

NEWS@CAM

CAMBOURNE VC AND SF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



Captured & Created

Read more about the GCSE Art and Photography Private View on Pages 8&9

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we said a fond farewell to our incredible Year 11s, who have now completed their GCSEs. Throughout the exam season, they showed exceptional commitment, focus, and resilience—and we're all looking forward to celebrating their results with them on 21st August. Before that, we have one final event to mark the end of their journey with us: Prom, which promises to be a truly memorable evening!

Across the school, it's been a term full of brilliant student achievements. Congratulations to Ikram in Year 8, who was named a national winner in the International Qatar Foundation Short Story Competition, and to Shyla in Year 9 for her outstanding accomplishments. June also saw our Sports Awards, where we came together to celebrate our students' dedication and success in a wide range of disciplines.

We also held our GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition, showcasing the creative talents of our Year 11 students. We hope parents enjoyed seeing the culmination of so much hard work and imagination.

There's been no shortage of enrichment opportunities either—from trips and outings to special events. We were delighted to host both our Sixth Form Open Evening and an Offer Holder Day for prospective Year 12 students who will be joining us in September.

Looking ahead, Activities Week is just around the corner, and we can't wait for the Year 7 residential trip to Beaumanor—an adventure sure to be packed with team-building, laughter, and lifelong memories.

We are also very excited to share the news that the Department for Education has approved plans for schools in the ACES Academies Trust to join the CAM Academy Trust family. We expect this to happen sometime in early 2026. There will be no changes to the way our own schools are run, as a result of this proposal, but we are excited about the additional opportunities for partnership this move will bring.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lynn Mayes
Principal

KEY DATES FOR JULY:

Wednesday 2nd July:

AQA Unlocking Potential Celebration
Event (all day)

Thursday 3rd July:

Year 6 to 7 New Intake Day
Year 11 Prom!

Friday 4th July:

Year 6 to 7 New Intake Day
Cam VC Culture Day

Tuesday 8th July:

Yr 7 & 8 production of The Tempest

Wednesday 9th July:

Yr 7 & 8 production of The Tempest

Thursday 10th July:

CamVC Arts Festival (5pm-10pm)

Friday 11th July:

Year 9 Sports Day

Monday 14th July:

Year 8 Sports Day

Monday 14th - Friday 18th July:

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience

Tuesday 15th - Friday 18th July:

Activities Week
Year 7 Trip to Beaumanor

Monday 21st July:

Year 7 Sports Day

Tuesday 22nd July:

Final Day of Term
(all pupils leave at 1:30pm)

Years 7-10 Full Reports out
Year 12 Subject Comments out

**Subscribe to our calendar
for more key dates**



ENRICHMENT SUMMER 2



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
	Table Tennis	Dining H (HT)
	Tennis	Courts (GT)
	Translation Bee Club	O13

TUESDAY		
LUNCH	Eco-Ambassadors Workshop	O16
	History Reading Club	B13
	Recreational Japanese	O12
	We Are Molecules	O15
AFTERSCHOOL	Academic Guidance Club*	B13
	American Flag Football	Astro (LM)
	Dance	D Studio (JR)
	Eco Textiles Club	DT06
	Football (KS3)	Astro (KR)
	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
	Senior Book Club - 8th July	Main Library

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 Ambassadors	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.**



GERMAN EXCHANGE

7 YEAR 8 YEAR 9 YEAR 10

All 24 students (including 17 funded through the Turing Scheme) have returned from an unforgettable few days in Germany, where they deepened cross-cultural connections and embraced the theme of **identity and culture** through a range of collaborative experiences with our partner school in Viersen.

Day 1: After an early start, we arrived safely in Cologne and were warmly welcomed by our hosts. Students quickly immersed themselves in the experience—enjoying a classic *Currywurst* lunch, engaging in ice-breaker activities, and taking part in a German culture carousel that offered insights into everyday life in Germany and the surrounding region.

Day 2: The day centred on exploring identity and culture. Working side by side with their German peers, students created a vibrant mix of presentations, artwork, poetry, and music that celebrated the rich diversity within both of our schools. We were blown away by their creativity!

Day 3: We spent the day in the heart of Cologne, exploring the awe-inspiring cathedral before heading to the Lindt Chocolate Museum. Students learned about the chocolate-making process—and thoroughly enjoyed the free samples!

Day 4: The morning was all about sharing. Students presented their collaborative projects with confidence and pride. They also got to enjoy a typical German *Senior Year Leavers Day*, including fantastic performances from older students.

Later, we explored Düsseldorf, climbing the iconic Rheinturm for panoramic views of the city—a perfect way to round off the trip.

Saying goodbye to our German partners was emotional, but we're so proud of the friendships formed and the memories made. This visit was not only an educational experience—it was a meaningful opportunity for students to grow, connect, and celebrate global citizenship.



SPORTS AWARDS



The Cambourne Village Sports Awards Evening was a huge success, and a big thank you goes to the parents and carers who came to support us on the evening. It was a joy to recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many of our students—we are honoured and proud to have such talent here at Cambourne.

Nick Rust, one of our local community members, was the keynote speaker for the evening. He shared many of his real-life experiences and spoke about how making the most of your opportunities—even through adversity—can set you up to be the best version of yourself. He emphasised that having a dream and setting clear goals can give you focus and build confidence as you begin to achieve them.

And lastly, a big thank you to the students who attended the awards evening. Take a moment to reflect on what you've accomplished. Be proud. And remember this:

“Greatness isn’t a finish line. It’s a mindset.”



Bronze DofE Award

9
YEAR

Forty-five adventurous Year 9 students successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, showcasing determination, resilience, and teamwork. Over the course of two days, they navigated the sweeping landscapes of the North Norfolk countryside and wound their way along picturesque coastal paths—all while carrying everything they needed on their backs, from tents and sleeping bags to cooking equipment and food supplies.

Despite the physical and mental challenges of hiking long distances and setting up camp, every student rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and perseverance. The evening was spent cooking from scratch, reflecting on the day's journey, and sharing stories under the stars.



Their positive attitude and spirit of cooperation truly embodied the values of the DofE Award. Staff and parents alike should be incredibly proud of this remarkable accomplishment. Well done to all involved—what an unforgettable experience!



TRANSLATION BEE

89
YEAR

We were delighted to welcome students and staff from schools across the region as we proudly hosted the Routes into Languages Translation Bee Regional Final this month. This exciting event, part of a national competition run by Routes into Languages, challenges students to test their vocabulary, speed, and accuracy in translating sentences across a range of topics.

A huge congratulations to all the talented linguists who competed, showcasing both their skill and dedication. CamVC was superbly represented by four brilliant finalists: Rafay and Ishbel in the French category, and Ethan and Shyla in German. They all performed impressively under pressure and demonstrated the strength of language learning at the college.



We're especially thrilled to announce that Shyla has qualified for the national finals in German, which will take place later this month at Cambridge University. This is a phenomenal achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her success. We wish her the very best as she prepares to represent CamVC on the national stage!

ARABIC SHORT STORY COMP

8
YEAR



We're thrilled to announce that Ikram in Year 8 has been named a national winner in the prestigious International Qatar Foundation Short Story Competition, in the Advanced Learner category!

Writing in Arabic, Ikram captivated the judges with a beautifully crafted tale about two orphaned boys who embark on a journey and discover a magical box that changes their lives forever.

To honour this remarkable achievement, Ikram was invited to the Principal's Breakfast for a special celebration.

A huge congratulations to Ikram on this outstanding success!



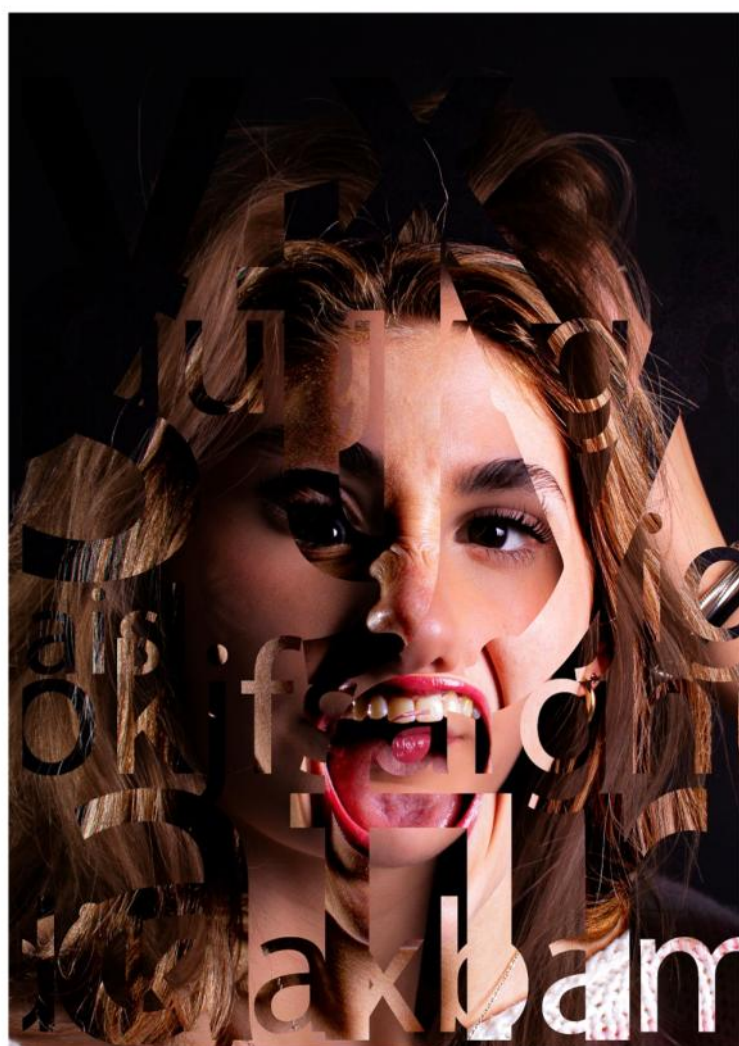
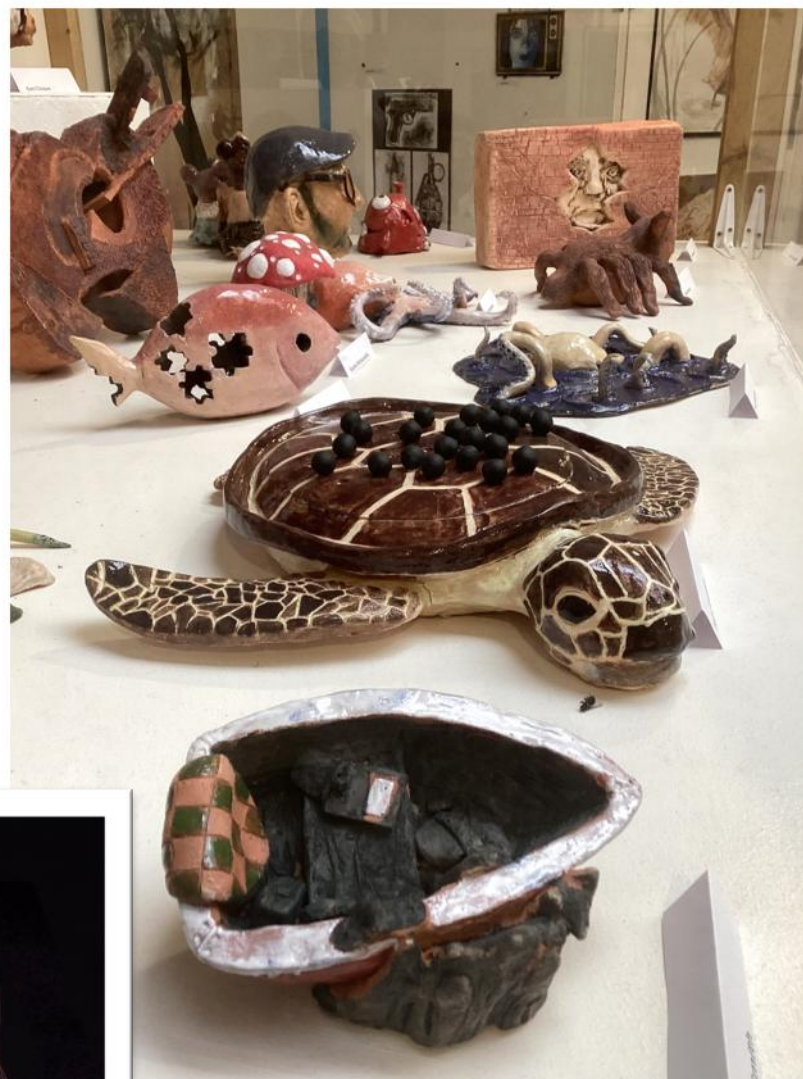
ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIVATE VIEW



The annual GCSE Art and Photography private view is always a highlight for our department. While we champion the creative journey as the most valuable aspect of the course, the chance to share pupils' outcomes in an exhibition is both a joy and a source of real motivation.

As ever, the pupils' work showcases an eclectic mix of themes, ideas, and imagery, brought to life through an impressive range of methods and materials. The display looks especially slick this year, thanks entirely to the dedication of our Art Technician, Sarah Ashurst—her attention to detail in preparing boards, framing, and the pride she takes in her work made all the difference. Thank you, Sarah!

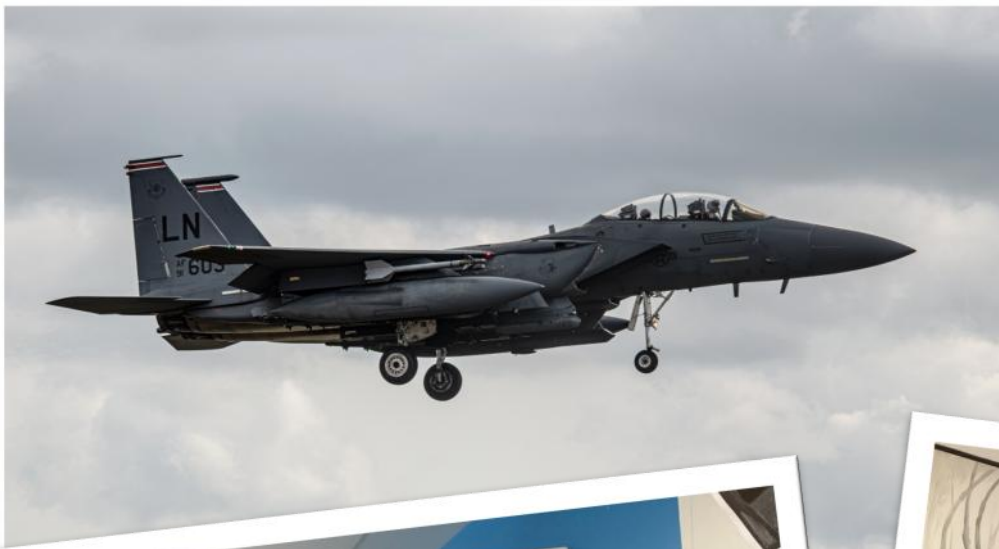


Despite the balmy evening weather, we were thrilled to welcome a fantastic turnout to this year's event. It was a real privilege to chat with pupils, their friends and families, and to celebrate the creativity on display. A huge thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend.

We were also delighted to see many friends of the school, including Basil and his dog Mika, who generously donated equipment to the department earlier this year. A few former pupils even dropped in—eager to stay connected and catch up, which was heartening to see.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed, supported, and helped ensure that the Arts—and the sense of community—remain at the heart of everything we do at Cam VC.



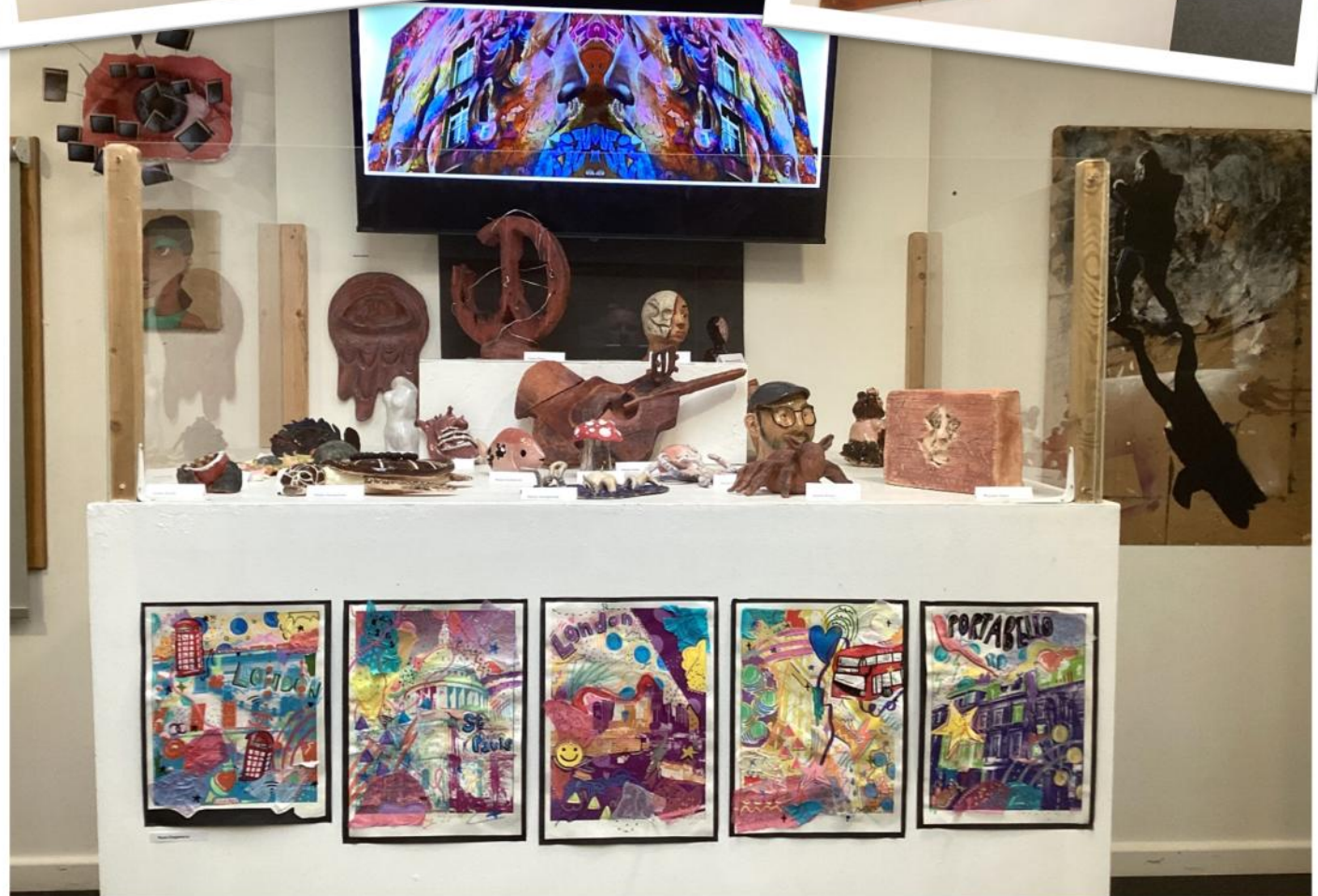
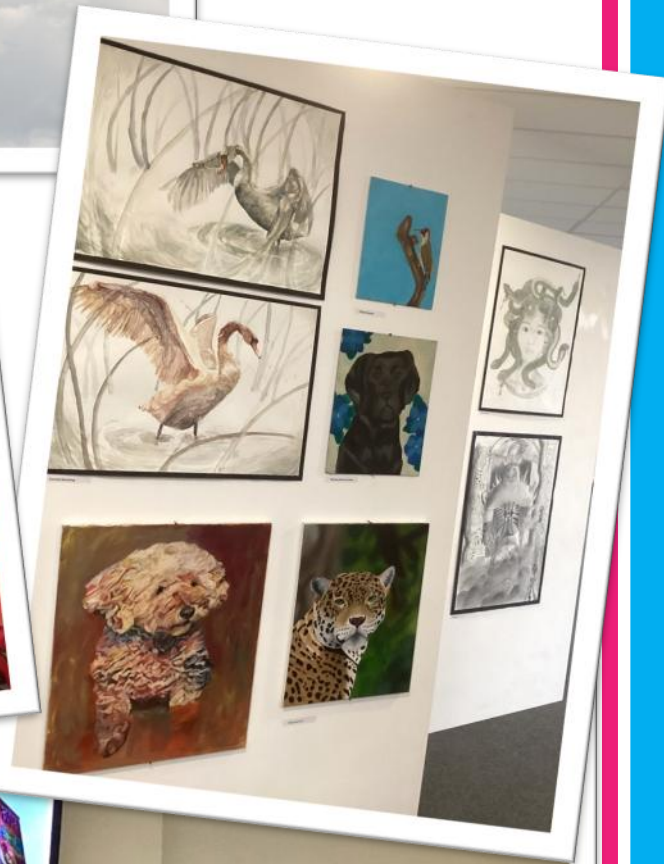


Photography credits to:

Nikki Lahori
(cover)

Bethany Popplewell
(portrait)

Andre Leiser Metairie
(plane)



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AMBASSADORS



Over a year ago, a group of passionate students—Ethan, Aly, Tanya, Katrina, and Niven—came together to form the Healthy Relationship Ambassadors, with the incredible support of Mrs Kenton-Howells. Their mission? To educate our school and wider community about domestic abuse, unhealthy relationships, and how to access support.

The team received specialist training from the charity Tender, who were so impressed by their work that they were honoured at the Tender Awards 2025 in London.

“It was an incredible experience receiving our award, and being able to listen and talk to other incredible people like Olivia Colman, Jodie Whittaker, Jess Phillips MP, Dan Snow, Jak Thorne, and others talk about the importance of educating young people about Healthy Relationships.”
Niven (Yr9)

The event, held on 24th June, was a day to remember. The group travelled to London Bridge to attend the ceremony and left feeling inspired and empowered. Following the event, Olivia Colman even referred the team to the BBC, leading to a [live interview on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire](#) with Niven and Mrs Kenton-Howells. [Start at 1hr55 to listen]

“We all felt incredibly inspired by the event and hope to implement many new ideas we gained from this experience as a group over the next academic year.”

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Kenton-Howells for her dedication and guidance—this achievement would not have been possible without her.



LIBRARY LATEST



As the term ends, please help us by returning all borrowed library books before the summer holidays. This ensures our collection is ready for September.

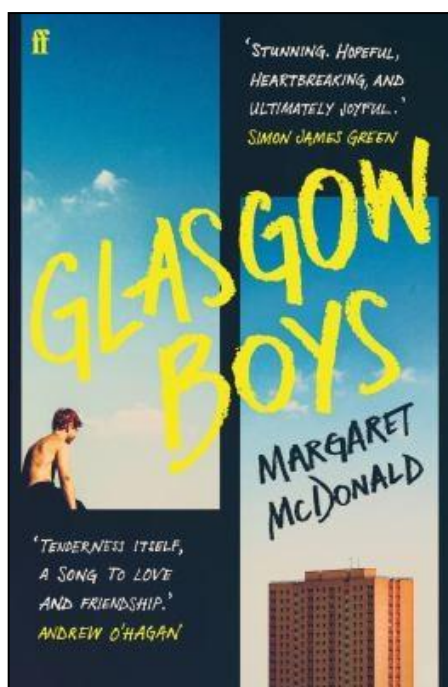
Summer Reading Passport: Students in Years 6–9 are invited to join this fun reading challenge to stay engaged over the break. Your encouragement at home makes a big difference!

Students may borrow physical books for summer with Library Team permission. Plus, our full range of **eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks** is available anytime via the **SORA app**.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated books this year, especially through our Amazon Wish List. Your generosity helps us share the joy of reading across our school.

Thank you for supporting a strong reading culture at Cambourne!

RECOMMENDED READS



Carnegie Winner: Glasgow Boys - By Margaret McDonald

Neither Finlay or Banjo can remember the last time they had a hug. Against all odds, 18-year-old Finlay has begun his nursing degree at Glasgow University. But coming straight from the care system means he has no support network. How can he write essays, focus on his nursing placement and stop himself from falling in love when he's struggling to even feed himself? Meanwhile, 17-year-old Banjo is trying to settle into his new foster family and finish high school, desperate to hold down his job and the people it contains. But his anger and fear keep boiling over, threatening his already uncertain future. Underpinning everything is what happened three years ago in their group care home, when Finlay and Banjo were as close as brothers until they stopped speaking. If these boys want to keep hold of the people they love, they have to be able to forgive one another. More than this, they must find a way to forgive themselves.

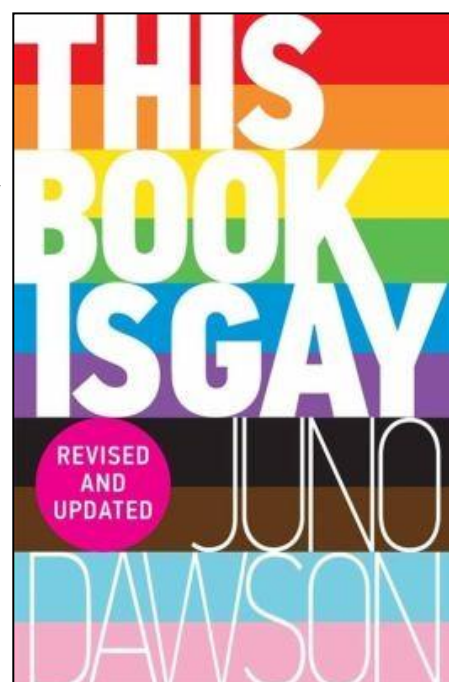
(Available from the school library and on SORA – Year 9+)

This book is gay - By Juno Dawson

Lesbian. Bisexual. Queer. Transgender. Straight. Curious. This book is for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. This book is for anyone who's ever dared to wonder. This book is for YOU.

There's a long-running joke that, after "coming out," a lesbian, gay guy, bisexual, or trans person should receive a membership card and instruction manual. **THIS IS THAT INSTRUCTION MANUAL.** You're welcome. Inside you'll find the answers to all the questions you ever wanted to ask: from sex to politics, hooking up to stereotypes, coming out and more. This candid, funny, and uncensored exploration of sexuality and what it's like to grow up LGBT also includes real stories from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, not to mention hilarious illustrations. You will be entertained. You will be informed. But most importantly, you will know that however you identify (or don't) and whomever you love, you are exceptional. You matter. And so does this book.

(Available from the school library and on SORA)



CARNEGIE DAY



Thirteen Cambourne VC students joined peers from St Peter's and Comberton at Comberton Village College for a lively day of activities celebrating the Yoto Carnegie book awards.

Reading groups from all three schools shadowed the national award process, reading shortlisted titles and submitting nominations for the Shadowers' Choice Award. Attendees also voted for a Trust Award, open to both staff and students.

- *Medal for Writing 2025: Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald
- *Shadowers' Choice: King of Nothing* by Nathaniel Lassore
- *Trust Winner: The Things We Leave Behind* by Clare Furniss

The live-streamed announcement from London was followed by a quiz and a blackout poetry workshop exploring the theme of hope.

Author Julian Sedgewick ran an engaging ghost story session inspired by traditional Japanese Noh drama, guiding students in building characters and setting.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially collaborating across schools in their shared love of reading.





The Tempest



Performances: 8th and 9th of July

7:00pm start

The Coates Theatre
Cambourne Village College



A children's musical by Nick Perrin & Ruth Kenward





CamVC Arts Festival

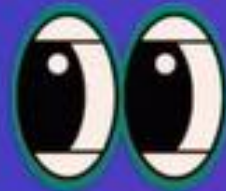
PERFORMANCES, STALLS AND MORE!

THURSDAY 10TH OF JULY, 5PM - 9PM

CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS





**20% OFF ALL ORDERS
LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

**STARTING MIDDAY
THURSDAY 3RD JULY**



**WE'RE OFFERING A 20% DISCOUNT
ON ALL UNIFORM ORDERS
MIN SPEND £35.00**

**A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS TO GET
AHEAD ON BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING AND
SAVE BIG**

**BUT DON'T WAIT – THIS OFFER WON'T BE
AROUND FOR LONG!**

**OFFER ENDS: MIDDAY FRIDAY 4TH JULY
ENTER CODE AT CHECKOUT: CAMVCFLASH**

MMR

HPV

DTP

MENINGITIS

TEENAGE BOOSTERS

**VACCI-
NATION**

WALK-IN CLINIC

21st July 2025

28th July 2025

2nd August 2025

4th August 2025

11th August 2025

18th August 2025

25th August 2025

1st September 2025

 **Ross St Community Centre**
Ross Street
Cambridge
CB1 3BZ



0300 555 50 55 option 4



09:30-15:00

NHS

Hertfordshire, East Anglia and BLMK
Community and School-Aged Immunisation Service





Why am I being given this flyer?

Because it's currently against the law to ride an e-scooter on a public road or pavement.



E-Scooters

S94 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides the authority to confiscate property as a lawful disciplinary penalty.

This allows Schools to be more proactive in tackling the issue of E-Scooters being ridden to school.

Main points for this are:

- ✦ School can confiscate a pupil's property as a disciplinary sanction.
- ✦ The confiscation must be reasonable.

Retention and disposal of the property must be reasonable – i.e. return to parents, not the student.

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However, the current law is clear

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements.

All details can be found on the following Government website:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

What happens if I've been stopped by Police?

The Police will advise you of the current law about how to use an e-scooter legally and ask you to take your e-scooter home. They may however still penalise you depending on the nature and gravity of the offence.

We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

The UK Government is currently taking part in 'Future Transport Zone' trials for e-scooter hire, with a view to making them legal to use on the roads.

Check out the gov.uk website or enquire with your local authority for a trial closest to you.

Don't let your child to break the law



SIXTH FORM

We were thrilled to welcome around 450 visitors to our Sixth Form Open Evening and 155 students to our Offer Holders' Day—clear signs of our Sixth Form's growing reputation and appeal.

At this busy point in the term, the creativity and commitment shown by staff in preparing displays and delivering engaging taster lessons was wonderful to see. One offer holder commented, *"The energy and enthusiasm from staff and students was infectious—it really helped us picture what life here would be like. The taster lessons were brilliant—I left feeling excited and confident about my subject choices."*

Another visitor summed it up perfectly: *"It felt like a real community—supportive, ambitious, and welcoming."*

To find out more about our Sixth Form visit our website or browse our new [Prospectus for 2026!](#)

PSYCHOLOGY TRIP

This month, our Year 12 Psychology students took their classroom learning to the next level with an inspiring trip to the Freud Museum in London. Having recently studied Sigmund Freud's landmark case studies and psychoanalytic theories, students were able to deepen their understanding by exploring the very home where Freud lived and worked after fleeing Nazi-occupied Vienna.

The visit offered a rare opportunity to see Freud's famous psychoanalytic couch—a symbol of his groundbreaking approach to therapy—and explore the historic setting that shaped modern psychology. Students also attended an engaging lecture delivered by an expert in the field, which explored the surprising connections between Freud's psychological theories and the practice of archaeology—a nod to Freud's own fascination with uncovering the layers of the human mind, much like excavating the past.

Our students showed remarkable curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thought-provoking questions and demonstrating their eagerness to engage beyond the A-level syllabus. It was a memorable and enriching experience that brought theory to life and encouraged deeper reflection on the legacy of one of psychology's most influential figures.

