

NEWS@CAM



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Building work on schedule — Page 2

New facilities emerging

Building work is continuing on schedule at Cambourne Village College, with the many different elements of the build beginning to come together.

The construction of the two additional science laboratories and two further DT workshops at the end of the Green Wing is well under way, with the new DT facilities including a covered outdoor area for the teaching of Construction BTec, a specialist brazing hearth and a dedicated textiles room.

The new 'Orange' wing, at the far end of the school will also open in September, housing upstairs the Humanities subjects — Geography, History and RPE — while four new IT rooms downstairs and additional PE changing rooms, will add much-needed capacity in these areas.

Over the Easter holidays, modifications to the art rooms will take place to add a specialist photography room, and in the Pink Wing, a new medical room will be established.

This is in preparation for all of the Pink Wing downstairs rooms to become the maths department, and all of Pink upstairs, English.

The MFL department will occupy all of the upstairs Blue wing, with all but one of the current IT rooms becoming 'normal' classrooms.

A much larger Dining/Performance Hall is being created and will be ready for use by the end of September.

The summer term will see the completion of the new music block, after which follows an interesting transition time...

In June, the music department will take possession of their new, spacious, detached home, and a whole

series of moving about will follow. The current music rooms will be adapted to form the new Centre; the offices adjoining the library will move upstairs, and a much bigger library will expand into this office space. New offices will be created along the main corridor and in the former music practice rooms. A new pupil reception will be housed in the Year 9 office.

Expect noise, dust and some reduction of space for the final half-term of the year — and look forward to the fantastic new facilities, ready for the start of the September term.

For the first time ever, we will have Year groups 7-11 in Cambourne Village College, and approximately 950 pupils on roll — we've come a long way since September 2013 when just 132 pupils arrived as our first-ever Year 7!

Claire Coates, Principal



DETACHED HOME: The music department move in June.



WINGING IN: The new 'orange wing' under construction.

Tunnel provides different learning opportunities

Year 10 students from Cambourne's Centre and Blue Room have been busy planting vegetables in their new polytunnel.

The college successfully bid for a polytunnel via a Foundation Learning Project and students wasted no time in getting started with tomatoes and courgettes to add to the potatoes already in growbags on the staffroom balcony.

They have already been visited by Val Ford, the Foundation Learning Project co-ordinator, who was really impressed with the work so far. The plan is to promote horticulture and gardening to support learning across the curriculum.

Students will also take awards set up by the

Royal Horticultural Society and this will involve growing vegetables and flowers. They hope to sell some of their produce to raise funds to further develop the rest of the 'garden' area, which already has a pond and shed, and to promote the scheme.

Students were busy even before the arrival of the tunnel — similar to a large greenhouse — and as well as the potatoes, had planted seedlings in trays on windowsills around the College.

As part of the awards students also have to write a blog about their work and come up with fund-raising ideas.

They have formed a committee chaired by Josh, who is already knowledgeable about farming and growing produce. James is the treasurer,

while super-typist Finley has been named as secretary. Kristie and Milly, the press officers, have been charged with designing a badge and logo.

Meanwhile staff at the centre have put out a plea for unwanted wellington boots to help the enthusiastic new gardeners tend to their crops whatever the weather.

A new gardening club is also being set up for all students in the College as well as members of the community, with one grandad already set to offer help and advice on a Friday after school. To further enhance the area, the Centre are busy fund-raising and are now selling Phoenix cards to boost the coffers.

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NEW VENTURE: Horticulture is on the curriculum for some students.



Clear benefits of Trust

Three of our schools, Melbourn, Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges, are in the Leading Edge Programme, overseen nationally by the SSAT, a major national educational organisation.

Membership is for high-performing secondary schools nationally assessed by a mixture of strong Ofsted judgements and high pupil performance data).

These three secondary schools meet the criteria and are active members of the national network that has around 250 schools in it.

The programme is centred on sharing ideas and practice of successful schools to push themselves to do better still and to find out what others are up to. There is a firm emphasis on innovative approaches as we all look to carry on improving. All schools in the Trust are able to benefit from the network due to the membership of the three schools directly involved.

This has meant opportunities such as engaging with a leadership seminar with Apple recently, overseen by the recent worldwide education leader of Apple. One part of the membership of the Leading Edge Programme involves a visit to the school to look at how the school works and what it might be offering

to the overall national network.

This helps to create a 'Directory' of interesting and effective practice that is published for all schools in the Programme.

The visits for Melbourn, Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges took place this term. They were overseen by an experienced former headteacher, whose school is in the Programme.

All comments on all three schools were very positive. For example, the report on Melbourn Village College starts by stating: 'The school has a very positive ethos and everywhere we went we saw students enjoying, and engaged in, their learning. There is a noticeable focus on each individual student which

means the whole school comes over as very personal and supportive.'

Throughout all three reports, there are observations about how being part of the Trust is benefiting each of the schools.

The positive points noted include the Trust's review programme and how this brings together senior leaders from the different schools to review each other's practice. It notes joint staff training opportunities of various sorts and opportunities for staff to be involved in research and reflecting on their practice, through the Trust.

The clear commitment to share ideas and practice, very much the philosophy of the Leading Edge Programme itself, is clearly observed.

We hope to continue to use the Leading Edge Programme as one mechanism to improve further the education we offer to all young people in all of our schools.

Stephen Munday, Chief Executive



POSITIVE COMMENTS: From the SSAT visits to Melbourn, Comberton and Cambourne Village Colleges earlier this term.



Future of learning considered

Melbourn Village College hosted a workshop for headteachers and senior leaders led by Dr Bill Rankin.

Dr Rankin, who is based in the United States, is the Director of Unfold Learning and was the global Director of Learning for Apple from 2013-16.

The workshop was attended by heads and senior leaders from The Cam Academy Trust, plus senior leaders from local schools and from the Leading Edge network. The

workshop, provided by Apple, offered attendees an exceptionally rare opportunity to work informally with Dr Rankin. Dr Rankin's interests are around student motivation and engagement — he has extensive expertise in the design of teaching and learning and educational technologies. During the workshop, the group discussed

what the future of learning should look like and what would be needed to get there.

Dr Rankin also helped the group to consider creative approaches to learning that allow students opportunities to learn independently. This included thinking about setting a goal for students rather than a task — offering them an opportunity to work out

the best way to get there. It was a thought-provoking morning and a good opportunity to work with colleagues from other schools, both primary and



LOOKING AT LEARNING: With Dr Bill Rankin.

secondary. Trust Chief Executive Stephen Munday said: "As a follow up to this event, the Trust will be engaging in some strategic thinking with Apple about future technology use right across our schools. We hope that this might offer some exciting possibilities for our schools."

Primary is set to join

Jeavons Wood Primary School in Cambourne is lining up to join the Trust.

After careful reflection and consultation last term, the school's governing body unanimously voted to convert to Academy status and to join the Trust.

The Board of the Trust subsequently unanimously voted to accept that request. This term has seen work to move through the required process to enable this to happen. This has involved formal approval from the Headteacher Board of the Regional Schools' Commissioner's Office as well as the various legal and other organisational requirements. It is hoped that all this will have been completed and the school will join the Trust during next term.

Jeavons Wood will become the latest Primary phase school to join the Trust and this will mean the Trust has become truly cross-phase with four secondary (including two Sixth Forms) and four primary phase schools.

Chris Jukes, the Primary Executive Leader who joined in January, is now leading the primary school development of the Trust.

Jeavons Wood has a slightly indirect historic link to our Trust. It was first set up under the auspices of the 'Comberton Educational Trust' when Government legislation about setting up schools was different than it is today.

The Comberton Educational Trust was the precursor to the Comberton Academy Trust that has now become The Cam Academy Trust. It is good to see the school coming full circle and now joining today's Trust. We very much look forward to their contribution within our developing Trust. **Stephen Munday**

Inspired by Cambridge!

In December, all Year 7 pupils completed a piece of creative writing based for the Rock Road Library 'Location as Inspiration' competition.

Pupils spent a geography lesson considering Cambridge as a location, before drafting a poem, short story or drama which was edited in their English lessons later that week.

In the New Year we heard the exciting news that a number of pupils from Cambourne Village College had been shortlisted from a strong field of entry in both age categories.

When the final judgements were announced, six pupils had been awarded as one of five winners or five runners-up in their age categories.

Earlier this month all the winners and runners-up were invited to a presentation evening with their families.

The pupils were all presented with an anthology containing all of the winning entries and their entries have also been read on the community radio station Cambridge 105. A huge congratulations to all Year 7 pupils for your hard work on your entries and particularly to all the shortlisted pupils, and winning entries!

12-16 category:

- Natty Huckle, runner up, with 'Cambridge; What do you think of when you hear that word?'

7-11 category:

- Thomas Bullen, winner, with 'The Corpus Clock'
- Alexandra Tullett, winner, with 'The Night at King's College Chapel'
- Oliver Lee, winner, with 'The Round Church'



ROCKING: Students at the Rock Road library presentations.

- Lauren Hills, runner-up, with 'Bird's Eye View'
- Rebecca Clay, runner up, with 'Cat on the Hat!'

We also had a number of other pupils that made the shortlist. In the 12-16 year old category Stephanie Rodrigues with 'This is Cambridge' and in the 7-11 year old category Eliza Wickett with 'The Cambridge Rat', Charley Brown with 'Cambridge poem', Tiana Cosford with 'River poem', Isabella James with 'King's College Chapel', Hanna Shin-Gleeson with 'Cambridge Market Square', Rose Stevenson with 'Tour of Cambridge', Scarlett Firth with 'Punting on the Cam' and Finella Newbound with 'A City Plum'.

Lucy Durrant, Head of Year 7

Museum artefacts provide a starting point

Eight intrepid members of Creative Writing Club joined Miss Clash and Miss Vote on a trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

While they were there, they composed riddles based on Ancient Egyptian artefacts, wrote from the perspective of Renaissance era relics, and brought paintings to life through monologues and even memes!

The trip was enjoyed by all, and was a great addition to the weekly club, which runs on Tuesdays in Tech 3 from 3-4pm.

Here is a small selection of the stories that have been produced this term by some members of the club. We hope you enjoy them!

Twins' special bond

Thick fog moved like heavy clouds crawling over the ground. I clung to Ashly's arm, tipping her sideways with my action.

"Argh, Samantha!" she shouted, pulling herself away, leaving me to comfort myself.

"A-as my sister I thought you w-would at least understand I get scared easily." I attempted to smooth my voice against my stutter but failed embarrassingly.

Ashly simply laughed and linked arms with me again, trudging me further along the muddy ground. "I'm surprised you didn't emphasise 'twin' this time," she chuckled, nudging me with her elbow.

"H-hey!" I laughed as she began running forward, our arms still locked together, causing me to stumble and be dragged behind. "ASHLY STOP!" I laughed harder and my arm slid out and I fell face first on the hard pebble road. She stopped and turned back, helping me up. "You okay?" she asked, scanning me for any injuries. I had a small cut on my wrist, and thick red blood began leaking out of my grazed hand. I looked up at Ashly who held a half smile; she always held the same apologetic look whenever she felt bad for something she did. "Um..I urm," she began, but knowing she wasn't one to apologise I cut her off. "It's fine. Don't worry about it."

She held my wrist firmly and covered her other hand with her hoodie sleeve; before I could question her, she pressed her sleeve on the cut and I winced.

"The um, the blood stops with pressure on it," she explained as she applied more pressure. With my other hand, I held her and we simply looked at each other. It was moments like this that I forgot anything existed except us.

Two separate puzzle pieces in the same box, yet everything just clicked. Ashly was a boisterous, simple minded, tom-boyish person and in almost every way the opposite of me. But she was my twin nonetheless and so it seemed entirely impossible to ever leave her side. She was the most important thing to me and I refused to ever let her go.

From 'Glass Shards of a Mirror' Alice (90)



WALL'S EYE VIEW: What stories from pictures?



JOTTING DOWN IDEAS: At the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Different perspective

"I have seen the hustle and bustle of London. The weeping spectators - the glum faces of the people who watch me. I see Elizabeth, her cold face, tears falling rapidly from her eyes. I hear her screaming, but what can I do? People stare at me for hours on end. I protect one of the most important men in English history. I cover Henry VII and his coffin.

"I'm covered in golden thread, beautiful and delicate I lie. My intricate red cross symbolises my importance to the event. I have the reason of it all, so close to me. I keep him warm and safe; I protect the winner."

Written from the perspective of Henry VII's Pall at The Fitzwilliam Museum

Ella (7B)

What can a book do . . .

His name was Kian.

His parents were barely existent.

His friendships had been lost.

He wasn't sad. He didn't feel lonely.

He was used to loss at this point.

All he had was his phone and his room.

It had a pin board with uncelebrated successes, a shelf with many trophies long forgotten... and a book.

Kian had never looked in this book, considering the fact it was only a book. But from the outside he was only a boy.

But maybe he was only a boy, and that was only a book,

But what's the harm in looking inside a book?

Maybe it could CHANGE your life.

But Kian didn't consider the book,

Nobody had considered him so why did it matter?

Of COURSE it mattered.

From 'His name was . . .'

Katie (8R)



GRAND FINALE: Cambourne students socialise and (right) the main event where Sarah Crossan won the inaugural award.

There's only 'One' winner

Cambourne VC took part in the Bridge Book Award, and attended the ceremony which took place at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

The award, voted for entirely by pupils who decided the nominations, the long and shortlists as well as the winner, is a new venture this year and involved 13 secondary schools.

Speakers included shortlisted author Julian

Sedgwick, illustrator Richard Morgan and Elizabeth Bentley who spoke to the students about the TeenTech Awards, which run in schools and get students to design new products in a range of different categories.

Attendees watched a video of Sarah Crossan accepting the inaugural award for 'One' — a book in verse about conjoined twins — which was voted as the winner.

Attending students received a goodie bag as a

reward for their reading achievements, and a poll was taken to see how the Award should run next year, with students voting to keep control of the nominations rather than have a list of nominations given to them by librarians.

The ceremony was also attended by author Helen Moss and books were supplied by sponsors Heffers, giving all students the chance to buy recently-published children's books. Well done to all the students involved!

Building a picture of reading

The school entered a national competition to celebrate World Book Day — the premise was to get the whole school involved in creating something that shows which stories have shaped us as a school.

In their Art lessons students created bricks of the book that had shaped them, and those were then put together to create a wonderful effect.

The positioning of the display opposite the entrance to the school really shows visitors that CamVC puts reading for pleasure at the heart of the school.

Many thanks to Mr Yeates and all the pupils involved for their hard work in making this happen, and winning the school a piece of art work autographed by Oliver Jeffers and a copy of the 'A Child of Books' book, signed by both author and illustrator.

World Book Day itself saw pupils receive tokens and books (kindly paid for by the Friends of CamVC). A reading challenge was also launched, called the Writes of Passage. Pupils will receive two merits for each book they read from one of eight categories — Make You Cry, Change the Way You Think, Teach you About Love, Scare You, Make You Laugh, Transport You, Help You Understand You, Thrill You — the only condition being it's something they haven't read before. If any pupil manages to read one book from all eight sections they will receive an additional eight merits. This reading challenge will run until the summer half term.



New patron in first visit

Our new Patron of Reading for 2017, Saci Lloyd (above) visited in January. She spoke to Year 7 and Year 8 about her books, and the range of issues that are involved in them. The visit went down well, with a number of books sold. Saci will be back to do another activity with pupils.

Youngsters tell stories!

Jeavons Wood Primary School's Book Week came to CamVC as Year 5 and Year 6 paid a visit to College's library. The Year 5s did a session on storytelling, while the Year 6s did oral storytelling. Both sessions were hugely successful, with a high quality of work and a lot of fun!



PICTURE STORY: From a Jeavons Wood pupil.



WALL OF BOOKS: Winning design up close and in full.

The books of choice

Year 9 and 10 students at Cambourne have similar reading tastes. That was the evidence from a list of the most borrowed books from the college library so far this academic year.

'More than This' by Patrick Ness tops the charts for both year groups, followed by the first book in Michael Grant's 'Gone' series. And the fourth and fifth most popular reads — Jennifer Niven's 'All the Bright Places' and JK Rowling's 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' — are also the same. The only difference is at No 3, where Year 9 favoured 'The Recruit, Book 1' by Robert Muchamore and Year 10 borrowed SF Said's 'Phoenix'. Author Liz Pichon had two books in Year 7's top five with 'Yes! No (maybe...)' in top spot and 'The Brilliant World of Tom Gates' sandwiching Kim Slater's 'Smart: A Mysterious Crime, A Different Detective'.

That was also No 2 for Year 8, behind Sarah Crossan's 'One' and ahead of 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins and 'All the Bright Places' by Jennifer Niven.

Help is at hand

The GCSE Spanish revision club is in full swing and all students from Year 10 are encouraged to come along to the after-school sessions on Tuesdays to revise, get help with homework or to practise for any of the upcoming assessments.

For a large majority of learners, the ultimate goal of studying is to be able to communicate in a new language and the MFL department encourages active vocab revision of everyday key words to this effect.

As teachers, we have an essential role in helping students to improve their vocabulary, but ultimately it is down to students to consolidate their learning. We acknowledge that learners vary in terms of how easily they memorise vocabulary, and would like to encourage our enthusiastic language students to attend these sessions.

With the offer of this free, extra-curricular club, we are also hoping that Year 9 students, who have opted for Spanish as their GCSE language, might also come along and benefit from the weekly sessions.

Paco Fernandez, MFL Dept



LANGUAGE BENEFITS:
Natalie Keuroghlian
told Year 9 how they help.

Why languages matter . . .

Last month Year 9 linguists were treated to a talk in their language lessons by a visiting speaker.

We were fortunate enough to hear the experiences of Natalie Keuroghlian. She told us how she and her colleagues' knowledge of foreign languages has enhanced their career opportunities.

Whether people have a multilingual background or simply pick up the basics of a language at school, a second language is always an asset.

Natalie speaks fluent Italian and is marketing manager at Gewiss UK, based just a few hundred yards from the College on Cambourne Business Park.

We look forward to working with her again in the future.

Communication skills put to test

In January, Cambourne pupils on the Languages Futures programme played host to a group of pupils from China who were on a visit organised by the Cambridge Chinese School.

Chinese pupils spent the day in lessons with their hosts and prepared a display about the Chinese New Year. As the Chinese pupils knew little English and Cambourne pupils know even less Mandarin or Cantonese, a lot of fun was had putting communication skills to the test!

The Chinese pupils and their teachers really appreciated the warm welcome from all at Cambourne and the many interesting and varied lessons they saw.



GOING FORWARD:
Cambourne's three winners heading for the Spelling Bee regional round

And then there were three

The Spelling Bee competition took place in February and Maja, Scarlett and Natty are the only three people who remain out of 220 starters.

They are going to the regionals, then maybe nationals. We decided to interview them about the experience so far.

Maja said that she feels nervous for the next round. Natty is quite excited but also a little nervous because there are lots of other winners.

Scarlett said she wasn't very excited at all because there are going to be a lot of people

watching her.

Of the school rounds, Scarlett said: "I felt scared and nervous because I had to go through lots of rounds to get here."

Natty added: "It was really scary because there were people there that I felt were better than me."

Maja didn't have to go through lots of rounds because she got 15 words in a minute in her first round.

We wish them luck in their next rounds.

Erin (7M) and Grace (7A)

Juggling festival transforms CamVC

Jugglers from all over the world descended on Cambourne Village College for a festival during the Christmas holidays.

Participants from as far away as Australia and New Caledonia attended the annual convention to share ideas, give workshops, meet friends old and new and learn new skills.

The 'Pass-Out' convention has a different location each year and this year Cambridge Community Circus and the Cambridge University Jugglers were the hosts.

Passing is a specialism within juggling in which objects are not just thrown and caught by one person but passed between people, creating beautiful, intricate patterns of people and clubs, constantly moving and changing.

Cambourne TA and amateur juggler Helen Couatts said: "It was strange to see the school in such a different context. The sports hall was filled with juggling clubs flying high into the air. The whiteboards had complicated diagrams of passing patterns on them with strings of numbers. People sat around in the Henry Morris room in the evening playing board games. The Centre, where I normally work, had become the family room where the jugglers with young children were sleeping. If you went into the Food Tech room while dinner was being prepared, you would see teams of jugglers laughing and chatting across the workspaces while they made about 10 portions of food each so that there would be enough to feed all 80 people together.

"On New Year's Eve, volunteers prepared a special three-course dinner. The Textiles room was transformed with balloons and origami decorations. After the first course, some jugglers played live music and sang songs. The main course was followed by the German New Year tradition of watching an old black and white comedy sketch called 'Dinner for One', and after dessert, everyone got into teams for a quiz.



UP IN THE AIR: Jugglers work on learning new patterns.

"I learnt a new passing pattern called 'Squirrel' and practised another called 'Why Not', then tried a variation called 'Not Why'. There is a similar one I haven't tried yet called, 'What the Heck'. I love the silly names that jugglers come up with for these patterns, like 'Parsnip', 'Bunnies', 'Scrambled V', 'Toast' and 'Bruno's Nightmare'.

"It is great fun when you work together to get the timing, the throws and the movements accurate enough for a pattern to run smoothly. It all clicks into place and looks and feels fantastic. Some patterns need a lot of concentration; they really make your brain hurt, but they are so much fun!"

New friendships formed

Cambourne students made new English and Spanish friends when they teamed up with Melbourn Village College for a weeklong exchange visit to the city of Zaragoza.

A benefit of being part of The Cam Academy Trust meant two groups of students from different schools were able to experience life in a Spanish family and school by getting together and, although they met for the first time at Stansted, it

was as though they had known each other for years. Things didn't change much on arrival in Spain with Maria Collado-Canas, the Cambourne teacher in charge, reporting that all the students from all three schools were always happy to spend time with each other.

As well as days in Colegio M.M. Rosa Molas doing lessons such as PE and Art and with their host families, the English students also visited the historic



HAPPY TOGETHER: Students from all three schools enjoyed each other's company during the Spanish Exchange.

Loarre castle and Huesca as well as a tour of the host city and a trip to the Romareda football stadium, the home of Real Zaragoza. They also spent a weekend with their host families, being taken on excursions and activities.

The Cambourne students were really enthusiastic about their trip and are looking forward to the return leg in April, when the Spanish students arrive in England to stay with students at Comberton as well

as Melbourn and Cambourne.

"This week has been the best week of my life. You create such a strong bond with your family and learn so much about Spain, their culture and the language. There were quite a few tears when we left." (Lucy)

"It was amazing all over. The families are so lovely and they give you so many hugs. If I didn't come on this trip I would have been devastated!" (Gloria)

"The trip was great. I had so much fun with my family. I enjoyed visiting the Castle of Loarre because the view from the mountain was beautiful and the guide was really kind." (Megan)

"The first time I saw my exchange partner I couldn't stop smiling, it was the best feeling in the world." (Rosie)

"The atmosphere was great throughout the whole trip and so many friendships were gained. Can't wait for them to visit." (Kayla)

"At the weekend the students' exchange families spent time with them, showing the students around and doing activities. It was great." (Azeem)

Joint German exchange is great success

Earlier this month Cambourne and Comberton hosted a party of German students from our partner school in Bad Hersfeld.

It was our turn to repay the hospitality shown when a group of Year 8, 9 and 10 students from both colleges went to Germany.

During their time in England, the German students spent time in both schools, went sightseeing locally and in London, practised their English and, most importantly, deepened the friendships forged during the first leg of the exchange.

While they were abroad the English students not only practised for and performed in a wonderful evening of musical theatre, jointly with pupils from Bad Hersfeld, but also participated in a wide range of other activities.

Highlights included a trip underground to the fascinating Merkers salt mine, a visit to the historic Wartburg castle, and, of course, the typically German Christmas markets, where many pupils were able to stock up on Christmas presents!

Throughout the week, we were treated to generous hospitality by our host pupils and their families.

Another exchange is planned for the next academic year.



ALL TOGETHER NOW: Cambourne and Comberton students in Germany.



Pupils delight in language learning



A group of great language enthusiasts, who initially took on the challenge of learning a new language through the new and successful Language Futures programme, have been talking about their experiences:

"I am learning French, which I also learn in school, and I enjoy both lessons. I think this will be really important in the future when I do my tests and GCSEs.

"Also I think learning different languages is really important for the future and

learning about the different cultures and countries that speak them.

"I would definitely recommend it for learning a language you wouldn't normally be taught in school, because it gives you so many options and opportunities and you can learn at a speed you're comfortable with and you can do it completely independently and have fun as well." **Ailsa (8A)**.

"In Language Futures I am learning Japanese. I really enjoy learning Japanese as it helps me to understand the culture around the language and country, which I am really interested in.

"I think this will help me in the future so if I go on holiday to Japan, I will be able to talk to people, and it also helps me to link my knowledge to the world around me, as a lot of items and technology are from Japan.

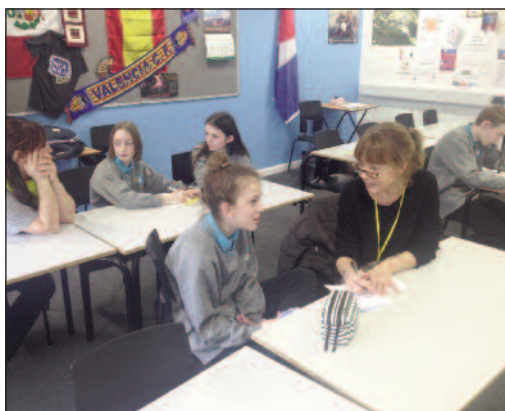
"I think the language learning is great, because you are able to learn both the language itself, and how to speak it, like learning the customs and different meanings of similar words, etc. I would really recommend Language Futures as it is lots of fun". **Alice (8A)**.

"In Language Futures, on Tuesdays after school, I have been learning Italian. So far it has been really fun. I have really enjoyed it and would definitely do it again.

"In the future it is most likely Italian is going to help me on holidays, but also if I have to interact with other people who speak Italian at work or college.

"I think it is very useful to learn another language to help you understand your own language better, and also to open up more opportunities.

"I would absolutely recommend this course to others and would urge people to take this opportunity to learn a new language." **Caitlin (8R)**



BRIGHT FUTURES: Students learning a language of their choice.

Six keys to success. . .

Last month 24 girls were given the opportunity to meet Alistair Patrick-Heselton, ex QPR footballer and retired Paralympian.

They were picked because of their positive attitude, attendance at training and effort in fixtures.

The day focused on the six key skills for success including mental toughness, hunger to achieve and breaking barriers, all skills that are vital in sport.

Working on these attributes also helps young people develop valuable life skills that will help them in and out of school, now and into the future.

Alistair used these keys to teach the girls and inspire them through his life story. He had already seen the

ups and downs of professional football before injury forced him to change tack. But he was still playing semi-professionally when his life was changed forever in 2006.

He had his head literally split open after being catapulted from a car in a crash that killed his best friend. He spent months in a coma. When he came round, he was told he might never walk again and that wherever he was with his recovery in five years was likely to be as far as he could go.

However, he worked incredibly hard to not only regain his mobility but to play his beloved football again. Four years after the crash, he joined the team for Cerebral Palsy or brain injury sufferers and has since played for England and competed at the

Paralympics in London five years ago, although he can't head the ball and knows that a serious blow to his skull could kill him.

Now working as a mentor for the Youth Sports Trust, Alistair also had the girls learn numerous bonding skills. They all had a fabulous day and grew in confidence throughout the experience, even being able to walk a tightrope held up by each other.

The Year 10 boys' football team spent the afternoon with Alistair and developed their teamwork skills, communication and took part in a bit of bonding. The boys really pulled together to complete some very tricky team bonding games and showed great collaboration skills which they, hopefully, will replicate on the football field.



TEAMWORK: Alistair Patrick-Heselton works on the six keys to success with Cambourne girls.

Work rewards work!

In PE, we like to reward our pupils who work hard, demonstrate great leadership skills by being a sports captain or are classed as gifted and talented and are competing to a high level both in and out of school.

Their reward: to mop on court at the World Superseries All England Badminton Championships.

Twenty students from Cambourne VC travelled to Birmingham to volunteer as on-court assistants (mopping up the sweat of the biggest stars in badminton). They were fabulous and got to sit on court and be up close to some of the best badminton players in the world and witness the speed of their smashes, the quickness of their movement and just how flexible they are when they lunge for a drop shot.



NO SWEAT: Students mopped the courts for top stars.

Rain just won't stop play . . .

The Year 7 boys have shown what they are made of during their very wet interform football competition.

Although it poured the whole time, they took to the situation with a great positivity and

played on through the rain, wind and mud. The girls had a slightly easier time, adapting their netball into benchball for their interform competition. They much appreciated the boys' kindness in allowing them to stay

inside during the awful conditions.

Both the Year 7 and Year 8 pupils played some excellent games and demonstrated everything they had learned in both their PE lessons and in extra-curricular clubs.

Dancers reach out!

Dance is growing more and more popular at CamVC with a whole host of classes now taking place, including two street dance classes and two contemporary classes.

Last month our two street dance classes had the opportunity to be part of the Cambridge

Performing Arts and the Body Work Company Dance Studios Outreach Show, having worked very hard over the previous couple of months.

It was a great evening, and the girls got a true dance show experience. The girls would like to thank Rosie for her continual effort in teaching them the dance and motivating them to dance with as much energy as possible.

In addition to Rosie's street dance, Hayley teaches an amazing contemporary class where she utilises her own dance experience (which is vast!) and gives the girls some fabulous training, working them hard through a whole host of contemporary skills. Many of these girls are looking to continue to dance in the future and have been inspired by Hayley's obvious passion and effortless energy week in week out. Thank you Hayley!



PERFORMERS: At the Outreach Show.