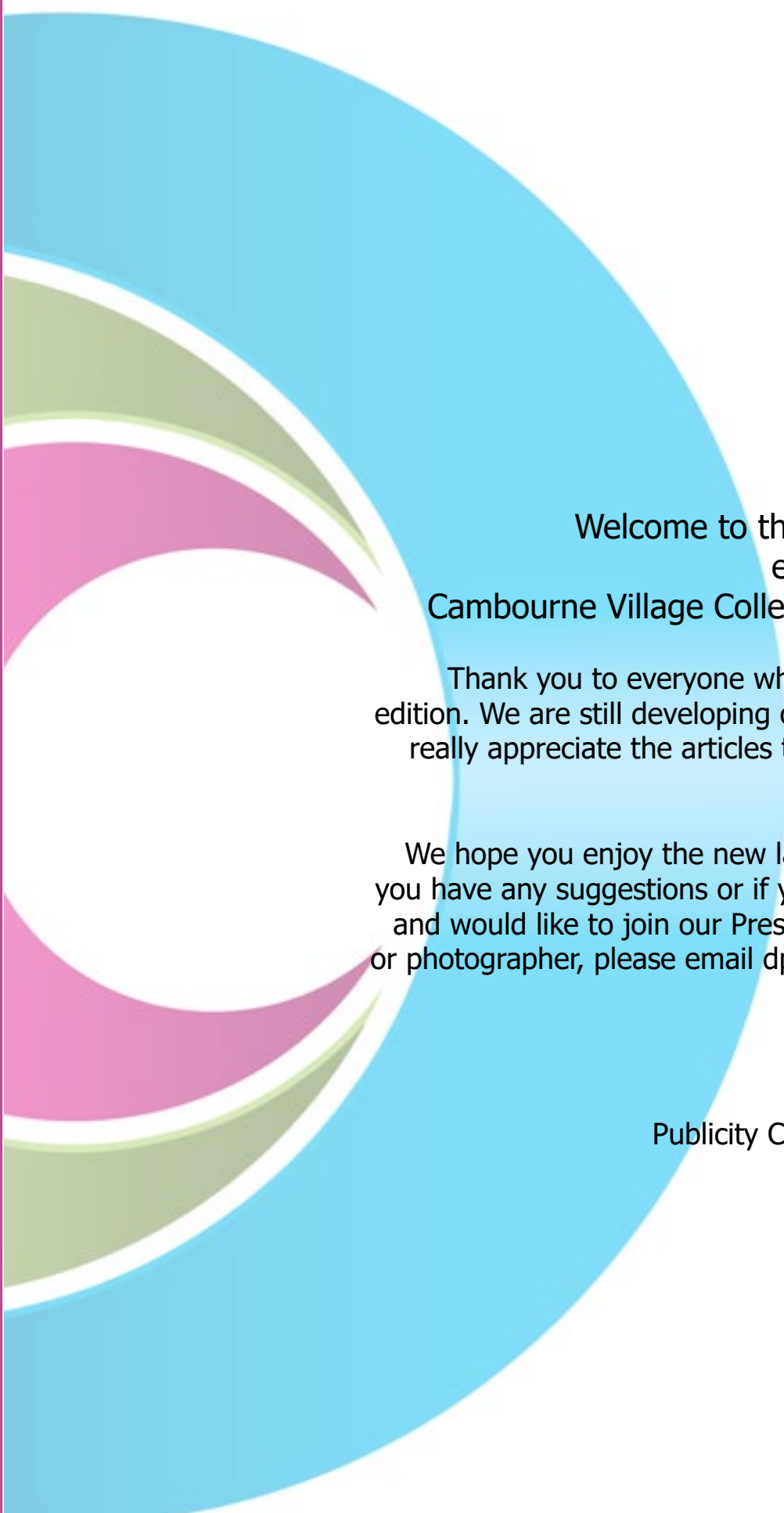


GOLD! GOLD! AND MORE GOLD!



READ ABOUT GOLDSMITHS' COMMUNITY AWARD p16
GOING FOR GOLD p13 & TANG SOO DO SUCCESS p29



Welcome to the Summer Term 2024
edition of News@Cam,
Cambourne Village College's termly magazine.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this
edition. We are still developing our new Press Team, and
really appreciate the articles they have written for this
edition.

We hope you enjoy the new layout and features and if
you have any suggestions or if you are a CamVC student
and would like to join our Press Team either as a writer
or photographer, please email dpayne@cambournevc.org

Thank you
Mrs D Payne MCLIP

Publicity Co-ordinator and Librarian
CamVC

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SUMMER REFLECTION

Principal Lynn Mayes

As we near the end of another successful academic year, I wanted to take a moment to express my thanks for your support of Cambourne Village College (CamVC), our dedicated staff governors, fantastic students and the wider community. Your continuous support has been instrumental in the achievements and successes we have celebrated throughout the year.

I am delighted to reflect on some of the remarkable achievements of our students and staff during the Spring/Summer terms:

July 2024:

- Students from CamVC, representing Team CERC Activate, proudly flew the flag for the UK at the First Lego Asia Pacific Open Championship in Sydney. The team's outstanding performance earned them the Rising All-Star Award and a commendable 10th place in the robot performance competition among 53 international teams.
- Majed being announced as the National Winner of the 2024 QFI Arabic Speaking Competition.
- Maryam winning Gold at the World Tang Soo Do Championship in North Carolina, USA.

June 2024:

- Being honoured with the 2024 Goldsmiths' Awards Gold Medal for Community Engagement, acknowledging the outstanding extracurricular contributions of our school and students to local communities.
- CamVC's Computing Department has been nationally recognised by the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) for our efforts in improving gender balance in Computer Science.
- Staff securing Turing Scheme funding that will provide valuable international opportunities for our most disadvantaged students.

March 2024:

- Achieving the prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award and the FFT Attendance Award for 2023-24, placing us in the top 25% of secondary schools in England for attendance.

Additionally, throughout the academic year 2023-2024, CamVC has been recognised with the International Eco Schools Distinction award for excellence in enhancing environmental learning and performance.

These achievements are a testament to the dedication, hard work, and talent of our students and staff. Together, we have created a supportive and engaging learning environment that fosters growth and success.

As we look forward to the upcoming academic year, I am confident that with your continued support, CamVC will continue to thrive and provide exceptional educational opportunities for all our students.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of the Cambourne Village College community. Your partnership and involvement make a significant difference in the lives of our students.

Wishing you a wonderful summer break filled with joy and relaxation.



HEADS OF YEAR

Year 8 - Mr Hélder Ogunfowora

As we conclude another successful academic year, I am filled with immense pride and admiration for our Year 8 students. They have truly embodied our school's value of Respect, participating fully in all aspects of school life, and demonstrating outstanding commitment and enthusiasm.

One of the first aspects that stood out this year was their impeccable presentation. Their uniform standards have been exemplary, reflecting not only their pride in being part of our school community but also their respect for our shared values.

Attendance has also been a highlight this year. Our Year 8 students have shown remarkable consistency in attending school, understanding the importance of being present and engaged in their learning journey. This commitment extends to their accountability regarding detentions, showing maturity and a willingness to learn from their mistakes.

A particularly memorable event this year was the Careers Carousel. It was heartening to see them engaging with various professionals,

asking insightful questions, and considering their future career paths. I hope this experience has ignited some excitement and provided valuable insights into potential future opportunities.

Our Year 8 students also continue to shine brightly in the arts. Their involvement in the school production of *Beauty and the Beast* was nothing short of spectacular. The dedication and hard work they put into their performances were evident and greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. Additionally, the Year 7 and Year 8 performance of *Going for Gold* showcased their talent and teamwork, further highlighting their versatility and enthusiasm for the performing arts. The summer concert was another occasion where their musical talents were on full display, leaving us all in awe of their abilities.

The academic year was rounded off in style with our Sports Day. It was fantastic to see the spirit and energy of our Year 8 students as they participated in various events, showing not only their athletic skills but also their support for one another. Their sportsmanship

and camaraderie were truly commendable.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the parents and carers for their continued support. Your encouragement and involvement are instrumental in your children's success, and we greatly appreciate your partnership in their education.

As we look forward to the next academic year, I am excited to continue supporting these amazing young people as they begin the options process. This is an important step in their educational journey, and I am confident that they will approach it with the same enthusiasm and thoughtfulness they have shown throughout this year.

Take this time to relax and recharge, ready to return with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Enjoy your summer holidays, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year.

Year 9 - Mr Warren Patrick

As I reflect on my final term as Head of Year 9, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. It has been a truly rewarding experience, and I have loved (nearly) every moment!

One of the highlights was our fantastic sports day (the last one for these Year 9 students), where the students' enthusiasm and team spirit shone brightly.

Another significant achievement was the successful selection of options, with the vast majority of students getting their first choices.

This term has been a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the students and staff. Although my role as Head of Year 9 is coming to an end, I will always be around to support and cheer on our students. I eagerly look forward to seeing Year 9 progress into Year 10 and continue to achieve great things.



Year 11 - Mr Ian Knightley

This year has been a series of momentous events one after the other: mock exams, revision, sixth form visits and applications, more mock exams, more revision, GCSEs, leavers day and prom! Results day is still to come...

As ever, my year group has risen to each challenge presented to them, approaching every day with positivity, enthusiasm and

determination. I know I speak on behalf of all our staff by saying how proud I am of the considerable effort that Year 11 students put into their studies throughout this year.

In what seems the blink of an eye, five years has come and gone. The nervous, earnest and energetic young children who arrived at our school bursting with potential have become mature, responsible and empathetic

young adults - it has been a pleasure to be there for the ride!

With very best wishes to all,

Mr Knightley, Mr Young and Mrs Stanford

SIXTH FORM

Ms Frankie Rose

CamSF Taster Days

As Cambourne Sixth Form takes shape ready to welcome our first cohort in September 2024, we were delighted to welcome 190 students from our own Year 10 into the Sixth Form to have a taster experience of life as a Sixth Former. Students found out more about the A-level and BTEC courses we offer through sessions run by our subject specialist staff, and got to enjoy the sunshine in our fantastic outside space, The Crescent. They also heard a talk from Ms Rose, Head of Sixth Form, and Mr Clarke, Trust Director of Sixth Forms, giving more information about the Post-16 options process and the specific experience that CamSF offers our young people. As Year 10 students move in to Year 11, there will be many further opportunities for advice and guidance about their next steps, such as our Post-16 information evening on 9th October and the Sixth Form Open Evening, on 7th November.



CamSF Offer Holder Day

Our brand new Sixth Form was delighted to welcome many of our prospective students for September along on Monday 1st July to meet their teaching staff and experience tasters inducting them to their chosen A-level and BTEC courses. They were given a tour of our facilities by Dr Bell, our new Deputy Head of Sixth Form, as well as a further talk from Ms Rose, and Mr Clarke, to support in preparing for the transition from GCSEs to the next steps in their education. The Domino's pizza lunch was also a popular feature of the day! Our Offer Holders will shortly be given information to access their summer transition work, and on how to formally take up their place after GCSE results day.

Ms Rose said of the day "It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 11s return to explore their brand new Sixth Form, and to see the welcome they gave to the students joining us from other schools. We feel very prepared for our opening in September and we're delighted that many young people have made the choice to remain on the Cambourne campus for the next phase of their education. Our teachers and Sixth Form support staff are so excited to see the Sixth Form we have been planning for so long finally come alive!"



An Interview with Ms Rose

Opening in September 2024, Cambourne Sixth Form is offering a vast range of A-level and applied vocational courses to students aged 16 and over from Cambourne and across Cambridgeshire and to gain insight into this development, I interviewed Ms Rose, the new Head of Sixth Form.

With the 'depth of knowledge being a lot more challenging' even to students who are particularly academically inclined, the new sixth form offers extensive support for the transition from GCSE to A-level studies with students having the opportunity to have a 'one-to-one meeting every three weeks with their academic tutor' in addition to receiving support in university applications. There will also be assistance with trips to universities and the deadline for early entry including 'compiling comments from subject teachers'.

Nonetheless, there is expected to be a number of students who select a pathway other than university (such as 15% at Comberton Sixth Form) who will also receive ample support such as with apprenticeships. Beyond academic facilities and resources, the new building possesses '11 different activities like sports, arts, volunteering and debating' as well as teachers being 'keen to run subject clubs at lunch times to extend studies', expanding the extracurricular backgrounds of students.

Furthermore, social events play a pivotal role in the sixth form experience and the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Dr Bell, who 'has been a sixth form tutor for six years' is anticipating a myriad of events for students to get to know each other as well as charity events that the 'new student leadership team' will organise. When asked the question of monumental importance, 'Will the new sixth form have vending machines?', Ms Rose painted a tempting picture of the new cafeteria with 'coffee, pastries and cakes' that will undoubtedly allow for occasional sampling between classes and extracurricular activities.

Overall, the new sixth form building reflects Cambourne's continual commitment to educational excellence, enabling students to thrive in a new learning environment with the support of highly qualified teachers.

Interview by Soha (10M)

TRIPS & VISITS

Berlin Art Trip

The 3am start is never fun, but as soon as I get to the school gate, fumble with the lock in the dark, see the coach arrive, I am absolutely buzzing! This is my 7th trip to Berlin and I can't imagine ever tiring of it!

We set off bang on time, no delays. We were in Berlin by lunch and, as always, it is a delight for us to observe the pupils' first impressions. Berlin is hard to sum up. Imperial grandeur to communist era concrete austerity, industrial dereliction alongside majestic parks. Whatever the backdrop, the Berliners are consistent though - good humoured and with no sense of rush. It always feels like a city at ease with itself, that has faced its turbulent past and emerged with harmony and integrity.

After ditching the bags and having lunch at Pegasus Hostel, we headed straight to the East Side Gallery. The gallery is actually open air, a section of the old Berlin wall kept intact for public murals. The murals offer hope, searing political criticism, self-reflection all in equal measure and set the tone for the incredible street art that proliferates the city. From there, we visited the RAW complex, a repurposed train yard now colonised by Arts collectives, the perfect backdrop for photoshoots.

The first afternoon concluded with a visit up the slightly surreal TV Tower. The ultimate piece of cold war communist propaganda, the tower is the 4th tallest structure in Europe and looms over what was West Berlin. It offers incredible, 360 degree views across the entire city, giving staff a chance to point out some of the places we were to explore in coming days.

Day 1 ended with relaxing at the hostel. Mr Bellis got very competitive during after dinner games and his raucous laughter is probably still echoing around the hostel!

Day 2 started with a leisurely breakfast then straight to the U-Bahn. Emerging from the subway often presents surprises in Berlin.



To be greeted with renowned street artist Shepherd Fairey's mural 'Make Art not War' (see Photo 1) at Hallesches Tor U-Bahn has to be one of the best subway exits in the city. We had time for a group photo before a short walk to the Jewish Museum.



Designed by Daniel Libeskind, the Jewish Museum is a masterpiece in architectural design and a real trip highlight. Floors slope awkwardly, corners narrow into acute angles and darkness and walls loom into caverns. Perhaps most confrontational in the space is 'Fallen Leaves' (see photo 2), a permanent installation that you'll hear before you see. The clanging sound is haunting, created by visitors awkwardly tip-toeing across hundreds of cast iron pain stricken, contorted faces strewn across the floor of a vast concrete void. To take steps across it sears the emotive contexts and meanings into memory.

We took lunch at our favourite spot, the Backerei cafe, just near the Holocaust memorial. (photo 3) The cafe owners always spoil us rotten with delicious rolls, homemade cake and ice cream. After sketching and photoshoots at the memorial, we moved on to Museum Island to enjoy the street market.

After dinner at the hostel, we hit the streets again with a late-evening walk up to the Brandenburg Gate, past the memorial to the 'Burning of the Books'. The gate is always most spectacular at night.

Day 3 starts with a 30-minute train ride out of the city took to the incredible Tegel Murals. 10 mammoth murals adorn the 13 story apartment blocks on a social housing development in the North-West suburbs giving the perfect example of how art collectives can positively contribute to the built environment and society. The weather was perfect, so we walked along Lake Tegeler's edge to work up an appetite for



lunch in the cafés and ice cream parlours. After a long and leisurely lunch, we headed back into the city for what is always my personal highlight, the Kathe Kollwitz museum. Kollwitz was a wonderful artist and human - a tireless campaigner for equality, breaker of glass ceilings for women in education and art was a leading voice against fascism. The pupils enjoyed a short time sketching before heading to Tiergarten, the Kodak building and our final stop, the Reichstag.

When English architect Norman Foster was commissioned to redesign the dome, a casualty of bombing in WWII, few would have expected his ambitious concept. The dome is made of glass, offering views of the whole centre and back in on itself and the complex double helix structure spiralling out from the centre into a staircase and reflective core. It's stunning and a must see. Book ahead and try for a sunset slot.

The dome is spectacular and always a perfect end to the trip. However, as ever with Berlin, it's as much the travelling between sites as the sites themselves that offer so much to see and enjoy. Thanks to staff - Mrs Minnaar, Mr Bellis and Miss Gildea - for their support and sense of adventure. And, of course, thanks to the pupils, who were so much fun and really threw themselves into the trip.

Mr M Yeates

Zaragoza

¡Destino Zaragoza!

In May, 33 of our Year 7s ventured out on another successful trip to Zaragoza in the north of Spain.

We visited our partner school Colegio Rosa Molas who were very glad to see us again. "My favourite memory of the trip was visiting the school and playing football with the local kids," said Arjun (7R). Our Spanish practice quota was definitely met at break time with all the curious primary school children! They taught us a lot about Aragonese culture and got us to make hats to wear as we walked around the beautiful city.

Our Spanish skills were tested further at the shopping centre and shopping district, where we were interacting with locals to obtain souvenirs to bring back to the folks at home. Ryan (7U)

"My favourite memory was the food because it was yummy," said Avy (7V). We enjoyed fresh sandwiches in the sun, and even went for churros con chocolate.

We also had the opportunity to appreciate the stunning sites both within the city and in the mountains. We beheld the Zaragoza Cathedral, which we learnt survived three bombings thanks to the blessed little statue of the Lady of the Pillar within, which we got to see from inside. We also walked past and behind the magnificent waterfalls at the Monasterio de Piedra. "They were really pretty and I have lots of nice pictures of me and my friends," said Pheoni (7C). There, we braved the cavernous tunnels which led us past the most breath-taking sights, though many of us regretted not bringing an umbrella. "It just looked amazing," as Ryan (7U) summarised.

One must also not forget the prevailing of justice on one sunny afternoon in a park. "My favourite memory was the trial for the 'Grassassins,'" said Verity (7U). What started out as the trampling of a blade of grass by one of our sneaky Year 7s turned into a full-blown mock court trial, with corrupt judges, lawyers, bailiffs, psychologists, retrials and testimony!

Overall, it was a trip highly recommended by our Year 7s, full of memories and experiences for a lifetime.

Mr D Fernandez



Have you ever wondered what it's like to go on a flight to your school trip destination? Well, I was very lucky to be part of this excursion, and I get to tell you from firsthand experience what it's like to be a student in another country. Our five days in Spain were actively packed as we saw sights and walked through rustic streets.

From hikes to monasteries, we visited and did everything a tourist could want. We went to the city centre, where the Churros were heavenly. Spain knows how to do hot chocolate right. There was an absolutely beautiful walk, where we saw multiple waterfalls and even explored behind one. This brought out the inner adventurer in everyone, discovering hidden caves and luscious forests. We visited a shopping centre, where everyone bought things and made memories. And on our last full day, we experienced a guided museum visit all about Egyptian mummies. Really, there was something there for everyone.

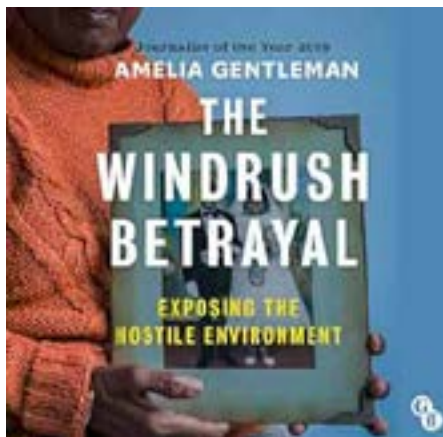
Out of all the aspects of the trip, my personal favourite has to be the social interaction. Talking to people you've never met before, becoming friendly with others in a place you have never been before. For example, On the first day, we played sports against some children our age in one of our partner schools. I got to know some of them better, even including my fellow CamVC students. That was the purpose of the trip, after all, but I'm glad I could bond with people I didn't even talk to before. Overall, I found the expedition fulfilling. This was definitely an experience that will stick with me forever.

Lorena (7O)

Cambridge Literary Festival

On the morning of Thursday, April 18th a group of 20 students in Years 9 and 10 from our school had the opportunity to attend the Cambridge Literary Festival Writing Workshop hosted by the Cambridge Union, which centred around the theme of 'A Hostile Environment'.

It delved into prevalent issues of social justice, exploring literature's role in inspiring societal change. Not least in one of the most influential sessions with campaigner Michael Braithwaite as well as author and journalist Amelia Gentleman who discussed her work, "The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment" which all students were generously given copies of. Gentleman's work documents campaign journalism at its best, elucidating the UK government's mistreatment of the Windrush generation of blameless individuals (including nurses and special needs



teaching assistants). She explains how they were wrongfully detained with life-shattering consequences, being incessantly denied legal rights and even threatened with deportation without rational reason. Gentleman had a true ability to humanize complex political issues

allowing students to learn the undeniable significance of holding power to account and taking responsibility for advocating change within our own communities.

The festival also featured an interactive session with writer and illustrator Woodrow Phoenix where he demonstrated making a storyboard. This was a unique experience allowing us to learn how to construct engaging stories step-by-step with many remarkably random ideas being contributed by the students that eventually turned into our own stories (with Woodrow's help).

The event was a part of the Litmus Creative Writing project run by [Trinity College](#).

Soha (10M)

Henry Moore

We all enjoyed another successful Art trip, this time for a small group of Y9 pupils choosing Art as a GCSE option. We headed south to Much Hadham in Hertfordshire, the home, studios and gardens of Henry Moore (probably Britain's most famous 20th Century sculptor). It took an hour in the school minibus to get to this stunning location which is the perfect backdrop for some of his most famous sculptures.

Once again, the timing had to be well planned as the Henry Moore Foundation is not open every day and then only for six months of the year. I contacted the Education team in January and eventually got it all sorted, funded, found a willing driver, (thank you Mel) and we set off on one of the hottest days in June.

Ironically, our visit was on the longest day of the year but we only had a very short day and lots to pack into our time in order to be back by 3pm.

We started with an educational tour of his home, the gardens and studios. The staff, former art teachers and professional artists, were amazing. They were brilliant with our pupils, making them really look, think, feel and wonder what they would ask the artist if they had just one question. We learnt that Henry Moore had to leave his London home and studio during the Blitz due to bomb damage, and, with his wife Irina, he found half a small house to rent. This became his home for the rest of his life. The expansive 70 acres can feel really daunting and so when we went into

the maquette studio, you instantly sensed that the pupils loved this intimate little world where Henry Moore worked and created a tiny model before they took on their monumental form in a foundry.

It was fascinating to see the actual working models of the expansive sculptures placed around the gardens. In the third photo, you can see the maquette for the Double Oval in white plaster on the second shelf and then in bronze outside. The main aim was for the pupils to work directly from life and experience the emotional connection with these monumental sculptures. They had a wide range of materials to work from and finally got on with the sketching.

Just as everyone relaxed and got stuck into their drawing and started feeling comfortable with their new surroundings, it was sadly time to head back - one last studio visit, a dash for the loo and a final head count and group photo before heading back on the minibus to Cambourne.

I just want to thank all the students who came. They were so well behaved and a real credit to Cambourne and to their families. A massive thank you to Mel who drove us there and skilfully navigated the very narrow roads as we got closer and closer to our destination. What an amazing day!!

Mrs N Vassallo



ACTIVITIES WEEK

Watersports

Year 8 and 9 made a real splash on the Water and Land activity! The team at Box End were fantastic and enthusiastic, and we were keen to get out on the water - trying our hands at the morning's rotation of Cable Tow, Ninja Course and paddleboarding.

The Cable Tow was a thrill, trying to take corners at speed on the lake without getting flung off our knee boards; the Ninja Course was a fun challenge, with its slippery monkeybars, planks and ropes; paddleboarding involved races, games, and inevitably each of us falling into the lake at least once!

We were all back together for the afternoon activity on the Aqua Park, and had a fab time trying to make our way around the inflatable obstacle courses without falling (or being pushed!) off. One of the Box End staff team commented that this was a particularly brilliant group - it certainly was!

Ms E Gildea



Photography



We've had 4 brilliant days doing workshops in the photography department. Year 8 pupils have been learning how to use a DSLR, studio lighting and editing using Photoshop. They have done the most tremendous job, quickly learning advanced skills and being creative in the studio and on location. Pupils have grown in confidence, and worked so well together!

Mrs S Minnaar

Bake Off

We had a lot of delicious fun during our 'Bake Off' this week - special mention to Ethan for his swimming pool cupcakes!

Ms J Long



Warhammer



The Warhammer club enjoyed a super day out at Warhammer World in Nottingham.

They enjoyed exploring the exhibits and making and painting figures ready for gaming on the gaming tables.

Ms E Kenton-Howells



Beaumanor Hall Adventure

A Journey of Resilience and Team Spirit

Our annual residential trip to Beaumanor Hall was nothing short of extraordinary. This year, our Year 7s faced a blend of thrilling outdoor activities, challenging weather, all of which they navigated with remarkable resilience and camaraderie.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by a downpour that could have dampened anyone's spirits. However, it was truly impressive to see our students adapt and manage the wet conditions with such enthusiasm and positivity. They donned their rain gear, embraced the mud, and eagerly dove into the first day's activities. Their ability to maintain high spirits and enthusiasm despite the soggy start was a testament to their adaptability and determination.

The array of activities at Beaumanor Hall, including canoeing, archery, climbing, and high ropes, pushed our students to step out of their comfort zones. It was heart-warming to witness the unwavering support they offered

each other. Whether it was a reassuring word on the high ropes, a steady hand while balancing on the canoe, or a cheer from the sidelines during archery, their team spirit shone brightly.

One of the highlights of our trip was the highly anticipated Talent Show, brilliantly organised by Mr Page. The show featured a variety of acts, from singing and comedy to an impressive display of martial arts. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly Mr Balding's comedic attempt at being a stunt double and supporting act for the eventual winner of the show. The evening culminated in a lively disco, where students and staff alike danced the night away, celebrating the day's achievements.

However, the trip was not without its challenges. Some students became unwell and had to cut their adventure short. These moments of adversity revealed the true character of our group. The way our students rallied around their peers, offering comfort and support, was truly commendable. Their

empathy and willingness to support one another highlighted the strong bonds they formed during the trip.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff members who gave up their time to ensure the trip was a success. Their hard work, patience, and enthusiasm were pivotal in creating a memorable experience for our students. A heartfelt thank you also goes out to the parents and carers for their trust in us to keep their children safe and for supporting this valuable experience.

This trip has undoubtedly prepared our students for the upcoming academic year. The resilience, team spirit, and eagerness to embrace new experiences they demonstrated at Beaumanor Hall will stand them in good stead for future challenges and adventures.

We are filled with pride and admiration for our students. Beaumanor Hall was more than just an adventure; it was a journey of growth, learning, and unforgettable memories.

Mr H Ogunfowora



THE ARTS



Going, Going, Gone...

Farewell Mr Page



Going for Gold

After waiting for what seemed too long, many Year 7 & 8 students were thrilled at the reveal of the new production - Going for Gold! Rehearsing every Thursday, the cast were dancing, acting and singing, preparing for the final show on Wednesday 11th July. The show follows the story of Hennig Brand, an eccentric 1600s scientist, who is set on making gold. With his wife Margareta and maid Betsy, he annoys, irritates and tires out the entire town before ultimately making, not gold, but instead the brand-new element phosphorous! With this original idea, and the brilliant opportunities the play brings with it, many students couldn't wait to audition and be a part of this wonderful show.

A Year 7 student who auditioned said, "As usual the play has crazy ideas and eccentric songs, all bringing joy to the stage as all of Mr Page's plays do."

Another Year 8 student said, "The show might be a slightly unusual topic but it's a fun experience and a great way to make friends and see old ones as well."

And that it certainly is. What always strikes many students who take part in Cambourne productions is the sense of family throughout the cast. Having gone through many productions myself, I can safely say that you will never be part of a Cambourne production and not come out having made a new friend. I'm sure many cannot wait for the performance of Going for Gold!

Abigail (8C)

'It was brilliant, I loved how funny it was. I have never been to a play like it. My favourite part was the songs. The actors all played their characters really well, and the costumes were great.'

Tabatha, Yr3, The Vine



The shining lights of Year 7 and 8 brought a sparkling performance of *Going for Gold*; the latest production penned by music aficionado Geoff Page, Cambourne Village College's beloved Head of Music.

A light, witty and entertaining romp through the 17th Century fascination with the Philosopher's Stone – the legendary stone made from the Elixir of Life which can give eternal youth as well as allowing the holder to make gold.

The ensemble cast, drawn exclusively from Years 7 & 8, opened the show with 'A scientific revolution', setting the scene for the wealth of talent in the lower years. With charming solos including Maddie, Zaina, Marcelina, Lorena, Max, Lincoln, Ameera and Jan.

We meet Hennig Brand (played with gusto by Henry) as he marries Margaretha Brand (played by the gentle yet powerful Shyla). The cast sing 'May god bless their union', and the wedding portrait is taken (with just 5 hours of standing and smiling for the Artist – played by the talented Molly). Whilst the guests hold their poses, Hennig's thoughts turn to making Margaretha's dowry into gold. Johann Fischer (Margaretha's father - played by Tim, who portrays the exasperated father with energy and passion) is less than impressed. It takes the calming voice of his long-suffering wife Helga Fischer (Margaretha's mother – played by a commanding and charming Annabella) to convince Johann to give Hennig a chance to show what he can do.

We next meet Hennig in his laboratory where he sings an explanation of 'Alchemy'. The performance is enhanced by the swift and efficient scene changes performed by the backstage crew, who miraculously keep all the items on the tables in place!

In an attempt to be taken seriously by the scientific community, Hennig writes to the pompous scientists at the Royal Academy of Scientists. His letters are less than well received and they sing 'Who do they think they are?' Led by the conniving, arrogant but hilariously incompetent, scientist Doktor Kunckel (played confidently by Robert whose clear voice soars as he plots to keep all the scientific achievements for himself). Dr. Kunckel's long-suffering sidekicks Herr Pumperknickel and Herr Knickerpumpel (played brilliantly by Abi W and Mia) join the plotting. As they develop their dastardly plans, the charmingly helpful and efficient Betsy (played by Gloria – whose performance showcases a rising talent) is unwittingly drawn into their plot and the laughs really begin to abound.

As Hennig, Margaretha and Betsy sing 'Going for gold' (featuring a quirky dance) the chemistry of alchemy is rivalled by the chemistry of the talent onstage.

The pressure to find the solution mounts when letters arrive from Johann to Hennig and from Helga to Margaretha and the scene is spotlit to perfection by the clever lighting crew.

Hennig comes up with the ludicrous idea to 'Spend a penny!' Aply supported by the long-suffering Margaretha and Betsy. An hilarious and impressive number follows a scene where an astonishing number of ways to express going for a "pee-pee" can be heard! Aply encouraged and supported by the ensemble cast, this was one of the many highlights of the evening.

While collecting the onstage crowds dazzling array of bottles filled with their "donations," the ensemble work in perfect harmony performing 'Money, money!' With slick entrances and exits making an impressively choreographed performance.

Sadly, despite the patience and support of Margaretha and Betsy (who brings order and organisation), Hennig is no closer to finding the Philosopher's Stone – although he is sure he is close. The deceptive Dr Kunckel bribes the innocent Betsy to share Hennig's secrets – with unpleasant outcomes for Herr Pumperknickel and Herr Knickerpumpel.

With one final effort, Hennig, the ever-faithful Margaretha and Betsy visit the local tavern where Hennig – wanting more "pee-pee" for his experiments – announces; 'The beer is on me!' to the excited but bemused tavern

drinkers, and great merriment ensues. The cast throw themselves into their performance as another smoothly choreographed song is sung.

As Hennig and Margaretha sadly realise the money is all gone and their landlady Frau Herrisch (played by a delightful Mia) is making them homeless, Dr Kunckel and the long-suffering Herr Pumperknickel and Herr Knickerpumpel arrive to find out what else Hennig has been experimenting with and the cast sing I feel ill. All seems to be lost for Hennig, until Betsy saves the day, producing one of Hennig's apparently failed experiments and Hennig is declared the inventor of Phosphorus Mirabilis and despite his own failures, Dr Kunckel pays handsomely for the invention. The day is saved and Hennig is celebrated as the great inventor he has always wanted to be – by being rewarded for his work!

This richly inventive production, presented by a glittering array of stars, supported by the gems in front of house, back-stage choreography and sound and lighting, was a masterpiece! One of the highlights of the year!

Mrs V Fielding White



Summer Concert

Thank you for the music Geoff Page!

Students, staff and families gathered together for a summer concert spectacular on 11th July, not only to celebrate the talented performing arts students at the College, but to celebrate the inspiration and driving force behind their endeavours.

The evening was opened with the school orchestra performing a 'Disney Medley' and 'The Final Countdown'. The orchestra underlines how inclusive the school music department is with classical musical instruments played by students and staff, side-by-side with electric guitar, saxophone and numerous keyboards – everyone is welcome, and everyone is included. The joyous sound filled the auditorium and delighted the audience.

The programme included performances of classical and contemporary pieces some as solo performances and some as ensemble groupings. Each piece interwove with the next so that classical masters gave way to their modern counterparts seamlessly. The music of ABBA featured prominently weaving a theme of musical happiness throughout the evening.

The students who stepped onto the stage shared one thing – a love for their art and a determination and courage to share this with the audience. Some are at the very start of their musical careers while others are now experienced, polished performers. Every one of them gave their all to their performance and it was a privilege to share their moment with them. The talent under the spotlight is truly awe inspiring. It would be impossible to single one performer out among all the others. Several of the performances set the hairs on the back of the neck rising. The emotions brought to the surface thrummed through the room. The number of performers who appeared on stage multiple times playing different instruments or performing in different style, gave an insight into how hard the students work at their craft. There were some fantastic musical collaborations between voices and instruments demonstrating what a collaborative department the school has. The time and effort put into each piece shows how much passion the students have for music and drama - preparing, rehearsing and perfecting each piece. Students from Year 11, now officially graduated from the school, nevertheless came back to add their voices and talents to the evening and making the show even more special as it rose in a

crescendo of talent.

Fresh from their success earlier in the week, students from Years 7 and 8 presented songs from *Going for Gold* (a production penned by Geoff Page, even though he neglected to mention this to the audience!). Then, to add yet more to the show, it was wonderful to have drama and dance adding their rounded pieces to the performing arts extravaganza. Students gave flawless performances showcasing yet another dimension to the school's multi-talented pupils.

As the show reached its dramatic conclusion, Claire Coates, retired principal, added her voice to the plaudits for the students and for Geoff Page. She said, he brings wit and charm along with his other talents to the department. A department he built from scratch. Claire shared how there were just recorders and very few other instruments played when the school opened, so Geoff set up and has continued to run the Cambourne Village College Music School which teaches music from primary age pupils and nurtures musical talent which has fed and flowed throughout the school. It is the last time Cambourne Village College will see Geoff compère we very much hope he will come back and see what the school achieves as it carries on his legacy. The audience joined staff and students in a standing ovation to Geoff. The show closed with a poignant rendition of *Thank you for the music* by ABBA prepared and performed by the students and the rest of the wonderful music and drama department. In the end, this says it all.

Mrs V Fielding White



COMMUNITY

Goldsmiths' Award for Community Engagement

The 21st March: the six of us shuffling nervously in front of the laptop camera, still undecided on standing positions, waited for the Goldsmith judges to join us for a call. The first stage was a 3-minute video outlining our community work - a humble recording outside the library on a busy Friday evening. Yet, this was now a true test of presentation. Their scrutiny would define or deny us our success.

So, after arduous preparation – the assemblies, the many meetings, the extensive list of questions – our efforts were rewarded and the subsequent week, we received an invitation to go to London. The 25th June would be the final round. Us, the only state school, and seven others to compete for the prestige of the Goldsmith Award for Community Engagement. Coursework, camaraderie and a countdown were all to go with the date looming on the horizon.

The grandeur of The Goldsmith Hall could not shake the nerves, though. 'Make learning a lifelong journey' were the opening and closing lines of our presentation: our ethos as a

school. So, with great pride, we spoke. Script in one hand, mic in the other, and a deep-rooted passion and belief in our community.

We are the builders of our communal heritage – something that even the private schools could not reciprocate. So, if I were to describe the 25th June, I can proudly say that it was the day we won – a day of recognition for the community. So, thank you to our devoted team and to our teachers, Mrs Federle and Mrs Teo. And thank you for making Cambourne what it is today.

Joseph (9E)

"Cambourne Village College, Cambridge, was awarded the Gold Medal for the exceptional work that pupils have done in forging and supporting communities both in and outside of the school. The judges celebrated the diversity of their contribution and praised pupils for shining a light on the ecological landscape."

[The Goldsmiths' Company](#)



The
GOLDSMITHS'
Company

INTERNATIONAL

QFI National Arabic Speaking Competition

In a proud moment for CamVC, Majed in Year 10 has been announced as a national winner of the 2024 QFI Arabic Speaking Competition. Majed was entered for the native-speaker category and his presentation on the importance of friendship secured him a winning place out of over 500 applicants across the UK.

The competition, organised by Qatar Foundation International, invites young learners in the UK to showcase their talents in the Arabic language and celebrate their linguistic aptitude and creativity. The event also aims to promote the learning of Arabic and inspire students to explore the diversity of the Arabic language and Arab cultures.

At the beginning of July, Majed had the honour of attending the Awards Ceremony at Oxford University, where his incredible achievements were celebrated with other winners from across the country. The day also included a tour of the university and talks from academics

in Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh.

Majed's success in the Arabic Speaking Competition is an inspiring reminder of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in our school community. Moreover, his

achievement will undoubtedly encourage other students involved in our after-school Arabic programme to take part and go all the way in next year's competition.

Congratulations, Majed, on your incredible accomplishment!



Language Leaders

This term, our Language Leaders have been back in primary schools, delivering exceptional Spanish and Cantonese lessons to primary pupils as part of the Language Leader programme from Routes in Languages.

All students involved have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have gained a wealth of valuable skills to support their future studies and career aspirations.

In addition to delivering lessons, our Language Leaders have also supported whole-school, regional and national events, including the

Routes into Languages Spelling Bee. At the beginning of July, three of our Language Leaders were invited to attend the National Primary Bee Final at Cambridge University, where they led activities for competitors and spoke on stage about their leadership role. As part of her speech, Raseel talked about the amazing opportunities she had been fortunate to experience as part of Language Leaders, in particular the opportunity to "show students the beauty of languages, not just Spanish and Cantonese, but all languages that we are learning or even the languages we speak at home."

Omar added that Language Leaders had helped him with becoming a more confident public speaker, while Adriana spoke fondly of being part of the Languages Leaders community: "I speak three languages at home, and I understand the struggles of communication. Being in a community that wants to learn to communicate and connect with others is a beautiful thing."

Well done to all Language Leaders on their successful completion of the award!

Ms H Ground

In our opinion, we think being a language leader is such a very exclusive journey and fulfilling experience as we have this opportunity to teach and share our language to others. In these few lessons, we are able to teach students who are younger than us which is a new thing that we haven't tried before.

During lessons, we enjoyed the time of teaching and communicating with students, sharing our culture and differences, also earning many unique experiences and receiving much positive feedback which gained our confidence. We are very proud of

our language and hoping that we can share our culture, by the chance that the school and teachers had given us. In the future, we are looking forward to more exciting achievements that we can reach and activities to show our



understanding and creativity. Hopefully we can share more when we have achieved an exciting goal!

大家好，我們是 Carbone Village College Cantonese Language Leaders! 經過這幾次的新學期經驗，我們在課程之中學習如何與我們的小學學生，互動和分享廣東話這門語言。這是一項全新的體驗和挑戰，當中我們也遇到不少困難，例如如何用最簡單易懂的方式，和學生們互動交流，確保他們至少能學會一些單字，甚至能完整句子。我們也吸收了很多意見，在教材上或有更簡單的方式，我們感謝「新書」有了全新的認知。在學習途中如有良好每一次的課程，我們也選擇了很多寶貴的經驗。我們對廣東話、我們的母語能夠與學校老師時常溝通感到十分榮幸和高興，我們也積極地能有機會分享和以教學的形式和大家展現廣東話和其文化的魅力，讓大家都認識這門的語言。在未來我們希望可以再參與有關語言的活動，期望我們能達到更多的目標，然後再和大家分享每個精彩有意義的瞬間吧!



Celebrating Culture

On Friday 5th July, we took the opportunity to celebrate the many diverse cultures we have within our CamVC community. Starting with a brilliant display created by our EAL and Inclusion/Diversity Prefects as the students entered the school building, moving on to a fun tutor time activity called 'Guess the Language', which saw many different teachers speaking in a different language, with the students having to identify what language was being spoken. All this while being in non-uniform, with an emphasis on cultural dress.

At the end of a lovely day, we celebrated all of our cultures with a beautiful garden party filled with garden games, cricket and a wonderful South Indian dance performed by our former Year 11s, Ashrita and Devika. This wonderful event was organised by Ms Gildea and the amazing Taking Up Space group, who also organised the fantastic art event earlier in the year!

beautiful display board; all who had a go at (hopefully successfully) identifying the many languages our staff speak and, finally, all who attended the hugely successful Garden Party, played cricket, connect-4, Jenga, swing-ball, dominoes and just generally had a wonderfully good time!

Mrs B Milne

A huge thanks to all involved. All who came to school in their own cultures dress; all who took the time to stop and look at our



Year 8 Crêpe Making

Towards the end of the Summer Term in the Year 8 French groups, we finally realised our long-standing plan of making crêpes, using a vegan recipe and jam imported from France.

The students had to order and serve in French – 'avec du sucre' (with sugar) or 'avec de la confiture'.
Bon appétit!

Mrs B Federle



COMPETITIONS/EVENTS

Eureka Day

Four amazing Year 9 students have taken part in the Eureka Day Programme organised by the Cambridge Maths School. First they watched a very interesting lecture from David Spiegelhalter about the connection of numbers in the news and the social media. He pointed out that we need to be careful when reading news and try to understand the background around it and question everything which is written down.

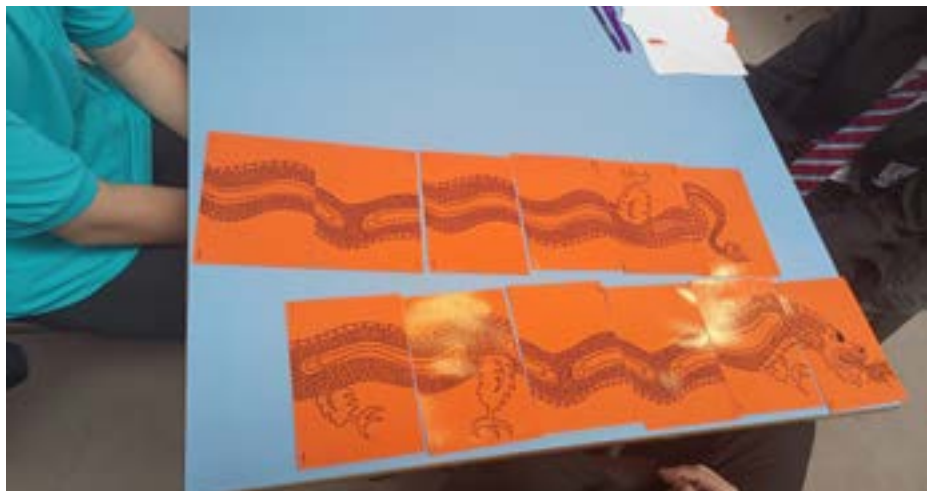
Then students had to apply their problem-solving skills in science and build a bridge from plain papers which could hold a 100 gram medallion. Students worked together in teams of four and used their coordination skills at the same time.

Then students competed in teams of four to solve mathematical problems by thinking outside the box and from the question cards they had to build a dragon. Students were very enthusiastic about this task and there was an amazing vibe in the hall.

The last section was about thinking mathematically from Nrich. It was an interactive session where students were presented with Xavi's T-shirt problem. Students needed to investigate patterns and find out numbers from 2-200 from the patterns.

Our students did so well in the enrichment event and they enjoyed the whole day very much. The Maths Department is really proud of them.

Mrs A Somi



Trust Team Maths Competition



Groups of Year 9 girls from all four Trust schools got together for a team maths competition at Melbourn Village College.

There were three rounds in the competition, which included estimation questions, a cross number, and building 3D models! Students worked in groups, with one girl from each school in each team.

They all worked incredibly well as a team and communicated effectively in tackling maths questions that were quite challenging. The winning team scored an impressive 51, and six students were highlighted for displaying best teamwork.

The purpose of this competition was to encourage more girls to take up maths after GCSE, as all the sixth forms in the Trust offer A-Level Maths, A-Level Further Maths, and Core Maths.

From Cambourne, one of our students was part of the winning team and one student was recognised for her phenomenal teamwork skills.

Well done to all that attended and thank you to Melbourn for hosting a lovely afternoon!

Welcome to our New Intake

Cambourne Village College kicked off the start to July with a busy week for incoming Year 6 pupils. On Monday 1st, we hosted a uniform event, and two talks for parents which were very well received. Mr Young, our incoming Head of Year 7 really enjoyed meeting all the new parents, along with Ms Mayes and Mr Darling.

Thursday 4th July was our first of two New Intake Days. Year 6 pupils from all over Cambourne and beyond came to CVC for their first taste of secondary school. Pupils eagerly found out their tutor groups and entered the Coates Theatre for their first assembly with Mr Young. Pupils then spent some time in their groups getting to know one another, touring the school, and playing games. Everyone was smiling at break time, and pupils had clearly already made new friends and were starting to feel less nervous. By lunch time pupils were raving about their taster lesson in Science, and the afternoon brought more fun in English and Language lessons. Pupils were incredibly polite, and engaged in lessons, bravely participating with thoughtful insights and questions. In one English lesson, discussing the 'Fall of Icarus', pupils looked at the story from different perspectives eagerly sharing their analysis with the class.

Friday the 5th saw our incoming Year 7 pupils take part in a sports day. We didn't let the rain hold us back, although the outdoor plans had to be adapted slightly! Pupils loved taking part in all the activities, and the day ran like clockwork with everyone having fun and embracing each sport. Teachers were immensely impressed by all the pupils, who showed a real curiosity for learning and kindness to each other, especially those pupils who didn't know anyone at the start of the day on Thursday. We can't wait to formally welcome in the new cohort in September, and hope you have a wonderful summer.

Mrs S Minnaar



Cambookworms

We've had a fantastic time in Cambookworms this year! From making Hedwig cakes for Harry Potter book night, experimenting with AI's abilities to create stories (hilarious, but very formulaic) and celebrating the joys of reading, to shadowing the Carnegie book awards and meeting authors, the sky has been our limit!

Our visit to Comberton Village College for the Carnegie Medal celebrations was a much anticipated opportunity for us to meet with book clubs from other schools and to discuss our favourite books from the Carnegie nominees. It was also another opportunity for us to shine as a Cambourne team came first in the quiz for the third year in a row.

By far the highlight, however, was a chance to talk to and learn from published author and Carnegie nominee Julian Sedgwick. His stories are fascinating and more than a few of us left full of ideas and aspirations of giving writing a go ourselves.

Cambookworms can't wait to see what next year brings for us!

Ms K Morris



First Lego League - Team CERC Activate

We are so pleased to share that four students of CamVC, part of the team CERC Activate, represented the UK in the First Lego Asia Pacific Open Championship held in Sydney at the beginning of July. The team won the Rising All-Star Award - this award recognises a team that the judges notice and expect great things from in the future. The team was 10th place among 53 international teams in the robot performance competition. All the students had an amazing experience interacting with students, teachers and coaches from different countries and learning about their innovation project ideas and robot designs. The 10 member team, CERC Activate, shared their innovation project Fossils Eyes and demonstrated how to use their app to make fossil finding fun for families and encourage outdoor activities. The team has been working on their innovation project, robot designs and robot attachments for over a year. This award is the result of their unwavering hard work, dedication, creativity and perseverance. We all are incredibly proud of them!

The students involved would love to share their personal experiences of the competition and First Lego League:

Srihan K

In the summer of 2023, my captivating FIRST LEGO League (FLL) journey began. Alongside my teammates stood two significant figures our coaches (Isha Dave and Kinjal Dave) helped us to improve in many areas in this whole journey. This remarkable experience will definitely shape me into the person I aspire to be.

At the regional competition, anticipation filled the air as we perfected our innovation project on fossil eyes app and coordinated our robot runs. Our dedication paid off with a resounding

victory, securing our place in the National competition in Harrogate. Nerves gripped us at the Nationals, but a miraculous turn of events occurred. An email arrived we had secured second place, representing England in the international competition. Our journey to Sydney included a spirited cultural dance practice in the airport, blending excitement and preparation for Asia Pacific Open Championship (APOC) and we enjoyed every bit of it.

Our time in Sydney was filled with lots of fun and excitement and it was great experience competing with 53 international teams and had lots of fun interacting with them during

the cultural activity. Alliance Match (Taiwan) was a highlight and we also found interesting innovation projects and noted valuable learnings.

The international competition allowed us to showcase our perseverance in many different aspects, and we proudly accepted the "Rising All-Star Award" waving the England Flag in triumph. This journey will forever shape our future.

Massive thanks to our club CERC, coaches, our team members, parents, sponsors, and friends and family for their unwavering support throughout this journey!



Abhav M

FLL is an amazing way of educating yourself, for example, we learn how to code in many languages like python, HTML, CSS and also do a bit of block coding. We also learned about many cultures and their traditions. Our journey started in Cambourne where we all met each other and formed our team.

After coding our robot and making our app called Fossileyes, we soon participated in the regionals which we won, after that

we upgraded our app and added 4 main features (Identify, Geolocate, ask, learn). We also changed our code and upgraded our attachments and made them more reliable so then we would be able to score the max points(550 points)more often.

When the nationals came (in Harrogate) we gained 530 points which got us second in our robot runs and we surprisingly got second overall which meant we qualified for the internationals in Sydney. This has never happened in the CERC club before! After celebrating we got back to work changed the

code a bit more and practiced our runs more to get higher points more reliably. When we went to Australia we got 480 points which wasn't what we were aiming for but placed 10th in robot runs out of 53 of the best teams which was a decent placement.

I was very happy and lucky to represent UK in a competition in another country. We would never have gobr to Australia if it wasn't for our invaluable teamwork.

Yuteng W

First Lego League is a great way of learning in all ways whether it is experiencing cultures or finding out about the engineering process and learning about core values. Our FLL journey began right here in Cambourne with the new season being released, we didn't hesitate to begin. We started work right away by planning out our Mission Strategy and Innovation Project.

Time flew by and we soon won regionals and got the chance to go to nationals in

Harrogate. Then we managed to place second overall there meaning we had the once in a lifetime opportunity to represent the UK at Internationals at the Asia Pacific Open Championships in Australia.

We practiced harder than ever in the hope that we would push through Internationals and come on top. In the end we placed 10th in the Robot Runs against 53 teams from 20+ countries and won the Rising All Star Award.

I felt was a great experience and we all can agree that. The event was a brilliant way for us to engage with different cultures and

to make friends with people from all across the world across four days. I especially feel very honoured and lucky to have represented the UK in such a prestigious event like this. We have even learnt skills that will be useful in life no matter what job you have, such as teamwork and all the six core values - Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, Fun - which were shown throughout the entire year. I have also found an exciting new hobby through building out fossil finding app, FossilEyes.



Saketh M

In the summer of 2022, I heard about a robotics competition: FLL - First Lego League. I had a passion for both Lego and robotics so when I found out about FLL, I was very intrigued and curious so I joined a local club, CERC (Cambourne Electronics and Robotics Club) Activate.

After months of preparation, we participated in the 2022/23 Superpowered regional competition held at the University of Cambridge. Our team CERC Activate finished 1st qualifying for the National event hosted in Harrogate, Yorkshire. We came 15th place and received the Rising All Stars Award.

It was an incredible experience to witness so many teams from all around the UK and learn about their Innovation Projects.

Next year in the Masterpiece 2023/24 season, we participated in the Coventry regionals and won the Champions trophy and qualified for Nationals in late April. This time we clinched 2nd place in the Robot Performance category

achieving 530 pts and 2nd place in the overall competition.

And then, we received incredible news: we had been invited to compete in this season's Asia Pacific Open International Championships held in Sydney, Australia! We had the chance to fly abroad and represent the UK on a global stage!

We were thrilled when we heard about this. We prepared harder than ever and on the 28th of June we began our Australian conquest. We had a layover in Shanghai, China, visiting numerous iconic landmarks. When we landed in Australia, we went sightseeing and afterwards we proceeded to the competition. In the Robot Performance, we achieved 480 pts, finished 10th place in the world and won the Rising All Star Award.

During the tournament, we had ample amounts of fun taking part in a Glowfest, music concert and a cultural event. In addition, we participated in an Alliance Match where we worked to solve missions with a Lego robot with another fellow team. I learnt more about

other nations and their Innovation Projects, embraced their cultures and made many friends along the way!

During my FLL experience, I learnt more about robotics, engineering and coding and much more soft skills like public speaking and teamwork, went on countless field trips like the Van Gogh Immersive Experience and Sedgwick Museum to learn more about Fossils and even went Fossil hunting in Hunstanton and finally I had lots of fun!

Thanks to FLL, I experienced a fascinating STEM adventure and created various unforgettable memories.

In addition, I would like to thank my coaches - Kinjal Dave and Isha Dave, parent mentors and fellow teammates for their guidance and support in which I wouldn't be here without.

If you'd like to get involved please

contact CERC:

E: camcare.uk@gmail.com

M: 07852 753216

W: <https://camcare.org.uk/cerc/>

Eco Festival

Volunteering at the Eco Festival at Cambourne Village College on May 18th was a fantastic experience. The festival, now in its second year, brought together the local community to celebrate and promote sustainability. Supported by esteemed organizations like the Museum of Zoology, Cambourne Library, the Wildlife Trust, the South Cambridgeshire Council, and Carbon Zero, the event was a vibrant showcase of environmental initiatives and sustainable practices.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted by a diverse array of stalls and activities. CamVC's own contributions included a Repair Café, where broken items were given a new lease on life, and the Swish Clothing stall, which promoted sustainable fashion through clothing swaps. Food stalls offered a delectable array of eco-friendly options, and the festival atmosphere was further enlivened by a lottery and the inviting aroma of fresh vegan pancakes.

Among the various activities, the food stall where I volunteered quickly became a popular spot. We served fresh vegan pancakes topped with apricot, strawberry, and blueberry preserves. The intoxicating smell of these delicious treats drew many festivalgoers to our stall. Additionally, we offered tea and coffee, which paired perfectly with the pancakes. By the end of the day, we had sold around £100 worth of these delightful vegan options, making a significant contribution to the festival's success.

Participating in the festival was incredibly rewarding. It was not just about serving food; it was about engaging with the community, promoting sustainable eating, and being part of a collective effort to foster environmental awareness. The positive atmosphere and enthusiastic participation from both attendees and volunteers made the event truly memorable.

Reflecting on the experience, I am eager to participate again in the future. Events like the Eco Festival are essential in building community spirit and raising awareness about sustainability. Volunteering at such an event was an honour, and I look forward to contributing to similar initiatives in the years to come.

Syeda (9V)



One of the very exciting priorities and goals of the school is to raise awareness of the impending climate crisis and the environmental challenges we are facing. The Eco-team of CamVC, comprising pupils from all year groups, has been very passionate about sharing this ethos not only with the entire school, but also with the whole of Cambridgeshire. This passion was reflected in hosting the second CamVC Eco-festival, which took place on Saturday, 18th May. Schools across Cambridgeshire were invited to join the festival and participate in the art competition which was displayed at the art gallery during the festival.

A whole host of organisations supported the event, including EMG motors, Ford SPS, Cambond, Museum of Zoology, the Whipple Museum, South Cambridgeshire Council, Cambridge Sustainable Foods, the Wildlife Trust, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Carbon Zero, Cambourne Library, Sarah Bell, Caroline Marriage as well as schools including Hardwick and Cambourne primary and Comberton VC. We also had the Repair Café, which encouraged people to fix items rather than bin them as well as the Swish clothing initiative which encouraged people to swap clothing, reducing fast fashion. Both preventing items ending up in landfill and reducing carbon footprint.

It was amazing to see such a variety of exhibitors and fantastic to witness so many people coming together under one roof to learn about the different ways that we can help protect our planet, as well as to soak up the innovation and knowledge from each stall.

We would like to thank all the pupils and volunteers who led the event, as well as all the exhibitors and participants who made the day such a success. We hope to return next year and encourage even more organisations and schools to join us for such a worthy cause.

Mrs M Teo

Gardening Club

Since the conception of the gardening club, we have invited students from the wider community to our sensory garden. However, on 5th July, we were instead the ones visiting for an afternoon session of planting, to meet primary school pupils and ease their transition up to secondary.

Our Eco-Council was met with contagious enthusiasm, and The Vine Gardening Club – led by Ms Bell and Mr Clayton – guided us to their newly-established sensory

garden. Together, we introduced fern to the undergrowth of the surrounding wooded area, and a curry plant to the entrance path. Pupils impressed us with their extensive topical knowledge and how they catered towards the environment. The care that the gardening club held towards the worms had to be the highlight of our visit!

There is lots to be taken from this experience: the enthusiasm of pupils from The Vine, the beauty of their own sensory garden, and

the wisdom of their leading staff. These last few exchanges have also certainly been an exchange of inspiration! We hope to continue to foster our relationships with the local primary schools, and will next see The Vine when they bring up some cuttings in the new academic year. Expect to see a year packed with gardening and horticulture as we enter September!

Joseph (9E) Member of the Eco-Council



Year 9 Social

On the 20th of June, at Cambourne VC, the Year Nine Summer Social took place. We had bouncy castles, a Photo Booth, summer games, an ice cream truck, and many other fun activities. A highlight for some was the England vs Denmark game which was shown in one of the classrooms.

One of the Year 9 form tutors, Mr Yeates, did some amazing face painting that started with simple England flags to support the team and ended with flowers and a shark biting someone's eye! As well as everyone enjoying the face painting, the Photo Booth was in constant demand with people using fun props to decorate their photos. Even the teachers got involved and enjoyed having a go! We also had a range of sweets and drinks on offer and delicious ice cream too.

The Summer Social was a huge success and everyone who came had a great time. A massive thank you to all the teachers who made this evening possible especially Miss Angell and Mrs Lye who planned the whole event.

Chloe, Lauren, Meghana



TRUST NEWS

Key Priorities

Trust leaders and headteachers will be working on a long-term strategy and setting clear priorities for the future following the arrival of new CEO Claire Heald.

She has set out areas likely to be prioritised as the Trust continues to consider how best to serve our young people and their families. Alongside the Trust's six core principles, which underpin the aims and values, Claire wants to focus on

- Reading. This is probably the most important thing we teach our children.
- The potential for all-through education. With the number of children who progress from one school to another Trust school, this feels like an important opportunity for us — and one that we can really build on.

Ensuring the best possible outcomes for our most vulnerable students. It is our role to remove barriers and unlock potential whether they are pupils with special educational needs or disadvantaged pupils.

- The power of collaboration. There is collaboration already happening in and across our schools but we can do even more — to make this a truly great Trust to work in and support our young people to learn and develop even more effectively.

Claire, who took up the role at half-term, added: "Reading has always been a passion of mine, right from starting my teaching career as an English teacher. In many ways the most important thing we teach our children is how to read, as it is a critical enabling competence — opening up possibility and opportunity for our young people."



Exciting Times

Claire Heald has been busy getting out and about across all the Trust schools since she joined as Chief Executive on June 1st.

She said: "I have spent time in all of our schools over the last few weeks and have very much enjoyed meeting headteachers and school staff."

"I have particularly enjoyed talking with our brilliant young people and hope to do more of this in the new academic year."

"I also hope to be able to meet more of our parents and wider community stakeholders."

"Stephen Munday clearly leaves a strong legacy and I hope to do this justice by leading our family of schools forward successfully into the next stage of our journey."

"In my conversations with Trust staff, people have openly talked to me about their hopes for the future. This is a Trust with extraordinary potential."

"There are exciting times ahead and I'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I've received so far."

Maths

In June, Melbourn Village College hosted a Trust maths competition for Yr9 girls. Read more on page 19.



Richard Kueh



Dr Richard Kueh, HMI, joins the Cam Academy Trust as Director of Strategy & Improvement at the end of July.

Richard currently serves as the Deputy Director for Schools and Early Education at Ofsted and is one of His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI). He has been part of the senior civil service for the last two years.

Bringing his experience working across England's 24,000 state-funded schools to the Trust's schools, Richard is excited about the move.

"This is a poignant time for The Cam Academy Trust, at the start of Claire Heald's tenure as CEO," he said. "It is fantastic to join this local family of schools committed to broad and inclusive education, with an international outlook."

Richard is looking forward to working with leaders and teachers across all the Trust's schools, as well the Trust's central functions, such as teacher training.

He takes a collaborative approach to leading change. Before joining Ofsted, he worked as a director of a Department for Education (DfE) regional school improvement partnership of 12 primary schools. "Making meaningful connections is central to high-quality educational practice," he said. "Just as it's vital for leaders in schools to make connections between behaviour, attendance, outcomes, provision and safeguarding information for pupils, so it's vital for trusts to 'connect the dots' between primary and secondary teaching, initial teacher training and on-going teacher education."

Richard is no stranger to the Trust — he was part of the founding team at Cambourne Village College.

Richard's academic background is in philosophy and theology, and he finished his doctorate at Cambridge while teaching at Cambourne.

He led the subject nationally as lead HMI inspector for Religious Education (RE).

MEET THE TEAM

Mrs D Pascou

Can you please share a bit about your educational background?

After graduating from the Music Highschool of Athens I went to study in the States under scholarship and got a bachelor's in Theology and Ethics. A few years later I did my master's in Applied Linguistics at another American university – which I had to do part time as I was working and raising a family.

What is your teaching philosophy? And how do you apply it in your English classes?

Our job is to serve the educational community in order to educate students and help form responsible citizens. I think everything that we do has to go through the prism of: "how do we serve the future and make it brighter"?

How do you engage students who might not naturally be interested in English literature or language?

The important thing is to link what we are learning in the classroom to the students' immediate needs. E.g. Do well in their GCSEs. However, it is important to link what we are learning in the classroom to real life applications. E.g. Being able to read and understand a job contract.

Mr G Pagomenos

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Honestly, there are a lot of things I love about being in this job. Science has always been one of my hobbies, and the fact that I get to talk about it every day is just awesome. I love having a good chat with the other teachers and sharing jokes with the students, whilst also knowing that I can be there to help any student who needs it.

I am also incredibly lucky to be able to work with highly motivated Student Council, Prefect and Bulletin teams, who continue to keep Cambourne Village College as a wonderful place to learn.

What would you change?

Tough question! I'm genuinely quite happy, as long as people have gained more interest in Science after I've taught them for a year's worth of 100 minute lessons.

What is your favourite science experiment?

For my Ph.D., I analysed data from the Spitzer Space Telescope in order to figure out whether

What are your favourite books or authors?

My favourite author is C.S. Lewis but I also liked reading all the classics from the Brontë sisters and Jane Austen when I was younger.

How do you stay updated with the latest developments in English literature in education?

As teachers we are expected to participate in a lot of training courses continually – which I do. I also read many books on education.

What are your interests or hobbies outside of teaching?

I think being a mum would be at the top of my list at the moment. There is nothing I enjoy more than spending all my free time with



my family, as my children are growing at an incredible speed and soon will be out of the nest.

How do you balance your professional life with your personal interests and activities?

This has been one of the most difficult areas to balance for me as I tend to prioritise work. But after 22 years of teaching, I have found ways to deal with the heavy workload of teaching during the week and leave weekends and half-terms for family.

What characteristics have you gained from this job and this path in life?

Patience and empathy. There is always room for improvement but I am a lot more patient and empathetic now that I was 22 years ago when I started teaching.

The finally, what's the biggest struggle that you have faced?

In the last 22 years I have seen students deal with some severe life challenges – this is hard to witness.

Interview by Syeda (9V)

roughly 30 to 60 minutes on admin and lesson preparation for the next few days, and then the rest of the evening can be spent with my loved ones.

What have you learnt from being a teacher?

The main thing I can say as a teacher, which applies to students, teachers and quite possibly everyone else, is to not overwork yourself. Take some time to enjoy your hobbies and spend some time with your friends and family alongside your studies or work. Everyone around you will appreciate it if you do.

Do you have a favourite book or author?

My favourite author growing up (and still today) is Terry Pratchett. The Discworld series is wonderfully written, and Pratchett's use of humour to colour a fantasy world is unparalleled. Death is a particularly wonderful character, and Mort remains my absolute favourite book of all time!

Mrs V Fielding White

Have you always been a librarian?

I started working in libraries when I was 17 and have worked in public libraries, law libraries and school libraries. However, I am also a qualified teacher and have worked as a TA and in pre-school! I have also taught English as a foreign language

Do you have a favourite book or author?

So many! I love to re-read the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Marian Keyes is a favourite adult author. As a child I loved school stories and read The Chalet school series (they were set in the Austrian mountains) and Willard Price adventures about 2 boys who caught animals from the wild (at the time this was considered animal conservation!)

What do you enjoy most about being a librarian?

I love talking to people! This is the best job for finding out a bit more about people and what they like and dislike. The people I work with are also fantastic. Most of all, if I can help someone find a new book or series of books, it makes me really happy.

What would you change?

I wish books were cleaner and people didn't leave such strange things in them – book marks, sweet wrappers and even toilet paper! The strangest thing I have ever heard of though is a rasher of bacon!! Being a librarian can be a messy job!

How do you know which books to buy or recommend?

I read library journals and other media, follow competitions, such as the Carnegie Greenaway awards, to find good titles and stories and what is recommended. I spend my spare time browsing in book shop and I listen to student and staff recommendations. We try to buy as many of these as I can to ensure the library represents the best books available now.

Do you have any hobbies or interests away from the library?

As well as reading, I love baking, crochet and pilates. I play the flute too – although I rarely have time to practise these days.

CamVC Library

The students at CamVC have had to make do without a library for the last few weeks of term. The library is a central part of the provision at the school and is well loved and well used by students and staff throughout the school. As the school grows to accommodate more students, library facilities also need to grow and are therefore moving to a bespoke space in the new Pink Block - a more central location in the growing school.

Library staff have been busy packing the 9000+ volumes carefully into crates and moving them to the new school library and Sixth Form library. The site team have also worked tirelessly moving shelving and crates to ensure everything is in the right places.

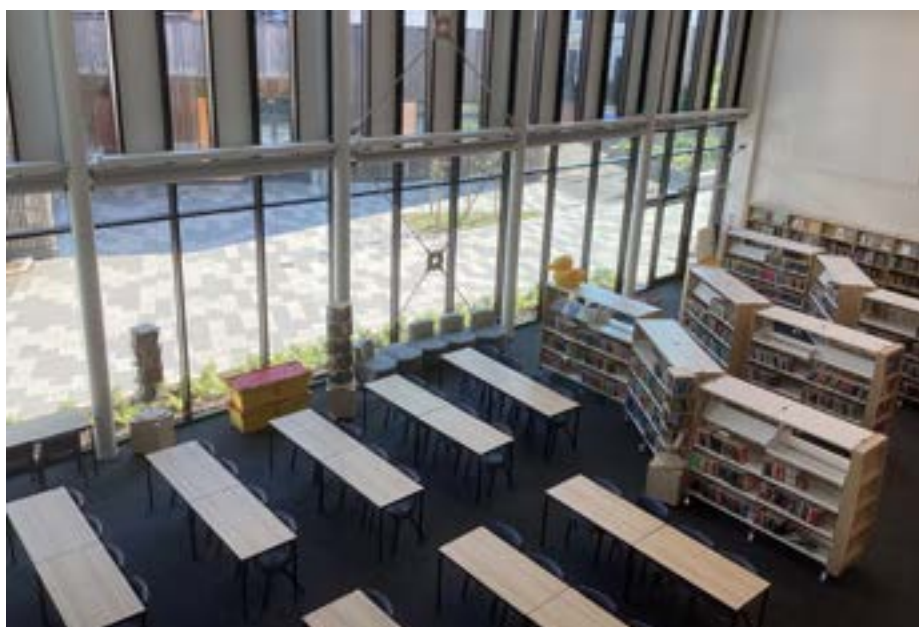
New shelving has been installed in the new double-height space and books have been unpacked ready for students to browse and borrow in September. There is also a new classroom space, computer area as well as plenty of seating for students to work and read in their leisure time and library lessons.

Staff are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the library in September and sharing the new facilities with everyone!

For now, Years 7, 8 and 9 have a reading challenge set by library staff. Please check details on Satchel One.

For anyone looking for books to read over the summer, please use SORA - the school's reading app.

Finally, First News are offering free access to families over the summer - [click here for access](#)



OLD CAMBOURNIANS

Mr Ciaran Savill

Since leaving Cambourne VC, I have moved onto pastures new and am currently 2nd in PE at The Netherhall School in Cambridge. Moving to a new school was challenging at first, particularly with a young family. My role has evolved over the year, taking on responsibilities such as curriculum development, extracurricular activities and mentoring new teachers.

I look back fondly at my time at Cambourne, with many experiences and memories shaping me as both a teacher and a person. Activities week was always a highlight of the year, particularly in 2022 during the 40-degree heatwave, I was on the watersports trip so was able to stay cool whilst staff and students on other activities roasted in the heat. Activities Week is such an important time for students, as it is where students can make profoundly lasting memories, ones that they would not necessarily make in the classroom! I have no doubt that it will continue to be a huge success at Cambourne!



Ailsa Lynn - 2020 Leaver

After I left Cambourne Village College, I went to Comberton Sixth Form where the love I had for English that was encouraged and nurtured by my wonderful teachers at CamVC grew even more. I found a true delight in English and books that stayed with me as I went through Sixth Form and helped me gain two jobs – both as library assistants – that I adore. I owe a lot of it to my teachers who helped a shy little bookworm become a much more confident young adult that was excited to see where the world took her.

I was, in fact, delighted to learn that it took me back to CamVC as one of their library assistants. The chance to become part of the environment that was so pivotal to me growing up and see the school grow as I did is ineffable to express.

I no longer have the friends I did, as we grew apart when we split up for Sixth Form. But I have new ones that are the best people I have ever had the fortune to meet. I have been on trips with my family to visit Scotland, Malta and so many other interesting places. Recently, I was at my sister's side when she got married this year. My life is completely different compared to when I was a student and what I thought I would do. I can't say that I regret or would change it though; and in the coming years, I can only hope to give back to Cambourne Village College a fraction of what it gave me.

In recent weeks, Ailsa has been helping to set up the new CamVC and CamSF libraries - thank you Miss Lynn for all your hard work!

**WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI PLEASE DO
GET IN TOUCH
MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR MAIN
SCHOOL [WEBSITE](#)**

SPORTS

Girls Football U12 Plate

On Monday 1st July, we took our team to compete in the Girls Football U12 plate final run by Hunts FA at Huntington Town FC.

The girls have done really well throughout the whole year, coming up against some tough opponents at times. They have also shown real growth throughout the season, narrowly winning their first few games to winning 8-3

against Northstowe in the final - we are so proud of our Year 7 girls for winning the plate trophy!

Really looking forward to see what they can achieve in Year 8! Well done to: Ava, Lara, Verity, Diya, Alesha, Katie, Lucy, Eva, Jayde, Ameera, Millie and Mega.



Sports Days

Year 9 Sports Day started in high spirits as each of the tutor groups entered the field waving their flags, showing off their Countries including costumes, vibrant colours, and banners. Pupils were enthusiastic, supportive of one and other and tried their best to earn valuable points for their tutor groups. Many talents were on display including, dancing, singing, throwing, running, jumping and then in the afternoon, the year group came together to finish of the day with several relays and then a presentation at the end. Many students were acknowledged for their efforts, their encouragement and for their team participation and despite it being their last sports day, Year 9 certainly made it a memorable one!

Year 8 Sports Day started with Mr Dover's form leading the way on to the field with a well decorated form supporting the Country of Japan. His form, amongst others were noted for their enthusiasm, participation, and support for one another as they spent

the day cheering each other on and doing their very best to earn valuable points for their forms. This year, the relays were as competitive as ever and with some very close races, it was clear that we certainly have a talented bunch of students. The year groups energy was supported by the head of Year who was instrumental in leading the group in the 'cha cha slide' dance off and the 'Macarena'.

The first CamVC Sports Day for Year 7 started with energy and passion as each tutor group made their way to the field with banners, costumes, and all sorts of accessories! They danced, they sung, and they worked hard at every station so that they could gain important points for their tutor group. A special acknowledgement to a Year 7 student who was the only person to achieve a full 5 points in the Hurdles race. He completed this race in a time that was quicker than any other student over the 3 days and that took some beating. The relays were the final masterpiece of the day

and many students showed determination and dedication as they competed in the races or stood on the sidelines supporting their teams. Even the tutors and some staff members showed their courage (and their age) as they took on the almighty 'Sport activators and Leaders'. The crowd loved it... although I am not sure that the teachers taking part did.

The sports days certainly showed Cambourne at its finest! Students and staff all coming together to support the diversity, the talent and the collaboration of a community. As my first time leading and spectating, it was very clear that the sports days were inclusive, supportive and most important of all, a day for fun, expression and show casing talent. Thank you to everyone that was involved – it was certainly a high light to the end of an academic year.

Ms K Bellingham

Tang Soo Do Success



We are thrilled to share the incredible achievements of one of our Year 10 students, Maryam, who recently competed in the World Tang Soo Do Championships. It took Maryam two years of dedication and hard work to qualify, attending and placing in every regional and national competition over the past two years. Her perseverance paid off, as she not only qualified to be part of the Great Britain team but also funded her trip to the competition through a part-time job and sponsorship.

Maryam trained up to four times a week over the past year, under the guidance of Katherine Alexander, the 2022 World Champion for Tang Soo Do. Despite being told to simply enjoy the experience without high expectations,

Maryam surprised everyone by winning Gold in all three categories: weapons, forms, and sparring. This incredible performance led her to claim the World Champions Cup for the Junior Female Colour-belt Division.

The competition took place on Saturday, July 13th, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Maryam's determination and hard work have brought great pride to her family, her coach, and our school community. We celebrate Maryam's success and commend her for her perseverance, dedication, and outstanding achievements. Congratulations, Maryam!"