

# NEWS@CAM



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NEW HEAD HAS DREAM JOB — PAGE 3



**UP AND RUNNING:** Students are using Block One for art lessons and SEND provision.



**BEHIND SCHEDULE:** The new English and library facilities have been delayed by external issues.

# First new build now open

**Block One of the latest phase of the expansion of Cambourne Village College is now open.**

The first of six new buildings due to be handed over by April 2024, containing four classrooms, two Art rooms, toilets and offices, has been designed to house the Geography and Art departments.

However, it is currently home to Cambourne's SEND provision as well as two large art rooms — facing the existing Art Department.

Block Two, which was due to be handed over before the Christmas holidays, is behind schedule due to an issue with the power supply to the new block. This is linked to the West Cambourne development.

When complete it will house a new library and English Department with the other

blocks — earmarked for Food Tech and Science, a new dining hall, music and drama facilities and an extension to the existing space designated for post-16 teaching when the Sixth Form opens in September 2024 — all due for completion in the spring after an 82-week build project.

The current sixth form block will be handed over for use by the new Year 12 when the other buildings are completed.

The sixth form will have capacity for 350 students once there are two year groups in situ while the other developments will allow for a gradual increase in the school roll over the next five years.

The numbers admitted in Year 7 will rise gradually to a final mainstream intake of 1650, making it the biggest school in the Trust.



**TAKING SHAPE:** The new Science and Food Technology block is well under way.



**WORK IN PROGRESS:** The new dining hall still has a way to go for completion.



**ON TRACK:** The new performing arts centre next to the existing music block.



**SIXTH FORM BUILD:** The new facilities for post-16 study will be ready for September 2024 when the sixth form opens.

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# New head has dream job

**Cambourne's new Principal Lynn Mayes had no intention of becoming a headteacher!**

But as she talks about her first term in charge of the ever-expanding college, it's clear she is really happy in the role.

Her enthusiasm for not only educating, but being in the company of, children is infectious and working at Cambourne, which is part of The Cam Academy Trust (CAT), appears to be her dream job.

"I first met Stephen Munday (Trust Chief Executive) many years ago when he was helping the school I worked at in Lowestoft which was in special measures," said Lynn, who had always thought she would be a PE teacher for life.

"I then spent a day a week at Comberton Village College while I was doing my NPQH (head's qualification) and it was he who convinced me to take a job at The Voyager (a school in Peterborough that was then in the Trust).

"I was Deputy Principal there for five years and then, after it was rebranded as Queen Katharine Academy and moved into another Trust, spent five years as Principal.

"I invited Stephen back to visit in January of this year and I'm very proud of what we achieved there, going from a school in Special Measures to the local school of choice, with all year groups full.

"But I always wanted to work for The Cam Academy Trust — when I moved to Peterborough, we bought a house on the south of the city just in case there was a chance of working in the CAT Trust (which has schools in South Cambs and Huntingdon) — so when the job at Cambourne came up, I knew I had to go for it.

"It was the hardest interview I have ever done — on Day One alone there were eight panels, and I was interviewed by a total of 30 people!

"I got the job in March, and I'm thrilled to be here. Claire (Coates, the previous Principal) was extremely generous with her time during the handover, and I

worked with Heads of Department and SLG over the summer to introduce a set of values which underpin everything we do, alongside the six principles of The Trust."



**SETTLING IN:** Lynn Mayes has enjoyed her first term as Principal.

**'We want our students to feel safe, to feel challenged and to thrive' — Lynn Mayes**

Her vision for Cambourne is a simple one: to enable children to be able to take the next steps and be aspirational about what those are.

That is why the opening of a new sixth form at the school in September 2024 is so important to her — and why the partnership with Comberton Sixth Form, which was set up in 2011, and the lessons learned there, are crucial.

"It's not necessarily about going to university; it's about enabling young people to change not only their own lives but other people's as well," she said. "That could be in their own community or worldwide and leaving sixth form marks a really important stage.

"We want children to have the chance to succeed and education is a great way to enable them to take those steps. Even if you are disadvantaged, you can still succeed with a solid education in a nurturing environment. "We want our students to feel safe, to feel challenged and to thrive."

Those sentiments underpin the new values at Cambourne — Respect Yourself, Respect Your Community and Respect the Environment.

Lynn accepts there is work to be done, not only getting all the students on board but also their families and the wider community — but she is undaunted.

"I absolutely love it," she said. "And there probably aren't many heads who would say that. I love being with the children, getting to know them and showing them I care.

"I'm 50 now but I feel like I'm only just getting started. There's so much I want to achieve.

"I never thought of myself as ambitious, but I realised that if other people around me could do it, then so could I. I do have Imposter

Syndrome, but it's my superpower.

"It's what drives me to make things as good as they can possibly be."

## Networking at No 10 Downing Street

Not many people outside government have the chance to walk up the hallowed staircase of No 10 Downing Street and see the pictures of former Prime Ministers looking down at them.

Cambourne Principal Lynn Mayes joined that esteemed group when she was invited to the Prime Minister's residence to mark the 25th anniversary of The Teaching Awards Trust, currently known as The Pearson Teaching Awards.

She joined around 50 other educators for the 90-minute reception where she was able to chat with Education Secretary Gillian Keegan, Nick Gibb, now Schools' Minister for a third time, and Geoff Barton, the long-serving and now out-going leader of a major teaching union.

"It was an amazing evening in so many ways," she said. "When we arrived at Downing Street, it was like airport security with an X-ray machine and having to put your valuables in a tray to be scanned.

"Then we were allowed into Downing Street to get the photos outside. Inside, we went upstairs and I was struck by the fact there were only two women's pictures on the wall — Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher, who seemed to be taking centre stage. I don't know if Liz Truss' photo was on the next bit of the staircase that we didn't go up.

"In the room, we networked and were offered canapés, although I couldn't see what I was eating. I'd gone on the Tube to Downing St then walked in the rain, and I was soaked. My glasses were steamed up and I didn't have anything dry to wipe them with so, being a former PE teacher around food, I just tried everything and it was all delicious."

Although she was there because her previous school, Queen Katharine Academy, are previous gold award winners, Lynn was also representing CamVC, who won silver in the 'Making a Difference' category in 2018. She has since hinted that the college will be putting themselves forward for another award in the near future.



**FAMOUS DOOR:** Lynn Mayes prepares to enter the Prime Minister's house.

# Broadening horizons

For two days in October, all students participate in two 'Curriculum Extension Days' during which they have the opportunity to undertake different learning activities.

These days are designed to enable students to immerse themselves in subjects in a different way, beyond the classroom.

Year 7 pupils participated in activities related to Maths and Science. The Maths Department welcomed the group As Creatives to work with pupils on a number of problem-solving activities and which broaden their knowledge and understanding of how maths works in the world around us.

For the Science day students visited Colchester Zoo to expand their understanding of the natural world and provide a foundation for the study of the living world (see below).

Year 8 students took part in a Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) activity of a foreign language film-making project in groups, in which pupils created a pitch, script, storyboard and final edit of a short film in either French, Spanish or German, complete with English subtitles.

On the other day, they had a field trip to Walton-On-The-Naze to carry out

geography field work, looking at coastal erosion.

Our Year 9 spent one day outside with our PE team navigating their way round Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (see Page 18). On the second, students took part in a Design and Technology Day during which they participated in a design challenge that ended up with the pupils pitching their ideas in front of half of the year group.

Year 10 immersed themselves in Religious, Politics and Ethics (RPE); on one day students visited Peterborough Cathedral and Faizan e Madinah Mosque. On the second, guest speakers were invited to discuss with students how both religious and secular groups are influenced by their beliefs.

Those Year 11 pupils who are studying Arts and Technology courses had time devoted to their practical performance or coursework, whereas other students had an opportunity to develop their public speaking skills by talking about a topic of their choice in their English-speaking assessment.

We are hugely grateful to all our staff who prepared and led the activities to make this varied, enriching programme a success and we hope our students enjoyed it.

**James Russen, Assistant Principal**



**BEACH DAY:** Year 8 investigating coastal erosion.



**SHAPE SHIFTERS:** Year 7 tackle tangrams.

## All creatures great and small . . .

"In the first curriculum extension day, most of the Year 7s went on an exciting trip to Colchester Zoo and had the opportunity to see all kinds of wonderful animals.

"We saw all types of beautiful animals, some of us even got to feed some very vibrant coloured birds that were in the bird house.

"And we even had the chance to buy some toys and sweets to remember the trip. Everyone enjoyed it.

"The journey there was about one hour and a half, but that time went quickly as everyone on the bus was singing and laughing. When we arrived everyone was buzzing with anticipation and so excited to view all the animals. The animals we saw were giraffes, zebras, lions, elephants, flamingos and so much more. I recommend going because my experience was amazing!" Aino (70)

"Our trip to the zoo was very interesting and we learnt about different types of animals and how they live their lives.

"We started by looking at water-based creatures, like seals and fish, and then we looked at birds and land animals (penguins and lions).

"Before we had lunch, we saw giraffes, zebras, and rhinos. Surprisingly, they were all in one big enclosure.

"Whilst having lunch, we sat next to some massive elephants and inside a bush next to the fence, there were

some tiny birds hopping around the branches.

"After lunch we went to an enclosure where we could buy little pots of nectar to feed to a parrot-like bird (it was cute).

"Our last part of the day was looking at a particular section of enclosures with animals like wolves and hogs. There were supposed to be cheetahs but at the time, I think they were napping so we didn't see them." Charlotte (70)

"We saw the lizards where it took so much time to find those little reptiles. It was very fun, but I and some other people were feeling hungry as me and my friends had sung all the way to the zoo.

"Then seeing the seals was an amazing experience as we went under the pool and saw them. After that we saw the penguins where we saw them being fed but it smelled like sea water.

"We then went see some monkeys. Then we saw

some cute meerkats and then (which I had been waiting for) we saw a lion. After that we saw some chill flamingos and sleepy otters. Lunch at last! We ate a hearty packed lunch and we played tug of war with fake animals.

"Then we went to feed some birds and it was amazing. At the end we went to the gift shop we picked some amazing gifts, but personally I thought it was overpriced." Dev (70)



**LAND AND WATER:** Students saw the king of beasts as well as those who inhabit a watery world.



*Pictures by Dev and Charlotte (70)*



**SUPER SNAP:** Jack's bee photo was commended in a national photography competition.



**DEDICATION:** Young wildlife photographer's patience is rewarded with an award-winning picture.



# Shot has judges buzzing

A Year 7 student has been commended for his entry into a national photography award.

Jack (7R) was among the finalists of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2023 and spent a day last week at the awards ceremony and exhibition, hosted by BBC presenter Chris Packham at the Tower of London.

Jack's impressive macro image of a green-eyed flower bee was one of 6,000 entries and was commended in the under-12 category.

Jack collected a certificate from Chris on stage in front of an audience of fellow young photographers and their families during a ceremony that was livestreamed. Chris called Jack's picture of a green-eyed flower bee in flight 'a triumph' — and admitted he wasn't aware of the species before seeing the photograph.

Jack took his photograph on a day out with his family at Lackford Lakes nature reserve in Suffolk, using a macro lens and flash to bring out the fine detail of the bee, including the pollen all over its face, as it buzzed around above bright yellow flowers.

Afterwards, Jack said: "It was great to be commended and I really enjoyed seeing all the other photographers and their pictures. There were some amazing images. It was fun to talk to Chris Packham and I enjoyed hearing what he had to say

about my photograph. I hope to enter the awards again next year.

"It was also brilliant to go to the Tower of London for the ceremony — and, of course, I took a few more photographs while I was there!"

Jack has been keen on photography for a couple of years and is showing remarkable patience for an 11-year-old.

Dad Paul said: "Jack's been into photography for a couple of years now and has become more accomplished at it the more he has practised.

"During the summer holidays, he and I went to a farm in Leicestershire and spent 12 hours in hides, photographing buzzards, barn owls and kestrels at close quarters, and the first thing he said as we left was that he wanted to go back!"

Jack's invitation to the ceremony gave him not only the opportunity to see the exhibition of the best photographs, meet Chris Packham and other young people who share his passion for photography and the natural world, connect with RSPCA professionals, but also included free entry to the Tower of London.

A video from the awards, and the winning photographs, are being posted on the RSPCA Young Photographer of the Year website at <https://young.rspca.org.uk/ypa/home>

## Hands-on at the farm

As part of the BTEC Animal Care course, students have been learning various handling methods for animals, as well as the importance of adapting their approach in different circumstances.

Year 10 students had the opportunity to apply their learning through an immersive education experience at Monach Farm in Hilton.

During the trip, the students participated in various activities involving handling and restraining safely both a horse and a goat.

They learned how to lead these farm animals and practised safe grooming techniques, incorporating different handling methods to prevent harm to both handler and the animal.

The farm environment provided an ideal setting for the students to learn how to recognise signs of good health, identify potential issues and understand the importance of preventative care. This experience offered valuable context for assessing and maintaining the well-being of the animals.

The trip successfully transformed theoretical knowledge into practice skills and connected the students with the living world of animals.

On returning to the classroom, the trip not only provided them with memories of a unique experience, but also a deeper understanding of their coursework and a newfound passion for the well-being of the animals they encountered.



**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE:** Students learned about handling farm animals.

# A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM YOUR FUTURE

Visit our website to find out  
more and apply for your  
September 2024 place

Application deadline  
Tuesday 9th January 2024

[www.cambournesixthform.org](http://www.cambournesixthform.org)  
[info@cambournesixthform.org](mailto:info@cambournesixthform.org)



CAMBOURNE  
SIXTH FORM

# Exciting progress

I am delighted to report on the progress that is taking place in establishing our new Sixth Form, which opens in September 2024 for students entering Year 12.

The physical build is progressing well and is on schedule for completion in Spring 2024; the planning phase currently includes designing the look and feel of our library, independent study, café and lecture theatre spaces, which we want to feel open and attractive, and to facilitate students to learn independently and to socialise.

As is central to our ethos, our student leaders, the 'Future Formers', are consulted on each stage of the planning process.

They were also central to the creation of our first ever prospectus, which can be found here: <https://cambournesixthform.org/admissions/prospectus>

Our Open Evening, which took place on 2nd November, was a real success, with hundreds of Year 11 students and families in attendance, both from Cambourne and beyond.

The 31 subjects in our academic offer were showcased by our subject specialists, alongside information about our enrichment curriculum and our fabulous new facilities.

Our wonderful 'Future Formers', Aashrita and Ray, addressed our visitors, as did Stephen Munday, Chief Executive of The Cam Academy Trust.

As a result, our visitors were able to hear from both students and parents about the quality teaching and strong backing of Comberton Sixth Form, our sister Sixth Form in the Trust, which ensures that our new post-16 venture will be a successful choice.

Following this event and the CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) that they have received across this term, our young people are now making decisions about the right place for them to study after completing their GCSEs.

We are hugely encouraged that so many seem motivated to stay and become a part of our new Sixth Form.

Having visited local schools during this term to distribute prospectuses and promote the Sixth Form, I am pleased with the level of interest and support from the wider community and the positive feedback we've received on the Sixth Form plans.

The next phase of our student recruitment cycle will focus on guidance meetings for both internal and external applicants, which will take place in the early Spring.

I look forward to updating you in the Spring Term about plans for our 'Grand Opening' and upcoming taster days to welcome future students to see our finished facilities and curriculum offer.

The deadline for internal and external applications for spaces in September 2024 is 9th January 2024. Please do contact [info@cambournesixthform.org](mailto:info@cambournesixthform.org) with any questions, or to request a tour.

Frankie Rose, Sixth Form Coordinator



**SPREADING THE WORD:** 'Future formers' address a packed hall of students and their families (above) and hand out information at other local schools (below).



## Students see religion 'in action'

All Year 10 students were introduced to their Core RE provision in October with a mix of activities both on site, and on a visit to Peterborough.

In Peterborough, students visited two different places of worship, including the magnificent Cathedral, to explore how individuals locally live out their beliefs and how this influences their lives today.

As well as the exploration of the Cathedral, students visited one of a Sikh Gurdwara, Hindu Mandir or Muslim Mosque, showing the diversity of faiths in Cambridgeshire and to see similarities between what is important for believers.

Feedback from all of the guides was very positive, and students can be extremely proud not only of their conduct, but of the high level of questions they asked. Staff commented on the quality of knowledge on display, not only from their RPE lessons, but a range of subjects, showing understanding of the complexity of

religion in a modern world.

We were also able to welcome Solutions Not Sides back to Cambourne as the focus of our in-school day. A focus of the day was Human Rights and Social Justice, and how individual beliefs shape responses to issues in the world, students considered challenges including the plight of refugees, reconciliation in divided communities, how faith inspires action. With the visitors discussing conflict resolution ideas, with their focus on Israel-Palestine, students were able to hear from individuals from both sides, explaining their experiences, and why they want to work for solutions. Students were able to engage actively with this very challenging topic and showed an awareness of the difficulties on both the individual and national scales, discussing the issues and asking questions to the speakers that

showed their empathy and compassion.

On both days students were a credit to the school, and provided hugely valuable learning opportunities.

Iain Dover, Head of RPE



**IMPRESSIVE:** Peterborough Cathedral.

# The delights of Paris

Forty-two intrepid pupils from Years 8-11 and four staff set off on the study trip to Paris early in the term.

After travelling by ferry and coach, they had a hectic few days' sightseeing in the capital and working on their French.

The group stayed in an historic hostel right in the centre of the city, but ate evening meals at typically Parisian bistros.

Here's what Camille (9A), Cheryl (9A), Chandria (9A), Izzy (9M), Jasmine (9O) and Millie (9O) said: "The trip to Paris was amazing. We got to explore the culture of France as well as visiting the Eiffel Tower, the Rex Cinema, the Centre Pompidou and more.

"We stayed in a really big hostel and had French meals for dinner every day in local restaurants. Did we speak French? Yes, we did! We practised speaking French whilst ordering food and asking locals basic daily questions.

"The French people are the friendliest I've ever met! The restaurants were delicious and the places we went to were very pretty and had beautiful views.

"My highlight was seeing the Eiffel Tower sparkle at night because it was very pretty and I had always wanted to see it. I also enjoyed going up the Montparnasse Tower because the views were beautiful.

"On our final day, we went on a boat trip down the River Seine before going back home.

"I think it was a good experience because I got to do things I will probably never do again. I also loved being able to spend time with my friends and I enjoyed every bit of it.

"I was so grateful that I was able to go on this trip — it was amazing! I would definitely take the opportunity to go again if I could."



**FRENCH IMMERSION:** The sights and tastes of Paris on the French language trip to France.

## Fantastic evening of cultural celebration

On the evening of Thursday, October 19th, our school's Performance Hall came alive with the vibrant colours and melodies of our annual International Talent Evening, a showcase that no doubt left a lasting impression on our Year 7 parents, carers, and students.

The excitement was palpable as parents flocked to support their talented children, transforming the hall into a bustling hub of enthusiasm. The evening unfolded with a series of awe-inspiring Spanglovision performances, as each tutor group took the stage to present their chosen song with a delightful Spanish twist.

The diversity of talents on display was nothing short of remarkable, with individual performances stealing the spotlight. From knockout dance moves to soulful singing, eloquent readings of poems and stories, and fashion choices that rivalled the performances themselves, every moment was a testament to the creative prowess of our Year 7 students.

The linguistic kaleidoscope continued to dazzle throughout the evening, with performances in Portuguese, Italian, Hindi, Polish, Cantonese, and Telugu. This celebration of language and culture underscored the rich tapestry that is the Cambourne community. In a heart-warming moment, 7A expressed their gratitude to a dedicated teacher who chose to forego personal celebrations and join the event. The stage was momentarily held hostage as the students serenaded Miss Brownell with a joyous rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Mr Fernandez's dance moves added an extra layer of entertainment, creating a buzz of laughter and applause. A highlight of the night was the infectious energy radiating from 7E, as the crowd enthusiastically waved their arms in support. The spirited atmosphere reached its climax with the announcement of the prize-winning tutor groups — a testament to the outstanding performances of 7O, 7R, and the ultimate

champions, 7M.

As the final notes echoed in the Performance Hall, the resounding success of International Talent Evening 2023 lingered in the air.

Anticipation already fills our hearts as we look forward to the next instalment, International Talent Evening 2024. This annual celebration not only showcases the immense talent within our school but also reaffirms our commitment to embracing the rich cultural diversity that makes Cambourne Village College a truly extraordinary community.

Hélder Ogunfowora, MFL Department



**AMAZING PERFORMANCES:** Representing different languages and cultures.





**TAKING IT ALL IN:** The sights of the beautiful city of Granada in south-eastern Spain.



# Immersed in Granada

After the very successful experience last year, this October half term we ran, for the second time, a Spanish trip for Years 10 and 11 to Granada, one of the most beautiful cities in Spain located in the southeast of the country.

On Saturday we went by coach to Gatwick Airport from where we flew directly to Granada airport for the week-long immersion trip.

Similar to an exchange, the students stayed with Spanish families, who also provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

During the week, our pupils attended a language course at 'Escuela Montalbán', a language school that is certified by Spanish DfE. This involved two Spanish lessons per day with a break in between. The course was tailored to the level and

requirements of the Spanish GCSE course our pupils are studying.

The students really enjoyed the course although it was challenging. The general opinion is that the teachers were good and engaging, and students feel that the lessons helped them to improve their knowledge of Spanish and that they have developed their speaking skills.

Every afternoon and early evening the whole group went around the city to visit some of the amazing places Granada offers — the beautiful neighbourhoods of 'Realejo' and 'Albayzín'. This last one is located on a steep hill with lovely houses with beautiful gardens and stunning views of the city below.

The group also went a guided tour of the Alhambra

palace, one of the most famous and best-preserved monuments of Islamic architecture in the world.

The guide spoke in Spanish, but the students managed to understand his explanations and learn a lot about the history of the building and the city.

The group also visited a huge shopping centre and enjoyed having some really yummy 'chocolate con churros'.

For some students, this was their first experience on a school trip, and they were determined to make the most of it. They enthusiastically embraced the chance to immerse themselves in a new culture, and to practise their Spanish language skills in the lessons, with their host families and with the locals.

This trip turned out to be a truly memorable experience for pupils and teachers alike!

## Tasting Spanish school and home life



**SIGHTSEEING, SCHOOL AND CHOCOLATE:** For students on the Spanish Exchange to Zaragoza.

All the Year 9 students taking part in the Spanish Exchange to Zaragoza gained more than just new Spanish friends.

As the trip was run jointly with Comberton Village College, participants also now have a group of friends from a neighbouring school.

They also have a better appreciation of life in the Spanish education system after joining their partners in lessons, including Spanish, Maths and Computer Science on the second day of the trip.

Adriana (9A) said: "Everyone was very welcoming, and we were taken in with open arms. We spend the first day getting to know our partners and their friends.

"The second day was spent at school with our partners, and we enjoyed a variety of fun and interesting activities. We were treated to homemade meals from our families an enjoyed tasting Spanish culture.

"On the third day we went on a trip to El Pilar, a beautiful building and enjoyed shopping. The rest of the day was spent with our exchange families, visiting some popular destinations such as Puerto Venezia, a giant shopping centre, and Plaza de España, with stunning sights and delicious treats. On the way there, we enjoyed a tour of all the famous bridges in Zaragoza.

"The fourth day was a Saturday which we spent entirely with our families. I enjoyed learning about Zaragoza's unique history and enjoyed the sights from the Pilar tower. Some dishes we tried during both Saturday and Sunday were torreznos, tortilla (Spanish omelette) and huevos rotos, a delicious plate of eggs, meat and potatoes. Of course, we had to have the traditional croquetas, along with some delicious Spanish candies in Sabor de España.

"The sixth day was spent touring but Barcelona. I particularly enjoyed seeing la Sagrada Familia and visiting Camp Nou. It was truly an experience!

"Both in its educational and cultural aspects, I found this trip extremely exciting, and I feel that I learnt a lot. I was truly sad to leave!"

Jess (9U) commented: "This trip was absolutely fabulous. My favourite part was getting to know the kids, and it was fun to go shopping at Puerto Valencia.

"It was really fun to make friends with the people from Comberton too."

Yat Sum (9E) added: "I liked the food there, and my partner is very nice."

Lucas (9O) said: "I met a lot of friends, enjoyed the local food and overall I had a great time in Spain. 0/10 would go again."

Geoff Page, one of the staff on the trip, said: "The Zaragoza trip was fantastic fun, and the pupils had a wonderful time getting to know their exchange partners, trying out some Spanish cuisine, trying out their Spanish language skills, and getting to know the city of Zaragoza. Spending some time wandering around Las Ramblas in Barcelona, with the Spanish autumnal sun beating down, was also a highlight!"



Join us for a series of  
free public lectures.  
The lectures are open  
to all and will be hosted  
at Cambourne Village  
College in the  
Performance Hall



## FREE LECTURE PROGRAMME

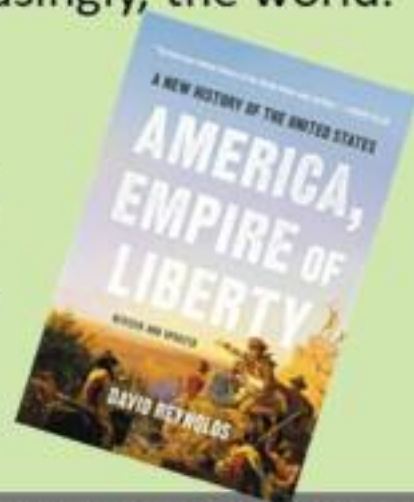
Join us for our next free History Community Lecture on  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January (4-5pm)- this event is open to ALL

*Professor David Reynolds*

### ***WHY AMERICA'S HISTORY MATTERS.***

In the year of another US presidential election - likely to be even more significant than 2020 - historian Prof. David Reynolds takes a long view of America's epic and often tragic saga. Ranging over the last few centuries he picks out a few moments on which history turned; shaping North America and, increasingly, the world.

***THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> January***  
***4-5pm (Doors open 3.45pm)***  
***Cambourne Village College -***  
***Performance Hall***



Follow us on X (Twitter) @CambourneVC and @Historic\_All for updates.

For more information contact:  
Jess Angell (Head of History)  
[jangell@cambournevc.org](mailto:jangell@cambournevc.org)



# Day trip to another time

On the day before Armistice Day, Year 9 took a day trip to Ypres in Belgium to visit some memorials and a museum to help our understanding of the First World War.

The day started really early to get to the Eurotunnel,



but it was worth it. We got to the the first memorial where our tour guide told us about some of the weaponry and that there were more than 100 British cemeteries in the surrounding area. He also told us about Nellie Spindler, a staff nurse



who worked nearby and was the only woman buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

After lunch, we went to a German cemetery, which looked very different. The stones were flat on the ground and had 30 names each — it was one of the four German cemeteries nearby.

There was also a mass grave of people who couldn't be identified and a room which had the names of 1000 students, who were killed by the British, engraved on the wall.

As well as this we saw a gate that had been a special place for Adolf Hitler because he fought there in the First World War.

From the German cemetery we went to a museum and another memorial where we were told about how harsh punishment would have been for the army.

We also heard the story of a Belgian girl who dropped her basket after hearing a soldier being executed.

Across the road there was a museum which had replicas of different army helmets we could try on and exhibits of what gas masks, nurses uniforms and ambulances would have looked like.

Next, we went upstairs and one of the other Year 9s tried on a replica of a British uniform from World War One.

We were all told about how different attacks were done using a rifle and a bayonet; we were even given the opportunity to hold the rifle and learn how to pull the trigger and see how it works. We also got to go in a trench which was built in two halves. One half was a British trench and the other half German.

The day ended with us visiting Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery to lay a wreath for Albert Cooper, who was the great great grandad of one of the Year 9 students.

Then, we went to a chocolate shop in Ypres and on a long coach ride back to school where we arrived at midnight.

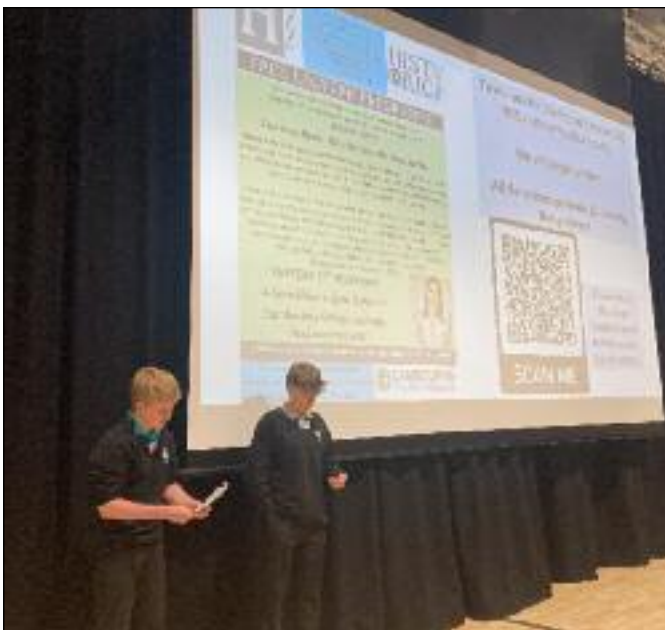
It was a very long day, but I really enjoyed the trip, I found it very interesting and I learned a lot.

Hannah (9R)



**PACKED DAY:** Of visiting historic sites and cemeteries to learn more about the First World War.

## Guest speaker offers timely reminder



**WELCOME:** Two Year 11 historians, who plan to take the subject at A-Level, introduce the lecture by guest speak Helen Carr.



Thank you to everyone who attended our first free History public lecture this term. We had over 80 people attend! Our speaker Helen Carr gave a brilliant talk and reminded us that 'rewriting History is exactly what Historians do!' Please fill in this short feedback form to help us plan future events:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/5SihB5dL0>  
 The next lecture is on January 25th!



**MEET AND GREET:** History staff and students meet speaker Helen Carr.

# Dancing the night away

**Year 7 and 8 students successfully launched the festive season with a Christmas Disco!**

Year 7 were first in, with their event being from 4.30-6pm. Any fears of 11-year-olds being too cool for some good, wholesome fun went right out the window as students rushed to kick it 'Gangnam Style' and do the 'Macarena'!

There were prizes for best dancers and best dressed and everyone loved being able to watch some of our wonderful staff team join in the fun.

Next up it was Year 8's turn. Again, all fears that no one would come, or worse still that they would come and not dance, were soon allayed when more than a 100 of the cohort turned up in their finest to dance the night away!

More prizes were awarded for dancing and style but I felt like the biggest winner

on the night as all the students (both Year 7 and 8) were so polite, so respectful and so well-behaved. They were all a huge credit to our wonderful school.

The only slight issue of the evening was at the very end, when the musical stylings of our wonderful DJ, Jordi at Lumin Technical, proved so enticing that the students just didn't want to stop dancing and singing along,

As they belted out the lyrics to *Let It Go* from *Frozen*, their parents stood outside...actually frozen!

A massive thank you to all the many members of staff who gave up their time to help decorate, supervise and dance the night away, it wouldn't have been possible without you all!

**Becky Milne, Assistant Head of Year 8**



**ALWAYS POPULAR:** Students join a Conga and do the 'Macarena' at Christmas discos for Years 7 and 8.

## Student delight at new book collection

Cambourne Village College library has recently launched a collection of books in Cantonese for students to borrow.

For those students whose first language is Cantonese, it offers the opportunity to celebrate their culture alongside their learning in English. The collection has already proved popular with students. As soon as the books arrived a student spotted them on the library desk and was desperate to be able to read them during a library lesson.

While it is important to encourage all students to read in English to support their studies in the school system, it is also vital that we recognise and celebrate cultural differences.

The school library offers an online reading application – SORA – which also offers books in other languages. This collection recognises the growing numbers of students whose first language is Cantonese, which is mainly spoken the southern Chinese provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi and also in Hong Kong and Macau.

Cantonese-speaking TA Lily Tang-Gentile said: "As the number of Hong Kong students at CamVC continues to rise, we are grateful that they can now have access to Chinese books, in a range of topics and genres, so that they can keep up with their proficiency in the language as well as preserving the heritage."



**SOMETHING NEW:** A collection of books in Cantonese.



**CHRISTMAS CHEER:** In the library.

## Sparkling!

At lunchtime on Wednesday 6th December our very helpful pupil librarians had great fun decorating the library with everything festive.

Our tree is particularly sparkly this year and they certainly have 'decked the halls' with lots of paper chains and tinsel. We are so grateful for the help we receive from our pupil librarians, giving up their free time to help us make sure our library is inviting to all. They also gain valuable skills, learning to use our library management system, accurately shelving books and delivering friendly customer service.



**DELIGHTED:** To win the library competition.

## Prize poem

During the Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and their families in October, a poetry competition was held in the library.

The entry from Monkfield Park's Dua about the library was selected as the winner from all the entries submitted during the evening.

All the entries will be used to create a display to greet new students when they come to the college for their transition days in July.

It is hoped seeing work by themselves or their peers will help them to feel welcome at their new school.

Dua was really excited to receive her prize from staff at Cambourne Village College library.

# Chief Exec to step down

**Stephen Munday has announced his retirement from The Cam Academy Trust after more than 12 years in the founding role.**

Always passionate about providing the best educational opportunities for students in his care, the Chief Executive helped establish the Trust (formerly The Comberton Academy Trust) in 2011 through his role as Principal of Comberton Village College for the previous 10 years.

During his tenure, the Trust has increased in size to now include four secondary schools, two sixth forms and seven primary phase schools in South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon, with one just inside Bedfordshire.

He has overseen the establishment of Comberton's sixth form as well as the building from scratch of Cambourne Village College as a free school. A sixth form opens there in September 2024. Another primary school, Fowlmere, is due to join the Trust early next year.

Stephen, 59, a huge advocate of Henry Morris who established the village college system in Cambridgeshire, said: "It has always been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have been able to oversee The Cam Academy Trust.

"Best of all has been the wonderful opportunity to work with so many very good people, who work so well and with such dedication to ensure great education for all our pupils in all our schools."

"I know that the Trust will go from strength to strength moving forward. The clear joint view about what education is all about is really central to what and who we are. That remains regardless of any particular person."

The board of Trustees are now preparing to appoint a new Chief Executive with Stephen's retirement set for the end of March.

Chair Sue Williamson said: "Stephen not only initiated the formation of the Trust but has laid excellent foundations for its future development. He is deeply committed to improving the life chances of all young people by not only providing a broad curriculum but ensuring that there are numerous extra-curricular activities for all.

"We are determined to recruit an outstanding candidate to ensure this work continues."

Stephen, who graduated from St John's College, Cambridge, with a degree in economics was drawn to teaching initially, by

his own admission, because he was not drawn to the careers often suggested to Economics graduates.

He said: "It subsequently developed into a strong conviction of the remarkable importance and value of the teaching profession.

"I would not hesitate to recommend it, whilst confirming it is very hard work and has its meaningful challenges. There is little to beat seeing a young person develop an understanding and even a love of what they are learning."

Stephen was awarded a CBE for services to Education in the 2013 New Year's Honours, having spent several years as a designated 'National Leader of Education' as well as serving on a range of advisory boards for the Department for Education.

He went on to become President of the Chartered College of Teaching and was appointed as their first Honorary Fellow last year when his presidency ended.

He remains a Director on the Board of the Cambridge United Foundation, a nod to his passion for sport, in particular cricket and golf.



**BOWING OUT:** Stephen Munday will leave the Trust in March.

## Primary poised to join Trust next month

Numbers of local primary schools have been expressing an interest in joining our Trust.

The general approach of the Trust is to seek to accommodate such approaches whenever that is at all reasonably possible.

We aim to have a community and locality-based approach to education and schooling, so local primary schools joining our Trust can strengthen further that aim.

There is the potential to work more powerfully across school phases through this and provide quality education in local areas for pupils of all ages.

The school currently closest to formalising its move into the Trust is Fowlmere Primary School. It is a named partner primary school of Melbourn Village College, which has been part of the Trust for many years.

The Advisory Board of the Regional Director's Office has approved the school joining the Trust and all the necessary processes are being undertaken to enable that to happen.

It is very much hoped that the school will be in the Trust from January 2024. As often, there are some ongoing processes relating to leases and certain other legal matters that are having to be worked through at this late stage, and they do have potential to delay the precise date.

We are all working hard to overcome these things so that January can be the confirmed start date. Come what may, a point early in 2024 will be when this happens.

We all want to welcome Fowlmere Primary School into the community of schools that make up our Trust.

We look forward to their contribution and how we can support the provision of excellent education for all pupils at the school.

We will also welcome further discussions with local schools seeking to join us at other points in the coming year.

Stephen Munday CEO



**NEW MEMBER:** Fowlmere Primary is due to join the Trust in January 2024.



# City has hidden depths

One of the most popular choices for activities week every year at CamVC is the 'Discover Cambridge' two-day trip where students have the opportunity to visit Cambridge as well as Grantchester. Once in Cambridge, students are divided in small groups, where, accompanied by a member of staff, they go on a treasure hunt around the

city discovering important sights such as historic churches, university halls, statues and inspiring monuments. The first day ends with a much-needed relaxing lunch at the University Botanic Garden. On the second day, students have the opportunity to walk a scenic route by the river to Grantchester and enjoy traditional English tea at a charming orangery.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of students at CamVC have frequently visited Cambridge, the city with a faultless mix of a captivating historic past and welcoming present, many of us are unfortunately unaware of the value the city holds.

During Activities Week, a group of students and three staff members gathered at school for registration and later walked ebulliently to the bus stop, where we longingly waited for our visit to the city renowned for its immense impact on history. Packed with picturesque streets and exceptional architecture, Cambridge cannot merely be perceived as what is before your eyes.

The best way I can describe it is as a limitless book where every individual page you flip, you're guaranteed to discover something new; the depth and rich history of the city cannot be described in a mere few words, which is why the visit was so valuable.

The majority of day one consisted of a competitive treasure hunt that would last the entire trip, where the large group of students was divided into three. Each group was provided with a booklet to complete, including numerous diverse questions regarding science, literature and philosophy among other topics that we ardently attempted to unravel.

Beginning at King's College, we not only immersed ourselves in the internationally famed graffiti, paintings and statues within the Chapel, but we were further consumed by a memorable First World War Roll of Honour, where we discovered the name of a distinguished war poet, Rupert Brooke, as part of the treasure hunt.

Later that day we wandered on foot along the River Cam which offered a remarkable perspective of the city's landmarks. Following a lengthy walk, we picnicked at the Botanic Gardens, an enchanting area alive with a phenomenal variety of plant species from all over the world.

After a leisurely lunch, we headed back to Cambourne by bus, keen for the following day to arrive.

From seeking a famed statue of a pelican at Corpus Christi College to taking a selfie with an ancient Chinese philosopher, day two of the trip was undoubtedly an adventure.

At the beginning of the day, we visited the Round Church with the aim of completing tasks from our treasure hunt booklets, though subsequently came the considerable challenge of climbing St Mary's Church tower.

Climbing the exceedingly narrow spiral staircase with 123 stone steps rising inexorably to the top of the tower was the most exhilarating yet most nerve-racking experience. Nonetheless the extraordinary sight at the top was the highlight of the day.

Later that afternoon we followed a sunlit route to Grantchester for scones and cream tea at The Orchard Tea Garden where we soaked up the tranquil atmosphere as we concluded the treasure hunt. The results were announced and prizes given out on the coach back to school.

Thanks to the staff for an incredible trip!

Soha (10N)



DISCOVERING CAMBRIDGE: Students out and about in the urban and rural areas.

## 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.camtrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies](http://www.camtrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies)



**RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES:** Students' work experience was their choice and took them to a variety of indoor and outdoor jobs.

# A taster of working life

As the current Year 10 start the countdown to their Work Experience placements for next summer, some of the students now in Year 11 reflect on their introduction to the world of work.

Last July, more than 230 intrepid and adventurous pupils headed out on Work Experience placements, all ready to get a real taste of the world of work and show off their best skills.

They have now been able to use those experiences to support their Sixth Form applications and gain real focus and ambition for their GCSE year.

"My work experience was amazing! I particularly enjoyed having a different routine." **Kyle (11O)** — Headline Music Studios.

"I was really pleased with how confidently I could deal with members of the public. One customer at my bank gave me £20k but unfortunately I had to pay it into his account!" **Jack (11O)** — Nat West Bank

"I really loved helping the public and the buzz I got from it at the nursery I worked at." **Mathilda (11B)** — Coton Orchard.

"Customer relations was a huge part of the sewing shop I worked in and I think I enjoyed that part the most." **Katie (11R)** — Backstitch.

"They let me use some really expensive equipment — I made the world's smallest version of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'." **Will (11B)** — Durham Magneto Optics Ltd.

"I was lucky enough to go on lots of site visits with my engineering company," **Sadhbh (11E)** — TTP plc.

"I would recommend getting some good work experience before you do your college applications." **Louise (11U)** — Better Care Homes.

"It really helped me understand how it is to hold down a job instead of being at school." **Saskia (11R)** — Wimpole Home Farm.

"It was a great experience to work with different sorts of people, including multi-millionaires." **Fred (11A)** — Beyond Food Foundation.

"I worked in a cashier position. I really loved meeting the public." **Maggie (11N)** — Scope Charity Shop, Cambridge.

If you or someone you know could offer one of our students an opportunity from 15th-19th July 2024, please contact [vmccormack@cambournevc.org](mailto:vmccormack@cambournevc.org)





**WORKING TOGETHER:** Students, the Eco Council and the community worked together to collect litter around Cambourne.

# Clean up is team effort

CamVC has been an Eco School for more than two years and we continue to work hard to increase awareness of environmental challenges, especially the impending climate crisis.

We are also encouraging all young people and their families to join the fight to improve other environmental problems, and we continue to offer activities that benefit the school as well as the wider community.

After last year's success with the First Community Litter Pick, the Eco Council organised the Second Community Litter Pick on Saturday, 25th November. Luckily, we had a sunny and dry, but very cold, day for the event. Throughout the morning, we welcomed a range of volunteers to the Great Cambourne Cricket Pavilion, our hub and starting point.

Families and groups of students from CamVC and further afield, such as Comberton and Swavesey Village



**JACKPOT:** Litter from the ditches added to the number of full bags of rubbish.

Colleges arrived with smiles and lots of enthusiasm.

Like last year, members of the Air Cadet Squadron (105) joined in too, with Flight Sergeant Ben Ellis, and we were supported by our students from the Eco Council as well as members of the community.

Teachers, Miss Angell, Miss Clissold and Mr Fernandez took part, leading groups of students on big litter hunting loops around Cambourne.

Equipment had been provided by Cambourne Town Council and by Greater Cambridgeshire Waste Management. Volunteers just needed to sign up and then headed off in different directions with litter pickers, bin bags, hoops, hi-viz vests

and maps of Cambourne.

There was a steady flow of full bin bags delivered by our returning helpers. The mound of full rubbish bags grew in front of the Pavilion, and volunteers gathered inside to enjoy a well-deserved mug of hot chocolate with marshmallows, coffee, tea and biscuits.



There were more than 100 helpers of all ages, from the school and the community, and we were extremely pleased with the energy and positivity of everyone.

People also reported grateful and encouraging comments from members of the public as a reaction to our work. Miss Angell said: "Ayaz, one of our Eco Council members, was a brilliant and helpful leader throughout the morning, encouraging another adult member of his group to get in the ditch to clean up the 'jackpot' of rubbish that had

collected there."

We would like say a huge thanks to all our enthusiastic volunteers: CamVC students, supported by the Eco Council members, the primary and other older students and their families, the fantastic Air Cadet Squadron, Reiner Schulte (volunteer warden of the Cambourne Wildlife Trust), the Cambourne Cricket Club, John Vickery (Cambourne Town Council), Sarah Philips (Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Waste), Ms Angell, Ms Clissold and Mr Fernandez, and Mrs Teo, our lovely and energetic driver, organiser of sign-up lists, badges and head of the catering service. Without their help, this event would not have been possible.

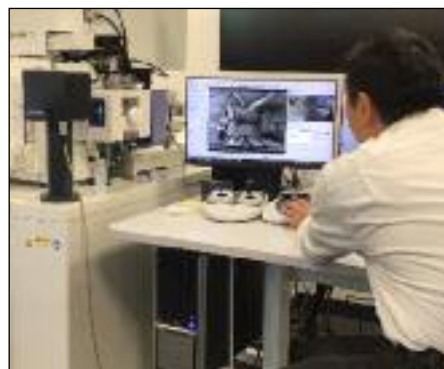
## Zeiss insight for budding engineers

In celebration of National Manufacturing Day, Carl Zeiss welcomed a group of our Year 10 engineering students to their Cambourne site.

During the visit students took part in a range of workshops that were hosted by Carl Zeiss employees from different departments, giving them a broad understanding of what happens at Zeiss House.

Workshops included testing out VR headsets that are used for training and troubleshooting, working as a team to

produce a mock product showing how batch and lean manufacturing works, a tour of the assembly workshop and the rigorous testing stations, and finally getting a hands-on demonstration of how Zeiss' famous electron microscope works and its capabilities. The students were treated to a lunch with a range of Zeiss employees, who offered them first-hand advice regarding the apprenticeship scheme the company offers and what it is like to work for a global company right on their doorstep.



**HOW IT WORKS:** Students gained a broad view of what goes on at Zeiss House.



# BE OUR GUEST

6<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024



Disney  
**BEAUTY**  
AND THE  
**BEAST**  
THE MUSICAL

# Bursary is relaunched

A scheme to help students fulfil their sporting ambitions has been relaunched with a new sponsor.

With 'Group 1' taking over the BMW dealership round the corner from Cambourne Village College, they have also agreed to take on the backing previously provided by Barons.

It can be awarded to any student who would like to play more sport but cannot afford the associated costs.

This could be anything from the costs of membership, entry fees, equipment or transport, whether to the club or an event.

It could also be used to cover the costs of a coaching

or refereeing course.

In the past bursaries have been awarded to students for a range of different sports from competitive rugby, football and basketball to horse riding and climbing. If you would like to apply for a bursary, please speak to a member of the PE Department.



**PERFECT CONDITIONS:**  
For two days of orienteering in Huntingdon.

## Map challenges also require maths skills

By comparison to last year's deluge of rain, this year we were rewarded with blue skies and sunshine on Curriculum Extension Days.

It made for perfect conditions for two days of orienteering at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park with the Outdoor Adventure Company, Azarias.

Year 9 students worked in small groups and spent the day using their map-reading skills to complete the different orienteering challenges.

The morning challenges were all completed in great spirit with different groups coming out on top and earning points for their final score.

The final challenge was the decider and integrated all their new-found

orienteering skills with maths skills.

The winning group from each day was rewarded with a box of sweets and their own bragging rights.

As usual on this day out, pupils' behaviour was impeccable and it was really exciting to escape the classroom and Cambourne to go and explore elsewhere.

For any pupil who has enjoyed the day, they should talk to the geography department about the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where map-reading skills are an essential part of the expedition section.

## Sports festival

We held a very successful Year 7 and 8 multi-sport festival to welcome in our new cohort of Year 7s.

There was a wide variety of students, who all mixed up and joined together, creating a wonderful sense of community and teamwork.

For a whole afternoon the pupils played lots of different sports, such as benchball, basketball and dodgeball.

There were some brilliant ball skills, super shots and some near misses (from expert dodging in dodgeball!) A special shout out to the amazing sport leaders, who were incredibly organised and enthusiastic — the event went incredibly smoothly and it was a successful event to welcome in our new year 7s and integrate them into our wonderful community.

The Year 7 and 8s mixed really well and everyone had a brilliant time.



**NEVER GIVE UP:**  
The Year 10 team were rewarded with a win in their final Sevens game.



**ON THE GO:** Action from the sports festival.

## Battling to the end

The Year 10 boys' rugby team set out to their first Rugby 7s tournament at Shelford earlier this year with a mixed team of seasoned club players and students playing in their first rugby matches.

After a fierce start in the competition, the team drew their first two games scoring seven tries in total.

The boys worked hard in both attack and defence putting in impressive displays against some well drilled opponents and, after a couple of losses, secured their first victory in the tournament.

Special shout outs to Sam (10C), Sam (10R), and Ben (10C) for helping to lead the team, setting up a number of tries and

putting in immense defensive shifts.

The Year 7/8 boys' team came together this year for their first fixture for Cambourne Village College. After weeks of hard training, they faced Melbourn in November.

The players worked hard, scoring several tries against a good Melbourn team. Although they were defeated, they played some amazing rugby and fought hard until the final whistle.

Since their first game, the team has been improving every week, showing some dazzling displays of skill in their more recent games. They will be looking to build as a team as we enter the new year.

# The joy of inter-form!

**Inter-form is a day all students love, from the sport itself to socialising with other students; everyone loves inter-form!**

If you don't know what inter-form is, it's a special day where students get to play a sport of their choice in a competition with other forms.

What's unique about inter-form is the variety of sports that can be chosen each year. Last year we had table tennis but this year it's rowing instead. This gives us the opportunity to experience new sports and try new things. Year 9 student Eeka (9N) said: "Inter-form last year was really enjoyable, even though I didn't do very well."

Personally, my experience was really incredible, in inter-form it's easy to go with your friends and have fun for two periods while also serving the purpose of trying new sports and doing daily exercise.

"At first, I was surprised by the choices of sports this year, but now I believe that it was actually a good set of sports, I did rowing and I genuinely had an amazing time. Inter-form is in general a great and fun experience for students of Cambourne Village College to enjoy and do."

Mohammed (9N)



**DIFFERENT SPORTS:** *New Age Kurling was an interform option.*

## Team aims high

Our under-16 boys basketball team faced their first game of the season on Wednesday 22nd November at home to Swavesey.

While this was a friendly, it was a fantastic opportunity for the team to get off to a winning start in what promises to be an important season for the team. It was noticeable that Swavesey were confident on the ball, excellent at rebounding, and tall!

CamVC knew they needed to box out the opposition to have any success gaining the ball. They stuck to the plan and finished the first half with a strong lead. There was some fantastic basketball played in the second half. The gap narrowed slightly, however Cambourne managed win 41-37. A fantastic effort in our first game!

The boys are hoping to qualify for the District basketball finals held at Long Road so the more practice they get, the better!

**FIRST TIME OUT:** *The under-16 warm up for the season with a friendly win.*



**FUN FOR ALL:** *At the 'Let Girls Play' festival.*

## Girls get involved

**Girls' football is here to stay, and it is fantastic to see so many girls emulating their heroes in the Lionesses and Women's Super League.**

**In October, Year 7 and 8 footballers played in the 'Let Girls Play' Festival, with both South Cambs and Hunts schools.**

**There were more than 80 girls playing, many of whom do not play for a local club, but have now represented their school at football.**

**It was fantastic day, the rain stayed away (only just) and everyone had a great time.**

**A special thanks also goes to our Year 8 Football Activators, who refereed the tournament, and without them we would not have been able to play. They did a great job and showed such maturity and fairness in their refereeing. Well done to everyone involved!**

## Boys book cup spot

Year 9 boys played in a Schools Cup fixture against Witchford Village College.

In very cold and windy conditions our captain, Vincent (9N), led a team full of confidence and ready to cruise through to the next round.

After a fast start from the boys and two goals in quick succession, Cambourne found themselves up at the break with goals from Jack (9E) and Vincent, as they controlled the first half.

After an inspiring team talk from Mr Young, the boys were ready to attack the second half and see out the game.

However, early in the second half, Witchford had spells of good possession and managed to claw back two goals to level.

Cambourne, looking tired, were having to dig deep and defend a flurry of balls into the box. After holding out during a strong spell of Witchford pressure, CamVC scored again, but this was soon matched by Witchford against the run of play.

The score was 3-3. In the dying seconds of the match Cambourne were doing everything they could to push for a game winner.

Roman (9U) caused all sorts of problems up front using his physical strength, Harry (9R) ran the midfield, and even the Head of Year Mr Patrick was screeching as loud as he could!

Mr Young is sure he heard him scream: "If you win the cup, boys, I'll let you water balloon me on the last day of term." If that is not incentive to win . . .

Unfortunately, the referee blew the whistle for full time. This meant only one thing... the dreaded penalties!

Cambourne were cool and calm from the spot and managed to beat the visitors 5-3! Big cheers echoed around Cambourne as the boys are now through to the second round against Cottenham Village College.



**THE DREADED SHOOT-OUT.** *Cambourne and Witchford prepare to take penalties to decide the winners of a cup clash.*

# Rugby in PM's garden

Year 8 and 9 sports activators had the amazing opportunity to play rugby in the gardens of No 10 Downing St earlier this term.

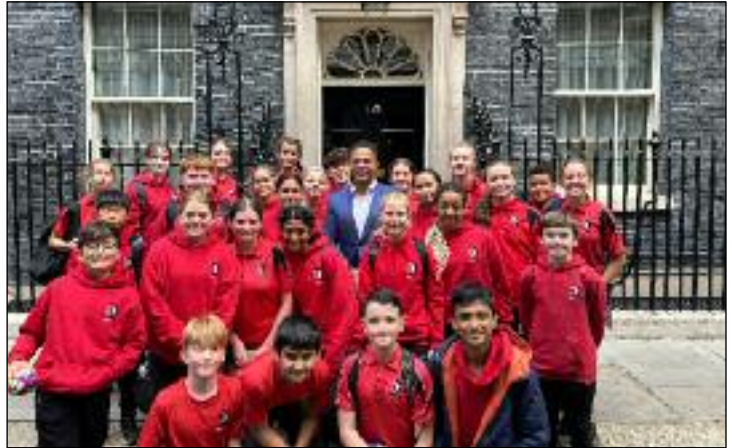
Twenty-seven teenagers headed for the Prime Minister's London home for a 'Lesson at 10' with England rugby legend Jason Robinson OBE.

But that was the second part of the adventure. First, they were met by Akshata Murphy, the wife of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and she took them to meet Jason and Maggie Alphonsi, the former England player and face of international women's rugby before her retirement. She is now a respected commentator and speaker.

They then headed for the gardens of No 10 where Jason, who played both rugby union and rugby league at international level, gave them a lesson. They learned plenty of different skills and had the chance to play against the World Cup winner (he scored England's only try when they won the rugby union trophy in 2003).

The sports activators put on an impressive show, demonstrating excellent skills and knowledge of the game.

An amazing day was had by all!



**BIG DAY OUT:** Students meet Jason Robinson at No 10.

## Teams take Cambourne further than ever

Two Cambourne teams are through to the regional round of badminton's National Schools Championships for the first time after coming through the local round.

Cambourne hosted the first round of a competition which culminates in finals at the National Badminton Centre in April and entered five teams

across the KS3 and KS4 boys' and girls' events.

The KS4 A boys and the KS3 boys both topped their leagues and will go on to play against other first-round winners in the regional section in the New Year. The winners there progress to the inter-county round, the last stage before the finals. The older boys' team topped their pool against Bottisham

and Ken Stimpson, Peterborough, then saw off Swavesey, who led a group also containing Cambourne's second team.

The KS3 team topped a group including Ken Stimpson and Soham.

For many of the pupils this was their first time playing at such a high level of badminton and they found themselves playing opponents who play for local clubs and/or represent their county. Head of PE Hannah Curtis said: "The competition lasted all day, and the standard of play was incredible. The rallies, the smashes and the movement across court was all the best I had seen our pupils play. Everyone was tested and challenged in both their singles and doubles matches.

The format pits teams of four against each other with each player contesting two games. The first sees the No 1-ranked player take on their opposite number before the two players not selected for singles clash.

The third game is for the other singles player before two doubles matches where the first singles player and a doubles-only player join forces. The match rounds off with the other singles and doubles-only player teaming up.



**REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:** Cambourne's KS3 and KS4 boys' teams.

## Nailbiter as table tennis in the spotlight

Table tennis club has been running every Monday for any pupil who wants to come and give it a go. The pupils have been training hard and have been really keen to put their skills into action.

Last month, 12 pupils travelled to St Neots Table Tennis Club, the home of the 2012 Olympic Table Tennis flooring, where four were involved in the National Schools Table Tennis Competition.

This is the first time pupils from CamVC have competed in this competition and the team was made up of incredibly talented players. However, they faced The King's School, Peterborough, who were just as incredible. The final score went to 4-4 and King's qualified for the next round by one game on count back.

The eight other pupils played a hard-fought match against King's', playing a mixture of singles and

doubles.

It was fantastic to see the Year 11 boys competing.

Many of them will be offering table tennis as one of their GCSE PE practical sports and the dedication to their training has been impressive.

Unfortunately, they, too, came up against some tough competition and didn't win their competition.

If anyone is interested in playing more table tennis, St Neots Table Tennis club run a satellite club on Friday afternoons at 4.30pm from the Main Hall at CamVC. Please

contact Ewa Foskett, [cambournettclub@yahoo.com](mailto:cambournettclub@yahoo.com), for more information.



**FAST AND FURIOUS:** Table tennis action at St Neots' club.