

# NEWS@CAM

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**SHOW-STOPPERS:** The cast, director and musical director of *Oliver!*

Picture: Charles Rayner

## A GREAT TWIST!

### **Cambourne's first production was a rip-roaring success.**

From the premiere of *Oliver!* in front of 200 youngsters from Cambourne's primary schools to its final showing to an adoring public of family, friends and staff, this show had hit written all over it.

Around two-thirds of the college's students were directly involved in one way or another, but the whole school pulled out all the stops for their debut show. The characters for Lionel Bart's classic 1960 musical included Orlando James playing a heavenly *Oliver Twist*, a sinister Erik Valance as Fagin and a cheeky Will Racher as *The Artful Dodger*. Poppy Pennington was the tragic heroine Nancy and Jack Walker was the epitome of nasty villainy with his rendition of Bill Sykes.

The Cambourne cast was also joined by Comberton's Heinrich Verwoerd, whose booming voice and surly stage presence fitted the part of Mr Bumble to perfection.

Alongside the talented principals was a chorus of singers and dancers playing workhouse orphans, Fagin's pickpockets and well-to-do Londoners. They were all very ably supported by a fantastic crew,

including Comberton veterans Liam Clark, Russ Challis and Max Prince, and a whole host of new tech enthusiasts from Cambourne.

Leading actor Orlando said: "Oliver was a great success.

"The performance of *Oliver* took about 20-30 people to be characters, another 50 to be the singers, and about 20 others to help with setting up the lighting and stage (thanks to those who took part).

"The play took about five months to re-enact and, as a main character, I know that we had both good times and bad times, and that we fought through each problem.

"It was an honour to be *Oliver Twist* in the play and I must say well done to everybody. You were absolutely great!"

Arthur Noreika, a member of the technical team, said: "The mission of making *Oliver* at Cambourne Village College into a West End show was not easy.

"It took strength, sweat and an amazing team of volunteers working weekends and weekdays.

"From making the props to moving the lights, we all helped in one way or another.

"Everyone was doing something, but with our minds full of information some things were forgotten.

"Nevertheless we stayed on track, and no matter what, all the backstage crew had a good time while working. To summarise *Oliver*, it was like a rollercoaster ride full of songs!"

Sabin John commented: "I was Mr. Brownlow who took *Oliver* in and I was his 'Grandfather'.

Being in the '*Oliver!*' performance meant that I had to give up my free time and commit my time to rehearsals, but it was all worth it.

"I was very nervous about performing in front of my parents and other parents, and about my parts since I was not just Mr. Brownlow, but also a workhouse boy and one of Fagin's boys.

"That was the least of my worries, since I had to remember all my lines and when to say them, but luckily on the night I somehow managed to remember them! "We all had a lot of fun performing and showcasing our talents to parents and other people, and to show them how great our singing and acting skills were."

We look forward to many more Cambourne musicals and theatrical productions in the years to come, and plans are already well under way for next year's show!

**Charlotte Fenn-Goode, Director,  
and Geoff Page, Musical Director.**

# Surprise visitors drop in

**Students at Cambourne were shocked to emerge from assembly to find a hot air balloon coming down on their playing fields.**

The appropriately named Virgin balloon landed unexpectedly on the fields — which were only laid last year and have yet to be used by the students — after an abrupt ending to an early morning flight earlier this term.

The balloon was heading for the Gransdens but was

running out of fuel when the pilot spotted the playing field. The basket clipped a fence on the descent, causing some damage, but none of the passengers on board was injured.

Now the school, which only opened last September and has 150 Year 7 pupils, is celebrating. As a thank you for the help received from Deputy Head Sean Sumner and Form Tutor Warren Patrick, who helped pack up the balloon and load it on to the transporter, the school has been given a bottle of champagne and free balloon flight tickets. These will be raffled or

auctioned to help fund-raise for the fledgling college. Mr Patrick said: "It was a bit of challenge to get the students concentrating again when there was all this drama on the school field."

Cambourne head of school Claire Coates added: "Life is never dull at CamVC, but this was really unexpected."

Student Ella Fox commented: "I couldn't believe it! We came out of assembly and a huge red balloon was right there on our playing field. Even we haven't had a chance to go on it yet!"



**AERIAL ASSAULT:** The balloon comes down at Cambourne (left) and the balloonists view of the college.

## High praise for DT ideas

Six students from Cambourne Village College and four students from Neale Wade College travelled to a conference about Design and Technology at Homerton College in Cambridge.

The meeting was designed to tell teachers and engineers about the way DT is taught at secondary school.

First there was an activity to tell each set of students about what the other had been learning about, with the Cambourne students experiencing the effects of arthritis and visual impairment and the Neale Wade students learning about electronics and soldering.

After a short break, the students presented their ideas for potential products made to solve real-life everyday problems. The students took a few questions, but soon the time was up and the conference concluded with some praise for the future engineers.

In a letter from Bill Nicholl, lecturer in DT at Cambridge University, students were praised for their achievements: "Not only did they engage in the various tasks, but they presented the ideas they had been working on in school as part of this research to an invited audience of teachers, engineers from international companies and other representatives i.e. Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng).

"Their presentations were superb. In all sincerity, their ideas were exceptional, showing an originality of thinking that one might expect of graduate/practising design engineers.

"They fielded questions from members of the audience, which revealed a



**EXPERIMENTING:** Cambourne students at work.

sophisticated level of understanding of the design challenges they had undertaken as well as articulating clearly their motives for wanting to engage in such tasks. "I am glad to say, they rose to the occasion and stole the day."

It was a very enjoyable experience for the children who went, and it was a very good opportunity to develop ideas and practise presenting skills.

Ivan Kudryavtsev (7M)

## All the fun of the fair!

Cambourne students visited the NEC in Birmingham where the biggest science fair for young people in the UK was being held.

At the fair, different experiments and demonstrations were going on. Some showed physics, some chemistry and some showed biology.

Two halls contained 10 different categories of sciences. A few that everyone visited were the immunology and the psychology. At the psychology stand, there were optical illusions, tricks being played on your mind and mirroring glasses (you had to draw the outline of a shape in them).

At the immunology stand, you could make a material that felt a lot like snot. There was a variety of colours.

Some stalls were doing research, like whether the hand you wrote with affected the time you could stay balanced on the tiptoes of one foot (very hard).

Others were demonstrating experiments that had already taken place. An example is the accelerator, which makes you run faster.

"My favourite bit was making the snot," said Haleema (7O). "I liked everything," said Sherene (7U).

Everyone enjoyed the fair and had a great time.



**DAY OUT:** At the Science Fair.

## Coming together

Cambourne students shared their new school with the older generation, inviting grandparents into the college to entertain them.

They prepared food during Food Technology lessons and performed on a variety of instruments as well as chatting and sharing stories. The Friends of CamVC arranged the tables and hall for the event which was enjoyed by everyone.



**SHARING:** Students and their guests.



**FIRST RESIDENTIAL:** Year 7 enjoy their activities at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire.

# Brilliant Beaumanor . . .

**On Monday 7 July, Year 7 and a set of brave staff set off on our first ever residential visit to Beaumanor Hall.**

After arriving and setting up our tents, we were off on our first adventures.

During the week, everyone took part in a whole range of activities. The high ropes session was the most challenging for lots of children and staff, and it was great to see so many people feeling so pleased with

themselves afterwards. Everyone supported each other really well and lots of people made new friends as they queued up nervously for their turn at whizzing down on the zip wire over the Beaumanor fields. Some students even turned upside down!

Canoeing on the lake was great fun and lots of people jumped in.

On the walking and orienteering days, some of the teachers' map reading skills were a bit dodgy and Mr

Page's group claimed they'd walked miles extra! We had a great talent show lasting over three evenings, fun in the dark in the cellars, and the food was great – especially the pizza. We even got to watch some of the World Cup.

Mrs Taylor said that the best thing about the week was how everyone overcame fears and met challenges.

Year 7 would like to thank all the staff and especially Mr Sumner for organising this for us.



**SHOW TIME:** Staff and students after the Birds of Prey show.

## Spanish trip is action-packed

**Day 1:** We were in school till 2:10pm, but it was then that our journey began! Once we got to the airport we had 40 minutes of shopping (mostly for snacks for the flight)! After some amazing views from the plane, we were finally in Spain! But the journey didn't end there because there was still another hour of driving on a bus to get to our amazing hotel. Everybody had an amazing sleep that night.

**Day 2:** We went to a three-hour Spanish lesson and made up some questions for some Spanish children that we were going to see later that day. When we got to the Spanish school, all of the Year 7 children at that school got into a big circle and we made a smaller circle inside, then we had mini conversations where we talked to the Spanish children in Spanish and Spanish children talked to us in English. We had lunch with them and tried to communicate as best as we could! After that, there was a choice of flamenco dancing, football or designing computer games. Then we went back to the hotel and ate some delicious dinner. That night six children went to the beach including me and it was amazing.

**Day 3:** We went to a really nice house that was designed by Gaudi, a very famous Spanish architect. He makes amazing buildings. There were some fascinating ideas that you would never think of such as windows that make music when you open and close them or the bird in the window playing the piano. After visiting El Capricho de Gaudi we went to the biggest shopping centre I have ever seen. With only 90 minutes everyone was rushing round – it was a great opportunity to put our Spanish to the test!

**Day 4:** We had a treasure hunt in a shopping square. It was fun and quite challenging with the winning group getting free ice-creams.

**Day 5:** We tried to make the most of our last day. We went to a big safari park and it was amazing. There were so many animals, but not just that; there was lots of space for them to run around. There was a Bird of Prey show, some sea lions performing and lots of other animals!

Natalie Walpole (7R)

## Fiesta time in Cambourne

Youngsters from Cambourne primary schools were invited to join Year 7 pupils at the college for a Spanish Fiesta.

This was a series of Spanish events including flamenco dances, art, playing Spanish music in an orchestra and singing along with Mr Fernandez, who impressed everyone with his amazing guitar-playing.



**SPANISH ACTIVITIES:** Included singing and art.



**LIVE:** Students take part in the Anthony Horowitz event.

## Streaming Horowitz live

The library made use of streaming technology to give Anthony Horowitz fans a chance to get their questions answered. The show was projected on to the board and questions were tweeted from the Cambourne VC Book Group Twitter page. Here is what Timothee thought about the event.

Student Timothee Pardigon (7A) said: "Members of the school attended a virtual Anthony Horowitz event. It was a live event in which Anthony Horowitz answered live questions in London from 500 schools in England. It was a funny, interesting and helpful. Then, he read a part of his book, Russian Roulette.

"At the end he dropped a few hints about the new series he was going to write. It is going to be called 'The Machine' and will be a trilogy. He also said it will take place around this time. If you haven't read any books by Anthony Horowitz yet, then I strongly recommend them to you."

# Community provides boost

**During the first year at Cambourne Village College, there has been lots of support for the PE department from the local community to provide a high quality and varied PE programme to students at the school.**

Volunteers from the local community have provided a range of after-school sports clubs, including gymnastics, football, dance, athletics and volleyball.

Without the generosity and experience of our volunteers, we could not have offered such a successful extra-curricular programme to our Year 7 students.

We look forward to these links growing over the coming years so that we can continue to offer high quality experiences.

This term, Cambourne VC linked up with the Bodyworks, Cambourne Comets and Cambourne Tennis Club to provide coaching during their Sports Day this month.

Students experienced taster sessions led by club coaches to allow them to get a flavour of what is on offer in the local community.

The school also received support from Cambourne Netball Club and Cambourne FC, who we are currently developing links with, as well as getting involved in local events.

We hope to be able to support the Bourn2Run event in September.

Jo Dawson, Subject Leader for PE

## Athletes' debut delight

Cambourne VC made their athletics debut at Bassingbourn VC in May. Despite completing most of their training indoors, the students performed exceptionally well on the day against local schools.

The girls' squad produced a solid performance and came sixth ahead of Bassingbourn VC and Melbourn VC.

Notable performances on the day came from Molly Wales (800m), Abigail Berritt (Discus) and Julia Gacek (1500m), who all finished on the podium for their events.

The boys' squad also finished sixth ahead of Comberton and Bassingbourn.

Top performances from the team came from Callum Reed (Javelin and Discus), Daniel Wood (Shot) and Tom Smith (1500m), all producing excellent results on the day.

Unfortunately, students were unable to attend the following event.

However, the team will be back in action in Summer 2015 to improve on their positions this year.



**VARIETY:** Pupils tried trampolining as well as the traditional sports day fare of running, jumping and throwing.



**FIRST OUTING:** Cambourne make their athletics debut.

## Whole school's charity mile

**CHARITY RUN:** Pupils and staff complete the Sport Relief Mile.



With any opportunity for dressing-up always seized upon, the Sport Relief Mile was an ideal excuse for everyone to come to school in sports kit and sprint, jog or walk many loops around the hard courts and adjacent grass area. The entire school took part, students and staff alike, with quite a few of the latter deciding afterwards that they might need to exercise more regularly. In all £92.90 was raised for Sport Relief and it was good to be part in this national event.

## Plenty of chances to give netball a go

Cambourne Netball Club, one of the community clubs with close links to the college, is holding a series of junior sessions this summer. These are aimed at girls who are just finishing Year 6, 7 and 8 and will take place on the college's outdoor courts during the holidays. Existing players and new ones are all welcome. They run on Thursdays from July 31st to August 28 from 6.00-7.00pm and cost £3 per session.

After that the club, named as the East Region Outstanding Club of the Year for 2013-4 by England Netball, switch to their winter

training from September 11 in the college sports hall.

For those starting Year 7 in September this takes place on Thursday from 5.00-6.00 and for those in Years 8 and 9 it's an hour later.

Each child is allowed to have one free trial session before deciding whether to join at a cost of £100 per year (in two installments).

For more information, please contact the club via [cambournejuniornetball@outlook.com](mailto:cambournejuniornetball@outlook.com)

## Fun at first sports day

Cambourne students experienced their first Sports Day last week.

Following a hectic week at Beaumanor, students took on a variety of challenges to earn points for their tutor group. The Sports Day followed a very different format to the Primary Festival that students experienced last year at Comberton, due to limited access to outdoor spaces.

For half of the day, students enjoyed a variety of taster sessions led by local club coaches and volunteers. Cambourne Comets delivered a trampoline session, allowing students to 'have a go' on the school trampolines, as well as watch a display by the local club's members to demonstrate the skills that can be developed at club level.

Cambourne Tennis Club provided a coach from Over & In to deliver a taster session of what students could experience at the local club. Finally, Anita Ratheb and Hayley Aitchinson, regular volunteers with the PE Department at Cambourne VC, delivered a volleyball session to students to develop their basic skills. Anita will be running a club at the school in September for students to attend.

For the second half of the day, students competed in three athletic disciplines to gain points for their tutor group. Miss Boyns led the high jump session in the Sports Hall where students attempting to jump over heights of up to 1.20m. Outside in the sunshine, Mr Patrick led the javelin throwing competition, which saw many students throw in excess of 10.50m to gain maximum points. For the running competition, students completed an 800m run around a small track to test their speed against the clock, with football coach Darren Wood and Comberton Sixth Former Harmony Hennessy offering their skills and time. Many tutor groups also took part in a relay during their running competition, where the girls showed the boys how it was done!

In the end R won with C second and U third. M won the endeavour prize.

■ As part of the new intake programme, students tried a variety of sports to introduce them to life at Cambourne VC. Sessions were delivered by staff and volunteers who have been involved with the curriculum and extra-curricular programme this year, and who will continue to deliver sessions next year.

Activities included dance, football, table tennis, athletics, rowing and unihoc. These sessions were used for pupils to get to know each other, as well as experience some of the activities that will be on offer in September.

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

