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CHICAGO IS RIP-ROARING SUCCESS — PAGES 10 & 11

Head prefects selected

Comberton has the latest in a long line of new head prefects.

Leo (10V), Rufus (10V), Josie (10E) and Aurora (10M) were selected after a lengthy application process which they have now written about:

"The first part of the prefect application process was completing the form to submit. We had to put our name, then our position of choice if we didn't get accepted as a head prefect.

"We then had to get five nominatatus for the role, two of which had to be a member of staff.

"We thought this part was going to be the most difficult, however everyone was happy to sign the form.

"After we had nominations, we wrote which subjects we were taking, along with our predicted grades.

"To complete the form, we wrote down our previous awards and qualifications, as well as achievements that showed evidence of leadership skills.

"As part of our applications, we had to submit a letter addressed to Mr Law. The first prompt we were given was 'explain how and why you would be a good role model'.

"In the next section, we were asked to describe a situation where we worked as part of a team.

"This could be a situation inside or outside school, as long as it is an example of you working well with others, for example, on the school council.

In the third paragraph, we had to write about someone we viewed as a good

leader. This person can be famous or someone you know personally like a family member, as long as you include why you view them as a good leader and what you have learnt from them.

"Finally, we needed to explain what we believe is the importance of having head prefects in the school.

"Although it can be challenging writing a response to these questions, it can really help to include examples you feel passionate about, especially when describing someone you look up to.

"After our applications were accepted, we were invited to an interview. The panel consisted of the Principal, Mr Law, our Head of Year, Ms Phull, the Chair of Governors, Mrs Banks, and Mr Freeman, Assistant Principal.

"Going into it, we were expecting this to be an incredibly nerve-racking part of the application process as it involved answering unprepared questions in front of very senior members of staff.

"However, our worries were misplaced as it turned out to be an enjoyable experience that allowed us to express our views about the role. It also helped us to gain an understanding of the role of a head prefect."

Most of the questions we were asked were about the experiences we listed in our application letter and in all the interview took about 10 minutes.

"The final part of the head prefect interview process was a presentation that we gave to the Year 11 head prefects.

"The idea was that we should give the presentation on something we felt passionate about.

"The purpose of the presentation was to show that we could speak well to people we don't know, as this is a quality needed to be a head prefect.

"After giving the presentation, the head prefects asked us a series of questions, on our Powerpoint, but also on the form and letter we submitted.

"There was also an opportunity for us to ask them some questions about the head prefect role, which was helpful."

It was then down to the selection team to select four from the 10 they interviewed.

Mr Law said: "The process of choosing a team was particularly difficult this year, due to both the high number of applications and the high quality of the applicants.

"These were whittled down to a final 10, who all gave a presentation and were interviewed.

Choosing the final four for this team was a long conversation and much deliberation was needed. The six not selected were all excellent and will also be very busy as senior prefects leading the other prefect teams."



NEW TEAM: The next quartet of head prefects has been chosen from Year 10 applicants.

Celebrating the end of a busy term

Year 8 were today having a talk from a STEM ambassador for the East of England.

Dr Soudabeh Imanikia, PhD, MRSB, Bye-Fellow in Biological Sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, and Science Manager, Molecular Diagnostics at Astrazeneca, was discussing her journey into research and the work currently being done on cloning.

Dr Imanikia lists her research themes as cancer

genomics, molecular diagnostics, protein quality control and ageing and neurodegenerative diseases.

On her Girton College profile page, Dr Imanikia said: "As a Molecular Diagnostics expert, I use my expertise in late oncology clinical trials." The Science Department arranged the visit to celebrate the end of a busy term with Year 8 having completed their tests earlier in the week.



GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Soudabeh Imanikia.

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POWER-FUL EDUCATION: Some Year 11 students had a chance to visit the new energy centre and get up close to the rooftop solar panels as the project has been integrated into the curriculum.

Green scheme goes live

The multi-million pound 18-month innovative renewable heat network at Comberton Village College is now up and running.

The £3.1m project means the college is now heated by Ground Source Heat Pumps, which have replaced the aging oil boilers, reducing the carbon emissions from heating the extensive site by 70%.

In addition to achieving significant carbon savings, the college is expected to see a reduction in cost of running the low carbon heating system compared to oil.

The project has been a collaboration between The Cam Academy Trust, which oversees the college, Cambridgeshire County Council and Bouygues Energies & Services.

The college's heat network supplies 11 plant rooms across the site. Heat is supplied by two ground source heat pumps which are connected to 60, 200m deep boreholes, providing a peak of 705kW of heating to the college.

The project has been funded by £1.9 million government grant from Phase 2 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and a £1.2 million investment from Cambridgeshire County Council.

The PSDS scheme was initiated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and delivered by Salix Finance. PSDS aims to put the public sector at the forefront of decarbonising buildings in the UK.

Councillor Lorna Dupré, chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee, said: "Our vision is to deliver net-zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire as a county by 2045.

"The Comberton Village College project is a great example of how the county council is working in communities with stakeholders like Bouygues Energies & Services and the Cam Academy Trust to deliver this.

"The low carbon heat network not only ensures that we are doing our part to tackle climate change, but is also a great example of how to retrofit low carbon heating on other sites."

Trust Chief Executive Stephen Munday said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been able to help to oversee this major development at Comberton.

"From every perspective, this has to be judged a very good and a very desirable way forward. We are strongly committed to green environmental approaches across all our schools, both in terms of education and approaches to our sites. This is a very powerful example of this.

"It also makes complete sense in terms of future energy costs and putting more of our future funding into education provision rather than high energy bills. It is the sort of investment in public buildings that many of us would want and hope to see



CLOSER LOOK: Students have a detailed tour of the energy centre.

across our country moving forward."

Salix Finance Programme Manager, Kirsty Adamson said: The Comberton Village College is a truly collaborative project which will help Cambridgeshire County Council meet its ambitious net zero targets. Hopefully, this will inspire, not only other schools to decarbonise their estates, but of course the future generations coming up through the education system."

Miles Messenger, Energy Engineering Director at Bouygues Energies & Services, stated: "The project will not only deliver significant energy and cost savings but is testament to the Authority's and the college's commitment to addressing the climate emergency. "As an energy and engineering partner, we've supported in translating this commitment into a successful project. This unique scheme is just one example of how we can deliver a significant long-term carbon reduction safely and with minimal disruption to the site's operation in a live school environment."

The low carbon heat network will reduce carbon emissions from the college's heating by 248 tonnes of CO2e (a 70% reduction). The 141kW solar photovoltaic arrays previously installed by Bouygues Energies & Services across three roofs also help to power the heat pumps.

An official opening event took place last week to invited guests, senior staff, Trustees, governors and representatives from the project's partners.

It included a presentation by Year 11 Eco Group members Emily (11M) and Lily (11R), who spoke eloquently and enthusiastically about the project and also their hopes for future measures for further decarbonisation, including adding solar panels on more roofs.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN? Students learn about what the display panel shows then follow up with a task.



THE WONDERS OF ROME: Students took a walking tour which included many of the most famous sights.

In Roman footsteps . . .

The RPE department recently ran our GCSE trip to Rome, on which we explored the philosophical and religious past and present of the Italian capital.

As well as being of huge interest, this provided valuable information and experiences supporting the study of RPE at GCSE.

The trip included a walking tour of the Roman Forum and Colosseum, where students considered the intersection between the early Church and the ancient Roman world.

The group learnt about the transformation of many ancient pagan sites of worship into Christian sites of worship as Christianity gained a foothold in Western thought and societies.

The Pantheon, which students saw during the walking tour which also included the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps and Piazza Novena, provided a perfect example of the complex and layered religious and philosophical history of Rome.

Furthermore, they visited the Catacombs di Santa Domitilla, which provided another opportunity to explore the history of early Christianity and life in ancient Rome.

Finally, we had a guided tour of the Vatican museums, St Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, all of which were breathtaking in their richness of history and their beauty.

The students learnt about the seat of the Catholic Church throughout the last 2000 years to the present

day.

Many students held out high hopes of seeing the Pope, however, he must have been having a busy day because there was no sight of him.

On top of their tour to the Vatican, students also saw the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore, which has held mass every day since the 5th century!

The students were a credit to themselves, and it was great to be with them over the three days.

Thank you to all of the staff involved with the running of this trip; it wouldn't have been possible without you.

Rebecca Kirby, RPE Department

Famous battle recreated in very different way

Year 7 did a fantastic job of recreating the 1066 Battle of Hastings using Playmobil.

Working in groups, they put together six scenes to tell the story of the battle, and their teachers were very impressed by students' enthusiasm, historical accuracy, and attention to detail!



BATTLE LINES: Students work with IT and Playmobil to get their scenes historically accurate.

London trip helps with exam preparation

Year 11 Art and Photography GCSE students had an opportunity to visit the Tate Modern to see the Cezanne exhibition and the permanent collection or the Photographers' Gallery to see the collection there.

The art students visited the Tate collections, while the photography students visited the Gallery.

The photographers mixed their exhibitions with a 'shoot' in the area around Oxford Street.

They were able to collect lots of primary source material for their exam project from the photoshoot.

Art students combined visiting and seeing the art works in situ at the Tate with information-gathering for their chosen exam theme.

They documented the trip and their chosen artists in their sketchbooks and also had time to sketch ideas inspired by the trip.

All of the attending students really benefited from the trip, and it really helped them to start their exam project with this great experience.

Those students unable to attend were tasked to complete a double-page spread of a virtual museum of their choice and complete sketches and research for their exam project during their lessons and for homework.

After the long break from this sort of visit due to the pandemic, it was great for staff and students to get out and about again.



SKETCHING: Students jot down ideas inspired by the trip.

The power of reading

It was fantastic to see so many students engaging with all things literary in celebration of World Book Day on the 2nd March.

With activities including a KS3 Treasure hunt across the school, a quiz, the English department dressed up as heroes and villains, and a book-themed bake-off — the power and fun of reading was certainly obvious! The WBD Book Bake Off competition was held in the library and what a great competition it turned out to be! Students were invited to create a cake with a book theme design.

Ranging from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to *Lord of the Flies* all tastes were catered for, and the results were stunning. We want to say a BIG thank you to all the students who entered the competition. All the cakes were of a very high standard and the creativity was outstanding. With almost 30 cakes being entered, the decision making was very difficult... but we finally came up with winners:

KS3 — Winner: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by Martha (70), **Highly commended:** *The Hobbit* by Ola (7B), **Highly commended:** *Paddington* by Alex (9B).

KS4 — Winner: *Lord of the Flies* by Ben and Ruby (10M), **Highly commended:** *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Cody (10O).



WORLD BOOK DAY ACTIVITIES: The English Department dressed up while student made book-themed cakes!



Hands-on visit aids urban and rural fieldwork



WATERWORKS: Students measure the depth, width and velocity of the river.

Year 11 geographers spent two days in the Midlands looking at the regeneration of Birmingham and collecting data of a river to meet the GCSE specifications of completing one physical and one human geography fieldwork enquiry.

Anna (11I) preferred the day spent in the city. "The Birmingham and Ash Brook trip was something many of us geography students had been excited about since the beginning of the year," she said.

"My favourite day of our trip was the first day, which involved visiting Birmingham city centre.

"Here, we carried out environmental quality surveys before having a lunch break, and then started our public perception survey.

"This involved us interviewing members of the public on their opinions of the areas we had visited. Although we did get some rejections, which did hurt our egos a little, we carried on asking, resulting in some interesting conversations which we recorded.

"Once we had completed all 30 interviews, we were allowed free time before returning to the coach with our new-found 'friend', a

Thomas the Tank Engine balloon.

"We then headed to the field centre to stay the night."

Diya (11M) was a fan of Day Two, where students completed river work.

She said: "The second day consisted of river fieldwork, where we firstly completed an introduction and plan to our investigation in a classroom, before making it to Ash Brook so that we could start the investigation.

"We completed eight samples at different stages of the river's course, measuring the velocity, depth, and width at each stage.

"There was some adverse weather — rain and wind on the day — meaning river levels were slightly higher than usual but fortunately no-one fell in, and we were able to successfully collect data for the samples.

"This was definitely my favourite day because, apart from a few missing corks taken away by the river's current and a pond in my wellies, it was an enjoyable day where we could experience first-hand how the river's characteristics changed over its course."



THE CHANGING FACE OF BIRMINGHAM: Students carried out two different surveys in a city undergoing significant regeneration work.



Endless opportunities revealed to Year 11

The Year 11 Careers Carousel took place in the Performance Hall earlier this term.

Students rotated between 32 tables of their choice to learn more about different industries and career paths, university, school leaver programmes, apprenticeships, travelling and gap years.

We welcomed back 18 Comberton Village College and Sixth Form Alumni who shared their experiences with the Year 11 pupils.

Alumni attendees included William Woodard, Joe Johnson, Henry Harrison, Lucy Smith, Rosanna Poll, Jack Shanks, Kimberley Thompson, Eve Morris, Kira Herbert, Harvey Agg, Rachel Mwangi, Will Mitchell, Louise Shorten, Katie Brown, Emily Smith, Azeem Sher, Lewis Gladwell and Alex Booth.

The following is a selection of the experiences that the alumni shared with Year 11 pupils:

William Woodard, who finished Comberton Village College in 2020 and then attended Hills Road Sixth Form College, represented Springboard, a technical consultancy that specialises in the development of devices from concept to manufacture for regulated markets.

William is part of the Year in Industry Scheme, working at Springboard as a gap year between Sixth Form and University, getting hands on experience in industry.

Joe Johnson, who finished Comberton Sixth Form in 2020, shared his experiences at university and working for a tech start-up. Joe is currently studying for a Design Engineering Masters at Imperial College, London, and is working for the start-up part-time.

Lucy Smith, who finished Comberton Sixth Form in 2021, spoke about studying at university and year in industry placements. Lucy is currently in her second year of an MChem (Year in Industry) and is studying at the University of York.

Jack Shanks, who finished Comberton Sixth Form in 2020, is in his third year studying Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry at Keele University. As well as his university experience, he talked about being a STEM leader and his experiences with delivering tuition.

Kira Herbert, who finished CSF in 2020, now works for Price Bailey, a leading firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, as an Assistant Accountant. She explained about working as an accountant and the apprenticeship pathways available at Price Bailey.

Harvey Agg, another 2020 alumnus, talked about studying at university and year in industry placements. Harvey is studying Sports Science and Coaching at Loughborough University and is currently working a year in industry at West Ham United Football Club as an Academy Physical Performance Coach.

Also involved with a football club is Rachel Mwangi, who left Comberton Sixth Form in 2016. She shared her experience working at Cambridge United Community Trust as a Sustainable Development Assistant.

Commercial photographer Azeem Sher, who left CSF two years ago, has worked with acclaimed photographers such as Ryan Hopkinson and William Bunce and brought along a selection of his work for pupils to view as well as sharing his experience.

Alex Booth, a third year at university studying languages who is in the middle of a year travelling in Jordan and Colombia, talked about both the studying and travelling aspects of his journey so far.

We welcomed a variety of employers within a number of industries to the event. Pupils learnt about the different pathways available to them, including apprenticeships and school leaver schemes.

Representatives from Marshalls Skills Academy, Renesas and Springboard Pro attended the careers carousel to explain about careers in engineering. Pupils learnt about apprenticeships in engineering and aerospace at Marshalls Skills Academy, the year in industry scheme that Springboard participates in, and career paths and opportunities in Renesas, a Japanese semiconductor manufacturer.

Pupils enjoyed speaking with representatives from The British Army and The Royal Air Force to find out more about their apprenticeships and school leaver programmes available.

Ashcroft Vets attended the event to speak with pupils about a career working as a veterinary surgeon. Pupils looked at a number of visual aids to learn about career paths in working with animals.



OFFERING GUIDANCE: A huge range of industry specialists and alumni gave Year 11 food for thought as they ponder their next steps.

Human health was represented too and students learned there are more than 350 different careers within the NHS. The financial industry was represented by Barclays and Price Bailey, who discussed leaver and degree apprenticeships available within the sector. We welcomed the Learning Co-ordinator at the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. Students learned about the collections at the University of Cambridge Museums and

the career and volunteering opportunities available.

Savills, one of the world's leading property agents, offers many different roles within the property sector, including apprenticeships.

For football fans, there was the chance to meet representatives from Cambridge United Football Club and find out about about the club's Elite Scholarship programme which they run in conjunction with Cambridge Regional College.

The team from Cambridge Regional College were also on hand to showcase the range of Higher Education Programmes that they offer, including a number of apprenticeship options.

Camb's Cuisine, Tesco, and Unilever represented the food and retail industry. Students were able to discover the various opportunities within these companies and the school leaver and apprenticeship pathways available.

For those interested in marketing, Cambridge Creative, who design websites, write copy, and are involved with digital marketing and marketing strategies, were available to explain more about what's involved in their industry, as were Cambridge Design Partnership, which focuses on building products and services and bringing innovation to life.

We received great feedback from the event and would like to thank all the alumni and employers who attended.

Please get in touch with Fay Lawson, Career Guidance and Development Lead, if you have any links with companies who may be interested in participating in future career events (flawson@combertonvc.org).



UNIVERSITY TASTER: Learning about life at Cambridge University.

‘Consider Cambridge’

A group of fifteen Year 10 pupils spent the day at Peterhouse and Sidney Sussex colleges last week, learning about life at university and in particular at Cambridge.

They had the chance to look around the two colleges, finding out how at Cambridge each college has its own dining hall, library, chapel and gardens, and that students are accommodated in beautiful surroundings for all three years of undergraduate study. There were also sessions covering ways of choosing A-level subjects (apparently basing your choice on which teachers you like best isn't always the way to go!) and how combinations of subjects might lead to certain subjects at university and careers. The main message here was to spend time researching what different university courses ask for, so that students can be confident that they are choosing the A-levels that keep the right options open for them.

Probably the highlight of the day, apart from the free cakes and sandwiches, was the question and answer session with some current undergraduates, who were full of enthusiasm for their experiences so far, and encouragement that our students should consider putting Cambridge down as one of their university choices.

Eleanor Norman Most Able and Talented Coordinator



PHOTOBOTH FUN: Students showcase their outfits and accessorised with inflatable instruments and microphones.



A night to remember at Year 8 social

The disco/social, with a three-course dinner in the dining hall, was a huge success, with more than 150 students turning up to join in the fun.

All the stops were pulled out for a night of glamour, with twinkling lights and a red carpet into the hall.

As students arrived they were photographed in the photobooth, showcasing their outfits and accessorising with inflatable guitars.

Thank you to Jana and Harry in Year 13 for being our photographers for the evening.

At 6.30pm, dinner was served! There was a range of food options, from melon boats, curry, lasagne and a LOT of chocolate cake.

The Year 11 prefects and DJs and the Year 13 photographers stepped in as waiting staff to serve the hungry party goers and were brilliant, especially at balancing numerous plates on one arm!

The food was delicious and a huge thank you to the catering team for serving up a lovely meal. With the plates cleared and the tables put away, the disco began! There was a fantastic range of all kinds of song genres, chosen by the pupils themselves, and a huge effort from our Year 11 DJs getting the crowd going.

The songs ranged from Taylor

Swift's *Shake It Off* to Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline*. The dance moves on display were equally fantastic, and are sure to be seen again at future socials.

To top off the night we had two fundraisers, one for Cancer Research and the other for our Year 11 Ball.

These were a Ping Pong accuracy game and a raffle. The year group raised around £100 to contribute to the valuable resources needed to fight cancer. With the lights up at the end of the evening, Year 8 headed home. It was truly a remarkable night!

Eloise (8V), Ésa (8V), Misty (8E), Lily (8V) and Miss Cotton



CAKE AND MORE CAKE: The chocolate cake was a popular choice for dinner.



SHARP-DRESSED MAN: At the Year 8 social.

LASTING LEGACY: Site team members and Debbie Clare (centre) at the official renaming of the site office.



Remembering Stu!

The site office at Comberton has been officially renamed in honour of Stuart Clare.

Stuart was a college site manager for more than 15 years, 10 of them as Campus Manager, and was also a familiar face in the village of Comberton, where he lived with his wife Debbie. His sons attended the college when they were younger. During his time in charge, the college grew exponentially, with the addition of many new facilities including the Sixth Form and associated buildings,

as well as the purpose-built Cabin. Stuart lost a long and brave battle with prostate cancer last year and a new plaque above the entrance to 'his' site office — which was part of the sixth form build, having previously worked from what is now a storeroom on the main corridor — is a fitting way to remember a key figure in the college's history. Deputy Principal Sean Sycamore said: Stuart Clare was a fantastic leader of the site team, with a great

sense of humour, dedicating much of his life to ensuring that the College served pupils and students well, in all aspects of the buildings and maintenance needs. "Sadly, Stuart's declining health made it more and more difficult for him to carry out his work, despite his ongoing determination to see projects to completion. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

Adventures for all on London 'Lion' safari!

Year 7 recently went on a trip to London to watch *The Lion King* musical and there were 48 pupils all together. I'm writing this to tell the school about our exciting experience.

This was not the first time I've been to London to watch *The Lion King* as I regularly go with my parents to watch theatre musicals.

However, this time was different this was my first ever time to London without them, so I was very excited to go with my school friends.

I really like *The Lion King* and was looking forward to seeing the show once again. In fact, I remember back to when I was eight-years-old and was lucky to be called up on to the stage during *The Lion King* show at Walt Disney World.

On the day of trip, we all met at school for 4:30 as the show was starting at 7:30. The bus journey took about an hour and a half and everyone was so excited.

When we finally got to London, me and my friends took pictures of the sights, including London Bridge and the London Eye.

We soon arrived and made our way to the theatre. It was a short 15-minute walk from where the bus parked, and we enjoyed making our way through the London crowds. The venue is called Lyceum Theatre and has been

showing *The Lion King* since 1999. We entered the theatre, and my first impression was that it was so big! The decorations were amazing and eye-catching. The teachers managed to get us all to our seats and settled before the show started. The lights went out and everyone went silent. The guards made sure no phones were on and the show started. There was amazing music, loud singing, incredible costumes and dancing. Everyone was mesmerised. When it was the interval, everyone went to go get ice cream, although they only took cards and most of the students, including me, didn't have a card so we couldn't buy any food unfortunately. That was so disappointing as we were all looking forward to some ice cream and a drink. You could still get souvenirs with cash, which was good.

The show finished around 10pm but the adventures continued on our journey home. There were a few road closures which meant we didn't arrive until around 1am. However, everyone was in a good mood, and we sang songs all the way back to school.

We all really enjoyed our school trip to *The Lion King* and especially London. I hope there will be more trips like these in the future and cannot wait for the next one!

Maria (7V)



WE'VE ARRIVED: Students head into *The Lion King* in London.

Insights into working as part of an ensemble

WORKING TOGETHER: Students enjoyed a four-hour workshop with the renowned theatre company, Frantic Assembly.



Earlier this term 24 Year 9 pupils participated in a workshop with the internationally renowned physical theatre company, Frantic Assembly. The four-hour workshop explored a wide range of physical theatre and devising techniques and allowed the participants to experience the demands and rewards of working as part of an ensemble. The practitioner was really impressed with all the pupils, who came up with some wonderful, creative ideas and had impeccable focus throughout.

Cooking up a storm

Last month, at Peterborough College, Daisy (11V) competed in the Regional Final of the Future Chef culinary competition.

Following her success in the local round, Daisy was mentored by Claudiu Taban, a local Executive Chef from the Hilton Hotel in Cambridge, who elevated her skills before the final and gave her a great learning opportunity.

On the day, competitors were given 90 minutes to prepare and cook a main dish and dessert dish of their choice for two people.

Daisy made a Chicken Roulade served with baby carrots, a sweet potato puree and a Basque cheesecake served with a fruit compote.

With only one place at the national final, the competition was tough.

The chef judges observed, critiqued, and tasted each dish before announcing the winner.

Sadly, it wasn't Daisy, although her chicken was chosen as the best main dish, and she was a close runner-up.

She also picked up some excellent feedback and admiration from the chef judges, which is testament to her dedication to cooking and time spent preparing for the day.



QUALITY FOOD: Daisy prepared a Chicken Roulade and a Basque cheesecake at the Regional Finals.



ALL TOGETHER NOW: Students who attended the Launchpad event at the Cambridge Building Society.

It's all about the money!

Seven Year 9 students went to the headquarters of the Cambridge Building Society for a 'Careers in Money and Finance Day.'

Morgan (9O), Betsan (9R), Anna (9V), Ronia (9N), Lyra (9E), Matt (9B) and Rocco (9V), accompanied by Mrs Stringer from the Maths Department, spent the day gaining an insight into the world of finance at the event organised by Form the Future and Cambridge Launchpad.

The day comprised tours of the building, explanations of the job roles

involved and a hugely competitive 'game of life' for our students and three other Cambridgeshire school teams.

The staff from Cambridge Launchpad and Cambridge Building Society were fantastic at hosting and providing a wealth of knowledge for our pupils. It was an inspirationally fun-filled day, with lots of general and real-life maths, and the additional bonus of working with pupils from other schools.

They're off and walking

The Duke of Edinburgh Award season commenced last weekend with 54 intrepid Year 10s heading off to the Chilterns.

The students were completing a practice expedition for their Silver award.

They were required to walk 18-22km each day, with everything they needed to be self-sufficient for the weekend carefully packed into their backpacks. Needless to say, a couple of groups

covered significantly more than their planned route!

Well done everybody for battling on through the wind and rain. We hope the beautiful countryside made up for it! Fingers crossed the Peak District is kinder to you in the summer.

Next term will see two Bronze expeditions, a Gold expedition, a training day plus the real Silver award trip.



PRACTICE EXPEDITION: Year 10 find out what's required for the Silver Award.



OUT OF STORAGE: The CVC robot is now being modified and aimed at competition.

Return of the robot

This term we have restarted building our school robot in Engineering Club.

The students have managed to get the robot working and moving again after almost two years in a box waiting for lockdown to be over. We are currently building an arm so the robot can play hoopla and will be having a cake sale to raise funds for a 3-D printer so we will be able

to make our own spare parts in the future.

If you are interested in joining this club, it is on Mondays and Fridays 3-4pm in Lab 2 for Years 9-12. No experience in coding is necessary. Next year we are hoping to attend the First Tech Team Challenge events and bring home some trophies, competing against other teams in the local area.

1920s pursuit of celebrity

This year Comberton Village College's theatre company, Audacious Productions, tackled the musical theatre staple, *Chicago*.

Brimming with themes of violence, murder, greed, fame and jazz, it perfectly encapsulates the milieu of 1920s Prohibition-era Chicago.

At the same time the central idea, that in the pursuit of celebrity notoriety often takes precedence over talent, still feels very relevant today.

The staging for the production matched the simplicity of the musical itself, with a raised stage and sweeping stairs arcing over the aptly named 'West Street Jazz

Band'.

The exposed position of the band lent it a prominence which transformed it into an idiosyncratic character, one that played a significant part within the shifting dynamics of the production. All the musicians attacked the score with pizzazz and were ably marshalled to produce a scintillating wall of sound under the baton of Mr Parker, who was clearly having the time of his life. *Chicago* is a show that relies on the ability of its ensemble to razzle dazzle the audience — and dazzle they did.

From the incredibly intense 'Cell Block Tango' in the

first act, to the stunning courtroom segment of the second, the ensemble cast were excellent. The movement was clean, crisp, and sassy, with the choreography performed in perfect unison.

The show follows the story of Roxie Hart (engagingly played by Grace,, 13SC), a wannabe jazz singer and cold-blooded murderer.

Grace skilfully endeared her character to the audience with her beautifully light and comedic performance, which achieved the feat of exposing the character's rampant egotism whilst playfully allowing the audience to see the humour in it.



notoriety feels relevant

With Roxie on trial for murder and her continual emotional gaslighting of her dependable, albeit gullible, husband Amos (a role mellifluously sung by Archie, 13JD), she shows herself to be devoid of morality, caring only for the fickle fame her actions have won for her. Olivia (13PV) also delivered a stunning performance as Velma Kelly. Sharp, witty, sassy and fizzing with energy, Olivia kicked, split and Charlestoned her way into the audience's affections. As a character, Velma is as subtle as a sledgehammer and Olivia was just that, commanding the stage with her domineering presence and dynamic physicality.

Liv (13KS), with her easy stage presence and stunning vocals, made an exceptional Mama Morton, the corrupt matron of the prison where the Merry Murderesses, played with compelling poise and attitude by Tierney (11E), Izzy (13RAJ), Alex (13PV), Ruby (13RAJ) and Connie Abraham (10I), are housed. Starring alongside them, Dan (13WD) and Thomas (13KS) shared the role of greasy lawyer, Billy Flynn, delivering their vocals with silky-smooth aplomb. In the rendition of both performers, "All I Care About" became at once a coruscating hymn to love, replete with dancing chorines, and a salute to the monumental ego

and self-love of the manipulative lawyer. Throughout the run, Dan and Thomas played the crafty and self-interested Flynn with a combination of exquisite irony and theatrical swagger.

The show oozed razzmatazz and the students involved, yet again, performed way beyond our expectations. This was a slick, intense production, executed by an exceptional cast of performers, from Years 10-13, and musicians.

Now we look forward to Mary Poppins, which will be performed by Years 7-9, in July.

The Production Team



It's good to talk . . .

Five students from Comberton Village College and Comberton Sixth Form took part in the first summit of the Cambridgeshire Students Forum.

They joined more than 30 students from six other schools and colleges around the county for the meeting at Long Road Sixth Form College. This is a programme led by Unloc, an organisation which aims to develop young potential and offers students from schools and colleges in Cambridgeshire the opportunity to discuss matters important to them and to make a difference in their communities.

Unloc is passionate about giving young people a voice and ensuring that their voice is heard. This fits really well with the ethos of the college as Comberton continues to promote the Rights of the Child as part of the UN's Rights Respecting School Award work.

The first thing students were asked was 'what do you want to change in your institution, community, city or county and a Mentimeter showed transport as the key concern!

The group then discussed their 'Gets, Gives and Grounds' — what they wanted from the summit, what they could give to the forum and the way they wanted the group to work.

They moved on Student Voice, including the UN's Conventions on the Rights of the Child and the Forum's focus on Article 12: 'Respect for the Views of the Child'.

Human Bingo, where participants had to find 15 other people who shared 'things' with them, for example a favourite film, first name initial or star sign, was a brilliant ice-breaker before the participants were randomly split into groups and discussed the question posed on arrival.

In the afternoon participants chose an area of interest to focus on from four areas — climate change/eco-friendly, diversity and inclusions, life skills/careers and mental health/wellbeing.

The students had a very good day as you can from their comments:

"It was an extremely fun and interesting experience for me as I met a lot of new people from a variety of years and schools," said Aydin (9T). "We formed several groups all focusing on separate things to improve our schools, which was really



UNLOC-ING THE FUTURE: Forum gives students the chance to make a difference.

well organised and helped us understand others' viewpoints and opinions." "It was a fun way to socialise with others and find people with similar interests. It had been a fun experience to also learn about one of the many companies specifically working to help our generation," commented Etienne (8I). Charlotte (8M) added: "We should do human bingo in our classes!" Our students met lots of other students from other schools and have started to establish some strong links with them with the aim to keep in touch and meet again at regular intervals throughout the year.

Comberton will host the second summit on April 21st when six other schools and colleges from the area will arrive to again discuss matters such as equality and diversity, climate change and life skills.

For more information on Unloc please visit: <https://www.unloc.org.uk/>

Maths aces take up 'feast' of a challenge



FEAST OF MATHS: Comberton's team after their marathon competition at Linton Village College.

Last week eight of our Year 10 mathematicians travelled to Linton Village College to compete in this year's AMSP 'Maths Feast'.

Split into two teams of four, they competed against 14 other teams from schools all over Cambridgeshire.

Whilst all problems involved maths, this three-hour competition was also heavily reliant on superb teamwork and communication skills. The competition consisted of multiple rounds, each with a different mathematical focus, where students demonstrated their fantastic maths skills under time pressure, as well as answering advanced comprehension questions about the proof of theorems in mathematics.

While the competition does not announce an overall winner, one of the Comberton teams definitely won the first round.

Well done to all eight mathematicians who took part: Felix (10V), Josie (10E), Lola (10T), Abigail (10T), Ella (10E), Tim (10C), Rufus (10V) and Cara (10V).

With the competition being at Linton, we were greeted by the familiar face of former Comberton maths teacher, Mrs Doza!

Lots of language help available

The English as an Additional Language group continues to teach English to new arrivals and to tutor students in Maths and science after school.

A new club for GCSE English Language and Literature has recently started for EAL students.

The Chinese GCSE club attracts large numbers of students who are taught at two levels of proficiency, while Turkish, Hebrew, Russian Polish and and

Arabic-speaking staff prepare students for GCSEs in their first languages and also teach them at an intermediate level.

Some bilingual sixth formers are also tutored in identified subjects.

On the pastoral level, bilingual staff mentor students who speak Turkish, Romanian, Greek, Cantonese and Italian. Ukrainian students attend a club twice a

week during break to interact with each other and Ukrainian staff members.

Newly-arrived Cantonese-speaking students are supported by a pastoral coordinator who also conducts research and organises events.

Regarding staff development, a core team of staff run workshops on EAL and inclusion for new teachers and trainees.



LOOKING AT THE OPTIONS: Year 12 heard about university applications as well as alternative pathways.

Thinking ahead . . .

Year 12 students took the first steps towards planning for life after sixth form as they attended the college's annual Progression Conference Day at the end of February.

Designed to offer an introduction to post-18 choices, students attended a special series of talks and activities that highlighted the range of possible pathways and opportunities available to them, from university and apprenticeships to gap years and routes into employment.

Alongside individual conversations with academic tutors, students also had the opportunity to attend live talks from expert guest speakers in a range of fields. Guidance on university applications came from Mike Nicholson, Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Participation at the University of Cambridge, who offered valuable insights into the application process based on his many years of experience in this role.

This was supplemented by a talk from our own Mrs Jenkins, who offered specific

guidance to those considering applications to Oxbridge, or for competitive courses such as medicine and veterinary medicine.

For those considering alternative pathways, representatives from an array of organisations and employers attended our Careers Fair in the afternoon to give students a flavour of the opportunities available to them, including apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, school leaver programmes and gap years. Special thanks to our Careers Lead, Mrs Lawson, for coordinating this part of the day.

Students also had opportunities to begin or extend their research and planning into possible next steps during the day, throughout which there was a really positive buzz of activity and excitement.

Staff are now looking forward to working closely with Year 12 students in the coming months to build on their initial research and help them plan for the future with confidence.

Stephen Leggott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Fair offers insight into alternative routes

Fourteen organisations were represented at the Year 12 Careers and Alternative Pathways Fair last month.

We welcomed back several Comberton Village College and Sixth Form Alumni, who spoke to students about their career paths and experiences with school leaver programmes, apprenticeships, gap years and travelling. Josh Hebditch, who finished Comberton Sixth Form in 2015, talked about the Early Careers opportunities at the Bank of England. He joined the organisation on one of these schemes in 2017 and remains at the Bank in London as a Technology Assurance Manager. Rebecca Luck left Comberton Sixth Form in 2016 and went on to do a Level 3 Apprenticeship in Business Administration.

Rebecca represented the University of Cambridge at the event, where she is now an HR and EDI Coordinator and an apprentice studying for her Level 5 HR qualification.

Thomas Arkesden, who completed his studies at Comberton Sixth Form only last year, shared his experience of working at DHL, one of the largest logistics groups in the world. Thomas gave advice on planning gap years and travelling as he is shortly going travelling around Europe. William Woodard, a 2020 alumnus, who went on to Hills Road Sixth Form, attended from Springboard, a technical consultancy that specialises in the development of devices from concept to manufacture for regulated markets. William is part of the Year in Industry Scheme, working at Springboard as a gap year between Sixth Form and University, getting hands on experience.



SPREADING THE WORD: Fourteen organisations and several Comberton alumni talked to students about the options available after completing studies at the Sixth Form.

Students enjoyed speaking with representatives from The British Army, The Royal Air Force and Cambridgeshire Police to find out more about the apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes available. The financial industry was represented by Deloitte LLP, Price Bailey and PEM, who talked to students about the number of apprenticeships and school leaver programmes that they offer, many of which are local to Cambridge. Arm, a global leader in semi-conductor IP, joined the careers fair remotely to discuss the apprenticeships available. Savills, one of the world's leading property agents, attended in person to speak with students about the range of opportunities

available within their company, including Apprenticeship Surveyor roles.

The Schools and Colleges Officer from Anglia Ruskin University was on hand to explain to students about the degree apprenticeships that Anglia Ruskin offers.

The team at Cambridge Regional College discussed the range of Higher Education Programmes that they offer to students. The Year 12 students enjoyed learning about the alternative pathways available. I would like to thank the employers, alumni and education providers who attended this event to share their experiences and expertise with the Year 12 students.

Fay Lawson, Careers and Guidance Lead



HI-TECH WORLD: Year 12 biologists visited the Babraham Institute to participate in lab work, including capturing images from an advanced scanning electron microscope.

At the cutting edge . . .

Five Year 12 biologists had the opportunity to visit the Babraham Institute earlier this term.

They participated in some lab work, spoke to research scientists and listened to a careers talk. Below, Layan (12WG) has written about the project in which she participated.

"Our group was involved in imaging using an advanced scanning electron microscope (SEM) to obtain highly magnified and resolved images of our various samples, in order to contrast the different structures and characteristics of each one of them. "Our first experiment revolved around dehydrating our eyebrow hair sample and placing it in a vial filled with acetone for 10 minutes to get rid of water and volatile greases.

"During that time, we began preparing our samples for our second experiment, which focused on comparing three different types of masks (fabric,

surgical, and FFP2) to assess their effectiveness in protecting us from microscopic viruses similar in size to Covid-19.

"After the hair samples were dehydrated, we began gathering both our samples and mounting them on a carbon dot on an aluminium sample pin (this makes the sample electrically conductive) to be transferred to the sputter coater where we were talked through how it works.

"After a couple of minutes, it was ensured that the samples were ready to be transferred to the SEM for imaging when seeing a layer of platinum deposited at the top of our samples.

"We had a great opportunity to capture images under an SEM ourselves and to adjust the magnification, brightness, and contrast of the images using these highly advanced technologies."

Alan (12RA) worked on a different project and said:

"The trip was very interesting and beneficial as it added provided a lot of information and an insight in the type of work being undertaken in a branch of life sciences that may be of interest as a future career.

"We also got valuable information about the necessary requirements and challenges faced during the work.

"We undertook the task of molecular cloning, which also included the cutting and pasting of DNA.

"We were familiar with the concepts of DNA and the genome, therefore this activity was greatly inspiring.

"The gene that was studied was called Bim, which is thought to be involved in cell signalling and instructing cell death.

"Cell signalling was another familiar area as it plays a key role in the study of biological membranes, which we were learning about."

THE FINAL CHALLENGE: Students created posters to present their findings to expert scientists.



University workshops take students' studies to next level

Over the spring term four students from Year 12 studying A level biology took part in a series of workshops at the Pharmacology Department of the University of Cambridge.

There were three practical sessions after an initial introductory session. Students had the opportunity to learn many new skills, including the use of a Gilson Pipette and microscopy techniques.

Andrew (12FF) said: The project that I undertook on the full Saturday in March was a test for the number of proteins in a pig's liver cell, as well as finding out what antibody was the most effective at suppressing the progression of a virus.

"We were also able to use a program simulating the

'Langendorff Preparation'. This allowed us to test the effects of different drugs on the heart.

"The event culminated with an event at Corpus Christi College, where all the sixth formers presented their research posters to expert scientists and prizes and certificates were awarded.

"Dr David Bulmer gave a very interesting lecture on treatments of IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome). It was an amazing opportunity to experience university practical work and become familiar with the equipment.

"I would highly recommend it to any A-Level biologist next year if the opportunity is there."



Challenge

Six Year 13 students took part in the Senior Physics Challenge. This is an extremely challenging paper, which tests skills and understanding far beyond that required at A-Level, and is designed to stretch the most able physics students in the country.

In Comberton's first year taking on this challenge the students performed admirably, achieving two Bronze Is, three Bronze IIs and one commendation. Congratulations to all those who took part.

Golden girls lead way



This year 19 students across Years 12 and 13 competed in the International Chemistry Olympiad.

This competition is aimed at top-performing Year 13 students. They were challenged with difficult questions and all tried their best. This is the most students we have entered for the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad so far.

RSC had 11,838 entries with only 9.2% achieving a gold, 23.4% Silver and 39.5% a Bronze.

Comberton Sixth Form was therefore thrilled to have two gold award winners in Georgia (13SC) and Emily (13SA) as well as three bronze and five silver awards among the Year 13 participants.

Year 12 entrants — who get another go next year — collected an impressive six bronze awards and three certificates of participation.

Well done to all who took part.



ACHIEVEMENTS: Some of the CSF students who received certificates from the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad.

Snowsports trip returns

Our bags were packed, passports triple checked and we were off!

The Comberton Sixth Form ski trip was back on the calendar post-pandemic and 34 students and five staff headed for Lincoln, New Hampshire, via an overnight flight from Heathrow.

The jet lag made it easy to get up early the next day for a large American breakfast of pancakes and maple syrup and then it was on to the classic American school bus to the mountain.

Locals reported it was the best snow in years and it was probably a good thing that it was slightly stickier as it slowed down some of the students, who had lots of speed but less control!

On the second day the beginners moved off the magic carpet on to the green runs and were soon flying past some members of staff. An evening of ice-skating followed; some using the hand-holding approach for safety while Ed (13PG), Jonah (13CR) and Seb (13RA) impressively played tag!

Another three-course breakfast was followed by a few hours of recapping skills before the group settled down to watch World Cup final. Toby (12PG) continued his tradition of breaking a bone while on a snowsports trip

with a wrist fracture and Seb hurt his knee, but after some emergency care, it was off to bowling for all.

Another day of standout moments, with some fantastic outfits from four of the boys and Will (12MR) suddenly getting the hang of skiing to fly down the green and red routes.

A trip to see basketball from Lin-Wood Lumberjack School in action was outstanding but a highlight was the mid-court free throw half-time challenge where Tom's (12JD) throw was definitely worth talking about — but not for its accuracy.

A final day of skiing was again marked by 'resident hairdresser' Louise's (13WG) efforts to get everyone's plaits camera-ready. Then all too soon, we were off, celebrating Ben's (13KS) 18th birthday with shopping stops on the way to dinner at the Hard Rock café in New York.

An early start enabled us to see the sights of NYC before our flight — including Ground Zero, a lift ride up 104 flights of the World Trade Center in 60 seconds and teacher-free time in the city before meeting up at Central Park.

Thanks to Mr Mannion for organising this amazing trip and to all the students who made it so enjoyable.



VOICE OF EXPERIENCE: Phil Golden, who studied in America, explains the process.

Top tips for uni in the USA

Phil Golden, Director of Systems Engineering at Renesas UK, and also a Comberton parent, spoke to Year 12 students this week about why they might consider applying to US universities.

Phil attended Stanford University in California, completing a Masters of Science qualification.

Students learnt about the process of applying to US Universities, the scholarships available and also gained some practical tips on applying.

Career Guidance and Development Lead Fay Lawson said: "I would like to thank Phil for his time for speaking with our Year 12 students and delivering an informative and interesting talk."

If any parents/carers would like to arrange a talk/attend a careers event to speak to Comberton Village College and Sixth Form students about their profession and career path, please get in touch with Fay Lawson via flawson@combertonvc.org



WINTER WONDERLAND: Snowsports in New Hampshire followed by a visit to New York City on the way home.



Capital investment!

All Year 12 and 13 art and photography A Level students had an opportunity for a weekend in London at the start of February half term.

For Year 13s this was a chance to fill their exam projects with exhibition visits and research, as well as photographing lots of interesting source material for their ideas.

The art students visited many exhibitions over the weekend and took in the best of what the London galleries had to offer.

The Peter Doig exhibition at the Courtauld was a particular highlight as was the Making Modernism show.

The photography students mixed their exhibitions with shoots at various locations such as Leake Street tunnel and St Dunstan's church.

There were many street photography walks too, including around Brick Lane and Chinatown.

It was a complex trip to run due to the many venues and the travel around London by Tube with large

numbers of students.

However, students' behaviour and attitude were perfect over the days — even after two full days of gruelling walking — and they were a real credit to the school.

It was nice for all of us to be back doing trips like this in the Sixth Form after such a long break due to the pandemic.

Greg Dean, Head of Art and Photography



TAKING A BREAK: Students grab a sit-down outside City Hall during their busy weekend in London.

Research in 'the field'!

As part of our place geography coursework preparation, we went to Mill Road, in Cambridge, for a day to collect data from locals and to experience the place for ourselves so we could prepare our own data as well.

After studying the area and seeing many photos, it was really interesting to physically be in the place and be able to identify all the different places along the road which we had studied.

The first part of our trip consisted of a tour of the Cambridge Central Mosque, which was only completed in April 2019.

We were taken around with a highly informative tour guide, who not only highlighted the architectural details of the building, but also explained many different aspects of the religion. The tour consisted of several different parts of the Mosque, including the gardens and the beautiful prayer hall which we were able to enjoy

from both the ground and also a balcony view.

After the Mosque we began our research as we filled out environmental quality surveys and soundscapes around the area before heading to a cafe where we were able to meet and interview some lovely shopkeepers as well as having lunch in a local spot.

We then continued our research and began interviewing the public with our surveys.

Overall, the locals were really lovely and glad to participate and speak to us; many were actually really interested in the research, and we were asked loads of questions about the project.

The trip not only gave us an opportunity to practise for our coursework in Year 13, but it also took us to a part of Cambridge which I would have never thought to visit.

Daisy (12KS)



Students earn project grants

Four CVC and CSF students have received more than £1000 from the Henry Morris Memorial Trust in the latest round of applications for funding for 'projects with purpose'.

Students Karima (11V) and Roan (12SA) gained £300 each to support with their independently planned travel to Italy (Karima) and Vienna (Roan).

In the sixth form, Alex (13LP) and Ben (13KS) received funding for some very different projects.

Alex applied for funding to enable him to make his first music album and Ben received a grant to help him design and engineer a solar PV electrical system for his camper van!

As a charity, The Henry Morris Memorial Trust has a number of key priorities that relate to continuing the community education vision from Henry Morris, founder of the village college system in Cambridgeshire.

It is perhaps the one that offers personal financial grants to young people that is the most well-known.

Every year, in January, young people in schools and colleges across Cambridgeshire can apply. More information can be found at www.henrymorris.org or twitter.com/HenryMorrisMT



OUT AND ABOUT: Year 12 geographers visited Mill Road to practise their data-gathering and research for their Year 13 coursework.

David Clarke
Deputy Principal and HMMT Trustee

Sporting ambition

Sixth Former Lucy (12PV) would love to see a Great Britain team qualify for the handball competition at the 2028 Olympics — and for her to be part of the squad.

That would complete a meteoric rise through the ranks of a sport she fell into completely by accident as an 11-year-old and which has given her academic as well as sporting opportunities.

Lucy was roped into playing a tournament for her secondary school, Impington Village College, in Year 7 because the team needed a goalkeeper and she played in that position at football.

The school won the district competition and were all set for nationals when the pandemic struck — but Lucy was hooked.



REACHING HIGH: Handball has provided academic as well as sporting opportunity.

She joined the after-school club and Cambridge Handball Club, where she has worked her way through the junior ranks and is now playing her first season for the senior team in the National Premier League, where she is the youngest goalkeeper.

Along the way she has been part of the East Regional Academy — a progression pathway for England Handball — and is now part of the under-19 National Academy.

This has enabled her to apply for the Pearson Diploma in Sporting Excellence, a two-year course which is the equivalent of 2 C grades at A Level. She is one of only 30 handballers accepted each year.

It involves theory sessions which help participants understand what they are doing in their own performance and how to improve via e-mailed lessons backed by a monthly Teams meeting.

The practical element is graded on personal improvement and sees an assessor attend national training sessions to analyse performance and suggest ways to improve it.

"At the beginning it was quite daunting to be doing the course as well as my A levels in geography, chemistry and PE," said Lucy. "But now it's manageable. I like the way it gives you inside knowledge. I would say I understand more about handball now and it shows how, by watching professionals, you can link what they do to your own game."

Lucy, who also still plays football now for Milton under-18s, is looking at ways to combine handball with university and will be making her selection based on the availability of a club.

"I definitely want to keep on playing," she said. "I would love to go to the Olympics but the last time we qualified was in 2012, when we were the hosts."

"It's a much bigger sport in Europe so if I have the opportunity to get experience abroad, that's something I would consider as a gap year activity."

"It's currently the qualifying rounds for Paris 2024 but it doesn't look like we will get in. If we qualify for 2028 that would be amazing. Unfortunately, I can't imagine that's going to happen!"

Correct nutrition is key to success

The BTEC Sport Level 3 students have been working hard on their ongoing coursework assessments this term and preparing for their summer exams.

As part of this preparation for Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Sport, Health and Well-being, students must learn and apply nutrition principles.

They are required to consider the macro and micro-nutrients needed by an individual to reach their health and fitness goals.

To put this into a real-life scenario, Year 12 students were given an individual, a health target and a £10 budget! They were then challenged to plan and prepare (and eat!) an appropriate and appetising meal.



HANDS ON: Year 12 students have a go at cooking up meals for specific fitness goals, then let off steam at a trampoline park.

With help from the Technology department, they prepared their meals. Despite some initial 'interesting' cooking decisions, the meals started to take shape.

For an endurance athlete preparing for a half-marathon, Bailey hand-made meatballs and a delicious tomato sauce.

For a lady looking to improve her health and fitness and eat freshly prepared food, Will and Jacob made (pretty mild) burritos! An excellent morning spent cooking and consuming!

To celebrate the Level 3 BTEC Sport students' efforts so far, we took a trip to Extreme 360, a trampoline park in St Neots.

There was much anticipation for the skills that would be on show and regardless of age or

experience, all were attempted!

After a quick warm-up trampoline hopping, it was time to test out the foam pit. Will led the way with perfecting his back somersault and eventually achieved success.

Not to be outdone, Bailey attempted some adventurous skills and achieved his front somersault shortly after Will.

Lucy, in full coaching mode, was aiming to get the group to bounce further than before with some front hand springs.

Mr Magan and Miss Kingston led the way with these although a serious thumb injury was narrowly averted. A great time was had by all, with both students and staff returning in one piece!



Great runs

Top third finishes in two national races were an impressive conclusion to the cross-country season for Emily (12RJ).

She took part in the National Clubs Championships for Cambridge and Coleridge at Bolesworth Castle in Chester then travelled to Wollerton Park in Nottingham for the English Schools Championships, where she competed for Cambridgeshire.

That was the culmination of a series of qualifying rounds, starting with

representing Comberton in the senior girls race at the District competition, then getting through the county and Anglian competitions to reach the nationals.



RACING: Two events.



PARTNERSHIP: German and Comberton students work together on a treasure hunt.

Exchange bounces back

Comberton's German exchange, which runs in partnership with Gesamtschule Obersberg, has enjoyed a hugely successful revival after a pause from the pandemic.

The exchange is designed to allow students on both sides to not only use their German skills in a practical and real setting, but to forge friendships and partnerships with students from a different community. In living with their exchange partners, students are able to immerse themselves in the experience, and widen their horizons.

Students on both sides greatly enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities, and to learn about school life in another country.

The success of this exchange relied not only on the students' palpable enthusiasm, but on the kindness and generosity of the families who agreed to host a student as part of the exchange.

We are greatly looking forward to taking more students to Germany again in December 2023.

Participants Morvern (10M) and Ronja (10M) said: "Three months after we met our German exchange students in Bad Hersfeld, they arrived at Comberton Village College.

"On the first day, they came to school with us and experienced English school life. At lunch, they went into Cambridge and had a tour of King's College, before coming back to school and joining us at the welcome party, where we hung out with the German students.

"That weekend we got to spend some time with our exchange partner, and some took their partners into London or Cambridge.

"The final day was the best day, because we took part in a treasure hunt at school and reflected on our week.

"It was a great experience, and it was very sad seeing them go. Es war fantastisch!"



SEEING THE SIGHTS: The German visitors at King's College.



MANDARIN MESSAGES: From Barton School pupils.

Leaders now share four languages!

Primary school pupils have had an additional language learning opportunity this year.

Three Comberton students who applied for Language Leaders roles are teaching Mandarin as their language of choice.

This means there are now 28 Year 9s teaching Spanish, French, German and Mandarin to pupils at Caldecote, Barnabas Oley (Gransden), Hardwick and Cambourne (Hardwick campus) and Meridian (Comberton).

This month they have been focusing on Easter. They planned lessons, bought eggs and enjoyed teaching students about the festival in other countries.

For Key Stage 2 pupils at Barton, however, where the Mandarin specialists were giving their first lessons, the focus was on Chinese New Year, which happened in February.

They learned about red packets — the gifts presented at social and family gatherings including Chinese New Year — which come in red envelopes, the colour symbolising good luck and to ward off evil spirits.

They also learned about Pinyin, the system that spells Chinese names and words with the Latin alphabet based on their pronunciation.

In Mandarin it literally means 'spell sound' and can be a really useful tool for correctly pronouncing Mandarin words.



EASTER LESSONS: Comberton students teach primary pupils about the festival in different countries.

A packed programme

While the German exchange students had to wait three months to meet up again with their partners from Bad Hersfeld, there was no time for the Spanish exchange participants to miss their new-found friends.

Earlier this month 22 students from Comberton — plus five from Cambourne Village College — flew to Zaragoza and teamed up with pupils from partner school Colegio Madre Maria Rosa Molas. Just nine days later, their partners spent a week with them in England, going home yesterday. During the stay with their Spanish families for a week, they were immersed in the culture and spent time in the school and seeing the city. After a late arrival but still with a warm welcome, the following day at the school students enjoyed a tapas lunch prepared by host families. An afternoon of sports — and bonding — was a great end to the first full day. The next day students learned about mosaic-making

in an arts and crafts activity. This was an introduction tour visit to the Roman Theatre and Roman Forum. Students were able to identify real mosaic left from the Romans.

In the afternoon, CVC students did some Language Leading and helped teaching English to some primary school pupils.

Day four saw an early start as the group visited the most famous bridges over the Ebro River in Zaragoza.

After that they went to the Aljaferia Palace, a medieval Arab castle/palace built during the second half of the 11th century.

It was initially built as a place for recreation, but later on it also served as a defence building.

Students really enjoyed looking at the Arabic architecture and learned a lot about their traditions and way of life.

A warm weekend was spent with host families, shopping and sight-seeing, although some met in the

park for a giant water fight, making the most of temperatures of 26 degrees Celcius.

It was back to school on Monday where both English and Spanish students learned how to dance 'la jota' — a typical dance of the Aragon region.

Then they visited the Romareda Stadium, home of Zaragoza's football team, following in the footsteps of the players on match day, from the moment they arrive until the end of the game, including a visit to the Press room.

Then it was on to the University of Zaragoza and the museum. Lunch for the last day was a big 'bocadillo' and churros con chocolate!

Lorenzo (9N) said: "Before we arrived in Spain, I was very nervous, but everything turned out to be great because as soon as we arrived at the school, everyone started screaming in excitement.

"The first day at school was also strange but everyone was very welcoming.

"My favourite part of the trip was visiting Estadio La Romareda. The thing I found surprising was all of the Muslim and Roman ruins. Overall a 10/10!"

Eva (9I) commented: "The Spanish exchange was amazing and such a good school experience!

"We did loads of wonderful activities made by the students at the Colegio Rosa Molas as well as sightseeing with our Spanish partners where we had the opportunity to see an ancient theatre, market and also the Pilar.

"I was a bit nervous when I arrived but by the end I didn't want to leave!

"I would also love to say a massive thank you to all the teachers who made this trip so wonderful!"

William (9N) said: "When I went on the first part of the exchange, I was very excited to meet new people and experience Spain.

"In Zaragoza, we visited historic sites such as the Catedral de Pilar and the Roman walls. I had lots of fun every evening meeting up and mostly playing football with the exchange group. My family were very welcoming and I really enjoyed my time there." Pepijn (9T) added: "I really loved the exchange trip, it was nice to meet new people and get to know them despite the language barriers, and to live in a different family for a week and see typical Spanish life in Zaragoza."

Just nine days later the Spanish party landed in England for the second leg of the exchange.

After a welcome from Principal Peter Law and a tour of the school with the prefects, it was straight into action with half the group learning to make scones and the other half on a scavenger hunt.

Then it was into the weekend with host families organising a range of activities including trampolining, skating, sightseeing and partying.

An unwelcome case of Covid spoilt some plans but with some rearranging and rehousing, the fun continued.

On Monday all the students enjoyed a day out in Cambridge, punting, visiting some of the college's and learning about how they can study at the university!

Those who had made scones on the first day completed the scavenger hunt on Tuesday and vice versa before the Spanish students joined their English counterparts in lessons. They particularly loved cooking and drama which are not part of their curriculum.

The visitors spent Wednesday in London taking a river cruise from Greenwich to Westminster, walking past Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and Downing St before hitting the shops in Oxford St.

After a busy but brilliant trip to England, the Spanish students headed home.



VARIED PROGRAMME: The Spanish leg of the exchange saw students participate in a sports festival, see the sights of Zaragoza, including touring the city's football stadium. The 'home' leg included cooking, which is not on the Spanish curriculum.



SUNSHINE IN THE RAIN: The result was a fantastic double rainbow over the College, captured by one of the site managers, Chris Radburn, who is also a professional photographer. Did anybody find a pot of gold in the English Department or on the front corridor?

Days packed with info

Year 10 this week had their second Core RPE Day of the term on the theme of the Environment and Stewardship.

Across the morning, Year 10 explored the religious perspectives of Christianity, Islam and Buddhism and their teachings on the value of the earth that we live in and why we should care about it.

Two visiting speakers came from the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge and gave presentations on the intersection between science and religion.

Both speakers were experienced scientists and had a Christian faith and explained how their religious belief coexists and has often even motivated their scientific endeavour and conservation work.

Superb questions were asked by Year 10 to these speakers and they even witnessed some live experiments in the Performance Hall.

Year 10 were also given an interesting online presentation with two guest speakers from the Cambridge Buddhist Centre.

The speakers explained their beliefs and explored why a Buddhist might care about the created world and what practices they might do to express these beliefs.

They even showed pupils, via the online presentation, some of the Shrine Room at the Cambridge Buddhist Centre and some excellent questions were asked by pupils.

The final session was exploring Islamic perspectives on the environment and Year 10 looked at three case studies of eco-Islam in groups, one of which was a study of the recently built Eco-Mosque in Cambridge.

This place of worship is Europe's first Eco-Mosque and is committed to sustainability, reflecting Islamic beliefs in the world as a gift from God and a commitment to be stewards of the world.

Year 10 will have one further Core RPE morning in the Summer term.

The first day, which took place in January, looked at war, peace and conflict as RPE leader Logan (10O) reported: "On 18th January, Year 10 had one of their RPE conference mornings.

"Our school was visited by three visitors over four periods. In these exciting off-timetable lessons, we explored the theme of war, peace and conflict.

"The speakers offered wide and varying religious beliefs. This broadened students' knowledge on different perspectives and religions.

"The two speakers from WOOLF institute mainly focused on exploring Jewish and Muslim relationships in the midst of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"One speaker was Muslim and the other was Jewish and they spoke about the importance of coexistence and dialogue between different religions.

"The representative of another group, WCCYM, showed the Christian perspectives on fighting in war and the debate around weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

"Mr Singh was our final speaker giving the Sikh perspective and beliefs on war and peace as well as the importance of the Five Ks.

"We also had a taught lesson on 'Can Nuclear Weapons ever be justified?' where we explored the arguments for and against nuclear weapons and more specifically 'Trident'.

"Overall, it was a very successful morning, which offered thought provoking questions and ideas."

Right at the end of last term, Year 11 had their final Core RPE session — and it was one to remember.

RPE leader Livie (11C) said: "We began the morning by looking at the aims of punishment. During this we considered the purposes for punishment, such as deterring future criminals, rehabilitation and creating a safer society.

"We also considered the importance of rules and the extent to which philosophers — including Hobbes and Proudhon — view rules as necessary to maintain our society.

"We then had the opportunity to hear from a prison chaplain, Dr Phillip Dean. Initially, he informed us of the striking statistics among criminals.

"He discussed the low levels of literacy among prisoners, 50% of whom have a reading age of below 11.

"He also explained the effect family and mental illness have on the statistical likelihood of an individual committing a crime.

"He then listed some benefits of prison, including the extensive education opportunities available to prisoners.

"He ended on a Christian perspective, how the 'image of God' is within everyone and the importance of religion, dignity, and education for inmates."

Another RPE leader, Diya (11M), added: "During the second two periods, we had a talk in the performance hall from the parents of a young boy (16 years old) who was tragically murdered; Jimmy Mizen.

"Following on from that was a session about capital punishment. Both taught us the key elements of crime and punishment and the various arguments people may have on the death penalty.

"The talk from the Mizen parents expressed the importance of hope, forgiveness, and peace even after devastating times which they have undertaken through setting up the Mizen Foundation to spread awareness.

"They additionally shared their story and journey to forgiveness after the passing of their son and the consequences that come from anger.

"In the final session (on the death penalty) we explored the various viewpoints from Popes and other religious leaders and how this links to the aims of punishment.

"As the last RPE conference morning it was an important and interesting way to understand the ethics around crime and punishment as well as the impact it has on the wider community."



INTERSECTION: A talk on science and religion from Faraday Institute Scientists.

PE and sport are crucial

The Cam Academy Trust is very clear that physical education, sport and physical activity are a central part of the proper education of all young people.

We are very keen that this is true in all schools in the Trust, regardless of context and age range.

This strongly fits within the Trust's 'Broad Education' principle.

Excellent education must be broad in its nature, strongly including areas beyond standard academic courses and programmes. PE and Sport is clearly an important element of that.

One example of taking this seriously across the Trust is the Schools Sports Partnership that we run to serve schools in the South Cambridgeshire area.

This is overseen by our Partnership Manager and School Games Organiser, Claire McDonnell, who has written about that work below.

Another means of supporting quality Sport and Physical Education is through our

work with, and Trust-level membership of, the Youth Sport Trust.

Through this, we have access to provision that can develop and enhance the offer in all our schools, for example through visits from Athlete Mentors to our schools and high-quality professional development to all staff teaching PE and Sport.

This is overseen by Hannah Curtis, the Trust's Director of Sport and PE, who has an important role in supporting quality PE and sport in our schools.

We were pleased with the recent confirmation of Government targeted funding for PE and Sport for the next two years for primary schools as well as for the network of School Games organisers.

We shall certainly be looking to continue to use this funding effectively to ensure full access to a range of sports for all our pupils and high-quality physical education in the curriculum of all our schools.

Stephen Munday, CEO

Local partnership is key to delivery

Based at Comberton Village College since 2003, the South Cambs School Sport Partnership (SCSSP) works with 51 primary schools and 10 secondary schools across South Cambridgeshire, including three Trust secondary and four primary schools.

SCSSP has very strong links with Hunts School Sport Partnership, who support five other Trust schools in Huntingdonshire.

Our aim is to ensure all children are **happy, healthy and more active** and to support schools in addressing their whole school priorities by thinking differently about the outcomes PE, school sport and physical activity can deliver.

The School Sport Partnership offers a range of support and programmes to enhance the provision of PE, physical activity and school sport across schools and support the needs of staff and young people.

Professional development is key to this, with the SCSSP employing two Primary PE Specialists, who provide team teaching support to staff in 11 schools, as well as offering subject leader support.

Courses are offered for all schools and staff to access and this year have included Sensory Circuits, Bee Netball, Delivering High Quality PE, Swimming and Water Safety and Subject Leader courses. The SSP also offers a range of programmes to **enhance the sport and physical activity** that schools can offer, including the popular Balanceability and Scootability programmes, which



GAME ON: The South Cambs Partnership supported a major Football Activators conference for girls.



are being delivered in Jeavons Wood, Gamlingay and Bourn this year.

These teach Reception, Year 1 and 2 children to ride a bike or two-wheeled scooter, as well as developing children's balance, coordination and spatial awareness and encouraging active travel to school. Also popular this year have been athlete visits, with children being inspired to achieve their best, overcome setbacks and build resilience by hearing from world champions, world record-holders and professional sports people.

Another strand of the SSPs remit is to deliver the Government-funded **School Games Programme**, which aims to provide young people with the opportunity to compete and have positive sporting experiences. It is free to all primary and secondary

schools.

It also allows the SSP to work with schools and local partners to promote the importance of regular activity to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of young people.

The Partnership also oversees a highly successful **Leadership Academy** programme involving Year 10 Sports Leaders, including from the Trust secondary schools.

Participants access training to develop key leadership and life skills, such as communication and organisation, and are then deployed to support the delivery of extra-curricular clubs, inter-school competitions and primary school events as well as being guided and

encouraged to volunteer in community sport.

Claire Mc Donnell, who manages the SCSSP, is also strategic lead for the local Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership, a nationwide scheme that aims to mainstream football in schools for girls.

Funded by Barclays and England Football and overseen by the YST, the vision is to ensure every girl has equal access to football in school by 2024. This year the partnership has run numerous football competitions and festivals with more than 300 girls having taken part already. It also supported a successful Game On Girls Football Activators conference, and engaged 17 schools, seven local clubs and more than 2,500 girls in the #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session to mark International Women's Day on 8th March.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT: Stephen Munday receives a YST award.

CEO's commitment award

Trust CEO Stephen Munday has won an award for his advocacy and passion in supporting schools to deliver high quality PE, physical activity, and school sport for young people.

He received the Campbell CARE Award at the Youth Sport Trust Awards earlier this term, It recognises network leaders and local influencers and Stephen was commended as an inspiring leader, practitioner and advocate in Cambridgeshire.

He has been working with children's charity, the Youth Sport Trust, for the last 20 years and has played an integral role in influencing other school leaders, organisations and educators about the importance of embedding PE, sport and play in the curriculum to achieve better outcomes for young people.

The judges noted that Stephen embodies absolute

integrity, is humble, committed, and hugely generous with his time in support of the Youth Sport Trust's mission to equip educators and empower young people through the power of PE, play and sport.

Ali Oliver MBE, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said: "Stephen has demonstrated a huge commitment to the important role of PE, play and sport in improving young people's mental health.

"This generation is moving less, spending more time online and has experienced major changes in their lives following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"On top of this, increased social inequality amplified by the cost-of-living crisis are creating a ripple effect on their school and home life. It is thanks to changemakers like Stephen that they will grow up healthier and happier."

Pupils' panathlon pride

A team of Year 8 Cabin students represented South Cambs at the Cambridge and Peterborough Disability and Inclusion Festival earlier this month.

They competed in the county panathlon finals after qualifying by winning a district Panathlon Challenge Xtend event at Impington Village College at the start of term. Although they missed out on a podium place, they performed very well, exploring a range of physical activities and developing a variety of new skills. They also enjoyed being introduced to new sports, which included New Age Kurling, skittles, beanbag throwing, table cricket as well as various racket and ball skills.



FINALS DAY: Cabin students represented South Cambs at the county finals.

Haslingfield scoop runners-up spot

It could hardly have been any closer as 16 teams fought it out for the SCSSP tag rugby title.

In the end, though, Haslingfield had to settle for runners-up spot in the 'small schools' event after one win in a division of draws earned Gt Abington the title.

Haslingfield themselves snatched second courtesy of having scored more

tries than Petersfield, from Orwell, who were third.

Those three teams, plus Foxton, had qualified for the title play-offs from the initial round-robin phase in four groups, where all won all three of their 10-minute matches.

The team from Harston & Newton won the 'Spirit of the Games' awards for demonstrating good teamwork, positivity and respect throughout the event.

The competition, for mixed teams from Years 4, 5, and 6, was held at Shelford Rugby Club alongside a similar competition for 'big schools'.

In that competition, 20 teams from 13 schools battled it out for a 'Cup' and a 'Plate'. Histon Brook won both competitions, effectively for first and second teams, with Trumpington Park and Jeavons Wood completing the podium line-up in the cup competition and Swavesey 2 and Monkfield Park taking silver and bronze in the plate.

Partnership Manager, Claire McDonnell said: "It was great to have so many schools involved and to see so many children enjoying the game of rugby.

"We had over 400 children taking part and, for many of them, it would have been their first experience of competitive rugby.

"The standard of play was really strong, and it was great to see lots of tries being scored with some real end-to-end games."



SILVER MEDALS: For Haslingfield's tag rugby team at the 'small schools' competition.

Girls inspired to give football a go

Seventeen South Cambs schools took part in the #LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session on Wednesday 8th March with more than 2,500 girls taking part, highlighting the demand for girls' football.

The event, supported by Barclays and England Football as part of their ongoing commitment to give girls in England equal access to football in schools by 2024, coincided with International Women's Day and saw a record 285,000 girls taking part across England.

As a strategic lead for the Barclays Girls Football School Partnerships programme, the South Cambs School Sport Partnership supported the event by encouraging schools to get involved and helping to link them with their local girls' football club/provider and get their coaches in to run fun taster sessions on the day.

The girls at Pathfinder Primary School in Northstowe were extra lucky to receive a visit from professional footballer and MK Dons' Angelina Nixon. Angelina delivered a whole school assembly where she talked about how she got into football and her journey so far before she shared her dreams for the future and how she one day hopes to play for the Lionesses. Angelina then helped to deliver coaching sessions for 180 girls from reception through to Year 6.

Claire McDonnell, local strategic lead, said: "The day was a great opportunity to promote girls' football in our schools and the importance of giving girls equal opportunities to play. It was great to be able to work with coaches from seven local clubs to provide fun sessions for the girls and give many of them their first opportunity to play football.

"Despite the cold conditions on the day, I can honestly say every single girl enjoyed it and took part with a big smile, it was really inspiring to see. Lots of them left asking if they could do it again or play at lunchtimes with their

friends and this is something we really want to encourage. This event has certainly proved to me how many girls want to play and therefore how important it is we work with schools to give them that chance."

Sue Campbell, the FA's director of women's football, said: "The record number of girls taking part in our Let Girls Play Biggest Ever Football Session this year is simply remarkable.

"We have tripled the number of girls taking part compared to last year, which just shows the increased demand for girls to play football.

"Barclays' investment into the Girls' Football School Partnerships has been integral in supporting our ambition to get more girls playing football."



#LETGIRLSPLAY: The demand for girls' football has tripled in the last year.



ALL-WEATHER LEADERS: *Comberton's sports leaders have been officiating in all conditions this term.*

Leaders show quality

Comberton's sports leaders have been battling all the elements this half term, but rain, snow and hail has not stopped them from carrying out their officiating duties!

Last month, 20 sports leaders travelled to Wilberforce Road to assist the South Cambs Partnership with their primary school quicksticks hockey tournament.

The sports leaders were prepared for the day, as they had been practising their hockey umpiring during their PE lessons.

This proved extremely useful as they umpired more than 100 games across the day! A special mention goes to Jack, Sam, Sally-Ann and Joseph, who were all exceptional.

On an action-packed day at the Cambridge University sports ground there were four separate competitions — cup and plate events for big schools and small schools, based on pupil numbers.

The teams of four, two boys and two girls, all gave their best for their schools.

The 'big' schools cup went to Histon Brook, who beat University of Cambridge Primary, from Eddington, 2-1 in the final.

Pendragon, Papworth, won the 'plate' final 3-0 against Trumpington Park.

In the 'small' schools cup Harston and Newton beat Meldreth 2-1, while the plate went to Barton, who continued their goal fest in the final against Gt Abington.

Barton scored an incredible 23 goals in their four group games, then added another six in the final against opponents who won the toss of a coin with Harston

and Newton II when both teams finished their group games with the same points, goal difference and goals scored!

Another festival saw more bad weather — this time a downpour at the Bee Netball tournament.

This was the second time that the Comberton sports leaders had umpired at a netball tournament, so it was brilliant seeing their knowledge develop and their confidence grow.

There was some technical terminology and confident umpiring from Jenna, Aliyah, Olivia and Abi in particular.

Chloe, Sam, Stella and Olivia also stood out as they did a brilliant job scorekeeping and ensuring we ran to time across the event.

The leaders were so good, that we are hoping to use them again for the A Team Primary Netball Finals next month.

The A Team Plate finals take place at Comberton on April 24th with the Shield finals at Impington a few days later.



FITNESS CLASS TIMETABLE

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| BODY BLAST 18:00 - 18:50 HANNAH | YOGALATES 17:40 - 18:40 SANDRA D | FITNESS PILATES 17:40—18:40 SANDRA D | STUDIO CYCLING 17:45 - 18:25 AYMEN | STUDIO CYCLING 17:30 - 18.15 JEN | YOGA 10:00—11:00 JENNY | STEP 9:00 -10:00 AYMEN |
| STUDIO CYCLING 18:00—18:45 AYMEN | HIIT 18:10 - 18:40 JEN | | | | | YOGALATES 10:10-11:10 SANDRA D |
| DANCE AEROBICS 19:00—19:50 HANNAH | LBT 18:45 - 19:35 JEN | CIRCUITS 18:45— 19:45 RACHEL | HIIT 18:30 - 19:00 AYMEN | | | |
| CIRCUITS 19:55—20:40 HANNAH | STUDIO CYCLING 19:45 - 20:30 JEN | | PUMP AND TONE 19:05—19:50 JO | FITNESS CLASSES FREE OF CHARGE FOR MEMBERS NON-MEMBERS WELCOME : £5 PER CLASS CONTACT CSA RECEPTION TO BOOK ON! TEL: 01223 264444 MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM £30 A MONTH - WHICH INCLUDES: UNLIMITED USE OF FITNESS SUITE AND FREE WEIGHTS ROOM AND FREE BADMINTON COURT HIRE | | |

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ON A PAY & PLAY BASIS



SHARING PLAYERS: Some Year 9 students played for the Year 10 (far left) team instead.

Final date is booked

Comberton's Year 10 netballers are through to the County Finals after qualifying from the District tournament this term.

Although they lost 10-5 to hosts St Mary's in the final, the tournament is for state schools so that result against the independent Cambridge girls' school did not matter and they move on to represent Cambridge & District at the Cambridgeshire under-16 event in November.

After a downpour of hailstones, Comberton topped their seven-strong group, winning all six of the matches to earn a semi-final against the runners-up from the other pool, St Bede's.

Victory was enough to guarantee their county slot and the girls are already working hard for that. It was all the more rewarding that Comberton qualified as half the squad are still in Year 9.

Well done to Jenna (10C), Abi (10I), Olivia (10T), Sally-Ann (10E), Chloe (10N), Brooke (9M), Lily (9R), Gerogie (9C) and Abbie (9O).

Year 7 also won their tournament — and the other team finished a fantastic fourth.

So many year 7s have attending netball club that Comberton entered the maximum two teams and took 17 players to the competition.

The A team started in group stages against four other schools.

They began with a win against Impington (5-0), following this with an identical score against Swavesey. St Bede's again put up an excellent performance, but Comberton edged it 2-1 before their last group game was another narrow victory, 3-2 against Cambourne.

Comberton progressed through as winners of group one, and came up against Chesterton in the semi-finals. At the final whistle, the score was 2-2, which meant the game went to extra time. Comberton continued to play brilliantly and came away 4-2 winners.

The final was against St Bede's — it was an incredibly close game again, but Comberton won the tournament with a final score of 3-2.

The B team played in a round robin style tournament against six other teams from the district.

They started with a win against Impington, then held St Mary's to a draw in an excellent second game.

They came up a strong St Bede's team, to whom they lost 1-0, but then also drew with Soham and Chesterton leaving them in a fantastic fourth position. The inclusion of Year 9 players in the Year 10 team made it a tough day for Comberton at the Year 9 tournament as no student is eligible to play twice. However, those who did play put on a great show of adaptability and resilience.

Many girls played multiple positions during the event with a special mention going to Isla (9M) who made a great debut at Goal Shooter.

Although they did suffer some defeats, the team finished on a high with a win against Impington.

Year 8 reached the quarter-finals of their tournament, going down to a last-minute goal against Chesterton. However, there was some incredible play in the group games as Comberton bounced back from an opening 5-4 defeat by Sancton Wood to beat Impington, Swavesey and Cottenham.

GIVING THEIR BEST: The Year 8 team (left) and the Year 7 squad which made up two teams.



Are you thinking about a career in education?

We are actively recruiting 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.catrust.co.uk/key-information/vacancies



TEAM GAMES:
Some of
Comberton's
Year 7 girls'
football and
netball teams.

Enthusiasm and skill!

Year 7 girls have been busy proving what a sporting lot they are with fantastic attendance at both football and netball clubs this term.

We have been delighted with the turnout to Year 7 netball club this year, having five teams' worth of players!

We were determined to get every player a game and organised multiple fixtures with local schools, as well as a huge tournament night, which involved all the teams.

We also held other friendly matches and took two of our teams to the Year 7 district tournament where they played absolutely brilliantly.

We have now completed our fixtures for this academic year, but we will be running a social netball club after Easter and also encourage any interested players to consider joining a local team — we know many already have!

Please speak to Miss Shipley or Miss Kingston for further information.

The numbers attending Year 7 girls' football have continued to increase and we now have enough players for almost three teams!

The girls have played in both the district and county competitions, reaching the latter stages in both.

Their qualifier to the last eight of the district competition involved a very tense penalty shoot-out against Cambourne, who took the match to spot kicks after a last-gasp equaliser forced a 2-2 draw. They next face Bottisham.

Grace, our goalkeeper, helped lead the team to a nail-biting victory after eight rounds of penalties.

In the county quarter-finals, the team were drenched, but secured a hefty 10-1 victory to reach the semi-finals, against opponents yet to be decided.

We are delighted that girls' football is continuing to grow and look forward to seeing how we get on in the rest of the season.

Sports clubs continue to thrive

As the spring term comes to a close, the PE department would like to share with you the excellent extra-curricular accomplishments we have had over the last few months.

After-school clubs have been as popular as ever, and we have recorded more than 1000 attendees to our clubs since the start of January.

One particular club to highlight is the vibrant netball club, which regularly sees numbers as high as 120 each week.

Another ever-popular club is girls' football. It seems the success of the Lionesses in the summer has inspired a new generation of young girls to take up football at Comberton, most of who have gone on to experience their own success by representing the school in fixtures.

Sharing similar success has been the boys' football teams.

A special mention goes to the Year 8 football team who went on a brilliant run of games, making it to the fifth round of the national cup. Unfortunately, after a well fought contest, they were knocked out in extra time by Alameda Middle School from Bedford.

The boys' Under-16 football team were also knocked out of their national cup, which sadly means they have played their final match together.

As the coach of the Under-16's team I would like to thank everyone involved.

I believe the team will look back fondly on playing together over the last five years. I hope many friendships have been formed and lots of you will continue to play together (or against each other)

outside of school for years to come.

In contrast to the Year 11s playing their final game, it has been great to see so many new faces attending the boys' Year 7 and 8 football sessions.

We hope to continue to see these students attend, improve and bond so that they, too, can experience similar success over the years.

We look forward to launching our new summer extra-curricular clubs and are anticipating another successful term, especially when it comes to our athletics meets. Please do encourage your child to come and try out some of our after-school clubs.

There is no obligation to pay and students can attend as many clubs as they wish! If you have any questions please do email me.

George Anderson, PE Department



WHEELY GOOD: The new set of bikes at Comberton.

New bikes on road

After the PE department's sponsored cycle marathon and the donations which followed, Comberton has invested in a new set of bikes for students to use during PE lessons. The department raised an incredible £4300 after completing an 874-mile static bike challenge, covering the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The first group to try the new bikes were Year 9 girls, who tested them on road, track, VERY wet mud and even some slopes.

With enough working bikes for one each, classes can venture out to new terrain and have loved it.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the PE department.



FIFTH ROUND: The Year 8 boys reached the fifth round of the English Schools national competition.

Girls in national cup final



FINALISTS: Comberton's under-16 team.



TEAM OF THE YEAR: At the Roy Burrell Awards.

The Under-16 girls' football team have reached the final of the ESFA National Cup.

Having reached the semi-finals a year ago in the under-15 competition, they have gone one better and booked a final place yesterday with a 5-0 victory over Cardinal Hume School, from Gateshead. They will now play either The FitzWinmarc School from Rayleigh, Essex, or South Londoners from Kingsdale Foundation School at Stoke City's ground on May 5th. The team have had a fantastic tournament so far, battling through seven rounds — after a first-round bye — to reach the final and have scored an incredible 51 goals, the latest five coming courtesy of a Maddie (11E) hat-trick and two from Gwen (11T). Team manager Abbey Cotton said: "The team have worked incredibly hard to get to the final and have shown excellent commitment in their training and preparation. This has clearly paid off. With strong performances from our back line, we provided a constant wall against their attack. "The midfield worked equally hard, providing repeated opportunities to attack. Our forwards really fought for each goal and put their bodies on the line to come out with five goals between them. An excellent performance with a strong crowd of family and friends." CVC opened the campaign with a 15-1

thumping of Copleston High School, from Ipswich, then beat local rivals Hinchingsbrooke, Huntingdon, 3-0, Neale Wade Academy, March, 9-3 and St Ivo, from St Ives, 4-3 in their narrowest victory. In round six, they travelled to Great Yarmouth and ran out 7-4 winners against Flegg High Ormiston Academy before an even longer trip — to The Priory School in Shrewsbury, only a 15-minute drive from the border with Wales — where they won 8-1. The team have really put in the time and energy into their training and preparation. These training sessions have been taken into the classroom and involved video analysis of previous performances. Led by captain Jenna (10C), the team have gone from strength to strength and have settled into a mature and tenacious playing style. Not only is their campaign for the National Cup going well, they also remain unbeaten in Cambridgeshire since 2019. They are due to play the quarter-final of the Cambridgeshire Schools FA competition with hopes of a similar success there too! Their performance was recently recognised at the annual Cambridge and District Secondary Schools Sports Association's award ceremony — The Roy Burrell Awards — in which they won the Team of the Year. We wish you all the best in the final of the National Cup.

Horse power!

The Comberton Equestrian Team has been re-formed. This enables students with access to a horse to represent Comberton at National Schools' Equestrian Association (NSEA) competitions. We have also started an equestrian ambassadors scheme. This is where students with no access to their own horse, but with an interest in horse-riding help promote the sport in school and provide guidance and information to anyone looking to take up the sport. We have already had our students attend a first competition — both Natalia (11I) and Ella (8I) rode at Forest Edge, near Swaffham in Norfolk, in early March and were double clear in all their rounds! Natalia also finished third in the 1.10m class. What a great start for the team — well done both. The equestrian team and ambassadors were also lucky enough to be invited to the GBR Vaulting Training Centre in Warwickshire to learn more about the sport of equestrian vaulting. The group heard talks by members of the current GBR vaulting squad about balancing team commitments with work and study, preparing horses for competition and the sport of equestrian vaulting itself. They also had a tour of the centre and tried out some skills on a mechanical horse before having the chance to try it for real with one of the GBR squad horses and two of the GBR coaches. We would like to thank the coaches and squad members for their time in offering this amazing opportunity to our students — they all had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about both the sport and balancing high level equestrian activity with school and study commitments.



OPPORTUNITY: Comberton students can now take part in schools' competitions.



OPPORTUNITY: The chance to try the sport of equestrian vaulting.

From school hall to Boat Race!



THEN AND NOW: *Comberton pupil Tom Sharrock is a member of Oxford's Blue Boat.*

Tom Sharrock was a student at CVC from 2014-2019. Last Sunday he was the youngest member of the Oxford University crew as they lost to Cambridge University in one of sport's enduring rivalries.

It's a far cry from his humble rowing beginnings. As well as playing football and rugby for the school, Tom joined the after-school indoor rowing club in the school hall, 'erging' on the rowing machines.

It was run by Steven Levett, who was in the sixth form at the time, and Tom really enjoyed the energy and competitive spirit Steven brought to it. Each year CVC organised for the club to attend the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in London, where the rowers participated in individual and relay events.

This provided a goal to work towards throughout the year and was also a really fun day out.

After a realising how much he got out of the school club, Tom joined Cantabrigian Rowing Club in Cambridge.

'Cantabs' is one of the biggest town rowing clubs, and aims to provide rowing opportunities for all, while also being competitive at national competitions.

There were plenty of opportunities to go to regattas and races, and really committed volunteer coaches gave up their weekends to run rowing outings for the juniors.

Tom had varying levels of success, ranging from capsizing his boat in a race one freezing December, to qualifying to represent the region at national championships.

After a couple of years Tom was scouted by the British Rowing's 'World Class Start' programme, which aims to create a pipeline of athletes for the Olympics.

He spent three years as a part of the programme, involving up to 12 training sessions per week,



catching very early morning trains to Ely or Peterborough (where the river is wider and easier for training) and weekends away each month on training camps.

Tom managed to keep training during Covid, erging, running and cycling from home, and doing weightlifting in the garage.

He gained a place at Oxford University to study Engineering Science in 2021 and trialled for Oxford University Boat Club (OUBC).

The club trains with the sole aim of beating Cambridge in the annual Boat Race on the tideway in London — which didn't happen this year!

Training takes up huge amounts of time, six days per week, and carries on before and after term.

In the 2021-2022 season he made the third boat, which doesn't race Cambridge, as the youngest member of a squad including five rowers who had come straight from the Tokyo Olympics.

However, he still got the chance to feature with some of his fellow OUBC teammates in a film being directed by George Clooney about rowing, called *The Boys in the Boat*, which is due out in the next year or so.

This year he was delighted to be picked for the Dark Blue boat for the Boat Race, which took place on Sunday 26 March.

At 20, he was the youngest member of the crew.

Tom said: "It was a real dream come true to be in the Boat Race, and row alongside some of the best rowers in the country.

"I am so grateful to all my coaches throughout my rowing career, who gave me so many opportunities to row, especially Steven Levett, who got me into it in the first place.

"I hope this makes people realise you don't need to be right next to a river to start rowing, and you can start anytime! "



TOP SPOT: *At the Roy Burrell Awards.*

Success is recognised

The Roy Burrell Awards were held on 7th March at Netherhall School.

These awards recognise Year 11 students from Cambridge and District schools who have achieved at least county level in their sport. Former winners of the Roy Burrell Award have gone on to represent their countries at Olympic, Commonwealth and national level. One was Tess Howard, current England hockey player, who was the guest speaker at these awards.

Her inspirational story told of her five years since winning a Roy Burrell Award as a former Perse School pupil, to overcoming a huge injury setback to score the gold medal-winning goal at last summer's Commonwealth Games.

It was fantastic for our pupils to hear how a person in their position now had gone on to succeed at international level.

Students across the district were nominated by their PE teachers. As well as this, there were overall winners for Team of the Year, Sports Leadership, Overcoming Adversity, and first-third place in the overall Roy Burrell Award. CVC were delighted to have so many students recognised, as well as to win Team of the Year (Under 16 girls' football) and take the top two in the overall award through Charntay (boxing) and Olly (golf).

The team have reached the National Cup semi-finals twice now, and are this year hoping to go even further (see page 27)

Charntay (11N) has represented England and GB in the under 75kg category. She is also on the English Institute of Sport Olympic Pathway.

She was the 2021 National Champion and the 2022 runner-up.

Olly (11M) has represented England and won the England Golf boys' Champion of Champions and County Championships.

He came second in the world at the Junior World Championships in Portugal. He also placed third amateur in the qualifying rounds of The Open Championship, against adult golfers.



RUNNER-UP: *At the Roy Burrell Awards.*