

# NEWS@CAM



ISSUE 29 SPRING 2023

The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

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1920s AMERICA COMES TO CAMBOURNE — PAGES 8 & 9

# Buildings spring up

Week by week, our new school is being built all around us.

The first block, a single-storey building behind the Blue Wing, is due to be handed over by September, and will provide two new Art rooms and four general classrooms.

By Christmas, the second block behind the Pink Wing will be ready, providing a great new library and English classrooms.

With DT and Science, a Dining Hall, Music and

Drama blocks, and of course, the new Sixth Form, all due to be handed over by April 2024, the speed of the construction is impressive.

It's fascinating to watch the progress of the building, as for each area, the groundworks, foundations, steel structure, cladding, and then windows and bricks are added sequentially in phases around the school.

The blue wing looks like a building, while the new music blocks are just a concrete base at present.

The building site is close around us, but thanks to a

strong working relationship between school and construction staff, teaching and learning is not affected, even though the access around the back of the wings is quite constricted.

Thankfully, the work is pretty much on schedule despite the vagaries of the winter weather.

At present, laying the new north playing fields is held up by the wet conditions, but that apart, we're hoping that all will be delivered on time.

Claire Coates, Principal



**TAKING SHAPE:** The various new buildings around the site are at different stages in the build process.

## Fitting opening to new performance space

Between 1st and 4th March, the school staged the musical *Chicago* (Teen Version). It was a fantastic show (see Pages 8 & 9), and made all the more special since it was the first to take place in our newly-fitted Performance Hall.

Since 2018, the Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust has been raising money to equip the hall, which was provided with support from Cambourne Town and Cambs County Councils. With generous donations from many organisations and individuals, and from the Cam Academy Trust, the school now has a professional-quality theatre and conference centre with stage, lighting, surround-sound and tiered seating for 300.

A pre-show celebration took place on the Thursday evening to thank all those who have contributed to the venture, and the pupils' performances more than lived up to their splendid new setting.

The hall is available for community hire: details can be found on the College website on the Community/Adult Education tab, with booking information from: [Cam-Events@cambournevc.org](mailto:Cam-Events@cambournevc.org)

If any members of our community would be interested in volunteering to be a trustee with the Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust, please contact Mrs Cat Collins on [ccollins@cambournevc.org](mailto:ccollins@cambournevc.org)

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**THE CHANCE TO PLAY:** A new scheme will make instruments available to more young people in Cambourne.

# Instruments for all!

The Cambs Youth Panel and Miller's Music of Cambridge are joining forces with Cambourne Village College in a pilot scheme to introduce more young people to the enjoyment of playing musical instruments.

The Managing Director of Miller's Music, Simon Pollard, is making a wide range of musical instruments available to young people who might not otherwise be able to afford to play.

Simon will be gifting clarinets, saxophones, cellos, violins, flutes and more. He said: "It's just a priority for me that we put these instruments into the hands of people who otherwise wouldn't get the chance to play, and that if they don't enjoy the instrument they know they can simply bring it back or exchange it for a different instrument. If they love it, they can keep it for life."

The scheme aims to introduce hundreds of children to music and is dedicated to doing so without cost to the young person or their parents.

Phil Priestley, Founder of the Cambs Youth Panel, said: "Simon is amazing. He is very generous and altruistic. He said that he wanted to do something along the same lines as the Youth Panel has been doing with computers and we've joined

forces to initially open distribution to a small handful of schools — of which Cambourne Village College will be one of the first."

The scheme has already supplied a flute, a clarinet and a violin to the school. Cambourne Head of Music, Geoff Page, said: "This is such a wonderful opportunity! I'm so grateful to Simon and Miller's Music, and I'm really excited for as many pupils as possible to take advantage of this generous scheme!"

Mr Page added: "It's amazing that this opportunity is also open to primary pupils. The benefit is that the younger they start, the better. If they arrive in Year 7 with 2-4 years' experience, it makes a massive difference."

If you are a parent interested in applying for a musical instrument, please either email [phil@cambsyouthpanel.co.uk](mailto:phil@cambsyouthpanel.co.uk) or ask in the music department.

For parents who can afford it, low-cost rentals will also be made available on flexible terms to suit restricted budgets.

## Staff share 'shelfies' on World Book Day

World Book Day is an annual global event celebrated to promote reading and literacy.

It is a day dedicated to the joy of reading and is celebrated on the first Thursday of March in the UK and Ireland.

The event aims to encourage children and young people to read and appreciate the power of books.

One of the highlights of this year's World Book Day was the 'shelfie' activity. The activity involved adults taking a photo of their bookshelf at home, and students having to guess which bookshelf belonged to which member of staff.

This activity proved to be a lot of fun, and it helped to engage students in reading and literacy in a unique and entertaining way.

All year groups participated with great excitement; some were extremely easy to guess (Miss Daniels and her abundance of greenery, matching her classroom was a particularly obvious one!) while others left the students scratching their heads and rushing up to the whiteboard to study the titles, hoping for a clue as to the owner.

The 'shelfie' activity also encouraged students to explore different genres of books and introduced them to books they might not have considered before.

The activity also helped to build a sense of community among students and staff and students really enjoyed guessing which bookshelf belonged to which person; they were excited to see the different types of books the staff enjoyed reading (and how neat/messy they were at home!)

In addition to the 'shelfie' activity, our school library organised a used book fair and our Year 7s participated in the 'guess the prop' game, where staff wore or carried (or stuck on their wall) a prop from a famous novel and the students competed to see who could find and identify the most props.

These activities helped to create a fun and engaging atmosphere around reading and literacy. Students were excited to participate in these activities and learned a lot about books and reading... and Mrs Milne's propensity for a prop!



**GUESS WHOSE SHELF:** Students had to work out which staff owned which bookshelf.



**DEVELOPMENT PHASE:** Students work on their car before taking it to race in competition yesterday.

# F1 team takes to track

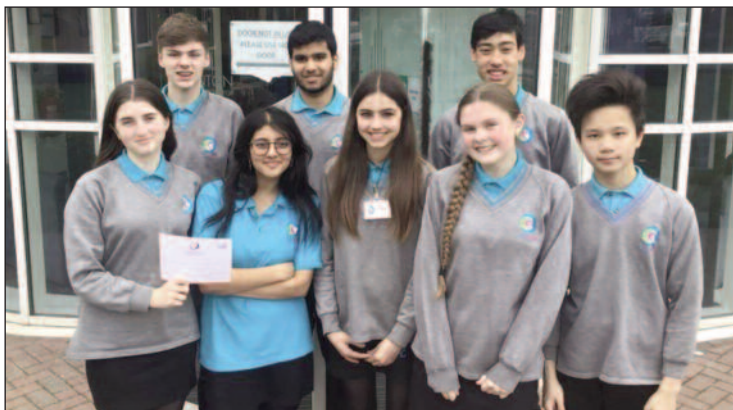
Cambourne Village College took their first group of students to the F1 in Schools Regional Finals today and we can't wait to hear how they got on!

All the news and action from race day will be included in the next issue of News@Cam. The competition has involved designing and creating a car to race. Students have been kept busy, working with help from industry professionals and sponsors, coming up with a brand identity and delivering a strong pit display, presentation and portfolio. The team for this project are five students who access the Link Provision (Social, Emotional, Mental Health Provision). They have focused their project on making STEM learning inclusive and accessible for all students, despite barriers that students may face. They all acknowledged that STEM learning can be hard at times, but this has been a creative and

interesting way to learn about engineering, physics and design, as well as other operational aspects, such as project management. The team is called 'Phoenix Force Racing' with their motto being 'rise to the challenge'. Students have been really engaged with the project with Jack (9B), the graphic designer and photographer, commenting: "In the F1 in Schools project I have learned lots of more things about cars, computing and photography. "For example, did you know that F1 cars can go from 0 to 160 km per hour in just four seconds! "Also, an F1 car has over 180,000 parts and takes over 150,000 human hours of work to assemble! "Even though I was pretty good at editing videos before I joined the F1 in Schools project, I have now learned new things about how to edit videos and produce them! "I have really enjoyed the project and I hope to do

lots more in the future." Amelia, Joint Project Manager (Enterprise), said: " I have really enjoyed this project. I am very happy that I was given the opportunity. "I think I have learnt a lot of new skills from this experience and the biggest one is the 3D sketching. "I think maybe in the future I will want to do something related to this as I am enjoying it and I think it could be even better in the future. "I feel like if we do get the chance to do it again next year, I would make sure the portfolio was done quicker and that I worked on it more." The team would like to say a massive thank you to the organisations and sponsors which have been involved; Zephyr Visual Communications, Cambs Youth Panel, Bohemia St Neots, Fabrio and Aston University Engineering Department.

## A feast of questions for problem-solvers



**WORKING IT OUT:** Students at the maths competition.

Last week, eight of our exceptional Year 10 mathematicians travelled to Linton to compete in this year's 'Maths Feast'. Split into two teams of four, we competed against 14 other teams from schools all over Cambridgeshire. Whilst all problems involved maths, this competition was also heavily reliant on superb teamwork and communication skills, which our students showed in heaps! The competition consisted of four rounds where students demonstrated their fantastic maths skills under time pressure, as well as answering advanced comprehension questions about the proof of theorems in mathematics.

While the competition does not announce an overall winner, Cambourne did receive an award for 'winning after the first three rounds'. With only four rounds in total (and scoring extremely heavily on our final round) our mathematical deductions leave us no choice but to conclude we did very, very well. Well done to all eight mathematicians that came along — Alex (O), Siu Him (A), Izzy (N), Betty (V), George (V), Abdullah (V), Ashvika (O), and Acacia (E) — you were a real credit to our school!



# Winning design goes on sale

Cambourne's national design champions have seen their product go on sale.

The team of five GCSE DT students, now in Year 11, were invited back to London for the official launch of Eco Seed at the Design Museum. William (11B), Holly (11M), Amanda (11U), Serena (11U) and Genevieve (11R) arrived at the Design Museum for a photoshoot in the shop, where they enjoyed the experience posing with the packaged Eco Seed and seeing the final product for the first time.

They then headed to the Deutsche Bank Headquarters in Liverpool Street, where students had a stand set up, ready for them to sell their product to staff.

It was a challenging task, which felt like the BBC show *The Apprentice*, as students had to stop people during their lunch break to sell the Eco Seed — which won the 2022 Ventura Design

Award.

The students were very impressive; they soon took it as a real challenge and were pitching their products, selling some to the CEO and the Head of Global Marketing. Fortunately, there was no sign of Lord Sugar!

They demonstrated confidence, resilience and spontaneity, which was rewarded in the great achievement of selling 25 units within an hour. The students again benefited greatly from this day, a once-in-a-lifetime experience in which they had the chance to see all of their hard work come to fruition. We are, and they should be, very proud of what they achieved.

Their product is now for sale at the Design Museum in London and online and the money raised will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Foundation, the charity chosen by the students.



**FINISHED:** Students see their winning product for the first time.

## Another team impresses event judges

Cambourne's latest cohort of GCSE Design and Technology students are hoping to follow in the blueprints of the College's national winners.

Tom (10V), Karolina (10V), Bofeng (10C) Ash (10U) and Zlata (10V) were in London last week presenting their design idea in the 2023 Ventura Design Award.

They are now anxiously waiting for the winners to be announced next term. But they have already done brilliantly to get to the final 10, having first been chosen as the best in-school design and then seeing off the challenge from 100s of other schools to be selected to present their idea in person.

This year's theme was 'place' and the group's product, Starlight, is a multisensory device which, using a mobile device, can project stars on to ceilings, bringing the outdoors indoors.

This design was chosen from submissions by more than 280 schools and over 15,000 pupils.

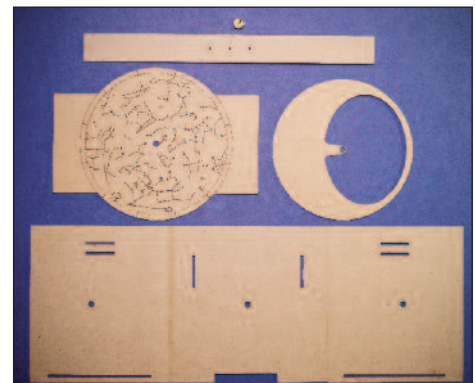
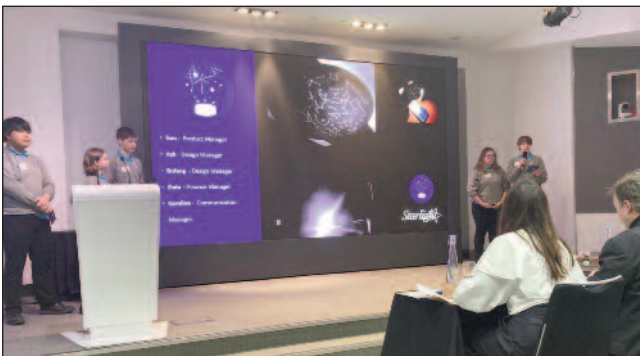
The five students did a brilliant job with their presentation, which was shown to the five judges, including designer Sebastian Conran and Architect and Design Ventura brief-setter Selasi Setufe MBE.

Conran explained in feedback: "I love the way you have taken a natural material and combined it with a very high tech product.

"Also it takes us back to observing nature and spans over generations. It reminds us that, although technology is digital, it is still analogue. Very thought provoking."

Students also had the opportunity to speak to some of the judges, including Christoph Woermann, Chief Marketing Officer of Corporate Bank Marketing at Deutsche Bank, and to network with the other schools to speak about design and their products.

They now have to wait for April 27th, when they will visit the Design Museum for the grand final of Design Ventura. Watch this space!



**THE NEXT GENERATION:** The class of 2023 presented their design to the judges and will hear how it went at the start of next term.

# Debate team's third spot

In January four Year 10 history students attended the Historical Association Great Debate in Cambridge.

The students had been preparing their speeches for weeks in after-school sessions with the History Department.

The Great Debate is a public speaking competition, where students have five minutes to present their speech arguing their answer to the question: Why does history matter to me?

Our students had been collaborating on their speech, which was delivered by Ashvika (100).

Ashvika spoke about how and why history is important in new and growing communities like Cambourne.

Ashvika's final point was met with a loud round of applause when she stated: "History isn't created by documents, but by people."

We all enjoyed listening to the other competitors and had a great evening learning more about history.

We were thrilled to find out that Cambourne Village College came in third place, no mean feat considering we up against sixth form students!

We look forward to taking part again next year!



**COMPETITION TIME:** The preparation had been done and Cambourne were ready to compete.

## Remembering victims of the Nazis

All students commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day in dedicated assemblies led by members of the History Department.

Holocaust Memorial Day is marked each year on 27th January — the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On and around this day, schools, communities, and faith groups across the UK join together in national and local events to commemorate those people who became victims of the Nazis and their collaborators and of more recent genocides, and to consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the murder of approximately 6 million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War.

However, statistics are impersonal and difficult to grasp, and we cannot ever expect students to comprehend the magnitude of the Holocaust. One way of ensuring that young people connect with the victims of the Holocaust is by focusing on the experiences of individuals.

By providing students with the opportunity to participate in the live survivor webcast, they can put a human face to history and engage with one survivor's personal experiences during the Holocaust.

This year we took part in online webcasts and 95 students in Years 9-11 heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor Ruth Posner BEM and more than 100 students in Years 7 and 8 heard testimony of Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE.

These sessions were incredibly moving and our students greatly appreciated having the chance to hear their testimonies.



**PERSONAL TESTIMONY:**  
Students hear from a Holocaust survivor via a live webcast.



## TEACHING ASSISTANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Are you thinking about a career in education?

We are actively seeking to recruit Teaching Assistants to work in several of our schools.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you are a parent or recent graduate or are looking to gain experience of working in an area that provides tailored support to students with an inclusive outlook.



The post of Teaching Assistant will offer excellent opportunities for training and development in a Trust that has professional development as a core value.

Positions available from 30 hours a week, term time only.

We currently have vacancies in several of our primary and secondary schools. To apply or obtain further information, visit: [www.catrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies](http://www.catrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies)



**OUT AND ABOUT:** Pupils visited Peterhouse and Selwyn to learn about higher education opportunities and meet students.

# Aspirational visits

Students in Years 9 and 10 who have been taking part in *The Brilliant Club* attended a Graduation Event at Trinity Hall College.

We were treated to a tour of the college and had the chance to meet current students. We learnt more about university education and were given advice about how best to prepare for potential university applications. This trip was to celebrate their hard work on *The Scholars Programme*. Our students were joined by their PhD tutor Jake Cross, who has been delivering sessions based on his research.

Our students studied a module entitled: Lysosomes and autophagy: Why do our cells digest themselves when we are hungry? and completed a final assignment which challenged them to work above their



**GRAUDATES:** Of *The Brilliant Club*.

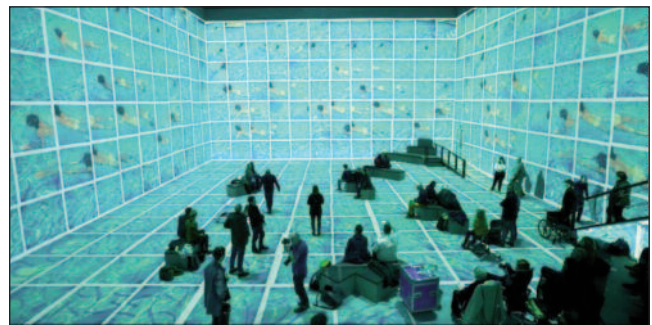
current key stage. It's been great fun and we can't wait to promote more opportunities like this at our school.

This term students in Year 10 visited Peterhouse (the oldest college in Cambridge) to learn more about A Level choices and Higher Education. The day included advice about how to do well in their GCSEs and how best to pick future courses when applying to Sixth Form. One of the aims of the day was to increase our understanding of the opportunities available in higher education and inspire our students in their future academic studies. We were also lucky enough to have a tour of Selwyn College and meet current students at the university. It was a brilliant, fun, and informative day.

## A picture perfect trip to London

We took 45 Year 10 pupils from Photography and Art into London to visit some incredible locations. We arrived near King's Cross to visit the newly opened David Hockney immersive exhibition at Lightroom. Pupils were warmly welcomed into the exhibition, which was a huge lightroom of film, moving images all about this artwork of David Hockney, with his voice narrating the 50-minute film. The images projected on all surfaces including the floor created an immersive and unusual experience. We took a walk through the skyscrapers around the area to Gasholder Park, a public garden made of mirrors in an old gas station. It was a perfect place to experiment with the cameras and capture some amazing shots with the cityscape behind. We then walked by the canal, photographing the reflections, the fountain and a light tunnel along our way. We stopped to eat lunch around a food market, and as promised, a

visit to McDonald's for some... It was freezing, but the snow just about held off for us, and we then headed to the iconic Natural History Museum to see the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition. It was an inspiring collection of images from all different photographers all around the world. The pupils soaked it all in and then enjoyed the gift shop before photographing the architecture and details inside the museum. We tried to capture some slow shutter speed images of people in the grand hall under the whale skeleton, and then, all very tired, we headed back home on the coach. A wonderful day was had by all. Tom (10N) said: "I absolutely loved the street photography around King's Cross, especially the mirror sculpture and fountain. "I found the David Hockney Lightroom exhibition quite moving and inspirational. It was also really cool to be with friends in London." Rubi (10N) added: "It was magical." Sam Minnaar, Head of Photography



**SEEING THE LIGHT:** At the new David Hockney immersive exhibition.

# Magical musical is perfect v

At the beginning of March, CamVC's 2023 production of *Chicago* hit the stage! And it was a production to remember. Here's 10 reasons why!

1. It was our very first production in the new Performance Hall. The hall was built several years ago, but following a huge fundraising campaign — headed by Principal Claire Coates and the Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust — we have been able to fully equip the space to make it an incredible performance venue.
2. *Chicago* played to our largest ever audiences! The recently-installed tiered seating allows more than 300 people to be accommodated in the audience, meaning that across the four public performances (including a SOLD OUT Friday and Saturday night), we performed to well over 1000 people! And I think every single one of them left smiling!
3. It was our 10th CamVC musical production since the school started! Our very first show was *Oliver* back in July 2014, and since then we've had *Grease*, *Dracula*, *We Will Rock You*, *Strike*, *Macbeth*, *The Pirate Queens*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Addams Family*, and now *Chicago*! And for number 10, it was a suitably epic production. We're already looking forward to number 11!
4. The Tech team, what a crew! Technically, this was an amazingly challenging show, with 24 radio mics, and more than 100 lighting cues, as well as a whole host of sound effects and other special effects, all run by pupils from the school. The show looked spectacular (thanks in no small part to the amazing lighting design of production director Lauren Phillips) and sounded spectacular!
5. The onstage band! Many of our shows have had a live band, and it's always great to see our talented pupils — supported by a few staff — creating such a fantastic sound. But this was the first time that the band were onstage, rather than being tucked away to the side. They looked like they enjoyed being there, and they might be difficult to shift in future productions!
6. The seamless workings of the backstage crew. As well as the many performers onstage — we'll come to them — there was a huge team behind the scenes making sure everything happened on cue. This included a large numbers of pupils who helped to make, build, and paint parts of the set and various props, and then smoothly and silently made sure that the right things were on stage at the right time!
7. The silent cast. Due to the new configuration of the hall, with no equivalent to the Henry Morris Room to act as a Green Room (where the cast can easily camp out when not on the stage), the entire cast were seated silently at the back of the hall throughout the show, waiting patiently for their next cue. Sometimes sitting silently can be harder than singing a belting chorus, and yet throughout this they demonstrated their true professionalism!
8. The dancers! One of the highlights of any show is the choreography, but the dancing in *Chicago* was on another level! Many, many hours of rehearsal led by our incredible choreographer, Jodie Ricketts, produced immaculately performed ensemble dance numbers, and

some utterly breathtaking set pieces by the specialist dancers, most notably 'Cell Block Tango' that left the audience gasping! When you think about a Kander & Ebb show, the choreography is the single most iconic thing about their productions, so choreographing *Chicago* was no small challenge, but I think everyone agreed, it was the absolute highlight of a sensational show!

9. The principals! Over the past 10 productions we have seen many amazingly talented soloists, but the leads in *Chicago* were some of the best performances you could imagine. Sophia (11U) (Velma Kelly) and Naomi (11R) (Roxie Hart) first appeared on the Cambourne Village College stage in Year 3, as part of the Cambourne Primary Music

School's show *The Goose Girl*. They were pretty talented back then, but perfect leads for our 2023 production they do on stage, but for the support of the other performers in the cast. Alieshia (10B) as Billy and Stephanie gave sensational performances, showing commitment to their craft. And along with some amazing performers (100) and a number of others who were new to the stage for the first time, we are confident that Cambourne will be every bit as good



TEAMWORK: The case of *Chicago* wowed audiences and christened Cambourne's new





# Way to open new venue

...t, but many years on, they were the  
...on of *Chicago*, and not only for what  
...t and encouragement they give to

...ie (10U) as Mama Morton also  
...owcasing both their talent and

...ormances from Sam (9N), Sarah  
...were similarly performing lead roles  
...at the next 10 performances at  
...d as this one!

10. And finally, and of course, most importantly, it is the nearly 50 performers making up the *Chicago* cast that entertained the 1000+ people in the audience. They have been the very best of casts to work with, hugely dedicated through the six-month rehearsal process, spending hours after school and many weekends putting together a show that was special in so many ways.

Head of Music Geoff Page said: "It was great to see so many performers appearing in their first CamVC show — and giving us so much hope for the future, being ably led by those coming back for the second, third, or fourth time!"

"The rehearsals can be tiring, intense, stressful, and challenging, but they are also a lot of fun, and hugely rewarding with so many talented,

dedicated and enthusiastic individuals, all pulling together to create something unforgettable!

"They deserved all the applause, ovations, cheers, tears, laughs, and plaudits they received, and you can guarantee, they'll be back for more very soon!"

Naomi said: "Being involved with school productions has been the highlight of my time at CamVC. The performing arts department is such a fun, kind haven for students and the staff are incredibly wonderful and inspirational."

"This year's musical, *Chicago*, with its iconic songs, characters and dances provided the perfect launch for the new Cambourne theatre."

"Once again, we had great team who worked brilliantly together to bring the show to life — I hope we did this fan-favourite justice. I loved playing the character 'Roxie' and I'm proud that we were able to transform the amazing new Cambourne theatre into a 1920s nightclub. I'm excited to see what CamVC productions has in store next!"

Year 9 Robyn (9B), who played Liz and was one of the dancers, commented: "I loved being a part of this year's musical, *Chicago*. Everything about it was amazing, the show itself, the cast, and the experience. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to be involved in such an incredible show."

Newcomer Mia (7A) added: "*Chicago* was my first ever proper school performance. I didn't know what it was at the start of rehearsals and I didn't even have to watch the movie to understand it!"

"It will be one of my favourite movies/performances for a LONG time."

"Being involved in *Chicago* has opened my eyes to the theatre world and I met loads of amazing people. Thank you so much to the teachers and everyone else involved, it was an AMAZING experience."

And cast member Jay (8E) said: "There's a *Chicago* hole in my heart every time I think about it. Now the performance is done I'm not only sad, but looking forward to other shows."

Summer (10B) was one of the backstage crew and said: "*Chicago* was an amazing show, I've helped backstage with our past two shows, I think the backstage helps with a lot of the show, making the props the thing that helps bring the show to life."

A final word to Deputy Principal Emily Gildea. "For weeks I had been leaving school humming tunes from *Chicago* as I walked past a rehearsal (one of very, very many — this cast and crew had worked beyond hard to get the show as sharp and impressive as it was) but that didn't stop me from being absolutely blown away when I saw it all come together on the night," she said.

"The cast and crew pulled off something truly special — and in a cracking new venue, too. I was genuinely impressed."



New Performance Hall.

Pictures: Ryan (11U)



# Meet the library team!

My name is Vicki Fielding White and while Dominique Payne is absent, I am acting Librarian for Cambourne Village College.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the team I work with and to highlight some of the work that is happening in the library.

My background is in both teaching and libraries. This is not the first time I have combined working in a school and a library at the same time, however, it is my first time working for Cambourne Village College. The role allows me to bring together my passions for reading, libraries and education. I am looking forward to working with both staff and students. I work Monday to Thursday.

Hannah Hearn and Rita Mody are Library Assistants, who support the daily running of the library and help students and staff to find what they need. Their contributions are vital to the smooth running of the service.

Hannah (who works Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays until 2.30) comes from a teaching background and works mainly at the front desk, supporting students in the library, cataloguing new stock, as well as processing and repairing books. Rita (who works on Wednesdays and Thursdays) fills a similar role. Rita has had previous experience working in school libraries in Singapore. The library has more than 3000 volumes as well as a wide range of audio books, video clips and online resources.



**LIBRARY CREW: Vicki Fielding, Hannah Hearn and Rita Mody.**

Students have a fantastic space to work and study within the school. They can print work, receive support finding resources they need or just settle down to work independently. While absolute silence is not essential in the library, it is generally a quieter and calmer space within the school where students can come during break and lunchtimes. The library is open daily from 8 and closes at 4, so students can come and finish homework or study before, during and after the school day.

Everyone is welcome!

## Working to ensure reading is a core skill

The committed English Department timetables every year group to have time in the library as a library lesson.

Typically, these take place every two weeks (or every month for Years 10 and 11) and are an integral part of the curriculum.

This enables all students to spend time reading, choosing books from the collection or reading online with the Sora app.

The library staff are on hand to support and can advise how to use the library system and where to find specific titles. This affords teachers time to work more closely with individuals in their classes, getting a more detailed understanding of their reading likes and dislikes.

Some readers need additional support: those who find reading a challenge or for whom it is not their first language are just some of those whose needs are addressed.

Led by Rachel Venables, and under the supervision of the English Department, there is a team of Teaching Assistants, working tirelessly to support those readers who need that extra push.

Through one-to-one and small groups, students' individual needs are supported to enable them to become fluent, confident readers who can access

all parts of the curriculum.

Rachel has a background working in primary as well as secondary schools. She uses her knowledge of phonics and talking about the story to check understanding and to train other Teaching Assistants to provide the same level of support.

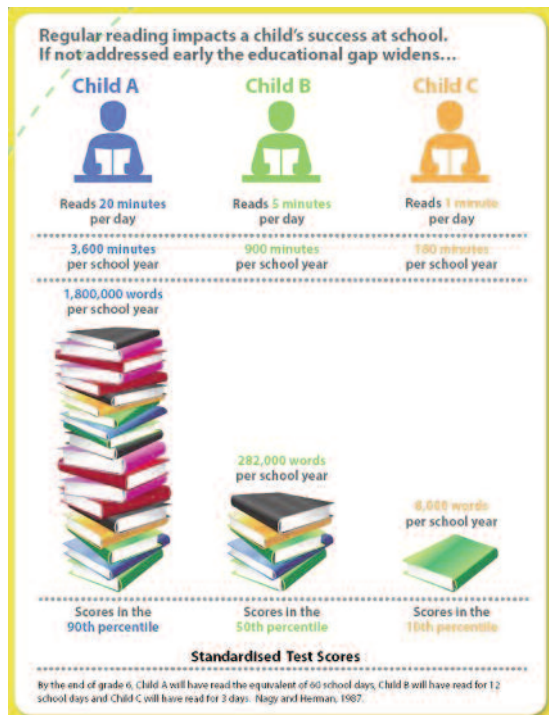
In addition,

Rachel carefully selects books to reflect readers' needs and interests. Rachel and her team have worked with hundreds of students across almost every year group over the last few years.

Since the lockdowns, there has been a significant increase in the need to support students with their reading. All students are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each day. This figure is based on research and the



**READING MATTERS: A tireless team work to support those who need extra help.**



**IMPORTANT WORK: Creating fluent confident readers enables students to access all parts of the curriculum.**

# PE and sport are crucial

The Cam Academy Trust is very clear that physical education, sport and physical activity are a central part of the proper education of all young people.

We are very keen that this is true in all schools in the Trust, regardless of context and age range.

This strongly fits within the Trust's 'Broad Education' principle.

Excellent education must be broad in its nature, strongly including areas beyond standard academic courses and programmes. PE and Sport is an important element of that.

One example of taking this seriously across the Trust is the Schools Sports Partnership that we run to serve schools in the South Cambridgeshire area.

This is overseen by our Partnership Manager and School Games Organiser, Claire McDonnell, who has written about that work below.

Another means of supporting quality Sport and Physical Education is through our

work with, and Trust-level membership of, the Youth Sport Trust.

Through this, we have access to provision that can develop and enhance the offer in all our schools, for example through visits from Athlete Mentors to our schools and high-quality professional development to all staff teaching PE and Sport.

This is overseen by Hannah Curtis, the Trust's Director of Sport and PE, who has an important role in supporting quality PE and sport in our schools.

We were pleased with the recent confirmation of Government targeted funding for PE and Sport for the next two years for primary schools as well as for the network of School Games organisers.

We shall certainly be looking to continue to use this funding effectively to ensure full access to a range of sports for all our pupils and high-quality physical education in the curriculum of all our schools.

Stephen Munday, CEO

## Local partnership is key to delivery

Based at Comberton Village College since 2003, the South Cambs School Sport Partnership (SCSSP) works with 51 primary schools and 10 secondary schools across South Cambridgeshire, including three Trust secondary and four primary schools.

SCSSP has very strong links with Hunts School Sport Partnership, who support five other Trust schools in Huntingdonshire.

Our aim is to ensure all children are **happy, healthy and more active** and to support schools in addressing their whole school priorities by thinking differently about the outcomes PE, school sport and physical activity can deliver.

The School Sport Partnership offers a range of support and programmes to enhance the provision of PE, physical activity and school sport across schools and support the needs of staff and young people.

**Professional development** is key to this, with the SCSSP employing two Primary PE Specialists, who provide team teaching support to staff in 11 schools, as well as offering subject leader support.

Courses are offered for all schools and staff to access and this year have included Sensory Circuits, Bee Netball, Delivering High Quality PE, Swimming and Water Safety and Subject Leader courses.

The SSP also offers a range of programmes to **enhance the sport and physical activity** that schools can offer, including the popular Balanceability and Scootability programmes, which



**GAME ON:** The South Cambs Partnership supported a major Football Activators conference for girls.



are being delivered in Jeavons Wood, Gamlingay and Bourn this year.

These teach Reception, Year 1 and 2 children to ride a bike or two-wheeled scooter, as well as developing children's balance, coordination and spatial awareness and encouraging active travel to school. Also popular this year have been athlete visits, with children being inspired to achieve their best, overcome setbacks and build resilience by hearing from world champions, world record-holders and professional sports people.

Another strand of the SSPs remit is to deliver the Government-funded **School Games Programme**, which aims to provide young people with the opportunity to compete and have positive sporting experiences. It is free to all primary and secondary

schools.

It also allows the SSP to work with schools and local partners to promote the importance of regular activity to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of young people.

The Partnership also oversees a highly successful **Leadership Academy** programme involving Year 10 Sports Leaders, including from the Trust secondary schools.

Participants access training to develop key leadership and life skills, such as communication and organisation, and are then deployed to support the delivery of extra-curricular clubs, inter-school competitions and primary school events as well as being guided and

encouraged to volunteer in community sport.

Claire Mc Donnell, who manages the SCSSP, is also strategic lead for the local Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership, a nationwide scheme that aims to mainstream football in schools for girls.

Funded by Barclays and England Football and overseen by the YST, the vision is to ensure every girl has equal access to football in school by 2024. This year the partnership has run numerous football competitions and festivals with more than 300 girls having taken part already. It also supported a successful Game On Girls Football Activators conference, and engaged 17 schools, seven local clubs and more than 2,500 girls in the #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session to mark International Women's Day on 8th March.



**CHAMPAGNE MOMENT:** Stephen Munday receives a YST award.

## CEO's commitment award

Trust CEO Stephen Munday has won an award for his advocacy and passion in supporting schools to deliver high quality PE, physical activity, and school sport for young people.

He received the Campbell CARE Award at the Youth Sport Trust Awards earlier this term. It recognises network leaders and local influencers and Stephen was commended as an inspiring leader, practitioner and advocate in Cambridgeshire.

He has been working with children's charity, the Youth Sport Trust, for the last 20 years and has played an integral role in influencing other school leaders, organisations and educators about the importance of embedding PE, sport and play in the curriculum to achieve better outcomes for young people.

The judges noted that Stephen embodies absolute

integrity, is humble, committed, and hugely generous with his time in support of the Youth Sport Trust's mission to equip educators and empower young people through the power of PE, play and sport.

Ali Oliver MBE, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said: "Stephen has demonstrated a huge commitment to the important role of PE, play and sport in improving young people's mental health.

"This generation is moving less, spending more time online and has experienced major changes in their lives following the Covid-19 pandemic. "On top of this, increased social inequality amplified by the cost-of-living crisis are creating a ripple effect on their school and home life. It is thanks to changemakers like Stephen that they will grow up healthier and happier."

# Eco team collect award

Cambourne has been named 'Healthy Living School of the Year' by the global Eco-Schools team.

Eco-Schools is a global programme that engages 19.5 million children across 67 countries.

It is operated internationally by the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) and empowers children in more than 18,600 schools to drive change and improve their environmental awareness.

It raises the profile of sustainable education, encourages young people to develop life

skills, and most importantly, gives them an environmental voice.

Committed members of the College's Eco team, Joseph (8E), Karolina (10V) and Jesse (9M), represented CamVC at the annual awards ceremony, gave an acceptance speech and collected the award on behalf of the school.

Cambourne has also achieved the Green Flag with Merit Eco-Schools accreditation, a testimony and fitting reward for the students' hard work and ecological achievements.



**DEDICATION RECOGNISED:** Cambourne were awarded the Green Flag with Merit and were named Eco-Schools Healthy Living School of the Year.

## First Eco event is a huge success

Cambourne VC held its first Eco-Festival earlier this month to encourage everyone to think about our choices and make positive changes to help mitigate the devastating effects our activities have had on the climate. A major priority in our school is to raise awareness of the ongoing climate crisis and the associated environmental challenges we face so we were privileged and honoured to be supported by many establishments, who shared their different expertise and set up interactive stands for community

participation.

Activities included learning about the fascinating technology of using maggots to combat food waste, which involved handling maggots at different stages of their life cycle; watching the amazing process of sustainable packaging from Fords SPS; learning how to set up an allotment from scratch; as well as other activities from the Wildlife Trust, Cambridge Sustainable Foods and South Cambridgeshire Recycling Council.



**EAR OF THE MP?:** Cambourne students with South Cambs representative Anthony Browne at the Eco-Festival.

We were also joined by children and staff from local primary schools — Monkfield Park School, The Vine Inter-church School and Cambourne and Hardwick School — who showed how to make log piles to increase biodiversity, seed balls, and bracelets out of recycled materials. They also shared the intricacies of planting various plant species. The CamVC Eco-council was also present, raising money for a toilet twinning project by selling hand-made items as well as raising awareness of environmental issues.

We were also supported by a great team of CamVC staff volunteers, who ran Swish Clothing to encourage recycling of clothes and reducing the carbon footprint of fast fashion.

Whilst the market and Repair Café were in full swing, we had a range of highly engaging presentations by expert speakers in the new Performance Hall.

Topics included making sustainable food choices, recycling in Greater Cambridgeshire, the environment and wildlife in Antarctica, the work of the Wildlife Trust in Cambridgeshire, turning food waste into proteins for animal feed; as well as educating young people about the environment and sustainability in Kenya, Columbia and South America.

Ann Mitchell, whose talk was about 'A Better Food Future', spoke about 'people power' — by making sustainable choices as individuals, we can contribute to a better environment.

The day ended with South Cambridgeshire MP, Anthony Browne announcing the five winners for the eco 'Our World, Our Future' art competition.

Well done to Helena (10N), Jessie (11O), Polly (9E), Melise (Monkfield Park) and Celia (Hardwick & Cambourne). The competition was very strong and it was extremely tough to pick the winners.

Thank you very much to all our wonderful, highly knowledgeable presenters for their interesting and motivating talks — Rebecca Neal from the 'Wildlife Trust', Birgitta Laurent and Jonathan Crisp from South Cambridgeshire Waste Management, Caroline Marriage from the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica expedition, Mark Leckie from Better Origin, Ann Mitchell from Cambridge Sustainable Food, and Ruth Jepkemoi (Kenya), Xiomara Acevedo (Columbia) and Leo Nyein Zaw Ko (Myanmar), from the University of Cambridge.

A huge thanks also to James Russen, who inspired this initiative, and to the CamVC site team, pupils and the staff, who volunteered both on the Friday and Saturday to make this day a success.

## New trees play key role

Did you know that woodland cover in the UK is one of the lowest in Europe? Trees and woodland ecosystems provide clean air, offer protection from flooding, and store carbon — all aspects that are vital if we are to prevent catastrophic climate breakdown.

Joining the Woodland Trust and being part of Young Tree Champions, the CamVC Gardening Club have been busy increasing biodiversity in the sensory garden and planting trees to help fight climate change.

In addition, they have been mentoring local primary schools' pupils to participate in the activities and had great fun when a group of Year 6s joined them to plant a tree in the garden; one the younger children can look forward to caring for when they join the school in September.

The gardening group also had the opportunity to show off their science skills by stimulating some of their five senses with smelling tubes, touch/tactile boxes and microscopes.



**TAKING ROOT:** Year 6 pupils plant a tree at CamVC.



**WHAT A TEAM:** The Not Just Black and White group who put on an evening of entertainment.



**SYMBOLIC:** Artwork contributions submitted by students covered many topics demonstrating diversity.

# Celebrating diversity

The artwork had been submitted and mounted, the menus had been written, the dancing had been rehearsed — and the Not Just Black and White group was working full tilt to prepare for their big event a couple of weeks ago.

It was with some trepidation, as we couldn't imagine an evening being as much of a success as it had been last year.

But even though Amazon didn't deliver (what will we do with all of those balloons and paper cups when they do show up?!), the event certainly did.

We had some superb artwork on display, submitted by students from every year group, and celebrating things as diverse as Polish dress, Pakistani truck art, black female vulnerability and strength, Chinese Lunar New Year, and Islamic script.

As the guests arrived, looking amazing in a mixture of cultural clothing and smart evening wear, the food tables filled up, with samosas, kebab rolls, noodles, South African beef sausages, Filipino Leche Tart, fried chicken, pasta marinara...

We were delighted to see people of every generation arrive to enjoy the evening with us.

Each performance was a real highlight — we were moved by the singing (shout out to Riona, 10A, and to Mia, 7A) and in awe of the stunning dancing — and our confident, joyful MCs, Khaerah (11B) and Melissa (11U), made the evening flow.

It was really powerful to hear about what the work of Not Just Black and White has meant to our Cambourne community.

We ended with a disco, courtesy of Ryan (11U) and

Abdel (11U), George (10V) and Abdullah (10V) — what a fantastic way to end a Friday night, with phones in the air and everyone dancing in the darkness (bar some parents keeping a respectful distance!) to Flo Rida and Shakira.

We already can't wait for next year!

Huge thanks go to Mrs Minnaar and Mr Hart for their amazing efforts sorting the art and the space, Charlie Rayner and his team on the technical side, Mrs Bull for the site preparation and clear-up, and all the staff who shifted tables, blew up balloons, poured pink lemonade and cheered on our talented, passionate, powerful young people. What a tremendous team.

Emily Gildea, Deputy Principal

## It started with a book . . .

"When I first started at this school, I didn't really know anyone and being a young black girl living and going to school in a small village outside Cambridge I don't think I have to describe what my experience was like.

"I was very alone and didn't have an outlet. Ms Gildea is an English teacher and a bookworm, so she came to me with a book called *Taking up Space*.

"The book was about two young black women who attended Cambridge University and their experiences.

"I don't even like reading and I read this book in one day. So afterwards me and five others started a book club that met every Tuesday morning.

"Then the group expanded and there was around 15 of us. We then did some staff training and the staff in our school became more aware and in support of the cause and were trying to make a conscious effort. Soon after we had culture day to end Year 9 and it was amazing.

Everyone brought food, wore cultural clothes, danced, and appreciated diversity in our year group. When we came back in September we were working just as hard and had an exhibition just like this one.

"At this exhibition we were noticed by the University of East London, and they invited us to present our art and do staff training with student teachers.

"It went great and our art was displayed there for a year. We were then invited back to go and give training again but this time to 200 student teachers in their lecture hall.

"And here we are at another exhibition. But I can tell you all now this is just the beginning."

Melissa (11U)



**CORNERSTONES:** Food, art and performance were at the heart of the Not Just Black and White's event for the Cambourne community.



**RIVER WORK:** Year 11 collect data from Loughton Brook in Epping Forest.

# Learning goes outdoors

A couple of weeks ago, 70 Year 11 GCSE Geography students travelled to Epping Forest to complete their final piece of fieldwork on rivers and revise forest ecosystems.

Epping Forest is the largest open space in the London area. It is ancient woodland and home to 55,000 ancient trees, more than any other single site in the country.

Year 11 explored part of this vast forest on foot, providing an opportunity to revisit their understanding of ecosystems by observing different components of the forest and the interdependence between them.

Students also investigated how Loughton Brook, a small river, changes downstream.

Armed with wellies, waterproofs, clipboards, corks, tape measures and metre sticks, students took width, depth and velocity readings at different sites along the river.

After a morning of exploring and data collection, the group stopped for lunch along Loughton High Street. Unfortunately, due to a burst water main, there were

no working toilets available!

However, students and staff were resourceful and were able to find a leisure centre with working toilets just a short five-minute walk away.

After lunch, students completed their final piece of data collection at the river in the urban area of Loughton.

The trip took an unexpected turn just before our planned departure when the coach became stuck on a grass verge as it was turning round, requiring help from the coach company and local residents to get it back on the road!

Thankfully, everyone remained safe and the students learned the importance of patience and adaptability when faced with unexpected challenges.

After a short delay, students were still in good spirits and celebrated Miss Boyns's birthday by singing 'Happy Birthday' to her on the coach journey back to school. Miss Boyns leaves Cambourne Village College at the end of this term and we would like to thank her for her vast contributions to Geography trips over the years.

Dion Burgess, Head of Geography

## Spanish delight

Five Cambourne students joined a group of Comberton counterparts for an exchange visit with partner school Colegio Madre Maria Rosa Molas from Zaragoza in Spain.

The students spent a week in the Spanish city, experiencing life in the Spanish school, making friends and exploring the city.

Neale (10A) said: "I enjoyed the trip thoroughly because I learned more Spanish and made lots of new friends.

"I also learned about the city of Zaragoza and its history. I really enjoyed the activities in the school, for example, the sports tournament, the Spanish games as well as the tour of the Zaragoza football stadium."

The Spanish students were then welcomed to England just nine days later, for a week of activities, some on their own and others with Comberton and Cambourne students before returning home today.

These included tours of Cambridge and London and a project day, including cooking, at Comberton.



**TOURISTS:** Sampling local cuisine and visiting the Aljaferia Palace.

## Top results for geography!

Cambourne's Geography Department has been confirmed as one of the highest achieving departments in the country, according to data released by the Department for Education last month.

The Geography Department is in the top 2% of departments nationally for the progress students make during their time at secondary school.

In the most recent set of CamVC GCSE examinations, more than 20% of all grades awarded were Grade 9, and just over half of all students achieved a Grade 7 or above. 94% of students achieved a grade 4 or higher, significantly above the national average of 72%.

Head of Department Dion Burgess would like to thank staff and students for all their hard work to achieve these wonderful results. The aim is to be in the top 1% next year!

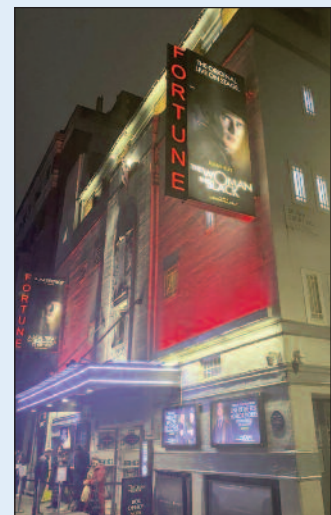


**SPANISH SUNSHINE:** The Cambourne and Comberton group in Zaragoza.

## Scary, but 'fantastic'

Earlier this term, 45 students were lucky and brave enough to take a trip into London's West End to see the infamous ghost story, *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre. Students thoroughly enjoyed the show and rumour has it that the screams could be heard from many miles away. Year 10 GCSE Drama students said that the show was "fantastic" and "one of the best things we've ever seen".

The show has now closed its doors but will be going on tour for those daring enough to face her!



# Making football fun

The South Cambs School Sports Partnership hosted a fun afternoon of football at Cambourne Village College for girls in Years 5 and 6.

Twelve teams took part in the competition, which was aimed at introducing new girls or teams to the game of football and giving them the opportunity to represent their school in a fun and friendly competition.

Matches were 7-a-side with roll on, roll off subs with teams getting to play against lots of different schools in quick 10-minute matches.

A group of 16 girls from Years 7-10 at Cambourne Village College helped to referee all of the games on the day, having attended an Introduction to Refereeing course delivered by Cambs FA.

With the focus of the event being on providing an introduction to competitive football in a really positive and fun environment, the results of the matches were not recorded and instead teams were asked to score their opposition based on their teamwork, fair play and their team/individual skill.

These scores were then collated and at the end of the afternoon awards were

presented to Jeavons Wood for Teamwork, Hardwick and Cambourne for Fair Play and Histon Brook for Skill.

Claire McDonnell, South Cambs SSP Partnership Manager, said: "It was a lovely afternoon of football and great to be able to give so many girls their first opportunity to play competitive football.

"They had a really fun time playing with their friends and representing their schools and they all left with massive smiles on their faces.

"We hope that some of them will continue to play back in school and some may even want to join their local Weetabix Wildcats session or girls club.

"We are slowly seeing more and more opportunities for girls to play football in schools and the community, which is great, as we work towards ensuring all girls have equal access to football.

"Some of the girls told me on the day how they don't get to play in school as the boys don't let them join in or dominate the playground, so we are trying to change that and are working with schools to make sure girls have their own space to play at lunchtimes.

"Many of them saw the success of the Lionesses last summer and now they want the same opportunities to play football as the boys."



**TRAINING:** For the sports leaders who led the fun football event.

## Plenty of cup interest

Since January Cambourne teams have played in basketball, football and netball fixtures. Our basketball teams have been incredibly successful this year with lots of hard work at training which has paid off in games. They've been fantastic!

And some of our football teams remain involved in their District Cup competitions.

The under-13 boys are due to face Comberton in their second-round match, while the under-15s face opposition from the same school but in the quarter-finals.

The under-14s are waiting to face the winners of the match between Impington and Bottisham in the second round while the under-14 girls faced Soham in their quarter-final last week, having seen off Bassingbourn 6-0 in the previous round, but were beaten. The under-12 girls deserve special mention for their thriller against Comberton. Having fought back to earn a last-gasp draw they were beaten 9-8 in the penalty shoot-out! The youngest boys team lost to Comberton in their first-round match.



**MAKING PROGRESS:** Cambourne girls under-14s on their way to a 6-0 District Cup win and a place in the quarter-finals.

## Leaders of friendship!

CamVC sports leaders played a key role as South Cambs School Sports Partnership held a 'Friendship Games' at the College.

They led the activities and supported the youngsters taking part, making sure they had a really fun-packed afternoon. The event involved a small group of Cambourne's Year 7 students as well as groups of Year 5 and 6 pupils from catchment primaries Monkfield Park, Jeavons Wood and The Vine. With Hardwick and Cambourne unable to attend due to other commitments, a team from nearby Bourn Primary Academy joined in.

Around 50 youngsters took part in the Games, which focused on supporting the transition from primary to secondary school by helping them develop new friendships and increase their confidence and motivation, while also engaging new audiences with physical activity and sport. During the afternoon they took part in a number of different activities which they might not have tried before, including archery, new age kurling, sport stacking, golf and dodgeball. Organiser Claire McDonnell said: "The focus was very much on providing a fun and enjoyable event for the children, giving them a chance to try out some new sports and activities and helping them to make some new friends while dampening any nerves they might have about moving to secondary school."



**FRONT AND CENTRE:** Sports leaders played a key role at the 'Friendship Games'.

# Students honoured

**Cambourne students picked up two special trophies at the prestigious annual Roy Burrell Awards evening.**

The Cambridge and District Secondary Schools Sports Association awards recognise the achievements of students in Year 11 who have achieved at least county level in their chosen discipline.

They are awarded in memory of Roy Burrell, a former head of Chesterton School in Cambridge, who was passionate about inspiring students to excel at sport before he died at the age of just 49.

In addition to receiving a Roy Burrell Award, Louisa was one of seven nominees for the Greg Alvey Award (which honours the PE teacher who spent 32 years at Bottisham Village College). It is given to 'a model student with significant contributions to school sport, without necessarily excelling in one.'

And Tate won the Leadership Award — one of three Cambourne nominees among the eight finalists from across the region — for the number of hours of leadership logged inside their school.

Grace was a runner-up in the Achievement over Adversity category for a student with a disability who has excelled as a performer or leader, while there were also Roy Burrell Awards for Preston (rugby), Ewan (swimming), Rebecca (trampoline), James (swimming), Alex (cricket) and Emmelia (football).

Guests at the event at Netherhall School also heard from invited speaker Tess Howard, who plays hockey for Great Britain and England and recently won a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Tess, now 24 and playing for East Grinstead, went to school in Cambridge, played for Cambridge City and herself attended the Roy Burrell awards when she was 16.

Tess spoke to the audience about what was needed to become a top athlete and represent your country and her speech was bound to inspire many of the athletes who heard it.



**WINNERS: Of Roy Burrell Awards for sporting achievement.**

## Empowering girls to change football

As part of their role as strategic leads for the Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships programme, the Hunts School Sports Partnership and South Cambs School Sports Partnership recently hosted a Game On Girls Football Activator Conference for secondary schools within the two districts.

Seventy girls in Years 7 to 9, from six secondary

schools including Cambourne Village College, attended the event on Friday 3rd March.

The Barclays Game On Go Lead programme is overseen by the Youth Sport Trust in partnership with England Football and is designed to support secondary schools to create engaging, meaningful and enjoyable girls' football opportunities in their schools as they work

towards ensuring all girls have equal access to football in schools.

Through Barclays Game On, schools have the opportunity to identify and select a group of girls to become Girls' Football Activators with the idea that they become advocates and changemakers for girls' football in their school and help to inspire and influence new and different girls in their school to get involved.

The conference provided schools, who had signed up to the programme for 2022-23, the opportunity to select and take 12 Girls Football Activators to St Neots Town Football Club for a day of workshops and activities designed to empower them to be able to go away and work together in their school to design, create and deliver football activities for their peers.

It was also an opportunity for the girls to be inspired and to come together with like-minded girls from other schools to share ideas and discuss what changes they would like to see in their school.

The conference started by introducing the girls to the national Game On programme and the FA's vision to ensure 'Every girl has equal access to football in schools by 2024'.

They discussed what changes they would like to see in their schools as well as well as what motivates young people to be active and identified some of the barriers that need to be overcome.

They then had the chance to develop their delivery skills with a practical session, supported by Huntingdonshire FA, before finishing the day by finalising the target group of girls they want to engage at their school, the changes they want to make and how they plan to do it.

Doug Finlayson, Strategic Lead for Hunts SSP said: "It was fantastic to hear and discuss what the girls would like to change at their school and the amazing activities they would like to plan.

"We look forward to seeing the girls grow as advocates for girls' football within their school and see how they implement their ideas to grow engagement and work towards equal access to football in schools for girls."

● Focus on Girls' Football — Page 15



**GAME ON: Cambourne's Football Activators attended a day-long conference with girls from other secondary schools.**



**PRACTICAL SESSION: To help the activators hone their delivery skills.**