



WEEKLY BULLETIN | Friday 6th October

The Week Ahead

Weekly Menu	Please CLICK HERE to see our current Menu
Extra-Curricular Clubs	Please CLICK HERE to see our current programme
Sports Clubs and Fixtures	Please CLICK HERE to see our current programme
Vacancies	Please CLICK HERE to see a list of our current Vacancies

Key Dates

Monday 9th October	Trip: Animal Care visit to Monarch Farm (Group C) 11am - 3pm
Tuesday 17th - Wednesday 18th October	Curriculum Extension Days (off timetable for all pupils)
Wednesday 18th October	Spanish Exchange Information Evening (6pm)
Saturday 21st - Saturday 28th October	MFL Trip to Granada, Spain
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October	HALF TERM



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less
absence per year
97% or above
VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET

Between
7 and 19 days
absence per year
90% - 96%
BELOW
EXPECTATIONS

More
than 19 days
absence per year
Under 90%
POOR
ATTENDANCE

Reporting your Child's Absence from School:

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school you have a legal requirement to inform the school **on each day of absence**. If you are reporting your child's absence from school today, please can you email cam-absence@cambournevc.org by **8:30am every day of the absence** and leave a message clearly stating the reason for absence and the child's full name and tutor group. If you fail to inform the school, we are legally required to make contact with you, to ensure the child's safety. Even if they have been absence on the previous day we cannot assume they are still at home poorly.

Appointments:

If your child misses registration for a medical or dental appointment, this is counted as an authorised absence. Please give advance notice, ideally 2 school days, by cam-absence@cambournevc.org with the dates and times the pupil is expected to be out of school and preferably with a copy of the appointment card/notification so that the absence can be authorised. As much as possible, pupils should be in school prior to/ after the appointment and out of school for as little time as possible.

Prior notification ensures the Year team and Reception staff are aware of your child arriving late / leaving early and the necessary arrangements can be put in place. If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, they should inform their teacher that they need to be excused early and make their own way down to Reception. The Reception staff will try to help locate children for appointments, but we do not always have someone available to do a collection from lessons.

Planned Absence Request:

If you plan to take your child out of school for any other reason, a **Planned Absence Request Form** must be completed and returned to the school **10 days prior** to the absence for authorisation. Please email any completed forms to cam-absence@cambournevc.org or hand into our reception. The form can be found on our [website](#), or is available from our reception.

Please note that due to Changes to Section 444 of The Education Act 1996 brought into effect in September 2013, the Principal cannot authorise any term time leave unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

All pupils leaving early for appointments need to be collected by a parent to sign them out through our main Reception.

The Cam Academy Trust Recruitment Roadshow!

The Trust is holding a recruitment roadshow next month at four schools in the Trust – including at Cambourne Village College on Wednesday 11th October.

Scan the QR code below or check out: [Vacancies - The Cam Academy Trust \(catrust.co.uk\)](http://www.catrust.co.uk)



RECRUITMENT ROADSHOW

Monday 9 October – Thursday 12 October 2023 2pm – 5pm

Are you thinking about a new career in education?

If so, then look no further. We are actively looking to recruit new staff for a number of support staff roles across the Trust. Why not come along, meet our teams, and explore the available opportunities in our schools.

Our roadshow will take place at the following venues from 2pm to 5pm:

Monday 9 October 2023
Melbourn Village College, SG8 6EF
Tuesday 10 October 2023
St Peter's Huntingdon, PE29 7DD
Wednesday 11 October 2023
Cambourne Village College, CB23 6FR
Thursday 12 October 2023
Gamlingay Village Primary, SG19 3HD



Please register your interest using the QR code below

For information about our current vacancies please navigate to:
www.catrust.co.uk



Current Vacancies at Cambourne Village College:

Teacher of PE & 2nd in Department: Closing date 9th October 2023

Head of PE: Closing date 9th October 2023

Cover Supervisor: Closing date 31st October 2023

For more information and how to apply, please click on the link



Vacancies



Just a friendly reminder...

Curriculum Extension Days

Tuesday 17th and Wednesday
18th October 2023

We are looking forward to our two **curriculum extension days** on Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th October and hope your children are too.

At Cambourne Village College we believe all pupils should benefit from enrichment beyond the 'normal' classroom curriculum, and therefore we have scheduled two curriculum extension days (for whole year groups for Years 7-10) which are carefully planned to inspire and stretch pupils, as well as add to what they are learning in class.

Year 7 are visiting Colchester Zoo with the Science department and experiencing Maths workshop-style activities.

Year 8 are undertaking a Geography field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze and participating in an foreign language film making project.

Year 9 are orienteering and problem-solving in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and using their design knowledge to participate in a challenge set by the Design & Technology department.

Year 10 will have the opportunity to visit different places of worship in Peterborough and listen to external speakers in school.

To enable your child to participate fully in both days we require your consent; to run these two days we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £24. If you do not consent to them participating in the off-site activity please email Mrs Pearce at VPearce@CambourneVC.org.

Students are expected in school if we do not have consent for them to participate in the off-site activity. If your child will not be in school please could you complete a Planned Absent Request Form.



Parking reminders:

Please continue to use the school car park and **not Swansley Lane** if you have to drop off or pick up your child from school. **Do** continue to encourage your child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever they can.

Also, please do not park in the disabled parking spaces within the College car park, unless you are a Blue Badge holder. We have a number of parents who rely on these spaces, so please do be mindful of where you park up.

Thank you.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Please see below for an **early evening careers 'expo' event on 1 November** for students in year's 9-11 and their parents. The focus is on building the future and is a great opportunity for young people to discover what jobs are available in planning and the built environment. Click on the poster below for more information.



CDF, together with the Royal Geographical Society, brings you

BUILD THE FUTURE

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A CAREER IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1 NOVEMBER 2023

4:00 – 7:30 PM

Fancy designing innovative urban spaces? Want to be a part of shaping a sustainable future? Then come along to our Careers Fair to discover the fantastic opportunities provided by studying Geography and pursuing a career in Planning and the Built Environment. Highlights include:

- Talks from young planning professionals, surveyors and developers
- Expo with stalls from leading companies in the sector
- Networking and work experience opportunities.



THE LEYS SCHOOL, THE FEN CAUSEWAY, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 7AD

Find out more and register via the eventbrite link, found [here](#)

Admission by ticket only



www.camdevforum.com
info@camdevforum.com

CDF



LOST PROPERTY

If your child has lost an item of property, please ask them to go to their year team offices in the first instance.

Other lost property is kept at reception—the below will only be kept until October half term, so please identify any items before that time, otherwise they WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY.

Please also label all your child's property. The right side of the photo below is all un-named lost property!

→ Lost property that was NOT named



← Lost property that was named

Lost Property Items:





UN-NAMED LOST PROPERTY!



Children in work / employment: A reminder for parents and carers

Guidance surrounding Child Employment

All young people under the 'compulsory school age' and looking for a part-time job will need to apply for a work permit from Cambridgeshire County Council (The law states that a child is of compulsory school age up to the last Friday in June in the academic year in which they turn 16). This has to be signed off by parents/carers, employers and the school.

There are restrictions on what hours a young person can work, dependant on their age:

Hours Children Are Allowed To Work

- a maximum of 12 hours in any week during term time
- only between 7am and 7pm
- only 2 hours in a school day
- only 1 hour before school
- only 2 hours on a Sunday
- they must have 2 consecutive weeks free from work during the year
- they must have a rest break of 1 hour for every 4 hours worked

At 13 and 14 years

Saturdays

- 5 hours between 7am and 7pm.

School Holidays • Maximum of 5 hours a day • Maximum of 25 hours a week.

At 15 and 16 years

Saturdays

- 8 hours between 7am and 7pm.

School Holidays • Maximum of 8 hours a day • Maximum of 35 hours a week

Link to Cambridgeshire County Council information: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-your-rights-and-responsibilities/children-in-work-entertainment-and-chaperones>





COVID-19 symptoms and what to do - a reminder.

COVID-19 symptoms can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you or your child have symptoms and either:

- have a high temperature
- do not feel well enough to go to work, school, childcare, or do your normal activities

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or mild cough, and they feel well enough, they can go to school or childcare.

What to do if you have tested positive

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms.

But if you or your child have tested positive for COVID-19:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day the test was taken if you or your child are under 18 years old – children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults
- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days after the day you took your test if you are 18 years old or over
- avoid meeting people who are more likely to get seriously ill from viruses, such as people with a weakened immune system, for 10 days after the day you took your test

PE Department Extra-curricular Clubs – September 2023

MONDAY 3-4pm

KS3 rugby – Field
KS4 basketball – Sports hall
Girls' football – Astro
Table tennis – Dining hall
Rowing and fitness – Gym

TUESDAY 3-4pm

Dance – Drama studio
KS3 basketball – Sports hall
KS4 rugby – Field
Girls rugby – Field
Netball – Hard courts
Football training – Astro

WEDNESDAY 3-4pm

FIXTURES

BTEC Catch up – IT04
Wellbeing Wednesday – PE (sports leaders)

THURSDAY 3-4pm

Sports Leaders Opportunities – Check the Sports Leaders Board
Girls active – Sports hall (sports leaders)

FRIDAY 3-4pm

Badminton – Sports hall
Champions League football games – Astro
Everyone's invited! – PE (sports leaders)

Boys – meet at the back doors to the **orange** changing rooms

Girls – meet at the back doors to the **green** changing rooms



Music Clubs

All our music clubs are going to be starting up again next week – so if your child plays an instrument, or enjoys singing, then please encourage them to come along.

The following clubs will be running this term.

- Monday 3 – 4pm: CamVC Band – All instrumentalists welcome (Years 7 – 11)
- Tuesday 3- 4pm: Junior Singers (Years 7 – 9) – Christmas mini-production *tba*
- Tuesday 3 – 4pm: Rock Bands (Years 9 – 11)
- Thursday 3 – 5pm: School Production (Years 7 – 11)
- Friday 3 – 4pm: Senior Choir (Years 9 – 11)

Pupils are very welcome to come along and try any club they are interested in joining.

Instrumental & Singing Lessons

These will be starting next week, and everyone signed up for lessons will receive an email confirming the day and time of their first lesson.

If your child is interested in doing Instrumental or Singing lessons, there are still many places available. You can sign them up for lessons using the online form, found here:

[Instrument lessons - Cambourne Village College \(cambournevc.org\)](http://cambournevc.org)

Headphones for KS3 Music lessons (all pupils)

We have enjoyed welcoming Year 7s, and welcoming back Year 8s & 9s to the Music Block this week. As part of their weekly music lessons, they will be continuing to develop their keyboard skills.

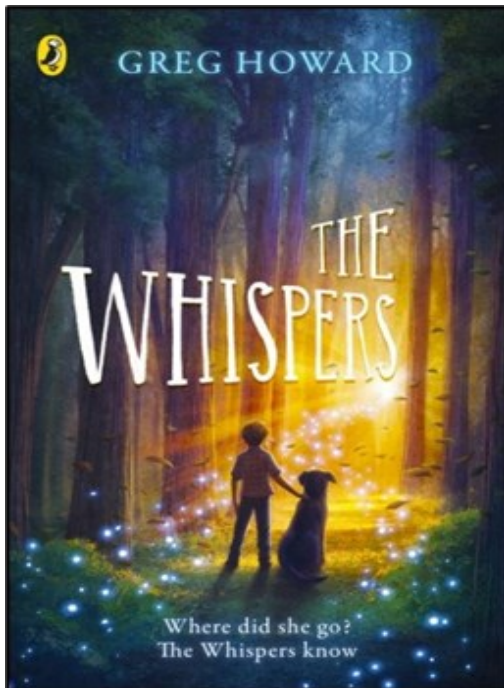
To enable pupils to do this with a minimum of distraction we ask all pupils to bring with them to lessons a pair of headphones or earphones that they can use with the keyboards.

We have reminded pupils of this expectation this week in lessons.

These headphones / earphones can be bought for as little £2-£3 from local shops like Morrisons, Home Bargains, or online from places like Amazon. We do not expect (and would strongly discourage) pupils from bringing expensive or bulky headphones with them.

We would expect that it might take pupils between 1 – 2 weeks to source some earphones / headphones, but after that it would be useful if they were ready to use them in lessons. If for any reason it is not possible for your child to bring some earphones to the lesson, please email (or ask them to email) their class teacher. In cases of financial constraints we will be able to provide headphones for pupils to borrow, if arranged in advance.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



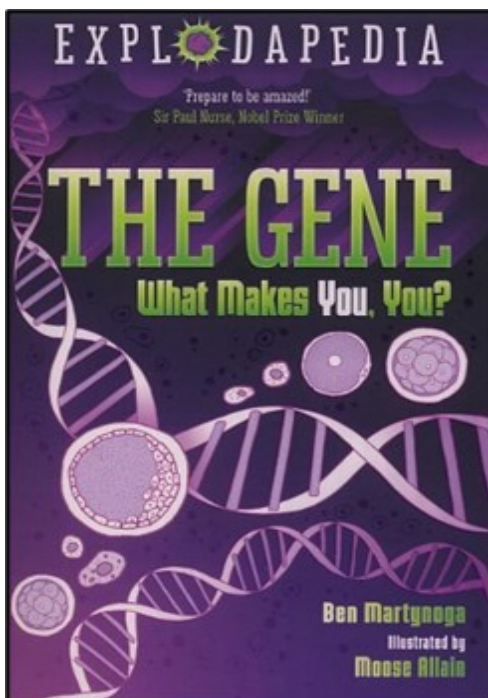
The whisperers

by Greg Howard

Before she disappeared, Riley's mother used to tell him stories about the Whispers, mysterious creatures with the power to grant wishes. Riley wishes for lots of things. He wishes his secret crush Dylan liked him back. He wishes the local detective would stop asking awkward questions. But most of all he wishes his mother would come home.

Four months later, the police are no closer to finding out the truth - and Riley decides to take matters into his own hands, venturing into the woods with his dog Tucker and his best friend Gary to find the Whispers, and the truth.

(Available from the School Library)



The gene: what makes you, you?

by Ben Martynoga and illustrated by Moose Allain

The definitive guide to what makes you, you! The Gene clearly and accessibly explains the codes that all life uses to make more of their species and how mutations make every single one of us individual and unique!

Includes chapters: So that's what a gene looks like; Messing around with genes and There's no such thing as normal. There's a lot of information but the text is chatty and informative, and it imparts a lot of facts without getting bogged down. A good introduction to the subject.

(Available from the School Library)

ARTICLES

Students have access to a Teams channel of articles that school staff have chosen as being particularly interesting.

If your child is looking for something to read, there is a continually-updated selection – they'll fit nicely into the reading time each day, and offer something current to learn more about.

Find it here: [Recommended Articles](#)

If your child has **lost an item of uniform**, please ask them to check with their **Year team office** in the first instance, or please email thecollege@cambournevc.org so that we can arrange for your child to check our unnamed items.

If your child needs a coat/jacket and would like to look through our unnamed items to find something suitable for them, please ask them to go to their Year team office or email the College.

LOST
PROPERTY

SecondHandUniform

We have a number of good quality second hand uniforms available for purchase at a discounted rate. Please complete the form: [Second-Hand Uniform Request](#) and enter details of uniform items needed.

Our Reception is open every weeknight evening in term time between 6pm and 8pm so there is an opportunity to organise a visit to the school to 'see before you buy' at hours to suit you. Please email our evening receptionist **Nikki Johnston** to organise a time slot:

NJohnston@cambournevc.org



Families who find it difficult to afford school uniform at any time should contact their Year team (details below), in complete confidence, so that a way forward can be found.

Year 7 - Abby Sterling-Clarke cam-year7@cambournevc.org

Year 8 - Sam Tomlinson cam-year8@cambournevc.org

Year 9 - Lorraine Lye cam-year9@cambournevc.org

Year 10 - Lou Boyd cam-year10@cambournevc.org

Year 11 - Mel Stanford cam-year11@cambournevc.org

Our up-to-date uniform policy and suppliers can be found on the [school website](#).

Online Safety Tips

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

Please see below some links to helpful ideas and materials around keeping children safe online:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/home-learning-hub/>



COMBINED MINDS APP

Combined Minds is an app for parents and carers developed for teenage mental health charity Stem4 by Clinical Psychologists. The app aims to help families and friends support young people with their mental health.

Combined Minds use a 'strength based approach' which focuses on the positive attributes of the person and builds on resourcefulness and resilience. The app helps families to find ways to provide the right environment to help individuals they support affect their own change.

The app includes providing further information on certain needs such as anxiety and digital addiction as well as offering ways of accessing further help and useful suggestions of 'things you can do in the moment' to help support the young person.

More information can be found through the Combined Minds website at <https://combinedminds.co.uk/>

TEAMS | ONENOTE

Microsoft Teams, Teams assignments, and OneNote are becoming increasingly more central to the way we are providing and receiving work. Below are some resources to help you support your children with these services.

Click here for a guide to handing in Teams Assignments:

https://catrustorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CambourneVCPublic/EckeB-WkJX1NoaAciPBjAScBG_cU4zuSmd0A0WEUDyO-Fw?e=OgjANx

[Click here](#) for a YouTube playlist with short tutorial videos (if you prefer, your child can access the same videos through their school account [here](#))





Safeguarding

At Cambourne Village College we work hard to make sure that we build up positive relationships with the pupils in our care and we hope that we can support families in safeguarding your children.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

What is safeguarding?

- Protecting children
- Preventing harm to a child

This includes a variety of different aspects. We are here to help your child make good choices but also support them if they make a mistake.

We work with individual students, their families and external agencies.

What do we do at CamVC to safeguard your child?

- **Staff are vigilant** – staff are very good at noticing small changes and listening to the concerns of those in our care. Tutors are well placed in this process, however all staff play an active role in this.
- **Designated Team** – we have a specific team of people working each day to address concerns raised by staff, pupils, parents and external agencies. This team works to make sure concerns are addressed and the appropriate support is advised
- **Pupil Voice** - we encourage pupils to speak to us or raise their concerns via the 'Report a Concern' button on their iPad

How can we help you?

If you have any concerns about your child or you would like any support, please contact us via cam-safeguarding@cambournevc.org



Students IT Support

If your child needs a password reset, for example to their email, Show My Homework or any of the platforms we use at the College, or if they have any issues with their iPads, please email cam-support@cambournevc.org.

We will aim to respond to any enquiry within 48 hours.

Communication with the School

How can I contact my child's Year Team?



Please email cam-year7@cambournevc.org | PSA Abby Stirling-Clarke

Please email cam-year8@cambournevc.org | PSA Sam Tomlinson

Please email cam-year9@cambournevc.org | PSA Lorraine Lye

Please email cam-year10@cambournevc.org | PSA Lou Boyd

Please email cam-year11@cambournevc.org | PSA Mel Stanford



We will aim to respond to any enquiry within 48 hours.

There are a variety of ways in which we will contact you, including by telephone, by letter, by email, in our newsletters and via our website. There are several ways in which you can contact us, and these include:



By email to thecollege@cambournevc.org



By calling Reception for all general enquiries on 01954 284 000



By writing to Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, Cambourne CB23 6FR



Via the 'contact us' page of our school website www.cambournevc.org

We aim to respond to any enquiry within 48 hours.