

# NEWS@CAM



The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

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**Cambourne first at Sports Awards — Back Page**



**RUNNERS-UP:**  
Cambourne's novice debating team impressed in their first competition.

# Rookies make their point

Eight students who had only two weeks to learn formal debating finished as runners-up in an international competition in Cambridge.

The Year 8 and 9 team went to the Cambridge University Union to take on seven other teams, only a fortnight after learning how to debate British

Parliamentary style.

Among those they beat were teams from a school in China, who had just spent the week at a debating camp.

The Cambourne students spent a great deal of their own time preparing and practising for the competition which covered the topics: 'This house believes meat should be banned' and 'Social media has a negative

impact on young people'. The final was 'We believe that all British Secondary schools should teach Mandarin as a second language.'

For the final, students had almost no time to prepare between being given the topic and having to debate it, so they did a fantastic job!

After the final they were presented with certificates by the Mayor of Cambridge.

# Holocaust survivor tells students her story

Earlier this term students in the older years had the privilege to watch and listen to 86-year-old Polish Holocaust survivor Janine Webber.

Students interested in the Holocaust's effect on people gathered in the school library where we watched the live broadcast from London where she told us about her childhood, and afterwards answered questions about what it was like to live under Nazi rule.

Her answers were very insightful as to what life was like for her and her family, especially when she mentioned how along the way she had to cope with, for instance, losing family members.

We found it fascinating how she only recently started to talk about her traumatic experience; spreading awareness in the hope of preventing something similar in future. Furthermore, we found the fact that she's now going from school to school admirable and inspiring, even if she brought tears to eyes besides her own.

It was great to hear a first person account and relate it to our studies of the Holocaust (for most of us) as well as getting a more accurate and detailed version of what happened.

Our generation is the furthest removed from the Holocaust so by these events we keep the knowledge alive, which is why it was a valuable learning experience.

Thank you to the History Department and staff and, of course, Janine for making it possible and giving us the opportunity.

Dana & Izzy (10B)



**SHARING:** Janine Webber talks about surviving the Holocaust.

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DISCOVER ISLAM



The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion



# Gaining a different view

Last month the whole of Year 11 took part in RPE Day.

This event was entitled 'Local and Contemporary Faiths and Perspectives' and gave students the opportunity to hear from speakers representing faiths and perspectives which are significant views in the British population today.

Speakers came from Discover Islam, Humanists UK, the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion and West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries (WCCYM).

Students heard each speaker give a short presentation and then had the opportunity to ask questions. The speakers commented on how insightful many of the student questions were and how engaged each group was during the day.

# We're set to grow again!

**No sooner is the paint dry in the new extension than we're making plans for further expansion of Cambourne Village College!**

Even before new housing comes on stream for the Cambourne West development, we will need more school accommodation to house the numbers of primary pupils who will arrive with us from Cambourne in September 2019. So the design for Phase 3 of building development for the College is now under way. A second campus of the College is needed to enable us to educate the new Cambourne West secondary school population from 2023, and we're looking closely at the best model of running a much enlarged, but integrated school, across two immediately adjacent campuses. Construction of the second campus is planned to start from 2022.

In the meantime, more accommodation is needed to house the large intakes we're expecting more immediately, and a special building is being designed for our current site, on the area beyond the Performance Hall, to open in September 2019, with construction starting this summer.

This building will accommodate our extra numbers until 2023, and in an exciting development, we hope it will then be extended and converted to provide a sixth form centre.

Many parents have been asking whether we plan to open a sixth form as part of CamVC, and I'm delighted to report that, in conjunction with Comberton Village College, we are preparing an application to the Department for Education to provide Post-16 education in Cambourne from 2024, in collaboration with the excellent existing Comberton provision.

We will, of course, keep everyone fully informed as these plans develop.

A further six years of building work on our current site and the land immediately adjacent to it is a challenging prospect, but one that will allow us to continue to enrich and enhance the educational provision that we offer Cambourne.

As throughout our previous expansion, we will keep a relentless focus on providing the very best education for all of our pupils, and I look forward to being able to bring you more detail about the planned work as the designs develop.

**Claire Coates, Principal**



**SIGN OF SUCCESS:** Peter Millican, Professor of Philosophy at Hertford College, presents the finalist's certificate.

## Student reaches final

For the second time in three years Cambourne student Gonçalo de Matos Cordeiro has been recognised as one of brightest computing brains for his age. He again reached the finals of a national computing competition — The UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge — and was invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford.

Reaching the final of the Intermediate age group is an impressive achievement, as 71,146 students entered the first round for the age group (12–14).

Gonçalo, from 9A, was among the top 60 highest-achieving students invited to the final round in his age group, and was presented with his finalist's certificate at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College.

The UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge, supported by Google, is designed to get students excited about computing and computational thinking. It is a problem-solving contest with questions inspired by topics in computer science. In the first round, held in their own schools, students have to try and solve as many problems as possible in the allotted time.

There are six age categories. The highest scoring students from the four oldest age groups (Elite, Senior, Intermediate, and Junior) were then invited to the Department of Computer Science at Oxford for the finals earlier this term.

## College chosen for new initiative

Cambourne Village College has been chosen to be part of the Rainbow Flag Award.

Following their application to The Kite Trust in Cambridge at the end of last year, the college is one of 200 primary and secondary schools taking part in the programme, the main focus of which is LGBT inclusion in schools. Cambourne was picked during the competitive process as the college demonstrated a commitment to improve the lives of all young people we work with and a commitment to having an initiative which supports lesbian,



gay, bisexual and trans inclusion.

The Kite Trust are an organisation who work with LGBT+ young people in Cambridgeshire and, with other organisations like the Proud Trust in Manchester, are supporting schools across the county to run the Rainbow Flag award under an initiative led by the Government Equalities Office, via the Department for Education.

As a School we are really excited about this new project. If you would like more information regarding this project you can visit The Kite Trust website at: <http://thekitetrust.org.uk/schools-services/rainbow-flag-award/>

## First tree is in the ground

**THE BIG DIG:** Students worked hard to get the first cherry tree planted.



The 'Growing Committee' of Cambourne Village College have been busy preparing the ground and gardening despite the cold weather.

They have managed to combat the 'Cambourne clay' and proudly planted in their first Cherry tree with great teamwork.

Many thanks to East of England Apples and Orchards Project for generously donating the trees. We look forward in putting the rest of the trees into the ground once we have cleared the area.



# Forging new friendships

**In January I was fortunate to have a brief visit to Beijing with two colleagues.**

The main purpose of the trip with Rachel Hawkes, the Trust's Director of International Education, and Peter Law, Head of School at Comberton, was to establish a future exchange programme for pupils from some of our secondary schools with a named school in Beijing. The hope is to establish an ongoing annual exchange which can enrich greatly the educational experience of many young people here and in China.

The whole programme, including the initial visit, is supported by funding from the Beijing Education Authority.

Of course, this builds on the great work going on at Melbourn Village College where learning Mandarin is now part of the curriculum. This work is now developing a national role and reputation.

China is a fascinating place. It is absolutely true that the food is significantly different from much of any standard western diet (it was at breakfast that I found this most challenging) and there is so much to see and to learn.

As well as historical sites such as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, the whole history of the country is extremely interesting. The section on the modern history of China in the vast official National Museum next to Tiananmen Square should not be missed. We hope many students in our Trust schools will be able to benefit from these excellent educational opportunities.

In addition to seeking to establish a school-based exchange programme, we also engaged with teacher training institutions in Beijing. It was interesting to compare notes and approaches between our countries.

We attended (and contributed to) a conference being held for over 1000 teachers from various parts of China where the key theme - and much of the professional development for teachers in Beijing (and perhaps China more generally) - was the need to introduce creativity into the teaching and learning process.

There was a recognition that Chinese pupils are very effective at certain styles of

learning and memorising but not so good at thinking creatively. The same might be said of the approaches to teaching.

It followed from this that there was strong interest in learning how to develop creativity in the education process and how this is done effectively in British schools.

In this, there is some irony. There has been recent interest in learning from Chinese schools about how to perform better in certain educational outcomes (such as in international measurements of Maths tests). Teachers visit Chinese schools to learn the techniques and then apply them in our schools.

This has been an important aspect of the work of the Maths Hub that we lead in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Now we are being asked to help Chinese teachers become more creative.

All these things are part of the key international theme of the educational experience that we consider so important for all our pupils. They are also good examples of how our staff can work with and learn from others to enrich and strengthen the education provided in all our schools. **Stephen Munday, CEO**



**IN DISCUSSION:**  
*The Trust delegation meet their opposite numbers in Beijing.*

## Pilot for new IT strategy gets under way

At the heart of everything we seek to do with all schools in The Cam Academy Trust is to ensure that every pupil gets a truly excellent education. In this pursuit, we will look to take on new developments when we are clear that there is potential to improve the educational experience of our pupils. This is the starting point for the Trust IT Strategy that we are seeking to develop. We believe that embracing more fully the potential of the use of IT in the education process can help to:

- Learn powerfully
- Learn for life
- Learn from each other

At its heart is an intention to enable personal devices to be used by our pupils in ways that support the education process both inside and outside of school.

Coupled with this is looking to enable all our staff to share educational resources effectively, regardless of the school in which they are based.

Sean Sumner, Deputy Principal at Cambourne Village College, now spends two days a week helping to oversee the development and roll out of this strategy.



**TESTING:** *Cambourne Year 7 students use iPads in lessons.*

Mr Sumner has strong experience of leading IT strategies and of using IT to strengthen teaching and learning. A programme is being developed that will see a series of pilots in each school before the potential introduction of the approach with one year group at a time. At Cambourne, 80 Year 7 pupils and 25 staff are working through a pilot phase to confirm the possibilities of using personal devices effectively. Staff in other schools have also been using devices to find out what is possible (as well as discovering potential pitfalls). We hope to be able to communicate further with families and pupils across

our schools about how and what we may be able to do to enable pupils to benefit from this approach. **Stephen Munday**

## Playing a leading role in training teachers

In addition to teaching students, The Cam Academy Trust is also involved in educating teachers, as part of the Cambridge Teaching Schools' Network.

Teaching Schools give outstanding schools a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, and support staff, as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support.

The Trust works with a network of other Teaching Schools that includes, in addition to Cambourne and Comberton Village Colleges, Saffron Walden County High School, Swavesey Village College and Histon and Impington Junior School.

Different schools lead on different aspects of the key roles of the teaching school, such as professional development, or research and development.

Comberton leads the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) programme.

A SCITT training route provides a school-based approach to teacher training that is led by local schools, and is particularly geared to training the teachers needed in the local schools involved.

We offer both primary and secondary courses, currently training 50 teachers. Past experience suggests that the majority of these trainees will find jobs in local schools.

A key feature of the SCITT is that the senior tutor team are all experienced teachers, drawn from the lead schools involved, which means that the training programme is grounded in authentic professional practice, although trainees are also grateful for the depth of understanding of the theoretical aspects of

teaching taught through the Professional Studies strand of their training, including the opportunity for Master's level qualification.

We are developing a strong partnership with Anglia Ruskin University, helping to teach the Primary Education Studies degree course, and looking to develop further collaboration in both undergraduate and postgraduate study.

We have submitted an expression of interest to be involved in the development of new Teaching Apprenticeships, which will enable more trainees to be paid while they are in training.

If you know anyone who might be thinking of a career in teaching, then get in touch via email [COM-ITTINFO@catrust.co.uk](mailto:COM-ITTINFO@catrust.co.uk)

**Martin Lee, Director of Teacher Education**

# Author wows his audience



**CAPTIVATING:** Julian Sedgwick entrained students.

Julian Sedgwick, the author of the famous trilogies 'Mysterium' and 'Ghosts of Shanghai', visited Cambourne VC earlier this term to talk to Year 7 pupils who were amazed with his captivating presentation about his books, why he started writing and his fascination with performance, street art and circus.

His talk included a few tricks, mild hypnosis and culminated in a display of sword juggling, all delivered from his much-travelled circus suitcase.

The whole year group was totally engaged during the event and Julian was really impressed with pupils' answers and questions.

After the talk, pupils had the opportunity to purchase any of the books by Julian Sedgwick and get them signed.

To round up his visit, a selected group of pupils was invited to a creative writing workshop on character development, dialogue writing and plotting a storyline. It was great to see their excellent teamwork and some fantastic pieces of work produced by very keen and gifted young writers.

## Contrasting experiences for CAMnesty



**SEEING HOW THE MONEY WORKS:** Students meet some of those who benefit from the help offered by Wintercomfort.

Before Christmas CAMnesty members raised over £200 for Wintercomfort Shelter for the Homeless in Cambridge.

We had the amazing opportunity to visit the shelter in order to take our donation directly.

It gave us a real insight into how other people live but also about how those less fortunate receive help. We had a tour of the shelter and we were able to talk to people. Everyone was very accommodating and we would like to thank them for this experience.

Caitlin, Maria and Peter M (Year 9)

Last term, CAMnesty had many visits by different political leaders. One of them was our local MP, Heidi Allen, from the Conservative Party.

Among the many questions asked, some were silly, such as what her favourite snack was (pizza, in case anyone is interested) but the majority were quite serious.

She was asked about Brexit and, although she voted for remain, she believes that the result of the referendum needs to be respected.

We also discussed the importance of having more conviction politicians leading our country rather than career politicians. There were also questions about international issues such as gun control and how media influences the shape of politics.

Mrs Allen personally finds media to be an important part of society, but she also agrees that some journalists sometimes take words out of context to create a buzz.

Overall, it was a very interesting visit and, despite not everyone sharing the same opinions as Mrs Allen, we found it very informative.

Aditi (9A)



**IN MY VIEW:** MP Heidi Allen explains her opinions.

## It all adds up to success for students

Ninety Cambourne VC students from Years 9, 10 and 11 competed in the national UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge last month.

The Mathematical Challenge focuses on developing problem solving skills by providing a wide variety of problems for pupils to work on individually.

To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, the UKMT award the top-scoring 40% of participants nationally with certificates.

An amazing fifty-five of our students received either a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

Twelve pupils were awarded gold certificates — this



is a fantastic achievement as it places them in the top 7% of all students who competed nationally.

These pupils are Alex (Year 9), Joseph, Christian and Rosie (Year 10), and Richard and Connor (Year 11).

In addition to this, huge congratulations goes to Alex, Joseph, Christian and Richard, who have all qualified for the follow-on rounds.

Well done to all the competitors!

Next it will be the Year 7s and Year 8s in the Junior

Maths Challenge on April 26 — good luck to them.

# This trip is unmissable

Our journey started on Thursday when we got on the bus already busy with Comberton students also going on the trip.

At the beginning I felt quite scared because I didn't know anyone from Comberton, who were on the Spanish Exchange with us. I was nervous but the welcome from my exchange family changed that. They were very nice and immediately offered to go shopping for food I like with my friend and her partner.

The trip was fantastic. Over the weekend I spent a lot of time with my friends and their families. We played lots of games and laughed a lot then my friends, their families and I went to a big trampoline park and had lots of fun. We then went out for dinner. On Sunday my friends and I watched Real Zaragoza and had lunch together.

We also spent a day in our partner school, Rosa Molas,, completed a walking tour of Zaragoza topped off with a volleyball match, visited Roman Zaragoza and had a day trip to Huesca and Loarre.

We are already looking forward to meeting our partners again when they come to Cambourne.

I recommend this trip to all Year 9 students — I truly think this is an unmissable opportunity.

Kira-Mai (9B)



**WARM WELCOME:** For the exchange students on arrival at the Rosa Molas School.

## Language is no barrier

On the Spanish Immersion Day some of Cambourne Village College students met Spanish students from Sagrado Corazon.

We then played some games in Spanish and English, which included speed dating and Harry Potter word jumble and we got to know each other. Finally, we were put into groups and we played bowling together which we all enjoyed very much!

Overall we had a lovely day and in the end we exchanged our contact details and said we will possibly meet up, especially if there is a school trip in the future. We all recognised José, the tour operator who took us on the Year 7 Spanish trip. We were surprised he recognised us too.

Caitlin and Shravani (9M)



**MAKING FRIENDS :** On the Spanish Immersion Day.



**OUT AND ABOUT:** Seeing the sights of Zaragoza with our Spanish partners and Comberton students.

## Speak your way to top job!

Year 9 students had a visit from Natalie Keuroghlian, Marketing Manager of Gewiss UK based on the Cambourne Business Park.

She spoke to us about the importance of languages in the modern workplace and about how essential for foreign relations they are.

We found out that only 6% of the world's population speaks English as a first language. Another interesting fact was that having multiple languages on your CV would almost immediately make you a short-list candidate.

Our visitor stressed that multiple languages will always be useful — who knows what will happen after Brexit!

She was asked about the importance of Mandarin and added that French, German and Spanish are highly sought despite the growing prominence of Mandarin.

This talk was very insightful, and made us all realise how useful language are and how lucky we are to have such a great MFL department at CamVC.

Aaron (9C)



**IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGES:** Natalie Keuroghlian speaks out.

## Why it's so good to talk

I went to Murray Edwards College to attend a 'Routes in Languages' lecture in February.

I sat in the lecture hall among many other students from different counties and listened to students studying at the University of Cambridge, as well as individuals from different companies, talk about how languages have enhanced their career.

The speakers included a spy that was talking about his experiences about going undercover, a lady who was the Prime Minister's translator meaning she had the opportunity to go to different countries with important people so that she could be an interpreter, and many more.

Later in the evening I had the opportunity to talk to the speakers and find out a little bit more about how languages have affected their life and how much it has helped.

There was even a Korean taster that many of the students attended. The evening as a whole helped me conclude that studying languages would help me greatly as I would be able to work abroad and it would also allow me to meet many other scholars with the same passion at university.

Izabella (11U)

# Exam countdown is on!

The pressure is mounting as the date of the 15th May draws ever nearer, bringing with it the first GCSE examination at Cambourne Village College (Computer Science).

In preparation, the Year 11s completed their first set of mocks in February, finally bringing together all their hard work from the past five years into a formal examination.

Having just come back from half term after a gruelling set of mocks, students are now finishing off their units and switching gears to revision.

For statistics students, coursework deadlines are looming, and musicians are preparing for their assessed ensemble performances.

The Prefect selection process is under way, and the Year 10s have been brushing up their application writing skills and interview technique to apply for the hotly contested positions.

Offers from sixth form colleges are also expected to

begin coming in this month, including from Hills Road Sixth Form, and offers from Long Road are due within four weeks.

We are extremely excited to see where our talented cohort will be heading to next to continue their academic (or professional!) careers.

In all, this half term has been busier than ever, especially for our oldest cohort, and we're looking forward to the new opportunities it will bring!

Ivan (11M)

## Celebrating LGBT lives and history

During February, I gave assemblies to Year 11, 10 and 7 about LGBT history month, which celebrates the lives and achievements of the LGBT community.

Sadly, after doing these assemblies for four years, it was my final year. I enjoyed talking to the students about accepting and supporting people who are a part of the LGBT community, as well as teaching the students about the history of the LGBT community. Many students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and believed it to be very informative and interesting.

During the assembly I talked more about LGBT terms and things we could do as a school to be more LGBT friendly.

Nellie 11A



**SPEAKING OUT:** About LGBT issues.



**LEARNING CURVE:** For students at Liv Wynter's workshop.

## Workshop is boost for coursework

Late last month 17 Year 10 students attended a workshop with Liv Wynter at Wysing Arts in Bourn.

Liv is a performance artist and poet from South London who has a residency at the Tate. She and other artists who have links with Wysing Arts have come together to produce an exhibition about society's attitudes to identity and protest.

The themes of 'oversensitivity' and 'desensitisation' were all common in the exhibition.

Students first were able to take in the exhibition then Liv, in character, performed her stunning piece.

It was an allegory about domestic violence told through the story of a lady whose houses burn down on four separate occasions. With each fire, Liv gave a heartbreaking account of how the neighbourhood's attitudes changed as they became desensitised to the problem.

Liv then led students through a range of performance art techniques to come up with their own narratives. In a short space of time students were performing their original pieces with bravery and passion.

The workshop was a real eye-opener as to what themes and techniques students could pursue in their coursework.

## Experiencing uni life

My experience at Peterhouse, Cambridge University, was amazing.

When we got there, we were led into Peterhouse's lecture theatre and we had an introduction to the day from the students and teachers.

They then gave us lots of useful information about Oxbridge universities followed by an activity on A-levels, degrees and jobs.

I realised that your A-level choices will not limit you to what degree or job you want to pursue.

Later we had lunch in the Peterhouse dining hall and a tour of the campus which was informative and fun.

Then we had two lectures which uni students have had also - one about biology and one about philosophy. Finally we finished with a Q&A session, where we asked the current students at Peterhouse loads of questions. Overall I thought the day was fun, interesting and an amazing opportunity.

Eleanor (10A)



**FINE DINING:** Students enjoy lunch in the Peterhouse dining hall.

# War debate offers insights

A group of students went to the Great War Debate hosted at Chesterton Community College earlier this month.

It was one of many debates that took place across the country in honour of the centenary of the First World War.

The debate started with an interesting presentation on fighting in the trenches. Students were shown equipment from the era and learned about the experiences of soldiers in and outside the trenches. Students were shown weapons like the Lee Enfield Rifle and two different versions of the uniform. Then the panellists were introduced.

The panel chair was Mark Urban from the BBC. Two panellists were professors at the University of London, one was a professor at Cambridge and the final one was a researcher and actor.

The debate was thought-provoking, and many topics were discussed. The effect of the war on the suffrage movement was highlighted.

When asked if the war helped or hindered the suffrage movement the panel was split in half. It was especially helpful for the students to hear the points of both sides of the argument.

Another topic that was broached was the effects of the war on the ordinary German citizens. It is a topic that is not often discussed so it was interesting to learn about.

After the debate students were given the chance to ask questions to the panellists and Cambourne was one of the last groups to leave the debate as so many students had questions.

It was a great experience for the students and the information learned will certainly not be forgotten easily!



Alexandra and Maviyah (Year 9) *LEARNING: About aspects of the Great War.*

## Fascinating facts about Ancient Greek democracy



**THE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY:**  
*Prof Paul Cartledge talks to Year 8 students.*

Our school had an incredible visit from a professor at Cambridge University — Professor Paul Cartledge.

Some fortunate Year 8 students went to a lecture about '10 things you should know about democracy in Ancient Greece', which was hosted in our school library.

We learnt that democracy translated into two Greek words: Demos, meaning the people and Kratia, meaning Government which altogether means: "rule of the people".

We also learnt that there used to be many Gods that the Greek people believed in and, that the people of Ancient Greece used to gather around a hill to listen to their superiors and vote about how they wanted Greece to be.

Overall, we enjoyed the visit a lot, and it was really informative! We can't wait to have more opportunities like this.

Dasha and Sofia Cordero (Year 8)

## Project to help teachers deliver lessons in Spanish

Last month teachers and support staff from Cambourne Village College, Comberton Village College and Barnabas Oley Primary School (Gt Gransden) travelled to Zaragoza as part of the Erasmus project.

The scheme is designed to improve language learning across all schools, to exchange ideas and to create meaningful projects which will enhance and promote language learning, as well as celebrating cultural diversity. Part of the funding was used to send seven teachers to the Rosa Molas School.

Throughout the week we attended a variety of different classes. We observed secondary, primary and infant classes, across all subject areas. We spent time talking to students in English and Spanish and this gave us an opportunity to help them and to improve our own language learning.

We were immersed in the culture of the school and gained new insights into possible projects and resources which might enhance the learning of the students in our schools.

By attending extensive Spanish classes every day we learnt new vocabulary and grammar which would allow us to deliver our subjects in Spanish.

As the result of our initial Erasmus trip we have not only improved our Spanish learning but have initiated discussions into what we can do to improve Spanish language learning for students in our own schools. From this point onwards we are developing cross Trust collaborative

learning projects which will enhance students learning in different subject areas, as well as, immersing them in Spanish language learning.

Lauren Holman



*LEARNING VISIT: Teachers spent a week in Zaragoza.*

# Science comes alive!

Teachers at Cambourne celebrated British Science Week with a 'Demo Day' at the college.

More than 60 Key Stage 3 students attended sessions at break and lunch one day earlier this month to watch staff show off their favourite practicals.

Demonstrations varied from simulations of internal combustion, making rainbows out of acids and alkalis and demonstrations of Pyro-flatulence (burning farts!).

Science teacher David Wikramaratna said: "It was a great way to celebrate Science Week and fantastic to see so many students engaging with their teachers and science outside of lessons."



**MAGIC WAND:** Students watch the experiment from a safe distance.

## Making news

Over the past few weeks, numerous students in Year 8 have been working hard in English lessons to prepare for the BBC's annual School Report, which took place earlier this month.

This project offers students around the country the opportunity to become journalists for a day, covering a large range of new topics, both on a local and national scale.

Along the way students have learned how to research stories thoroughly and accurately, how to carry out interviews with people involved with the story and, crucially, how to present their topics in an



impartial way.

Topics our students covered included: the rise of Formula E, being a teenager in 2018, Papworth Hospital's relocation to Cambridge and Cambourne's 20th birthday.



**GATHER ROUND:** Teachers demonstrate their favourite experiment.

## Clamour to join award



The DofE two-year bronze award programme has just been launched.

There was a good turnout at the initial meeting a fortnight ago and we are expecting another impressive take-up. Meanwhile, our 62 signed-up Year 10s have been busy working hard on their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and are now gearing up towards the final stages of their programme - the expedition!

They will soon be going on their practice expedition, from 18-20 May in the Grafham Water area, with their assessed expedition scheduled in the same area in September.

We are all very much looking forward to help our participants to achieve their full potential and receive their Bronze award!

Follow us on Twitter @CamVCDofE



## BRAND NEW

Floodlit Astro Turf Pitch



3G Pitch with Shock Pad Surface

## WE OFFER

Full-length Tarmac Spectator Gallery, Changing Facilities, Free Parking

CONTACT DIANE BAGULAY : [dbagulay@cambournevc.org](mailto:dbagulay@cambournevc.org)



**SUPPORTIVE:** The Cambourne team played in great spirit in all four sports, including New Age Curling (above).

# Duo's South Cambs call

Seven pupils from Cambourne Centre travelled to Impington Village College to compete in the annual adapted multi-sport competition.

The pupils competed in pairs/groups in four sports. These were Boccia, which is similar to bowls and was first designed to be played by competitors who were wheelchair bound, table cricket, an indoor miniature version of cricket played on a large table top, Polybat, which is an exciting table top game using unique lightweight bats and specially designed side panels. Similar to table tennis, the aim of the game is to rally back and forth to send the ball off the far end.

The final sport was New Age Kurling, where competitors aim for the target by either pushing the stone slider with a hand or push stick and is derived from the Olympic winter sport of the same name. They all competed in great spirit, supporting each other where possible. After the scores were totalled up Camborne's top-scoring pair were Megan Webb and Natasha Kent, with a little assistance from Josh Starkey finishing joint second out of all the South Cambridgeshire.

Well done also to Lewis Coleman, Josh Went, Megan Williams and Freya Colledge. The winning pair from Impington Village College, the Cambourne runners-up and the duo they shared second place with from Granta School now join

forces and form a team, along with some of the other top scoring pairs, to go and compete as a South Cambs representative team at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough School Games Summer Festival on 29th June. South Cambs School Sports Partnership Manager, Claire McDonnell, said: "It was great to see so many youngsters taking part in this event. "We had a record number of entries this year and it was nice to see some schools taking part for the first time. It's important we provide opportunities for all young people to take part in physical activity and sport so that they can experience the enjoyment and benefits it can bring and this event certainly helped to do that."

## Reaching out

The annual Bodyworks Outreach Dance Show was the usual success for the girls performing. Twenty-one students have been training hard over the past few months and weeks ready to impress in front of an audience of over 300 in the Great Hall of The Leys School in Cambridge. Savanna's Jazz group performed a fabulous dance and all their hard work and consistent attendance at the classes really showed with many people coming up to me afterwards to congratulate them on their dance. Rosie's Street group danced to a "What do you mean?/Look what you made me do" mash up. Special mention to Posy Smith, who really showed off her dance skills throughout the performance.

We would love to have more and more girls taking up dance and there are so many benefits, not only the obviously fitness benefits but also developing social and teamwork skills and most importantly it is an excellent opportunity to have fun and relax away from the pressures of school, tests and homework. Anyone wanting to sign up for classes should see Mr Rogers.

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE



**DANCING GIRLS:** Cambourne students performed in a show at The Leys School



**CLEAR VIEW:** For the Cambourne girls.

## Diamonds shine bright

Forty Cambourne girls went to watch England Roses Vs Australian Diamonds as two undefeated sides in the Vitality Netball International Series, part of the Netball Quad Series, went head to head.

Miss Stirling, with help from Miss Curtis and Miss Schnellman, took the netball teams on a trip to London to see this high energy match.

The England Roses fell narrowly short against the Australian Diamonds, with the game unfortunately ending with the Australians winning 50-46. England fell behind 28-21 after the first half but they played an amazing third quarter to bring the score to 37-34. They got very close to closing the gap in the fourth quarter but fell just short. The game was exciting for the girls who went, especially after the long coach ride there, and they made quite a lot of noise to support the English team.

A couple of the girls got lucky during the game, including Madison who won a signed ball after winning a competition at the arena.

Some of the others won smaller prizes for winning the score prediction competition within our netball team. It was an amazing trip and a big thank you goes to Miss Stirling for everything she did to organise it.

# Girls make it a treble!

All three Cambourne competitors at the Cambridgeshire Schools Gymnastics Competition came away as winners.

Each won their category after performing with confidence and determination in the vault and on the floor.

And Elizabeth (9B), who won the KS3 Advanced category, also posted the overall highest score of the day across all the divisions.

Zara (9B) won the KS3 Intermediate section while Jess (10U) topped the KS4 Novice class. Well done girls!



**MEDALISTS:** Cambourne's winners.

## It's all go with sports fixtures

The autumn term was filled with rugby and hockey fixtures culminating in participation in various district tournaments.

We had fantastic commitment from the Year 7 teams, turning up week in, week out, and this dedication was clearly shown when it came to their fixtures where they performed exceptionally well. The boys rugby team finished in the top 8 of 16 schools at the district rugby tournament.

The Year 9 rugby team also had a valuable experience, playing their first season as a 15-a-side team. At the tournament they worked exceptionally hard and finished 10th from 15 teams in the District.

The Year 7 and 8 hockey teams turned in fantastic performance throughout the season, culminating in both finishing in the top 5 from 16 in their District tournaments.

This term we have enjoyed our football and netball cluster fixtures which went very well. In addition to these there were County Cup football draws, adapted festivals, a national rowing competition and the School Games Spring Festival.

We place great emphasis at attendance at clubs to ensure we are ready for all these opportunities. Over the last term we have had more than 25 additional clubs on offer after school, ranging from team games to racket sports delivered by staff at the school, along with great opportunities from external providers in dance and girls' football from Norwich City.

Nathan Rogers



**POLISHED PERFORMANCES:** From all the Cambourne competitors.

## Medals galore for bouncers

Eighteen pupils from Cambourne Village College were selected to attend the inaugural Cambridge Schools Trampoline Competition earlier this month.

This was a fantastic day, allowing each pupil to showcase their skills, with students returning with a staggering total of 15 medals!

Pupils competed in a range of categories from novice to elite. First to take to the podium was Nathan, with a well-deserved 3rd place in the KS4 Advanced category. This was then followed by sisters, Katie, with second in the KS3 intermediate, and Lucy, who was third in the KS4 intermediate category.

Shortly after Ellie was third in the KS4 Advanced category with a fantastic routine.

The Cambourne girls then took the podium by storm, with Maja collecting the gold medal, Olivia the silver and Erin the bronze in the KS3 Novice category — a great battle well done girls. They then continued their success winning the team event in this category. Showcasing another fantastic routine was another Erin (Year 9), who competed in the KS3 advanced category and secured second place as well as helping the Cambourne team to silver with Zara and Lelia.

To end the day Mariana entered into the KS4 novice category and completed in a fantastic routine, showing real determination, to take bronze. Well done to all the pupils involved.



**FULL OF BOUNCE:** Cambourne's trampolinists competed at Sawston.

## Rowers show pride and passion



**EFFORT:** Cambourne rowers give it their best.

Cambourne pupils attended the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at Lee Valley Athletics Stadium. Schools and rowing clubs from all over the country, with boys and girls from Years 7-13 competing, attended the event, which was held in the stadium itself so made for a fantastic atmosphere.

Pupils competed in heats within their age groups, with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded to the top three. National Governing Bodies and sports clubs, including England Hockey and West Ham United provided activities for the competitors to try while they were not competing. Cambourne took students from different year groups, all of whom rowed exceptionally well! For some it was their first school fixture and they all represented the college with passion and pride. It was really pleasing to see the amount of support each student gave each other when they were rowing! Congratulations to all who took part.

# GB call-up for BMX ace



**PEDAL POWER:** Has earned a World Championships place.

Year 10 student Zara Lachlan has been chosen for the Great Britain team for this summer's BMX World Championships in Azerbaijan.

After just five years in the sport, she has been selected after finishing second in a national competition as well as being named as East regional champion three times.

Her aim for this season is to be one of the top three riders nationally in her age group.

Zara, who riders for the Milton Keynes Club, said: "BMX is a fast-paced, vibrant Olympic sport where the aim is to get around a dirt track with jumps the fastest, against a maximum of seven other people.

"The races are short sprints lasting no longer than 50 seconds each, with lots of elbow-to-elbow action.

"I really enjoy BMX as it lets me develop my fitness, bike skills and race-craft. It's also a really enjoyable way to meet new people.

"I train every day, and ride a road bike to school to build up my stamina."



## Top honour for runner at awards first

Cambourne pupils attended the annual Roy Burrell Sports Award Evening for the first time when it took place at Netherhall School earlier this month.

Roy Burrell was Deputy Headmaster at Chesterton Community College until his untimely death at the age of 49. He was passionate about sport and engaging young people in it.

The awards, presented by the Cambridge and District School Sports Association to nominated Year 11 students, not only commemorate Roy Burrell but also celebrate the excellence, participation and sportsmanship that is characteristic of sport in the area.

James Orrell, Fleur Dear and Abbie Hardwidge were all nominated for various awards at this prestigious school awards ceremony.

James and Fleur won medals for cross country and dance respectively.

Fleur was nominated in the final top five school sportswomen of the year, narrowly missing out to some incredible contenders.

Abbie and James were both nominated in the Overcoming Adversity Awards with James named as the overall winner of this award. It was fabulous to stand on stage and present both Abbie and James with their prizes in front of such a large audience and other contenders.

Head of PE Hannah Curtis said: "At CamVC we feel that our nominees not only embody these characteristics but that they are also role models in their time at school, influencing and inspiring our younger students, not just in sport and dance but throughout the school life.

"It was a lovely evening celebrating school sport and dance and I was incredibly proud of our pupils. They are the first ever CamVC pupils to win medals and awards. Well done to all of them."



**ON THE RUN:** At the English Championships.

James Orrell has won the Overcoming Adversity award at the recent Roy Burrell presentation evening after a fantastic 12 months of running.

A year ago he was voted Junior club captain for BRJ Run and Tri Club and received two awards from the club for 1st Boy under-15 and most personal bests in the year. He currently holds three junior club records.

Over the year he has held the junior parkrun course records at Huntingdon, Wimpole Estate and Bedford with the latter still standing and has also enjoyed success at local and regional level.

Last April he won the Cambourne 1 mile run. This was followed by successes over the summer with age group wins at races in Huntingdon, St Ives, Kimbolton, Swinshead, Bourne and St Neots.

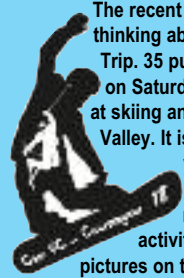
In May he got a silver medal in the Cambridgeshire Amateur Athletics open meet 3km race, while regionally he was third Under-17 finisher in the Amphill trophy cross county 4km race and ninth in the Under-17 men's Eastern Athletic Association cross-country championships.

Nationally he participated in the South England Athletic Association cross country relays in Wormwood Scrubs, London and has just competed at the English national Cross country championships at Parliament Hill in London as well as representing Cambs under-17s in the British Athletics Inter-counties Cross country Championships in Loughborough. He has also represented Cambourne VC in the schools athletics and cross country championships. He always tries his best and competes every race with enthusiasm and determination and always with a smile. This enthusiasm is shared with others in his sports leader capacity where he helps in a number of after school clubs especially the cross-country running club.



**AND THE WINNER IS:** Cambourne Head of PE Hannah Curtis presents one of the special awards.

## Snow helps build trip anticipation



The recent snow has got everyone thinking about the upcoming Snowsports Trip. 35 pupils and 5 staff are heading off on Saturday 31st March to try their hand at skiing and snowboarding in the Aosta Valley. It is going to be a jam packed week full of lessons, pizza, hot chocolates, ice cream and a range of different après ski activities. Look out for all our pictures on twitter (@Cam\_PE) and try not to get too jealous!!!