



The Principal's Desk

As another school year draws to a close, it feels like the perfect moment to pause and reflect on what has been a truly memorable year at Bottisham. Looking back, I am filled with pride in what our students have achieved.

This year has been full of firsts and milestones. For the first time, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 sat formal end-of-year examinations, and they approached the challenge with maturity, determination and positivity. They should be immensely proud of how they embraced the experience.



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Outside the classroom, there has been so much to celebrate. Activities Week was bigger and more ambitious than ever before, offering students opportunities to challenge themselves, try new things, make lasting memories and enjoy experiences both close to home and much further afield. It perfectly captured the spirit of Bottisham – curiosity, adventure and a willingness to embrace every opportunity.

Our students have also excelled on the sports field, representing the college with skill, determination and tremendous team spirit. Winning the Olympic Cup was a particular highlight and one that generated enormous pride across the whole school community.

One of the standout moments of my year was meeting the students who applied for our new Student Leadership Team. For the first time, we invited applications from both Year 9 and Year 10 students, allowing younger leaders to develop their skills and ensure continuity for the future. The quality of every application and interview was exceptional. The enthusiasm, creativity and commitment shown by all the candidates made the final decision incredibly difficult, and I am delighted to congratulate William Mayer and Aoife Gordon (Year 10), alongside Finlay Alexander, Lottie Meredith, Alex Walker and Harvey Shilson (Year 9), on their appointments. I know they will make a wonderful contribution to the life of the college over the coming year.

The arts continue to flourish at Bottisham, and we are already looking ahead with excitement to our December production of Six: Teen Edition. If past performances are anything to go by, it promises to be another fantastic showcase of student talent.

As I write, our Celebration Evenings are well underway. These events are some of my favourite moments of the year because they provide an opportunity to recognise not just academic success, but the many ways our students contribute to our community through effort, leadership, creativity and kindness. Every year group has given us countless reasons to be proud.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students. Their Leavers' Ball was a wonderful occasion, bringing together families, staff past and present, and a year group that has left its mark on Bottisham in so many positive ways. We wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to colleagues moving on to new adventures – Mrs Derbyshire, Mr Cox, Mrs Street, Miss Foster and Miss Ryan – and thank them for everything they have contributed to Bottisham. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming Miss Speed to our PE department in September.

Thank you for being part of another wonderful year at Bottisham. I wish all our students, families and staff a safe, restful and happy summer break, and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Mrs Rankine



Standing Together

At BVC, we know that students are often the first to notice when a friend is struggling. Our Green to be Seen campaign gives them a simple, safe way to act on that concern.

Students can complete a peer postcard to tell us about someone they are worried about and what the concern relates to: unkind behaviour, family, friendships, low self-esteem or stress. Completed cards can be posted in the postboxes located around the school, where they are collected regularly by our pastoral team.

Students do not need to give their own name if they would prefer not to. What matters is that the concern reaches us, so we can offer support quickly and quietly.



Green to be Seen is there to support and protect. We would encourage all parents and carers to talk to their child about the campaign: noticing a friend in difficulty, and telling a trusted adult, is one of the kindest things they can do.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

BVC FRIENDS



Parent volunteers led by Chair Emma Joy Staines are transforming opportunities for students: and they're asking the community to join them.

In school halls, at quiz nights and behind the scenes all year round, a small group of volunteers is making a remarkable difference to the lives of young people in East Cambridgeshire.

The Friends of Bottisham Village College (FBVC) is a registered charity run entirely by volunteers: parents, and in some cases staff, who give their time to raise money for the school. None of them are professional fundraisers. What they share is a simple belief: that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive, whatever their circumstances.

Leadership Matters

At the heart of it all is the group's Chair, Emma Joy Staines. Described by colleagues at the College as an amazing lady, Emma has led the Friends with warmth, energy and quiet determination, rallying volunteers, championing new fundraising ideas and making sure that every penny raised goes directly to supporting BVC students.



Every student, whatever their starting point, deserves the very best opportunities: Friends of BVC helps make that possible.



The Quiet Force Behind Bottisham Village College's Biggest Supporters



Emma Joy-Staines and Louise Lackovic

A Thankful College

"The Friends make things possible that simply wouldn't happen otherwise," said Ed Compton, Deputy Principal of Bottisham Village College. "At a time when school budgets are stretched, their generosity and hard work enrich the experience of every one of our students. We are enormously grateful to Emma and the whole team."



FRIENDS
of Bottisham Village College
Supporting Achievement through Fundraising
Registered Charity No. 1110948

The impact of the group's work is easy to see around the College. In recent years, the Friends have funded laptops for Learning Support. They have provided tents for school camps, resources for the library, support for SEND initiatives, and helped give Year 11 students a Prom to remember.



Now the Friends are appealing for more helping hands. The group is keen to stress that volunteering doesn't have to mean a big commitment: even 30 minutes before or after an event makes a difference. Volunteers might help at fundraising events such as the Summer Bottisham Ball and quiz nights, design posters, collect raffle prizes, offer reading support in school, or simply spread the word.

Supporters can also help at no cost at all by shopping online through easyfundraising, which prompts retailers to donate to FBVC with every purchase.

The Friends meet monthly, and newcomers are always warmly welcomed: whether they can help once a year or every month.



FRIENDS

of Bottisham Village College
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A little time from you can make a big difference
for every student at BVC

YOU CAN HELP BY:

 Joining us at the next meeting	 Giving just 30 minutes at an event	 Helping at events – before, during or after	 Spreading the word
 Designing posters or graphics	 Collecting raffle prizes	 Volunteering for reading support in school	 Sharing ideas and helping where you can

 **EVERY BIT OF HELP COUNTS.**
Many hands make more happen!

INTERESTED?
We'd love to hear from you!



WhatsApp
07368 181797
to join our volunteer group



Email
friends@bottishamvc.org

Thank
you!



**TOGETHER, WE CAN SUPPORT OUR AMAZING STAFF
AND HELP EVERY STUDENT AT BVC SHINE**



CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE



September Planning

When the summer draws to a close, here are a few gentle tips to help the transition back to school feel smooth and positive:

* **Reset Sleep Gradually**

Start shifting bedtimes and wake-up times earlier about 3–5 days before term starts.

* **Bring Back Familiar Routines**

Reading before bed, laying out uniform the night before, or breakfast at the table can all help children feel settled.

* **Ease Off Screens**

Try to wind down screen time at least an hour before bed to support better sleep.

* **Plan a Calm First Morning**

A relaxed, unhurried start to the new term helps everyone feel confident and ready.



Thank You

Every single improvement counts — whether that's a student who's turned a tricky term around, built new friendships, found their confidence in class, or simply made it into school more often than before. We want every family to know: we see your effort, and it matters.

Thank you to every parent and carer who worked hard to get your child into school this year. Regular attendance isn't always easy — mornings can be a battle, and life

and life gets in the way — but your commitment has made a real difference. Being in school helps children grow, build friendships, and develop the confidence and resilience they'll carry with them for life.

And to our students — well done! Whether you improved your attendance by a little or a lot, showed up on the tough days, or supported a friend along the way, you should be proud of yourselves.

“The more time children spend in school, the more they thrive.”

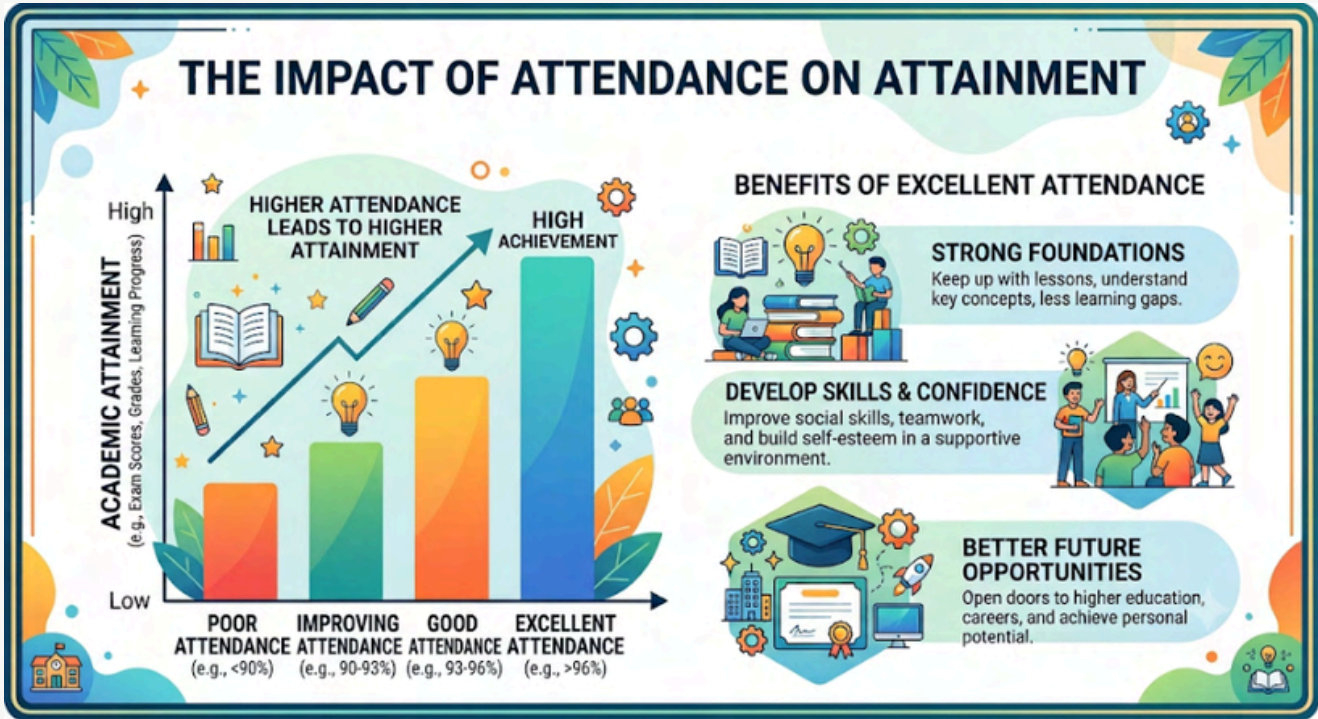


Looking Ahead: Making Attendance Even Stronger

This year's improvements have given us real momentum, and next year we want to build on that together. Attendance will continue to be a key focus for our school community – not because we want to add pressure, but because the evidence is clear: the more time children spend in school, the more they thrive.

Regular attendance helps children feel a genuine sense of belonging – being part of the daily life of the school,

seeing friends consistently, and feeling part of something. It also has a direct link to attainment; even small amounts of missed school can add up over time and make it harder for children to keep pace with their learning. By working together to keep improving attendance, we're helping every child get the most out of their education and feel truly at home in our school community.



ENJOY THE SUMMER

You've earned it! We hope the whole family has a restful, happy summer filled with sunshine, adventures, and quality time together. Rest up, recharge, and make some brilliant memories.



GOODBYE TO CLASS OF 2026





OLYMPIC CUP CHAMPIONS

After the disappointment of relegation last season, our athletics team had something to prove in 2026. They did not disappoint...

Around 100 students represented BVC at Wilberforce Road, where Bottisham narrowly pipped Netherhall to win the Olympic Cup: a result that secures promotion and a return to the Jubilee Cup next year.

Special mention goes to Oskar Kosiorowski, once again the star of the show. Oskar won an extraordinary 35 out of a possible 36 points for the team, taking victory in both the 100m and long jump and finishing second in the Year 10 relay. An outstanding athlete who comes alive during the season.

Mr Perry described it as "a fantastic day", with every student a credit to the college.

Congratulations to all involved: back where we belong.





INCLUSION AT BVC

Supporting Every Student To Thrive

At Bottisham Village College, inclusion is not an add-on: it is central to who we are. Our commitment begins in the classroom, through our ordinarily available provision: the high-quality, adaptive teaching, reasonable adjustments and universal support available to all students, every day, in every lesson. Great SEND provision starts with great teaching, and our staff work hard to ensure that every young person can access an ambitious curriculum, whatever their starting point.

For students who need something more, our on-site specialist provisions, Coral and Reef, offer tailored support in a nurturing environment, helping students

engage with education. These provisions have become a source of real pride for our school, and the impact on the young people who access them, and their families, has been significant.

Our SEND team is led by Claire Stanyer (SENDCo), supported by Sarah Kennedy (Deputy SENDCo) and Karen Fullbrook (Specialist Teacher): a highly experienced and dedicated team committed to ensuring every student receives the support they need to thrive. They work closely with teaching staff, families and external professionals to make sure support is joined up, timely and effective.

This term, we also say farewell

to Esther Street after many years at BVC. Esther has held several roles here, including Head of ICT and Geography teacher, but it is her leadership within our SEND team that has left the deepest mark. She was instrumental in developing our inclusive approach and establishing Coral and Reef, supporting many students and families directly. We are incredibly grateful for all Esther has contributed and wish her every success in her new role. She will be greatly missed.

Inclusion at Bottisham is a whole-school endeavour, and it will remain at the heart of everything we do.



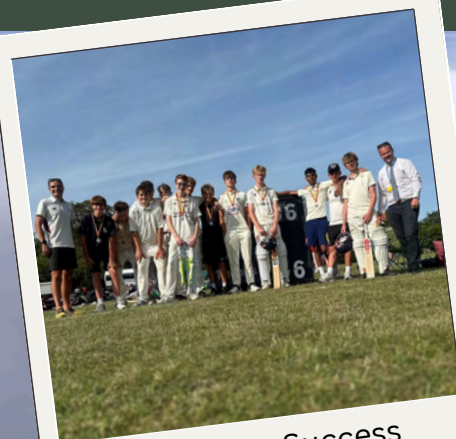
GALLERY



Heatwave Iced Lollies



Silver DofE in Shropshire



Cricket Success



Debating Success



Sports Leaders



Freddie the pilot!



Macbeth Visiting Production



Trinity College Visit



Year 9 Scientists

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

FROM THE BOARDROOM TO THE CLASSROOM

Behind the day-to-day life of Bottisham Village College sits a dedicated group of volunteers whose work often goes unseen but whose impact is felt across the whole school community: our Local Governing Board (LGB).

Co-chaired by Alison Brolly and Alan Sharp, the board meets six times a year to consider a wide range of aspects of college life, from curriculum and student outcomes to safeguarding, wellbeing and school improvement. Governors bring a valuable mix of professional experience and local knowledge, and they give their time freely in the interests of our students.

A key role of the governors is to hold the college to account, and this year the governors' working group has been especially active, working closely with BVC staff across key areas of the college. Importantly, this is not accountability from a distance. Our governors visit the college regularly to see policy in action, analyse data to understand the impact of change, and — crucially — speak directly to students to understand how that change is experienced at student level.



LGB Activity 25/26

- ✦ **Pupil Premium Review**
- ✦ **Reading Strategy Visit**
- ✦ **Sparx Maths Impact Visit**
- ✦ **Safeguarding Visits**
- ✦ **Lesson Walkthroughs**
- ✦ **Ofsted Training**
- ✦ **Progress Updates**

THANK YOU

We are enormously grateful to Alison, Alan and the whole governing board for their commitment, challenge and support. Their work strengthens the college and, ultimately, benefits every student at BVC.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Local Governing Board, or are interested in becoming a governor in the future, please look at our [website](#).



A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Celebrating 23 Years of Mr Phil Burgess

For more than two decades, Mr Burgess has made sure every student at Bottisham Village College feels valued, supported and part of something special.



This year we celebrate a remarkable milestone: 23 years of service from Mr Phil Burgess.

Mr Burgess has shaped the lives of generations of students and colleagues, always with young people at the heart of everything he does. His belief that every student should feel they belong here, known, valued and given every opportunity to thrive, captures exactly what Bottisham Village College stands for.

He began his career here as a PE teacher, inspiring students in lessons and on the sports field alike. His teams enjoyed Jubilee Cup victories and numerous District Championship titles, and he was a passionate champion of girls' sport: his girls' basketball programme attracted more than 30 players and delivered back-to-back championships, while his girls' golf programme gave over 40 students access to a sport few young people could reach at the time. For Mr Burgess, sport was about opening doors and making sure everyone had a team to belong to.

That same student-centred approach defined his move into pastoral leadership, built on his understanding that success in school begins with strong relationships and a genuine sense of belonging.

As Director of the Teaching School, Mr Burgess led teacher training and professional development across Cambridgeshire, and his influence reached well beyond Bottisham through the National Creativity Collaborative project and work with school leaders from Kazakhstan.

Today, he leads on Teaching and Learning, building a framework in which students in every subject not only acquire the knowledge they need to succeed, but apply it in a wide variety of contexts. He continues to champion teacher development through initial teacher training and mentoring, and drives action research across the school, because he believes that outstanding teaching changes lives.

His roles have evolved over 23 years, but his purpose has never wavered: putting students first and championing high expectations, inclusion and opportunity for every learner.

Some colleagues leave a mark on a school.
Mr Burgess has helped define ours.

Here's to the next 23, Mr B!



ENRICHMENT UPDATE



Performing Arts Show

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.

Bookshop Visits



Year 7 Camp



Derbyshire



Paris

Barcelona



Key Dates

AUTUMN
2026

SEP
1+2

PROFESSIONAL
DAYS (NO
STUDENTS)

OCT
26-30

HALF TERM

SEP
3

START OF TERM
FOR YEARS 7 AND
11

NOV
2

PROFESSIONAL
DAY (NO
STUDENTS)

SEP
4

START OF TERM
FOR ALL YEARS

NOV
5

YEAR 11 X BAND
PARENTS' EVENING

SEP
26

FRIENDS OF BVC
EVENT

NOV
12

YEAR 11 Y BAND
PARENTS' EVENING

SEP-OCT
28-10

YEAR 11 MOCK
EXAMINATIONS

NOV
23

YEAR 8 X BAND
PARENTS' EVENING

OCT
5

POST-16 EVENING

DEC
1

YEAR 8 Y BAND
PARENTS' EVENING

OCT
8

PROFESIONAL
DAY (NO
STUDENTS) AND
OPEN EVENING

DEC
18

END OF TERM
(1.30PM END)



**BOTTISHAM
VILLAGE
COLLEGE**

INSPIRING • CARING • ENRICHING



SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026

CAPTURE YOUR SUMMER!

**YEARS
7-10**

We want to see the world through your eyes!

Take photographs that capture your summer experiences, interests, surroundings or creativity.

WHAT CAN I PHOTOGRAPH?



Landscapes & scenery



Architecture & buildings



Wildlife & nature



Portraits (with permission)



Travel & holidays



Abstract & creative



Sport & activities



Everyday moments captured in a unique way

PRIZES



OVERALL WINNER

- ★ Amazon Gift Voucher
- ★ Professionally Framed Print of the Winning Photograph
- ★ Featured Display in College



RUNNERS-UP

- ★ Amazon Gift Vouchers
- ★ Certificates of Achievement
- ★ Work displayed around the College

COMPETITION RULES

- ✓ Open to all students in Years 7-10
- ✓ Maximum of 3 entries per student
- ✓ Photographs must be taken by the student
- ✓ Basic editing is permitted
- ✓ Images must be suitable for a school audience

JUDGING CRITERIA



Creativity & originality



Strong composition



Technical quality



Visual impact



Effective communication of a mood, idea or story

KEY DATE



DEADLINE

**Friday
12th September
2026**

Submission details will be shared via Teams at the start of the new academic year.



**SHOW US YOUR SUMMER
THROUGH YOUR LENS AND
LET YOUR *CREATIVITY SHINE!***



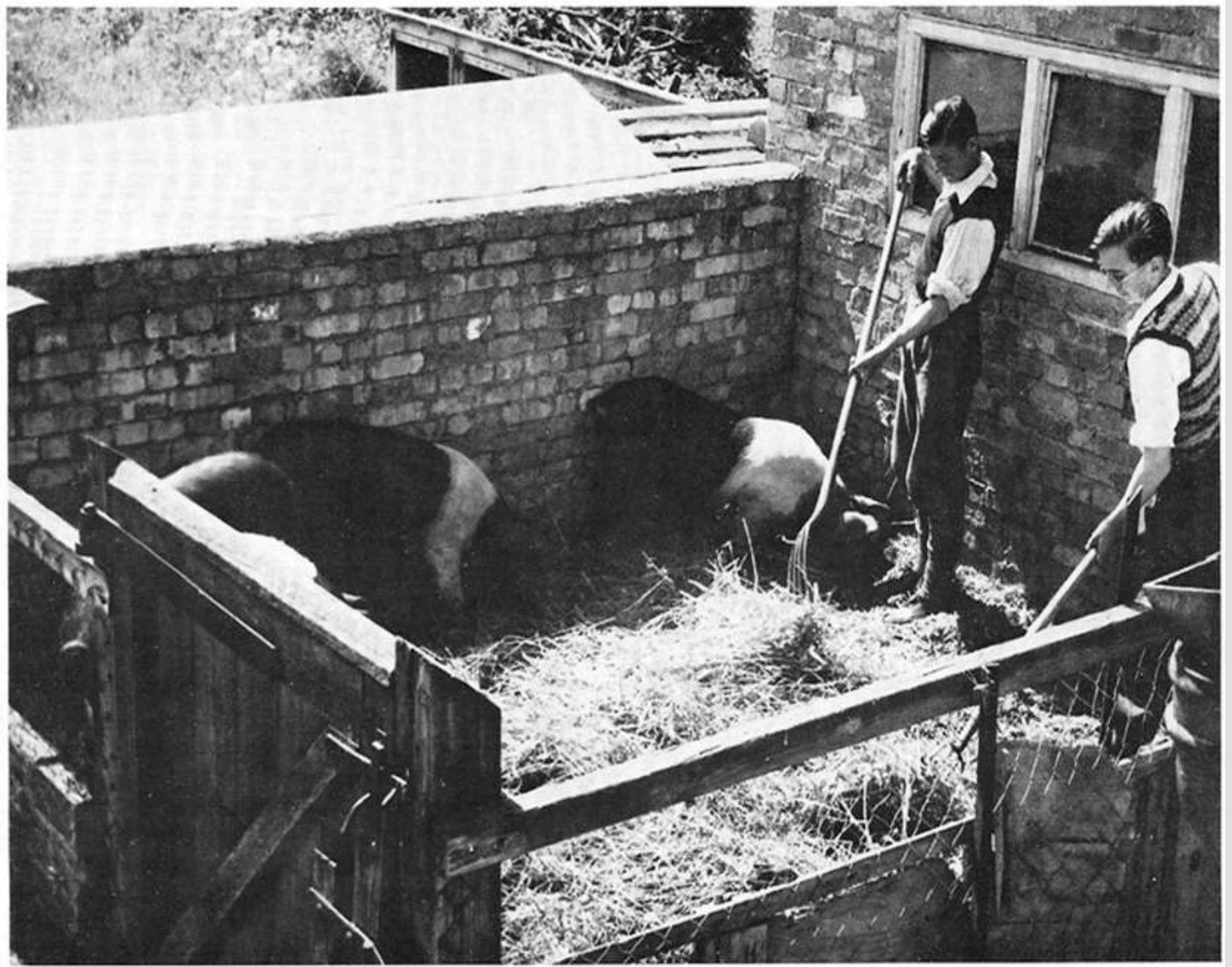
**SHORTLISTED ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE HOUSE POINTS!
EXTRA HOUSE POINTS FOR WINNERS!**

CREATIVE DESIGN FACULTY

The Archive

1950'S

WHEN THE ROUND ROOMS WENT "OINK"!



This photo comes from the 1950s, when "hands-on learning" at the college was taken rather literally. Pig sties stood where the round rooms are now, and students cared for the pigs themselves — feeding, mucking out and bedding them down as part of daily school life. The arrangement was not, it must be said, a retirement plan for the pigs: once reared, they were served up in the dining hall, which today's students will know better as the library. Farm to fork in its purest form — long before it was fashionable.