

# NEWS@CAMM



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# Award for garden ace

A Cambourne student has been named one of the Royal Horticultural Society's Young Gardeners of the Year.

Daniel, an active and dedicated member of the school gardening club, was nominated by the College for his stand-out contributions.

Due to the pandemic the main awards were cancelled but Daniel was still recognised for his hard work, commitment and enthusiasm by being named by the RHS as one of their Young Gardeners of the Year for 2020.

The Year 9 student has a contagious enthusiasm for gardening in both school and in the community and possesses a passion to implement innovative ideas towards expanding the gardening areas around him. He has played a pivotal role in the construction of the school's sensory garden and strongly believes it will help strengthen school unity and provide a place for staff and students to relax and appreciate nature and its beauty, while increasing biodiversity and improving the environment.



**AWARD:** Cambourne's 'Young Gardener of the Year' has a passion to implement innovative ideas in the college garden.

Often, he can be found poring over gardening

magazines for new ideas, which he often uses to inspire others.

Daniel said: "I was so surprised to be able to receive such a great award as I knew it would be such a tough competition.

"I really enjoy going to RHS gardens to find inspiration for my own garden and have been so honoured to be able to participate in their many activities such as the 'Green It Challenge' and also building up the sensory garden. I would like to own my own farm shop in the future."

He is deeply conscious and concerned about climate change and his ideas are invariably well thought out and involve cost-effective and environmentally friendly methods in gardening for the school and his allotment.

Daniel is always eager to help others and under his watchful eye, plants are expertly pruned and well maintained. He is truly a remarkable advocate for gardening to all.

## Welcome news as exams pressure eases

CamVC students have been working with enormous diligence since returning to school in September and their approach to their mock exams, held at the start of December, has been impeccable.

They will all welcome the news published on 2 December by the Department for Education, announcing an easing of some of the pressures of the summer exam series.

GCSEs, and vocational and technical qualifications will still be examined in England, unlike their equivalents in Wales and Scotland.

However, some new concessions have been made in addition to the relaxations to practical coursework requirements and the limiting of content in English Literature, Geography and History which have already been announced.

The main exam period will start three weeks later than usual, with most

exams starting the week of 7 June and ending by 2 July.

Students will receive advanced notice of some topic areas covered, as well as being allowed some exam aids, such as formula sheets.

For those students who might be affected by illness or isolation during the exam period, there will be replacement exam papers, and those who miss part of an exam will still be awarded a grade.

At the end of June, an additional set of 'contingency' single exam papers will be offered to students who missed every paper in a subject.

Of most relief, perhaps, is the news that the grading of this exam series will be more generous than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020.

So — plenty for our students to feel pleased about as they take a very well-earned rest over Christmas.

## Donation kick-starts voucher appeal fund

Early in December, the College received a wonderful gift of just over £1000 from Dr Stephen Vassallo the father of our Art teacher, Nicola Vassallo. Dr Vassallo asked that his gift was used to bring some Christmas joy to some of our families who might find it hard to manage over Christmas. Prompted by this incredible generosity, the College set up an appeal to our staff and parents for additional donations to this cause, and raised a further £1,750.

This has been used to purchase a Christmas shopping voucher for each of our families who qualify for free school meals — we hope this might provide some little luxuries over Christmas that might not otherwise be afforded.

These families will also receive a shopping voucher from the Government to provide meals for their children throughout the holiday. These vouchers are part of a national rollout inspired by the Manchester United football star, Marcus Rashford, who himself sometimes went hungry during school holidays.

Very many thanks to everyone who sent us donations.



**TIRELESS CAMPAIGNER:** Manchester United's Marcus Rashford inspired a national rollout of vouchers to help feed youngsters during the school holidays.

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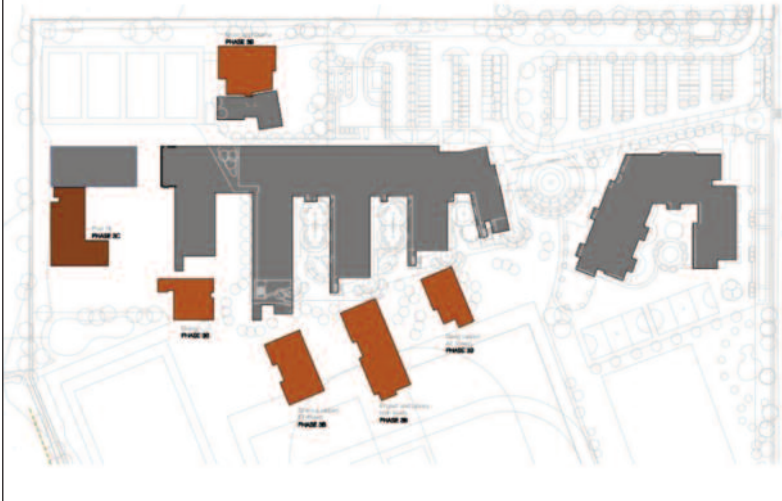
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Block Plan for Expansion to 11-16 School. Proposed Build in Red.



**MAKING PLANS:** Cambourne's latest proposed extension would allow for a sixth form, including using an existing building (above), and create space for additional 11-16 students.

# Planning to grow again

Planning to expand Cambourne Village College further is under way.

Staff from the College and The Cam Academy Trust are working with Cambridgeshire County Council on proposals to add a sixth form to the existing provision.

It is hoped that a sixth form centre for up to 350 students will open on the site for a first cohort of Year 12s in September 2023 — if all the planning hurdles can be overcome.

A public consultation with the local community, which ran from mid-November, recently closed on 9 December and we are assessing the feedback.

It is intended that the sixth form will be accessed from the existing school and via a new entrance in Cambourne West as part of the new development.

At the same time, the College is working with builder Kier's design team on additional accommodation for the main school.

The plan is to extend the roll of the 11-16 school from nine forms to 11 forms of entry. This will enable additional families from the Cambourne West development to access places at the college.

The number on roll will eventually rise to 330 pupils in each year group, a total of 1650 students in Years 7-11, which is marginally bigger than Comberton.

Principal Claire Coates said: 'We're very excited by this development. The early stages of planning for the buildings are going well and we're looking forward to designing the sixth form curriculum, which will be a combination of traditional A Levels and a range of Applied and vocational courses.'

"Students with high aspirations from across the county will be very well served by our post-16 provision."

## Staff thrilled with 'thank you' gifts for Christmas

CamVC staff have all had a sweet treat this month and a lovely morale boost as Saqiv and Hassaan of the Cambourne Volunteer Task Force delivered a huge Christmas box to the College.

They explained that this was a 'thank you' from the community of Cambourne to all the staff at the school and we were thrilled by this generous gesture.

Staff Governors had the exciting job of unwrapping the parcel to find it full of chocolates and biscuits.

They then played the part of Santa's elves and distributed these on to everyone's desk to find on Friday morning.

Very many thanks to the Task Force, who themselves are doing such a great job of supporting the residents of Cambourne through the pandemic.

Some Year 10 students helped to pack the parcel over the weekend with the Cambourne Volunteers as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Community Service.

The Christmas tree they are in front of was donated to the College by Blue Diamond and Coton Orchard Garden Centre — it's a real beauty and was decked out by pupils from The Centre to give a splendid Christmas aspect to the foyer.

The angel on top of the tree has a special place in CamVC tradition: it was carved from the trunk of our first Christmas tree in 2013 by our first site manager, Jason Embleton.

It actually looks quite fierce rather than heavenly, but has pride of place in Mrs Coates' office for the rest of the year when not glaring down from its seasonal place of honour!



**CHRISTMAS TREATS:** Year 10 students helped pack a box of goodies for CamVC staff as part of their DoE volunteering (top) and the contents of the box is revealed (above).

# IT investment pays off

**In a year like no other, the importance of using digital technology in teaching and internal communication across schools has really come to the fore.**

The Trust and its schools have really utilised this to continue providing high-quality education.

Sean Sumner, Director of IT Strategy at The Cam Academy Trust, explained: "A few years ago, The Cam Academy Trust made a strategic decision to invest in Cloud services and infrastructure to provide the best possible opportunities for teaching and learning across our schools.

This year, at the beginning of the pandemic, this investment came into its own overnight and Microsoft 365, including our bespoke SharePoint-based platform, the CATalogue, fully sprang into life.

"Now a few months on, we have all been on some very steep learning curves, learning how to teach in Teams, finding our way around SharePoint and collaborating in new ways, assignments, OneNote, Forms, the list goes on. "But this we know — this stretches far beyond the school walls and we are using tools and services which are becoming the norm in universities, homes and workplaces all over the world — placing skills in the hands of our students which will carry them through their time with us as well as into the future."

Mr Sumner was also keen to emphasise the benefits of the new iPad for Learning scheme, stating: "After a successful pilot programme, we introduced the iPad for Learning scheme at Cambourne Village College with Year 8 students in May 2019 and then for Year 7 students in September 2019.

"Since then, the scheme has gone from strength to strength and we are gradually introducing iPads further across our secondary and primary schools."

At Cambourne, students in all year groups now have an iPad to support their personal learning.

Almost all parents have supported the leasing scheme, where, for a fixed monthly payment, an iPad, case, keyboard and insurance are provided. Financial support is available to families where needed.

Students enjoy the range of experiences the iPads provide, from research tasks to accessing satellite links for geography or specialist apps in a whole range of

subjects. The iPads support many areas of learning alongside an understanding that students still need a range of tactile, musical and physical experiences at school — and must still be able to use a pen!

Cambourne Principal, Claire Coates, said: "We had never envisaged the need to provide remote learning for all students, but during the lockdown, the iPads really came into their own.

"With the PE department issuing weekly online sporting challenges and the music staff devising an ingenious 'virtual' concert in which many students performed together, we kept morale high throughout the summer while also providing exceptionally strong remote learning.

"It's hard to remember what life was like before we had the iPads and I look forward to the endlessly creative ways in which students and staff continue to enjoy learning with them."



**PREPARED:** Cambourne students in all years now have access to an iPad to support their personal learning

## Extending age range to meet local need

One important thing that our Trust seeks to do is to enable every school in the Trust to develop its work to serve its community as well and fully as possible.

This might include serving a wider group of pupils than a school's original remit. One obvious example of that is the development of Gamlingay First School into a full Primary School, Gamlingay Village Primary (GVP).

A similar path was taken by Everton First School and it has become a full primary school, Everton Heath.

The Trust is now working with other schools to support similar extensions of their remit. We hope that this will do even more to bring educational 'excellence for all' in the areas where they work.

Two schools are looking at extending the age range to include a pre-school from September 2021. Hartford Infant School and GVP both have the

physical capacity on their sites to do this and both are clear about how this can provide a needed service to their communities as well as integrate younger children into the educational provision at the schools. Consultations are being held and business cases presented to the Regional School Commissioner's Office as required in this process. At the other end of our age range, the Trust is supporting Cambourne Village College to develop a new Sixth Form. The hope is to have this ready to admit its first students in September 2023.

Again, the proposal is currently out for consultation and a



**SPACE TO GROW:** Hartford Infant School have a room with a kitchen, toilets and an outside space that could be converted to a pre-school.

major business case with be presented to the Regional School Commissioner's Office in the New Year.

The move is supported by the Local Authority as a response to meet the identified need for more Sixth Form capacity in the area as student numbers are set to grow in coming years. The school is liaising with the Local Authority to confirm plans for the new facilities that will be needed to enable this to happen.

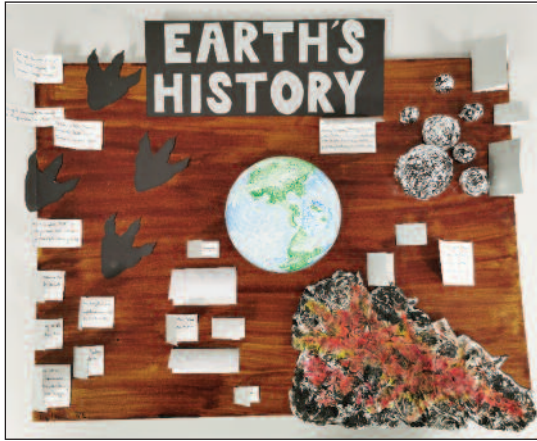
The Cambourne Sixth Form would then join the two existing Sixth Forms in the Trust at Comberton and St Peter's in Huntingdon.

These two Sixth Forms are now looking to work much more closely together and to share provision wherever helpful and appropriate. This opens up many exciting possibilities, including the provision of Mandarin from September 2021 overseen by staff at Melbourn Village College.

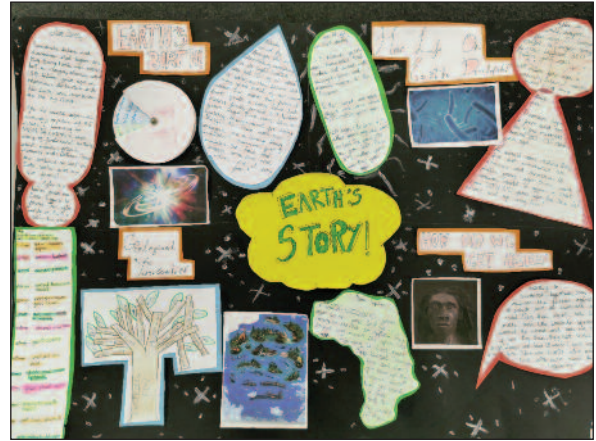
Given the way that we have all become very familiar with how virtual teaching, learning and support is possible and can provide high-quality education, the possibilities of joint working and provision between Sixth Forms are considerable.

This can help to broaden the curriculum offer available in our Sixth Forms and strengthen the provision for all Sixth Formers in the future. The proposed Sixth Form at Cambourne will join this way of working when it opens.

Stephen Munday CEO



**RUNNERS-UP:**  
The entries from Ilani (7E) and Nada (7N) shared second place.



# Telling earth's story . . .

This term, all Year 7 students were involved in a competition in Geography.

The challenge was to create a piece of work that showed part of 'Earth's Story' – the theory of how Earth began, or the development of life, or the human journey out of Africa.

Despite more restrictions than usual this year, students were still able to produce some exceptional pieces of work. It is impossible to show them all here, so here is a selection.

The Geography department would like to thank Year 7 students for the extraordinary levels of effort that went into these projects.



**TOP SPOT:**  
*Birth of the Earth* by Nikki (7M) won the Geography department competition.



**NOVEL IDEA:** Declan (7M) used QR codes to lead to audio descriptions and took third place.



**BEST OF THE BAKES:** This creation from Bethany (7E) was named as the top bakery entry.

## Student becomes published poet

Former Cambourne student Constantinos Chiotis will feature in an anthology of poetry after asking his college teacher to enter him into a competition.

Constantinos, who left Cam VC in the summer, contacted Head of MFL Maria Collado-Canas asking that a poem he wrote during the first lockdown be entered into a multi-lingual poetry competition Mother Tongue Other Tongue, run by Routes into Languages East.

This competition was open to those pupils whose first language is not English. They were encouraged to submit a poem or song in their first language. It could be an original piece, or a 'remembered' piece. It could be written in any language and the entry would be judged on a short paragraph (written in English) that explained the piece and its significance to the pupil.

Constantinos wrote an original poem in Greek, whose title can be translated as 'The aura of summer'.

Mrs Collado said: "He told me that his mind kept drifting to the summer holiday he was going to miss this year. Images kept flashing in his head of the beaches, the life, the scents, the most hospitable people and the aura of the island where he was born, saw him growing up and where he has spent most of his summer holidays: Lesvos in Greece."

Earlier this term Mrs Collado was told that the poem had been shortlisted and will now feature in the anthology. Constantinos will also be invited to the online celebration event on March 31st, which will be part of the Cambridge Festival and feature champion Slam Poet Joelle Taylor performing some of her own work.

# Flying start to new series

The Cambourne History Department are thrilled to announce the return of their free public lecture programme.

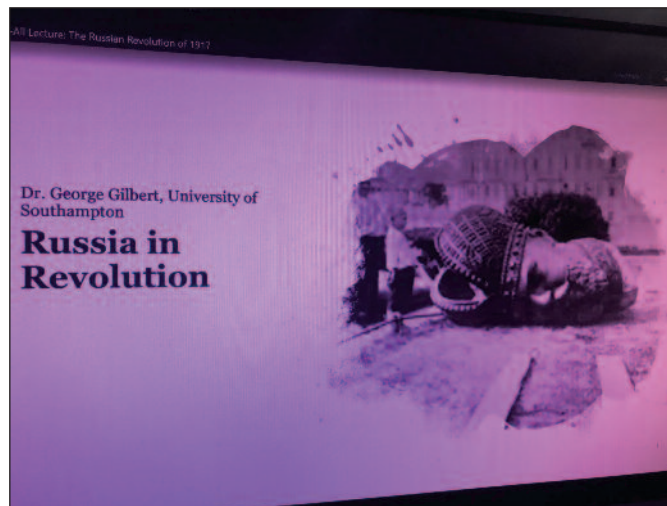
The aim of these lectures is multifaceted: they expose our students and the wider community to academics and scholarly debate and they are intended for History teachers to continue to build subject knowledge, but most importantly they foster a love and interest in the subject.

This also fits in with our wider school remit of being a Village College, inspired by the ideas of Henry Morris, in which schools should act as a community hub and that education is a lifelong process. Everyone is welcome.

For this academic year, all lectures will be online and shared via Microsoft Teams. The link to these events will be made available on the school website and via social media. For more information contact Jess Angell (Head of History): [jangell@cambournevc.org](mailto:jangell@cambournevc.org) and follow us on Twitter: @Historic\_All

Our next lecture is on Thursday 7th January with Jane Robinson, social Historian and author of 'Josephine Butler: A Brief History' and 'Hearts and Minds. The Untold Story of the Great Pilgrimage and How Women Won the Vote' Our first online lecture on 11th November was a great success with more than 70 attendees!

Dr Keil, from Liverpool John Moores University presented his lecture: 'War



**CAPTIVE AUDIENCE:** More than 230 joined Dr George Gilbert's online lecture.

Commemoration and Mass Media: How Radio, Film, and Photography Shaped Our Image of the First World War' and focused on 'Remembrance and The First World War.'

The talk was timed to coincide with Remembrance Day and explored how new forms of mass media have shaped the way people in Britain, Germany, and France remember the dead of the First World War.

We were delighted that so many students and members of the Cambourne community joined us for this lecture and the quality of the questions was brilliant. We can't wait to host more!

More than 230 people attended our second online History lecture! Students, staff and members of the public joined us from around the country to listen to Dr George Gilbert's lecture about The Russian Revolution!

We have been overwhelmed with the support for our lectures and below are some of the responses we have received:

- "Gave an impressive overview, Q&A session was interesting as well."
- "I liked that a broad range of points were covered and I feel like I came away with a greater understanding and knowledge of the significance of 1917 in relation to the Russian revolution."
- "Thank you for this opportunity - it has brightened a rather dull lockdown!"
- "Really appreciate the opportunity to listen to this lecture and develop my subject knowledge."



**INTERACTIVE LEARNING:** Students in a video conference with the National Archives in London.

## Discovering different experiences of war

All current Year 9 students took part in a live video conference with the National Archives in London. The year group have been studying the causes of the First World War and the diverse nature of the conflict. And during the sessions students explored the question: How typical was Albert Edwin Rippington's experience of war?

'...if you ever meet a chap that says he wants to go back call him a liar'.

These are words penned by Rippington, an employee of the Audit Office for the Great Western Railway.

Albert, with many of his colleagues, had enlisted to fight in the First World War. He was wounded in action and wrote about his experiences from his hospital bed back in England. Through exploring a range of letters written by soldiers who enlisted from the Great Western Railway to fight, students investigated these men's experiences of war; the conditions in the trenches and in reserve, and the impact that these experiences had on their morale and health.

Our students loved the interactive sessions, and the National Archives were impressed with the high quality of student answers.

We hope we can book more sessions in the future!

## An insight into Pompeii life

Due to current restrictions we have not been able to visit local museums...so this term Year 7 went on a virtual tour instead! Our newest students enjoyed learning more about Pompeii with the help of the Cambridge Museum of Classical Archaeology. These live and interactive sessions allowed the class to explore the museum and view casts of statues found in Pompeii. The session helped students explore the luxury and villa life, talking about how the Romans used Greek statues for their own needs.

They loved the private online tour of the museum and the sessions complemented Year 7s recent study of the Roman Empire.

For more information about the museum visit:

<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum>



**INTERACTIVE LEARNING:** Students in a video conference with the National Archives in London.



Join us for a series of  
*free* online history  
lectures

The lectures are **open to all** and will be hosted via  
Microsoft Teams

## FREE LECTURE PROGRAMME

We can't wait to restart our lecture programme – we've  
got a fantastic line-up!

**November: Dr Andre Keil**

*Faculty of Arts Professional and Social Studies, Liverpool John Moores University*

**December: Dr George Gilbert**

*Lecturer in Modern Russian History, University of Southampton*

**January: Jane Robinson**

*Social Historian, author of 'Josephine Butler: A Brief History' and 'Hearts and Minds. The Untold Story of the Great Pilgrimage and How Women Won the Vote'*

**February: Dr Matt Myers**

*University of Nottingham*

**March: Dr Sujit Sivasundaram:**

*Professor of World History, Fellow, Gonville and Caius College. University of Cambridge*

**April: Dr Claire Kennan**

*Impact Development Manager (Heritage & Creativity), The University of Reading*

**May: Professor Peter Gaunt**

*University of Chester*

**June: Sharon Bennett Connolly**

*Author of 'Heroines of the Medieval World', 'Silk & the Sword', and 'Ladies of the Magna Carta'*

Follow us on Twitter @CambourneVC for dates and updates

For more information contact:  
jangel@cambournevc.org



# Interform is reinvented . . .

In November the PE department launched a new virtual interform competition where each week form groups took on a challenge against other forms in their year. The first challenge was a murder mystery, requiring students to find the murderer, murder weapon and murder location using clues located around Cambourne. Many pupils in KS3 successfully walked, ran, biked and scootered from clue to clue to solve the crime! It was

fantastic to see students being active and enjoying exploring Cambourne in a safe manner during the latest lockdown.

The fastest time to solve the mystery was a speedy 44 minutes and 41 seconds!

Well done to everyone who participated and keep a look out for more virtual interform competitions!



# Creating art through exercise



This term we tested our pupils' artistic flare by completing the PE department's Strava Art challenge.

Pupils faced the challenge of creating different images while on their daily exercise.

Strava Art is made using GPS to create a picture of

your activity while walking, running, or cycling.

Lots of pupils and staff took part in the challenge as it is a great way to make a walk more interesting. The challenge itself is quite difficult and requires some planning before you start to create an original and recognisable image.

Well done to all who took part.

# Virtual challenge for dancers

Year 10 Sports Leaders were challenged to create their own dance routine, divide it between themselves and then film themselves dancing and teaching it.

This then became our final virtual challenge during Lockdown 2.0.

Five of our students took up this challenge and created a six-part dance to the Jason Derulo song 'Take Me Dancing'.

Each of their dance videos had their part of the dance and then a section breaking it down and teaching the audience how to dance it.

These videos were shared with all KS3 students who wanted to complete the dance.

Additionally, the PE department ran a dance club after school and the students who attended used these videos to learn each part and then film themselves.

The plan is to put all these videos together in a montage dance video as a celebration of everyone's hard work.



**CREATING A DANCE:** Students work on a dance created by sports leaders.

# Push-ups benefit charity

In November the PE department and many other willing volunteers, students and staff, joined the Teenage Cancer Trust 3,000 Push Up Challenge.

Although not managing to do the 30,000 push ups they have envisaged, they raised more than £200 for the worthy charity.

A special mention to Ms Gildea who completed a massive 1,250 push ups and to Mr Savill, of the PE Department, who just pipped her to top place with 1,286.

Thank you for all that contributed either via donating their push ups or their money.

There is still time to donate by scanning the QR code above.

# Making a game of it!

As a virtual challenge to give students an opportunity to stay active at home we created Top Trumps cards that students could make.

Students made their Top Trumps cards by taking their best score out of three attempts then adding it to their card with a maximum score of 99.

The activities were: Keepy Uppies, Rolled Up Socks Hold, Speed Bounce, Tap Up tennis and Bottle Flips.

We had some fantastic cards made.

Mr. Henderson		
Picture		
		Score
Keepy uppies	99	
Rolled up sock hold	8	
Bottle flips	6	
Speed bounce	67	
Tap up tennis	99	

# Girls seize another Chance to Shine!

**Chance to Shine – the cricket charity which named us as their ‘Secondary School of the Year’ last year — invited CamVC to an important Zoom meeting.**

They wanted staff and students to talk to them and some of their leading sponsors to gain a real insight into the impact of their funding. Isabella and Posy (Year 11) joined Miss Curtis and Miss Gassner, from the PE department, to answer questions from Chance to Shine and various representatives from their sponsors at the London Stock Exchange Group.

This was an exciting opportunity and gave the girls a chance to voice their opinions and thank Chance to Shine for all the work they did delivering the leadership programme last year.

Miss Gassner said that her highlight of the Chance to Shine leadership programme was the impressive numbers who signed up and that all of them were so interested and invested in what Matt (Chance to Shine coach) was delivering.

Izzy and Posy both said they learned so much, and the highlight for Posy was building her confidence when leading a group.

She had learned different fun practices to use to get younger students involved and enjoying their cricket session.

Both girls conducted themselves maturely and were a credit to the school.

Chance to Shine and their sponsors were delighted to hear about the success of the programme at CamVC, and passed their congratulations on to the girls and



**ZOOMED IN:** Students share their thoughts on the Chance to Shine programme.

the school for all their success last year.

Based on that success, Chance to Shine will return to Cam VC to run more cricket leadership courses in 2021.

For those interested, keep an eye on the leaders' noticeboard outside the PE office — more information next year!

## Football club offers local post-16 option



**SPECIALIST COACHING:** Year 11 have had lessons from Norwich City coaches.

## New look for interform

The Cambourne Village College PE Department launched a virtual interform with various very different challenges to the usual team sports.

These gave pupils the chance compete against other forms in their year group. Many students have participated in the challenges which included a Murder Mystery, Strava Art, Top Trumps and Dance Challenge (see Page 15) Well done to all who entered. With the dance challenge submissions still coming in, the current leaderboard looks like this:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1 <sup>st</sup>	B	C	C
2 <sup>nd</sup>	R	V	R
3 <sup>rd</sup>	N	A	M



**OUT AND ABOUT:** The interform challenges have included students exercising around Cambourne.

Year 11 had the privilege of coaches from Norwich City FC delivering some high-quality football lessons this term.

This was to give pupils a sample of what they can expect if they choose to study under the football club's programme next September.

The Norwich City FC Regional Development Football & Education Programme offers an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16-18 to continue their academic, footballing and career development through Norwich City Football Club.

In partnership with Impington International College in Cambridge, the programme is delivered through a daily training schedule working with UEFA B Licensed coaches for six hours a week per week.

Students will represent Norwich City FC RDP in the National Alliance Youth League and English College League and Cup competitions.

Alongside this, students will be able to choose from a range of academic options including the IB Diploma Programme, IB Careers Programme or Extended Diploma BTEC.

As part of this course, further tours, coaching opportunities and individual target planning will be provided.

An Open Day to showcase the programme takes place on Monday December 21st (10.30-1.30).

To book a place or for further information please contact Norwich's Football and Education Manager, Pip Davis, on Pip.Davis@canaries.co.uk

## Leaders have plan

Covid and its restrictions have been incredibly difficult for everyone. In school staff and students are battling with new ways to teach and learn and sports leadership is one challenge we are having to overcome.

It is incredibly hard to lead when students can't cross bubbles and it has taken quite a while for everyone to adapt to this.

One way the Year 10 Sports Leaders have been trying to overcome this, is through the idea of a virtual form competition to be hosted by them, virtually, during tutor time at the start of the day.

The new sports leaders have great plans to implement this new virtual method of sports leadership and will be looking at ways they can bring the different forms together while adding some competitiveness and physical activity to the mornings. They hope to launch their project after Christmas.