

NEWS@CAM



ISSUE 20, SPRING 2020

The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

<https://www.facebook.com/CambourneVC> @Cambournevc

www.cambournevc.org

College wins big grant

Cambourne Village College has been awarded an amazing £100,000 towards new performing arts facilities.

The Wolfson Foundation, an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in education as well as science, health, the arts and humanities, has made the award to help fit out Cambourne's newest performance space.

In 2017, supported by Cambourne Parish Council, for school and community use, CamVC was able to build a substantial hall, which has the infrastructure to support professional quality theatre and cinema, but as yet has no fittings.

With a small group of volunteers, the Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust was founded, with the aim of raising the £400,000 needed to equip the hall structure with a new drama studio, full theatre equipment, and high-quality tiered seating. The first element of the fund-raising activity was the bid to the Wolfson

Foundation, who responded with this magnificent donation of £100,000 to get the fund-raising off to a flying start.

"We're thrilled with this incredibly generous award from the Wolfson Foundation," said Principal Claire Coates. "The school has thriving music and drama departments, who can't wait for the new facilities to be installed, and a major part of our planning is to provide a venue for cinema in Cambourne.

"We're now writing bids to other charitable foundations, in the hope that match-funding will move us quickly towards our goal of a professional quality theatre and film venue for the school and town."

The College would be delighted to hear from other potential sponsors who would be interested in supporting this venture. Please contact thecollege@cambournevc.org

Since it was established in 1955, more than £900m has been awarded by the Foundation to more than 11,000 projects throughout the UK.



Receptionist is top of the class

Kirsty Minney, the Cambourne Village College receptionist, has won Cambridge Regional College's Business, Management and Professional Apprentice of the Year and their overall award of Apprentice of the Year.

The college is immensely proud of all that she has achieved and we hope that she will serve as an inspiration to our students.

Kirsty applied for her apprenticeship when returning to work after having her children. She has shown outstanding commitment to her apprenticeship, completing her pre-apprenticeship Maths and English courses at Level 2. She completed her Business Admin and ICT in 13 months, while working term-time only and raising her young family. These awards are testament to the hard

work and determination that Kirsty has demonstrated throughout her apprenticeship and we are delighted to welcome Kirsty as a permanent member of the Cambourne team.

Di Bagulay, who was her line manager and joined Kirsty at the ceremony in one of her last official duties before moving to France, said: "We are so proud of Kirsty; she has shown commitment and tenacity from the very beginning of her apprenticeship, going above and beyond not only with her coursework, but her role on reception. We are very lucky to have her as our full time receptionist."

The award-winner herself commented: "I can't believe I've won both of these awards. I have really enjoyed getting back to work and can't wait to see what the future holds."



DOUBLE WINNER: Cambourne's receptionist Kirsty Minney won two awards as she completed her apprenticeship through Cambridge Regional College.



NEW CHALLENGE: Di Bagulay has emigrated to France.

Long-serving Di moves on

One of Cambourne Village College's longest-serving members of staff has left the college after nearly eight years.

Di Bagulay was the first person appointed by Principal Claire Coates to help her in setting up the school, which opened in 2013.

Di spent the first year, while the building was under

construction, planning and procuring equipment and resources, while she and Claire were based at nearby Comberton Village College.

Once the school opened, she took on several roles —

Office Manager, Finance Manager, Community Manager and, latterly, PA to Mrs Coates.



AU REVOIR: Colleagues gather to say farewell to Di.

Di and her husband Adam, who was a police officer, have now moved to central France where they will continue to renovate the old house they bought near Limousin, while renting out the

finished rooms through Air BnB.

Katie Reynolds has taken over as Mrs Coates' PA, while Ingrid Sims has joined the staff to oversee Community liaison and bookings.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 3 – This Show's a Winner
 Page 4 – Trust News
 Page 5 – A Day of Discovery
 Page 5 – Highlight of Year 7
 Page 5 – Students Pilot Project

Page 5 – Musical Talent on Show
 Page 5 – Insight into Wind Power
 Pages 6 & 7 – History Round-up
 Page 7 – Poetry in the Spotlight
 Page 8 – Who's the Daddy?

Page 8 – Students at the Cutting Edge of Science
 Page 9 – All Go at Home and Away
 Pages 10-12 – Sport



SCENES FROM THE SHOW: Cambourne's production of *Guys and Dolls* captured by Esme (10B)

This show's a winner!

At the beginning of March, a superb cast of 44 students (from Years 7–11) took to the stage for CamVC's 2020 musical production of *Guys and Dolls*.

There was also a large number of talented and dedicated students in the tech team, the backstage crew, and the band.

After a great deal of rehearsal and hard work from everyone involved, the show was a huge success, and played to enthusiastic full houses for the final two performances.

Teacher Emily Moody reviewed *Guys and Dolls* for News@Cam:

How far can you kick a piece of cheesecake?

We all have questions we want to have answered.

Like, how can you feel like you're in New York and Cuba without the carbon footprint of flying there?

How do you persuade a missionary to accompany you to Havana?

Is adding Bacardi a good way of getting children to drink milk?

And... will Nathan Detroit find a place to hold his craps game?

(Not to mention — how do you shoot craps?)

Here is a production that pops with the neon colour of New York (cwaafee anyone?) and fizzes with the high-kicking energy of the 1920s. Slick and fun, the ensemble pieces are impressive and showcase great talent, with sharp and accomplished music from what is hard to believe is a school band.

We are quickly immersed in the slightly sleazy — but mainly harmless — underbelly of the New York gambling scene, where Nathan Detroit (Max T) is struggling on two fronts: to satisfy his long-suffering fiancée Adelaide (Elizabeth R and Julia) and to find somewhere to hold a game of craps.

Meanwhile, Sky Masterson (Brin and Tom L) is trying to woo the worn-down missionary Missionary Sarah (Taya and Liv) in order to win a bet — there's a grand resting on whether or not she'll fall for his charms.

With the main characters double-cast over the four performances, there were genuine stand-out performances on all nights and the audiences left wowed by the soaring voices and confident performances, all actors revelling in their New York draws.

As ever from a CamVC production, though, it is the superb team effort that we always admire. Head of Art Mark Yeates' neon backdrops help bring 1920s New York to life, as does the shoulder-shimmying of the flirtatious Box Dolls — in fact, the choreography throughout is unfailingly impressive.

The technical team and backstage crew are slick, the costumes striking, and the



big numbers — the dancing, the singing, and that awesome band — just wow us. Here's a show that reminds us that love doesn't always live up to expectations — but the Cambourne cast and crew of *Guys and Dolls* certainly do.



New Principle is added

The Cam Academy Trust has added a Sixth Principle to lie at the core of what we believe about education and the sort of education that is provided in all the Trust's schools.

From the outset, the Trust suggested that five fundamental principles lie at the heart of what we seek in all schools involved in the Trust: Educational Excellence, Comprehensive Education, Community-based Schools, Partnering with others, and International Education. These sum up how we seek to work and the sort of education that might be expected in our schools.

Within all of this, and perhaps especially within the key statement of 'Excellence for All' (a summary of our educational philosophy), we have always taken a broad view of education. This is now being formally stated as a further Principle in its own right: The Broad Education Principle.

It is considered to be so important as part of what we mean by educational excellence that we need to acknowledge it in its own right.

So we are very clear that educational experience in all of our schools should be broadly, and therefore not too narrowly, based.

It must include quality provision in areas such as the Arts and Sport and Physical Education. It means a genuine emphasis on the personal development of young people, the importance of creativity and the significance of developing as a citizen.

All these things are part of a proper, broad education. This does not all detract from academic excellence in our schools. It enhances and indeed supports it. In practice, this may simply re-confirm the significance and importance of the sort of great educational experiences that are regularly reported about our schools in such publications as end-of-term magazines and newsletters.

It means the following activities and opportunities are fundamental to really great education rather than nice 'added extras':

- Duke of Edinburgh programmes with mass participation from pupils. These provide wonderful and powerful educational experiences for all involved.



BROAD EDUCATION: Sport (above), productions and trips and exchanges (below) are all important features.

- Whole School Productions that provide memorable and valuable educational experiences in a range of roles and responsibilities.
- Trips and exchanges both within our country and overseas. These provide broad and powerful education to all involved (as well as being central to our International Principle).
- Sporting fixtures and activities that do so much to develop young people positively.

And of course, there are many more.

It is great that, the Broad Education Principle is so clearly demonstrated in our schools even before it is formally stated.

Stephen Munday, CEO



Trust focus on health and well-being

The Cam Academy Trust has identified a focus on improving student and staff mental health and well-being.

Work began on the project in January with two members of staff seconded to focus on this area. Zach Beamish (Comberton Village College) and Annabelle Harder (Gamlingay Village Primary) successfully interviewed for the secondment and have begun their work by meeting members of staff with oversight of well-being across the Trust.

Evidence from national and local data suggests that improving well-being should be at the heart of every school to ensure that their students achieve their full potential.

At the end of February, Zach and Annabelle attended the Youth Sport Trust Conference at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

Zach presented with the Cambridge United's mental health officer Darryl Coakley on the work

that the club has done with Comberton Village College and other Trust secondary schools.

The conference was useful for finding out about how other Trusts up and down the country are looking to enhance mental health and well-being provision.



KEYNOTE TALK: Rachael McKenzie.

The focus at this stage in the project has been to investigate the superb well-being provision that so many students and staff have in their respective schools.

The findings from these school visits are being shared with Heads from across the Trust to help them consider different ways to address about the question of improving well-being. Supporting the introduction of the 'Sixth Principle', the project will also work with schools to develop their curricula on well-being. Part of the Trust training day in April will engage with the question of how everyone working in schools can contribute to the positive mental health of students and is scheduled to include a keynote talk from world Thai boxing and British boxing champion Rachael McKenzie, now a mentor with the Youth Sport Trust, on mental health.



YOUNG AND OLD: A group of Cambourne's teenage students spent the day at Cambridge's oldest college, Peterhouse.



A day of discovery . . .

In January, 15 Year 10 students attended an Aspiration Day at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge.

We began the day with a walk through central Cambridge, looking at several different colleges and sights in the city centre.

Once we reached Peterhouse, the students had a session on why you might choose to go to university. We discussed a range of reasons for why you might want to go on to higher education: a passion for a

subject; a desire for new skills; to meet new people; and to access specialised career paths.

Peterhouse were keen to stress that students shouldn't worry about paying for fees: such a small amount is taken off your pay every month that it amounts to a similar cost to a monthly subscription for a Spotify account or a phone contract.

Students then played a game working out what A-levels prior students had taken, followed by what degree they had gone on to study.

This helped pupils to consider which options are necessary to support certain subjects at university. They then had to work out what jobs the students had gone on to have.

It was really reassuring to see the wide range of careers that students went on to access, showing how studying a subject at university opens up a huge range of possibilities.

Peterhouse's message was clear: if you always choose subjects you enjoy studying, then you will find the right job for you that is both stimulating and

rewarding.

We then had a tour of Peterhouse, followed by lunch and an afternoon session on different ways of studying at university.

Students participated in a Socratic debate about the uses and abuses of social media — Cambourne students were fantastic at this, as every single student contributed an idea and built on the points of their peers.

We then learnt about Cornell note-taking as an efficient way of recording information in lectures. Students were very positive about both strategies: I will certainly be using Socratic debating more frequently in my lessons, and I hope students will use the note-taking method in their GCSE studies. At the end of the day, students had a Q and A with current undergraduates. They kindly answered all sorts of questions ranging from queries about work-life balance at university and funding university study, to the extra-curricular opportunities and social life available!

As ever, it was a really useful day and certainly succeeded in its aim to encourage our young adults to aspire for higher education.

Laura Clash



BRAINSTORMING: Year 7s at work

Students pilot climate project

Year 7 were excited to pilot a project on teaching climate change to secondary school students, delivered by Shout Out UK and the WWF.

The whole year group first enjoyed an assembly introducing the topic of climate change, before a group of students took part in a workshop exploring the issue in greater detail. They considered the science behind climate change and discussed a range of ways in which humans have changed the planet. They recapped their understanding of how burning fossil fuels has created a greenhouse effect, as well as the devastating impact of deforestation, plastic and rubbish. Students also explored to what extent our own choices impact upon the environment. For example, they debated the importance of our own food choices, thinking about how shopping for locally-produced food can lessen the impact of transporting goods from across the world, while opting for a vegetarian or vegan diet can alter carbon dioxide emissions. Students concluded the session by taking part in a 'hackathon' where they brainstormed ideas for how Britain can achieve Net Zero — suggestions ranged from converting lampposts into electric car charging points to introducing a policy where each child's birth is marked by the planting of their own tree, allowing both to live side-by-side and for the tree to counteract the human's carbon footprint (to a certain extent.)

It was a fantastic morning, and we were very lucky to be the first school to experience the project. Hopefully, it will encourage students to think more carefully about their impact upon the world — and to join Mr Lynch's eco-group, which seeks to improve the carbon footprint of CamVC!



ON STAGE: Year 10 and 11 students in action at a special showcase performance evening.

Musical talent on show

Students in Years 10 and 11 gave fantastic performances as part of the GCSE Music Performance Evening at Cambourne Village College.

The evening was an opportunity for the hugely-talented GCSE Music students to showcase the impressive performances they have been working on in class.

Students performed solos, duets and as part of larger ensembles. The music performed encompassed classical, pop, jazz and rock to name a few, as well as several original compositions. It was a great evening with many in the audience commenting on how impressed they were with the very high standard of the performances. Bravo to all involved!

Insight into wind power

Thirteen Year 10 students braved the elements to visit the EDF Red Tile Wind Farm in Warboys, Cambridgeshire.

The trip was led by Karl Spense, an EDF Site Engineer with a wealth of knowledge and experience related to electricity generation and renewable energy. Karl, who has oversight of wind farms across the UK, delivered a workshop on the history of electricity generation, renewable energy and the physics behind wind turbines.

After this, students toured the wind farm and got some hands-on experience doing a safety inspection of the site. With renewable energy featuring in many GCSE subjects, this was a valuable experience.

A taste of Norman life

Thirty Year 7s attended a workshop hosted by Ely Cathedral's Education Team.

The workshop, entitled 'Hereward: Hero or Villain?', allowed students to learn more about the local resistance stories surrounding Hereward the Wake in Ely in the 11th Century.

Students loved dressing up in robes to help them get into character as part of the monastic order as they listened to contemporary accounts of the resistance in Ely.

The workshop helped deepen their understanding of resistance to King William after the Battle of Hastings and allowed students to inspect the lasting legacy of the Normans in East Anglia.

It was a great way to explore local history!



MONASTIC ORDER:
Students get into character at Ely Cathedral's Norman workshop.



MYTH-BUSTER: Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee shares the true history of princesses.

Truth about princesses

More than 40 pupils, parents, carers, staff and the wider community attended a second public lecture hosted by the History Department.

Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee delivered her lecture entitled: 'What is a princess? The true history behind an enduring myth'.

Kelcey had the audience entranced as she broke down our misconceptions and stereotypes of what it means to be a princess. Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee examined the lives of five real princesses in medieval England — an area rarely explored. Kelcey has also kindly donated a copy of her book *Daughters of Chivalry: The Forgotten Children of Edward I* to our school library.

She was due to be followed last month by Dr Marc Morris, an historian and broadcaster, who promised a fascinating insight into life in the Middle Ages. His knowledge is broad and far-reaching.

Dr Morris has published books about King John and the road to the Magna Carta, The Norman Conquest and King Edward I, a truly formidable monarch who was born to rule England but believed it was his right to rule Britain. As a result, his reign was one of the most dramatic and important of the Middle Ages, leading to war and conquest on an unprecedented scale.

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus, Dr Morris' talk was postponed although it is hoped he will be able to speak at Cambourne in the near future.

The History Department would love to host more Public History Lectures for the Cambourne Community — please do get in touch with Miss Angell (jangell@cambournevc.org) if you can help! Details of upcoming lectures will be released once the crisis is over.



DONATION:
Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee (striped dress) gave the school library her book.

Students go out and about . . .

Weekend trips to London and Cambridge have proved educational and exciting for groups of Cambourne students.

In February, 20 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 spent the day exploring cultural sites in Cambridge.

After climbing many steps, they reached the top of Great St Mary's Tower and enjoyed the panoramic views of the city.

They explored the local markets before heading to the Botanical Gardens and enjoying hot chocolate!

Students loved our visit to the Archaeology and Anthropology Museum and enjoyed learning more about the artefacts on display there.

Then last month a group of students explored the sites and scenes of the capital

They started at Camden Lock Market and enjoyed the variety of independent shops and food stalls.

Then it was on to the British Library to view the Magna Carta before heading into the centre of London and strolling through Leicester Square!



ON THEIR TRAVELS:
Students visited the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge (top) and London's Camden Lock Market.



GIRLS ON TOUR: Cambourne students experience life in the First World War trenches and visited some of the war graves.

In footsteps of soldiers

Three Year 9 pupils, Hope, Tasia and Scarlett plus teacher Mark Bryan joined teachers and students from local schools and were taken on a fantastic WW1 battlefields tour.

They departed from Dover on the ferry, a first-time experience for a couple of the students, and headed to Peace Village in the Flanders region of Belgium. There they were treated to an introductory lecture by Tony Scott, the group's personal historian and Battlefield Guide. They were given the name of a soldier from Cambridge who had perished in the war and set the challenge to use the Commonwealth War Grave Commission database to find out which cemetery he is remembered in.

The group spent Saturday in Belgium, around the Ypres Salient area, learning about the importance of

Ypres to the allied forces. They visited the fantastic Passchendaele museum in Zonnebeke, which provided an overview of the conflict and some reconstructed German/British trenches, before going on to visit Tyne Cot, Lijssenthoek and Langemark military cemeteries, each commemorating tens of thousands of soldiers from both sides of the Great War.

The guides shared some stories of a few of the soldiers, which were truly moving and helped to communicate the scale of loss of life and devastation the War caused.

They heard four unique stories in a cemetery filled with more than 11,000 graves; it was an exceptionally humbling experience.

On Saturday night they went into Ypres town centre and saw the daily act of remembrance — the Last Post at Menin Gate where students from our tour had

been randomly selected to lay a wreath.

On Sunday, the group moved into France, exploring the Somme region and the question "was the Battle of the Somme really a disaster for the allied forces?".

The journey took them to the Newfoundland Memorial Park and some specific sites where the battle began on July 1st 1916, and where the allies had more success a few months later.

They returned to England on the Monday via the Eurotunnel, having had an eye-opening and hugely informative trip.

Mr Bryan said: "I was really impressed with the maturity that the students demonstrated during the trip, asking questions and offering their insights into what they were learning about.

"As a science teacher myself, I also couldn't believe how much I'd learnt about such an important part of our nation's history."

New technology to learn about history

Year 10 and Year 9 students attended a live webcast with a Holocaust survivor to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

Holocaust Memorial Day is marked each year on 27th January — the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On and around this day, schools, communities and faith groups across the UK join together in national and local events to commemorate those people who became victims of the Nazis and their collaborators and of more recent genocides, and to consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the murder of approximately six million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War.

However, statistics are impersonal and difficult to grasp and students cannot be expected to comprehend the magnitude of the Holocaust. One way of ensuring that young people connect with the victims of the Holocaust is by focusing on the experiences of individuals.

This year's webcast allowed students the incredible opportunity to hear the



WEBCAST: Students hear from a survivor on World Holocaust Day. testimony of Susan Pollack MBE. Susan was born in Hungary and was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in May 1944. She survived as a slave labourer and was sent on a death march to Bergen-Belsen, where she was liberated by British Forces on 15th April 1945.

Oliver (10U) said: "We cannot forget the horrors of the past. We must remember so that it never happens again."

STAFF STEP UP: To perform their favourite poem at the 'Poetry Lunch'.



Poetry in the spotlight

Here at CamVC we've run two spoken word competitions: Performing Shakespeare and Poetry by Heart. For the former, students prepared either monologues or duologues and the winners from the school auditions are put forward for regional heats. They were Lydia and Alice (9A), who went to the national finals last year, and Keira and Gamu (9M).

For the latter competition, students performed their chosen poem by heart. The trials were launched by holding a staff-led 'Poetry Lunch' in the library, during which around 15 members of staff performed their favourite poem or made a video of themselves doing so. This inspired some students to give it a go

Lucie Coleridge

Who's the Daddy?

STEM club investigated 'Who's the Daddy?' for a baby orang-utan named Oreo.

Born after a mix up at the zoo meant that a female had been in enclosures with two possible fathers, STEM club used real world equipment including micropipettes, a microcentrifuge and UV transilluminator to carry out DNA fingerprinting.

When they analysed the results following gel electrophoresis for baby Oreo, his mother and two possible fathers, they were able to correctly identify the father, in exactly the same way that vets would do at the zoo.

Staff involved in this session (from Cambourne Village College and the University of Cambridge) were impressed by the students' steady hands, ability to pick up new skills rapidly and to interpret DNA fingerprinting gels.

Students were incredibly enthusiastic and one of them commented that it was: 'the best science we've done yet'.



SCIENTISTS AT WORK: STEM Club members have a go at DNA fingerprinting.

Students at the cutting edge of science

LATEST EQUIPMENT: Students enjoyed using the same equipment as in industry science laboratories.



Triple Science students set out to practise their aseptic technique and insert plasmids into bacteria, supported by thousands of pounds of up-to-date science equipment from the Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) project.

The techniques they used are vital in the production of many medicines, like insulin for diabetics.

Not only did the students enjoy, "using proper science equipment like you see in real labs", but most of them were able to complete the procedures with amazing success and lack of contamination! It's great that they recognise the value of experiences such as this: "doing the practical work really helped me to understand what the lessons were about" and that they have been able to take part in science work not usually experienced until university. One of their teachers commented: "It's great to see the students involved in, and excited by, cutting edge science work."

Adult Education courses Summer 2020

| Course | Cost | Venue | When | Starts | Length |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Get ready for Maths GCSE (to enrol on GCSE in September) | FREE | Cambourne Village College | Monday 19.00-21.00 | 8 th June | 6 wks |
| Get ready for English GCSE (to enrol on GCSE in September) | FREE | Cambourne Village College | Monday 19.00-21.00 | 8 th June | 6 wks |
| IT Skills for Work | FREE | Cambourne Village College | Tuesday 19.30-21.30 | 5 th May | 9 wks |
| Beginners' English | FREE | Old Blue School, Eastgate, Cambourne | Tuesday 09.45 – 11.45 | 28 th April | 9 wks |
| Keeping up with the children in Maths | FREE | Old Blue School, Eastgate, Cambourne | Tuesday 09.30 – 11.30 | 28 th April | 6 wks |

All the above courses are **FREE** for those aged 19+, who have lived in the EEA for 3 years, and are unemployed or earn less than £16,009.50pa.

(These courses are fully funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, European Social Fund, Education & Skills Funding Agency, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority.

Saturday Workshops Cambourne Village College 6th June 2020

| Course | When | Cost |
|---|------------|------|
| British Sign Language | 10am – 4pm | £40 |
| Italian Breads and Pastries | 10am – 4pm | £40 |
| Flowers for the Summer (flowers included) | 10am – 4pm | £50 |
| Spreadsheets | 10am – 4pm | £40 |
| Stained Glass | 10am – 4pm | £40 |
| Woodwork Workshop (materials included) | 10am – 4pm | £50 |

Please contact Comberton Adult Education for further details or to enrol, on 01223 264721 or at commed@catrust.co.uk. Further information about these courses can be found at www.combertonadulted.org.



All go at home and away

Cambourne students on the Spanish Exchange have had an action-packed adventure with their partners — both in Zaragoza and the UK.

The group first spent a week in the Spanish city, living with Spanish families and enjoying a mix of in-school activities and excursions, alongside a group from Comberton Village College as part of a joint exchange.

As well as spending time with their host families, including a weekend, they participated in activities such as an art project and sports afternoon as well as joining their partners in their regular lessons.

Cultural visits included meeting the Counsellor of Culture in the Town Hall, going to the Castillo de Loarre, taking La Zaragoza Romana Tour, which took in Foro Romano and Puerto Fluvial, the Palacio del la Aljaferia and a minibus tour along the Paseo Echegaray.

The students all had a fantastic time.

"My favourite day in Spain was probably our day at the football pitches. Here we got to know one another and really make friendships that I know will last forever.

"We started off by having a nice meal and tasty desserts. Later we went out on to

the pitches and had a really fun time as we had a big game of what was meant to be football but kind of turned into a huge game of rugby. It's a day I'll cherish and never forget." (Noa 9M)

"The Spanish Exchange has been the best two weeks of my life. It is my favourite school trip and I loved every second of it. I have met the best people ever and it was really sad saying goodbye. My favourite part was the freedom we had at the

weekends with them and it was a shock at how friendly they are.

I'm going to miss not being with them and miss my best friends." (Jessica 9N)

"The day I liked the most was when we went to Castillo de Loarre because we were allowed to spend the day with our friends and it was really beautiful." (Alfie 9A)

OUT AND ABOUT:
Students experiencing life in Zaragoza on the Spanish Exchange.

Just a few days later, Cambourne and Comberton welcomed their Spanish visitors to Cambridgeshire.

They spent the first school day together in a drama activity before the visitors spent a day in Cambridge.

The Spanish students also ran activities for Comberton Year 7 and 8 students before spending their final full day locally after the Coronavirus caused them to cancel their planned day in London. They went to Wimpole before heading into Cambridge to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum, enjoy scones at Fitzbillies and indulged in some shopping.



Reaching new heights

GCSE PE students have been filming their climbing videos for their coursework during this half term.

We had a great time at Grafham Water learning new knot-tying methods, climbing techniques and how to climb an overhang.

By the end we had gone from beginners to novices and we could climb a range of different routes from easy to hard.

The instructors taught us extremely well and we could take what we learnt from the ground all the way to the top.

Overall, the trip was excellent, and we thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills. I would highly recommend those taking GCSE PE next year to consider taking climbing at Grafham Water because the facilities are excellent and the instructors are friendly and helpful!

Max (10A)



UP THE WALL: Students learn climbing techniques at Grafham Water.

Chance to gain experience on the slopes



ALL GEARED UP: Snowboarders ready for the slopes.

Groups of students took a trip to Milton Keynes Snozone for snowboarding or skiing lessons. There were six amazing opportunities offered to beginners with some experience in either skiing or snowboarding.

We started by learning how to put the snowboard on, then learnt how to control the board with one foot. Once we were all fairly confident, we moved to the top learning slope. We continued by learning how to move forward down the slope on our toe edge by bending our legs and leaning

forward. We did the same on our heel edge but by leaning the opposite way. Next, came the skill where we had to move to the left and right. The instructor taught us to angle our snowboards in the direction then look in the direction we wanted to go. To finish our session, we sledged back down to the bottom of the slope. Overall, it was a fun and helpful trip and has definitely helped prepare me for the next session or any opportunity I get to go snowboarding!

Rebecca (8U)

Club is popular

Year 7 football club has been very popular with numbers consistently hitting around 20 every week. The first game was away against Swavesey where Cambourne took two mixed teams. We lost one, drew one and won two of our matches.

The boys have bonded well at training and this was evident, working hard as a unit. MVPs were Harry and Frankie, who were pulling the strings and getting among the goals.

The Year 7s then couldn't wait for the next game, which was at home against Cambridge Academic Partnerships, and again we fielded two sides, who won all four of the games. MVP's were Neale, who was a defensive rock, and Sam, who worked hard all over the pitch.



SHARPSHOOTERS: The Year 7 and 8 girls team won 15-0.

Only a matter of time for team

The Year 8 football team has some stars in its midst and has started to gel nicely, very early on in the season.

The team have a solid spine, with a rock in defence in captain Henry, composure in the midfield with Alex and outright flare and creativity with winger Johannes.

Results haven't quite gone their way yet, drawing with Swavesey and narrowly losing against Parkside.

However, with the way this team is playing, it is only a matter of time before they get on a roll and win many games.



ENTHUSIASTIC: Year 7 have been able to field two teams after plenty of regulars at the club.

Show of strength

Girls' football has been going from strength to strength this term with plenty coming along to training on Fridays after school.

Our Year 7 and 8 girls played against Sancton Wood and won 15-0, with superb goals coming from Serena, Ella, Flo, Daisy and Ciara to name but a few.



PLENTY OF POTENTIAL: Year 8 have the makings of a strong team.

Loving basketball . . .

Thirty-eight students went to the Copperbox Arena in London to watch London Lions vs Leicester Riders in a British Basketball League match.

Both teams occupied two of the three top positions in the league so the match had the potential to be a cracker.

It was not just the match that the students were looking forward to as they also had an hour's training session on the court with the coaches and two of the London Lions players.

The students were split into two groups with one professional player leading a session then swapping. Alex and Selim were given free jerseys for their efforts during the session.

After this great session the students had time to relax, walk around the arena and have some lunch before the match started.

The London Lions started quickly building a 15-2 lead midway through the first quarter. The game carried on in this fashion with the Lions running out 99-65 winners and pushing themselves up into first position in the league. The students loved that the match MVP was Brandon Peel, who was one of the coaches from our training session.

The students were exceptional the whole day, with the coaching session, and during the match, representing the school very proudly.

Basketball at CamVC is really taking off. For the first time the college had an under-14 team in the Cambridge District League, where they played eventual winners St Bede's and runners-up Melbourn as well as Chesterton in their pool games.

The young squad worked really well and developed their skills and game



ON COURT HUDDLE: Cambourne students were given a training session before a British Basketball League match in London.

awareness across all of their games, working well as a team to score some crucial points. Training for pupils in Years 7 and 8 is on a Tuesday after school in the sports hall.

The Under-16 team have had friendly fixtures against Chesterton and Melbourn, playing well and learning from more experienced members of the team. Training for players in Years 9-11 is on Monday after school in the sports hall.

The Under-14 girls' teams recently took part in a tournament held at St Bede's. The girls worked extremely hard in their first fixtures, playing well as a team and demonstrating the skills and tactics they had practised in training.

An oar-some day out

The PE Department took 28 students to the 2020 National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRCs), held at the infamous Copper Box Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The day was action-packed, with the students competing in both an individual race, as well as a four-person 2000m sprint relay.

Between their races, students were allowed to explore the perimeter of the arena which was lined with a number of fun and engaging activities put on by charities and local companies. Activities

included a keepie-uppie challenge run by the West Ham FC Foundation, fencing, wheelchair basketball and a horse-riding simulator for all of those budding jockeys! All students represented the school excellently in both their individual and relay races. Notable performances included Jacob who rowed an astonishing 488m in 2 minutes to finish 22nd out of 161 competitors in the Year 7 boys' category. James completed 1687m in the gruelling Year 11 boys' six-minute race to finish a very respectable 18th out of 83 competitors.



PULLING POWER: At the rowing event.

Skills put to the test

This term 10 students attended a Secondary Adapted Multi Sports event.

The competition is designed specifically for pupils with additional special needs, which could be physical, learning, sensory or a combination of these.

Students worked in pairs to compete across a range of activities including New Age Kurling, Boccia, tabletop cricket and Polybat.

The students supported each other well during the competition and enjoyed meeting and working with children from other schools.

Two of our students managed to get through to the second round in Polybat as they scored the highest points in this event.

However, the event was very much about pupils having an enjoyable experience of new sports, with some element of competition.

The students who attended also participate in a specific sports skills club one lunchtime each week where they can practise the events that are in the competition.

All those who attended really enjoyed the day and are looking forward to competing again next year.



FOCUS: On tabletop cricket.



BAT-MAN: The Polybat event.

Dancers' hard work pays off at show

Twenty-two dancers attended the Bodyworks Outreach Show at the Junction in Cambridge.

The girls had been working on their routines, practising and perfecting everything since September.

They were fantastic! Both the contemporary jazz group and street dance group worked extremely hard and gave excellent performances to a sold-out audience!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Cambourne's performers at the Outreach Show.

Thank you!

We are extremely grateful to Cambridge Banners, who have sponsored two roller banners for the PE department. They look fantastic — thank you very much! info@cambridgebanners.com



Excellence honoured

This year's Roy Burrell Awards ceremony was held at Netherhall School as a celebration for talented sportsmen and women.

The winners are Year 11 students from the Cambridge District who were nominated by their PE teachers for sporting excellence and achievement in their various different sports or leadership.

At the award ceremony Paralympian Sean Rose appeared as the Guest of Honour to hand out the awards. He also delivered an incredibly inspiring speech about his sporting journey with the message that no dream is too big, to encourage them to keep setting goals and reassuring them they can do anything they set their mind to.

All nominated students won Roy Burrell Awards and deserve big congratulations for their achievements.

However, a special congratulations to Zara and Calla who won two awards.

Zara won the Greg Alvey Award and Calla was awarded the Outstanding Leader Award for the all the hard work and effort they have put in throughout their time at Cambourne Village College.

Overall the award ceremony was a brilliant evening, celebrating the sporting excellence in Year 11 and all students nominated should be exceptionally proud of their achievements.



HARD AT WORK: Students run a tournament for Years 7 and 8 as part of their award.

Junior football leaders pass their test

Since November, Cambridgeshire FA coaches have been coming in every week to deliver fun and engaging football sessions for a number of students in Years 9 and 10.

Part of the course gives participants the opportunity to complete the FA Junior Football Leaders Award (JFL). During February and March, the FA delivered the course to 13 of our students.

The award helps develop students' leadership, coaching and refereeing skills, and offers a springboard to complete further FA qualifications.

To gain the award, students had to organise and deliver a mini-football festival to younger pupils and the group successfully ran a tournament for 42 budding Year 7 and 8 players.

All the boys demonstrated excellent leadership, coaching, organisation and refereeing skills on the day, and should all be extremely proud of their efforts.

Cambourne VC will continue to work closely with Cambridgeshire FA to support all of our students who are interested in pursuing a career in football coaching, refereeing and leadership — watch this space!

Boys qualify

Four Year 7 boys ended up narrowly winning a regional table tennis competition at Linton Village College. In a fiercely fought competition, Ray's (captain) team did superbly well to qualify for the next stage of the competition hosted at St. Neots Table Tennis Club. Ray looked a natural talent at the sport with many fine shots. Ewan was also superb, beating several higher-ranked players on the day.

At the same time, eight young badminton players had the opportunity to represent CamVC. All did superbly well and played the school games competition in excellent spirit.



WINNERS: The boys' table tennis team.



INSPIRING: Paralympian Sean Rose with Roy Burrell Award winners.

Great opportunities

As a sports leader there are many opportunities that are offered to us. We are able to lead clubs after school, help out during PE lessons and are chosen to assist at festivals and events during school.

Recently the Year 10 sports leaders had an opportunity to help out at the South Cambs Quicksticks Hockey competition.

Sports leaders umpired the games and helped at the score table. In the morning, before the teams arrived, the leaders were trained so they knew the rules.

Coming up there are still many

opportunities including a netball umpiring and coaching course and an athletics judging course. These events help us become more confident and able to lead events.

Most recently, the cricket sports leaders who participated in the 2019 Chance to Shine girls cricket leadership programme were lucky enough to be given a reward for their efforts by attending a concert at the O2 arena in London. We had an amazing night out, great food and entertainment from our NatWest-sponsored seats. **Isabelle (10M)**



LEADERS: Cambourne students helped officiate at a Quicksticks hockey tournament.

The future is bright

CamVC opened off its cricket fixtures in 2020 with an indoor girls' competition at Impington Village College. Led ably by skipper Izzy, Cambourne did superbly despite taking an inexperienced team to play some hardened veterans. The whole team shone, particularly in their fielding where some stunning catches were taken. The future is most certainly bright for girls' cricket at Cambourne.

