time, we were fortunate enough to be able to go into St Peter's Basilica and admire Michelangelo's astonishing architecture. However, we did cut it a bit fine!



The last day; we took the Metro back to the Spanish Steps where we dispersed once again for our last exploration of the city. A few of us went on a bit of a dog-leg to the Forum Boarium, where we saw the Temple of Portunus, the Temple of Hercules Victor, the skull of St Valentine and a very sweeping glance of the Circus Maximus! We had our last Metro ride, said goodbye to the hotel, and then headed to the Catacombs of St Callixtus, often a place of pilgrimage due to the many saints buried there.

We packed so much into our four-day visit to Rome. It was an amazing place to visit. Many thanks to Ms. Viana, Mrs. Trocmé-Latter and Mr. Hughes for making it all possible!

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Responsibility

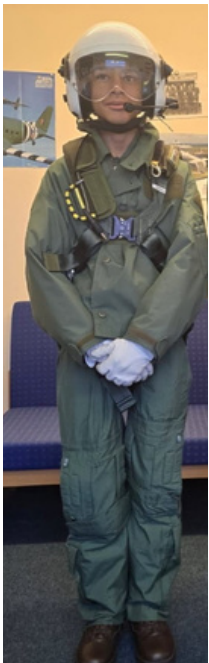
# Latest news...

The sky's the limit for Year 9's Zayn as he headed to RAF Cranwell (The RAF College) recently with Bassingbourn Air Cadets to get a taste of what it is like to fly a plane!

Zayn joined 2484 Squadron to make friends, stretch himself and learn to fly. Here he tells us about his latest adventure.

## The Sky's The Limit

By Zayn



***'I was looking forward to the day, but nervous at the same time. I had to get up at 4am and wouldn't be home until 6pm; I was off to RAF Cranwell for my first taste of what it is like to learn to fly as an Air Cadet.'***

***'On arrival at RAF Cranwell I met with other cadets where we were split off into groups where we went through the briefing for the day and watched a video. I was then partnered up where I was then taken to be fitted into my uniform for the flight before returning to the briefing room.'***

***'I then had to learn about what to do in the event if the plane malfunctions mid-air. My partner and I were then sent in a taxi to meet our pilot and introduce ourselves.'***

***'Once in the cockpit the pilot then asked if I remembered what to do in the event of a mid-air emergency exit and then I took off! 5,000 feet above the grounds of Cranwell, I was given a full flight tour of the base below and other places in the area.'***

***'After I had settled in the pilot asked if I would like to do some aerobatics. I made sure I said yes as it was a once in a lifetime experience, it is amazing and all the g-force kicks in!'***

***'Air Cadets is so much fun, you learn brilliant skills, and get to do plane aerobatics too. I recommend joining 2484!'***



# Cycling for Success

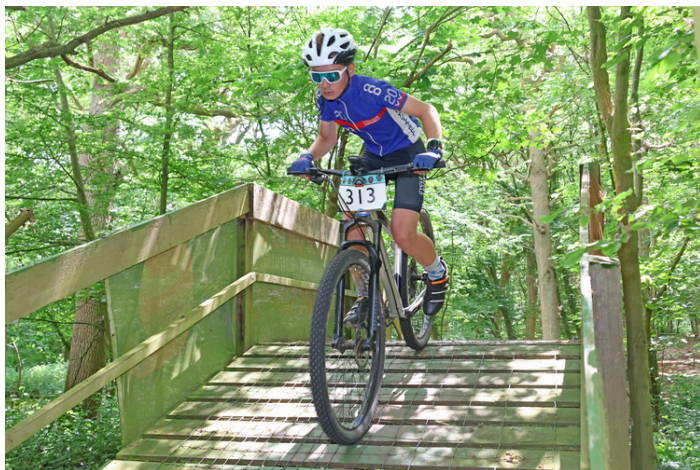
By Oscar D



The cyclocross season is now over and what a great year it's been for me. The season started with a very hot Springfield for the first round of the Eastern Cx League, and a 26th at the first round of the Lloyds Bank British National Cyclocross Series. Thanks to Colchester Rovers for your Neil Pears Memorial Cross in the Eastern League for giving me a nice fourth.

As the season intensified, so did the mud, as a good race at the Eastern League Regional Champs at Icenii resulted in a 3rd for me. A very muddy Sandwell Valley gave me a 39th after a crash into the tape and then a long run to the pits through the mud, losing me about a minute and 20 seconds. Moving onto Bradford, and after long battles I got a nice 23rd finish off a very muddy race.

After an exciting race at Eastern League's Round 9 at West Suffolk I walked away with yet another fourth. After yet another intense race at Iverine in the Nationals I came away with a great 17th, my very first National point and so lucky to have been able to do it with some great people in the cyclocross community, who I spent time with in the New Year.



I am now wrapping up a great year of Cross with the National Champs and Eastern League at Lannock Farm.

The National champs at South Shields was a great place to end a great season with the start along the coast, but as the race went on the group behind me got closer and just caught me on the last lap giving me a 21st. Lannock Farm (home race for me, so thanks to CCA for putting that on), was an excellent race to round of the season with, having some good battles, especially towards the end of the race, but I'm happy with a 2nd from that.

It has been a great last season in U14's for me and moving up to U16's next year.

Big shout-outs and thanks to Mum and Dad for driving me up and down the country, and to Flo the dog for her support as well. Massive thanks to all the people mentioned in here and British Cycling, British Cycling Eastern, Eastern League, and everyone who has raced and help make this season one to never forget, I couldn't have done it without you guys.

And finally, I just want to say a massive thanks as well to Planet X for both of my bikes for this season, what great pieces of kit you guys make, and to Pinnacle for my shoes, they are great things putting up with all the mud, wear and tear they have gone through this season, and keeping my feet safe, it's been great to have them.

So overall thanks to everyone and I hope next season goes as well and even better than this one!

# Latest news...

## Award Winning Author Visits!



Credit: T Pateman (Year 7)

To celebrate the National Year of Reading, and to mark World Book Day, Basingbourn Village College welcomed award winning author, Inbali Iserles through their doors.

The Cambridge author, who initially trained to become a lawyer before sharing her love of storytelling through writing, took the students on a journey of her life, her route to becoming an author, and tips on how to become a super writer.

Inspired by the animals she grew up with and the mystical foxes she saw in the city, Inbali used these life experiences to develop her storytelling skills and write the mystical Foxcraft series.

***'I found reading hard at school, I was later diagnosed as dyslexic but have always loved telling stories.'*** Inbali told the students.

***'It was books such as Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, Comet in Moominland, and The Honourable Cat, that really captured my imagination and allowed me to experience the magic of animals.'*** she added.



Assistant Principal, Miss Manley said, ***'This was an inspirational event for all those involved and a great way to promote reading for pleasure. At Basingbourn, we recognise that reading is fundamental to our students' academic success and personal growth and why events like Inbali's visit, enable us to raise the profile of reading across our school community.'***

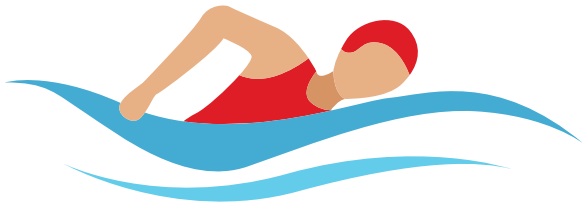
The assembly concluded with the students' asking questions about Inbali's career, stories, and characters.



# Making a Splash!



## Year 8's Lily has been making a splash at the Hertfordshire County Swimming Championships 2026.



Lily was recently awarded a County Champion plate by the Swim England Hertfordshire President.

Through hard work and determination, Lily pushed herself through 5 different categories to obtain points to qualify and enter. The categories included a long-distance event, an individual medley, a 50m, a 100m and a 200m event.

After finishing with a phenomenal score, Lily was placed 10th in the 14-year-old age group.

Lily's dedication to swimming is there for all to see; the hours she puts in, and her passion have allowed her to gain the success she truly deserves.

Everyone at BVC wishes Lily all the best as she has also qualified for three East Region events in May.



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Latest news...

## Hitting it for SIX!

After an amazing summer of cricket for Year 8's Alyssa, where she rubbed shoulders with some of The Hundred's biggest superstars, Alyssa has set her sights on one day joining her heroes in the competition.

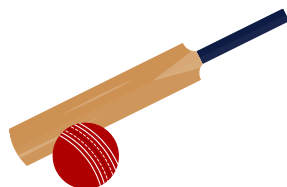
Following a successful season at her local cricket club, winning the league with the boys and also being awarded 'Manager's Player of the Season', Alyssa trialled with Cambridgeshire in November to try and gain a place on the prestigious MCC Foundation.



Just before Christmas Alyssa received the news that she had succeeded at the trials and was to be enrolled onto the MCCF with Cambridgeshire.

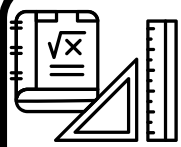
Being on the MCCF allows lots of opportunities to develop in cricket with first class coaching, including a competition that culminates in the final being held at the 'Home of Cricket' itself, Lords.

Good luck to Alyssa, we look forward to seeing where your cricketing journey takes you!





# Other News in Brief...



## The UKMT Maths Challenge



Earlier this month Mrs Edwards took four students out to The Leys School to the Maths UKMT Teams Regional Finals.

BVC did very well, coming 15th out of 20.

Being that the finals were in central Cambridge there were lots of private schools participating, so even more impressive with their finishing position!

A huge well done to Mateus, Ed, Isabel and Florence!



# WORLD

# BOOK

# DAY

## World Book Day

World Book Day arrived at BVC in style, with the Year 7's getting involved in lots of fun activities.

The day organised by Ms Cumberland included activities and quizzes in the library at lunchtime and a creative mentor competition.

The event culminated in a 'Book Hunt' around the school where the Year 7 students had to track down posters of teachers and their 'favourite' reads.

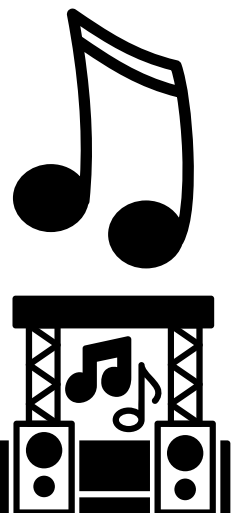
## Musical Extravaganza

By B Grinsted

On the 19th of March, the school hosted a music concert to congratulate and celebrate all of the talented individuals that we have at our school.

Throughout the day, performers rehearsed in the hall while the tech team worked hard to set up the equipment and make sure everything ran smoothly.

We would also like to give a special shoutout to Mr Cowlan, our music teacher, for all the hard work and effort that he put in to making this show possible. Without him we wouldn't have been able to run a concert at the standard that we did.





# Geography Field Trip



By Miss Hayward

On 3rd March, our Year 11 students enjoyed a memorable field trip to Cambridge, where they spent the day exploring the city's unique sense of place.



Throughout the visit, students considered how Cambridge is experienced and perceived by different stakeholders, including tourists, university students and locals.

From the historic architecture and famous colleges to the bustling market square, pupils observed how each group values the city in distinct ways.



Students focused on three areas to collect their data: Rose Crescent, King's Parade and Petty Cury/ Grand Arcade.



The trip provided a valuable opportunity to connect classroom geography with real-world experiences of urbanisation, globalisation and fieldwork skills.



Year 11 have been working hard analysing their findings and evaluating their projects in their lessons this half term.



*Miss Hayward*



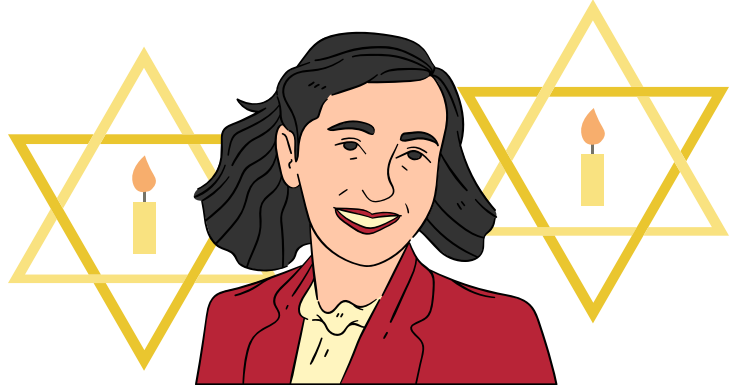
# Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

By Mrs Halliday



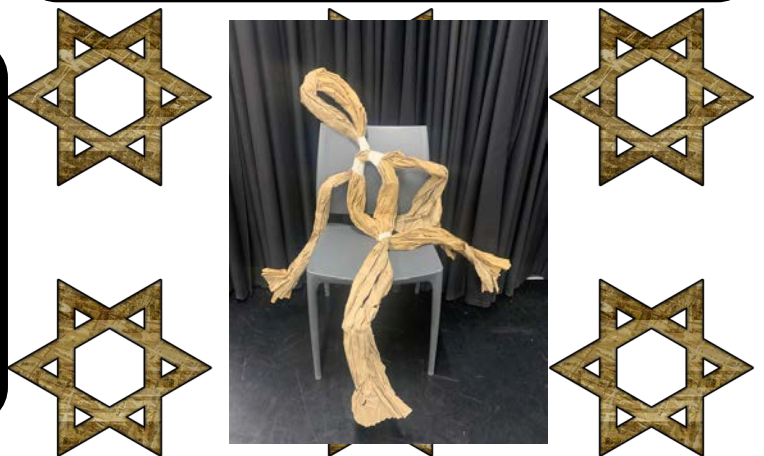
## Theme: Bridging Generations - Drama department

At Bassingbourn Village College, our Key Stage 3 pupils marked Holocaust Memorial Day through a powerful Drama-based exploration of this year's theme, "Bridging Generations."



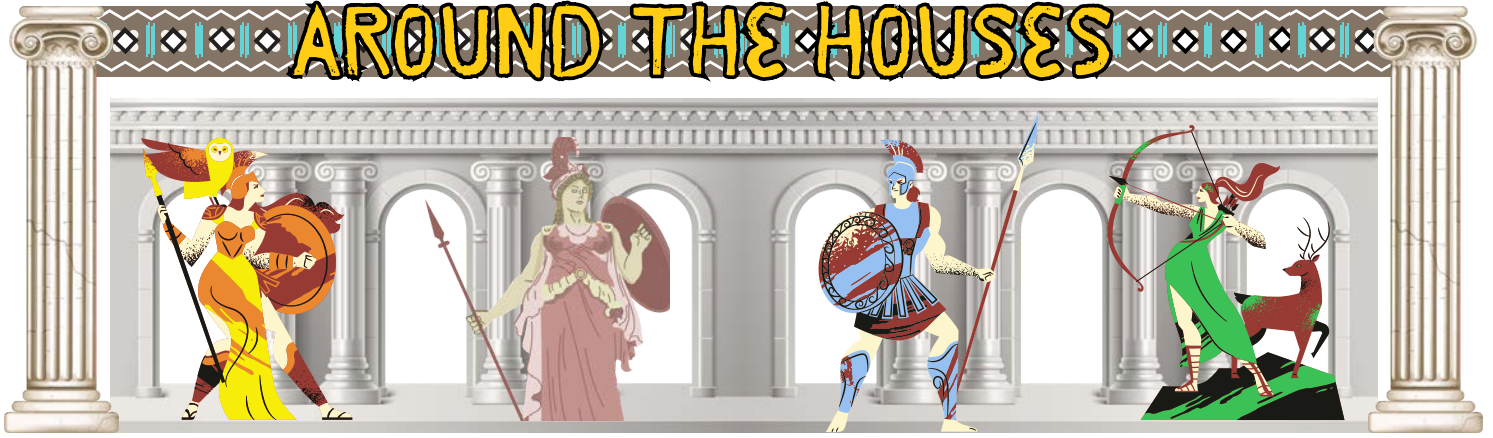
Students studied The Diary of Anne Frank, using it as a starting point to understand the experiences of young people during the Holocaust. This was developed through a practical workshop using the National Theatre's Brown Paper Mannequin technique, where pupils created visual representations of those who lost their lives.

Through mime and physical theatre, students used body language and stillness to communicate emotion and meaning, demonstrating how powerful performance can be without words.



This work enabled pupils to reflect on the importance of remembrance while connecting their own perspectives with those of the past, ensuring these stories continue to be remembered.

# AROUND THE HOUSES



## ATALANTA

Happy Easter Atalantians,

Wow what jam packed term full of amazing achievements!

Well done to our sports leaders who led the new age curling with the primary schools. I am also pleased to announce that I am awarding 28 Bronze Merit badges during celebration assembly and 3 silver Merit badges, I'm hoping to give my first gold award next term.

My biggest achievement this year was winning the Year 11 vs Staff volleyball match, better luck next time, I will see you on the volleyball court.

Best

**Miss Turland**

## ATHENA

This term has flown by. Students in Athena have been working hard and collecting lots of positive merits through doing excellent work in lessons and going above and beyond outside of the classroom. This term, Athena has reached a total of 15916, coming in second to Artemis. Our top 3 students with the highest merits are Alexander M (271), Joseph D (284), and Clara C (302). This week in our celebration assembly, I have had the pleasure of handing out 28 bronze merit certificates for students that have got 125+ merits in 7/8 and 100+ merits in 9/10/11. I have also been able to hand out four silver merit certificates for students in 7/8 who have 250+ merits; an excellent achievement. I would love for everyone in Athena to have a bronze badge by the end of this year. Let's get some rest over Easter, hopefully enjoy the sunshine and come back ready to go in the Summer term to achieve even more.

**Miss Chapleo**

## HERCULES

Congratulations Hercules on another fantastic term. Although the Spring term is the shortest one of the year, it is a significant one as it sees the start of the GCSE's, the last Celebration Assemblies for Y11 and most important of all, the return of the sun in the sky!

I remain hugely proud of all of the accomplishments of Hercules House and the amazing mentors and young people that represent us with distinction every single day. There have been amazing individual and team achievements throughout this term however I would like to say a special thank you to all those unsung heroes of Hercules House.

I am talking about pupils who turn up equipped to learn everyday and who always try their best. Those that have all the equipment they need. Those wearing their uniform with pride. Those who are kind and polite and respectful to others. You deserve a big thank you and a huge pat on the back. People like you are essential to the success of any school and any House within it. It may feel like turning up and trying your best is not always appreciated as much as it should be, and I am inclined to agree. So, this is me saying now, I appreciate you and thank you for your efforts - it wouldn't be the same without you.

Have a wonderful Easter Hercules House. I hope the Easter Bunny brings you lots of chocolate eggs and we all get to relax a little in the sunshine.

**Mr Beck**

## ARTEMIS

What an excellent half term it has been! There have been so many wonderful memories formed for the Artemis family. School events have included; the preparation and planning for the Spelling Bee; a trip to Rome; an evening of musical entertainment, and many more opportunities for all whether that is through weekly mentor competitions or PE fixtures.

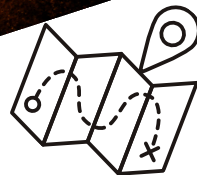
Over the last couple of days the Artemis Team have been planning for the Celebration Assembly which takes place at the close of each half term. What has been particularly noticeable has been the huge array of students receiving their Bronze and Silver Awards. Having also read through all of the Year 11 reports, there is certainly a huge array of students who are demonstrating great responsibility in their learning both in class and independently. As we move into the exam season, we certainly wish all students the very best and encourage all to both revise and recharge over the Easter break.

Wishing all of our Artemis families a restful and enjoyable Easter.

**Miss Harris**



# Duke of Edinburgh Award



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a youth charity offering programs to develop skills, resilience, and self-belief for young people aged 14-24.

Participants complete a personalized program involving volunteering, physical activity, developing a new skill, and an expedition.

Year 10 have had 2 training sessions this year where they have started thinking about their upcoming expeditions and how they are going to work together as a team. There are several students that have started to finish their individual sections and are now getting their assessors to write them their reports.

Year 10's remember you need 2 out of 3 of your sections completed by the qualifying expedition in June. After Easter, the training sessions ramp up and continue every Thursday until 4.30pm where they will be practicing their map reading and making sure they are fully equipped to complete their expedition.

Keep up the good work Year 10!



Best wishes,

*Miss Chaplea*





# The Great BVC Bake-Off

By Isabel D



## Chocolate Easter Nests

**Prepare:** less than 30 minutes  
1 hour or less in fridge

**Serves:** makes 12

### Method:

Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases  
Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture occasionally until smooth.

Remove the bowl of the heat and gently stir in corn flakes or puffed rice cereal until all of the cereal is coated in chocolate.

Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the center of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour or until completely set.

### Ingredients:

225g/8oz dark chocolate or milk chocolate, broken into small pieces  
2 tbsp golden syrup  
50g/2oz butter  
75g/ 2 3/4oz cornflakes or puffed rice cereal (Rice Krispies)  
36 mini chocolate eggs



**Store Easter nests in an airtight container for up to a week**

We would love to hear from you with your favourite recipes!



# Which Fantasy Hero Do You Most Relate To...



By Matilda ©

Follow through the questions to see which fantasy hero you are most like...

**Q1) Let's start off simple: making a meal!**  
First up, what are you having?

- a) Steak and Kidney/Shepherd's Pie
- b) A Stew or a Soup
- c) Emergency Sandwiches (if I'm feeling adventurous)
- d) Do Sweet Treats count?
- e) Anything Blue!
- f) Hot Buttered Toast with Fish

**Q2) Would you like any condiments/toppings with that?**

- a) Gravy please
- b) Dried Plums (Prunes)
- c) MAYONNAISE!
- d) Melted Chocolate, I guess (Sorry, I've got a bit of a sweet tooth)
- e) Blueberries (the qualifying feature is their blueness)
- f) Simple British Staples (eg. bacon, eggs, seafood)



**Q5) Time to look into your personality:**  
To begin with, what would you say is your best trait?

- a) My strong moral compass and sense of right and wrong
- b) I am willing to put others before myself if I care about them and not expect anything in return; also, I am competent
- c) I am quietly capable and able to handle myself yet I can also make lasting connections with others
- d) My kindness and ability to believe in a different possible world or dream
- e) I am able to not let my emotions get the better of me when in dire situations and find ways to deal with them afterwards
- f) I can always work out how to survive and become top of the food chain in the process but still maintain my ability to form attachments to others



**Q3) What about refreshments?**

- a) Butterbeer (I wonder if you can guess which world I belong to)
- b) Just Tea for me
- c) I don't really mind to be honest
- d) Peppermint Hot Chocolate
- e) Blue Cherry Coke (it has to be blue!)
- f) Warm Milk

**Q4) Do you fancy any dessert?**

- a) Honeydukes Sweets work for me!
- b) Apple Tart with Goat's Cheese
- c) I tend to keep Jelly Beans with me
- d) Mallowmelt (or basically any other Elvin sweet ever)
- e) Blue Chocolate Chip Cookies
- f) Chocolate, or Marzipan



# Which Fantasy Hero Do You Most Relate To...



**Q6) Now, which characteristic gets you into trouble most often?**

- a) Disregarding restrictions and regulations
- b) Not playing by the normal rules of the game
- c) Telling white lies to shield myself
- d) Keeping secrets in order to protect others
- e) My impulsivity and tendency to argue back
- f) My ability to make up convincing falsehoods

**Q7) What is the first thing that people notice about you?**

- a) My decency and relatability as a person
- b) I am initially guarded towards others until I get to know them
- c) My empathy towards others and my not being the most confident to start off with
- d) My innocent and trusting nature despite obviously being different from others in some ways
- e) I use sarcasm and wit to express my feelings in a simple way
- f) My natural magnetic and enduring nature



**Q8) Which animal do you think that you most align with?**

- a) A Wolf
- b) An Elephant
- c) A Horse
- d) A Goat
- e) A Border Collie
- f) A Crow/Raven

**Q9) For our final set, we're going to give you some decisions to make:**

**We'll start with what you would be fighting for if you chose to undertake a heroic quest-**

- a) I would be fighting to fulfill my destiny at the same time as preventing dark forces from taking over
- b) I would be endeavoring to protect and make a better life for those I loved most
- c) I would be trying to overthrow a dictatorship and campaign for justice
- d) I would be attempting to create a world free of fear and do the job for which I was made
- e) I would be seeking to find and reunite with somebody important to me
- f) I would be looking for the truth about my existence and the world that I live in



# Which Fantasy Hero Do You Most Relate To...



**Q10) Now, which weapon would be most valuable to you in your mission?**

- a) A Wand to cast preventative spells and use magical means of finding my way
- b) A Bow and Arrow to protect myself and others from long range
- c) Raw elemental magic so that nature is on my side
- d) My special talents (powers) that are unique to me and can serve the intended purpose
- e) A Sword to defend myself if necessary
- f) A Symbol Reader to discover hidden secrets that can enlighten me as to the situation

**Q11) Fight, Flight or Freeze - You're being chased down by a vengeful enemy: what do you do?**

- a) If it's my responsibility then I will fight them to the end
- b) Run as far as possible and then rely on my long range accuracy to defend myself
- c) Fly away to check on my allies so that we can return in greater numbers
- d) Freeze on the spot to try and clear my head and think of a plan
- e) Face them head on and let them know that they can't instill fear in me
- f) Why surrender to letting them affect you rather than commanding the situation yourself?

**Q12) If an enemy who you'd just defeated asked for forgiveness, what would you do?**

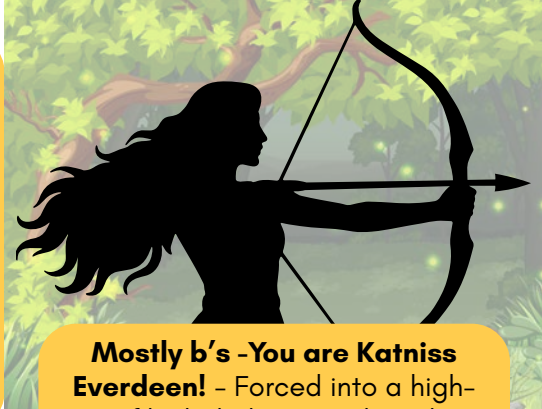
- a) I would show them forgiveness unless they were a major villain whose only downfall would have been their defeat.
- b) They don't deserve my forgiveness after everything that they've done; I would be rid of them.
- c) Once they had explained their motives for what they did I would probably forgive them.
- d) In all likelihood, I would struggle a lot with the decision but eventually decide to lend them my forgiveness.
- e) It would depend on their circumstances.
- f) I would let them live but probably wouldn't change my mind on the matter of forgiveness.



# Which Fantasy Hero Do You Most Relate To...

## Mostly a's - You are Harry Potter!

Known worldwide for being 'The Chosen One', Harry had to show immense courage and maturity in his continuous battle against the Dark Arts and in discovering many vital secrets that others may have found too much to handle. You are likely to be exceptionally brave, loyal and curious, always with a taste for adventure.

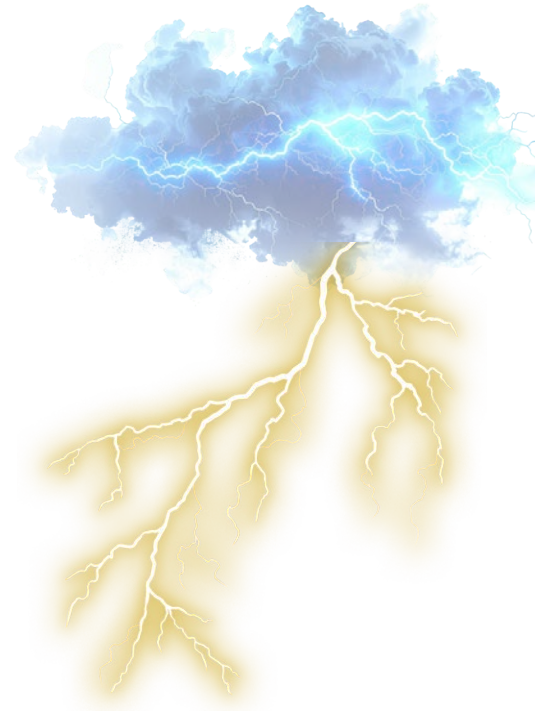


## Mostly b's - You are Katniss Everdeen!

Forced into a high-profile, lethal game when she volunteered to participate in her sister's stead, Katniss unwillingly became a source of amusement for the media and later on a reluctant figurehead for a cause in which she believed yet wanted to be her own person, eventually establishing her own independence and letting others know that she would not easily be controlled, at the same time as managing to stay alive and protect those she loved. Similar to Katniss, you are no doubt strategic, resourceful and never ceasing in attempting to defend those close to your heart.

## Mostly c's - You are Skandar Smith!

Mistrusted by many at the start of his story for his differences, Skandar was compelled to overcome adversity and realise that his uniqueness was an important strength in his mission to save both his homes from those who might harm them. You are probably an incredibly resilient, adaptable and empathetic person.



## Mostly e's - You are Percy Jackson!

Armed with wit and steadfast allegiance, Percy could always be counted upon to make the difficult decision to protect his friends or to stand up to injustice or manipulation against himself or anybody he cared about, even in the middle of pivotal assignments. His strengths that you likely share include incredible daring, confronting domineering adversaries and overall constancy.

## Mostly d's - You are Sophie Foster!

Since originally manifesting abilities that sometimes she thought were more a curse than a blessing, Sophie learned to use them with confidence and to have pride in who she was and what she could do, whilst getting the better of her initial anxiety. I would imagine that like Sophie, you are warm-hearted, considerate and prepared to fight for the cause that you believe in at all times.



## Mostly f's - You are Lyra Silvertongue!

Perhaps the formidable fantasy protagonist, the 'Silvertongue' in Lyra's name comes from her ability to spin a story that allures anybody. Charismatic and bold, Lyra basically raised herself emotionally and became the biggest fish in the pond of Oxford street lore through her natural cunning and magnetic appeal. If you align with her, you are in all likelihood craftily clever, hardy and able to make the best out of any situation.



# Help Bring the Stage Back to Life!

Mrs Halliday is reaching out to our school community for support with an important project at Bassingbourn Village College. Our school stage, which has hosted countless assemblies, performances, concerts and celebrations over the years, is now in a serious state of disrepair.

The stage flooring has deteriorated to the point where it is becoming a risk to our performers, we have been quoted £12,000 for essential replacement flooring alone. Beyond this, the stage is in desperate need of a wider refurbishment, including new curtains, wings, lighting and improved intercom communication ("cans") to allow performances to run safely and smoothly.

We 'The Creative Arts Team - Mr Cowlan, Ms Cumberland and Ms Lambert' are trying so hard to develop our Performing arts department. The stage plays a vital role in supporting drama, music, public speaking and whole-school events, helping students build confidence, teamwork and a love of the arts. Without urgent investment, these opportunities are at risk.

We are therefore asking if any parents, carers, alumni, friends of the school, or local businesses would be willing to help, whether through donations, fundraising efforts, sponsorship, or practical support. Every contribution, big or small, will make a real difference.

If you can help support this project or would like to get involved in fundraising, please feel free to contact me or the school. Together, we can restore our stage and ensure it continues to inspire future generations of students.

Thank you for your continued support, Have a wonderful Easter!

*Mrs K Halliday*

khalliday@bassingbournvc.org

What we currently have...



What we would love!

# The BVC Puzzle Page

By Ben G

## Riddle me this...

Four collectors (Evelyn, Marcus, Silas, and Zara) each won a different item (Globe, Mirror, Painting, or Vase) at an auction. Each item was made in a different century (17th, 18th, 19th, or 20th) and sold for a different price (£400, £600, £800, or £1,000).

Can you determine which collector bought which item, the century it was made, and the price they paid for it?

### The Clues:

1. The 17th-century item sold for exactly £200 more than the item Marcus bought.
2. Zara purchased the Painting, which was not the oldest item.
3. The Vase sold for £600, but it is not the 20th-century item.
4. Evelyn spent more than Silas.
5. The 18th-century item (which is not the Globe) sold for £800.
6. The Mirror is older than the Painting.

marshmallow  
jellybeans  
celebrate  
chocolate  
decorate  
basket  
spring  
church

Treats  
Sunday  
purple  
flower  
Easter  
sweet  
Jesus  
cross

chick  
candy  
march  
bunny  
lamb  
lily  
hunt  
pink  
eggs

## Sudoku

					1	2	3	
1	2	3			8		4	
8		4			7	6	5	
7	6	5						
						1	2	3
	1	2	3			8		4
	8		4			7	6	5
	7	6	5					

## Wordsearch

A K V D G J G O B I G N T H D C H O C O L A T E  
O Z H J D W O S Q D C A N D Y T D P O A K Y B P  
V H P K B E B A S K E T E A S T E R I A V U Z W  
U L Q N C Z P I N K H M D Q K S Z O C B B W V S O  
M H Z P L G M W A T T P P U A P A C C A R N D R  
A W C H U R C H R S Y T P Z O R U F H N P M K J  
R X G Y O V B L O U R S C R Q I Y R I A Q N N L  
S H B C H I C K X N L W E O T N L P Q G W Z K I  
H E M M A R C H L D K E P R P G O U R M C M S L  
M C R M L C R B J A L E I Q T V D R C E E X A Y  
A D Y F R J Y Q E Y Q T C D P J P P E S L P T N  
L B D H X Q Q Z L Q A U E W P G I L D S E A R B  
L X A U I N Z Q L Y M F G T I Y V E O D B G E H  
O R O N D W R P Y H X L G F B F D Y Z C R S A N  
W R W T E D D B B K J O S E W Q Z M N J A W T V  
M B Y O C S J D E N R W J K T T H T K Q T B S G  
Y P B V O X P C A P T E R H G P B P I T E J D H  
U K S H R D P B N M R R C W N N U N K M F B A A  
D L K Z A X K H S B O X R A J E N K M S R C J O  
S L W I T N V Y S V C L O N I B N S K S H Y L Y  
C W I L E C H H O Y S F S L P K Y F T D K X A U  
W P E Y W Z N H P M C Y S F I U T E E M U O M Z  
E N D N V A R O X Q M Q V C B W Z H O G T N B U  
I R S A U J E S U S I T M R B C K V Z Q K N P S

# 'Money Saving Deals' to help over the Easter Holidays...

The holidays are almost upon us, so The Heron team at BVC have done some online scouting to source the best places where there are deals to eat out, and only pay £1 for kids!

**Don't forget to double check with your local restaurant, café, or supermarket first to ensure the deal is available at that branch.**

## Top Easter 2026 Eating Out Deals

### **Kids Eat Free/£1 Deals:**

**Bill's:** Up to two kids eat free on weekdays with an adult main meal.

**Franco Manca:** Free kids' pizza when an adult buys a main meal, Monday to Thursday.

**Morrisons Café:** Free cereal and fruit during school holidays, plus further kids' meal offers.

**Asda Café:** Children eat for £1 with no minimum adult spend.

**Tesco Café:** Kids eat free with any purchase.

**Bella Italia:** Kids eat for £1 Sun-Weds, and free on Thursday (check specific dates).

**Hungry Horse:** Kids eat for £1, typically on Mondays.

**Dunelm:** Free kids' meal with every £4 spent in Pausa cafes after 3 pm weekdays.

**IKEA:** Kids' meal for 95p, including pasta, sauce, fruit, and drink.

**Pizza Hut:** Free kids' buffet until 3 pm with a £10 adult spend.



# The BVC DEBATE

By **Matilda C**

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**Much like Christmas, some are beginning to look at our beloved annual celebrations and ask themselves whether or not we participate in them for the same reasons that they were begun in the first place. In this debate, we are going to look at the different influences on the original festival and at how those primary traditions are different from our own contemporary ones.**

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The idea of Easter came to begin with from early Christians who wanted to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus, but until then many of them had honoured the religious event on a weekly basis rather than a yearly one. By the end of the second century, it was an established celebration called Pascha, a name still used by Orthodox Christians to refer to the holiday. Later, in 325 AD, Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea made it official, announcing that the celebration should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.

It being on a Sunday obviously fits with the Christian interpretation of the Day of Rest, whereas both full moons and the Spring Equinox are more central to Pagan beliefs. In fact, the entering of Spring is often associated with the Anglo-Saxon/Germanic goddess Ēostre, from whom the word Easter derives, and also with fertility, which could explain the representation of rabbits, who are commonly associated with such. Many other key Easter traditions we still practise today are also of Pagan origin, including our habit of decorating, and eating Easter eggs, which in ancient Egyptian and Persian times symbolised fecundity, new life and the heralding of the sun, and our baking and eating of Hot Cross Buns, that, originally, as well as showing the Christian Cross were meant to be Pagan representations of the four seasons or the four phases of the moon.

Another common Easter tradition in Germany was the lighting of bonfires (Osterfeuer), which were intended to ward off Winter spirits and witches and to welcome the sun's warmth. Of course, Easter being an originally Christian festival, many of our practices of that religion, such as the aforementioned Easter eggs, which were also used to represent the empty tomb of Jesus as they have hard shells which can be cracked open. Sometimes they were even painted red to symbolise his blood. Some Christians still follow the tradition of the Easter Vigil and Light, where candles are lit the night before Easter Sunday to show the transition between the darkness of death and the light of resurrection, and many, even non-believers, continue to participate in Lent, and as eggs were traditionally forbidden during Lent, they make for good embodiments of the whole Easter theme. As well as these, lambs are often associated with Easter and springtime and also occasionally eaten as part of the large feast to end Lent on Easter Sunday, all of which comes from the idea of Jesus as 'The Lamb of God' who was sacrificed.

The header features a central title 'The BVC DEBATE' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The title is flanked by two clusters of colorful Easter eggs in shades of pink, blue, green, and yellow. On either side of the egg clusters is a stylized stork with a long neck and legs, carrying a bundle of eggs. The background is white with scattered, smaller colorful Easter eggs.

# The BVC DEBATE

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All of these staple Easter conventions arose from Christian and Pagan beliefs and habits, meaning that many believe that our modern-day celebration of the well-known festival is as similar as is possible to the way that things used to happen, given the widespread across religion and faith which have taken place over the centuries since the holiday for originally invented.

Others may be justified in their opinions that our contemporary Easter commemorations differ largely from those of our ancestors: chocolate eggs are an example of such. We already know how eggs derive from ancient traditions but why in March and April do we see so many more chocolate creations than actual chicken-grown eggs?

During the 1800s, the first chocolatiers, particularly in France and Germany, began to experiment with shapes for their prized confectionery and from there the first, usually solid chocolate eggs were created. Over time, chocolate-making techniques and technology improved, making smoother hollow eggs possible and allowing for industrialisation and mass-production to begin in the UK with companies like Cadbury. Confectioners popularised the trend and after the connection to Easter was established, chocolate bunnies and void eggs filled with sweets shortly followed to reach a wider market.

Another Easter tradition that was more recently introduced is the hobby of hunting for eggs (often with prizes). This process is derived from the German folk tale of a rabbit, or hare called the 'Osterhase' laying colourful eggs in nests (or else hats or baskets which explains the popular children's activity of decorating these accessories for usage) for kids to find. During the 1700s, German immigrants brought forth the idea of the 'Osterhase' while in America, and from there the 'Easter Bunny' and Easter-Egg Hunts became widespread associations. The English Heritage has also voiced the possibility that reformers like Martin Luther instituted the first Easter egg hunts to create more engaging lessons about the Resurrection for their congregations, particularly women and children.

For some of these reasons, people could argue that our Easter traditions nowadays have been built on the foundations of consumerism and indulgence of chocolate, a more recent introduction, or else later-found methods of appealing the Christian and Pagan ideas of Easter to a wider audience.

We don't have to assume that our celebrations of Easter are one thing or the other; they could be a complete blend of both and considering the very different lives we lead to our forefathers that would be understandable. We must also consider that people, depending on whether or not they are religious or just simply everybody choosing to celebrate in their own way, means that there are no rules for how we want to either honour a key religious event, or in other cases just have fun! There may not be a clear answer, but it is still important to understand the roots and reasons behind what we do today, and it can be interesting to gain others' views and speculations on this topic.

# The BVC Sporting Pages...



## After School Sports Clubs:

### Monday:

- TBC on return to school

### Tuesday:

- TBC on return to school

### Wednesday:

- TBC on return to school

### Thursday:

- TBC on return to school

### Friday:

- TBC on return to school

## BVC Match Reports...

### Girl's Cricket Takes Off! By Matilda C

On Wednesday 11th March, Bassingbourn participated in an afternoon cricket tournament hosted by our school which was intended to promote the sport in secondary-age girls. Even though it was carried out in a competitive manner, the tournament was only meant to be a fun and immersive way of encouraging involvement and so was friendly and enjoyable for all.

The other schools invited were Comberton Village College and St. Bede's Inter-Church School, and each team was made up of roughly 8-9 girls who were interested in giving cricket a go. The tournament was held and scored by Cambridgeshire Cricket.

The first game that Bassingbourn played was against St. Bede's - always confusing considering that their PE kit is very similar to ours. The game was quite close but the final score after everybody had a turn at batting and fielding was 71 to St. Bede's and 55 to Bassingbourn. Probably the reason that we lost was that being indoors, the ball, when hit against the floor, a wall or the ceiling, bounced or rolled more quickly back to the fielders, making it easier to be caught out. That was a problem for Bassingbourn because during that game we had done a lot of running after hitting where it shouldn't have been needed, which if we'd been outside would have served us better with more space to whack the ball.

After that, St. Bede's played their second match against Comberton, who narrowly beat them, following which St. Bede's left to take their minibus back to Cambridge.

That left just us and Comberton, out of whom Comberton won 65-44. Even though the gap between our score and the winning one was this time larger than before, we sought to improve our mistakes from the first match through better communication and letting whomever could better see whereabouts the ball had been hit have the call on whether or not to run. Fielding must also have improved considering that the victors came away with a lower score than last time. Comberton as a school is known for its sporting prowess and we were able to hold our own rather than being completely hammered and considering that Bassingbourn only had two weeks of forewarning and preparation, I think that we came away having played well and more importantly, having had a good time.

If any girls in **Years 7 / 8** are interested in joining the girl's cricket club after Easter please ask Mrs Jackson, or Ms Gilder for further details.

