

NEWS@CAM



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Main attraction fails to show— Page 3

PURE CLASS: The winners of the class Spanish Spelling Bee competitions.



Top four off to regionals

Having secured their place in the school final, a group of 24 enthusiastic Spanish students battled it out in mid-February to get through to the regional final.

There could only be 4 winners in the end, who would secure their spots in the next stage of the competition. Congratulations to Neha Kibria (7A) Joseph Hewson (7C), Megan Hughes (7M) and Jessica Turner (7O) for fantastic performances.

Here are some of their experiences:

"Stage two of the Spanish Spelling Bee was an absolutely spectacular experience. To learn the words, I practised every day and made sure I knew them."

"When I was practising with my mum or dad, my mum/dad would read out each word in order and I would have to spell each word. Following that they would do it again but mixing up the words this time so I

did not know what word would come up."

"Despite participating in rounds 1 and 2, it is still quite a nerve-racking feeling to attempt your one minute."

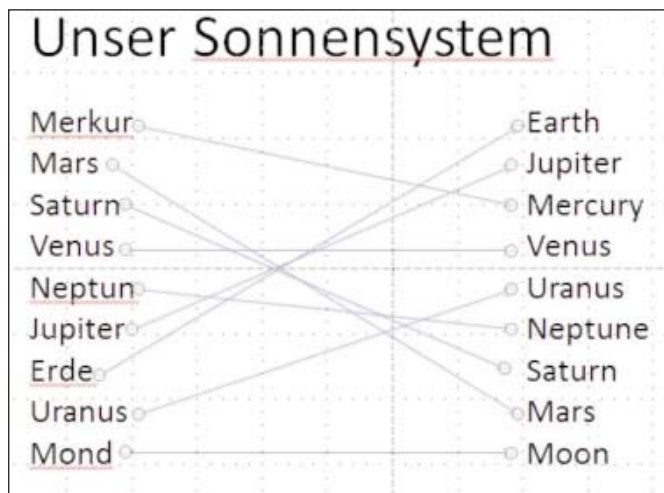
"Overall, I enjoyed participating in the Spanish spelling bee rounds 1 and 2 because during the rounds there would always be tension and suspense whenever anyone went to the front of the class to attempt to spell as many words as they could. The best thing I got was the feeling of pressure, which made me feel part of the competition. During the competition I had to face some friends as well, which was exciting!"

"I feel extremely pleased with myself for going through to the regional final and I am very excited to go up against lots of students from other schools."

The regional final takes place at Comberton Village College on April 15 so Cambourne's finalists are in for a busy Easter holidays learning their words.



TOP FOUR: Regional final qualifiers.



THE SOLAR SYSTEM: In German and English

Lining up the planets

Six Year 8 students learning German at Cambourne Village College decided to explore the solar system — auf Deutsch!

They made some interesting discoveries, including the fact that there are no feminine planets. (The German language has three genders, masculine, feminine and neuter).

They presented their findings to the class, who were quick to pick up on this fact as well as to notice that the names of the planets are very similar to their names in English — German and English words often resemble each other in fact, one of the things that makes it such an accessible language to learn!

Where to next? Watch this space.

Vielen Dank an Daniel Porter, Ivan Kudryatsev, Monika Te-Grigoryan, Nina D'Entrecasteaux, Dane Collins and Laura Simpson.

Dancing the night away

One Friday last month, the hall lights were dimmed, the sweets laid out and the glad rags put on for a whole school disco with Year 7 and Year 8 dancing the night away.

The Friends of CamVC were instrumental in organising and setting up for the disco, providing excellent refreshments and a cheerful welcome for pupils on arrival.

The 'door staff' (Ms Kesterton) was strict...but only in ensuring everyone got a sweetie on entry.

Students had requested songs to be played on the night and showed their excellent dance skills to a range of numbers.

Special thanks must go to Dr Kueh, Miss Boyns, Mrs Taylor, Mr Patrick, Mrs Lamch and Mrs Mallett for helping out on the evening and showing off their excellent dance skills.

Megan Hughes (7M) described her evening: "On the night of the disco all I did was party and dance for all I was worth, eating sweets and prancing around I had plenty of fun."

"I enjoyed spending lots of time with my friends, the music was fantastic there were songs like Uptown Funk and Moves like Jagger. "My friends and I extremely enjoyed celebrating the end of a long term, of hard work. The disco was a great opportunity to hang out with the new friends I have made. "My favourite part was when I saw the teachers dance; it was hilarious!"



SOUND AND LIGHT: Disco fun.

Eclipse eclipsed by cloud!

The main attractions failed to make their much-anticipated appearance over Cambourne last week.

The whole school gathered with their special solar viewers, either at the front of the school or on the hard courts, to watch the greatest solar eclipse since 1999 – when none of Cambourne’s students was even born!

Unfortunately the weather did not play ball and Cambourne was shrouded in thick grey clouds at the critical time with neither the sun, or the moon passing across it, visible at all.

While it became noticeably darker and colder during the peak of the partial eclipse at 9.33, students were unable to witness the full spectacle of a near total eclipse for the first time in their lives.

Some Year 7 students were lucky enough to catch the end of the eclipse during a break in the cloud cover during their PE lesson.

However, most had to make do with using the solar viewers to look for sun spots during break time, when the school was bathed in sunshine!

If students can't wait until 2026 for the next phenomenon in the sky, fingers crossed for a clear night on the night of September 28, when there is a full lunar eclipse!



SUN'S OUT: Pupils don their solar viewers but it's too late to see the eclipse.

Book week brings out a competitive streak

This year's Book Week had a non-fiction focus, though the week was kicked off in magnificent style by our Patron of Reading, Bali Rai.

He visited on Monday to deliver some Creative Writing workshops to invited students who were nominated by their English teachers, because of the promise of their creative writing.

Rather than getting the students to produce something, the workshop focused on ideas, and the foundations of stories. The students were receptive, and lots of discussions were held.

Tuesday was a Geography-based day, where students had to complete a quiz.

Wednesday was Maths — pupils had to answer a number of questions and then add the answers together to see if they would get the right combination to the padlock on the Treasure Chest. This was the



BE CREATIVE: Bali Rai leads a creative writing workshop.

most popular quiz so far, with lots of keen mathematicians taking part.

On Thursday students turned their attention to

Spanish to try and complete the Spanish Treasure Hunt, and find the answers to the clues, which were located all around school.

Friday was the turn of the sporty pupils, with the quiz being all about Sport.

As well as all of these activities, there has been a week-long quiz comprising 20 questions on various different topics, the answers to which are on posters around school. This quiz was worth two merits and a small prize to each pupil so the quiz garnered a lot of interest!

The form prizes went to 70, after a tightly-contested battle, and 8U.

There is a prize in each year for the form that completes the most quizzes and competitions and this is being tightly contested with two forms currently level on

points.

Alison Tarrant, Librarian



READ WELL AND EAT CAKE: Celebrating exceeding reading targets.

Cause for celebration

During an English lesson in the library, Tyrese celebrated by sharing his Liverpool cake with his teachers and fellow students. Tyrese has exceeded his reading targets and shown exceptional effort.

Tyrese requested a Liverpool cake to celebrate his achievements, which was specially made by Julie Patman from Comberton Village College.

Checking out the top titles

Cambourne has launched its CILIP Carnegie Award Shadowing group.

The lunchtime group will be run by Miss Hillman and Ms Tarrant, and pupils are reading all the titles shortlisted for the Carnegie Award.

They will then discuss all the different books, and whether they meet the criteria.

The award looks for children's literature of a high quality, and has strict criteria.

The shortlist was announced last week and

the winner isn't announced until June, giving pupils lots of time to read, and form opinions.

We will be updating the shadowing website and at the end of the project, we will be having a celebration of all the shadowers' hard work.

We will also spend a couple of sessions looking at the shortlist for the Kate Greenaway Award – which is for illustration within children's books.



SHADOWS: Students will read and discuss all the titles on the Carnegie shortlist.

regular top quality comedy nights

Custard Comedy

8:15pm

every 3rd Friday
of the month



CAMBOURNE
VILLAGE COLLEGE



01954 284 000

Chance to solve a murder!

The chance to solve a murder mystery and enjoy a fun evening is on offer at Cambourne Village College next month.

The friends of CamVC are staging an evening of

murder, mystery and suspense – as well as a buffet meal – as part of their fund-raising drive for the school. Tickets for the evening on April 24 (7.00pm start) cost £10 each including the food and entertainment, which is being provided by Strictly Panto.

Participants can either make up their own team of up to 10 people or the Friends will find you a team to join.

Tickets are available from Cambourne Village College reception or by e-mailing sarahwhite3@hotmail.com

A winner all round

Just before Christmas, Year 7 and 8 students took part in the now annual 'Intergenerational event' held at Cambourne Village College with the Care Network

Cambridgeshire. Around 15 guests from a number of local carehomes were invited to spend an afternoon with students, who baked and prepared a Christmas tea for everyone to enjoy. After mingling with the guests, students served tea and later put on a range of

performances to get everyone in the festive mood. Acts included musical recitals, Christmas drama performances and a dance with a large ensemble of girls.

The intergenerational tea party is a really exciting and rewarding event for our College to be involved in.

From a personal level, it is great to see so many volunteer to cook, serve and entertain older members of the community and our students have really benefitted from conversations which they have with our guests.



COMING TOGETHER: The older and younger generations.

I have begun to see relationships between students and community members develop and this is something that all involved are all

really keen to build on over the years.

I know that the students have appreciated all the support that we have had from the Care Network in making these events a success and we are all looking forward to another event.

Student Nellie-Mae Morgan (8A) has taken part in both

events and said: "The intergenerational event was a huge success and that's all down to the entertainment that was performed and food made.

"I thought that it was a fantastic chance to talk to the older generation and talking about what it was like when they were at school.

"This is the second year of the event and I hope that we have one next year! From all the students that were there, thank you to Cambridgeshire Care Network for making this a lovely event."

Elizabeth Taylor, Head of Year 8



LOOK WHAT WE RAISED: Pupils show off their Comic Relief contribution.

Funny for money

Friday 13th March was Red Nose Day and Cambourne VC wasn't going to be left out of doing something funny...or yummy...for money as two of our Charity Reps, Lola Darrington and Eleanor Tingley, explained.

"Red Nose Day was a successful event, with many people getting involved with the bake sale and other activities going on throughout the day.

"Students and teachers dressed funny for money, to raise in excess of £670 for Comic Relief. Everybody in the school was involved and had an incredible day. We had many different styles of costumes, which included people spraying their hair red and even painting their faces! This raised lots of money.

Cambourne Village College managed to raise more than £200 just on our bake sale! This was an incredible achievement. The cakes included many different flavours, from chocolate to blueberry, with lots of Red Nose Day decorations!

Finally, through buying the Red Noses and wearing them throughout the day we raised even more for Comic Relief as well as having lots of fun!

International effort brings Noah's story to life

Cambourne students were lucky enough to help the Biblical story of Noah and the flood come brilliantly to life.

They were part of an incredible cross-border collaboration in England.

Following two sell-out performances of the Benjamin Britten opera *Noye's Fludde* in France in January, the Anglo-French cast reconvened for two spectacular shows in Comberton Village College's Performance Hall.

Seventy-eight French schoolchildren, the Orchestre de Picardie, internationally-renowned conductor Arie van Beek, Royal Opera House company members Anne Mason and Geoffrey Moses (Mr and Mrs Noah) and Southend YMCA joined students from six South Cams schools for the show directed by Amy Lane, also from the Royal Opera House. Costumes, sets and props were designed by students from the University of the Creative Arts.

The lead English school in the production was Melbourn Village College and they provided six soloists — Tom Carrington, Cameron King, Jenny Elliott, Izzy Koyander, Sophie Jelley and Joe Randall — who were Noah's sons and wives.

Additional Melbourn students were joined by those from Foxton, Harston & Newton and Hauxton primary schools in the chorus with students from Comberton



COLLABORATION: An international cast performs *Noye's Fludde* at Comberton.

and Cambourne Village Colleges added for the English performances.

There was also a special opportunity for talented Melbourn Year 10 cornet player Ben Doughty to join the 42 French conservatoire students playing alongside the Orchestre de Picardie and Melbourn's Alderney Smith to join the Comberton technical crew.

The production came about through an EU funded project called ACT — A Common Territory — which celebrates the shared culture of northern France and south east England through a creative partnership between cultural organisations, colleges and schools

on both sides of the channel. This production is just one of many cultural exchanges the project has enabled over the past three years. Melbourn's Head of Music, Paul Belbin, said: "This was a stunning opportunity for our students to be a part of a professional production. "We took a large party of children to Amiens and Compiègne in January, where we performed two sell-out shows.

"We were delighted to be able to welcome the cast to Cambridgeshire. Britten devised the opera to be performed by communities in community settings and I am sure that he would have approved of such a diverse coming together to re-tell a great story with great tunes!"

Melbourn Principal, Simon Holmes, added: "This has been a huge collaborative effort between 10 organisations and thanks must go to all involved, including those whose work behind the scenes has enabled it to be such a huge success.

"The experience of working with so many different professionals in a performance of this standard is something the students will remember for the rest of their life.

"They should be very proud of what they have achieved."

Ready, steady, row . . .

For the second year running, Cambourne hosted the Sainsbury School Games' rowing competition in the assembly hall.

Comberton, Linton, Swavesey, Cottenham and Cambourne students took on both individual and team rowing challenges. Year 9 and 10 students rowed in the team events, with Linton taking pole position in both. They went through to the next round of the School Games.

The individual competitions for Years 7-11 provided an opportunity for students to row against each other in a friendly competition.

Cambourne students performed well to

achieve some top three finishes, as well as some good performances from our newer team members.

Jess Pennington led the way with victory in the Year 7 girls section while Ben Hall, Ben Crosby and Conor Herbert were second, third and sixth respectively among the Year 7 boys.

There was also second place for James Orrell in the Year 8 boys' competition while Poppy Pennington and Lucy Dowdall finished fourth and sixth respectively for the girls.

Students went on to the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in London where they competed both individually and as a team and worked hard and showed great tenacity in all their races.



IN FULL SWING: The rowing competition taking place at Cambourne for the second year running.

FURRY FRIEND: With Cambourne students at the National Championships.



It's all Rosie for dancers!

Dance classes continue to thrive at Cambourne with three well-attended sessions a week.

On Tuesday, Rosie Carrick, from BodyWorks, has been working to develop students' street dance skills, which included a performance at BodyWorks' Outreach Show at The Leys earlier this term in front of a large audience.

The six Cambourne students involved — Rosie Sayle, Florence Smith, Lucy Perry, Beatriz Perez-Gomez, Aalia Campbell and Poppy White — were fantastic and performed well on the evening.

Contemporary dance has got off to a great start this school year with the year 7s and 8s performing at the Christmas Concert and a variety of other events.

All the students have worked hard on their dance technique, strength and flexibility and are a pleasure to teach.

Each student has worked exceptionally well within the group, showing cooperation, kindness and bravery. They have also been learning about choreography, which helps them create their own dances in the contemporary dance class and in PE classes.

Primary pupils show off work

Year 3 pupils from Monkfield Park were among five primary schools who took part in the Family Dance Share at Comberton Village College.

Having worked with Comberton Year 10 dance leaders on their Egyptians dance, the youngsters were delighted to perform it to an audience of staff and students in the Performance Hall at Comberton.

All the performers watched each other giving a range of dances from year 1 to Year 13.

A DVD resource has now been produced for all of the schools to use within their



EGYPTIANS: Pupils from Monkfield Park perform at the Dance Share.

dance lessons as inspiration for what can be achieved.

Watching the pros

Earlier this month 19 students from Cambourne travelled to Birmingham to watch the YONEX All England Badminton Championships.

This was a great opportunity for students to watch badminton at an International level with five matches being played at the same time.

There were plenty of England players to support on the day, as well as the opportunity for students to meet the badminton stars following their matches on court.

Students ran around during the day collecting autographs, souvenirs and watching the games, as well as enjoying the refreshments available at the stadium!

We arrived back to school at 8pm following a tiring but inspiring day with many students trying to use the skills they had seen to develop their own badminton performances at club on Friday evenings.



International visit

Last month the England Women's football team took on the USA in a friendly fixture, to prepare them for the World Cup. Eight students from Cambourne went to watch the game at Milton Keynes as part of their Literacy and Sport Project that they have been completing.

A total of 14,369 spectators attended the game, which saw England suffer a setback in their World Cup preparations with a 1-0 loss with Alex Morgan (USA) scoring a header in the 25th minute, to secure her 50th international goal.

England did fight back and managed to find the back of the net. However the goal by Jodie Taylor was controversially disallowed while Fran Kirby had her shot tipped on to the crossbar by the Goalkeeper.

England begin their World Cup Campaign on June 9 against France. Coach Mark Sampson is positive that the team will be able to fine-tune their game to be a real threat on the day.



VIEW FROM THE STANDS: Cambourne students were in the crowd at Stadium MK

Inspiration!

Students travelled to the Copper Box in London to watch England v Malawi in the tri-series netball match.

The visit was organised as a joint venture between Cambourne Village College, Comberton Village College and Camborne netball club (whose junior teams train at Cambourne VC).

The girls enjoyed watching England play some very competitive netball and were pleased to see them take the victory.

The girls were definitely inspired by what they saw as the girls from Cambourne went on to win their last two league fixtures against teams who were placed above them in the league table.