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Never too old to learn!

Derek Skipper has just finished school — again — at the incredible age of 92.

The sprightly pensioner took his final maths GCSE paper after signing up for a free adult education course run by The Cam Academy Trust out of Comberton and funded by Cambridgeshire Skills.

He is thought to be the oldest person in Britain to take a GCSE and it was a far cry from his first time at school, where he cycled three miles a day through bomb-ravaged East London to earn five School Certificates, including maths, which was gained with the help of a slide rule and book of tables.

The 21st Century learning offered up to five hours tuition a week in the comfort of Derek's Orwell home, thanks to all lessons taking place on Zoom, and an exam that allowed the use of a calculator.

One thing that didn't change however, was Derek's attendance. He missed only one day at school during World War 2 — when a bomb blew his front door on to his bicycle wheel and left him with a puncture — and he logged in religiously for the twice-weekly sessions.

Now he's hoping for a Level 4 or 5, which are the highest available on the Foundation Paper, and wishes he could have taken the Higher Paper, which was not an option on the Adult Education programme.

"It doesn't matter two hoots about the result, but I'd like to get a 4 or 5," he said. "I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot about using a calculator. I think I found it easier than a lot of other people on the course.

"But there were still lots of things I'd either completely forgotten or we didn't learn like Venn diagrams, data collection, frequency tables and mean, mode and range — we just did averages which I understand — and leaf and stem.

"And I've been introduced to YouTube. You just want to know anything and YouTube's your boy. I watched a lot of tutorials."

Course tutor Shane Day said: "Derek was great, the best student in the class. He's the first 92-year-old I've taught, the previous oldest was 74."

A former RAF radar engineer during the Korean War, where he was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) and then a salesman, the grandad decided to go back to learning as a challenge.

"We have a friend who's 19 now and she couldn't get her head round maths and failed GCSE three times. I couldn't help her, so I decided to try to beat her. I thought it couldn't be that difficult and it's kept me occupied.

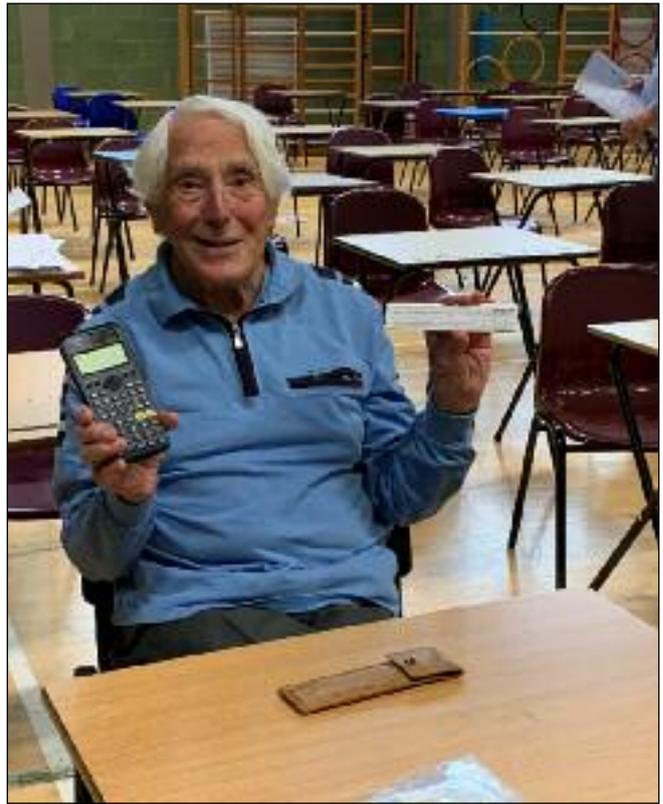
"I wouldn't have done it if it hadn't been on Zoom. I'd never have driven in on a dark night."

Derek, in fact, doesn't drive at all any more due to poor eyesight and took his maths paper in the Ally Brennan Gym with the help of an NHS-supplied magnifying glass. He also brought along his original 1946 slide rule, although he didn't use it for the exam!

He wasn't fazed by joining a gym full of 16-year-olds for the exams either. "I didn't even notice they were there," he said. "I just had my head down and got on with it. I'm obviously a bit slower and I found that I switched off at times. My brain just stopped working for a minute or two. I did run out of time, but I had a go at most of the questions, except the ones I thought looked complicated which I'd have gone back to if I'd had time. Checking through was out of the question."

GCSE maths was not Derek's first delve into 21st Century learning, however. He previously took a computer course and became proficient in Windows. Now he's a big iPad fan and would love to take lessons in that but hasn't found anything advanced enough yet!

Adult Education is a key part of what all Cam Academy Trust Schools have to offer, particularly those village colleges built on Henry Morris' vision of schools being at the heart of their community and offering education for all.



PAST AND PRESENT: Derek Skipper with his 1946 slide rule and 2022 calculator after his final GCSE exam.

Booking open for next courses

With the news of our 92-year-old taking GCSE Maths going global, we are anticipating quite a few enrolments on our English and Maths courses starting in September.

If you've ever thought of getting a GCSE, then why not give it a go now? We have a wide variety of weekly courses and Saturday workshops on offer from September, both face-to-face and online, including digital photography, interior design, architectural model making, mindfulness and Nordic walking.

Hopefully there will be something that takes your fancy.

Our 22/23 brochure is on our website www.combertonadulted.org and copies will be delivered locally via Royal Mail during August.

If you wish to book on any of our courses, please email commed@catrust.co.uk (please don't ring).

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SMOOTH OPERATORS: The ground source heat pump work is progressing well with minimal disruption to the school day.

Timely move towards new energy source

Progress on the installation of the ground source heat pump continues apace, with significant milestones being met as expected.

The full eight miles of drilling has been completed across the 60 boreholes, which will eventually become the main energy supply for the system. To give the total drilling depth some sense of scale; the drilling amounted to height of 39 Eiffel Towers. This was all completed within four months — a very impressive piece of work. In addition, key pieces of the system arrived on site during the May half term and were located into the new 'Energy Centre'. This required some considerable lifting equipment and was targeted at a time to reduce the impact on

school operations.

This includes a back-up system, as well as the main cylinders and pumps to support the heating and hot water supplies across the site, which will allow the College to make an annual carbon saving of 500 tonnes CO2.

The next phase of works is to complete the linking of the boreholes through dedicated trenching works. This work was initially targeted on the rear-most drilling locations but moved towards the front of the campus in recent weeks.

It is planned that the most disruptive trenching works will be held back until the summer break to ensure that education remains uninterrupted by this ongoing work.

To further futureproof the school's infrastructure, it is intended to install electric vehicle charging points

within the school parking areas.

This is preparing the college for the national target of stopping the sale of fossil fuel vehicles by 2030.

Comberton is hoping to have six points installed in this first phase, however the proposed location and ducting will support future installations, with limited disruption.

Deputy Principal Sean Sycamore, who is overseeing the project for the College, said: "We remain thoroughly impressed by the works completed to date and the very limited disruption this has had on the school's day-to-day operation."

"We have managed to complete mocks and public examinations, while such significant works are being undertaken. The removal from reliance on heating oil as the main energy source is timely, both environmentally and economically."

'Village Colleges visionary' in spotlight

GCSE Drama students had the opportunity to see a one-man show entitled 'Numinous', written and performed by actor Andy Hanlon and developed by members of the esteemed Curious School of Puppetry. The performance was an intriguing mix of poetry, object theatre, puppetry and music, which our students were both surprised by as well as in awe of.

'Numinous' was a solo performance piece exploring the life and thinking of Henry Morris, the visionary behind Village Colleges, who believed in 'education from the cradle to the grave'.

It followed his developing thoughts in education from when he was 14 up until his death. Playing 15 different characters, Andy presented all the individual characters through historical inanimate objects/artefacts, which was both highly original and effective. It has been 100 years since Cambridgeshire County Council appointed Henry Morris as Chief Education Officer (a post he held for 32 years), and 'Numinous' is part of The Henry Morris Trust's centenary celebrations. His life was devoted to creating educational institutions where art, literature, music, recreation, festivals, local government, and politics could flourish.

This production illustrates just how impactful he was and how he built remarkable schools, helped shape the development of community education, and inspired other educationalists around the world. After the performance students had the opportunity for a question and answer session where they probed Andy further into the historical context of Henry Morris, the directorial intentions of the performance as well as discovering what it takes to piece together a one-man show. One student described the experience as "surprisingly informative and hugely entertaining."



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: Include a one-man show detailing the life and thinking of Henry Morris.

Children are 'revolting!'

Roald Dahl lived a life full of adventure and exciting escapades and wrote many magical stories, novels and memoirs, with some of his finest works being both for and about children.

Matilda is one of his best-loved tales, portraying a remarkably intelligent girl whose warmth, wisdom, resilience and sheer exuberance defeat the many obstacles blocking her path, including her own monstrous parents.

Earlier this month, a cast of 45 Year 7-9 students, together with one from Year 10 and another from Year 12, brought to life Dahl's distinctive and memorable characters in CVC's production 'Matilda, the Musical'.

Sometimes, with a school show you may feel the need to make allowances for the youth of the cast, but this was completely unnecessary for the audience of this energetic and accomplished production.

The production team had worked hard with the young cast to get them all performing at an exceptional level and with focus and confidence; every one of them was clearly having a great time, but never lost their characters or their place on a very busy stage.

The production was performed with terrific energy and style throughout, with Matilda, played by Arabella (8R), leading the way.

Arabella found the perfect balance between sassy young woman and neglected, innocent young girl and delivered the role with an impressive confidence, which allowed her to bring Dahl's iconic character memorably to life.

Matilda's champion in the awful school that she is forced to attend is Miss Honey, a caring teacher who spots her talent immediately. Isla (8M) gave us a moving and skilful portrayal of this role, performing the character with maturity and sensitivity.

The arch enemy of the pair is the evil bully, Agatha Trunchbull. Thomas (12KS) took on this villainous role with huge energy and verve, more than justifying the leap of faith he took in playing the role as the only Sixth Former alongside the young cast, and delivering an accomplished and extremely impressive performance.

Matilda's parents, played by Myles (8I) and Scarlett (9M), were beautifully diabolical, allowing the audience to fully appreciate the ridiculous, cartoonish qualities of Mr and Mrs Wormwood.

The final piece to the Wormwood jigsaw is Matilda's brother Michael, played by Milo (8T), who performed the part with exceptional comic ingenuity and timing, which had the audience in stitches.

This show allows plenty of scope for the cast to impress us and they did so in abundance.

No-one will forget Kiran (8V) as the greedy Bruce Bogtrotter, and Freya (8N) as the hapless little Amanda, thrown over a fence by the vengeful Trunchbull just for having pigtails.

Scarlett (8T) was an appealingly cheeky Lavender and Elin (8R) an energetic Alice. Jude (8V), Emma (7V), Pepijn (8T) and Yahel (8B) all gave characterful performances as Matilda's other classmates, Nigel, Hortensia, Tommy and Eric, while Rosie (8V) perfectly captured the tone and demeanour of the librarian, Miss Phelps, who encourages Matilda to tell a fantastic tale, which we saw cleverly acted out with a variety of props, including stools and umbrellas.

There were many other distinctive characters and committed, impressive performances were given by every member of the cast, making this a highly memorable and uplifting way to finish the year.

This was a show full of cheerful music, reckless adventure and a bit of mild peril, reminding us all that the power of warmth and positivity can overcome the bullies who try and thwart us.

Every one of the 'little 'maggots' should be very proud of themselves.



STANDING UP TO BULLIES: *Matilda and the rest of the cast impressed in Roald Dahl's iconic story.*

Grease reunited

Following the success of the college's production of *Grease* last term, the cast were taken to the opening week of the West End production (which was almost as good as theirs!). It was a great night which had them all on their feet, dancing and singing in the aisles.

Nikolai Foster's production was brightly entertaining and blasted out room-filling energy in its big dance numbers by choreographer Arlene Phillips, with tight formations of sharp, rhythmic 50s motifs.

The cast sang the film's theme song like a manifesto, full of rebellion and disaffection.

Olivia Moore as Sandy delivered a show-stopping *Hopelessly Devoted to You*, and Dan Partridge's Danny nailed the jumpy swagger that Travolta did so well, like an overexcited puppy pretending to be a big dog.

But it was the star casting that came in the shape and soft pop voice of Peter Andre, who played DJ Vince Fontaine that stole the show.

It was a great way to bring the cast back together for a reunion and celebrate everything that was 'A wop bop a loo bop a lop bam boom'.

PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION:

The cast of Comberton's 'Grease' visited the West End to see Peter Andre and co on stage.





LAST TIME TOGETHER: Year 11 gather for their farewell celebration, the traditional end-of-year Prom.

Good luck for the future

On Tuesday 5th July we said Good bye to Year 11 as we celebrated their Prom at Manor Barn in Harlton.

There was an impressive array of suits and dresses and lots of entertainment with the modes of transport some choose to arrive in.

We had sports cars, old school buses, tractors, an old Pimms lorry, some classic cars, motorbikes, pushbikes and many more!

It was a fantastic evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were very lucky with the weather and the sun shone as we filled the venue with glitz and glamour.

The long-awaited rap was performed by Head of Year Donna Jones (originally promised for the Winter Ball but then Covid had other ideas!) and this set up the dance floor for lots of singing, dancing and photos.

It has been an amazing journey watching you all grow from Year 7-Year 11. Wishing the Class of 2022 all the best for the future!



PARTY TIME:
Students at the Year 11 Prom at Manor Barn, Harlton.



Celebrating the end of an era . . .



FUN AND FOOD: Inflatables and ice cream formed part of the entertainment on Celebration Day at the end of the exam period.



On Friday 24th June Year 11 celebrated the end of their GCSE exams in style with their Celebration Day held at CVC. They started the day with their tutors, receiving their hoodies and yearbooks, before enjoying the sunshine on the field.

There was plenty of entertainment, including a bouncy castle, an inflatable assault course, football darts and a photobooth.

The ice cream van was much appreciated on a warm day and lunch from the La Pergola restaurant at Harlton went down a treat.

Pupils had a final assembly, watching farewell videos from all the departments, before heading home. It was sad to say goodbye to friends, but Year 11 Prom was just around the corner and was another great opportunity to celebrate all Year 11 have achieved.

Lasting tribute unveiled

As part of Comberton's celebration of Stephen Munday's contribution to the school, before moving to full-time CEO of the Trust, a portrait of him was commissioned for the Henry Morris Room.

The artist, Rowan Briggs Smith, had already completed her GCSE early at CVC and was looking for projects to stretch her skills and ambition.

The commission made perfect sense and gave Rowan a chance to work in a professional capacity to produce a lasting tribute in recognition of Mr Munday's years of service to the school.

Before starting, conversations happened around what the portrait should convey stylistically and symbolically.

There are many mementos from Mr Munday's career in his office and Rowan cleverly arranged these within the portrait to tell a story of Comberton's history as a Sports College and as a school with many international links.

She began with a series of sketches and photographs in which a combination of natural lighting and studio lighting were experimented with to find the right atmosphere for the image.

The painting was built up slowly, with many adjustments and re-workings, until it reached its finished state; including changing the type of paint halfway through.

The finished result is a beautifully realised, accurate, yet painterly likeness that successfully describes Mr Munday's character and contribution to Comberton.

The painting was so strong that it was successful in its entry to the Royal Academy Young Artist Summer show, where it was exhibited before being permanently hung in the Henry Morris room at Comberton.

On the last Wednesday of term the painting was unveiled to an impressed audience of governors and other invited guests who could celebrate Mr Munday's contribution to our school and Rowan's artistic success in recognising this.

Greg Dean, Head of Art and Design



EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY: Rowan Briggs Smith's portrait of Stephen Munday also depicts some of Comberton's history.

GRAND UNVEILING: Of a portrait that was also exhibited at the Royal Academy's Young Artist Summer Show.

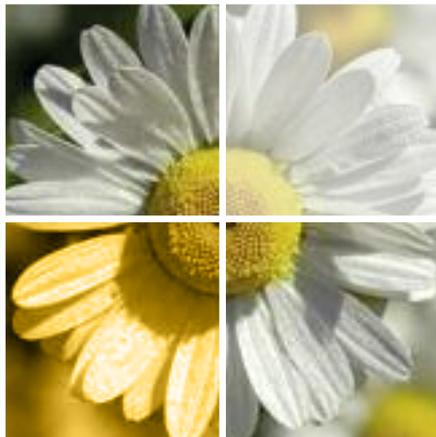


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Still good for gold

Comberton has retained the Gold Standard as a Rights Respecting School.

The school was praised for the way that children's rights are part of everyday life at Comberton — in line with the UNICEF-backed award's ethos.

The UK Committee for UNICEF works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents nurtured and they are able to thrive. Comberton started their Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) journey in 2016 with the bronze award.

Three years later, after presenting a portfolio of evidence, Comberton was awarded silver. The following year the school was inspected for the gold award — as well as presenting another extensive portfolio.

During the inspection the RRSA Programme Director Frances Bestley interviewed staff, senior leaders, students and governors. Earlier this term, having again reviewed written evidence, Frances returned to CVC.

Her report said: "Congratulations, I am very pleased to confirm that the Accreditation and Standards Committee agree that sufficient evidence was provided in the report to reaccredit Comberton Village College as a Unicef UK Gold: Rights Respecting School.

"The assessor would like to thank the children, the Senior Leadership Team, and staff for their warm welcome to the school, for the opportunity to speak with adults and children during the assessment and for the detailed evidence provided to support the process.

"Prior to the accreditation visit, the school completed a comprehensive School Evaluation: Gold form and provided a good range of digital evidence.

"It was evident that children's rights are embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life."



INSPECTION: Programme Director Frances Bestley talks to pupils during the re-accreditation visit.

A taste of 'big' school

Earlier in July, we welcomed nearly 300 Year 6 pupils into CVC for the first time since 2019 to experience transition days. It was incredibly exciting to meet pupils ahead of starting with us in September, and for them to see our site, meet their Year 7 tutors, and to experience some subject lessons.

Pupils arrived at the front of school, meeting our Year 7 leaders who showed them through to their new social area. There tutors helped to organise pupils into their new form groups, and then the new Year 7 cohort all went into the dining hall for an assembly with their future Head of Year, Donna Jones.

Pupils had four subject lessons ranging from English and Drama, to RPE and DT. Teachers introduced pupils to what their subject is 'about' and how this may differ to what they have experienced at primary school.

It was a chance for pupils to ask questions and to familiarise themselves with the school site.

They had a school lunch with us involving a hot meal and salad, and received a CVC water bottle, which came in handy for the following day's Sports Festival.

Pupils finished the day with their tutor, receiving their coloured T-shirt ready for the Sports Festival.

In the evening, parents were invited in to the school to meet key staff, hear about the transition day and receive information about our iPad programme.

Parents were also shown a sneak preview

of the *Matilda* production, which drama and music staff had been preparing with our lower school and which premiered later that evening. It looked and sounded fantastic!

The Sports Festival (see Page 27) was the final day of a week of Sports Days at CVC. Pupils competed in a range of activities, supporting their new tutor group by cheering one another along. They wore their brightly coloured T-shirts to show who was in each form and there was a rainbow of colours out on the school field! This brought to a close two days of experiencing what CVC has to offer our pupils, which we hope they will all enjoy and take advantage of in their years to come at CVC. Sarah Higgs, Asst Principal



NEW ARRIVALS: Four ducklings hatched in KS3 Support.

Help for Ukraine

Almost £3000 will be donated to Save the Children's Ukraine appeal from the proceeds of Comberton's secondhand uniform sale.

The annual event, organised by Post-16 Manager Sarah Thomas, her mum Caroline Wenham, a former Art Technician at CVC, and a band of volunteers raised £2941.



Ducklings delight!

It has been very egg-citing in KS3 Support with us being lucky enough to hatch four baby ducklings.

It was incredible watching them hatch from hearing the first little squeak from inside the egg to learning about the 'egg tooth' and how this helps the ducklings crack the shell. Once they were out, this is where the real fun began. Their names were Quackers, Dr Quackington, Buddy and Donald.

Our students enjoyed watching the ducklings have their first swim in a little inflatable pool during breaks and lunch times.

We received lots of visitors coming to visit the ducks and have cuddles and the ducks loved these! We were sad when it was time for them to leave, but know that they are living their best duck lives at the duck sanctuary.

Best books put on test

Over the past two terms a few students from Years 8, 9 and 10 have been participating in the Carnegie Shadowing Award.

This consisted of reading as many of the shortlisted Carnegie books as possible in the time we had and then meeting up every Friday lunchtime to discuss and analyse a different book over some squash and biscuits.

I really enjoyed when we created characters on whiteboards and passed them around to somehow link all of our characters in the style of Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock in her book *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town*.

When the Carnegie Day approached

many of us brought in biscuits or cakes which we enjoyed with pupils from other schools (St Peter's, Cambourne, and Ely College) in the Library.

Throughout the day we did quizzes on Literature, analysed the Carnegie book covers and participated in a creative competition, where we either redesigned one of the book covers, created a black-out poem or produced a piece of writing inspired by one of the books.

We watched the live-streamed event and were glad that *October, October* by Katya Balen was awarded both medals; we had voted for it in our school vote too!

It was a great day and we are glad we were able to share it with all the pupils from other local schools.

Ella (8E)



D-DAY: CVC pupils were joined by book enthusiasts from other schools on the day the Carnegie awards were announced.

Popular authors share secrets of success

We were delighted this term to welcome two amazing authors into the school library to speak to pupils.

Hugely popular author Julian Sedgwick took time from his busy schedule to talk to Year 8 about his Carnegie Award shortlisted book *Tsunami Girl*, which cleverly weaves many stories from the devastating 2011 Tsunami that hit Japan into one fantastic novel, co-written with Manga artist Chie Kutsuwada.

Julian told Year 8 about his love for Japan, his many travels there and the people that he befriended, as well as discussing how he came to be an author.

He generously stayed to chat to many of our pupils while signing books,

and talking about the Carnegie Award ceremony that he was to attend the next day!

Only a week later the amazing Helen Moss visited Year 7.

Helen, famous for her *Adventure Island* and *Secrets of the Tombs* series, was lots of fun to listen to and very engaging, asking the pupils to think of fantastic plots ideas and discussing what it's like being an author, and how to become one.

We were thrilled to be able to start having visitors in to talk to pupils once more, and to have two such successful visits was a real treat. We look forward to inviting them and other authors in to visit us next year as well!



BOOK TALK: From author Julian Sedgwick.

Upgrade for eBooks

Last year we introduced a digital library to enable pupils to access a wider variety of reading from home.

This year, following the successful rollout of the iPads in KS3 and

Year 12, we have upgraded to an even better eBook provider.

All pupils and staff are now able to access a wider variety of eBooks, eAudio books, digital graphic novels and Manga through our subscription to Sora from OverDrive.

All KS3 pupils were introduced to the



scheme via their English lessons and it is proving very popular so far!

While eBooks will never supersede the many wonderful volumes on our shelves, they have the

advantage of being available throughout the long summer break, so no-one need want for a story while on holiday!

Details about how students can access Sora are available on our CATalogue page, including how to link the app to your public library account.

Helping to 'close the literacy gap'



COSY CORNER: The new reading area in KS3 Support.

The school library has had a very busy term!

We have worked closely with KS3 and KS4 Support as part of the school's ongoing drive to 'Close the Literacy Gap'.

There is lots of evidence suggesting that pupils who read for pleasure see an increase in their academic achievement, but we also see an improvement in mental health and wellbeing as students gain empathy and understanding of the world, learning of experiences they may share.

This term we have installed a reading area in KS3 Support, which we have populated with books ranging in reading level and age interest, both fiction and non-fiction.

We have found abridged and graphic versions of English set texts to enable all

students to access these amazing works.

And we have provided literacy-based games for break and lunchtimes, with Scrabble proving most popular so far! It's been a huge success, with pupils keen to pick up books and read. Our amazing support team can now much more easily read with students who are not in classroom-based lessons and have been delighted to see pupils asking to spend time reading independently on the comfy bean bags.

KS4 Support were similarly provided with new books for their reading area, with fiction and non-fiction according to themes identified as popular by library staff, support staff and students. Pupils can find age-appropriate books that they can relate to and discuss with other people.



TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT: Students were encouraged to think about the food choices they make.

Week has double aim

This year we were delighted to be involved in the British Nutrition Foundation's 10th Healthy Eating Week.

It took place from 13-17 June 2022.

This is a national event to raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The big message for the week this year was: Eat well for you and the planet!

Each day of the week had a different theme:

- Monday: Focus on fibre — for meals and snacks
- Tuesday: Get at least 5 A DAY — put plenty on your plate
- Wednesday: Vary your protein — be more creative
- Thursday: Stay hydrated — fill up from the tap
- Friday: Reduce food waste — know your portions

On Monday morning we were visited by Dr Simon Steenson, a Nutrition Scientist from the British Nutrition Foundation, who was really interested in how we interpreted the themes of the week and the activities we had planned.

ITV also paid us a visit, conducting pupil interviews and interviewing Mr Berwick, our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering teacher.

They also observed and filmed a Year 10 Hospitality and Catering class in action. The students were making high fibre muffin bites and high fibre meatless balls with a spicy tomato sauce.

These were served as samples for pupils to enjoy at lunchtime on the field.

These tasty snacks reflected the theme of "Focus on Fibre", using carrot pulp from juicing to make the muffins, and using the carrot juice as one of the ingredients in the meatless balls.

We also used beans for these, highlighting the 'vary your protein' theme. We reduced food waste by using the pulp as this would commonly be thrown away.

Thursday was a very hot day, and we had a cooling treat to help deliver the message of the day.

Mrs Whiddett, our wonderful food technician, had made around 600 ice pops, using squash and water from the tap, which we handed out at lunchtime to very hot and grateful recipients!

Form time activities were provided every day, and assemblies for Years 7-10 were held to explain the importance of the week and the themes, asking everyone to be mindful about the food choices they make, and raising awareness of the link between food and the environment.

The brilliant catering team provided a special menu that reflected the themes, including extended ranges of colourful fruits and vegetables, offering alternative proteins such as legumes as well as high fibre choices.

The take up of these foods was excellent and we encourage all of our pupils to continue to make healthy, balanced selections at break and lunch in school, as well as at when they are at home, or eating out. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who got involved this year, especially Mrs Whiddett who worked so hard behind the scenes, and our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering class who made wonderful healthy treats for everyone to enjoy with the TV cameras watching their every move!

Emily Goodson, Head of Food and Nutrition



ON CAMERA: ITV spent the first day of Healthy Eating Week at Comberton and interviewed students (left) as well as visiting speaker Dr Simon Steenson (below).



COOKING WITH MEANING: Samples explained not only the ingredients but the benefits.

Poem wins top prize

A poem written by a Comberton student has taken top spot in the Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition.

A year ago students wrote poems either in Spanish, French or German or in their native language and four students had their work shortlisted, two in their first language and two for their work in French.

And Alli (now 8M) has been awarded top spot in the Mother Tongue section for the poem she wrote in Bulgarian. Her work, as well as that of Natalia (now 9B), who wrote in Welsh, and the Other Tongue efforts of Bethan (now 10N) and Heidi (now 10V) have all been published by competition organisers. The competition is a national project led by former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Director of the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Metro University.

All the shortlisted students are due to receive a copy of the book after hearing during the Easter holidays that their work had been selected.



EVERYBODY'S LEARNING: Language leaders practise their skills while teaching primary school pupils.

Amazing opportunity

Language leaders is such a great opportunity if you would like to become more confident within the language of Spanish and would like to experience teaching.

We worked with Year 3 and 4 pupils and we taught Spanish words on the themes of Christmas, Easter and Summer.

We prepared a lesson in the course of four weeks by creating content with a PowerPoint, sheets and resources for the children.

You also have a choice of what year you teach and what school you go to. Being language leaders has made us much more confident with how we talk to people and behave around others.

Some advice we would give to future language leaders is to put 100% effort into every lesson as you never know what can happen.

Most importantly, enjoy it rather than worry about it.

Our language leaders' experience has been incredible and we couldn't have done it without Ms Hategan's input. Thank you. Lola (9M) and Hannah (9O)



NATIONAL FINALISTS: For the Spanish Spelling Bee.

Trio reach finals

How many words could you spell in one minute?

Now how many words could you translate into Spanish and spell in one minute? Three of our Year 7s could take that number and double it.

William, Maya and Balint (all 7N) all went through to the National Finals of the Spanish Spelling Bee after coming first, second and third in the regional

finals respectively.

The competition, run by Routes into Languages, took place last month at Cambridge University.

There were 19,672 original entrants to this competition across French, Spanish and German and our Year 7s made it through to the final 35 for Spanish. What an achievement!

We are immensely proud of them.

Learning key skills

International Leaders are Year 10 students who run lunchtime clubs for the MFL department. These include vocab learning and homework club, as well as a foreign film club. It is a chance to show younger pupils how their language skills can be advanced, especially through leadership roles.

Applying to become an International Leader is also a useful step that will be very helpful to anyone who might want to apply for a Prefect position later in the year.

Overall, this role has developed our communication and problem-solving skills as well as our confidence in foreign languages.



Could you make a difference to our students with autism and/or additional needs in school?

We are actively seeking to recruit Teaching Assistants to work in our additional needs departments.



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

We have vacancies in several additional needs departments at Comberton Village College, supporting students with a variety of needs, including Autism, learning difficulties, physical impairments, social or emotional needs.

Part-time positions available; term time only.

To apply or obtain further information, visit: <https://www.combertonvc.org/contact-us/current-vacancies>

Getting together again!

Year 10 students were joined by students from Cantabria in the north of Spain for our annual Spanish Interaction Day.

The day began with icebreakers for students to get to know each other. After break, students split into groups for some competitive team games like Taboo and 'guess the word', with many words getting lost in translation (literally) and providing great entertainment for all.

After pizza for lunch and a chance for our Year 10s to show their new Spanish friends around the school,

students took part in an escape room, in which they completed challenges and solved puzzles to earn points for their teams.

Throughout the day students practised their language skills and learned lots about Spanish culture, but most importantly they were excited to get to meet in person students from a different culture for first time since 2020!

Well done to all involved for their enthusiasm and excellent conversations in Spanish. ¡Felicidades a todos los participantes!

Here's what Isabelle (10B) said: "I really enjoyed taking part in the Spanish interaction day and

meeting the Spanish students, especially because of all the opportunities we've missed due to the pandemic.

"It was really interesting to hear about their lives and the differences between our schools and have the chance to improve our Spanish speaking skills.

"After everybody had got to know each other through ice breaker challenges, it was really fun to take part in activities in our groups such as Taboo and an escape room.

"It gave us all the opportunity to make new friends and let us practise the language we are learning. It was a really fun day and we all enjoyed it!"



FUN FOR ALL: Spanish students joined Comberton Year 10s for a day of interaction for the first time since the pandemic.

Parisian students taste life at CVC

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: French and CVC students take part in ice-breaker activities.



In June, 32 French students came to CVC from Paris. In the morning, we did some icebreaker activities in French and English to practise speaking to one another and to get to know each other. They then came to our lessons to get a taste of our life in England.

We then enjoyed some pizza together and did an escape room in the afternoon.

It was very fun and a great experience!

Olivia (10E)

Museum trip brings language to life . . .

A group of 12 Year 9 French students went to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge where they took part in art, history and French activities. There were two workshops: first we went to the Portraits one, and then to the Ancient Egypt workshop.

In the portrait workshop, students had to describe some famous characters from the paintings in the museum, and then they had to draw their own famous character and describe it in French.

Then in the Egyptian workshop they learnt vocabulary about daily objects that Egyptians used to take to the tombs with them.

Rhys (9T) Rufus (9V) and Felix (9E) said: "There were four different schools from South Cambridgeshire and we each completed two activities throughout the day. In the portrait gallery we learnt how to describe a painting in French through a range of activities including a hunt around the gallery.

"After a short break we went to the Egyptian gallery and described which objects the Ancient Egyptians took to the afterlife.

"Throughout the day we learn many new words and improved our French vocabulary. C'était genial!"

Celia (9T), Elizabeth (9E) and Isabel (9R) added: "Overall it was a fun and interesting experience that helped motivate you to continue exploring the French language. We would thoroughly recommend it to future students."



A DAY AT THE MUSEUM: Students combine learning French with art and history.

Looking at ways to grow

The Cam Academy Trust is considering future growth after recent consolidation.

In the schools' White Paper earlier this year, there was a clear indication that all schools in England are expected to be academies and to have joined a multi-academy trust by 2030. Given this our Trust has been confirming some potential ways forward.

Trustees have judged that the Trust is now well placed to consider some further growth given the considerable consolidation that has been done in the last three years.

Possible developments are considered to be:

- Further primary schools joining the Trust in the local areas where we already have schools. There has been some interest from local primary schools in this.
- Looking at nearby areas where developments in schools are proposed and we might be well placed to help to oversee.
- Being ready to put in proposals for opening new schools where these are seen as needed in our local area.
- Being open to consider developing a new hub of schools in an area beyond our local area if it was clear that there was strong sense and mutual benefit in doing so.

If there are any notable developments on any of these fronts, then all school communities will, of course, be updated.

Even more support

The Trust is very pleased to be able to expand the staffing capacity available to schools with posts working across the Trust from this September. In addition to our pre-existing posts, there will be:

- Greater capacity in both Maths and English with primary and secondary specialists in post
- A new Director of PE and Sport to help with developments in this crucial area of educational provision in our schools
- A Lead in Primary IT supporting training and teaching and learning
- A new Safeguarding Officer
- Subject co-ordinator roles

The hope and expectation is that these roles can help to provide stronger support to all schools and to enable further sharing of ideas and resources.

All this is with the aim of improving further still the quality of education that is provided to all pupils in all our schools.



NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS: Nabeel Mardi, Rita Monson and Jacob Powell.

Youngest Trustee joins Board

Three appointments to The Cam Academy Trust's Trustee Board this year include the youngest ever Trustee. Those to join are Jacob Powell, Nabeel Mardi and Rita Monson.

Aged 20, Jacob is currently studying for a Masters degree in Management and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

Nabeel comes from the information technology and telecommunication industry, where he has worked for more than 30 years. He has a BSc (Hons) in Administrative Sciences, an MSc in Data Communication and is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology. He is currently chair of governors at Everton Heath Primary School.

Also a governor, at Melbourn Village College, Rita Monson has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge and is passionate about finding ways to increase access to Higher Education.

Despite his young age, Jacob has experience in this area, having previously been a charity Trustee at Jesus

College, Cambridge, a role he was appointed to after being elected as the Student Union President.

Jacob said: "I've always had a keen interest in the public sector and wanting to help people, so had been actively looking for people-focused roles and how I could combine my degree knowledge with my career. "Being a charity Trustee was the perfect combination of these two things and gave me the ambition to continue on this career path and be actively involved in helping the Cambridgeshire community — leading me to apply for the position at the Cam Academy Trust.

"What stood out to me the most when applying for this role was the Trust's six core principles. I felt that they really resonated with me, in particular, the comprehensive principle. Coming from a comprehensive background myself, I feel passionate about ensuring an excellent education for all and working at a Trust that's driven by these values. "I will always be passionate about providing young people with a well-rounded education so they can have a good start to life."



TRUST ROLES: For CVC's Victoria Edmans and Katie Slusar-Fletcher.

Community principle borne out

The Trust's motto is 'Excellence for All' and one of our core principles is 'community'.

We want all our schools to be rooted in and at the heart of their communities. This includes providing adult education for those in the local area where possible.

This is completely in keeping with the vision for rural schooling in Cambridgeshire as articulated by Henry Morris, who established the village college system.

Morris took up his post as Director of Education in Cambridgeshire 100 years'

ago this year and has been celebrated across the county.

In a wonderful illustration of this, Derek Skipper recently went viral, not just on social media but also across the Press, TV and radio for being the oldest person to sit a GCSE exam when he took his Maths exams this summer at the age of 92.

We are very proud that Derek had participated in an adult learning programme run out of Comberton Village College. Henry Morris would have been delighted.



AGE IS NO BARRIER: Derek Skipper, 92, took GCSE maths at Comberton.

Taking the next steps



LOOKING AHEAD: Potential students look round at Open Evening (left) and attend a welcome barbecue.

In-person events return after pandemic

As another Year 13 cohort leaves CSF, an incoming Year 12 prepares to arrive.

The cycle of recruitment and progression continues with our Year 13 students sitting public examinations in their A-levels and BTEC course once more. This has been a year group that has coped admirably with all that the pandemic and the resultant educational disruption could throw at them! The students have shown resilience and diligence to end their studies at Comberton on their own terms. We have also returned to our established programme of on-site taster days for Year 10 students. These took place in June and were very well

attended with numbers higher than ever before. Taster days allow interested students to experience a day with us, with subject specific lessons to assist in making Post-16 choices. We have also made a change to the placement of our Comberton Sixth Form Open evening, now scheduled for mid-June each year, rather than November. This revised timing should better support students with making timely Post-16 choices. This event was also very well attended, but if you missed it, online materials — a virtual open evening — can be found at <https://www.combertonsixthform.org/admissions/open>

-evening. Year 11 pupils with offers to study at CSF came to their Welcome Day at the end of June; the weather held for the afternoon BBQ and all of the key enrolment tasks and pre-course preparation work were issued. We look forward to confirming places on the GCSE results day in August and starting the new academic year with the Induction Days in September. All of this will be communicated to offer holders directly, but you can find out more by following CSF on Twitter (@combertonsf) or using our emerging use of Instagram (Combertonsixth).

David Clarke, Head of Sixth Form

Activities focus on life after sixth form

Following our progression conference in March, in which Year 12 students were encouraged to start thinking about their plans for life after sixth form, preparations with regard to next steps have really picked up pace this term.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to bring parents and students together for our traditional UCAS Information Evening at the beginning of June, the first time in three years that we have been able to deliver this in person.

The event was extremely well attended and helped to outline the process, the timeline and the support on offer to CSF students who are considering a university pathway.

Guest speaker Megan Broughton, Higher Education adviser at the University of East Anglia, presented the universities' perspective on the process and also helped to clarify the often-perplexing world of student finance.

In the days following, sixth form tutors held remote individual guidance meetings with students and many of their parents, with discussions taking place around plans ranging from university to apprenticeships to gap years.

These have been complemented by advisory meetings with specialists from local organisation Form the Future for those considering alternative pathways, and individual consultations and preparation sessions for those making early applications to Oxbridge and other competitive courses. A busy period came to a close with the return of our customary visit to the UCAS Exhibition at Anglia Ruskin University, at which students had the opportunity to seek information about, and advice from, representatives from universities and apprenticeship providers all over the UK. This was preceded by an opportunity to attend an open day at the University of Nottingham, where students had the chance to experience a taste of campus life, from sample lectures to tours of student accommodation.

A guidance session on the planning and writing of personal statements was the focus for students' final PD slot of the year, following which our attention now switches to September and another busy period of post-18 activity.

Whatever their plans, students should now be feeling well placed to start looking ahead to life after sixth form.

Stephen Leggott, Deputy Head of Sixth Form



HERE WE GO: Year 12 students went to the University of Nottingham to experience Uni life for a day.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Of Wadham College, Oxford

Getting the feel of Oxford

A group of Year 12 students went with Mrs Jenkins to the Oxford University open day on an overnight trip.

They were lucky enough to spend the

night at Wadham College (Comberton's link college).

● Turn to Page 15



LUCKY LEAVERS: The end-of-year party for Year 13 returned — at the new venue of Cambridge Country Club.

It's party time again!

Huge numbers of Year 13 students and staff came together to celebrate the end of the academic year at the end of June.

As the sixth form has grown, the challenge of finding a venue large enough to host more than 200 guests has been difficult (and the pandemic has caused two events to be unable to go ahead). For the 'Class of 2022', thankfully we were able to source a new venue in the form of the Cambridge Country Club in Bourn. This relatively local and very new venue was a fantastic location for the Leavers' Party. Students arrived for 7pm, with some taking the

opportunity to make up for a lack of Year 11 event by arriving in specially booked vehicles. We had a 'fun bus' that came in from Swavesey, vintage vehicles and a golf buggy! It was great to see everyone dressed up for the occasion and ready for an evening of awards, dinner and fun. With the disco element ending around midnight, some of the students went on to the 'after parties' with the staff leaving for much-needed sleep, ready to be back at work in the morning. Thank you to the Sixth Form Leadership Team (Mr Frost, in particular, for the organisation), Student Council, Sixth Form Tutor Team and the students themselves for a lovely evening of celebration.

David Clarke, Head of Sixth Form



MAKING AN ENTRANCE: By golf buggy.



EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY: Dinner followed by a disco.



GLAD RAGS ON: For the Year 13 party.

Physics in real world

Seven Year 12 Physics students went to a 'Fire-fighting Robot Challenge' at Marshalls Cambridge as part of the Cambridge LaunchPad experience.

The day provided an overall full engineering experience, combining the learning and fun of assembling electronic circuits from a schematic to using basic programming skills to debug software.

The activities combined to form a remote-controlled robot, which the students used to put out an 'aircraft' fire.

The challenge included actual engineering elements as well as processes that would be followed in a real working environment.

The students got a chance to really work as a team as each member took on a different role as they worked together to complete the task.

Felix (12JM) said: "I really enjoyed the day; it put physics concepts into a real-

world context in a potential career pathway!"

Francy (12MR) said: "I personally found the way that the launchpad trip was set up and organised to be a really interesting and engaging experience.

"The way that the staff went on to further explain what was going to happen once we got there was well planned and thought out, and it was in a way that really piqued my interest and got me excited for the tasks we were going to be given.

"Once we found out that the programming side of the experience didn't end up functioning the way it was meant to, I was slightly disappointed, and even as it was later explained that not all the wires used ended up working, this was a turn of events that was unfortunately unexpected.

"They still did continue to try and give everyone something to do when the slight mess-ups emerged, and though things could have gone better, it was still a fun experience with the different talks we had and students who were doing an apprenticeship were there to help out if we needed."



HEADS TOGETHER: Sixth formers worked as a team to complete the tasks at the Cambridge Launchpad experience.

We all need another Hero

Last month the Sixth Form Student Council held a bake sale to raise money for Guide Dogs UK. The charity provides guide dogs to thousands of people with sight loss which allows them to live confidently and independently. For many people having a guide dog is essential for living a fulfilling life.

The organisation relies on donations to provide this service to people as a lot goes into providing for and training the dogs.

It costs £34,600 to train just one guide dog, which is why supporting the charity is so important.

We were also lucky to have a retired guide dog called Hero come in to help us raise money. He attracted a lot of attention, but was definitely more interested in the cakes than the people. Overall we raised £180 and hope this helps make a difference.

Sophie (12MR)



SPECIAL GUEST: Retired Hero was the star attraction at the Sixth Form fund-raiser for Guide Dogs UK.



GRAND BREAKFAST: At Wadham College.

Getting the feel of Oxford

● From Page 13

This meant the students were able explore the city of Oxford that evening and experience a night staying in college accommodation.

The following morning Wadham provided a very tasty breakfast in the (rather grand) dining hall and the students then had a chance to explore a number of different colleges and departments for the official open day.

Each college and department put on a mixture of tours and talks for the students and hopefully the day provided a great opportunity for students to make an informed choice about applying to Oxford.

Picture perfect . . .

Louis in Year 12 has had an outstanding year in photography.

Not only was he able to complete the A Level course in a single year, but Louis (12IW) has also had an exhibition at a prestigious gallery space in Cambridge. The staff at Gallerie V in St John's Street were so impressed by a sample of Louis' work that they offered him a large room with space to hang 11 of his photographs.

The room represents Louis' love of street photography and showcases some outstanding work from trips that he has made around London and Cambridge.

Louis' photographs initially grab the viewer through his strong use of colour and tone as well as his ability to find interesting characters and compositions. However, on closer inspection, many deeper themes come through on ideas such as identity, love and poverty.

These deeper themes draw the viewer into the work and allow us to notice how these ideas recur in different ways.

The gallery is open throughout the summer holidays with Louis' work appearing on the first floor. We think this is just the start of a fascinating future in photography.

Greg Dean, Head of Art and Design



FIRST EXHIBITION: For photography student Louis, who has taken an A-Level in the subject in just a year.

Sixth formers become ninjas for a day!

BTEC Sport Level 3 students have had a busy and exciting summer term!

Year 13 worked hard to complete their May exams and finish remaining coursework. They led lower school PE lessons as part of their Sports Coaching units and demonstrated great consideration in ensuring children learn and progress.

They have produced some great work over the last two years and should be proud of their

achievements.

To celebrate the end of the course, we went to Ninja Warrior UK in Milton Keynes, along with the Year 12 students. There was a great display of strength, bravery and, in many cases, flexibility! The Year 12 students have been equally busy — they have been completing their units for the year while gaining experience in coaching and leadership through supporting in PE lessons.

They had the opportunity to experience fitness

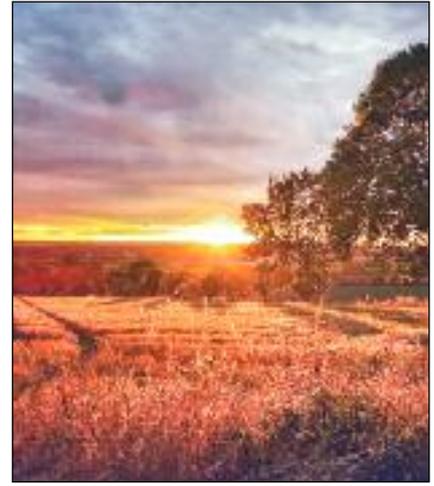
testing laboratories at Bedford Universities and had a tour of the facilities.

They have also recently completed and achieved their Level 1 Dodgeball Coaching qualification, run by England Dodgeball, and were praised on their maturity and enthusiasm throughout the course.

A big thank you also to those who supported the Years 7-10 sports days earlier this month!



NINJAS IN TRAINING: Sixth Form BTEC PE students take on the Ninja Warrior challenges.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE: The setting for the Bronze DofE expeditions and (right) Silver sunset in the Chilterns.

Out on the DofE trail!

It has been a busy term with more than 200 pupils completing either their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

Across various weekends throughout the summer term, more than 150 Year 9s completed their Bronze award in the Cambridgeshire countryside.

A warm-up walk on the Friday evening was followed by two full days of walking on the Saturday and Sunday.

Pupils were required to bring and carry everything necessary for a weekend of camping. They then had to navigate through the countryside, covering around

18km per day (or, in the cases of some groups, a few kilometres more...).

Despite the challenges a weekend like this creates, pupils showed resilience and commitment and the staff were very impressed by their teamwork.

Pupils completing their Gold award helped out on one of these weekends and it was great to see them work so well with the Year 9s.

The Gold Award pupils headed off to the Peak District during the first weekend of July to complete a more challenging route over longer distances and in trickier conditions.

A group of Year 10s went to the Chilterns during Activities Week to complete their Silver expedition, after a successful practice weekend earlier in the year.

Fun for all at Thorpe Park

For an end-of-year social, 140 Year 10s braved Thorpe Park — one of the biggest theme parks in the UK and the home to six record breaking rides, such as Stealth, the Swarm and Tidal Wave. The day began with an early start at CVC, and after a long coach ride, the wait was finally over. Some surged to the huge rollercoasters, desperate to try them out, while others tested out the smaller, less intimidating rides first. Looming over the whole park was Stealth, which is the fastest rollercoaster in the UK, and it definitely feels it!

We were lucky enough to try it out, and the experience is truly one of a kind, much like one of our favourite rides — the Swarm, which is the UK's only winged rollercoaster. You twist and turn with nothing above or beneath you, and experience speeds of almost 100km/h and forces of 4.5G!

The adrenaline rush was huge, and it was absolutely electrifying!

The hot weather meant that we could also try out all the water rides, and, of course, get drenched in the process.

Tidal Wave was a big hit, with many students and staff riding it repeatedly, though they were completely soaked by the end of the day. The surrounding area also got a fair share of the splash too — as some people found out... slightly too late.

Some preferred to not ride any attractions at all, and instead explored all the stalls and arcade games the park had to offer, some even winning!

There was also loads of food on offer, though we all made sure to keep it in our stomachs on the rides.

Throughout the day we all bumped into other students, catching up and comparing what we'd done. We also came across some of the

teachers (some of us multiple times) — and we ended up queueing with a couple. (Mr Knight was slightly apprehensive at Stealth!)

It was the first out-of-school social in a long while too — and we are all very grateful to the year team for organising it and thank you to all the staff members who came along for the ride! It was an amazing day!

Mabel and Kat (10M)



READY TO RIDE: On attractions like Stealth.



EXCEPTIONAL RESULT: To finish in the top 50 nationally.

Pupils rise to challenge

Comberton has had some fantastic results in both the junior and intermediate UKMT challenges this year.

In April, 150 Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge, with over half achieving a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

Ten students scored highly enough to qualify for the Junior Kangaroo. Congratulations to Toby (7M), Nicholas (8I), Joseph (8B) and Will (8M), who have received merit certificates.

Christopher (8N) achieved the best score in school and qualified for the Junior Maths Olympiad, but he is still waiting for his result!

Earlier this year, Aditya (10I) took part in the Hamilton Olympiad.

He recently received his result and achieved both a certificate of distinction and a silver medal, which puts him in the top 50 participants nationally. Well done on this exceptional result!

Building a STEM career



A group of year 10 pupils went on a Launchpad STEM trip based around construction.

Here they describe their day: "As a team we had to renovate an invented town into something that was new and pleasing to local residents, while attract other people from surrounding areas. "We were each given a role in the project and some of these included Head of Sustainability and Head of Design. With these roles we had to ensure our renovated town met all of the requirements, including keeping to a particular budget, ensuring buildings were the correct distance apart and including enough greenery etc.

"We also included a new eco library with solar panels and rainwater harvesting to minimise water usage, and also a recreational area to the west of the university to allow students to relax after a busy day, but away from the university to reduce the sound in the quiet zones.

"At the end of our planning time, we were given five minutes to present our design to a panel of Hill Construction workers, who had to deliberate and decide which school had the best design based on individuality and also the ability to meet standards.

"My favourite part of the day was definitely the planning because it gave an insight to the amount of time and thought that goes behind every single aspect in planning an area." — Diya (10M)

Orsi (10V) added: "After that, we got the chance to visit a construction site, where Hill was working on building a new hall, opposite to the one we were in, with an air source heat pump to use for a renewable energy supply, along with a new apartment block.

"After we put on our safety gear we were able to go to the roof of the hall, where an expert explained the building process and procedure of the ground source



TOWN PLANNERS: Year 10 students work on their construction ideas.

heat pump.

"At the end of the day, we got the opportunity to talk to four professionals who were able to talk to us about working with Hill and gave us a useful insight as to how it is working as women in a male dominated field.

"This was an amazing opportunity for us because it helped us expand the options for our futures by showing us that jobs in STEM aren't just lab-based, and there are a lot more career opportunities in areas people wouldn't usually think of."

And Alicia (10N) summed things up: "Five of us went on a Lanchpad STEM trip to discover what it would be like to work in the engenering industry. We all were assigned roles to put to use in our teams.

"After a lot of careful consideration, we presented our site in an orderly fashion to who that taught me a lot of what building teams have to consider when working on a plot and how to work in a team efficiently.

"I met new people and really enjoyed the trip."



INTIMATE CONCERT: Students performed for family and friends as tutor concerts returned.

Tutor concerts back

Students of music tutors Nicola Miers, Julie Stevenson and Kathy Talbot took part in Comberton's first tutor concert for three years at the start of June.

Students shared solos on violin, saxophone, clarinet and piano with many performing on their instrument in public for the first time.

It was wonderful to see so many taking part.

This was followed by another

Music Department triumph. The Summer Concert featured solos and musical turns by department ensembles such as Soul Band and Big Band.

The evening also highlighted three compositions written especially for the evening by Alicia (10N), Alex (12HH) and Dan (12WD). The audience were also treated to performances by the Orchestra, String Group, Brass, and VoxBox Choir.

Get involved in music

Music extra-curricular activities relaunch in earnest this September with a brand new Year 7 choir, theory drop-in club and a Sixth Form musical theatre company added to the already full programme. There really is something for everybody. Music clubs cost £10 per term per pupil (£12 family) for unlimited clubs, and financial support is available.

There are still some places for instrument/vocal tuition for woodwind, brass and strings.

We have many students who play the

piano in and out of school and increasingly such students take up a second, orchestral, instrument to help them participate in a wider range of clubs and activities. It is not unusual to make rapid progress as the note-reading and music theory is already in place.

We do not encourage pupils to miss two lots of curriculum time for instrument lessons, but if your child learns their first instrument outside school, they might take up a second in school.

Full information on the school website.



ASPIRATIONAL ART: *The A-Level Exhibition was left up for longer so Year 10 Art and Photography students could draw inspiration.*

Inspirational artwork!

Last month we were delighted to open our doors again for the exhibition of Art, Photography and Graphics GCSE and A Level work.

After a gap of almost three years it was lovely to have such a well-attended evening bursting with the original and vibrant artwork of our students. Although the second project was cut from this year's exam groups to give them all enough time to finish their lockdown-disrupted first project, it was clear that

the extra time they had spent on their main project had resulted in some fantastic detailed and inspirational work.

There were numerous highlights across the exhibition with many of our sixth formers now going on to accept offers from arts colleges and universities. We were able to keep the A Level exhibition up for a few extra days and use this opportunity to bring Year 10 Art and Photography students to see the type work that they can be aspiring towards in a couple of years.

Greg Dean, Head of Art and Design



ON DISPLAY: *Some of the artwork produced by this year's GCSE students.*



Design work to aspire to

Graphic Communication A Level students have produced some fantastic design work this year; definitely setting a standard for GCSE students to aspire to.

Projects have included a new teen magazine (Mel 13MR), a promotional leaflet for Cambridge museums (Maisie 13CR), a printed concertina book with full-page illustrations (Lily 13KS), a Snap food game for children (Belinda 13RAJ) and creative packaging for healthy snacks (Tomáš 13JM).

Congratulations to those students who are off to study Graphic Communication, Textiles and Illustration at Norwich University next year.



GRAPHICS PROJECTS: *A display of Year 13 work in the college main foyer.*

Activities Week is back!

As the world returns towards a new normal of living alongside Covid, it has been a delight to return to some of the traditional end of term activities.

Two weeks ago, we saw sports days for all pupils from Year 6 to Year 10, with a new intake day, also for Year 6s.

Last week we had a huge array of different activities taking place. Nearly all Year 7 students went to Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire, enjoying a week of challenges and adventures (see Page 22).

Year 10 and Year 12 students undertook a diverse range of work experience placements while those in Years 8 and 9 had more than 20 different activities that they chose from.

Those on-site included international cooking, artwork, drama, dance, music, craftwork, STEM challenges, coding and robot building, whilst the trips included skiing, snowboarding, horse-riding, history trips, adventure week and the 'adrenaline rush' week!

On these two pages, we offer a taster of what's been going on.



Good Gig Guide

Ten lucky students spent the week learning how to organise and run events as part of Good Gig Guide week.

We visited Storey's Field Community Centre in Eddington and the Arts Centre in Cambridge to learn about backstage and technical work. Later in the week we ran the show for the Drama, Dance and Music weeks.

Altogether we learned a great amount about how to run a successful event and the different careers available in the performing arts industry.



History Week

Over the course of Activities Week, a group of Year 8 and 9 students immersed themselves in the past with 'Seeing History' activities.

We started with a trip to the Great War Huts near Bury St Edmunds, where students sampled the experiences of the Cambridgeshire soldiers who joined up in 1914, and found out about some fascinating local stories.

The next day at the Imperial War Museums in London, students

explored various displays, including the new Holocaust gallery.

This was particularly emotive because it had many artefacts that students could explore via 3D imagery on iPads.

Building on this, students spent two days in school, using different sources which can tell the story of the early Cold War.

They finished the week with a trip into Cambridge, to enjoy both the local history that the city has to offer, and the ancient artefacts of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Ski Week

The start of the week saw 15 slightly nervous Year 9s take to the slopes at Hemel Hempstead! Whilst some spent a lot of time getting knocked down, they certainly knew how to get back up again and give skiing their best go! Within two days, we already had pupils making their way to the top of the slope linking turns! Some fantastic control of speed shown — by some! Well done to all pupils.



Board Games

Pupils played a variety of games, from grand strategy-based games to Jenga.

Fun was had by the group of Year 8s and 9s by conquering the galaxy and making stacks of sushi!



We had an exciting week, Nikki and Beth, our dance teachers, taught us four dances.

We danced to the *Greatest Showman* mix, *Couldn't be better* from *Ugly Doll* and *21 Reasons*.

Each morning we started off with a game and warm up and

Dance Week

got into learning dances. It was lots of fun and tiring. At the end of the week we performed the dances to other students at school.

Tamara (81)



Music Week

As ever, an eclectic mix of musicians descended on the Music Department.

From classically trained pianists to tragically pained composers, the creativity juices flowed!

It was great that so many explored their song-writing and tried never-before-played instruments. Here are some quotes from the music week

members:

"Some interesting creative differences but rest of us agreed that Pepijn was wrong."

"And Ziggy played guitar...but hasn't been able to locate Gilly or the Spiders from Mars...but there appeared to be plenty of weird."

"The world is meaningless without the crash cymbal."

"There is more to life than the maj13 chord."

Coding Week

For coding, electronics and robot week, we went to the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. We had a great time looking at old computers and learning about how computers have evolved.

Equestrian Week

Fourteen Year 8 and 9 students arrived at Monach Stables in Hilton at 9:15 on Monday for a week learning about horse management, tacking up and many opportunities to ride.

We were greeted by a giant Newfoundland dog called 'Bear' and a warning to keep our packed lunches well above 'dog height'.

The week began by sorting boots and riding hats (reminiscent of a scene from Harry Potter) and allocating a horse for the week to each student.

As this was a learning experience, workbooks were handed out for completion during the taught sessions, which covered horse welfare and wellbeing; how and when to feed and water; grooming methods and which tool to use to clean out hooves.

The group was divided into three based on how much, if any, students had ridden before.

The groups worked with stable owner Emily Randall (who was fun, but very firm) making sure safety of horse and rider was paramount. Even the riders who had ridden before said they learnt a huge amount from her.

Each day students carried out a variety of activities when not with the horses including mucking out stables and poo-picking the fields.

Wednesday was one of the highlights as it was 'hacking day' when we had a chance to ride out into the countryside and put into practice all that we had learnt.

Another highlight was giving a horse a bath! It was interesting to see how even the most apprehensive student gained confidence through the week, and a number said they would really like to take up riding more in the future.

A huge thank you to Emily and her team of instructors/helpers for making this such a fun and interesting week.



Animation Week

During Animation Week we followed Year 8 and 9 designing and creating models out of plasticine and writing a story.

On day one, they planned their characters by using a character ideas sheet to help get each step in chronological order. This included sketching character ideas and choosing a favourite one so it could then be drawn from different viewpoints.

They then created our models with the help of metal wire and cocktail sticks for structure. Next they started to think about the story and created the props needed.

On day two, everyone first filled out a 20-frame horizontal storyboard template. before setting up a 'shooting studio' and background to set the theme. After that modelling was completed and

the animation began.

Using the app Stop Motion, everyone began taking pictures frame by frame until the first part of the movie was complete.

On days three and four shooting the animations continued. The Year 8s and 9s sped through the whole task with determination.

By following the story board, films had a beginning, middle and end.

On day five the short films were checked for mistakes and touched up before the animations were presented to the whole class.

This project went really well, and the quality of it was great. Everyone tried their best and using their art skills, they all succeeded in a beautifully well-made project.

The experience was truly great and seemed very helpful to them as it released a lot of stress and let their imagination take place.

Helen and Sila (10N)



European Week

European Week saw pupils enjoy a wide variety of themed activities across the week.

They started with junk-modelling European landmarks with fantastic results before moving into the kitchen for a day of international cuisine.

On the menu was croque-monsieur (a traditional cheese and ham toastie with Bechamel sauce), pizzas (all made from scratch) and tartes aux pommes (traditional apple tart).

Wednesday began with a quiz on European artists before creating artwork based on an artist of choice.

With the help of a professional spray paint artist, they created some amazing work.

Thursday was a day of Greek language, culture and traditional crafts before the week rounded off with Eurovision as groups of students represented different countries in their groups, completing a series of challenges to test knowledge, logic and language skills.

They used recycled materials to create glamorous costumes!



Get Crafty

Pupils in Get Crafty were, as the name suggests, very creative in Activities Week.

They made a variety of items, including block printed bags, tie dye t-shirts and felt frogs — one of which was called Terrance!

Art Week

During Art Week, 50 students worked with teacher Helen Lanzrein to create an amazing mural which will hang in the English Department.

Using their own talents, as well as stencils to help them with the most challenging parts of the work, they have created a fantastic piece inspired by a colourful cast of literary characters including Alice in Wonderland, A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe.

The pupils used both hand and spray painting on fictional characters as diverse as the Cheshire Cat and Ebenezer Scrooge — all of them painted in mainly black, white, red, brown and blue in a simplistic modern style — on to canvas in a variety of paints, and framed by a detailed, decorative border.





GETTING STUCK IN: Year 7 pupils enjoyed a range of outdoor activities as well as camping in tents.

Brilliant Beaumanor!

The Year 7 residential to Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire was almost a rite of passage for Comberton Year 7 pupils until the pandemic hit.

Now, for the first time since 2019, CVC's youngest students again packed their bags and tents for a week of outdoor adventure — in what proved to be one of the hottest weeks of the year to date.

Not that it seemed to matter as four 7V pupils — Elouise, Seren, Esa and Lily —

plus Misty (7E) reported: "Beaumanor was a wonderful experience, which helped us develop bonds with other students and expand relationships with friends.

"We all took part in a variety of engaging team activities, which were educational as well as fun, including canoeing, orienteering and climbing.

"The staff were kind and helpful when teaching us new skills and it was also really good fun sleeping in tents for a challenge.

"Overall Beaumanor was a fantastic time for us."



FITNESS CLASS TIMETABLE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
BODY BLAST 18:00 - 18:50 LAUREN	YOGALATES 17:40 - 18:40 SANDRA D	FITNESS PILATES	STUDIO CYCLING	STUDIO CYCLING	KETTLEBELLS	STEP
STUDIO CYCLING 19:05 - 19:50 LAUREN	HIIT 18:00 - 18:45 JEN	17:40—18:40 SANDRA D	17:45 - 18:25 AYMEN	17:30 - 18.15 JEN	9:00-9:50 JEN	9:00 -10:00 AYMEN
DANCE AEROBICS 19:00—19:50 HANNAH	LBT 18:55-19:45 JEN	CIRCUITS 18:45— 19:45 RACHEL	HIIT 18:30 - 19:00 AYMEN		YOGALATES 10:00-11:00 KAI	YOGALATES 10:10-11:10 SANDRA D
CIRCUITS 19:55—20:40 HANNAH	STUDIO CYCLING 19:55—20:40 JEN	DANCE FITNESS (LIKE ZUMBA) 18:55—19:45 SANDRA R	BEGINNERS STEP 19:05—19:50 AYMEN	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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Coton are the champs

Coton are the South Cambs Bee netball champions.

They won the title at finals night earlier this term after a closely-fought competition, taking the trophy by just one goal.

Fifteen primary schools competed in the A Team Shield, which was held at Impington Village College, after finishing in the top half of their local leagues, where they had played two rounds to decide positions.

At stake was the title of South Cambs Bee Netball Champions 2022 and a chance to represent the South Cambs area and take on the best school teams from across Cambridgeshire at the county finals.

The schools were split into three pools, with each team playing all of their rivals within that group to determine whether they qualified into Division 1, 2 or 3 for the next round of matches.

The teams from Meridian, Burrough Green and Coton won all of their group matches to qualifying for Division 1 where they were joined by Swavesey and Linton as the next two highest-placed teams.

The final round of matches were closely contested with a high standard of netball on display and the final results had to be determined by goal difference as the top four schools all finished within one point of each other.

By a very narrow margin of one goal, Coton were crowned as this year's Shield winners.

Linton Heights were second ahead of Swavesey and Meridian, who finished on the same points but had a slightly lower goal difference.

The A Team Plate final is for those teams who finish in the lower half of their local league and was established to make sure all schools get the opportunity to compete in a finals night. Played earlier in the week at Comberton Village College this featured 14 teams with Barnabas Oley, Harston & Newton, Meadow and Hatton Park being the four teams to make it through to the top division after the first round of matches.

After a display of excellent netball across all the courts the overall winners were Harston & Newton, with Barnabas Oley finishing as runners-up.

Tournament organiser, Julia Scarboro, said: "Our annual Bee Netball League is one of our most popular competitions, we had 31 different schools taking part this year and just over 50 teams. After a two-year break from competition, it has been lovely to see so many pupils taking part.

"The children really enjoy the opportunity to represent their school in inter-school competition and it is nice for them to get the chance to play in the league rounds before experiencing one of the finals nights, which are played in a friendly yet competitive spirit. There is always a nice atmosphere and a real sense of occasion as parents gather to cheer on their children."



TOP OF THE SHOTS: Coton won the South Cambs netball title.

Serving up a treat

The South Cambs School Sports Partnership has recently hosted several tennis festivals in partnership with Game Set Tennis and head coach Toby Jackson, who runs the coaching programmes at Cambourne and Cottenham Tennis Clubs.

Groups of Year 3 and 4 children from 21 different schools took part in the festivals, which were aimed at children new to tennis.

They were part of the LTA Youth Schools programme, which aims to get children aged 4-18 involved in the sport.

Each venue had eight different activity stations that 200-plus pupils rotated around and included fun games such as coconut shy, target tennis, bounce about and fast forehands.

Claire McDonnell, organiser of the events, said: "The focus was very much on providing a fun and enjoyable event for the children while helping them to develop their physical skills and just as importantly, if not more importantly, boosting their confidence and providing them with a positive experience. From the feedback we got, we managed to do just that."

Children said how they felt 'really proud of themselves', loved being able to achieve in every activity and how they liked 'learning new skills and having fun'.

Staff commented on how the event had 'made the children feel positive about themselves', 'given them a massive confidence boost' and made them feel 'happy and proud'.



ACTIVITY STATIONS: Pupils rotated to try various games.

Teams find cricket is pretty smashing!

An introduction to competitive cricket was relished by primary school pupils this term with events at Sawston & Babraham Cricket Club's Spicers sports ground and at Hardwick and Caldecote's ground in Caldecote.

South Cambs School Sports Partnership hosted Dynamos cricket for Year 3 and 4 students with 25 teams representing 22 schools, which included Comberton partner schools Bourn, Barton, Dry Drayton, Coton and Haslingfield.

There were more than 250 youngsters taking part in a brand of cricket which connects to the elite level through The Hundred. Dynamos is for eight to 11-year-olds, with everyone on the team getting to bat and bowl, with a no-ball or wide giving the batter a 'free hit' from a batting tee to give everyone the opportunity to score runs.

Leaders from Bassingbourn and Cambourne Village

Colleges umpired and scored the matches, with Cambridgeshire Cricket providing support.

Claire McDonnell, the South Cambs SSP manager, said: "It went really well, with lots of matches.

"It was great for schools to get to play against other schools in some friendly competition.

"They loved playing at a proper cricket ground, they had lots of chances to hit the ball and loved being part of their school team.

"The winning schools at Sawston were Bourn and Great Abington, with Thriplow and Hardwick & Cambourne (Cambourne site) picking up the Spirit of the Games awards for their excellent teamwork and respect of the opposition."

"At Caldecote it was the teams from Haslingfield, Histon and Impington & University of Cambridge which won all of their matches to claim the winners' medals.



BIG HITTERS: Bourn (left) and Haslingfield won their cricket competitions.

FINALS DATE:
Comberton's
Year 8 and Year
10 teams have
qualified for the
county finals in
November.



Teams book final places

Comberton will have two teams in the county finals in November after success at area tournaments.

In June, the Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams took part in what was their first tournament since Covid. It was also important because performing well at these tournaments could secure Comberton a place in the County finals in November. The Year 8 team went into their tournament strong, as they have already been successful in many of

their cluster fixtures. The team played incredibly well together and in particular, had some fantastic mid-court play from Georgie and Anna. They finished as runners-up, which was good enough to secure their place in the county event. The Year 10 team had a more challenging start to their tournament, as many of the group had not played together. Despite this, there was some outstanding netball on display, with special mentions to Jenna, playing up

from Year 9, and Isabella, for playing so well in attack. The Year 10 team also finished second to secure their place. Squad training will now take place in September. Year 8: Georgie (C), Kim (C), Brooke (M), Isla (M), Emily (E), Sophia (i), Anna (N), Abbie (O). Year 10: Jenna W (9C), Mia (R), Isabella (B), Hannah (I), Olivia (V), Lottie (T.), Georgia (E), Gwen (T).

Splashing return of the annual gala

On Monday 27th June Comberton pupils across Years 7, 8 and 9 took to the pool for the once annual Swimming Gala. This swimming gala was particularly special, as it was the first one since June 2019! The Year 7s started the day with a bang. The cheering and supporting of tutor groups was incredible, and they should be extremely proud of their team spirit! There were some extremely close races, however 7T took the victory. The sun slowly decided to take a back seat for the Year 8 competition, and they had to battle with some additional water from the sky!! However, their spirits were still high and the music was pumping!

Mr Magan, in particular, did a fantastic job of commentating. A big well done to the mighty 8R, who were victorious despite having a slightly smaller team. The Year 9 competition closed the day with some outstanding individual performances. A special mention must go to Ed (9I), who really did show us a masterclass in swimming! After some highly competitive racing, the victorious tutor group was 9E. The whole day could not run without our fantastic sports leaders across Year 9 and 10. They were vital to ensuring the day ran smoothly, and that the races were correctly timed and scored. Thank you to everyone for assisting us.

Chance to show talent



STADIUM EXPERIENCE: For CVC players.

Two Comberton pupils were selected to play for their area against other teams from Beds and Cams as part of a Northampton Saints DDP Academy Programme for promising young rugby players. Jack (10C) and Alex (10E) were part of a team coached by Comberton DT teacher Jonathan Berwick and took part in the four-team competition to showcase the players' development and give Saints coaches the chance to talent-spot. There was no winner but all the youngsters had the chance to play on the main pitch at Saints stadium and both Jack and Alex were heavily involved in helping their team score the most tries across the morning.



VITAL ROLE: Sports leaders have helped at many events including the swimming gala.

New leaders have a lot to live up to

As the year draws to a close, Miss Kingston would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 10 Leadership Academy pupils for the absolutely phenomenal job they have done as sports leaders. They have set the bar extremely high for incoming Leadership Academy pupils! We really hope that you continue to put your skills to use and volunteer both outside and inside of school (we would still love your help when you have the time)! Enjoy the summer... you definitely deserve it!

As one group draws to a close, another group begins their leadership journey. Congratulations to our incoming Leadership Academy pupils from Year 9: Lily, Jenna (C); Aliyah, Kathryn, Joseph, Rose, Hannah (O); Zoe, Isaac, Becca, Alycia, Molly, Emma (M); Evie, Keira (B); Caitlin, Annie, Sally, Sam (I); Olivia, Sally-Ann, Lucy, Stella, Ella (E); Maksymilian, Vincent, Ella, Despoina, Tia (R); Montgomery, Lola, Olivia C, Ollie (T); Jack, Leon, Arya, Daisy, Caleb, Emily, Molly, Abi, Louis, Chloe (N); Izabel, Sofia, Rosie (V),

Teacher takes up baton

You know what people say: you aren't involved in a baton relay and then two come along in one week.

The first was as part of the tutor team on Year 9 sports day, where we gained a respectable seventh place (and one hamstring injury).

The second was the amazing opportunity to carry the Queen's Baton as part of the relay in the lead up to this summer's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The baton arrived serenely by punt at Jesus Green on the hot Saturday afternoon. Cambridge Pride was taking place on the green; the baton route passed through the crowds and was due to finish on the stage. I was surprisingly nervous as the baton bearer before me approached and I psyched myself up for the handover.

Will it be heavy? Yes, more than I was expecting. I opted for a two-handed grip to avoid the next worry... Am I going to drop it? Visions of the sports day relay flashed in front of my eyes, where a certain department's team had fumbled the baton changeover. How fast should I run? In sports day terms, I would have got one point at most. Who am I passing it on to? "Nobody," said the police officer flanking me. "You're the last bearer today, so you'll need to take it on to the main stage of Cambridge Pride and show it off to the crowds."



CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Jamie Freeman was not expecting to carry the Commonwealth Games baton on stage at the end of the day.



Nobody told me about that last bit! I'm pleased to say that the baton and I made it on to the stage with no fumbles.

After a few photos and cheers all round, the police carefully whisked the baton away to continue its journey to Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.

Hidden inside a leaf-shaped flap on its top is a secret message from HM The Queen which will be read out at the opening ceremony. And, no, I didn't take a peek, as much as I wanted to...

Jamie Freeman, Assistant Principal

A final to savour

In May 45 students went to Wembley to watch the women's FA Cup final between Manchester City and Chelsea.

This trip was aimed at students who had attended Year 7 or 8 after school-football club, as well as a chance to celebrate the success of our under-15 girls football team who had reached the semi-final of the national cup.

The match was spectacularly close, with Chelsea winning 3-2 after extra time.

It was an amazing day — having photos taken with Gill Scott, singing along to the football songs, witnessing some outstanding goals and enjoying the half time food.

We look forward to running similar trips next year.



SPORT MATTERS TO MENTAL HEALTH: Year 7 sports reps trained as mental health ambassadors.



[HOME OF FOOTBALL: Pupils at Wembley for the Women's FA Cup final.

Mental health champions

This term, five Year 7 Sports Reps took part in a Youth Sport Trust programme to become Mental Health in Sport Ambassadors.

The conference was delivered by retired Olympian Vernon Samuels, a YST Athlete Mentor, and involved four other schools from the local area.

He led the groups through a series of tasks and activities, encouraging them to consider what is mental health, why is it important and how we can improve it through sport.

The Year 7 ambassadors were the youngest there but they did not let this

stop them sharing their ideas and putting a plan together!

Vernon was very impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm for the programme.

The ambassadors, Sophia, Sam, Annalisa (7R), Ellie and Rhys (7O), have created some activities to deliver in Active Form Time in Year 8 to encourage their peers to think about improving their mental health through physical activity.

They will be leading these themselves and we hope this will be a great success!

Jubilee delight for Comberton athletes

We had a brilliant time taking more than 75 students from Years 7-10 to the Jubilee Cup inter-schools athletics meeting.

On a blazing hot day, our athletes broke many personal bests as well as long-standing school records!

This talented bunch competed in a range of track

and field events between them, from long jump to 4x100m relay.

Special mentions must go to Sawyer (9B), who won his 200m heat by some margin, as well as our Year 10 girls relay team, who absolutely smashed it with a very comfortable win.

Every single student who represented the college did

themselves and the school proud and we are

extremely delighted to say that overall Comberton

finished fourth of 12 local schools, which is a brilliant achievement.

A huge well done to everyone involved!



WARMING UP: Miss Kingston and the sports leaders (inset) get Year 6 ready for action.



AND THEY'RE OFF: The first Year 6 festival for three years is under way.

A whole week of action!

Why have one sports day... when you can have five?

What an almighty return for the famous CVC sports days as a whole week of events took place earlier this month.

Here's how they panned out:

Year 8's kicked off the first CVC sports day in three years and they certainly did not disappoint. Excited chatter and colourful flags entered the sports hall and very

quickly the first day was under way. Pupils took part in a range of events like high jump, quoit throw, hurdles and 100m to see which tutor group would be victorious.

While Year 9 maths leaders were busy inputting our results, the day finished with the team relays. It was fantastic to see (and certainly hear) so much support for our tutor groups.

Congratulations to winners M, with V taking the Endeavour Award. Ollie (I) and Zak (N) top-scored among the boys with Brooke (M) the best of the girls.

Tuesday bought a 'new' year group to sports day — Year 10!

Typically, Year 10s usually do not take part in sports days but as this cohort last had a sports day in Year 7, we felt that we needed to make an exception so they could go out with a bang - and what a great decision that was!

Year 10 were absolutely incredible. They bought the competitive spirit with them, and there were some outstanding performances. The day even finished with a three-way tie for highest scoring boy between Clarke (B), Alex (E) and Joel (V).

The pupils had a tough decision — to share gold or battle it out one last time in a 100m sprint. They chose the latter — and Clarke won. No such problems for top girl Madeline (E). Overall N won with C and O sharing the Endeavour Award.

Halfway through the week and it was the very excited Year 7s' first CVC sports day!

The atmosphere could only be described as one big party, with lots of singing, dancing and of course, some sport!

The pupils were fantastic, and it was brilliant to hear the tutor group chants. The day finished in our favourite way, with the whole year group doing the YMCA!

Congratulations to winners N, Endeavour Award winners B and individual top-scorers Francisco (T) and Harry (T), who finished level for the boys, and Amber (C).

Thursday saw Year 9s in their first sports day since Year 6! While the PE staff were tiring, the students certainly were not!

The day started quietly, however the Year 9s found their voices especially for the relays

that closed the day.

The real highlight of the day was seeing so many pupils trying their absolute hardest during every event, in particular for the 800m, which was no mean feat! O took top spot with M and C sharing the Endeavour honours and Jenna (C) becoming the leading girl. The boys' best score was shared by Ed (I), James (I) and Aryaan (O).



The sun was definitely shining for our final sports day of the week.

The Year 6 pupils started the day with a whole year group warm-up on the field.

Miss Kingston did her best Joe Wicks impression and got the pupils moving and ready for a day of sport.

The brightly coloured T-Shirts made the day more of an event. There certainly are some pupils to watch coming up, as we had many pupils scoring maximum points across the day! We are very excited to see you again in September.

T took both the win and the Endeavour Award with Adam (I) and Bethany (E) topping the scoresheets.



SCENES FROM SPORTS DAYS: Fun, flags and trophies.

Brothers in the spotlight

Brothers Jacob and Filip Marschall are gaining the attention of the sporting world — in different disciplines.

Goalkeeper Filip, who left Comberton in 2019, is currently in Australia with his professional football club Aston Villa, while Jacob, who is now waiting for his GCSE results after completing Year 11, is training with team GB and pursuing his basketball dream.

Five years ago, Filip had never worn goalkeeping gloves, having started as an outfield player for clubs around Cambridge, but he has now represented England at under-19 level, been on the bench for a Premier League match and helped Villa win the FA Youth Cup in 2021, while achieving A* in maths and further maths A Levels. He was also named 'Scholar of the Year' at Villa and signed his first professional contract.

Jacob, meanwhile, is joining Kent Crusaders in the Elite Academy Basketball League (EABL) for teams featuring the England Development Programme — the leading under-19 programme in the UK.

While training intensively with Crusaders, the 16-year-old — already measuring 206cm (6ft 9in) — will continue his studies at nearby Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury on the next stage of his academic journey.

He already joined his Crusaders team-mates for an intensive camp in Los Angeles this Easter, where he had the opportunity to learn from and train with coaches and support staff from Sierra Canyon School — the home of American basketball stars such as Bronnie James.

It is as meteoric a rise as his older brother has enjoyed at football. Despite watching his mum, a former Comberton maths teacher, play basketball matches when he was younger, it was not until his PE lesson at CVC that Jacob fell in love with the sport.



GETTING DOWN AND GETTING UP: Different skills required by sporting brothers.

It was only just over a year ago, in April 2021, that he joined FastBreak basketball club in Cambourne, only to be scouted by ABL League club Cambridge Cats two months later.

During his first and only season with Cats, Jacob very quickly developed as a player and contributed hugely to the team's success of coming top in the stats performance table in the ABL League; a performance which earned him the Player of the Season award at the club.

During the same season, his progress and commitment were recognised by the national teams (Basketball England and British Basketball) and in May 2022, only after a year of starting his basketball journey, Jacob represented England as they won the Four Nations Tournament in Dundee. Earlier this summer he reached the final selection stage for Team GB for the upcoming European under-16 championships in August.

Jacob is excited about the prospects of combining studies with intensive basketball training over the next two years and hopes to secure a move to an American basketball programme in the future.



NOSE IN FRONT: Benoit De La Sayette is currently top of the standings.

Close race to be top apprentice jockey

Former Comberton pupil Benoit De La Sayette is locked in a closely-fought race to be named the 2022 apprentice jockeys' champion.

The 19-year-old from Hardwick is a couple of wins ahead of his 17-year-old rival Harry Davies at the top of the standings which will be decided on the most winners in all Flat races between the Guineas Festival, which took place in April at Newmarket, where Benoit is based with trainer John Gosden, and British Champions Day at Ascot on October 15.

Benoit, who returned to racing in March after a six-month ban and his own decision to stay off the turf for a further five months, has literally raced into the reckoning after a red-hot period of form in June during which he rode eight winners from 28 rides in 14 days. A prolific winner in pony racing during his years at Comberton, Benoit always had his sights on a career as a jockey and the fact that Gosden made him his first apprentice for 30 years spoke volumes.

He won the Lincoln early in his career and in May won the Victoria Cup at Ascot. He has now ridden 44 winners, having taken just 98 rides to reach the milestone of 20 winners in May, a figure which compares favourably with some of the sport's current big-name jockeys.

Driving ambition

Ollie (9T) has had a great 2022 so far in his first season of National Karting.

The British Karting Championship consists of six rounds, with performance in all heats and finals counting towards a final score. The top 10 in Britain are seeded and get to run the number plate of their finishing position, ie 1-10.

There have been three rounds so far and Ollie has had two podium finishes. He is currently sitting in third overall and is the top rookie — a driver who have never competed at that level before.

He is currently East Anglian Open Champion.

He won the last rounds at Kimbolton and Rissington and leads the Rissington Kart Club Championship with current top five places in every event he has entered this year.



NEED FOR SPEED: To make the podium in the National Champs.