

NEWS@CAM

CAMBOURNE VC AND SF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

DON'T STOP THEM NOW!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

March was a busy month indeed for us with our visit from Ofsted and I wanted to thank you all again for your ongoing support of the College and for overwhelmingly positive response about the school following the Ofsted questionnaire that went out. We have received feedback such as *'the curriculum is broad and ambitious for all pupils and is adapted around their reading ages'*. *"Students are polite, friendly and considerate, they feel safe and are clear on respect and can articulate what it means"* as well as *"the strategy and vision for the Sixth Form is impressive"* with *"98% of students from the student voice survey would recommend Cambourne Sixth Form to the current Year 11s"*. We hope to receive the final report around Easter time and will of course share it with all parents and carers at that time.

I also wanted to say a huge well done to all the pupils involved in *We Will Rock You* and the Easter Concert. The ability of our pupils in acting, singing, dancing and playing music is simply stunning and a joy to watch. Their hard work and dedication really showed through and was amazing to see.

Following on from recent feedback from parents, we have updated our uniform policy to provide additional clarity about fingernail length at school and for PE. This can be seen on pages 7 & 8.

We continue to make new and exciting staffing appointments, and we also have to say goodbye to some other members of staff and we thank them for all their hard work. And I also want to wish everyone a great two-week break, we have a staff training day on Tuesday 22nd April and all pupils will return to school on Wednesday 23rd April.

Lynn Mayes

Principal

KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

Mon 31st March – Fri 4th April

Yr10 Mocks continue

Thursday 3rd April

Yr9 Social (Eat N Bowl in St Neots from 3:30pm onwards)

Thursday 3rd April

Yr10 Social (Xtreme 360 from 4pm onwards)

Friday 4th April

Yr7 and Yr10 Full Reports out

Sat 5th – Sat 12th April

Snowports trip to Italy.

Mon 7th – Mon 21st April

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 22nd April

Staff training day

Wednesday 23rd April

All pupils return to school

Mon 28th April – Fri 2nd May

MFL GCSE Exams

Tues 29th – Wed 20th April

Photography GCSE Exams

Subscribe to our calendar for more key dates



ENRICHMENT SPRING 2



Our weekly registration, lunchtime and after school club timetable:

MONDAY		
LUNCH	Japanese	O12
	Language Leaders (Yr9)	IT03 (WkA)
	Prefects	O11 (WkB)
	Student Council	O11 (WkA)
AFTERSCHOOL	Art (GCSE)	ART01
	Athletics	(All)
	CamBookWorms	Library Mezz
	DT Studio Club (KS4)	DT
	Guitar and Ukulele Group	MU02
	Hong Kong Community Club	Activities Hall
	Maths Paper Society	Y10/11 Dining
	Orchestra	MU1
	Political Literacy (Select Yr10)	EN03

WEDNESDAY		
REG	Barbershop	MU01
LUNCH	History Revision (GCSE)	B14
	Language Leaders (Yr9)	IT03 (WkB)
	Russian Speaking Club	O15
AFTERSCHOOL	Art Club (KS3)	ART01 / 02
	Creative Writing Club	EN17
	Cricket Club	Field (ID/BD)
	Eco Council	O16
	ESOL	P15
	FIXTURES	
	Healthy Relationship Ambass.	P16
	KS4 Fitness (Sign up PE board)	Fitness Suite
	Maths Clinic (Sixth Form)	SF15
	Maths Revision (GCSE F)	Link
	Music Revision (GCSE)	MU01
	Rounders	Field (EH/LY)
	Sixth Form Netball	Hardcourts
	Taking Up Space	Library Mezz
	Translation Bee Club	O13
Vcert Catch-up	IT04	
Volleyball	Sports Hall (HT)	

FOR PE CLUBS: Remember to scan the QR code in the changing rooms to register your attendance for the club.

FOR ALL OTHER CLUBS: Please register with a member of staff

FOR PE CLUBS:

Boys – meet at back doors to **orange** changing rooms

Girls – meet at back doors to **green** changing rooms

TUESDAY		
LUNCH	Eco-Ambassadors Workshop	O16
	History Reading Club	B13
	We Are Molecules	O15
AFTERSCHOOL	Academic Guidance Club*	B13
	American Flag Football	Field (LM)
	Dance	D Studio (JR)
	Dodgeball	SH+Gym (LM/KR)
	Eco Textiles Club	DT06
	French Revision (Yr11)	O16
	German Revision Fndn (Yr11)	O16
	Jazz Band	MU03
	Junior Choir	MU01
	Kitchen Garden Club	Food01
	Latin Club	Drama 1
	Making History	ART01
	Mental Health Am/ Wellbeing Pre.	P16
	Science Revision (Yr11)	Sc19/ Sc20
	Tennis	Courts (GT)

THURSDAY		
LUNCH	A level History Society	SF1
	German Revision	O16
	Programming Club	COMP02
	Sparx Club	IT03
AFTERSCHOOL	Arabic (All years)	P15
	GCSE Art	ART01
	Healthy Relationship Ambass.	P16
	School Production	Main Hall
	Sixth Form Football	Astro
	Sports Leaders Opps./meetings	Check SL Board
	Young Carers	Link

FRIDAY		
LUNCH	Aspirational Fridays	EN02
	International Council	O15
	Minecraft Club	COMP01-04
	Spanish Spelling Bee	O11
AFTERSCHOOL	Board Games, Dungeons and Dragons, Warhammer	P16
	Chess Club (WkA)	P17
	Engineering Club (KS4)	DT05/ 06
	Photography (GCSE)	Photo Studio
	Senior Choir	MU01/ 03

+Please contact Dr Bell about string group

*Academic Guidance Club: Tues (AS-B13), Wed (AS-G03), Fri (L-O13) – Speak to Dr Pagomenos for more details.

2025 v2



The PE Clubs Timetable has been updated for the Summer Term (starting after Easter). We've updated the full enrichment timetable, but details of just the PE clubs can be found below!

PE Department Extra-curricular Clubs – Summer 1 2025

MONDAY 3-4pm

Athletics (LM, HT, GT, KR, LY, EH)

TUESDAY 3-4pm

American Flag Football – Field (LM)

Dodgeball – Sports hall and Gym (LM and KR)

Dance – Dance studio (JR)

Tennis – Courts (GT)

WEDNESDAY 3-4pm

FIXTURES

Cricket Club – Field (ID and BD)

Rounders – Field (EH and LY)

Vcert Catch up – IT04

KS4 Fitness – Fitness Suite (Sign up need – on PE board)

Volleyball – Sports Hall - (HT)

Sixth Form Netball - Courts (Sixth Formers)

THURSDAY 3-4pm

Sports Leaders Opportunities/meetings – Check the Sports Leaders Board

Sixth Form Football – Astro (Sixth Formers)

Boys – meet at the back doors to the **orange** changing rooms

Girls – meet at the back doors to the **green** changing rooms

Remember to scan the QR code in the changing rooms to register your attendance for the club.

WE WILL ROCK YOU



Now that this year's school production of *We Will Rock You* has finished, I can confidently say—we absolutely rocked it! With over 80 students involved in the cast, crew, and band, this show was a true celebration of talent, teamwork, and the sheer power of live performance.

From the very first rehearsal, it was clear that this group of students was ready to *break free* and give it their all. Their energy, dedication, and passion for the show turned our vision into a spectacular reality, and the end result was nothing short of *a kind of magic*.



The cast took to the stage like true rockstars, embodying every rebellious, hilarious, and heartfelt moment of the show. From powerhouse vocals in *Somebody to Love* to high-energy performances of *I Want It All*, every number was a showstopper. Our band provided the perfect rock-and-roll backbone, delivering Queen's legendary music with professional precision, and the backstage crew ensured that every scene change and lighting cue went off without a hitch—proving once again that we really do have amazing students both on and behind the stage.

Of course, no production comes without challenges, and there were definitely moments where we felt *under pressure*! But watching our students grow in confidence, find their rhythm, and support one another throughout the process was an absolute privilege. The commitment and camaraderie they showed was inspiring, and by opening night, I knew we had something truly special.

The response from our audiences was phenomenal. Seeing the joy, laughter, and



shocked faces in the crowd reminded us all why we do this. And as the final notes of *Bohemian Rhapsody* rang out, there was no doubt in my mind: our students had created something unforgettable.

So, to the incredible cast, crew, and band—thank you for making this production an experience we will never forget. You gave it your hearts, your voices, and your absolute best. You are the champions, my friends!

And now, after months of rehearsals, countless late nights... I think we need a little *radio ga ga* silence. Until next time—rock on!

Miss Phillips and the WWRY Team



SCHOOL UNIFORM 2024-2025

Our uniform is **Smart, Practical and Comfortable**

We believe that wearing uniform helps to create a sense of identity and community.

We expect pupils to wear their uniform with pride when at school, on journeys between home and school, and when representing the school on visits and fixtures.

Pupils who do not meet our expectations about uniform will be challenged and sanctioned accordingly.

The college makes the final decision as to what is or is not acceptable in all aspects of student's appearance.

Cambourne VC Uniform

	✓	✗
Sweatshirts	Branded grey College sweatshirt (Optional Black sweatshirt for Year 11).	No other sweatshirts, jacket or hooded top is permitted.
Polo Shirts	Branded College blue polo shirt. (Grey or purple for Prefects).	No other shirt is permitted.
Trousers	Plain black, formal, tailored, loose fitting, school trousers. These should sit on top of the shoe (see examples).	No skin-tight/stretchy/slim fit trousers, leggings or 'jeans' type trousers.
Skirts	Plain black school style skirt touching the knee or longer. <u>Note</u> : Skirts should be loose enough to remain at the knee (see examples).	No short, skin-tight, or stretchy skirts are allowed.
Shorts	Plain black knee length shorts of a formal style (see examples).	No sport shorts or other style or colour permitted
Socks / Tights	Plain black, grey, or white.	No other style or colour permitted
Shoes	Completely black leather or leather-style sensible shoes with a flat sole (see examples).	No contrasting branding, trainers, sandals, pumps, canvas/fabric style shoes, high heels, or boots.
Jewellery	One watch, one pair of small stud earrings, one ring No facial piercings.	No other visible jewellery is permitted. All jewellery and piercings must be completely removed for PE/Dance.
Hairstyles	Hair colour should be natural. Hair accessories should be functional and discreet.	Extreme hair colours or hairstyles as judged by the College are not allowed. No hats or bandanas allowed.
Make Up / Nails	Natural-looking make-up may be worn. Nail varnish is permitted.	False/acrylic nails. Long nails are not allowed - nail length should not go past the fingertips.
Outside wear	On their journey into school and in outside social spaces, pupils are allowed to wear all items of outdoor clothing, including coats, jackets, hoodies, scarves, gloves, and hats.	No outside wear inside the building Outdoor wear should not have any inappropriate slogans or logos
Earphones / Mobile phones	Students are allowed to bring these to school and will switch these off and place in schoolbag upon arrival to school.	No earphones / mobile phones to be visible on school site. These will be confiscated by staff if seen.

CAMBOURNE PE UNIFORM

Pupils are to come into school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE lessons and to change into their school uniform after lessons (unless pupils have PE on periods 5 and 6).

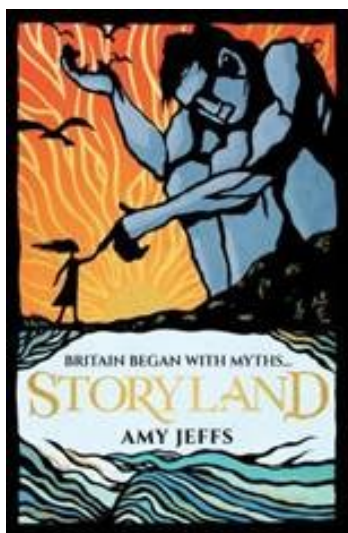
Compulsory PE items include a red T-shirt/ polo T-shirt and the red hooded jumper/fleece, as well as both indoor trainers and Astro-style trainers for football, rugby, and hockey on the 3G pitch.

Pupils who do not meet our expectations about PE kit will be challenged and sanctioned accordingly and asked to change into the correct PE kit.

	✓	✗
T-Shirt	Branded Red Cam VC T-shirt or Polo shirt, or sports activator T-shirt.	No other t-shirts or polo shirts of any colour permitted.
Jumper	Branded Red Cam VC Hoodie or Fleece, or Blue Sports Leader Hoodie	No other sweatshirts, hoodies or zip hoodies of any colour permitted.
Shorts	Plain black sports shorts, to be at least mid-high in length	No skin-tight shorts, such as cycling shorts, short shorts or shorts of other style or other colour permitted
Skort	Plain black sport skort	No other colour skorts permitted
Trousers	Plain black tracksuit trousers or jogging bottoms	No other colour sport trousers or trousers or joggers with Logos are permitted
Leggings	Plain black sport leggings or black leggings with CAM VC logo down the leg	No other colour leggings or large logos are permitted.
Trainers	Indoor trainers	No school shoes or pumps such as Vans, Converse, Air Force 1s.
Astro Trainers *	Outdoor "Astro-style" studs on the 3G pitch. Astros are training shoes that have soles with a higher-than-normal raised moulded pattern, for use on artificial grass surfaces. Boots need to have either dimpled soles, plastic studs or moulded blades.	No other trainers should be used. Metal capped, or metal studs are not permitted for health and safety reasons and for maintenance of the artificial pitch surface.
Jewellery / Nails	All jewellery and piercings must be completely removed for PE/Dance.	Long nails are not allowed - nail length should not go past the fingertips.
Shin Pads	Full size shin pads must be worn under long black socks for both football and hockey	No shin guards that only cover a small portion of the shin
Gum Shields	Gum shields to be worn for both Rugby and hockey	

* **Outdoor "Astro-style" studs:** These are training shoes that have soles with a higher-than-normal raised moulded pattern, for use on artificial grass surfaces. Boots need to have either dimpled soles, plastic studs or moulded blades; flat soled trainers, metal capped or metal studs are not permitted for health and safety reasons and for maintenance of the artificial pitch surface.

STORYLAND



On Friday 21st April Year 7 enjoyed an author visit from Dr Amy Jeffs about her book *Storyland: Britain began with myths*, a beautifully illustrated and amazingly written book about the folklore and mythology of the founding of Britain. She started by introducing herself to our Year 7s and talking a bit about medieval Britain: the maps they had of the world and how the English language started compared to what it is today. Year 7 listened as she told them how she fell in love with stories as she was working in the British library with their collection of ancient and medieval manuscripts. The stories not only written **on** the manuscripts but **of** the manuscripts themselves and their journeys throughout history inspired her to write her own books on the myths of Albion (the earliest name for Britain), the woman it was named after and the legend of the last giant Gogmagog who

was wrestled by the warrior Corineus. Dr Jeffs showed them how she had made her illustrations with lino pressing and they enthusiastically mimicked her with pens, pencils and paper – drawing their favourite characters in the legends she told them.

At the end of the event the students who had ordered books were able to meet her and get their books signed as well as ask her questions about her career as an author and illustrator. A few brave students brought their drawings up to show her what they'd done and to get them signed too! It was a wonderful afternoon that our students chatted excitedly about as they left at the end of the day.



Thank you to Dr Amy Jeffs for a delightful afternoon and Mrs Fielding-White for organising such and amazing afternoon for our lucky Year 7s! Thank you too to Mrs Payne, Miss Lynn, Mr Young, Mr Bellis, Mr Furbank and Miss Phillips for all your help on the day!



IFTAR



On Friday, 21st March, our school held a memorable Iftar event, bringing together students and staff to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan. Thanks to funding from Qatar Foundation International, this event was organised to recognise students who have made notable contributions as student leaders, been involved in extracurricular projects, or positively impacted the school community.

The event was open to students and staff of all faiths from Years 7-12, and welcomed over 80 attendees. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and share this special occasion.

Yahya, one of our talented students from the after school Arabic Club, marked the beginning of the Iftar by performing the adhan (the call to prayer). There were also speeches from Raseel, another member of the Arabic Club, and Reem, our EAL Prefect, who spoke about the significance of Ramadan and highlighted the importance of cultural understanding and inclusivity.

The Iftar began with the traditional breaking of the fast with dates, followed by a delicious meal featuring a range of Middle Eastern dishes. The menu included yalanji (stuffed vine leaves), kibbeh shamiah (lamb meatballs), safeha (baked pastry topped with lamb), bukhari and mandi rice, fattoush salad, and baklava for dessert.



The evening was a great reminder of the importance of community, respect, and unity. It was a chance for students and staff to come together, share a meal, and celebrate the diversity that makes our school so special. A big thank you to Qatar Foundation International for their support, and to everyone who made the event such a success. We look forward to more opportunities to gather and celebrate the richness of our Cambourne community.

إلى جانب العبادات ، يشهد رمضان أجواءً اجتماعية رائعة. تجتمع العائلة والأصدقاء على موائد الإفطار ، حيث تُسود المحبة والتآخي ، وتُبدل جهود كبيرة في مساعدة المحتاجين من خلال التبرعات وتوزيع الطعام على الفقراء.

Raseel (Yr10)

مارچ کو، ہمارے اسکول نے قطر فاؤنڈیشن انٹرنیشنل کے تعاون سے سال 7-12 کے 80 سے زیادہ حاضرین کے ساتھ ایک 21 خصوصی افطار تقریب کی میزبانی کی۔ اس موقع پر رمضان کی روح کو منایا گیا اور ایسے طلباء کو تسلیم کیا گیا جنہوں نے بطور رہنما یا غیر نصابی سرگرمیوں کے ذریعے مثبت کردار ادا کیا۔ عربی کلب کے ایک طالب علم یحییٰ نے اذان دے کر تقریب کا آغاز کیا۔ اس کے بعد رسیل اور ریم کی تقریریں ہوئیں، جن میں رمضان کی اہمیت اور ثقافتی تفہیم اور شمولیت کی اہمیت پر روشنی ڈالی گئی۔

شام میں مشرق وسطیٰ کی ایک لذیذ دعوت پیش کی گئی، جس کا آغاز کھجور کے ساتھ افطاری سے ہوا۔ مینو میں کبہ شامیہ (بھیڑ کے گوشت کے گولے)، یلنجی (بھری ہونی بیل کے پتے)، سیفہا (میعنے کی پیسٹری)، چاول کے مختلف قسم کے پکوان، فیتوش سلاد، اور میٹھے کے لیے بکلاوا جیسے پکوان شامل تھے۔ تقریب نے برادری، احترام اور تنوع کا جشن منایا، اس اتحاد کو ظاہر کرتا ہے جو ہمارے اسکول کو بہت منفرد اور خاص بناتا ہے۔ یہ واقعی ایک یادگار شام تھی!

Syeda, Yr10, International Council member



FILMS FOR EASTER



With the end of the Spring Term and a chance to have some time as a family to sit down and relax (and possibly shelter from the April showers that are sure to arrive), I have put together a few recommendations that are firm family favourites, guaranteed to make you laugh, inspire you and hopefully make you feel just a bit better inside:

Moana 2, available on Disney+, does not quite have the absolute bangers of songs that the first film did (Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical stylings are sorely missed here) BUT it does have a whole lot of heart, teamwork and a beautiful message about what unites us as human beings. A lovely film for all the family to enjoy together. Can I get a chee-hooooo!

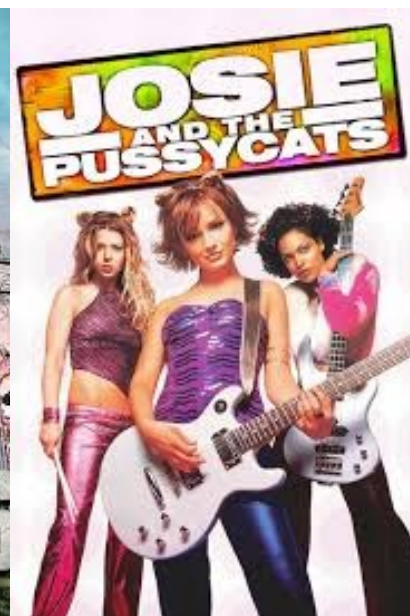
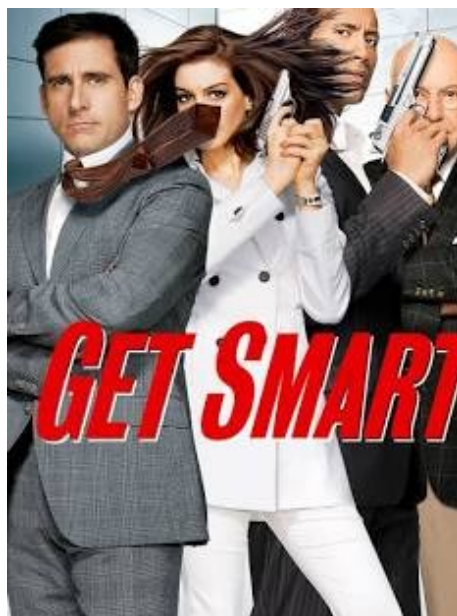


Mufasa, available on Disney+, is the prequel to The Lion King and gives us what Moana 2 lacks – the miraculous musical stylings of the immensely talented Lin-Manuel Miranda! It tells the tale of Mufasa's early days and of his blossoming relationship with the lion that would become Scar. It's beautifully shot, has amazing songs and is just a wonderful family film!

Get Smart, available on Netflix, is a hilarious tale about the accidental release of all active agents in the CIA-type organisation named Control in America (this would *never* happen, right?). With all agents forced 'underground', Max (Steve Carell) must take up the mantel as the new spy-on-the-block and work out how to fight the bad guys and win the heart of Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway). Full of typical Carell-comedy, this film is funny, highly entertaining and even features The Rock with hair, what more could you want?!

Love and Monsters, available on Netflix, is rather an unusual sci-fi, in that it is both a comedy and a romance movie at the same time. Seven years after surviving the monster apocalypse, Joel (Dylan O'Brien) decides to leave his bunker of safety in a quest to reunite with his ex. Will he survive the post-apocalyptic wastelands? Will he survive the monsters hiding at every corner? Will he finally get the girl and build the future he dreams of? A great movie with more than a few jump-scares but even more laughs!

Josie and the Pussycats, available on Amazon, is a personal choice for me – this was a firm favourite when it came out (largely because there is a hilarious reference to one of my all-time favourite teen films 'Can't Hardly Wait' in it!) Based on the 1970s animated TV show, Josie and the Pussycats tells of a girl group that find themselves embroiled in a plot to brainwash America's youth in a plot to take over the world. It's silly, funny and has some awesome music, great family viewing!



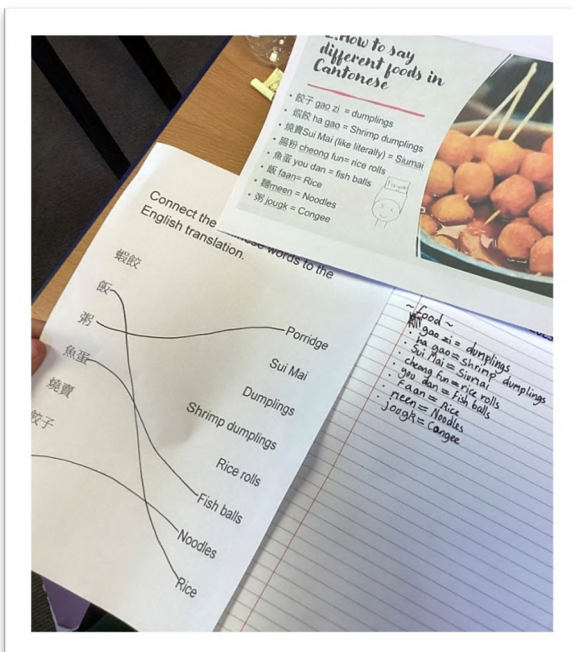
LANGUAGE LEADERS

9
YEAR

Earlier this term, Cambourne VC Language Leaders visited Monkfield Park Primary School to teach both French and Cantonese to Year 6 pupils. They began with French, teaching the students basic greetings and helping them practise simple conversations. After that, they moved on to Cantonese, where they learned greetings and food-related vocabulary. Both the Language Leaders and the pupils had a great time and came away having learned lots of new skills!

La semaine dernière, les 'Language Leaders' sont allés à l'école primaire Monkfield Park pour enseigner le français et le cantonais aux élèves de l'année 6. Ils ont commencé par le français, et les élèves ont appris des salutations. Ensuite, ils ont appris des salutations en cantonais, suivies de mots pour des plats traditionnels ! Les élèves de Monkfield Park et les 'Language Leaders' se sont bien amusés. C'était une expérience mémorable !

Jaime, Year 9, Language Leader



Cambourne VC的語言主管去當地小學教法語和粵語。我們在PowerPoint上學習了課程，然後想把我們學到的知識傳授給其他人。

我們的語言領袖去了蒙克菲爾德，教了六年級。我們從法語開始，教孩子們基本的問候語，並互相交談。然後，我們轉到粵語，學習基本的問候語和食物！我們和孩子們都玩得很開心，那天學到了一些東西。

Ranee (Yr 9)



BLETCHLEY PARK



On the 14th March (Pi Day!), 80 enthusiastic mathematicians went on a trip to Bletchley Park. Known for its groundbreaking work during WW2, and the development of ciphers and cryptography, we invited along some of our History and Computing teachers too! Whilst there, we had a guided tour, some free time and a codebreaking masterclass using the morse code. All students that attended were a credit to our school. Here is what they said:

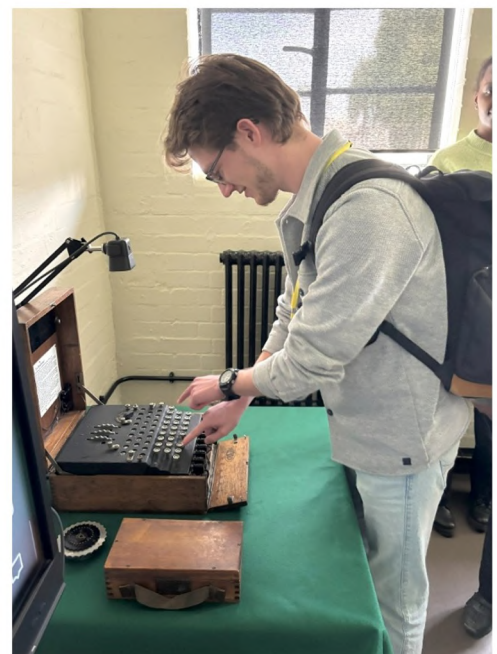
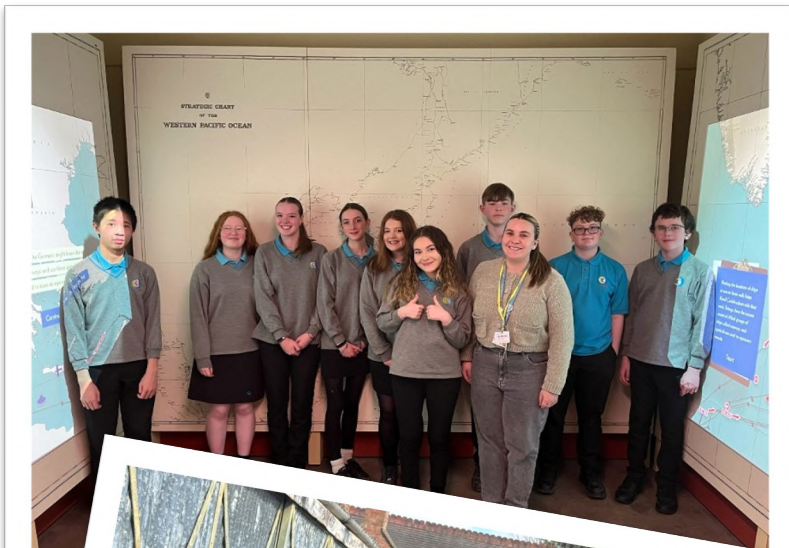
The trip to Bletchley was awesome! I learned so much about maths, computing and history and about women in the war. We learned all about the enigma machine: how it worked and how they cracked the codes. There were something like 600 sextillion combinations it could do! We also learned how to read morse code. It was also nice to be able to explore the park more leisurely with our teachers and Mr Prichard made it all interesting!

Zaina and co., Year 9



I really enjoyed the trip to Bletchley Park. I particularly liked seeing, hearing about and reading about the Bombe machine – it looked so cool and interesting. Did you know it can decode a message in under 2 hours? I also like History lots so it was a good trip to go on.

Boedy, 90



🏀 FASTBREAK BASKETBALL EASTER CAMP 2025 🏀

📍 Cambourne Village College

📅 Dates & Age Groups:

Sunday, 6th April – 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Ages 14-18)

Saturday, 12th April – 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Ages 8-12)

Saturday, 12th April – 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM (Ages 11-14)

Sunday, 13th April – 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Ages 14-18)

- ✅ Skill Development – Dribbling, shooting, defense
- ✅ Fitness & Agility – Speed & conditioning training
- ✅ Fun & Teamwork – Build confidence & play in a great environment
- 👨🏫 Coached by: Cezary & Georges
- 🚫 Limited Spaces – Register Now!

www.fastbreakbasketball.co.uk

<https://www.fastbreakbasketball.co.uk/camps>

<https://www.fastbreakbasketball.co.uk/fastbeak-sports-shop/book-a-session>



LIBRARY NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY



On Thursday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day. Truth be known we'd actually started celebrating early with our scavenger hunt starting on the Monday. It was great to see students scouring the school for the next clue. On the Thursday, we held our first ever DEAR - Drop Everything And Read. Throughout the day, lessons were paused and staff and students read. Some read personal books, others articles provided by their teachers, and some read aloud in groups. It was a joy to see so many people engaging with reading right across the curriculum, especially out on the sports fields.

We also had some additional challenges on the day, with a computer science code breaker on our CATalogue homepage and paper airplane making, ready for a future display.

During the fortnight surrounding World Book Day, we sent many students home with free books and/or book tokens, hoping to take advantage of the reading energy at home. We hope our students have enjoyed their books this year.



CARNEGIE

The Carnegie Shortlist for 2025 has been announced. All titles are available to borrow from the library. If you would like to read and discuss the titles with other keen readers, please come to the Library Mezzanine on Mondays after school and join the CamBookworms reading group!

The Carnegie Medal for Writing Shortlist 2025 graphic features the Carnegie logo at the top left. Below it, the text 'Medal for Writing Shortlist 2025' is displayed. The graphic also includes several book covers from the shortlist: 'All That It Ever Meant' by Blessing Musariri, 'Glasgow Boys' by Margaret McDonald, 'King of Nothing' by Nathaniel Leesore, 'Play' by Jessie Bell, 'Little Bang' by Kelly McCaughrain, 'The Final Year' by Peter Goodfellow, 'The Things We Leave Behind' by Clare Furniss, and 'Treachle Town' by Brian Conaghan. The background is blue with white geometric shapes.



DESIGN VENTURA

Our Yr10 students Chloe, Hannah, Sofiia and Ola travelled to London on Tuesday 25th March for the final of Design Ventura with their product 'Loopy Loom'. They are one of just ten groups selected from hundreds of entries nationwide! Design Ventura, organised by the Design Museum, challenges students to design a product in response to a common brief. The winning product will be professionally developed and sold in the Design Museum shops, with profits going to a charity of their choice.

After introductions and practice, students pitched their ideas to a panel of judges. They delivered a convincing, professional and well thought through presentation and received fantastic feedback from the judges. Winners will be announced at the Design Ventura Celebration & Awards Event on April 23rd.

This has been an incredible opportunity for our students to develop their design and presentation skills and experience the professional world of design. They have worked extremely hard and should be very proud of their achievement!



Raising money for DT machinery

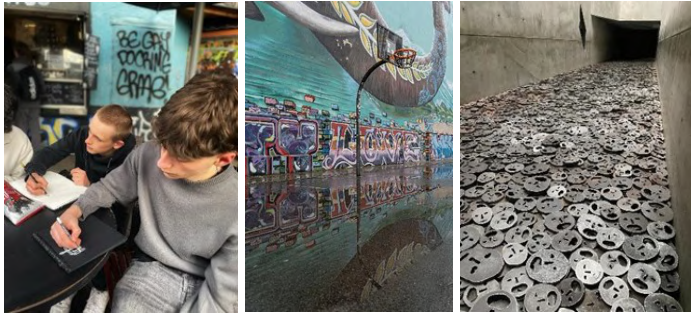
Ms Elwell is taking on a challenge to raise money for machinery from the Sustainable Design Studio. She will be rowing down the Orange River, wild camping along the way, for about 65km. Her canoe will be her home for the 4-day, 4-night trip during the Easter Holidays.

The trip starts at the Amanzi base camp in Noordoewer, Namibia. Find out more about the trip here: www.amanzitrails.co.za/

No matter the amount, please donate if you can: <https://gofund.me/e4803d12>



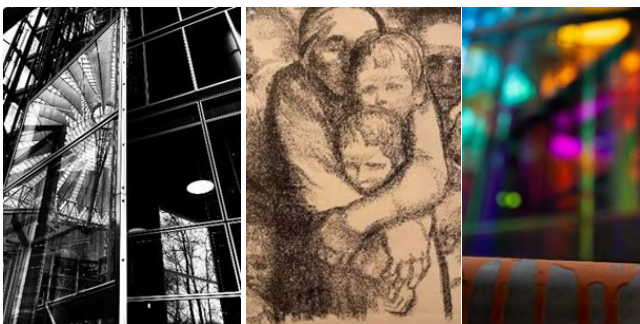
BERLIN



The Year 10 Berlin trip is one of the Art and Photography department's annual highlights. Setting out before dawn is tough but certainly pays off. We were in the city centre by lunch time, the bleary eyes gradually clearing as pupils realise they are in a really special place. Berlin offers so much - Imperial grandeur to communist era concrete austerity, industrial dereliction alongside majestic parks. What the pupils always notice first though, is that Berlin just feels different. For a capital city, it's incredibly friendly and nobody is in a rush.

After checking in and lunch at the hostel, we headed straight to the East Side Gallery. The gallery is actually open air, 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. From there, we visited the RAW complex, a repurposed train yard now utilised by Arts collectives, the perfect backdrop for photoshoots and opportunity to sit, sketch and eat waffles, crepes and pizza.

The first afternoon concluded with a visit up the TV Tower. The ultimate piece of cold war communist propaganda, the tower is the 4th tallest structure in Europe and looms over what was West Berlin. It offers incredible, 360 degree views across the entire city, giving staff a chance to point out some of the places we were to explore in coming days.

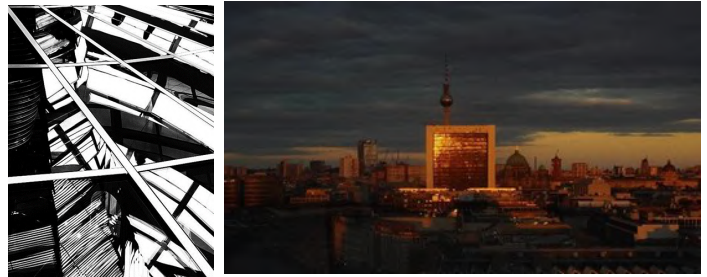


Day 2 started with a leisurely breakfast then straight to the U-Bahn. After few pit-stops to enjoy the street art we arrived the Jewish Museum. Designed by Daniel Libeskind, the Jewish Museum is a masterpiece in architectural design and a real highlight of the trip. Floors slope awkwardly, corners narrow into acute angles and darkness and walls loom into caverns. Perhaps most confrontational in the space is 'Fallen Leaves', a permanent installation that you'll hear before you see. The clanging sound is haunting, created by visitors awkwardly tiptoeing across 10,000 cast iron pain stricken, contorted faces strewn across the floor of a vast concrete void. To take steps across it yourself sears the emotive contexts and meanings into your memory.

Across the city again, we were given a dependable warm welcome by Lutz and Ha at the Backerei café, the perfect place to refuel and relax. Knowing we were coming, Ha had made sure there were plenty of delicious homemade rolls, cakes and pastries!

After lunch, Mr Robertson and Mrs Vassallo took the Art students to the Kathe Kollwitz museum in Charlottenburg. Kollwitz is one of the most revered and loved German expressionist artists – a tireless campaigner for equality and a leading voice against fascism. While the artists absorbed the incredible collection of her work, Mrs Minnaar and myself took the photographers to the Sony Centre in Potsdammplatz. The centre is an incredible spot to explore reflection, colour and composition in photography.

After dinner at the hostel, we hit the streets again with a late evening walk up to the Brandenburg Gate, past the memorial to the 'Burning of the Books'. The gate is a Berlin icon and always most spectacular at night.



Day 3 started with a 30 minute train ride out of the city to the incredible Tegel Murals. 10 mammoth murals adorn the 13 story 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, enjoying nature and people playing music in the morning sun, working up an appetite for lunch in the cafes and ice cream parlours.

Heading back into the city centre, we visited the Holocaust memorial, a forest of hundreds of tomb like concrete blocks. The memorial is equal measures chilling and inspiring and a bold, brave reminder of Germany's willingness to face it's recent, dark history.

The day concluded with a sunset visit to the Reichstag dome. It's the perfect way to end the trip. Designed by English architect Norman Foster, the dome is made of glass, with a spiral staircase allowing access to a viewing gallery at its top, offering incredible views across the city.

Day 4 and farewell to the city. An early start, breakfast and bidding Vahap and the team at Pegasus hostel goodbye until next year. One last train ride out of the city and, seemingly in a blink, we're back at Stansted.

The photos say a lot about the 'highlights' and Berlin certainly offers so many fascinating places to visit. For me, though, the highlights are always getting time with the pupils and the wonderful department staff. The pupils were amazing, so willing to be open and warm. Whether practising their German in the kebab shop or quietly reflecting on cultural sites designed to challenge perceptions and ideas, they all made me extremely proud to be part of our community.

SPORTS

YR5/6 GIRLS FOOTBALL

On Tuesday 4th March a team of Sports Leaders from CamVC attended the CB23 Yr5/6 Girls Football Tournament. Our pupils helped to run the event and acted as referees and match officials. They were a credit to our school - well done!



YR7/8 SPORT SOCIAL

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the Yr7/8 Sport Social on Wednesday 5th March. It's pretty clear from these photos that much fun was had!



SIXTH FORM

PSYCHOLOGY LECTURE

On Wednesday 26th March, we were delighted to host a psychology lecture by staff from Kneesworth House on mental health and forensic psychology in our Sixth Form Lecture Theatre.

Our guest lecturers were: *Sharon Jones*, a Consultant Forensic Psychologist (Head of Psychology) at Kneesworth House Hospital. Sharon has a background in forensic psychology, having worked in HM Prison Service, independent forensic psychology practice and forensic hospital settings. *Tanya Bailey*, a Principal Forensic Psychologist with experience in both prison and forensic inpatient settings. And, *Sehar Butt*, an Assistant Psychologist at Kneesworth House, currently working in the Acute and Low Secure wards.



Sharon, Tanya and Sehar discussed case studies of different mental health and forensic presentations, exploring how patients are assessed and treated using a range of psychological assessments and treatments, and the influence of their criminal histories.

The lecture provided our students with a fascinating insight into forensic psychology and how it is applied in the real world. We had a good turnout of Yr10, Yr11 and Yr12 students at the lecture. They were highly engaged and showed their curiosity by participating wholeheartedly in the Q&A session at the end.



RED NOSE DAY

We rounded up a few of our students and staff for a Red Nose Day picture, thank you to all those who joined in and/or donated - CamVC and SF raised £590 for Comic Relief.

