



NEWS@COM



WELCOME!

This week has been another busy one! Staff have been busy supporting year 11 pupils with their revision for the upcoming mock exams, and there have been a range of different trips and activities happening in and around College!

We have started to prepare for the Christmas Bazaar (please see below) to raise funds for brightening up the year group social areas.

We have welcomed over 150 primary pupils to the first Sports Games event, and welcomed our year 11 pupils and families in for the post-16 information evening. You can read more about our recent trips throughout this issue of News@Com.

Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday 29th November 2025 Christmas Bazaar
Christmas Bazaar for all year groups, with each year group raising money towards their own social area.
Everyone can be involved, if you are interested in running a stall **please complete the forms quiz with your group and your stall idea!**
You could sell items, run a tombola, get creative!
Bazaar will be open to members of the public.
Every year group can decide how to spend the money they have raised.
If you would like more information, please come to a meeting on Wednesday in MFL8 lunchtime.

Christmas Bazaar Stalls 2025



Key dates for your diary

13th October: PSHE performance of 'Unacceptable' to Years 8-10

14th October: Flu vaccinations

15th October: Year 7 International Talent Evening

20-21st October: Curriculum Immersion Days

22nd October: Year 7 Disco

23rd October: Open Evening (**school open for pupils**). Please note the time (**5-7pm**).

24th October: Training day (**school closed**)

3rd - 14th November: Year 11 interims

4th November: Flu vaccinations

Monday 17th November: Secondhand Uniform sale (5-6.30pm)

26th - 27th November: Year 11 Drama exam

28th November: Year 11 Graphic Communication mock exam

29th November: Friends' Christmas Fayre

4th December: Year 11 Parents' Evening

11th December: Year 13 Parents' Evening

5th January 2026: Training day (**school closed**)

WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

Meet the Tutor evening

Each year we welcome our Year 7 parents to an evening to meet with the Head of Year, Principal and Year 7 tutors. Our tutors remain with their tutor group for the five years (Year 7-11) so we feel it is an important opportunity for parents/carers to meet with their child/ren's tutor.

It was wonderful to meet with so many of you and we hope that you found the evening informative and helpful!

Mrs. S. Higgs, Assistant Principal (oversight of Year 6-7 transition).



Huge thanks to Janet Banks



This week we celebrated the commitment and time which Janet Banks, our Chair of Governors for over 20 years, has dedicated to CVC.

She has given endless amounts of her personal time by chairing our local advisory board, attending school governor meetings, supporting interview processes and observations, and attending school events.

Janet has also seen her own children and grandchildren attend our college over the years!

Janet's thorough, considered and reflective contributions have supported our colleagues and the development of school policies and procedures to continually develop and improve our school.

We are very grateful for Janet's contribution to the school over so many years.

A BIG MOMENT

Unveiling of the new grand piano

For many years we have held as an objective to systematically upgrade the quality of pianos at Comberton Village College. When I arrived at Comberton in 2005 it was clear that the school was in the same position as most state schools with a small collection of instruments which had long outlived their usefulness: one was over a semitone flat and could no longer be brought up to pitch (cue some interesting conversations in ensemble rehearsals!) The priority was to replace the broken electric keyboard in the vast, recently-built performance hall with a quality Yamaha acoustic piano (2012) to be used for concerts and events.

A longer-term objective was to equip each of our practice-room spaces with a full-size piano or keyboard that pupils of any level would actively enjoy playing, including the purchase of a resonant Kawai upright piano for our main piano-teaching space (2023).

Finally, we are reaching a point every school should aim for, with an excellent medium-size grand piano in the main music room (2025), and a range of other acoustic pianos of good quality in other teaching and rehearsal spaces. At this point we are the envy of many other local state schools.

Acoustic pianos are expensive beasts. The point we have reached today is thanks to over £50,000 in fundraising, gifts and pledges, mostly raised in collaboration with the Friends of CVC Trust Fund and the relentless enthusiasm of its guiding light, Vijju Churchman. New pianos normally have an approximate lifetime of over fifty years before any significant restoration is needed.



The legacy of this fundraising work will therefore benefit many thousands of students over the years to come, inspiring a love of music and music-making and providing students with access to a high-quality instrument the like of which there may not be the resources to acquire at home.

The outgoing piano in Music Room 1 was over 100 years old (predating CVC itself) and gratefully retired at the end of the summer! Its hammers needed re-felting. Its action was uneven. Its damper felt needed replacing. It no longer held its tuning. One of its leg-joints had failed and at some point been re-fitted. Its lid was hinged with an outsized paperclip. It was full of rattles, buzzes and jangles. On behalf of the department staff and its wonderful students, thank you to everyone who has supported this shiny, new, sonorous replacement!

Mr. B. Parker, Head of Music.

ALUMNI SUCCESS

Charntay boxes her way to the top!

Charntay Naidoo recently sent us an update detailing her journey since leaving us in 2023:

'I had lots of support during my time at Comberton, especially when I had to balance schoolwork with my boxing training, and I'm forever grateful for that.

In April 2025, I took part in the Senior Elite Championships and secured third place in the entire country. Third in the whole entire country! I'm so proud that at 19 years old to be able to say that. It's been a challenging journey which has tested my dedication and perseverance, but encouragement made all the difference.

This July, I was directly selected by Amanda Coulson, the Lead Coach for England Boxing, onto the official pathway. This is my funnel straight to the Olympics 2028.

Since then, I've been attending training camps in Sheffield every other weekend, and I'm now pretty much training full time at the English Institute of Sport (EIS).

Next week, I'll be making my first England debut in Ireland, which is such an exciting step forward - to be boxing for my country.

I also received an email from Team England regarding the 2026 Commonwealth Games, offering me an opportunity to qualify for the team. While the



specifics are still coming through, it's an incredible chance to represent England on an even bigger stage—something that I'm approaching with gratitude and dedication.

I wanted to pass on my thanks to everyone at the school who supported me, especially those in the PE department. Also, a big thanks to Mr Beamish (my Head of Year), Mr Sycamore and Miss Girling, Miss Stanley and Miss Dunn from the English department.

Their belief in me continues to fuel my progress—thank you so much for being 5 years of such an important part of my journey.'

Charntay Naidoo, attended CVC from 2019-2023.

KEY MESSAGES

CVC pre-loved school uniform sale

On Monday 17th November from 5pm-6.30pm, a secondhand school uniform sale will be held in the Performance Hall at CVC.

The items will be £4 each and cash or card are accepted on the evening.

Please bring a bag to carry away any purchased items.

We would be grateful if you also note that we will be unable to swap items at the sale.

The details are also at the bottom of our uniform webpage here:

<https://www.combertonvc.org/parent-and-student-information/uniform>

If you have any items that you would like to donate, we would be grateful to receive these. Please leave them at the school reception.



Transport access to school site

The bus lane is exclusively for buses and taxis in the morning. No private cars, without prior arrangement, are allowed access due to SEND needs of a child.

We would like to remind you that the visitor bays are not expected to be used for drop-off in the morning. They can be used for pupil collections before 2:30pm or after 3pm.

If you would like to drop your child off safely, please follow into the staff car park where there is a coned off temporary lane for your child to exit the vehicle and walk between the hedgerow to the safety of a pathway. Your child can then use the pedestrian crossing in front of the sixth form building to the front of the school.



COMPETITIONS



PETERHOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAM History competition

CVC pupils and students are invited to enter the KS3, KS4 and KS5 competitions with peers from across our CAM Trust schools.

Entries are due to either Ms. J. Landy jlandy@combertonvc.org (who will pass entries on) or directly to Mrs. K. Murray at Cambourne VC - kmurray@cambournevc.org - by 14th November 2025.

Please do speak with your History teacher if you are interested!

Ms. J. Landy,
Head of History.



CAM Academy Trust KS3 History Essay Competition

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to submit an entry to the second annual CAM Trust History Essay Competition.

If you would like to enter, please write an essay on the following question:

“Studying history is most important when we learn about our own country”

How far do you agree?

Please send entries to Miss Landy (jlandy@combertonvc.org) or direct to Mrs Murray (kmurray@cambournevc.org). The deadline for entries is **14th November**.



Dr Edward Mair is a historian of slavery, empire and Indigenous peoples in the United States working at King's College London and will judge this year's essay competition!



CAM Academy Trust KS4/5 History Essay Competition

All students in Year 10 to 13 are invited to submit an entry to the second annual CAM Trust History Essay Competition.

“Studying history doesn't matter in the age of AI”

Discuss.

Please send entries to Miss Landy (jlandy@combertonvc.org) or direct to Mrs Murray (kmurray@cambournevc.org). The deadline for entries is **14th November**.



Dr Edward Mair is a historian of slavery, empire and Indigenous peoples in the United States working at King's College London and will judge this year's essay competition!



Peterhouse JCR Arts competition

We are pleased to announce the second year of the Peterhouse JCR Arts Competition!

This competition has been designed by the JCR, who are a group of undergraduates here at Peterhouse that represent our student body; a bit like a student council would at school. The competition is open to students currently in Year 10 or 11 who are educated at a state school in the United Kingdom.

What does the competition involve?

The competition aims to provide a platform for young artists to creatively share their stories and experiences, utilising the power of art in all forms: from paintings to poems. The theme for this year's competition is 'A Changing World'.

We would like you to submit a short piece of work that interprets the theme in a medium of your choice. For example; a poem, a photograph, a painting, or via another art form. You will also need to include a short description (maximum 250 words) of how your submission relates to the theme.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday 21st October at 23:59 pm.

For further information, including example submissions and how to apply, please see the [website](https://www.peterhouse.cam.ac.uk/jcr-arts-competition).

Mrs. E. Norman, lead on MAT (More Able and Talented) and teacher of English.



10 OCTOBER 2025



FOOD MENU

OPEN

EVERYDAY
8-8.25AM
10.30-10.50AM
12.30-13.05PM

Monday 13th October

CORNISH PASTY	£1.58
VEG CURRY (GF & V)	£1.58
PASTA POMODORO (V)	£1.58
GINGERBREAD	£1.01

Tuesday 14th October

CHICKEN CURRY	£1.58
CHILLI CON CARNE (GF)	£1.58
PASTA & PESTO (V)	£1.58
RICE PUDDING	£1.01

Wednesday 15th October

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE (GF)	£1.58
QUORN CHILLI (GF & V)	£1.58
PASTA BASILICO (V)	£1.58
SPOTTED DICK	£1.01

Thursday 16th October

CHICKEN STIR FRY	£1.58
VEG RATATOUILLE (GF & V)	£1.58
MACARONI CHEESE	£1.58
APPLE CRUMBLE	£1.01

Friday 17th October

COTTAGE PIE (GF)	£1.58
MUSHROOM RISOTTO (GF & V)	£1.58
VEG PASTA (V)	£1.58
BAKEWELL TART	£1.01

<https://www.combertonvc.org/parent-and-student-information/catering.php>





FOOD MENU

OPEN
EVERYDAY
8-8.25AM
10.30-10.50AM
12.30-13.05PM

Monday 20th October

CHICKEN KIEV	£1.58
VEG CARBONARA (V)	£1.58
PASTA POMODORO (V)	£1.58
CHOCO SPONGE	£1.01

Tuesday 21st October

BEEF GOULASH (GF)	£1.58
VEG STIR FRY (GF & V)	£1.58
PESTO PASTA (V)	£1.58
RICE PUDDING	£1.01

Wednesday 22nd October

SAUSAGE CASSEROLE	£1.58
SAAG ALOO (GF & V)	£1.58
PASTA BASILICO (V)	£1.58
APPLE CRUMBLE	£1.01

Thursday 23rd October

MEXICAN STYLE CHICKEN	£1.58
VEG LENTIL STEW (GF & V)	£1.58
MACARONI CHEESE	£1.58
CORNFLAKE TART	£1.01

Friday 24th October - school closed for training day

<https://www.combertonvc.org/parent-and-student-information/catering.php>

TERM DATES

School Term & Holiday Dates 2025/2026 – Revised	
Mon 1 st Sept	Staff Training Day – school closed
Tues 2 nd Sept	Autumn Term opens for Yr 7 and ½ of Yr 12
Wed 3 rd Sept	Term opens for Yr 7 to 11, ½ of Year 12
Thurs 4 th Sept	Term opens for all years
Thurs 23 rd Oct	Open Evening (school open all day)
Friday 24 th Oct	Cross Trust Training Day – school closed
Mon 27 th Oct – Fri 31 st Oct	Half Term
Fri 19 th Dec	Last Day of Term
Spring Term 2026	
Mon 5 th Jan	Staff training day – school closed
Tues 6 th Jan	Spring Term Opens
Mon 16 th Feb – Fri 20 th Feb	Half Term
Fri 27 th Mar	Last day of Spring Term
Mon 30 th Mar – Fri 10 th Apr	Easter Break
Summer Term 2026	
Mon 13 th Apr	Staff training Day – school closed
Tues 14 th Apr	Summer Term Opens
Mon 4 th May	May Bank holiday
Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May	Half Term
Fri 17 th July	Last Day of Summer Term
Mon 20 th July	Disaggregated Training Day – school closed

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child is upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College



UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM/ADHD “MY WORLD AND ME”

This course is designed for young people in Secondary School years 7 - 11 living in Cambridgeshire, struggling to attend school and who have a diagnosis of Autism and/or ADHD. Participants can complete the course from home or at school and do not need to be currently enrolled in formal education. They also must commit for the full 10-week online course.

EVERY MONDAY

10:30 - 11:30am

29th SEPTEMBER '25 - 8th DECEMBER '25

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK



 **FORM THE FUTURE**
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
IMPACT AND COLLABORATION



GREATER
CAMBRIDGE
PARTNERSHIP



INSIGHTS INTO... POST-16 OPTIONS

Tuesday 21 October 2025 | 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**FREE WEBINAR AIMED AT PARENTS AND CARERS
(AND THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE) WHICH WILL GIVE:**

- Qualification options at sixth form and college
- Apprenticeships opportunities
- Assessing the options – which is best for your young person?



The next instalment of Form the Future's popular and informative FREE webinar and Insights series continues on Tuesday 21st October, aimed at Parents and Carers and their young people. This session investigates 'Post-16 Options' and is a brilliant opportunity to discover how to support young people to explore their next steps in education and the world of work. Led by experienced careers professionals, the session will offer practical help and advice, and the team will be on hand to answer any questions in a live Q&A.

Please either scan the QR code or click on the link [here](#) to register.