



# THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 15

April 2011



## Message from the Head of College

The highlight of this term has been the Musical Production of 'Our House' which was performed at the Key Theatre in March. The show was an outstanding success and you can read more about this on page 2 of this newsletter. To see such talent and enthusiasm on stage is testament to the hard work that everyone invests, be they actors, musicians, dancers..... not forgetting the Performing Arts staff, without whom the musical productions would not be possible.

This term the College says 'goodbye' to Miss Poole (Teacher of Mathematics) and Mrs Lake (Finance Office). We wish them all the very best for the future. Mr Drane will be joining us immediately after Easter as a Teacher of Mathematics.

As soon as the Easter holidays are over, the main focus will be the run-up to the examination season. I would like to refer parents and students to the College website (School Information / Examinations) where comprehensive revision materials, particularly for Year 11, may be viewed, together with a timetable for booster sessions that are being held to support students.

Can I wish everyone a happy Easter break.

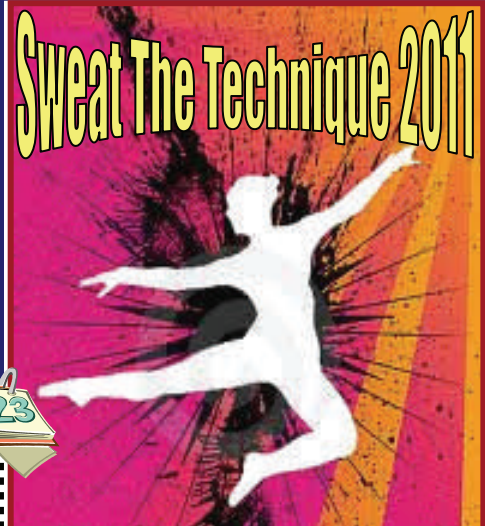
**M Sandeman**

### Poplar Trees

It has been necessary for the College to recently remove a number of trees between the staff car park and the sports field as they were considered dangerous. Severe disease had been identified in several of the Poplar trees. The College is currently investigating a re-planting exercise to compensate for the loss of the trees.

**G Wentworth**

Client Project Manager



**AMVC'S Dance Showcase 2011**  
**Thursday 12 May 2011**  
**at 7pm**  
**Main Hall**

### Key Dates next term

Term starts	Wednesday 27 April 2011
Royal Wedding	Friday 29 April 2011
May Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May 2011
Cucina Bistro Evening	Wednesday 11 May 2011
Sweat The Technique 2011	Thursday 12 May 2011
Year 7 Parents' Evening (A)	Monday 16 May 2011
Year 7 Parents' Evening (B)	Monday 23 May 2011
Half Term	Friday 27 May 2011

### Year 13 A Level History—Russia and It's Rulers

On Friday 4 March 2011 we attended a Keynote lecture at Leicester Square Theatre in London on the theme of Russia and its Rulers 1855—1964.

This lecture was designed to aid us with our Year 13 A Level History Course. The course was attended by over 200 students from around the country and was led by a number of lecturers from Cambridge.

As well as being given handouts to take away with us, we all made a lot of notes on the day and the lecturers posed questions which made us think about some of the things we had covered in class.

We all enjoyed the day (especially the Burger King lunch—Sam Jarrett) and believe it will benefit us when we come to sit the exam in the Summer

**By Lauren Matthews 13EVE**

# COLLEGE NEWS

## 'Our House' College Production Key Theatre 17-19 March 2011

Each and every year at Arthur Mellows, we put on a large-scale, whole school production that showcases the talent and dedication of our students. This year has been no different. Putting on 'Our House' was one of the most challenging shows the College has ever staged. In addition, working at the Key Theatre presents many technical difficulties, as we rehearse in school and only arrive at the theatre the day before the show. Each year we look to complete work that pushes our students on to something bigger and better. "Our House" has certainly been that!

'Our House' was a very challenging show, with multiple locations, two stories in one, flying cars, burning houses and extremely rapid costume changes. However, the talented actors, dancers, musicians and backstage crew from throughout the College rose to that challenge and created a show described by many as "the best ever produced." It was wonderful to see not only the regular leading performers rise to that challenge but also so many new faces taking lead roles. The "pipeline" of performers also continues to look healthy, with strong performances in all three disciplines from new students joining us for the first time after starting at the College in September.



Following auditions in October 2010, hours of rehearsal by all three areas of the Performing Arts Faculty saw dancers working in the Dance Studio to create choreography with school desks, umbrellas and skipping ropes, whilst actors worked in the Auditorium to become "Naughty boys in nasty schools", market traders and prison inmates, and every lunch time and evening the music rooms resonated to the music of Madness.



Alongside the superb acting and dancing on the stage of the Key Theatre each night were a group of musicians who were the unseen heroes of the evening. Sat in the orchestra pit, the only time these dedicated and talented students were seen was on the last night when they went on stage to take a bow. Pictured above are Tom Welch, Joe Roberts, Matt Smith, Jonathan Kowal, Miss Hope, Sam Harris, Matthew Richardson, Oliver Brocklesby, Callum Richardson, Anna Denton and Mrs Hammond.

Pictured in the car are four of the main characters, played by Lewis Kirby, Kourtney Haw, Molly Frost and Amy Hepburn. Other main characters were played by James Davies, Tom Ramsey, Rob Mills and Joe Giggs.

The whole show was amazing. The sense of pride for all students taking part in this show was echoed by all the staff involved, and I am sure all the parents who came to see the show. These memories will be with students forever.



### Bistro Experience Evenings

It is quite incredible to believe that the Bistro Evenings have become so successful in such a short space of time. To date, we have run five Bistro Experiences, involving 40 different students, catering for almost 200 diners. Our mailing list and advance bookings have grown to such an extent that we have filled our capacity for the last two evenings and the two remaining evenings are provisionally well booked, too.

The students involved in the Bistro Evenings are currently following GCSE and A Level Food Technology. The experience provides these enthusiastic young chefs with the opportunity to work alongside Steve Collins (Cucina Chef) to devise a high quality and sophisticated menu, that they then produce and serve to paying diners (the current rate is £12.50 for 3 courses and tea/coffee). If your child is currently studying Food and would like to be involved in a future Bistro Experience, please encourage them to speak to Mrs Clark (Head of Food).

Our diners' feedback has been extremely positive and any constructive suggestions have been used to continue to improve the quality of the service that we offer. The students who have been involved so far have enjoyed the experience and usually want to know when they can do it again. Although they do primarily only get the one experience in the kitchen, they also have the opportunity to work front of house at the subsequent Bistro evening.

Further information, photos and menus from the previous Bistro Experience events can be found on the College website under News/Events/AMVC Bistro Experience. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for priority bookings please email [j.moulds@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:j.moulds@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk)



# COLLEGE NEWS

## BATTLEFIELDS



There are way too many things to fit in to talk about, but I will do my best to tell you as much as I can. When I first got told I was going on the Battlefields trip I was of course really excited! I didn't really realise how much the sights we would see would affect me until we arrived. Our first stop in Belgium was The Albert Memorial, Nieuwport – start of the Western Front. Our guide Neil was simply amazing; his explanation of the Memorial, I personally found very interesting. We then got a chance to climb to the top canals; this gave us a great view of the Prince Albert statue in the middle of the Memorial.

Our next stop was Belgium Cemetery, Ramskapelle, which was breathtaking — the amount of Flemish and Belgium graves was unreal! It's impossible to get your head around, but we hadn't seen anything yet, as Miss Price pointed out to us when she saw the look on our faces.

After a long day of travelling the Hotel Oude Abdij, where we were staying, was a welcomed sight. Everyone was told to just grab a bag and get inside as it was raining pretty hard by this point. Out of all the suitcases that were taken in, it had to be mine that got dropped in a massive puddle and ended up soaking wet! Great. After unpacking my very wet suitcase, and settling down into our lovely rooms, we got served a lovely tea. Soup for starters, chicken and chips for mains then Cornetto ice cream for pudding...YUM! Everyone was shattered by this point and most people went to bed straight away, including me!

Day two, the birds were singing, the sun was shining and it was *very* early. Nevertheless, we were all keen to get on with the day's agenda. Our first place to visit was Essex Farm CWGC Cemetery and casualty-clearing station 'In Flanders Fields' Museum. Neil (our amazing guide!) explained that this hospital was a place where the soldiers could quickly come and get 'patched up' then go back and fight. The hospital was a safe place because it was just behind the trenches, meaning it wasn't far for the soldiers to go and get some medical attention. Next on the list was the Menin Gate. For me, this was the most upsetting and amazing sight both at the same time; the sheer volume of names on the walls of the Menin Gate was unbelievable. So many brave young men gave their lives fighting for their country. Amazing. We then got some free time in Ypres to explore the many little shops. This was great fun and we found an ice cream shop that did more flavours than was imaginable! I had two scoops of chocolate and one cookie...it didn't last long!



**Ellie Nugent (9CRO)**

*If you would like to read more about Ellie's 'Battlefields Trip' project please go to [www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk](http://www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk)*

### Three visitors from the past!

On Wednesday 16 February 2011 three retired members of staff, Steve Smith, Mick Lewin and I toured the College at the kind invitation of Mr McLaren (Chair of Governors) to see the new buildings. It was a most enjoyable experience and left us impressed with the positive changes that had taken place.

During my time at Arthur Mellows (1962—1993), I witnessed many changes to a school of less than six hundred pupils and twenty seven staff to one of over a thousand pupils, the corresponding increase in staff and, of course, many necessary building projects but I was amazed at the alterations and improvements in recent years.

The older parts of the building have been skilfully incorporated with the new and by replacing the dark flooring and installing light wood framed windows on the classroom corridors, with their attractive patterned glass, there is a welcome impression of greater space and light.

Of the many remarkable improvements we saw, three deserve a special mention. The transformation of the old dining room and kitchens into the wonderful Sixth Form facility, the superb staff and pupil dining space and the very attractive paved Courtyard area on the south side of the College.

Staff and pupils are indeed fortunate to have such well-equipped and pleasant surroundings; the whole ambience of the College suggests it is a happy and civilised place to work.

**I Bedwell**



*From left to right - Mr Smith, Mr Bedwell, Mr McLaren and Mr Lewin*

# PE NEWS



## HIGH SPORTS LEADERS ORGANISE A SPORTING EVENT

On Tuesday 8 March, Higher Sports Leader Award students at Arthur Mellows Village College planned and organised an inter-city Netball Competition for Years 7 and 8 students on the outside netball courts. This included inviting teams, sourcing umpires, generating tables and fixtures and recording the scores on the day itself. The event was attended by all the top netball teams from around the city including both Years 7 and 8 teams from Arthur Mellows, who did very well against top opposition.

Although the weather was a bit cold, we all enjoyed the experience and responsibility which came with running a big school sports event, and would love to do it again. The afternoon ran smoothly and we overcame any potential 'hitches' that presented themselves.

*Mitch Guest, Sam Rayner, Laura Colledge and Laura Pike (Year 13)*



## SOKE FOOTBALL AND NETBALL COMPETITION YEARS 5 AND 6

The above tournament took place on Wednesday 23 March in glorious weather. Approximately 200 primary school children and their supporters took part in a sporting festival involving Netball and Football at Arthur Mellows Village College.

A Level students, as well as Junior, Community and Higher Sports Leaders from the College, umpired and refereed all the games to a high level, 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 primary schools participated: Wittering, Northborough, William Law, Newborough, Barnack, Werrington, Welbourne, John Clare, Peakirk cum Glinton, Castor and Duke of Bedford.

### FINAL SCORES FOOTBALL

Winner – William Law  
Runner-up – Duke of Bedford

### FINAL SCORES NETBALL

Winner – Newborough  
Runner-up – William Law  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Barnack



The top two teams in the Football and top three teams in the Netball will go forward to the Peterborough Football and Netball finals to be held at Arthur Mellows on Monday 4 April 2011.

*Festival organiser: D Wilding, School Sports Co-ordinator at Arthur Mellows Village College.*

## SCHOOL REPORT

BBC NEWS



## COLLEGE NEWS

When the opportunity arose to work with a real-life BBC news reporter, it was impossible to resist. The fact that he was a former Arthur Mellows student whose face regularly appears on national news broadcasts certainly helped convince a number of our Year 11 Media BTEC students that this would be a great learning opportunity and an invaluable insight into the vocational real-life media world that the BTEC course is supposedly all about.

The project was part of the national BBC School Report initiative, pairing reporters with aspiring journalists in schools to prepare a series of news broadcasts by students to be shown on News Report Day, Thursday 24 March 2011.

A number of enthusiastic Year 11 students; (**Kelly Barnett, Sarah Duerden and Hannah West**) came forward and, after brainstorming ideas and potential stories, met up with **Anthony Bartram** who works out of the BBC East Midlands office, who are hopefully hosting our Year 10 BTEC students later in the year. It was fascinating to see how a media professional shaped the story idea from a proposal into a workable idea, and it was heartening to see the students rising to the occasion as they developed an idea about the potential closure of RAF Wittering into a tightly-structured production schedule.

We contacted RAF Wittering, who were extremely helpful in setting up a series of interviews with military personnel and civilians on the base at very short notice, all of whom were really supportive. The students visibly grew in confidence as they conducted one interview after another, and it was interesting to see how quickly they became increasingly proficient in interview technique and various technical aspects of setting up shots.

Back at school, the group of students, now joined by **Olivia Rimes** and **Gail Odep**, spent a day off timetable shaping the footage into a coherent story. In the end, they did a terrific job, as you can see by checking out their work on the College website. Our thanks to Anthony Bartram for the excellent support and advice he offered throughout the process. Thanks also to Tony Walsh at RAF Wittering who was extremely generous with his time and advice during the filming process, really helping to push the students to do a highly professional job.

**B Zaidi** If you would like to read more about the 'School Report' project please go to [www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk](http://www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk)

