

# NEWS@CAM



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The Magazine of Cambourne Village College

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# Pupils' voices are heard

Earlier this term 20 Year 10 students took part in a Speech Night as the finale to their Political Literacy Course, with a very special guest.

The six-week course, devised and delivered by Shout Out UK, gave students the chance to learn about political systems, the role of the media, and how to campaign for a political cause, among other things.

They mined Hansard for recent debates, wrote speeches about topics on which they had strong views, and ultimately presented these to South Cambridgeshire MP Anthony Browne at a Speech Night and reception, watched on Teams by their parents.

Issues ranged from over-fishing to period poverty and from encouraging young entrepreneurs to accountability in public life.

Students also had a chance to question Mr Browne on what he intends to do

about the issues they care about, and about the life of a politician. They gave him lots to take away!

He answered some tough questions (though the art of parliamentary filibustering was alive and well as he talked his way skilfully around a few tricky subjects!) and admired our students' public speaking prowess and range of important topics. All the students will receive an AQA certificate for completing the course, and most importantly went away feeling empowered and more knowledgeable on playing their part in modern politics.

The Year 10s showed that Cambourne students have strong views, feel confident and empowered and are skilled at speaking their minds — and that we might even see some of them making a difference to our world in public life.

Many could stand for office today and give the current Government a run for their money!



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** MP Anthony Browne listens to student presentations on issues that matter to them.

## Staff and students rise to every challenge

When we returned in September 2020, we'd been hoping for better times — and we all know what happened...

A crippling set of Covid restrictions have prevented school trips, fixtures, drama and music productions, and closed the school for most of the spring term.

Infection control measures have meant that most pupils spent the year based in one classroom — our current Year 7 still don't know their way around the school!

And mental health issues among our youngsters have increased significantly.

But we have so much to be thankful for. A number of our staff and pupils have suffered family losses and we feel for them — but as a school, we've not had a serious outbreak of the virus.

With a professional school nurse, help from local volunteers and great support from families, the Covid-testing regimes imposed by the Government have been smoothly managed — Cambourne has had one of the highest uptakes of home-testing in Cambridgeshire — thank you! Through basing pupils in one classroom and bringing teaching staff to them, transmission of the virus has been effectively limited, with, typically, only 20-30 other direct contacts when a positive case was identified.

And because most of our pupils already had iPads, home learning has been delivered effectively when needed.

Above all, I pay tribute to the wonderful team of teaching and support staff we have at the College. Cambourne is so lucky to have them. The workload this year has been shattering,

especially since we took on the work of the exam boards this summer — but the staff have risen to every challenge.

They have taught Science in the English Department and DT in Geography rooms. Virtual concerts and drama productions replaced live performances; virtual sports challenges have kept us healthy.

We have learnt to teach on-line — and will take these technical skills forward.

And we managed an enrichment week for the last week of term — delivered in bubbles — but a reminder to pupils and staff of better times returning.

Thank you to the Cambourne community for all your support.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Claire Coates, Principal

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**LEAVERS' DAY:** Year 11 had a range of activities to mark their final day at Cambourne Village College.

# Sad to say goodbye

With all the challenges we have faced over the past two years, we weren't expecting a big send-off.

But as we walked in, we were greeted with a transformed social area. It was decorated with balloons and lots of stalls filled with sweet treats: popcorn, ice-cream, and cakes, among others. We started off with a virtual leavers' assembly during our final form time. In this, awards were given out,

'thank yous' were said, memories were looked back on and a particularly funny music video from Mr Patrick concluded it all.

This was followed by a lunch of Domino's pizza and an afternoon spent having yearbooks signed, and enjoying the inflatables, party and snacks.

A highlight was watching several teachers get involved with the activities, especially the Physics Department battling it out on the inflatables! Although many of us were sad to be leaving, it was

very difficult to feel upset once we saw how much the staff had done for our final day and the emotions only really hit us as we were clapped out of the social area by all the teachers, which signified the end of our time at Cambourne Village College :(

We want to take this final opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Cambourne for enriching our time at the college and making our last day one to remember. **Madi, Hannah, and Natty**





**TREE BOOST:** Pupils have planted saplings and learned to propagate their own.

# Aiming for 100 trees

This term Eco-club, with the assistance of Ms Jozi and Ms Federle, planted 96 saplings as part of the Woodland Trust's free trees for schools and communities initiative.

When mature, each of these native British deciduous trees will sequester around 21kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year.

This Woodland Trust's Wildlife Tree pack, which includes species such as hawthorn, rowan and oak was selected as it provides food and shelter for many species of bird and insect.

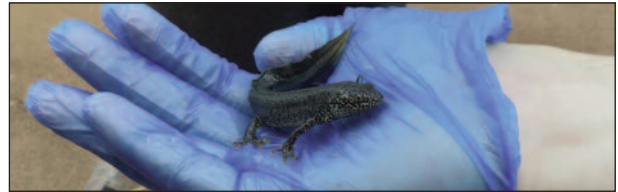
To further increase our tree count, Eco-club pupils learned how to propagate

trees from cuttings using rooting powder. Through this they also learned about the plant hormone auxin, which promotes root growth. When their root networks develop these will be planted along with our existing saplings to push us past the 100 mark.

Eco-club also had the opportunity to meet with the ecologists that work on site to learn about their careers and newts.

They got some first-hand experience with the different varieties of newts we have here at Cambourne VC. They learned about the lifecycle of the newts, how to distinguish between Smooth and Great Crested Newts and how to differentiate between males and females of both species.

Fergal Lynch



**KNOW YOUR NEWTS:** The Great Crested (top) and Smooth newts.

# Gardeners undeterred by effects of winter

A lot of plants sadly did not survive the harsh winter and the most recent lockdown in the sensory garden.

However, this did not deter the passionate gardeners at CamVC, who have been busy planting and bringing the garden back to life.

They have been busy reviving the herb bed by starting new plants in the greenhouse and polytunnel as well as looking at companion planting — 'The Three sisters planting' — which have been used for centuries by Native Americans.

To maintain the garden's health, a gardening club has also started up during lunchtimes, and are keeping the plants happy and watered.

We have also been enjoying the 'fruits' of gardening and have started thinking about implementing more sensory elements into the garden.

We are very excited to see what the 'Teddy bear' sunflowers will look like once they bloom.



**BACK ON TRACK:** New plants are bringing the garden back to life.



# Teachers research a wide range of topics

This term at Cambourne Village College teachers in their first and second years of teaching carried out research projects as part of their professional development.

Findings from these research projects were shared as posters in a research conference held after school.

Many other members of the teaching staff also came along to look at their work. The projects covered a broad range of topics:

- How can I make my students more independent learners?
- Queering the English Classroom — A Queer study of Year 9 pupils' autobiography writing.
- You can't be what you can't see — a case study to investigate the perception of scientists and science by students at Cambourne Village College.
- Does going paperless affect engagement in science lessons?
- A cross-sectional case study examining student attitudes to practical science lessons in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Increasing pupil engagement using starters and plenaries.
- Assessing literacy and physical literacy development in physical education.
- A case study looking into visibility: How does the English science curriculum represent people of colour in science?
- Attitudes towards the teaching of mathematics in physics across Year 10.
- Investigating ways to support students with ADHD in the classroom.

These enquiries not only provide excellent professional development for the teachers who engage in them but can also lead to real positive impacts for the students we teach across the school.

The posters will be displayed in the upstairs corridor at Cambourne Village College.

Rebecca Gale, Research Co-ordinator



**RESEARCH POSTERS:**  
Teachers' research has been shared in poster form and displayed at CamVC.

G C S E  
**art & photography**  
exhibition 2021

## A show to inspire

Parents and carers were treated to an invitation-only viewing of students' artwork this summer.

This came after the Art Department created an exhibition which allowed pupils in younger years to catch a glimpse of what Art and Photography courses entail.

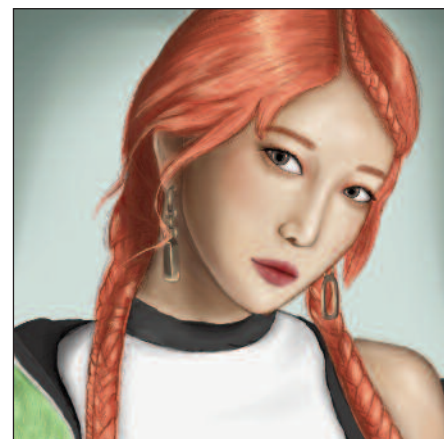
Head of Art Mark Yeates said: "I am delighted to announce that we are able to celebrate Year 11 achievements in Art and Photography this year by putting up an exhibition of their work.

"This has given a real lift to the end of a tough year and is of huge benefit to younger years to see where they may be heading in future studies in Art and Photography.

"We have the added bonus this year of an amazing digital art exhibition of work produced by the Year 8 and 9 digital art collective!

"Their work is wonderful, as is the collaborative and skill sharing spirit they work with."

The private view took place last week with a video of all the work due to be posted on the college website for the end of term.



**SKILL SHARING:**  
A piece by the art collective.



**MUSEUM PIECES:**  
Sarah-Jane shows off some of the exhibits.



**MEET AND GREET:** History staff with their guest speakers.

# Captivating tales help open a window to past

During the final week of term all Year 7 Historians have had the opportunity to take part in a variety of History sessions.

All Year 7s had the fantastic opportunity to hear from Sarah-Jane from the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. Sarah-Jane spoke to pupils about the fascinating objects in Cambridge's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Pupils were captivated by tales of ghost fishing nets and lucky potatoes. They asked some superb questions about the value of the objects, where they originally came from, and how they are preserved

and cared for.

They were then treated to a fantastic talk from archaeologist Chris Thatcher. Chris works for Oxford Archaeology East and spoke to our Year 7 students about some of the projects and digs that he has been involved in.

It was wonderful for our students to hear what it is like to be a professional archaeologist and to gain an insight into how archaeology can explain the world around us.

Any students who missed these sessions can catch up with the recordings via the CATalogue.

Year 7 then took part in a carousel of activities which included a virtual 'Dig School' session that had been

recorded by Professor Carenza Lewis (University of Lincoln and TV's 'Time Team') with the Council for British Archaeology.

Students were also introduced to the work of historians by watching Dr Claire Kennan's lecture pre recorded for our students entitled: Were the Peasants really Revolting? The Great Revolt of 1381 and its Aftermath.

Thank you to Sarah-Jane, Chris Thatcher, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Oxford Archaeology East, Dig School, and Dr Claire Kennan.

Jessica Angell, Head of History



**INSIGHT:** Into life as a professional archaeologist from Chris Thatcher.

## Plan is now to teach Ancient History!

This term members of the History Department have been undertaking a series of training sessions with Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson (Outreach Officer of the Classical Association). Arlene provided staff with insights into the history of Persia and Foundations of Rome.

The Department were also lucky enough to receive a generous donation of Ancient History and Classics books which will be available for students to borrow from next year.

The History Department are hoping to introduce Ancient History to KS3 and KS4 students and there will be new after-school club next year!

## Lectures cover variety of subjects

Thank you for all your support for our new public lecture series, Education-All! This term we have hosted a variety of lectures in History, RPE, Art, Science, English and Music.

Students across all year groups and from different schools have tuned in to hear from our guest lecturers and academics.

We hope to continue these lectures next year with a mix of online and in person events. If you have missed our lectures, you can view recordings of them via the school website: <https://www.cambournevc.org/news-and-events/education-all.php> We hope that these free lectures help to foster a love and interest in a variety of subjects. 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 — spread the word!



**TEACHER TRAINING:** Staff have had a series of sessions on Ancient History.

# Primary wants to link up

**Bourn Primary Academy, a church school in the catchment of Comberton Village College, is looking to join the community of The Cam Academy Trust.**

We have been working on an associate model that can work appropriately for the school with the intention that this will be ready for this September.

We very much look forward to this possibility happening, enabling a school local to others in the Trust to join the educational community of our group of schools.



**CLOSER CONTACT:**  
Bourn Primary Academy could become an associate member of the Trust.

## Sixth forms will work more closely



**SHARING EXPERTISE:** Melbourn's specialist teachers will teach A Level Mandarin at Comberton Sixth Form.

Careful planning has been taking place to enable the Sixth Forms within the Trust to work together much more significantly moving forward.

St Peter's Sixth Form and Comberton Sixth Form will look to offer certain courses jointly between the two Sixth Forms and make use of the effective practice learned and used recently with virtual education. Students in one Sixth Form will be able to access certain lessons in the other Sixth Form via logging on and receiving the lessons live. This can strengthen the curriculum offer available to students in the Sixth Forms.

Combined with the use of virtual teaching to offer more possibilities

to students is the introduction of Mandarin as a subject at Comberton Sixth Form.

From September, a group of students will study Mandarin at A Level within the Trust for the first time.

This is a direct result of the innovative and extremely successful initiative to introduce the teaching of Mandarin as a foreign language at Melbourn Village College.

Pupils from Melbourn have completed their GCSE programme and some are keen to continue studying the language at Sixth Form. Teaching for this will be provided by the expert specialist staff at Melbourn.

## Ways to support mental health

The Trust's new Framework for supporting Mental Health and Well Being in all schools in the Trust has been launched.

This is seen as a clear priority in all our schools moving forward and the framework clarifies commitments to this and how it can work out in practice. It was viewed as an important area for all schools before the pandemic and the need has strengthened through the past year.

Included in this is the important role of the Mental Health and Well Being Lead in each school in the Trust and a strong commitment to staff training in all schools to strengthen staff understanding and capability in this territory.

The starting point for this has been to audit the specific training needs and priorities for each school. Full training will then start taking place from the beginning of next term.



**MATT MANNAS: Seconded.**

## New role

The Trust sees effective, high-quality continuing professional development (CPD) for staff working in all of its schools as crucial to provide the best possible education for all pupils.

So we are pleased that the new Trust CPD policy comes in to force from this September and Matt Mannas, who works at Comberton Village College, will be seconded for one day a week to help to oversee the policy and its suggested programmes within our schools.

## Pioneering project

For several years, the Trust has been working with Cambridgeshire County Council and Buoyges to seek to improve the energy efficiency in all of its Cambridgeshire schools.

This makes both environmental and financial sense. Forms of insulation, lighting and boilers have been changed in many of our schools to enable this.

We are now embarking on the most significant project to date in this territory. Following the successful acquisition of a grant in excess of £1.8 million from central government to support major energy efficiency projects, coupled with some financial assistance from Cambridgeshire County Council, a major Ground Source Heat Pump system is to be installed at Comberton Village College.

This will be a significant piece of engineering that will seek to provide for all of the future heating needs of the school.

The school will cease to be reliant on all of its oil-fired boilers as is currently the situation.

We hope that this might blaze something of a trail for other such notable energy efficiency developments across public buildings in our country.

**PRIORITY:**  
The youngest pupils learn mindfulness as part of the Trust's commitment to mental health and well being.



**We are recruiting new Trustees and Members. Visit [www.catrust.co.uk](http://www.catrust.co.uk) for information**

# Local — but still a trip!

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many aspects of school life. Until recently, school trips were off the calendar indefinitely.

Fieldwork trips were cancelled or suspended with students unable to take part in day visits and journeys abroad.

You can therefore imagine the relative excitement and relief among staff when the first trip for well over a year was approved for GCSE Geography students in Year 11.

All four Year 11 Geography classes visited Oaks Wood in Cambourne to complete some physical geography fieldwork.

Students investigated woodland ecosystems and considered how the structure of the woodland affects both light and moisture levels on the ground.

Through this first-hand, practical experience, students developed their knowledge and understanding of ecosystems, fieldwork enquiry, and geographical skills — all of which are important parts of the course.

In what was an intense period for Year 11 completing assessments in lessons, students enjoyed the freedom to explore Oaks Wood and benefitted from learning outside the classroom.

With the cries of, "Mr Burgess is back in his element!" still ringing in the ears, hopefully it won't be too long now before we are able to re-instate our national



**GETTING OUT:** Students use a soil meter for their fieldwork.

and international Geography trips and offer students our familiar breadth of geographical extra-curricular experiences in 2022.

Dion Burgess, Head of Geography



**LEARNING OUTSIDE:** Students hone their geography skills in Oaks Wood.

## Pupils put ecology into practice

Four different groups of students had the chance to get up close and personal with Cambourne Village College's infamous newts.

The Great Crested newts, a major reason for delays to various building projects on the site, are being surveyed and counted as part of a larger ecological study of newts in Cambourne.

Year 10 pupils making STEM videos and those on the Animal Care course as well as the Year 8 CamVC Eco-team and the Year 9 gardening group were able to put their learning into practice and have first-hand experience with expert ecologists.

They joined experts from FPCR, the company surveying the newt population, when they visited the school site on three occasions.

They learnt about the suitable habitats, DNA testing, and how to identify various amphibians in our school's eco-system and were fortunate to meet and handle some different newts, including the protected Great Crested newt, which live on-site and also in the pond at the Blue School in

Cambourne.

The pupils learned how to identify the different newts by their features (colour, size, etc) and also learnt how the ecologists set the bottle traps to do the surveying and counting as well as how and where newts lay their eggs.

Year 10 pupils really enjoyed the experience and gave positive feedback on the experience.

"The session with the ecologists were very interesting and I loved learning about the newts and how to identify them."

"I enjoyed seeing the newts and holding them (though I was in constant fear of dropping the newts). I would have liked to see them in the pond too."

"The session with the newts was very interesting and enjoyable. They were very cute but a little terrifying."

**NEWT WORK:** Students learn about newt species, habitats and numbers from ecologists.





**OUT AND ABOUT:** Year 8 students enjoyed a day exploring Wimpole Hall, its estate and farm.

# Taking education outside

At Cambourne Village College we believe that all pupils should benefit from enrichment beyond the 'normal' classroom curriculum.

These experiences have been drastically reduced since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am delighted to say that the Geography Department were able to offer the opportunity for all Year 8 students to take part in a trip to Wimpole Estate in the final week of term.

Students participated in some outdoor challenges, which took them on a tour through the estate grounds and gardens.

Impressive teamwork saw several groups reach the Folly despite the hot temperatures, while other groups took a more leisurely stroll around the

expansive gardens and farm.

The farm itself is a rare breed centre, set amidst an ancient and modern farmyard. Students saw Shire Horses, Longhorn and White Park cattle, pigs, goats, and horses to name a few.

They were also lucky enough to see piglets that were just three weeks old!

After a busy morning, students enjoyed a picnic lunch and free time in the fields near Wimpole Hall.

It was refreshing to see so many students smiling in the sunshine on a large school trip again.

The Geography Department look forward to offering many more trips like this next year!

**Dion Burgess, Head of Geography**



# Drive to fund cinema

We still need your help to raise the funds needed to bring a cinema and Arts Centre to Cambourne Village College.

As all students and (hopefully) visitors of the school will know, the Performance Hall space is a very welcome addition to the College!

Work to install the technical infrastructure and the mezzanine seating for up to 350 people, should be in place by October 2021 after we raised £185,000 plus an additional contribution from the school budget. The Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust now want to raise money to enable a community-run cinema venue for our town (and the surrounding villages) and to show box-office releases just a few weeks after these top-ranking films are released! But to do this we need to raise the final £80,000 to equip the performance hall with professional-quality cinema screen, projector and surround-sound.



Ultimately, we aim to fit out a further hall on site for a cinema so that a full film programme can run alongside other performances.

Please check our website <https://www.cambournevc.org/about-us/charitable-trust> for details of how you can support this project, or scan the QR code opposite that will also take you to our People's Fundraising page <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/wall/cambourne-village-college-charitable-trust>

As well as a quality cinema space, the performance hall will be a hub for all arts and cultural activities in Cambourne.

We'd like to host live music, attract professional

touring theatre and dance companies (and could include live satellite broadcasts of West End theatre, ballet and opera).

This space could also be utilised for art and photography clubs as well as hosting lectures, but we can't do this without the additional support from you!

Please help us to raise the final £80,000 needed to create this exciting facility for Cambourne.

For more information or to offer assistance, please contact Catherine Collins, Trustee and Secretary of the Cambourne Village College Charitable Trust: [ccollins@cambournevc.org](mailto:ccollins@cambournevc.org).



**BACK IN ACTION:** Cambourne's facilities are open to the community once again.



## Community clubs delighted to be back

Slowly but surely since the end of March, sports clubs and community groups have been returning to the college in the evenings and weekends and we are once again busy. It will be a little while longer until we have a full diary again and we are yet to see the full adult education programme returning, but we hope to have a thriving community offering again soon, including larger events.

Meanwhile, to promote our lovely facilities, we now have a Community page on the school website and Facebook page. You can find these here:

<https://www.cambournevc.org/adult-education-community>. Please do follow and 'like' our Facebook page. Details of all the facilities and how to book are available on the webpage, along with the link to our Facebook page.

So, who is back with us? Our regular drama school, Stagecoach, are in

twice a week, our local football teams have been training and playing matches on the 3G, children's karate with AKS is up and running, as are Cambridge Gymnastics, Cambourne Raptors Basketball, Football Fun Factory and Cams Badminton Academy.

We have a brand new ballet school with Bourn to Dance and Slimming World are now using our new space in the sixth form building.... plus many more.

Anyone interested in booking the facilities should email [isims@cambournevc.org](mailto:isims@cambournevc.org)

Ingrid Sims  
Community Coordinator

## Local chef inspires student cooks

The Year 10 BTEC Home Cooking group have been working hard and focussing on the importance of food plating and how the presentation of a dish adds value to the dining experience.

We have been looking at different chefs for inspiration on how to produce a balanced and a stunning plate of food which would stimulate all five senses.

We have focused on local Michelin two-starred chef, Daniel Clifford, of Midsummer House in Cambridge.

We would like to thank Midsummer House for their encouraging words, inspiration and support. We have been so inspired by their food and were overwhelmed at the generosity and inspiring words to the group from Daniel himself.

Now we are looking forward to producing some dishes from the cookbooks that they kindly sent to us.



**LEARNING FROM THE BEST:** Students have been given cookbooks by a leading chef.

# Cambourne Arts Centre and Cinema

- Professional arts events and Community Cinema
- Evenings, weekends and school holidays
- For all of Cambourne and the surrounding area



## How can you help?

Scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://www.cambournevc.org/about-us/charitable-trust/>



## We need more funds!

To get to where we are today has cost £145,000 so far!

To be able to bring a CINEMA to Cambourne, we need YOUR support to raise the final £100,000, by December 2021, for:

- Professional quality cinema screen and projector
- Surround-sound speakers

Cambourne Village College has built a new performance hall, with the help of our Town and County Councils!

Funding from Cam Academy Trust and the College, and fundraising by CamVC's Charitable Trust, means that hopefully by September 2021, we will be delivering:

- Musical and theatre performances for audiences of up to 350
- A full stage, lighting and top-quality tiered seating experience

In addition, we now have the ambition to:

- Show box-office films just weeks after national release
- Stream live broadcasts of west-end theatre, ballet and opera
- Employ a Community Arts Officer to grow the Arts offering for local people
- Attract professional touring theatre and dance companies

# Plans are taking shape

Alongside the plans to expand the mainstream school, the detailed design of the Sixth Form centre is ready to go to the South Cambs Planning Department.

This building will be accessible from the mainstream school but will have its main entrance facing Cambourne West, and will operate as a separate unit.

One wing has already been built and contains excellent Art, Photography and DT facilities, as well as general classrooms and two science laboratories.

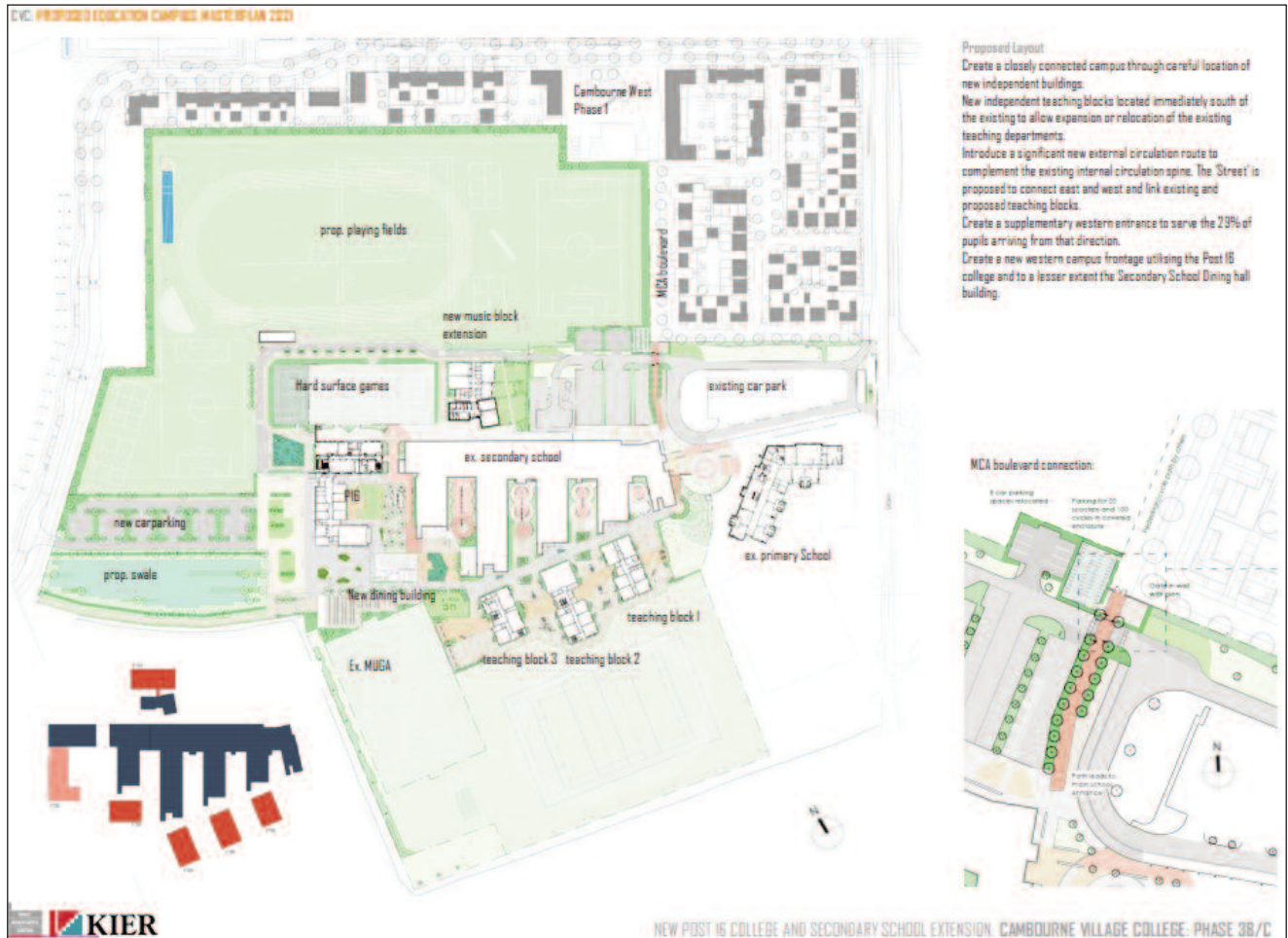
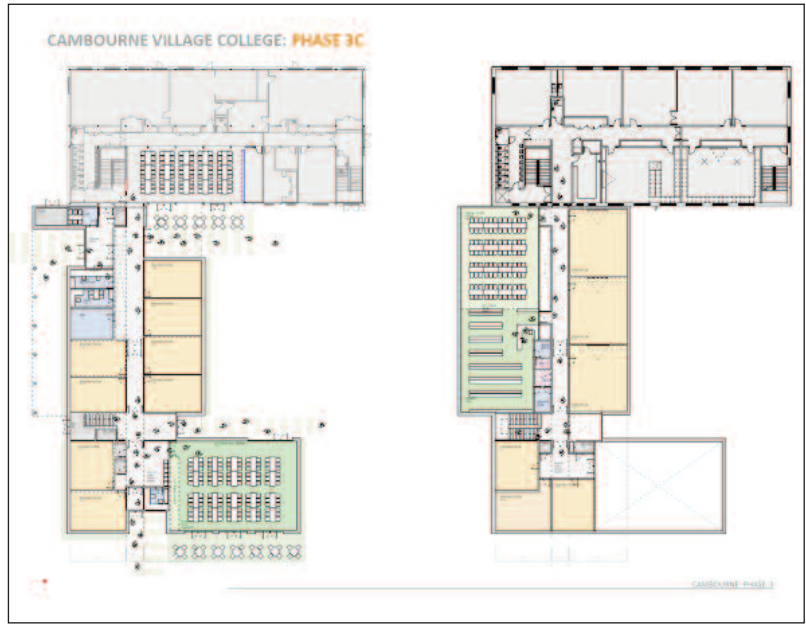
The next phase of building will see the addition of three further science labs, spacious study and library facilities on the first floor, and a lecture hall to complete the facilities.

A first intake of up to 175, Year 12 students will be admitted from September 2023.

As well as the construction of the sixth form centre, additional wings are to be built on the south side of the school with music and drama facilities added to the north.

We'll be living on a huge building site again for a year from May 2022 — but the end result will be brilliant!

For a detailed look at the plans, visit our website: <https://www.cambournevc.org/about-us/public-consultation.php>



**Proposed layout**  
 Create a closely connected campus through careful location of new independent buildings.  
 New independent teaching blocks located immediately south of the existing to allow expansion or relocation of the existing teaching departments.  
 Introduce a significant new external circulation route to complement the existing internal circulation spine. The 'Street' is proposed to connect east and west and link existing and proposed teaching blocks.  
 Create a supplementary western entrance to serve the 23% of pupils arriving from that direction.  
 Create a new western campus frontage utilising the Post 16 college and to a lesser extent the Secondary School Dining hall building.

**MCA boulevard connection:**



## Different ways to celebrate diversity

An energised group of Year 9 and Year 7 students has, following our World Book Night win of 80 copies of the challenging, eye-opening and inspiring *Taking Up Space*, been meeting weekly to discuss how we can tackle the issue of racial inequality, injustice and abuse.

As well as thinking through an approach to educating staff and students in our school community, our Year 9 students held an exciting and vibrant event with which to end the year. They held a celebration of cultural diversity, with all students in the year group invited to contribute songs to a

playlist that will thump out across the school field, to bring in food from whatever is their own cultural heritage (ranging from puff-puffs to jellied eels!), and to dress in a way that feels culturally celebratory and comfortable to them (think anything from dashikis to Brazil football shirts). It looks set to be a joyful and important event — and we anticipate more from the group next term, starting with World Afro Day on 15th September! (If any other members of the community would like to take a copy of the book, please do email me- we have a few copies left!)



**FUN FOR ALL:** Students with additional needs from both Cambourne and Melbourn enjoyed trying new sports at two inclusive festival, which were led by CamVC Sports Leaders.

# Festivals are a big hit

On successive Mondays last month, Cambourne Village College hosted its first two festivals of the year.

The first one was an all-inclusive event held for our students in The Centre with a range of special educational needs and disabilities.

This Para-Games event was an incredible success with students taking part in six different activities, all led by our new Year 9 sports leaders.

Students had a go at several new sports, which were expertly introduced to them by the sports leaders.

These included Polybat (a bat and ball game similar to table hockey), New Age Curling (similar to tradition Curling but not played on ice!) and Bocchia (a target throwing game similar to Boules).

They also played some mini golf and seated volleyball and had a cricket ball throwing challenge.

The students were fabulous throughout, giving every challenge and new activity a

go and always working at their best.

The second event was similar, but this time we invited students from Melbourn Village College to join as well.

Each group went to various activity stations in bubbles from their own school trying out different activities.

This time round it was the turn of our Year 10 Sports Leaders to lead and help out throughout the event.

In this festival, there were a few additional activities added, including Table Cricket, Beat the Goalie and the Javelin throw.

As with the previous Para-games event all students represented themselves and their schools impeccably and got fully involved in all the new sports.

At the end of both events, the Sports Leaders awarded a range of certificates and medals to celebrate the values of the School Games. These are: honesty, respect, determination, passion, self-belief and teamwork.



**FOCUS ON CRICKET:** Cambourne students have worked with Chance to Shine coaches to spotlight cricket.

## Students seize a Chance to Shine . . .

It's been a busy time at Cambourne with lots of cricket opportunities for our pupils!

Chance to Shine have been back in school delivering a cricket leadership course to girls in Years 9 and 10.

The course was fantastic, with pupils developing leadership skills, such as organisation, planning and delivery of cricket.

Since completing the course, they have set up and are running their own

girls cricket club on a Thursday after school from 3-4pm for girls in Year 7 and 8.

Alongside the leadership award, the Chance to Shine coaches have been in during Year 7 and Year 8 PE lessons, delivering cricket taster sessions to our pupils.

It has been brilliant to see so many pupils involved and engaging in cricket activities, especially when the sun shone!

# Sports days are back!

There is no denying this has been a tough year however in a small corner of Cambourne this tough year has been significantly improved by having our Sports Days back.

From Monday 19th July to Thursday 22nd July, Years 7-10s have enjoyed a fabulous sports day full of fun, laughing, music, some sport and plenty of sunshine.

Each year group has participated in nine different events which, this year, have been slightly different to the very traditional sports days of the past.

The events were; 100m, vortex, welly wanging, 75m hurdles, standing triple jump, high jump, assault course, 200m rowing and golf.

All tutor groups were competing for the coveted 'Top Sporting Tutor Group' award given for the highest average points across each year group.

There was also the 'Endeavour' award, celebrating the cheering, support and positive attitude from the different forms as well as 'Best Dressed Tutor' and 'Best Dressed Tutor Group' awards, celebrating those that really embraced the spirit of Sports Day and got dressed up, flagged up and fully face painted up for their day! Finally, what many feel are the biggest awards of the day are the 'Top Male' and 'Top Female' awards for the competitors who scored the highest marks across all nine events, showing their sporting prowess across strength, speed and skills activities.

The day culminated in our traditional relays. This year, each tutor group was had to have two mixed relay teams with at least two girls in each relay team. These were fiercely competed and the winning relay teams in the X half ran off against the winning relay teams in the Y half in a hotly-contested final.



**DRESSED TO IMPRESS: 100 won the 'Best Dressed Tutor Group' award.**

## Year 10

The Year 10s missed out on having their final Sports Day last year due to Covid.

However, with the second chance of having it in Year 10, they did not disappoint!

The effort they went to in dressing up and competing was fabulous and, on what felt like the hottest day of the year, they battled valiantly against the sun to show their excellent sporting ability as well as their party spirit.

Congratulations to Jason and Zoe who won the Top Sporting Individuals.

Well done to 10C for winning Top Sporting Tutor Group and the Endeavour Award.

Amazing effort from Mr Dover who won Best Dressed Tutor and to 10O who won Best Dressed Tutor Group.

## Year 8

Each day was getting hotter and the year 8 Sports Day did not let us down with the weather, even though the storm the previous night tried to sabotage the day. But the sun came out and both it and the students shone the whole day! The successful students were Thomas and Riona winning Top Sporting Individuals and Miss Reeves as the Best Dressed Tutor of the day. In the group categories 8C won Best Dressed Tutor Group, 8E won the Endeavour Award and 8A won Top Sporting Tutor group.



**RANGE OF SPORTS: Pupils competed in nine different activities.**

## Year 9

On what felt like a day, even hotter than the previous one, the Year 9s competed in their final Sports Day, and they certainly looked the part in their T-shirts.

In the last term, the Year 9s have spent their art lessons creating amazing T-shirts to represent their Sports Day country; and they looked fabulous!

There were so many amazing designs, bright colours and intricate drawings which added even more artistic flair to their Sports Day.

As well as their amazing T-shirts, they had flags, bunting, face paint and glitter in

addition to all their sporting efforts, which saw students powering through the assault course, setting records on the rowing challenge and throwing the welly further than it had been thrown before!

The victorious Top Sporting Individuals were Eddie and Katie.

The triumphant tutor groups were 9B who won Top Sporting Form and Best Dressed Tutor Group, and 9A who won the Endeavour Award.

And finally, Mr Robertson won Best Dressed Tutor with his amazing poncho and sombrero combination.



**PERSONALISED: Year 9 designed their own Sports Day T-shirts.**

## Year 7

With a hugely depleted Year 7, those that could be in, battled hard in all the events in spite of the reduced numbers and the heat. There were flags, ribbons, face paint and balloons on show throughout the day and for those that were in, they really did their best in every event to celebrate their first ever CamVC Sports Day. Those celebrating victories were 7B who smashed it out the park winning the Endeavour Award, Top Sporting Tutor Group and Best Dressed Tutor Group. Miss Curtis with her tutu, ribbons, balloons and flags won Best Dressed Tutor. A massive well done to Ollie and Deke for winning top boy and top girl in Year 7!





**LEADING THE WAY: Year 7 (left) and Year 8 Sports Activators.**



# Leaders step forward

**At the start of the summer term Year 7 to Year 10 were invited to apply to get more involved in PE and school sport.**

This meant for Year 7 and 8s they could apply to become Sports Activators and the Year 9 and 10s could apply to become Sports Leaders. Both roles are very competitive and are all about students getting involved in school sport and their PE lessons but also having the right attitude and being role models in sport.

The Sports Activator is a role where students get their first taster of leadership and volunteering through helping at specific PE events and being invited to get involved in set activities and challenges throughout the year.

So far this year, the Sports Activators have been

involved in National School Sports Week and have also had a special workshop, where they got involved with some of the Cricket Leadership Development or joined in with staff versus students Softball.

The big attraction of this role is also the special Sports Activator's T-shirt, which students can proudly wear in their PE lessons, clubs, fixtures and when helping out at events.

Well done to all the Year 7 and 8s who applied and were successful. We look forward to getting you even more involved next academic year.

The Sports Leaders role is an incredibly prestigious one within the PE Department and the community and has close ties to the South Cambs Leadership Academy.

Students who are selected for this role have the

opportunity to be not only involved in clubs, festivals and fixtures but to help lead, organise and manage them.

The benefits are immense and students who successfully get into the Sports Leaders Academy can develop their communication, leadership and teamwork skills.

It has already been a busy few weeks for the students since having successfully applied.

They have had the opportunity to be involved with two different Inclusive sports events; leading an array of sports such as Boccia, New Age Kurling and Polybat as well as helping out with Sports Days, a cricket festival and several have completed a Cricket Leadership Course with Chance to Shine and have gone on to lead cricket session to our younger years.

## Pupils jump at chance of competition!

During the summer term, Cambourne Village College took part in a National Schools' Football Week during May.

This was a national initiative organised by the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA).

With students across the country missing out on so much competitive football over the past year due to the pandemic, the week was designed to provide our students with an opportunity to get outside and have fun playing football with their peers.

Across the week, the PE Department ran a football tournament for each year group on a different day. Teams were organised in advance, ensuring that all pupils could play football in a competitive and comfortable environment.

Monday saw a number of Year 9 students attend, with the red team finishing as the deserved winners.

On Tuesday we had more 30 students competing in a six team, 5-a-side tournament with, again, the red team winning in what was a tightly fought contest.

Our final year group tournament was for the Year 7s on Wednesday, where in excess of 50 students competed to be crowned tournament winners.

Eight teams battled it out to be crowned ESFA National Schools' Football Week champions, with the light blue team taking the title after dropping just two points in five games!

There was no doubt that the ESFA National Schools' Football Week was a huge success.

It was incredible to see so many students putting on their boots and enjoying playing competitive football!



**WINNERS: The Year 9 champions (top), the six-a-side victors (left) and the Year 7 aces (below).**



# Excellence recognised!

Cambourne's third annual sports awards were again held virtually with much to celebrate despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

The ceremony was carefully recorded by the PE Department and went live on Friday June 25th. it is

still available to view on Sharepoint for those with a school log-in. Although there have not been competitive fixtures against other schools, PE staff have still been extremely impressed by the spirit, determination and resilience of pupils over these past 12 months! Time and time again they have shown that no matter

what the circumstance, they can continue to be active and engage in sport and physical activity. In the sports awards this year, staff wanted to highlight and reward all those pupils who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to keep active or to help others keep active.

Choosing the winners was, at times, difficult as there are many pupils who have done extremely well!

In fact, it was impossible to select a winner of the **BTEC Student of the Year** and the award for the pupil who has worked to achieved the highest marks on the course to date went jointly to Louis (11O) and Elena (11C)

Jack (10O) took the equivalent award for those studying **GCSE PE** while the **PE Department's Merit Award**, which recognises and celebrates the hard work, dedication and commitment of an individual who has gone above and beyond to help others in sport and PE, went to Chloe.

Rachel (10M) was named as the **Dancer of the Year**, while Great Britain gymnast Teagan (11A) collected the **Sporting Excellence Award** to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our pupils who represent their county or country outside of school.

Grace (9C) was the winner of the **Unsung Hero Award**, given to the pupil the PE Department recognised for their continued hard work in PE and/or extra-curricular sport.

All the nominees showed commitment to improving their performance in PE and extra-curricular sport and may have overcome adversity to do so. Neale (8A) won the **Commitment Award** for his dedication to extra-curricular sports clubs, attending more sessions than any other pupil in the school.

Another showing great commitment was Isabella (11M), who was named **Sports Leader of the Year** for her tireless work to help the PE Department with the organising and running of clubs and events.

She was also part of the Team of the Year, alongside fellow Sports Leaders Elliot (11B), Posy (11N), Max(11A), Chloe (10R), Isabelle (10U), Rachel (10M), Charlie(10R), Lydia (10A), Bethan (10A) and Keira (10M).

Of those, Isabelle individually won the **KS4 Sportswoman of the Year** in recognition of her hard work, dedication and commitment in PE.

All the nominees regularly attended extra-curricular clubs and represented the school with honesty, integrity and passion as well as upholding values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Max won the **KS4 Sportsman of the Year** while Henry (9C) took the honours for the **boys in KS3** and Libby (8V) for the **KS3 girls**.

The awards ceremony also recognised all those in Years 7-9 who successfully applied to become **sports activators** and those in Years 10 and 11 whose applications to be **sports leaders** were accepted.



**WINNERS: The Year 10 Team of the Year (top) and the individual winners from Year 8 (above left), 9 (above) and 10 (left).**

## Pupils get a say in developing PE

Last term the PE Department looked at improving PE at Cambourne Village College by giving students a voice to influence both lessons and extra-curricular clubs.

The PE Department asked all students to voice their opinions through a questionnaire which gave a brilliant insight into what students enjoy about PE, what they thought of the curriculum and extra-curricular club options, and what they believed would improve PE overall.

Students have also volunteered to be a member of the Sports Council which

held its first meeting this term to discuss students' views on PE and the way forward.

Future meetings are likely to focus on matters such as extra-curricular clubs, options of sports/activities in lessons and the PE kit.

If you are interested in joining the Sports Council, please speak to your PE teacher. The Sports Council will be the voice of the students and work alongside the PE Department to shape and improve PE for all at Cambourne Village College.