



THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 18

October 2011



Message from the Head of College

This first edition of the academic year brings with it a lot of news of both events that have already taken place and forthcoming events that parents and students will be interested in attending next half term.

The big highlight of the first half term was our Prospective Parents' Evening for Year 6 families. This brought with it over 1100 visitors, viewing the school and listening to presentations on 'Life at Arthur Mellows'. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all students and staff who assisted on the night by showcasing the College in an outstanding fashion

All students have started the new year extremely well, and our new Year 7 students are now very well integrated into College life, embracing many new experiences and challenges.

This edition of The Voice contains several articles written by students themselves; please enjoy reading about their activities. I would like to extend my best wishes for a restful half term break.

M Sandeman

Key Dates next half term

Term resumes	Monday 31 October 2011
AMTEC Day	Tuesday 1 November 2011
Work Experience Evening	Tuesday 1 November 2011
Senior Maths Challenge	Tuesday 8 November 2011
Academic Day	Thursday 10 November 2011
Sixth Form Opening Evening	Wednesday 16 November 2011
Year 8 HPV vaccinations	Monday 28 November 2011
Xmas Concert	Wednesday 7 December 2011
Year 13 Parents' Evening	Monday 12 December 2011
Xmas Factor	Wednesday 14 December 2011
End of Term	Friday 16 December 2011



Year 10 Work Experience 2012

The work experience dates for Year 10 are: Monday 9 July 2012 to Friday 20 July 2012 inclusive.

There will be a Work Experience Parents' Evening on Tuesday 1 November 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall.

For any further information regarding work experience please contact either Mrs Crick or Mrs Dawson on 01733 252235 Ext 273.

CAREERS FAIR

On Tuesday 11 October 2011, Arthur Mellows held its first Careers Fair in collaboration with Real Time Training. The evening was intended to help young students prepare for their journey into the 'jobs market.' Over 500 people turned up on what proved to be a really successful evening, the first of many.

Careers education is an important part of the Curriculum at Arthur Mellows. All students follow a Careers Course which deals with opportunities available to them. Emphasis is placed upon leadership, Key Skills and personal development with an Enrichment Programme for students to develop related interests. Students are also expected to participate in community activities in or outside the College.

In collaboration with Real Time Training, we work to ensure Arthur Mellows students are prepared for their journey into the 'jobs market' with a variety of placements with specialist apprenticeship providers and local companies.

There was a selection of companies who were able to provide a full-packed evening of information and discussion for parents and students to help them start to think about their choices for post 16.

Miss R Lee, Sixth Form



ACADEMIC DAY

Important Note
Academic Day takes place on
Thursday 10 November 2011.

If you have not yet returned your reply slip confirming your appointment time please could this be returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

ATTENTION ALL YEAR 11 STUDENTS

You are invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening on
Wednesday 16 November 2011
at
Arthur Mellows Village College
in the Main Hall

COLLEGE NEWS

YEAR 12 REWARDS DAY

As last year came to an end, Year 12 students were allowed to go on a trip, organised by the current Year 13,



Travel and Tourism students, for an end of term 'Rewards Day'. The trips were run as part of our 'Event Management' module in the Year 13 course, where we provide customer service to people through organising and running an event. We were able to offer two different trips for the day, which the students could choose from; either to Thorpe Park and ride its rollercoasters, or a cultural day out in London.

Thorpe Park is home to some of the biggest coasters in the UK, notably SAW - The Ride, which takes riders into the horrors of the SAW films, and some of the Year 12's even took the torture treatment further by venturing up close and personal to SAW - Alive. However in London it was a slightly different experience, where students were able to visit some of the world's most famous attractions such as the London Eye, or go shopping along Oxford Street and visit some of the world's flagship stores at the heart of the country.

Overall, we feel that students had a great time on both trips and our feedback showed that they were motivated to do well in the Sixth Form when they can enjoy the benefits that come from all the hard work put in throughout the year.

By Tom Harrie 13JPU

KINGSWOOD BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP 2011

Sun, sea, sand and Biology? Perfect for a weekend in late September and a great opportunity to ace some coursework, as us Year 13 Biologists found out.



The weekend commenced with a road trip to Cromer to visit the seaside and stop off for tea and cakes, then to explore our new home for the next few days; Kingswood. That afternoon we got stuck into a qualitative task, having a fab time comparing some of the effects that abiotic and biotic factors have on the growth of Lichens (fun little things) on the trees of Kingswood, later proceeding to sample the delightful food and a riveting talk on succession. We then entertained ourselves with mass games of '40 40 in' and 'manhunt'.

On the Saturday morning we visited Kelling Heathland to see first hand the numerous ways of managing Heathland succession. That afternoon we risked our lives on the death defying high ropes and leap of faith, followed by a trip to a rocky shore to collect data for our quantitative element of the coursework.to read more please visit www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk

By Mia Holmes 13ETR



Year 7 Team Building - Mepal 2011



Accompanied by their Head of Year, Tutors and Pastoral staff, Year 7 students took part in a team building day at MEPAL activity centre near Chatteris. Taking part in a variety of activities; archery, fencing, rock climbing, high ropes, kayaking and raft building, students had a great time making new friends whilst learning new skills. Through team work some of them overcame their fear of heights and became more confident in the water. We were very lucky with the weather as each day was warm and dry. The students were a credit to the College and it was a very positive experience for both students and staff and great fun.

By Mrs S Deasy, Head of Year 7



Local Democracy Week

As part of Local Democracy Week Peterborough's MP Stewart Jackson invited Ellie Jaggard, Gemma Beales and Amy-Louise Paul from AMVC to visit Parliament. He gave them a personal tour of the Palace of Westminster, including the House of Commons Chamber and the House of Lords Chamber.

Mr Jackson also showed them round his private office and answered any questions, before a 'behind the scenes' tour of how Parliament works and how national government compliments and incorporates local democracy.

In addition Beth Oliver was invited to shadow Gillian Beasley at Peterborough City Council for the day.

To read their accounts of the day please go to the AMVC website: www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk

COLLEGE NEWS

XMAS FACTOR!

On Wednesday 14 December 2011, the Music Department will present the Finals of the 2nd Xmas Factor at Arthur Mellows in the Main Hall.

Congratulations

to Sophie Bakhtadze, 10ABU for achieving an A* in GCSE Russian during the Summer.

Sophie studied for Russian as an ex-curricular activity outside of school time. Well done!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You are entitled to free school dinners for your children if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, an annual income below £16,190 and no Working Tax Credit.
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Please note: If you, or your partner, receive any working tax credit you will not be entitled to free school meals. This condition has been set by the Government and is outlined in the Education Act 2002.

The application form must be completed by the person who receives the qualifying benefit which can be requested from the Finance Department.

If your child is entitled to free school dinners but you are reluctant to take advantage of this entitlement, talk to us about your concerns. We will try to put your mind at rest. If you still decide not to take the free school meals we still encourage you to apply. You don't have to accept the free school meals but you will show on our records as being entitled. The more children who are shown as being entitled to free school meals the more funding the school will receive. This ultimately benefits your children.

Cucina
fresh thinking!

Prince's Trust National Citizens Service (NCS)

During the summer holidays I attended two residential visits, Prince's Trust/National Citizens Service (NCS) which I did for four weeks.



The Prince's Trust helps young people (15-16 years) across the country who have left education and going into the workplace or continuing their education in College or Sixth Form. The aim is to increase both confidence and skills that could be used in later life.

The other residential that I went on was Outward Bound for one week in Ullswater, Lake District. Outward Bound help as many young people as possible to have access to safe, adventurous experiences through which they can raise their self-esteem, realise their full potential and achieve more than they ever thought possible.

During the 1st week with the Prince's Trust/NCS, we went to Yorkshire where we were put into 4 groups. First we did some team building games so everyone got to know each other better, we also did other things throughout the week such as: camping, first aid practice, mountain climbing, mountain biking and a 6 mile walk.

During the 2nd week we went to Cambridgeshire where we were based at an Army Cadet camp. My group started to plan what we were going to do as a community project. Also during the week we did many team building games and also in our free time we played many games of volleyball.

Both of these courses were fantastic and I hope to do more next year, and recommend them to any person.

If you would like to read more about Amy's expeditions please go to: www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk

By Amy Rogers 12EDA



**ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE
COLLEGE
XMAS CONCERT ON
WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2011
IN THE MAIN HALL**

bbfc BBFC Visit

On Friday 30 September 2011, we enjoyed a fascinating 2 hour illustrated talk from Ian Mashiah, an Examiner from the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). The talk consisted of a detailed explanation of the role of the BBFC as the protector of public taste and was a huge help in preparing Year 13 Media Studies students for a forthcoming essay question on media regulation.

Mr Mashiah used clips from a diverse range of films, such as 'Juno', 'Rocket man' and 'Kick Ass' to illustrate the way in which the BBFC seeks to enforce its guidelines in a fair and consistent manner within a variety of legal contexts. It was a great learning experience for our students, and strangely reassuring to hear the genuine desire to protect film and videogame audiences from any harm whilst making every effort to keep texts as free from the heavy hand of censorship as possible.

A copy of the BBFC's Annual Report will be available in the Resources Centre as soon as it reopens.

Mr Zaidi, Media Studies

COLLEGE NEWS

NETBALL AND RUGBY

We have got off to an excellent start to the new season with the Senior and Year 11 tournaments held at Arthur Mellows again this year in September.



Our Senior team won the tournament for the second year running, beating all the other teams in the competition.

The Year 11 team also had an excellent tournament beating Orminston Bushfield Academy in the semi-finals and then losing to TDA in extra time in the final.

October has brought more success with the Year 9 and Year 10 tournaments that were also held at Arthur Mellows

Both the Senior Team and the Year 11 team will now go forward to represent Peterborough in the County finals competition later in the term.

The Year 10 team were winners of the tournament beating The Peterborough School in the final and the Year 9 made it to the final, losing narrowly to The Peterborough School.

We are proud of all the girls who have taken part and look forward to the rest of the season

Mr Low has been busy with Rugby fixtures early this term and the Year 7 team have had some fantastic results against several schools, running out winners in all their games so far. The U14's have also fared well winning two and drawing in a triangular game at TDA this week.

Mrs Griggs, Head of PE



READATHON



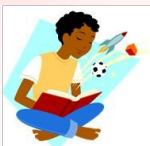
The end of last term and the summer holiday marked a period of charity fundraising amongst Year 8 and some Year 9 students as they set themselves the challenge of completing Readathon – a sponsored reading event.

Students were asked to commit to reading at least one book over the summer and to try and get sponsored for doing so. Many students took to this challenge tremendously, choosing 6 or 7 novels to read, and special mention must go to Sean Carter in 8LHU who raised over £70 through his reading endeavours.

The students in Year 8 in particular were very enthusiastic, and have raised nearly £600 for the charities: 'The Roald Dahl Foundation' and 'CLIC Sargent,' both of which support very ill children. If anyone does still have sponsorship money to collect, it is not too late to bring it in and help push our total even higher!

I would like to extend my thanks to all pupils and families that supported this event and hope it can be a springboard to raising the profile and importance of reading across the school.

Mr Norris, Head of English



YEAR 6 OUTSTANDING EVENTS



Over 200 Year 6 students from our feeder primary schools descended on Arthur Mellows Village College for a day. Students took part in Fencing, Archery, Climbing and a construction challenge.



The Outstanding Events Company, who are locally based in Fengate, Peterborough sponsored the event and came to run the activities on behalf of Arthur Mellows Village College without any charge, for which Arthur Mellows are very grateful.

Barnack, John Clare, Eye, Duke of Bedford, Ginton, Newborough, Northborough and Wittering Primary Schools all brought a whole class of Year 5 and Year 6 students. The students learnt the discipline of fencing, were taught to guard, attack and counter attack, sparring with each other. Climbers were challenged to get to the top of a 25ft wall. Archers competed against others in teams to hit the target and collect as many points as possible. Finally students took part in a construction challenge to design and build a tower with a variety of equipment, learning to co-operate and interact with students from other schools.

Community Sports Leaders from Year 12 spent the day helping The Outstanding Events Company, working with students and developing their own leadership skills under the staff's supervision.

A great day was had by all. Arthur Mellows offer a HUGE thank you to Richard Curtis and Adam Pallister, (who are ex AMVC students) and all the staff at the Outstanding Events Company for providing this opportunity for Arthur Mellows leaders and Year 6 feeder primary schools.

Mrs D Wilding, PE Department



Book Review

ERAGON
Christopher Paolini

Later on this year the last book in the Inheritance series will be coming out.

The whole series is focused on a boy called Eragon, his dragon, Saphira and his cousin Roran as they fight for their lives alongside the Elves and the Varden against the King Galbatorix, his dragon, Shruikan and his Kingdom (Algaësia) known in this set of books as the Empire.

In the first book (Eragon) we start on this miraculous adventure of a lifetime that takes you from the seat that you are sitting in and into a journey only known in Myths. As we meet Eragon in the beginning we would never guess there is anything special about him but as we travel through even this book, we are left with many thoughts on the boy that leaves us hungering for more. It is a gripping book that makes the world in these pages leap from it and into your imagination. It is most definitely one of those books that you can escape into no matter what you are doing, or even where you are doing it, whether in your own bedroom or even if it is at school during your lunch break.

The second book (Eldest) is even more thrilling as we are transported back into Algaësia for more adventures. Now Eragon has grown up beyond recognition and even his home village of Carvahall is now threatened by the monstrous Ra'zac. Yet even as this happens Eragon has his own battles to fight as he travels to Ellesméra the elven capital in the great woods of Du Weldenvarden. ...to read more of this book review please go to the AMVC website.

By Rebecca Brackpool 10MRI

