

Bottisham Village College Newsletter

July 2025



The Principal's Desk

As we come to the end of another busy and successful year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to reflect on the many highlights that have made this year so special.



We are making strong progress on our key priorities while continuing to offer exceptional personal development opportunities. From UK trips to international experiences, it's been fantastic to see so many students growing in confidence, curiosity, and resilience. Sporting success has been another standout, with impressive achievements across all age groups. I'm particularly proud of the continued rise of our girls' teams – their commitment and teamwork have been inspiring.

In the performing arts, preparations are already underway for our December school musical, The Addams Family. It promises to be a wonderful showcase of our students' talent – look out for ticket details early next term!

Our parent information sessions – including tutor evenings and daytime tours – have been popular and will continue next year. If you haven't joined us yet, please visit our website for dates.

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The Principal's Desk

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A heartfelt thank you to all parents involved in the PTA, Parent Forum and Governing Body. Your support is hugely appreciated and strengthens our community.

We're also proud to mark the 25th anniversary of Red2Green, our on-site charity. We're planning exciting joint projects and look forward to sharing more soon.

I'm incredibly proud of our students – for their kindness, effort and commitment to our values. Many have earned house points or received 'Power for Good' certificates for acts of leadership and compassion. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please do let us know – we love to celebrate them.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Year 11 Leavers' Ball – one of the most joyful we've hosted in decades. We wish them every success in the next chapter.

As the year closes, we say goodbye and thank you to staff members moving on, and look forward to welcoming four new teachers in September. We are fully staffed and ready for the year ahead.

Wishing all our families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Rankine



YEAR 11 LEAVERS' BALL

FRIDAY
JUNE 27TH 2025



It was some evening...

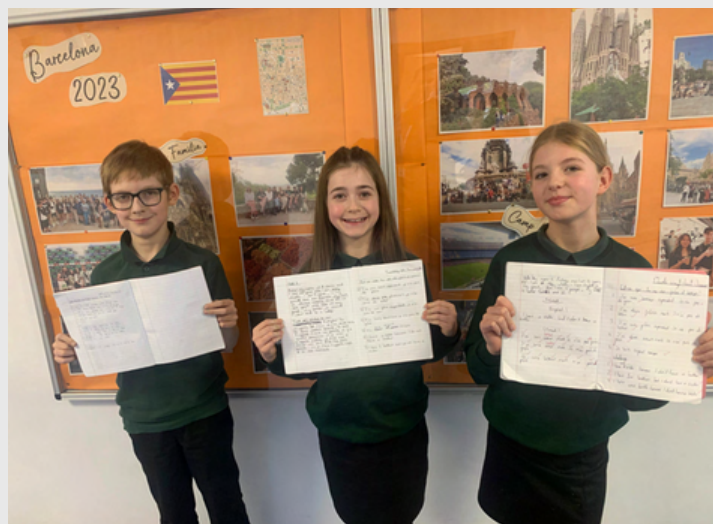
Here are a selection of photos from the event. A more comprehensive slideshow can be found on our website in the "news" section.

Of course, we are only able to post the images of students for whom we have permission, which may affect others in group shots.





BVC Parents' Survey Response 2025



Participation

Thank you to the 355 participants of our survey from this year. We asked a range of questions and also asked for general comments at the end. We hope this article provides parents with a summary of key themes and also the response from the college.

80% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at the college.

75% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the college supports their child's wider personal development.

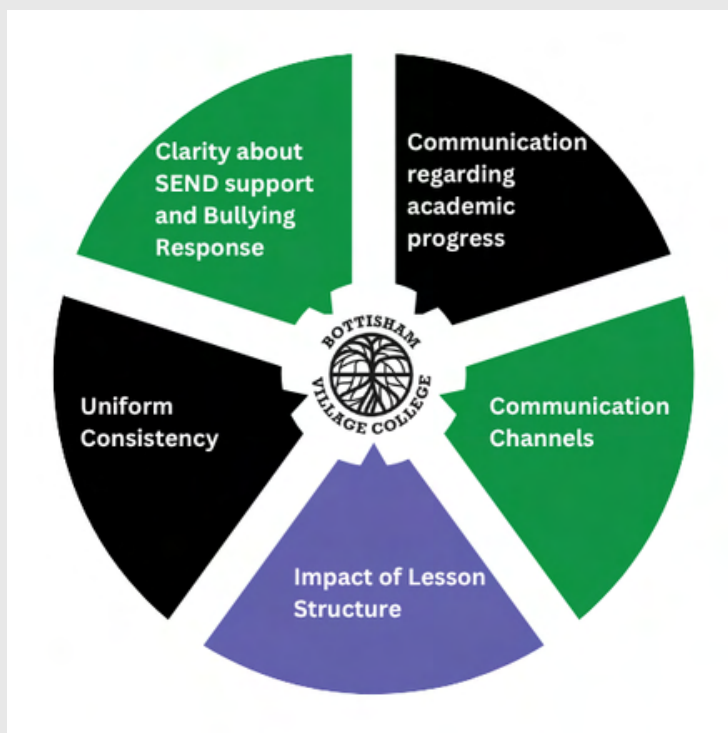
70% of parents would recommend the college to another parent.

65% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the school has high expectations for their child.

In comments, many parents praised the variety of clubs, trips and activities available.

Recommendations

These were the themes from both comments and statistics from the survey which parents asked us to think about in more detail.



Next Steps

Update		Next Steps
Clarity About Bullying Response	At BVC, we've strengthened our approach to bullying by improving how concerns are tracked and followed up, training staff, and involving students in reviewing support. Please encourage your child to speak to their tutor, Head of Learning or the safeguarding team if they have any concerns.	Our next steps include gathering further student feedback through focus groups, monitoring patterns using updated tracking systems, and delivering refresher staff training. We have launched 'Green to be Seen' reporting boxes around school to make it easier for students to raise concerns and will continue to provide clear guidance and regular updates to parents.
Clarity about SEND Support	We are further strengthening SEND support in the classroom through targeted staff training, with a focus on seating plans that support access to learning and effective in-class interventions.	Quality assurance processes are in place to monitor the progress of SEND students and ensure classroom support is having the intended impact.

Communication Regarding Academic Progress	Over the course of this year, Go4Schools has ensured that we can communicate this data to our community of a granular level, such as the result students achieve in a particular assessment.	In 2025/26, parents and carers will be able to see their child's progress regularly, culminating in the end of year exams for all year groups, which we have started this year.
Communication Channels	The Parent Forum are currently trialling our new approach using the "Reach More Parents" app. This will give parents a newsfeed, messages and notices all in one place and tailored to specific groups of students.	BVC staff are being trained this term, and we intend to use the app with all parents from September 2025. Year 7 shall be trialling the incoming messaging to schools, which we shall feedback to our community about.
Impact of Lesson Structure	Our 5 phases of a lesson are embedding across the college, in-line with our 4 pedagogical pillars: Questioning, Modelling, Thinking Hard and Collaboration	Staff will be focusing on developing their planning of collaboration tasks, sharing good practice and ensuring that students have the chance to approach their subjects from differing angles during a lesson.
Uniform Consistency	Students are greeted in the morning by senior members of staff and have their uniform checked: this has now become a part of college life.	We are working with tutors to ensure that there is consistency within year groups relating to how we intervene with uniform.

Thank you to all of our community involved in events this year relating to college improvement: Parent Meetings in September, Update Meetings in March and ongoing Parent Tours.

We shall be running similar events in 2025/26, so we look forward to seeing many of you there as our journey continues: details on our website.

"There have been lots of improvements and there are many things that are really good about the school: happy kids and opportunities."

"Homework has improved vastly and uniform is much improved: it shows the power of expectations. If you challenge students and define expectations clearly they respond."

"Bottisham always has the students' best interests at heart. It understands that education and making a child a rounded person includes not only the academic subjects but also the creative ones and extracurricular opportunities."

HILDA

CELEBRATING HER LEGACY

Hilda Buchanan retired this year after an extraordinary 50 years as a Governor at Bottisham Village College, having first joined the governing body in 1974/75. At the time, she was the local Practice Nurse and already known to the school community. Appointed by the County Council, Hilda's connection with BVC deepened when her daughter joined the college shortly after.

Over the decades, Hilda became a pillar of the college's development. She helped shape major projects including the swimming pool, sports centre, and library – all guided by her belief in education as a community-wide endeavour. Working with seven Principals and countless staff, she always spoke with honesty and conviction, placing students at the heart of every decision.

To commemorate her service, Hilda generously commissioned a flag for the college. Students were invited to design it, and Kaniel Baptise in Year 9 won the competition. His design now flies proudly on site, representing Hilda's enduring legacy and the values she championed.

Hilda attended countless school and community events – from fireworks and sports matches to quiz nights and even welding classes. Asked what she valued most, she simply said:

“Seeing the fun the children have at school, and the mutual respect between students and teachers.”

We thank Hilda for her dedication, wisdom, and service. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



Hilda and Kaniel proudly
presenting our new flag

SPOTLIGHT ON...

LESSONS



A Window into Our Five-Phase Lessons

Have you ever wondered what a lesson at Bottisham Village College actually looks and feels like? Our new Five-Phase Lesson Framework gives you a clear lens into what happens in the classroom every day—and how it's designed to support your child's progress, confidence, and enjoyment of learning.

This structured approach ensures that every student experiences a purposeful, high-quality lesson—no matter the subject or teacher.

The Five Phases of Every Lesson

Each lesson follows a clear five-phase structure that helps students build knowledge, practise skills, and reflect on their learning:

- 1. Activating Prior Knowledge** – Lessons begin with calm, purposeful starters that revisit key concepts and identify gaps.
- 2. Knowledge Acquisition** – Teachers give clear, structured explanations using modelling and regular checks for understanding.
- 3. Skills Practice** – Students apply what they've learned with support, receiving real-time feedback.
- 4. Problem-Solving and Depth** – Challenging, open-ended tasks promote deeper thinking and independence.

5. Reflection and Next Steps – Students review their learning, complete self-assessments, and prepare for next lesson activities.

Evidence-Based Pillars of Great Teaching

Lessons are built on four key pillars of strong pedagogy:

- **Questioning** – Encouraging deep thinking and identifying misconceptions.
- **Modelling** – Showing students what success looks like.
- **Thinking Hard** – Promoting analysis, reasoning, and creativity.
- **Collaboration** – Enabling students to learn from each other through discussion and teamwork.

Inclusive by Design

Our approach ensures all students—especially those with SEND—are supported with clear routines, scaffolded tasks, and responsive teaching. Teachers adapt lessons based on students' needs and check understanding at every stage.

Homework That Builds Progress

Homework is set with purpose and always linked to the next lesson. It helps consolidate knowledge and prepares students to engage in more challenging tasks.

With a clear structure, strong pedagogy, and a relentless focus on progress for all, our curriculum framework is delivering results. It's helping us close gaps, raise expectations, and ensure that every child is seen, stretched, and supported—every lesson, every day.

The Director of Secondary Education

In what has been another busy term for Anglian Learning's schools, I am pleased to share some of the fantastic achievements by our staff, pupils and school communities.

Firstly, well done to all pupils who took their GCSE and A-Level exams this term. This period represents a significant milestone in every pupil's educational journey, and we hope your child(ren) feel proud of their hard work and accomplishments. Thank you to our staff and volunteers, whose efforts ensured the smooth delivery of the exam season.

I was also proud to see secondary pupils take the spotlight in Anglian Learning's Stage 25 dance festival. Their confident performances and powerful interpretations of this year's theme, Belonging by Design, were both moving and inspiring.

Creativity was further celebrated through our first Trust-wide creative challenge, which invited secondary and sixth form pupils to produce artistic pieces inspired by their favourite books. Congratulations to Tony, a Year 9 pupil at Linton Village College, who was named overall winner for his outstanding entry.

I want to thank all our school staff and to recognise their hard work, often going the extra mile to provide many enriching experiences for our pupils. The Summer term is full of work experience opportunities, school shows and performances, trips, visits, sports days, transition days and the highlight of the year, the year 11 Prom.



On behalf of Anglian Learning, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer, and thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming pupils back in September for another year filled with opportunity and growth.

For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education



Mr Cooper

FROM BOTTISHAM TO THE BIG LEAGUES: NURTURING FUTURE FOOTBALLERS

At Bottisham Village College, we are proud to support the ambitions of every student—whether academic, artistic, or athletic. In recent years, this support has helped launch several students onto the path towards professional football, showing that with hard work, the right guidance, and local roots, anything is possible. This year, we're celebrating the progress of five former BVC students who are either playing professionally or firmly on the pathway to doing so.

HARRY DARLING

After leaving BVC, Harry joined Cambridge United's academy, making his professional debut in 2016. His rise continued through a move to MK Dons, then Swansea City, and most recently, in summer 2025, a transfer to Norwich City. A composed and commanding centre-back, Harry's career shows what's possible with dedication and consistency.

"The friendships I made at BVC didn't just shape my school years — they shaped me. Their support and honesty built my confidence and continue to influence how I show up in the world today."

"Mr Alvey and Mr Burgess sparked more than a love for sport — they taught me the value of resilience, leadership, and commitment. Their impact reached far beyond the gym and helped shape the direction of my life."



BEN KNIGHT



Ben left Bottisham in 2018 to sign for Manchester City, having developed through Ipswich Town's academy. His senior debut came in the 2021 Community Shield, followed by loan spells and a season abroad in Spain. In June 2025, Ben returned home to sign with Cambridge United—bringing elite experience and creative flair to his hometown club.

"Honestly, the school was great with me — all the teachers gave me everything I needed and let me really focus on my football whilst making sure I got my school work done."

Mr Midgley and Mr Andersen are two teachers remembered fondly by Ben.

TOM KNOWLES

Tom Knowles began his football journey at Bottisham before rising through Cambridge United's academy and making his first-team debut in 2018. After non-league loan spells, he moved to Yeovil Town, then Walsall in 2022, where he was praised for his versatility. In 2024, he signed for Forest Green Rovers.





CHARLIE COMPTON

Charlie's journey began at Exning United, with further development at Norwich before settling into the Ipswich Town academy. In 2025, he signed his first professional contract and quickly made his mark with standout performances for the U21s.

A box-to-box midfielder with technical skill and attacking instinct, Charlie is firmly on the radar for future first-team selection and was featured in a [Guardian article](#) last year about the "Next Generation of Talent".

"BVC supported me brilliantly with my football through my whole time there. They let me use the facilities for extra training and playing school football remains one of my greatest memories."

OLI NEWMAN

After a spell with Norwich City, Oli joined Southampton's U18s in 2024, after a period of great Premier League interest. A Wales U17 international, Oli has already scored and assisted in Premier League U18 matches, showcasing his pace, creativity, and composure. Southampton is known for developing top-class talent—and Oli is thriving in that environment.

"BVC gave me the best platform to go after my goals, with staff who created an environment where I could truly thrive."

"One of my favourite memories was coming from behind with my teammates to win the County Cup final in the last minute – an unforgettable moment!"



AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

Head of PE, Mr Perry, has very vivid memories of these former students:

"Our former students are a clear source of inspiration for anyone at Bottisham with dreams of a professional sporting career — proof that hard work, versatility, and a love of sport can take you far."

Reflecting further on their time at Bottisham, he adds:

"What all of them had in common during their time at Bottisham was their active involvement in a wide range of sports — including rugby, basketball, and athletics, alongside football. I firmly believe that broadening their sporting experiences contributed significantly to the levels of success they have since achieved."

The legacy lives on with Freddie Jolland (2025 Leaver) starting his scholarship at Cambridge United in July of this year.

To say we're proud of these young men would be an understatement. Their achievements — and the character behind them — continue to inspire every student walking our halls today, reminding us all of what's possible through commitment, resilience, and a true passion for sport.



GALLERY



Silverstone Trip



Summer Concert



Paris Trip



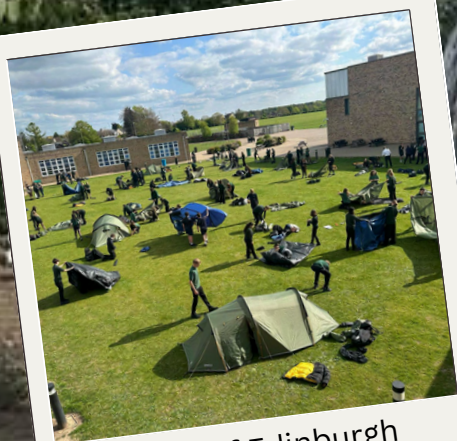
Year 11 Leavers' Day



Barcelona Trip



Derbyshire Trip



Duke of Edinburgh

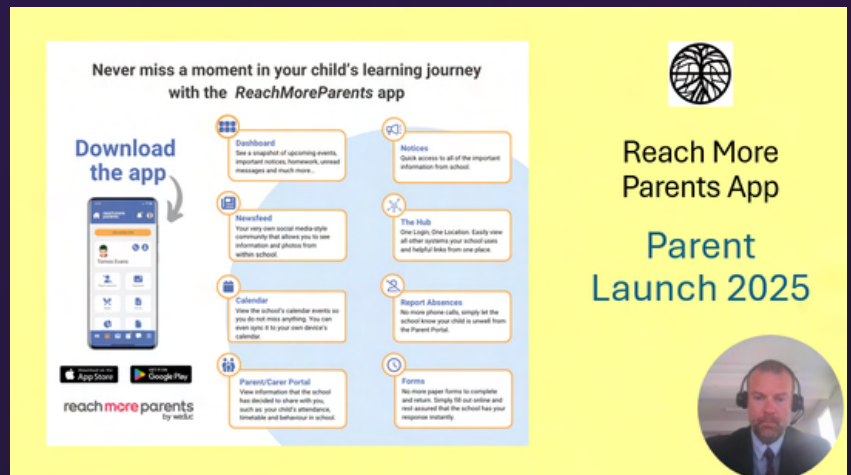
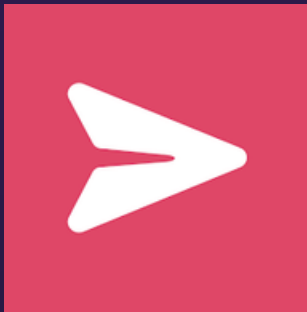


Ski Trip



VE Day in Bottisham Village

From September 2025



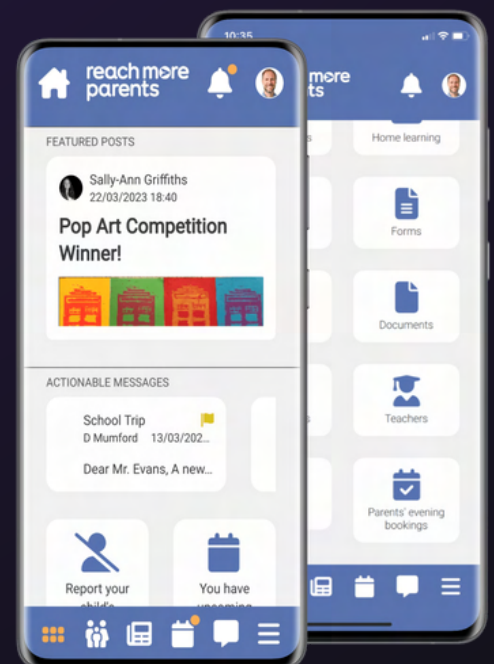
As mentioned in our Easter newsletter, we are launching the “Reach More Parents” app from September 2025. We hope that all parents/carers have now received their login details and have managed to sign-in to the app. Although many of you will have this on your phone, there are other ways in which you can access the content.

A short introductory video from Mr Compton is available on our website:

<https://www.bottishamvc.org/reach-more-parents-app-launch/>

How will the app support parents/carers?

- The newsfeed will give you a window into college life.
- The calendar will be tailored to your needs.
- Notices will inform you of pressing information.
- Forms will enable you to give us permission quickly and effectively.
- Messages from us will come directly into the app, meaning you do not need to sift through your emails.



ENRICHMENT UPDATE



Year 7 Camp: A Bottisham Tradition

A feature of our school is the range of opportunities we offer our students outside of the curriculum: trips, visits, clubs and experiences. Here's a brief snapshot of the events which have taken place this academic year so far.



Henry Morris Award

Sporting success



*Speak
Out*



*Imperial
War Museum*



*Table
Tennis*



It could happen to your child.

As the summer break approaches, we want to speak to you directly—and honestly.

Each year, we support students who have fallen victim to child sexual exploitation (CSE). Often, these children haven't left their homes—some haven't even left their bedrooms. They are tricked into sharing images or videos online. Some are blackmailed. Many feel too ashamed to speak up.

These are real children.

Our children. In our school. In our community.

It could happen to your child.

Please watch [this video](#).

SAFEGUARDING

CHECK THEIR PHONE

Photos, apps, and messages. You have every right.

TALK TO THEM

About pressure, image sharing, and how to ask for help.

REMIND THEM

If they've shared an explicit image, they can remove it confidentially via [Report Remove](#).

Don't assume it won't happen.

Assume it could.

Have the conversation.

Protect your child.

Support Over the Summer

Please note that the school will be closed during the summer holiday.

If you are concerned about the welfare of any child, please contact:

Cambridgeshire Children's Social Care: 0345 045 5203

Suffolk Children & Young People's Services: 0808 800 4005

In an emergency, always call 999.

Wishing you and your family a safe and restful summer.



Bottisham Village College
Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Key Dates

AUTUMN
TERM
2025

SEP

1

PROFESSIONAL
DAY (NO
STUDENTS)

SEP/OCT

TBC

YEAR 11 MOCK
EXAMINATIONS

SEP

2

START OF TERM
FOR YEARS 7 & 11

OCT

2

PROFESSIONAL
DAY (NO
STUDENTS) AND
OPEN EVENING

SEP

3

START OF TERM
FOR ALL

OCT

27-31

HALF-TERM

SEP

16

SCHOOL
PHOTOGRAPHS

NOV

6/13

YEAR 11 PARENTS'
EVENING X BAND/Y
BAND

SEP

18

YEAR 7 COFFEE
MORNING (7.1 - 7.5)

NOV/DEC

24/1

YEAR 8 PARENTS'
EVENINGS X
BAND/Y BAND

SEP

22

POST 16
INFORMATION
EVENING

NOV

28

PROFESSIONAL
DAY (NO STUDENTS)

SEP

23

YEAR 7 COFFEE MORNING
7.6 - 7.10

DEC

9-11

SCHOOL
PRODUCTION

DEC

19

END OF TERM

The Archive

DINING HALL

HANDS UP!



We think this picture was taken in 1937, the year the college opened. Bottisham was the second Cambridgeshire Village College to open, as part of the vision of the late, great Henry Morris.