

# NEWS@CAM



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CURRICULUM EXTENSION DAYS — PAGES 8, 9 & 10

# Delayed work gets going

The summer holidays should have seen the completion of the mezzanine structure in the Performance Hall which supports the new retractable tiered seating.

Unfortunately, a combination of Covid 19, driver shortages, fuel shortages, supply shortages and staff shortages meant that the project only started to get under way in October.

Work began with the erection of the steels to support the initial mezzanine and over the October half term, the boarding, joining and taping of the structure that supports the theatre directors' platform commenced.

This done, deliveries of the seating were challenging, with a huge cargo container blocking the route between the performance hall and music block for about six hours. It wasn't quite like the Suez Canal, but things got a bit spicy for a while!

Work then began on constructing the steel frame for the tiered seating that meant

a week of not being able to retract the unit back.

With half the hall lost and a real impact on dining and PE, the staff adapted wonderfully and work was finally finished on 3rd December.

A massive thank you is due to all the staff who have helped in this, from supervising students at break and lunch, to the PE dept for making last-minute lesson changes and to the Site Team for all their assistance.

All is not yet done: at the other end of the hall, the design of the lighting rig that will support curtains and stage lights has been challenging, with the initial plans rejected due to issues with the roof's load bearing capacity.

Many iterations of plans later, we hope the lighting system will be in place by the end of February half term.

We're crossing everything that the Performance Hall will be ready for its grand opening at the school production of The Addams Family in March!

Chris Piekuta, Site Manager



**GETTING THERE:** The installation of the tiered seating and associated structure has not been straightforward.

## Walk boosts coffers

Cambridge Ramanujan Shakha, a branch of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK, organised a sponsored walk to raise money for the new Arts facility in the performance hall.

This walk was organised as a part of their yearly Sewa, service, project. Twenty people from various age groups took part in a 10km and raised £294.

Cambourne Village College is where Cambridge Ramanujan Shaka has held its activities for the last five years so they wanted to give something back. Members of HSS UK met Principal Claire Coates to present the cheque and express their gratitude for the school and the facilities. Mrs Coates thanked them for their donation.

Rupesh (11N)



**FUND-RAISERS:** Members of the Hindu community with Principal Claire Coates.

## Leaders count down to first lessons

After being cancelled last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year Cambourne Village College is running again the Year 9 Language Leaders Programme which helps students learn to lead using language teaching as the medium.

There are 24 students taking part in this fantastic opportunity. Earlier this term, we gathered in the Library to attend a training session that was planned to be hosted at Murray Edwards College in Cambridge, but due to the restrictions it was delivered remotely.

We joined other participating schools from Cambridgeshire, including some from the Cam Academy Trust.

The session was really enjoyable and one of most engaging elements of it was a language quiz where we competed with the other schools and needed to use our linguistic skills. We all felt that attending this event helped us gain a lot of confidence in the knowledge of how language works and how to deliver a lesson.

I really enjoyed this session, and I am sure that everyone else enjoyed it too.

Language Leaders are going to meet every Thursday at lunchtime and on the

third week of January they will be delivering their first Spanish lesson in one of the Cambourne Village College feeder primary schools.

Jimena (90)



**IN TRAINING:** Cambourne's new language leaders learn the ropes before heading into primary schools next term.

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# Plans to grow again

Plans to expand the college have made significant progress this year with the school set to increase its student roll and the completion of a new Sixth Form centre.

This will help to support an increase in the local population triggered by the new Cambourne West development, which involves the planned construction of a further 2,350 homes on land close to the school.

The Cam Academy Trust and CamVC have been working closely with Cambridgeshire County Council to develop these growth plans for the school. The plans fall into two areas. One is to increase the student roll at the mainstream school from 1,350 to 1,650. The second, aligned to the site extension, is to open a 350-place Sixth Form.

A public consultation recently took place to seek the local community's input on the increase of the school's capacity.

Claire Coates, Principal at Cambourne Village College, said: "The response of the consultation was positive with members of the local community welcoming this new facility to enhance the already excellent 11 to 16 education offered at Cambourne Village College.

"This increase in capacity will enable Cambourne Village College to offer places for families with pupils aged 11 to 16 who move into the new Cambourne West development, as well as continuing to provide for its existing catchment.

"Additional pupils will be admitted into each new Year 7 from 2023, so that the full capacity of the school will be reached by September 2028."

The plans are now with the county council for approval. It's hoped construction will start in May 2022 once planning permission has been given.

Mrs Coates added: "This development will be a considerable enhancement of our current facilities with new classrooms, laboratories and workshops. Very careful thought has been given to how our strong existing pastoral structures within Cambourne Village College can be maintained and enhanced within the new development."

The development will include two new drama studios, a music room and a recording studio. There will also be a large library, multigym and separate dining hall.



**EXPANDING AGAIN:** Plans include an extension to the existing block earmarked for the sixth form, two new drama studios, an extension to the music block with a recording studio, large library, multigym and separate dining hall.

Opening plans for the new Sixth Form will allow for the first 175 students being admitted into Year 12 in September 2023, and the same number again in 2024. This has the permission of the Regional Schools Commissioner but will need the new site extension project to be complete.

Mrs Coates said: "The Cambourne Sixth Form Centre will operate a similar model to that run at Comberton Village College and will work in close liaison with the Trust's other Sixth Forms (there is also one at St Peter's School, Huntingdon).

"Our highly qualified staff are very excited at the opportunity to teach A-Level and other Level 3 courses: the curriculum offered will be very carefully considered." Planning for the teaching of Post-16 courses will start next spring with support from colleagues across the Trust.

Some additional staff recruitment has already taken place and detailed planning of the supporting organisation structures to support the expansion is under way.

## Prefects' aim is to 'leave a legacy'

Becoming a prefect was something I have wanted to do since Year 7. Not because I thought Cambourne was a perfect school, because I thought it wasn't. I wanted to try to improve the school, to make it more inclusive, diverse and equal, and to make the school better for the students that would come after us. Mrs Coates told Rupesh and I after we had been chosen as Head

Prefects this: "Make changes. Leave a legacy." This is why The Prefect Team is so important.

We are a group of Year 11s, selected to represent our fellow students. We coordinate, plan, and organise various activities around the school.

The prefect team, consisting of 14 prefects led by two head prefects, works to change and improve the school.

There are various roles the prefects hold, in areas such as sport, performing



**STUDENTS' VOICE:** The Cambourne prefect team.

arts, well-being, charity, and events.

Our aim is to give a voice to the students and to challenge where we believe we can make improvements in the ways of the school.

Our job is to be a stepping-stone between students and teachers, to understand what it is to be a student, but to be able to communicate to the teachers in

order to spark change.

We have recently been raising money for charity and school events via fundraising activities and a school council for students; we work to always help and support others. We have tried, and will continue to try, to achieve this throughout our year as the Class of 2022 Prefect Team.

Lydia (11A) and Rupesh (11N), Head Prefects

## Community embraces college's facilities

It's been a busy term for community bookings with all but a handful of our regulars back and many of them adding extra sessions.

The 3G Astro facility is completely booked every weekday evening through the football season and the Sports Hall is almost completely booked too.

We have welcomed several new clubs including two new badminton clubs, girls futsal and Tae Kwon Do. Our equipment has been enhanced by the purchase of new five-a-side goals and repairs to the cricket nets.

A flurry of autumn events took place in September and October including an Arabic Cultural day, a Bengali Convention and a Hindu wedding, which kept the events and site teams busy and brought in much needed revenue while

supporting local community groups.

The Cam Academy Trust's full adult education programme has returned on Mondays and Tuesdays offering courses from French to Pottery, with a special Comm Ed day scheduled for 19th March with a range of taster sessions. The full programme is available on the website under Adult Education.

Do keep following the Community web page and Facebook page. You can find these here: <https://www.cambournevc.org/adult-education-community/> which has a link to the Facebook page too. Please do follow and 'like' the page. Details of all the facilities and how to book are available on the webpage.

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

# Learning from Classics

Around 30 Students in Years 8-11 took part in a free project with the Classics Department at Royal Holloway University of London.

Dr Efi Spentzou delivered a workshop designed to help students improve their understanding of classical myths and gain confidence in their use of voice. This was an exciting opportunity for students to take part in an externally-led workshop hosted by a prestigious university.

This was also a brilliant opportunity for our school to learn more about Classics, a subject we hope to develop across the school!

Our students thrived during this workshop and Dr Spentzou was amazed at their work and contributions.

Students commented on the event saying:

"This workshop has showed me that there are multiple viewpoints to a story, not just one."

"This was very interesting and I would love to learn more about this topic."

"I feel quite strongly about people being given a voice, and this unfairness is something we should really learn from and use while we're living in the now."

The workshop was based on selected characters and story lines from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and focused on the myth of Eurydice and Orpheus, as a story of muted self-expression and the strains behind young love.



**LESSONS FROM THE PAST:** From a workshop on understanding classical myths.

## Academics share their expertise

This term we have had several free public lectures on a range of topics — everyone is welcome and you can access most of the recordings via the school website: <https://www.cambournevc.org/news-and-events/education-all.php>

Our first History lecture of the term, which was about Pompeii, had more than 50 students in attendance! Most were Year 7s who had been studying Pompeii at the time.

We were impressed with the high quality of questions from our students who were able to keep up with Dr

Nicholas Zair.

As one Year 7 said: "The lecture was very interesting, and the lecturer was clear and easy to understand."

To help commemorate Remembrance Day, we hosted a lecture by Dr Marjorie Gehrhardt (University of Reading). This lecture entitled 'Commemorating the First World War: Then and Now' explored how various commemorative activities and objects shape our understanding of the conflict, what functions they fulfil and how they have evolved over time.

Our final History lecture of the term was about the experiences of women during the English Civil Wars. Dr Elaine Murphy (Associate Professor of Maritime History, University of Plymouth) opened our eyes to the vast amount of evidence about women during this time period.

This lecture highlighted how the lives of women were touched by war in many ways even if they did not experience battles or sieges.

We can't wait for more lectures with academics in the new year!



**BLACK LIVES ON SCREEN:** Students learn about the Black experience in 20th Century Britain.

## Black British history in the film spotlight

Students in Years 9-11 attended a workshop hosted by the British Film Institute in October to learn more about Black British History.

The 'Black lives on screen' event used a wealth of film from the BFI archive that represents the experiences of Black British people.

Those involved were able to learn more about the Black experience in 20th century Britain. Some of the films we watched captured the Black presence in and amongst other elements of British life.

The British Film Institute holds a rich archive of films relating to Black British History, these can be viewed free here: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/black-britain-on-film>

One Year 9 said: "I really enjoyed this event and loved learning about the different cultures from the movies."

"The person who told us about these movies in the live event was super nice and made it very clear, so we know what was going on. Overall, I really enjoyed it."

Look out for a Year 7 and 8 BFI workshop soon!

## University insight

A group of Year 11 students spent the day at Peterhouse (Cambridge University), learning more about the opportunities available in higher education.

The day included an introduction to university study, discussions about A-level choices and careers, a chance to meet current undergraduate students, and a tour of the college.

## Lunchtime stories

Every Thursday we have welcomed guest speakers into school to talk about their career or area of interest/research.

So far, this term we have had a range of speakers including an Engineer, an ex-Police Officer, as well as talks about the famous Sutton Hoo burial, the British Empire, Science and Religion.

These talks will continue next term and are open to every student.

If you think you'd be able to offer a short lunchtime talk please get in touch with Miss Angell at [jangell@cambournevc.org](mailto:jangell@cambournevc.org)



**LEARNING OVER LUNCH:** Students have heard from a range of speakers this term.



**IN-DEPTH STUDY:** Year 10 triple scientists worked on experiments looking at digestion with visiting Research Fellows.



# Digesting valuable info!

Year 10 Triple science students were visited by Research Fellows of the Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology department for hands-on and theoretical sessions on digestion.

Pupils looked at the digestion of different food groups using enzymes extracted from papaya.

They learnt the basics of digestion in the human body as well as reviewing the anatomy of the gastrointestinal tract and associated different organs with different digestive processes.

They studied the process of enzymatic digestion, learnt about different enzymes and the chemistry by which they work. They then mixed different enzymatic digestion solutions and took observations of the digestion of different food groups. Students learnt the chemistry that was occurring in the experiment and made

predictions as to which foods will digest most before recording their findings. Finally, there was an extended Q&A opportunity with the Research Fellows on their education and careers.

CamVC pupils were very inspired by their stories and their fields of research. Many have enquired about carrying out work experience in their labs.

Here are some of their thoughts:

"I enjoyed how different it was to normal lessons. It felt refreshing to see new people with different experiences and learn about a topic in more depth. I also appreciated learning more about how science is beyond secondary school."

"The sessions gave a lot of information about the GI tract, which I found interesting. The practical was fun and I learned a lot of new information."

"I liked that it was interactive, and we got to see how enzymes break down different kinds of food molecules. We also learned about different professions and how the individuals have got to where they are."



**JOBS OF THE FUTURE:** Pupils explored different STEM roles in a 'Net Zero Carbon City'.

## Actions to reduce carbon footprint

During the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, a Consultant Ecologist from the RPS Group twice visited the school to give an assembly to Year 7 pupils on global climate change and COP-26.

Mike Barker had spoken at COP-26 after an invitation from the Danish Embassy and talked to pupils about his visit.

<https://www.rpsgroup.com/services/environment/ecology/>

Pupils were given the chance to reflect on their own actions and how they could improve their habits to reduce their carbon footprints.

They completed a WWF questionnaire which calculated and compared their

carbon footprints and the tonnes of carbon dioxide released per year, with the national goal.

Pupils made pledges to themselves on reducing their carbon footprints. Mr Barker then carried out a Q&A with many insightful questions from the pupils.

Pupils then navigated around a 'Future Net Zero Carbon City', where they could explore different STEM roles and infrastructure of a potential future, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.rpsgroup.com/climate-careers-zone/index.htm>. They also navigated through the careers zone, to explore different career paths in sustainability.

## Poster aims to offer easier explanation

Three pupils were nominated and are representing Cambourne Village College at the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition for KS3 and KS4 students.

This competition is designed to encourage and reward high achievement and is an excellent opportunity to showcase talent in the local area.

This year, due to Covid-19, it will be an online competition with entries submitted last Monday, December 13th.

The winners will progress to regional heats with a National Final to be held later in 2022.

The ability to clearly communicate a subject matter is an essential part of science and is something increasingly valued by employers across all sectors.

This poster competition is designed to test pupils' ability to communicate a contemporary chemistry topic to the general public: 'How does chemistry make plastics more sustainable within a circular economy?'

Theo (9A), Sanjana (10N) and Riona (9A) have been working hard together on this and will also include a recorded audio discussion of their poster topic.



**BENCHMARK:** Three students were chosen to represent CamVC in a national chemistry competition.

# Going green gets hot

Pupils at CamVC have been learning about the different ways in which they can help to combat environmental challenges we face and implementing practices to support this within the school.

The DT department and the gardening group have been working collaboratively to investigate re-purposing food waste in heated composters (HOTBIN) to reduce landfill from cooking lessons. The HOTBIN composter is based on hot aerobic composting through bacterial respiration, which breaks down garden and food waste into compost in shorter time periods than traditional cold composting techniques.

Due to the colder months, we have also been looking into a special active bran (Bokashi) with which to pre-treat any food waste before adding it

to the HOTBIN. This will aid the respiration process.

Bokashi is a dry mixture of bran and molasses, infused with a controlled balance of beneficial micro-organisms, which suppress pathogens and stops waste from putrefying.

The HOTBIN composter also produces a liquid feed as a side product, which is packed with beneficial microbes and can be diluted as a plant feed or poured down the drain to prevent algae build up and odours.

We would like to thank Kier for their kind donation of the HOTBIN composter, which the pupils have been using regularly.

They are excited to see the conversion of the food waste into compost to use in the garden.



**WASTE NOT, WANT NOT:** Students are converting food waste into compost with their new HOTBIN.

## Feeling festive

Our Christmas tree, kindly donated by The Christmas Tree Firm and decorated by students from The Centre, will be enjoyed by pupils, staff and community groups using the College until Christmas Eve and after Christmas will be taken to the Hub in Cambourne which recycles Christmas trees every year. The town council gardening team will then shred them and use them for mulch around the town.



**TIDYING-UP:** All year groups have been taking part in a 'Spotless Social Area' competition.



**BOMBS AWAY:** Students have been making seed bombs to provide nutrition and shelter for insects and birds.

## Range of initiatives to aid environment

The Cam VC Environment Council have been very productive this term. Environment Reps have been having weekly meetings and have put a number of initiatives in place, including the Spotless Social Area Competition and Environment Workshops, and have been working towards getting the school Silver Green Flag Status through the Eco-Schools Initiative.

There are two aspects to this Spotless Social Area competition; a weekly form time litter pick and a weekly social area spot-check. More than 50 bags of litter have been collected so far, with Year 11 pupils coming out on top with an average of 2.3 bags of litter collected per week. Year 11s were on track to receive a non-

uniform day for all their efforts collecting litter. This term Environment Council launched two after-school clubs. On Tuesdays the Biodiversity workshop looked into ways of increasing biodiversity on-site. Pupils have completed an ecological review of the school and discussed ways in which biodiversity can be increased on the school site. They have set goals and decided on an action plan. The Biodiversity workshop, in conjunction with Gardening Club, has acquired a range of native British broadleaf trees that will be planted in early Spring.

On Wednesday afternoons, the Design workshop has been meeting to design and make structures that can be used to give a home to wildlife at school and further afield.

Pupils have made seed bombs that contain native British wildflower seeds. These have been made using a range of recycled materials such as sawdust from the DT department and shredded wastepaper.

The seed bombs can be used at home and at school in the conservation area to provide nutrition and shelter for insects and birds. Next the Design workshop plan to design and make bee log nesters that solitary bee species can use as a home.

Any pupils who are interested in being part of the environment workshops can still join. We meet after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3.15-4.15 in DT05 & DT06.



**BOOK BONANZA:** *The Taking Up Space* group bid for 100 books by writers of colour.

## Sharing key messages

### The work of the Taking Up Space group continues apace.

We were keen to build on the success of the Culture Celebration day in the summer, and also to challenge the restrictive views of beauty that we see in society and media ideals, so in October we created a Photography exhibition: 'Not Just Black and White.'

We were so grateful to Mr Yeates, Ms Osborne, Mr Hart for the work they did in helping us create the exhibition, and to the tremendous photographic skills of Flo Bloomfield and Chloe Taylor.

We were able to showcase our work to parents and Year 6 students on Open Evening, and our students made the most of the chance to talk through their aims with their customary passion and articulacy.

Following this, we won a bid for 100 books by writers of colour, through the 'Lit in Colour' initiative, along with a class set of 'Empireland' for the History department to use.

Opening the boxes of books at one of our Tuesday morning meetings was absolutely brilliant, and we are already so excited and fired up by the reading we're doing.

We will be setting up a book group for others to enjoy these books, and letting them Take Up Space in the library, so look out for them.

We have great plans for a podcast that we will set up to share all sorts of different experiences, opinions, laughs and challenges, and for a big art, music and food event that, restrictions permitting, we will hold in the Spring term.

We want this to involve primary schools, members of the wider community, and all of the budding artists, musicians, dancers from across our school community.

If you'd like to contribute to the event, look out for our posters and messages, and get creative!

The Taking Up Space group meets every Tuesday morning at 8am and welcomes absolutely everyone who wants to engage with ideas about how to make our school community thoroughly anti-racist.



**COLLECTION:** Students cut and transport willow whips back to Cambourne to add to the sensory garden.

## Students use willow to enhance garden

The gardening group at CamVC have started the term with an infectious enthusiasm towards learning about sustainable gardening and developing ideas to implement in the sensory garden with careful consideration for permaculture practices.

One idea is to create a willow structure within the area, where it will function not only as a major garden feature, but also a shelter and peaceful haven.

Willow provides a great habitat for a variety of wildlife and is incredible for the ecosystem. It sequesters carbon through photosynthesis, improving our air quality; the extensive root system helps to stabilise soils and slow water run-off.

It also helps to boost biodiversity, providing a food source for many species of caterpillars and nectar for bees.

As it is fast-growing and relatively easy to propagate, it can produce large quantities of renewable 'green' energy without harming the environment.

With Head of Art, Mark Yeates, who is guiding the design of the willow structure, the group recently took a trip to the Lark Rise Farm (Barton) and met the wildlife officer of the Countryside Restoration Trust and learnt more about willow coppicing.

The pupils had the opportunity and great fun in learning about the different types of willow and familiarising themselves with the specialised coppicing tools. It was a challenge, albeit one tackled with lots of laughter, to transport the long willow whips back to school.

The group have started constructing the willow structure and is looking forward to watching it flourish and take shape in the spring.

## Latin proves popular Trial is looming!

This term we have run two successful and popular Latin Clubs — one for Year 8 and one for Year 9. The Year 9s are continuing their Latin studies after attending the club last year; they are now on 'Minimus Secundus', the popular textbook with grammar, games, myths, stories, and historical background! Students in both year groups are really enjoying Mr Smyth's fun clubs with his lively introduction to the Latin language and the culture of Roman Britain.

Lucie Coleridge and Simon Smyth

For the fourth year, students in Year 10 and 11 are preparing to take part in the National Bar Mock Trial competition. The teams will be invited to the Crown Court early next year, to compete against other schools in the region; students play the 'parts' of barristers, defendants, witnesses and jury members to argue their cases as prosecutors and/or defending counsel. Last time we competed we were runners-up, so we're looking to take the regional title this time!

Lucie Coleridge and Sujana Sudhaman

# Something different!

**Curriculum Extension Days are an annual event on the Cambourne calendar and much anticipated by students, especially after missing out last year due to the pandemic.**

Normal lessons are suspended for two days and all pupils in Years 7-11 are given the chance to learn something completely new.

Year 7s' time was split with one day on site in the Maths department and another with Science at Colchester Zoo.

This was their first trip together as a year group and gave the pupils a chance to get to know each other better beyond the classroom.

Camilla (7R) said: "On Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd October Year 7 students visited Colchester Zoo on a school trip. "We saw many different animals including rhinos, elephants, giraffe, turtles, and unique species of fish.

"My personal favourites were the sea lions as they swam very gracefully and were exceptionally cute! "Everyone enjoyed seeing the vast variety of animals housed at the zoo. Overall, I feel this was a great first trip as a year group as we got to

know each other better and had lots of fun."

A highlight for Year 8 is the day trip to Walton-on-the-Naze (see Page 10) to look at coastal erosion and its effects.

They also enjoyed a day with the MFL Department, making and starring in foreign language films.

Year 9 were kept active with a day of orienteering at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and one of Music and Drama at Cam VC where they performed their own short performances to the year group, and they were treated to a performance from students from Anglia Ruskin University (see Page 10)

Year 10 had two Core Religious Education Days (see below) involving visiting speakers and visits, with students choosing between Bhaktivedanta Manor (Hindu) or Peterborough Cathedral (Christian) and Singh Sabha Gurdwara Sahib Ji (Sikh).

Finally, Year 11 had a day of English and a Relationships, Sex and Health Education Day.



**WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE:** For Year 7 students at Colchester Zoo.

## Different ways that religion shapes lives

Year 10 spent the two October Curriculum Extension Days focusing on their Core RE provision. Using these two days allows students to go deeper on the topics being focussed on and join the ideas together clearly.

On the Thursday, we were grateful to be able to host speakers from local faith groups, plus campaigners from charities and organisations to speak to students about how their personal beliefs inspire them to act when it comes to the environment.

Students were able to hear about how travelling the globe in a sailing race, developing an understanding of the changing climate, and religious teachings have shaped our speakers, and why they feel responding to the environmental crisis is important.

It was great to see our Year 10s using the knowledge they gained in KS3 RPE, and other subjects, to come up with challenging questions, and show understanding of how the ideas link together.

The focus the following day was on lived religion, trying to help students understand how both individuals and communities live out their faith, and beliefs.

Students had a choice of trips to go on, either to Bhaktivedanta Manor, a Hindu centre, or to visit both Christian and Sikh places of worship in Peterborough.

Through the tours and presentations, students were introduced to some key

concepts and ideas, and were able to ask questions of our hosts.

Once more, the Year 10 students were able to link ideas from their KS3 RPE lessons and were great representatives of Cambourne Village College while out of school.



**ASKING:** Students pose questions about faith during visits to various places of worship.

## Combining film and languages . . .

On the last two days before the October half term and as part of the Curriculum Extension days, Year 8 students took part in a film project developed by the MFL Department. It was a very entertaining activity that allowed us to show both our language and

creative skills. In the morning, and working in small groups, we needed first to create a script and then film it using our iPads. We were free to go around the school to find the perfect locations for recording our scenes. After lunch, we moved on to editing our

films and creating a catchy poster to promote our movies.

Finally, we really enjoyed watching the movies that the other groups had made.

Saul (8C)



**ON THE RUN:**  
Some groups chose to chase the prizes.

# Map skills unlock prizes

After missing out on Year 9 curriculum extension days last year due to Covid, we were back with a vengeance this year and decided to do things slightly differently.

On the last Thursday and Friday of the October half term, the PE department and the Year 9s headed to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park where we teamed up with Azorias Outdoor and ran a day of orienteering and map reading. Fortunately, the weather held out for us and there were beautiful blue skies for both days, and an array of cute puppies and stunning views in the country park! After being taught the basics of how to map read, all the students set off in small groups, navigating around the park trying to find all 15 points in order. The competitive groups chose to run the whole course, aiming to be back in the quickest time and accumulate points for the final standings. However, everybody was aiming to cover the 5km course working their way

around the country park and punching their card at each control point.

After this, there were two more challenges where students had to continue to use their map to help navigate the park in the quickest time possible to gain points. By the end of the day, many students had walked or run more than six miles, with Mr Young and his group topping the leaderboard with a massive 38,000 steps. There were some very deserving teams who came in the quickest to win their prizes of chocolates and Haribo! However 'well done' to all students for taking part.

All the students behaved and worked admirably and we hope they enjoyed their time moving around in the fresh air.

Hinchingsbrooke Country Park is only 25 minutes away from Cambourne and anyone can participate in Orienteering. For more information look at the 'Go Orienteering' website, <https://www.goorienteering.org.uk/>

PE Department



**PARKLIFE:** Students enjoy the fresh air while orienteering at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

# Maths challenges gets students in shape!

The image of maths as having endless calculations and nothing but numbers was totally dispelled on Curriculum Extension Day. Year 7 students had a great time designing, costing and building houses that would withstand a hurricane!

They produced very innovative designs which were then tested to the limit — some students on

the Thursday even tested them outside in (almost) hurricane weather! Students also produced some amazing reflection patterns during their maths day. They considered where patterns would be found in the world around us. They designed intricate tiles and then repeated them to create beautiful patterns.

The final challenge was to look at the structure and shape of a football.

They worked together in groups to create their own model, having to construct and fold the necessary shapes.

This required brilliant team work and the results were fantastic!



**THE MAGIC OF MATHS:** Hurricane houses, reflections and football folding were all part of Year 7's maths day.



**PERFORMANCES:** Students show their completed musicals to the rest of the groups.

# Just two hours to write a themed musical!

One of the biggest musical theatre sensations in recent years has been Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* — which has been a huge success on Broadway and across the world, and this musical was the inspiration behind the Music, Drama & Dance projects that Year 9 were working on the Curriculum Extension Days!

Their task was simple, all they had to do was write, produce and perform their own musical in the same style as *Hamilton*.

Pupils worked in large groups, and each group was given a famous historical figure (including Winston Churchill, Rosa Parks, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emmeline Pankhurst and Martin Luther King). They then had two hours to write a script, and compose some rap lyrics, devise some choreography, and then add additional

music, props and costumes, before performing their completed musical to the rest of the year group.

Fortunately, none of the individual performances lasted the full three hours it takes to perform *Hamilton* but the staff working with pupils were blown away by the quality of what they produced in such a short time, and the groups' confidence performing to such a large audience of their peers.

Pupils were also privileged to be able to watch a performance addressing the themes of immigration and multi-culturalism. This piece was specially devised and produced for Cambourne pupils by drama students studying at Anglia Ruskin University.

It was a really great two days working with Year 9s, and witnessing their creativity and confidence in performance, and who on both days were described as being the best audience that the ARU students had ever had!

# Experiencing the full force of wave power!

As part of the October Curriculum Extension days, Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Walton-on-the-Naze, which is one of the fastest eroding coastlines in the United Kingdom.

In fact, the average rate of erosion is almost two metres per year!

Students visited Walton beach, the famous Walton tower (built in 1720), walked through a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and witnessed the effect of erosion, slumping and

weathering on the soft cliffs at Walton beach.

On both days, students saw a high tide and witnessed the full force of the waves crashing in to the large sea wall. It was an excellent opportunity for pupils to contextualise their learning, bring to life what they had learnt in the classroom, as well as a chance for them to gain new skills in data collection, data analysis, map work and investigation skills.

Dion Burgess, Head of Geography



**EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE:** The coast around Walton-on-the-Naze is one of the fastest eroding coastlines in the country.

# Entering world of work

If you thought that last year's placements being cancelled would have prevented the current Year 11 gaining any work experience think again!

Between them, our Year 11 students have had a staggering range of work experience. Whether they organised this themselves or through their parents or via online opportunities CamVC has promoted, they have all gained valuable skills.

Here is a selection of what they have been up to:

## Running on auto!

"I had the opportunity to take part in work experience as an apprentice for CDC Automotive and have learned how to change a lot of parts on cars and have done a range of small and larger jobs.

"I have learned a lot over the lockdown.

They taught me about car mechanics and I experienced a lot about being an apprentice." Znar (11O)



**BEHIND THE SCENES:** A different view of motorsport during work experience.

## Inside track on sport

"During our work experience week in July I worked for three days with a track day company called Opentrack, which puts on Motorsport events around the UK and Europe. "On my first day I worked with Robert Baxter, who is a Motorsport Photographer and he spent the morning showing me how to use one of his cameras and also explained that that there is a lot more to photography than just pressing a button.

"He showed me how to find a good location and how to make best use of the available light, and I also went on to shoot myself in the afternoon and I was very happy with my results.

"Working with Robert showed me that it is not just about the photography but also about the relationships he builds that makes his work so good, and that they form a big part of his job.

"Day three was spent at Brands Hatch in

Kent. Here I spent most of my time in the race control room which oversees the operation of the day.

"I was shown how to use the CCTV systems for the circuit and I also watched how they direct the safety and medical teams during an accident as there were several during my time in there.

"As with everything over the three days the one main thing that everyone said was that they all have to operate together and as a team and that each section of the circuit relies upon another for support during the day.

"It was a good few days out at the circuits and I had a great time meeting lots of different people from ex-Formula 1 drivers to amateur drivers in their own cars." Freya (11R)



**GASTROPUB:** The Pike and Eel, Needingworth.

## Front of house skills

"I am a front-of-house worker at the Pike and Eel in Needingworth, a gastropub with an upmarket reputation.

"I have been working there for four months. I started out simply washing up, but they were very pleased with me and thought I had

what it takes to deal with the public.

"At the job I am able to take orders and run food. Occasionally I am able to make an alcoholic drink with supervision from someone who is a certified barman." Alfie (11N)

## In financial health

"I did work experience with Springboard on finance. Springboard have been particularly prominent in trying to offer virtual work experience.

"The work included learning about different areas of the finance industry such as investment banking, accountancy and insurance.

"I attended webinars from many professionals and participated in the Q&As. Additionally, I completed assignments such as writing a letter

from the perspective of an investment company and presenting my own research on different types of banking in the form of a poster.

"I also have experience in running an online business. During the first lockdown, I created a business on the Depop app with two of my friends. Since then, I have been managing our budgets, stock and our social media pages." Gabriella (11M)

## Legal learning

"In July I took part in 'Insight into the essential world of Law' by High Tides Foundation.

"The work experience was split into two sections: an informative session and an active task. In the first session we learnt about the different types of law, the different routes you can take such as sport and residential. I learnt about the different careers in the law industry: barrister, lawyer and a judge, and the qualifications you need to accomplish these, such

as a law degree or a conversion degree, and the skills law firms look for in a candidate, such as work experience and completing the LNAT.

"The other session ended with a practice mock trial, where the group was split into two teams: defence and prosecution and we were given a case where we had to argue for our client. I was on defence and our team was successful in winning the mock trial." Aalia (11C)



**INITIATIVE:** Some of the students who organised their own work experience.

## Insight into business

"Due to Covid-19 affecting our school-based work experience. I took it upon myself to find an online work experience.

"I then took part in the IGD work experience week. It involved me watching specialist industry experts from big companies like Morrisons and other companies talk about how they impact their company in what they do.

"Some topics included marketing, sales,

engineering and design. It gave me a good insight to how businesses run.

"I have also had some work experience when I was volunteering for my bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. I helped with packing food parcels with Cambourne Crescent food bank.

"This included having to pack lots of different types of food to send off to the people that need them." Elliot (11M)

## Picture perfect!

"I have done photography work experience with Olivia Photography. For this I worked at a photography studio interacting with the clients and getting the children to look and smile.

"This gave me real-life experience of photography outside the classroom, teaching me how to use different lights, and how to edit different photos." Chloe (11R)

# Trust reaches milestone

## The Cam Academy Trust proudly marks its 10th anniversary this year.

As Comberton VC is the founder member of this Trust it is a time to look back on the many key moments and developments that have taken place over this decade to allow the Trust to get where it is today.

The Cam Academy Trust's CEO, Stephen Munday, said: "Among the significant disruption and challenges of Covid-19, it would have been easy for such a landmark to go unheralded, but we have so much to look back on. "While we were always confident the Trust would be successful, we had no idea it would grow into a collaborative

partnership of 12 schools." The Trust, originally named Comberton Academy Trust, was formed in the early part of 2011. Due to a growing emphasis on academies working together in formal partnerships, the Trust quickly changed to become a multi-academy trust so that more schools could join and work closely with it.

As this partnership developed it was only right that the name changed with it. Comberton Academy Trust was renamed The Cam Academy Trust. Stephen said: "While many things have grown and changed, our principles and purpose have remained the same. I firmly believe this has been fundamental to our success so far."

With the additional schools joining it's now possible for a person to have their education from the age of three-years-old through to 18 in a Cam Academy Trust setting.

The Trust has also recently broadened its approach to working with the wider education community, offering 'associate membership' to local schools — allowing them to work as part of the Trust, but maintain their own ultimate governance.

Bourn Primary Academy has recently taken up this offer to join the 11 full members of the Trust. Congratulations to everyone involved with the Trust and its schools for reaching this milestone.

**Stephen Munday CEO**



## Work together for mutual benefit

Seeking to work in partnership with others is one of the fundamental principles of our Trust (CAT).

There are lots of examples of how the Trust and our schools manage to do this in good and positive ways. One interesting development this term has been to enable a new school, Bourn Primary Academy, an Academy church school in the Comberton Village College catchment, to join the Trust as an Associate Member.

This form of membership is enabling the school to work in very close partnership with all other schools in the Trust and to link in with all the services of the Trust while not formally being a member of the Trust. The Trust also works with other schools and Trusts in various ways. It plays a significant role in supporting the new Teaching School Hub in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, especially in the territory of initial teacher training that CAT oversees.

Sometimes the Trust supports other schools where we have significant contacts and last month CEO Stephen

Munday and Paul Lawrence, the Trust's Director of Education, spent two days reviewing provision for Streetly Academy near Birmingham.

Mr Munday said: "They suggested that they had found this very helpful. As always with such work, we also

picked up several very interesting ideas and areas of practice that are relevant to the Trust's schools. 'Mutual benefit' seems to describe this well."



**WORKS BOTH WAYS:** Stephen Munday and Paul Lawrence picked up some new ideas while reviewing provision at a Birmingham academy.

## Environmental responsibility is for all

Probably more than ever before, staff and students are all mindful of the seriousness with which we need to take the threat to our environment and to seek to act to counter this.

Many of the fundamental issues at stake were brought to the fore at the recent COP26 conference.

The Trust wants to make sure that it is proactive in its role in this. There is now a clear section in the Trust Development Plan that seeks to take forward positively the environmental agenda.

There are two very obvious things that the Trust can seek to do:

- Seek to ensure that all our school buildings and sites are as environmentally friendly as they can reasonably be.

We have had our sites surveyed previously in an arrangement with the County Council to seek to introduce energy-saving measures of various sorts. The precise nature of these has varied depending upon the nature and context of the sites.

Very recently, the most significant of these developments relates to plans to introduce a major ground source heat pump system to replace all previous oil-powered systems at Comberton Village College.

A major Government grant has been secured for this, together with a long-term financing arrangement with the County Council.

It is probably one the biggest projects of its type in a school anywhere in the country.

- Support and develop environmental education at all our schools.

Schools have looked to take forward appropriate environmental education in their own settings and context.

The Trust wishes to encourage this and is supporting a programme being developed at Comberton that could be used by other schools in the Trust.



**RESPONSIBILITY:** Comberton students talk to the COP26 conference, while at the college preparation work is on-going for a ground source heat pump to replace oil power.

# Cup is hotly contested

In the penultimate week of term, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have all been representing their tutor groups in the Interform Cup.

Students were selected to compete and win points for their tutor group in either



football, table tennis, para-games or dance.

The competitions took place in their normal PE lessons and the tutor groups battled against each other to be crowned champions of their year half.

Throughout the week, the Year 10 sports leaders helped to organise and officiate the different competitions and have done a tremendous job learning to organise and score round robin tournaments.

In the dance competition, groups were asked to perform their own sequences and were judged on specific criteria.

We had some exceptional performances showing fabulous choreography and artistic flair.

Within para-games, students competed across a range of inclusive sports such as boccia, new age kurling, golf and target throwing.

Students showed excellent teamwork and a strong competitive spirit in the football competition and we have discovered some exceptional talent in table tennis.

Both of these sports have after school clubs throughout the week so if students have enjoyed competing in them, they should make sure they are coming along to these clubs for their chance to represent the school in upcoming fixtures.

The winners of each interform competition were announced in their final assemblies on the last day of term.

**DIFFERENT CHALLENGES:** *There was a range of sports in which students competed.*

## Santa dash brings out the festive spirit



**NO HOLDING BACK:** *Fully festive for the dash.*

As well as their weekly double PE lesson, Year 8s have a single period of PE once a fortnight. It is in these lessons where we focus on different types of fitness with football fitness, circuit training and yoga being looked at this term. Students will complete a rotation of different ways they can maintain and improve their fitness, which will hopefully help them to maintain a health active lifestyle past school.

In their last lesson this term, the Year 8s completed a 'Santa Dash' and completed a half-mile loop of the school site as many times as they could within the time limit.

The best bit was they were allowed to come festively dressed. They really went to town on this. There was many a Santa hat and reindeer antlers as well as tinsel galore! But there were some Year 8s who fully embraced the Christmas spirit, dressing up in Christmas jumpers, Christmas pyjamas and Santa outfits. The whole year group did so well considering that Santa hadn't sent any snow, but rather a storm of wind and rain in the form of Storm Barra.

Regardless, all the students run, jogged, walked and skipped throughout and, when they got to the music stations, were singing and dancing along to some famous Christmas tunes!

Prizes of CamVC PE bobble hats and buffs were awarded to the best runners, best dressed and best Christmas spirit across the year group in their final assembly on the last day of term.



**HO, HO, HO:** *Students embraced the Santa theme.*

## Club hones critical sporting skills

Since the start of Autumn term, a select group of students have been invited to attend a fortnightly Sports Skills club.

The initiative had originally been offered to students back in 2019, however, due to Covid this was put on hold until now!

The aim of Sports Skills club is to facilitate the development of a variety of fundamental skills that are important within sport. Each term focuses on developing different a specific skill and for this term, the key focus was teamwork.

At each session, students completed a variety of team-building exercises that encouraged them to work cooperatively with each other, whilst also discussing what it means to be in a team and what teamwork looks like within sport.

Activities included Cross the River, where students had to safely cross a (imaginary) river without falling in. Students also had a go at Goal Ball, a game designed specifically for athletes with a vision impairment, where they must try and stop a ball that has bells imbedded into it from going into their goal – all while completely blindfolded!

They also had the opportunity to practise their hand at a variety of Paralympic games such as Boccia and New Age Kurling, in preparation for their upcoming Panathlon Xtend competition in January!

Next term students will be focusing on leadership – so watch this space!



**WORKING TOGETHER:** *The theme at this term's Sports Skills Club was teamwork.*

# Glowing idea captivates 'Dragons'

The Living Sport Dragons' Den project was a set of workshops aimed at Sports Leaders and Year 9 Sports Activators.

Living Sport, a charity which aims to improve the health, happiness and wellbeing of people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by encouraging them to be more physically active, came in to school to lead a workshop about increasing physical activity levels in school.

They challenged the students to create a new after-school club that others would want to attend and would drive up numbers being physical active.

Over six weeks students worked in small groups to create a new idea and survey it with the school, to create a budget sheet for it - as the winning team would be donated £1000 to help set up their club - and finally to present to a panel of 'Dragons' exactly how they would sell this new club to the judges.

The panel (The Dragons) was made up of Head of PE Hannah Curtis and Principal Claire Coates, Isabella J (sports prefect) and two judges from Living Sport, Chris and Megan.

The article below was written by Krisha (9A), who was part of one of the winning groups.

"My friends and I designed a club and presented it to the judges alongside other amazing ideas and by chance and hard work, our idea was put forward.

"Firstly, we had attended a workshop after school which provided us the key information needed to make a captivating presentation.

"We also looked at a variety of dilemmas school children face resulting in them unable to do sports outside of school. We created inclusive after school sports clubs which were different and appealing to the audience.

"After participating in the workshop, we met up every Tuesday lunchtime to draft our ideas and assemble a presentation on the following topics about our club: what the club is, why you should go, equipment/budgeting, marketing and the appeal.

"We had also researched into further depth to be able to answer any questions given by the judges. Our idea was 'Glow in the Dark Sports' with multiple sports



**WINNING IDEA:** Judges liked the idea of a 'glow in the dark' sports club.

you can play each week, including a variety of different glow-in-the-dark elements, light projectors and almost complete blackout to maximise the fun darkness effect.

"I believe our idea was suitable as the equipment came to a total of well under £500 which means it could be easily replaced. "The selection of sports could mean that many people could come along and explore new games.

"We continued with our plan and decided who would speak and fill in each slide to make sure that our presentation was clear and everyone was able to comprehend the idea.

"Eventually, it came to the day of presenting it to the Dragons (judges). We rehearsed our speeches and watched the other groups present their proposal.

"When it was our turn, we made sure to introduce ourselves and suggest why our club can be a great addition to the school as well as presenting our own slides.

"At the end, we had noticed the judges were intrigued and asked many questions to clarify the way the club runs. After what felt like waiting forever, the Dragons had made their final decision to continue with our club and be able to run it after school: we had won the competition!

"Now we will meet up every Tuesday lunchtime to eventually make this idea a reality!"



**BIG DAY OUT:** Pupils visited Manchester City and Manchester United's grounds and saw a Premier League match.

## A top-flight experience!

Last Saturday 95 pupils travelled to Manchester for our Premier League Experience trip. It was a cold and early start as we set off from Cambourne at 7:30am.

Our first stop was the Etihad, home of Manchester City FC. We visited the fan super store and the fan-zone where pupils were able to get involved in some football challenges and enjoy the pre-match atmosphere.

We took our seats and watched City take on Wolverhampton Wanderers.

After the match, we drove down the road to Old Trafford, home of Manchester United. Here, we had our own private tour of the stadium including the trophy room and the first team changing rooms before heading pitch side to the dugouts and to see the stadium as the players do.

It was an incredible experience and everyone thoroughly enjoyed all of the experiences — City, United and neutral fans alike absolutely loved it!

## Taking up the umpire's whistle

This term, Cambourne Village College hosted a netball umpiring course where sports leaders were given the opportunity to improve their confidence and learn skills which they can then further develop in and out of school.

The course was primarily designed to help sports leaders prepare for umpiring the South-Cambs primary school Netball Leagues.

The training course was especially beneficial for those who already had some understanding of the rules of netball. During the course, pupils learnt court positioning, use of the whistle and applying the rules through lots of practice and match plays.

Helen Stepney (England Netball Coach and Tutor) ran the course with 35 pupils from a range of schools in the local area attending.

Following on from the course, Cambourne's sports leaders, now promising young umpires, helped to umpire and run the first Primary School Bee Netball League this year and gained valuable experience ready for the second round in March.

These umpires will also get the opportunity to umpire Year 7 and 8 netball fixtures against other schools where their skills will be challenged.

Well done to everyone that took part in the course and we look forward to seeing them umpiring games in the near future.



# Getting competitive!

**Shelford Rugby Club has been providing excellent rugby coaching to students across Cambridgeshire schools over the past 18 months, which has boosted rugby participation across the county.**

This year Shelford hosted several rugby festivals to provide competitive rugby matches for all year groups.

The first festival was a Year 8/9 girls' touch rugby competition; it was clear to see the students' hard work at after-school girls' rugby club led to some excellent rugby being played. The results were not in Cambourne's favour, however the students made so much progress and enjoyed the opportunity to compete against other schools.

Cambourne attended the Year 7 and 8 boys' touch rugby festival the following week. The Year 7 team had excellent individual tries being scored as well as some resilient defence as a team against strong Parkside and Coleridge sides. Cambourne narrowly lost both games by one try, however the high scoring games were enjoyable to watch for the neutral supporters from Shelford Rugby Club. The Cambourne Year 8 boys team was stacked with club rugby players who demonstrated their experience and prowess to blow away the opposition, winning all four of the games, only conceding two tries throughout the festival. The Year 8

There has been a variety of fixtures taking place this term although the usual fixtures calendar was scaled back due to Covid.

Restrictions mean we have only been able to offer outside sports and we have had football, rugby and netball fixtures.

It has been lovely to see the competitive spirit of our students again and even nicer to see parents coming to cheer them on. Thank you to everyone who has made these fixtures a possibility during this difficult term.

We look forward to when Covid restrictions lift and we can add some badminton and basketball games to our fixtures list.

team scored some fantastic team tries and even managed to get every player on the scoresheet which is a brilliant achievement for all involved.

The final Shelford Rugby festival Cambourne attended was a Year 9/10 girls contact rugby competition; students had worked extremely hard at girls' rugby club since the touch rugby festival earlier in the year and were prepared to take the step up to contact games.

Cambourne faced well-organised and experienced teams from Sawston VC, Cottenham VC and St Bede's. As the matches progressed the girls' confidence grew in their tackles, rucking and passing which made for incredibly competitive games.

These students progressed so much from their first match to the last and we cannot wait to see how much further they can go with future festivals and fixtures in the New Year.

Our under-16 rugby team also had their first (and hopefully not their last) rugby fixture this term.

They played a blinder with Jason playing a powerful and intelligent game to score all three of the CamVC tries in the draw with Comberton. The team demonstrated some excellent teamwork and played some beautiful rugby; lots of successful passes and some great outwitting of the opposition.

## Teamwork makes the cup dream work

A number of Cambourne teams have been competing in the English Schools Football Association Cup competitions.

After facing strong opponents in their early rounds, the under-13 and under-15 girls and under-13, under-14 and under-16 boys have all been knocked out, leaving the under-12 boys to fly the flag.

The cup success of the Year 7A team this term has been part of a good run of wins during their short time together at secondary school, creating brilliant memories in the process.

This is a match report written by Harry (7R):

And we are up and away Cambourne Village College vs Kings Lynn. There are a few new faces in the starting line-up as Jack, Harry and Vincent return to the team after Covid-19 hit them. The whistle blows as Freddy plays a pass into Elliot in the central midfield role. The boys are keeping possession in the game and passing it calm round the back.

The lads start to push up the field with diagonal passes into Kuba and Vincent on the wings, stretching the opposition's back

line as much as possible. Vincent takes it past one, he shoots, he scores!

Substitute Harry comes on for Elliot in the central midfield role, Ben comes on for Kuba, and Ed is off for Jack in the right back position.

Harry tries to create something down the left by driving at the opposition but he gets roughly tackled and wins a free kick. Harry was searching for players at the back post he aims... and goal! He scores from a cross but will take that.

Vincent keeps driving and driving on the left wing with some silky skills and great dribbling. It was like the ball was glued to his feet as he plays the ball from a cut back to Freddy and he slots it home for 3-0. The half time whistle blows and Mr Young encourages us to push for more goals. From the restart, King's Lynn are playing it round the back and CamVC start pressuring them. Freddy wins the ball and calmly places it into bottom corner.

King's Lynn kick off again with their heads held low. CamVC win the ball back and it goes out for a throw in. Kamran, Jack, and Ed come on to tighten up the defence. King's Lynn win the ball and, but the boys keep their heads high.

Kuba comes on for Ben on the right wing and strikes it into the back of the net to make it 5-1. The boys use their energy to win the ball back and Harry plays it into Elliot who scores! Vincent is absolutely unstoppable and bags another three for a 9-1 victory. Scorers: Vincent 4, Freddy 2, Harry, Elliot, Kuba.



**UNITED:** Cambourne's Year 7 football team.

# Running in full colour!

Fifteen CamVC students joined more than 400 others from 21 primary and secondary schools for a colour-filled day at Milton Country Park.

The event was the inaugural Cambridgeshire and Peterborough School Games Colour Run, organised by Living Sport.

The Colour Run event aims to provide a positive experience of sport and physical activity for young people with a focus on those in school years 6, 7 and 8 who have struggled with social isolation and anxiety following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The event provided a fun way for young people to re-integrate with their peers, to find and develop their resilience, meet new people, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing in an enjoyable and safe environment.

It also provided an amazing opportunity for Cambourne's sport leaders to hone their skills as well as having a great day.

Alana (7E) said: "I had an amazing time at the Colour Run. It's an experience that I'm glad I didn't miss out on. It's now a memory I will always have.

"I enjoyed running through a beautiful forest with my friends and getting some exercise all whilst getting colourful.

"I had actually seen something similar on TV and I thought about how fun it would be, so I'm very glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of the colourful event and I even got a stylish new top at the end. All that colour was hard to get out of my hair, but it was all worth it."

Chloe (11T) was one of the leaders and she was equally enthusiastic.

"Cambourne Village College was lucky enough to have the opportunity for students to run and to provide sports leaders to throw paint and marshal the event," she said.

"When our runners arrived, they were given T-shirts, sunglasses and powder paint — which encouraged them to get ready to do the run and, of course, to have a colour fight!

"We were able to try the activities offered, which included a portable gym, archery and a chance to try the cycle for a smoothie machine. This was all a lot of fun and gave the students a chance to socialise and make new friends.

"Just before the race started, schools were involved in a guided warm-up with music, which was great.

"Then the race started and the competitors ran around the park passing through nine different stations, which had different colour paint — and they got covered!

"This gave them a fun way to be physically active and to enjoy running. At the finish line, they got a medal and some food, along with the option to take photos in a specially-made photo section with accessories and hashtags.

"The sports leaders also had an amazing time helping at the colour run. We threw paint for the first half of the day which was a lot of fun as we got to see and encourage all the people taking part in the run.

"For the second half of the day we were helping out with marshalling or in the activity area, this gave us the opportunity to meet and talk to different students or to encourage them as they ran!

"At the end of the day there were lots of colour pots left over, so the sports leaders from both Cambourne and Impington Village College were rewarded with a colour fight, which we all really enjoyed.

"If anyone has the opportunity to take part in a colour run, I would really recommend it. It's a really brilliant way to be active and have fun — but beware you will get covered!"



**COLOURING IN:** Before, during and after the inaugural Colour Run.

## Sports leaders rise to the challenges

Towards the end of Year 9, students are given the opportunity to apply to become sports leaders for Years 10 and 11.

The latest recruits got stuck right in from the beginning and have been getting involved in as much as possible.

Every year we have a Sports Leaders Conference for our new Year 10 sports leaders. This is run by the South Cambs Partnership and shows the sports leaders all the opportunities open to them, including coaching courses, festivals and more leadership development experiences. This term, so far, sports leaders have logged more than 400 hours of volunteering. This has included football and netball referee courses, football and netball refereeing, helping at sports clubs, helping at community clubs and festivals and volunteering at school festivals. We have a dedicated group of Year 11 girls who are leading the dance club every Tuesday; without them we wouldn't be



**NEW RECRUITS:** Cambourne's latest sports leaders.

able to offer as many fantastic opportunities to our students as we currently do. The dances they have created are phenomenal and every week the PE department are impressed with both their choreography and their leadership skills.

There is also a core group of sports leaders who have been running Year 7 and Year 8 football clubs with the supervision of PE staff. They have done an amazing job organising tournaments and refereeing. They have also been involved in refereeing and running the line in the ESFA Cup games.

As well as all the other opportunities that the Sports Leaders have taken up, they have also been instrumental in helping to organise and run the Interform in the week before Christmas. They have collated teams, kept score, officiated and helped in every way possible.

Well done to all our sports leaders, you really are doing an amazing job!