

CAMBOURNE VC AND SF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BRITISH

DECEMBER 2024

Starting with this edition, News@Cam will now be a monthly newsletter, combining the weekly Parent Bulletin and termly News@Cam. This is a bumper edition to include some news from earlier in the term. We will be making some more changes with our communications in the new year. We hope these will address some of the feedback in our recent communications survey. Thank you to all who completed it.

Aerry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from everyone at

CamVC and CamSF

We look forward to

welcoming our students back on

Tuesday 7th January 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we come towards Christmas and look forward to 2025, I also want to reflect on 2024 and the successes we've had at Cambourne Village College.

In the summer, we celebrated another excellent set of GCSE exam results. Key target areas, such as the outcomes of disadvantaged pupils, were a point of particular pride for the school, reflecting the hard work of young people and the staff who teach and work with them. Many pupils were delighted by achieving exceptionally high results, with 8 pupils amassing 53 Grade 9s between them, and 33 pupils awarded eight or more Grades 7 or above. As well as high attainment, the school is also proud of its pupils' strong progress. Particularly noteworthy are the 9 pupils who outstripped expectations based on their primary school results by an average of two grades higher in each of their subjects.

This was followed in September by the opening of Cambourne Sixth Form and our cohort of Year 12 students are finishing their first term strongly and all of the Sixth Form team are very happy with how they have settled into Sixth Form life. The students themselves have reported high levels of student satisfaction with particular strong feedback regarding the high quality of teaching and wellbeing and all students would recommend our Sixth Form to a Year 11 pupil. The rich curriculum offer of the Sixth Form reflects the high standards of teaching we have here at Cambourne, supported by our brand-new facilities and if your child is now considering their post-16 options, I would strongly encourage them to look further into what our Sixth Form can offer. More information about courses on offer are on the curriculum page of the Sixth Form website: https:// www.cambournesixthform.org/curriculum/

Our main cohort of pupils in Years 7-11 continues to be strong, with pupils from all year groups representing our school in a wide variety of areas and subjects, including sport, music, maths, art, drama, the environment, food technology, foreign languages and history, as well as a range of charity work. Our strong ethos and pride of our school is also reflected in the number of applications we have had for Year 7s to join us in September 2025, which is over 330 first choice places requested. I continue to be very proud to see the importance and pivotal place that Cambourne Village College holds within the local community.

Thank you all for your continued support of the college also and wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Lynn Mayes,

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Principal

KEY DATES FOR JANUARY

Monday 6th January staff training day

Tuesday 7th January all pupils return to school

Wednesday 8th January SnowSports Information Evening (6pm in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre)

Mon 13th - Fri 17th January Year 11 MLF Speaking Mock Exams

> Monday 13th January Year 11 Drama C1 Exam

Thursday 16th January Year 9 Options Open Evening (6pm onwards)

Monday 20th January MLF Granada Information Evening (6.30pm onwards)

Tuesday 21st January Year 12 Photography Mock Exam

Monday 27th January Curriculum Development Day <u>school closed for all pupils</u>

Subscribe to our calendar for more key dates

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BAD HERSFELD

GIA

Very early on Monday 3rd December, eight Cambourne VC students (Y9 and Y10) boarded the coach that had arrived with nine students from Comberton VC, to travel to Heathrow Airport. Together with two staff they embarked on this year's German Exchange with our lovely partner school in Bad Hersfeld, situated in the middle of Germany, not too far from Frankfurt. As last year, our hosts treated us to a wonderful programme of culture and various activities, such as visiting Merkers Salt Mines, the world-famous Wartburg Castle and the historic town of Erfurt, all with beautiful Christmas markets. We also spent two days with our hosts at the school, visiting lessons, doing Christmas baking and sports activities, and together with our German partners, we explored the town of Bad Hersfeld doing a treasure hunt, before tasting some delicious food at the local Christmas market. The most treasured experience for our students was certainly staying with their host families, experiencing German hospitality and trying out their German. Here is what some of our students (Aryan, Y10, Erin, Y10 and Amos, Y10) said about the visit:

"My most memorable experience was the salt mines. It was so much fun riding through the tunnels and looking at their history and how pretty they were. But honestly, I loved every day. My other favourite was Erfurt where we got a tour round the city and to a Christmas market, but my favourite part was the cathedral. It had this beautiful interior full of carvings and paintings along with the most breathtaking organs. It sounded amazing.

I learnt about the culture and history of the places I went to and my favourite thing was going out for St Nicolas Day and basically doing trick or treating for Christmas. Going door to door saying a poem and getting chocolate along with waking up and receiving a chocolate figure in your shoe."

"My most memorable moment was the school day. The people were very friendly, and experiencing school there was quite cool, as they had some significant differences from our schools (such as non-school uniform and ending school at 1PM)" "The host family were tremendously kind and very warm and welcoming. His dad made the most delicious dinners which I crave to go and have again! One night we had German Schnitzel with chips and broccoli drowned in a rich, delicious Hollandaise sauce which was absolutely amazing."

"We also went to the trampoline park with another exchange duo and that was loads of fun as we played different games throughout the park like manhunt, hide and seek and dodgeball! I learnt a commonly used phrase- "Genau! " meaning "Right", as well as some other words, which was interesting. I got to listen to a lot of local German, which I found fascinating."

"My German host family was very welcoming and they helped me significantly in German, speaking in as much German as possible whilst teaching me new phrases and words. We usually watched TV at night after a hearty meal of typical German food



and it was quite relaxed and calm. On Sunday we went to Point Alpha, the old East/West German border. There was a museum as well as equipment on display, showing what it was like back then. I have great interest in History and this was a very fulfilling experience!"

Thank you to our wonderful German colleagues and host families in Bad Hersfeld, who organised such a varied programme and looked after everyone so well. We look forward to welcoming them at CamVC and Comberton VC on their return visit at the end of March 2025.

iDESTINO ZARAGOZA!

This November, six of our students joined up with Comberton Village College to head to Zaragoza in the north of Spain, commencing our famed Spanish exchange programme!

To begin our week-long stay, we arrived at our partner school, Colegio Rosa Molas, where we were shown around the school and our students met their exchange partners for the first time, after only writing to each other across the sea!

Whilst they spent a lot of their time with their host families, experiencing local culture and cuisine and reciprocating language practice, we also had group trips to famed monuments. On our day trip to Barcelona, we beheld the breathtaking works on the Sagrada Familia, an ongoing architectural project first started by Gaudí. Afterwards, we head to Camp Nou, where we had a tour and got to have a peek at the training grounds of FC Barcelona. We also got to appreciate the stunning sites in Zaragoza, such as the Cathedral, known for surviving several bombings, with just enough time for souvenir shopping as well.

Overall, it was a successful and enjoyable trip, sparking new friendships from around the continent.

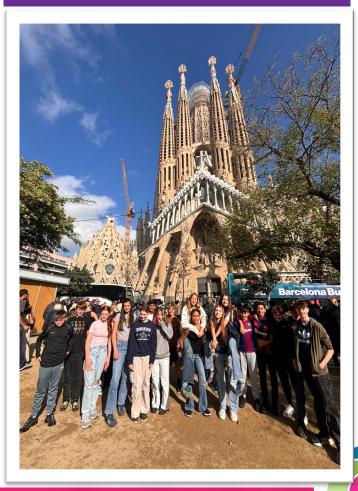
Ishaan (9B)

I thoroughly enjoyed the Spanish exchange, and I felt that it is probably been the most enjoyable school trip I have been on. My favourite day was when we went to Barcelona. It was a good way to socialise with the other Cambourne and Comberton kids on the bus, and in the market, me and friends bought churros. On the weekend, me and my partner went to watch a basketball match. I thought this was the best moment with my partner, as it was an exciting game, with their team winning 86-85. I would definitely recommend this to those in lower year groups.



Frankie (9R)

My favourite day would definitely have to be the Barcelona trip as it was so fun, and you do so many activities that day like shopping and going to the Barcelona football stadium which was a very good experience. My favourite memory with my exchange partner would be going to the theme park because it was very fun and enjoyable. I would definitely recommend it for people in the year below as it's a very fun week and an experience that not a lot of people would actually do because of the thought of it, but it's way better than you think.



CURRICULUM EXTENSION DAYS MATHS

In their day of maths, Year 7 pupils worked hard on their problem-solving, fine-motor tessellation skills and their ability to de-cipher codes. Each form group participated in three mathematical challenges that ranged from paper footballs, de-coding and deciphering texts, trading resources and working as a team, solving mathematical clues to solve a murder!

As a department, we are keen to show our student mathematicians that there is so much more to maths than classroom learning. Maths stretches into every aspect of our lives and we are very proud of the effort, engagement and enthusiasm our Year 7 showed on these two days. We would like to extend a special thanks to our Sixth Form Helpers who did a superb job at supporting our activities on the Wednesday.

Alice (7R)

On the day of maths we didn't have to do loads of learning like we do in class. Instead, we had to solve problems, use logic and work together. I particularly enjoyed the activity where we used teamwork and shapes to make objects. I am not normally very good at maths, but I was pretty good at moving around the shapes!

Tommy (7R)

I really enjoyed making footballs out of paper. The maths we did on curriculum extension days wasn't like proper classroom maths. We got to do lots of things that involved making stuff, using our hands/ body and solving problems. It was SO good that my group made our shapes fit together the best out of the whole

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BHAKTIVEDANTA MANOR

I recently went on a trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor in Watford during the curriculum extension days. It was a great experience to learn more about Hinduism and the Hare Krishna movement.

The manor is a beautiful place with a lot of history. It was originally donated to the Hare Krishna movement by George Harrison, a former member of the Beatles. The manor is now home to a temple, a monastery, and a community of spiritual seekers.

We were given a tour of the manor and learned about the different aspects of Hinduism. We also got to see the deities that are worshiped at the temple. I found the tour to be very informative and interesting.

At lunch, we were served a delicious vegetarian meal of pea and paneer curry with rice and chips. It was a great way to experience the food of the Hare Krishna movement.

Overall, I had a great time at Bhaktivedanta Manor. I learned a lot about Hinduism and the Hare Krishna movement. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning more about different religions and cultures.

Syeda (10V)

SSAT LEADERSHIP LEGACY PROJECT

We are delighted to announce that two members of our team have successfully completed their SSAT Leadership projects. Huge congratulations to Coral Reeves and Luke Young. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Jessica Long, Jeremy Meylan and Shivani Joshi every success as they embark on their own projects having been successful in their applications to take part.

Coral has kindly shared her experience with us:

In the 2023-2024 academic year, I took part in the SSAT Leadership Legacy Project. This has been one of the most invaluable courses I have taken for my own professional development. The course allowed me to engage in interesting webinars from inspiring leaders, shadow leaders across multiple different schools, and engage in a "Think Piece" to better my practice as a teacher.

Cambourne VC has been an important part of my teaching journey. Having trained here in 2019 as part of the Cambridge University PGCE, I then became a teacher of maths in the spring of 2020. Between the completion of the PGCE and the beginning of my teaching, I took some time to travel the world. Hence, CamVC has been the only place I have ever worked as a teacher. Hence, I am very grateful to them for offering me the opportunity of this course. Moreover, the aspects of this course that allowed me to shadow leaders from other schools was insightful; something I have not had the opportunity to experience before.

I have always wanted to teach, and I honestly do love the teaching work I do here at CamVC. This course has given me a platform for my future self when I would like to step into leadership and has equipped me with some important topics for continued consideration when leading people. Moreover, it has given me a boost of confidence to be an aspiring leader.

As part of the course, I had to write a "think piece". This could take any format and was an opportunity to meaningfully engage with my role as a practitioner and the wider school community. My think piece was centred around my role as a form tutor to last year's Year 11 cohort. During form time, over a 6-week-period, I equipped them with knowledge about meta-cognition, and "learning how to learn". I hoped that this would not only bring them success in their impending GCSE examinations, but also equip them for life as individuals who can meaningfully engage with the world.

The think piece had many outcomes that fall under two broad categories: student outcomes and outcomes to myself as a practitioner. For students, the project allowed students in my form group to, for the first time, have a basic understanding of meta-cognition. It encouraged them to hear about some leading psychological advances in cognition as well as encouraging them to adjust their revision practices to take them into account. In addition, it gave the opportunity for students to feel as though they could take control of their learning, have an understanding/appreciation for teachers and to manage their revision time/efforts effectively.

As a practitioner, this think piece has allowed me to be reminded of the key psychological components to learning as well as to develop my understanding of more recent research. The project has offered me a huge sense of fulfilment to have taken something I felt was lacking in my personal educational experience and to try and not let "history repeat itself" with the students in front of me as a practitioner. It has also inspired me to continue to develop as a teacher and to continue to try new things.

Personal and professional development is very important to us. If you would like to join our team, details of any vacancies can be found on our website: www.cambournevc.org/contact-us/vacancies

MASTERCLASS

On the 25th and 26th November, our Year 10 Food Prep and Nutrition pupils were visited by Rob Chambers of Impact Food to be shown the full process of filleting a fresh fish from scratch! Pupils were shown the correct skills and cutting methods to fully gut and cut each portion. Pupils were then shown how to cook their fish and Rob also provided pupils with a range of salads including beetroot salad and a fresh potato salad to dress with their grilled fish. It was a brilliant experience for our pupils to learn skills from a chef as well as practicing their presenting skills! Thank you to Rob and the Impact/Innovate team for this wonderful experience for our pupils!



MASTERCHEFS

It's also pretty safe to say that these pupils were inspired by the visit, because on 4th December, Beyza 10B and Abbi 10U from the Year 10 Food Prep + Nutrition course competed in the first heat of the FutureChef competition in Chelmsford. Both pupils competed in an overall group of 12 pupils from Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, and Essex to create a main dish for two people with a budget of £5. Pupils had to cook in an industrial kitchen with only one hour to complete their cook and present their work. Overall, there could only be two winners from this heat, and we are delighted to say both Beyza and Abbi won! Both pupils will now be mentored by a professional chef working with the FutureChef Competition to develop their dish and create a dessert ready for the Regional Finals in January. Good Luck to both pupils flying the flag for CamVC!



ENRICHMENT

At Cambourne Village College we believe that every child deserves opportunities to explore their passions, expand their horizons, and develop skills that go beyond the classroom. We offer a variety of enrichment opportunities designed to engage, inspire, and empower students of all ages. Over the coming year, we will be adding even more programs to this list, guided by a thorough consultation with our students in the new year, to ensure we meet their interests and aspirations. Stay tuned for exciting updates as we continue to grow and evolve our offerings and develop a comprehensive whole school timetable you and your child can refer to.

Exciting changes are happening with our communications and enrichment offer, and as a result, we would like more pupils to join our Press Team. As well as submitting articles about school trips and events, there are now opportunities interview club attendees, write promotional materials and take photos. Would all current Press Team members and any wishing to join please email dpayne@cambournevc.org to confirm your interest Friday 10th January.

As a village college we want to be sure we are doing our best to support the Cambourne & Cambridgeshire community. Please share with us events and clubs happening locally and we will share these opportunities online and in our monthly newsletter. Please email: CAM-enrichement@cambournevc.org with details.

We would also love for members of the wider community to be more involved with CamVC, If you would like to share more about your profession or passion during one of our aspirational lunchtime sessions or if you feel you could give more time and run a workshop or club please do get in touch with us by emailing: CAM-enrichment@cambournevc.org

HK Community Club - Brandon (11U)

Originally, I came to the HK Community Club to bond with new people and socialise. But through joining the HK Community Club, I found out that my expectations were far exceeded, not only was I able to make new friends, I was also able to help others out with my knowledge upon certain topics, helping them whenever they've encountered any problems on their homework. Throughout my time spent in this club, I was able to get to know more about others like their life before coming to the UK and their interests as well. Overall, I would say that joining this club was a great idea.

History Reading Club - Rachael (7M)

I really enjoy going to History Reading Club and I have been able to find some people who are likeminded to me. As a person who enjoys history, I appreciate there being a club which supports my interests. Also, this club helps me to understand what happened in the world in the past which might not be covered in the topics that we cover in our time at school.

Chess Club - Ben (10B)

I go to chess club and its fun because I play chess at home, and this is further practice with friends.

Warhammer Club - Matthew (8U)

I go to Warhammer club because, it allows me to paint, build and play Warhammer 40k.It also allows me to socialise with members of the Warhammer community and peers who come to the club whilst I enjoy the hobby. I learn skills in painting miniatures, learning strategies in the game itself, building miniatures

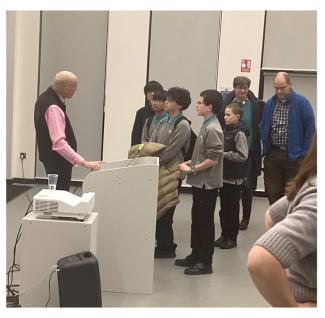
and helping others with the hobby.

HISTORIC-ALL

Historic-All Lecture Series Welcomes Professor David Reynolds Back to Cambourne Village College

This term, Cambourne Village College was privileged to welcome Professor David Reynolds back for his second Historic-All lecture. The Historic-All lecture series, founded by former Head of History Jess Angell, aims to provide both students and the local community with the unique opportunity to engage directly with academic historians. These lectures are an integral part of the school's mission as a Village College, an idea inspired by educational visionary Henry Morris, emphasizing schools as community hubs and champions of lifelong learning.

Professor Reynolds, Emeritus Professor of International History and a Fellow of Christ's College, previously delivered an engaging talk entitled: 'Why America's History Matters'. This time, speaking in our stunning new Sixth Form



Lecture Theatre, he delved into the life and leadership of Winston Churchill, the focus of his latest book, Mirrors of Greatness: Churchill and the Leaders Who Shaped Him.

In front of an audience of over 100 enthusiastic students, staff, and parents, Professor Reynolds offered a fresh perspective on Churchill, highlighting his skill for improvisation, particularly in foreign policy. His insightful analysis challenged conventional interpretations of the wartime leader, sparking thoughtful reflection among attendees.

What made the evening even more inspiring was the active participation of our younger students, who posed thoughtful and probing questions during the Q&A session, demonstrating their curiosity and growing passion for history.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Professor Reynolds for sharing his expertise and enthusiasm. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to our next *Historic-All* lecture in the spring. Don't miss the chance to be part of this enriching experience!

Ed Green – Head of History

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BIG COMMUNITY LITTER PICK 2024

Outreach within the community is a priority here at the Eco-Council, which is why we host our Big Community Litter Pick every November. This year was our third running, bringing more volunteers, more bags of litter collected and more success! A sum double that of last year was cleaned from the streets of Cambourne, totalling 60 bags. This would not be possible without our students, who made up half of the 105 attendees. A massive thanks and congratulations to all involved!

It is important to us as an Eco-Council to foster positive relationships within Cambourne. We aimed to do this also at the Eco-Fair hosted by South Cambs Council. Here, we exchanged ideas and experiences campaigning for the environment. Stalls ranged from schools within the Trust, to non-profit organisations driving environmental change. Through meeting similarly passionate individuals, we aspire to work together towards a greener future!

As the Eco-Council grows, we hope to see a growth in what we can do for the community, too. Look out for our Eco-Fest in the coming year!

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FOOD BANK

On Tuesday 10th December, 7R, along with Miss Reeves and Mr Young, went on a special trip to Cambourne to deliver lots of food donations collected by Year 7. These included

sweets, crackers, body wash, and more, kindly donated by pupils from all the Year 7 tutor groups.

Before setting off, Mrs Mayes came out of her office to congratulate 7R on their amazing effort in gathering and moving all the donations from the Year 7 office. After a quick group photo, the mini-bus was loaded up, Christmas songs were playing, and the team was on their way!

When they arrived at The Hub in Cambourne, the staff warmly welcomed them and explained



how the donations would be used to help local families. 7R had a fantastic time giving back to the community and were proud to know their efforts would make a difference to families in Cambridge and Cambourne this Christmas.

After dropping everything off, 7R returned to school on the mini-bus, feeling happy and ready to jump back into their lessons!



MUCH ADO ABOUT NUMBERS

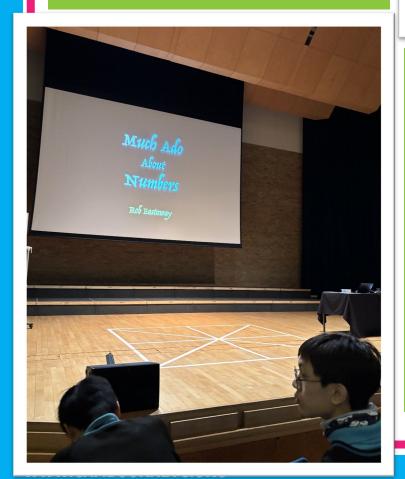
During our trip to West Road Concert Hall for the show 'Much Ado About Numbers' on 10th December, we had two sessions with the host, Mr Eastaway, to learn about how Shakespeare was related to mathematics. During one of the sessions, we used our knowledge in the social and historical background of the Elizabethan times to gain a deeper understanding of how Shakespeare's plays were linked to Maths. For example, we have done an interactive quiz throughout the whole show with questions like 'Which mathematical term has never appeared in any of the plays'. Also, Mr Eastaway demonstrated to games mentioned in Shakespeare's plays, one of which was 'Three Men's Morris' (somewhat similar to Tic-tac-toe). Through the demonstration, I quickly understood how it works and knew some of its tactics! Besides, we found out how planetary discoveries were linked to the number of 7, as well as the link to the days in a week!

In my opinion, a most memorable part of the show was the 'Magic show' from the Elizabethan times about a fake dice, also mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays. We figured out the trick behind it and it was a fascinating coincidence related with the nature of a fair die!

Louie (11C)

Abbie (11R)

It was a fascinating talk showing how Elizabethans viewed numbers. I learned that Shakespeare, despite not being a "mathematician", was remarkably interested in arithmetic and how it links to the real world. The talk was the perfect balance between informative and interactive, with an engaging quiz and a human version of Three Men's Morris (an early form of noughts and crosses). What I took away from it, ultimately, is that seven truly is the magic number!





Horace (11U)

The trip was very informative and fun. To be honest, I initially found the connection between Shakespeare and Maths a bit odd, but Mr Eastaway has proved to me that Shakespeare is indeed a mathematical person, or 'arithmetician' in his words. It was fascinating to see that Shakespeare had quite a lot of mathematical references in his plays yet not losing his poetic elegance! More generally, the talk gave me an insight into the history of maths. It wasn't obvious to me before that maths was far less developed and accessible to common people in medieval times, and I learned a lot about how maths was improving at the time. My favourite part about the talk was the game of Three Man's Morris. It is a clever, logical game and I would love to show it to my friends.

SIXTH FORM

As the end of our first term with Cambourne Sixth Form draws to a close, we have been delighted with how well the Sixth Form students have settled into their new routine and with their progression to date with their Year 12 education.

Students have initiated the formation of our own Sixth Form Football and Netball teams and have been attending clubs such as Aspirational Fridays and the History Society. On Wednesday afternoons, they have risen to the challenges brought by participating in our wide range of enrichment activities, such as Cooking for the Future, sporting activities including using our new gym suite, mentoring and oracy and debate. We have also successfully elected two co-Presidents and seven Vice Presidents of the Sixth Form Council, each with a different brief, ranging from wellbeing and fundraising to learning and diversity. The Council promotes the views of Sixth Formers and provides a vital link with main school student leaders.

We've had a wonderful last week of term celebrating the end of assessments and the festive season. We were delighted with the response to our request for donations for our Christmas charity, Jimmy's Homeless Shelter, with over 350 items donated in total. Two of our student council Vice Presidents, Ioanna and Arya, accompanied me to deliver the donations to Jimmy's in Cambridge.

Harry and Aashrita, Sixth Form Presidents

On Wednesday 18th December, the Sixth Form Council hosted a screening of 'Home Alone' in the Performance Hall. 125 students across all year groups attended the event, all enjoyed the film, popcorn and snacks! The Sixth Form Council raised almost £400 for the Sixth Form Fund, which will be put towards ongoing projects in the Sixth Form. Huge thanks to Mrs Goldsmith, Mrs Elwell, Mrs Lve and Ms Rose for their support of the event.

Dr Bell (Deputy Head of SF and Head of Music) led some of the Sixth Formers and staff who celebrated with carols and gingerbread on Wednesday 18th December. Thank you to Horace (11U), whose stunning accompaniment on piano made the event really festive and very special indeed.

Frankie Rose - Head of Sixth Form



JOIN US

There is still time to apply for your place at CamSF starting September 2025. The deadline for your application to reach us is Tuesday 14th January.

CamSF is a member of the Cambridge Area Partnership (CAP). Students who attend CAP schools should use MyChoice16 to make an application online (<u>mychoice16.co.uk</u>), using the log in details you school has provided to you.

Students not currently attending a CAP school, for example those to the West of Cambourne or internationally, should also use the online application system at <u>mychoice16.co.uk</u>, creating an 'out of area' application. Please ensure your school completes your reference, or we will be unable to proceed with your application.

If you have any questions about how to apply please contact info@cambournevc.org

If you've missed the application deadline, but are interested in attending Cambourne Sixth Form please do get in touch with us on the above address and we will do our best to accommodate your application.

If you've applied but are yet to visit us, please contact us on the above address to arrange a tour and to meet our team.

More information about Cambourne Sixth Form can be found on our website.

What do our Year 12 students say?

? CAMBOURNE SIXTH FORM

98% of students agree that the Sixth Form Team is committed to promoting their welfare

98% of students agree that lessons are enjoyable, varied and appropriately challenging

95% of students agree that their tutor is highly supportive and gives valuable guidance

100% of sixth formers would recommend CamSF to a Year 11 student considering their Post-16 options.



