

NEWS@CAM

CAMBOURNE VC AND SF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025



School's Out with Style:
A week of trips, treats and amazing feats!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful year it's been at Cambourne! I hope you'll find time over the summer holidays to reflect on all we've achieved—most notably, our outstanding Ofsted result, a testament to everyone's hard work. We've enjoyed a rich array of trips and excursions, consistently impressive school productions, concerts and festivals—the variety and volume of enrichment we offer our pupils truly makes a difference every single day.

This week's Activities Week was another highlight, and I'd like to personally thank every member of staff involved in organising and leading these wonderful experiences.

We were also proud to welcome our first Sixth Form cohort this year. Looking ahead, we're excited to expand once more by welcoming a new Year 12 intake and supporting our Year 13 students as they prepare for their post-18 journeys.

Other standout achievements this year include:

- Our Year 9 students taking part in a Guinness World Record for the largest cookery lesson
- Regaining the International School Award
- Winning, for the first time, the Social Impact School Award
- Recognition of our Healthy Relationship Ambassadors at the recent Tender awards in London
- And our talented Year 10 pupils winning the Design Ventura Award for the Loopy Loom

(Apologies if I've missed anything from this list!)

If you have any uniform that is in good condition and clean, we always need donations to go into our 2nd hand uniform stock. Please drop these into reception.

Finally, I'd like to say a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to the staff leaving us this year: Ms Macwhinnie, Ms Hayes, Mrs Kenton-Howells, Ms Hall, Ms Ground, Ms Jusu, Ms Coghlan, Mrs Lye, Ms Mironova, Ms Viswanath and Ms Memon. We wish you all the very best in your next chapters and thank you for your input and time at Cam VC.

Warm wishes,
Lynn Mayes
Principal

KEY DATES

for Autumn Term 1

Monday 1st September: Staff training
school closed to all pupils)

Tuesday 2nd September:
Year 7 and Year 12 only in school

Wednesday 3rd September:
All pupils in school

Thursday 11th September:
Parent Forum Meeting 1

Thursday 18th September:
Year 11 Meet the Tutor (3:30-6:30pm)
Year 7 Meet the Tutor (5-7pm)

Tuesday 23rd September:
Years 8, 9 & 10 Meet the Tutor
Evening (3:30-6:30pm)

Tuesday 23rd September: Post-16
CAP event for Year 11 Parents

**Tuesday 30th September &
Wednesday 1st October:**
Photographs for all pupils

Friday 10th October:
Year 12 Attitudinal Reports Out

Monday 13th October:
Student Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 16th October: Year 13
Parent Consultation (4pm)

**Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd
October:** Curriculum Extension Days

Thursday 23rd October:
Open Evening (for Sept 2026 intake)

Friday 24th October: Staff Training
(school closed for all pupils)

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October:
HALF TERM

Subscribe to our calendar!



YEAR 11 PROM



What a night to remember! The Year 11 Prom was a truly special evening, full of joy, laughter and plenty of dancing. Students arrived in style—from stretch limos and party buses to sleek luxury cars—setting the tone for an unforgettable celebration.

With great music, a mind-blowing magician, and everyone dressed to impress, the atmosphere was electric from start to finish. It was the perfect send-off to mark the end of their time at school.

The Year 11 team couldn't be prouder, and we wish each of them every success as they begin the next exciting chapter of their journey. For those continuing with us in Sixth Form, we look forward to seeing you again in September — ready to make even more memories together!



Huge thanks to Ben and Sam for capturing such incredible moments — we've selected just a few of the stunning photos from the gallery. More photos can be found at: [Ben Minnaar Photography](https://www.benminnaar.com)



ECO AMBASSADORS



YEAR 7 ECO AMBASSADORS

Every Tuesday lunchtime from October 2024 to June 2025, Joseph and Lena (Year 10), two dedicated members of CamVC's Eco Council, shared invaluable skills with our Year 7 Eco Ambassadors—a group of around 15 students selected from each form.

Working from a programme designed by Joseph, the students learned how to create professional posters on their chosen eco topics and developed essential public speaking skills through hands-on practice.

It was fantastic to witness their steady progress week by week. The eight-month journey culminated in early June with three Eco Ambassador Assemblies for Years 7, 8 and 9, where the students confidently presented their posters and addressed ecological challenges—and the steps we can all take to combat them.

Their polished presentations earned enthusiastic applause from peers and staff alike.

A huge thank you to Joseph and Lena for their dedication and skilled leadership throughout the year—and bravo to our Eco Ambassadors. We hope you'll continue inspiring others with your brilliant work!



SUPERKIND



THE SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

One of the most important parts of effective PSHE teaching is setting clear ground rules with every class. My number one rule is always *Be Kind*—not only because it's my personal mantra, but because it lays a strong foundation for creating a safe and supportive space where students feel confident discussing the tricky topics PSHE often covers.

Kindness is now one of our core Cambourne Characteristics, alongside *Curious* and *Independent*, and something we strive to nurture in every student at Cambourne Village College.

With kindness in mind, this year we've partnered with SuperKind to help track how socially aware and community-minded our students are. SuperKind is a free, award-winning platform that brings active citizenship and social action into the classroom. They're a fantastic organisation that genuinely aims to empower students to make the world a kinder place through action and participation.

Through SuperKind, we've been able to track every charitable donation, kind deed, eco-conscious choice, and moment of awareness or behavioural change—many of which go unseen and unrecognised. From litter picked up to active bystander interventions, and hours spent improving our school and wider community, every action counts toward earning the Social Action Award. We're proud to say we achieved this recognition in July 2025.

I highly recommend our colleagues in both primary and secondary settings consider working towards this award. The SuperKind team is incredibly supportive, and it's a wonderful way to reflect on and celebrate the everyday kindness and social action our students bring to the world.



ICELAND



Between Continents and Beneath Waterfalls: Exploring Iceland's Wild Wonders

Earlier this month, a group of adventurous Year 10 and 11 students embarked on a five-day expedition to Iceland—a land of volcanoes, glaciers, sheep, and seemingly hourly weather changes. From towering waterfalls to tectonic plates, the trip offered immersive, hands-on learning and unforgettable experiences far beyond the classroom.

On arrival, students were greeted by sweeping volcanic plains and the unmistakable scent of geothermal sulphur. Our expert guide Jason led us to the Bridge Between Continents, where students literally stood between tectonic plates, bringing GCSE geography to life. At Gunnuhver hot springs, steaming earth and ghost legends gave way to lively discussions on geothermal power.



The journey continued through volcanic craters at Rauðhólar and into the futuristic Hellisheiði Power Plant, with its clean energy systems and surprisingly good Wi-Fi. At Hveradalir, vivid geothermal landscapes became a spontaneous revision site, followed by a helmeted descent into Raufarhólshellir lava tunnel—complete with echoing student vocals.

In Náthagi valley, pupils crossed still-warm lava from a recent eruption, while Mr Dickerson's growing rock collection raised eyebrows. Mud pools at Krýsuvík and Kleifarvatn's tectonic lake capped off the day with dramatic scenery and sulphuric whiffs.



Evenings brought unique entertainment—including the fiercely fought Year 10 vs Year 11 football match (with unexpected goose spectators) and a visit to Höfði House, site of the historic Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Nearby, students reflected on history beside a segment of the Berlin Wall, connecting the day's geological wonders with powerful geopolitical moments.

Day 3 – South Coast Spectacular

We ventured along Iceland's stunning South Coast, blending textbook learning with windswept reality. At the Lava Centre, students got hands-on with volcano simulations and earthquake sensors—some keen enough to “revise” multiple times.



Skógafoss waterfall provided a dramatic lesson in erosion (and in waterproof failure), with brave students embracing the mist while others fled its soaking wrath. At Reynisfjara's black sand beach, the basalt columns wowed, Atlantic waves roared, and puffins stole the show—especially for a gleeful Mr Russen, who declared it “ornithological bliss.”

Fields of purple lupins sparked debates on invasive species and buffet comparisons, while the Sólheimajökull glacier's retreat hit home as students stood where ice once stretched. Seljalandsfoss waterfall offered a soggy but triumphant finale, complete with squelchy shoes and selfies—Miss Clissold earning extra credit for commitment to content creation.

Day 4 – The Golden Circle & Secret Lagoon

Day four brought geothermal calm (and mild hypothermia). Students soaked in the Secret Lagoon while discussing aquifers and fieldwork favourites. Gullfoss waterfall delivered awe in cascading stereo, and Strokkur geyser's predictable eruptions had cameras—and sandwiches—at the ready. A surprise sulphur spray added “local flavour” to lunch.

At Þingvellir National Park, history and geology collided. Students walked the rift valley where tectonic plates drift and democracy began. A few got stuck in fissures—turns out geology is more hands-on than expected. Back at the hotel, snacks, Uno battles and packing took over as departure loomed.

Day 5 – Reykjavík and Farewells

We wrapped up with a visit to Hallgrímskirkja Church and some last-minute souvenir hunting in Reykjavík's colourful city centre. Staff conducted vital pastry research before our coach (heroically driven by Roman) whisked us to the airport.

The flight home buzzed with memories, new friendships and suitcases full of lava rocks and snacks. Back at Heathrow, Jason's farewell marked the end of an unforgettable week—and the beginning of endless group chat recaps.



Big thanks to the staff and students who made this trip legendary. Iceland didn't just teach us—it soaked us, surprised us, and inspired us in ways no classroom ever could.



SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

This year marked the launch of what we hope will become an annual highlight—the Summer Performing Arts Festival! Audiences were treated to spectacular performances showcasing some of the finest talent Cambourne has to offer—from vibrant music groups and exciting solo acts to a high-energy DJ set.

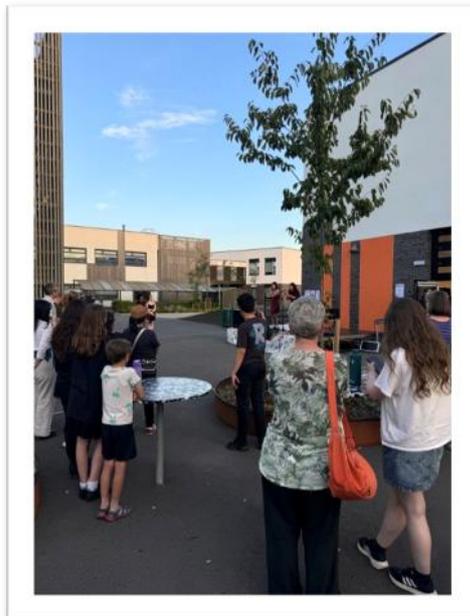
Dance and Drama made a powerful impression, with an exhilarating piece choreographed by Miss Ricketts and the students, and a devised work led by Mr Smyth and Miss Phillips. Many of the students involved had already performed in the Year 7 and 8 Junior production of *The Tempest* earlier in the week, yet still delivered work of an incredible standard.

Mr Silcock, Mrs Kwan and Dr Bell led a wide array of ensemble performances, including our Junior and Senior Choirs, Orchestra and Jazz Group. Self-directed chamber ensembles—such as our string group and flute choir—also shone.

We were especially impressed by the breadth and quality of the solo performances, which featured everything from accomplished rap and musical theatre favourites to staggering classical pieces and soulful ballads.

Adding to the festival atmosphere were stalls run by the Year 12 Enterprise group, the history dioramas display, free face painting from Mr Yates, and delicious waffles courtesy of the Eco Committee. The sun shone, ice creams were devoured, and plans are already being made to make next year even bigger.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so memorable—we can't wait to see you next year!



CULTURE AND DIVERSITY DAY

On Friday 4th July, we celebrated our annual Culture and Diversity Day—honouring the many cultures, identities and traditions that make our school so special.

Students proudly wore traditional dress, while tutor time and lessons throughout the day explored and celebrated the rich diversity within our community—embracing not only cultural heritage, but also the unique identities that shape who we are.

After school, the festivities continued with an inspiring programme of performances, including classical and contemporary Indian dance, a traditional piece from our Arabic programme, a Ukrainian Kupala dance, vibrant Brazilian rap, and a brilliant lip sync to the iconic LGBTQ+ anthem *Pink Pony Club*.

It was a fantastic celebration of inclusion and creativity. Huge thanks and congratulations to everyone involved—especially the members of our Taking Up Space group and the International Council.



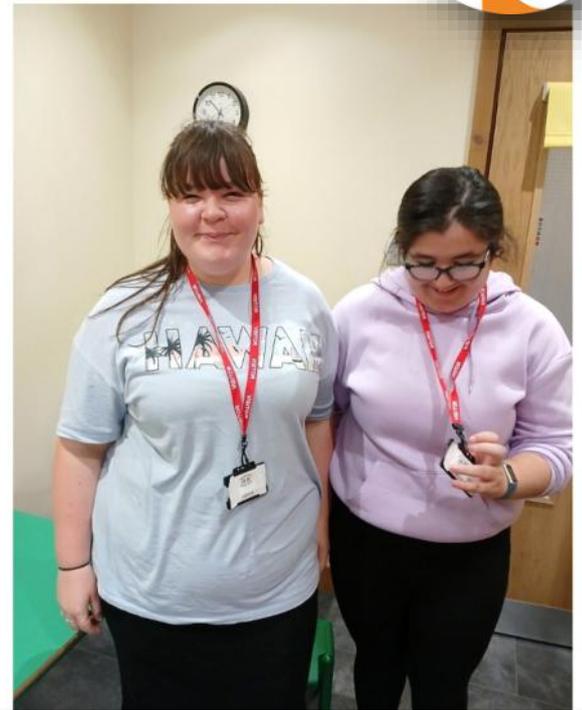
WORK EXPERIENCE

10
YEAR

During Activities Week, all our Year 10 students had the chance to experience first-hand what I affectionately call “the real world”! They spent the week on work experience placements, discovering what it takes to be active, constructive members of society. We had students in hotels, universities, car garages—even film studios! Everyone we managed to visit was having a fantastic time and learning lots (though a few did admit to missing those cosy 9–3 school hours).

Not all students were able to secure placements for the week—some had completed theirs earlier in the term—so we’ve been working with them onsite on what I’ve dubbed our Community Outreach Volunteer Work. These students have been an absolute joy. We’ve seen whole new sides to them and have been genuinely impressed by their determination and problem-solving skills.

A special shout-out goes to Sam J, Maciej, Natasha and Jenson, all of whom have been absolute superstars this week. Their efforts have truly wowed us!



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



Two of our Year 9 classes have officially made history—taking part in Jamie Oliver’s Guinness World Records™ attempt for the largest cookery lesson held in multiple venues!

On an exceptionally hot summer’s day, our resilient and focused Year 9s joined over 10,500 cooks from 42 countries across six continents, following Jamie live on Zoom. The challenge? To prepare a delicious, handmade pasta dish with fresh tomato and basil sauce—and they absolutely rose to the occasion.

Despite the heat, students showed exceptional concentration, teamwork, and enthusiasm. It was inspiring to see them kneading dough, rolling pasta and cooking with such dedication. The result was a vibrant, fresh meal—perfect for a summer afternoon and made entirely from scratch.

We’re incredibly proud of their efforts and thrilled that they can now call themselves official Guinness World Record holders. What a brilliant way to celebrate food, teamwork and global connection—and a memory they’ll carry with them for years to come. Well done to everyone involved!



ACTIVITIES WEEK



GO APE

Forty-eight students and six teachers spent the day at Go Ape Salcey Forest, putting their courage, balance, and muscle power to the test. They climbed high into the oak tree canopy, crossed wobbly planks and rope nets, zipped down exhilarating wire lines, and refused to let any fear of heights hold them back. Team spirit and mutual support were essential throughout the adventure. A truly memorable and highly recommended experience!



ACTIVITIES WEEK



TEAM GAMES

120 students gathered out in the playing field for a day of competitive team building challenges, led by four competent instructors from the Wise Up company: Lava fields and deep ravines had to be crossed, and tennis ball runs had to be created within minutes, to get the ball from A to B as quickly as possible.

Clever group strategies and good team work clearly paid off and won extra points. These points then had to be used by the teams to buy equipment for building catapults.

At the end, each team had to present their catapult in Dragons' Den style – accompanied by lots of applause and laughter.



ACTIVITIES WEEK



BEAUMANOR HALL RESIDENTIAL

During Activities Week, over 200 of our Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Beaumanor Hall. Over four action-packed days, students threw themselves into a range of adventurous activities—including canoeing, high ropes, archery, and bridge building—demonstrating impressive teamwork, determination, and resilience throughout.

Evenings brought their own magic, filled with games, hot chocolate, a fantastic talent show, and a lively disco to round off the final night.

It was a brilliant opportunity for students to grow in confidence, forge new friendships, and create memories to last a lifetime. A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to make the trip possible, to our amazing Year 7s for their energy and outstanding behaviour, and to all parents and carers for placing your trust in us.

We're already counting down to next year's adventure!





ACTIVITIES WEEK



WELLBEING AND MOVEMENT

We enjoyed a truly uplifting couple of days filled with wellbeing and movement activities. We began by exploring positive affirmation cards, setting an encouraging and inspiring tone for the day. Thoughtful discussions followed, focusing on the importance of giving ourselves permission to take time and space—to be present, let go of worries, and recognise that not everything needs to be urgent. Prioritising time for ourselves is essential.

Students took part in a calming guided meditation to relax both mind and body, followed by a lively dance-style fitness workout. They also made great use of the fitness suite, which was a firm favourite.

A peaceful walk led us to a lakeside treat of ice cream, strawberries, and croissants. Afterwards, we enjoyed another energising dance session and rounded off the day with a film—perfect for unwinding and relaxing.

Both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed these days. We embraced the value of mindfulness—learning to pause, find stillness, switch off, and give ourselves permission to relax so we're better equipped to take on life's everyday challenges.

It truly was a lovely time for all. A huge well done to the brilliant students involved, and heartfelt thanks to the staff who made it all happen.



YEAR 7 EXPLORE JAPANESE MUSIC

On Wednesday of Activities Week, the Year 7 students who remained in school took part in a full day of activities focused on the music of Japan. Leicestershire Taiko led an engaging workshop on taiko drumming, complete with a thrilling performance that showcased just how powerful and exciting these drums can be!

Students also collaborated to create an original musical composition to accompany the film *Spirited Away*, followed by a music video for the J-Pop song *Jitensha (Bicycle)* by Oreskaband.



ACTIVITIES WEEK



ART ENCOUNTERS

40,000 years ago, early humans in what is now Spain used stencils on cave walls to leave their mark and make connections. Similar forms of art can be found at archaeological sites around the world. These works are believed to be the earliest expressions of human culture—moments where our ancestors paused to consider their place in the world.

Fast forward 40,000 years and we're still using stencils. Banksy, of course, has made quite a career with the technique. The imagery is immediate and direct, giving artists the power to communicate complex ideas with striking clarity.

This year's *Art Encounters* saw pupils boldly exploring modern stencil techniques. Images were digitally refined into strong areas of flat tone, then carefully cut and layered using spray paint over beautifully constructed mixed media backgrounds. Pupils tackled a variety of themes—from Pop icons to the natural world—with energy and creativity. The atmosphere was fantastic, and staff deeply appreciated the extended time spent in studios, guiding pupils from start to finish over several days.

We were truly inspired by the tenacity, teamwork and curiosity on display. Pupils continually pushed their techniques to new levels, and we think the photos of their incredible work speak for themselves.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

WARHAMMER



ACTIVITIES WEEK



HADESTOWN

On Thursday of Activities Week, 35 music-loving students enjoyed an unforgettable experience watching *Hadestown* the musical. The visit included sightseeing around some of London's most iconic landmarks—Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and the famous pelicans of St James's Park.

We also explored the National Gallery, although a slight detour (courtesy of Mr Silcock!) added an unexpected dash of adventure to the journey.

Inspired by the performance, the students later collaborated to workshop, perform, and record scenes from *Hadestown*, bringing their own creative interpretations to the stage.

For Activities Week, we had a brilliant time in London watching *Hadestown*. The show was incredibly engaging and captivating—I especially loved the lighting, the acting, and the songs; they were all fantastic. The twist at the end made it even more memorable.

I'm really grateful to have had the opportunity to see it, and I truly enjoyed the whole experience.

Rumaysah, Enrichment Prefect



ACTIVITIES WEEK

WHITE-WATER RAFTING

Our warm-up day was spent at school, diving into team-building games led by Wise Up. Each activity offered points, which were converted into notional cash “banked” to purchase items for catapult construction. The big question—who could launch their tennis ball the furthest at the end of the day?

But it was the second day we were all most excited about: white-water rafting at Lee Valley. Once kitted out, we learned the basics of paddling and took part in a “test swim,” launching ourselves into the rapids to practise safe recovery (a skill that definitely came in handy later!). We paddled hard to navigate waves and eddies, facing thrilling drops and plenty of splashes. When the raft tipped, we leaned to right it—though that didn’t always prevent the occasional student (or teacher!) from going overboard.

Naturally, on the final run facing the biggest wave, one raft—yes, the one with the teachers—capsized entirely, bringing the adventure to a dramatic and exhilarating close! Thankfully, a sunny café terrace provided the perfect spot to relax and reflect afterwards. It was a fantastic day and a truly memorable way to end the week.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

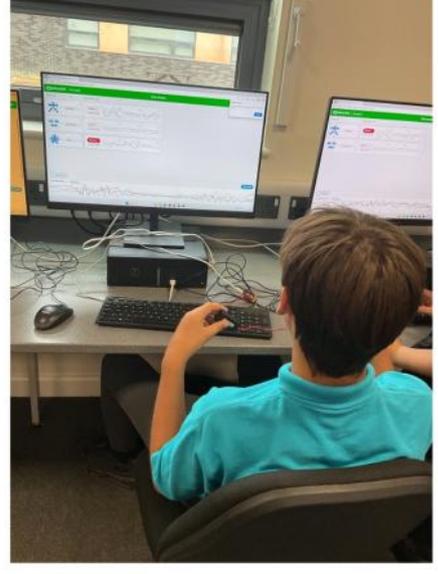


MICRO:BIT

Our recent Micro:bit activity days gave pupils an exciting introduction to programming and artificial intelligence. Using MicroPython—a beginner-friendly version of Python—they were able to focus on logical thinking while learning core coding concepts.

A highlight of the experience was exploring CreateAI, where pupils used machine learning to train their Micro:bits to recognise specific movements and gestures. This hands-on approach made abstract AI concepts feel tangible and engaging.

Equipped with new programming and AI skills, pupils then worked collaboratively to design innovative Micro:bit projects, from motion-activated games to gesture-controlled devices, sharing ideas and solving challenges together.



ACTIVITIES WEEK



LAND AND WATER ADVENTURE AT BOX END

Our first day at Box End was spent on dry land—an exciting mix of archery, disc golf, and team-building challenges. Memory skills, problem-solving abilities, and physical agility were put to the test, all while the lake loomed in the background, tempting us with the promise of aquatic adventure on day two.

And what a day it was! From slipping off giant inflatables to playing games on paddleboards, tackling the ninja warrior course, and even experiencing the thrill of being "body dragged" on the cable tow—each moment was unforgettable.

It was an exhilarating blend of fun, courage, and laughter across both land and water—an experience to remember!

NINJA WARRIORS

Today I was so lucky to get to go to Ninja Warriors. My friends and I got to push ourselves to our limits and have so much fun. There were lots of different obstacle courses where I proved my lack of arm strength! It was tiring but completely worth it. We also enjoyed a lovely pizza between us. I had a great time with my friends, especially on the inflatable course. The heat got to us eventually, but we all ended up relaxing in the air-conditioned room, which I thought was a lovely end to such an energetic day.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

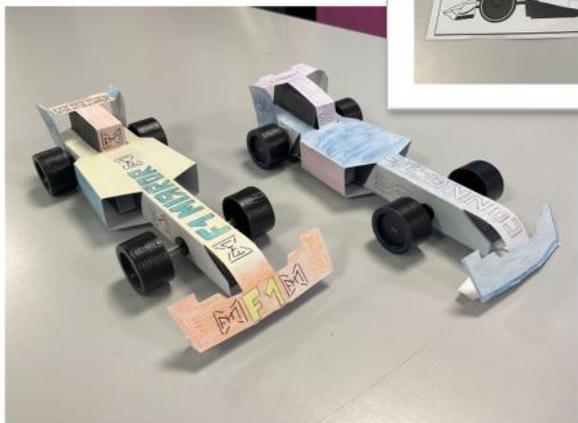
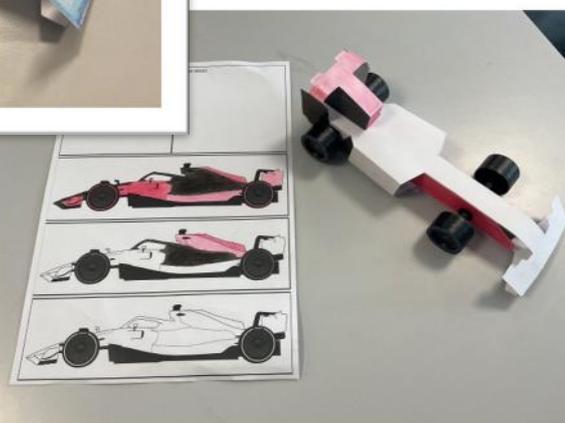
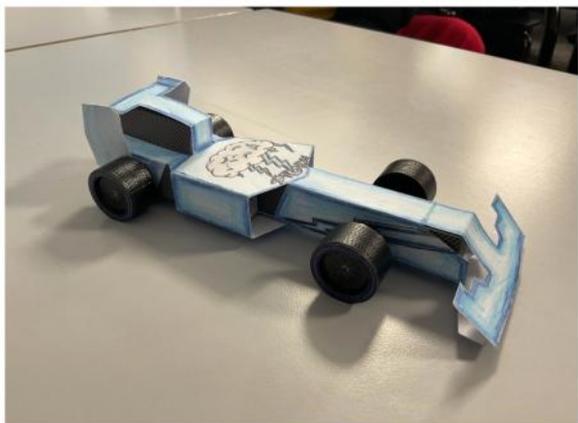


FORMULA 1 MODEL RACING

Pupils had a great time designing and building their own Formula 1 racing car models. After analysing the logos and car designs used by professional Formula 1 teams, they created their own unique branding and visual styles.

Using kits, pupils folded nets to construct the chassis, body, and engine housing of their models. The final test? A lively competition to see which cars travelled the furthest when launched from a pressurised launchpad.

It was a hands-on, creative experience—and plenty of fun was had by all!



This activities week has been full of enjoyable activities and great experiences. I really enjoyed skiing and the staff at the skiing dome were helpful as well as the teachers who even skied with us. I learned a lot through F1 design, and it was great to see how much I have improved in go karting since last year. Thanks to the support from the venue staff and our school team, the week provided plenty of opportunities to learn and enjoy ourselves.

Max, Head Prefect Team



ACTIVITIES WEEK



F1 GO-KARTING

Screeching tyres, burning rubber and adrenaline filled the air at Teamworks Indoor Go-Karting Centre in Letchworth, as students battled for the fastest lap time!

The day offered a thrilling carousel of activities—go-karting, laser tag and F1 simulator racing—followed by in-school workshops focused on F1 car design.

Amidst the bumps, skids and occasional prangs, cheers of triumph and encouragement rang out above the roar of the electric karts. Whether overtaking friends or shaving tenths off previous laps, students celebrated every victory.

Mr O2 clinched the fastest lap of the week with a time just over 29 seconds, closely followed by several students around the 30-second mark. Miss Hill sealed the top-tier scores with a strong 31 seconds.

It was fantastic to see every student embrace the challenge with enthusiasm—and uplifting to witness the camaraderie and support that defined this high-octane experience..



ACTIVITIES WEEK

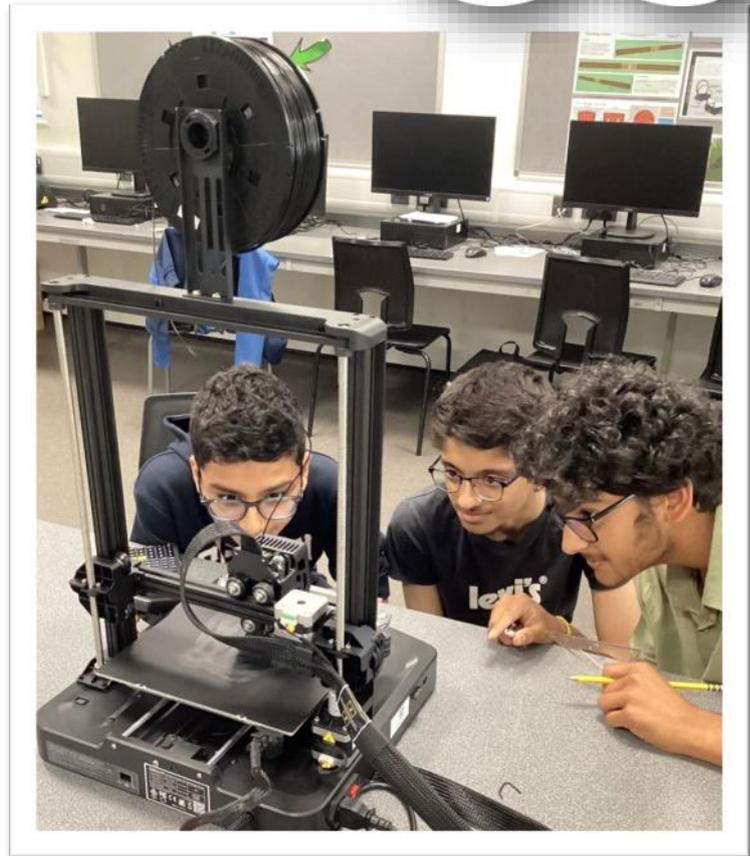


3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

Over an exciting two-day workshop, pupils delved into the world of 3D printing—from initial concept to final creation. They learned to design their own models using CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software and carefully prepared their files for printing with precision.

Some pupils even stepped up to troubleshoot and fix printing errors, building their technical know-how and problem-solving skills along the way. A few also had the unique opportunity to program the 3D printers themselves, deepening their understanding of how digital instructions transform into real-world objects.

This hands-on experience sparked creativity while introducing valuable skills in design, engineering, and programming. A brilliant effort from everyone involved



ACTIVITIES WEEK



BAKE OFF

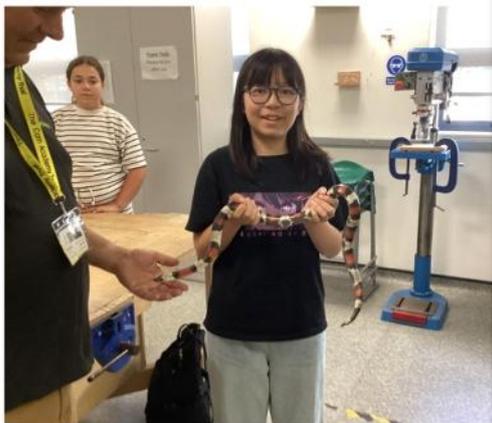
Pupils spent two days putting their cooking skills to the test, whipping up a delicious array of bakes! From cinnamon buns and spicy patties to chocolate marble loaf cake, pizza star bread, and “All About Me” muffins—each creation was full of flavour and flair. Pupils did a fantastic job showcasing and refining their culinary talents, and headed home with some truly tasty treats.

Well done, Bake Off Team!



ACTIVITIES WEEK

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS



ACTIVITIES WEEK



MUD RUN



ACTIVITIES WEEK

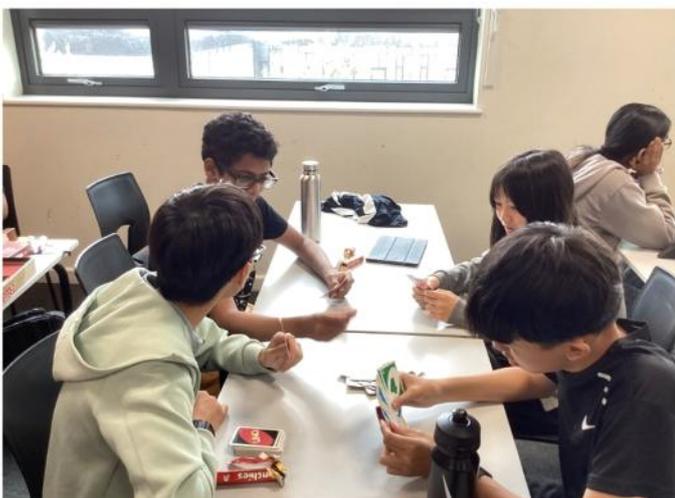
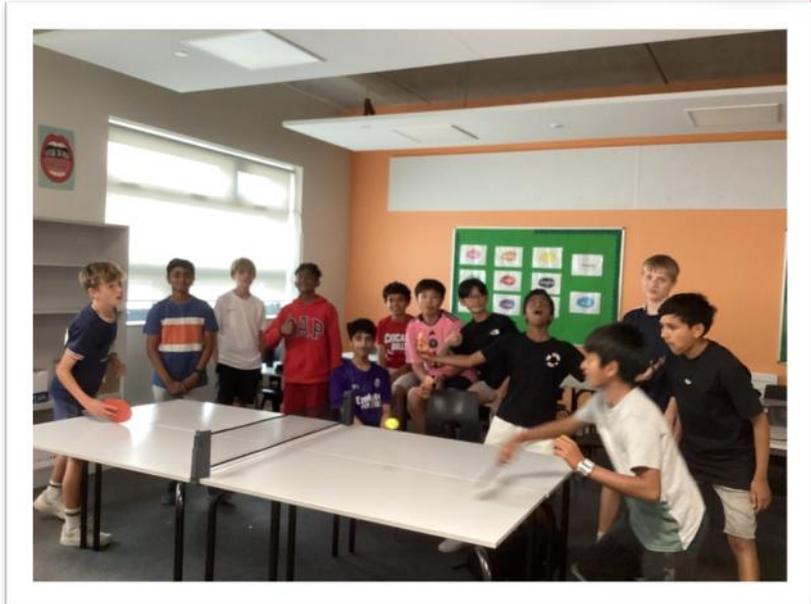


BOARD GAMES

The corridor seems silent, almost unoccupied—until a muffled cacophony rises from a room in the middle. Shouts of triumph, gasps of despair, sharp remonstrations, and patient explanations all point to battles, contests, and the unmistakable tension as wits are pitted against each other in the bone-shaking, dice-rattling arena that Orange 11 has become.

Pairs shout “Uno!”; landlords triumph over debtors in Electronic Monopoly; strategy games span hours while adrenaline surges through the quickest of card and dice games. Uno, Risk, Guess Who, Yahtzee, Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Chess, Scrabble—board game life is all here.

Students adapt with remarkable speed, defeating any teacher bold enough to venture to the games tables. Scores are tallied, rivalries forged, alliances built, and new experiences embraced. And, at the end of a two-day cycle, the inevitable refrain: “Let’s play another one!”



ACTIVITIES WEEK



CLIMBING – MILTON KEYNES

Our school trip to Big Rock Climbing Centre in Milton Keynes was a fantastic opportunity to challenge ourselves and try something new. We spent the day alternating between top-rope climbing and bouldering, learning essential techniques and building confidence with each ascent.

The instructors were both encouraging and knowledgeable, helping us develop our skills throughout the day. By the end of the session, everyone had successfully completed the requirements for Level 1 of the NICAS (National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme)—a proud achievement for us all.

It was a fun, active, and rewarding experience that pushed us out of our comfort zones in the best way possible.



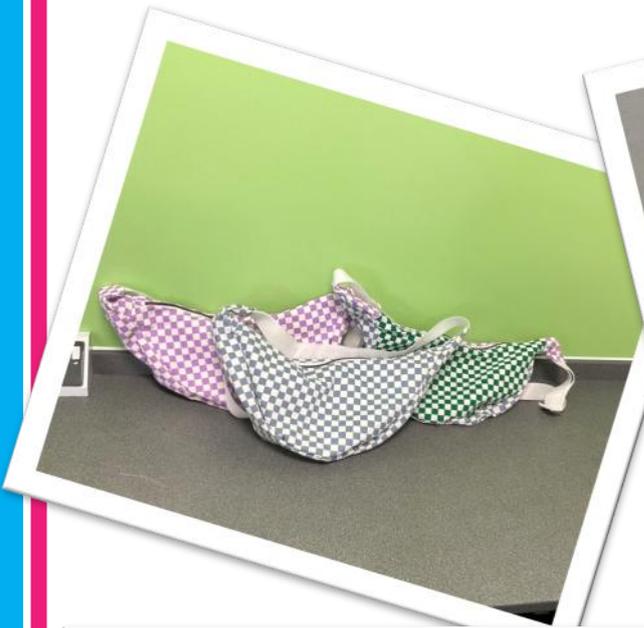
ACTIVITIES WEEK



SEWING: CROSS-BODY BAG

Pupils learned an essential life skill this week: sewing! Following step-by-step instructions, they created lined crossbody bags—many using a sewing machine for the very first time. Each bag featured a colourful rainbow zip for a vibrant finishing touch.

Everyone did a fantastic job, and every pupil left Activities Week with a stylish, handmade bag they can be proud of.



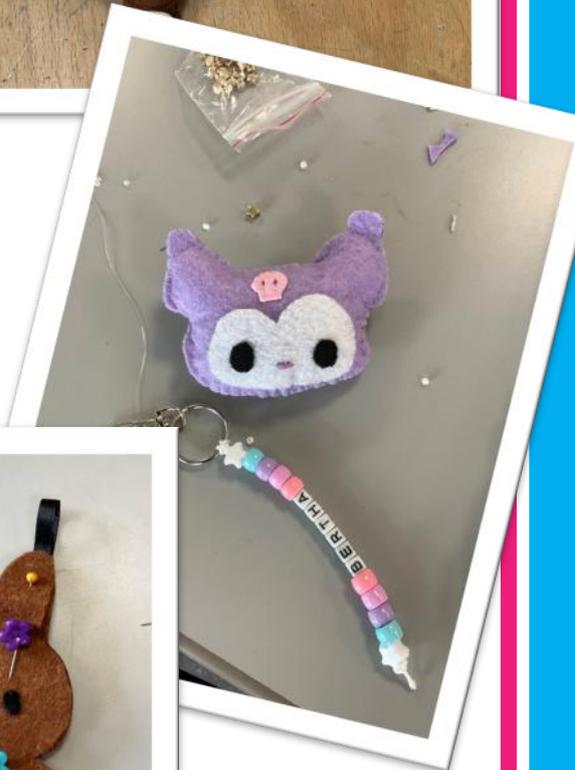
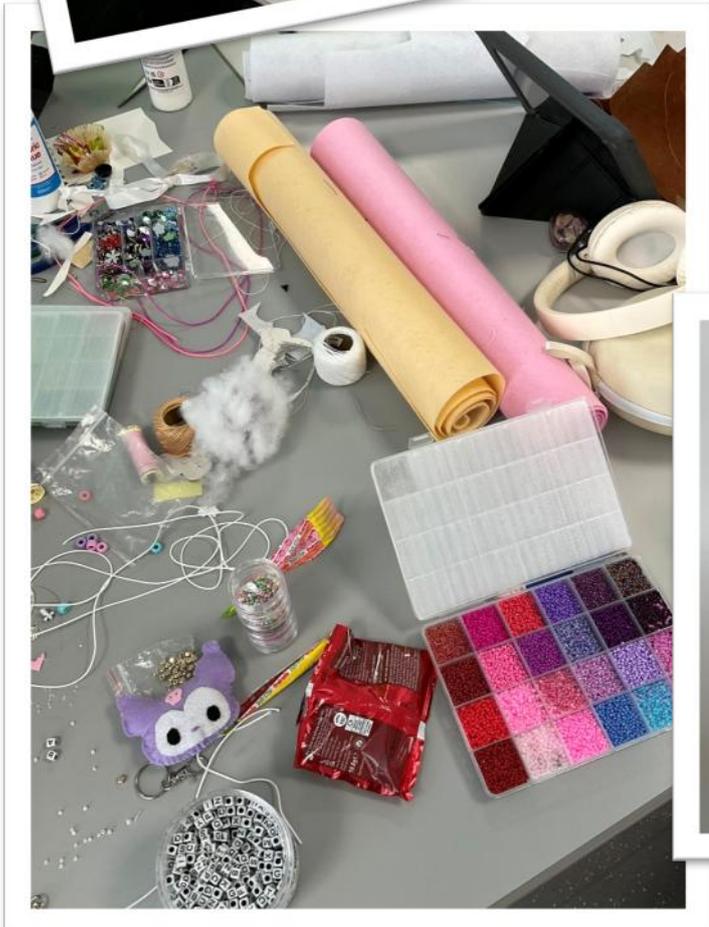
ACTIVITIES WEEK



CRAFT AND CREATE

Over four days of Charm and Create, students and staff kicked back and let their creativity flow. From cute little lizards to cuddly koalas, the crafts were as delightful as they were fun to make. The atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming, with everyone enjoying the creative space.

It was wonderful to see so many thoughtful pieces come together—many made with others in mind, ready to be gifted with care.



ACTIVITIES WEEK



A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

It was an absolute delight to lead the first history option for Activities Week: a 'journey through time'. Across two jam-packed days, we began with ancient history, enjoying a private guided tour at the Museum of Classical Archaeology. The group then visited the oldest building in Cambridge—the Anglo-Saxon tower of St Bene't's Church—explored historic university buildings at Corpus Christi College, and indulged our interest in Renaissance art at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Day two was equally exciting, as we welcomed a guest speaker from the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon to discuss local witch trials. We then spent time learning as a class about the French Revolution and key Napoleonic battles—expertly taught by one of our own Year 12 students. The afternoon rounded off with lively debates about who might be considered the 'greatest' Briton in history.

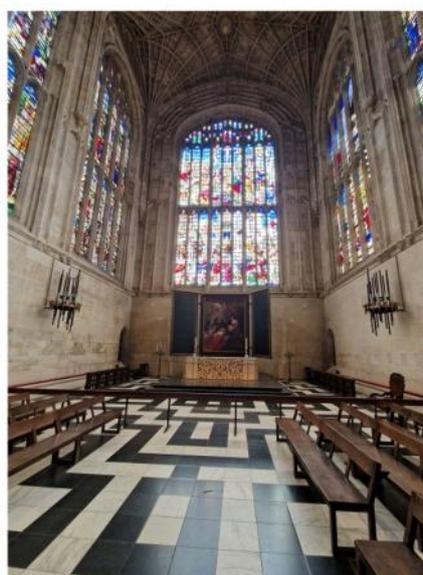
Pupil behaviour was exemplary, and plenty of laughter (and ice cream!) was shared.

DISCOVER CAMBRIDGE

During Activities Week, I began with *Journey Through Time*, which included visits to several museums in Cambridge, such as the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Museum of Classical Archaeology. These excursions were both enjoyable and enriching, expanding my understanding of historical topics.

Later, I took part in *Discover Cambridge*, a guided walk through some of the city's colleges, including King's College, Corpus Christi, and Queen's College. On the second day of the tour, we stopped at a café in Grantchester for afternoon tea and scones—which proved to be a highlight of the trip!

Myrna, Enrichment Prefect



ACTIVITIES WEEK



EXOTIC JAPAN

Exotic Japan offered a variety of engaging activities that gave students a window into everyday life in Japan. We began with some introductory language tasks, including writing our names in katakana and learning to count. Students then explored the traditions of Tanabata, a celebration where beautifully crafted paper wishes are placed in bamboo trees in the hope they'll reach the gods. Another highlight was crafting vegetable sushi rolls and preparing their own morokyu dip. We wrapped up the days by watching the visually stunning animated film *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*



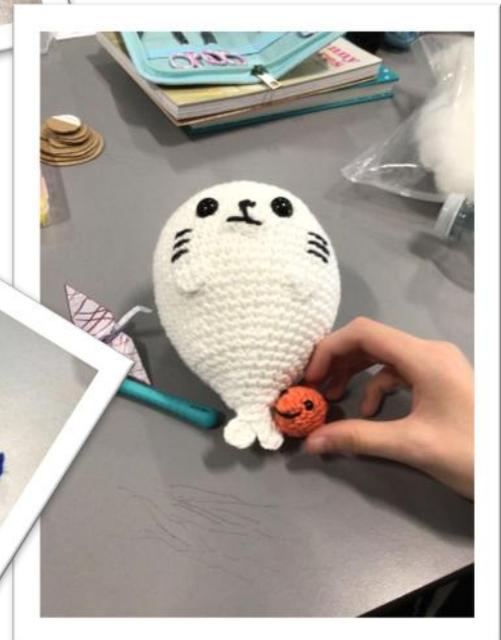
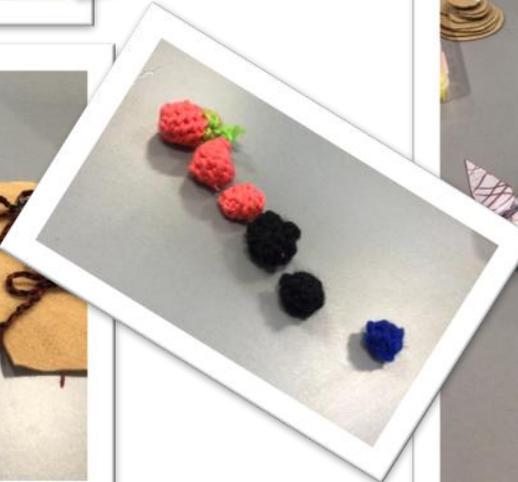
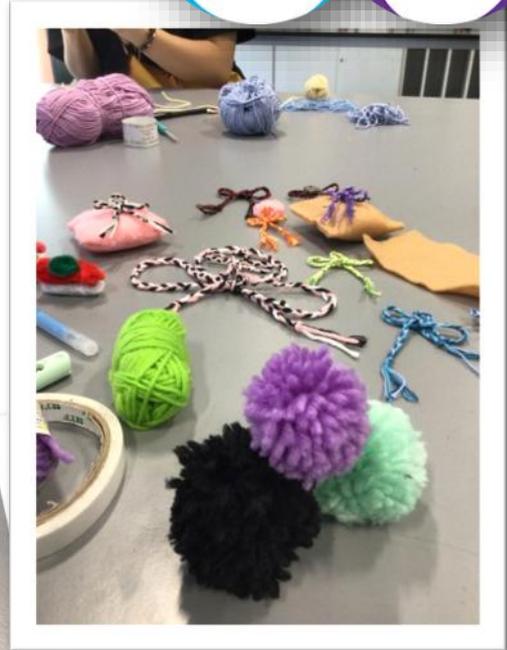
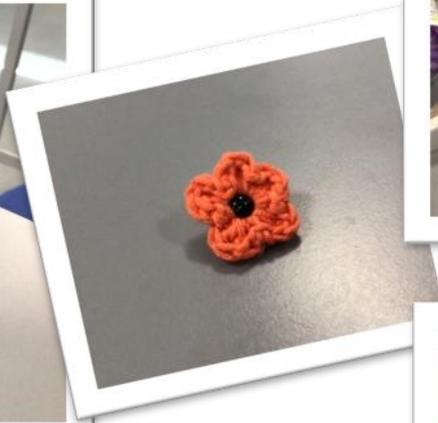
ACTIVITIES WEEK



GET CRAFTY

Over two days this week, some lovely Year 9 students got creative with wool! They learned a variety of crochet stitches and made animals, strawberries, sushi, owls, friendship bracelets, pom poms—and so much more.

We've had such a delightful time getting lost in our work and losing track of time. What a wonderful way to care for our mental wellbeing at the end of term. Anyone up for a weekly club?



ACTIVITIES WEEK



INDOOR SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Our school trip to the indoor skiing and snowboarding centre in Hemel Hempstead was an exciting and memorable experience for everyone involved. Most of us were beginners, so we kicked off the day with lessons from friendly, patient instructors who helped us feel comfortable on the slopes. There were plenty of laughs (and a few falls!), but by the end, many of us were confidently skiing or snowboarding down the beginner run.

A few advanced students, already skilled, had the opportunity to ski independently on the main slope—and impressed us all with their moves.

All in all, it was a fun, active day that gave us a great taste of winter sports in a safe and supportive environment.



ACTIVITIES WEEK



STOP MOTION ANIMATION

As part of Activities Week, the library transformed into a bustling production studio for future stop-motion filmmakers. Staff were blown away by the imagination, creativity, and focus of the students who took part.

Ideas ranged from an original Star Wars epic to a space-travelling taxi driver, with some truly unforgettable battles between unlikely characters. Even Sir Quakers, the library duck mascot, made a few cameo appearances!

Each of the two days culminated in the “Cambournes”—our very own Oscars-style celebration—where some very deserving winners were crowned.

A huge thank you to all the students involved for making this a truly memorable Activities Week 2025.



LIBRARY REFLECTION



What a Year for the School Library!

This year saw the launch of two exciting new spaces: a dedicated Sixth Form library and the main school library's move to the stunning new English block, complete with glass façade and mezzanine level.

We hosted a wide range of memorable events—from a powerful Holocaust Memorial talk for Years 8 and 9, to lively Under-5s storytimes for local families. July marked the launch of the CamVC Senior Book Club, kicking off with *Glorious Exploits* by Ferdia Lennon.

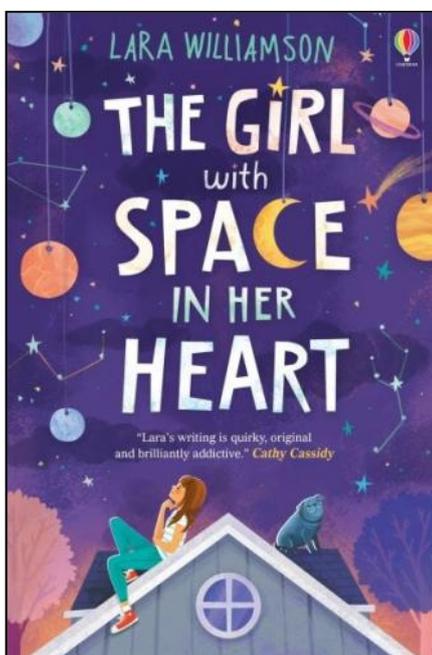
Our themed displays spanned Black History Month, Pride, Wellbeing, Hallowe'en, The Oscars and The Carnegies—enthusiastically followed by our Cam-Bookworms. We distributed World Book Day books and gifted each new Year 7 a welcome read in September.

Author visits were a highlight, with Amy Jeffs speaking to Year 7 and a trip to meet *Skandar* author A.F. Steadman. We supported Years 10 and 11 with our weekly Revision Café and were backed by a brilliant team of pupil librarians. Activities Week featured Stop Motion sessions and five work experience students.

We're excited to welcome our new Year 7s in September and continue inspiring a love of reading across the school.

Have a wonderful summer!
Year 7–9 students: don't forget to take part in our optional Summer Reading Passport—check Satchel One and Teams for details.

Happy Reading!
Mrs Fielding White, Mrs Payne, Mrs Hearn and Miss Lynn



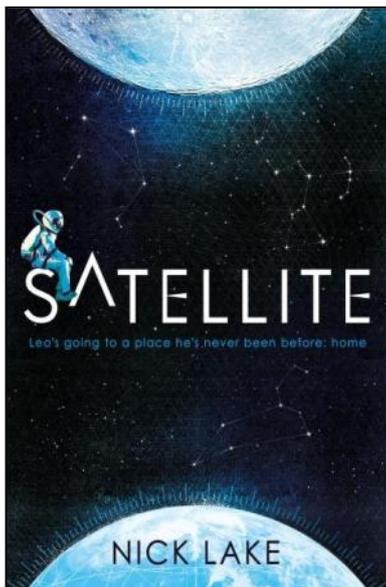
RECOMMENDED READS

The girl with space in her heart

By Lara Williamson

Mabel Mynt knows a lot about space...like how we feel connected to the stars because we are all made of stardust. Mabel is a kind, thoughtful girl with a generous nature and a passion for astronomy. She is also extremely anxious and carries with her an imaginary suitcase full of worries. Dad used to make things better, but when he walked out, he left a big space in Mabel's heart. She wants to talk about him but has no one to speak to: she doesn't want to upset Mum, who was devastated when he left, and her elder sister Topaz is always angry. Instead, she locks her sadness inside the increasingly heavy suitcase. Life seems a little brighter when Gavin, Mum's new boyfriend, is around. However, Topaz is determined to prove he's cheating on Mum, which causes even more problems. As the her suitcase becomes so full that it might explode, Mabel sets out on a mission of discover.
(Available from the school library)





Satellite

By Nick Lake

He's going to a place he's never been before: home. Moon 2 is a space station that orbits approximately 250 miles above Earth. It travels 17,500 miles an hour, making one full orbit every ninety minutes. It's also the only home that fifteen-year-old Leo has ever known. Born and raised on Moon 2, Leo and the twins, Orion and Libra, are finally old enough and strong enough to endure the dangerous trip to Earth. They've been "parented" by teams of astronauts since birth and have run countless drills to ready themselves for every conceivable difficulty they might face on the flight. But has anything really prepared them for life on terra firma? Because while the planet may be home to billions of people, living there is more treacherous than Leo and his friends could ever have imagined, and their very survival will mean defying impossible odds. **(Available from the school library- Year 9+)**

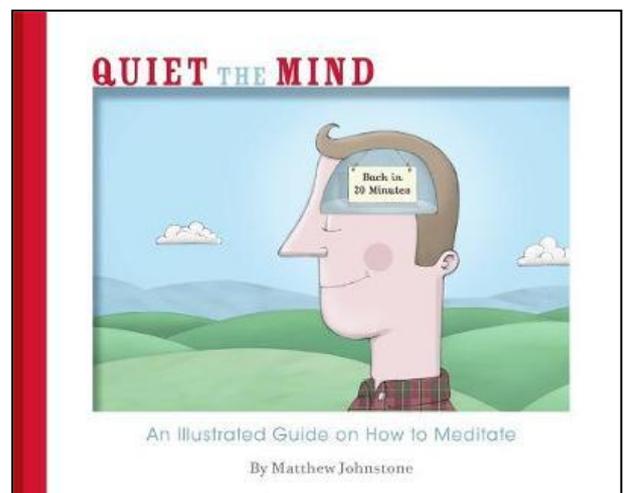
Quiet the Mind

By Matthew Johnstone

Modern society has made sitting still a near impossible task with its constant mantra of being connected. Our brains never get a break and the result can be increased stress, anxiety, insomnia and, if left unchecked, even depression. But there is something you can do- nothing!

Meditation is simply a way of giving our brains a well-deserved break and can actually help our brains to function healthy and happily. This guide is an inspiring and practical book which shows you how to meditate without the need for uncomfortable lotus positions or prayer beads!

With his typical gentle and insightful humour, Matthew's guide to meditation will enable you to feel more present, more youthful, have more energy and greater concentration, improve your mood and sleep more soundly. **(Available from the school library)**



Space, black holes and stuff

By Glenn Murphy

It's a BIG universe out there, and there's loads of stuff we don't know about it yet. But what we do know is pretty cool! What is a black hole? How do we know that stars and galaxies are billions of years old? What is the difference between stars and planets? Glenn Murphy, author of *Why is Snot Green?*, answers these and a lot of other brilliant questions in this funny and informative book. Packed with information about all sorts of incredible things like supermassive black holes, galaxies, telescopes, planets, solar flares, constellations, eclipses and red dwarfs, with no boring bits! **(Available from the school library)**



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



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



Total Clothing – Quiet Hour & Back to School shopping



Quiet hour will take place on a **WEDNESDAY MORNING** between 9am and 10.00am until Wednesday 10th September.

Key features of quiet hour:

- **Reduced noise:** No music, announcements, or checkout beeps.
- **Dimmed lighting:** Lights lowered to reduce visual stimulation.
- **Calmer atmosphere:** Less shoppers (managed flow of customers)
- **Signage:** Posters displayed to inform customers about the quiet hours and encourage respectful behaviour.
- **Staff support:** Store staff are often available to provide extra assistance to customers during quiet hours.

Benefits for your parents and pupils:

- **Accessibility:** Quiet hours will make our store, more accessible and comfortable for individuals with autism, sensory processing differences, or other conditions that make loud or busy environments challenging.
- **Reduced stress:** A calmer shopping environment can reduce stress and anxiety for all customers, making the shopping experience more enjoyable.
- **Increased focus:** By minimizing distractions, quiet hours can help customers focus on their shopping needs.



We also have a sensory corner in store which can help children to feel more comfortable whilst shopping (photo on the right) as our store can get very busy during peak periods

Remember online orders will need to be placed by Wednesday the 13th of August 2025 to receive in time for back to school.

SHOP OPENING TIMES - Monday - Friday 9am till 5pm. (from Saturday 12th July we open on Saturdays 10-4pm until Saturday 13th September.)

EXTENDED RETURNS - Any garments bought online or in store from EASTER may be EXCHANGED until September 12th, 2025. All garments must be in original packaging and labels attached. (REFUNDS remain at 28 days from purchase in store or online.)

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY OPENING – our shop is open from 10am till 4pm for sales and collections.

LIVE CHAT – is available on our website for parents to ask questions around sizing etc. it is manned during the opening hours of the store and will be responded to as quickly as possible during these times. There is a message that shows the times we are available to assist, out of hours the Customer Service team will be sent an email to respond to when they return.

SIXTH FORM

GRANADA

For the very first time, the MFL department took a group of Year 12 students off to the sunny city of Granada, Spain to complete their work experience. Beneath the gaze of the Alhambra and set to the rhythm of flamenco, our students immersed themselves fully in both language and life.

Mornings were spent sharpening their Spanish in dynamic, engaging lessons, while afternoons brought the challenge and excitement of working in local businesses. It was a golden opportunity to deepen subject knowledge, live the language, and embrace a vibrant culture.

We arrived in the midst of a scorching Andalusian heatwave, but it didn't take long for the group to fall into step with the locals: long siestas followed by lively evenings exploring the city like true Granadinos.

As one student, Sarah, reflected:

"The opportunity to do work experience abroad was such a privilege that I feel has really helped me to grow as a person despite how short the experience was. We started our days with Spanish grammar and conversation lessons and then each went our separate ways to gain experience in careers we were interested in. This past week has helped me find more specific career paths that I would like to consider and built my confidence in a new language and environment. We also spent our evenings exploring the city and learning about its history. Overall, it was a very valuable experience."

It was, without a doubt, a brilliant and unforgettable adventure — one we hope marks the start of many more to come.

We're excited to greet our new **Year 12s on Tuesday 2nd September** as they embark on their Sixth Form journey, and to welcome back our very first **Year 13s on Wednesday 3rd September**.

A quick reminder of upcoming **results days**:

A Level Results Day – Thursday 14th August, 9:30–10:30am in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre. Results will also be available on Bromcom from 9:30am and on MCAS from 10:30am.

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 21st August, 9:30–11:00am in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre. Again, results will be visible on Bromcom from 9:30am and on MCAS from 10:30am.

