

NEWS@CAM



2013



2023

END OF AN ERA — PAGES 8 & 9

Building work on track

The construction going on all around the College is right on schedule and we are seeing most of the buildings now taking shape. The new blocks will be handed over as they are completed next year, and the first block, nearest to the front of school, should be ready for the first day of next term. This new building sits right behind the Blue Wing and contains two large Art rooms at the front, facing the current Art Department, with toilets, offices and four general classrooms at the back. The social area around this block will also be complete for September and we'll see the very narrow, temporary path around the back of the wings beginning to

open up. This new block will be in use from September this year, and the new Library in Block 2 is likely to open from next January, as will the extension to the Music Department. The rest of the buildings should also be handed over by April next year, but the space won't be needed until the sixth form opens in September 2024, at which point all the classrooms in the current sixth form wing will be handed over for Post-16 use.

Claire Coates, Principal



TAKING SHAPE: Block One of Cambourne's extensive construction project is set to be ready for September.

Planning for new sixth form going well

Plans for the opening of the new sixth form are developing well, as is the building work. The school will take possession of the new facilities in April 2024, in good time to allow their furnishing and equipping for our first Year 12 in September 24.

Our current Year 10 will be the first cohort of students able to study at CamSF, and in early June, they had the opportunity to travel to Comberton for a 'Taster' afternoon of learning in a Cam Academy Trust Sixth Form. A variety of A-Level lessons, taught by a combination of Cambourne and Comberton staff, were on offer and all were enthusiastically received.

The website and prospectus for Cambourne Sixth Form will soon be available and the 'Future Formers', a group of Year 10s working with Sixth Form Co-ordinator Ms Rose, are giving strong input into the social and extra-curricular aspects of the new Sixth Form — it's a brilliant opportunity for these students to be able to influence the ethos of their own brand new sixth form.

Our social media accounts, listed below, are providing regular updates about the progress of CamSF. Guidance on how to apply for Post-16 places is given in Year 11 PSHE lessons in the Autumn term — and the first open evening for Cambourne Sixth Form will take place on 2 November 2023, from 6-8:30pm.

A video 'fly-thru' simulation of the new centre can

be watched here: <https://youtu.be/jbACuRdQ7iQ> and gives a clear image of the wonderful facilities soon to be on offer.

We have a new website: www.cambournesixthform.org

Twitter: @SFCambourne

Facebook: Cambourne Sixth Form

Email: info@cambournesixthform.org



SIXTH FORM: A view of the first floor library and mezzanine.

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AWARD WINNERS: Budding engineers and linguists have their efforts recognised.

National superstars

Two Cambourne students have hit the headlines this term with amazing achievements in different spheres.

Rishan (9R) has won a national award at the prestigious Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition, while Shyla (7E) collected the national Foreign Language Spelling Bee title for Spanish at the finals late last month. Rishan's success came in the Junior Engineering category with his project 'Blind Vision'.

'Blind Vision' is designed to help people who have limited eyesight and often have difficulty differentiating between distinct objects. It uses a Raspberry Pi and a specially adapted glasses to analyse objects, which are then identified and read aloud by the system. Rishan said: "I hope this project can be taken to a manufacturing level, where it can be used globally."

"I think it can help people with vision impairments — who may not have enough money for an expensive Google Lens or a stem cell eye repair, to see again." Dr Hilary Leevers, Chief Executive of EngineeringUK, which runs The Big Bang competition, added: "Congratulations to Rishan. This is a brilliant achievement. We've been really impressed with all the entries received this year, but this project stood out as being particularly innovative."

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition winners were announced at the Big Bang Fair, held last month at the NEC in Birmingham. Engineering UK's Big Bang initiative is designed to inspire and encourage all young people to discover exciting possibilities in STEM.

Shyla came out on top after a year-long spelling competition for Year 7 students

culminated at the national finals at the University of Cambridge — and she was one of two Cambourne finalists with Zaina (7R) also reaching the final showdown. Students are challenged to pronounce and spell as many randomly-selected words as possible in a minute from a list they are given to learn. This starts with 50 in the first class and school-based rounds and rises to a total of 300 for the 35 finalists, who have also got through a regional final against other schools.

The Foreign Language Spelling Bee is run by Routes into Languages and is a fun way to help Year 7 learn vocabulary in Spanish, French or German. More than 21,000 took part initially across the three languages — nearly 8500 in Spanish — with 35 reaching each final.

It is the invention of former Comberton Village College teacher Jane Driver, who is the new headteacher at North Cambridge Academy.

Shyla admitted she was surprised to win. "I still can't believe I won the whole thing!" she said. "I feel happy and proud. Also, I feel grateful for all the support I received from my family, friends and teachers, and especially my younger brother, Eshaan, who painstakingly helped me practise everyday in the run-up to the competition."

MFL teacher Hélder Ogunfowora said: "This achievement alone speaks volumes about their linguistic abilities and highlights Cambourne's commitment to nurturing language skills among its students."

"As we celebrate the exceptional achievement of Shyla, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to both students for their exemplary performances. Their success is a testament to their hard work, resilience, and passion for languages."

Learning German takes a new twist!

An important chapter of the German GCSE course was the question of what Germans like to eat, apart from sausages and Schnitzel, and Apfelstrudel.

So just before the beginning of the exams in May, it was decided that theory should be turned into a real-life experience, and that we would try to prepare a typical German meal ourselves.

One Friday after school, we booked the Food Technology Room and some of us gathered to make 'Käsespätzle mit Salat', a traditional south German, or Austrian, dish involving lots of eggs, flour, cheese and fried onions, and requiring some dexterity to make the noodles ourselves.

It soon became apparent that there was a tremendous talent among the students, as they were using the Spätzlehoebels, special devices to quickly scrape the batter through holes into a pot with simmering water, where the noodles were formed.

The layers of pasta and cheese grew quickly and fried onions gave the finishing touches.

A green salad had been miraculously prepared, as well as a strawberry dessert, and so five students and their teachers gathered proudly around the table to try the finished product.

It was decided that another time, we would be even more ambitious and prepare 'weißen Spargel', white asparagus, as a starter.



THE PREP: Students prepare a German meal.

TASTE TEST: Staff and students prepare to try their German food.



Another podium place!

Cambourne students are building a national reputation as excellent designers.

This year's Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology students were runners-up in the Ventura Design Competition.

This follows last year's victory for the Cambourne team and their 'Eco Seed'.

The brief for this year's competition was to design a product inspired by 'a sense of place' and Cambourne's team of Tom (10V), Karolina (10V), Bofeng (10C) Ash (10U) and Zlata (10V) came up with 'Starlight'.

Their product is a multi-sensory device — a portable star projector which casts an accurate solar system on to any ceiling using just a phone.

As their pitch said: "Starlight brings the outdoors indoors and is a great way for people to see the stars from anywhere."

This design was chosen from submissions by more than 280 schools and over 15,000 pupils as one of the 10 finalists and went to London to present it in front of five judges last term.

After a nerve-racking wait over the Easter holidays, they went back to London earlier this term to discover they were the national runners-up.

They received their award at the Design Museum in London and were praised for their excellent pitch.

They had to pitch their idea to a panel of professional designers at the Deutsche

Bank headquarters in London in March and returned to the capital in April for a Celebration Event at the Design Museum where they heard they had come second.

The group received incredible feedback from the judges.

Sujata Burman, Editor, London Design Festival said: "This is great story-telling, bringing together design and nature and how they can help with our mental health."

DT teacher Pauline Courtois, who oversaw Cambourne's entry and accompanied the students to London, said: "Our students have worked very hard, have been extremely proactive and demonstrated some incredible team work."

"I feel privileged to be able to work alongside such talented individuals and to be able to offer them the opportunity to experience the design process at a professional level and be part of such a creative industry."

DT teacher Jessica Long, who supported the pupils in the process, said: "The students have worked so hard and created an innovative product."

"Their dedication to the Design Ventura project has been fantastic and we could not be more proud of them and the product."

The DT department now looks forward to another round of the competition next year and is impatient to see the next generation of students, inspired by both the 'Eco Seed' and 'Starlight' teams' achievements.



RUNNERS-UP: Cambourne's Year 10 design team and their product, 'Starlight'.



Winning product is complete sell-out

'Eco Seed', the product created by our 2022 Design Ventura winning team consisting of now Year 11s Amanda, Genevieve, Holly, Serena, and William, has completely sold out at the Design Museum.

On Monday July 3rd, the team made their final trip to the museum in London to celebrate this accomplishment.

After a busy train journey, we arrived and met Debra from the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the charity chosen by the students to benefit from the sales.

The purpose was to find out the amount of money raised by 'Eco Seed', with all profits going to support research into the disease. The sale of 'Eco Seed' generated an impressive £2550.42, and the students were presented with a giant cheque to hand to the charity representative.

Following a quick photoshoot at four different

locations, Debra gave a presentation, providing more insight into the charity and explaining how the raised funds would contribute to their cause. This

allowed the students to ask questions and experience a true sense of accomplishment for their incredible efforts.

After enjoying a delightful lunch, we had the privilege of exploring the Design Museum and its fascinating exhibition before returning to Cambridge.

This marks the conclusion of the 'Eco Seed' journey, which spanned two years of events and excitement.

We couldn't be prouder of the students' achievements. Now that they have completed their GCSEs, we wish them all the best in their future endeavours and know they will inspire the future generations of students here at Cambourne Village College.

Pauline Courtois,
'DT Department



FINAL DAY OUT: The 2022 Design Ventura winners returned to London to hand over the proceeds from the sales of their 'Eco Seed' invention.



EXTRA TIME: To explore the German capital after a strike saw the group's plane cancelled.

Adventures in Berlin

In late April 39 Year 10 art and/or photography students and four staff, sleepy-eyed from the 4am start, gathered at the school car park ready to head to Stansted and on to Berlin.

This was the first visit to Berlin since the pandemic and we've certainly missed what had become a highlight in our school year.

A little delay for the flight allowed us some breakfast time and for our first-time fliers to build a few more nerves.

We were in Berlin by lunch though and, as always, it is a delight for us to observe the pupils' first impressions.

Berlin is hard to sum up. Imperial grandeur to communist-era concrete austerity, industrial dereliction alongside majestic parks.

Whatever the backdrop, the Berliners are consistent though — good humoured and with no sense of rush. It always feels like a city at ease with itself, that has faced its turbulent past and emerged with harmony and integrity.

The first afternoon we were straight up the TV Tower to get an overview and pick out some sights we were to visit later in the trip.

From there we had a slow and sunbaked walk along the East Side Gallery, a section of the old Berlin wall kept intact for public murals. The murals offer hope, searing political criticism, self-reflection all in equal measure and set the tone for the incredible street art that proliferates the city.

Day two started with more street art — Shepherd Fairey's 'Make Art not War' mural en route to the Jewish museum.

Designed by Daniel Libeskind, the Jewish museum is a masterpiece in architectural design. Floors slope awkwardly, corners narrow into acute angles and darkness and walls loom into caverns. It is a confrontational space an experience that, even on my sixth visit, was very immersive and emotional.

We took lunch at our favourite spot, the Backerei cafe, just near the Holocaust memorial. Nutz, the cafe owner, remembered us from previous visits and, as usual, cursed me for not emailing ahead to warn him! After sketching and photoshoots at the memorial, we were on to the Museum Island to enjoy the street markets and antiquities of the Pergamon museum.

After dinner at the hostel, we hit the streets again with a late-night walk up to the Brandenburg Gate.

Day two is always the long one, but little did we know it was about to get longer. Just as we were arriving back to the hostel, a friend who lives in Berlin warned me that security staff at the airport had called a strike.

Sure enough, some digging in the local news revealed that our flight had been cancelled!! Not a trip leader's worst nightmare, but not far off! A fretful night of looking into ways home ensued. Mrs Coates and Mr Russen were well on the case back in the UK and, when it was clear no flights from any German city were going to be feasible, they found a coach to drive out to get us.

With the extended stay, we relaxed our itinerary for Sunday morning. A long train ride out of the city took us to the incredible Tegel Murals.

Eight mammoth murals adorn the 13 storey apartment blocks on a social housing development in the North-West suburbs giving the perfect example of how art collectives can positively contribute to the built environment and society. The weather was perfect, so we walked along Lake Tegel's edge to work up an appetite for lunch in the cafes and ice cream parlours.

After a long and leisurely lunch, we headed back into the city for more photography in Tiergarten and the Kodak building before our next big landmark — the dome of the Reichstag.

When English architect Norman Foster was commissioned to redesign the dome, a casualty of bombing in WWII, few would have expected his ambitious concept. The dome is made of glass, offering views of the whole centre and back in on

itself and the complex double helix structure spiralling out from the centre into a staircase and reflective core. It's stunning and a must for any visitor. Just be sure to book ahead and try for a sunset slot.

The morning of bonus day was spent at my personal highlight, the Kathe Kollwitz museum. Kollwitz was a wonderful artist and human who broke glass ceilings for women in education and art, and was a leading voice against fascism.

The pupils enjoyed a peaceful couple of hours sketching from her direct and emotive drawings and prints, storing a bit of energy for our last stop, a photography show some shopping and planning for a surprise birthday party for a pupil in our group.

The hostel not only gave us an extra night's accommodation, but also provided a conference room for our party and ensured we had a fun farewell to Berlin.

So, a big shout out to the lovely staff at the Pegasus Hostel.

Twenty-four hours later we were rolling into CamVC. The coach ride was arduous, but the pupils and staff were amazing in coping with all the disruption and long trek home. Thanks to all involved for such a memorable and fun trip.

Mark Yeates, Head of Art and Design



OUT AND ABOUT: Students enjoyed the sights and sounds of Berlin while collecting material for their coursework.

Concert raises the roof!

The hall was stuffed with audience members, and the programme was stuffed with a whirlwind sequence of tantalising-sounding performances.

As the lights dimmed, friends and family waited with bated breath — which unfortunately did have the somewhat adverse effect of adding a good few degrees to the overall temperature of the room. Th Year 10 band kicked proceedings off with a suitably energetic performance of 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac, which was followed by a series of larger ensemble items and talented soloists — of which there is always an abundance. Many of the ensembles, such as the Senior Choir and the Cambourne Band, have grown from strength to strength having initially struggled post-pandemic, and whether they were singing Karl Jenkins or Abba, or pumping out the rhythmic strains of Hawaii 5-0, their joy in performance was evident for all to witness. It was especially nice to have a range of items from across the performing arts, with the dance Wonderland, and musical theatre items from Matilda and School of Rock. The incredible power and intensity of both these items was truly something to behold, and served to raise the temperature in the hall by a few

degrees more. There were three very special performances from Naomi, Hannah and Sophia, who have just sadly (for us at least) concluded their time at Cambourne Village College. All three of them have been the most wonderful performers throughout their time here, and have enthusiastically participated in everything on offer, starting with the Cambourne Primary Music School nearly ten years ago. It was also lovely to welcome Lizzie back to the Cambourne stage. Special mention should also be given to Abdel and Ryan, who with great ability and boundless hard work ran the tech for this event, as they have done for every Cambourne performance or production for the past three years. When pupils such as these leave, you can't help but feel that whoever ends up inheriting their skills and dedication next is truly fortunate! To all the participants in the concert, whether on the stage, behind it, or above it, many congratulations for the wonderful music and dance you created!

Geoff Page, Head of Music



MAKING A SONG AND DANCE: At the Cambourne summer concert.



Performance space dedicated to Principal

Among a long list of the achievements and legacies of Claire Coates' headship, one of the most significant is surely overseeing the funding, building, and equipping of the new performance hall. The hall consists of a large and flexible performance space, professional-quality lighting and sound provision, and tiered seating to comfortably accommodate up to 350 audience members.

After many challenges and delays, its fit-out was successfully completed in time for its inaugural production — Chicago — in March 2023. To celebrate Claire's monumental efforts to support the arts in every possible way over the past decade, including the creation of this new incredible performance facility, it was decided to name the hall in her honour. During the summer concert on Thursday 13th July, Stephen Munday, Chief Executive of The

Cam Academy Trust, presented a plaque to Claire, and announced the naming of the new hall — 'The Coates Theatre'. We are very excitedly looking forward to many years and decades of wonderful performances and memorable events from the school and the local community taking place in The Coates Theatre.

Geoff Page



AUDITORIUM OFFICIALLY NAMED: Claire Coates receives the official plaque from Stephen Munday, CEO of The Cam Academy Trust, and (left) with Head of Music Geoff Page and Community and Events Operations Manager Charlie Rayner.



BLIND DATE: King Prasutagus meets prospective wives.



ICENI CHANT: 'We really hate the Romans.'

Brilliant Boudicca!

On Monday 10th July the cast of Boudicca Goes Ballistic stormed into battle — first, performing to pupils from local primary schools, and then pushing relentlessly onwards to conquer two audiences of family and friends on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The jokes were terrible, but the performances were anything but. There was astonishingly accomplished acting with on-point comic-timing, wildly enthusiastic dancing, and singing that was occasionally poignantly beautiful, and far more often blood-curdlingly vigorous.

Druids were offended, Roman overlords were detested (played with a masterful aplomb by Jay and Tom), old-aged pensioners from Colchester (led by a rolling-pin-wielding Marcelina) were mercilessly slaughtered, and bickering narrators (Arthur and Zaina) somewhat sacrilegiously picked their way through several hundred years of Roman occupation.

A tribal king (Matt) was corrupted, two perfectly reasonable choices of wife (Izzy and Mia) were rejected, and Kevin (played by Tim... or was Tim played by Kevin...) was slaughtered more times than anyone should reasonably have to endure.

Of course, like every good musical, there was a whole four-minute song and dance routine about rubble, performed (with the poise and class you might normally only expect to see on the West-End stage) by Gloria.

Such a bungling, rag-tag bunch of misfits and dimwits needed a leader who

embodied the heroic and noble — if ultimately unsuccessful — Boudicca, played brilliantly by Camilla, who dutifully went ballistic several times per show (sometimes before the performance had even started...)

But at its heart, this was an ensemble piece. To carry the somewhat intricate plot successfully, through a myriad sequence of dubious theatrical devices, every single member of the cast needed total focus and conviction from their opening gesture (jazz-hands, obviously...) through to their final anthemic 'to be free!', in a finale that left no eye in the theatre dry, no throat unlumped, and no spine untangled.

What the cast of 30-strong cast of Year 7 and 8 students accomplished in six short weeks of rehearsal is nothing short of extraordinary, and is a testament to their raw talent, boundless energy, and utter dedication.

They have been an utter delight of a cast to work with, and we are so excited to see what wonders they will bring to the CamVC stage next!

And, of course, special mention goes to Head of Music Geoff Page, whose characteristically witty script and songs had us chuckling away throughout, whose inventiveness and imagination have not been matched at any point from 43AD to the present day, and who — ably supported by our Music, Drama, Dance and Tech teams — pulled together a show that was (spoiler alert) as much of a victory for Cambourne as the Battle of Watling Street was for the Romans.



SCENES FROM THE SHOW: Head of Music Geoff Page's wonderfully clever and funny production was a delight.



PROM AND CEREMONY: Students at the Year 11 celebration event in St Ives.

A night to remember

On Friday 30th June, the rite of passage that is Prom was held at Burgess Hall, St Ives.

The arrivals, the dresses, the suits, the joy — it really was a night to remember! The evening started with Aston Martins, a vintage Rolls Royce, limos, even a stretch hummer! Once the red-carpet arrivals were over, it was onto the stunning flower wall for professional photographs (a HUGE thank you to Ms Spreadbury for her amazing work all evening on this!) and then into the hall itself. Ms Rose and I, along with the wonderful team at Burgess Hall and the fabulous ladies of Beautiful Balloons, had worked tirelessly to transform a large hall into an exotic, sophisticated and elegant venue, ready to host the last official evening of revelries for our wonderful students. The joy on their faces as they entered the space made

everything worthwhile and it was such a pleasure to see how appreciative they all were as one of their 'nights to remember' began.

The event was a great success. They danced, they took (many) photographs of each other and, most importantly, they had real fun. I was so proud of how well behaved and polite the students were all evening. They really were such an amazing representation of our school and community.

After the balloon-drop and the final few songs, it was time for some sad farewells. Some students may never see each other again, some were making firm plans for their summer and beyond, all will remember this as their final hurrah as CamVC students. And what a wonderful way to go out!

Becky Milne, Assistant Head of Year 11



Fantastic send-off as students bow out

The week before the Prom, our CamVC Year 11 cohort came together for one last day in school, their official Leavers Day.

Over the past year or so, the students have held bake sales, pyjama days and other fundraising events to raise money to put towards leaving CamVC with a bang.... well, with pizza and some bouncy castles!

The day, and aforementioned bouncy castles, arrived and we welcomed our exam-weary Year 11s into their tutor groups one last time; to spend time with their peers, collect Prom tickets and hoodies and just soak in their final moments.

The students were then led to a balloon-infested Performance Hall for their official Leavers Assembly, an hour of memories, celebrations and awards from Ms Rose and Mr Balding.

After their assembly, the students filed out into the sunshine to discover an ice-cream van, drinks and 70 pizzas!

I seriously overestimated how much pizza a group of 15 and 16 -year-olds would eat and was shocked to discover there were leftovers, much to the joy of our wonderful staff!

After the pizza and ice-creams were consumed, it was into the Sports Hall for inflatables fun! There was a 65ft obstacle course, a huge inflatable slide and a giant traditional bouncy castle, all there to remind students that, as they grow older and leave school, they are still young at heart.

It was such a joy to watch our students enjoy being kids again and was not at all terrifying as they raced each other through the obstacle course at a

rate of knots!

All in all, it was a really fantastic day and such a lovely way to officially mark the end of their time here at Cambourne Village College. A HUGE thank you to Ms Gassner for sharing the costs and organisation of the inflatables and ice-cream van!

Becky Milne



SAYING FAREWELL: Year 11 Leavers Assembly.

Different view of city

This term our Y10 GCSE History students took part in the Uncomfortable Cambridge Walking Tour.

This discussion-based tour was a fantastic way to learn more about the hidden histories of the city and

our students made some excellent points along the way!

The tour gave our students a new insight into the histories of the city and we explored themes of racism and sexism.

One student, Alishia (10B), said: "I absolutely loved the trip, I learnt so much more about Cambridge and the place I grew up.

"Knowing these facts and stories has really broadened my perception of the area."



SEEING CAMBRIDGE IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT: Students take the 'uncomfortable' historical walking tour.

Day at the museum!

Our Year 8 historians were very lucky to learn more about the work that The University of Cambridge Museums have been doing to investigate the legacies of empire and enslavement within their organisations.

Our students spent the day at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and had the museum to themselves to see and experience some of the tours and exhibitions.

It was a fantastic day out and our students will be sure to visit the museum again soon!



PERSONAL TOUR: Cambourne students had the museum to themselves.



MYSTERIES UNRAVELLED: Students learn about the difference between school and university education.

Insight into Higher Ed

More than 70 Year 7 and 8 students took part in a 'What is higher education?' workshop hosted by Peterhouse (University of Cambridge).

Our students enjoyed learning more about the difference between school and university education.

They learnt more about the types of courses you can study at university and took part in a fun budgeting exercise.

Thank you to Christine from Peterhouse for a fantastic morning!

Speaking out

Year 10 students who took part in a weekly Politics Club gave amazing speeches to fellow students, staff and members of the Cambourne community.

It was the culmination of their own research into an area of interest as part of the club, in which they learned more about political systems and theories.

All 12 gave fantastic political speeches with topics ranging from political ignorance to food banks. Well done to all involved.



MAKING A POINT: One of the Politics Club members gives their speech.

End of an era as college's pioneer Principal retires

Claire Coates leaves Cambourne Village College this summer after 10 years in charge — during which time the school has grown beyond all expectations.

Claire was appointed Headteacher Designate before the buildings were finished and was on the doorstep to greet the first cohort of 132 pupils in September 2013.

Ten years on, the pupil population has increased 10-fold, they are in the middle of a third wave of building works to enable 1650 students to study at the College and plans are in place to open a sixth form for a further 350 16-18-year-olds in September 2024.

And that, Claire believes, means it is the right time for her to leave not only Cambourne but The Cam Academy Trust, where she has worked since 2002, initially joining Comberton Village College as Head of English.

"It's been 10 exciting years," she said. "But we are entering a new phase now and this is probably a good time for a new Principal to take

things forward.

"It has been fantastic seeing the successes of the kids, building such a high-quality team of staff, and seeing the development of a brilliant community culture.

"That community has been instrumental in some of the developments at the school that we were not anticipating, like the 3G AstroTurf and the Performance Hall, which are both a direct result of local involvement and engagement.

"The College has had fantastic support from so many people. We have been really lucky in the quality of our governors, in the support from the Trust, the Town Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, who have had the confidence to continue expanding the school.

"Above all, we have built an amazing team of staff. When we first opened, we only had five teachers permanently on site, the others commuting from Comberton. I'll be passing on a fantastic team of

140 teachers and support staff, and I'm going to miss them very much."

While the lows cannot be ignored — the Covid pandemic being an incredibly difficult time for all — she will look back on her time at Cambourne as a hugely positive experience.

"It's been intensive being Principal but also extremely rewarding," she

'It's been a unique privilege to have opened a school and to have had a fundamental impact on its development' — Claire Coates

said. "The role has been all-consuming but I'm hugely grateful to have had the opportunity. It's been a unique privilege to have opened a school and to have had a fundamental impact on its development — the set-up, the staffing, and the structure. I'd like to thank Stephen (Munday, Trust CEO) and Gordon Johnson (former Trust Chair), for having had the confidence to appoint me.

"The early Ofsted 'Outstanding' rating was key to our future success, as has been our role as a Teaching School, bringing so many talented trainee teachers to our doors.

"There are many highlights, but one of them is always GCSE exam results day and seeing so many delighted young people in the best place to go on to the next stage of their lives.

"The school has been consistently high achieving, and I'm proud of the progress our students make during their time here, which has been significantly above the national average.

"I'm also really proud of the breadth of opportunities we offer —

the number of extra-curricular activities is extraordinary. As for most years, we've had around 70 events, workshops, trips, etc and that doesn't even include Curriculum Extension Days or Activities Week. "It's due entirely to the enthusiasm and commitment of our brilliant staff, and is as important to the success of the school as the high-quality academic achievement.

"One of those special events is the International Talent Evening, which highlights not only the talents of our pupils but also the diversity — there are more than 40 languages spoken at the college.

"I'm also thrilled by the development of arts at Cambourne. At a time when lots of schools are cutting back on that, seeing our concerts and musical theatre productions go from strength to strength is fantastic.

"It took five years of work by the Charitable Trust to equip and open the Performance Hall, but to see the first performance of Chicago there earlier this year and to see people's reactions as they walked into the new theatre, made it worthwhile. It's the sort of facility you usually only get in private schools.

Another highlight for Claire is the annual week of Sports Days, where inclusivity is proudly on display, as well as the impressive student leadership programme, which involves not only developing sports leaders, but also languages as students head to local primary schools to teach younger pupils.

She also looks back fondly on Cambourne being named Pearson School of the Year in 2018.

"It was a really special time and reflected the wholehearted, early embracing of the school by the community," she remembered.

Now her feelings about impending retirement are bittersweet. "I'm excited about the possibilities of having time to do some of the things that the intensity of being a Head mean I haven't been able to do," she said.

"I want to have time to appreciate friends and family as well as the little things in life, especially books and gardens — and I hope to get fit and back to mountain walking again.

"But, of course, it's hard to leave. Our sixth form was originally due to open in 2023 and I would have loved to have seen this. I'm confident, though, the school is in a really good place to hand on.

"There are always things that can be improved, but Cambourne has tremendous strength in the quality of the staff and the support from the governors, trustees, and the community. I know it will continue to thrive."

Even without the sixth form, Claire's legacy to Cambourne — to the town and the College — is a pretty impressive and important one.



THE START: The topping out ceremony for CamVC in April 2013.



SAY HELLO, WAVE GOODBYE: Claire Coates greets the first students in September 2013 (below) and bids farewell to the class of 2023.



BOOKS: Claire Coates has been elusive to photograph, but when caught, the English teacher would often choose a backdrop of books.



LONDON DATE: CamVC's success as a free school earned Claire a trip to No 10.

New Deputy Principal is totally focused on delivering a truly comprehensive education for all

Meet Cambourne's new Deputy Principal for the first time and it's impossible not to feel his infectious enthusiasm for teaching.

Tom Darling is passionate about educating children in a comprehensive setting and couldn't imagine himself doing anything else — and it really shows!

He has just turned 40 and is about to enter his 20th year in education, Mr Darling's professional — and personal life — revolves around children although he doesn't have his own.

What he does have is a very large family. His Maltese mum, who came to the UK as a teenager, is one of 20 children. His dad is one of six which means he has more than 80 — nearly three classes worth — of first cousins alone!

When his wife landed a civil service job in London, they took the plunge, left his native West Yorkshire and the Bingley school he had taught in for 19 years and he jumped at the chance to join the Cambourne team.

Armed with a plan to live within an hour's train ride of the capital, they quickly fell in love with Cambridgeshire and are now buying a home in Brampton — which also happens to be one of the places his father, who was in the RAF, was stationed.

"Cambourne was the first job I applied for, and I immediately liked it," he said. "I came for a look one weekend expecting to see only the outside of the building but it's like it never closes. I think there was a Christmas Fair. The next evening I visited, it was Karate.

"It's a true community and the building is always a hive of activity, which is a

testament to the site team!"

Mr Darling's previous school was also part of a small Multi-Academy Trust of 10 schools, and he was drawn to the values of 11-school Cam Academy Trust, of which Cambourne is a member.

"It's all about inclusivity, an international dimension and community," he said.

"I'm from a working-class family; my mum was a cleaner and my dad an electrician. For me comprehensive education runs through my veins.

"I think comprehensive schools are a microcosm of society with different abilities, nationalities, skills and interests all in one place."

Being a history teacher has always been his No 1 passion, talking proudly of his journey through the ranks at Beckfoot School where he was Assistant Principal for the last seven years.

And he has a key piece of advice for today's youngsters: "Attend school every day, be respectful to all people and achieve great things.

"I went to Manchester University, studied History and Politics and achieve a

'Attend school every day, be respectful to all people and achieve great things' — Tom Darling

First Class honours degree. Then I did my PGCE (teaching qualification) in Leeds and have never looked back."

Now Deputy Principal at Cambourne with a focus on Behaviour and Attitude, it's a new direction for Mr Darling, a keen runner footballer and swimmer, but a challenge he is relishing.

"I was a bit worried about starting at a new school at Easter," he said. "But it's actually been a really positive experience. It means in September I'll know all the systems, have met lots of people and be up to speed, especially with the new head coming in next term."

He has already started making his mark, meeting students, their parents, linking with the local authority, the safer schools police officer, outreach workers and work experience providers.

"It's been a really positive start at Cambourne," he said. "The staff and students have been very welcoming. Claire (Coates) has been very supportive. She lives and breathes this school — it's her baby really, being here from the start — and it will be a massive loss for Cambourne when she leaves."

He is looking forward to working with new Principal Lynn Mayes too and helping Cambourne grow — not only physically although the latest expansion programme and new sixth form are a key part of it (and he'd love to teach A-Level History).

"This is an amazing school," he said. "The students here have incredible opportunities and it's brilliant that so many are involved with enrichment activities. But there's always more we can do."



HAPPY IN HIS WORK: Cambourne's new Deputy Principal, Tom Darling.

Pupils are celebrated

Last month we hosted our recognition event at Cambourne Village College.

This event recognises and celebrates the fantastic contributions pupils make to school life.

Pupils are invited along based on the following:

- The number of postcards they have achieved throughout the year.
- A nomination from staff for the contribution they have made – for example language leaders, being involved in the school productions, sports leaders etc.

We had more than 290 pupils and their families invited along to the event to celebrate their successes over the year.

It was a fantastic occasion with ice cream, bouncy castles and a speech from Principal Claire Coates.



RECOGNITION: Principal Claire Coates addresses the students and their families to invited to the celebration.

Investigating the effects of urban regeneration



COMPARE AND CONTRAST: Parts of East London which have been regenerated against those that have not.

When it comes to Human Geography, having London on our doorstep is definitely an advantage and this year, on 6th June, we took our Year 10 Geographers to Stratford and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for a fieldwork trip.

This trip was designed to better understand urban regeneration, which is a core element of the GCSE AQA syllabus. Specifically, we were interested in understanding how this area of London had undergone regeneration.

We explored areas that had and had not undergone regeneration. We counted different types of shops in both types of areas. We looked in detail at East Village, and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and surrounds — both areas of amazing regeneration and rejuvenation.

Students also interacted with pedestrians and asked them each a series of questions to better understand how successful the regeneration had been.

Before the fieldwork, students had spent a couple of class lessons, studying this topic and area of London; being able to subsequently go there, really helped them embed the learning by seeing it first-hand. They also learnt many great fieldwork skills, which will be needed in their GCSE Geography exam next summer!

Jim Taylor, Geography Department

Maths aces accept every challenge

Over the past year, 12 exceptionally talented Year 7 mathematicians have met weekly to work on puzzles, problems and challenges.

Shortlisted from more than 30 applications, these students showed the potential to continue being exceptional mathematicians while improving their communication, teamwork and exploratory skills. They certainly did not disappoint!

Armed with weekly snacks, the team set about conquering any challenge put in front of them.

Not only did they work on current problems aimed to stretch and challenge Year 7s up and down the country, but they also worked on problems from the UKMT Team Challenge archive.

These problems have the intended audience of gifted Year 8 pupils!

All pupils involved in the Cambourne Parallel Team should be undoubtedly proud of themselves. Well done!

If you are interested in being part of a gifted and talented team next year, keep an eye for application opening/closing dates. These will be shared with you by your mainstream maths classes.



PROBLEM-SOLVING: Talented Year 7 mathematicians hard at work.

Engaging most talented

In July, 10 of our gifted and talented Year 9 mathematicians attended a day-long event at The Cambridge Maths School.

The aim of Eureka Day is to both inspire and engage some of the most talented mathematicians in Cambridgeshire, encouraging them to continue to pursue their interest in maths. The day consisted of both talks and workshops run by NRICH, ASMP and Cavendish Labs.

Throughout the day, the students had to

create cranes out of paper, work with students from other schools in a relay competition and look at the way numbers can be represented as primes using circle sectors.

In addition to being superb ambassadors of CamVC, three of our aspiring mathematicians came second in the OPTIONAL competition consisting of individual challenges. Well done to all who attended, you were a credit to our school.

INSPIRING: The maths workshop aimed to engage talented youngsters.



Trust poised to expand

We have all been relieved to come out of the pandemic.

It really does feel like that is where we are now and it is great to see the wonderful range of wider educational activities and opportunities offered to pupils across the Trust.

Given the Trust's stated principle of 'Broad Education', it is really good to see this happening again.

Another indication that the mindset has shifted to a

post-pandemic way of thinking is that schools seem to be considering their future plans.

In this respect, the Trust has been approached by several schools interested in joining us and seeing this as a positive way forward for them.

We are in several discussions regarding this possibility.

Always, the thinking is that this must make sense both for the potential new school(s) and for the schools currently in the Trust.

One such school is Fowlmere Primary School. Its request to become an Academy and join The Cam Academy Trust has been approved by the Advisory Board of the Regional Director's Office, so this development can now move into formal processes. Fowlmere is already a partner primary of Melbourn Village College, a school already in our Trust. This move therefore makes much sense as we seek to provide quality education for local communities.

Stephen Munday, CEO



LOOKING TO JOIN: Fowlmere Primary School could be the next addition to the Trust.



Focus on providing extra support

While we have very much moved out of the pandemic in terms of how we now operate, we are also seeing something of the difficult legacy of the pandemic and lockdown in our schools.

Nationally, pupil attendance at schools is notably lower than it was before the pandemic.

Schools report some greater challenges with pupil behaviour as young people have to learn how to behave appropriately again when with groups of others and in an organisation.

Mental health issues in young people are now at far higher levels than they were before the pandemic.

We see these national challenges mirrored in various ways in schools in our Trust.

Clearly, the origins of these sit outside the control of our schools but that does not mean they do not have an impact.

As such, the Trust is looking to do what it can to support all schools as they look to move forward positively with some of these issues. For example:

- The Trust-employed Education Welfare Officer, Rachael Panther, has been working closely with all schools to look at approaches to attendance and ways that these might be developed.

- The Trust is supporting some co-ordination of work on supporting the mental health of pupils in our schools and the related training of staff. We are looking to ensure that proper access to support in this area is available to pupils in all our schools.

- We are reviewing effective approaches to pupil behaviour in our schools and sharing effective practice between all our schools. There are many excellent examples in this area.

- We are reviewing our arrangements for Alternative Provision for those pupils who need this.

There is very little central or local provision in the system now and it is fundamentally up to us how this might be organised.

Again, schools are doing some great things in this territory, but we are looking at how we can strengthen this further, especially by working across our schools to provide as well as possible.

All these things remind us of why we choose to work together as a Trust of schools rather than simply as individual entities.

We can do more and better by working together than we can by trying to go it alone.

Stephen Munday

New event has pupils dodging!

Teams from three schools took part in the first Inter-Trust Dodgeball competition.

And now there are plans to expand it to more primary schools in the Trust after two teams of Year 5 and 6 pupils from each school — Jeavons Wood, Everton Heath and Gamlingay — had a fun afternoon at Cambourne Village College, where Trust Director of PE and Sport Hannah Curtis is also the Head of Department.

The competition was run in a round-robin format with all the teams playing each other — starting with the other team from their own school. Each squad had up to eight players with five in action at a time.

After some fast and furious competition, Jeavons Wood B came out victorious.

The event was run by Cambourne Year 7 and 10 sports leaders, led by Tyla, who took charge of the organisation, scoring, timekeeping and officiating and did a brilliant job keeping everything going smoothly.

Miss Curtis said: "We are hoping to have more of these Inter-Trust events going forward and are looking at what different sports we might include. We also hope that the other secondary schools in the Trust will also be able to host them and give their sports leaders the great experience of running an event for younger pupils."



ACTION-PACKED: The inter-Trust dodgeball tournament.



CHALLENGED TO GO UP, OVER AND THROUGH: At the Year 8 social.

Taking on obstacles

For our last social, Year 8 went to an obstacle training ground at Bassingbourn.

There were different obstacles and some had water involved. For some of us it was our first social, and one we won't forget. When we arrived, we were greeted by the instructors. To begin with, they told us to run across the field and back. The weather then betrayed us and it started to rain heavily. Even though the weather wasn't as we hoped, it still didn't stop us from having fun. In fact, it made it more memorable.

We were put into groups and shown how to perform responsibly on each obstacle, and then had a chance to try them ourselves.

Some of the most popular obstacles were: a trapeze swing which went above water, a climbing wall and a fireman's pole, which you had to climb up a small rope ladder to get to, or run and jump up a steep wall.

Overall, the social was really fun, and we are extremely grateful to our Year Team for organising it! Thank you.

Tilly (8E), Chloe (8V), Megan (8V), and Lauren (8N)

Building bridges

Well done to our Year 10s who took part in the ZEISS Group Paper Bridge Building Challenge. Our students showed great creativity and determination with their prototypes, testing and final builds to see how much weight the bridges could take!



ON TEST: Seeing how much weight the bridges can take.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Are you thinking about a career in education?

We are actively seeking to recruit Teaching Assistants to work in several of our schools.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you are a parent or recent graduate or are looking to gain experience of working in an area that provides tailored support to students with an inclusive outlook.

The post of Teaching Assistant will offer excellent opportunities for training and development in a Trust that has professional development as a core value.

Positions available from 30 hours a week, term time only.

We currently have vacancies in several of our primary and secondary schools. To apply or obtain further information, visit: www.camtrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies

First taste of 'big school'

Cambourne Village College welcomed its new 2028 cohort of 290 pupils into the building on Thursday 6th July.

As they entered the Performance Hall for assembly with their Head of Year Mr Yousof, they were treated to songs performed by the wonderful school band. Year 6 then spent valuable time in their new tutor groups, making new friends and getting to know the staff and their way around. They all received a free reading book as a gift from the library and toured the school grounds. After break it was time to have some taster lessons. In art, they had a tour of the GCSE exhibition and created a mono print using oil pastels. In History they learnt all about the wonderful

treasures discovered in the Sutton Hoo burial ground. Miss Angell said: "The classes were brilliant and enthusiastic." One pupil left saying: "Wow, I didn't think I'd like History, but I loved that lesson." At lunchtime pupils mingled and had a taster of our pasta meal. They then spent the afternoon in more lessons including Design Technology, English, Drama, Science and Maths. Pupils got to do some fun experiments in Science, as well as improvisation games in Drama. As the pupils left, they were smiling and looking confident about the big change to secondary school. We look forward to welcoming them formally in September.

Sam Minnaar Primary Transition Coordinator



TASTER LESSONS: Year 6 pupils, supported by current Cambourne students experienced a range of subjects.

Practical lessons at local supermarket

With the rise in energy and living costs, students on the BTEC Cooking course have been looking at economising and budgeting.

As part of the challenge, each student was asked to buy ingredients in our local supermarket and make a delicious vegetable soup for a family of 5, with a budget of £3.

During the trip to Morrisons, the pupils also learnt how to pick the freshest ingredients, look for the best value for each ingredient, how to adjust their recipe to fit their budget and look at seasonal and sustainable products.

We are so proud that the pupils managed not only to produce a delicious leek and potato soup or butternut squash soup, which were full of flavour and colour, but also have change to spare from the budget! Students have also been looking at how bread and bakery products are made, both from a manufacturing and home point of view and were fortunate to be able to visit the in-store bakery at Morrisons. Morrisons operates a



BUDGETING AND BAKING: Students aid their coursework at Morrisons.

scratch-baking operation with these items, made in-store daily, sold alongside pre-made items. They produce more than 50 products, including their best-selling and popular tiger bloomers and soft rolls.

The pupils were privileged to be invited behind the scenes, where the hard work of producing these products began.

They learnt the full process, from weighing and mixing to proofing and baking, and saw the huge mixers and machines that help to make the vast bakery goods daily.

They saw the paste that made the wonderful cracking on the tiger bloomers and all the mixes to make the different breads and learnt that the bakers have to start work at 4am so that we can get our fresh bread in the morning. We would like to thank Jen and Mark, who are the main bakers in the store, for such an informative talk on how the bakery runs and the career path in food production.

Contest encourages language learning

Cambourne recently held a Duolingo competition where students were all given the chance to work as much as they could in two weeks on a language of their choice on the Duolingo language learning app.

Congratulations to Cara (8A), who won the Year 8 competition, and said: "On Duolingo I learnt the language Spanish because in the lessons I like to do Spanish, so I wanted to learn it at home too.

"I liked doing it because it let me understand Spanish more and because you could compete against each other and do it at any time of the day you wanted; I mostly did it after school.

"I would like to learn French in the future, and I have started it on Duolingo already.

"I would recommend Duolingo to other people who struggle with Spanish so they can understand it more. Duolingo goes through the stages one by one and slowly brings in new words for you to learn.

"You don't have to do the languages you do in school; you can learn others you want to learn. I would recommend it to anyone who likes to learn languages or who wants to go to countries that speak different languages.

I have introduced my family to Duolingo and they really enjoy it. Even my brother, who is only four, has started speaking Spanish too."

There were almost 300 entries from staff and students and the other winners were Adrian (10A), Daniel (9R), Caleb (7A) and Ms Fairfoul. Special mention to Rafay (7M) and Mohammad (7M), who were second and third in year 7 – both scoring more than anybody in the school except Caleb.



TOP SCORERS: The Year 7 trio outscored the rest of the competitors.



THANK YOU: Student council members showed their appreciation by baking themed cakes.

Cake and community

Members of Cambourne's school council members decided that they wanted to thank various agencies in the community.

They decided to make cakes, shaped as specific objects, which represent those agencies. So they designed a fire engine cake, a police hat cake and stethoscope cake – each to be delivered to the local police/fire stations and GP surgery. Pupils spent three afternoons on this project. On the first afternoon, they designed and baked an enormous number of sponges. On the second afternoon they decorated the cakes with whipped cream and icing and on the third afternoon, they delivered the cake (only to the GP surgery as the others had closed). Riona (10A) gave a speech to the GP surgery, which thanked them for their



service to the community. This was very well received by the staff and a photo was uploaded onto the surgery's Facebook account. Cake was also on the menu as part of the student council's plan for the visit to the Uplands Retirement Home. As well as tea, cake and sandwiches, students spent the afternoon chatting with the residents, playing chess and doing magic tricks (one student from Year 8). The GCSE music groups played stunning live music for the residents - some Grade 8 pieces on the piano, various contemporary songs as a band and a piano and violin duet. It was such a pleasure to hear! It was a fantastic afternoon and the pupils have been invited back to deliver more musical delights. The students were a credit to our school!



ENTERTAINING: Students played music and sang for residents at a local retirement home — as well as serving tea and cake!



Delight as college earns Rainbow Flag

After a year's work, Cambourne Village College was delighted to be awarded the Rainbow Flag Award at the end of June.

The national framework accreditation facilitates taking a positive whole-school approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion, focusing on six areas of the school: Skilled Teacher, Supportive Governors and Parents, Effective Policies, Inclusive Curriculum, Pastoral Support and Pupil Voice.

It is not a prescriptive process, but schools are encouraged to look at current strengths as well as areas to improve upon, with lots of supporting material and resources available, particularly to help with enriching the curriculum.

We are very proud to have achieved the award, and incredibly grateful to our wonderful students who have helped us shape policy, the curriculum and the level of acceptance and understanding around LGBTQ+ matters in the school, ultimately helping us achieve positive and meaningful LGBTQ+ inclusion.



Making a day of it

This June students from the Cambookworms and The Reading Room were excited to visit Camberton Village College for the annual Carnegie Award's Celebration event.

After months of reading and discussing the nominated books it was satisfying to spend the day with fellow Cam Academy Trust schools Comberton and St Peter's to share our opinions and take part in a variety of activities stemming from this. Cambourne won the literary knowledge quiz!

Another activity which was enjoyed by all was the creation and battling of literary-themed Top Trumps cards.

Of course, the day wouldn't be complete without a special guest. We were all very excited to meet Julian Sedgwick (winner of the Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Award last year and whose book *Tsunami Girl* is a firm favourite here at CamVC) and hear him read from his yet-to-be-published collection of Japanese ghost stories. The *Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros was announced as the winner of the Carnegie Medal for Writing in a ceremony livestreamed from The Barbican in London. The Carnegie Medal for Illustration went to Jeet Zdung for *Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*.

All in all it was an extremely successful day, we can't wait until next year!



GREAT EXCITEMENT: Author Julian Sedgwick was the guest speaker at the Carnegie Awards celebration day at Comberton.

Students venture 'over the border'

Earlier in the term, a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students went to 'Over the Border', an event at the Cambridge Literary Festival.

Novelist Ali Smith outlined the details of an opportunity for students to have their creative

writing published as part of The Litmus Creative Writing Project.

Booker prize winner Bernadine Evaristo read out her latest short story based on the experiences of an asylum seeker who became a social worker

in this country and has helped many child refugees.

It was a wonderful experience for our students to attend this event.



LITERARY LEARNING: Students attended the Cambridge Literary Festival to hear authors speak about and read their work.



Insight into work of those helping others

Friday July 7th saw a range of visitors coming to Cambourne Village College to talk to Year 10 students about their work in supporting people in need around the world. This was part of their Core RE provision, and the day was focused on the topic of Human Rights and Social Justice.

Students considered the local work of Jimmy's in Cambridge, looking at how they

HELP FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS:
From Jimmy's in Cambridge.



support people who are sleeping rough, alongside the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, who work to support refugees from around the world as they are placed in the local area, helping them to access local services and support them during their transition to the area.

Both of these sessions, along with those led by local faith speakers allowed students to think about how individuals locally work to help those in need and consider the skills and abilities they could help others with.

Students were also visited by Solutions Not Sides, who work to raise awareness of the conflict in the Israel-Palestine region.

During the sessions there is an introduction to the history of the region, before engaging with the idea of conflict resolution, allowing students to consider the different solutions that have been proposed and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

Students were also given the opportunity to hear from both an Israeli and a Palestinian, to hear about their personal experiences of the conflict, reminding them that the people most impacted by the conflict are individuals and families. Overall this was a really engaging day, with students discussing their sessions and learning as they moved around the school during the day, and the speakers spoke positively about the engagement and questions across the year group.

Funding booster . . .

Schools play a vital role in helping young people to be active, and at CamVC we are no different.

We want to engage everyone, young and old, in being physically active. We have been really lucky this year to be part of the Opening Schools Facilities programme. This additional investment from the Department for Education into the Active Partnership network is to help schools to deliver extra-curricular activities and open up their facilities for community use. This year the school has managed to gain funding to add four new outdoor table tennis tables to the school site.



These have been an instant hit with the students, at lunchtimes and after school. The funding has also gone into providing bats and balls for some of our alternative provision groups within the school to help drive up physical activity levels within these communities.

The outdoor table tennis tables are also accessible for any community member who is taking their child to an evening club at the school — by bringing a bat and ball, they can play table tennis while waiting for their child to finish the club. We invite more parents to take up this opportunity and hope to be running a deposit system at the main reception in the evenings for anyone wanting to borrow equipment.



Our second project of the year was to help boost attendance of our Nurture classes in attending PE clubs and being physically active.

A select group of students, on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes, play a range of adapted multi-sport games such as New Age Kurling, Boccia, Skittles and Polybat.

Thank you so much to our wonderful Teaching Assistants who oversee these clubs, allowing these students to not only develop their coordination and motor skills, but also their teamwork, resilience and support of each other.

We are due to move into Year 2 of the OSF funding next year and look forward to being able to fit out our new fitness suite with a range of both muscular strength/endurance and cardiovascular machines.

Hannah Curtis, Head of PE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES:
For students and members of the community thanks to new funding.

Never give up on your dreams — mentor

Cambourne's Sports Activators were treated to a morning of activity and inspiration from the college's athlete mentor as part of a programme organised by the Youth Sports Trust.

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Steve Frew not only talked to students but

put on some practical sessions highlighting the importance of focus, communication and not hesitating on your dreams.

Steve was 28 when he won gymnastics gold for Scotland on the rings at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester — one of five Games he competed at in a

career which saw more than 100 appearances for his country and Great Britain.

His win was all the more remarkable as he had only been able to devote himself to gymnastics on a part-time basis, due to limited funding for the sport in Scotland. He had not been considered as a possible medalist.

Sports Leader Tyla (10U) said: "The Sports Activators had a wonderful experience with former Commonwealth Games gymnast: Steve Frew.

"During the morning they played trust-building exercises and games that helped build confidence and teamwork, such as working as a team to stop the 'enemy' from reaching 'home base'.

"They did this by creating strategies and working as a team to find ways to prevent the 'enemy' winning.

"They also had to create a dance routine as smaller groups and worked on reaction time and mind games.

"These games and activities help build the sports activators' sportsmanship and gave them confidence when playing sports and hosting events which they will experience in their later years if they chose to become a Sports Leader.

"It is amazing that Cambourne Village College offers these opportunities to students because it gives students' confidence in themselves and working in a team environment."



WORKING TOGETHER: Sports Activators under the guidance of mentor Steve Frew.

Leading lights

This year, sports leaders had the amazing opportunity to run and umpire two Dynamos cricket festivals.

Leading up to the primary schools events, the sports leaders all took courses that taught them the rules and hand signals they needed to umpire these festivals, and they all did an amazing job! The sports leaders did a great job of running the matches and making sure they enforced fair play while making it enjoyable for everyone.

This was a great opportunity for the sports leaders to enhance their leadership skills while running a really fun event!

Nicole (10V)



TOP TEAM: Sports leaders who ran cricket festivals for primary schools.



FUN ON THE SLOPES: Students enjoy their snowsports trip to Andorra — after an horrendous journey.

Snow stopping students

The Easter holidays ski trip to Andorra was something we all looked forward to for months, and it certainly lived up to our expectations!

The journey to Andorra started off well from Cambourne on the Saturday, but unfortunately we got stuck at Dover and then in France. Although it felt like a bit of a nightmare at the time, we made the best of these situations, with games we could play as groups and other activities.

Once we got back on the road, the journey went very quickly and we reached our hotel early on the

Monday morning.

After breakfast on the Monday, we spent some time in our rooms before heading to get our ski equipment, then straight up the mountain for our first ski lesson.

We split into different ski/snowboard groups and began the week's lessons with our instructors. At the end of the day, we headed back to the hotel for dinner and that evening's event, which was a games night in the hotel.

For the rest of the week, we had loads of fun in our

ski/snowboarding sessions, and everyone improved massively, boosted by hot lunches on the mountain every day.

In the evenings, we did a lot of different social activities, including bowling, shopping, a pizza night and going to a trampoline park.

Thankfully, the bus journey was much less eventful on the way home, and we arrived on time, exhausted but having enjoyed the trip lots!

Betty (10V) and Eve (10B)

Giving golf a go

We are extremely fortunate and excited to have been working with Joel Rickard at Cambridge Country Club to run two blocks of six-week golf coaching courses for pupils at Cambourne VC.

Pupils travelled to the club at Bourn to develop their skills on the course driving range and practice greens.

Pupils learned about different golf formats and scoring and have practised this in the short games they played. Pupils gained confidence and made such progress in their golf game! If anyone would like to continue to learn and develop their golf, or take their first steps in the game, more information about the private and group coaching sessions can be found at <https://www.joelrickardgolf.com>

For more information about Cambridge Country Club and the golf services they offer, please visit <https://www.cambridgecountryclub.com>

If you were unable to join in the recent golf coaching sessions, keep an eye on the PE noticeboard as we plan on running these sessions again in the future!



LEARNING THE GAME: Students get to grips with golf.

Positively active

Girls Active is an amazing way to meet new friends and get active while having fun.

It's a positive environment to help reinforce confidence, friendships and community. The supportive atmosphere can also increase sporting abilities and introduce pupils to new sports and games.

I love Girls Active because of the excitement and enthusiasm everyone has when partaking in activities, and because of the new cheerful faces that Tyla, Nicole, Louisa and I get to see every week.

We are so excited to be part of such an amazing group and can't wait to see more pupils in September!

Eve (10B)



Fantastic futsal!

Fourteen Year 7 pupils took part in a futsal tournament hosted at St Ives Indoor Centre, on Friday 23rd June. It was a fantastic tournament with lots of brilliant goals scored by both the boys' and girls' team.

The boys finished fourth and the girls third overall. Futsal is something that is relatively new to both teams, and while the skills are similar to football, it took time to work out the tactics.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and want to practise and improve for next year!



FIRST EVENT: Year 7 players enjoyed their futsal.



A celebration of sport!

On a sunny Thursday evening, the CamVC PE department hosted their fifth annual Sports Awards.

The evening was all about celebrating sport, participation and our students' successes. It was a smart affair where we encouraged students and parents to dress up. It all started with several students performing musical items, a drinks reception and a chance to look at the Sports Activators posters as well as introductions to our sports leaders and activators. This was followed by the main event. We had more than 300 students and parents in the beautifully decorated hall. Head of PE Miss Curtis started the evening by talking about opportunities, success and belonging and then the awards were swiftly started. Halfway through the evening, we were incredibly lucky to have Alistair Patrick-Heselton talk to us

about a journey which started with a promising football career ended by a knee injury to the GB Paralympics team following a car accident that left him with a brain injury. Awards were given out to celebrate a range of different accomplishments and all students who won a specific award will have their name engraved on their trophy or plate which will be housed in the PE Department trophy cabinet. They also got a commemorative medal and an award winner's badge which can be sewn on to their PE kit. In addition to these trophies and cups, the PE Department handed out the half colours to more than 40 students to recognise those who have competed in school sport for at least two years in at least two different sports. We also celebrated all our Sports Activators and Sports Leaders across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

It was such a fabulous affair with 125 students invited to attend alongside one parent or carer. We really hope that in forthcoming years, we will be able to invite even more students who are getting involved in school sport and PE. The winners were — KS3 Sportsman of the Year: Ben (9C); KS3 Sportswoman: Evie (8O); KS4 Sportsman: Jonathan (10N); KS4 Sportswoman: Tyla (10U); Sports Leader: Louisa (11C); Sports Activator: Aryan (8E); Team: Under-16 Basketball - Adam (10V), Alp (11N), Beren (10O), Dan (10B), Elijah (10O), Jake (11N), James (10O), Joshiah (10R), Nate (9C), Theo (9N); PE Department Merit Award: Grace (9U) & Daisy (9U); Commitment Award: Evie (8O) & Anya (8O); Dancer of the Year: Gloria (7A); GCSE Student: Alex (11C); BTEC Student: Grace (11UC); Unsung Hero Award: Fintan (8U); Sporting Excellence Award: Preston (11O).



GLITTERING EVENING: Staff were delighted to hand out a range of awards to students of all ages.