

NEWS@CAM



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Cambourne student wins county talent show — Page 7

Honour for librarian

Cambourne librarian Alison Tarrant has been honoured for her work at the College.

Ms Tarrant, who has been librarian since CamVC opened in 2013, was named as one of the runners-up in the School Library Association's Librarian of the Year Award.

She was one of five librarians chosen nationally for honours, including a Corby librarian who won the overall title.

All five were presented with their awards, which included books for the College, by multi-award-winning author Kim Slater at a ceremony at The Judge's Court in London.

Ms Tarrant, who was nominated for the award by Cambourne Head of English Emily Moody, came through an anonymous selection process to reach a shortlist. Judges then visited those libraries on the list to choose their finalists.

Cambourne's library was set up from scratch by Ms Tarrant, who previously worked in the library at Comberton Village College.

She said: "Reaching the Honours List is brilliant — it's really an honour! Having experienced how hard school librarians from across the country work, and the fabulous things they do, it's hard to believe that my work reaches those limits too.

"However, I strongly believe that this is an honour not just for me, but for all the staff at Cambourne VC who have employed me, supported me, and allowed me to suggest, change and develop ideas. There are School Librarians everywhere who have brilliant ideas, but

without the support from Senior Leadership Group and staff who are willing to implement the ideas, nothing changes.

"The SLYA event in London was lovely — it was such

Sedgwick as our Patron of Reading, and the pupils were lined up around the hall queuing to get books," she said. "We recently had Julian Sedgwick in to do a talk as a transition event and he had the same effect!"



JUDGED TO BE BRILLIANT: Ms Tarrant and her Cambourne colleagues at The Judge's Court in London.

a lovely feel-good event, and it was brilliant to show off the work of school librarians to teachers, SLG members, family and to Nick Poole and Dawn Finch from CILIP. School librarianship is one strand in a dynamic and engaging profession, perhaps one that is sometimes looked down on, but events like this really allow us to stand as professionals in our own right."

Ms Tarrant, whose favourite book is the Jane Austen classic *Pride and Prejudice*, said her most memorable moment at Cambourne was the first author visit she organised.

"The first author visit I did here was launching Marcus

Mrs Moody commented: "Ms Tarrant's dedication, innovation and sheer enthusiasm apparently know no bounds. From the moment the school opens in the morning, she welcomes pupils into the library; it buzzes with industriousness and with keen reading long after the school day is over.

"Her warm, approachable manner — to staff and students alike — means that all are happy to ask her for guidance, not only on reading material (which she knows inside out, having committed hours and hours to being a Carnegie and Kate Greenaway award judge for the last two years) but also on organisation and homework (the library serves as a homework support space after school), with Ms Tarrant on hand to support and

guide all students with all subjects.

"She knows every student in the school, and can call up off-hand their reading preferences and habits. Not only does she champion reading, she is also indefatigable and almost evangelical in her desire for students to be information literate, creating resources for teaching staff to use with them to ensure high-quality research and endowing them with life-long skills. She considers the child holistically, running workshops for, and presenting to, parents to create a reading culture at home as well as throughout the school."

Useful insights into GCSE text

Year 10 are studying 'Pigeon English' as their set text for English Literature GCSE and recently had the pleasure of meeting Stephen Kelman, the author, when he visited the school.

Pigeon English is a cleverly written novel that I would recommend to you all. The novel is the first person narrative of a young Ghanaian boy called Harri. I won't give too much away, but I will tell you the basics: Harri comes to London with his Mamma and sister Lydia. He dearly misses his Papa, Grandma Ama and baby sister in Ghana.

Harri's best friend is called Dean. Together, they investigate the murder of a boy that happens at the beginning of the novel.

The idea of death permeates the novel, and the ending is very poignant, but throughout the novel we come to love Harri's naïve ways and the often happy

narration of this 11-year-old boy. We learn how fast Harri has to grow up due to living on a rough estate. There is still one question left unanswered throughout the book: who is the murderer?

Stephen Kelman's visit was very helpful experience. We asked him lots of questions about his and the novel's background, and we discovered how his daily life contributed to the novel.

He told us that he looked outside his window one day and saw older children charging younger ones 50p to play on a disgusting old mattress. He put this into his novel. It was nice to have answers to our questions and not just our English teacher's point of view!

The Year 10 students studying the novel also went to London to see an adaptation of the book for the stage.

As someone who likes theatres, I found it helpful to see how it was staged and how they changed the story to fit into their cast and stage space.

When we read a book, we all imagine it differently and it's always interesting to see how others imagined the characters' clothes, their facial expressions and how they said their lines.

The role of the Pigeon was played by the 'Never Normal' girl who has a little part in the book but on the stage, became a main character. Stephen Kelman (pictured) told us that he liked the performance too. Thank you to our teachers and to Ms Tarrant for organising these events for us.

Ashlyn (10U).

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New Patron of Reading announced

Saci Lloyd is Cambourne's new Patron of Reading for 2016/17.

Saci is an author who doesn't hide from the difficult issues, having written a few dystopian novels (those that describe a dehumanising and unpleasant imaginary society) as well as a comedy.

She has lived a varied life: from being a cartoonist, to being a Head of Media at a sixth form college in London — and has turned down Johnny Depp after his production company showed an interest in her work.

Her first novels, 'The Carbon Diaries' came out in 2010 and have since been translated into 15

languages and been optioned to be turned into a film, as well as being shortlisted for the Costa children's book prize.

In 2012 her novel Momentum was shortlisted for the Guardian Book Prize, reviewed in The School Librarian as being "engaging on every level; the themes are powerful, the characters are vivid and the dialogue is street-smart ... thought-provoking and absorbing."

Saci's blog introducing herself is available on the school website, and she will be making her first visit in January, at which point pupils will have the opportunity to buy books and get them signed.



NEW PATRON: Saci Lloyd.

Students take charge!

The Bridge Book Award is Cambridgeshire's very own book award.

It is voted for entirely by pupils, with them deciding the nominations, the long list and the shortlist as well as the winner.

This is its first year, and Key Stage 3 students from 13 secondary schools across the county, including Cambourne and fellow Cam Academy Trust schools, Comberton, Melbourn and St Peter's, have been taking part.

The Award is sponsored by Heffers, with three pupils a week winning a £10 book voucher in a random draw.

A phenomenal shortlist was voted for by students — the four books are: *One* by Sarah Crossan; *The Ghosts of Shanghai*

by Julian Sedgwick; *Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods* by Rick Riordan and *Awful Auntie* by David Walliams. The winner was decided earlier this month, and a ceremony will be held in January to present the winner with their award.

Shortlisted authors have been getting involved on Twitter — being given links to reviews of their books, and tweeting to say how excited they are — as well as letting their publishers know!

A competition to design the award is also under way — with all students being invited to submit designs for the trophy/medal/award. The deadline for this is 11th January.

The latest news from the Bridge Book Award can be found here: <https://librarycamvc.wordpress.com/>



ORIGINAL DESIGN: Artist Richard Morgan created the Bridge Award logo.

Getting creative at club for keen writers

An extract from the Prologue: *The Sacrifice* by Elizabeth Roberts, (7C)

"Once there were three kingdoms, all different in their own ways, but all ruled by the same man, known as Lord of Ophoria. Some said he was wise and peaceful. Others declared he was a monster. It was obvious from the start he favoured the northern land. However, he began to take it too far by neglecting the other kingdoms, making them suffer, while he and the northern land cherished their wealth and good fortune. The other kingdoms began to rebel against them, pleading for food. Unfortunately, they failed. The power-hungry lord had had enough of this outbreak. He began trying to protect his land by building mazes that stretched on for miles suffocating our kingdom and the enchanted realm. It's been hundreds of years since anyone has seen the moonstone towers of the northern land. Rumour has it they still live there with all the gold and jewels.

They say over time the enchanted realm began to fade and the only thing left is the deep crimson mist that once floated above the sapphire shores. Nobody dares enter anymore. The people

Creative Writing Club has started writing its first novel! We spent one session brainstorming ideas for a story, and then have been passing around the document so that each chapter is written by a different student. We're still thinking of a title, so any suggestions would be much appreciated. Here is a taster from the opening section...

even seen my siblings' faces. Mother's hazel eyes were glossed over with sorrow. She was trying her best not to cry. She took in a deep breath then continued.

"Our ancestors were so petrified by the unfortunate twists of fate, they began sending letters to the northern land begging for forgiveness and to unite like they were before. Lord Ophoria agreed. However, there was a price. He would supply them with good fortune, if every year, when the last leaf turns brown, a sacrifice wanders into the mazes to die a painful death."

Mother looked up to find Violette fast asleep. She leant over and kissed her on the cheek. Then clenched her fist as if she was in pain. She walked to my bed with a fake smile and leant over to kiss me goodnight. That's when I saw it. The answer to all it. The reason for the story. Why she was in pain. Her wrist had been marked with the symbol of Ophoria. Mother was the sacrifice...

who did never returned. Your father was one of them." It was a while before mother spoke again: the loss of father was too much for her to bear. He'd never

New helpers take up roles

Hooray, the library helpers are back! This year, Year 7 students have volunteered to be Ms Tarrant's helpers and make the library the best it can be. Helpers have to do many things. These include re-shelving books, decorating and making displays and being an ambassador. There are many other things that can be done in the library. Every so often, (usually near festive events) Ms Tarrant organises a library

helper 'Training Session' to improve the library and the helpers.

This month, at the Christmas training evening, the helpers decorated the library with decorations and dressed the Christmas tree in the main hallway. We ate lots of sweets and chocolates, filled in our training booklets — had a small meeting — and best of all we were just chatting away, while having the best time.



VOLUNTEERS: Year 7 students are the new library helpers.

Winter

Like majestic eagles they fly
More of them than ever before
Creating a wall, a wall of cloud
As the sunlight slowly dies

The bitter chill sweeps by
Followed by a gust of howling
wind

As the last of the autumn leaves
turn brown
And the trees become bare

Like gun pellets they fall
Fall to the ground
They fall in armies of hundreds
In armies of hundreds they fall

As the weather grows colder
Frost begins to spread
Clouds mirror the scene
As the land is coated in white

Tiny flakes, snowflakes
Descend to earth
Covering it in a layer of snow
As it shines in the last rays of
light

At last winter has come
Christmas is slowly nearing
The sound of laughter echoes
throughout
And the spirits are lifted once
again

Freya (7R)



RIO HIGHLIGHTS:
The Santa Marta Favela, watching the Paralympics and the statue of Christ the Redeemer.

A new view of the world

Two Cambourne pupils, Robin Jones and Dylan Jagers, and Ms Worzenkraft were lucky enough to join the Comberton VC trip to Brazil this summer, to watch the Paralympic Games in Rio.

Here Robin, of 9B, reviews the trip-of-a-lifetime: "Brazil was certainly the most unique experience of my life. The nature seemed to really dominate the landscape. The culture was so different and it changed my perspective on the world. "I saw famous places such as Christ the Redeemer



and Sugarloaf Mountain but I think that the place that changed me the most was the Santa Marta Favela (one of the poorest areas of the city, historically ruled by gangs and drug lords and a no-go area for tourists.

It is home to 8000 in 500 wooden houses and 2000 brick ones built on a steep slope). It truly shows the power of a community working together. "I saw the Paralympic Games, which had such an exciting atmosphere, to see people from all around the globe go and watch something very special to them. "When we took a plane ride to the Iguacu Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World between the borders of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, I felt a sense of calmness and simplicity that was alien to me. "The trip seemed like such a big step forward in my life; to experience new things, to go that far away just felt so special. I am very grateful I had the opportunity to go on this trip and would want to go again."



GOOD TO GO: The finished poppies are packed to travel.

Vine students all fired up to see their finished work

Students from The Vine were excited to 'crack the kiln' at Cambourne VC after the College supported their Remembrance Day ceramics project. A group of Year 6 students visited Cambourne to collect their clay poppies which were bisque and glaze-fired in the college's kiln.



FIRED: The Vine poppies after being fired in the Cambourne kiln.

After the trip they wrote to Head of Art Mark Yeates to thank him for his help. "Thank you for letting us come to The College this morning: we really enjoyed opening the kiln and seeing our freshly-fired poppies. "We thought it was fascinating learning about the kiln, especially that it could go up to such high temperatures. "Harry loved turning the switch to turn off the electricity to the kiln and we were all glad that he didn't get electrocuted! "Additionally, Shahmeer and Gaby enjoyed opening the kiln by undoing the bolts and we all felt proud when we removed our ceramic, shiny-red poppies. "Thank you for your time and we're looking forward to doing more projects with you this year."

Tackling DofE challenge

As Cambourne grows, another opportunity was made available to our students with the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, better known as the DofE. The Award is a fun adventure and major challenge. Three progressive Award levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and a wide range of activities offer endless possibilities to anyone aged 14 to 24. Millions of young people in the UK have already taken part in the world's leading youth achievement award, along with hundreds every year across The Cam Academy Trust — pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and learning new things about themselves. Here is the account of Will Roberts, the first Year 10 student to finish the three non-expedition sections. He is now looking forward to completing the Bronze Award when he completes his practice and assessed expeditions later in the year. "The Duke of Edinburgh Award, for me, was a challenging yet rewarding activity that has taught me numerous skills which I can apply to my life now and in the future. In addition, it has taught me a lot about myself, introducing me to a love of badminton. "There are three pathways you must go through to complete your DofE, excluding the expedition — a volunteering activity, a physical activity and learning a new skill — and all my choices were alien to me when I started. "While you may see these activities as a chore when you begin, you could develop a hobby that you continue through later life, this award providing you with a new opportunity to engage with the outside world. "For sport I joined the badminton club at our school on Fridays and the fact I had played badminton a little in PE lessons helped me get into the sport. I feel this area is where the DofE's usefulness becomes apparent as I would not have picked up a badminton racket before but now I am constantly eager to play. "For my volunteering activity I helped at a primary school football club, generally assisting the leader, refereeing certain matches in and out of school including inter-school matches and tournaments, and teaching new skills. Although this was not my favourite, I feel my time was well spent with volunteering, bringing me a sense of commitment and duty. "For my skill I joined the Air Cadets, my time there being spent doing field craft, learning about flight and the history of the Air Cadets, drill (parading in events such as on Remembrance Day) and learning how to deliver first aid. My time in Air Cadets was memorable, making new friends and learning incredibly useful skills. This was my most enjoyable activity and in itself made doing DofE worthwhile. "I am now going on my expedition in the summer, my time doing the DofE providing me with experiences and qualifications that I would never have achieved without it."

New build is on track

Work on Cambourne's new buildings is well under way, with the new stand-alone music block taking shape.

That and the extensions to the main building will allow 950 students to attend the Ofsted 'Outstanding' college from September 2017 when the College has the full five year groups in attendance.

As well as the music facilities, the plans include extending one wing, adding another, building a new hall space as well as expanding the library, catering facilities and Centre for students with additional needs.

The College, which opened in 2013 and is over-subscribed, will see an increase in the number of students it can officially accept in each year group, rising from 150 to 210.

Principal Claire Coates said: "It's very exciting watching the new extension being built around us. The school is a bit cramped in some areas at the moment, but we have a very co-operative relationship with the builders, who are doing all they can to minimise disruption, and the pupils are as co-operative and helpful as ever. The great new facilities will definitely be worth a little bit of inconvenience."



GOING UP:
Cambourne's new music block.

Support for refugees

Members of Camnesty, Cambourne's Amnesty youth group, have been showing their support for refugees of the crisis in Syria. They have held a bake sale to raise money and printed out a map of Syria (below), which they have encouraged other students to sign. This map was then Tweeted to the Syrian Government to show how many students and staff disagreed with how ordinary people have been

treated. The students also wrote letters of support to people they felt had been imprisoned unfairly, including two charity workers jailed in Iran without reason and a man sent to prison after a trial lasting a few minutes. Next term the group will focus on 'Freedom of Speech' and what it means to have the chance to express thoughts without fear of reprisals.



SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT: Students tweeted a picture of their petition.



MASSED RANKS: Year 7s performed a medley from *The Lion King*.

Sell-out concert really rocks

Christmas came early to Cambourne Village College this year, with the school's Christmas Concert taking place on Thursday 1st December.

More than 200 pupils took part in this evening filled with music, dance and drama, and the event was so popular that it was completely sold out well in advance. (Rumours of tickets exchanging hands on the black market for thousands of pounds are still being confirmed!)

We started with a lively audience rendition of *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, before Emily Glasser showed the rest of us how singing ought to be done with her stunning performance of *Music of the Night*, which recently won her first place in the Live & Amped competition.

One great feature of the night was lots of dance groups. Some of these were after-school groups, such as the two Street Dance performances directed by Rosie Carrick, and the contemporary dance group directed by Hayley Aitchison.

Other performances were work prepared by classes, such as the Year 8 Bollywood dance directed by Rob Ruddy and the BTEC Creative Arts group's exciting performance of *All That Jazz*, which also featured a stunning singing solo by Katie Exton-Barrett.

In addition to these larger dances there were a number of smaller groups that had choreographed their own performances, including two beautiful dance duets by Eleanor and Alexandra Tullett, and Amelie Feaviour and Grace Midgley. Every year it is wonderful to see the older pupils develop and hone their skills, and this was especially apparent in two very moving and thoughtful drama performances inspired by the events of the First World War, entitled *A Silent Night At War* and *Dulce et Decorum Est*.

There was a whole host of musical items, from some lovely piano solos by Hanna Ocha and Daniel Porter,

a flute solo by Catriona Lynn, and a number of small group vocal performers. Then there were a number of group performances. The Ukulele Group strummed a charming



DANCERS: Featured heavily in this year's concert.

rendition of *All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth*, and the Junior Choir stretched their lungs with *The Holly and the Ivy*.

The Senior Choir (with pupils from Year 9 and 10 and staff) performed a couple of items, including *Carol of the Bells*, somewhat ambitiously in four-parts and unaccompanied!

The Cambourne Band has gone from strength to strength, and this year they took us on a trip back to our childhood with fun performances of *Thomas the Tank Engine* and *The Muppets!*

Probably the highlight of the evening was the massed Year 7 choir, which involved more than 140 of the freshest faces from around the College.

They sang a medley of songs from *The Lion King* which they had prepared on the Curriculum Extension Days in October, and two festive numbers, *Good King Wenceslas* and *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree!*

This is a really nice Cambourne tradition, and I cannot remember a year group who performed with such enthusiasm and clear enjoyment.

It was a really fun evening and amazing to see the diverse array of talent on display, and as always, it was only possible because of the hard work from a lot of people — staff, parents and pupils!

Geoff Page, Head of Music

Different way of learning

Every year, in the Autumn term, the usual timetable is collapsed and students spend two days expanding their knowledge in different ways. This time for Curriculum Extension Days Year 7 spent one day on a science trip to Colchester Zoo and the other doing drama and music work, Year 8 made foreign-language short films and explored Walton-on-the-Naze as part of their geography studies, Year 9 took part in Outdoor and Adventurous activities at Milton Country Park then focussed on English and Art, while Year 10s' trips were all based around RPE with a Hindu temple, The Imperial War Museum and The Jewish Museum in London.

Rising to the challenge

Overcoming mental and physical challenges was the focus of the day for 185 Year 9 pupils at Milton Country Park.

The aim was to develop their skills in collaboration, communication, map reading and problem solving while giving students the opportunity to experience Outdoor Adventurous Activity, which can't be offered in regular PE lessons.

Pupils worked together, using maps, to find the different trading bases, spread all over the park, in the hope that they could swap numerous objects.

To complete the swap, they then had to pass a number of tests and challenges, including having to win at Connect Four against a very competitive and tactical Year 9 pupil.

One task involved pupils collecting tennis balls from a lake in a canoe and then catapulting them back in to the lake. This task was in exchange for mugs to fill up the pipes full of holes, over the other side of the park, in order to get the vampire tears to float to the top — you had to have been there to understand it all!

All the pupils behaved admirably and, except for the heavy rain shower in the middle



TEAMWORK: At this activity students had to work together to fill the drain pipe by plugging the holes to collect the 'vampire's tears'.

of Thursday, the sun shone and a great time was had by all.

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE



FILM STARS: Made up for the foreign language videos.

School becomes a film set

On Year 8's MFL Curriculum Extension Day, the object was to create a 2-3 minute video — in another language. Most people did Spanish, but some people did German or even other languages. We started off planning and writing the script (in Spanish and English), then we did a storyboard and eventually ended up filming. We were divided into four sub-groups, and each group went around the school filming in classrooms and social areas. Then we edited and subtitled our movies so people could understand them.

Our movie was about three people who went to explore an abandoned, supposedly haunted school; they got more than they bargained for. One by one they got plucked off by the Ghost Lord (Peter) and his minion (Alexandra).

Erin (80) and Peter (8U)

Our day was a film-making project. Our film was about football and we all had fun with making the film with lots of action. During the first part of the day we had to plan out the script. Then we had to check it out to see if it was good to go into the film. We had to record on iPads to make the film and that was one of the hardest parts to do because it took forever to get things right.

Then we had to edit the film and that was where all of us did hard work to make the film the best we could.

There were lots more groups with all sorts of themes. There was war, comedy and action and lots more things going on. It was loud but fun to make the film. The best thing on the day was that we all had lots of fun.

Charlie (8U)

Insight into Hinduism

For our Year 10 Curriculum Extension Day we travelled to Bhaktivedanta Manor in Watford.

This is a Hindu community which is based on an estate with land, farms and a main manor house. George Harrison (of the Beatles) bought the manor and gave it to the Hindu community.

We spent the day learning about the religion of Hinduism, trying on typical Indian dress, sharing their meals and experiencing one of their religious services.

To begin with, we were given a tour around George Harrison's garden, which was set aside for Harrison to have quiet time and meditation when he bought the manor.

We were then pulled by cattle and cart to the barn, where we fed some of the cows — the community tries to be as self-sustaining as possible. We learnt that the cows are very sacred and respected within Hinduism.

Afterwards, we had a talk by one of the Hindu ladies about the different gods and the way that Hindus live. Some of us had a go at dressing up in the traditional saris and facepaint and we represented the gods and goddesses. All of us then had a go at being dressed in the three-metre long saris which were all brightly coloured. We all really enjoyed wearing them.

Once dressed up, we joined local Hindus in the temple to watch one of their worship ceremonies. It was really beautiful and let us experience the kind of service they attend and the worship they express. There was singing,



BRIGHT SARIS: For students visiting the Hindu community.

tambourines and the little children from the local primary school came and joined in.

At lunch, we sat on the floor in rows and were served a vegetarian curry. It wasn't too spicy! All of us ate it and really enjoyed it because it was something that not many of us had tried before.

The whole day was really interesting and informative. We learnt a lot about a religion that was previously quite mysterious to many of us. Many of us are considering going back in our own time with our families. I came home still wearing my faceprint and bindi, I loved them! Many thanks to all the staff that supported this RPE trip, to Dr Kueh who led the trip, and to Miss Boyns and Mrs Noble who made it all possible.

Katie (10R)



PERFORMERS: Some of the Cambourne students at the Live & Amped finals.

Emily snatches top spot

Live & Amped is a competition/gig which allows students from all around Cambridgeshire to showcase their talent and have a chance of winning £100!

With a lot of support from my peers and teachers I decided to audition. I auditioned with *Tonight*, a musical piece from *West Side Story*, which is one of my favourite musicals. I was overjoyed when the news came through that I had been selected as one of the finalists.

The finals day eventually arrived and it was time for my sound check. I sat nervously with the other finalists, watching as one by one, they each went up for their sound check.

Slowly, panic grew inside me. Many of the contestants were much older, two in sixth form! As another song came to an end it was my turn to go. I crept up the

stage and began to sing into the microphone. A weight was lifted off my shoulders as I finished and I knew I was ready.

The show began and people flooded in. I grew more and more anxious as the gig progressed, and as each act finished.

Luckily, the dance crew RDC was to perform before me, which gave me time to gather myself together. The stage flashed with colours as their bodies moved to each beat of the music. It was electrifying. The show was going great, and everyone was enjoying themselves.

It was finally my turn. I leapt on stage ready to sing my song. I had decided to sing *Music of the Night*, the famous song from *The Phantom of the Opera*, another favourite musical of mine! The song finished and a wave of applause hit me. I was very happy with my performance.

The night drew to an end and it was time to announce the winner. Everyone walked on stage, crossing their fingers that their name would be called for the final three. A drum roll started and we waited in anticipation. Silence. My name was called. I let a small scream out and stepped forward. Now it was it. The time everyone had been waiting for. Another small drumroll started. We bowed our heads, staring at the floor. Then they announced the winner:

"EMILY GLASSER!" Applause came from everywhere. I was speechless.

Live & Amped was an amazing experience for me, and I'm so glad I was able to do it!

Emily (9R)

● Among Emily's eight rivals selected for the finals were five other Cambourne students — Joel Thomas, Caitlin Goves, Nellie-Mae Morgan, Rosie Sayle and Aimee Fiori.

Council's in session

This year so far the School Council has been very productive and contributed to the school in various ways. At the beginning we discussed the new banding systems of assessments and adjusted them to suit everyone in order for them to be appropriate. We have also talked in many assemblies to inform each year group about the changes we have made; doing this we felt very proud.

Being part of the School Council has strongly developed our leadership and confidence skills, which will be incorporated when we attend work experience at various places in the summer term.

It will also help the younger years as when they get higher up in the school, they will get more responsibilities for different aspects of school life. School Council is a really exciting and confidence-boosting experience which includes being involved with many events and having a variety of situations to resolve.

Fleur (10M)

One event recently was the Christmas Giving appeal. It is organised by Cambridgeshire County Council's Children's Services department and asks for new clothes, toys and gifts suitable for 0-19 year-olds in Cambridge and South Cambs, whose family circumstances mean they are unlikely to get any other gifts.

With the other the South Cambs schools in The Cam Academy Trust, Cambourne, through the School Council, asked staff and students to donate. Just before Christmas, family workers and social workers selected gifts from among the donations for each young person they work with. These were then given to parents, with donated gift wrap, to be handed out on the big day.



THINKING OF OTHERS: School Council members with some of the donated gifts.

SCIENTISTS AT WORK: DNA testing.



'Best science lesson'

More than 150 students found out what it is like to be a molecular biologist.

The students, now in Year 9, used £5,000 worth of specialist equipment from cutting edge DNA research labs, provided by the Amgen Biotech Experience, to find out who the father of a baby orangutan was.

This exercise mirrors a real DNA fingerprinting case from a few years ago and was greeted with enthusiasm by participating students, one of whom said: "Best science lesson ever!", while another said that they

"felt very professional doing it."

The students worked with micropipettes, practising using measuring small volumes accurately. These skills were then used as they analysed DNA samples from four orangutans: a baby; its mother and two possible fathers.

Students prepared and loaded DNA into agarose gel, observed gel electrophoresis and used the results to work out which one was the father. Results from this experiment have been used to inform the conservation breeding programme of orangutans.

Primary plans move on

The public consultation on the joint proposal by The Cam Academy Trust and Stratton Educational Trust to move to one school in Gamlingay that is a full Primary School has now finished.

Both Trusts are working together to confirm their responses to the points raised in the consultation.

The Boards of both Trusts were due to meet before Christmas to confirm their views on moving to the next stage of the potential change that would see the First School become a full Primary School, overseen by The Cam Academy Trust, and move, in due course, on to the Village College (Middle School) site in Gamlingay.

Once a decision to proceed with the proposal might be confirmed by both Trusts then a business case

will be put to the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

This will need formal approval for the proposal to be confirmed. In the meantime, planning for the development of the Gamlingay Village College site to turn it into an excellent facility for a full Primary School will need to take place. Further updates on these developments will be given when they are available. **Stephen Munday, Chief Executive**

More new schools are set to join

Both Hartford Junior and Hartford Infant Schools in Huntingdon are set to become Academies and join The Cam Academy Trust in January 2017. All the formal decisions have now been made regarding this development and it is a matter of all the various logistical arrangements being sorted out to allow the move to go through ready for the beginning of next term. Their partner secondary school, St Peter's, formally joined the Trust in September.

Jeavons Wood Primary School, in Cambourne, has just finished its consultation on its proposal to move to Academy status and join the Trust. Following the consultation, a decision will be confirmed by the school's governing body and the office of the Regional Schools' Commissioner has to approve the decision. If all goes through as it might, this would enable Jeavons Wood to become part of the Trust early in 2017.

With these developments going through, The Cam Academy Trust will have become very clearly a cross-phase Trust with good representation of both primary as well as secondary schools.

This is a model that the Trust Board has been keen to see develop as it provides the most powerful way to have a strong influence on the whole of young peoples' school education.



POISED:
Hartford Infant School could join the Trust next month.

New man on team

The Trust's new Primary Executive Leader, Chris Jukes, is set to take up his post full-time with us in January. Chris leaves his second successful Primary Headship in St Alban's, Hertfordshire, to join the Trust to help to oversee our Primary School developments. His work will especially involve working alongside the Heads in the Primary Schools in the Trust and working with those schools' local governing bodies. He will also work with primary schools who are exploring the possibility of joining the Trust in the future and thinking through what this might mean for them.



PRIMARY LEADER: Chris Jukes.

Trust looks to go West

The Cam Academy Trust has submitted Free School proposals for the new schools that will be needed in Cambourne due to the proposed Cambourne West Development.

Specifically, proposals have been submitted to open a new secondary school that will be needed as well as a new primary school.

The proposal for the primary school includes the suggestion of having an enhanced resources facility for some pupils with Asperger's Syndrome that mirrors the secondary provision already available at Comberton Village College. The planning proposal for Cambourne West is due to be heard soon.

If the proposals for the new schools are seen as viable after an initial assessment by the Department for Education, then the next stage will be to invite representatives of the Trust to an interview in London to discuss the proposals further before a final decision is made to allow the Trust to proceed with these proposals.

For the love of language

The core purpose of Language Futures, an approach to language learning that was initially developed in 2009 by Linton Village College, is to generate deep engagement with learning, so learners are not motivated solely by outcomes but also by the learning process, that they take responsibility for their learning both within and beyond the classroom, voluntarily extending it outside school. In this extra-curricular model of Language Futures, students from Years 8 to 10 at Melbourn, Cambourne and Comberton village colleges are currently learning one of nine languages, including Afrikaans, French, German, Italian, Latin Japanese, Mandarin, Polish, and Spanish. They are supported by voluntary community mentors, native or near-native speakers, who give their time to support and develop knowledge of both language and culture. One student sums up the attraction of the programme: "It's a fun way of learning and is different from the classroom. You are also in control of the learning and that's cool. It's also an opportunity which not every student in the world will have." It is early days but we would like to extend the programme to more languages next year.

Rachel Hawkes, Director of International Education **HELP TO LEARN: From native speakers.**



Just for girls !

Girls from three of the Trust's secondary schools are set to be invited to a new science fair.

The fair, for girls in all years at Comberton, Cambourne and Melbourn Village Colleges, takes place on March 16, 2017 at Comberton Sixth Form.

The two-hour sessions will involve presentations from guest speakers, support sessions and mentoring from A-level science students.

This new venture was inspired by a recent sixth form science fair, which was highly successful and rewarding for students. The hope is to inspire and encourage girls to take on sciences in further education.

For further information, please contact Nadine Malcolm on nmalcolm@combertonvc.org

For job vacancies across the Trust, visit the CAT website at www.catrust.co.uk

English is not enough

For a second consecutive year Cambourne Village College is running a Year 9 Language Leaders programme, which helps pupils learn to lead, using language teaching as the medium.

Throughout the year-long programme they develop their leadership skills, growing in confidence and enhancing their future careers.

Routes into Languages East is sponsoring the Cambourne Village College model of the award.

Pupils receive a log book to record training, activities, reflections, etc during the year and a certificate and specially designed lapel pin on successful completion of the programme.

The uptake has been incredibly positive this year with a total of 20 students.

On November 16th, this group of language enthusiasts had the opportunity to spend a day at Magdalene College with students from all over The Cam Academy Trust.

After a quick introduction and tour of the beautiful college, students learnt all about the importance of languages in today's world, a world in which, according to Routes into Languages (East) Project Manager Sarah Schechter "English is just not enough". She told students how important it is to learn other languages besides our own to help us gain an insight into other peoples and cultures.

The personality testing was a great way for students to get started on the day.

A session on presentation skills ensued, to emphasise the idea that students who are good presenters are better communicators all round, since they are able to structure and express their ideas clearly.

Just before the end, a code-breaking activity pushed our students to collaborate and showcase their true team building skills.

It was also fantastic to see how some of our students started to picture themselves completing a combined Honours degree in the future (sometimes called Dual/Joint Honours). This lets you two study two or more subjects at university; and how keen they were to take their languages further.

Lessons were scheduled to happen in the weeks before Christmas and our group of talented and multilingual students could not wait to get started on the work that they will teach to primary school students.

Paco Fernandez, MFL Teacher



LEARNING TO LEAD: Students at the Language Leaders conference at Magdalene College.



Club offers support

Spanish Club is running for its fourth consecutive year and is open to all students at CamVC.

Come and join us in IT3 at lunchtime on Thursdays – you can bring your lunch with you.

At Spanish Club you will be able to:

- Get help from Spanish leaders
- Watch the Simpsons (in Spanish)
- Go on Quizlet
- Do Spanish homework

We have been attending Spanish Club and it has really helped us with our homework and classwork. We recommend it to those people who like languages or those who need a bit of help.

Everyone is so helpful and it is a fun way to learn Spanish.

¡Adiós!

Maja and Erin (7M)

Bee flies into action

In class we were given 50 words to practise and learn to spell in Spanish for the first round of the national Foreign Language Spelling Bee competition.

We were then going to do a class competition in which we had to say and spell words against the clock to see who would go to the next round. I was slightly nervous, but in the end it went well and I came second!

Each tutor group has four students going to the next round. Now I am through to the second round, competing against other Year 7 students in the school (spelling a selection of 100 words). I am quite



nervous, however I think it will be alright. The winners of the school round will go through to the regional competition against students from other schools in the area.

Lucas (7O)



WORDS AND ACTIONS: Year 7 performers at the Talent Evening.

A world of singing

Before the day of Spanglovision, all Year 7 tutor groups prepared a song with their Spanish teachers. Our song was 'Stronger Forever'.

We practised it every Spanish lesson until the actual day.

For the Talent Evening, as well as singing your Spanglovision song with your tutor group, you were able to perform something in your home language. Julia decided to sing a song in Polish called 'Dmuchawce, Latawce, wiatr' while Hanna accompanied her on the grand piano.

We tried to practise every day after

school, and even in our own time.

On the day, we arrived early to get extra time to work through the song and clear up any mistakes.

The whole hall was filled with people. Every Year 7 form performed in turns. Even some Year 8s sang — in French! It was very interesting watching people share their talents and languages. There was a short break and then again it was back to business.

We really enjoyed Spanglovision and performing our song.

Hanna and Julia (7A)

Teams' promising signs

All Cambourne's rugby teams have made good progress and shown huge commitment during the season.

Year 7

The Year 7 rugby team made a fantastic start to their season by winning their first game convincingly over Parkside Federation.

I believe this success was down to the large numbers of students attending training (especially the first session).

It was really refreshing to see so many students at the after-school rugby club, and enjoying their rugby, especially those that had never played it before.

Throughout the season all students showed a really positive and committed attitude in training and matches, while also representing Cambourne with pride and determination. Although the boys lost their second game to a strong and experienced Swavesey side, who later ended as runners-up in the District tournament, they learnt from it and were able to take their experiences into other fixtures which was encouraging.

Due to the numbers of students attending rugby club, Cambourne were able to enter both an A and B team into the tournament held at Melbourn Village College.

Both teams played some fabulous rugby, demonstrating how much they had learnt and progressed throughout the season. The A team finished in ninth position, while the B team finished in 10th, which was an improvement on last year.

Looking forward to Year 8, I hope that all students involved this year continue to show their enthusiasm for rugby, while also motivating other students at school to get involved. Well done boys!

Robert Ruddy

Year 8

The Year 8 team built on their training from last year and have improved both their tackling and their tactics to become a formidable team at times.

With some new players this season, the team have done well and settled into their positions. Consistent attendance at training will only improve this team and I look forward to seeing how they get on next year in their first season of 15-a-side.

Well done to all the boys who played in both the fixtures and the tournament.

Ryan Waldoock

Year 9

The Year 9s entered their first season as a 15-a-side squad, and with a fantastic turnout at training, it proved to be a competitive and productive few weeks before their first fixture.



THE SQUADS:
The Year 7 (top) and Year 8 line-ups.

This was a very physical match against Parkside and the Year 9s dealt with 6ft battering rams, and showed that they had a very natural formation when it came to attack play.

They performed well over the term with a mixture of wins and close games, and despite numerous injuries and only playing with 14 players at the District tournament, they finished ninth out of 16 teams.

A fantastic year, well done and I'm looking forward to next year.

Nathan Rogers

Train on . . .

The girls' football teams have been training hard every Thursday after school. They are very committed and turn up rain or shine.

This season they have been entered into the Under-13 and Under-15 Grand Prix competition as well as the County Cups in both age groups.

Both teams have started strongly with some great individual performances but, more importantly, awesome team play.

Under-13

These girls had a goal fest in their first round of the County Cup, beating Parkside 11-2 with a very strong all-round performance.

In their Grand Prix competition they played 10 matches, only losing once — what a fabulous effort and well done to all the girls who represented the school. I am very much looking forward to where this football team can go!

Under-15

The Under-15 team had a tense but exciting game against Parkside, sticking together, battling hard and managing to score a goal to equalise in the last minute of the game.

Their showing in the Grand Prix highlighted this team's strength with a third. In their seven games, they scored nine goals and only lost twice.

Hannah Curtis

DANCE



NEW EXPERIENCES: With the Release Dance Crew.

Students taste life on the street

The BTEC Creative Arts students were fortunate enough to take part in a workshop with Release Dance Crew who focus on street dance.

They taught us a routine which consisted of various songs and moves to suit both genders which made everyone feel included and that they had the ability to perform it.

Everyone who took part enjoyed this experience as it unlocked our knowledge of other styles, which we may

have not done before, and allowed us to see the differences of tempo, moves and the overall style which occurs between dances.

This workshop made us want to look into lots of other styles of dance and it opened our eyes to different routines which we do not have a lot of knowledge about.

Fleur (10M)



SUCCESSFUL SEASON: Both Year 8 teams finished third in their tournaments.



MIXED FORTUNES: A talented under-15 side was hampered by other commitments.

Olympic attributes shown

What a fabulous season for this year's hockey teams!

Not quite emulating Great Britain's success in the Rio Olympics, but they have demonstrated some similar attributes to the gold medal winners such as tenacity, perseverance, great sportsmanship, amazing teamwork and collaboration and finally the most important characteristics of any Cambourne sports player — motivation and encouragement.

This year we entered A and B teams in both the Year 7 and 8 tournaments, as well as giving the players lots of practice in fixtures.

The Under-15 team had some success at the start of the season before other commitments took over.

Year 7

The Year 7 girls came together at the

start of the year and from then on they worked hard to show their dominance and determination on the hockey field. They have had a few mixed results, but have taken away the positives from each result and also looked to improve with every game.

Well done to all pupils who have represented the school in fixtures and the tournament and I hope to see you at hockey training next season.

Year 8

Both the Year 8 A and B teams went from strength to strength this season, culminating in their fantastic performances in the Year 8 tournament, where both teams finished third in their respective tournaments.

The Year 8 girls are certainly committed and regularly attend training, which had led to them improving both their skills

and their tactics. Well done to all of you and I look forward to seeing you next season at training when you move on to a full-size pitch and the 11-a-side game.

Under-15

The under-15 team started the season strongly with a 6-0 win and demonstrated their strength in defence as well as attack.

They then played a mini tournament where they battled hard and a few star players really shone in their whole team effort.

However this time the scorelines were not quite so favourable.

The under-15 team are a good team with many great players, but due to other commitments they could not fully commit to training and for this reason they could not play any more games.

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE



LEARNING CURVE: For the enthusiastic new Year 7 teams.

From Chicago to CamVC!

Our BTEC Performing Arts class decided we wanted to perform a dance in the Christmas Concert. We asked Ms Fenn-Goode, who agreed and, as we have been studying the Musical Theatre unit, she taught us the West End routine of *All that Jazz* from Chicago in our lesson. Everyone took part in learning the routine, even the boys! We all enjoyed learning the choreography, and working as a whole class. Katie learnt the song and sang during the dance. This was her first public solo performance and we're all very proud of her!"

Abbie (10R)



Still room to join classes

This year has seen an increase in Dance Clubs that Cambourne offers.

With both Junior and Senior Street Dances classes now up and running alongside the growing Contemporary Dance Class, we have a huge number of girls who are dancing. However we could still have more girls (and boys!) joining next term to increase these numbers further. Look out for upcoming information about next term's dance

classes and how to sign up.

At the time of going to press our current classes had performed at the Christmas Concert on 1st December, and were working on their works for the end of term Celebration Assemblies. Planning further ahea, the annual Bodyworks Outreach Performance will be held in February where both of Rosie's Street Dance Classes will be invited to perform in this exciting event.

Boys hold their nerve in penalty shoot-out

Cool heads at the end of a thrilling Year 10 County Cup game took Cambourne into the second round after a penalty shoot-out victory over Ely College.

The game ended 2-2 after Ely twice cancelled out Cambourne's lead, their second goal coming from a 25-yard free kick in the last five minutes. With the light fading and no extra-time permitted, Cambourne regrouped and kept calm to win the shoot-out 4-2 and earn a trip to Peterborough after Christmas.

Year 9

A free kick was also critical in the Year 9 cup first round game to St Peter's in Huntingdon. They were undone by a cracker from 30 yards and were unable to break back despite being competitive for the majority of the game, although they did struggle at times to deal with the hosts' midfield.

Year 8

The season has yet to really get going for the Year 8 team, but by the looks of strength of the current year group, they should be extremely competitive.

Nathan Rogers

Year 7

Year 7 boys' football has been another very well-attended after-school club.

It has been predominantly run by enthusiastic sports leaders, who are due much of the credit after the Year 7s won their first county cup match 5-0 away to North Cambridge Academy.

In the game, which was dominated by Cambourne for large periods, players simply took their chances and communicated fantastically when defending to ensure they kept a clean sheet.

Hopefully the boys can continue their positive start in the next round and also in fixtures after Christmas.

Robert Ruddy

Students pioneer new activity programme

Year 9 pupils are involved with a very exciting project.

They have been asked to help a research group from the University of Cambridge, who are testing a new physical activity promotion programme aimed at reversing the decline in physical activity.

The programme is called 'Get Others Active' (GoActive) and is an innovative approach to encouraging Year 9 students to try new activities and to do physical activity with more people.

During the Autumn term Year 9s were given an informative assembly on the project, where they were told the purpose and procedures involved. They were also given the option to opt out if they did not want to take part.

Last month, the project's measurement team came to school to find out more about each Year 9 pupil and to take some baseline measurements.

During the programme pupils will be lent a wrist-worn activity monitor to wear continuously for seven days.

This is a black band worn around your wrist and measures how much you are moving around during the day.

These are individually linked to each pupil and will be returned to the project after the seven days.

There are many benefits to the research in this study. For example, we know that teenagers do less activity once they go to secondary school.

Doing less activity when we are younger means that we are more likely to be less healthy when we are older. This means we can be at a higher risk of developing some diseases.

The GoActive programme is trying to get teenagers to be more active. They want to find out if taking part in GoActive makes Year 9s more active or not.

By taking part, students are helping a renowned research group and being part of a study designed to

improve the health and well-being of other teenage students.

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE



STARTING POINT: Researchers take baseline measurements.

Leaders really earn their titles

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders fully earned their titles this term and have shown fantastic communication and motivational skills, as well as testing their officiating skills.

In the middle of September our sports leaders attended their first Leadership Conference, hosted by the South Cambs School Sport Partnership at Comberton Village College.

In this conference they learned of the opportunities available to them and heard from inspirational Sports Leader Laura Mott, who took every opportunity available and has gone on to be a young county coach and Living Sport's Volunteer of the Year.

The Sports Leaders took part in a range of sports including hockey, football, rugby, netball and Inclusive Paralympic sports, but most important to them, they received the T-shirts, hoodies and whistles.



TAKING THE LEAD: Sports leaders officiate during inter-form.



Their first opportunity to be fully tested in their sports leadership roles came when they volunteered at the Athletics Plus Event, an inter-school competition for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

This opportunity saw the pupils running events and supporting and motivating pupils from different schools.

It also gave them the opportunity to volunteer in a different sporting environment and offered the leaders new challenges and experiences.

As well as leading and motivating, officiating is a key skill in any sports leader's repertoire.

Our leaders offered to miss lessons in order to support the Year 7 and 8 Inter-form and officiate the girls' hockey and the boys' rugby competitions.

These events went off smoothly and could not have been run without the massive help of the sports leaders, so the PE department would like to say a big thank you to them.



FIRST CONFERENCE: Cambourne's sports leaders at the meeting at Comberton.

Extra clubs are big draw

After-school clubs have been well attended, especially by Year 7 and Year 8 students. We have had 18 clubs on this term, including three dance classes.

It's been great to see how pupils have been really getting stuck into the challenges that the clubs provide, especially clubs like badminton where we regularly see the Year 7s testing the Year 10s.

The Sports Leaders have been helping at the clubs, accumulating their leadership hours while working with the younger year groups, and honing their organisational and coaching skills.

Please don't forget that we encourage a voluntary contribution of £10 for sports clubs each term. This helps the department replenish equipment which is extremely well-used during our after school clubs.