



THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 10

May 2010



Message from the Head of College

Welcome to this bumper edition of the Voice. You will see it is packed full of news and activities, with lots for our students to celebrate. The Ironik crew deserve particular praise for all their hard work, culminating in coming third in the Break Dance Championships. (See page 5 for more information).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our parents, Mrs Ashraf, for all her hard work in the College, in both the Art department and the RE department; the students find her contribution truly inspirational and enjoyable. (See page 3 for more information).

I would also draw your attention to the new Cashless Catering which is being introduced with effect from 12 July. If you would like further information and the opportunity to ask questions, please come along to our Information Evening on 15 June. We would ask, however, that you let us know in advance, in order that we have an idea on numbers attending. (See pages 6 and 7).

Finally, can I express my best wishes to all students for their external examinations that are now well underway. I look forward to sharing their success in the summer.



ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE SUMMER CONCERT

Wednesday 23 June 2010

at
7.00 pm
In the Main Hall

Come along to celebrate
the end of the academic year
with Music, Dance and Drama

Date for the Summer Holidays!

The Arthur Mellows Village College Playscheme for children aged 8 to 13 will run from Monday 26 July until Friday 13 August.

For full details and an application form, please contact Verity Missin 01733 254040

ROYAL VISIT HRH THE COUNTESS OF WESSEX TO VISIT ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 2010

Although the new building has been open for quite some time, the Governors of Arthur Mellows Village College are pleased to announce that Her Royal Highness, The Countess of Wessex will visit the College to perform an official opening, on Thursday 8 July 2010. This will be a memorable and prestigious occasion for all involved.

Key Dates next term

Term resumes	Monday 7 June
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Monday 14 June
Cashless Catering Evening	Tuesday 15 June
Summer Concert	Wednesday 23 June
Cucina Bistro Evening	Thursday 1 July
Sixth Form Induction day (1)	Monday 5 July
Sixth Form Induction day (2)	Tuesday 6 July
Primary Day and Evening (Year 6)	Wednesday 7 July
Royal Visit day	Thursday 8 July
Year 11 Prom	Friday 9 July
Year 13 Prom	Saturday 10 July
Activities Days	Tuesday 20 July / Wednesday 21 July / Thursday 22 July
Term ends	Thursday 22 July

Delivering Learning for Life within an Aspirational Culture

COLLEGE NEWS

UNDERSTANDING GROUNDWATER POLLUTION

As part of their Environmental Studies A Level course, Year 13 students are studying groundwater pollution. They recently had the opportunity to visit the Helpston Groundwater Remediation Scheme near Helpston, as part of their work studying the effects of pesticide pollution. An agricultural pesticide called Mecoprop has leaked into the local groundwater aquifer from two former landfill sites, causing



widespread pollution which is impacting on public water supplies. The Environment Agency, and engineering contractors Hydrock, are endeavouring to clean up the landfill sites and prevent the spread of groundwater contamination.

The students had a talk about the work that is going on and then a tour of the treatment plant, including the microbe digestion tank, full of microbes breaking down the pollutant. The visit was a great success and really brought to life the problems of groundwater pollution.

Dr Edwards



YEAR 10 ASK THEIR QUESTION ON PLASTIC BAGS!

To support Year 10's BTEC Media course, and to coincide with the forthcoming Peterborough Children's Film Awards, Taylor Mumby, Emily Cartwright and Bethan Boast attended a workshop on documentary filmmaking at The Voyager on Friday 19 March 2010.

The three girls were joined by students from a number of Peterborough schools for the three hour session hosted by Stuart Radcliffe, a journalist currently working for the BBC. The criteria for this year's competition is to produce a documentary, no more than five minutes long, on the subject of "The Environment". Stuart's role within the BBC is producing, filming and editing news stories lasting approximately two minutes therefore he seemed the ideal person to offer advice and guidance to the group.

During the session Emily, Taylor and Bethan had the opportunity to share their initial idea – Are we doing enough to reduce the number of plastic bags in the city? - with Stuart and the other attendees, before receiving invaluable feedback which they could carry forward into the actual filming process. Stuart also offered advice on interview and filming techniques as well as legal advice such as: where to film, getting permission and acquiring music.

Mr Sludds



OUR TRIP TO OXFORD

Tuesday, 4 May 2010 started as normal, getting up and heading to school. However there was no school that day. The minibus left at 8.00 am and we started for Oxford. As we reached the car park we could see all the pretty buildings around Oxford. We had the pleasure of walking to Lincoln College, part of Oxford University. As we arrived we were taken into a room inside the College and asked to draw a picture of what we imagined an Oxford student to look like. We were all very shy at this point and did not really speak. After this we got split into two groups and had a tour of the College, led by an Oxford student. As we got back we had half an hour until lunch, so we had question time with the two students. At lunch we all went to choose what we wanted to eat with beans, chips, sausages and vegetable curry as the main choices with a slice of yummy Chocolate cake. We all sat on a long table chatting casually together until lunch was over.



After lunch there was a scavenger hunt around Oxford with some of the items being from a man in a hat and lots of beards to a picture of a thousand words. Coming back to the College there was a competition on the horizon. Both groups were given a



course to present to the teachers and whoever persuaded them the best, received a box of Celebrations. We left Oxford at around 3.00 pm after having an amazing and fun day.

*Alix Mumford
10PCR*

COLLEGE NEWS

News from the Art Department

The Art Department has had a busy time recently. Mrs Ashraf, a local artist came in to teach the Year 10 students how to do calligraphy. She explained the technique of writing a personal card in the style of Japanese and Islamic calligraphy. The students initially practised the technique before designing their own cards. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the writing of another culture and how difficult it is to create a beautiful design through a few simple marks.

During Key Stage 3, students are required to see artists at work. This term we have had local artist Jeni Cairns in for a week. Her work is predominantly mixed media and abstract and she has been encouraging students to work in a more free style. The students began their studies by doing homework that required collecting poems about the sea, photographs of the British seascape and materials that they could use to create a piece of art. They all produced postcard pieces showing how they can make marks to illustrate their idea of the sea and this was followed by larger artworks using materials such as sand, net and script. The students were incredibly enthusiastic, getting fully involved in the process and truly amazed at the outcomes they achieved. We added a comments sheet next to their work and 'awesome' appeared many times!



Mrs Pembridge



ENERGY DRINKS

Since achieving Healthy School status we have become even more aware of the importance of what students eat and drink during the school day. For example, students are allowed to drink water during both social times of day and in most lessons as the importance of hydration is recognised by all. With this in mind we are becoming increasingly concerned at the number of students bringing 'energy' drinks, such as 'Red Bull', into College. We have noticed that many of these students become more excitable and restless and display behaviours which they ordinarily do not display. These drinks contain unhealthy levels of both sweeteners and caffeine and are simply not necessary. A bottle of water is more beneficial and far healthier.

We are aware of the 'myth' that they are helpful at times of revision and examination. There is no evidence that this is the case. Good preparation, a good diet and good rest are the perfect components of successful examination techniques.

At this stage we would positively discourage you from sending your child into College with these drinks and if our concerns were to escalate any further we may consider an on site ban.

Mr Kennedy



MRS ASHRAF VISITS RE STUDENTS

In RE we are learning about the Muslim Culture. We were very lucky to have Mrs Ashraf come to speak to us about what being a Muslim is like.

To start off with, Mrs Ashraf brought round some sweet and spicy food, onion bhaji and fudge like dessert. As the session continued, we learnt more and more, such as, like Christians celebrate Christmas, Muslims celebrate something called Eid as well. Eid is a time of year when only the children get presents. It is very similar to Christmas. Every time Eid is celebrated, every man gives £5.00 to charity. We worked out that if all the Dads from Arthur Mellows Village College gave £5.00, we would have raised roughly £11,000.

The clothes were wonderful too; we got to dress up in the sparkly dresses and suits for men.

Overall, the visit from Mrs Ashraf was fantastic and it taught us a lot about the religion. It is a great opportunity for other Year Groups too.

Daisy Malton 7GDA

On Tuesday 17 May 2010, Mrs Ashraf a British Muslim lady, came to school to speak to us about the Muslim Culture.

First Mrs Ashraf told us about Eid Mubarak, which is a greeting for the festivals of Eid ul-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr. This phrase means blessed festival.

Mrs Ashraf also gave us some food to try. The spicy one was coated in a spicy texture with raw onions inside. The sweet food consisted of white, green and orange colours. It tasted and reminded me of fudge. I loved them both.

Adam and Bethany were asked to dress up as Muslim children in outfits worn on special occasions. They were both covered in sequins but the girls wear bright colours and the boys dark.

Thanks to Mrs Ashraf I now have a better understanding of the Muslim Culture and I am more aware of not being persuaded by the media on how Muslims lead their lives.

William Woodard 7GDA

Travel Plan Target..... Please could parents assist the College in reaching its targets in the school travel plan by car sharing wherever possible. Thank you



COLLEGE NEWS

Year 8 and 9 Gifted and Talented English

On 20 April, the English Department hosted a visit by published fantasy writer Steve Bowkett. Steve gave talks about his love of writing and hosted a creative writing workshop with both Year 8 and 9 students. They came up with a variety of ideas for structuring writing and unlocking their creativity. I was hugely impressed with the range of outrageous and vivid narratives being developed and hope to see them in print one day soon!

Miss Lewis



Thank you to everyone who participated and helped in organising and running the football tournament as well as all those who took part in raising money for the College. As we exceeded the amount we originally hoped to raise, the remaining money has been donated to Sport Relief. Congratulations to the winning Year 9 team who played their way through to the final and beat the Year 11 team to the prize: James Carter, Kenny Gray, Dan Cooper, Conor Gallagher-Johnson, Nathan Law, Matt Carter and Rhys Gilson!

Miss Cruise

Exam Results Days!

- GCE AS and A Level — Thursday 19 August (10.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Main Hall)
- GCSE — Tuesday 24 August (10.00 am to 12.00 noon in the Main Hall)



Message from the Police — Students Beware

If you use the cycle path over Helpston Bridge please do not swerve from the path to the road in order to overtake. There will be an accident!



UKMT Maths Challenge News

This year over 80 students entered the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge along with over 200,000 other entrants, nationally.

Samara McKnight (Year 10) and Chloe Saddington (Year 11) were both awarded gold certificates and Samara also won a certificate for 'The Best in School'.

There were also 15 students awarded silver certificates and 17 bronze certificates.

The Maths Challenge tests the ability to solve problems and gets students to use and apply Maths to different situations, some that are covered in the Maths curriculum and others that are not. Well done to all the students who took part.

Anyone wanting to try some of these questions out for themselves online should go to www.ukmt.org.uk. They are certainly worthy of the title Challenge!

Mr Cradock



COLLEGE NEWS



Battlefields 2010

I am writing this in Belgium, a place much like England in so many ways. It's just that if you look at the buildings here, you can't help but stop and wonder how many people and young men's lives had to be taken away to make it so beautiful. It's weird me saying that even the Commonwealth Cemetery was beautiful, the simplicity of the headstones and the odd sense you get of fear, love and hatred. Every grave stone had it's own story to tell, of men fighting for their countries, of them getting killed because of what they believe in, FREEDOM.

The Belgian cemetery was totally different. For a country who should have come together at a time of war, they were so separate. Walking through you soon see the diversity of their racism. The Flemish to the French parts of Belgium were a disgrace. Looking closer I can see an odd occurrence, the Flemish speaking never got a higher rank than Private. Every one of them were an Army Major in their own right. They all fought in The Great War. They all died in The Great War. They all died with their heads held high. The most peaceful and unexpected thing in the middle of the Commonwealth cemetery was one grave stone, with a strange language on it: "Zweiunbekannte Krieger, Gefallen Fur Deutschland" ("Two unknown soldiers, fallen for Germany"). In my mind it is the first peace movement after such a hellish 4 years.

As we approach another cemetery we see the familiar sword pointing down. There is a small concrete building, the five doors revealed an eerie darkness. It is a field hospital. Suddenly I am able to picture myself at that time, guns firing, shells exploding and the unforgettable sound of a man's moaning. He is on a stretcher in the sun looking up into the trees, it is obvious that he is going to die. I want to help him but I am afraid of what might happen to me.

My thoughts come back to 2010, where we are being told about John McCrae who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Field'. We hear the poem and I think that it is beautiful. It is a message from the dead, even though the poet wasn't dead, he had a pretty good idea of what I think the fallen would have wanted to say.

As we enter the nearby cemetery you could feel the sense of a lot of proud people yet there was not a soul in there. Even when we are looking around I can't understand why, not until I see two graves. One of them bears the name of the soldier (T Barrak) and two letters, VC, next to it. To me the letters VC meant nothing up to the point when I looked down and saw the Victoria Cross. I stare at the drawing of the cross to try and picture what he may have done to win the cross but come to the conclusion that it had to be something unimaginable. The second headstone was something everyone of us on the trip could relate to, the name was V J Studwick, who died on 14 January 1916 aged just 15, one year older than us. His mum who had never seen her little boy after he had joined the Army wrote there: *"Not gone from memory or from love"*.

The ironic thing about this story is that this young boy was afraid of getting a thick ear from his Mum once she found out about him joining the Army, yet he wasn't afraid of getting killed for his King and Country. I then knew why you feel proud entering, the fallen feel it too.

This is an extract from an essay written by Amy-Louise Paul, 9 ECL



Congratulations!

'IRONIK CREW' 3rd in the UK!

On Sunday 25 March, IRONIK CREW took a very early trip up to London's Stratford Circus to battle it out in the

TruSkool UK Break Dance Championships. They did incredibly well and out of 12 crews came 3rd in their 'Cops and Robbers' show-dance. They worked so hard and gave an outstanding performance.

Well done guys!! Thank you to all the hard work and effort you continue to put in. Also a massive thank you goes to all those that have supported the crew along their journey.

'Sweat The Technique 2010'

On Thursday 13 May 2010 the Dance Showcase took the College by storm and put on an amazing show. Well done to all those who took part and gave excellent performances. The evening was a huge success and all of the students did the College proud. Thank you to all of those that came and supported the students. Watch this space for Sweat the Technique 2011!!

This show had dances from a variety of clubs that the dance department offers. If you are interested in joining a club to perform in next year's show ask Miss Bugby or Miss Rowland for more details.



COLLEGE NEWS

Reminder regarding the introduction of Cashless Catering to Arthur Mellows Village College

We are pleased to announce that we are installing a new cashless catering system at the College. The system goes live on Monday 12 July 2010. From this date onwards no cash will be accepted in the Refectory or the Sixth Form Cafe Lounge.

As a Specialist Technology College we are excited by the features that this new system will offer to students and staff alike.

How does the system work?

The student simply places their finger on a scanner at the till; a display will show the till operator the student's name, class and current cash balance held within the system. The selected food items will be entered into the till and the amount spent and the new cash balance will show on the display to the student.



Security

Each student will have their fingertip registered on 6* or 7* July 2010 in College. Students, parents and staff can rest assured that the fingertip images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the fingertip to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the fingertip; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a fingertip image.

*note change of date from previous publication

How do we pay?

All students and staff will have an account with Cucina, our on-site catering supplier. Money is credited to accounts via three methods:



1. ParentPay

An Internet based application which allows parents to top up their child's account at any time of the day.

From September 2010 ParentPay will also be available to parents to pay for trips and activities throughout the College year.



2. Automatic Cash Terminals

Students place their finger on the scanner and insert money into the cash terminal. Two terminals will be located in key areas for students to top up their accounts. The terminals are programmed to accept: Notes £20, £10, £5 Coins £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p.



3. Cheques

Will be accepted via a central Post Box at Student Reception and posted onto accounts before lunchtime each day.



COLLEGE NEWS

Benefits

- Reduced queuing times for students, allowing everyone to use the facilities.
- Convenient way for parents to pay for meals.
- Students entitled to Free School Meals will remain anonymous.
- Discourages the misuse of dinner money through spending in shops outside of the College grounds.
- Alleviates many of the associated problems with the use of cash in College ie loss, theft and bullying.
- Student food allergies can be programmed into the system. A warning will be displayed at the till

Free School Meals

Children who are entitled to Free School Meals will scan their fingertip at the till. Money for the Free School Meal will be credited to the account by the College.



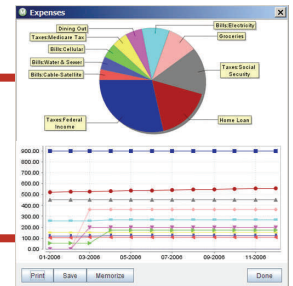
Library

From September 2010 the College Library will use the same system to issue books to students thus speeding up the service available to students. The Library will become more accessible to students as they will not need to remember to bring their Library card into College.



Reports

The cashless catering system is able to provide parents with a report detailing their child's history of food purchased at College.



Information Evening – Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 6.00 pm

Cunningham's, the cashless catering supplier, will be holding an Information Evening at the College on Tuesday 15 June 2010. The purpose of the evening is to answer any queries parents or students may have about the new cashless catering system.

If you wish to attend the Information Evening, could you please complete the reply slip below and return to Main Reception, as we need an indication of numbers expected on the evening.

If demand is high, a later session will be arranged on the same evening.

The system goes live on

MONDAY 12 JULY 2010

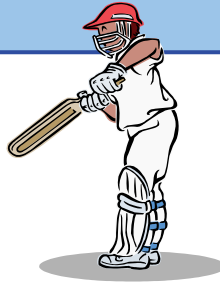
SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

Well done to the Year 9 boys who have won the County Cup final against Sir Harry Smith. It was a thrilling game as they had to come from behind twice to win 3-2. Matthew Carter was man of the match putting in another fantastic performance.

CRICKET

We have started the Cricket season well, fielding two age groups — under 15's and under 13's, with some close games against Thomas Deacon Academy and The Voyager.



ATHLETICS

The Athletics season has started with some good performances.

Katie Hutchinson in Year 8 has continued to shine after her success at the English Schools Cross Country event by winning the 1500 metres City trial and will go forward to represent the County.

Sophie Gwilliam, Year 9 High Jump and Portia Obiri-Yeboah, Year 8 Shot Putt also put in excellent performances and have been selected for the County squad. As have all the following:

Girls

Amy Haines-Eynon Year 11 **1500 metres**
Clarissa Murphy Year 10 **High Jump**



Boys

Matthew Carter Year 9 **400 metres**
Joe Roberts Year 9 **Long and Triple Jump**
Alex McNally year 11 **100 metres and High Jump**
Tom Holyoake Year 10 **800 metres**

All performed extremely well on the day and are going forward to represent Peterborough in the County Championships on Saturday 12 June 2010.

Soke Football and Netball Competition Years 5/6 Thursday 18 March 2010

The Soke Football and Netball in March was a great occasion. Approximately 160 primary school children and their supporters took part in a sporting festival involving netball and football at Arthur Mellows Village College. The rain forecast earlier in the week held off and we had a warm and clear afternoon.

A Level students as well as Junior, Community and Higher Sports Leaders from the College umpired and refereed all the games to an excellent standard – allowing teachers to coach and encourage their teams. There was an excellent standard of play, both in the football and netball competitions, with some very close and tense games.

Well done to all the youngsters who participated with a great spirit and the leaders, who were excellent role-models, showing maturity and professionalism.

The following schools participated: Wittering, Northborough, William Law, Eye, Newborough, Barnack, Werrington, Welbourne, John Clare, Peakirk cum Glington, Castor.



Final Scores



Final scores NETBALL

Winner – Peakirk cum Ginton
Runner-up – William Law
3rd Place - Werrington
4th place - Newborough



Final scores FOOTBALL

Winner – William Law
Runner-up - Werrington
3rd/ 4th place - John Clare and Peakirk cum Ginton



JORDAN KENNEDY

Congratulations to Jordan Kennedy, Year 12. Jordan recently received two excellent pieces of news. Firstly, he has been offered a 2 year scholarship at Vauxhall Conference side Woking FC which will begin in September this year. Secondly, he has been selected in a Surrey FA Elite squad which is representing England at a Youth World Cup this Summer in Gothenburg, Sweden. The opening ceremony is already a sell out at the 52,000 capacity Gothia stadium!

Jordan began his career with village side Glington United FC, aged 4, who he represented for a number of years, before 'dabbling' with rugby and then moving to Deeping Rangers FC. He has also represented Arthur Mellows Village College in our school team since Year 7. When asked about the good news, Jordan stated *'obviously I am very excited and looking forward to the tournament in Sweden and 2 years down in Woking, but it is only a start and I need to keep level headed about everything. I would like to thank all of the PE staff at Arthur Mellows for helping and supporting me over the years and particularly to Mr Steele who has always given me excellent encouragement and advice. I will just do my best and see what happens.'*

Mr Steele

