

# NEWS@COM

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Celebrations All Round — Pages 7 and 14

# CVC now going for Gold

Comberton is aiming to achieve the Gold standard as a Rights Respecting School within the next three years.

Less than a year after signing up to Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), the college achieved Level 1 (Silver) after a rigorous assessment at the end of last term, but work is already under way to make further progress.

Assessor Frances Bestley spent a day talking to 27 students, 14 staff and two governors, both of whom have children at the school, as well as looking round the site, reviewing written evidence and watching a video produced for student assemblies.

She concluded Comberton had met the four key standards to earn Silver and told RRSA co-ordinator Marielle Burgess that some of what she had seen already met the Gold standard. She also made recommendations for reaching the next level.

Standard A says that rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management and Mrs Bestley concluded that the Senior Leadership Team is committed to becoming rights respecting as part of the school's three-year vision: 'RRSA be firmly established and a core part of the ethos'.

She also noted that global citizenship and sustainable development are already college priorities and that Comberton holds the International Schools Award and has links with several schools around the world.

Standard B says the whole school community learns about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Mrs Bestley found that staff and students understood well how the Convention affected their life in school. Students learned about the Rights in assemblies, form time, PSHE and from notice boards, which are linked to specific articles, and the weekly bulletin focuses on a different Article each week. In addition staff embed learning about the various rights in their lessons. Governors have RRSA as a standing item at their meetings.

Standard C says that the school has a rights-respecting ethos. Comberton has developed a school charter, which is in reception, and is based on the five Articles students identified as their 'top five rights'. Mrs Bestley said she saw examples of

these rights as she toured.

Standard D says children are empowered to become active citizens and learners and Mrs Bestley agreed that

Comberton provides an extensive range of opportunities for students to express their views and share their concerns, and those spoken to all felt 'their opinions are being sought'. Students also told Mrs Bestley they have been involved in a range of activities to improve the lives of children locally and globally through events like Walk for the World and the Cambridge Foodbank Christmas bags appeal.

To help Comberton achieve the Gold award, Mrs Bestley recommended further work to develop awareness of the rights being: Inherent, Inalienable, Indivisible, Universal and Unconditional and also suggested the school charter is included in student planners in future.

She also felt Comberton should consider embedding articles and the

principles of the CRC in school policies to demonstrate how it underpins every aspect of school life as well as more explicitly looking for correlation between improved outcomes for children and the implementation of a rights-based approach across the school.

Among her recommendations under the 'Teaching and Learning for Rights' strand is to enhance ambassadorial activity by enabling students and staff to promote and encourage Rights Respecting values, actions and knowledge of CRC with other schools, particularly in The Cam Academy Trust, and the wider community. Mrs Burgess, who has already met pupils to discuss the best way forward, said: 'I would like to thank everyone for their support and help with enabling CVC to gain the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award. The RRSA Assessor was extremely impressed with how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an integral part of all the things that are done at the school and how embedded the Rights are in the ethos and values of the school.'

'We are continuing our RRSA journey and have started the work on moving CVC from Silver to Gold. Our work is based on the recommendations made by Mrs Bestley in her report. Watch out for more information on our journey to Gold in due course!'



**SPELLING IT OUT:** Comberton's banner celebrating their success.

## Cake crusaders!

In May, the Year 8 Charity Reps held a cake sale fundraiser, raising more than £200 to be donated to Guide Dogs UK.

And if delicious home-baked treats weren't enough of an attraction, the Year 8 Charity Reps were offered a helping hand, or paw, from Hero the German Shepherd, a four-year-old working guide dog, who belongs to a friend of English teacher, Iain Walker.

Assistant Head of Year 8, Matt Knight said: "The Year 8s have excelled themselves with the sheer number and variety of cakes that they have baked and sold. When Mr Walker said that he had a friend who works for Guide Dogs UK that may be able to help out, I didn't expect the friend to be furry with four legs and a tail, but it's safe to say that Hero well and truly stole the show."



**HELPING PAW:** Working dog Hero stole the show at the Year 8 cake sale in aid of Guide Dogs UK.

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**GETTING ARTY:** At the Saturday Club (above) and at the Somerset House exhibition (below).

# Working to improve the student experience

As a school, it very important to provide a meaningful platform in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact them.

This is in compliance with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which stipulates that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Since the start of this term, the school council has been trying to consistently improve the student experience and their well-being at Comberton so they went to Saffron Walden County High School (SWCH) to see how another school operates. They took inspiration from the way the student voice there was led and hope to implement some positive changes in Comberton.

Though their school is very similar to Comberton's, such as the multiple clubs (eg debate club, chess club), they had some intriguing differences such having a farm and a library in which there were multiple iPads as well as computers.

Interestingly, their student voice is a tripartite system: the purple voice focuses on wellbeing, eg gender-neutral uniform, mental health and teaching studying techniques; the blue voice focuses on teaching and learning, eg introducing more

clocks, and the reward and sanction system; the green voice focuses on the environment and the community, eg looking at outdoor learning.

Each student voice member consists of Year 7 to 11 students, with whole school elections taking place in assemblies. All students vote for the ideas presented in anonymous manifestos to elect. This differs to the Comberton where one boy and one girl from each year must present their manifesto during assembly and be voted in.

Overall the trip was a success and Comberton looks forward to when SWCH representatives visit. Here's what the school councillors had to say about the trip:

"I admired how open they were as a school about mental health and teach students methods to cope with certain issues. I believe that our school can learn from this," said Mirette Shaalam (Year 10). "I learnt a lot about how important it is to listen to all views and how you can implement that into effective change."

"I liked how they had different student voices such as the environment group and the school voice for the younger students that put their opinions together in an inclusive way," commented Ciara McGrath (Year 9). "I think both schools really listen to what the pupils want to happen in school."

"They had a very different student leadership set-up, which focused on the manifesto given by a person rather than the person themselves. Moreover, it was split into three distinct groups, each honing into a different aspect of school life. These distinct groups are similar to both our school council and our groups, which speak on a specific topic (such as the green group)" added Rhys (Year 10).

"The trip harboured some interesting thought for development in our school: from the more abstract and implausible, to the possible and functional."

## Getting ahead in the art world

Over the last three terms, two GCSE Art and Design students from Comberton Village College, Olivia Ransome and Archie MacLeod, have taken part in the Saturday Art & Design Club at Cambridge School of Art, Anglia Ruskin University.

Together with around 30 students from different Cambridgeshire schools, they developed their skills, learnt new techniques and took part in a variety of masterclasses — all for free!

Over the year they explored a range of different art styles with four-week modules across five subject areas: drawing, print-making, interior design, digital photography and graphic design.

The Saturday Club is part of a national movement which brings together young creative people in over 50 locations throughout the UK; there is a national event each term.

In November, the students visited Central St Martins, where there was a pop-up exhibition of their self-portraits, as well as visits to two London galleries.

In the spring term Olivia and Archie attended a masterclass at AMV BBDO on Bankside in London about how to communicate using advertising and street marketing. They designed an advertising campaign that would promote the concept of '#CambridgesOpen', taking inspiration from the London campaign run by the Mayor Sadiq Kahn celebrating diversity and cultural differences in the capital.

The high point of the year was a visit to Somerset House last month where their work was shown in an exhibition alongside that of all the other Saturday Clubs from across the UK. There was a presentation to each student and a chance to meet some of the funders of this incredible scheme.





**WORKING NEWSROOM:** The heart of the action at CVC.



# Here is the news . . .

One English class from each half in Year 8 participated in an event organised by the BBC, involving an entire day devoted to creating our own articles and features on any chosen topic.

These articles covered a broad range of topics, from a meeting between two internationally known 'nutters', burger-flipping robots and electrification processes.

Before the actual School Report day, we thoroughly planned and researched our news or feature content, including contacting relatives or friends for expertise, background information and opinions.

That meant on the day itself we were prepared and eager to start our role as reporters, editors and journalists when we joined over 30,000 students from approximately 1,000 schools across the UK in the writing stage.

We all gathered in the library and had complete freedom to write, and, in some cases, create videos and recordings like those on the BBC.

When the initial articles were completed, the editors



made the final adjustments and altered the layout to the BBC format before they were uploaded to the school website.

Access to all these articles can be found on the school website, [www.combertonvc.org](http://www.combertonvc.org), by entering 'School Report' into the search function in the top righthand corner of the webpage.

During the feedback lesson after the event, everyone agreed that it was a brilliant day, especially commenting on specific areas, including the freedom of topic and ideas; and the extremely active and expressive life of the reporter, Huw Edwards' eyebrows.

Many were impressed by the space that we were exclusively given for the entire day; the relaxed use

of time and consequently much less pressure; the planning and contemplation time and discussion time with others in your class; as well as the ability to look at and read other students' articles and to share what you produced.

General opinions on the overall day were that it was definitely worth doing, the filming was really fun and it was amusing to have a giant Kim Jon Un (the North Korean leader) projected on to the white board.

Additionally, the whole class agreed that it was a meaningful activity with many benefits and it was exciting to have our work on BBC website as well as the school one.

The appropriate paraphernalia, such as lanyards and pens, increased the professional atmosphere and feeling and it was enjoyable to use our English in other forms than that of an essay.

The day was an absolute success and everybody was pleased with the final outcomes and very much hope it continues to run for many years to come.

Lucy Cotton (8C)



**COOLEST PROJECT:** Comberton students with their robot.

## Students show off their robot creation

A group of six Year 9s were invited to the Coolest Projects event in Here East, London, to exhibit a robot that they built.

The boys — Charles Warn, Samit Awal, Kai Sun, William Woodard, Ben Lione and Thomas Marshall — spent all day showcasing their robot to members of the public. The robot was able to shoot nerf darts using a motor taken from an old CD-ROM and was controlled using a Raspberry Pi. Instructions could be passed to the robot via a mobile phone.

The event was enjoyed by all and we look forward to next year. We are very grateful to Raspberry Pi for providing a bursary to fund this trip. Well done to all pupils involved.

Will Grey, Head of Computer Science

## Bags of ideas!

The Design and Technology department learnt of a really exciting competition starting last term and decided this was a great opportunity for our brilliant Year 7 designers.

Aldi and Team GB had set the challenge: To design a reusable bag that will inspire others to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. There are lots of prizes available but the winner will see their bag on sale in Aldi stores. We introduced the task in Design and Technology lessons so that students had a chance to develop their ideas. They were asked to consider three factors in their design:

- 1 Why people might want to use a Bag for Life and consider the issues with plastic.
  2. Why we should eat fresh fruit and vegetables.
  3. What is involved in the creation of an eye-catching design?
- They were given time to discuss these ideas and start planning. Most students had their best design ideas ready to draw up on the competition entry form over Easter.



All of Year 7 were invited to enter and we submitted the entries straight after Easter.

The winner was announced last month and although the Comberton students didn't win, we'd like to say well done to everyone who entered. The Design and Technology department's favourite design was by Aralia Jogiya in 7R (left).

Kimberley Allen

# Awards for Trust schools

**It is pleasing and encouraging that numbers of our schools have their achievements recognised by national awards.**

For several years, both Comberton and Melbourn Village Colleges have received national awards for both pupil progress and attainment from the SSAT. These are presented at a major event in London annually.

This year, St Peter's School has been shortlisted for two Education Business Awards: the SEN Inclusion Award and the School Recruitment Award.

Cambourne Village College recently found out that it has won a Silver Award in the 'School of the Year — Making a Difference' category that has been introduced for the first time this year as part of the annual Pearson Teaching Awards, which were set up 20 years ago to recognise the life-changing impact inspirational teachers can have on the lives of young people. This is a tremendous accolade for the school, with only 65 schools nationally winning awards in a range of categories and just five in Cambourne's section.

It means that the school is in the running for the Gold Award that is given to the 'School of the Year' at the annual ceremony in the Autumn, widely regarded as the 'Oscars' of teaching.

The criteria for the award is 'Making a Difference' with a particular emphasis on contributing to the local community and strengthening community cohesion in the community.

Judges were very impressed with the way that Cambourne Village College had significantly contributed (and continues to contribute) to the positive development of the community of Cambourne as well as providing a great education for all the young people of secondary age from Cambourne.

Many congratulations to all of our schools that have received these positive affirmations of the excellent work they are doing.



**REASON TO CELEBRATE:** Gordon Johnson, chair of Trustees, presents the School of the Year Silver Award to Cambourne's out-going Head Prefect team.

## Performance recognised

The Education Policy Institute (EPI) has recognised The Cam Academy Trust as one of England's top 15 best performing school-groups for Key Stage 4.

The research, which was published last month, compared school performance and pupil improvement at every academy trust and local authority in England.

The EPI analysed performance at key stages 2 and 4, the prior attainment of pupils and levels of disadvantage, as well as the historic performance of the school.

Stephen Munday, Chief Executive of The Cam Academy Trust, said: "We are very

pleased to be recognised as one of the top 15 performing trusts in England for Key Stage 4.

"Since The Cam Academy Trust was set up in 2011, we have grown considerably while still maintaining our ethos to ensure that every individual pupil achieves his or her full potential through a broad and high-quality education."

You can read more about the research here: To view the <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/epi-report-best-and-worst-performing-academy-trusts-and-las-revealed/>

## Exciting times ahead for CAT's latest members

Two further Primary Schools are set to join The Cam Academy Trust ready for the coming school year. Everton Heath Primary School, a small former First School just over the border in Bedfordshire, is awaiting final arrangements to see through the process of joining the Trust. Given that the school is becoming a primary school, the Trust will look at the possibilities of it joining the catchment of an appropriate secondary school, Comberton Village College, within the Trust.

Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School is located in Huntingdon. It feeds into St Peter's School, already in our Trust.

Arrangements are taking place to seek to ensure that the school can become part of the Trust in

September.

A new Head, David Jones, has been appointed (the current Head is in an acting position). Some further appointments have been made also for the school to be in a strong position to move forward in September.

Given the school's proximity to St Peter's School, there are exciting possibilities of significant joint working between the schools in ways that can clearly benefit the education of young people in this part of Huntingdon.

There are some further positive developments also that can support this.

We have managed to organise for Teach First to establish its first ever cluster in Huntingdon. Teach

First recruits top graduates to enter the teaching profession and then places them in agreed schools. Clearly, this is a very promising development to provide top-quality staff in the future at both St Peter's and Thongsley Fields.

The Trust has also agreed to host a recruit to the police force through the Police Now programme at St Peter's and Thongsley Fields.

Police Now is the police equivalent of Teach First.

This post will enable close and supportive working between police and the school communities. We very much look forward to all these significant forthcoming developments.

## Start of a new chapter for Gamlingay



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION:** Work is progressing on Gamlingay Village Primary.

After much hard work, commitment and determination, the new structure of schooling in Gamlingay is set to start fully in the coming year. Gamlingay First School is to be officially named as 'Gamlingay Village Primary' school. Building work has been going on apace on the Village College site (which has been vacated). This is set to result in a great new Primary School facility fit for the great school that we are all determined Gamlingay Village Primary will be. The remainder of the former Village College (Gamlingay Middle School) will close this summer and thus Gamlingay will fully become part of the Cambridgeshire two-tier system of schooling. Gamlingay Village Primary School has already been confirmed as a feeder primary school in Comberton Village College's catchment area.

Much thanks is due to all the people who have worked so very hard to enable this highly positive development that can secure the future of a strong and sustainable schooling system for the community of Gamlingay. The long-term efforts of the governing body have been remarkable, as has the determined work of the Head, Shelley Desborough, and her staff as well as the support provided by the Trust's Primary Executive Leader, Chris Jukes. Thank you to everyone who has made this positive development possible.

# Celebrating achievement



This June saw our fourth annual Comberton Arts and Sports Awards evening, the CASAs. One hundred and twenty students from across Sport, Art, Music, Dance and Drama were nominated in a range of categories from Sports Personality of the Year through Backstage Supporting Role to the KS5 Composer Award. Hosted wonderfully by Sixth Formers Chloe Hall and Emma Burton, the evening saw a beautiful ballet duet performance by Harry Walkow-Foster and Millie Dean, a stunning dance used at the County School Games opening ceremony, as well as music pieces by the Junior Music Choir and Soul Band.

Guest speaker was Peter Sayer, an-pupil and Artistic Director of Gruffdog Theatre Company. Peter's tale of early inspiration at Comberton before taking the step, while at Oxford University, to build his own theatre and start a Fringe touring company, was the perfect story of how a young, creative and determined individual can make a dream come true through resilience and hard work. The Awards evening saw light-hearted moments from the Heads of Department, but centred on the nominees and the brilliance of each and everyone of them in an excellent evening of celebration and recognition of achievement.

## Role of Honour

### Dance

Outstanding achievement in dance: Harry Walkow-Foster  
 Exceptional contribution to dance (KS3): Lucy Steel  
 Exceptional contribution to dance (KS4): Cara Chivers  
 Dancer of the Year (KS3): Elly Robertson  
 Dancer of the Year (KS4): Gaby McKeown  
 Most Improved Dancer (KS3): Stella Tall  
 Most Improved Dancer (KS4/5): Cammie Woolley

### Art

Artist of the Year (KS3): Rowan Briggs Smith  
 Artist of the Year (KS4): Alice Heydinger  
 Artist of the Year (KS5): Rebecca Wilkinson  
 Photographer of the Year (KS3): Fin Geraghty  
 Photographer of the Year (KS4): Gaby McKeown  
 Photographer of the Year (KS5): Holly Griffiths

### Music

Young Performer of the Year: Ben Roberts  
 Performer of the Year (KS4): Olivia Ransome  
 Performer of the Year (KS5) Emma Shield  
 Composer of the Year (KS4): Olivia Ransome  
 Composer of the Year (KS5): Stefan Rogers  
 Outstanding Contribution to Music: Sam Roberts  
 Good Egg Award: Toby Robson

### Sport

Outstanding Contribution to Sport: Lily Callaghan  
 Sports Leader of the Year: Melina Cousins  
 Team of the Year: Year 11 Boys Football  
 Sports Personality of the Year: Ella Tomsett

### Drama

Backstage & Tech Supporting Role: Liam Clark  
 Young Actor: Ben Smith  
 Most Improved Performer: Owen Shield  
 Exceptional Contribution to Drama: Laura Wallace  
 Outstanding Performance: Ollie Payne  
 Senior Actors Award: Conor Waldock



**AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION: At the CASA awards.**

## Making an exhibition . . .

On June the 19th, Comberton hosted the Private View of all GCSE and A Level art and photography. Pupils came with family and friends to celebrate and view a huge range of art work from across both qualifications.



**PRIVATE VIEW: For family and friends.**

The show spread from the Art and atrium areas through to the Sixth form drama room, where the A Level photography was beautifully spotlit by the Drama team.

The evening had many highlights including the display of Sam Pinches' A Level Art project in which all his designs and prototypes were displayed as a merchandise store. It is always lovely to be able to celebrate the creativity of pupils with a wider audience. The night continued with the CASA awards running straight afterwards. All in all, a wonderful evening celebrating the huge creativity and skills of our Year 11 and 13 students.

**Greg Dean, Head of Art**



**IN STORE: Sam Pinches' work on show.**



## Year 11 bow out

Each year staff and students come together to celebrate Year 11s completing their five years in the lower school at Comberton Village College.

Celebration Day took place on Tuesday 26th June. Year 11s and their tutors remembered the fantastic memories made during their time at CVC. The day included inflatable assault courses, bucking broncos, sumo suits and a selection of 'humorous' videos from staff at CVC thanking the Year 11s for their hard work.

Toby Robson, Head Prefect said: "I cannot believe we have finished our time in the lower school! Coming for our new Intake Day in Year 6 feels like only yesterday! I have so many happy memories from my time as a Comberton student."

Two days later the year group and staff gathered together for the last time at the Guildhall in Cambridge for the Summer Ball.

The event was a sumptuous affair with many students arriving in unusual vehicles before boogieing the night away on the dance floor. These events were organised by Mr Aitken, Mrs Lightfoot and the Prefect team. Photographs were taken by Sixth Form Photography students Max Prince and Josh Searle and will be made available to parents of students in Year 11 very soon.

I would like to thank students and staff for all their incredible efforts over the last five years and look forward to celebrating some fantastic results with students in August.

**Zach Beamish, Head of Year 11**



# Making healthy choices

For a third year, Comberton Village College signed up to the British Nutrition Foundation's 'Healthy Eating Week'.

This is a national event held over five days, designed to promote and reinforce healthy eating messages already delivered to students in lessons. There were five key messages; have breakfast, have 5 a day, drink plenty, get active and make a change.

As the theme running through Year 7 cooking and nutrition lessons is 'brilliant breakfasts', we are all very aware of the importance of breakfast and have taken time to consider reasons why breakfast is sometimes skipped.

In assemblies, pupils were asked to consider the choices they made at breakfast, and to take the opportunity to try to make at least half the grains they ate wholegrain. We also noted that as a nation, we eat too much processed red meat, and discussed ways that this could be reduced.

We were delighted to welcome Rav from Del Monte who, on Tuesday lunchtime, helped us deliver the 'have 5 a day' message.

She also brought with her fresh fruit samples from Del Monte's range for pupils to try. These included pineapple lollies, watermelon fans and apple and grape bags, all of which were incredibly popular — more than 500 happy recipients enjoyed their free fruit in about 10 minutes! Del Monte have promised to visit again, with more fruit samples for us to try!

Our catering team produced a wonderful spread for the week; there was a large range of fruits to choose from, including some unusual and exotic varieties.

There was an extended salad bar, plenty of wholegrains and vegetables were used in the main meals and cakes and biscuits were off limits.

It was wonderful to hear so many positive comments from staff and students about the choices available, and it was great to see so many students making more considered selections.

To support the message of 'drink plenty' and to encourage pupils awareness and contribution to environmental issues, we looked at a more sustainable way to encourage us all to stay hydrated.

Healthy Eating Week saw the launch of a whole school competition to create the design for our first branded reusable drinking bottle. The winning design will be produced and will be available to purchase from September.

'Make a change' is a message that is very individual; it has to be a choice we make on our own and we have to recognise the benefits of making that change for it to become a habit that 'sticks'.

We therefore looked at national concerns and decided to reinforce a message delivered previously in an assembly earlier in the year about the drinks we choose. Cancer Research UK suggest those aged 11 to 18 each drink just over 234 cans of soft drink a year.

Teenage sugar consumption is three times the recommended limit, with sugary drinks being their main source of added sugar. Please do try to make a change —



**FEELING FRUITY: A visit from Del Monte and a platter from the catering team.**



there is little or no nutritional value in many of these drinks, and there is evidence that a high consumption of sugary drinks contribute to a plethora of health problems.

And finally, 'get active' is always a message that we enjoy delivering. Physical activity helps us all be fit and healthy in all sorts of ways including maintaining a healthy weight, having strong bones and muscles, improving balance, flexibility and posture, having a healthy heart, preventing diseases later in life, helping you relax and improving self-esteem. Most of all, it's fun! We provided some additional activities in active form time and provided some fun physical activities in the sports hall too.

All in all, we had an excellent week. Healthy Eating Week is becoming embedded in our school year, but beyond this, the messages delivered are far longer lasting, and we hope you all keep making considered lifestyle choices and look after yourselves!

Emily Goodson, Head of Food and Nutrition

## Jumping for joy . . .

For their summer social, nearly 100 Year 8s headed to Xtreme 360, the trampoline park at St Neots.

Not only was there an array of gymnastic jumping on display on the trampolines, but students propelled themselves into foam pits, ran the gauntlet of the jousting beam and ducked and dived around the dodgeball arena.

Assistant Head of Year 8, Matt Knight said: "Earlier in the year, the Year 8 Form Reps organised a vote to establish what Year 8 wanted to do at their next social, and Xtreme 360 came out as a clear winner. It was really delightful to see so many of the year group there together, having fun and being active all at the same time."



**ON THE BOUNCE: Year 8 at Xtreme 360.**



## Holly has a mind to help others succeed

Former Comberton Head Girl Holly Peck (above) has gone back to school – at the same time as running her own business.

She is currently working in The Cabin as a teaching assistant alongside establishing her performance psychology business. Holly, who was part of the 2006-7 Head Prefect team, left Comberton with 11 GCSE grades and went on to Hills Rd Sixth Form College and university. She has obtained degrees in Childhood Studies and two Masters degrees in psychology, while also playing in several national league netball teams. Now Holly has combined her passion for psychology, well-being and human performance by starting her own business, coaching and consulting with athletes, businesses, weight-loss clients and young people in education to help them achieve their goals.

Holly helps people enhance both the role of their environment and their mind-set to achieve their most ambitious ventures such as winning in competitions, acing exams and sustaining lifestyle changes for weight loss.

Goalsetting, increasing motivation, managing fear of failure and coping with performance anxiety are common examples of areas that can be addressed during the process. Her work draws on theories and techniques from multiple disciplines including Sports and Exercise Psychology, which are utilised on athletes at the top of their game. If you would like more information about what Holly does please don't hesitate to get in touch via email to: [holly@hollypeckperformancepsychology.com](mailto:holly@hollypeckperformancepsychology.com) or phone: 07840748086.



**CENTRE STAGE:** Presenting to Year 7.



**JOINING IN:** Students went to lessons with their buddies.

# 'We won't forget CVC'

Three months in the UK, and seven weeks at Comberton Village College have left an indelible memory on all of us. The learning experience here has inserted a great influence on the students in a particular way.

One of the important aims for us Chinese students to come to the UK is to go deep into the classrooms of local schools and to experience British secondary education in a fully immersive language environment. The students have learnt English since they first started primary school in China, and some even had English classes in kindergartens at the age of three. They study very hard to learn the language and its

**A dozen 12-year-old students from the Suzhou International Language School in China have spent seven weeks in lessons with Years 7 and 8 at Comberton as part of a three-month stay in the UK. Here they reflect on their time at CVC.**

culture during the last six years to earn selection for a place on the trip to England. It been such a great opportunity for a group of Chinese students to study English in a great English-speaking country like the UK.

It is worth mentioning that the colourful subjects at CVC have left a deep impression on our students. Students enjoyed the multidisciplinary courses here. For example, in music class, they felt excited to learn to compose by themselves, which is totally different from China.

Swimming was one of their favourites as well, because, in China, they do not have swimming lessons in school, but most of them learnt to swim in extra-curricular training centres.

Studying in Science at CVC has been a good platform for them to study Chemistry, Physics and Biology when they are back to China and start their middle school study.

Some classes here, like RPE and Spanish, which are not taught in our school, also provided new perspectives for the students to observe the world in a more diversified way.

What's more, students really gained great confidence in Maths here as they found the content easier than China's and they are eager to try some more challenging knowledge. A very interesting phenomenon occurs in Geography class and it has always been discussed by students after school. The content about China that is taught in Geography class is, to some extent, narrow and out of date. We really hope that certain information and facts barriers could be removed by means of more cultural exchange programs in the near future. You are more than welcome to visit China!

Besides the seven-weeks of study here, we have enjoyed many trips to other major cities in the UK., including Norwich, Sheffield, Manchester, York, etc. They are all great experiences and will sink deeply into the soul. Our last week was spent in London, which we enjoyed. At the same time, we really didn't want to leave all the lovely buddies, classmates and teachers here. You have offered so much to us and we've had such a wonderful time together. We don't want to say goodbye to you! "It's the emptiest and yet the fullest of all human messages: Good-bye." We have to go, yet we don't need to forget!

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch. — Garrison Keillor  
Hope to see you in China!

## Visit us in China — Head

The Head of Suzhou International Language School has invited Comberton staff and students to visit his school in China.

Dong Bin met Head of School Peter Law and The Cam Academy Trust's Director of International Education Rachel Hawkes during a trip to England to catch up with his students, who were learning about the English education system as well as English culture during a three-month stay, based with families in St Neots.

The students were shared across three schools — Comberton and fellow Trust partner, Melbourn Village College, and a school in Peterborough — and Dong Bin was quick to offer his thanks.

However, speaking through an interpreter, he also berated Mr Law and Dr Hawkes for failing to visit Suzhou during their trip to China in January where they were, among other things, establishing a partnership with a school in Beijing.

He also told them they would be very welcome to visit beautiful Suzhou and that they should bring students with them! His arrival was also a highlight for his students as he brought with him letters from their parents — which caused great excitement even in this age of instant access via the internet!



**MEET THE HEAD:** Dong Bin meets his students at CVC.



**EXCHANGING GIFTS:** Dong Bin and Peter Law.

# Trip has so much to offer

The Year 7 trip to Spain was a memorable cultural and linguist experience for both the students involved, as well as the Year 12 and 13 students, who led many of the activities during the trip.

Students and teachers enjoyed five days (plus an extra one!) full of fun activities and plenty of opportunities to taste the food and immerse in the Spanish culture.

Here Lily Herring reports: "I went to Comillas in April with the school. I had so much fun learning new phrases and doing new activities every day!

"The first day we went to a place where we pretended to be Romans and Cantabrians. We were asked questions and we had to answer them. If you won your game you were moved on to the next round for the final competition.

"On some of the days we went to lessons. I learnt how to tell the time and also some animals. It was great because we played lots of games which helped a lot.

"These lessons also helped us to be prepared for meeting some children from Santander. We all felt it was daunting at the



**SPANISH SUNSHINE:** Year 7 enjoy ice cream at the beach.

beginning. We made a circle and had to move around the Spanish students alternating from Spanish to English. This helped both sets of students learn the other language. "Another highlight was El Capricho, a house covered in sunflower tiles, each of them handmade. We had the opportunity to explore the room, we did a few quizzes and watched a video that explained the history of the house and his architect, Antoni Gaudi.

"Food was incredible. We tasted things like chocolate con churros, Colacao and tapas. They were all



**CULTURAL TOUR:** Of Gaudi's house, El Capricho.

amazing.

"On the last day we were all so sad as we had to pack, but we still had to the whole day at Cabárceno where we saw bears, rhinos, monkeys and tigers.

"When we got to the airport we were told that the flight was delayed so we waited, and waited, and they cancelled our flight! We were all so tired!

"However, we did get to stay another day in Bilbao in a beautiful hotel where we had the most luxurious breakfast, which was great.

"Our unexpected day in Bilbao was very cultural: We went to San Mamés, the local football stadium, the Guggenheim Museum, where we took photos with a gigantic dog made of flowers, and we got to walk down into the city centre. We then had lunch at a buffet; we were all so full!

"We went back to the airport in the evening, and finally made it through security. It was lovely because we had some time to do some final shopping. Our Spanish adventure finished when we got to school very late and in the dark!

Thank you to all the teachers as well as sixth formers Fay, Federica, Gabby, Georgie, Imogen and Mollie for organising and making Comillas 2018 so special."

## Students delight in teaching others

Year 9 students have the opportunity to become Language Leaders.

This involves planning, preparing and delivering lessons in another language in primary school. Here, some of this year's cohort talk about their experiences.

"We have really enjoyed our experience this year of becoming and learning how to be Language Leaders.

"For us, being a Language Leader was really about inspiring and teaching the primary school students Spanish, and also developing our own skills of how to work and engage with younger students.

"When we went to do our first lesson, we were so nervous, but over the course of the year we have gained a lot more confidence and have learned so many more skills, such as how to make the lessons really enjoyable and how to create understanding when learning trickier topics.

"We think that becoming a Language Leader is such a good opportunity, as it's so rewarding for both you and your class, and we would definitely recommend it for anybody considering taking part." — **Izzy Roberts and Abi Smith.**

"Our first lesson was quite scary, but once the lesson was under way it was very enjoyable. Planning the lesson was difficult and fun at the same time.

"I loved being a language leader and would recommend it to everyone." —

**Alysia Meakes**

"During my time completing the language leaders award I developed many new and exciting skills, whether it was my communication with peers and students, or my PowerPoint skills — it was a hugely successful and reflective journey.

"Along the way I learnt to be punctual — for resource deadlines and events — and most of all of to be comfortable and

confident around people of all ages.

"I was so worried going into it that the teachers wouldn't like me or the primary school children would be uncontrollable — which they were, admittedly, at times — but I was proved wrong.

"The teachers can support you and help to guide you through the experience. I cannot thank them enough. Overall I would definitely recommend anybody with the opportunity or who is considering to be a language leader to apply. What's the harm in that, after all?

"I was overwhelmed by the feelings of pride after just one of the three lessons you teach on the course — I, along with my partner, had truly helped and given my time up to teach a language I, myself, was still learning. You also get an awesome award to show off on your CV, so double thumbs up!" — **Bea Robertson**

"Language leaders has been an all-round great experience. We both feel like we have developed so many new skills. We have become more confident and organised as we have needed to plan in so much detail for our lessons to be a success.

"The program itself is a real eye-opener about a teaching career and how organised teachers need to be. We both have thoroughly enjoyed the project and helping the Year 6s develop their Spanish.

"Both preparing and presenting these lessons has had its challenges. For example being stuck for coming up with new ideas for teaching the topics. Having said this, we have had many laughs with the kids and hope they have learnt and understood lots of new topics." — **Holly Gordon and Katie Elkington**



**IN FRONT OF THE CLASS:** Language Leaders in action.

# Exchange is a big hit

**“I wasn’t too keen on going on the French exchange in Year 8, however, having just returned from the experience in Year 10 I instantly regret not having gone any sooner.”**

That was the reaction from Mirette Shaalan, a new recruit to the annual trip to Angers.

Another, Erin Ferguson, was just as upbeat after her second visit, saying: “When I went on the French exchange for the second time I enjoyed it just as much as the first.

“My exchange, Lise, and her family were very welcoming and spoke slowly to help me understand what they were saying, as well as improving my pronunciation with some words.”

The Comberton-Angers exchange has been running since 2014, and this was the second time we have organised the exchange cross-Trust in combination with Cambourne Village College.

Having welcomed students from the College St Augustin in May, students made the return visit to Angers last month, spending seven days in school, experiencing home life in France with their host families, and getting to know Angers and its environs.

Angers is a beautiful medieval city, home to an imposing castle, a stunning cathedral and the 100 metre long ‘Tapestry of the Apocalypse’ which has survived intact since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, all of which we visited during our time there.

Weather is usually sunny and warm at this time of year, but we experienced some rather changeable conditions, including a day-long deluge on our final day, which saw us resort to a plan B, after visiting the castle!

There were many highlights to this exchange, not least of which a visit to most remarkable theme park in the world, the Puy du Fou, which took us back in time and treated us to amazing pageantry and stunts. We look forward to continuing our exchange with College St-Augustin and Angers for many years to come.

Mirette added: “My host family was most welcoming



**AN AMAZING THEME PARK: At Puy du Fou**



**CASTLE VISIT: In the rain!**

and kind and I thoroughly enjoyed going to the organised trips such as Puy du Fou and visiting the historic Tapestry in the local Chateau, which I found very interesting.

“My highlight of the trip was going shopping in the city with my exchange partner and visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris with my host family.

“Overall, I had a lot of fun in France and massively improved my French language particularly my listening and speaking skills.”

Erin also commented: “The various trips were all very interesting and fun, including bowling, Puy du Fou and Futuroscope, which is a theme park with lots of 4D attractions.

“I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone looking to improve their French and their understanding of French culture.”

Another returning student, Emma Hayward, said: “My return to Angers was excellent for many reasons. I went on the French exchange before and loved it so much that I returned again this year.

“I had a great partner called Adélaïde and her family

were very welcoming. For me the highlights were the family meals which lasted around an hour and a half and during which I got to speak with the family lots; the family party at the weekend where I met all the cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents; and the leaving party because everyone really enjoyed the dancing and food together.”



**FRIENDS TOGETHER: Exchange students.**

## On a national stage

Comberton has had yet another fantastic year competing in the Foreign Language Spelling Bee, sending not one but two regional champions forward to the national final, which took place on Friday 29 June at the University of Cambridge. Bethany Shufflebotham and Rylan Upton were two of just 33 students competing for the Spanish title this year. Nearly 29,000 entered the competition in September across the country, so it is a fantastic achievement for Rylan and Bethany to have reached the final stage. They worked to memorise a list of 200 words in Spanish, and had just one minute, in front of an audience of family, teachers and fellow competitors, to translate into Spanish and spell as many of those words as possible in a minute. We are incredibly proud of both of them!

In line with previous years, Comberton also had representation at the national finals from Amy Martin, one of our Spelling Bee leaders. As well as keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes on the day, she has worked with the other leaders to help support and prepare our competitors.

Huge congratulations to all students involved, it really is amazing to see the way you have played your part in the competition!



**NATIONAL FINALS: For CVC duo.**



**HOME TEAM DRESSING ROOM: Part of the Double Club’s Arsenal Stadium tour.**

## Tour is a grand finale!

The Arsenal Double Club was a very good experience and was a series of seven after-school sessions of Spanish and football.

At the end of the programme we visited the Emirates Stadium for a celebration day and this trip was something else! We got to see many prestigious things that the Arsenal football team has won over the years, from old golden boots to shirts that have been worn at games by Henry, Pires and Gilberto.

We also saw statues of famous managers, the pitch and some of the most famous Arsenal moments on video as well as the newest stand that is currently being built in the stadium. Two of the highlights were sitting in the dugout and doing a Press conference. At the end of the day, we completed a quiz in Spanish and the three winners received medals. Afterwards, we all went mad in the gift shop.

Finlay Kay (8E)

# At the art of the award!

## Interest in the Arts Award at Comberton continues to grow.

This is a nationally recognised qualification that is designed to help young people grow as artists, whatever their creative interest and to develop their leadership skills.

There was some excellent work produced from our most recent cohort, with some superb portfolios. All passed with flying colours with Lara Bentley, Rowan Briggs Smith, Lauren Cave, Katie Chambers, James Dorsett, Elodie Freebairn, Emily Santus, Lucy Smith, Josh Tingley, Ely Walford and Francesca Zaffaroni achieving Bronze. Comberton's first Silvers went to Eliza Chambers (now at Hills Road), Chloe Massarella and Poppy Seagrove-Hansford. It has been fantastic to note that Eliza has also successfully achieved her Gold Award, which is the equivalent of a Level 3 qualification. Huge congratulations deservedly go to all those

involved.

Eliza said: "One of the main reasons I enjoyed Arts Award was because it encouraged me to focus on other artists and study their work which helped me to improve my own."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the Bronze, Silver and Gold arts award and have learnt so much. I don't think I would have the ambition and determination to succeed in a career in the performing arts without the Arts Award."

"I have gained leadership, performing, communication and organisation skills (to list a few) and I now believe that I am an independent student with a goal to pursue a career in the arts. The research skills I have gained from doing, specifically the Silver and Gold awards, are invaluable as I believe I am more aware of arts opportunities and when I come to applying for drama and dance schools I now have the skills to prepare fully for auditions and choosing colleges."

"The support I received from my adviser at Comberton was amazing and the arts award (especially the Gold) taught me how to independently run project of my own and take the lead. "I know that the contacts I gained doing the arts award will definitely serve me well in my career. For example, as part of my Gold, I volunteered at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. I still volunteer at that theatre and I get the chance to see some amazing new theatre every week and get to meet world class performers."

The Arts Award is open to all and we were especially pleased to help Fran Zaffaroni to succeed in passing the Bronze award (a Level 1 qualification).

She said of the experience: "Arts Award is an inspiration. I liked doing the Sweeney Todd file, singing 'Let it go' to Book Club and learning about Picasso's life. I love Arts Award."

If you would like to find out more about taking part in the Arts Award, please contact Mrs Harris [charris@combertonvc.org](mailto:charris@combertonvc.org) or Miss Bristow [jbristow@combertonvc.org](mailto:jbristow@combertonvc.org) who will be happy to help you or look on the website <http://www.artsaward.org.uk> for more details.



**ULTIMATE PRIZE: Gold for Eliza Chambers, while (right) the portfolio produced for the bronze award.**



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**INSPIRED: By the work required to achieve the Bronze Arts Award.**

## Making recycling pay!

We have run another very successful Bags 2 Schools fundraiser, which took place last month. Many thanks to all the pupils and parents who donated bags of clothes and shoes, and also to the prefects who helped. We are waiting to find out how much we raised, and this money will then be spent on various pieces of outside equipment around the school.



**BAGGED UP: The clothes waiting to be collected.**

# Sixth form leads way

**The Art, Photography and Religious Studies departments at Comberton Sixth Form have been identified as among the best in the country.**

Recent analysis of our exam results by Oxford Analytics has identified exceptional progress by our students, ranking these three departments within the top 25 in the country out of more than 2500 sixth form providers.

Lorna Conroy, the Head of Sixth Form, commented: "This is an amazing achievement and it's great to see that the hard work of our staff and students has paid off. The publication of these rankings provides further confirmation of Comberton as a centre of excellence for all."

Executive Principal Stephen Munday added: "We want students throughout our school and Sixth Form to be able to achieve true excellence.

"This remarkable accolade shows very clearly that they can do this at Comberton Sixth Form. Very many congratulations to the students and the staff who have managed this. It just shows what extremely high standards now exist in our Sixth Form."



**A PRETTY PICTURE: Top ratings for CSF.**

## BTEC students have cause for celebration

**BTEC SUCCESS: Students following this pathway have achieved very highly.**



As the year draws to a close and the A-level students begin the countdown to results day in August, our BTEC students are already celebrating. With the last units of their courses now completed, final outcomes for many can already be calculated. In previous years, Comberton students following the BTEC pathway have achieved extremely highly, with many going on to study at a range of top universities across the country or successfully transitioning on to prestigious apprenticeship or school leaver programmes.

This year is no different, with notable achievers including Max Hill, who has secured a place reading Biochemistry at the University of Bath, Jacob Kerrecoe, who will be reading Business Management at the University of York, and Sandra Kuczynska, who will be studying Sports Therapy at The University of Essex. Congratulations and best wishes to all our BTEC students.

## Taking the next steps

Following our progression conference in March, in which Year 12 students were encouraged to start thinking about their plans for life after Sixth Form, preparations with regard to next steps have really shifted up a gear this term.

Along with the commencement of advisory meetings for those considering alternative pathways, events have also taken place to support those students who are hoping to apply to university through the UCAS system in the coming academic year.

The traditional information evening for students and parents was very well attended and helped to outline the process, the timeline and the support on offer to CSF students who are considering this route.

Dr Kevan Williams, Associate Dean of Admissions at the University of East Anglia, presented the universities' perspective on the process, while his colleague Hannah Owens, a Higher Education adviser, helped to clarify the sometimes perplexing world of student finance.

This was followed up by our recent trips to the annual UCAS Convention at Newmarket Racecourse — at which students had the opportunity to seek information about, and advice from, representatives from universities all over the UK — and then, a week later, to the Schools and Colleges' Open Day at the University of Leicester, where students had the chance to experience a taste of campus life, from sample lectures to tours of student accommodation.

With the further opportunity for every student to attend individual guidance meetings and specialist sessions to support the planning of personal statements during Futures Week, we are confident that our students will already feel well placed to start looking ahead to life after Sixth Form.



**ON TOUR: Comberton's Sixth Formers visit Leicester University.**



**NEW TEAM: Members of the Sixth Form Council.**

## New team in place

At the end of May following a rigorous application process, Presidential hustings and campaigning; the annual Sixth Form Council elections took place. The Sixth Form student voice is represented by the two Presidents and their council of Vice Presidents each of whom have a different focus and responsibility. As the Presidents elect we, along with the whole Council, are thrilled to be working with the Sixth Form in our new roles. The new Vice president who we will be working in conjunction with are: Lucy Yeomans (Academic), Maeve Miquel (Student Welfare), Georgia Davidson and Conor Waldock (Communication), Sam Reade and Rohan Tugnet (Social), Katy Topple (Environmental), Eden Alarcon (Community and Charity) and Rachel Peck (Ethics and Inclusion).

The Sixth Form Council is tasked with organising fundraising events, offering discussion forums for the student body, representing CSF at college and Cambridgeshire events and so much more beyond. We are both very excited for the year ahead and are both sure that the Council will make a difference. We were both delighted and surprised to have been elected and now we are already putting in place changes and initiatives for the new term in September.

The Council will also receive a huge amount of support from the 64 Sixth Form Subject Ambassadors and the Sixth Form Ambassadors who will play a vital role in assisting us to fulfil our roles. We have a clear vision for the coming year that the Council would like to make happen and we are looking forward to implementing as much of this as possible with the support of the Sixth Form Leadership Team and the new Head of Sixth Form, Mr Clarke.

Ruby Barnard & Brandon Stein, Comberton Sixth Form Presidents

## Staff and students move on as newcomers welcomed

# It's goodbye and hello

After 13 years of outstanding service, Comberton Village College and Comberton Sixth Form are sad to be saying a farewell to Head of Sixth Form, Lorna Conroy.

Lorna has overseen many roles, previously being Head of Geography and in recent years being a member of the senior team and being Head of Comberton Sixth Form.

She said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Head of Comberton Sixth Form. It has been a real pleasure to work with such an amazing group of young people and exceptionally hard-working staff.

"I have been involved with the sixth form since it opened in 2011 and have watched it grow in size and reputation.

"The sixth form really is a special place and I shall miss it very much. I am heading off to Thailand in the summer to start my new role as Assistant Principal in an International school in Bangkok.

"I will look back with such fond memories and would like to wish David Clarke, the new Head of Sixth Form, the very best in his new role."

David Clarke is currently a member of the senior team at a local Village College and brings a wealth of experience, particularly with leadership of sixth form.

He said: "I am greatly looking forward to joining Comberton Village College and the Sixth Form in September.

"The Sixth Form has been hugely successful over time and offers students a combination of stretch and challenge along with the support they need to succeed and thrive. Playing my part in continuing this success will be, I am sure, a rewarding challenge!"

We wish Lorna and her family every success as they start this new adventure.



**CHANGING PLACES:**  
**Out-going head Lorna Conroy with student president Laurie Brewster and (above) new head David Clarke.**



**PARTY NIGHT:** For Year 13 leavers at the Hilton Hotel.

## Final farewell . . .

As A level exams finished and the summer holidays beckon we said goodbye to our Year 13 students for the final time.

Sixth formers and staff celebrated informally with the traditional end-of-year BBQ on the front lawns in lovely sunshine and later 120 staff and students celebrated the end of Comberton life more formally with a party at the Cambridge City Hilton hotel.

A drinks reception and formal meal were followed by light-hearted speeches and awards given by the student president, who wholeheartedly thanked departing Head of Sixth Form, Lorna Conroy, for the impact she has had in leading the sixth form and wished her all the best in her new life abroad. In turn, Mrs Conroy wished all the students every success in their future endeavours and thanked them for their varied contributions to sixth form life.



**ALL DRESSED UP:** Sixth formers arrive at their Leavers' Dinner.

## Making new friends

On July 3rd a record number of prospective Year 12 students joined the sixth form for their welcome event.

With sixth form numbers increasing considerably this year, the event was large in scale and gave the new students, from 23 different schools, the opportunity to meet each other and forge new friendships before starting their courses in September.

During the day the students also had to opportunity to ask any questions they might have, meet their future teachers and collect the pre-course reading. They also attended introductory lessons in the subjects they are planning to study in September and learnt more about the style of teaching in the sixth form. The presentations from the Head of Sixth Form and Student Presidents gave the students a better idea of what it is like to be a sixth form student, studying in a more independent environment.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was a welcome barbecue where new friends chatted over a hot dog and looked forward to starting their A-Level and BTEC courses in September.



**WELCOME EVENT:** For prospective Year 12 students included a barbecue.

# Unforgettable Iceland



**GLACIER WALK:** For the Comberton group.

**The 2018 Trip to Iceland was a truly unforgettable experience.**

It was a great way to explore a different culture and the beautiful scenery in many exciting ways.

We visited a number of different sights including the Bridge Between Two Continents and some hot springs on the first day.

On the second day we were lucky to visit the Secret Lagoon, a personal highlight of the trip. It was so surreal sitting in 40°C water whilst it was -2°C!

Also on the trip, we were able to visit a range of waterfalls and experience a glacier walk, another highlight.

Along the south coast of the island we visited some of the coastal features, including the lava columns and black beaches.

Finally, on the last day we were able to spend some time at a geothermal powerplant and in the capital city, Reykjavik, before heading home.

The trip went so quickly and we were all sad to leave the beautiful country behind but I'm sure that anyone on the trip would definitely recommend a visit to anyone who hasn't been before.

**Emily Hodge (L6-JM)**

## Living the law life

Year 12 students considering a degree and/or career in Law went on a London Law Day last month. This began with sitting in on a hearing at the Central Employment Tribunal, in a case of Disability Discrimination and Unfair Dismissal.

We complicated issues by our presence, as a lot of the evidence to be heard was medical and therefore confidential, so there was quite a lot of in and out between the judge's chambers and the court room.

We went on from there to the Royal Courts of Justice, where students sat in for half an hour on two different trials.

One was about an online dating agency that allegedly had not been providing the right level of service for its huge fee. The customer was still single! The agency was counter claiming for libel, so it was complicated, and the dynamics in the court room were tense.

We went on from there to Cloisters Chambers,

where barrister Chesca Lord kindly gave up her lunch break to offer our students a long and helpful Q&A session. Students were able to ask about different routes into a Law career and different paths within and beyond it.

Chesca also discussed entry requirements and funding issues, which was hugely helpful. From there, we went on to the Old Bailey to watch part of the trial of Jack Renshaw and other members of the neo-Nazi group National Action. It was sobering to see the defendants sitting quite happily in the dock while their alleged murder plan against MPs and a



**ROYAL VISIT:** Students at the Royal Courts of Justice.

police officer was discussed in the court. Huge thanks to Cloisters Chambers and especially Chesca Lord.

Thanks also to the court staff who helped us sit in on such interesting cases. We look forward to next year's trip!

## When it all goes wrong in a good way

This summer saw the first sixth form student-led production from the Wednesday afternoon Enrichment group stumbling their way through 'The Play That Goes Wrong'.

During the production a plethora of disasters befell the cast including doors sticking, props on the walls falling down, and costume malfunctions. Cast members were seen to be misplacing props, forgetting lines, missing cues, breaking character, having to drink white spirit instead of whisky, mispronouncing words, stepping on fingers, being hidden in a grandfather clock and being manhandled off stage with one cast member being knocked

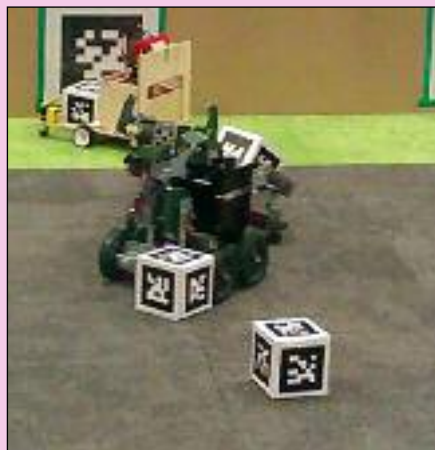
unconscious and her replacement (the group technician) refusing to yield when she returns. It was certainly a play that went very wrong very well! The students were enthusiastic about the performance with Chloe Hall (Year 12) saying: "I really enjoyed doing this student-led production as I got to have a ridiculous amount of fun getting things very wrong, which you don't often get to do in theatre...comic timing was not a problem." Year 13 Laura Wallace commented: "The production was very significant to me as it allowed me to make many new friends while pursuing a great passion of mine. It also allowed me to develop new skills in

relation to the set design, directing and lighting of theatre."

James Beardsmore, also Year 13, added: "As a high-functioning autistic student, who has opted to avoid the vast majority of social interaction while at Comberton, being part of the drama enrichment group has proved an invaluable activity for me. "The atmosphere at the sessions was unlike any other that I have ever experienced elsewhere, allowing me to partially detach myself from the school environment and to get to know other like-minded people by doing something I love to do."



**A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS:** Nothing goes right in *The Play That Goes Wrong*.



**ROBOT ROUND-UP:** *Comberton's computer scientists designed a robot to collect boxes.*

## Students box clever!

During last term five Year 12 computer science students, Oscar Bristow, Jasper Husmann, Jasper McConnachie-Kessel, Stefan Merlas and Tommy Poll, took part in a robotics competition.

The challenge was to build and program an autonomous robot that could collect boxes. Our robot did remarkably well against far more experienced opponents and significant improvements were made to the robot over the course of the competition weekend at Hills Road Sixth Form College.

We look forward to next year, having learned an enormous amount and we will be in a position to build a more competitive robot.

Thank you to Hills Road for organising the event and to the Institute of Physics for providing financial support to enable us to build our robot.



**TWO OUT OF THREE:** *of the Comberton chemists who took part in the RSC competition.*

## Analysis in progress

A team of three Year 12 Chemistry students, Tom McGee, Gabby Borinuoluwa and Matt Wilson, joined 16 other teams from schools across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire to take part in the regional heat of the RSC Schools' Analyst competition at the School of Chemistry at UEA in Norwich.

The aim of the competition is to get A-level chemistry students interested in analysis and provide them with an opportunity to use equipment and techniques that they would not normally encounter in a school environment.

The students analysed a white powder formulation, using high-performance liquid chromatography to measure the paracetamol, refractometry to measure the sucrose and titration to measure the ascorbic acid (vitamin C).

Although our team didn't manage to get through to the national finals, they had a fantastic day, enjoyed looking around the university campus and are now even more excited about their next steps in education.

## Biology in the real world

A group of A Level Biology students went to the Schools' Science Day at the Babraham Institute.

The students were involved in a number of projects, including the observation of stained cells down the microscope, the running of DNA samples along electrophoresis gels, epigenetic modification of the genome and cancer cell cannibalism.

Each student was able to select and participate in a lab-based project. The head of the institute presented an overview of the research carried out at the Institute, then PhD students and postdoctoral scientists discussed their career routes into these exciting fields of biological research.



**LEARNING DAY:** *At the Babraham Institute.*



**PHOTOCALL:** *Students with Philip Zimbardo.*

## Zimbardo steals the show

A group of 30 year 12 and 13 students went to a psychology conference in London. There were five different speakers, talking about a wide range of psychological topics including burnout, neuroscience, whether psychology can save the world and the nature-nurture debate.

The highlight of the conference though was definitely Philip Zimbardo talking about the Stanford prison experiment which he conducted in 1971, and his subsequent work on the nature of evil.

The Stanford prison experiment is one of the most well-known psychology experiments ever conducted.

Zimbardo was interested in finding out whether the brutality reported among guards in American prisons was due to the sadistic personalities of the guards or had more to do with the prison environment.

# Now ready for anything!

## April 2018 saw the Gold DofE students tackle the wilderness of the Lake District for their Practice expedition.

The expedition, consisting of four days and three nights, was an opportunity for students to gain some valuable training in a remote environment, as well as develop the teamwork and communication skills of the expedition teams.

The week did not disappoint, presenting a number of challenges to the students, with the weather offering the biggest obstacle!

The first 48 hours of the expedition consisted of persistent wind and rain proving tough for the most intrepid of explorers. The wild camping plans were aborted and the teams remained at base camp in a



field that can only be likened to a wet Glastonbury festival.

Day one offered students the chance to get stuck in to their navigation skills, as well as a physical climb up Cat Bells (451m), a relatively small challenge in the Lake District but one that packed a punch on a cold, wet and windy day! The welcome sign of a trig point at the top of the hill was overshadowed by the desire to retreat down in to the valley to much warmer and sheltered conditions.

Day two continued with the wet and windy theme and

saw the students take on a number of small climbs in Whinlatter Forest where the trees offered some respite from the windy conditions.

As with all DofE expeditions, the forest tracks provided some interesting navigational challenges as groups attempted to match the tracks on the map to the ground in front of them.

That evening, the rain stopped and temperatures plummeted, bringing a fresh sprinkling of snow to the surrounding mountain tops and some chilly overnight sleeping temperatures.

Day three saw the sun appear, bringing tears of joy and sorrow after an uncomfortable night sleeping.

Groups departed to tackle their first day with minimal staff intervention and students enjoyed the sunshine, stunning views and the feeling of kit drying as they walked.

The ground conditions offered little respite for the legs and saturated wilderness left big puddles and bogs to be negotiated. Nevertheless, mountains were conquered and students finished the day at a new campsite offering a less muddy base and beautiful views of the river flowing away from Derwent Water.

The final day approached and the 'early start' that had been looming all week arrived. The groups departed the campsite at 6.30am as daylight entered the valley to hike back to the original campsite in time for the coach to take them back to school. Another dry day with breaks in sunshine made the first 48 hours of the trip a distant memory as we all forgot about the feelings of damp misery that we had faced.

We now await the assessed expedition later this month where the prospect of better weather and less rain looms...although is never a guarantee! One thing that we can be certain of is that this group of Gold students are ready to tackle anything that the Snowdonia mountains can throw at them!



**PLENTY OF CHALLENGES:**  
For participants on the DofE gold practice expedition in the Lake District.



## Surviving the 'Arctic' Chilterns . . .

Year 10 students experienced freak wintery conditions in the Chiltern Hills for their Bronze Practice Expeditions this year, making the weekend a challenging venture for all involved.

Arrival to the campsite was busy with students putting up tents while we had breaks in the rain. Students received training on cooking on their Trangia stoves and were set free to cook their evening meals (or eat their cold McDonalds/Dominos delivered by kind parents before leaving school!)

Saturday saw students receive some navigation and route planning training from our staff and volunteers while meandering around the countryside.

Students were resilient in difficult conditions including wind, rain and the occasional glimmer of sunshine.

On return to camp, students completed their route planning task while cooking dinner for the evening. Despite the weather, students enjoyed time socialising in to the evening, as well as trying out their culinary creations.

On Sunday, students had an early start and set off on their walk with full rucksacks and equipment. Whilst staff and volunteers ran around the Chilterns to track their groups, students enjoyed some time with their peers negotiating muddy fields, stiles and the occasional cow. Students arrived at their destination in time for the coach ride home and well deserved hot bath and roast dinner!

A special mention has to be made for students who attended the April weekend and were met with LOTS of rain and minus temperatures combined with a two-hour coach delay on the Sunday. The students sat patiently wrapped up in their extra clothes, with some making the sensible decision to sit in their tents.

While no guarantee can be made, we are 99.9% certain that the weather will be much improved for their assessed expedition in September 2018. However we are confident that these students can also tackle anything that the UK weather has ready for them



**TOUGH GOING:** DofE practice in inclement weather.

# Uncovering local history

Over two days at the start of June, all Year 10 History GCSE students visited Shire Hall in Cambridge, as part of their local history paper, in which they focus on the importance of studying the historic environment.

During our time at Shire Hall, students were divided into groups and rotated around three different workshops, led by the archaeologists and archivists at Shire Hall.

In the first workshop, students had access to a range of excavated Roman pottery and other objects that had been found at the site, prompting them to ask questions about how people lived in Cambridge in the 1st Century AD.

The second workshop took the form of a guided tour of the surrounding area, climbing up the mound at Castle Hill, to imagine what the site would have been like in the 11th century, when a Norman Motte and Bailey Castle was built there. They then walked down the road to St Peter's Church, to look at one of the oldest buildings in Cambridge and again, prompted them to ask questions about what was important to people who lived in Cambridge in the past.

The final workshop was led by the archivists who revealed some fascinating stories to students about the Benthamite prison that was built at the site in the 19th century, and students were able to look at a range of different written records, including the initial plans for the prison and the lists of crimes committed by the offenders.

The students had a fantastic day finding out about the extent of change at the site of Shire Hall throughout its history and they were also able to link this to how Cambridge has changed in nature and purpose over time, too.

Local history is such an important part of learning about the past, and it is fantastic that GCSE students now get the opportunity to find out more about where they live.

The trip to Shire Hall allowed the students to really engage with their local history topic and gave them access to a range of evidence that will help them to prepare for their exam. The students were brilliantly behaved and were a hugely positive representation of the school, and we look forward to taking our new Year 10 GCSE students back there next year.



**CAMBRIDGE HISTORY:** Students learn about their home city through the ages.



**IF THE CAP FITZ:** Students help out at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

## Finding the right tools

In early May a group of 30 Year 7 pupils enjoyed an unusual day at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, designed to foster independence and innovative thinking. We spent the morning using the FitzKits, toolboxes designed to help guide families around the museum and interact with exhibits by providing extra information and small objects that link with them — for example a toy plastic elephant that represents the weight of the seven-ton sarcophagus lid of Ramesses III on display in the Egyptian Gallery.

Then, after a sunny picnic on the grass, we headed back inside for the students to carry on exploring the galleries looking for items that they would include in tool boxes of their own.

Groups came up with some great ideas for toolboxes based on themes of animals, warriors, warfare and imaginary worlds. The museum staff are currently re-vamping the toolkits, and so were keen to see the pupils' designs and ideas, and we are waiting with interest to see if any of them will be used in the museum in the future.

## The science of waste

Year 7 have participated in Cambridge LaunchPad, a STEM outreach programme organised by Form the Future.

Just before the Easter holidays Year 7 attended a talk about STEM careers and were invited to enter a competition to design a solution to the problem of drainage pipes being blocked by the build-up of fats.

There were more than 30 entries from the year group and from these six students (Andrew Gregory 7V, Charlotte MacDonald 7V, Sophie Oliver 7V, Callum Fowler 7V, Lowenna Cotton 7B and Alex Jackson 7E) were chosen to go forward to the next round of the competition which involved a day visit to the Anglian water recycling centre in Chelmsford.

The students made sewage, went on a fascinating tour of the site and in the afternoon were put into teams to complete a water supply challenge where they had to design a pipe network to supply water to an area including a town centre, hospital, school and industrial area.

Students were assessed on their team-working skills and Lowenna Cotton was selected as a Cambridge LaunchPad Innovators winner and will be going to Bletchley Park for her prize trip on 18th September 2018!



**ON TOUR:** At the water recycling centre.



# Boys excel at getting maths right

**What a fantastic time we had at the Regional and National Finals of the UKMT national maths challenge this year.**

Four members of the Maths Problem-Solving Club, Raphael Doza, Tom Deane, Ben Chung and Kai Sun, spent two exciting days at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences at the University of Cambridge, and then in Lindley Hall, Westminster.

Thirty schools from East Anglia attended the Regional Final, seeking to gain a place in the National showdown. Each of the teams faced four 45 minute-long mathematical challenges.

The Comberton team were very proud to be the runners-up after a joint first was taken by the Stephen Perse Foundation and Brussels International School. The winners scored 204 marks and Comberton were just five marks behind.

The referee at the Comberton table was very impressed with the way our team conducted themselves throughout the competition. He congratulated them at the end of the competition for their incredible team effort and positive spirit.

The final three seconds of the competition were very intense and involved students running across the grand hall. The team worked tirelessly to produce the answers and did not give up on the final run.

You should have been there to see their Rocky victory stance. Mrs Doza forgot for a minute that she was a referee of another school and jumped off her chair to join in the cheers.

Only 88 out of 1,742 schools across the country qualified for the National Final, and Comberton team were very excited to be invited to take part.

After an early start to the day, they found themselves in Lindley Hall with 350 other competitors from a range of schools including Eton College, Chesham Grammar school, Westminster London, Tiffin School, City of London and Belfast Royal Academy, but the Comberton team was not fazed and gave it an excellent positive go.

They did not win, but a quick calculation on the train home has revealed Comberton was ranked in the top 1.5% of all schools in the country. Well done boys!

Finally, a big thank you to the lovely Year 10 Maths leaders for attending the club and helping our Year 8 and 9s with the challenges.

The Problem-solving club is open to Maths enthusiasts from Years 7, 8, 9, and 10, and runs every Thursday lunchtime in CPR4.



**GOLDEN TICKET:** Comberton's boys after their regional success and (above) at the national finals at Lindley Hall with the other 88 teams.



**FIVE-LEGGED:** For Sport Relief.

## Miles better!

Comberton raised money for Sport Relief by holding its second 'CVC Mile'.

Staff and student support was excellent on the day and family and friends of students were very generous with their sponsorship, helping raise more than £450.

Many students decided to come in fancy dress and found novel ways to complete the mile to help increase their sponsorship.

There were students carrying each other, pupils in a wheel barrows, three-legged pairs as well as students on space hoppers all adding to the atmosphere of the event.



**MAKING MUSIC:** With new keyboards.

## Donation hits the right note

The Music Department has recently taken delivery of a complete new set of Yamaha keyboards thanks to a grant from the Friends of CVC Trust Fund.

Head of Music, Ben Parker, said: "All students in Key Stage 3 learn to play the keyboard to a basic level. It's a versatile instrument which helps them learn and perform music of all sorts of genres and we also use them to teach composition.

"Like anything, these instruments degrade over time and are costly to replace in one go. Learners will notice a big change in the quality of the instruments.

"We are hugely grateful to the Trust Fund for their support."

The Music department is always grateful for donations of unwanted instruments or equipment. Please contact them if you have something to offer.

# Mischief-making play!

After the tour de force of their *A Christmas Carol* production earlier in the school year for a Year 11 audience, Quantum Theatre returned for a second visit to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for our Year 7 students.

The play tells the story of four young people (Helena, Hermia, Lysander and Demetrius), who are in and out of love, and on a midsummer's night find themselves entwined within an enchanted forest ruled by fairies who delight in creating mischief in the lives of mortals.

A Fairy King and Queen are at war, and find their paths crossed by Bottom, Quince and their friends presenting a play within a play.

Chief troublemaker Puck is on hand to ensure that the course of true love is anything but smooth, and games of mistaken identity, fantasy, love, playful spats and, most of all, dreams ensue in one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies. Quantum Theatre describe their production as "fast paced, highly energetic, interlaced with live music and rip-roaringly funny" and they weren't wrong!

*A Midsummer's Night Dream* can be a big challenge to put on, instead of two or three main parts, there is the challenge of having a dozen or so significant roles and a cast of over 20 characters. We marvelled as the company of only five actors transformed and retransformed themselves into this large cast at a frenetic and spectacular pace!

The performance was characterised by a gleeful, mischievous energy that is not only perfectly suited to the play itself but to our Year 7s themselves! The actors had the audience exploring the full gamut of emotions from gasps at Demetrius'

thoughtless treatment of Helena to belly laughs at Bottom's ever-expanding ego! The English Department and our colleagues who attended weren't at all surprised that this Shakespearean performance so captured the imagination of our students who were enthralled as an audience by this production.



**WATCHING BRIEF:** Year 7 focus on the actors.

## Award to boost reading

The Excelsior Award is the only nationwide book award for graphic novels and manga — where young people aged 11-16 decide the winner by rating each book as they read it!

Eight graphic novels are selected for the shortlist and it now attracts over 250 schools and public libraries from all over the UK and Ireland! The overall goal of this scheme is to encourage reading among teenagers.

However, its secondary target is to raise the profile of graphic novels and manga among school librarians and teachers. This storytelling medium has been a largely underused resource within education for many years.

The Excelsior Award attempts to highlight some of the amazing books that are out there — books that fully deserve to be in our school libraries alongside regular fiction!

Last month, Emma Davies, Swavesey Village College's librarian invited Comberton and Ely College's Graphic Novel Book Clubs to a talk from 'Niche Comics', Huntingdon, in her library.

Niche Comics store manager, Adam Makey, who was crowned Britain's best independent store manager in 2016, gave a talk on the graphic/manga books he buys for his store. He also brought books and comics for the students to look at and sold some of his comics for 25p each, which the students loved.

The talk was followed by a quiz about the eight short-listed Excelsior award books of which 'Batman: The War of Jokes and Riddles' by Tom King, Mikel Janin and Clay Mann won. Four teams battled for half an hour, then the points were counted up and team four was announced the winner.

After the quiz, there was a graphic novel drawing competition. Students who had brought entries in were able to show them to Adam. A Swavesey student won with a colourful novel cover. However, they all really appreciated his comments.

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Emma for organising the morning and to Adam for making the morning fun.

**Julie Peck, Assistant librarian**



**THE BIG REVEAL:** Students wait for the Carnegie results.

## And the winners are . . .

Thirteen Comberton students joined pupils from four other schools at Kimbolton School to discuss the eight shortlisted books we had been reading in our Friday lunchtime Carnegie Reading Group, and the beautifully illustrated Kate Greenaway finalists.

Armed with a set of each of the finalists' books and several packages of cakes we set off for Kimbolton.

On arrival our students were allocated seats on various tables with pupils from St Peter's, Huntingdon, Impington Village College, Kimbolton School and Swavesey Village College.

They quickly made friends and got down to the task of discussing their favourite Carnegie books. These chats were lively, entertaining and insightful.

A quiz followed and then a discussion about which book the judges would choose as the winner.

As you can imagine the debate was fierce as this year's contenders were strong, so the students were divided as to which book would be the judges' choice but were overwhelming in support of 'After the Fire' by Will Hill as their choice.

At lunchtime, the Carnegie Award announcement was made and... 'Where the World Ends' by Geraldine Mc Caughrean won — a book based on a true story. This book choice caused various reactions — the students enjoyed it but didn't think it would win.

'Town Is by the Sea', illustrated by Sydney Smith was the Kate Greenaway winner, and deservedly so with its thought-provoking story of a mining community and simple but poignant illustrations.

At 1.50pm we set off back to Comberton with our minds full of new ideas and the new friends we had made.

It was a fun day for all — Thank you Kimbolton!



**WHAT'S ON OFFER:** Comberton students look at graphic and manga reading material.



### **Sign up for Comberton Sports & Arts' great value memberships!**

Our membership includes access to the Fitness facilities, Fitness classes, Badminton and half price Tennis (subject to availability)

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£30 per month Direct Debit or £300 Annually (Save £60)

#### **CONCESSIONS/ CORPORATE\***

£20 per month Direct Debit or £200 Annually (Save £40)

(£10 joining fee)

**No membership contracts. We just require 1 months' notice to cancel your direct debit!**

\*Would your company be interested in a Corporate Membership? All you need to qualify is a minimum of 5 employees to join. This can also include the spouses of your employees. No minimum number for Cambridge City Council, Cambridge County Council and NHS employees (proof of employment required)

**Comberton Sports Arts offer the following for casual Gym and Fitness class usage:**

**Pay and Play Gym** - £6.50 or £5 (concession)

**Fitness Classes** - £5 or £4 (concession)

**Fitness Class Block Card** - £50/£40 (Buy 12 for the price of 10)

**Check out our website for more information at  
[www.combertonsa.org](http://www.combertonsa.org)**



# On the run!

Smiles were in plentiful supply at Milton Country Park as youngsters took part in the South Cambs School Sports Partnership Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 Small Schools Cross Country Competitions.

It was a spirit of fun and enjoyment that filled the venue as more than 600 school children competed for individual honours and team pride. Grimaces were at a premium on the two-lap course which provided fellow competitors the perfect opportunity to offer support and cheer on their teammates.

One of the overriding aspects was the sense of sportsmanship on display throughout the competition, from the arm of support in the Year 4 girls' race to cajole a friend on to the finish line to the 'showmanship' of the sprints from some of the older boys to put on a spectacle for the watching masses. The top three placed runners in each school team scored for their team but individuals could also enter to compete for one of the top three medal-winning positions in each race. Among those picking up

honours were Annabelle Helm (Meldreth) who won the Year 6 girls' race ahead of Coton's Olivia Welham and Madeline Welham who were second and third. In the boys' race Thriplow's Joseph Elgar took second with Barton's George Hainsworth in third.

Toby Day-Small won the Year 5 boys' race for Meldreth, ahead of Harston & Newton duo Mylo Jefferson and Yoav Pilowsky-Rankirer, with the girls' title going to Charlotte Deakon, of Thriplow, ahead of Haslingfield's Cara Davies. In the Year 3/4 team competition, where again the top three placed finishers for each school counted, the runners from Harston and Newton dominated the Year 3 competition, Thomas Barry, Sebastian Adams and Toby Slack filling the top three slots. Another classmate, Molly Smith, was second in the girls' race with Thriplow's Elsa Jack third. Josh Gomori-Woodcock, from Coton, won the Year 4



**AND THEY'RE OFF:** The start of a boys' race.

boys with Oscar Penton of Barton second. Only schools that had entered a team for all four races could qualify for the overall team competition and that went to Harston and Newton who won both the Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 competitions. Thriplow took runners-up slot in the older age group and third in the younger with Meldreth second in Year 3 & 4 and Haslingfield third at Year 5 & 6.



**CONCENTRATION:** Comberton's sports leaders.

## Champs retain both their titles

The top four primary schools from South Cambs came together for the SSP Year 3/4 Tennis Finals night at Comberton Village College.

The teams of two boys and two girls from Swavesey, Jeavons Wood, Linton Heights and Harston & Newton made it to the finals from the qualification rounds involving more than 30 teams before half term.

As defending county champions Harston & Newton went into the competition as favourites alongside South Cambs champions Swavesey, who were also county finalists last year. Jeavons Wood had qualified for the finals for the first time.

The finals were played in a round robin format with each team playing the other three in timed singles matches. As expected the matches were extremely competitive with a great standard of tennis on



**DOUBLE WINNERS:** From Harston and Newton.

display and some really close scores. The final round of matches, overseen by Comberton sports leaders who helped run the event, were tense with Swavesey needing a win against Harston & Newton to retain the winners' shield. It ended 2-2, which meant Harston & Newton finished on eight wins compared to Swavesey's seven to win the title. Both represented South Cambs SSP at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough County School Games Summer Festival where the champions retained their title with Swavesey again finishing second.

## Leaders play key role in event's success



**BALL-WATCHING:** Action from the tag rugby event.

Year 9 sports leaders from Melbourn Village College played a key role as hundreds of primary school children enjoyed a day of tag rugby matches and activities.

They were in charge of running the festival part of the tag rugby mega fest at Cambridge Rugby Club, which attracted more than 400 Year 5 and 6 pupils from across South Cambridgeshire. The event involved a tag rugby competition in two sections, won by Swavesey and Hatton Park, and alongside it a series of fun tag-rugby activities where youngsters could practise their skills and develop their game play in a more relaxed atmosphere.

And it was there the Melbourn students came into their own, guiding groups of 16 children round a series of activities while the matches were taking place.

The primary children got to develop their rugby skills, teamwork and communication in games such as rugby rounders, end ball, team tag and hare and hounds before finishing in time to cheer on their school team in their final matches.

Partnership Manager, Claire McDonnell said; "The Year 9 sports leaders did an incredible job. They are new to the leadership role but they showed great maturity and initiative and undertook their roles with growing confidence throughout the day. We were delighted with them.

It was great to see so many children enjoying the game of rugby today and getting the opportunity to take part at a big club such as Cambridge RUFC. It was the first time we have run a festival alongside the competition, but it seemed to work really well and it was nice for schools to involve more children and give a chance to those youngsters who wouldn't have made the school team."

In the afternoon competition Haslingfield were recognised for their good sportsmanship and great determination and presented with the 'Spirit of the Games' award.



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** Harston and Newton celebrate.



**MEDALLISTS:** Coton with their bronze medals.

# South Cambs supreme!

**South Cambs' Small School teams dominated the Cambridge and Peterborough Schools Games Quaddkids County Summer Games Festival final at St Ives.**

The competition, for schools with fewer than 120 pupil in Key Stage Two, was won by Harston and Newton, with Coton taking the bronze medal on a scorching day of competition.

Unlike the South Cambs round at Cambridge University Sports Ground on Wilberforce Road, where the competitors got a little damp, the finals took place in blazing sunshine, alongside the finals of a number of other sports.

It was a chance for the top two schools from each partnership across the county to compete for honours following their own competitions earlier in the year.

Quaddkids, for Years 5 and 6, is a team-based competition with five boys and five girls each competing in a 75m sprint, a 600m run, a long jump and vortex howler throw. Individual performances are scored using a points table and the winners are the team with the highest cumulative score.

And Harston and Newton, the South Cambs champions, proved unbeatable with partnership runners-up Coton also grabbing a rostrum finish.

At the South Cambs round there were some impressive individual performances in the 'Small Schools' competition with Thomas from Harston and Newton taking first place with 181 points, followed by Elliot from Elsworth, with 177 and Austin from Barrington with 176. Maddie, from Coton, led the girls with 176 points, Olivia, also from Coton scored 168 points and in third place was Summer, from Harston and Newton, with 144 points.

Our special 'Spirit of the Games' award, to support the work being done in schools to encourage children to think about the lessons that can be learned through sport and the importance of values such as respect, determination, teamwork, honesty, passion and self-belief; not only in sport but everyday life, was awarded to a number of children across both competitions, including Charlotte, from Melbourn, for determination, Isla, from Fowlmere, for self-belief,

Juno, from Dry Drayton, for determination and Hannah, from Coton, for being supportive to all of her group.

The event was supported by Year 9 leaders from our Leadership Academy, including from Cambourne Village College, Comberton Village College, and Melbourn Village College, who helped all 320 children get to every event, and then score and time them.

Claire McDonnell, Partnership Manager said: "I hope it will have inspired some of them to get more involved in athletics. There were some excellent performances on the day so congratulations to all of our winners and well done to everyone who took part."



**ADAPTING WELL:** Members of the South Cambs team.

## Dream team

**A representative team from South Cambs took part in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough County School Games Summer Festival — and won.**

Youngsters from Melbourn and Cambourne Village Colleges teamed up with those from Granta and Gretton Schools as well as Impington Village College for what proved a formidable force in the KS3 Adapted Multi Sports Plus competition.

The students competed in New Age Kurling, Polyboat, table cricket and boccia and came out on top.

# Hot competition at netball's grand finale

The last few weeks have seen the culmination of the annual South Cambs High 5's Netball Leagues with a record-breaking 60 teams taking part in two divisional rounds at their local secondary school before qualifying for one of three finals nights.

Sixteen primary schools competed in the last of the three finals, the A Team Shield, which was held at Impington Village College.

At stake was the title of South Cambs Champions 2018 and a chance to qualify for the county finals, where the top four schools on the night would go forward to represent the South Cambs area and take on the best school teams from across Cambridgeshire.

The schools were split into four pools, with each team playing all of their rivals within that group to determine whether they qualified into Division 1, 2, 3 or 4 for the next round of matches.

The teams from Coton, Jeavons Wood and Linton Heights won all of their group matches on their way to qualifying for Division 1. They were joined by Bar Hill who qualified for the top division ahead of

Harston & Newton by the narrowest of margins and courtesy of conceding just one fewer goal in their group matches.

The final matches were closely contested with an extremely high standard of netball on display but it was Linton Heights who took the title ahead of Coton, Bar Hill and Jeavons Wood. All four of these teams went on to represent South Cambs SSP at the County Finals.

Partnership Manager, Claire McDonnell said, "Our annual High 5 Netball League is our most popular competition of the year with a record 60 teams from 32 schools taking part in the league rounds "The standard of netball in the A team shield finals this year was excellent. The children really enjoy the



**THE CHASE IS ON:** Netball action.

opportunity to represent their school in inter-school competition and it is nice for them to get the chance to play in the league rounds before experiencing one of the finals nights which are played in a friendly yet competitive spirit."

# Going above and beyond

**MEETING THE CHALLENGE:**  
Of delivering a tennis project to primary pupils.



The Adventure Club took an unexpected turn this year after students were offered an opportunity to work alongside ex-professional tennis players to develop their leadership and communication skills in a project called 'Beyond the Baseline'.

Beyond the Baseline is a Youth Sport Trust initiative to inspire young people and help them fulfil their potential. After working with the mentors, the groups of students plan, organise and deliver a tennis project for other young people in their community. Jade Windley, Joss Rae and James Shaw, a current wheelchair tennis player, attended the sessions and assisted the boys in planning their tennis session for a local primary school.

On the day, the students stepped up to the challenge and led 10 different activities for a number of primary school students. They were a credit to the school and demonstrated their improved leadership and communication skills.

Here is what the boys had to say: "I felt that my experience with Beyond the Baseline was really good because I got to meet loads of ex-professionals. "I especially liked the part in week two when we had to solve a really complicated puzzle. I also volunteered to speak in front of all of the primary school children in week three when we delivered our tennis festival.

"This was a challenge as some of the children got easily distracted. Well, they are primary school children after all!

"Also teaming up with a Year 8 that I had hardly seen around school can be challenging but we worked

really well together as our creative side influenced our activity. Personally, I really enjoyed working with Jade as she was really supportive of everyone's activity." Thomas Arkesden (Year 9)

"The Beyond the Baseline challenge was extremely fun and helpful towards my personal skills. It was an amazing experience teaching tennis to younger people and getting to meet great tennis players. The fact that I was able to work with two people that I didn't know too well and then deliver a lesson to kids four or five years younger than me seemed impossible at first but then I started to get used to it and realised how well it turned out.

"In the end, it improved a lot of my personal skills like confidence, speaking, and team leading. It was also great to see how much the children enjoyed the activities and games that we put together." Malakai Charles (Year 9)

## Siblings show fighting spirit

Jonah Tomsett has been selected for judo's Regional England Development Squad after an impressive year for both him and older sister Ella.

They started by representing Comberton at the Eastern Area Schools Championships in October with Jonah taking gold in the Year 8/9 under-42kg category while Ella was runner-up in the Year 10/11 under-70kg class.

Ella then went on to the British Championships and competed in the under-18 age group for the first time and impressed against some of the best judo players in the country.

Both then represented the school in the British Schools Championships in Sheffield where Ella won a bronze medal in the Year 10/11 under-70kg class and Jonah reached the last eight in the Year 8/9 under-46kg section.



**GETTING HOLD:** Judo action.



**A TOUR TO REMEMBER:** For Cambridge's three Comberton players.



## Trio help team to triumph

Three boys from Year 9 were selected to travel with Cambridge Rugby Club on tour to Toulon in April.

No 8 Oscar Coppins (Captain), Blindside Flanker Joe Brading and Outside Centre Keon Sylvester were part of the team who played two matches. They started against RC Le Beausset (local league & cup champions). It was an incredibly close match with both teams enjoying the lead through the first half. As the game progressed, the English boys' physicality, fitness and team spirit prevailed and Cambridge finished with a 35-22 victory.

The following day they were pitted against the RC Toulon Academy at the impressive Stade Leo La Grange in the blazing French sunshine and it was clear pre-match that the boys were apprehensive. It was, after all, the equivalent to playing football against Paris St Germain Under-14s! But Cambridge flew out of the blocks against a well-drilled and impressive Toulon back line. The

Forwards, including Joe and Oscar, completely dominated the rucks, lineouts, scrums and mauls. Smart running and great handling from Keon and the rest of the Backs put Toulon under unbearable pressure, allowing our wingers to run in try after try, most of which were converted. Against all the pre-match odds, the final whistle signalled a 50-0 victory for Cambridge.

As a reward for their endeavours, the team was taken to watch the Toulon 1st XV win their critical league match against Castres in the afternoon and, as a special surprise, that evening during dinner the boys were joined by the 1st XV players and coaching staff, who socialised with the Cambridge team throughout the evening. The following day, they had a two-hour training session run by Toulon First-Team Manager Tom Whitford and Second Row Dave Atwood, capped 24 times by England.

# A taste of life at CVC

**MAKING A RACQUET:**  
*The Year 2 tennis festival.*



## The 'upsies' and 'downsies' of sport

Comberton hosted the annual Year 2 tennis festival earlier this term and more than 330 pupils from 10 primary schools attended the event which, despite poor weather in the days leading up to it, was gifted with ideal conditions.

The children took part in a rotation of activities designed to improve skills related to tennis, such as 'fast feet', 'upsies and downsies' and 'volleys'. The event was supported by Year 11 sports leaders who either trained as leaders in our academy last year, or who are taking our BTEC Sport course. The group leaders did a wonderful job in supporting and encouraging their pupils, while the activity leaders ran exciting and well-organised activities for their groups.

A number of pupils were nominated by the primary schools for Leader of the Festival, including Alex Smith, Imogen Sutherland, Isabel Potterill, Jaiya Babbar, Kaitlin Preston, Hazel Raven, Jade Milton and Sarah Holder. Well done to all of the leaders and thank you to all of the primary schools who took part.

Almost all the students starting Comberton in September took part in the annual Year 6 athletics festival.

Following a more formal Intake Day the previous day, students had another chance to bond with their new tutor group as they competed in teams across a range of athletic activities, each student scoring points for a collective total.

Able led by their Year 9 leaders, the teams all posted their best scores in shot put, vortex and quoit throws, 50 and 200m runs, hurdles, high, long and standing triple jump. As if that wasn't enough four boys and four girls from each tutor group also competed in a fun relay at the end of the event as everybody gathered together to find out which team won. All the pupils showed great enthusiasm and perseverance in their activities and really got behind their team-mates, offering great support to new friends and old.

The overall winners were the team who will be 7I in September.



**FESTIVAL FUN:** Year 6 pupils contested a series of athletic events.

## Primary 'invaders' try out different games



**ON THE RUN:**  
Sports included tag rugby.

This May, Comberton hosted the annual Year 3 and 4 Invasion Games Festival for its local primary schools.

Pupils from Caldecote, Dry Drayton, Barnabas Oley, Haslingfield and Gamlingay were grouped into teams, and rotated around different invasion games.

The teams selected players who would take part in Quicksticks hockey, High 5 netball, Ultimate Frisbee, Mini football and tag rugby.

After each game, scores were submitted and the winning team from each group were awarded 'Group Winner' certificates.

The festival was a great opportunity to try out some of the different invasion games, with support from the sports leaders from Comberton.

The Year 10 Performance Plus pupils took on roles as umpires, referees and group leaders, whilst two of our year 12 BTEC Sport students, Fran and Izzie, helped oversee the event.

Congratulations to all involved and to all the Year 3 and 4 pupils who took part in the games with such good sportsmanship and effort.

## Youngsters learn range of new skills

Comberton Village College held its annual Reception and Year 1 multiskills event with more than 30 teams taking part and involving more than 350 4-6 year-olds.

Pupils from Coton, Barton, Bourn, Dry Drayton, Meridian, Caldecote, Monkfield Park, Jeavons Wood, Barnabas Oley and Gamlingay all rotated in groups around a set of activities to improve and practice their fundamental movement skills, such as throwing, catching and kicking.

The stations were ably led by our Year 10 sports leaders and our Year 12 BTEC Sport class.

Two members of the BTEC class, Tilly Allen and Lexi Day, had helped organise the event or oversaw it on the day.

All pupils received certificates for their participation in the day and showed excellent enthusiasm for the activities. Congratulations to all involved in the festival and thank you to the sun for shining down on us all morning!



**PLAYING AND LEARNING:** Pupils at the multiskills event.

# Snow stopping students

**It has been another busy year for Snow sports at Comberton.**

The high level of demand this year meant that a huge trip of 75 students from Years 9, 10 and 11, along with nine staff departed for the Aosta valley in the first week of the Christmas holidays. There were so many of us that two hotels were needed to fit everyone in! We were very lucky with the early season snow providing plenty of power, although anyone forgetting their ski jacket on the walk to the Christmas markets certainly felt the cold, with temperatures reaching as low as minus 20 out on the hill. This left room for 35 Year 8 students to travel on the Easter trip. Warmer temperatures were in store, but, almost unheard of so late in the season, we were treated to heavy snow throughout this week as well. A few of the students (and staff) would have liked to stay for another week!

Planning for 2018-19 trips is in full swing, with information on how to sign up already with parents.



**UNDER INSTRUCTION:** Students having lessons on the slopes in Italy.

## Comberton team takes on the best of British

Comberton Ski Team has been running now for two years and combines fortnightly training sessions with school races.

For the second year running the team entered the annual Eastern Region School Race at Norfolk Snowsports centre in Norwich and the BISS race

at Hemel indoor centre.

The race in Norfolk is on an outdoor dry slope and on the day it was miserable, cold, wet and truly awful weather. Despite this the team all turned up, remained upbeat and determined to do their best.

The races are highly competitive with every hundredth of a second counting for a medal place. There is always a huge amount of tension and nervous energy before starting. Despite this, Aimee Jones, Helena Piotrowicz, Charlotte Hazel and Jessica Welham battled through the elements to all put down a successful run each. Despite not getting medals, the team displayed grit and determination.

The BISS race is a whole different environment, taking place at the indoor ski centre at Hemel. Again highly-competitive Comberton was the only state school to enter. Our girls' team of Amelie Dryer, Helena Piotrowicz, Charlotte Hazel, Jessica Welham and boys' individual competitor Jacob Sewell had high hopes for medal positions as they are more comfortable on the indoor slope.

The girls' team, despite some personal disappointments, were able to pull themselves together to manage to complete a solid team run each and were pipped for third place. Jacob had a strong second run to finish in the top half of a field of 50 in his first ever race. Finally Helena achieved fourth in the Under-14 girls and a well-deserved invitation to further race sessions with BISS.



**BATTLING THROUGH:** Comberton's team on a miserable day at the Eastern Region School Race.



**STREET GOLF:** New for Year 9.

## It's tee time

Students in the X half for Year 9 have had the opportunity to play Street Golf this term in their core PE lessons. They have learnt the basic rules, techniques and even created their own Street Golf course! The sessions are being run by Ben Kerr, Head PGA Teaching Professional, from Bourn Golf Club using funding from The Golf Foundation. The students have had a number of sessions in school and these will finish with a round of golf at the 9-hole course at Bourn, to test their skills. It is hoped that these sessions will run again next year for future year 9s.



**MEDALLISTS:** CVC's Cantabrigian oarsmen.

## Duo row on to podium

Two Year 9 boys won medals at the Peterborough Junior Rowing Championships. Representing Cantabrigian Rowing Club and competing in the single sculls, Oscar Coppins and

William Woodard both won their respective heats to make it through to the final where Oscar won gold and William won bronze against some fierce competition.

# Comberton trials new award

Comberton Village College was selected to trial a new sports leadership award from the Youth Sports Trust.

The Youth Sports Award has been designed to take into account not only pupils' leadership hours, but also their own participation in physical activity, attendance at training courses and management of their well-being.

Two Year 10 classes and one from Year 8 were selected to trial the award. Pupils could choose whether to sign up for the 'Go' award (Level 1) or 'Bronze' award (level 2). They were then able to continue on to the silver and gold awards, should they choose to.

Pupils were required to log a minimum number of hours of physical activity and to take part in leadership training and volunteering. They also set targets to improve



**SUCCESS:** A Year 10 class with their YST certificates.

their well-being, such as minimising time spent watching television or getting 6-8 hours of sleep. They then submitted their evidence and logs to the Youth Sports Trust in order to gain their awards.

In total, 46 pupils completed their awards during the month-long trial period. They were recently awarded with their T-shirts, certificates and pin badges from the Youth Sport Trust to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to all students who took part in the award.

Harriet Shipley, PE Dept

## Students make splash

Forms in Years 7-9 competed in the Big Splash swimming galas as part of the year's inter-form competition schedule.

Sports reps from each form were required to organise a team who would compete in both width and length races against the other forms in their year groups.

There was a very high number of participants, particularly in Year 7, so congratulations to all of those who took part.

The winners were: 7E, 8R and 9O.

● The college also held its annual swimming gala for Year 5 children from the local primary schools. This year, seven schools entered the event, which was supported by sports leaders from Year 9, who are just beginning their leadership academy training.

The overall winners were Hardwick and Cambourne Primary School, but congratulations to all schools who took part!



**TOP FORM:** The Year 9 Sports Day winners.

## Sports days take on a World Cup theme . . .

Year 9 kicked off a week of sports days this year in style with their decorated T-shirts lining the field! Each form was assigned a country competing in this year's World Cup in Russia. Year 9 had the opportunity to decorate white T-shirts in the colours of their allocated country, and did a great job!

All pupils from Years 7-9 took part in a range of athletics activities to compete for the inter-form trophy and for the best boy and best girl awards. The forms were also competing for the endeavour award, which sees points awarded for effort, teamwork and creativity.

This saw forms performing dances, chants, songs and encouragement to one another which made for a very exciting and inspiring few days.

Overall winners were 7R, 8M and 9E with 7E, 8I and 9B taking the endeavour awards. The top girls in each year were Evie Butt (7), Serena Blackwood (8) and jointly Abi Smith and Carmen Omitowoju (9). Daniel Carey-Evans (7), Louis Flower (8) and Kian Kandu (9) were the best boys.



**UP AND OVER:** Sprint hurdles was one of the events in the programme.



**LEADING BY EXAMPLE:** Students run the warm-up.

## Putting training into action

Having trained as gymnastics leaders, eight Comberton students were selected to judge at the County Spring School Games.

Ten schools, all of which had qualified in their district rounds, attended the event at Huntingdon gymnastics centre.

Pupils participated in three disciplines; floor, body management and vault.

After a briefing in the morning, the leaders were allocated to either judge an event or to accompany pupils to their events.

Emma and Maya led a warm-up for all of the primary pupils, before taking over the scoring of the events.

All of the leaders did an absolutely fantastic job and received very positive feedback from the organisers and primary school teachers.

They also had the opportunity to meet Louis Smith, Olympic gymnast, and Henni Goya, British professional golfer and Sky Sports broadcaster.

Congratulations to all of the leaders for showing such professionalism and efficiency in their roles.

They were: Maya Hellin, Cara Chivers, Yasmin Girling, Emma Hayward, Kaitlyn Sutton, Rosa Hellin, Hannah Williams and Ami Fowler.

# Best in the country!

## Comberton are the National Schools under-17 girls' squash champions.

They beat Ackworth School from Pontefract in the final at Nottingham and edged a tight competition 3-2, having won their semi-final against High Wycombe 5-0. Initially they won their group by beating North Leamington, Wycombe High School, Aylesbury High School and Wycombe Abbey the beat North Leamington again 4-1 to reach the last four showdown.

It was the culmination of seven years' hard work for the Comberton team who have reached the girls' plate finals in the past and two years ago were runners-up in the national under-15 final.

Team manager Julie Miller said: "Winning the National Title after all this time was the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and perseverance."

News rules this year allow one boy to join a girls' team if the school did not put out a boys' team in the same age group (and vice versa), which meant sixth former Harry Winter was able to join sisters Casey and Ellis Miller, Aramelia Prothero and Millie Banks in the team.

Against Ackwith there were 3-0 wins for Millie, who did not drop a point, and Harry before Aramelia gave Comberton an unassailable 3-0 lead against Yorkshire county player Layla Johnson.

It meant narrow 3-2 defeats for Casey, who lost 12-10 in the fifth set against another Yorkshire player, Amber Copley, and Ellis, beaten 11-9 in the fifth set by Yorkshire and England player Asia Harris, could not deny Comberton.

All five are also part of Comberton VC's squash academy and train regularly with Rob Dadds.



**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** *The Comberton squash team.*

Casey, nationally ranked No 12 at under-19, Ellis, ranked 13 at under-17, and Aramelia, also in the national top 50 at under-19, also train with Lauren Selby at Off The Wall in Essex, while Harry played for many years at Fenland and Millie is a Comberton club member.

Julie Miller added: "Thank you so much to Ben Banks for all the driving and support, enabling the team to make it to all of their fixtures."



**UP FOR THE CUP:**  
*Comberton's Olympic Cup winners.*

## Cup delight for athletes

This year's Olympic Cup ended in phenomenal success for Comberton, winning the cup overall and gaining subsequent promotion to the Jubilee Cup for next year. Students have been training hard at athletics club over the summer term and their efforts and commitment clearly paid off.

The multi-year team came first in three 100m races, two 200m races, and three 1500m races, while the Year 7 boys, Year 8 girls, Year 8 boys and Year 9 girls all won their relay races.

Success went beyond the track too, with wins in Year 7 and 8 girls' long jump, Year 7 boys and Year 8 girls' high jump, Year 9 girls' triple jump and Year 9 and 10 boys' shot put! Serena Blackwood completed a triple by winning her track, field and relay events while there were track and field or track and relay doubles for Emily Talbot, Lola Briggs, Carmen Omitowaju, Genny Stephenson, Louis Flower, Kian Kanefu and Keon

Well done to all of those involved and particularly those who stepped up into a new event.

Abi Cotton, PE Dept



**ADVANCED TRAINING:** *For one of Comberton's talented dancers.*

## Dancer wins extra training

Year 8 student Imogen Ransome has been offered a place at the DanceEast Centre for Advanced Training from September.

Imogen, who has been dancing since she was four at the King Slocombe School of Dance in Cambridge, will take up her place at the Ipswich-based CAT after coming through a two-stage audition process.

The DanceEast CAT is one of only 12 in the country and is funded by the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme.

They were designed to give young people aged 10-18 with inspirational dance training while allowing them to continue living at home.

It means that on Sundays during term-time Imogen will participate in classes in ballet, contemporary, creative dance and dance health education.

All the students also attend intensive projects in school holidays, regularly working with some of the world's most inspiring dance professionals to recreate existing repertoire (such as Matthew's Bourne's Highland Fling) as well as choreographing new work. Students are able to access professional mentor support and attend regular theatre trips.

Excited Imogen, of 8R, said: "I'm looking forward to taking my dance to the next level at DanceEast."