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The News Magazine of Comberton Village College ISSUE 34, WINTER 2013



WHAT A RESULT!

Delight at first exam grades from Sixth Form — Page 6

Seeing the benefits of working together

Comberton Academy Trust is organising itself to serve the future needs of all its Academies, including Comberton and Cambourne Village Colleges, as effectively as possible.

Key to this organisation will be staff who work right across the Trust for all of the Academies, not just being centred in any one Academy. Through this, we hope to make greater expertise available to all of the Academies and to do so at much lower cost than any one Academy could achieve. Staff already working in this way include: Rosalind Scott, Partnership Development Manager; Mark Norman, Finance Manager; Sarah Parsons, HR Manager; Paul Middleton, IT Manager; Judy Czylok, Publicity and Communications Officer and Stephen Munday, Executive Principal and Chief Executive.

Numbers of teaching staff also work in more than one of the Trust's Academies. The expectation is that some further staff may be confirmed as

working right across the Trust rather than in their current individual Academy, for the coming year.

In addition to this, the Trust is now looking to provide and pay centrally for services that can work right across the Trust. These include: legal services, insurance, licences, all helpline services and membership of national educational bodies.

Together with looking to make purchases as a whole Trust, the expectation is that this will help to provide all Academies with considerable economies of scale, making the best possible use of our finances (especially important for any state school in Cambridgeshire).

This is one clear and concrete way in which all Academies in the Comberton Academy Trust can see that they are better off working together than operating as individual entities.

Stephen Munday

Students building Trust

Students from Comberton, Comberton Sixth Form, Melbourn and The Voyager met last month in a bold step towards creating a Comberton Academy Trust Student Council.

It was an opportunity for the students from all the colleges to look at how each of their councils are run and share ideas for how they might be able to work together.

They agreed to form the pioneer working party, feeding back their ideas to the student councils of all academies in the Trust, and are keen to include and encourage Cambourne Village College to find their voice although they only have Year 7 students at the moment.

The meeting had a huge impact on everyone involved and saw the students considering future joint projects such as: creative arts and sports projects, promoting anti-bullying campaigns, peer support, curriculum enrichment and improving how the student

voice is heard. Ultimately it aims to ensure that the students in all the Academies of the Trust secure the benefits of partnership.

to join each other's council meetings, shows and events.

The students have commissioned Trust staff to compose bids for funding to enable them to co-create activities as opportunities emerge. Creative and innovative use of the new technologies will overcome geographic barriers to partnership working such as a student forum on the virtual learning platform, regular video conferences and using media to promote ideas and stimulate discussion.

It was a lively and exciting meeting, with speed networking, quick-fire planning and determination to feed straight back to their student councils to ensure that the whole initiative is directed by students for students. As the meeting went on, all the students realised the importance of their role and the impact they can have in their respective colleges and felt empowered that their role is to guide the Academy to meet the needs of students and fulfil the purpose of education.

This was the first gathering of many and we look forward to a very collaborative future working together.



NETWORKING: Council members from the Trust schools get to know each other.

It was agreed that students will visit each other's schools to share their ideas and research how issues can be tackled. They all agreed to organise invitations

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Howzat for a major coup!

Cricket in the Cambridge area is set for a major boost.

After much discussion, negotiation and an appropriate bid, Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges have been asked to host a brand-new MCC Foundation Cricket Hub for the Cambridge area. This is wonderful news for our schools and excellent news for the development of cricket for secondary-age pupils in the Cambridge area.

The MCC Foundation has a big vision to seek to develop more cricketing talent from the state-school sector in our country than seems to happen at the moment. The idea is to fund a series of Hubs throughout the country that will provide high-quality coaching in good facilities for state-school pupils who show an aptitude to develop into good cricketers. This model has, until recently, involved the MCC in approaching independent schools and asking them to host these new Hubs, making use of their facilities. Comberton and Cambourne will be only the



DRIVING FORCE: The trio leading the Cambridge Hub (from left) Colin Greenhalgh, Peter Allcock and Joe Uttridge.

second state school hosting a new Hub when the Cambridge Hub starts in the New Year, following Langley Academy in Slough.

Letters of invitation have gone out to schools and

clubs to invite under-13s to join the first trials. Selected pupils will then take part in an intensive 10-week coaching programme. There is the prospect of some fixtures as well as further coaching in the summer.

In the future, the hope is that the programme will extend to an under-15 group. And after that, who knows? Perhaps we can look seriously at setting up a new cricketing academy in our excellent Sixth Form.

It really is a major encouragement for everyone with any interest in cricket in the Cambridge area. To have only the second state school-based MCC Foundation Cricket Hub with us and offering fantastic, free coaching to state school pupils in the area has to be a really great development. All of us involved, especially our Lead Coach, Joe Uttridge, our Manager, Peter Allcock, and our MCC Mentor, Comberton Governor, Colin Greenhalgh, are utterly determined to make this work and to see it as a major driver for cricketing development in our area.

Stephen Munday



SIMULATION: A Year 9 cardboard city sleep-out.

The word on the Street . . .

Eight Comberton students have been handed the trip of a lifetime to the Street Child World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.

They will spend 10 days in the Brazilian city, reporting on the football competition, seeing the sights and going to The British School of Rio, who are hosting the trip.

Rio, one of the iconic cities in the world, is hosting the football World Cup next year, and as part of the build-up to this great event, the Street Child World Cup is taking place.

The SCWC involves teams made up of children whose lives are spent living on the

streets, representing their countries in an international football tournament.

The Comberton pupils, with skills honed by Mrs Moody, will have full press accreditation, allowing them to report back to the UK on the tournament as part of the world's Press.

This tremendous experience is just the start of a growing relationship with staff and pupils at The British School which will see joint curriculum work in the coming years, building towards another trip, to watch the Olympics which will be held in Rio in 2016.

Year 9 raise money to help children forced to sleep rough

Comberton students are learning about Rio ahead of next year's FIFA World Cup and the Street Child World Cup and a campaign is under way to raise awareness of the numbers of children living on the streets.

Students who took the drama option during Activities Week in July composed a piece made up of real life stories from some of those street children.

In response to this, some Year 9s began raising awareness of the 'Street Child World Cup' campaign with a 'cardboard city' sleepover. Students were encouraged to sleep out under cardboard in their gardens after the September social to experience something of what life might be like for street children.

In terrible conditions, one group did manage to sleep out all night in their garden thanks to parents who covered the cardboard city with a tarpaulin. Lizzie Robertson, Ariella Ariano, Katie Mortimer and Ellie Abraham camped in the Abrahams' garden "It didn't stop raining all night, which made it even colder. The wind was making so much noise, it was so hard to sleep and it didn't help that it was damp and miserable." Lizzie.

"It was quite cold and damp. It was very dark and felt lonely and was a very small space to stay in." Ariella. "I would be fine sleeping in a cardboard box for maybe three days. Even if it rains, it was okay, but not very

pleasant" Katie.

"The noises were freaky and scary and you seemed alone in the cold, damp place. It was pitch black with wind coming from every direction including non-stop rain throughout the night." Ellie.

Year 9 are raising awareness and money for the 'Street Child World Cup' campaign and 9M have just launched a request for unwanted football boots. We would appeal to parents and carers that if new boots are on your child's Christmas list or they have a pair they have grown out of at home, then please send them into school during December and January.

Abi Greenwood, Assistant Head of Year 9

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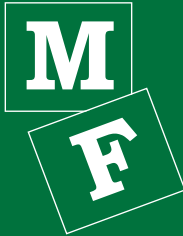
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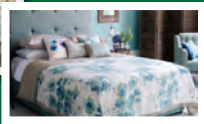
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A truly epic adventure!

Opening night for Comberton's latest dramatic adventure, Audacious Productions' *The Odyssey*, written and directed by CVC's Geoff Page, was a privilege to witness.

In arguably the greatest adventure of all time, it was great to watch the cast rise to the challenge of presenting such great narrative set pieces so imaginatively recreated and so playfully dramatised. Even more so was the pleasure listening to so many different voices perform an enormous range of musical styles.

Whether soldiers, sailors, drinkers, or thieves, whether their exuberance in singing, chanting, dancing or fighting, the cast remained focused and drilled to perfection. The choreography and use of space balanced discipline, grace and humour. After a whistle-stop tour of the Trojan War, the

performance alternated between contrasting scenes of Odysseus (Ben Sharp) not getting home, and his long-suffering wife, Penelope (Holly Masters) waiting for him. While the backdrops projected a crumbling palace, the plaintive power of Holly's voice consistently dominated the songs.

Enduring a range of trials with reckless suitors, the angst of a teenage son, and the mother-in-law to end all mothers-in-law (Floss Murray), Holly certainly earned a happy ending. There were many excellent voices: Frances Sayer's Circe was beguiling and sultry sounding, the pouty, grumpy Discord of Charlie Weldon set the adventure off. The notable Abbie Palmer gave a rather memorable and ingenious comic twist to the role of leader of the sirens. A stand-out song from the first half was Athena's (Kristina McMahon) encouragement of our hero. Heinrich Verwoerd's curiously watchable presence drew the eye and his voice commanded the ear across of his many roles. Conor Hunt's Cyclops was

as polite and as gentlemanly a monster as you're ever likely to hear.

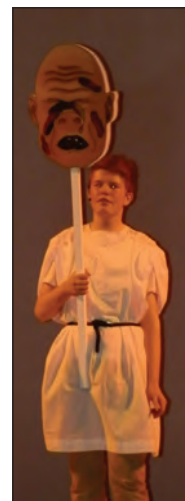
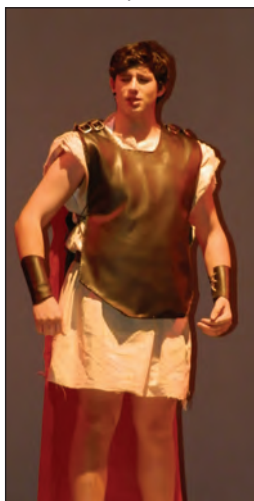
As with so many young cast members, Julian Ngong as Zeus epitomised the promise that many individuals coming up the ranks possess. (Comments on cameos by Hermes, Telemachus, and Paris are restricted by column space.) However, it was Ben's performance that dominated. Not as wily an Odysseus as you might think, his comic stance and commanding, if wavering, leadership filled the stage.

With stylised directorial touches and a mischievous approach, the efforts of Ben Parker, Geoff Page and Year 11 Phil Huddleston, were, if not subtle, consistently effective. For example, the lollypop sign monsters, the cacophonous siren song, and the trial of the three goddesses scene had the audience roaring with laughter.

The all-white set produced a dreamy, Olympus-like feel, so that the colourful background projections by local artist Sophie Price, deservedly caught the eye.

Sound and lighting were flawless which was no mean feat considering the hundreds of cues that needed precision timing. These included 28 guest voice-overs from CVC staff members. Lyrics were bold at times and rhymes were to be cherished for such gems as 'agrees and cheese' or 'sex and special effects'.

Mike Ryall



FIRST SHOW: Geoff Page's new musical.



Cast honoured to launch new musical

This year I've taken part in the *Odyssey*. It was great to be a part of a brand new production and being the first cast to show what a great show it was to our families and friends!

Only a year ago we were all rocking out to Queen's greatest hits, now we're back singing songs about apples and cheese in an epic musical epic: *The Odyssey*.

It's been a long rehearsal process this year, and we've all been constantly amazed by Mr Page's dance skills. It's been hard for the cast and crew, working completely from scratch on a brand new production, but it's all been worth it!

Getting to be the first people to sing the songs and play the characters was a very exciting prospect for everyone and definitely helped character development. To be able to have this opportunity and make life-long friends is just amazing!

Charlie Weldon (10I)

The week before the performances was very hectic but we were all confident that everything would come together in time for the shows. Being part of the show has given me more friends and I look



MY BOY: Penelope and son Telemachus.

forward to spending time with everyone at the Edinburgh Festival next summer. It will be an amazing experience!

Floss Murray (11C)

Being in *The Odyssey* as a member of the chorus has been great. It all started with auditions in March 2013, where we had to learn and sing a solo. I was very happy that I was given a few lines to speak as well as some solo lines to sing. After many rehearsals everything came together and we performed *The Odyssey*. The performances and the music were epic and the audiences definitely enjoyed them.

Thank you to Mr Page for writing such a fantastic musical and making the rehearsals so much fun, and to everyone else who helped. We are looking forward to performing at the Edinburgh Fringe next summer.

Daniel Davey (8T)

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Joy at CSF's first results

sixth form

Comberton Sixth Form capped a remarkable year this summer with a truly outstanding set of A-Level and Level 3 BTEC results, the first in the history of the college.

The pioneering class of 2013 had much to celebrate in August as they reflected on a string of exam successes, both collectively and individually. In a year in which Ofsted also recognised Comberton Sixth Form as 'outstanding', the first set of full results not only confirmed this judgement, but surpassed even the inspectors' own challenging targets and predictions for the cohort. At A-Level, an overall pass rate of 100% included an impressive 85% of grades awarded at A*-C, while for those students who had arrived with at least 5 A grades at GCSE, the pass rate of 96.5% at A*-C was simply stunning, reflecting the unparalleled progress achieved more widely by so many Comberton Sixth Form students. Level 3 BTEC Sport students also secured a 100% pass rate, with 88% awarded a Merit or higher, including 38% who gained a Distinction, another fantastic set of achievements. Unsurprisingly, many found themselves in a very

strong position as they embarked on their next steps in life, in some cases even stronger than they had perhaps dared to dream. 67 students have since taken up places on degree courses at university, over a third of which are at Russell Group institutions, while a further 24 are currently enjoying a gap year with the intention of starting at university in 2014. Another eight have continued on to Further Education, with nine students taking up positions of employment. Behind the headlines were some notable individual successes. Molly Farrow's grades of A*AA were accompanied by a Distinction in the Pre-U subject of Global Perspectives and Independent Research;

Caroline Chalk, independently predicted to achieve only three C grades on the basis of her attainment at GCSE, emerged with straight A grades; and Simon Hawkins, similarly forecast to achieve a relatively modest three B grades, collected A*A*B. Looking to the future, the current class of 2014 looks set to build impressively on these triumphs. Predictions clearly indicate a level of achievement beyond that reached this summer and, with the UCAS process now under way, there has already been encouraging news for some of our early university applicants as a steady supply of offers and interviews begin to arrive. Among these are our aspiring



Oxbridge candidates, each of whom has entered the process on the back of an excellent summer of AS-Level success.

Regarding the outstanding outcomes of the summer, Executive Principal Stephen Munday said: "Everyone involved with Comberton Sixth Form is rightly delighted with such excellent results. Both staff and students deserve the fullest possible congratulations for such a remarkable outcome with the first ever group to go through our Sixth Form."

"The fact that our next group of students is lining up to achieve even more highly is just wonderful."

"Comberton Sixth Form is truly on the map as an exceptional, high-achieving Sixth Form."

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL: Students with their A-level results.

The grades in detail

	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C	A*-D	A*-E
A-Level Students with at least 5 B grades at GCSE	21%	54%	85%	95%	100%
Students with at least 5 A grades at GCSE	34.5%	71.8%	96.5%	100%	100%
BTEC Sport					
Distinction	38%				
Merit	50%				
Pass		12%			

All-action workshop inspires new ways of thinking



In November the A-level Theatre Studies students were put through their paces with a six-hour physical theatre workshop. Working with dancer and physical theatre artist Krista Vuori, from world renowned theatre company Frantic Assembly, they were introduced to the thrilling, energetic and unforgettable style that encapsulates what Frantic Assembly are all about.

The company aims to attract new and young audiences with their contemporary physicality and Krista certainly managed to do that through the vivid and dynamic style that is so unique to them; pulling together a combination of movement, design, music and text.

From exercise to exercise, the students were able to bring their exploration of devising techniques to life by engaging the skills and experience of our creative practitioner.

By the end of the six hours, the students left slightly exhausted and bruised, but inspired with new ideas and ways of thinking in regards to performance. The staff are still recovering!

ALL GO: For some at the Frantic Assembly workshop.

Jez Frost, Head of Drama

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Students rise to challenge

In a 'ninety nine' shop, all items cost a number of pounds and 99 pence. Susanna spent £65.76. How many items did she buy?

- A 23
- B 24
- C 65
- D 66
- E 76

Early in November, 25 students attempted to answer this and other questions in the UK Senior Maths Challenge. This is the third time that students from CSF have entered the competition at this level and an impressive 76% achieved a certificate. Congratulations go to Sam Bradshaw, who achieved a gold certificate, while seven students gained a silver and 11 a bronze.

Answer is B 24

Funds shared

Sixth Formers came to college in their pyjamas and Onesies to help



raise money for Children in Need. And as it took place exactly a week after Typhoon Haiyan

wreaked havoc on the Philippines, it was decided to split the money raised.

Just over £400 was collected with £274 going to 'Pudsey' and £126.55 to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Philippines Appeal.



MAKING A POINT: The Comberton Sixth Form team at the Peace Day debates.

Title is defended

Comberton Sixth Form retained its regional debating crown for a second year after another impressive display in the Peace Day debates.

The event, organised by the Rotary Club of South Cambridgeshire to mark World Peace Day, involved teams from six Cambridgeshire Sixth Form colleges debating motions in the British Parliamentary style, with each motion tied to the theme of peace.

The Comberton team of Matt Downey, Martha Watson and me (Meghan Pemberton) had to oppose the motion 'Anti-social behaviour is usually just young people having fun and doesn't harm anyone'.

Despite a short period of preparation with some of our fellow Sixth Formers and staff, the formalities of the competition frightened us initially, having only a little experience of similar events. However, we found that once we had started our argument we were quickly able to adapt to the style of the

debate, thinking on our feet when questioned by the opposing team and similarly challenging their points whenever necessary. The five other colleges — Hills Road, The Leys, Parkside, Impington and Long Road — provided stiff competition so, despite feeling confident in the presentation of our argument, we were still very pleasantly surprised to find ourselves named as the winners.

The judges, each of whom specialised in a peace-related area of study, praised the clear line of argument that we had followed throughout the debate and the overall organisation and persuasiveness of our reasoning.

It was an enjoyable experience for us all and one that I know I would gladly take part in again. We would like to thank the Rotary Club for organising the event as well as Mr Leggott, Miss Gadd, Mrs Burton and the fellow Year 13 students who supported us and helped us in preparation for the debate.

Meghan Pemberton (U6-RWe)

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Two different days . . .

Art, drama and music GCSE students spent two days on their coursework as the countdown to next summer's exams began in earnest during Curriculum Extension days.

The rest of Year 11 were also hard at work, revising for their GCSE English language exam which took place immediately after half-term and getting their computer science coursework up to date.

There was plenty of learning going on lower down the school as well, but in a different way as the regular timetable was collapsed for two days and pupils had the chance to try something new — or something familiar with an alternative approach.

Year 7 had one day of PE, where they danced, rowed, climbed and had a go at golf, tennis and fitness, and one day of being a scientist.

Year 8 spent a day in Essex looking at the coastal issues affecting Walton-on-the-Naze and the other doing their choice of MFL activities from a selection which included Capoeira, Zumba, Haka Language Beatz — writing and recording a song in a foreign language, learning Japanese, and inventing a new language.

Year 9 had one day of Design and Technology where they took part in a cupcake challenge, with the result that there were some exquisitely decorated cakes produced, and also had the task of building a Roman ballista from canes and tape, which had to fire a tape ball from a paper launcher, and making a wind-powered buggy.

Year 10 also had a science day, concentrating on their coursework, and one in English, where they made poetry collages.

Getting to grips with experiments

Year 7 had a science day. The whole year group did an investigation on washing powders, margarine tubs or plastic bags. We got to choose our aim but in our class most people chose to do which washing powder removed the stain best; this was fun and everyone enjoyed it. After we had finished our experiment we had to make a poster on our results. It had to be colourful, interesting and include lots of information about the experiment.

We looked at another classes' posters and picked a winner and the winners from each classroom went into the final round of the competition.

After that Mrs Tasker and Mr Clark judged everyone's poster on how informative they were, how interesting they were and how colourful they were. It was a really fun day and people enjoyed it thoroughly. The winning groups were given certificates in assembly by our Head of Year.

Isabella Ercole (7M)



LIFELIKE: GCSE art in progress.



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A look at physics in the real world

Forty Year 10 Triple Science students attended the annual 'Physics at Work' exhibition at the Cavendish Labs.

Below, two give accounts of their day.

"Once we arrived at the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, we were split into two groups and went to our first exhibition room.

"We went to six different rooms in total, spending 20 minutes in each. The topics varied from nuclear warfare to fuel efficient cars, forensic science, brain imaging and even one about future space missions.

"Unfortunately, as we only had a certain amount of time, we were not able to see all 26 exhibitions however much we would have liked to!

"My favourite exhibition was the last one we visited. It was run by two people who were part of the 'Semiconductor Physics Research Group'.

This was all about designing and carrying out experiments on new kinds of semiconductor devices to find out how electrons behave, and how we can control them. This was very interesting and fun. At the end of the talk they pulled out a container of liquid nitrogen from under their table and started dipping things like Flowers, sweets and balloons into it to show us what would happen. This was a really fun end to the physics packed day as I had never crushed a frozen flower before!"

Sophie Johnson (10I)

"The Cavendish laboratory Physics at Work exhibition was amazing. We all

got a chance to see physics in a way that few people ever get a chance to see it.

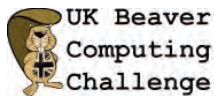
"Starting off in the earth sciences station, we learnt how the scientists use ultra-sound waves to take a scan of what is under the earth. Next we went to the surface science station where we looked at a sheet of graphene through a scanning tunnelling microscope. The result was us seeing the atoms on the sheet.

"Our next stop had to be my favourite, the atomic weapons establishment. Here we learnt about different explosions and what the difference is between having a lot of energy and being able to release energy quickly.

"After a quick break we went to learn about polymers. We learnt that different polymers have different properties and that these can be used to great effect. Next we went to a presentation from Team Crocodile, a group of scientists and engineers working to create an eco-friendly vehicle. We learnt how the surface area and pressure in a tyre can affect how efficiently the vehicle works. Finally we went to Thermo Fisher Scientific. They showed us how they developed a machine that can analyse what a substance is by looking at light and colours on the spectrum. All in all, a brilliant trip that was well worth it and I would advise anyone to attend."

Heinrich Verwoerd (10M)

Students take up challenge



During week of 11th-15th November, 1,060 Comberton students took part in a national Computer Science challenge.

The Beaver Challenge consisted of 15 logic puzzles which students had to solve. Points were awarded for correct answers and points were deducted for incorrect answers.

There were four different categories across the school: Junior (Year 7), Intermediate (Years 8 & 9), Senior (Years 10 & 11) and Elite (6th form).

All students who took part in the competition gained individual certificates to mark their performance and 273 of these students performed particularly well and so gained a distinction certificate.

Best in each category were: Richard Lynch (7N), James Hayward (9B), William McAuley (10O) and Zandro Fagnoli (L6-RWe)

Outstanding performances came from James and Will, who both scored 100 per cent. Well done to all.

Diane Stell, Head of Computer Science

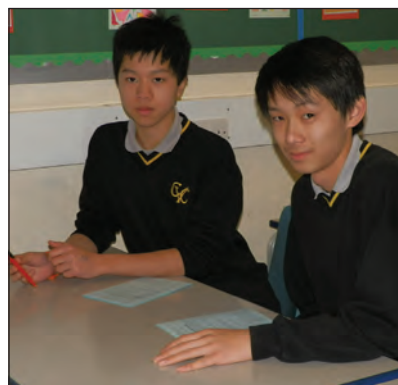


CHALLENGE MET: Two of Comberton's winners.

Sum of success!

More than 95,000 students took part in the recent UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, an event aimed at Year 12 and 13 students.

Among them from Year 11 were Melchior Chui and Wenjie Xu, entering a year early. Not only did they both gain gold certificates, they achieved so highly that both were invited to take part in the next round of the competition, the British Mathematical Olympiad. This is a tremendous achievement for them, especially as they were competing with students up to two years older than themselves. Their reward? More than three hours of maths problem-solving when they sat the Olympiad paper at the end of November!



MATHS ACES: Still in Year 11.

Visitors are inspired

Earlier this term we were visited by two parties of teachers, inspectors and academics from Seoul in Korea and Michigan in the USA.

There were 20 colleagues in each group who were visiting England on programmes connected with investigating strategies for raising educational achievement. For both groups, CVC seemed to be a highlight of their stay. They enjoyed being shown around the school and were impressed by the pupils' confidence and pride in the school. Both parties were keen to find out about the ways in which we aim to reduce disadvantage and maximise potential. They were keen to hear about Teaching & Learning styles and said they were inspired by what they learnt.



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¡Muchas gracias Tío José!

Fourteen dedicated CVC pupils joined a further six from Melbourn Village College to travel to Comillas in Cantabria for a Spanish immersion trip during October half-term.

This was the third school trip to Comillas coordinated by José Herrera from Links into Spanish and 'Tío José', as he soon became known, facilitated another action-packed programme focused on improving pupils' Spanish and cultural understanding. Pupils benefitted from three tailor-made teaching sessions in small groups to boost their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, confidence and fluency. They also sampled traditional Spanish fare like paella, tortilla, tapas and churros. Excursions included visits and workshops (fire making and spear throwing) at the caves of Altamira, a UNESCO world heritage site, a trip

to the Santillana zoo (with opportunities to interact with snakes), and a tour of the National Park of Cabárceno (where they were treated to an amazing birds of prey show).



ZOO TRIP: The Comberton and Melbourn students.

A highlight of this trip was the opportunity to interact with pupils from the Colegio Salesianos in Santander. On the first visit pupils enjoyed some ice-breaker speaking activities, had lunch together and chose between flamenco dancing lessons or a football match. On the second visit English and Spanish pupils were mixed into groups of four and prepared presentations about Cantabria. English pupils had to prepare theirs in Spanish before presenting these orally to the whole group. The trip was enhanced further by the beautiful hotel the pupils stayed in (with its indoor pool, gym and authentic cookery lessons from the chef) and the weather, which was so good that an impromptu trip to the beach was made! Without exception everyone's Spanish improved and when farewells were being said to José at the airport there was already talk of returning to Comillas in July for the Year 10 work experience trip!

Leigh McClelland, Trip Co-Ordinator

Year 7 are very busy bees

Year 7 have been particularly busy this term.

Following their Spanglovision exploits, they started work on the Spelling Bee competition. Students learn 50 key Spanish words. In the first stage of the competition students compete in their tutor group. Each student has one minute to translate from English into Spanish and spell correctly as many

words as s/he can. The two class champions from each tutor group will compete against each other for Stage 2. The four school winners will progress to the regional final in the spring term.



Choose your challenge!

The Languages Challenge is a fairly new project running at Comberton and is open to all students in all year groups.

Students choose from a list of activities to reach a total of 100 points. Activities can be completed in any language and vary from preparing a dish following a foreign language recipe to putting your Facebook page into another language for a month!

There are lots of students who have started on the Languages Challenge this year. It is not too late to start. If you would like to give this challenge a go, choose from the list of Challenges displayed in the MFL corridor and collect your portfolio from the MFL office.

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WINNING SONG: Members of 7N perform *La Reina del Baile* at the International Talent Evening.

Singing for success . . .

Spanglovision, the Spanish song competition for Year 7, now in its seventh year, was again a huge success.

Helping students develop their pronunciation skills, the project also supports memory, an essential lifelong learning skill.

During their first three weeks at Comberton, as well as revising some of the basics in Spanish, each Year 7 tutor group learns and performs a song in Spanish, which is then videoed by a member of the languages team.

A panel of teacher judges selects the best three songs and students in Years 8-11 vote for their favourite song during the assemblies for European Day of Languages.

The winning tutor group receives the Spanglovision trophy in the Year 7 assembly of that week. Assistant Principal Rachel Hawkes said: "This project builds on excellent teaching in some of our primary feeder schools, where children are used to singing in Spanish in their lessons and in assemblies."

This year the competition had an ABBA theme. There were, as ever, many excellent performances.

Judging was carried out based on the clarity of the words (all of which were performed from memory), the confidence in performance and the appeal of the performance itself. Most groups devised their own gestures to help them recall the meaning of the words of the song.

The finalists were 7M with *Conociéndote Conociéndome*, 7E with *Ring Ring* and 7N with *La Reina del Baile*. In the end 7N were voted Spanglovision winners of 2013 and awarded the Spanglovision trophy.

Talent for languages

The sixth International Talent Evening took place in October. This non-competitive event is a celebration

evening of the school and local community's international ethos, and for parents and other members of the community, it offers the chance to hear all of the entries for this year's Spanglovision competition.

The programme was a varied one, including the Year 7 'Spanglovision' (Spanish song) performances, international dance and a variety of readings in other languages

spoken by CVC students. There was also a raffle and international refreshments provided by our

2014 Africa student volunteers as part of their fund-raising endeavours. For the evening performance of their ABBA songs, students were allowed to create a new choreography and wear costumes. At the end of the evening, a 'popular' vote

determined that 7O were the winners on the night. Their prize? A non-school uniform day just for their tutor group.



SPEAKING OUT: In another language.



VOCAB EXPRESS

Students' scores count!

As part of our celebrations for the European Day of Languages earlier this term, we participated in the second Languages Championship run by Vocab Express. The competition was open to all schools across the country who subscribe to this learning programme. We

were very pleased to come second in Spanish in the Genius Cup (total points obtained by top 25 students at each school) and third in the Challenge Cup (total points obtained by all students at each school).

Now we extend the invitation for parents to get involved in learning languages on Vocab Express.

Speak to the Future, the national campaign for language learning, has suggested (and it has been widely reported) that every UK citizen should know 1,000 words in at least one foreign language.

Vocab Express has therefore set up a free access page to which anyone can sign up, choose a language, and learn 1,000 words. It is accessible from the homepage, www.vocabexpress.com

We would like to hear from any parents or other members of the community who take up this Speak to the Future challenge. We would like to know your name and the language (or languages!) in which you know 1,000 or more words.



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Stories have a war theme

Since winning The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition last summer with my short story, Alpha and Omega, I have been busy putting the final touches to my 25,000-word novella 'A Piccolo's Tale'.

I started writing it when I was 10 and it tells the story of a teenage boy who fights to save a group of Jewish children in Nazi Germany, alongside a mysterious girl. Their main weapon? Music! So far I have only had positive feedback from the various writers I've shared the prologue with but perhaps they are being too nice? I am hoping to publish it in the next year and would be very happy to sign, in Braille or in print, any copies for the buyers among you. You can also read Alpha and Omega on my website, www.alexiasloane.wordpress.com. Here is the prologue to 'A Piccolo's Tale': "I remember being handed to him for the very first time. I remember how he opened my case, looked at me in admiration and lifted me out gently, gently, so, so gently.

"The way he put my mouthpiece to his lips, dry from lack of water. The way his long, agile fingers moved nimbly, stroking me as though he truly thought of me as one of his race, or as a beautiful animal. I sang out of pure joy at being touched and owned by him, and I knew that from that moment on the bond of music was, and would always be, between us. A bond that could never be broken once it had been formed. "Even after his death, his spirit would remain to play me with softness, feeling, love and skill. But good fortune and happiness is very far from being all I can remember. You may be part of that group of people who believe that an object such as me has no feelings, no thoughts, no senses, no memory, but if you wanted to know the truth, turn over the page and read everything that happened to me, my master and his friend in those terrible times. If you do not, close this book and forget everything you have read here so far. But I will never forget, as long as I am able to make music. I must not. I cannot. And neither would you."

Alexia Sloane (9C)

Earlier this year, Ewan Jenkins was runner-up in a national short story writing competition that was judged by the celebrity author Gillian Cross, the writer of the Demon Headteacher series. Pupils had to write a short story entitled 'In the Future'. Miss Innes and Miss Comerford entered the work of some Comberton pupils and Gillian Cross awarded Ewan's story about a soldier's view of war the second prize.



EWAN JENKINS

Because of his success in this competition, Ewan, of 10N, has won the school a collection of books by Gillian Cross which can be found in the school's library. His work will also be published, along with a select few others, in an e-book that can be purchased. The story Ewan wrote is about a soldier who has his fortune told by a travelling wise woman whose predictions all come true.

The story has a non-chronological order and jumps forward and back revealing the plot and final scene in an unique way. Here is an extract: "Sit down and let me read you your future." The voice revealed more about the silhouetted person seated across from him; her croaky, but definitely female voice indicated she was of quite an age. Alan looked over his shoulder out of the tent and slid cautiously into the chair. The lady's hands began moving, swirling the teapot in front of her, mixing countless spices into the hot water, her mouth producing a steady but inhuman chant as she did so. Alan swallowed deeply, a mixture of fear and curiosity the only thing keeping him from swiftly exiting the tent. Finally her hands halted, and she poured a small quantity of the mixture into the china tea cup. "Drink this." As the liquid passed down Alan's throat, burning as it did, his shoulders lowered and he began to relax. He placed the teacup back on the table, it's only contents being the dregs of the drink. The fortune teller picked up the cup and stared into the bottom intently.'



CELEBRITY MEETING: Alexia Sloane with Jacqueline Wilson.

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qualified teachers who are fully DBS/CRB and reference checked.'

Tutor My Kids works with children and young people aged 4-18 in the Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon and Newmarket areas.

Rachel believes that it's her approach that is bringing success.

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'Clients appreciate the lengths we go to for their children and we often find that we're recommended to friends and family because of the service we offer.'

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High praise for college's new library

Comberton has one of the three best designed school libraries in the country. The college's library, built as part of the sixth form

development, reached the finals of the School Library Association's Library Design Award and earlier this term the three library leaders along with Mr Munday, Mr Jackson (governor), Ms Hack (School librarian); Mr Evans (Head of Sixth Form) and Sara Churchman, a sixth former, were invited to an award ceremony at the Hotel Russell in central London for the final. We all had a part in the Comberton presentation, which detailed the design of our library for the audience. The information was mainly aimed at the panel of judges, and included facts such as the sight lines of the library, the flexibility of the furnishings and past speakers. There were about 80 people or so, who were all impressed by our presentation, because we were

the only school to speak in person – the other schools had videos to show. The other finalists, Carterton Community College, Oxfordshire, and Wyndham Park Infants School, Salisbury, both had very impressive designs, and were both strong contenders for the award. After a delicious buffet lunch, we all filed back into the auditorium to listen to the guest speaker Candy Gourlay's life story. She told us about how she loved reading from an early age, how she eventually became an author and now helps schools in her homeland, the Philippines, to develop libraries. After her speech the judges asked her to announce the winning library. The winner was Carterton. Despite not winning, it was still an amazing experience and we thoroughly enjoyed our day out.



PRESENTATION: At the School Library awards.

Alex McCulloch (11)

news.com

CVC lit is a big hit!

Last month 24 teams from across the region, including champions, Aylesbury Grammar, met at Kimbolton School to battle for the title of Central England's Kids Lit Champions 2014.

The Kids Lit Quiz is a renowned, annual, nationwide competition testing Year 7 and 8 pupils' literary knowledge through 100 rigorous, varied and challenging questions. Pupils compete in teams of four against other schools in the region; the winner from each region then taking part in the national finals. The overall champion at the Nationals has the honour of representing the country in the international finals.

For the third year running CVC rose to the challenge entering two teams of Year 7 pupils: 'The Dragon Riders' — Jack Walsh, Callum Martin, Anastasia Ward and Izzy Huntington and 'The Hobbit Riders' — Daniel Vlastis,

James Stephenson, George Gilhooly and Lucia Hayward. Their names not only reflected their literary influences, but also their determination to put up a valiant fight from the outset. Such fortitude was an asset as they had to answer questions across 10 diverse categories such as Cars, Cannibalism and Comics through to Literature and Legends. Both scored maximum points on individual rounds winning themselves signed books from a competing authors' team; Mark Robson, Victoria Campbell and Megan Rix.

However, it was The Dragon Riders' consistently strong performance that resulted in them forging ahead to achieve, in the words of Quiz Master

Wayne Mills, "a resounding win". Both he and Mark Robson presented the trophy and £80 of book tokens. The team went on to represent the Central England region in the National Finals at King's College, Wimbledon, earlier this month. Both 'The Dragons' knowledge and nerves were put to the test in 13 quick-fire rounds of which only three categories were revealed prior to the event: Authors, Titles and First Pages.

The team competed in front of an impressive array of authors including: Dianne Hofmeyr, Sally Nicholls, Gillian Cross, Teri Terry, Margaret Bateson-Hill, Victoria Campbell, Sarwat Chandra, Fiona Dunbar, Candy Gourlay, Frances Hardinge, Elizabeth Kay, Helen Limon, Samira Osman and Echo Freer, but the results were not known at the time of going to press. There will be a full final report in the next issue. You can follow the team and learn more about the Kids Lit Quiz at <http://www.kidslitquiz.com>

Ann Roberts, English Department



CAPTIVE AUDIENCE: Year 7 pupils listen to Helen Moss.

Author's top tips

Year 7 were very fortunate to have local author Helen Moss come in to their English sessions this term.

It was a very lively afternoon to complement their recent study of mystery writing.

Both half years came to the college library to hear her talk about her Adventure Island collection of mystery stories.

She shared many tips about writing, interesting facts about being an author and answered lots of questions.

Everyone had the opportunity to have a signed copy of one of her books for just £2. What a bargain!



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The News Magazine of Cambourne Village College

ISSUE 1, WINTER 2013



FANTASTIC START

It seems hard to believe that only 12 months ago, our school site was a muddy field, we had no idea if any parents would send us their children, and we really weren't sure how many Comberton staff would make the leap of faith and volunteer to teach at the first new secondary school in Cambridgeshire for 30 years. . .

And today — we have a universally admired, vibrant and wonderfully-equipped building, an incredible staff and a delightful first cohort of polite, friendly and hard-working Year 7 students who impress all visitors with their excellent manners and highly positive attitude to learning. It has been a whirlwind of a term, from the opening celebrations, to some sense of relief as the carefully planned joint Comberton/Cambourne timetable actually worked, to the establishment of excellent class and homework routines for the students and an ever-increasing offer of extra-curricular activities, and visits to the school by a range of visitors from prize-

winning author, Marcus Sedgwick to Olympic athlete, Anthony Clark.

Excellent ICT facilities with high speed broadband mean we have been able to innovate with new technologies in the classroom, the students making iMovies about the College as part of their first CREATE assignment.



We have also, of course, been able to continue our excellent Comberton traditions, Mrs Hirst overseeing our first International Talent Evening, and Curriculum

Extension Days and PD days following the familiar pattern, with the Spanish exchange and Beaumanor Hall trips already planned for next summer. Having the blank canvas of a brand new school gives us many creative opportunities, and the students are hard at work, designing a stained-glass installation for the entrance hall and the door plates for every room and cupboard in the College.

The hockey and rugby teams have established themselves and enjoyed a range of fixtures; auditions have taken place for next summer's production of 'Oliver' and the students have helped choose next year's stock for Cambourne public library. We have enjoyed fantastic support from many individuals and organisations in Cambourne. Adult Education is swinging along; two Custard Comedy events have been held, the 'Friends of CamVC' group is getting into great fund-raising stride and we held our first Christmas concert this week.

The Cambourne team would like to thank our Comberton Colleagues for their amazing support over the past year — and we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Claire Coates, Head of School

International events are enjoyed by all

Following the tradition started by Comberton, this year the students at Cambourne have had the opportunity to enjoy the Spanglovision as part of their Spanish lessons. It is a Spanish singing competition in which every form in Year 7 learns and performs a song in Spanish.

This year the songs were by ABBA and the pupils participated with great enthusiasm. 7U won, followed very closely by 7A and 7O. Liam Allen (7U) said: "So far I have really enjoyed Spanish because it is great fun. We have also taken part in a Spanish singing competition which we won." Will Racher (7U) added: "I have had a wonderful time in Spanish. I have had lots of fun singing ABBA



WINNERS: 7U perform their Spanglovision song.

in Spanish," while Izabella Chiotis (7U) commented: "I am learning Spanish at school and it is great. We had a Spanish singing competition and my class won!"

Everyone who took part in this competition was great and the MFL department feels very proud of all of them and I am especially delighted with my two groups (7U&7A) who were finalists.

Señora Maria Collado

The first International Talent Evening at Cambourne was amazing. So many people have many wonderful talents. All the students there sang a song in Spanish and every form group chose their own costumes to wear on the night. Some wore Onesies, their own clothes or a Spanish outfit. Nearly the whole school attended.

When we sang our Spanish song, we had a pre-recorded version up on the screen as well as us on the stage singing and doing the actions. The audience voted on the best performance. At the end 7U were announced as winners, winning themselves a queue jump pass for the lunch queue the following week.

Lots of people from different countries performed in their own language and culture. There were dances, recitations of poems and wonderful colours and costumes.

Food and snacks were served by volunteers from Friends of CamVC during the break.

After all the performances, the raffle prizes were given out to the raffle winners.

If you didn't come we hope you can make it next time, because the talent this school has is amazing.

Afreen Asif (7A) and Rebecca Fretwell (7C)

Pupils think of others

This term has been a busy one for many reasons, but as the pupils of Cambourne take their place as the first cohort in a brand new school, they are also stepping up to take their place in society as well.

The reaction from pupils to various charities throughout the term has been impressive, and here are some of the highlights.

Remembrance Day — Many pupils bought poppies, and donated money to the Poppy Fund to help veterans and their families.

We had a special assembly from Mr Lawrence, Head of Upper School at Comberton, about why the World War was a world war, despite the fact that most of the fighting happened in Europe, and at 11 o'clock the whole school gathered in the hall to pay our respects by maintaining the two minutes silence. It is a breathtaking thing to observe a school — so usually full of noise and activity — fall into a still reflection.

Catering stopped, admin stopped and everyone came together to remember and reflect.

Children in Need — Quite a different day was had to contribute to Children in Need. The fancy dress theme was 'heroes, heroines and villains' with some amazing costumes donned by staff and pupils alike.

Wristbands were sold and competitions were held in the library — with the prizes drawing a lot of attention!

The brilliant total for the day was £284 with money still coming in. Given the small number of pupils, it shows a great deal about the wider feeling of community and collective responsibility.

The competition to guess where Pudsey had run off to was won by Megan Williams (7A) while the best fancy dress costume was won by Will Racher (7U) for his war veteran outfit, complete with flat cap and medals.

Both of these took place in the same week when **Typhoon Haiyan** caused devastation across the Philippines. It is a note of pride for all of the staff here that many of the pupils also gave money to a collection to help the people affected.

A big thank you and well done goes to all of the pupils (and parents!) who gave time, money or effort to help these and other charities.



STEPPING OUT: Staff dress as heroes and villains.

For Children in Need, many students came dressed as their super heroes, heroines or villains and paid £1 for the privilege. The teachers also came in funky costumes: Miss Watkins was Spider Woman, Mr Sumner was Darth Vader and, of course, Mrs Mallett came as Doctor Who!

It was also PD day and we learned about different ways to keep our bodies healthy and what is going to happen to them as we grow up.

We did some fitness activities and those who took the hard course got a mini doughnut. The ones who took the easy part got a nice healthy apple! The students had to do press-ups, step-ups, running, the plank and the traditional sit up.

Orlando James (7R)

Literacy boost for students

Cambourne have started an additional literacy initiative to help improve the reading and writing skills of some students during morning registration. In addition to reading, writing and spelling practice we will be using a fantastic computer programme called Nessy™ which 'enables all abilities to read, write and spell with confidence, enthusiasm and enjoyment'. These students have the fantastic opportunity to take steps forward in their literacy learning. This program is also available to any pupils who would like to improve their reading and spelling skills, during breaks and lunchtimes.



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New Patron of Reading

Cambourne Village College has followed the example of some other school libraries in the United Kingdom by having a Patron of Reading.

The idea is that the patron of reading is an author, illustrator or storyteller who builds a relationship with the school by visiting and engaging with the school over an extended period of time.

Cambourne is lucky that Marcus Sedgwick agreed to be our Patron of Reading for the first year.

The first event was an author visit where Marcus spoke to the whole year group and the Book Group from our partner school, The Voyager, Peterborough.

The year group enjoyed Marcus' presentation and there were some great questions asked.

More than half the year group bought a book and had it signed and there were only a few pupils who were not reading one of his books over the next few weeks.

After the talk Marcus stayed to have a tour around the school, and we spoke about future events — some of which are going to involve Marcus coming back here while others will be done making use of Twitter.

Author's top writing hints

October 4th, 2013, Cambourne Village College: A crowd of silent school children listen intently while Marcus Sedgwick, bestselling author, explains the process of writing a new book. Recently selected as the new, and first ever Patron of Reading, he came in to discuss different aspects of his job. After shocking us with the knowledge about how little money he makes, he went on to tell us about a new graphic novel he's working on, also showing us his writing shed, and how he goes about planning. He also told us some interesting things about himself, like that he likes Star

Wars (but only A New Hope) and how he surrounds himself with pictures to inspire his ideas, like spirals, and of course, skeletons.

Mr Sedgwick also mentioned his lucky number, 354, and how he always tries to connect an element of his books with it — like the number of letters in the chapter headings.

Later in the year, he will be taking some pupils through a workshop to teach them how to write interestingly, as well as talking to them via Skype. He has inspired us to write and, hopefully, will inspire many more.

Ivan Kudryavtsev (7M)

We recently had a brilliant question and answer session using video conferencing technology that allowed the classes studying his book to ask him questions. There were some fabulous questions, and we will be following this up using Twitter. The Library is running a Christmas competition where pupils can write a short story using a paragraph that Marcus has written specially as the opening paragraph. I'm looking forward to reading all the entries!

Ms Tarrant, Librarian



MARCUS SEDGWICK: In person and on Facetime.

Rapper's story

Isaac Borquaye, also known as Guvna B came to Cambourne Village College last month.

He was born in June 13, 1989 in Barking, London.

He is a great rapper with 17 songs and Guvna is an acronym for God's Unique Vessel Now Assigned.

He is the first rapper to reach No 1 on the new UK gospel chart. He gave a very good talk about his childhood and how he started rapping.

He told us that when he was in the church he met a youth worker who said "When you are in the church you are good but when you're not, you are bad. You cannot be good and bad, you can only one. What will you choose, the good path or the bad path?" Guvna B chose the good path.



GUVNA B

Haris Aftab (7R)

Youngsters have key role in the library

The School Library is lucky to be benefitting from 12 keen Pupil Library Helpers who are playing a vital role in making the library a great success.

They each have a duty in the library every week, where they do all kinds of things from processing books, making displays, contributing to the library blog, choosing a book of the week, and many other things besides. They each have a training booklet which will help them document the skills they are building up, and once they have finished it they will receive a certificate.

Here's what they think about it in their own words: "I chose to become a library helper because I absolutely love books, and reading them. Whilst being a pupil library

helper I can improve my communication skills and take responsibility for the library." Daisy Brabbs (7C).

"I wanted to be a library helper because I like reading and helping. I am looking forward to stamping the books and picking up the phone." Nellie-Mae Morgan (7A)

The Pupil Library Helpers, as well as assisting in the day-to-day running of the library, will also help with special events, and be ambassadors for reading and stories in the school community.

As we recruit more Year 7s next year, they will move up, and take a role in training the new helpers.

Ms Tarrant, Librarian

Being streetwise on the streets!

The streetwise crew came in and gave us a reminder on road safety. They showed us an amazing performance, telling us what we shouldn't and should do on the road.

They gave us an example of three school kids who go on a school trip and get in to trouble on the road. At the end there was a quiz. The workshop helped us think about our behaviour around the

road. It also raised our awareness on how safely we ride our bikes to school. All in all, everyone enjoyed the workshop and learned a lot about road safety.

Foram Patel (7A)

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Students make flying start

The students have made a fantastic start to their PE lessons this year and have started by tackling some new activities, as well as some familiar ones.

The boys started with rugby in September and completed a six-week indoor programme as the fields are not yet ready to use.

With the creative use of crash mats, they have completed all the basic skills of the game and are ready to put these into practice on the fields next year! Over the next term, the boys will be developing

their balancing skills within their gymnastics unit.

The girls have perfected their gymnastics skills throughout the first term, combining balances, rolls and jumps into individual, pairs and small group sequences. They have also utilised the ICT equipment available to film and assess their work within lessons, which has been very successful.

The next challenge for the girls will be hockey lessons on the hard court area. Many students are new to the activity, but they are already showing good potential within the lessons, despite the colder and wetter climate outside of the gym.



BALANCING SKILLS: A girls' gymnastics lesson.

Even more clubs are set to start up

The extra-curricular sports programme has been hugely successful this term with a variety of clubs on offer including dance, badminton, rowing, tumbling, as well as the traditional hockey and rugby training sessions.

We are currently looking into developing the programme for next term and we are hoping to include trampolining, as well as netball and football, within the club programme.



LEARNING CURVE : For the Cambourne rugby players.



GETTING STUCK IN: The Cambourne hockey players.

Girls show their hockey potential

The girls' hockey team have worked hard this year to produce some excellent performances, including a win, against both St Bede's and Comberton.

The team started with three girls and has flourished to a team of 10 over the past eight weeks.

After a difficult start, including a 5-1 defeat to Comberton, the girls developed

both their skills and tactics to put in some stronger performances.

At the district tournament they achieved a 13th-place finish following a mixed bag of results. However, the girls performed to their best, demonstrating their potential to move higher up the results table next year!

Boys get to grips with rugby

The boys' rugby this year has been a very steep learning curve, as we have been restricted to training/lessons in the sports hall! The use of mats has been a key feature of both the lessons and after school club to allow students to experience some form of contact.

The boys' first game was a great success, as they had never played together on grass and in such a large space — they came away winners against the North Cambridge Academy.

The following three fixtures at Bassingbourn, St Bede's and Sawston, were played with full rules including tackling. A shock to most players as to what was expected, but all soon got to grips with the physicality required. In these three separate fixtures we saw some narrowly lost games but also a fantastic win at St Bede's.

The season culminated in their District tournament at Melbourn, where they finished 14th out of 15. Very creditable as all other schools having had the opportunity to train on grass and have larger year groups. Well done to all involved, and we're looking forward to having PE lessons and training on the grass next year!

Curriculum Extension Days

Project will celebrate CamVC's first year

On the 24th and 25th October, students at Cambourne Village College experienced their first Curriculum Extension Days, involving a trip to Ely Cathedral and a day of PE/Sport.

To celebrate the first year of CamVC, we are involved in an exciting Art project. The first phase of the project involved a trip to Ely Cathedral.

Pupils had a tour of the Cathedral, did some sketching and visited the stained glass museum. It was a relaxing end to a busy half term.

The second phase of the project saw Sarah, a glass artist from Ely Cathedral, run workshops on 'Fused Glass' techniques.

Pupils are all making small panels of fused glass that will come together to form six large sail shapes for display in the entrance area of the school. The panels will be fired in the school kiln, fusing through what Head of Art Mark Yeates described as a 'cheese on toast' type process!

As soon as all the panels have been fired, Site Manager Mr Embleton and Mr Yeates will start assembling and installing the sails.

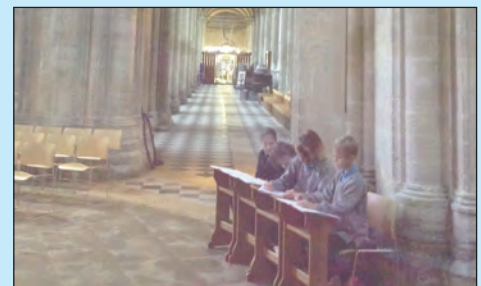
This phase of the project will be complete by

June and commemorate the end of our first full year at CamVC.

The focus of the PE day was to introduce students to the activities available on the extra-curricular programme and provide students with a taster of each club.

The activities on the day included circuit training, rowing, table tennis, gymnastics, football and dance. Students appeared to enjoy the days and staff were extremely positive about the students and their effort levels on the day. Following on from the day, a tumbling club has been introduced and a boys' dance class will begin after Christmas.

Mr Yeates & Miss Dawson



NEW EXPERIENCES: Fitness was one of the sports on offer and sketching in Ely Cathedral.

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The Tempest comes alive

After several months of hard work and dedication, it was a delight to be able to perform our abridged version of *The Tempest* at Comberton's Open Evening. Year 9 pupils, Alexia Sloane, Alex Cooke, Sophie Coomes, Emma Robinson, Lucy Benninghaus, Megan Masters, Mary Borrett and Sarah Hannaford, under the guidance of Ms Menczer, performed their version of the Shakespearean classic to parents and prospective pupils.

The play tells the story of Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, who raised his

daughter Miranda alone on an island with nobody else around but Caliban, a deformed creature whom Prospero treats as a slave. Using his magic to wreck a ship carrying the Duke of Milan and his entourage, Prospero aims to awe the noblemen, reassert his right to the throne of Milan, and find a match for his daughter.

Thank you to Ms Menczer for giving up her time at lunch-time and after school to allow us to perform this wonderful play.

Emma Robinson (90)



PERFORMANCE: *The Tempest* in full swing.

Arts Award comes to CVC

Comberton is launching a new Arts Award for Year 8.

The award is the arts world's equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and counts as a real qualification in just the same way, except you don't have to yomp up mountains to achieve it!

Bronze is equivalent to a GCSE level D to G or NVQ level 1. Arts Awards count towards UCAS points for when you are choosing pathways to further and higher education. Arts Award offers bronze, silver and gold levels and is a way of getting recognised for things that you enjoy doing both outside and in school, helping you to develop your skills and to get noticed for them.

With the Arts Award you focus on your creativity in any art form/s you like: music, dance, art, craft & design, photography, film, creative writing etc. The Arts Award is designed to fit around your interests so whether you want to DJ, MC, make computer graphics, write blogs, play in a band, knit jumpers or just enjoy any form of the arts then Arts Award is for you.

For Bronze Award it's simple to participate. You take part in an activity, attend an event, research your arts hero and share your skill in some way. You collect



evidence of these in a portfolio and then get them checked over by one of the nine arts award advisors in school. There will be one in each arts department and we will be running a drop-in session after school on Thursdays from January.

If you have a keen interest in the arts you can start your Arts Award from January. Each department has a trained advisor that you can approach and the school's Arts Development Manager, Richard Brown, is also available to give advice after school on Thursdays or at other times by arrangement. You will be given a booklet explaining how the Arts Award works in detail, and telling you exactly what you have to do.

For those students who might find this all a bit daunting there will be special opportunities during the year to take part in and to help you to achieve your Arts Award. We will be running Arts Award as part of activities week and students who don't manage to complete it before July will be encouraged to take part in an arts activity during Activities Week to ensure that everyone gets a chance to complete the bronze level.

CVC has received a small amount of funding to help with setting up the Arts Award for the first year. However, there is a £15 cost which contributes towards the moderation costs,

although this is subsidised by the funding as the normal price would be around £25.

For more information, please contact Richard Brown, who is based at Comberton Sports and Arts, or e-mail him on rbrown@comberton.cambs.sch.uk

Chance meet with partners

The Snowsports Team and Development Trip pupils are very much looking forward to exploring a whole new resort and joining in the Italian celebrations over the New Year from 28th December-5th January 2014.

Following the success of the Foundation trip with Interski last year, the decision was made to relocate the trip to Courmayeur, which is the neighbouring resort to Pila in the Aosta Valley, with the same company.

As the trip will be running out of term time, the trip has also been extended to Year 11 and is now accommodating all levels from complete beginner to more than 20 weeks' experience! Pupils who are completing their PE GCSE will have the opportunity to be filmed for their practical assessment as well as providing them with the ideal opportunity to extend their navigation, leadership and group management skills.

By coincidence, we are also due to share our hotel for the week with the Voyager School, extending our partnership of the Comberton Academy Trust without any advanced planning!



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Insight into business world

Last month the Year 13 BTEC Business students organised a Business Careers event.

The event had been planned since the start of September and was a part of one of our assigned units called 'Managing a Business Event'.

We invited Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 students from Comberton with an interest in all aspects of Business, who wanted to find out more information on what they could study at university or look at their career options in Business or Economics.

Ten guest speakers from the world of Business attended to talk about aspects of their careers including Banking, Accountancy, Entrepreneurship, IT, Human Resources Sport and Leisure.

The guest speakers were all representing their own companies and included Grant Thornton, SG Hambros Bank Ltd and De Ja Vu Clothing Ltd and Cambridge United Football Club.

There was also an appearance from United midfielder Michael Spillane, a former Comberton pupil, and Director of Football, Jez George.

Head of Sixth Form Mr Evans was also on hand to speak about university opportunities for Business and Economics Students. It was interesting to find out that research shows that the average starting salary for Business graduates is £24,000 a year – which is higher than many other graduate starting salaries.

At the beginning of the event our guests gave speeches and after these the students



SHARING BUSINESS KNOW-HOW: One of the speakers talks to students.

had the opportunity to speak individually to each guest, ask any questions and find out further information about each Business area.

We were very proud that we were able to organise and manage our own Business Event as part of our Level 3 BTEC Business course and we learnt how to work as a team as well as how to communicate effectively with a variety of Business people.

Emily Carter and Jasmine Jefferies
(Representing the Year 13 Level 3 BTEC Business Group)



SUPPORT:
From Clare Merrington (left) and Samantha Stacey.



Help at hand for parents

Support is available for parents of students at Comberton and Cambourne village colleges. Samantha Stacey and Clare Merrington are the Early Intervention family workers attached to both schools and are happy to help with any concerns or issues to do with parenting.

They aim to help by offering one-to-one support, directing parents to relevant agencies, supporting parents in encouraging positive child behaviour and providing access to parenting programmes. The pair, who work for Cambridgeshire County Council, can be contacted on (01954) 286008 (Mon-Wed) or (01954) 284604 (Mon-Fri). They will also be available at weekly drop-ins at both Colleges – Tuesday mornings at Cambourne Village college, 10am-11am, and Wednesday mornings, 9am-10am, in the Comberton VC youth centre. These will commence the week beginning 3rd February.




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Years of experiences on hundreds of trips

Last year, Comberton students spent the equivalent of almost 33 years' worth of study learning away from the classroom, on educational trips which took advantage of venues as far afield as the USA and Switzerland, to resources right on the College's doorstep in Cambridge.

With teachers and staff organising a huge variety of trips throughout the year — 195 in all — the college was able to offer very curriculum-focussed visits, providing real, hands-on experience of the subjects students were studying.

The college also placed great emphasis on the development of students' social and personal skills, teamworking and leadership, through trips like Beaumanor, year group social visits and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

This academic year is already set to be just as busy and exciting with trips already booked for Iceland, Holland and Spain as well as some of the far-flung counties of the UK. Never mind the countdown to Christmas, it's fewer than 30 weeks to Activities Week 2014 — perhaps the busiest time in the year for trips, with most of the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 out and about, learning new skills and enjoying new experiences.



POMPEII: One of the destinations for Comberton students in the past year.

Real eye-opener for pupils



BATTLEFIELDS TRIP: The Year 11 students gather at the Menin Gate, Ypres, and (right) the Langemarck German cemetery.

There was definitely a great sense of excitement as we, bleary-eyed Year 11 students, arrived at school at 6.45am, ready to board coaches.

Although most were suffering from some sleep deprivation, we all managed to get there on time to set off for Flanders.

After our extensive excursion through South-East England, a short trek across the Channel, and across the border to Belgium from France, we arrived at our first stop of the trip!

Our Battlefields tour began at Tyne Cot, the largest Allied First World War Cemetery, and also an eye-opener to the harsh reality of the war we'd been studying.

We were met with a mass of headstones, many marking the grave of an unknown soldier, others bearing sweet messages and condolences.

We also visited the sea of German graves at Langmarck, a very differently presented cemetery, with solemnly harsh black marble, truly embodying the ruthless reality of war. We went on to visit Thiépval and the Menin Gate at Ypres, as well as

watching the Last Post ceremony — with some students even distinguishing potential relatives and staring in awe at the mass of names inscribed across the walls.

We were able to not only learn but experience the Battlefields on the next day; visiting Vimy Ridge, and Newfoundland Park, all of us noticing the destruction the war created on this once peaceful landscape, now unevenly spread with shell holes and remaining trench lines.

The museums we visited provided us with plenty of information on the various battles, such as the Somme and Passchendaele, particularly from the In Flanders Fields Museum. We learnt of the casualties and detrimental effects of war, in harrowing videos and details from guides.

Throughout the incredibly eye-opening few days, to our astonishment (and thankfulness), the hotel we stayed in was homely and comfortable, with spacious rooms and plenty of places to socialise. These included the bowling alley, where our coach groups got to bowl — and where some 'friendly' competition arose too — while the other coach group watched the Last Post ceremony in Ypres.

On our final day of the trip, we got to see and embody the experience of real soldiers in the trenches at Sanctuary Wood, Hill 62, which was boggy and damp, a mess of dirt and water — as thick as, well, mud. We could lead ourselves through pitch black tunnels and preserved trenches, many using the torches on their phones, and others taking on the thrill of walking in a line with no torch, in a tunnel slowly shrinking down in size...

After seeing and experiencing so much over the course of the trip, we took to the coaches to set off back home. Having learned lots, putting much of our studies into context, and also gained a high amount of respect for the solemnity of the subject matter, we could all say that we had a wonderful time, unmistakably one of the best trips! We must thank all the teachers (and our coach drivers) for putting up with such a rowdy (and at times not very tuneful) lot of students, whom surely enjoyed themselves very much.

Holly Gillson, Sadie Agg, Amber Thomas and Megan Eaton
(Year 11 History Students)

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Mural design is selected

Over the summer, the Sixth Form Product Design students were set the challenge of designing a new mural to be painted in Activities Week with Years 8 and 9.

For their Year 13 Product Design coursework, most of them have chosen to design architectural structures. This competition was an opportunity to start thinking about different building designs, be they architectural classics or the latest in contemporary architecture. The task they were set was to design a cityscape silhouette. They had to be inventive and use their design skills to come up with something original, that would tie in with the new CVC colours and fit a rectangle 244mm x 122mm.

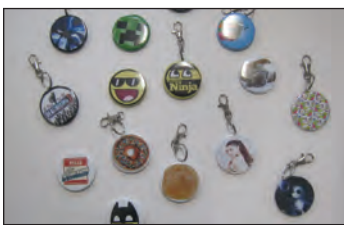
This is the design we have selected, which is going to be drawn up by the Graphics Leaders in preparation for painting. Well done Christopher Nightingale (U6-JM) for coming up with such an effective mural design. If you are interested in helping, you will need to sign up for the activity being run by Design and Technology in the summer term.



WINNING DESIGN:
For the Activities Week mural.



HARD AT WORK:
Members of the Graphics Club.



FINISHED PRODUCT:
Some of the badges made.

Creative fun is had by all

Graphics Club has provided creative, fun and interesting after-school sessions which have been attracting many students.

Last year the most popular activity was learning how to use Photoshop to create our own magazine covers.

This term we have been making keyrings, badges and magnets, as well as gift boxes, frames and gift bags with patterns we designed using 2D Design V2. We have also been drawing Christmas-based designs for our patterns.

The sessions are run by Mrs Allen who is always on hand to help keen students with any questions we may have.

We loved doing spray painting last year so Mrs Allen has promised that we will do some more next term.

The activities are exhilarating and educational. I hope to see you there!

George Blackhurst-Patrick (9M)



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Weather can't spoil social

On Friday 13th September Year 9 stayed after school for the first social of the year, a 'BBQ and Bounce'. Despite the bad weather it turned out that the social wasn't so unlucky after all as we moved to the Performance Hall and had a fun time anyway! We never thought we'd see the day when a bouncy castle was sat in the middle of the Performance Hall, rocking backwards and forwards and at times it looked like it was about to fall over. Luckily it was attached to the ground with sandbags!

The DJ was amazing; flashing lights, the latest music videos projected and all our favourite songs pulsating through the building. We ate burgers, hot dogs and plenty of ice cream from the van parked outside, as well as being able to buy sweets and drinks from the very popular tuck shop.

We all enjoyed the atmosphere and thanks to all the tutors who stayed after school, plus Miss Greenwood, Mrs Girling and Mrs Davidson, who organised this great social!
George Blackhurst-Patrick and Sophie Coomes (9M)



ICE 'N' EASY: Year 7 get to grips with ice skating.

Newcomers get their skates on

Even before the buses arrived, the excitement was clear to see on everybody's faces.

People were talking about what ice skating experiences they had before and people who hadn't been were listening intently.

All the Year 7s were wrapped up like carol singers with hats and gloves.

When we had our ice skates, lots of people had trouble getting them on their feet. What's more most people found it easier to walk in the skates than skate in them.

We all had set times for dinner, but most people went at the wrong time because they felt hungry at different times.

Lots of people needed help skating because it was their first time and they weren't so good. On the way back some people were telling scary stories and talking about the ice skating trip and how great it was.

Everybody agreed it was a brilliant social and an excellent start to the year. I can't wait for the next social and I'm positive that others feel the same.

Tayin Douglas (7B)



FUN: Year 9 students enjoy the bouncy castle.

Charity begins at school



FRIENDLY COMPETITION: The staff charity netball match teams.



STEPPING OUT: The annual Walk for Africa.

Students have been busy raising money for various causes this term.

And they have collected an incredible £5,164.51 from the four whole school events so far.

The first was the annual Walk for Africa where the whole school comes in their own clothes and, after a morning of lessons, everybody walks a three-mile circular route through Toff and Comberton. That raised £3,455 for our partner schools in Mozambique and South Africa and will help fund their continued visits to Comberton.

On the same day we held the CVC version of a

Macmillan coffee morning by having a giant cake sale at break, lunch and at the end of the walk. This collected £257.57 for the cancer care charity. Then last month it was the turn of Children in Need where pupils could 'top and tail' for Pudsey by selecting their own head and footwear if they donated £1. That raised another £1,412.14 including £150 after pupils paid 50p each to watch the cross-dressing staff netball match. The 'ladies' knowledge of the rules led to some interesting action. Miss Gooch was lifted to score a goal, Mrs Sycamore used her height advantage to

keep the ball away from the men, Mr Boyns played well with little possession, as did Mr McKenzie and Mr Fisher. Miss Milbourne was penalised for shaking the hoop and Miss Uttridge scored in the basketball ring! The 'ladies' were disqualified for constant infringements.

As Children in Need day it took place in the same week as much of the Philippines was devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, it was decided to donate a percentage the money collected to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal to help those who had lost everything.



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Friends reach new milestone



HOW IT GOES: Students simulate a wedding.

Different views

Year 10 spent Wednesday 20th November participating in their first Core RPE day.

The topic of conversation was Human Relationships and discussion ranged from why people choose to get married to how we characterise the ideal partner. WCCYM (Christian Youth Group) and a local vicar came into school to explain their views on relationships and allowed the students to explore perspectives beyond their own.

Miss Croft, the RPE day Co-ordinator, said of the day: "Students worked extremely hard and I think really enjoyed their day. It is a great opportunity for students to expand their own perspectives and consider viewpoints they may not necessarily have either come across before, or agree with."

Mo Clay, a Year 10 student who took part in the day, commented: "It was really fun when we got to recreate a wedding. Now I know what is really going on when I see it on the TV!"

Students and staff are looking forward to the next RPE day in the Spring Term, which will focus on the debates between religion and science.

Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Comberton Village College Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund came into being on 3rd February 1984 and in those 30 years it has focused on helping all children get the best out of their time at the school.

Their fundraising efforts have helped purchase everything from a grand piano for the Performance Hall and four minibuses, to compasses for children completing the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

They are always looking for new and innovative ways of raising funds, from the Bags2School scheme, which recently raised

a fantastic £590 for the Odyssey trip to the Edinburgh Fringe, an Auction of Promises with TV auctioneer David Palmer that raised

more than £4,000 in March this year (and will hopefully do so again on March 8th next year), to the selling of luxury Christmas puddings. The Friends team has recently gone through some changes and now boasts of several new faces.

The new Chair is Heather Robinson who



FLOG IT: TV auctioneer David Palmer at Comberton's Auction of Promises.

has taken over from Peter Ganczakowski. He stepped down after three very successful years guiding the Trust Fund.

If you want to know more about the Friends' work, take a look at their page on the school website, www.combertonvc.org, under the Whole School Information section.

Alternative route to a career in science

Dr C Meadows, PhD (Cantab), PGCE (Cantab), BSc (Hons) . . .

I am not boasting, but people tell me I should be proud of what I have achieved. But, when so many people have got these letters, if not more, after their name, why should I be proud?

That would be because I didn't follow the traditional route of GCSE and A levels to get to university. I didn't choose science as an option at GCSE, however, during Year 11 I realised I wanted to be a geneticist. The problem was I didn't have the GCSEs required to do A levels.

TEACHING: Dr Meadows' career path was unconventional.



With research and support from my mum, I enrolled on the BTEC National Diploma in Science (renamed BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science).

I had a confirmed place at the university even before the A level exams started. At university I met my husband, who also did a BTEC course, and found the lecturers were more impressed with our study and practical skills than the A level students! I started laboratory research and gained a PhD from the University of Cambridge, all based on a BTEC Level 3 qualification. Oh, and my husband is a research assistant at the University of Cambridge too.

The BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science is available at CVC Sixth Form from September. If you have determination, passion and commitment for science you too can achieve your goals, just like me!

For more information contact cmeadows@comberton.cambs.sch.uk

Carolyn Meadows, Science Teacher

Something new for New Year?

The Adult Education Department is offering some great new courses next term at Comberton and Cambourne village colleges to complement the successful ones already running.

Courses include: Book Keeping Part 2, Choir & Singing Workshop, Woodwork and Carpentry Skills, Digital Photography and more.

Please contact the Adult Education office for more information on (01223) 264721 or see the colleges websites, www.combertonvc.org or www.cambournevc.org



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LINE-OUT: The Year 10 & 11 team in action and (right) the Year 7 squads.



Boys get stuck in to rugby

Rugby at CVC has been a real success this term with regular training sessions and fixtures for teams in all year groups.

Welcoming our new Year 7 players to the school and harnessing their enthusiasm for the game has been a real pleasure. The boys have progressed well and played some excellent rugby. More than 50 of them have represented the school in fixtures with impressive wins against Cambourne and Bassingbourn and some close-fought defeats to Sawston and St Bede's. In the Year 7 tournament the A team won three matches, drew one and lost two — against the two strongest teams in the tournament. The B team won two games, drew one and lost one. Theo Rayner was the player of the tournament for the A team and Ben Barker for the B squad. Special thanks go to Mr Goode for helping with training and to Mr Kelsall and Will Cox for managing the B team at the tournament.

The Year 8 team have performed well, coached by Mr Rogers. They impressed in their local fixtures and progressed well through the County Cup competition, losing narrowly to Swavesey in their final game of the season. Mr Rogers has been pleased with the standard from all Year 8 players and especially the new players, who have integrated well into the squad.

The Year 9 squad have continued to impress under the guidance of Mr Pollock. After friendlies against Linton and North Cambridge Academy, CVC went to the district competition brimming with confidence. Two close matches saw the boys

draw with both Impington and St Bede's. CVC went on to finish seventh after beating Linton. In the county cup a very one-sided affair saw CVC beat Thomas Clarkson Academy 24-5 with tries from Harry Simpson, Connor Rose, Christopher Blatch and Sam Serby, CVC showed great defence again and had to withstand some fearsome tackles too. Thomas Deacon Academy await in the next round. The combined Year 10 and 11 team have trained regularly and several new players have joined the squad and represented the school well in fixtures. I was particularly impressed with the performance of the boys in their game against Netherhall earlier this term where they enjoyed some excellent periods of play against formidable opposition, captain Louis Young leading by example. Many players have shown they have a bright rugby future beyond their time here and we look forward to hearing about their future rugby careers.

Overall it has been great to see so many of our pupils impressing on the rugby field this term. Well done to all the players and their coaches for their efforts to make it such a positive season for rugby at CVC.

Adam Potter, PE Dept

■ The Sixth Form Rugby Academy had an excellent start to the season with the highlight, so far, being a 80-point win over Long Road. Unfortunately their cup run came to a end with a fourth round 36-22 defeat to Langley School, Norwich.

■ Year 9 pupil Henry Breeze helped his Welwyn team to victory in the Northampton Saints under-14 invitational tournament, winning all their games.

Academy student on the fairway to glory

Adam Pedlar is second in the British Schools Golf Championships.

Competing in the Eastern Region, Comberton Sixth Form Golf Academy have now completed three rounds of six. In pouring rain Adam achieved par at Stoke by Nayland golf course, and then three over par at Bawburgh, Norwich. Round three was at Colchester Golf Course where Adam's two over par was good enough to see him joint first on the day. If he can stay in the top eight he will enter the British Nationals in May of next year, to be held near Scarborough. The team as a whole is fourth behind teams from the Lee Westwood Golf School and Easton College Golf Academy.

The learning curve for the team has been steep, but after faltering in the first round, Jack Gower, Sam Hills, Darren Dunbavin, Connor Hehir and Nathan Jackson demonstrated their potential at Bawburgh, with Connor and Nathan getting on the

leader board.

The final round is on March 12th 2014 at Bourn Golf Club, the new home of Comberton Golf Academy where the Academy's new head coach Mark Sturgess is the Golf Professional.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Comberton Sixth Former Adam Pedlar on course for success.

Champions falter

Comberton are finding defending their Sixth Form League football title tough going.

As a team we haven't responded to the challenge as well as we should. Four consecutive league defeats put us firmly at the bottom of the league as opponents 'up their game' to beat the champions — that's life at the top! (or the bottom, now).

We need to learn to deal with the pressure. In our four defeats we have competed well — no-one gets an easy game against us; our heaviest defeat is 2-0.

However, the future is looking brighter. In our fifth game of the season we defeated Netherhall 4-1, with goals from Bonham Harper (2), and one each from Sam Reynolds and Liam Maskell. We are now playing a system that works for us. With determination and a positive approach all things are possible.

Mark Goldring, Team Coach

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Dance has new perspective

The New Perspectives Dance Project won funding from a Cambridge Culture application made in conjunction with Paul Sadot from Dance Offensive.

The aim was to create a high quality new dance film based on the theme of surveillance. The Year 12 and 13 dancers were Lauren Sparrow, Hannah Turner, Lara McCarthy, Gabby Chapman and Lauren Howse.

The day of the filming was very exciting as none of the students had worked with a professional filmmaker before and it was very intense and physically demanding, starting at 9am and continuing until 2.50 with little time to rest.

The cameraman had flown in from Barcelona for the day so nobody could forget any of the choreography! The director and choreographer said that the dance students were very skilled and professional. Many thanks to Ms Fenn-Goode and her

GCSE drama group who took part in the filming too as extras. Hannah explained: "Working on the 'New Perspectives' film with teachers Amy, Holly and Paul Sadot was a completely new experience for us all. We learnt a lot about how we dance as individuals and as a group. We were trying to create dance movements that nobody has ever done before, as well as improving our performance skills." Lauren Sparrow added: "It was a challenging, interesting piece of work. I enjoyed it and it made me think of styles of dance that I would not normally think about doing. I enjoyed the discussion and thinking up my own choreography. The difficulties were putting what we had practised on film and to remember to stay in character the whole time."



MOTIF: From the Sixth Formers' new dance film.

GCSE drama group who took part in the filming too as extras. Hannah explained: "Working on the 'New Perspectives' film with teachers Amy, Holly and Paul Sadot was a completely new experience for us all. We learnt a lot about how we dance as individuals and as a group. We



Pupils close to the action

In October, 15 pupils returned to the Olympic Park to see the inaugural London Badminton Grand Prix at the Copper Box. The pupils were lucky to be close to the action with many sitting on the front row, cheering loudly, using their thunder-sticks to make even more sound as well as getting many players' autographs. It was a wonderful day and a great chance to see some fantastic badminton and some famous players. Over the next few months there will be lots of opportunities for pupils to try badminton. Badminton club runs on a Friday 3-4pm and for those players interested in competing for the school there is an extra session on Monday lunchtimes Week A for girls and Week B for boys.

Holiday fun for youngsters . . .

Sports Xtra, the popular children's multisports holiday camp providers, are back at Comberton after a four-year break.

Sports Xtra have teamed up with Luke Harradine, of the Cambridge United Trust, to extend the programme already running successfully in primary schools and to utilise the great facilities at Comberton Sports and Arts.

The first of many new courses for children aged 4-14 takes place on Friday January 3 2014 where youngsters can choose either 'multisports' or 'spy experience.' For more information or to book contact Luke Harradine on luke.harradine@sports-xtra.com or look on the www.cutrust.co.uk website.



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To find out more or to register your interest, just contact one of the Secretaries:

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01223 263856
07917 184435
jengirling@hotmail.co.uk

Colts League (age 12-17)

Karen Whyatt,
01954 203886
07803 610320
Karen.whyatt2@ntlworld.com

Girls – all ages

Ingrid Sims
01223 263430
07747 072340
girlssecretary@combertoncrusaders.com



Comberton Crusaders has qualified and CRB checked volunteer managers & coaches, is affiliated to Cambs FA and uses state of the art astroturf training facilities at Comberton Village College.

See our website: www.combertoncrusaders.com



Top volunteer wins award

Sixth Former Amy Bland has been named as the British Rowing Young Volunteer of the Year.

This was for her work helping to run the indoor rowing club at Comberton and coaching at her club in Cambridge. On Saturday 16th November, she went to the Watermen's Hall in London to collect her award. There were other people from around the country of varying ages, who had also been nominated for British Rowing awards by their region, ranging from people who had coached world champions to those who had run Learn to Row courses at their clubs. The occasion was marked with a formal lunch. During the lunch there was a guest speaker, Greg Nugent, who was the Director of Brand, Marketing and Culture for London 2012. His role included organising the Games Makers, which he spoke about. Amy said: "It was really interesting listening to his stories about Eddie Izzard and the Games Makers. After the lunch, the winners were presented with their certificates. Mine was presented by Annamarie Phelps, the chairman of British Rowing. Overall it was a very enjoyable day." The thriving Comberton club which Amy helps run has been a huge success with students from all years taking part on Fridays after school. Students leave the club very red in the face but with a smile as they have thoroughly enjoyed themselves taking part in the activities and challenges organised by Amy and the other leaders and numbers are steadily increasing. Students in Years 9 and 10 will next be working towards a rowing competition which is being held in the new year.



HONOURED: Amy Bland (right) with British Rowing chair Annamarie Phelps.



GOOD RESULT: Comberton's A team who had two wins and two draws in the second round of matches.

CVC pay penalty

Comberton suffered the agony of a penalty shoot-out defeat in the Under-16 English Schools girls football competition. They were goalless against Moulsham High School, Chelmsford, after extra time despite dominating the majority of the game and were knocked out of the third round match 4-2 after the spot kicks.

Comberton had beaten Freman College, Buntingford, 8-1 in the second round with goals from Sophie Ugar (3), Katie Reynolds (3), Emma Littlewood and Katie Sims. The under-15 team also went out in the third round of their competition, beaten 4-0 by Walton High School, having seen off Samuel Ward Academy, Haverhill, 3-0 in the second round with Rachel Littlewood (2) and Gemma Bateman the scorers.

At Under-13 level the Grand Prix tournaments are continuing despite no longer being run by Cambs FA. Teachers at Chesterton and other schools were keen to keep the competition going and in the first of five rounds Comberton entered three teams as well as providing enough Year 12 sports leaders to officiate and score the whole event. Missing some key players from Year 8 due to the Geography trip, the A Team were upstaged by their Year 7 counterparts in the B-team, winning 2 out of 3 games, while the C team played well to hold close rivals Cambourne to a draw. In the second round, the A team, of mainly Year 8 pupils, beat Witchford and Chesterton White and drew against Melbourn and Chesterton Gold, while the B team had good victories against Witchford Orange and Chesterton Red, but lost to Swavesey 2-0.

The boys' teams have also been going well with Year 7 still in their county cup, Year 9 still in both the county competitions and the last 128 of the National Cup, as are Year 10.

Comberton teams march on

Girls' squash continues to thrive at Comberton through all years and with the standards rising, the college entered two teams this year into the National Schools Championships and plan for three next year.

The Under-15s team (Casey Miller, Izzy Broadbent, Alicja Emmans, Millie Banks and Amy Jones) trekked to Nottingham for their first round matches against schools from Nottingham and Chesterfield. Rushcliffe School, Nottingham, were very new to the game and our young CVC team won without relinquishing a single game. However, a fight with Brookfield School, Chesterfield, resulted in a narrow 3-2 win. A Yorkshire school withdrew leaving the CVC team top of their group, and looking forward to the second round after Christmas. The Under-19 team (Charlotte Davies, Kate

Czylok, Casey Miller, Fiona Hughes and Katie Reynolds) made a great start beating hosts Oundle School a resounding 4-1 with Katie snatching her victory 12-10 in the fifth set. They narrowly lost 3-2 to Kenilworth School but have finished in the top half of their group to reach the second round next term.

The boys entered only an under-19 team this year and opened their campaign with a 3-2 derby victory over Hills Road.

The late withdrawal of Comberton's No 1, Jeremy Harris, evened up the teams. Laurence Temple had a comfortable 3-0 win while at No 2 Nick White was decisively beaten.

The story was much the same at 3 and 4, former CVC player Henry Prime seeing off Alex Johnson and CVC's Charlie McRobie winning convincingly. Alex Pinches sealed victory.

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VICTORIOUS: The Year 7 Comberton B team.

Title delight

Comberton came home with one trophy from the Year 7 District hockey tournament. The B team of Sophie Gledhill, Cara Pinches, Gaea Pinches, Emma Ross, Gabby McKeown, Holly Jones, Erin Goodacre, Fiona Musto-King, and Leah Kitson finished first of the 12 in their section to be crowned champions. The A team of Chelsie Alderman, Catherine Newman, Ellen Smith, Charlotte Winch, Alice Heydinger, Nourhan Sherif, Jenna Turnock, Lily Callaghan, and Alice O'Connell were joint ninth in their section with St Bede's.



SECOND AGAIN: The Year 8 team.

Team are runners-up again

Comberton were very unlucky not to win the Year 8 district hockey tournament, coming second for the second year running despite tireless work to improve their short corners and attacking play. Sannah Clay was a positive and motivational captain who always supported her team and Rosie White used her impressive skills to dominate

in the D and score many of the team's goals. The B team have shown great teamwork and unity and have developed as a team to show much improvement in their fixtures and tournament. A special mention should go to Alicia Reed for finding her talent in goal as well as Kaylyn Farmery for developing her leadership skills as captain.



SELECTED: The Comberton girls chosen for the JDC.

Girls hone hockey skills

FOUR Comberton girls have been selected for hockey's Cambridge Development Centre.

Year 10s Jessica Kennard, Megan Caw and Emily Dowd plus Rachel Littlewood, from Year 9, were selected after testing trials.

Here Rachel describes the selection process. "A few months ago I trialled for the Cambridge Development Centre called JDC. At the trials we

did lots of skills and passing the ball and then we played a match at the end. It was very closely assessed and there were lots of coaches there.

"I found out that I got in a few weeks later and there have been five training sessions since.

"On Sunday 17th November we had a match day where development centres from other places came. The teams we played in were mixed up and we had to train and get to know each other in the

first 30 minutes. We then played three games against the other teams while being assessed by coaches to see if we were able to go on to the Cambridge Academy.

"We were scored on the match day and at all the training and that was to decide whether we got through or not. All the training was fun but hard work and going to the development centre has helped develop my hockey a lot."



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Training future coaches

A new initiative in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to promote sports coaching for young people has recently been launched with an elite group of 22 young coaches selected to be part of the County Young Coach Academy (CYCA).

The CYCA aims to identify, support and develop coaches of the future by offering a programme of training, personal development and mentoring support delivered by experienced coaches and other professionals in their field.

The CYCA is one of just 10 being piloted nationally and represents a collaboration between South Cambs School Sport Partnership, the Youth Sport Trust and LIVING SPORT.

The Academy will provide a pathway from school/college leadership and volunteering programmes into coaching and possibly a career in sport by bridging the gap between school and community systems and signposting young coaches to further opportunities and nationally recognised qualifications.

The first session of the CYCA took place at Impington Village College in October with the young coaches aged 15-17 getting to know each other, starting to think about what makes a good coach and then identifying their own coaching goals and aspirations which they will pursue through the programme.

Liam Hunt, a young coach from Comberton Sixth Form commented: "It was a great first session of the CYCA, the team seem really nice and I can't wait to do some of the workshops we were told were about!"

Claire McDonnell, Partnership Manager for South Cambs SSP who is leading the initiative, said: "It is hoped that through this programme we will be able to identify, train and nurture the coaches of the future. It is a really exciting opportunity for these youngsters and we hope they make the most of the opportunities offered to them and aim to be the best they can be."

Another Comberton Sixth Former, Amy Bland, a coach from City of Cambridge Rowing Club said: "I am looking forward to being able to improve my coaching skills. I already do some coaching so I am hoping that through the CYCA I will be able to access courses and training to help me improve as a coach"



HARD WORK: A strength and conditioning session

The group have recently met again to undertake a strength and conditioning workshop at Core Cambridge, where they were given lots of practical ideas and information to prepare them to lead dynamic warm up and cool down sessions as part of their coaching programme.

There are three other Comberton students also on the programme, Year 11s Ben Goddard (Hardwick Harriers FC) and Georgie Harnwell (Royston Netball Club) and Sixth Former Ellis Maloney (Cambs Nomads Hockey Club) as well as former Comberton student Sunke Trace-Kleeberg.

The CYCA is looking for funding to support young coaches in accessing qualifications and training and would like to hear from any local businesses who may be interested in sponsoring the programme and supporting the young coaches as they move along their coaching journey.

For further information please contact: Claire McDonnell on cmcdonnell@comberton.cambs.sch.uk or phone 07736 458012.

■ National Award for Amy — Page 31



NEW RECRUITS:
The latest Comberton Year 10 contingent to join the Leadership Academy.

Funding cuts don't halt leadership academy

Despite the reduction in funding, the South Cambs School Sports Partnership Leadership Academy is continuing.

The Academy opened for this year's intake with a Conference in September held in the Sixth Form College Lecture Theatre for more than 100 of the best and most committed leaders from all eight secondary schools across South Cambridgeshire.

Through the Leadership Academy youngsters receive a programme of support and training to help them develop the skills, qualities and knowledge to be the

best leaders they can. They have access to a varied programme of nationally recognised qualifications in sports including rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, tennis and football and they are supported to develop their skills not only as coaches but as officials, administrators and managers as well. Youngsters are then encouraged to volunteer their time to help others get involved in sport by helping to lead clubs, competitions and events for other young people. This year, CVC have 42 Year 10 pupils signed up to the new Leadership Academy, and they are already

showing their leadership skills while helping at after-school clubs, officiating fixtures, assisting with the Open Evening and at primary school clubs.

It really is a fantastic opportunity for the leaders, and their social skills, communication and organisational abilities clearly develop throughout the year as their confidence grows. For many it is the start of a pathway to a career in sport while for others it is a stepping stone to future employment or a college place.

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