



# THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 3

February 2009



## Message from the Head of College

Welcome to this edition of The Voice which you will find has interesting news regarding activities within the College, in particular the trips to Holland and more recently, to New York.

I am delighted to announce that we take possession of our new building immediately after half term. This will afford us a new Science block, Sixth Form area and, of course, our new Refectory. This will have the added impact of providing excellent facilities for students to use at lunchtime, therefore resulting in less congestion and greater flow throughout the College.

The College is also shortly to embark on developing parent partnership links, with parent consultation being key to this process. As part of this initiative, we anticipate asking parents for their views on a variety of issues that are pertinent at the time and the email communication system, Schoolcomms, will be a forum for gaining your views. We also hope to organise various events for parents and if you have any suggestions of how parents would like to become more actively involved in the life of the College please email these to [d.sanderson@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:d.sanderson@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk).

### Meet a new member of staff:

**Name:** Paul Cradock

**Job title:** Head of Mathematics

**Main responsibilities:** Leading the Mathematics Department with the aim of raising achievement across all Year Groups for every student.

**Hobbies:** Football—I have always enjoyed a game of football, and whenever possible

enjoy watching Peterborough United. I also enjoy playing squash, although this is purely for enjoyment as I am not particularly good.

**Favourite book:** 'The joy of  $\pi$ ' - being a mathematician, this probably isn't too much of a surprise.

**Favourite film:** I love all the Star Wars films, with my favourite being the original 'A New Hope'. I also enjoy the TV series '24' with Jack Bauer.

**What do you like about AMVC?:** So far I have been impressed by the students and have enjoyed teaching the students in all my classes. Also, the staff—teachers and non teachers—have all made me feel very welcome, for which I thank them.

**What would you like to be doing in 5 years time?:** Sitting on a beach in a hot country, spending my lottery winnings. Failing that, I hope to be able to look back at 5 years of hard work at AMVC and see that it has all been worthwhile.



### AMA Uniform Sale

The AMA will be selling second hand uniform items on 2 March 2009 at the Year 9 Parents' Evening!



### Options ~ GCSE ~ Year 10 ~ Applied Learning

Options ~ GCSE ~ Year 10 ~ Applied Learning

#### ATTENTION ALL YEAR 9 PARENTS

An **Information Evening** for Parents is being held on **Monday 23 February 2009** to provide guidance on the Key Stage 4 Options process. A presentation will be held in the Main Hall at **7.00 pm**.

This will be followed by the **Year 9 Parents' Evening** on **Monday 2 March 2009** where subject teachers will be available to discuss your child's progress.  
*Please ask your child to start making their appointments!*

**Mr Jones, Head of Year 9**

Options ~ GCSE ~ Year 10 ~ Applied Learning

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#### Key Dates for 2009

Year 9 Information Evening	23 February 2009
Year 9 Parents' Evening and AMA Uniform sale	2 March 2009
Year 12 Parents' Evening:	16 March 2009
Year 11 Parents' Evening:	23 March 2009
Presentation Evening:	1 April 2009
End of Spring term:	3 April 2009
Summer term opens:	21 April 2009
May Day:	4 May 2009
Half term:	25 - 29 May 2009
Summer term closes:	17 July 2009

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Forthcoming School Production 12, 13, 14 March Willy Russell's "Our Day Out"

Rehearsals are in full swing for our forthcoming production of "Our Day Out" which will be performed in the College's brand new auditorium, with state of the art seating, lighting and sound systems. Our talented cast will be acting, singing and dancing their way through the story of Mrs Kay's progress class and their trip to Wales.



*Will Jackie and Linda tell the new teacher about their crush on him? Will Mr Briggs ever get the children to stand in a straight line? Will there be any animals left in the zoo when the children have left? Make a date in your diary to find out the answers.*



There are just 132 seats available each night, and with newly purchased professional ticketing software to make sure we have no problems with allocation of seats, be sure to book as soon as tickets go on sale.

**Mr Wentworth**

## Youth Speaks Update

It was with great regret that we had to withdraw our entry to the next round of the 'Youth Speaks' competition in Grantham, due to transport and insurance complications. Despite the disappointment of having to withdraw, the achievement of the Year 9 team in becoming city champions remains an admirable one and one that we hope to repeat next year.

**Mr Norris**

## AMVC in the Big Apple

While the rest of the College was warmly tucked up on their sofas watching Jeremy Kyle, 40 Media Students went on another fantastic trip to New York to learn the fine art of film-making from the experts.

The planned stuff included a film-making master-class at the prestigious New York Film Academy which involved filming and editing a short sequence in Union Square, preceded by a highly entertaining film location tour which took in the 'Friends' apartment building and even enabled us to see the cameras rolling in the streets of Manhattan for TV shows 'Ugly Betty' and 'Rescue Me'. The first evening finished with a breathtaking night-time trip to the top of the Empire State Building and Times Square – it was lovely to see our students wide-eyed with wonder as they gazed out over the bright lights of the city that never sleeps.

The Friday began with a tour of the NBC TV studios and ended with an ultimately disappointing visit to Madison Square Garden where the Knicks led the mighty Boston Celtics into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, only to be blown away in the last few minutes to lose 110-100. However, it was still great to be part of a sell-out crowd in arguably the most famous sporting arena in the world and there was never any doubt as to who were the noisiest and most enthusiastic fans in the stadium - the 40 foam-fingered members of the AMVC New York Knicks fan club! I was particularly impressed that when we gave students the afternoon to explore Manhattan, the vast majority resisted the temptations of shopping – some went to the Museum of Modern Art, others walked across Brooklyn Bridge, visited Central Park and various other cultural excursions.

On the final day we took the ferry to climb inside the Statue of Liberty, before paying homage at Ground Zero, doing some last-minute shopping for I♥NY T-shirts, and then home. But it was the unplanned stuff that really made the trip, and reinforced the message that New York is the media capital of the world. Several students were filmed in the street for a Dr Peppers commercial, others were filmed for MTV, whilst I was interviewed for a segment on a nationwide NBC news item about beards.

Thanks, as ever, to Mr Kennedy, Mrs Steele and Mrs Wright whose good humour, energy and professionalism helped to make a complex and exhausting trip possible, and especially to the 40 students who once again proved how fortunate we are at AMVC to have so many great students. Their impeccable behaviour and infectious enthusiasm was what truly made the trip worthwhile. And for all those out there who doubt the international value of an AMVC library card, just ask the student who lost his passport how he got back into the country!

**Mr Zaidi (Head of Media Studies)**



# COLLEGE NEWS



## Trip to Holland

This year, from 24 October to 27 October, 43 Year 11 students travelled to Holland in order to gain a further insight into the suffering of citizens during the Nazi occupation.



We set off just before 4 o'clock and after a peaceful overnight ferry crossing, with gorgeous food, arrived at the first of many sights. We visited the memorial for the victims of Auschwitz and saw where the yellow stars were sold to Dutch Jews during the Nazi occupation. We then headed to the sight of the Eternal Flame, the memorial to the Jews that were persecuted during the awful regime.

After we had lunch in the midst of Amsterdam market whilst dodging the bicycles, it was time for the 'highlight' of the trip for many: the house of Anne Frank. The tiny space in which eight people lived brought home to us all the desperate measures that Dutch Jews went to in order to avoid deportation to the camps.

The next day started with a very moving visit to Oosterbeek Cemetery. This made us all realise the universal suffering of young and old during the devastating period in history. We were each given a grave to find with the hope of adding a more personal touch to the visit.

This was followed by a whistle-stop tour of a church and monument dedicated to all the paratroopers that fell during the failed liberation plan – Project Market Garden. We explored this Project further when we went to Arnhem bridge - a major part of Project Market Garden. Several photo opportunities later, we left to go to Kamp Vught, a German labour camp set up by the Nazis.

After a very scenic but also humbling retrace of the Jewish people's steps, we reached the firing wall monument dedicated to all the Jews who were shot in the middle of the woods. All the names of the dead carved into the stone, along with the flowers left there by previous visitors made the occasion truly thought-provoking and solemn.

There were many fantastic, serious, sad and hilarious moments but a great time was had by all.

We are sure that all of Year 11 who went extend their sincere thanks to Mr Ahmed, Mr Foxton, Mrs Ledbrook, Mrs Andrews and especially Miss Orviss for organising the trip and a wonderful weekend!

**Miss Orviss**



## KS4 Star of the Fortnight!

Since October half term, we have been running a new Key Stage 4 rewards system as we felt that by the start of Year 10 the credit system had run its course. At each monitoring point in the school year we will highlight pupils who are meeting or exceeding their targets in the majority of their subjects. This will be recognised by a letter home and a meeting with a senior member of staff. We also felt it was necessary to highlight achievements which may not be of an academic nature so **STAR OF THE FORTNIGHT** was born! Over a two week cycle staff nominate pupils who they feel deserve recognition for a variety of reasons eg improved behaviour and effort, outstanding homework, contribution in class or to the whole school etc. We then choose the achievement we think stands out and award the Star of the Fortnight. All nominations are displayed on a notice board and as from the start of this term each pupil who has been nominated will receive a postcard of congratulations with the reason they have been nominated. The winner receives a certificate and the choice of a £5 voucher either to be spent in the school canteen, used as a discount for a school trip or event. We are pleased to announce the winners so far:

- ☺ **Stuart Moss, 11 VSE**
- ☺ **Hayley Clark, 11 DBA**
- ☺ **Hannah Rogers, 11 VSE**
- ☺ **Daniel West, 10 JPU**
- ☺ **George Clements, 10 MNO**
- ☺ **Shelbe Bradshaw, 10 JPU**

Let's hope the nominations keep rolling in!  
**Mrs Warrington and Mrs Gilligan**

**Well Done!**



# COLLEGE NEWS

## How 7GPE won Chinese Dragon competition

### The Making of the Dragon

It all started when 7GPE had a life skills lesson.

We made red envelopes with traditional Chinese writings decorated over it. Red envelopes were considered lucky in China and the Chinese normally had these at the New Year festivals. We then selected the dancers who would perform the dance in front of the dragon. These people were **Sophia Rashad** and **Sam Jackson**.

**Miss Cole** and **Mrs Warburton** taught them the dance. We also chose who should be in the dragon's head, these people were **Abbiegail Baillie**, **Lucy Hadley** and **Alessio Phillips**. Soon the dragon's tail was on its way. People drew 2009 all over it and we decorated it with different materials. The head had colourful eyes and a beautiful tail.



### The Performance

All the Form Groups were ready to do their fantastic performances and were confident, but there could only be one winner. After their performances they were all waiting for the results. The top 3 results were, in 3<sup>rd</sup> place 7EBE and joint 1<sup>st</sup> 7GPE and 7SBI.

### The Dance Off!!

AJY, JPE, EBE, PFO, ESI, MEL and EKA but only two Form Groups were left to fight off in the Dance Off ! GPE and SBL. The hall was set..... the children were silent.... the dragons were tense.... the music started and the Form Groups set off ! GPE on the left and SBL on the right. They came round to complete their final dance. GPE and SBL did all they could ...They waited..... , waited..1<sup>st</sup> Place Was ..

## GPE!!!!!!!

The Form Group went MAD!!!!!!!!!!!! They had won ! Victory was theirs ! The Form Group had won a very special Place !!!!!!!!!

### The Trip to Sacred Heart

On 27 January 15 children from 7GPE travelled to Sacred Heart Primary School to perform their dance in front of the whole school. Under that shimmering dragon was **Abbiegail Baillie**, **Kelsie Clayton**, **Nicole Frisby**, **Natalie Malcolm**, **Kane Beehoo**, **Fatemah Dhanji**, **Tim Hodgson**, **Hayley Peel**, **Faith Cooper**, **Beth Seekings**, **Mary Brown**, **Amber Vella**, **Ellie Nugent**, **Courtney King** and leading the dragon was **Sophia Rashad**. It was a brilliant performance leading from the playground to the hall. The children of Sacred Heart loved our dance so much that they sent us thank you notes. Our dance was the Chinese Wave.

The Performance went well and we all wish a big GOOD LUCK to all the people of the next Year 7 for next year !

*By Abbiegail Baillie, Mary Brown, Sam Jackson and Ashley Moore (Year 7)*



## Cycle Safety

Unbeknown to our pupils, one wintry morning last term Verity Missin (Community) and Poppy Reynolds (Governor) stood in the cold at the entrances of the school to record the names of all cyclists wearing helmets. This was as a result of an initiative to encourage students to wear cycle helmets on their journeys to and from school. Year 7 names went into one hat and the rest of the school into another. The Arthur Mellows Association (PTA at Arthur Mellows Village College) and the Travel Team at Peterborough City Council each donated £20 gift vouchers to be awarded to the pupil whose name was drawn. We were pleased to present Ryan Harris in Year 7 and Guy Lunn-Gray Year 8 with the vouchers in recognition of taking responsibility for their own safety by wearing a helmet.

