



GOLD STANDARD



How we became the Head Prefects . . .

We were first introduced to the prospect of being a Head Prefect during an assembly led by Ms Segal. The idea was popular among our year and about 30 people applied for the role.

The first stage of the process was completing the application form, which involved writing about our role models, qualities, leadership experiences and reasons why we wanted to be head prefects. A group of senior members of staff then read our applications and selected eight pupils, who would go into the interview process.

The interview process involved two stages: an informal and a formal interview. For the informal interview we were asked to make a five-minute presentation on something we were passionate about.

We presented to a panel including Mr Beamish, Miss Segal, the current head prefects and some members of the School Council. The topics we chose included Jupiter, friendship, entrepreneurship and the TV series, Sherlock. Our presentations were then followed by a

few questions based on those presentations and application forms.

The second interview was more formal as a panel of senior members of staff asked us questions about our application form, why we wanted to be Head Prefects and what we could learn from our role model that could apply to the role of Head Prefect. We were all very nervous going into both interviews, but the teachers put us at ease and it wasn't as daunting as we expected. We started some of our duties almost instantly, interviewing potential teachers on a student panel, regularly attending meetings with members of staff and our fellow Senior Prefect team. We are really looking forward to what lies ahead for us and learning new and valuable skills that will undoubtedly help us in the future.

We would like to thank all of the teachers that supported us through the process, in particular Ms Segal, whom has recently passed over her duties to Dr



NEW TEAM: The next Head Prefects.

Kueh while she is on maternity leave.

Anna Norgett, Emily Dowsett, Jack Barker and Ewan Jenkins, Head Prefects



New vehicles added to fleet

Comberton now has two new minibuses and is fund-raising for another one to take the school's fleet back up to four.

The new transits have been decorated to promote the fledgling Sixth Form, but will be available for use throughout the school.

The team who worked on the minibuses project were Greg Dean, Kris Marschall, Andy Milne, Stephen Munday, the site team and Algar Signcraft. Fundraising for the fourth minibus is being spearheaded by the Friends of CVC Trust Fund and some of the proceeds of last month's Auction of Promises has helped towards the £15,000 needed to buy a newish, secondhand vehicle.

Head joins Ofsted team

Paul Lawrence, Head of Upper School, has an exciting opportunity to see schools from a different angle — as an inspector.

He has been invited to work for a year from Easter as an associate HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector), observing, taking part in and leading inspections for Ofsted in the Eastern Region of England.

"This is a wonderful chance to visit a range of different schools and see how

they operate. When I return in a year's time I will be able to bring back a huge amount of experience of what other schools do well," said Mr Lawrence. "It will also be valuable for CVC to see how Ofsted works from the inside."

In his absence Mr Lawrence's responsibilities will be overseen by the existing senior team.

Mr Evans will extend his responsibility beyond the Sixth Form to ensure the smooth running of the Upper



PAUL LAWRENCE

School.

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Funding fight isn't over

Executive Principal Stephen Munday has pledged to continue the fight for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire's schools and academies despite a breakthrough last month.

After decades of unreasonable under-funding, Central Government has finally confirmed that something needs to be done. For the year 2015-16, additional funding for schools and Academies in a number of Authorities that are deemed to be under-funded has been announced. This includes Cambridgeshire. The suggestion is that there may be something around £275 per pupil extra available to all schools and Academies in Cambridgeshire from then. Mr Munday said: "This announcement is extremely welcome and important for two reasons:

- The additional funding will enable more spending to support educational achievement for all pupils in Cambridgeshire as soon as it is available
 - It formally concedes the point that we desperately need to address the inequity that exists within the system and do something about it. This is thus a huge stride forward compared to where we were.
- "However, we have to acknowledge that there are still some concerns about the announcement as it stands:
- It has only been announced as a one-off for one year in the first instance. What we really need is a permanent solution that sorts out a proper, fair national formula applicable to all schools and Academies.
 - The amount suggested still does not take Cambridgeshire up to the national average.



STILL NOT FAIR: Stephen Munday discusses the funding situation with Anglia News' Elodie Harper (centre) and Linton head Caroline Derbyshire, chair of the Cambridgeshire Secondary Headteachers Association.

■ As it is seen as emergency funding to begin to rectify an unreasonable situation, it really needs to be for this coming year, not for the year 2015-16. If there is a desperate need to address the situation then that need is right now. "So this is a big breakthrough. However, it is not yet where we need to get to. The campaign goes on."

news@com



TASTY TREATS: The Year 9 Valentine's Day cake sale.

For the love of cake!

Year 9 students, parents, carers and staff helped to raise £227.75 for Cancer Research UK, our chosen charity this year, by holding a cake sale earlier this term. Contributions to the sale were encouraged to be on a Valentine's theme as the sale happened to be on February 14th.

Students were challenged by Miss Greenwood, herself a keen baker, to come up with a cake, set of cupcakes or a tray bake to match the theme of the day and the best would win a prize.

Jess Wood (9M) won with her heart-shaped cake decorated in pink sugar paste with more red hearts on the top. She received some love-heart patterned cupcake cases and cookie cutters to further inspire her baking.

Thanks to all who helped by banking, encouraging, transporting and eating the cakes!

Abi Greenwood, Assistant Head of Year 9

Staff training first for Trust

The first Joint Professional Development Day for all staff across the Trust will take place in April, as teachers and other staff return after the Easter holiday.

Staff will get together on each of the four secondary school sites on April 22nd, but rather than go to their normal workplace, many will be travelling to different schools to get together; teachers with other teachers of the same subject; librarians together and teaching assistants from all four schools in Cambourne. This will be one-day's training on Teaching and Learning, focusing on the following aims:

- To create sustainable subject networks within the Trust
- To deliver high quality training in subject areas
- To develop a professional dialogue on current and emergent issues and priorities
- To build professional confidence and effectiveness among support staff
- To foster the sharing of good practice across the Trust

A wide variety of activities are planned already ranging from outside professionals coming in to share their expertise, to small groups working together to discuss and solve a shared problem. Subject teachers will all be able to focus on materials and issues that are particular to their subject. In some subjects changes to the curriculum present opportunities for new thinking; some staff have asked industry

professionals in to give them an update. Re-invigorating creativity and sharing ideas are the aims.

For support staff the day will be opened by Angie Cook, an experienced leader of school improvement with Cambridge Education in the UK and across the world. Teaching Assistants themselves will lead professional discussions in a 'marketplace of skills'.

Themes presented will include:

- Self-authorisation and taking responsibility
 - EAL learners
 - Social skills
 - Sports and physical skills
 - Using Software
 - Visual impairment, visual stress and sensory work
 - Managing Behaviour
 - Supporting students with ASD
- The main outcome that the Inclusion Leaders are looking for is an increase in professional confidence and self-authorisation so that the knowledge and skills of all TAs can be available to students.

By the end of the day we hope every member of staff will feel they can call on the rich resources of expertise from right across the Trust in their roles supporting all our students. We are looking forward to a busy and interesting day.

Niki Smith, Assistant Principal, Comberton Village College, & Rosalind Scott, CAT Partnership Development Leader

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From strength to strength

More Comberton students than ever are taking part in, and completing, a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

A new timescale allowing students to take two years to complete the bronze award is paying dividends with around 70% of participants gaining the award compared to the national average of 45%.

And the Gold award, now with its second cohort in the Sixth Form, is also going from strength to strength, as is the partnership with Melbourn Village College. This has now been formalised and the centre has been renamed Comberton Academy Trust to reflect this.

Across the two schools there are currently more than 400 students actively working towards their Award at one of the three levels as the busiest time of the year approaches. With the expeditions just around the corner, sixth formers on the Gold programme have been planning their practice and assessed trip for this year. This is the only section of the programme that they complete under the direct supervision of Comberton staff.

The first expedition training happened a year ago at Ferrar House in Huntingdonshire. Students and staff were expecting a relaxed weekend of navigation and camping training. However, when Saturday morning arrived, they were greeted with cold and snow!

The students were fantastic and all arrived ready to learn how to pitch their tents in the snow and navigate on footpaths that could no longer be seen...a skill that will be useful in some areas of the Swiss Alps in July.

Next month, students will be tackling the mountains of the Lake District where they will develop their navigation and camping skills further. Students will be ascending Scafell Pike, navigating across difficult terrain, and selecting appropriate wild camping locations for their group...hopefully without any snow!

This week will prepare them both physically and mentally for their assessed expedition in Switzerland. Switzerland offers superb scenery, as well as varied terrain and weather for students to navigate. The final expedition consists of four days and three nights walking and camping in the Alps. We are hoping that students have an experience that they will never forget, but before they get there, there is lots more planning and preparation to be done!



OUT AND ABOUT:
Last year's gold expedition to Switzerland.

As with all levels of DofE, the expedition is only one part of the award and Gold is no exception, with some Sixth Formers planning to complete the demanding challenges at university. In addition to the Swiss trip, participants have to either learn a new skill for six months or undertake physical activity for a year or vice versa, volunteer for a year and complete a residential section. This involves 'undertaking a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for five days and four nights.'

Sixth Former Adam Hannaford said: "Over the past 12 months, several of us have been working towards our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. For this, you must complete 12 months of voluntary work, 12 months of a skill or sport and 6 months for the remaining. You must also complete several expeditions. So far we have helped with several Bronze practice expeditions and had our own training exercises, one of which included camping in six inches of snow in Huntingdon.

"In the Easter holidays we will be wild camping in the Lake District. This means we will be collecting water from streams for drinking, and digging holes when nature calls.

"We are all looking forward to our expedition in the Swiss Alps where we will also be wild camping for a week.

Although Gold D of E is a challenge, I believe we have all enjoyed it so far and will go on to enjoy the remaining expeditions.

Another Sixth Former, Alice Thompson, added: "One of my favourite parts of gold DoE is the volunteering section. I volunteer in a children's club which I love, and has given me experience that has helped me stand out from other applicants for a place at university — as I am applying for a Primary Education degree which will qualify me as a teacher.

"I get to spend time working with the children and getting to know what they are like and being able to help create a club they enjoying going to. I have been able to build strong relationships with the adults who work there as well as the children — and it is thoroughly rewarding!"

Elsewhere, Year 9 students have just signed up for Bronze and are currently starting activities for the sections. Year 10 are preparing for their practice expedition and Year 11 are working on their Silver sections.

Friends work hard to pull in funds

Members of The Friends of CVC Trust Fund have been very busy in the past few months raising money for good causes around the college. We raised £365 from the great Christmas Pudding fundraiser, selling a range of delicious puddings from the Ultimate Food Company. This was the first year for the puddings and it was a great success so make sure you plan ahead for Christmas 2014 and buy your pudding from the Trust Fund when the time comes.

We then went straight into planning for the Auction of Promises, which took place on last month. Television auctioneer David Palmer did a fantastic job, entertaining the crowd and raising more than £3,500 on the night. We were particularly pleased to see the Executive Principal successfully bid for the place in the Cambridge Half Marathon 2015, and the places in the Cambourne10k. It would be great to see some members of staff running to raise funds for the Trust Fund! The funds from the night are going to the Cabin Appeal, the Minibus appeal, and into our small grants fund. Cambridge Half Marathon organisers One Step Beyond are donating £250 to the Trust Fund after

we were up early on Sunday 9 March to take a team of 20 marshals to help at the 2014 event. A mixture of parents, staff, Sixth Form students and ex-pupils all had a really good, if tiring, morning, helping out at both the start and finish of the race, right at the heart of the action. It was quite inspiring to see over 4,000 people, mainly local, committed to running over 13 miles,



with many of them raising funds. We have already been asked if we want to put a team of marshals forward for next year, and for the new Cambridge

Triathlon in September, so if you think you might be interested, please get in touch.

We have yet more race activity going on, with Louise Lancaster taking part in the Tough Mudder to help raise funds for the Cabin. She has already raised more than £1000 and there is still time to sponsor her.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/toughmuddertim>

Our next fundraising activity is Bags2School, which will be happening on 14 May. Please keep an eye out for further details closer to the time and remember the more we collect the more funds we can raise. Finally, we are always interested in talking to anyone who is interested in helping with the Trust Fund. As you can see there are lots of ways to get involved, from helping out at events, supporting fundraising activity, coming up with fundraising ideas, or even just buying a pudding! For up to date information please visit our website

WORKING THE AUDIENCE:
TV Auctioneer David Palmer draws out the bids.

www.combertonvc.org/friendsofcvctrustfund or contact us via email: friends@combertonvc.org
Jane Wilson, Chair of Friends of CVC Trust Fund

Students head for Ghana

Three lucky students from Comberton Sixth Form will become trail blazers as the first students to take part in a new Gap Year expedition to Ghana, North Africa, in 2015.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for Year 13 students, who are planning to take a gap year before attending university or seeking employment. It has been set up in partnership with the children's charity Operation Orphan.

The project team, comprising of enthusiastic and committed students Martha Watson, Ed Sage and Ellie Baker-Gray, will work with a group of village communities in a remote rural part of northern Ghana for the duration of the expedition.

These communities currently have little health care provision, no school, suffer from high child mortality, have problems of pollution and battle killer diseases such as malaria. The gap year project team will work alongside members of these communities to help them solve these problems. We hope to establish this new and exciting Comberton Sixth Form project as a long-term venture over the next 10 years.

The project will offer the team of Comberton students the chance to develop a wide range of life skills by helping to operate a river ambulance, helping to build and equip a health centre and school, helping to develop the village infrastructure to combat diseases like malaria and deal with the range of pollution issues.

Richard Waller, the joint expedition team leader, said "I anticipate that this project will offer a unique chance for our excellent Sixth Form students to develop a superior set of life skills which will be of enormous personal value to them. It will allow the team members to have a deep cultural experience in



HEALTH: Students will work on projects to improve health and child mortality during their gap year.

Ghana and will make a very positive long-term impact on the local communities."

One of the main focal points of the project during the next nine months will be the skills development programme leading up to the departure of the expedition team in January next year. This will involve a number of skills workshops and logistical planning sessions given by a range of top industry professionals, who will also take on mentoring roles for the expedition team members.

There are still places available! So, if you are planning a gap year next year and would like to join the expedition team we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Mr Waller at rwaller@comberton.cambs.sch.uk if you have any questions about the expedition project or would like to know more.

Close up with animals

Year 12 Biology and Psychology students took a trip to Colchester Zoo earlier this term.

The weather wasn't the greatest (it was somewhat cold and windy and the rain for the last hour was fairly torrential) but that did mean the zoo was nice and quiet!

Students had an opportunity to wander throughout the zoo, take the land train and observe all sorts of different animals, including a number of primates, reptiles, penguins, and larger mammals. A particular highlight was the opportunity to feed the elephants and giraffes (right), as well as holding a cockroach if you were feeling brave!

Students also attended an animal behaviour workshop, where they learnt about conditioning in animals including chimpanzees, octopuses and meerkats. One interesting piece of conditioning that has taken place at the zoo is that the chimpanzees have learnt to throw their poo at the glass. The first chimpanzee to do this realised it got a big response from the public (laughing, pointing, crowding round, photographs) and the chimps so enjoyed this response that they have all learnt to do this.

In fact they enjoy doing it so much that no amount of rewards and training from the staff can get the chimps to stop this behaviour!

Students were also told about different methods of observing animal behaviour such as using an ethogram. The students behaved fantastically, and we had a great day out, as well as learning some interesting things about animal behaviour.



RIVER WORK: On the geography field trip to Malham.

Ready for anything!

After last year's drama, this year's Malham field trip felt more like battle against wind chill and floods rather than a war against snow and ice.

After last year's temperatures plummeted overnight and revealed two inches of snow on Saturday morning, this year's AS Geographers were ready and prepared for anything the British weather might throw at them.

After a hearty full English breakfast, the 36-strong team trekked out across the Yorkshire Dales National Park to three sites to collect data on river velocity, bed load roundness and other changing channel characteristics.

Following a thorough demonstration each group set off for their data collection. Then, after a hike up a very steep hill, a swift lunch in the Land Rover and a few falls in the river (and on the way down the big hill), we returned back to the field studies centre ready for some data presentation, analysis and statistics which took us well into the evening.

The following morning some further detailed note making ready for the exam in May concluded the exhausting and demanding but very worthwhile weekend away.

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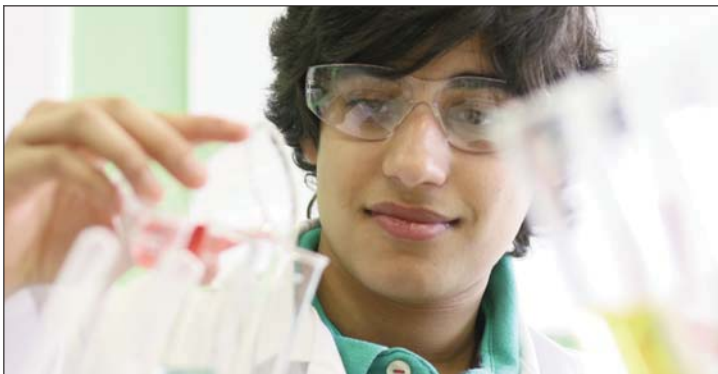
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FIRSTS FOR CSF: Aneesh Sharma (left) and Nickie Dailly are trail-blazers for Comberton Sixth Form.

Sixth Form is in demand

Comberton Sixth Form is preparing to welcome a record number of students in September as a swiftly-established reputation for quality and excellence in post-16 education continues to attract unprecedented levels of interest from across the region.

More than 500 applications to the Sixth Form were made ahead of this term's deadline, received from students from 37 different schools. Of these, a record number selected Comberton as their first-choice destination, a tribute to the tremendous record of success delivered by the Sixth Form in only a very short space of time.

This year's process follows a phenomenal first two years for the Sixth Form, with an 'outstanding' judgement from Ofsted just over a year ago complemented by a superb set of initial A-Level and BTEC results last summer.

Students and staff have wasted no time this year in building on these successes,

with an impressive set of collective and individual achievements already to note in 2013-14.

These include a first Oxbridge place — secured by Nickie Dailly, who has an unconditional offer to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge — and a first offer to read Medicine, made to Aneesh Sharma by University College London (UCL). Also notable is the fact that 31 of the 34 prestigious 'Russell Group' universities are represented within offers made to the current group of Year 13 students at Comberton.

For those seeking alternatives to university, there have been some equally impressive outcomes. Among these is an exciting opportunity for Lara McCarthy, who has been offered a trainee management place at the world-renowned accountancy firm Ernst & Young following a demanding round of selection assessments.

"These achievements are a testament to the ambition, ability and diligence of our impressive Upper Sixth students," said Head of Sixth Form, Phillip Evans.

London inspires artists and photographers

The Year 12 and 13 photography students had the opportunity to visit London to capture a variety of breath-taking scenes and practise new techniques to stimulate ideas for our exam projects.

The Art students were also there and visited a variety of exhibitions to inspire work towards their A-level.

We started our weekend in Leicester Square, photographing the spectacular architecture before heading off to the magnificent David Bailey exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery.

Bailey's *Stardust* presents a wide range of subjects, including actors such as Jonny Depp, musicians such as the Rolling Stones, as well as many other designers, models and members of the public.

The Photographers' Gallery included even more inspirational work by iconic photographers such as Andy Warhol and David Lynch, providing us with motivating ideas for cityscape, street scenes and people photography.

We ventured to Leake Street Tunnel, the biggest legal graffiti wall in London at 200 metres long.

Here we expanded our photographic knowledge, learning how to successfully use a speed light flash for model

photography. This was an extraordinary opportunity for us to experiment using the colourful pieces of art work that were being created in front of us as striking backgrounds to our images. Unforgettable night-time photography at Tower Bridge allowed us to use the spectacular views, lights and members of the public to snap some beautiful work that was perfect for sections of our A-Level exam projects. Similarly Petticoat Lane and Spitalfields markets were ideal places for people photography as well as an opportunity for a little shopping!


The Art students, meanwhile, were inspired by the Richard Hamilton exhibition and, while studying artworks in the Tate Modern, happened to witness

a fashion show starring Kate Moss as part of London Fashion Week. This weekend was perfect for influencing our initial thoughts for our exam project and helping us become more professional, experienced photographers and artists.



OUT AND ABOUT: Sixth Form Art and Photography students in London.

Paige Collingbourne (U6-LM)



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All manner of delight

Resisting the urge to begin with a series of sinfully bad puns, I'll come right out and say that the production of *Dr Faustus* was simply excellent.

The cast rose to the challenge of Marlowe's verse and the decision to stage this ambitious production in-the-round. They achieved much more than this too, conveying the tragic tale of human vanity with aplomb. Dramatically, the forces of evil were especially active and rightly dominated with their numbers and sheer energy. Curtained off, the Performance Hall floor seemed at once expansive and intimate with seven picture frames creating the particular illusion of space and enclosure. The Seven Deadly Sins, placed inside the frames, provided a disturbing and hushed echo to characters' lines on centre stage, which acted as a reminder that the powers of darkness lurk everywhere. Lighting always enhanced the mood, especially the cold blue which generated a cave-like claustrophobia and, against one side, the silhouettes of devils ready and writhing to interfere with the human world flashed as



GOOD AND EVIL: The angels torment Dr Faustus.

weird, reddish shadows.

The finale was played out with sinister fatalism which left a forlorn good angel prostrate centre-stage, watching the infernal minions parade off with Faustus, while Lucifer and Mephistopheles watched in triumph. Luna Snell's Mephistopheles was all steely self-control with the odd wry smile replacing a trademark, sinister scowl. Ollie Wigg in the title role played an immediately likeable Faustus whose enthusiasm for infernal powers showed all the excitement of a child with a new toy. As the production drew to a close his portrayal alternated between subtle moments of despair and furious rants, while never losing that proud foolhardy demeanour. Even his Latin was delivered with conviction and force.

The demonic legion combined for an overwhelming dominance, as if mankind had little chance to overcome its power. Heinrich Verwoerd relished conducting a symphony of devils, including the Seven Deadly Sins, who murmured menacingly in the audience's ears all evening. The younger devils kept the audience's eyes shifting restlessly from the combined effect of hissing gasps and writhing limbs. And the wild hair. I have to mention the wild hair. One wonders if the production was sponsored by L'Oreal.

The plaintive, liquid voice of Joely Sockett's Good Angel and the tempting strains of Holly Masters' Evil Angel made most convincing voices for Faustus' conscience. Cameo scenes provided an interesting foil in minor shows of human vanity. Eddie Gao, Zach Murray, Maddy Butterworth, Annusheh Qureshi, Julian Semerene, Natalie Swanser, Matt Waller and Connor South, all contributed to the collection of sinners and fools while providing some tasty morsels of physical comedy along the way.

The complexity of technical cues certainly meant the technical crew earned their plaudits. Directed and produced by Jez Frost, Jane Menczer and Charlotte Fenn-Goode, this was truly a collaborative spectacle that will linger in the mind with many eerie reverberations.

Mike Ryall, English Department

'Charlie' proves a real treat

'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' was an amazing production which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We all set off eagerly from school about 5pm and made our way into London enjoying our picnics as we travelled. Once we got to the theatre, we all settled and some of us got some rather tasty treats! As soon as the show started, we were all immediately engaged. The show was very funny at times and also magical. The actors were phenomenal as were the props and scenery. The oompa loompas were particularly good as they used tap dancing puppets! The show wasn't just for children either; the teachers who went with us also thoroughly enjoyed themselves! It was by far one of the best productions we have seen and we would definitely recommend it.

Daniel Vlastis (7B) and Arun Austin (7V)



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CHALLENGE MET: The Comberton Kids Lit team.

Raiders rise to challenge

After winning the Regional Finals, 'The Dragon Riders', made up of Jack Walsh, Izzy Huntington, Anastasia Ward and Callum Martin, went to the National Finals of the Kids Lit Quiz 2013, at King's College School, Wimbledon.

The Kids Lit Quiz started in 1991 by Wayne Mills, a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland, and is described as the 'United Kingdom's Sport of Reading'. It is intended to motivate readers and celebrate reading for pleasure.

Sixteen teams representing the different regions from across the country assembled to compete. A number of children's authors were also present at the quiz, including Gillian Cross, writer of 'The Demon Headmaster', whose welcoming speech ended with the words, "May the odds be forever in your favour".

There were five rounds, each with a different theme: cities, titles, openings, authors and folk tales. The questions were lengthy, starting with obscure facts and then becoming clearer as they progressed.

Each team had a buzzer that you had to push when you thought you had the right answer. Two points were given for a correct answer, but a point was taken away for a wrong answer so you had to be sure that it was the right answer otherwise you would lose points for your team.

Each of our team answered at least one question correctly in each of the rounds across the competition.

After a long day we ended up in joint sixth out of 16; a good position for a first attempt. It was a fantastic experience and thanks go to Ms Hack and Mrs Roberts for making it all possible.

Callum Martin (7B)

World Book Day giveaway

World Book Day was on Thursday 6th March and there were several Library activities running all week. We had a Guess the Book Title/ Character competition and several quizzes with a prize of a £10 book token.

All pupils were invited to come to the library at lunchtime to collect a £1 book token where they could exchange their voucher for a selection of the special £1 paperbacks or use it in a participating bookshop towards a purchase of any book over £2.99

Poems from the heart . . .

Year 10 student James Ashton finished runner-up in the county finals of the Poetry by Heart competition, run by the Poetry Society. Competitors had to memorise and recite three poems: one written before 1914, one after, and one selected from a new anthology of World War One poetry. Speakers were awarded marks out of a possible 300 points by four judges, for accuracy, understanding, difficulty and expressiveness. James impressed his audience and the judges with his choices of 'How to Kill' by Keith Douglas, 'There Will Come Soft Rains' by Sara Teasdale and 'Elegy' by Chidiock Titchbourne. Listeners remarked on the naturalness,



RUNNER-UP: James Ashton (right).

maturity and intelligence of his interpretations. In an incredibly close contest for the top spot, James missed out by a mere 10 points overall to his rival from the independent Kimbolton School. James left with a gift voucher and some good books of verse from the Poetry Society; he also left knowing that he had scored a major achievement, and had 'done Comberton proud'. Thanks to Ms Hack, Mr Shelley, Miss Gadd and Miss Innes for their help in the process.

'Dragon' author drops in

Chris d'Lacey a well-known English author visited CVC earlier this term. He is known for his numerous contributions to children's fiction — including his first novel 'Fly, Cherokee, Fly', was highly commended for the 1999 Carnegie Medal.

However, Chris is probably better known for his popular series 'The Last Dragon Chronicles', which follows the adventures of David Rain and his quests to save the tear of the last dragon, Gawain, and protect dragonkind. Chris was in the library at lunchtime to sign books and chat to students. During the afternoon all Year 7 students had the chance to hear him talk about his books and life as a writer, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.



ENTHRALLED AUDIENCE: Chris d'Lacey talks to Year 7 pupils



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Investing in the future!

William Pritchard, Nayab Fahim, Annusheh Qureshi and me, Edward Gao, attended the IFS (Institute of Financial Services) Student Investor Challenge regional finals in London.

We were invited to attend the finals because our team, 'SALE2013', were one of the top 20 teams in the South East Region for the first stage of the competition, competing with schools such as Eton College and The Perse.

Our initial challenge, prior to the regional finals, was to invest a virtual £100,000 in the FTSE 100. The aim was to make a profit by selling and trading

The IFS Student Investor Challenge is the UK's most popular student investment competition with more than 100,000 students from 2,500 schools benefiting from the experience. I was delighted for the students and their efforts in achieving a regional final place, against tough competition. This was a first for Comberton Village College. Students will have the opportunity to take part again from this November.

Mr Warrington
Head of Business Education

ordinary shares. Overall, our team finished in 51st place out of 8,900 participating teams, from across the UK. We qualified for the South-East regional finals, held at the IFS College, based in the heart of London's financial district.

The first stage of the competition gave us a realistic insight into the workings of a stock market, allowing us to invest in businesses. This provided us with a real idea of the fundamental financial skills and knowledge needed to be a stock market investor. Additionally, it aided us in developing our teamwork, communication skills, and commercial awareness.

The regional final consisted of a quiz, with multi-choice, and cryptic questions based

on our knowledge of financial services, investments and savings.



MONEY MATTERS:
For Comberton's leading student investors.

Admittedly, some of the questions were challenging. However, we worked well as a team and demonstrated good financial awareness, coming out with roughly 60% of our answers correct.

Overall, we finished 13th out of 20, but we were one of the youngest teams attending, and were competing against sixth form students. Considering these factors, we left the finals proud of our overall achievement and with hopeful aspirations for next year's challenge.

Edward Gao (10B)

Maths aces strike gold

Another Intermediate Maths Challenge and another set of excellent results for pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11. Earlier in the term, 63 pupils took part in this national event and spent an hour trying to solve a wide variety of problems, including ones on the Tour de France, King Arthur's jousting tournament and characters in the Woodentops!

A total of 22 pupils achieved a Gold certificate, 22 pupils a Silver certificate and 13 pupils a Bronze. The Year 11 pupils achieving Gold were Melchior Chui, Wenjie Xu, Joshua Longstaffe, Edward Glasse, Sam Rowbotham, Jack Benson, Jonathan Xue, Jack White, Joelle Tasker, Molly Walsh, Robbie McGraw, Jack Jarvis, James Hobbs and Hannah Edgoose. In Year 10, they were Ewan Jenkins, Sean Coyle, Abbey Robertson, Gregory Kendall and Rebecca Burton. Finally, in Year 9, Samuel Clarke, Megan Masters and Tom Jarvis all achieved Gold.

18 pupils achieved so highly that they were invited take part in the next round of the Challenge.



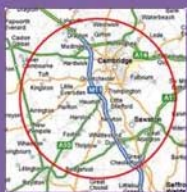
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WONDERFUL WORLD OF HARRY POTTER: Hogwarts Castle (above) and (left) Charlotte Frost's winning photograph.

Tour is out of this world

Year 10 and 11 Graphics students had the opportunity to go to the Harry Potter Studios near Watford, where they also took part in a competition.

The 'Perspective Challenge' was a photography competition which involved taking a photo that portrays a distortion of scale.

The winner was Charlotte Frost from 11I, who received a prize of £10. The runners up were Ashley Jones (10O) and Oliver Lau (10N).

Throughout our visit, we discovered magical secrets about the making of Harry Potter. Including a 1:24 scale model of Hogwarts Castle based on the initial sketches, which was used during filming against a green screen.

This same technique was used to photograph lots of the GCSE students, apparently soaring over Hogwarts on a broomstick!

It took a team of 40 to create the first version of Hogwarts and more than 50 to maintain it during production.

Model makers installed more than 300 fibre optic lights to simulate lanterns, torches and even students passing through the hallways. To make everything appear as realistic as possible, Hogwarts borrows real courtyards from Alnwick Castle and Durham Cathedral and the landscape is inspired by the Highlands of Scotland. Everything is perfectly hand-sculpted to scale.

We saw the graphic designs for all the props used in the films and also the life-size mechanical animals,

such as Buckbeak the hippogriff.

We also discovered how Hagrid, the half-giant game-keeper, has a remote controlled face that moves as he speaks.

Because we visited in the winter season, Christmas decorations were out and Hogwarts was coated with sparkling snow, adding to the magical atmosphere at the Harry Potter Studios.

The Butterbeer was a huge success with everyone and so was the gift shop, where you could purchase house scarves, wands, sweets and keyrings.

Adele Ablett described it as an "amazing experience" and competition winner Charlotte said "it was a once in a lifetime opportunity that she'll never forget".

Emma Littlewood (11B) and Molly Funge (11I)

Toys are a force to be reckoned with

Mrs Tasker has been conducting a research project using toys in science lessons to see if they help pupils to remember some of the more tricky concepts and apply the science we are learning in the class to things we see every day.

We have used some of these things in our lessons during the Year 9 topic Forces topic.

This is what we thought:

Water trick



Scheri said: "We did a water-in-a-cup trick that showed air resistance and up thrust. We filled a large beaker with water and put a cloth over it. When we tipped it upside down it stayed in."

Magnetic nail varnish

Callum said: "It was great to see liquids with magnetic properties," while Gemma was disappointed when she was asked to take her magnetic nail varnish off as she wanted to go home and explain how it worked.

Lots of pupils said that they were asked how it worked and they were able to

use the idea of forces and magnetic fields.



Flumps experiment

Amy said: "The flumps were more interesting to learn about than the plastic bottle". In this experiment we used air pressure to explain how that Flump got bigger using the idea of gas pressure and air pressure.

Overall these experiments used everyday objects to give us all an understanding of pressure, forces and magnets. They got us to interact and become interested in what we were learning.

Danielle Richardson (9V)

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Ways to beat the bullies

I was recently asked to present my anti-bullying strategies at the RAINBOW HAS conference at Middlesex University.

The conference focus was on identifying anti-homophobia examples of good practice in secondary schools in Europe. Although my work at Comberton is essentially generic with logging of all types of bullying including: racist, homophobic, disability/special needs related, sexist and religious, the conference consensus seemed to be that developing approaches which are proactive in preventing all kinds of bullying was a good way forward.

Key elements in the creation of Comberton's PEOPLE policy (Pupils' Equal Opportunities Policy means Learning for Everyone) are the very careful induction of new 11-year-old pupils to the school, recruitment into the programme, peer mediation and support, restorative justice and generally building a pupil-centred behaviour moderation culture.

I described how at the beginning of the induction and recruitment process, pupils are invited to apply to become PEOPLE people by writing letters outlining their motivation and relevant qualities. I find 11-year-olds are inspirational in their desire to help improve society.

Excerpts from applications give a flavour of this impulse to make things better: "I have been bullied in the past so I know how some people feel", "I try to be a peacemaker and don't take sides", "I understand the importance of school life because if you are unhappy you don't learn", "I'm good at putting myself in someone else's shoes".

Once recruited, there is a leadership progression path whereby pupils need to work in pro-social way in their classes and around the school in order to earn their 'PEOPLE' badges.

Over time, pupils learn to work unobtrusively as team builders, helping their fellow

pupils fit in, gain confidence and understand the notion of collective entitlement where everyone matters but remembering that with entitlement comes responsibility for the welfare of others.

Bullying often tends to start with casual name-calling. Alongside the proactive pupil support culture, we give very strong messages to pupils about zero tolerance of name-calling and have clear responses to any first signs of intolerance.

Breaches of the PEOPLE policy which essentially expresses an individual pupil's human rights in accessible terms will be followed up by not only sanctions but by discussion in restorative justice style where causes and effects are explored in an

atmosphere which is non-punitive and which genuinely seeks understanding and fairness. This way of working has reduced the rate of bullying incidence, improved the well-being of pupils and contributed towards better learning outcomes of many pupils.

In addition to the implementation of a strategy which aims to allow pupils to claim their rights to be educated without bullying hindrance and one which responds to bullying in ways which help victims feel protected and supported, we have developed a "Behaviour for Learning" strand to the work.

I have found there to be a considerable link between bullying activity and disruptive behaviour in lessons. Through lesson observations, pupil focus groups and follow-up workshops involving mixes of anti-social and pro-social pupils, we have been able to raise the consciousness of pupils within their own classes so that they can help moderate the behaviour in them through attitudinal


shifts e.g. not endorsing poor behaviour or not joining in with it.

All of this contributes towards building a positive learning environment which makes for a healthy space for all pupils and guards against bullying.

Mary Martin, Deputy Principal



SPREADING THE WORD: At the Rainbow Has Conference.



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LEARNING CURVE: Trainee teachers hear from students.

Next stop Downing St?

Trainee teachers enjoyed hearing first hand from pupils about how CVC attempts to defuse tensions in relationships between pupils using our 'PEOPLE people' discussion forum model.

Year 8 pupils impressed the trainees with their understanding of the common causes of dissension and how problems escalate and what works in helping pupils get past disputes and move on amicably.

This work is being referenced to the Government via a think tank so our next Year 8 engagement may be Downing Street!

Busting Cambridge myths

The Cambridge University colleges of Pembroke and St Catharine's welcomed almost 50 GCSE students from schools in Southwark, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire on a day designed to help them start thinking about university choices.

The Visit Days aim to give high-flying pupils from state schools a chance to explore Cambridge, see behind the scenes at the college, and find out more about studying at and applying to a competitive university. Within the group were 10 CVC students, all in Year 11 and all therefore fully immersed in the process of making their next major set of choices, namely which courses and subjects to study at post-16 level. A highly-competitive round of "Guess My Degree" made the point that choosing a subject is not always the same as choosing a career — otherwise Sacha Baron Cohen would be a historian, and Gabby Logan would be a lawyer. Students were also given a guided tour of the undergraduate accommodation at St Catharine's, before setting out on a treasure hunt around the city. Eleanor Norman, Assistant Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator for Comberton Village College, said: "The input was really helpful, especially for those of our students who

haven't really started thinking about university yet. It's really valuable to the College to be able to bring our high achievers on a day like this."

Comberton students David Bedford and Lucy Booth particularly enjoyed the chance to see behind the scenes with current undergraduates, and the chance to explore some university prospectuses.

"The tour was interesting," said David. "It was a true insight into college life, especially showing the social side.

"Looking at different prospectuses has been helpful, showing what different universities have to offer." Lucy said: "There's a real myth that Cambridge students are really intellectual — but they're talking about normal things! This made Cambridge seem less intimidating to me."

Comberton Village College and Sixth Form has established increasingly strong links with the University of Cambridge over recent years, with a large number of our students taking advantage of similar

opportunities, including challenge days, specialist masterclasses, residential opportunities and specialist workshops at the Cavendish Laboratory.

Encouraging the students to keep in touch, Laura McGarty, Schools Liaison Officer for St Catharine's and Pembroke Colleges, and the organiser of the day, said:

"We're here to give you as much information as possible so that you can make the best decisions possible. It's never too early to start thinking about university."



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The News Magazine of Cambourne Village College ISSUE 2, SPRING 2014



BROUGHT TO LIFE: Cambourne staff (And students, below) in costume on World Book Day, part of the college's Book Week.

Read all about it

What do the Woman in Black, the Mad Hatter, Gothic Alice in Wonderland and Thing 1 and Thing 2 all have in common?

They all made an appearance at Cambourne Village College for World Book Day.

The Year 7 pupils at Cambourne enjoyed a week of activities and competitions, all celebrating stories in all their forms — oral, illustrated and written. Book Week also saw the launch of a pupil versus staff reading challenge, based on the "Writes of Passage" — the top 50 books to read as a teenager, which was compiled by the organisers of World Book Day in a national vote through the World Book Day website. Cambourne are going to see who can read all of the books off the list (with a few alterations and additions) before the start of the new school year in September. If any parents would like to get involved the list will be published on the school website! Book Week itself was a hive of activities, competitions and events to highlight the importance of reading and stories to the

year group.

The Monday kicked off with making some book bunting in the library, while on the Tuesday, clues to a character were stuck on the doors to staff work spaces and classrooms with pupils having to guess whom the clues led to.

Wednesday morning started with an assembly where pupils and staff wrote suggestions of what other people might enjoy reading, reflecting a wide variety

After school Mr Sedgwick and some parents watched pupils perform their drama work, which was inspired by his book, "The Foreshadowing". As well as performing, students also read excerpts from their own creative writing — letters from soldiers on the front to loved ones at home.

Thursday was a book-related non-uniform day, with staff and pupils alike dressing up as their favourite book characters,



in reading preferences from "TinTin" to "To Kill a Mockingbird".

In the afternoon, author and Cambourne VC Patron of Reading, Marcus Sedgwick, ran a creative writing workshop with some students, which produced some lovely work.

Chef Rob and his ketchup helpers served up a wonderful book-inspired lunch, the highlight being a Wimpy Kid Cheese Touch burger!

On Friday, the school welcomed storyteller Patrick Ryan and illustrator Richard Morgan, who both ran excellent sessions with the pupils.

Ms Tarrant went to The Vine on 28th February to judge the finalists from their creative writing competition. The standard was very high, but Molly Blair was declared the winner, and was invited to join the Year 7s at

Cambourne for this wonderful performance. Read the start of her story on Page 17.

Geography teacher, Miss Leaning, also ran a lunchtime session with some pupils looking at literacy and reading rates from around the globe, which provided some fun but thought provoking facts.

Counting down to show



REHEARSALS: For Cambourne's first production, the musical *Oliver!*

Rehearsals for *Oliver!* at Cambourne VC are well under way.

They are taking place on a Monday lunchtime and Monday after school until 5pm. The play is being directed by Mrs Fenn-Goode and conducted by Mr Page. The rehearsals are a lot of fun and it is nice to work with people you wouldn't normally work with. We have been focusing a lot on getting the timings



right for the songs and the actions to accompany them. Although it is difficult sometimes, we have always pushed on. When you work with the different young actors and actresses you don't feel at all awkward since they want to be doing this as much as you. I am so pleased to be a part of *Oliver* as you get to make some good friends both on and off the stage while acting and I think *Oliver's* a great example of that.



Orlando James (7A), who plays the part of *Oliver*, said: "I am enjoying the rehearsals so far, I enjoy learning my lines and developing my character. I have a positive feeling that this production will be fantastic when performed in May!"

It is going to be a brilliant production and I look forward to the performance. We hope to see you in the audience in May to support Cambourne's first ever Musical Production; Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*

Leia Hope (7R)

Spanish aces go forward

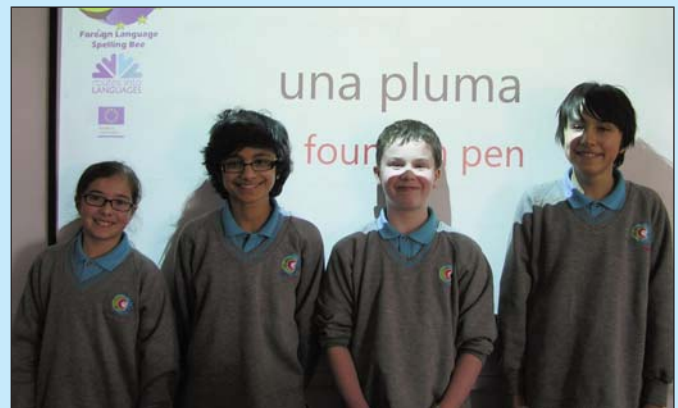
All Year 7 students this year have taken part in the Spanish Spelling Bee competition. This is an opportunity for Year 7s to practise and improve their vocabulary, spelling and memory skills as they are challenged to translate and spell correctly as many words as they can — using the Spanish alphabet! This term has seen the Spelling Bee class winners — 2 expert Spanish spellers from each tutor group — compete against each other to win a place in the Spelling Bee Regional Final.

The students practised hard to commit to memory 100 new Spanish words, working on their speed and scouting out the competition at Spanish club on Tuesday lunchtimes.

Everybody in the Languages department would like to congratulate the school winners for Cambourne Village College: Ivan Kudryavstev (7M), Stephanie Krintas (7C), Oliver Winder (7A) and Aaqil Favas (7A).

They are looking forward to taking on another 50 Spanish words to learn to compete against other school winners across the Eastern Region at the Regional Final on 30th April.

Ivan said: "I'm looking forward to facing (and hopefully beating) the other winners in April!" and Oliver is ready to take on the challenge, adding: "It will



SCHOOL WINNERS: Cambourne's quartet who have reached the Regional Finals at the end of April.

be absolutely amazing if I get through to Stage 4. Go Cambourne!" We wish them the best of luck!

Signs of success!

The students of Cambourne have contributed to developing their school environment through a project to produce the signage for the school.

The very first project for Design and Technology at Cambourne was a live brief to design and make the signs for all of the rooms, cupboards and library genres in the College. Every student was allocated a sign and was asked to make a graphic that would reflect the subject or function in question.

Students gathered suitable silhouettes of related objects, icons and symbols. They then produced collages by experimenting and manipulating positive and negative space with outline. The collages were then scanned and students spent several weeks photo editing into the Cambourne colours using Adobe Photoshop and then arranging their graphic on to a template.

The students rose to the challenge and the results are superb. A total of 153 polymer-coated aluminium signs were made through the process of sublimation printing. Students have enjoyed seeing their work permanently displayed, enhancing their sense of ownership of their school building. There has been lots of very positive feedback from staff and visitors to the school and staff are proud to have worked with such an imaginative and committed design team.



DESIGNED BY STUDENTS: Some of the room signs students created in Design Technology lessons.

Project sails on

After our very successful fused glass art workshops and visit to Ely Cathedral last term, the project has now moved on to the second phase.

This involves fusing the glass panels by firing them to 780 degrees in the kiln and then coupling them together into the six large triangular sail shapes.

Pupils have been following progress in class, sometimes getting to feel the panels still warm from firing!

The next phase will be to make the huge mounting and brackets so that the sails can be installed on to the wall in Reception.



WORK IN PROGRESS: The fused glass art project.

The Wolf Whisperer by Molly Blair



Oak woke with a jolt from a sleep she was never meant to have. It was cold and the fire was just a dim glow of yellow. She stared into the looming darkness of the forest. Nothing was moving, nothing made a sound; the beast was out there. Oak could feel it. She felt its green, burning eyes watching over her and its sabre teeth dripping with venom ready to strike.

She felt hollow and scared. She needed help. All night she had guarded the wreck of the spruce bough camp in case the beast returned, all night she had watched her father

suffer in penetrating pain, all night she had waited for the predator to take her life and send her to an unknown world. Just yesterday, yesterday, Oak and Fa had pitched camp in the autumn light. Oak had made a joke and Fa was laughing, then it struck. Its giant tail destroyed the newly-completed camp. Its head slowly turned and stared at Fa, its blood-stained teeth ripped into his back and filled him with venom. Then it vanished, leaving its prey to suffer and a wreck of wood and leaves scattered across the muddy floor.

Can you tell me a story?

To celebrate National Storytelling Week all Year 7 pupils at Cambourne were all given the challenge of telling a story to the rest of their class, before a vote was held to find the best ones in the year.

The winners were Harry Philp, Harry Collins, Harvey Anderson, Nina D'Entrecasteaux and Arthur Noreika. These lucky pupils visited The Vine primary school to tell their stories to the Year 6 pupils there. Unfortunately Harry Philp was ill on the day, but this is what Opal Class from The Vine had to say about the visit:

"Their stories were full of description - they were fabulous, fun and fantastic. Although it was his first time at the Vine, CVC pupil Arthur started the story telling full of confidence and we particularly enjoyed how he got into role for each character. Secondly, Nina entertained us with her amusing version of King Midas and the Golden Touch; we loved how she interacted with the audience. Last, but certainly not least, Harry and Harvey stole the show with their original and hilarious double act - their comic timing was simply genius."



Super storytellers share their skills . . .

A few weeks ago, in our English class, we had a little competition to see who was the best storyteller.

We all told our stories in little groups first and we had three choices. We could tell 'The Golden Touch' about Midas, we could tell the story of 'The Rabbit and the Lion' about a well and a reflection, or we could make up our own story.

After telling our stories we had a class vote and the winners had to tell their story to the whole class. There were six winners from our class in total.

After that the class voted for their favourite. The winners were Harry Philp, who told a story about a monkey and some chikaans (long story) and me. I told the Golden Touch story and I guess they liked it. Then the two winners from each class went to the other classes to tell their stories. Once we had all told our stories they all voted.

The winners were Arthur Noreika and Harry Philp, a double act of Harry Collins and Harvey Anderson and me.

The next day we all met at The Vine School. For most of us that was our primary school, so it was great to see lots of familiar faces.

We were led into a Year 6 classroom where we got a lovely welcome from Mrs Moss. She told us what we were going to do and was kind and helpful.

The Year 6s came in and we were ready to start. Sadly Harry wasn't there but I am sure they would have loved his hilarious story.

Arthur went first,

he told the Rabbit and the Lion story and he was great at acting out all the characters. I was up next. I stood up and was trembling so much. I started telling my story and a few lines in I felt more confident. I had to have a



volunteer so I went up to a girl called Nicole and started talking to her (as Midas of course). I got a lot of laughs all the way through my story and that made me more confident. As I finished and sat down I got a huge round of applause which my teacher, Mrs Tarrant, later said I deserved. I was really proud of myself.

Last but definitely not least was the double act. It was amazing and really funny and really well rehearsed. We all left The Vine really happy and really proud.
Nina D'Entrecasteaux (7C)

When it was my and Harry's turn to tell our story I was quite scared and nervous that I would get something wrong. It was intimidating seeing all of these people looking at me but as we got farther into telling the story it got easier and I felt more confident.

Harvey Anderson (7A)

Girls tuck in at café

Last term Cambourne Maths department ran a series of workshops for gifted Mathematicians in Year 6.

Our feeder primary schools were asked to nominate their top mathematicians to attend. Among the topics pupils investigated were Braille, Morse Code, the bridges of Königsberg problem and number bases.

This term, in response to primary teachers' requests, we have organised a series of workshops for girls in maths: Maths Café.

The group enjoyed investigating different cultures' number scripts such as Chinese, Thai, Hebrew, Egyptian hieroglyphics and Mayan.

They have also looked at the mathematics behind the shapes used in the computer game Tetris and solved clues to find numbers in a large magic square.

The group has just been awarded a £500 small educational grant from the London Mathematical Society. This grant will be used to buy a selection of mathematical games from the Happy Puzzle Company, resources for a final bridge-building workshop and other mathematical equipment.

Thanks to all those involved in the sessions and to the pupils taking part.
Rachael Horsman

Competition time

After the Easter break we will offer the chance for pupils to enter the Young Geographer of the Year Competition run by the Royal Geographical Society. Pupils will be given a research question and must carry out and present their own mini research project.

Last year's question asked pupils to investigate how people felt about their local area.

Questions are usually related to the place you live and the 2014 question will be released over the Easter break.

If you would like to take part in this exciting opportunity please talk to Miss Leaning as soon as possible.



STORY TELLERS: Cambourne students at The Vine.

Badminton is 'smashing'

Badminton club has been extremely popular at the school with 20-plus students attending the club on a regular basis.

Students at the club have enjoyed a variety of experiences this year, including a masterclass from Commonwealth and Olympic athlete Anthony Clark, friendly fixtures against Comberton Village College and entry into the South Cambs KS3 Badminton Tournament.

The players have worked hard to develop their skills under the supervision of Miss Dawson and are now confident in the rules and regulations, as well as the scoring system. There are still lots of new skills and tactics to develop over the coming terms to improve their performances further.

At the most recent competition, the team were fourth following some close games against the other schools, consisting of students from Years 7-9, demonstrating the potential that the Cambourne players have as they move through Key Stage 3.

Notable performances came from Liam Allen and Thomas Bell who played a fantastic game against Comberton consisting of long rallies, high levels of speed and movement across the court and some interesting shots to keep the game competitive. Badminton club will continue through the summer term with the possibility of a 'Smash Up' taster session led by Badminton England and more fixtures against local schools.



FRIENDLY: Cambourne and Comberton players.



POPULAR: The girls' football club.

Planning future success

Cambourne VC entered the Year 7/8 Girls' Grand Prix Football League this year with one round taking place each term.

The girls have thoroughly enjoyed both practice and games under the leadership of Miss Hodgson with this being our most popular girls' club at Cambourne.

The girls experienced both success and defeat at the hands of the local Cambridgeshire schools and were 12th in the final standings.

Although finishing in the bottom half of the table, this is a fantastic result as students were unable to attend one round and were playing against a mixture of Year 7/8 students.

Manager Miss Hodgson, is already planning team tactics and strategies to move us up the league next year!

Students show their pulling power!

Cambourne students spent the second half of this term training hard following their initial success at an Indoor Rowing competition. Although only Albert Ratuszniak qualified for the Cambridgeshire round of the Sainsbury's School Games event with the tantalising prospect of a regional competition next term, there were plenty of excellent performances to inspire the students and demonstrate their hard work is paying off.

Albert began the event at Cambourne with victory in the first race, alongside three students from Comberton

in a combined Comberton Academy Trust team. They were due to compete in the county competition in Cambridge in late March with the aim of making further progress.

Elsewhere, Owen Greaves powered to victory in the Year 7 individual event, winning the competition by just two metres! Callum Read produced a strong performance to earn him fourth place, with Rayhan Campbell and Albert Ratuszniak taking 7th and 8th place respectively.

This left the girls' team with a lot to do, however they did not disappoint. Sydney Graham took a respectable third place, followed by Poppy Pennington in fourth, Lola Darrington in fifth and Foram Patel in seventh. Just 34 metres separated second to seventh places.

After a successful competition, eight students were also selected to attend the National Indoor Rowing Championships on Friday 21st March in London.

Results will appear in the next edition of News@Cam.



FIRST FIXTURE: For the Cambourne table tennis players.

Boys put new skills to test

The Year 7 boys' table tennis teams competed at the Sainsbury School Games Table Tennis competition at Linton Village College.

This was the first table tennis fixture for the students, allowing them to put to the test the skills that Mr Patrick has been developing with them over the past six months at the club.

The boys played valiantly against students from Linton, Melbourn and Comberton with some close games resulting in a mixture of wins and losses against each school.

The hosts finished top of the table, followed by Melbourn with Cambourne 1 and Comberton sharing third place and Cambourne 2 fifth.

Dodging moves on display

Two teams travelled to Swavesey VC to compete in the spring term's Dodgeball tournament.

The competition was fierce with immense dodging, ducking, dipping, diving and more dodging. Many games became a very tactical affair, however all competitors performed really well. Well done to all.

The Living for Sport Project group have been organising a Dodgeball Tournament for Cambourne students to raise money for Sport Relief and the British Heart Foundation.

Please watch out for their report in the next edition of News@Cam.



IN FULL SWING: Cambourne students play Dodgeball.

Follow the PE Department on Twitter for the latest sports news and notices at CamVC



Tutor My Kids – Helping kids who fall behind.

It just gets busier and busier at Tutor My Kids, the company which specialises in organising one-to-one tuition, by qualified teachers in the student's home.

Tutor My Kids has grown rapidly as parents are seeing the benefits of home tutoring after school and at weekends.

'Working with children from 4 to 18, we're usually asked to help because a child has slipped behind and needs a bit of extra focussed help,' explains Rachel Law, Managing Director.

'With all the pressures of modern life, parents don't know how, or indeed have the time to, find a good tutor for their children. We take that worry away at Tutor My Kids as we only employ, inspirational,

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.

'I'm firmly of the view that a great academic fit is important, but of equal value is a good personality match. This is why we always visit you at home to ensure that we get the right tutor who will match your child perfectly.'

'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.'

One of their recent clients, Jill McCulloch comments: 'The results have been spectacular – going from a predicted E to a B and actually enjoying learning.'

So, if you'd like help for your child, take a look at the website:

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Indian Cookery (5 wks)
Over 65's Keep Fit to Music (5 wks)
Pilates various levels
Silver Jewellery, Beginners/Improvers
Spanish Intermediate (8 wks)
Stained Glass (8 wks)
Upholstery
Watercolours
Woodwork (6 wks)
Writing Children's Fiction

Tues evening @ Cambourne
Tues evening @ Cambourne
Mon evening
Tue evening @ Cambourne
Tues evening @ Cambourne
Tues morning @ Cambourne
Tue afternoon
Wed evening at Maldon Golf Club
Mon evening (starts 2nd June)
Weds evening
Wed morning @ Cambourne
Daytime & evening
Wed evening
Fri morning
Mon evening
Wed evening
Wed & Thurs mornings
Wed evening
Mon evening



DAY SCHOOLS (Saturdays 10-4pm)
Bicycle Maintenance: 10th May
First Aid Cert. (Paediatric) 2 days: 10th & 17th May
Malaysian Cookery: 10th May

Follow your dreams . . .

Craig Heap, a retired Olympic gymnast, came to Comberton to talk to Year 7 about their "steps to success" and to inspire them to follow their dreams.

He also talked about his amazing and fruitful gymnastics career and how he managed to achieve so much.

In 1982 Craig Heap was nine-years-old and his gymnastics career was about to start because he was being forced by his mum to go and watch his sister do her gymnastics at the local centre. He was "amazed", but didn't want to join the club so he started at home.

His Mum was the one that finally talked him round to going to the club and Craig said to the students: "I urge you to take opportunities and try new things" because if he hadn't taken the opportunity to join the club he wouldn't have found his true calling in life. He said: "Everyone is good at something — the hardest thing in life is finding that thing."

The first time he competed in a gymnastics competition was when he represented the North West. It "changed his life forever" because he finished fourth and people who once put him down because of gymnastics now congratulated him when he got back to school. His confidence rocketed.

Craig Heap carried on getting better and better at gymnastics and competing in more advanced competitions like his first international event at age 15. At 27, he was the only male to represent Britain in the Olympics and he later won gold in Commonwealth Games as the captain of Britain, aged 29.

But his career did not come without some disappointments because he failed to get into the Olympics when he was 24 and nearly quit, but he realised "if life was easy



STEPS TO SUCCESS: Gymnast Craig Heap talks to Year 7.

everyone would get everything. So next time you fail think of it as a test to see if that is the thing you truly want to do".

Craig said: "Failure is the best way to learn, don't be afraid of it." His GB team helped him achieve his goal in life, you need more than one person to hold the ladder of your dreams and he needed a team to support him to get to the top. He asked students: "Who's holding your ladder to success?"

Craig finished by asking everyone to break your goals down into small steps that are easy to achieve so you can finally get to your main goal in the end and not only that but "when someone tells you something is impossible they mean it's impossible for them, it does not mean it's impossible for you".

He has developed a website for aspirational children to set these goals and log their completed achievements — www.stepstosuccess.org and he gave students a log-in username too.

Abbie Buckingham (8E)

Pupils earn their Press passes!

Budding young journalists from local schools including Comberton, Witchford, St Bede's and Soham had an exciting opportunity to get a leg up in the world of sports journalism.

They met Paralympic gold medallist Jessica Jane Applegate and held a mock Press conference and put their new skills into practice and reported on a tag rugby competition.

The day started with Vicki Hall from 'Living

Sport' giving a media skills presentation.

This provided some 'top tips' to use in the interview with Jessica and advice to help them pursue their dreams of sports journalism.

The pupils then held a mock press conference with Jessica and her coach.

This was a brilliant opportunity not only because they actually met her but because it was really useful practice and a good confidence booster.

Finally, pupils were given the opportunity to report on a Year 6 tag rugby tournament held on conference hosts Swavesey's sports field. It involved teams including Coton, The Vine and Bourn. Pupils were given all the tools that they need to further their journalism skills. And they also had really good fun!

Abbie Buckingham (8E)

Rugby fun

Five pupils from Comberton VC and three other secondary schools went to Swavesey VC for a primary schools rugby tournament.

The pupils from each of the secondary schools took photos and interviewed coaches, pupils and some sports leaders who were helping out.

The tournament had 21 primary teams, with boys and girls from all over Cambridgeshire. We witnessed lots of skilful play during the afternoon. One teacher said: "The players are really enjoying the tournament and the aim was to have fun."

I watched Bourn versus The Vine. One of the Bourn players was Fox Pollock, son of Mr Pollock, and one of the Vine players Naomi Clay — my sister. The score was 4-4.

Sannah Clay (8M)

Chance to interview medallist

Five pupils from Comberton took part in a media training course and met a Paralympian gold medallist, swimmer Jessica Jane Applegate, for a mock press conference at Swavesey Village College.

The students were given the opportunity to ask her questions based on the subject matter they have been given. This gave the students a chance to learn more about her life as a swimmer and her coach's life. We learnt a lot about how dedicated she has to be and that it takes many hours out of her life.

More importantly we gained a great insight into how a Press conference is organised; as members of the Press we were given tips on how to act, look at the person you are interviewing, listen to the response they give and see if a follow up question is needed.

At the end of this conference we were given the chance to take photos with Jessica.

Harriet Clark (8E)



PRESS CALL: Students interview a Year 6 player.

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Premium must pay off

David Cameron has announced that the Sports Premium funding for primary schools has been guaranteed until 2016, with further funding promised until 2020.

With each primary school in the country receiving approximately £9,000 for sport, there is the opportunity to make a sustained difference to pupils through PE and sport.

The need is there. On average primary teachers receive six hours of training in PE and sport while taking their teaching degree. They spend significant time learning how to teach maths and English, yet PE and sport is neglected.

As a primary-trained teacher, who spent three years in primary schools, I know that for many staff, teaching PE and sport can be hugely challenging and off-putting. Yet the need to teach it properly in primary school is essential.

Physical literacy is the foundations of movement and our physical interactions with the world. The ability to throw and catch, run, jump, balance, roll, to have all-round levels of coordination are essential. They impact on how we see ourselves, our self-confidence and self-esteem and how we interact. Children must learn and be taught to do these things well and by around the age of 7. PE and Sport also impacts morally and socially. It impacts on individual and whole school achievement, attendance and behaviour. Competitive sport teaches many life skills and in a country where 18% of children of 11-year-olds are clinically obese, physical activity provides the opportunity for pupils to exercise. The provision of high quality teaching and learning in PE and sport is demanding.

Coaches, and non PE and sport teaching specialists with an expertise in a particular sport or sports can impart knowledge and understanding in their area of expertise but most cannot contribute the breadth discussed above. Most certainly coaches or other adults who come into schools, work with pupils, and then leave do not leave school staff with improved levels of knowledge and understanding.

When the money is spent and the coaches have gone, no legacy will be left.

Since September 2013 the South Cambs School Sports Partnership in partnership with Comberton Village College have provided two PE and sport specialists to work with primary schools across the district.

Peter Brennan and Chloe Jackson are two experienced members of staff who have an outstanding knowledge of PE and sport across all key stages.

Twelve schools have used their Sports Premium to pay for their support, and together schools and the PE and sport specialists have discussed and addressed issues particular to individual primary schools.

All 12 schools have been outstanding in their praise of the impact of Peter and Chloe on pupils, but most importantly, on the understanding, knowledge and confidence of primary staff to deliver high quality PE and sport.

Ofsted commented that the approach used by the SCSSP is exactly what the Sports Premium is provided for. The development of primary staff is the key to the Sports Premium funding, it is the way forward and will make a lasting impact on staff and therefore pupils and will ultimately provide the Olympic legacy promised.

Nigel Carrick, Assistant Principal



SUPPORT: Peter Brennan leads a gymnastics lesson at The Vine.

sport

Bourn ease into county finals

Bourn Primary Academy claimed their place in the Sainsbury's School Games

County Finals by winning the South Cambs SSP 21-team Year 5 and 6 tag rugby competition.

The event which was held at Swavesey Village College was split into an A and B team competition. In

the A team competition the initial rounds of the competition were strongly contested and it was Histon & Impington Juniors, Willingham Primary, The Vine and Bourn, who won their respective pools and went on to play each to determine the overall winners.

Bourn beat Histon & Impington and Willingham and, despite a draw with The Vine in their final match, were worthy winners.

In the B team competition it was Swavesey



WINNERS: From Bourn Primary Academy.

Primary School who claimed victory with an unbeaten display and a comprehensive 6-1 win over runners-up Histon & Impington B.

Claire McDonnell, School Games Organiser, said "It was a fantastic afternoon of rugby and we were delighted with the

record number of entries into the competition. We hope events like this inspire the children to want to do more sport and encourage schools to get involved in further competitions."



HOT COMPETITION: Action from the gym event, plus the winning team.

Feeder schools take top spots

Teams of Year 3 and 4 gymnasts from 10 South Cambs schools took part in the School Sports Partnerships Key Steps Gymnastics Competition at Comberton.

The mood was quietly focused as the children demonstrated their skills on the vault and floor in front of the judges and spectators.

At stake was the chance to represent South Cambs SSP at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough School Games Spring Festival, with the top two qualifying to take on the best schools from across the county.

The mixed teams of six children from Barton, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Fowlmere, Gamlingay, Harston

& Newton, Haslingfield, Hatton Park, Meridian and Thriplow schools all had to perform a vault and then either a floor or body management routine with each performance judged and given a score out of 10. Individual scores in both disciplines were combined to give a team score out of a maximum of 120. Fewer than 10 points separated the top five teams, but it was Haslingfield who took the winners' crown ahead of last year's champions, Bourn Academy. The top three individuals were also awarded with medals with first place being shared by Jenson Glass (Bourn) and Sophie Collingham (Thriplow) and third going to Ella Darrington (Bourn).

Sports Leaders from Melbourn, Comberton and Gamlingay village colleges, who were specially trained by British Gymnastics, judged the event. Claire McDonnell, South Cambs School Games Organiser, said: "The leaders did an exceptional job; we couldn't have run this competition without them. "We were really pleased with the success of the competition and it was nice to see some different schools taking part, giving more children the opportunity to represent their school.

"It was obvious the schools and children had all been practising hard as the standard was clearly better than last year when we first ran the event."

Skillful skiers are spotted

Three students have been nominated for an Interski Scholarship following Comberton's successful development snowsports trip to Italy over New Year.

Jack Benson, Angus Harris and Holly Webb have now been put forward for the scholarship which could see them travelling to Italy for training and assessment to become Level 2 Alpine Ski Instructors, the first rung on the ladder of a very rewarding and lucrative career.

The trio, plus snowboarder Freddie Bols, all achieved the highest level of grading by Interski instructors, distinction, as all 29 participants impressed the CVC staff and the instructors with their achievements as all received a certificate and pin badge. In addition nine pupils were filmed and assessed for their GCSE PE practical.

Pupils had started the trip to Courmayeur in the Aosta Valley with a range of experience from never having put a pair of skis on up to 20+ weeks, but with the expert English tuition from the Interski Instructors and our pupils' determination, they all made the most of the opportunities both on and off the slopes.

The Après Ski programme was as entertaining as ever. The main event took place on our second night in resort with celebrations planned for New Year's Eve. Straight from the slopes, pupils enjoyed some authentic Italian Ice Cream before exploring the shopping delights of the village. Nestling comfortably at the foot of mighty Mont Blanc, Courmayeur is a delightful, old traditional Alpine village, at the heart of which is a maze of interesting, narrow cobbled alleys. On return to the hotel, pupils did not have long to swat up during our three-

course dinner before beginning Mr Fisher's 'Special Review of 2013' Quiz! Karaoke and games options followed by an impressive display of fireworks completed what we hope was a very enjoyable and memorable day for the pupils. Other activities throughout the week included Bumboarding, dinner in an authentic Italian Pizzeria, a nightclub-based disco with all the school groups in Aosta, and the Instructor Presentations on the final night along with watching highlights and footage of the week.

A huge thanks goes to all the hardworking and dedicated members of staff who gave up their Christmas holiday and New Year to enable the trip to run: Mr Allen, Miss Frampton and Mr Willder.

Mrs Fisher and the rest of the Development Snowsports Team look forward to sharing the hundreds of photos and hours of video footage at our Reunion Night following the Foundation Trip at Easter where the trips for 2015 will be advertised.



A TASTE OF ITALY: The Comberton group (above), New Year's Eve fireworks (left) and fun in the snow (right).



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LEADERS: Comberton's Young Ambassadors (left) and Year 11 dance leaders working with Haslingfield Primary School pupils.

Students lead the way

Four of our Leadership Academy members were chosen to represent the school at the Regional Young Ambassador Conference at the University of Hertfordshire.

The purpose of the day was to learn the necessary skills to be a Young Ambassador, share ideas across other schools from different regions and to be inspired by the Athlete Mentors who were there. The outcome was definitely achieved with our four YAs — Jono Gaze, Jessica Kennard, Lucy Clarkson and Emily Dowsett — full of ideas to create their own inspirational projects back at CVC including setting up a Team Photos display and developing plans for another Family Sports Day. Plans for Inter-school

competitive opportunities in the summer as well as continuing to raise the profile of PE and Sport to all pupils across the Comberton Academy Trust and feeder Primary Schools are also being pursued. Lots of leaders have been in action this term including:

- The Year 11 Dance Leaders Group worked with Haslingfield's Year 2 Class on an Under the Sea performance, which they showcased at last month's Dance Share.
- More than 20 Year 10 Dance Leaders worked with Dry Drayton pupils from Reception up to Year 2 on a weather-related piece for the Dance Share.
- Ten Year 12 BTEC National students have had an incredibly busy year as much of their Sports Leadership Unit is based on volunteering hours and

helping to organise their own events. They have already dedicated more than 20 hours at events such as the South Cambs Partnership's Year 5 and 6 Cross Country Event at Royston Heath, an Ability Plus Indoor Athletics Event and the Panathlon Challenge, both held at Cambourne VC. Their four-week Primary Placement has been at Monkfield Park with both Year 3 classes, helping them prepare for last week's Invasion Games Festival.

- Ten Leadership Academy members were trained as British Gymnastics Judges to officiate at a number of events, including the South Cambs SSP Gymnastic Competition for Years 3 and 4 at Comberton. Based on their performance, they were also asked to assist in the Cambridge schools qualification event at the North Cambridge Academy.

Runners show promise

A new recording system has been implemented for this term's inter-form runs, making it easier for them to be collated and published for the 850 students.

However, this was still not in time for this issue of News@Com so they will appear in the summer edition.

The PE dept can report some very promising results from the first run, which were completed in October/November.

The enthusiasm and attitude across the KS3 year groups was really pleasing.

Ella Tomsett (70) and Alice Heydinger (7E) led the girls home in the Year 7 race and helped their respective forms to victory in their half year. Tyler Perkins (7B) and Matthew Beswick (7T) were the top boys. Rowan McGee's (8N) win in the 8Y race helped her tutor group to glory

while M won the X-half competition although the individual winners both came from O (Felix Serby and Emma Burton). Oliver Gibbons won the 8Y boys' race for T. In Year 9 none of the race winners were in the winning forms. Bob Wahedi (9C) and Annalie Barker (9B) won the X races but I were the top team, while wins for Joseph Hicks (9E) and Amy Reed (9R) could not stop N taking the team title. December saw the Inter-Form Games competitions Years 7 and 8. The girls' got stuck into hockey, demonstrating the skills they developed within their lessons that term, while the boys' enjoyed muddier conditions on the field in their rugby competition. This term the girls competed at netball this term, while the boys tackled hockey (Year 7) and football (Year 8). The results will be announced in Final Assembly.

Fun first event

The Indoor Athletics Plus competition was held at Cambourne Village College and 12 schools took part in running, throwing and jumping as well as the ever-popular final relay.

This was the first event of the year with Indoor rowing, Outdoor Athletics, Panathlon Challenge, Cricket and a Sports festival to look forward to.

Here Matthew O'Leary (7B) describes his day. "Nine students went to Cambourne to attend the athletics competition. We took part in the triple jump, throwing, running races and relay races. We also shouted and cheered on our team and the other teams. I think we were the loudest. This was my first time taking part in a competition since I came to Comberton.

"My favourite bit of the competition was all of it, including lunchtime!

"When I took part in the individual running and the relay race it has to be said that Mr Camp slowed me down, but I still loved it. All in all I had an amazing day and can't wait till I take part in another competition."



ON THE RUN: Matthew O'Leary and Mr Camp.

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MEET THE TEAMS: The Under-16 girls' District champions, the under-16 boys and the under-14 girls.

Girls win District crown

Basketball at CVC has continued to go from strength to strength this year with regular training sessions on a Monday and Thursday after school.

We have been delighted by the interest, effort and skill shown by our pupils and know that this bodes very well for their future progress in this dynamic, high scoring and exciting sport. Mrs Clarke has brought in lunchtime sessions to enable pupils to practise their skills in their free time and for beginners to come and have a go. We are really keen for as many pupils as possible to come along, give the game a try and discover how much fun and excitement they can have. If they really enjoy themselves they can then aim to represent the school in their age group.

This year we played regular friendly fixtures against local schools and entered four teams into the CDSSA basketball tournaments.

Both the girls' teams reached the finals held at Long Road Sixth Form College with the under-16s becoming 2014 district champions!

Player Katie Reynolds said: "The under-16 girls team played in the finals at Long Road Sixth Form College. After a very good win against Linton in the semi-final we were extremely hyped about going into the final against Bottisham.

"To liven and lift the atmosphere we created a chant to motivate us. Bottisham are good team (they

lost their next game to the eventual winners, St Bede's, they qualified for the finals at Long Road.

They showed excellent effort in the semi-final game, but unfortunately went out against Linton. All the players were new to basketball this year and there was some excellent improvement over the course of the term, notably from Gemma Bateman and Annalie Barker.

The Under-14 boys had a tough draw in the preliminaries and failed to make the finals. It was great to see boys who have been coming to basketball club putting their skills into practice in competitive matches. If they continue to improve at the rate they are showing then we will have a strong future crop of players for next year's tournament.

The Under-16 boys came very close to securing a place in the finals after a convincing win over a strong Melbourn side, but came up just short

against Linton, losing by three points, which meant that Linton progressed to the finals.

The boys have improved greatly in the last two years, with players such as Nathan Beynon, Matthew Robinson and Stephen Delves all showing real promise after only taking up the sport recently in school. The stand-out performer was Julius Tamosauskas, who showed excellent offensive play and leadership in defence during all our games this season.

Fraser Kelsall and Adam Potter, PE Dept.



ON THE MOVE: The boys' under-14 team in action.

narrowly beat us in the preliminaries), but with the help of our coaches, Mr Potter and Mr Kelsall, we played some great basketball and defeated them 18-8.

"To top it off we received a great trophy which we are proud to have won for the school. We really hope this will help to boost basketball as a sport in the school! I feel honoured to be part of a successful team and hope that we have inspired younger years to follow in our footsteps."

The Under-14 girls had an excellent win in the preliminaries against Cottenham and although they



ON YOUR MARKS: Dodgeball teams in action.

Tournaments boost interest

Comberton has recently participated in two dodgeball tournaments.

This growing sport has proved to be extremely popular, with students very excited to compete against other schools.

Year 9 and Year 7 students have had the opportunity to compete and both year groups have really enjoyed the experience.

The teams have been single sex and mixed, competing against Swavesey, North Cambridge Academy, Cambourne and Bassingbourn. Dodgeball is a growing sport in the area and the tournaments were

friendly, designed to get students interested in the sport and learn the rules.

They have certainly done that and a dodgeball club will certainly be something to develop in the future. Our teams soon realised there is a lot of skill involved and that you need a good tactical understanding of the game — something we hope to develop.

However, it is true that the students seem to like nothing more than just throwing a ball as hard as possible at the opposition!

It's fun to share . . .

Youngsters from Dry Drayton primary school made their debut at last month's Comberton Family Dance Share.

The smallest primary school in Cambridgeshire is now one of Comberton's feeders and their Year 6 students are set to join the college in September. Some of the youngest had their first taste of life at Comberton when they opened the show with their Weather-themed dance. They had been helped with the preparation by Year 10 Dance Leaders, who spent their four-week placement there.

Year 11 Dance Leaders spent their four weeks with Year 2 pupils at Haslingfield and they performed 'Under the Sea' from the Little Mermaid after a



SHOWCASE: The Vine's 'Exploring the World' dance.

Superheroes dance from Jeavons Wood's Year 1 and 2 children.

The Vine (Exploring the World), Caldecote (Cold) and

Coton (Caribbean) were the other primary contributors as all the youngsters involved had the chance to see dance from Reception to GCSE level. Pupils from all years at Comberton, Year 7 at Cambourne and a select extra-curricular group also took part. Organiser Paula Fisher said: "The DVD resource is currently in production but looks set to be one of the best yet. Huge thanks to the Year 10 and 11 Dance Leaders who assisted each of the groups on the day, helped them practice and perform to the highest standards. "We couldn't have done it without the CSA technicians: Russ Challis, Liam Clark and Aaron Marcus (Year 10) and many thanks to Richard Brown for overseeing the event."

sport



FOCUS: Concentrated effort at the rowing event in Cambourne.

Rowers race into finals

Three Comberton teams qualified for the Sainsbury's School Games level 3 finals at the University of Cambridge after superb rowing performances in a competition at Cambourne.

Both Year 10 mixed teams of Steven Levett, Alex Lione, Molly Harper and Lauren Hall and Charlie Rayner, Jack Barker, Jessica Kennard and Emily Dowd went through after taking the top two qualifying spots in the event against students from Swavesey, Linton and Cottenham. And the Year 9 mixed team of Jamie, Johnson, George Blackhurst-Patrick, Dani Johnson and Gemma Bateman also qualified as runners-up in their event, but the other team were pipped for a place in third. An Aspire team of Comberton students Elliot Payne, George Segrave and Jessica Plumb plus Albert Ratuszniak, from Cambourne, won their section to qualify as well.

There were also a number of excellent individual performances, particularly in Year 9 where Comberton boys filled five of the top six spots, only missing out on runners-up place as Ashley Kemp led the way from Sean Purser, Chris Lake, Sam Serby and George Blackhurst-Patrick. Best of the girls was Gemma Bateman in fourth, followed immediately by Hannah Maycroft and Dani Johnson. Steven Levett led a Comberton clean sweep in the Year 10 boys' event from Alex Lione and Charlie Ryaner and Lauren Hall did the same for the girls with backing from Emily Dowd and Jessica Kennard, with Molly Harper in fifth. Sandeep Nair won the boys' Year 11 contest while Rebecca Clarke and Sophie Taylor were third and fourth respectively for the girls.

Twenty of the most committed rowing club students represented the school at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships. This was an exciting event hosted on a huge scale at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre in London. Students from a variety of year groups went and results will be reported in the next issue of News@Com.



HIVE OF ACTIVITY: An aerial view of the rowing competition.

On course for a top title

After an excellent round of 76 in the final Eastern Region qualifying competition at Bourn Golf Club, Comberton Sixth Form Golf academy member, Adam Pedlar, finished near the top of the leaderboard in fourth place.

This hugely impressive performance means Adam has qualified for the British National Championships with some ease as one of the leading Eastern Region qualifiers.

He will now play in the tournament finals at the renowned Ganton club in Yorkshire.



TOP FOUR FINISH: For Adam Pedlar.

This daunting championship course has hosted the Ryder Cup and features regularly in lists of the top golf courses in Great Britain. Adam will be tested over two days and 36 holes in May on the Ganton championship course, which measures an eye-watering 7000yards; yet Adam has proved that he has the game and temperament to mount a serious challenge for the most prestigious event on the Schools and Colleges golfing calendar.

First national medal

Georgia Berry has won a medal at a national trampolining competition for the first time.

The Year 8 student took bronze in the first of the Trampoline Spring Event Series at Sheffield, competing in the National Development Pathway Level 7 Ladies 13-14 years category.

Now entering her third year competing at national level, this was the first time Georgia, who competes for Cambourne Comets, has been placed in the top three at a national event.

Her aim for this year is to get to the national finals where the top 24 bouncers in each group, based on their best scores from two of the three galas they are allowed to do, compete.

Competitors also need to achieve a qualifying score in each gala, but this may be reviewed as very few bouncers made the qualifying scores — in Georgia's case 23.5 for the set routine and 22.5 for the voluntary — and she was 0.2 away.

Georgia and fellow Comets, former CVC pupil Becca Shaw, Evie Joseph (Caldecote Primary) and James Able, are now working hard before the next competition in Bath next month.



BRONZE: For Georgia Berry.

First step on Road to Wimbledon

The tennis season will start off with Comberton hosting the local round of the Road to Wimbledon in April.

This is a singles tournament for boys and girls who are 14 and under.

Winners of the tournament (one boy and one girl) will qualify to the county rounds and then the possibility of playing at Wimbledon.

Look out for more information in the summer term.

Tennis clubs will run on Monday and Wednesday with matches throughout the week. So if you enjoy playing tennis, want to emulate Andy Murray or Laura Robson or just

enjoying hitting a few balls with a friend in the sun come along to tennis club and practise those skills.

● After the success of Andy Murray at Wimbledon last year and our fantastic trip on the final Saturday to sit and bask in the sunshine and watch amazing tennis on No 1 court, we are very excited to have won tickets for Centre and No 1 courts on the second Monday. Remember if you would like the opportunity to go you should be regularly attending tennis club.



TROPHY FINALS: Comberton's under-19 boys' squash team qualified for the first time.

Boys' first final

Comberton's under-19 boys followed in the footsteps of last season's girls' under-15 team by reaching the Trophy finals of the National Schools Squash competition for the first time.

After narrowly missing out on a place in Stage Two of the main tournament, they went into the Trophy quarter-finals, where they beat Berhamsted School to reach the semi-finals in Manchester last month. On March 10 coach Andy D'Alessandro drove our depleted squad (No 1 Jeremy Harris was forced to withdraw at the last minute) to their overnight accommodation and the following morning we played our first match in a three-school semi-final group. Royal Grammar School High Wycombe had too much strength in depth for us and only Laurence Temple at No 1 managed a win.

Next up were Heaton Manor School from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, an uneven team with a very strong No 1 and a young and inexperienced No 5, and we ended up with another 4-1 defeat, with Alex Johnson at 5 our

only winner.

That put Comberton into the 5th place play-off against Lincoln Minster School and although all our team upped their performance (for most, "stage nerves" at the impressive venue had been a factor earlier in the day), only Laurence managed a win.

Sixth place was a bit disappointing, but given the weakened squad and the achievement of getting to a national final, it was a day the team of Laurence, Charlie McRobie, Nick White, Alex Pinches and Alex Johnson and the College can be very proud of. The majority of last year's under-15 girls' team, who finished runners-up, moved up to under-19 this season although the oldest were only 16. They came through the first round group games before bowing out 4-1 to a strong team of Sixth Formers from Downe House School. No 1 Charlotte Davies was CVC's only winner. The new under-15 team also came through their group games, but were outplayed in the decider for a Manchester place by Dame Allen school, Newcastle, in a one-sided game at Sheffield, losing 5-0.

Ray Scrivens, Boys' Team Manager

Club has something for all

Badminton club has continued to thrive with more competitions and success than ever before. However, it is not only a club for winning, Badminton Club on Fridays allows everyone to join in and get involved, with more than 50 players often sharing the courts.

This year both the KS3 boys and girls teams have tasted success with victories over Perse School and Cambourne Village College.

They have also shown great commitment, training at lunch time for the National School Championships, where the girls won silver medals in the county round and the boys were a very respectable third and seventh.

Most recently both girls and boys teams played in the School Games League and came up against some very tough opponents but finished third overall — well done to all involved.

Players of the season titles go to Tess Clippingdale, for some very impressive play in the tournaments in both singles and doubles, and to James Mikelson, who continues to show what a mature and hardworking badminton player he is, on and off the court.

Seeing the best

Last month we went to the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham to watch the All England Badminton Championships.

It was a great experience, with an area where you could have a go at wheelchair badminton — this was not as easy as we expected.

When we settled down we watched the badminton and the skills were absolutely brilliant.

We watched Adcock and Ellis in the men's doubles whose shots were faster than we expected.

We could buy these "thunder sticks" where you would bang them together and make a great bang to cheer on the teams so we cheered on the English players as loud as we could all day.

Oliver Rowley (7V)



PLAYER OF THE SEASON: James Mikelson.



JUMP FOR JOY: The girls team.

Teams fly high

A group of Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils competed in badminton's Center Parcs National Schools Championships County Round earlier this term.

It was a really good day out at the Cambridge Sports Centre, which is a part of the Cambridge University sports department. There were some very tough competition, including St Ivo, Witchford VC and Nene Park, but the girls' team of Tess, Gabby, Amy, April and Sarah finished second and the boys' team of James, Harry, Tom, James and Julian were third in their category. The other boys team of Adam, Matt, Tom, Dan and Ivan finished seventh. Massive congratulations to everyone who played.

Sarah Kilby (8E)

Birthday joy

High Flyers Gymnastics Club is living up to its name as it celebrates its first birthday.

The club, set up a year ago at Comberton Sports and Arts, has tripled in size and diversified to offer gymnastic activities to almost every age group. High Flyers started with 55 gymnasts meeting for a few hours a week and very little equipment. Now they have 150 youngsters on their books and 90% of their classes are full. They have more hours, volunteers and have recruited five young leaders, who are following the British Gymnastics Leadership Programme. And they have plans for even more in the future. Last Autumn, with the help of Comberton Village College, the club piloted a FreeG session. This is a freestyle gymnastics cross between free running and parkour and has proved popular and continues to grow.

This month sees the launch of High Flyers' first under-fives session, which is already fully booked, and as

well as sessions for all ages at Comberton, the club also hold two Friday sessions at Histon & Impington Junior School. They have also invested in new equipment. With the support of Living Sport, the club now own a vault, extra floor mats, a FreeG block, wedge, air track, floor bars and hand-held equipment which all classes can use.

The club's hard work has also been recognised in the form of the British Gymnastics Gym Mark. But they are not resting on their laurels and have just committed to a new programme called "I'm In", targeting and developing opportunities for those with disabilities.

And, having affiliated to Eastern Counties, the club plan to start entering competitions this year, which will showcase the work they are doing.



REACHING UP: High Flyers Gymnastics Club have big plans.

New sport takes off



HANDS UP: For handball!

Pupils have made the most of a brand new handball club over the past six weeks. Following the 2012 Games, England Handball, working with Living Sport, have developed a free support and resource package to help secondary schools in Cambridge introduce handball to pupils.

Comberton are now looking to extend the competitive opportunities against other local teams and make use of sports leaders, who have been trained to assist with leading handball sessions to pupils.

Football for fun. . .

Comberton has received additional funding to support the opportunity for girls to play football in a more social and recreational setting with the emphasis on having fun. The Mash Up Programme is supported by Cambridgeshire FA and an FA Regional Vauxhall Youth Officers.

Two Year 12 BTEC National pupils have been assisting with the club and even helped two teams successfully compete at the Under-13 Grand Prix Events to finish third and fourth respectively out of 14 schools in the local area. The finals for the competition were due to take place at Impington Village College at the end of this term.

Comp for girls

For the first time, the County Cup competition has started to include the girls and Comberton entered two teams.

With a slight change to the rule allowing for 9-a-side matches and an adapted size pitch, the aim is to offer even more competitive opportunities for girls to play football.

The CVC under-13 team were this week playing Thomas Clarkson and the under-15 team faced Nene Park Academy in the second round.



Comberton Crusaders

Cambridgeshire FA

Community Club of the Year 2012



Offering Football to children aged 4 to 17 – Boys and Girls

Would you like to play football ?

Some of our boys' and girls' teams have vacancies:

- Experienced players, aged 12 to 16
- Children aged 7 to 11 - no experience needed

We are also looking for girls, aged 4 to 8 and boys aged 4 to 7 to join our soccer centre on a Saturday morning, 9 – 10am at CVC Astro.

Saturday Soccer Centre starts on Sat 26th April and is FREE throughout the summer

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

Soccer Centre & Mini-League (aged 4-11)
Jennie Girling,
01223 263856
07917 184435
jengirling@hotmail.co.uk

Colts League (aged 12-16)
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



Spotlight is on Scully

Year 10 footballer Anthony Scully is finding fans on both sides of the Irish Sea.

The teenager, a member of West Ham United's Academy side (WHU), has played for the Republic of Ireland's juniors, been selected for an England under-15 training camp and is rumoured to be on the radar of four of the biggest Premiership clubs.

Anthony would be eligible to play for both countries up to the point of full international status and only then would he need to make a final decision. If he continues to progress at his current rate, it is a decision that might not be too far away.

While playing for WHU, the young forward has a host of teams tracking him at games, with the football grapevine suggesting Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool are all interested in the tenacious striker.

It is not surprising! During a recent European tournament, which included representative teams from European giants like Juventus, Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax and CSKA Moscow (to name a few), Anthony was named the player of the tournament. The result is that he now trains regularly with The Hammers' under-18 and under-21 (their reserve team) squads.

His international duties have already seen him travel to Florida, Turkey, Holland and Ireland this year and in the process score plenty of goals. He is already leading marksman for West Ham in his age category and is now scoring on a regular basis



BRING WATCHED: A host of top clubs are said to be tracking Anthony Scully.

for Ireland.

The big question is which colour shirt will he be wearing in the future: The green of Ireland or white of England?

Mark Goldring

TALENT-SPOTTED: For a TV audition and a London dance showcase.



TV scouts home in

Twins Hannah and Megan Caw were asked to audition for one of television's biggest dance shows.

And they have been offered a place at a professional dance showcase after catching the eye of the adjudicator, a London choreographer, at a national dance event last month.

The Year 10 duo were part of a six-strong group from Beat The Hype, a new troupe which is affiliated to St Neots-based Stageworks where the girls have been dancing since they were five.

The six performed on a freestyle stage at Move It, the UK's biggest dance event, at Olympia in London.

They won one of the seven heats to earn a place in the final at the end of the day. Although they didn't win the final, their dance teacher was approached afterwards

and the six were invited to a professional London Showcase at Her Majesty's Theatre later in the year.

That in itself capped a fantastic weekend for the girls after they were selected to join dancers from all corners of the dance world to showcase their work on the main stage in front of thousands of visitors.

Performers are chosen after submitting videos to the organisers and usually come from full-time dance colleges. However, they were picked after their tutor sent in a video of their troupe's recent routine.

Things became even more exciting when a couple of days later they found out that talent scouts from the popular Sky 1 dance competition had approached their teacher and asked them to audition for Got to Dance.



Success is saluted

Olympic badminton silver medallist Gail Emms presented 18 Comberton students with their Roy Burrell Awards at the annual presentations earlier this term.

The Year 11 CVC pupils were among 192 from across the Cambridge and District Secondary School Sports Association handed a Roy Burrell medal in recognition of their sporting achievements.

In addition Katie Reynolds was named Sportswoman of the Year for her high standards of performance in athletics, gymnastics, basketball and hockey and Harvey Jacklin was runner-up in the boys' award for his prowess in rowing, rugby cricket and squash.

The other Comberton pupils honoured were Hugh Barker, Harry Jones (rugby), Natasha Barton, Holly Masters, Lucy McNally (dance), Charlotte Davies (squash), Ben Goddard, Emma Littlewood, Katie Sims (football), Georgie Harnwell (leadership), Matt McCash (shooting), Ryan Mears (Tae Kwon do), Claire Shawcross, Maria Wray (swimming), Alistair Sheppard (judo), Louise Shorten (rowing).

The evening was a great success with Gail Emms telling the pupils about her experiences as a young sportswoman and the transition into training full time for the Olympics and international competition.

This gave the pupils a real insight into what life is like as a full time performer, the sacrifices you make to be the best you can be and the highs and lows of her career.

The evening also saw the CDSSEA pay tribute to the recently retired Chair of the Association, Greg Alvey, Head of PE from Bottisham Village College. Greg was, and is passionate, about developing the best from all pupils and providing all with the best opportunities in school PE and sport. He has trained and guided countless colleagues and is a true legend in Cambridge Physical Education. We wish him well in his retirement.

TComberton Assistant Principal Sean Sycamore, the Chair of CDSSEA, said: "The evening was an excellent celebration of the young talent within our schools. It was a privilege to be part of the evening's recognition of the talent of the future."



TOP SPOT: For showjumper Lily Freeman.

Jumping into finals

Sixth Former Lily Freeman has booked a place at the finals of a National Schools competition.

The Upper Sixth student won the National Schools Equestrian Association County Challenge Intermediate qualifier earlier this term. She beat off stiff competition the Perse, Kimbolton, St Mary's, Kings Ely, Hills Road Sixth Form and Swavesey among others to win the 90cm show-jumping class and qualify for the County Challenge Championships at Addington Manor in October.

In the two-phase competition, Lily went clear over the first part of the 90cm course and then was the fastest clear round overall after the timed second section.