

IMPROVED LIFE CHANCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENHANCED COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE CHARITABLE TRUST

Executive Summary

Cambourne Village College is no ordinary school. In just seven years, since opening in 2013, we have gained an Ofsted Outstanding rating along with designation as both a Leading Edge and Teaching School. Even with the challenges of rapid growth, an increasingly diverse student intake and growing numbers of students with special educational needs, our pupils are flourishing.

We also sit at the heart of one of the fastest growing communities in the UK and from the outset our 'Village College' remit has been central to our ethos. We support an active adult education programme and more than 30 community groups and organisations make use of the school's facilities: the school is bursting at the seams, virtually all year round. This unusual commitment to our local community was a key factor in our winning a prestigious Silver award in the 'Making a Difference' category of the Pearson School of the Year competition 2018.

Not content simply to be a great school, we have two core ambitions:

- To equip our pupils and other young people with the confidence, knowledge and skills they will need to thrive, for life.

- To support and strengthen the cohesion, inclusivity, health and wellbeing of the wider Cambourne community.

Like all Cambridgeshire state schools, Cambourne Village College has seen severe funding cuts in real terms since 2010: this academic year our per-capita pupil funding is just £5,043. Despite these funding constraints and demand for community provision that outstrips our capacity to deliver it, we are already on the way to achieving our core ambitions. However, we know we can do more.

One of the reasons for our success has been an emphasis on providing arts, music and cultural activity at the highest level. There is mounting evidence¹ of the impact of arts and culture on the academic achievement, confidence, motivation and life-and-coping-skills of young people, and of its impact on the health, wealth and wellbeing of communities. The Cambourne community has no arts-related venue and extremely limited access to cultural and leisure activity.

Our goal is to build on our experience of successfully delivering outstanding arts and culture and to transform opportunities for our students and our wider community to see, experience and take part in arts, music and cultural activity of the highest possible quality. To achieve this, we aim to develop a new arts and performance space and secure funding for the appointment of a dedicated Arts Development professional for Cambourne. We cannot achieve this alone and are looking for partners and supporters who share our vision for our young people and our community. With your help we can succeed.

Our project will provide a wonderful new arts venue and will support our work with young people in music and drama, as well as being a community resource. While Cambourne is not an area of deprivation, 31% of our catchment dwellings are social housing and we see ever-increasing levels of need in our incoming cohorts: 61% of our current Year 8 pupils arrived with reading ages below chronological age; we have more than 80 registered Young Carers and the proportion of pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities has reached 18% across the whole school. Cambridgeshire has also historically been one of the lowest-funded counties per pupil in the whole of England.

“It is like we have a different child; one who wants to go to school and who feels that learning can be a happy experience.”

Parent, following our Christmas Concert

Context

South Cambridgeshire is an area of rapid population growth. Established in the year 2000, Cambourne comprises 4000 homes. The building of an additional 2400 houses is taking place, and a planning application for a further development of 3500 homes immediately adjacent to Cambourne is under approval. Whilst sporting and leisure amenities are built into these new planning applications, there is no provision for any cultural activity or development. Cambourne itself is an active community and is well served by a forward-thinking town council, yet it has minimal facilities beyond functional amenities, the pub, church and sports centre. There is no venue for arts-related activities. Planning to provide an arts venue for Cambourne, as part of extensive work on a cultural strategy by the South Cambridgeshire District Council in 2012, was abandoned due to budget cuts, as was funding for the position of Arts Development Manager for the area in 2015. Local access and exposure to cultural events, for those unable to access the cultural scene of Cambridge, is almost non-existent.

¹ e.g. https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/The_value_of_arts_and_culture_to_people_and_society_an_evidence_review.pdf, or <https://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/publications/social-mobility-and-skills-gap>

The School

Cambourne Village College opened in 2013 with just 132 pupils. The College has expanded rapidly to its current roll of 1180 pupils and despite serious funding challenges, has been highly successful, gaining an Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating and designation as both a Leading Edge and Teaching School, being further invited to become a partner school for teacher training with the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education in 2019. The College has worked with Cambridgeshire County Council to extend to 9 forms of entry from 2019 and is now engaged on a further project with CCC to expand to 11 forms of entry - a roll of 1650 pupils - and a 350-place sixth form on site from 2023. This ongoing development represents a significant vote of confidence from the Local Authority.

From the outset, the College has sought to place itself at the heart of the community and is usually open every evening and on both days at weekends to support an active adult education programme and community access. In normal times, more than 30 community groups and organisations make regular use, out of hours, of the school's facilities. This ambition to live up to our 'Village College' remit was a key factor in our winning a prestigious Silver Award in the 'Making a Difference' category of the Pearson School of the Year competition 2018, a particularly fine achievement for a school only five years old. Endorsements of our work from parents and community groups can be found in the Appendix.

Arts Education



Central to our ethos is the vision of developing excellence in music and the performing arts for Cambourne and beyond, bringing an enriched cultural dimension to the lives of our pupils and to the growing local community. The College has always resisted the state school trend to cut curricular access to creative subjects in response to funding shortages. All our pupils have specialist-taught Art, Music and Drama lessons throughout Years 7, 8 & 9, and take-up of these subjects at GCSE is strong, again bucking the national trend. Learning in these areas is enhanced with an extensive extra-curricular offer including a range of visits, for example, the combined Music and German exchange with our partner school in Bad Hersfeld and the annual Art, Photography & History study visit to Berlin.

Take-up of musical instrument lessons is high, with 186 pupils currently having lessons; those designated 'Disadvantaged' have individual music lessons provided free of charge or at subsidised rates. Currently curtailed by Covid -19 restrictions, more than 120 pupils participated in music-related clubs over 2019/20. Music lessons are creative and active; all pupils sing and learn to play the keyboard and ukulele, and all have opportunities to perform. The Music Department is usually thronged with pupils before and after school, and at breaktimes.

Opportunities for All



Extended Music Department built 2017: Music Recital Room; music teaching room; 8 practice rooms

Our Music Department offers the Cambourne Music School to our catchment primary schools, usually providing instrumental teaching, and ensemble and choral activities on three evenings after school to between 60 and 80 primary pupils each week, compensating for the absence of peripatetic music teaching in those schools. A generous donation from the local free newspaper in our opening year funded our first grand piano.

The school orchestra now boasts more than 50 members, from an initial 12 instrumentalists in 2013 (including the recorder!) with the range of instruments expanding year on year, and the jazz band, an exciting new addition, performing a range of traditional and modern pieces. Musical theatre has become a strong tradition in the school: following previous successful productions of the established musicals *Oliver!*, *Grease* and *We Will Rock You*, inspiring musical adaptations of *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol* have been performed over the past years, written and choreographed by the College Music and Drama departments. *Guys & Dolls* was our highly successful 2020 production.

Many theatre visits and activities support the Drama curriculum; two Year 8 pupils won their class in the most recent regional final of the English-Speaking Union Performing Shakespeare Competition (more commonly the domain of the independent school sector), going on to perform in the West End finals and being pronounced 'excellent ambassadors of the school' by the judges.

Proposal - Our Project

Our determination to provide cultural enrichment to the lives of our pupils extends to our local community. From the outset, the College collaborated with the Cambourne Parish Council to use S106 funding (the property developers' mandatory contribution to fund local amenities) to equip the small school dining hall with professional-quality sound and lighting systems. These facilities are well used by the school and by local stage and dance groups to host small-scale performances. However, as part of the school's expansion, a much more ambitious, collaborative project to build a professional-quality performance venue on the school site was conceived, and the first phase of construction completed in 2017.

This building was made possible with the support of both Cambourne Parish (now Town) and Cambridgeshire County Councils. State-funded schools cannot borrow money; however, Cambourne Parish Council designated a further £400,000 of future S106 funding to enable the construction of Phase 1 of the project, and this was forward-funded by Cambridgeshire County Council. As yet a very basic space, the new hall

nevertheless contains the acoustic panelling and infrastructure to support the installation of high- quality performance facilities. Support from the Cam Academy Trust and generous grants of £100,000 from the Wolfson Foundation, £15,000 from Trinity College Cambridge and a pledge of £30,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation have launched our fund raising.



Current Performance Hall awaiting fit-out (update picture)

Our Vision

Once equipped, the performance space will provide a cultural base for Cambourne and the surrounding area, enhancing the College's creative and performing arts offer through provision of additional specialist teaching space and high-quality performance facilities for hire by professional and local groups. The facility will allow us to offer larger-scale performances to benefit our catchment primary schools, with whom we work closely, and enable collaborative ventures with our partner schools within the Cam Academy Trust. The impact on all our students' aspirations, confidence and skills development will be significant and the number of local people involved in arts-related activity will increase.

The most recent Cambourne Parish Plan (2017) highlights dissatisfaction with entertainment and leisure activity, with nearly 70% of community contributors either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with evening and weekend provision. The consultation summary reports: *'The general feeling was that there are very limited options and people have to leave Cambourne to find things to do both during the week and the weekend. The most popular requests were for a cinema, bowling alley, theatre, cultural and music events.'* Just under half of the 2,217 responses received (representing 56% of all households) selected *Cinema* under the *'Additional Social Facilities Wanted'* section of the survey.

With our new arts and performance space, Cambourne Village College can begin to address these needs, working with the Town Council to provide a venue for local cinema on the model of the highly successful Saffron Screen venture, based at Saffron Walden County High School. In addition, we aim to recreate the role of the Arts Development Officer for Cambourne, with the remit of coordinating cultural arts events for the community, including the satellite-streaming of professional theatre, opera and dance performances. Once established, the programme will be self-sustaining, funded in large part by popular cinema revenue.



What it will take to achieve these ambitions

The project to equip the new hall has been sub-divided into three phases: details on next page. The Cam Academy Trust has sponsored Phase 2, the tiered seating and mezzanine director's gallery, to be installed later this academic year. We now seek to raise funds for Phase 3 of the project, the performance area, for completion at the same time.

The Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust was established to accomplish this project and we are seeking sponsors and supporters who share our vision of enhancing the cultural lives of our pupils and of our community.

What your donation would achieve

Your support would enable us to:

- Equip our pupils and other young people with the confidence, knowledge and skills they will need to thrive, for life.
- Support and strengthen the cohesion, inclusivity, health and wellbeing of the wider Cambourne community.

You will be making it possible for an outstanding local comprehensive school to provide cultural and creative opportunities for its pupils at a time when the curriculum for the arts is under intense pressure, giving our young people an excellent, rounded education that prepares them for lifelong success. And you will be helping a young, diverse and rapidly expanding community to come together, build bridges and reduce isolation through superb new cultural provision. Your gift will be well used.

Budget and Fund-Raising Plan

In consultation with the Independent Cinema Office and after procuring a range of specialist supplier quotations, the Trustees costed the project and identified potential funders:

Project Budget – Total Costs

Expenditure Item	Amount	Status
Phase 1 Construction of hall and infrastructure for fittings	£400,000	Achieved
Phase 2 Tiered seating system, mezzanine tech gallery, additional storage.	£130,000	Achieved. Installation

		summer 2021.
Phase 3 Infrastructure, facility panels, rigging, power, IT functions enabling school level-performances and flexible drama teaching space. (Lighting and sound systems adapted from existing equipment.)	£200,000	Anticipated completion September 2021
Phase 4 Technical equipment: professional grade lighting, audio and cinema fit-out for college and external use.	£100,000	Anticipated completion September 2022
One year's salary for part-time Culture Development Officer, including on-costs* include	£16,000	From September 2022
Total Cost of project	£ 846,000	

Ongoing Project Costs: Income / Fundraising Plan

Phase 3

Source of Income	Anticipated/target income	Confirmed income to date	Notes
Wolfson Foundation		£100,000	Grant confirmed December 2019
Trinity College		£15,000	Grant confirmed March 2020
Garfield Weston Foundation		£30,000	Pledged September 2020
St John's College	£15,000		Application pending
Cambourne Village College contribution		£40,000	Confirmed: infrastructure spend from 2019 extension
Subtotal of confirmed income		£185,000	
Subtotal of anticipated income	£15,000		

Total Phase 3 target income	£ 200,000
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Phase 4

Source of Income	Target income	Confirmed income to date	Notes
The Morrisons' Foundation	£25,000		Application pending – awaiting one year of Charitable Trust accounts
Corporate donations	£40,000		Approaches to local businesses
Community Events	£12,000		In collaboration with the Town Council

Local Charitable Trusts	£20,000		Including Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Individual Gifts	£11,000		Local individuals and benefactors of arts targeted via crowdfunding
Town Council sponsorship of first year salary for shared Arts / Community Officer £16,000	£8,000		To be requested in keeping with precedent for similar shared arrangement
Subtotal of Anticipated income	£116,000		

Phase 4 Target income: £116,000	Estimated completion of Phase 4: September 2022
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Estimated completion of all phases: £846,000	September 2022
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A detailed revenue plan showing the viability of the community cinema is provided in Appendix 2.

Charitable Trust Details: Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust, Registered Charity Number 1186156

Trustees

Mrs Claire Coates, Cambourne Village College Principal
 Dr Steve Pleasance, Trustee
 Mrs Sally Porter, Trust Treasurer
 Mrs Lucinda Williams, Trustee

Cambourne Village College

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Macbeth the Musical - 2019

Appendix 1: Cinema Viability / Sustainability Plan

Service	Organisation	Annual cost	Comment	% Cost per ticket - 8000 sold 2 performances on 2 days 40 weekends 50 per performance	Cost per ticket - 9600 sold 2 performances on 2 days 40 weekends 60 per performance
Part time manager/staff to oversee events/ film schedules, marketing, volunteers, ticket sales	Cambourne VC	£16,000	Including on-costs	2.00	1.66
Consumer survey - admin time and students	Cambourne VC		Students and Volunteers	0	0
Film guidance and recommendations	Independent Cinema Office	£5,000		0.62	0.52
Distributors – contracted	More 2 Screen	£500	Other choices available	0.06	0.052
Fliers distributed via local newspaper	Printed in house	£360	Advert revenue possible	0.4	0.03
Ticketing Software	The Vista Group	£900		0.11	0.09
Ticket sale	The Vista Group			0.27	0.27
Warranty Cost - projector	Supplier tbc	£2000		0.25	0.2
Total outgoings		£24,760		3.22	2.72
Ticketing					
Ticket prices		Distributor's fee	Income	Based on 8000 ticket sales	Based on 9600 ticket sales
Adults	8.40	2.94	5.46	43,680.00	52,416.00
Concessions	7.80	2.73	5.07	40,560.00	48,672.00
16-30 yr old	5.50	1.92	3.58	28,640.00	34,368.00

Calculations are based on either 50 or 60 tickets sold per performance - two performances per day each weekend over 40 weekends. Volunteer staffing from community and older school pupils as part of Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, until sufficient ticket sales established,
Additional revenue expected via refreshment sales and programme advertising revenue.

Appendix 2: Comments and Endorsements from Supporters

Education Providers

Royal Shakespeare Company

I led a workshop at Cambourne College as part of our Romeo and Juliet tour. The students were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the two hours and clearly wanted to know about the play and the work the RSC do more. We worked in the drama studio; this was a great space for the 30 or so students I worked with. The college is clearly committed to enhancing their students' cultural experiences, and another space would only increase these efforts.

Sophie Hobson Education Programme Developer

Royal Shakespeare Company Waterside | Stratford-upon-Avon | CV37 6BB

T 01789 272 544 | 07767 243 608 | [@RSC_Education](https://www.rsc.org.uk/education)

UCL Institute of Education

I just wanted to follow up yesterday with a formal and heartfelt thanks.

It was a pleasure to have the students of Cambourne at the performance, and the questions they asked the performers at the end showed some really thoughtful responses to the play.

The staff and student reflections in the questionnaires are really helpful. The maturity with which your students approached their feedback was quite extraordinary.

We are so grateful that you were able to organise this experience for them at such short notice, and I do hope they got a lot from the afternoon.

Hope we will see you on another tour soon!

With best wishes,

David Rich, Senior Teaching Fellow, History

National Education Co-ordinator

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

BATTLEFIELD TOURS PROGRAMME

The national education programme for the FWW Centenary

Community Users

Festival Players, Cambridge

'As a community musical theatre group in the Cambridge area, our choices for high-quality performance spaces are very limited. Festival Players has performed its touring concert of songs from musicals at Cambourne Village College many times over the years, as we have always found the school to be welcoming and accommodating to our needs. The addition of a purpose-built performance space will only make the venue more attractive for groups like us, as well as ensuring audiences are given the best possible experience in terms of comfort, acoustics, lighting and more. It would also provide us with an opportunity to reach a local audience in a community that currently does not have a large-scale performance space.'

Stagecoach Performing Arts Cambridge

We have been renting Cambourne Village College for the last five years and are made to feel incredibly welcome and as though we are part of the community of the school. We believe the opportunity to give students at Stagecoach a fully equipped performance space at Cambourne Village College would be of huge value to them, and massively further their performing Arts Education. It would also give their families a chance to experience live theatre which is something greatly missing from our community. The experience of children and young people getting up on stage under the lights is so empowering, enabling them to enter another world and create characters that are removed from their everyday experience. This boosts their confidence, their self-esteem improving their problem-solving skills and teamwork and

showing them that they are able to work together to create a professional production. They take this back into their school lives and carry it with them as adults, giving them invaluable life skills.

Angharad Walter, Principal Stagecoach, Cambridge

Parents

Following the Christmas Concert 2018

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for him this term. Watching him at the Christmas concert was fabulous and sharing in his own pride in his achievements has made us incredibly thankful that he is at such a good school."

Following International Talent Evening (when classes of pupils perform songs in Spanish, and individual pupils give performances in languages other than English)

"Thank you so much for the Year 7 event last night. It was just fantastic! The Spanish teachers and tech support did a great job."

"Having come from an international school, we have been very nervous about the transition to English Education. Last night was lovely, to see internationalism being embraced and celebrated. I also wanted to say how impressed we have been with Cambourne VC. Our son has settled in so well..."

In endorsing our nomination for the Pearson Award, parents of two pupils in Years 10 and 11

"And on the extra-curricular opportunities we have been hugely impressed. There is no question that the range of visits, international exchanges, sports clubs and trips, author and other visits to the school, Maths Challenges and of course Duke of Edinburgh Award type activities has increased their confidence and independence, and (really importantly) helped to broaden their horizons and perspective."

"It has been clear throughout that the School cares about bringing out the best in its pupils and has done everything possible in preparing them to flourish, with confidence, high aspiration, and a strong community ethos."

Parent wishing to endorse the Arts and Culture Project

'Our daughters, Grace and Olivia, have benefited hugely from extra-curricular arts provision at Cambourne Village College during their time there. Their participation in musicals, concerts and plays has provided them with opportunities to develop their talents, forge friendships and build confidence in a way that only involvement in the arts can. To be able to do that in a dedicated, fully-equipped performance hall would only enhance their experience and enjoyment.'

Marselene Welsh (parent of three pupils)

All three of my children have been lucky enough to enjoy the huge benefits of CamVC's Music department. Two still do now! They have been able to play in bands, including the amazing Jazz band, sing in choirs, take part in productions, and encouraged to perform solos. They have loved taking part in the concerts and enjoy all the rehearsals and lessons. Their confidence has increased one hundred-fold and they have really benefited from their individual music lessons.

Geoff Page and Ben Mulholland are two exceptionally talented musicians and teachers, who bring so much enthusiasm and encouragement to the department, that all students absolutely love to be involved. We, as a family, are so very grateful for everything they do. Thank you.

Greg Christofi (parent)

We feel very fortunate that our daughter gets to develop her love of music and drama at school and it's a large part of the reason she heads to school every day with a smile. The productions we've seen have always entertained and delighted us. It's clear that the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the staff filters down to pupils in both departments. Music and drama are essential components to the broad education available at Cambourne Village College. Playing an instrument or singing in the junior choir at Cambourne Village College is the perfect way for primary age children to develop their creativity and learn about music. It's a fantastic extra-curricular activity in a safe and

nurturing environment. Learning at the College also offers a reassuring bridge between the sometimes-daunting gap pupils can feel about a pending move to the secondary school after year 6.

Maria Hewson (parent)

My daughter Jasmine is 13 years old and in year 8. She has benefitted from the music department at Cambourne Village College since year 3 at primary school. She attended the 2 hour after-school clubs (Cambourne Music School) on Monday and Tuesday where she took part in learning to play the clarinet and then saxophone, and also took part in singing and learning to play the ukulele.

The wonderful teachers have fuelled her joy and love of music, given her confidence socially and in performing to the public. It has exposed her to so many ways to develop musically, which I am sure will stay with her for life. Her passion is delightful and as a parent, I thoroughly enjoy the end of term shows. I am so thankful for the absolute dedication, passion and enthusiasm that the teachers bring to this department, from which so many pupils benefit.

David Mallabone (parent)

My daughter is in Year 8 at Cambourne VC. Her first interaction with the Village College's music department was in Autumn 2014 when, in year 3, she joined the Cambourne Music School one evening a week, learning to play the flute. Since then she has participated in a primary wind band, primary school choir, ukulele group, Junior Choir, a Year 7 musical and two whole school musicals.

The impact of the musical opportunities on my daughter's school experience has been visible. The opportunities have enabled her to grow in confidence and have supported her developing maturity. Teachers have commented on her increased willingness to participate in whole class situations in different subjects and her ability to think critically has developed. Most importantly, on days when she has music lessons or club, her increased enthusiasm for heading to school is notable and she leaves with a spring in her step ready and wanting to learn. Now in Year 8, she has started helping primary students at their choir and ukulele groups and this has continued to develop her confidence.

We consider ourselves very lucky that our daughter has had the opportunity to study music in such an enriching environment.

Wendy Lee (parent)

My Year 10 son Oliver Lee has nothing but constant praise for the Dept of Music at Cambourne Village College as in his words, all the teachers are helpful and genuinely friendly whenever he visits the Music Block. He has enjoyed participating in musical performances and has attended orchestra club and currently Jazz club. It has helped him grow in self-confidence and boosted his well-being immensely.

His twin brothers in Year 6 at a town primary school also attend the Cambourne music school which is excellent - informal and fun. Their self-esteem has grown hugely and being part of an orchestra fills them with great pride. The teaching is excellent and nurturing to the extent that they have both played solos during performances to an audience.

Donna Eaton (parent)

My daughter was very lucky to be one of the first students of Cambourne Village College's Primary Music School. In Year 3 she started learning the flute and in year 4 became part of the choir. I've been delighted by the teaching style; in flute she had small group tuition and then band practice; in choir, as well as singing, the children learnt song writing and creating their own musicals. From the very beginning the children were encouraged to do solos which is great for confidence building.

The music department at Cambourne Village College is outstanding. The energy and passion for music is inspiring; they want every student to find music within them. I look forward to following the ongoing growth of the music at CamVC.