

NEWS@CAM



The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

www.cambournevc.org

ISSUE 13, WINTER 2017



First DofE Assessed Expedition is a success — Page 12

Fantastic new facilities!

Cambourne Village College has a brand new artificial pitch with an advanced 'shock-pad' surface making it suitable for a range of activities, including rugby training.

Championship football club Norwich City has become one of the first organisations to sign up to use the facility.

The state-of-the-art full size 3G surface was completed in early November and youngsters who are part of the Canaries' Regional Development Programme (RDP) wasted no time in trying it out.

Norwich are also committed to using the new floodlit £575,000 facility for development fixtures, children's holiday courses and other activities.

Alex Kaufman, Norwich City's Regional Programme Manager for Cambridgeshire, said: "The facility is perfect to host our youth development and regional activity courses for the local area. The pitches, changing rooms and all-round access provides a professional environment in which the RDP strives to ensure for its participants and young people."

Clearly the pitch will also be heavily used by students at the college during the day for their PE lessons and after-school activities and Principal, Claire Coates, said: "The 3G pitch is a fantastic resource for the school and will greatly enhance our teaching of PE."

"It has already led to the creation of a strong partnership with Norwich City, who have chosen Cam VC as their most western 'Hub School'. We're looking forward to the many opportunities for boys' and girls' football that this will bring our pupils. As with all our facilities, the 3G pitch is available for hire by the community outside of school hours."

The pitch is open for public hire every weekday from 5.00-10.00pm and at weekends by arrangement. It costs £30 per third per hour with a reduction to £26 per third per hour for a 10-week booking.

For more information or to book, please contact Di Bagulay, Head of Community Engagement and Resources, by e-mail on dbagulay@cambournevc.org

The buildings of the new extension are also now in use and pupils are benefitting from extended catering facilities, a new wing for the teaching of History, Geography and RPE, a new suite of IT rooms and additional changing facilities for outdoor PE. The Science department has two new laboratories and DT has two new workshops and an outside working area, extending our ability to teach a wider range of design-related subjects.

A new Music block and Art room were delivered in June.

Most exciting is our new Performance Hall, joint-funded with the Cambourne Parish Council. At present this huge space is used for additional dining, examinations and some drama lessons.

We are soon to embark on a fund-raising campaign to equip the area with tiered seating, staging, lighting and sound systems, and projection facilities suitable for the delivery of Community Cinema. Staff and pupils at Cambourne Village College are enjoying excellent facilities for teaching, learning, and the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer.



EXPANSION: Has seen a new wing, performance hall and artificial pitch added to the existing state-of-the-art facilities.

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POPULAR: The new library facilities have been very well received.

Expanded library is a hit

The library is very excited to have this term gone so well, now with a bigger space and different facilities.

The new extension has provided a research area, and the space that was Mrs Coates' office has provided more space for soft seating. The Riddell Room has been very

popular with the Year 11s before and after school, as well as with different groups during the school day.

The new graphic novel display stands are a personal favourite, along with the corner seat.

Alison Tarrant, Librarian

Talks to plan second campus

Cambourne Village College is set to grow again.

Following the Department for Education's decision not to agree to a new school being established at the moment in anticipation of the further growth of Cambourne, The Cam Academy Trust secured agreement to open a second campus at Cambourne Village College to accommodate the further development planned for the community.

Given what we already know of current numbers of pupils coming through Cambourne, regardless of the further new developments, we need to develop capacity further at the school sooner rather than later to have room for all secondary aged pupils in Cambourne.

Our commitment is clearly to seek to do that. We want Cambourne Village College to be a great school which is available for every 11-16 year-old in Cambourne.

We are now having serious planning discussions with Cambridgeshire Local Authority to confirm how we can take this next development forward and do so in time to accommodate the on-going needs of a growing local population.

A second campus can only be built when land has been handed over to enable this. We are seeking to confirm the timing of this and looking at what we do both in the shorter term and then in the next time period to secure the facilities we need on both the current site and the new campus.

What we want to be certain to do in this is to look to enhance further the excellent provision that we already have at Cambourne Village College and secure an even stronger school right at the heart of its community with fantastic education facilities that are also used significantly by the community. Further details on the plans will be shared when we are able to do so.

Stephen Munday, CEO The Cam Academy Trust



Pressure building on Year 11

As the new year approaches, it seems fitting to both look forward to the upcoming year of achievement (including, of course, our first GCSE examinations), but also to look back on the first full term as a school filled to capacity. Just a few weeks ago, the last of the new construction projects was finished with the completion of the astroturf pitch, and it is already under heavy use by sports clubs. This, along with the rest of the building work, marks the end of the first stage of our school, and the beginning of an exciting new path for Cambourne Village College.

Year 11s are starting to feel the pressure, with coursework projects well on their way, and the first of the drama examinations having just been completed.

The whole year has also had maths and English examinations to help assess revision priorities. To add to this, the students have been preparing and finalising their UCAS applications for their future learning endeavours past GCSE. BTEC Dance students are preparing for an examination on extracts of Matthew Bourne's 'Nutcracker!', which they performed on 5th December. Not to mention the upcoming Christmas Concert and Night at the Musicals on 6th and 7th December.

We are looking forward to the students' hard work in the new year!

Izabella, Fleur, Ivan and Harry
Head prefects



AT THE COAST: Year 8 students visited Walton-on-the-Naze.

Learning in a different way

Each year for the two days before half-term, the normal timetable is collapsed and students have the opportunity to experience learning in a different way. Year 8 students visited Walton-on-the-Naze, which is one of the fastest eroding coastlines in the United Kingdom with an average of two metres per year! Students visited Walton beach, the famous Walton tower (built in 1720), walked through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and witnessed the effect of erosion, slumping and weathering on the soft cliffs at Walton beach.

Head of geography Dion Burgess said: "It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to contextualise their learning, bring to life what they had learned in the classroom, as well as a chance for them to gain new skills in data collection, data analysis, map work and investigation skills."

On their other day Year 8 were involved with MFL activities (see Page 5).

Meanwhile Year 10 had the opportunity to hear from visiting representatives from different faiths and perspectives. This included speakers from Islam, Christianity, Humanism and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion.

This jam-packed day allowed Year 10 to learn about the different perspectives in detail and also to ask plenty of questions to individuals but also during a panel Q&A session at the end of the day. There were

plenty of great questions asked and the comments given in student evaluations showed that they felt it was really important and worthwhile:

"I enjoyed the Islam session because they spoke about the issue of terrorism and the views that Muslims have relating to terrorism and so now I have a more informed opinion about Islam."

"The science and religion session was very good because it opened me up to new ways of thinking."

"The panel at the end was interesting; to see the different opinions all together and what they all thought about ethical issues."

Their other day involved a trip to the Imperial War Museum in London or the Jewish Museum. Year 7 had an in-school maths day and a science-focussed trip to Colchester Zoo, while Year 9 had a PE day at Milton Country Park and a technology day in school.

Year 11 spent their time on GCSE English.



VISITING SPEAKERS: Give Year 10 students a different perspective on faith, philosophy and ethics.

CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE

The language of opportunity

Sixteen Year 9 students attended a workshop at Murray Edwards College as a part of our Language Leader Training Programme.

The Language Leader Programme is an opportunity for students to prepare and teach our own lessons to primary students in Cambourne.

Modern Foreign Languages departments across England have been encouraging students to take part in this programme, run by Routes into Languages, as it is an opportunity to develop valuable life skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication, cooperation and responsibility. We were already working towards building up these skills when we went to the training day at the Cambridge University college formerly known as New Hall.

It was a day for us to understand why the Language Leader Training Programme is so important and could change the way we think about languages. It all started in Buckingham House when there was a talk explaining the programme for the day by Sarah Schechter, the project manager for Routes Into Languages East.

Students from our school, as well as from the other schools, were then split into groups to be taken on a tour of the campus.

We were shown the amazing dining hall which was full of art by women, the fantastic library and the masses of books inside, the outside of the clean and spacious student accommodation, as well as all the beautiful displays around the college.

Then we were shown how important languages are and why it is so beneficial to learn another language. We were then allowed a break which meant that we could socialise with people from other schools as well as our friends.

After our break, we took part in an interesting personality test which consisted of four questions which, at the end, determined our unique way of teaching and our personality.

This was an extremely fun task for us as it allowed us to understand our strengths and the people we would work well with in a team.

Everyone was then allowed to eat lunch in Murray Edwards' amazing dining hall, The Dome, before returning to Buckingham House where we were taught how to make a good presentation and keep our students interested and involved.

Finally, for the last task we worked on our leadership and teamwork skills, which are crucial if we want to achieve the leadership award at the end of the year. We completed these tasks well, which hopefully

indicates the great language leaders we will be.

The opportunity to be a part of the Language Leader programme enables us pupils to better understand and spread the importance of languages in society to primary students.

Being one of the most essential forms of communication in this diverse world of cultures, languages help to connect different nations from all over the world and give a better insight to the culture and beliefs of whichever land people call home.

Languages can not only increase awareness

of your surroundings but can also be highly beneficial for business.

Studies show that bilingual people are more likely to get a job as taking the time to learn a second language demonstrates a strong work ethic that is attractive to any employer.

In addition, employees often get paid more if they are fluent in more than one language. Trade

across countries is one of the key areas affected in the process of learning languages in a business. The ease of communication while talking to clients in their own language not only results in fairer deals but builds on trust and comfort between the two countries' representatives, increasing profit for the participants.

According to recent studies, the lack of language skills and the assumption that "everyone speaks English" are costing the UK economy around £48bn a year in different areas of business and act as a 'tax on growth' for the government.

The Language Leader Programme helps to ensure future generations can break the language barrier to increase social and economic growth across the world.

The day at Murray Edwards contributed vastly to our training as language leaders.



TEAMWORK SKILLS: One element of a very busy training day.



WATCHING BRIEF: Students at the introduction

It was a great opportunity to meet new people and discuss our queries about languages and future options with A-level representatives.

It gave us an insight not only to the lifestyle of a great college, but the activities further developed our understanding of our strengths and weaknesses as leaders and pushed us to appreciate the role of languages in society.

Now able to understand the importance of languages and teaching, we can focus on encouraging others to take up a new language through this leadership programme and furthermore give a clearer image of their future career paths and personal characteristics. That is why we decided to take up the Language Leader Programme: it creates so many more opportunities for us in not only the present, but the future.

Rachel and Arushi (9M)



INSIGHT: Into the value of speaking another language.

Good job for linguistic skills

Last month, Year 9 German students greeted a visitor named Chris Willett.

Chris is a patent lawyer and he told us all about his job and explained that learning languages such as German and Spanish is very important and can help you in the future with jobs.

As a patent attorney who frequently travels to Germany for his job, Chris needs to be able to understand German as well as speak a bit of it. His company looks for people who speak at least one other language, especially German and French.

As pupils studying German we thought Chris' job was interesting and we can now start seeing the job opportunities that learning German can give us.

All the Year 9 German students would like to say a big 'Danke schön' to Mr Willett for giving up his time to come and speak to us.

Ben (9O), Connor (9U) and Harry (9R)

Plenty of talent on show

The annual Year 7 International Talent Evening featuring Spanglovision to support the International Bursary Fund took place in October.

In preparation for Spanglovision, all the forms in Year 7 practised one song each during Spanish lessons to perform at the Talent Evening. Learning to sing all these songs took dedication and a resilience that was seen within all the pupils on the night.

There was a wide range of songs — *Titanium* by David Guetta featuring Sia, performed by 7C and 7O, *One Last Time* by Ariana Grande, performed by 7A and 7U. *Can't Stop The Feeling* by Justin Timberlake, performed by 7M and 7R, *The Greatest* by Sia performed by 7B and finally *Shut Up And Dance* by Walk The Moon, performed by 7N.

The friendly rivalry and urge to win between the forms gave the judges, Mr Sumner and Mrs Minnaar, an extremely tough decision. In the end they picked 7U for their exceptional pronunciation, memory and confident performance.

As well as all the brilliant songs, there was a whole raft of songs and readings from all over the world at the event in the Performance Hall.

The people who were involved in the international performances were: Niamh and



SHOWCASE: Dancers at the International Talent Evening.

Aleena with *What Should I Be* in Malayalam, one of the languages of India, *Neela The Donkey and His Bags of Salt* in Kannada, another Indian language, Siddiqah and Fatima with *Ise Logun Ise* in Yoruba, spoken by 30 million people mainly in West Africa, Ann with a Chinese fan dance, Lydia with *L'histoire De La Vie* in French, Georgie and Katie's Guide To Speaking Turkish and Dino and his friends' Greek Zorba Dance.

Spanish teacher Paco Fernandez said: "Using songs to learn a foreign language such as Spanish is a great way of interacting with other pupils

and singing is an encouraging way to spark an interest in learning Spanish.

"The evening was an energetic and vibrant array of colour, language and enthusiasm, full of happiness and laughter. As the judges made their decision for the winner of the night, we were all really eager. 7U got it in the end. Congratulations to them!"

One parent commented: "It was nice to see the friendly competitiveness of all the classes and learning a language through song is prepossessing."

A Year 7 student added: "I enjoyed seeing what different international talents my new classmates have."

To end the evening, there was a raffle for charity and many thanks go to the parents for donating the wonderful prizes.

Amelia (7A)



COMPETITIVE: All the Year 7 tutor groups wanted to win Spanglovision.

Word perfect — with a twist

Before we broke up for half-term, Year 8 French and German students had to learn and practise tongue twisters.

This was a fun activity to improve our French and German pronunciation and I really enjoyed it; the tongue twisters were great fun.

Afterwards we had to go home to practise so we could be able to record it in our next lesson.

There was some difficult pronunciation but we managed to do it. Some of the very best were put into a mini-film. The winners received a prize, which was a badge. I thought that all the videos were great and the practice was worth it.

Isabella (8M)

Spanish films in spotlight

Year 8 experienced a unique opportunity within the MFL department during Curriculum Extension days just before half-term.

We were given the chance to use our language skills to put together a short film in a foreign language with a subject of our choice.

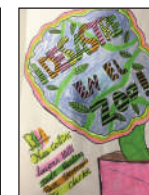
We had the whole day to plan, script, film and edit and the end results were amazing.

We got the chance to watch them all at the end of the day and each film was unique and interesting. The group that we were in produced a comedy film about a zoo, but there were plenty of different genres to choose from.

We picked up different words while writing our scripts and improved our speaking and listening skills too.

It was an amazing day of learning, and it helped us with our Spanish a lot!

Rose, Lauren and Nia (8B)



BEHIND THE SCENES: Careful preparations before filming took place.

CAMBOURNE VILLAGE COLLEGE

Unearthing local history

Students took part in a week-long archaeological dig on land adjacent to the College thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

A group of pupils, from Years 7-10, wrote and submitted a bid for funding to support the work of the College's extra-curricular Cambourne Archaeology Club and were awarded £50,000.

One student said: "We have been so excited about this project from the beginning but Mr Jenner kept reminding us that even with all of the work we put into the bid there was no guarantee that we would get the money.

"We were so excited when we found out the bid had been successful because it is such an ambitious project and it means lots of students at Cambourne getting to do something which most students wouldn't ever get a chance to do."

In October students from the 25-strong club joined the excavation, led by Oxford Archaeology East, of an Iron Age/Romano-British site on land owned by Tom Pearson just behind the College.

They also plan to open and curate a temporary museum at the College and work with the developers of Cambourne to construct an interactive map showing the wide range of significant archaeological finds that were buried beneath the settlement.

Cambourne Head of History Tim Jenner said: "I think one of the strengths of our bid was that the students really wanted to focus on the local community.

"As a new and growing town we thought it was important that residents of Cambourne were aware that they are living within the bounds of an important Iron Age settlement and that Cambourne is not really so new after all!

"We are really hoping to involve as many members of the community as possible in this exciting project."



TIME TRAVELLERS: Cambourne's archaeological team and (below) the painstaking excavation work.



Chance to check out previous finds

Students who took part in the recent archaeological dig were lucky enough to visit Shire Hall, in Cambridge, in partnership with Oxford Archaeology, to look at the archaeological reports and archived finds — some were even older than us!

Many of the finds were from Cambourne and the surrounding villages where we saw brooches, pots, bones and coins from the Bronze, Iron and Roman Ages — there was even a human skeleton in the entryway that lay in a lead coffin.

All of these finds are kept in a Cold War nuclear bunker that, just in case you were thinking of surviving down there, would only keep you alive for an extra day as the air circulatory system was faulty; luckily it never had to be used.

The finds are kept in rooms that would have been bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchens and working areas and the temperature in there is perfect for the artefacts as the humidity is such that it will conserve them and not make them rust or break down.

These finds, after being documented and written up, are sent to a deep store in a salt mine in Cheshire where they are kept away from any harm as the temperature conditions are kept constant as there is no rain or sun.

We also went into the main Shire Hall building and were able to look

through all the written reports from through the years on our local area, one of which was published.

We found that there have actually been many skeletons found in — especially in Great and Lower Cambourne.

Among the reports there was also a published book containing the most important information found from excavations of Cambourne as well as

cross section diagrams of the trenches that were dug. It was interesting to look at the reports that were put together since we could recognise some of the techniques we were introduced to. Some of the areas of the trenches were also familiar.

Castle Hill — which is an old Motte and Bailey Castle from the Normans — is right by Shire Hall and we were able to do a quick clamber to the top and enjoy the view.

Having something like that in our local area is extraordinary as there is so much history around us, especially as these topics are currently being

CLOSER LOOK:
Students study artefacts in the bunker at Shire Hall.



covered in our GCSE History course.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the trip, including the Oxford Archaeology and Shire Hall teams as well as Mr Jenner and Miss Angell for organising the trip and making it so enjoyable and a great learning experience.

Izzy and Dana



BIG BAND:
Cambourne's band now has more than 45 regular members and has a busy term culminating in two concerts.

The sounds of music . . .

This has been a busy term for the Music Department and we have especially enjoyed being in the new block.

It has been wonderful seeing lots of Year 7 pupils, eager to get involved. Junior Choir has really thrived with boys and girls from both Year 7 and 8 singing the greatest hits of Queen! And we have started running a lunchtime ukulele club, which has seen more than 40 pupils coming each week to take up this fun instrument.

It has also been great to see a number of primary pupils, involved in the Cambourne Music School, now participating in music events as students at the college.

One, Ann Barwick, said: "I learnt to play the flute through the Music School, and came to the singing group — both of which were fun. This term I have joined the Cambourne Band, the Ukulele Group and Junior Choir. I love being involved in all the different activities!"

It has also been great seeing some of our more senior instrumental groups going from strength to strength. Esther Moore said: "Since joining the band four years ago in Year 7 I have achieved so much as a musician, not just by myself but along with lots of friends."

The Cambourne Band now has 45 regular members, and have played a whole range of classic tunes this term, including: The Flintstones, Perfect Day, My Favourite things and The Final Countdown.

Goncalo De Matos said: "The Final Countdown was a complicated arrangement, but great fun, and it really helped us to develop our skills as a band."

One highlight of the term for some of our instrumentalists was our Music Department sleepover. In October we had more than 30 pupils coming to rehearsals on the Friday evening, before tucking into piles of pizza and settling down to watch School of Rock.

Then after at least eight hours of 'quality' sleep (despite classroom lights that kept turning themselves back on automatically in the middle of the night), we had a further rehearsal on the Saturday morning, before making some recordings and

performing to parents.

It was a fun event, and great to get different musicians across the school playing and socialising together, and eating far too much pizza.

Kaitlyn Welsh said "The sleepover was so much fun, I particularly enjoyed the food, and playing the glockenspiel."

To start getting us in the festive mood a little early in the season (mid-November), the Ukulele Band went to see the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain With Bells On! at the Corn Exchange.

It was an amazing concert, including fabulous arrangements of Psycho Killer

(Talking Heads), Get Lucky (Daft Punk), Romeo and Juliet / theme from The Apprentice (Prokofiev), and a Soviet-inspired version of We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

The pupils loved all the arrangements, and joined in with unmatched enthusiasm in the audience participation songs!

Kirsty Cook said: "The ukulele concert was awesome because we got to see a whole range of ukuleles, including the bass.

The tenor ukulele solo in Highway To Hell was amazing."

The term finished with not one, but two Christmas Concerts. It was great seeing so many pupils involved, and now that the school has its full complement of year groups, it is great to see pupils across the school performing together, although, as always, the highlight was definitely the audience singing!

It is with great sadness that at the end of term we will be saying goodbye to Kate Cameron this week. She has a really exciting opportunity to do a PHD at Leeds University working with Opera North and looking into their various outreach programmes.

She is going to be hugely missed by the whole musical community at Cambourne Village College, for whom she

has been a hugely inspirational teacher. We do hope that she will keep in touch, and maybe bring Opera North with her!

There are many exciting things coming up for the Music Department in 2018, including various trips and concerts, and, undoubtedly, another sleepover!

Geoff Page, Head of Music



SLEEPOVER: Students combined music with pizza and a movie.



ENTHUSIASTIC: The Ukulele band went to a concert at the Corn Exchange.

Cakes aid gardening project

As part of the polytunnel project and RHS School Gardening Awards, a group of Year 11 students decided to raise money to buy equipment, seeds and plants for this academic sale with a cake sale to staff. They raised £64.50 and were overwhelmed with the support of the staff at CamVC.



Telling 'Earth's Story'

Students in Year 7 rose brilliantly to the challenge of telling 'Earth's Story' in an original and creative way as they took part in a competition run by the geography department.

They were asked to 'produce a presentation' to show one or more of the following:

- how Earth began
- how life developed
- geological timescales
- the human journey

Any medium was acceptable and the students wasted no time in producing some outstanding work.

The Geography department received many exceptional entries — so many, in fact, that it is impossible to show them all here!

Mr Burgess, Mrs Durrant and Miss Boyns were extremely impressed with the extraordinary levels of effort that went into these projects. Other staff have commented too on some wonderful pieces of work.

High levels of creativity were also shown in the range of competition entries — woodwork models, posters, cakes, clocks, banners, board games and lots more.

The winners, Ji Kay and Hope (7N), worked exceptionally well together to create their 'landscape in a box'.

The box opened to reveal hand-painted scenes and carefully created plasticine models to portray various stages in Earth's history, with plenty of detailed information on small placards.

Sadly the photo does not do this entry justice. Mr Burgess, the Head of Geography, said: "A unique idea and an equally impressive outcome!"

They won a £10 voucher to spend on something related to geography.

Jasmine (7O) was the runner-up and won a £7.50 voucher. She produced an enormous model of a volcano, accompanied with facts about how Earth began and the important role that volcanoes have had in Earth's history.

The Geography department loved the attention to detail — especially the melted red candle wax to give the effect of lava streaming out of a volcano.

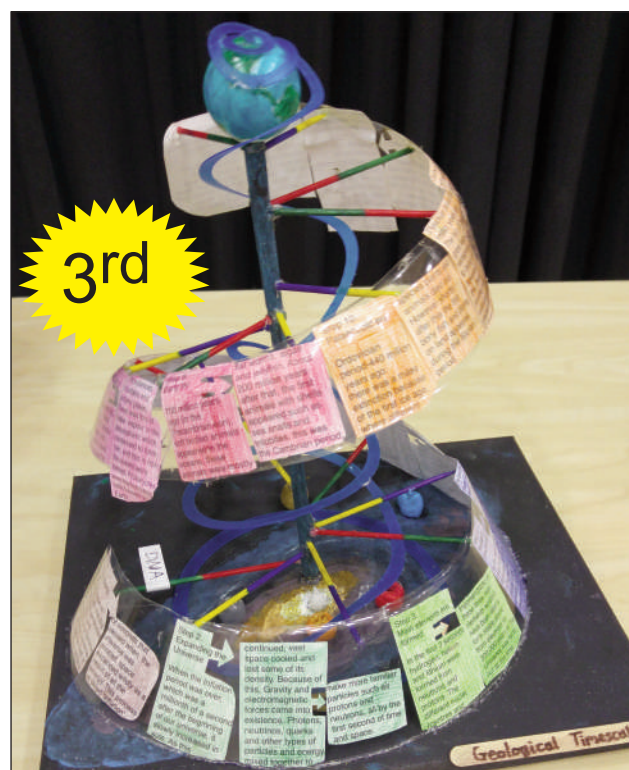
Third place and a £5 voucher went to Amelia (7A), who produced a spiral model to show how Earth began and its geological timescale. A brilliant design and superb detail. One of Mr Sumner's favourites!



1st



2nd



3rd

The joy of performing!

Dance and drama students have been preparing for and undertaking their first exam pieces this term as well as producing a variety of works to showcase and the reactions have been extremely positive.

Izabella (11U) said: "The GCSE Drama students in Year 11 performed their first drama performance worth 40% of their overall grade last month.

"It was two successful nights filled with everyone's performances they have worked on this term.

"They had a small supporting audience made up of their friends and family as well as our Head of Drama, Charlotte Fenn-Goode, who has put in all her time and effort in order for everyone to achieve an impeccable performance.

"We would like to thank the tech team for all their effort in helping us with lighting and sound, as well as the other drama teachers who supported us through the process."

Joel (11U) commented: "We have worked so hard as a Performing Arts group to produce our pieces. We have been granted so much freedom in how we can devise and perform our pieces. I'm sure I can say on behalf of the others that the past year and a half have been so much fun but also a lot of hard work. We have grown and bonded so much as a group."

Nina (11C) added: "The whole process of devising and performing our own piece was intimidating but it was one of my favourite performances I've ever created.

"As soon as the last spotlight went out we were filled with overwhelming pride of what we had performed. All four of us burst into tears as Mrs Fenn-Goode ran over and said 'From Year 7 until now, look how far you have come!'

"We all put so much effort into the performance and couldn't have been happier about the outcome. I'm so proud of all of my group and how well we performed."

The students studying BTEC dance were also upbeat.

Paige (10R) said: "I have enjoyed BTEC Dance this term, as it has given us a variety of skills; interesting choreography, dynamics, timing, evaluative skills and to also choreograph as a whole class.

"For the showcase we have choreographed dances with different stimuli, for example, Children in Need, War and Christmas. In some of these dances we have worked as a class; this was interesting as we could listen to other people's ideas and increase our knowledge on that style.

"In *A Night of the Musicals* we have been choreographing dances for these songs. We have been rehearsing these since September after school. I have enjoyed this as we can learn from the process and apply this to our BTEC dance lesson. It allows us to have a wider variety of dance styles and skills."

Florence (10C) said: "I have really enjoyed BTEC dance so far. We have made loads of routines from scratch in styles that are out of our comfort zone.



CENTRE STAGE:
Students enjoyed being in the spotlight for all their performances.

"We are performing routines such as Children in Need and a Christmas routine in the dance showcase as well as war routines and other things we have learnt since September.

"We have performed in assembly to Years 7, 8 and 9. We have learnt a few routines for *A Night at the Musicals*, in December. I have enjoyed BTEC dance and am excited to carry on with it."



FACT NOT FICTION:
Students decide which information books they like best.

Non-fiction in the spotlight

This term Years 7 and 8 have taken part in the Seventh Information Book Award which is an annual event organised by the School Library Association. It's designed to support school libraries and to reinforce the importance of non-fiction whilst highlighting the high standard of resources available. The shortlisted books were divided into categories according to their age range, 7-12 years old and over 12. They cover a wide range of topics, historical events such as the Great Fire of London or the Holocaust, mental health, nature, migrants and refugees, languages or the story of Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer.

Pupils rated these books, bearing in mind the quality of the text, images, illustrations, cover and the ease

of reading.

Everyone showed great depth in their analysis when selecting and then voting for their favourite in each category and for an overall winner.

The majority of the votes in the 7-12 years old category went for *Hello World*, with *Survivors of the Holocaust* in the over 12s. They also chose the latter as the overall winner.

The overall winner chosen by the judges was *Survivors of the Holocaust* by Kath Shackleton, Zane Whittingham and Ryan Jones while the Children's Choice winner was *Mind your Head* by Juno Dawson with advice from Dr Olivia Hewitt.

All the shortlisted books for this award are now available to borrow from the School Library.

Author offers novel insight

Stephen Kelman visited Cambourne for the second year in a row to talk to Year 10 students who are studying his book, *Pigeon English*, for GCSE.

The students were captivated and asked engaging questions, including whether the girlfriend in the book was based on his own girlfriend, and why he had written certain scenes in that way. The pupils really liked how 'laid back, calm and unpretentious' he was, and how well he dealt with their questions. They were struck by him not being 'posh'. They were surprised that he cried after writing the end and enjoyed the way he related his own life and experiences to the ideas in the novel.

Stephen read an extract of the book, and then answered their questions with honesty and openness. A recording of the event will be made available through Clickview, which can be accessed by any student, as they might find it helpful when it comes to revision season.





21ST CENTURY SCHOOL: An artist's impression of how the revamped Village College buildings will look.

The vision takes shape

The schooling situation in Gamlingay continues to develop, moving towards its intended outcome in September 2018.

Gamlingay First School is now a Primary School with pupils up to and including Year 6 in the school. It is currently continuing to operate on its historic site with some capacity created to enable the additional pupils to be accommodated there at the moment. From September 2017, the Middle School of Gamlingay Village College joined the Trust. The

Trust has committed to continue education for a small number of pupils in the school in Years 6 and 8 for this year only to help with the transition arrangements. This school will then officially close in summer 2018.

From January 2018, pupils currently at Gamlingay Village College will move from their current site into temporary accommodation on the First School site. This will allow them to access all appropriate services for the remainder of the school year.

This timing is set to coincide with major building work that will take place on the Village College site. This

will allow the premises to be converted into a high-quality Primary School that will be a proper permanent base for Gamlingay Village Primary. This work is due to be completed ready for the Primary School to move in before the start of the new academic year in September 2018.

We are very grateful to all those associated with education in Gamlingay for working hard to see through these major and exciting educational developments for the community.

Stephen Munday, CEO

Schools consider their options

Following the appointment of our Primary Executive Leader, Chris Jukes, who started in January 2017, primary schools have continued to join our Trust and there are now four primary phase schools. They are all working hard as individual schools and collaboratively to improve further the standards of education for all their pupils. All are making really positive progress. Recent visits to two of the schools from an educational advisor working for the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office have confirmed this.

Several more primary schools in our local area have asked to discuss the possibilities of joining the Trust and what this might mean for them. We are engaging positively with these discussions as these possibilities strongly fit with the Trust's stated aims of being both locally based and cross-phase.

Everton Heath Primary School (formerly Everton Lower School), which is just over the border into Bedfordshire and located very close to Gamlingay, is most advanced with this process. This school is now set to embark upon a formal consultation regarding the possibility of joining the Trust.



OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK: Staff at the after-school Spanish class.

Spanish teaching project

Thanks to British Council funding as part of the Europe-wide initiative Erasmus+, staff at Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges and some of their primary schools are learning Spanish.

The LOT project (Learning – Observing – Teaching) aims for most pupils at primary level to reach A1 competence in Spanish by the end of KS2. At secondary level, the FLAME project (Foreign Language as a Medium of Education) aims for all KS3 students to have at least one half-term of learning another curriculum subject through Spanish by 2020.

Some of our European counterparts have bilingual sections in schools in which students have 70% their curriculum taught in English. However, these initiatives are usually only for a small, identified cohort of students. It is our intention to build a modest, but significant,

FLAME component into the curriculum experience for all of our students, in accordance with our overarching Trust principle of providing a broad, balanced curriculum and delivering high quality education to all of our students.

We have 10 teachers officially involved in the project and their first priority is to develop their Spanish knowledge. Project funding supports two intensive study visits, and in February staff will spend a first week in a partner school in Zaragoza.

Teachers there are also upskilling to teach their subjects in English and will visit during 2018.

To support the development of Spanish within the Trust, Comberton Spanish teacher Paula Vázquez-Valero launched an after-school adult Spanish class, attended by several LOT and FLAME project teachers. The class has also attracted many additional staff, who are not part of the project.

Up to 20 staff spend a fun hour a week learning Spanish at whatever level they are comfortable with, from complete beginners to the fluent.

Pushing ahead with IT plan

The Trust is working with all its schools to push ahead with our agreed IT strategy to be implemented in September 2018.

The first phase is intended to introduce personal iPad devices for all Year 8 pupils in secondary schools in September 2018 and to look to roll out further from there.

Details about what will be needed to enable this will be provided in due course. These devices will also be introduced for use in the Trust's Primary schools but not with the model of one device per pupil in a whole year group.

A crucial next step in this will be to run pilot groups in each secondary school with current Year 7 pupils. Details will be given to relevant pupils and

their families soon. Jeavons Wood Primary School will be running a pilot with Year 4 pupils.

The purpose of this major development is to strengthen further the quality of teaching and learning that we are able to offer.

If used well and appropriately in the learning process, such devices can strengthen our education provision.

For staff using such devices, they can also be an effective way of sharing more ideas and resources across the Trust and so improving further the education we can provide all pupils.

Sean Sumner, Cambourne's Deputy Principal, will be seconded to the Trust two days a week for 2018 to take strategic leadership for the IT strategy.



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





R & R:
Students take a break from the rigours of the DofE expedition.

First group finish award

The end of this autumn's expedition season marked a real milestone for Cambourne Village College with the first cohort to enter the school being the first students to complete the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Award a reflection of their dedication, determination and endurance in every aspect.

"A huge and heartfelt 'well done' to all participants, and an equally huge 'thank you' to all members of staff and the community who supported these young people through all the sections — physical, skill and

They have laid the foundations on which to build a strong tradition of DofE at the College for future pupils to follow.

Cambourne DofE Co-Ordinator Leigh Bellis said: "It is truly inspiring that many of these participants had no real idea what they were signing up for, having no older siblings and not having the opportunity to see older pupils go through it.

"But sign up they did, and they should all be proud of their achievement, with the

volunteering as well as the expedition — and made it all possible." One participant, Izabella (11U) said: "41 Year 11 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Chiltern Hills. Every student taking part succeeded in completing it.

"I really enjoyed the expedition because I was able to spend a whole weekend with my friends. I picked up many useful life skills such as cooking for myself and others as well as navigating my group using a map.

"I'm really looking forward to completing my Silver Duke of Edinburgh next year."

Rising martial arts stars make the grade

TOP FIGHTERS:
Students are achieving high levels at Cambourne Karate Club.



A trio of Cambourne students are excelling at karate. Ellena Barrett, Jack Broderick and Thomas Hanley, all members of the Cambourne Karate School which has been based at the college since 2013, are now achieving at an advanced level.

At a recent AKS grading day Jack and Ellena passed to 2nd Kyu Brown Belt and Thomas Hanley to 3rd Kyu Brown Belt and all gained merit/distinction marks.

Ellena has also progressed to National Level competition and has excelled in the Kata (forms).

She has been selected to represent the AKS National Squad and has won medals at both the English National and British Championships in highly-contested categories.

Sensei Anthony Barrett 5th Dan and an AKS Chief Instructor said: "They have worked extremely hard not just towards their grading but they have shown years of dedication to the art training with us since their first years of primary school."

Cambourne Karate Club is now in its 10th year, having opened in 2007 with just one class a week. That increased to four days a week and in 2013 they moved their base to CamVC.

Mr Barrett added: "After a decade of teaching in Cambourne it

is a real pleasure to see so much talent coming through.

"From little budding stars to higher grade adults including

Cambourne residents Rafal Ratuszniak and

Wayne Hardiman, who have both now been Veteran

English National Kumite (fighting) champions.

"We are looking forward very much to our next 10 years in Cambourne."

Skills on show at new event

Year 3 pupils from Cambourne Village College's partner schools recently enjoyed a morning of sport as they took part in a multi-skills festival at the college.

Thankfully the weather held out as 120 youngsters took part in a series of different activity stations, which developed their sporting skills as well as encouraged teamwork, honesty and determination.

The Year 10 and 11 sports leaders from Cambourne VC did a fantastic job in organising and leading the activities and it is hoped the event will now become a permanent fixture in the calendar.



NEW: Youngsters enjoy the first Multi-Skills Festival at Cambourne.