

# NEWS@CAM



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The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

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# Sixth Form to go ahead

Earlier this year, we were disappointed to learn that the planned opening of our Sixth Form and expansion of the 11-16 facilities would be delayed while Cambridgeshire County Council reappraised its funding commitments for the next year. This was due to the soaring cost of building materials.

We were therefore delighted to learn in June that our project has now been approved, with the new Sixth Form scheduled to open in September 2024, and parts of the main school expansion coming on line from September 2023.

We do not have details of the construction programme yet, but building should begin on site early this autumn.

This means that our current Year 9 students will be the first to have the opportunity to apply to attend Cambourne Sixth Form.

The new sixth form centre for 350 students will have its own entrance and completely separate facilities from the 11-16 school.

Two additional wings will be added to the existing sixth form block, which will be refurbished in line with the new décor. These will include three more science laboratories, additional teaching rooms, a lecture hall, new library and extensive study areas, all built around a central courtyard.

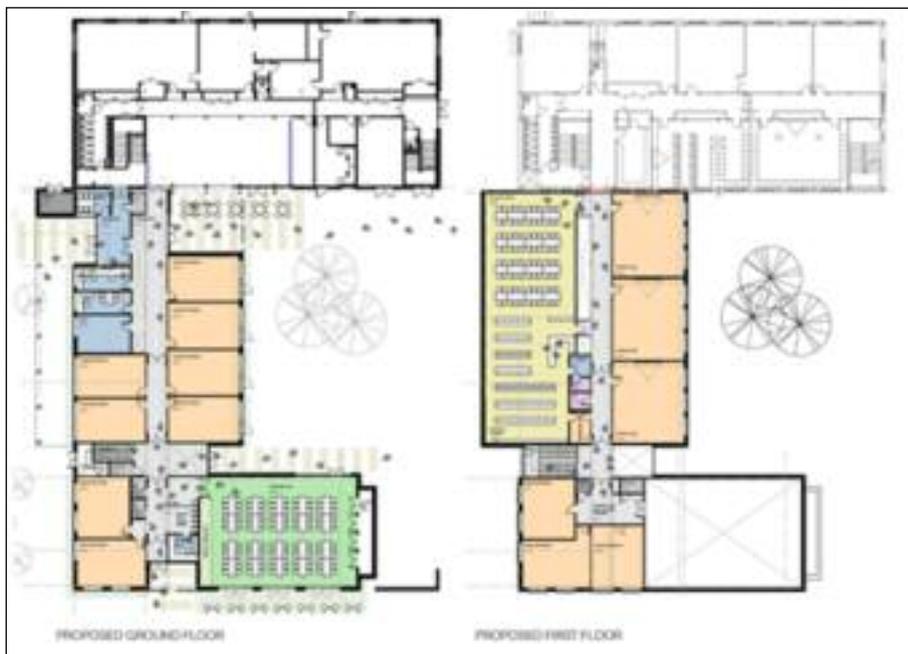
Plans to select a new logo, draft a prospectus and confirm the curriculum are all developing fast.

The main school will be expanded with the addition of three more teaching blocks behind the existing Blue, Pink and Green wings.

A large new dining hall will be built and the Music block extended to add more classrooms and two more drama studios.

New playing fields will be constructed on the north side of the school. This expansion will enable CamVC to offer places to the families who will move into the West Cambourne development over the next five years. We will share more details as these are confirmed.

Claire Coates, Principal



PLANS: To expand the existing Sixth Form building to add two further wings.

## Community make good use of facilities

Community bookings have been busy this term, particularly with sports. Basketball, badminton, five-a-side football, karate, tae kwon do, football, gymnastics and dance remain popular and our sports hall and 3G are always in use.

Many of the classrooms are also used for adult education, including drama, Arabic and Chinese language schools.

We also host community and charitable groups such as the National Childbirth Trust and local Mum To Mum markets.

Events have included a Scout Jamboree, a meeting of the Countryside Restoration Trust and a public exhibition by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, consulting on transport options in the region.

As we come to the end of a successful year, arrangements are being made for September. All our usual groups are renewing, despite some necessary price rises and we anticipate another busy year for sports, arts and educational groups.

It looks like the Performance Hall fit-out will finally be completed over the summer holidays and we will have a state-of-the-art theatre facility. The Cambourne VC Charitable Trust has appointed a new Technical Events

Manager, who will run events in the Performance Hall and maximise its use for community and arts events at the weekends from September.

To book specifically for events, email [Cam-Events@Cambournevc.org](mailto:Cam-Events@Cambournevc.org)

Do keep following the Community web page and Facebook page. You can find these here:

<https://www.cambournevc.org/adult-education-community/> which has a link to the Facebook page too. Please do follow and 'like' the page. Details of all the facilities and how to book are available on the webpage.

Anyone interested in booking the facilities should email [isims@cambournevc.org](mailto:isims@cambournevc.org)



BUSY: Sports are always popular.

Ingrid Sims, Community Coordinator

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**TOP TEAM:** Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students won a national competition.

*Pictures: Richard Heald & The Design Museum*

# Design idea takes root

**A seed of an idea has germinated into a national competition victory for CamVC students.**

The five-strong team of Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology students have won the Ventura Design Award for their Eco Seed.

They received their award at the Design Museum in London and their design is due to go into production and will be sold at the museum's shop later in the year.

The students will return to a design studio in London to finalise how the product will be made. Meanwhile, they have been studying the product to make it truly sustainable.

Eco Seed is a small floating device which allows users to grow seeds and observe the whole germination process.

The brief for this year's competition was to design a product inspired by the senses and Year 10 D&T students worked in groups at Cambourne VC to come up with ideas.

The Eco Seed group was chosen to go forward to the national competition and was then selected by the judges as one of the 10 national finalists chosen from more than 400 entries.

They had to pitch their idea to a panel of professional designers at the Deutsche Bank headquarters in London in March and early this term returned to the capital for a Celebration Event at the Design Museum where they heard they had won.

The group — William (10B), Holly (10M), Amanda (10U), Serena (10U) and Genevieve (10R) — said of their idea: "Eco Seed is a small floating device with a centre grid allowing you to propagate seeds without soil, enabling you to watch the roots grow through a clear container such as a glass or bowl of water.

"In the world we are currently living in, design is crucial to connect people with nature. We believe Eco Seed has huge potential to bring this connection and engage the new generation in an inclusive way."

Profits from the sale of Eco Seed this summer will be given to a charity of the team's choice and they have chosen the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association.

DT teacher Pauline Courtois, who oversaw Cambourne's entry and accompanied the students to London, said: "We could not be more proud of what our students have achieved. This is all a testament to their hard work, dedication and passion for the subject. I am so happy that they have had this incredible opportunity to experience the design process at a professional level and be part of such a creative industry."

Principal Claire Coates added: "Winning this national award is testament to the wonderful creativity of the students and the inspirational teaching of our DT Department — we're incredibly proud of them all!"

Following their win, the school was contacted by Carl Zeiss Ltd on Cambourne Business Park and the students were given a tour of the facility, had a demonstration of one of their electron microscopes and CAD and gained an insight into how closely it links to their GCSE.



**WE DID IT:** The scale of the achievement in winning a national competition starts to sink in for Cambourne.



**LIFECYCLE:** Students demonstrate Eco Seed's sustainability.



# Sharing language and culture

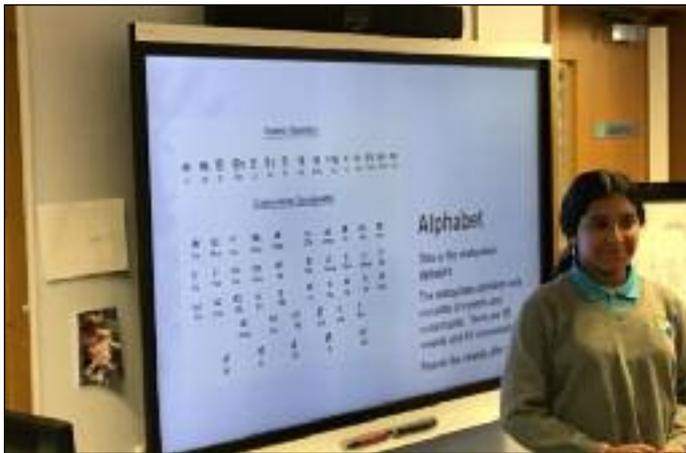
Earlier this term my friend Sarah (9C), language teacher Mrs Hirst and I went to Monkfield Park Primary School for International Week.

Thanks to the language team, I had been given an amazing opportunity to share my language — Malayalam — and my culture with pupils at Monkfield. Although I was nervous at first, it was a fun and exciting experience.

As an ex-student at Monkfield, it was great to visit the classrooms again and memories came back from the time I was there. As I first entered the classroom, all eyes were on me, and I felt terrified to start speaking.

Luckily, my sister was there, and she gave me a boost of confidence and I started the presentation. As I started it, I naturally started to feel more confident in speaking in front of everyone.

The first few slides were about the countries in which Malayalam is spoken and about my culture. After that, I began with basic greetings before



**SHARING THE BASICS:** of the very complicated Malayam language.

moving on to alphabets and numbers.

Next, I engaged with the students, and I asked them to try out a conversation among themselves for one minute.

One thing I found hard then was that I was unsure of how to get their attention, but the teacher there helped me out.

The last few slides were colour games. I even managed to squeeze in a few fun facts! For example:

Malayalam is a palindrome, and it is the second most complicated language in the world! My friend, who taught Arabic, was great at presenting too!

Overall, the experience was fun and it enhanced my skill in public speaking and boosted my confidence. I really do thank the Monkfield teachers and the Language team at Cambourne Village College.

Devika (9A)



**LANGUAGE IS NOT ALWAYS SPOKEN:** Staff and pupils at a British Sign Language taster session.

## Taster sessions prove popular

A new and exciting project this year has been the language tasters.

Staff and students have attended in large numbers, as well as presented.

There have been tasters in Portuguese, Ukrainian, Greek,

Japanese, Hindi, and British Sign Language, which was presented by two Year 8 students, Poppy and Zara (both 8E).

We have really enjoyed celebrating each other's languages and cultures.

## Duo reach national finals

Two Cambourne students reached the national finals of a language spelling competition.

Joseph and Srivishnu (both 7E) took part in the Spelling Bee and worked their way to the last of four stages of the Spanish Spelling Bee.

They started by learning to say and spell 50 words for the first in-school stage.

Another 100 words were added at Stages 2 and 3 and by the time of last month's national finals, run by Routes into Languages and held at Cambridge University, they had to prepare a total of 300 words, which were selected randomly.

Although they did not win overall, both managed 17 words in a minute, which is a fantastic achievement.



**BUDDING LINGUISTS:** At the national Spelling Bee finals.

There were almost 20,000 original entrants to this competition across French, Spanish and German and our Year 7s made it through to the final 35 for Spanish.

## Learning to lead

Our Year 9 Language Leaders have been working hard all year to deliver a series of language lessons to the local primary schools. This project is instrumental in developing leadership skills in our students, as well as raising the profile of languages within the school. Our Language Leaders are a tremendous asset to the Languages department and the school.

## Spanish support

Students have had the opportunity to attend Spanish club every Friday to support them with their Spanish homework, catch up on missed lessons and play fun learning games.

This lunchtime club is open to all year groups and enables students to take ownership of their own progress by really reflecting on the areas of Spanish they find particularly challenging. Some students simply attend because they share our passion for languages and want to get the most out of their time at school.



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** Cambourne students at the University of East London, where they shared their exhibition work.

## Spreading the word

Following the success of our 'Not Just Black and White' art exhibition and cultural event in the Spring, the Taking Up Space group were invited to the University of East London to recreate the exhibition and to launch it in style.

So it was with great excitement that, on Friday 24th June, just as the Year 11 members of the group had finished their exams, we travelled to Stratford to the University's School of Education and Communities, with freshly-remounted artwork under our arms.

Once we had hung the artwork in the very snazzy, double-storeyed atrium space, and quickly rehearsed our presentation, we were treated to a fabulous Caribbean lunch from a local food van that the Dean of School, Richard Harty, had generously laid on for

us.

The smiles were wide as students tucked into curried goat and rice and peas, sharing with students from a local East London school who had come to hear us speak and to get inspiration for their own art projects, whom we quickly made friends with.

I could not have been prouder, listening to the students present to a room full of university lecturers, newly-graduated student teachers, and the local school students.

After opening with a powerful poem, they talked with such insight, honesty and articulacy about the changes to the curriculum that CamVC teachers have implemented as a result of the staff training that the group led in the Autumn term, followed by two graceful and vibrant dance performances.

And then it was time to launch the art exhibition.

The work drew so much admiration from the

audience, as did the way that the students talked about the ideas they sought to convey.

It was a joy to stand back and soak up the buzz of the atmosphere, to eavesdrop on such well-informed conversations, and to hear our students praised in such high terms — well-deserved, indeed.

We made connections with other schools and universities that we hope to build on next year and are extremely grateful to Richard and his team for hosting us. The exhibition will stay up for the summer, and we are enthused to see where the project will go next.

In the meantime, we are busily planning for our second 'Culture Day' on the last day of the school year — it is set to be a really fun celebration of the diversity within our school.

Emily Gildea, Deputy Principal



**NOT JUST BLACK AND WHITE:** Cambourne students took their diversity-themed art exhibition to London.

## Game on as team win surprise silver

Six teams of pupils in Years 7-10 took part in the FXP Competition this year where schools across Cambridgeshire compete against one another to design and develop a video game from a single-word brief.

The focus this year was the word 'curse' in recognition of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb 100 years ago.

Cambourne's entries had a heroic cat fighting an onslaught of aliens, a player catching escaped 'darkness', a wave of ghosts and dragons coming through space and an evil spirit possessing a town. Mark Ogilve,

Creative Director at games company Jagex, praised the graphics work from our teams and noted how creative our concepts were. Teams were judged in the categories of Narrative, Concept & Design, and Production.

As this was our first year taking part we didn't expect any success, but Year 10 team Syntax Error came second in the Production category for their game 'A Leader's Spirit'. Congratulations to Abdel (10U), Sarah (10R), Nathan (10U), Harry (10R) and Ryan (10U) for their hard work. We will be competing again next year and hoping to take first place.



**SNEAK PREVIEW:** Of a Cambourne game.



**ON STAGE AT LAST:** Scenes from the long-awaited production of 'The Addams Family'.

# Family finally together!

It had been precisely 845 days since CamVC Productions had last mounted an in-person show on the Cambourne stage — so it's fair to say it was with some excitement and expectation that *The Addams Family* arrived in town on Monday 27th June.

And it had not been a production without its challenges. The show had originally been due to take place at the end of February, but with Covid cases high, and audiences still not allowed to attend school events, the difficult decision was taken at the start of the year to postpone the production, and somehow try and fit five performances into three days at the end of June.

Also, despite a hugely enthusiastic and dedicated cast, rehearsals (like everything else) were repeatedly hit by both pupils and staff isolating — and a number of the cast and many of the principal performers unreasonably had to sit their GCSEs in the preceding weeks, which meant that performance week was the first time the whole cast had all been in attendance together since the start of the year.

Fortunately, the cast were not only dedicated, but hugely talented, and their performance wowed audiences across all five performances, starting with 300 Year 6 pupils on the Monday afternoon and finishing with a packed last night audience, who demanded a number of encores before allowing the cast to finally depart to go and scream wildly in the Henry Morris Room.

One parent said: "I just wanted to say a massive congratulations to all the cast, technical crew, musicians, production team and everyone working on and involved in *The Addams Family*. The standard and talent of all involved was so impressive, and it was clear how much hard work, commitment and passion went into it — bravo!"

And the parent of one of our upcoming Year 6s said: "I was expecting just a normal school production. I cannot express to you how blown away I was by the whole show. I still can't believe we got to see a West End-quality show at a secondary school. It was truly a phenomenal evening. Moments during the show I was laughing so hard at the jokes and certain comments the characters made and in other parts I was crying where the characters, songs and music pulled on my heart strings."

It was a great experience for the whole cast. Izzy, in Year 7, said: "I loved doing *The Addams Family* and I found it really enjoyable. I think that everyone in it was so talented. It was an amazing experience that I definitely didn't expect when I auditioned, and nearer the show all the rehearsals were tiring — but it was worth it as the overall performances were brilliant."

But a show isn't just about the hard work and talent of the cast, there was a phenomenal band, including a number of current, former pupils and featuring Mr Daniel Went on the drums — who all had to come to grips with two hours of highly complex music (arranged for a professional band) in just three rehearsals.

Alexander, in Year 9, said: "Being in band meant we were part of the production yet didn't have to be front on stage which is personally where I prefer to be. It's a lot to learn, yet you get help with it and the practices beforehand make it incredibly fun, even if you miss a couple of notes. "Staying at school for 14 hours was an experience which — yet exhausting — was amazing. The whole production was incredible with the band, cast, backstage, tech team and the teachers putting on an incredible show, and I was glad to be a small part of it."

And the backstage team did a brilliant job making sure that the numerous scene changes happened smoothly, and the endless array of weird and wonderful props arrived on stage at the right time. Summer in Year 9 commented: "I was in the backstage crew, it's hard not to say that it wasn't stressful. I did stage props and the curtains. Learning when to put things on

and open the curtains and changing scenes were very difficult as we had to keep finding where we were in the script. It was great spending time with friends and enjoying it most of the time!"

And how would we be able to see or hear our performers without the wonders of the tech team, who not only ran the complicated sound and lighting equipment flawlessly, but spent several days setting everything up, and getting the hundreds of cues clearly marked in scripts.

Of course as a creative team, we loved every minute of the production (well, nearly every minute), and had no doubts (well, very few doubts) that despite the delays, the absences, the songs still not quite pitch perfect, the dances not yet quite on point, and the props still residing in some obscure corner of eBay, that come opening night the cast, the band, the crew and tech team would pull off the miraculous and stage a truly memorable production — and I don't think any of the hundreds who crammed into the main hall on those stifling evenings in late June 2022 could ever doubt they did just that!

Well done Team Addams! It's been a pleasure!

Lauren Phillips — Director

Jodie Ricketts — Choreographer

Geoff Page — Musical Director

Sarah Kwan — Assistant Musical Director



# It's party time for Year 11

After a challenging few years our Year 11 pupils have finally finished their GCSE exams and left the school.

We celebrated their time with us on Thursday 30th June with one final form time, assembly, and lunch.

The assembly had video messages from former members of the year team and speeches from those still here, accompanied by photos from the last five years and a farewell video from school staff which had the audience of Year 11s howling with laughter.

Bouncy castles, pizza and ice cream followed before pupils finally said farewell to the school and walked off site one last time.

That night everyone glammed up and came out for prom at Minstrel Court in Arrington.

It was hugely satisfying to see friends and family come out to support and take photos of the arrivals along with former pupils and those in lower years. With no prom for the last few years, we were unsure how the event would go but everyone had an amazing time and looked fantastic.

Former CamVC pupil Jordi DJ'd for the event and had everyone on the dance floor including Mr Bellis, who performed a memorable routine to *It's Raining Men*.

The night ended with a surprise firework display before we said our goodbyes. We will miss the class of '22 dearly and wish them all the best for the future.



**RETURN OF THE PROM: Year 11 were all dressed up with somewhere to go.**

*Pictures: Ben Minaar*





# Jubilee tree-planting



**The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree-planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.**

It invited everyone from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. As well as being a crucial habitat for much of UK's wildlife, trees play a vital and significant part in our lives. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the world's wildlife.

They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter. With a strong focus on encouraging all pupils to think about the importance of trees, our passionate gardening group and representatives from each year group planted their own year tree to mark the occasion and to be part of combating climate change. In total six willow, two pear, two apple and one each of birch, plum and cherry trees were planted. We are all very excited to be part of such an important project and to see our tree planting marked on 'The Queen's Green Canopy' map.



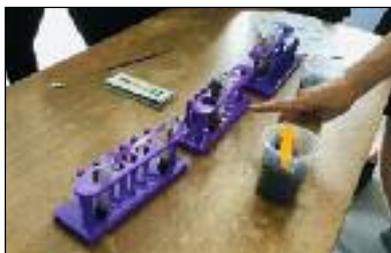
**THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES:** Students took part in the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' campaign.

# Sustainable farming under microscope

Sustainable farming methods protect biodiversity and the environment, and it fosters growth and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. It rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It has been very exciting that Cambourne VC was selected to be in the semi-finals of the National Food, Farming and Natural Environment competition 2022. As part of the semi-finals, a group of Year 9 pupils were able to visit a unique farm in Peterborough to learn about organic farming based on the cutting edge and innovative system of agroforestry methods used. The farm is the major supplier to the manufacturer of the very popular oat milk, *PureOaty*, and it was interesting for our pupils to follow the journey of 'farm to fork'. We were all also amazed on how the apple trees and oats worked symbiotically and how wildlife is protected with the farming methods used. The visit also included a workshop on the different elements to provide healthy crops in organic farming, including taking soil samples and looking at them scientifically, and doing worm counts. We cannot wait to see our visit placed into a final presentation.



**ORGANIC FARMING:** Pupils see the work in action and follow the science.



# High praise for nature-lovers



Students who are part of Cambourne's 'Young Tree Champions Programme' have won high praise for their dedication and commitment.

As part of the programme, the College was selected to receive an oracy workshop delivered by the 'Speakers Trust' and is designed to support young people in building their communication, confidence and to speak out on issues that matters to them, in this case climate change.

Claudette, from the Trust, worked with a group of students and said: "The mixed group of Year 7, 8, and 9s that I had the honour of meeting will indeed go down in my personal history of delivering training as one of the most dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed to their chosen passion group I have ever seen." The group were those who had presented their class the most inspiring 'Speak Up for Nature' speeches following a competition in KS3 run in conjunction with the English Department.

They presented in front of three judges and it was difficult to choose the winner to represent Cambourne VC in the 'Speaking up for Nature and Trees' competition, run by the Tree Council to help children and young people from across the UK to find their voices and speak out for trees and the natural world.

With the impending climate crisis and the environmental challenges that we are facing, Cambourne been looking at various ways in which young people could be encouraged to think about practical ways where they can make a difference and inspire others to do the same.

The 'Speak up for Nature' was launched to help students develop not only their



**MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD: Students speak out for nature.**

oracy and speech-writing skills but also to empower our young people to inspire others to make changes.

Claudette added: "The speeches were some of the best I have ever heard, and I do not say that lightly, I just know we have many superstars who will continue sharing their passion for nature and literally make a difference to those who take the time to listen, our world needs them."

## Pupil speaks out to take national title



Following the successful 'Speak up for Nature' competition and workshop, our selected Year 9 winner was entered for the national competition.

We are so proud of Alieshia (9B), who carried the flag for the school and won the competition for her age category.

Well done Alieshia!!

We were also very excited to hear that

### Climate speech: Heard It All Before

You act as though I am blind to the eye rolls  
I see as you read the title hung upon the board,  
After all, you know, you've heard it all before.

You know about the Deforestation,  
the drought,  
the flood,  
the war,  
You see, we have to look up to understand  
the gravity of our situation.

As it has not yet hit the floor.

You know about the damage,  
Fast fashion,  
Fire and all,  
Because we indulge in our privilege, we  
leave the world to crawl,  
Tell me, when it no longer runs with us, does  
it shift into a chore?  
After all, you know, you've heard it all  
before.

So, it is not a question of how or why or  
who,  
The panic that will engulf us will happen  
through and through.  
Will you take me seriously? Or am I another  
bore?

Droning about the same old things,  
The things you've heard before.

Cambourne Village College is now one of the national Beacon Schools for the work it does to combat environmental challenges.

Beacon Schools are defined as 'a notably successful school whose methods and practices are brought to the attention of the education service as a whole in order that they may be adopted by other schools'.

When?

When it hits us will we be prepared?  
Our last attempt efforts? Our ignorance  
spared?

Will we be ready? Safe? Assured?

Or will the world come crumbling down, our  
minds instantly matured.

But one day,

Before will become after.

And so, I ask you, desperation in my tone,  
when?

Because as of now.

You act as though I am blind.

Blind from your looks of indifference,  
Of all that we ignore,

After all, who cares?

You've heard it all before.

Alieshia (9B)



**STANDING UP FOR NATURE: Through words and actions.**



# Making great strides

This year has been an exciting one and seen huge strides in improving the awareness of LGBTQ+ matters in Cambourne Village College.

A group named after a popular young adult novel *We Are All Made of Molecules* met weekly after school.

It was well attended by a mix of students from Years 7-11, and with a range of gender and sexual identities.

Discussions were far reaching, vibrant and enlightening. The discourse and language develops at such a fast pace and students were at the forefront of these invigorating changes. They have so much to teach us.

The *We Are All Made of Molecules* group decided on a lunchtime cake sale to increase awareness in school during June — Pride month, which is celebrated in many countries around the world — and to raise money for an organisation that they are very fond of.

'Just Like Us' is an LGBTQ+ youth charity with young ambassadors that give inspiring talks in schools nationwide.

The array of homemade cakes, table decorations and posters was very impressive, and members of the group were proud to take ownership of all the arrangements and running of the stall. They raised a fantastic £123.70.

## Pride restored . . .

Cambridge Pride has only taken place once before — in 2019 — so we were very keen to visit this year to rejoice in its post-pandemic return.

Several students attended this joyous and very relaxed family event on Jesus Green and even took part in the immense parade around the park with thousands of others.

We saw live entertainment, stalls representing various national or local organisations, wellbeing sessions, live talks and poetry readings, a dance tent and food from all around the world.

The students were welcomed, felt safe and were very happy.



**CAMBRIDGE PRIDE:** Back on Jesus Green after the pandemic.

## Everybody's talking about . . . the MK trip



**IT'S SHOWTIME:** Cambourne staff and students on their way to see the hit musical.

We had a wonderful trip to Milton Keynes Theatre as 28 Year 10s and 11s went to see the hit musical, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*.

Our students were respectful and well behaved, and we felt very proud of them. The show was fantastic — funny, moving, dramatic and heartwarming with fantastic choreography and some incredible songs. We were so lucky to see Layton Williams and Eastenders' Shane Richie in starring roles.

As well as it being such a joy seeing lots of our GCSE drama students enthralled by live theatre, it was great that so many of the school community were able to come along and experience such a life-affirming show with such an important and relevant message.

## 'Movie night' is the final flourish

The last event of the academic year was an after-school film showing of *Love, Simon* with popcorn and drinks.

More than 20 pupils came along to our lovely Henry Morris Room and we really enjoyed the film.

One of the Year 7s said that it was sad, happy and moving, and a fantastic representation of the LGBTQ+ community.

There were a couple of punch-the-air moments, and the atmosphere was one of joy and togetherness.

It was a wonderful way to end the school year. I am so excited to see how much further we can go next year.

Zoë Weaver



**BIG SCREEN:** For the showing of *'Love, Simon'*.



**MAKING THEIR POINT:** Pupils give political speeches to an audience as part of their Shout Out course.



# Talk about what matters

We were thrilled that Shout Out UK returned to Cambourne Village College to deliver their AQA-certified Political Literacy course to students in Year 10.

The aim of the course was to give students an increased understanding of politics and political systems.

Students studied various modules including:

- What is Politics?
- Britain and the International Community.
- How to campaign for a cause, debate and speak in front of a crowd.

## University taster

This term 15 Year 10 students visited Royal Holloway University for a university taster day. The aim of the trip was to increase understanding of the opportunities available in higher education for our students, and to encourage them to aspire in their future academic studies. The day involved a taster lecture in History and English, a beautiful campus tour, and a Q&A about university. There was a lot of student interest in this trip, so we hope to visit again soon. Thank you to Royal Holloway and the Schools Team for hosting us!

There will be more opportunities like this next year...keep your eyes peeled!



**LOOKING ROUND:** Students at Royal Holloway University.

## Learning more

Every Thursday this year we have welcomed guest speakers into school to talk about their career or area of interest and research as part of our Aspirational Thursdays programme.

This year we have had a range of speakers including an Engineer, an ex-Police Officer, as well as talks about the famous Sutton Hoo burial, the British Empire, Science, and Religion. It has brilliant to see so many of our students come along to these talks!

These talks will continue next year and are open to every student. If you think you'd be able to offer a short lunchtime talk, please get in touch with Miss Angell: [jangell@cambournevc.org](mailto:jangell@cambournevc.org)

The course culminated with an event in which the Year 10s delivered their own political speeches to an audience, including Councillor Stephen Drew (Liberal Democrats in South Cambs).

Their speeches were fantastic and covered a wide range of topics such as East Asian representation, Domestic Abuse, the establishment of a not-for-profit organisation to run the national grid, the US Bail System and Bail Bonds, and Abuses of power.

Well done to all involved!

Keep an eye out for a new politics club next year with Miss Angell!



**TERROR-BLY INTERESTING:** The audience packs into James Crossland's lecture entitled *The First War on Terror*.

## Conference topics draw in crowds

At the end of April, the History Department at Cambourne Village College hosted its first free public Historic-All Community Conference!

It was brilliant to see such enthusiasm for History, Classics, and Archaeology across the school and wider community.

On the Friday more than 150 students enjoyed Dr James Crossland's lecture about *The First War on Terror* which was followed by Professor Malcolm Gaskill's lecture entitled: *Witches on the Frontier: A Seventeenth-Century American Tragedy*.

The Saturday event was filled with lectures about Archaeology, including Professor Penelope M Allison's lecture about Pompeian houses and households.

It was great to embed some local History and Archaeology on the day with Chris Thatcher's lecture about Cambourne's Archaeology followed by Professor Carenza Lewis' lecture about the Black Death.

Throughout the conference it became clear that there is an appetite to learn more about Archaeology in our local area.... watch this space for more information about a new club for our students soon!

Responses to the community conference were overwhelmingly positive. Everyone who filled in the feedback form said that they would be interested in attending future events — maybe we'll have to do it all again!

Of course, this event was only possible due to the generosity of our guest speakers who gave up their time to share their research with our students.

You can access recordings of previous lectures here:

<https://www.cambournevc.org/news-and-events/historic-all>



**SLEEPING ROUGH:** Year 10 pupils and staff slept in their social area, mainly on cardboard, to raise money for a refugee chaity.

# Help for refugees

Following their success in supporting a number of charities this year, Year 10 students held a sponsored Sleep Out in June to raise money for the charity 'Help Refugees'.

Accompanied by their Head of Year, Ms Rose, and a number of generous staff, they spent a Friday night sleeping outside in their social area, with only cardboard to create shelters from.

They heard from teachers, who have worked with refugees in a number of different places, to get a better understanding of the life experience of refugees and displaced persons around the world.

'Help Refugees' is a charity working in 15 countries with a small staff, providing practical assistance on the ground to maintain the refugees' safety and dignity. The group of Year 10s raised more than £700 to help provide hot meals, sanitation, support with housing, education and access to medical care for refugees. The charity also works with unaccompanied minors to ensure their safety and wellbeing. An example of 'Help Refugees' work is at the Poland-Ukraine border, where they are providing food, temporary shelter and transport guidance to people fleeing conflict.

Their fundraising page is still open if you would like to support this effort: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cambourney10>

## Olympic legacy highlights inequalities

Last month, the Geography department took Year 10 GCSE students on a trip to Stratford, East London.

Although it contributed to part of our fieldwork paper for GCSEs, the trip also provided an opportunity to explore and see the impacts of regeneration, social inequalities and challenges facing the area.

It was even more interesting as the regeneration of Stratford and the building of the Olympic Park was a case study in the Urban World topic, so we could all have greater knowledge and deeper understanding helping to see it firsthand, rather than just being taught.

Promptly after arrival, we headed towards Carpenters Estate (E15) in the local area, once a thriving community of generations of families, it now appeared desolate.

The social housing seemed to fit basic needs and surrounding it small green areas of flowers had been planted in an effort to refresh the estate. However, taking a closer look, the sound of construction and graffiti on walls was apparent and towering buildings just behind the houses made it look very much neglected.

Once we had all explored, we then headed towards Stratford High Street where we carried out a service tally, accounting for the multiple stalls and small businesses.

There were so many different cuisines and shops for people all around the area. We could see not only the diversity but the bustling city life of East London.

Next was an insightful activity as we entered Stratford Shopping Centre, using our booklets we asked people around us to spare a couple minutes answering questions about their opinions of regeneration of the area. My responses in particular were all rated similar with shopping being the best part about living there and crime having a negative effect on a variety of people.



**OLD V NEW:** The Carpenters Estate and the regenerated area around the Olympic Park in London



After we had all collected data and had a proper chance to engage with the public, it was time for lunch. We headed to Westfield which was only a very short walk — yet it was such a change in atmosphere and cleanliness only a few minutes away!

After lunch we exited the shopping centre, we were in East Village, which was formerly the athletes' village during the 2012 Olympics. The East Village (E20) had been massively gentrified compared to Carpenters Estate. Not only was the housing visibly different to E15 in looks and price, but the village had abundant infrastructure of cafes, greenery and a small park which was looked after very well.

This comparison we saw highlighted the inequalities. Similarly, to Stratford shopping centre, we had residents of East Village answer a

questionnaire; mostly all the responses were positive apart from housing costs; people really enjoyed their standard of living. Finally, we took a long walk to the Olympic Park, the reason the regeneration occurred.

Sustainable and biodiverse vegetation had been planted and the grounds are kept open for the community.

The aquatic centre is now used by schools and athletes.

These improvements and usage of facilities were evidence of the clear difference that regeneration has made to the borough.

In summary, our geography trip to East London showed us the transformation from a former industrial wasteland which needed regenerating into an oasis of urban beauty particularly within the East Village.

Alexa (10B)

# Looking at ways to grow

The Cam Academy Trust is considering future growth after recent consolidation.

In the schools' White Paper earlier this year, there was a clear indication that all schools in England are expected to be academies and to have joined a multi-academy trust by 2030. Given this our Trust has been confirming some potential ways forward.

Trustees have judged that the Trust is now well placed to consider some further growth given the considerable consolidation that has been done in the last three years.

Possible developments are considered to be:

- Further primary schools joining the Trust in the local areas where we already

## Even more support

The Trust is very pleased to be able to expand the staffing capacity available to schools working across the Trust from this September. In addition to our existing posts, there will be:

- Greater capacity in both Maths and English with primary and secondary specialists in post
- A new Director of PE and Sport to help with developments in this crucial area of educational provision in our schools
- A Lead in Primary IT supporting training and teaching and learning
- A new Safeguarding Officer
- Subject co-ordinator roles

The hope and expectation is that these roles can help to provide stronger support to all schools and to enable further sharing of ideas and resources.

All this is with the aim of improving further still the quality of education that is provided to all pupils in all our schools.



**TRUST ROLE:**  
For PE specialist  
**Hannah Curtis.**



**NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS: Nabeel Mardi, Rita Monson and Jacob Powell.**

## Youngest Trustee joins Board

Three appointments to The Cam Academy Trust's Trustee Board this year include the youngest ever Trustee. Those to join are Jacob Powell, Nabeel Mardi and Rita Monson.

aged 20, Jacob is currently studying for a Masters degree in Management and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

Nabeel comes from the information technology and telecommunication industry, where he has worked for more than 30 years. He has a BSc (Hons) in Administrative Sciences, an MSc in Data Communication and is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology. He is currently chair of governors at Everton Heath Primary School.

Also a governor, at Melbourn Village College, Rita Monson has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge and is passionate about finding ways to increase access to Higher Education.

Despite his young age, Jacob has experience in this area, having previously been a charity Trustee at Jesus

College, Cambridge, a role he was appointed to after being elected as the Student Union President. Jacob said: "I've always had a keen interest in the public sector and wanting to help people, so had been actively looking for people-focused roles and how I could combine my degree knowledge with my career. "Being a charity Trustee was the perfect combination of these two things and gave me the ambition to continue on this career path and be actively involved in helping the Cambridgeshire community — leading me to apply for the position at the Cam Academy Trust. "What stood out to me the most when applying for this role was the Trust's six core principles. I felt that they really resonated with me, in particular, the comprehensive principle. Coming from a comprehensive background myself, I feel passionate about ensuring an excellent education for all and working at a Trust that's driven by these values. "I will always be passionate about providing young people with a well-rounded education so they can have a good start to life."

## Community principle borne out

The Trust's motto is 'Excellence for All' and one of our core principles is 'community'.

We want all our schools to be rooted in and at the heart of their communities. This includes providing adult education for those in the local area where possible.

This is completely in keeping with the vision for rural schooling in Cambridgeshire as articulated by Henry Morris, who established the village college system.

Morris took up his post as Director of Education in Cambridgeshire 100 years

ago this year and has been celebrated across the county.

In a wonderful illustration of this, Derek Skipper recently went viral, not just on social media but also across the Press, TV and radio for being the oldest person to sit a GCSE exam when he took his Maths exams this summer at the age of 92.

We are very proud that Derek had participated in an adult learning programme run out of Comberton Village College. Henry Morris would have been delighted.



**AGE IS NO BARRIER: Derek Skipper, 92, took GCSE maths at Comberton.**

# Finding a sense of place

This theme for National School Sports Week 2022, which took place last month, was 'Belonging — a place in sport for every child'.

School sport should be an important part of every child's education and development — every child should feel they have a place to belong. After the huge disruption of the past two years, the inequalities in young people's health and activity levels have got worse.

We want all our students to know there is so much that all young people can gain from school sport — connecting with others, developing important life skills and improving both their physical and mental health. It was for these reasons we chose to do something a little different for our NSSW and Mrs Taylor set up a massive what3words scavenger hunt around the school site.

What3Words is a digital geocoding system. But instead of being limited to addresses, what3words lets you identify any location that's 3m x 3m in size.

The system is available for free on what3words' website or on their app. It is an incredibly useful locator system and has been used regularly by emergency services and locator companies.

Students had to use the what3words code like: avoiding.incisions.monopoly (Mrs Coates' office) to find a picture and then bring a copy of this picture back.

Although the lesson was a race and there were 20 to find, the bigger outcome of the lesson was understanding how to use what3words and the importance of this technology as well the teamwork, problem solving, leadership and communication skills that were all being used.

All Year 7-10 students involved worked their socks off to find as many as possible



**WAITING GAME:** Sports Leaders wait for the 'scavengers' to return having identified different locations on what3words.

and it was great to see students running or walking around the school site for the double period so intent on finding the different locations. Well done to all the students involved.

In addition to the slightly different PE lessons on offer throughout the week, there was also a football tournament, table tennis tournament and dodgeball tournament, which had great numbers attending.

Thank you to our amazing sports leaders who organised and officiated at these very popular events.

## Amazing support is the real plus

On Thursday 23rd June, Mr Savill took a group of Sports Skills students from Years 7 and 8 to the Cambridge Athletics Track to compete in the annual Outdoor Athletics Plus event.

Students competed against other schools in a range of different events such as the 100m and 200m (on a proper track), discus, long jump — into an actual sand pit — and many other athletics field events. The day finished with a team relay event.

Each student aimed to participate in every event and throughout the whole day put their heart and souls into the different track and field events.

Several students were rewarded with top finishes, but all students should be immensely proud of getting involved and competing.

What is always so lovely about this event is the support and cheering that the students give to each other. 7C, in particular, would not leave each other when they were doing the track events. I don't know how they had any voices left after their cheering and screaming for every single member of the form when they ran!



**IN THE SWING:** Girls have been trying golf at school and at a local club.

## Getting girls into golf!

The Golf Foundation, Living Sport and CamVC PE department have worked together to provide more opportunities for girls in golf and this year we have run a Golf for Girls club every Monday after school.

We have been very lucky to have had Joel from Cambridge Country Club (formerly Bourn Golf Club) to coach these girls on a range of different shots including driving, pitching and putting.

They then got to head down to the full course to practise both their long and short game. This culminated one weekend, when 15 girls headed to the club and played a fun five holes of Texas Scramble on the full course.

Joel was so impressed by each and every girl and said what an absolute breath of fresh air they were with their fantastic attitude and determination.

Congratulations to Charlotte (7O) who won our inaugural Golf trophy for her fantastic effort, skills and achievement throughout the course.

This is the first year that golf has been introduced on to our PE curriculum for Key Stage 4 students and is a perfect opportunity for students to try and beat their own skills and personal best. We look forward to using some of our new drivers and irons to further develop students' golf skills.



**SUPPORT TEAM:** Cambourne students cheered each other on in every race.



**WINNERS' LINE-UP:** At the in-person Sports Awards.

# A chance to celebrate

On a sunny Thursday evening, the CamVC PE department hosted their fourth annual Sports Awards and only the second live event, due to the pandemic.

The evening was all about celebrating sport, participation and our students' successes. It was a smart affair where we encouraged students and parents to dress up. It all started with a piano and drinks reception and a chance to look at the Sports Activators posters as well as introductions to our sports leaders and activators.

This was followed by the main event. We had more than 230 students and parents in the beautifully decorated hall. Head of PE Miss Curtis started the

evening by talking about opportunities, success and belonging and then the awards were swiftly started. Halfway through the evening, we were incredibly lucky to have Mark Bonner, Head Coach at Cambridge United FC, talk to us about his career, his hard work and the three Rs of the United dressing room — Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. Awards were given out to celebrate a range of different accomplishments and all students who won a specific award will have their name engraved on their trophy or plate which will be housed in the PE department trophy cabinet. They also got a commemorative medal and an award winner's badge which can be sewn on to their PE kit. In addition to these trophies and cups, the PE department handed out the half colours to more than 40 students to recognise those who have competed in school sport for at least two years in at least two

different sports.

We also celebrated all our Sports Activators and Sports Leaders across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. It was such a fabulous affair with in excess of 120 students invited to attend alongside one parent or carer. We really hope that in forthcoming years, we will be able to invite even more students who are getting involved in school sport and PE. The winners were — KS3 Sportsman of the Year: Vincent (7N); KS3 Sportswoman: Grace (8U); KS4 Sportsman: Alex (10C); KS4 Sportswoman: Louisa (10C); Sports Leader: Tate (10R); Sports Activator: Nicole (9V); Team: Year 8 Football; PE Department Merit Award: Nate (8C); Commitment Award: Chloe (7R); Dancer of the Year: Daisy (7A); GCSE Student: Chloe T (11R); BTEC Student: Chloe (11U); Unsung Hero Award: Tom (8A); Sporting Excellence Award: Willow (11U).

## New leaders joining an incredible team

The summer term is the term where we launch our Sports Activators and Sports Leaders application process. This year we have seen a bumper number of Sports Activator applications; all of the highest of standards. The PE department are so pleased and proud to have given this introductory leadership role to 28 Year 7 and 18 Year 8 pupils. We hope they take up every opportunity offered to them and get involved in as many clubs and fixtures as possible.

We also had a very high calibre of sport leaders' applications in Year 9, and 12 of these students, who will be joining our current Sports Leadership cohort of 19 Year 10s, will get to wear the coveted Blue Sports Leaders' hoodies.

In fact, Year 9s have already got thoroughly stuck into volunteering and leading many events.

This term our sports leaders have helped with the following events:

- NSSW Tournaments: officiating and scoring in football, table tennis and dodgeball.
- NSSW What3Words PE Lessons: running the finders board and helping



**KEEPING SCORE:** Sports leaders officiate at the *Dynamos cricket*.

students throughout the lesson complete the task.

- New Intake Day: Our Year 6 sports day.
- Sports Days: Leading teams and running events throughout the three-day competition.
- QuadKids: Leading a range of athletics events to Year 4s at the Cambridge University sports ground.
- Mini Tennis Festival: leading a range of tennis stations to the primary schools at Cambourne Tennis Club.
- Outdoor Athletics Plus: leading a range of athletics events at this Sports Skills event.
- Cricket events: Our Year 9 and 10 Sports leaders have had lots of opportunities this term to officiate cricket; getting involved with two different primary cricket festivals. Both

events were held at Caldecote Sports Ground and involved more than 150 Year 3 and 4 pupils and 100 Years 5 and 6 students.

Our sports leaders had to quickly adapt to the new format of Dynamos cricket but as soon as they did, they were umpiring and score keeping like pros. They got fully into the swing of calling wide balls, fours and sixes and without them the tournaments just would not have been possible. I know both the South Cams School Partnership and Cams Cricket were very appreciative of all their help.

## Olympian trains mental health champions

Four Year 9 and 10 girls, Mr Hills and Ms Smith attended a Young Mental Health Champions Workshop at Comberton Village College.

This was hosted by the Youth Sports Trust and aimed to create a student-led project which is completely designed by the students to help other students who are struggling.

The goal is to integrate sport and physical

activity and use them as a proactive solution to mental health and wellbeing issues present in school.

The girls attended seminars hosted by Youth Sports Trust Athlete Mentor Vernon Samuels, a retired British athlete who had competed in the men's triple jump in the 1988 Olympic Games and the 1990 Commonwealth Games. With his

expertise, the girls were given training, support and resources helping them to become our next Young Mental Health Champions.

The PE department looks forward to working with them closely to establish a programme of sport and physical activity to help those struggling with their own mental health.



**DREAM TEAM:**  
Cambourne's  
Olympic Cup  
competitors.

# Team seal super silver

**More than 70 CamVC students from Years 7-10 headed off to the District Athletics Olympic Cup — and took second place overall.**

It was the first time this event had run in three years, and it was such a fabulous day. Students competed in either a track or field event, and sometimes both, and represented the school with pride. Although the day was mixed with weather,

our students' results were top class with many top three finishes. In fact, there were so many fantastic results, we do not have the space to mention them all. There were just so many first places! However, regardless of results I am so incredibly proud of all the students who took part. They represented themselves and the school in the best possible way and were an absolute credit. This was the first time many of them had been to an

athletics competition, and for many it was the first time they have had the opportunity to represent the school.

Although many students were nervous, every single one of them put in 100% effort and had the right attitude throughout the day.

Well done to every student involved throughout the day. Bring on next year!

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE

## Get involved!

A new event took place to offer more of our students the opportunity to get involved in sport and physical activity.

This year, on the day of the Year 10 parents' evening, we ran an afternoon of sport for more than 70 students who signed up.

From 1.30 until 3.30, when school closed due to the parents' evening, these students had the chance to have a go at trampolining, table tennis, and dodgeball.

Having signed up to their preferred sporting option, they spent two hours being active, socialising with other students in different year groups and, hopefully, having fun!

There's growing research that links physical activity to improvements in educational achievement. That's because sport helps children develop character and to learn important social and brain skills such as problem-solving, resilience, perseverance, confidence and teamwork.

On top of these emotional and social benefits, there are the obvious physical benefits as well, such as reducing childhood obesity, strengthening bones and building cardiovascular fitness.

We want to give as many opportunities for our students to be as active as possible and try and avoid the lure of TV, computer games and their phones. Look out on our PE Twitter page (@CamVC\_PE) for more of these opportunities.



**FOOTBALL LEADERS:**  
Students  
took part in a  
six-week  
leadership  
course.

## Courses offer training

Twelve students from Years 9 and 10 spent six weeks in the Summer term taking part in the football leadership programme. This culminated in them leading a range of coaching sessions to our feeder primary schools.

The students worked on a range of different skills such as communication, managing groups of students, and working effectively as a team. Their final day, when the primary schools came in, was a complete success. The sun shone and the CamVC students confidently and competently led different sessions.

Well done to all students who took part. We look forward to seeing what you can now do with these new leadership skills.

At the end of June, Cambourne VC Football Refereeing Course ran its first session. Led by external FA referees and overseen by the Football Development Officer from Cambourne Town Council, the three-week course aimed to provide pupils with the skills, capability, and confidence to officiate football matches in the local community. The football referee course was a brilliant success, giving pupils experience and a qualification they can take with them throughout their time at Cambourne. This course also provided them with the future opportunity to earn pocket money in the local community by refereeing. Well done to all pupils involved!

**BIG-MATCH  
ATMOSPHERE:**  
Students  
enjoyed one of  
the group  
games at the  
Women's  
European  
Championships.



## Euro inspiration . . .

On Tuesday 12th July, 38 students and six staff headed off to the MK Stadium to watch the Women's Euros football match between Finland and Denmark, who won 1-0.

The atmosphere before the match was incredible. Students got the chance to buy flags and big foam fingers at the championships shop and got fully involved with the cheering and chanting.

The level of football was fantastic and inspirational for our football teams and we look forward to returning to training to see all the skills and tricks they have picked up and been practising.