

NEWS@CAM

CAMBOURNE VC AND SF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

OUTSTANDING
IN ALL AREAS
Ofsted March 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to April's issue of News@Cam! As you can see from the front cover, we are immensely proud of our school, staff and pupils for the outstanding announcement by Ofsted, after last month's visit. As ever, thank you for your continued support of our school and community. And, whilst we are very proud of our Ofsted report, we might be just as proud of this comment from a guest speaker at the school: "I wish I could pick this school up and put it in West Yorkshire, so can I can send my own children here".

April has been a shorter month in terms of days at school. At the start of the month we had our German exchange pupils visiting us in Cambourne, as well as a variety of social activities to celebrate the end of term.

Over Easter, about 50 pupils travelled to northern Italy, led by Miss Phillips, for a Snowsports adventure. You can read about their trip on Page 13 of this issue.

As soon as we came back after Easter, four of our Year 10 pupils travelled to London for the finals of the Design Ventura Competition, with the other top ten chosen schools. I can proudly announce that we have won the competition this year (and for the 2nd time in four years!), with a very clever design to recycle old clothes into new items. You can see all the entries here: [Design Ventura 2024-25: this year's shortlist \(and our shortlisting judges\) - Design Ventura](#) as well as in person at the Design Museum in London until 12th June 2025. After this, the product will be on sale to purchase online and in their shop. Well done and fantastic work to all involved in this; you can read more from the pupils and teachers involved on Page 11.

Lynn Mayes
Principal

KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

Monday 5th May
Bank Holiday!

Thursday 8th May
Year 7 Parent Consultation (periods 3-6 taught). All pupils leave at 1.30pm (not Year 11s)

Thursday 8th May
GCSE exams start for our Year 11s

Monday 12th May
Year 12 Psychology Trip to Freud Museum

Tuesday 13th May
Year 12 Biology Field Trip

Tues 13th - Sat 17th May
Year 7 visit to Zaragoza, Spain

Wednesday 14th May
Year 10 Taster Day at Anglia Ruskin Uni

Monday 19th May
Year 12 Biology Fieldtrip

Tuesday 20th May
Year 12 Photography Mock

Wednesday 21st May
Yr 9 & 10 trip - Cambridge LitFest 'Word Power' (PM only)

Friday 23rd May
Year 10 Full Reports out

Mon 26th - Friday 30th May
HALF TERM!

Subscribe to our calendar
for more key dates

ENRICHMENT SUMMER 1



Our weekly registration, lunchtime and after school club timetable:

MONDAY		
LUNCH	Language Leaders (Yr9)	IT03 (WkA)
	Prefects	O11 (WkB)
	Student Council	O11 (WkA)
AFTERSCHOOL	Art (GCSE)	ART01
	Athletics	(All)
	CamBookWorms	Library Mezz
	DT Studio Club (KS4)	DT
	Guitar and Ukulele Group	MU02
	Hong Kong Community Club	Activities Hall
	Maths Paper Society (Yr11)	Y10/11 Dining
	Orchestra	MU1
	Science Club (KS3)	SC11

WEDNESDAY		
REG	Barbershop	MU01
LUNCH	Debate Club	SF2
	History Revision (GCSE)	B14
	Kreutzer (Violin) Club	MU01
	Language Leaders (Yr9)	IT03 (WkB)
	Russian Speaking Club	O15
AFTERSCHOOL	Art Club (KS3)	ART01/02
	Creative Writing Club	EN17
	Cricket Club	Field (ID/BD)
	Drama Club	DR1
	Eco Council	O16
	Engineering Club (KS4)	DT05/06
	ESOL	P15
	FIXTURES	
	Healthy Relationship Ambass.	P16
	KS4 Fitness (Sign up PE board)	Fitness Suite
	Maths Clinic (Sixth Form)	SF15
	Music Revision (GCSE)	MU01
	Rounders	Field (EH/LY)
	Sixth Form Netball	Hardcourts
	Taking Up Space	Library Mezz
	Translation Bee Club	O13
	Vcert Catch-up	IT04
	Volleyball	Sports Hall (HT)

TUESDAY		
LUNCH	Eco-Ambassadors Workshop	O16
	History Reading Club	B13
	Recreational Japanese	O12
	We Are Molecules	O15
	Academic Guidance Club*	B13
AFTERSCHOOL	American Flag Football	Field (LM)
	Dance	D Studio (JR)
	Dodgeball	SH+Gym (LM/KR)
	Eco Textiles Club	DT06
	French Revision (Yr11)	O16
	Jazz Band	MU03
	Junior Choir	MU01
	Kitchen Garden Club	Food01
	Latin Club	Drama 1
	Making History	ART01
	Mental Health Am/ Wellbeing Pre.	P16
	Science Revision (Yr11)	Sc19/ Sc20
	Tennis	Courts (GT)

THURSDAY		
LUNCH	A level History Society	SF1
	German Revision	O16
	Programming Club	COMP02
	Sparx Club	IT03
AFTERSCHOOL	Arabic (All years)	P15
	GCSE Art	ART01
	Healthy Relationship Ambass.	P16
	Lower School Show	Perform. Hall
	Sixth Form Football	Astro
	Sports Leaders Opps./meetings	Check SL Board
	Young Carers	Link

FRIDAY		
LUNCH	Aspirational Fridays	EN02
	International Council	O15
	Minecraft Club	COMP01-04
	Spanish Spelling Bee	O11
AFTERSCHOOL	Board Games, Dungeons and Dragons, Warhammer	P16
	Chess Club (WkA)	P17
	Photography (GCSE)	Photo Studio
	Senior Choir	MU01/ 03

FOR PE CLUBS: Remember to scan the QR code in the changing rooms to register your attendance for the club.

FOR ALL OTHER CLUBS: Please register with a member of staff

FOR PE CLUBS:

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

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

+Please contact Dr Bell about string group

*Academic Guidance Club: Tues (AS-B13), Wed (AS-G03), Fri (L-O13) – Speak to Dr Pagomenos for more details.



Kreutzer Club

On Wednesday lunchtime every week – it is a violin practice club for pupils who are taking violin lessons in school or other places. The focus is on embedding good practice habits and building confidence in a supportive group. We use the famous violin etudes from 42 studies by Rodolphe Kreutzer, which are practiced among beginners and advanced players alike all over the world. No booking is required. Just pop in at MU01 with your violin.

GCSE Japanese

Thursday form time every week – this is an invitation-only club for pupils who speak Japanese at home and are considering taking GCSE Japanese. Pre-consultation is required by email to Ms Tanabe (ITanabe@cambournevc.org).

Cycling

We are planning to organise a fully funded *Learn to Cycle* training session in school next academic year. This opportunity is for children who are currently unable to ride a bike and would like to learn in a supportive, structured environment.

If your child would be interested in taking part, please email cam-enrichment@cambournevc.org by **Friday 16th May** to express your interest.



Outspoken!
Training



"I had no idea what magic your instructor would perform to get my unconfident son (who was not sure of using his bike even with stabilisers) to ride perfectly without them, within an hour, but it was some sorcery, I'm sure!"

He's loving his new skill, thank you!"

Parent, Cambridgeshire

Learn to Cycle Training

About

Learn to Ride training is a great introduction to cycling, developing the essential skills of agility, balance and coordination for riding.

The session focuses on encouraging children initially to push and glide before introducing the pedals. Our instructors are creative and use imaginative games to build lots of enthusiasm on two wheels.

Learn to Ride Outcomes:

- Get on and off a bike
- Start off and pedal without help
- Stop without help
- Ride along without help for roughly one minute or more
- Make the bike go where they want
- Demonstrate understanding of safety equipment and clothing
- Carry out a simple bike check

All participating pupils will receive a certificate.

More Information

For more information and details of how to book this free training, please contact:

Libby Gandon
Administration Apprentice
bookings@outspokentraining.co.uk
01223 473820
www.outspokentraining.co.uk

How?

Course Length:

Our course is delivered as 1x 1-hour session.

Group Size:

We work with groups of up to 3 pupils with one instructor delivering the training.

Instructors:

Our instructors are all:

- National Standard Cycle Instructors
- Enhanced DBS checked
- First Aid trained
- Undertaken safeguarding training

Space Required:

Playground or classroom roughly the size of a tennis court.

Training is Suitable For:

- Pupils who are using a balance bike
- Pupils with stabilisers on their bikes

The training is not suitable for pupils who can already cycle independently on two wheels.

Pupil Requirements:

Every child who participates must:

- Return a signed Outspoken parental consent form
- Provide a roadworthy cycle
- Bring a helmet complying with British Standard EN 1078:1997
- Have suitable clothing for cycling and the weather conditions

We cannot provide bikes or helmets.

The PE Clubs Timetable has been updated for the Summer Term (starting after Easter). We've updated the full enrichment timetable, but details of just the PE clubs can be found below!

PE Department Extra-curricular Clubs – Summer 1 2025

MONDAY 3-4pm

Athletics (LM, HT, GT, KR, LY, EH)

TUESDAY 3-4pm

American Flag Football – Field (LM)

Dodgeball – Sports hall and Gym (LM and KR)

Dance – Dance studio (JR)

Tennis – Courts (GT)

WEDNESDAY 3-4pm

FIXTURES

Cricket Club – Field (ID and BD)

Rounders – Field (EH and LY)

Vcert Catch up – IT04

KS4 Fitness – Fitness Suite (Sign up need – on PE board)

Volleyball – Sports Hall - (HT)

Sixth Form Netball - Courts (Sixth Formers)

THURSDAY 3-4pm

Sports Leaders Opportunities/meetings – Check the Sports Leaders Board

Sixth Form Football – Astro (Sixth Formers)

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

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

Remember to scan the QR code in the changing rooms to register your attendance for the club.

The Ofsted inspection and subsequent days and weeks bring opportunity for a lot of reflection. We are very fortunate to be able to reflect on such a positive outcome, but this is only thanks to the hard work demonstrated by all. Here are some thoughts from staff on their areas.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT: Lynn Mayes, Principal

This report reflects the cohesion between the young people, staff, parents and wider community in securing the best possible grade. What is perhaps most important in the report is that staff and children are able to thrive together to secure their next steps. Leadership starts with our student leaders and works right through to the CEO. This was tested at every level and was found to be consistently exceptional.

"Pupils benefit from this highly nurturing environment where they can flourish."

BEHAVIOUR AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Thomas Darling, Deputy Principal

We are absolutely thrilled to have received an *Outstanding* judgement in the areas of Behaviour and Attitudes, as well as Personal Development. This incredible achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication, hard work, and commitment of our entire school community. The inspection team made the following comments:

Behaviour and Attitudes

"Pupils' behaviour is excellent."

"Pupils demonstrate responsibility for their own actions and have helped to shape behaviour systems"

"Pupils attend lessons on time, ready to learn and are motivated to succeed."

"Pupils' appreciation of one another is clear. They are polite, respectful and value the different opinions, beliefs and cultures of their peers."

Personal development

"The programme for pupils' wider personal development is exceptional. Pupils learn things that are important to them like personal safety, respect, and diversity."

"The taught and wider curriculum reflects the changing demographic of the local area. Pupils are at the centre this offer."

"Pupils feel their voice is valued and that they are making a difference. Committees, ambassadors, and leadership groups studiously work to educate and help their peers, and know they are making a difference."

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our exceptional staff, our brilliant students, and our supportive parents and carers, who have all played a vital role in making this possible. This recognition truly reflects the strength of our shared values—particularly our deep-rooted culture of respect—and we couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION: Emily Gildea, Deputy Principal

A huge amount of thought, effort, time and expertise has gone into creating and improving our curriculum, so that pupils benefit from engaging, purposeful lessons, and it is wonderful to see this acknowledged in the report. We have aimed to design a curriculum that widens horizons as well as opens doors, that fosters curiosity as well as leading to academic success, and so to see this evaluated so positively feels like a real pat on the back for all of the people who, over years, have contributed to building it.

For us, what inspectors saw, we see every day around our school – to see it described is heartening. We know that teachers here are passionate and dedicated, and that they endeavour to know their pupils – as people, as well as in terms of their learning and aptitudes – and this shone through in what inspectors saw. How lovely it is to see the hard work of staff here described as giving pupils a ‘top-notch education.’ Of course, there is always something more to improve, to develop, to try out – one of the great things about teaching is that it’s always evolving, so we certainly won’t just stop at this.

"Staff know that reading is vital to pupils' future success. The school quickly identifies any pupil who is not a fluent reader and gives them high-quality support, helping them to read well."

The 'Not Just Black and White' group has met every week for the past four years, since we bid for copies of the book Taking Up Space, and realised that there was much more our school could do to challenge racism and champion diversity in school. Inspectors saw it as a 'shining example' of pupils feeling their voices were valued – what an accolade for the students, who have run teacher training sessions, given assemblies, hosted art gallery events, organised culture days, and inspired the decolonising of the curriculum. It's been an absolute privilege to work with them and learn from them, and they really have helped to make our school community safer and more special.



SEND: Helen Scrivner, SENCO (Mat cover)

At Cambourne Village College we pride ourselves in being a fully inclusive environment where all pupils are welcomed, accepted and able to thrive so we were delighted that the school culture of celebrating difference was praised by the Ofsted inspectors who recently visited our school. It was fantastic to see the report recognising the expertise of staff at Cambourne Village College in “identifying and meeting students’ needs” through skilful adaptations and the application of “effective strategies to support them”. We were pleased that the effective work in supporting our pupils develop their reading fluency was acknowledged. But, most importantly, we were proud of how our students were such positive ambassadors for the school during the inspection process and that our students with special educational needs and/or disabilities were able to receive well-deserved recognition for their high- quality work. We look forward to continuing to do great things together.

"Cambourne Village College has created a culture where difference is not just valued but celebrated."

ENRICHMENT: Rebecca Clissold, Enrichment Coordinator

We were incredibly proud to welcome Ofsted to Cambourne Village College last term and to showcase the vibrant and wide-ranging enrichment opportunities that define our school community. Enrichment is at the heart of what we do at CamVC, and we believe every child deserves the chance to explore their interests, grow their confidence, and develop new skills beyond the classroom. From timetabled enrichment cycles and Curriculum Extension Days to trips, clubs, and leadership roles, our staff and students work together to create an inspiring environment where learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our enrichment programme is also strongly supported by members of the local community, who regularly share their expertise with our students—particularly during our Careers Days and *Aspirational Fridays*, which are key highlights in our calendar. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and the wider community for their continued support—it plays a vital role in making these opportunities possible and enhancing the school experience for our students.

The Ofsted inspectors saw first-hand the passion, creativity, and commitment our school community brings to enrichment, and we were delighted that this was recognised in our overall *Outstanding* judgment. We are especially excited as we look ahead to our biggest enrichment event of the year: four days off-timetable at the end of the Summer Term dedicated entirely to enrichment. Year 7 pupils will enjoy a residential trip to Beaumanor; Years 8 and 9 will choose from a carousel of engaging activities, including 3D printing, water sports, Ninja Warrior and much more. Meanwhile, Year 10 and Year 12 students will take part in valuable work experience placements. We are deeply proud of everything our students and staff achieve through enrichment, and we look forward to seeing them thrive in these upcoming opportunities.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

with Bad Hersfeld 2024-25



From Thursday, 27th March, until Thursday 3rd April, our eight German Exchange families hosted their partners from Bad Hersfeld. The whole week was a big success, not least due to the amazing weather, which started just as the German group arrived. After settling in with their English host families on arrival day, on Friday our German guests were given a tour around the school by two competent Yr9 tour guides. Then they followed their partners to some of their lessons, before heading off to Cambridge in the afternoon.



The weekend was spent with their English host families, who had thought of some wonderful activities in, and away from, Cambourne. London was also a big magnet, so visits were planned by the German teachers for their group. On Wednesday, we had a joint project day at CamVC, joined by Mr Waine and his group from Comberton. The students learned how to make real English scones, co-operating wonderfully in the Food Technology Room.

Next, they had a go at a Rounders Game out in the field, run by the CamVC PE team and some of our Sports Leaders. Last, an energetic Scavenger Hunt had been prepared, which saw our students and their partners compete with great ambition to find out all about the price of Leavers'

hoodies, languages spoken at CamVC, the number of seats in the canteen and the name of our Library mascot. Everyone was exhausted and happy at the end of the day.

The week ended with a Farewell Party at Comberton Village College, and far too soon it was time to say goodbye.

Thank you to Mr Pagomenos, the PE department and the DT department for their invaluable help in hosting and running the activities.



2025 ECO FESTIVAL CAMVC

REPAIR CAFÉ
SWISH CLOTHING
GREENPEACE

UNITING THE ECO-COMMUNITY

17TH MAY

Cambourne Village College,
Sheepfold Lane (CB23 6FR)



EXCITING NEW
STARTUPS

LOCAL
FAVOURITES

MEN'S SHED
CAMBOURNE LIBRARY
WILDLIFE TRUST
COMBERTON VC
MONKFIELD PARK



DESIGN VENTURA

A team of four Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology students has won the Ventura Design Award for their innovative Loopy Loom project. The team members, Hannah (10R), Chloe (10V), Sofia (10V), and Ola (10E), received their award at the Design Museum in London this April. Their design will soon enter production and be available for purchase at the museum's shop later this year. The students will return to a design studio in London to finalise the production process. The profits from the sale of Loopy Loom will be donated to Clothes Aid, a charity chosen by the team.

This year's competition brief focused on designing a product inspired by the theme of change. Year 10 students at Cambourne VC worked in groups to develop ideas. The Loopy Loom group was selected to advance to the national competition and was chosen by the judges as one of the 10 national finalists from over 200 schools and over 10 000 students. They presented their idea to a panel of professional designers at Deutsche Bank headquarters in London in March and returned to the capital for a Celebration Event at the Design Museum this April. During the event, they participated in activities such as networking with design professionals and exploring the Tim Burton and Splash exhibition. The day culminated in the Award Ceremony, where they discovered they had won and saw their work displayed at the Design Museum. The Design Ventura exhibition will be open until June 20th.



SNOWSPORTS



Over the Easter break, over 50 students headed to the stunning slopes of Italy for this year's much-anticipated Snowsports Trip. With a mix of seasoned skiers, daring snowboarders, and eager beginners, the trip was an unforgettable week filled with adventure, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime.

Each day was packed with time on the slopes, where students honed their skills under the guidance of expert instructors. Our snowboarders especially embraced the challenge, with several confidently venturing off-piste by the end of the week—an exciting milestone that showed just how far they'd come.

But the fun didn't stop on the mountains! Evenings were full of lively activities to keep spirits high. From competitive quizzes that tested both knowledge and teamwork, to a brilliant karaoke night where students and staff alike belted out their favourite tunes, the energy never dipped. On the final night before heading home, we gathered for a celebratory pizza night—one last chance to relax, laugh, and reflect on an incredible week.

What made this trip truly special was the way students supported one another, challenged themselves, and threw themselves into every moment with enthusiasm. Despite the inevitable early starts

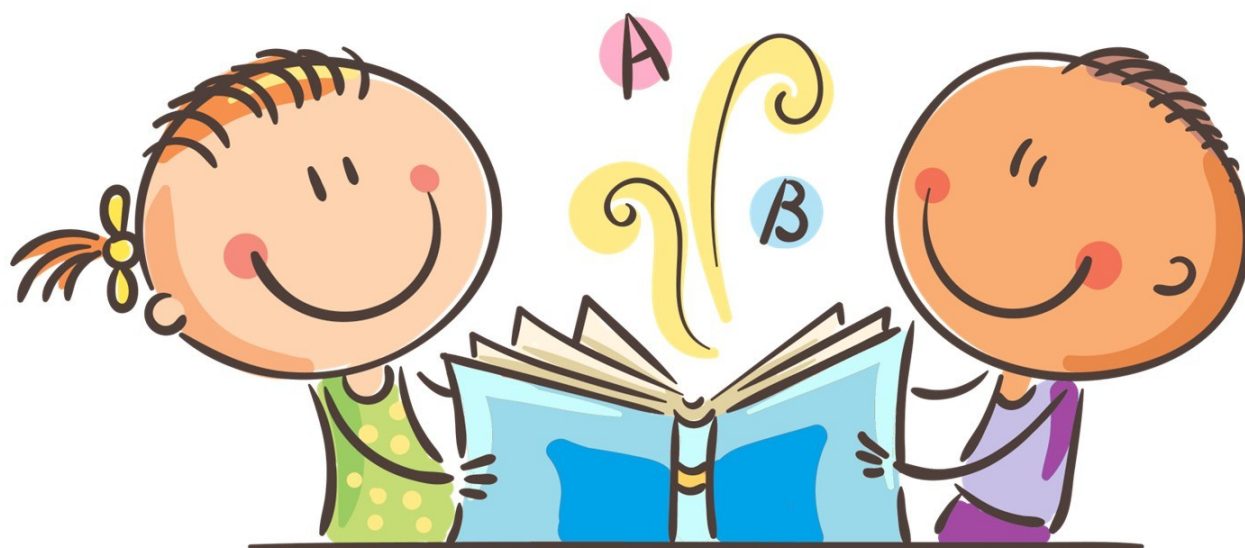
and the odd tired moment, they showed real resilience, kindness, and camaraderie throughout the trip. Their ability to support one another and stay positive (even after a tumble or two!) was a real credit to them.

We're already looking forward to the next adventure on the slopes. Until then—thank you to everyone who made this trip such a success!

Miss Phillips



FREE Storytime Sessions



Cambourne Village College Library

Join us for stories, rhymes and play

9.45am
- 10.30am

Friday 2nd May
Friday 16th May
Friday 6th June
Friday 20th June

Please come to the Village College Reception

*Little ones with siblings at CamVC may meet with them
during breaktime 10.40-11am*

*Please note that whilst there will be access to toilets, there are no
changing facilities on site*



LIBRARY UPDATE



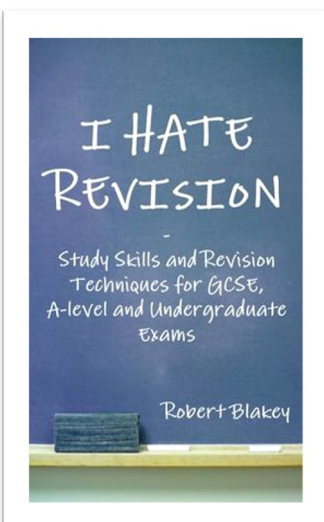
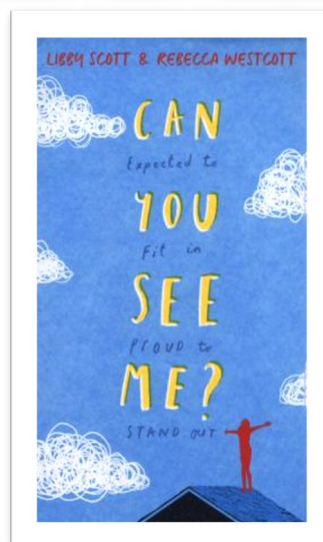
Can you see me? By Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Things Tally is dreading about sixth grade:

- Being in classes without her best friends
- New (scratchy) uniforms
- Hiding her autism

Tally isn't ashamed of being autistic -- even if it complicates life sometimes, it's part of who she is. But this is her first year at Kingswood Academy, and her best friend, Layla, is the only one who knows. And while a lot of other people are uncomfortable around Tally, Layla has never been one of them . . . until now.

Something is different about sixth grade, and Tally now feels like she has to act "normal." But as Tally hides her true self, she starts to wonder what "normal" means after all and whether fitting in is really what matters most.

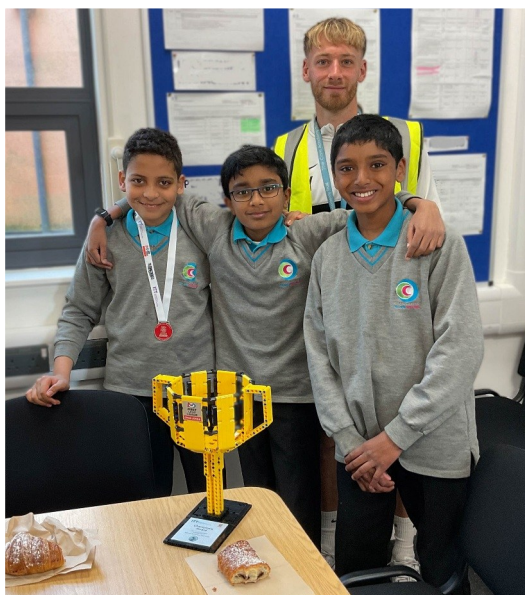


I hate revision: study skills and revision techniques for GCSE, A-level and undergraduate exams By Robert Blakey

Can't be bothered to revise? Find yourself putting work off? Can't get the information to stick in memory? Then this is the book for you. Written by a student for students, this advanced guide to revision techniques aims to convert your hard work into GCSE, A-level and undergraduate exam success. The author achieved straight A*s at GCSE and A-level and is now a psychology undergraduate at the University of Oxford. This combination of current practical experience and interest in psychological research provides a unique perspective on motivation and memory - the two ingredients of successful revision.

(Both titles available from the school library)

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE



Deep Sea Savers Team from the Cambridge Electronics and Robotics Club have won the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) regional competition held at Bosch, Denham, London, on 28th March! The team also won the award for the best Robot performance as well.

The team includes three pupils from Cambourne Village College and have worked incredibly hard over the past several months, dedicating countless weekends to preparing for this event. Their efforts paid off, and they now look forward to advancing to the next stage of the competition.

We celebrated their achievement at the Principal's Breakfast. Congratulations to Abhilash (7A), Ram (7O), Ikram (8V) and the rest of the team!



SIXTH FORM

Following an inspection in March 2025, we are delighted that Cambourne Sixth Form was rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The inspectors recognised many strengths, including the quality of our education provision across A Levels and Applied subjects, and the well-planned and sequenced progression to Post-18 futures. They also highlighted how young people's wellbeing is a core principle that underlies everything we do, and praised our sixth formers for how enthusiastically they have participated in creating and celebrating our diverse, inclusive culture. As a growing Sixth Form, we are always focused on feedback and delivering improvements, and this achievement doesn't change that. However, the Sixth Form Team and teachers across the school are delighted to have affirmation of everything we work so hard to achieve for our young people.

Since its inception, CamSF has aspired for excellence; we offer specialist teaching staff in every subject, alongside excellent new facilities at our growing campus. Our bespoke curriculum offer ensures delivery of a wide range of A Level and applied vocational courses to students aged 16 and over from Cambourne and across Cambridgeshire. Designed to offer a Sixth Form experience that combines the independence young people seek with high-quality pastoral support, CamSF promises our each student a unique and exciting opportunity to grow and develop with us – both academically and personally. We are confident that our student experience blends academic studies with a wealth of experiences beyond the classroom – whether in sport, the arts, life skills, volunteering or mentoring, every student is guaranteed to find something in our enrichment offer to suit their aspirations.

CamSF offers a Sixth Form experience as diverse and engaging as our student community, and we can't wait for our next cohort to join us. To find out more, please have a look at our recent [prospectus](#), [contact us](#) with questions, or come along to our Open Evening (for 2026 entry) on 26th June 2025.

Frankie Rose, Head of Sixth Form

CamSF Open Events for 2026 Entry

9th June 2025 – Yr10 Taster Day (CamVC students)

10th June 2025 – Yr10 Taster Day (students from other schools)

26th June 2025 – CamSF Open Evening, all welcome, 6-8pm

NEW PROSPECTUS COMING SOON!

Taster Day booking will be released in May 2025
Check back for more details