



# NEWS@COM



## WELCOME!

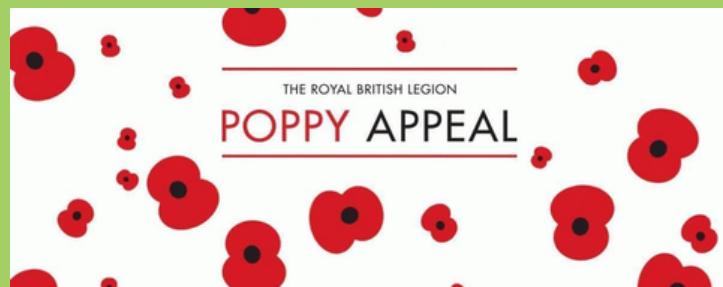
I can't quite believe that we have reached the end of term! The last eight weeks have flown by, and it has been a great joy to join the CVC community.

I have really appreciated the warm welcome I have received from across the school, from pupils and staff to the wider parent body.

I am excited about the plans we have in place to continue to improve the school and, in particular, ensure that the lived experience of pupils is the best it can be.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half term break, and look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**V. Hearn, Principal.**



Poppies will be sold after half term. Pupils may bring in cash to be able to donate to the Poppy Appeal.

## Key dates for your diary

3<sup>rd</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> November: Year 11 interim mock examinations

### Year 13 BTEC Sports work placements

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November: Flu vaccinations

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November: Year 12 Environmental Science Whipsnade Zoo trip**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November: Year 11 mock interviews**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November: Secondhand Uniform sale (5-6.30pm)

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Year 11 Peterhouse trip**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Big Band Jazz Band (all year groups) in Eddington**

**Wednesday 26th November: Year 13 mock interviews; 6<sup>th</sup> form trip to 'Hamilton' and ESU and Mace debate (round 1)**

26th - 27th November: Year 11 Drama exam

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November: Snowsports information evening**

28th November: Year 11 Graphic Communication mock exam

29<sup>th</sup> November: Friends' Christmas Fayre

4th December: Year 11 Parents' Evening

11<sup>th</sup> December: Year 13 Parents' Evening

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





# SPANGLOVISION

## International Talent Evening

The International Talent Evening (ITE), which was held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, was a great success.

We are very proud to be holding two prestigious awards at CVC and at CSF- the International School Award and the Rights Respecting Schools Award. Both these awards are a testament to the whole school commitment to embedding a rich and creative range of international work with every child and young person at its heart.

The ITE is a celebration of the many languages and cultures which live and breathe through our pupils and students in our school and 6<sup>th</sup> Form College.

During the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> October, Year 7 pupils sang their heart out as they competed for the famous Spanglovision trophy.

This year, 7B and 7R were judged to be the winners for their presence on stage, ability to remember the lyrics and pronunciation. However, in our eyes, everyone is a winner, and I would like to thank all the Year 7 pupils who participated in this event.

I would also like to thank the Year 10 international leaders, the Tech support team, Mrs Shorten, our judges, Mrs Cox and Mr Roberts, and all the Languages teachers for their hard work and support. Finally, thank you to parents and carers for attending the event.

**Mrs. M. Burgess,  
International School Coordinator.**



## Rio pupils return to CVC!

Thursday 16th October saw the return of visitors from the British School, Rio de Janeiro, following many years of a successful partnership.

A group of 35 Brazilian students were met by our Year 9 pupils who looked after them during their time in school. They were then treated to a carousel of typical British sports, coordinated by Mr Uttridge (teacher of PE) and carried out by his brilliant Year 12 students.

The chance to learn about each other's cultures will have been a memorable day for all.

We very much enjoyed hosting the group and look forward to welcoming them back in the future.

**Ms.C. Allinson, teacher of MFL.**



# **ROSS WELFORD- LIBRARY & ENGLISH MAGICAL AUTHOR VISIT**

This October, the Library and the English department hosted children's author (and member of the Magic Circle) Ross Welford to talk to Year 7 about writing. The Library (with generous support from the Friends of Comberton Village College) gave all our new pupils a gift of their own Ross Welford book during their transition visit to Comberton in July. This was then followed up by English lessons focusing on story openings inspired by his writing at the start of this term.

Ross's novels explore magic in the everyday and numerous bizarre situations (such as time travelling with a hamster and characters who live to 1000!). He discussed the importance of the imagination and reading, whilst performing intriguing, mind-blowing tricks. Though he gave excellent tips on writing, he sadly did not reveal his magic secrets! It was fantastic to see students so enthused about Ross's novels and their reading.

Some students also took part in a creative writing workshop about story openings. All the pieces they wrote showcased the pupils' creativity and confidence, but congratulations to the top three writers who excelled with the structure and imagery in their writing: Oona McKenzie, Sam Wallwork and Edward Underwood. You can read some extracts of their wonderful writing here.

Sam:

From behind me came a snake-like voice. "Come with me, come to me and not be harmed." I whipped my head around to see a colossal wooden head emerging from the ground. "I will take you places, I will give glory, just give me your soul and you will live."



Oona:

What happened next changed everything. A deep, raspy growl came from below. I wasn't alone. I couldn't see what was below me. I have to go up. Faint footsteps could be heard. Am I going to die? Is this it? I ran up, with no thought, no second thoughts and ran up the stairs. Up and up and up.

Edward:

From behind me came a cold voice. "Your deadline's in four days," it hissed, "No," I said, "It can't be!" "It is said the cold voice. "And if that deadline is not met..." Its voice faltered. It suddenly deepened as red light filtered the forest. "You will be exterminated!" A rush of wind swept me off my feet as I woke up in a cold sweat.

**H. Spargo, School Librarian.**





# KEY MESSAGES

## Request for parent volunteers: supporting student success in practice interviews

We are running two separate half-day sessions, and we would be grateful if you could volunteer for one or both:

### Year 11 Practice Interviews

Date: Wednesday, 12th November

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### Year 13 Practice Interviews

Date: Wednesday, 26th November

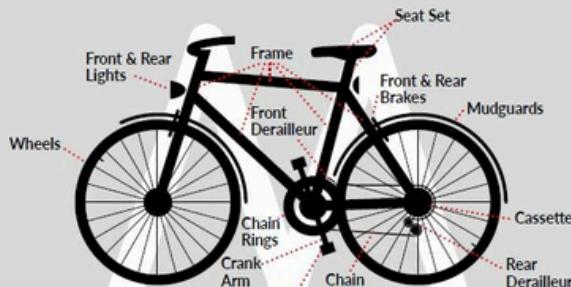
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Interviews will be brief (10-15 mins) and follow a structured format with sample questions provided by the school. Your role will be to provide a realistic, friendly, and encouraging experience for our young people.

If you can spare a few hours to help, please contact our Programme Manager, Peter, at Form the Future by Friday, 31st October. His contact details are outlined in the flyer below.

## Make sure your bike is safe and roadworthy!

DO AN M CHECK ONCE A MONTH AND A QUICK ABC CHECK EVERY DAY YOU RIDE



### ABC CHECK

**A - AIR**  
Make sure your tyres are inflated (your tyre should say the minimum and maximum pressure)

**B - BRAKES**  
Make sure they are working and you can stop quickly in an emergency

**C - CHAIN -**  
Make sure it is running smooth and lubricated - add a few drops of bike lube and give it a good clean every three weeks

## Safety to and from school

Please can we ask parents to remind pupils to be careful when crossing roads in order to catch their bus, and after exiting the bus to check for oncoming cars.

As it gets darker earlier in the afternoon, please can we also ask that pupils are equipped and encouraged to wear lights, reflective clothing and, of course, helmets.

## Pupils signing out of school during school hours

For the purpose of safeguarding, we politely request that should your child need to attend an appointment during school hours, evidence is either emailed to com-Attendance ahead of the day or shown to our Attendance officer, Ms. Fox, who is located in the office at the Pupil Entrance.

## OUR STUDENTS NEED YOU!

**What?** Mock Interviews

**Where?** Comberton Village College

**When?** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November, 8.30 - 12.30

Whatever you do for work, support young people to form their brightest future. Volunteer a few hours to share your knowledge and experience.

To find out more, please contact Peter Buncombe

01223 948934 pbuncombe@formthefuture.org.uk





# SIXTH FORM TRIP

## Year 12 residential: Norfolk Lakes adventure builds bonds and brave spirits

The Year 12 cohort kicked off the academic year with an unforgettable residential trip to Norfolk Lakes last weekend, designed to help students and staff get to know each other and break the ice in a fun and relaxed environment.



Despite the arrival of Storm Amy, spirits were not dampened, instead they remained high throughout the weekend. The unpredictable weather only added to the sense of adventure as students embraced every challenge thrown their way. From high ropes courses that tested the nerves and balance of both staff and students alike, to kayaking and raft-building that sparked teamwork and laughter, there was no shortage of excitement. The students even channelled their inner warrior as they tried to outdo each other with archery and axe-throwing sessions. As the evenings set in, the groups gathered around the campfire for a well-earned rest, sharing stories and toasting marshmallows which created a sense of calm after the storm!

It was a fantastic start to the year—one that laid strong foundations for new friendships and a sense of togetherness that will carry us through the months ahead.

Definitely a weekend to remember...we now look forward to planning for 2026.



## Year 12 & 13 Sixth Form Football team win against Long Road

A mature display from CSF saw us come out on top against Long Road in our opening game of the season. Going into half time 8-1, it is easy to take your foot off the gas. However, the boys ploughed on and grabbed another 4 goals in the second half to finish 12-2.

Goals from Edward (4), Dylan (3), Fin (2), Reham (2) and Ryan (1).

A well fought game with much needed momentum gained from the first game of the season.

**Jack, Year 13.**





## **South Cambridgeshire MP Pippa Heylings visits Comberton Sixth Form**

Students and staff at Comberton Sixth Form were pleased to welcome Pippa Heylings, MP for South Cambridgeshire, for a visit that sparked thoughtful discussion on the current challenges and future of education.

During her time at the Sixth Form, Pippa met with senior staff and education leaders to explore key issues facing schools and colleges today. Topics included funding for SEND, the complexities of EHCP applications, and concerns surrounding access to funded transport for students in rural areas.

Conversations also touched on the pressing need for greater support in safeguarding and online safety across education settings.

Pippa was particularly interested in the Sixth Form's new sustainability initiative, currently being trialled as part of the Year 12 Enrichment Programme. Staff and students shared how the project is fostering environmental awareness and encouraging positive change within the school community.

Another key topic raised during the visit was the voting age, with discussions around how best to educate 16- and 17-year-olds about democratic participation, the responsibilities of voting, and making informed choices at the ballot box. Pippa expressed strong support for engaging young people early in the political process and was looking forward to working collaboratively with the Sixth Form in the future on this.



A highlight of the visit was a student panel, where sixth formers asked insightful questions on a range of topics, from the future of education to online misogyny and the core values of the Liberal Democrats. The conversation reflected students' growing awareness of social and political issues, and Pippa responded candidly, encouraging open dialogue and critical thinking.

The visit concluded with a tour of the Sixth Form site and a drop-in to a Year 12 Politics class, where she spoke briefly about her journey into politics, her experience as a female MP, and her hopes for the future of political engagement among young people.

It was an inspiring and informative morning, offering students a real-world insight into politics and policy—and reminding all involved of the importance of student voice in shaping the future.

**Mr. J. Frost, Head of Sixth Form.**



# POST-16 OPPORTUNITIES

## Telegraph journalism opportunity

Parents, please encourage any aspiring journalists to apply for this programme run by the Telegraph. It is open to students in Y11-13. Given that the time commitment is around five hours during March, and that the skills learned will help participants with English Language GCSE and A-level, pupils in exam years should not hesitate to apply. On the application form, which you can find by following the link below, students will be asked to name a teacher contact. I am happy for them to put me down: Eleanor Norman, enorman@combertonvc.org

### Applications are now open for the Telegraph Media Group Media Literacy Programme for 2026.

The programme aims to break down the barriers to careers in journalism and provide school pupils with the tools and skills to think critically about the media landscape. It gives an insight into what it's like to be a journalist at an award-winning multimedia news brand. The programme is open to all 16-18-year-olds across the UK and we would really encourage your pupils to apply.

The online sessions will be with a range of Telegraph journalists from departments including news, sports, beauty, music, and social media. Participants will have the opportunity to learn news skills such as headline writing, interviewing and travel writing, and win prizes.

The programme will run for four weeks, beginning on Tuesday, 3rd March 2026.

Sessions will take place online from 4:00 to 5:10 pm every Tuesday. At the end of the programme, each student will receive a Telegraph Media Literacy Journalism Certificate.

To submit their applications, students should visit

<https://careers.telegraph.co.uk/jobs/job-details/The-Telegraph-Media-Literacy-Programme-2026-London>. As part of their application, they will need to complete a short cover letter outlining why they wish to participate in the programme.

## Savills Apprenticeship event

Explore Apprenticeships at Savills – Parent, Student & Careers Advisors Information Session Savills, one of the UK's leading property companies, is hosting a free online information session for parents, carers and students (Years 10–13) who want to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities in property and real estate.

- 📅 Date: Monday 3rd November 2025
- 🕒 Time: 18:00 – 19:30
- 💻 Online (Zoom)

This 90-minute session will cover:

- The different apprenticeship roles at Savills
- Career progression and qualifications (including degree-level)
- How to apply and stand out
- Real apprentice success stories
- Live Q&A with Savills training partners

Register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HP8CFSZ>

This is a great opportunity for young people interested in property, surveying, business, customer service, or real estate to hear directly from Savills and get inspired about their future.





# **F O O D M E N U**

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

## **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

PEPPERED STEAK SLICE	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA BASILICO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
CHICKEN KORMA (G/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
APPLE CRUMBLE	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

CHICKEN TOMATO & TARRAGON (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA POMODORO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
MUSHROOM RISOTTO (G/F VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
JAM ROLYPOLY	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

SPAGHETTI BACON MUSHROOM & CHILLI (D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
STIR FRY VEGETABLES (VEGAN G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA & PESTO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
RICE PUDDING	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

MOUSSAKA	<b>£1.58</b>
MACARONI CHEESE	<b>£1.58</b>
BEAN CHILLI (VEGAN G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
BAKEWELL TART	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

CHICKEN ROGAN JOSH (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA & TOMATO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
CHEESE WHIRLS	<b>£1.58</b>
CHOCOLATE SPONGE	<b>£1.01</b>

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



# **F O O D M E N U**



## **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

CHICKEN & MUSHROOM SLICE	<b>£1.58</b>
SAVOURY MINCE & RICE (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA POMODORO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PEACH CRUMBLE	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

CHICKEN & SWEETCORN RISOTTO (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
MINCED BEEF & PASTA BAKE	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA BASILICO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
SPOTTED DICK	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

BEEF STEW & DUMPLINGS (D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
VEGETABLE MADRAS (VEGAN G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA & PESTO (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
JAM SPONGE	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

LASAGNE	<b>£1.58</b>
QUORN CHILLI (VEGAN G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
NOODLES & SWEET CHILLI (D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
RICE PUDDING	<b>£1.01</b>

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

CHILLI CON CARNE (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
PASTA & ROASTED VEG (VEGAN D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
CHICKEN CASSEROLE (G/F D/F)	<b>£1.58</b>
CHOCOLATE & BANANA SPONGE	<b>£1.01</b>

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



# TERM DATES

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



Caring  
Confident  
Capable

24 OCTOBER 2025



Registered Charity No. 288773

Friends Of CVC Trust Fund  
And The School Council  
Presents:

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 29th November  
From 11AM - 2PM

Comberton Village  
College Performance Hall

Stalls available for local sellers  
Contact: [friends@combertonvc.org](mailto:friends@combertonvc.org)

ENTRY FEE:  
ADULT 50P  
CHILDREN  
FREE

Refreshments,  
Lunches, Gift  
Stalls, Raffle,  
Tombola and  
much, much  
more.

