



# THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 32

February 2014



## Message from the Head of College

As you can see in this edition of the Voice there is much to celebrate. Students have been extremely busy with extra-curricular activities not to mention all the revision going on for mock exams and of course the actual external exams that will very soon be upon them.

The highlight of this half term was by far the visit from Peter Githiomi from our Kenyan partner school. This was arranged as part of the Connecting Classrooms project and staff and students were extremely interested to hear about life in Mianzini secondary school in Kenya and how this is very different to life in rural Glinton. It is hoped that this partnership will develop further over the coming months and years. Please read all about this visit and the feedback from the students on pages 4 and 5 in this newsletter.

The College also received the results of our recent parent and student survey that was undertaken in the Autumn term. The feedback received is summarised on page 6 and will be used to inform the College Improvement Plan and effect change where necessary.

As I write this article students and staff are working hard on preparing for their first night of the 'Back to the 80's' musical production which is being performed on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 February 2014. Photos and a write-up from this production will be published in the next edition of the Voice.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break.

**M Sandeman**

## Key Dates next half term

Term resumes	Monday 24 February 2014
Year 9 Options Evening for Parents	Monday 24 February 2014
Extended Project Qualification - Presentation Evening	Thursday 27 February 2014
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Monday 3 March 2014
Cinema Night - Philomena	Thursday 20 March 2014
Bistro Evening	Thursday 27 March 2014
Presentation Evening	Thursday 3 April 2014
Term Ends	Friday 4 April 2014
Easter Holidays	Monday 7 April 2014 to Monday 21 April 2014
Term resumes	Tuesday 22 April 2014



## CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS AND WEBSITE

Over the Summer holidays in 2013 the College changed the main email and website addresses. The addresses to use now are as follows:

Website [www.arthurmellows.org](http://www.arthurmellows.org)  
Email [office@arthurmellows.org](mailto:office@arthurmellows.org)

We are still receiving some emails to the old email address which will be turned off during the Easter holidays. Could we please ask all parents to use the new email address with immediate effect to ensure that your communication reaches us in a timely fashion.

Many thanks

## IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of severe weather, I can confirm that a message to confirm if the College is open OR closed will appear on the College website as soon as the decision has been made, and if possible by 7.35 am. Due to the high volume of telephone calls usually experienced during the bad weather, parents are asked to use one of the methods below to receive correct and up to date information.

✳ Please check our website in the first instance where College closure information will be posted to our homepage, if possible by 7.35 am; [www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk](http://www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk)

✳ Listen to one of the following radio stations:

- ♪ Heart FM
- ♪ BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
- ♪ Connect FM (formerly Lite FM)

✳ The Local Authority website: [www.peterborough.gov.uk](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk)

✳ The College will also communicate school closure via **Schoolcomms**.

Please note: The College will always endeavour to remain open, recognising the needs of parents. Any closure decision will, however, be made on the day in question taking into account Health and Safety considerations of students and staff. Decisions on school transport and the buses are not made by the College. Please contact the provider directly if there are any queries.



# COLLEGE NEWS

## CUCINA BISTRO EXPERIENCE

The Dates for the next Cucina Bistro Experience are:

- ☺ Thursday 27 March 2014
- ☺ Thursday 26 June 2014

If you are interested in attending any of the Cucina Evenings, or wish to be added to our mailing list, please email [lattfield@arthurmellows.org](mailto:lattfield@arthurmellows.org)



## Colour challenge!

### Closing date?

Wednesday 23 April 2014

### What's the Prize?

£50 Queensgate voucher  
One prize per Year Group

### Who is Judging?

A panel of judges including Mrs Reilly

### What could I do?

**ANYTHING!!!!**

Science - photosynthetic pigments, light

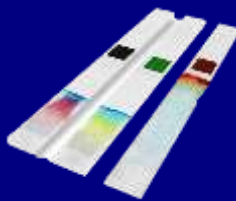
Art - shading and colour

History - Race relations

Geography - Natural environments.

### Can I work with my friends?

Yes - but you will have to split the prize



## ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE



## CINEMA NIGHT

Showing on

**THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014**

## PHILOMENA

MARTIN SIXSMITH

With a Foreword by Dame Judi Dench



The poignant true story of a mother  
and the son she had to give away

Now a major feature film

Based on the 2009 investigative book by BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith, *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*, **PHILOMENA** focuses on the efforts of Philomena Lee, mother to a boy conceived out of wedlock - something her Irish-Catholic community did not have the highest opinion of - and given away for adoption in the United States. In following church doctrine, she was forced to sign a contract that wouldn't allow for any sort of inquiry into the son's whereabouts. After starting a family years later in England and, for the most part, moving on with her life, Lee meets Sixsmith, a BBC reporter with whom she decides to discover her long-lost son.

Director: Stephen Frears  
Running time: 98 minutes  
Screen play: Steve Coogan, Jeff Pope

**Tickets to be reserved in advance. To reserve tickets please call Liz Attfield, at the College, on 01733 254022**

**TICKETS: £5.00**

Refreshments  
available on the door

Doors open at 6.15 pm. Film starts at 6.30 pm prompt

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

**MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2014**  
**YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING FOR PARENTS**

**MONDAY 3 MARCH 2014**  
**YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING**

## BOOK REVIEW: CHRONICLES OF ANCIENT DARKNESS BY MICHELLE PAVER

I am so glad I started reading this series of books. I picked up a copy of the first book in the series, which is titled *Wolf Brother* and it is one of those books where as soon as you start reading, you cannot stop! Even after reading a couple of sentences you know you have to carry on reading all six books in the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*, starting with *Wolf Brother* and ending with *Ghost Hunter*. I am currently reading book 3 - *Soul Eater* and will continue until I have finished all six!

by Annie Gidney 7LPO



# COLLEGE NEWS

## YEAR GROUP I-BEHAVES (JANUARY 2014)



As well as the many other successes of the Year Groups this term, there have been many achievements in the classrooms with lots of i-behaves being given. Congratulations to the students and Tutor Groups below – keep up the good work



### YEAR 7



#### TOP 3 TUTOR GROUPS

7JKR  
7ASU  
7JPE

#### TOP STUDENTS

Ella Greenwood (7EAS)  
Amalie Yates (7JKR)  
Beth Yaxley (7JKR)  
Evie Westbrook (7JKR)  
Jessica McKenzie (7JKR)



### YEAR 8



#### TOP 3 TUTOR GROUPS

8JGI  
8SBO  
8JMF

#### TOP STUDENTS

Matthew Newall (8JGI)  
Keeley Tipton (8JLE)  
Luis Turner (8CCA)  
Corinne Wilding (8SBO)



### YEAR 9



#### TOP 3 TUTOR GROUPS

9KPR  
9TMA  
9KBI

#### TOP STUDENTS

Olivia Layen (9TMA)  
Bethan Gilligan (9KPR)  
Saffron Leftley (9CTO)  
Zoe Stott (9KPR)



### YEAR 10



#### TOP 3 TUTOR GROUPS

10GDR  
10RPO  
10VWA

#### TOP STUDENTS

Amy Fielding (10CGE)  
Esmae Bennett (10CGE)  
Lauren Purnell (10RPO)  
Fern Maddams (10GDR)



### YEAR 11



#### TOP 3 TUTOR GROUPS

11PMC  
11SWA  
11GEL

#### TOP STUDENTS

Hannah Banister (11ASH)  
Kyle Widhall (11ZYO)  
Eden McClymont (11GEL)  
Aisling Ruff (11LMC)  
Elizabeth Amey (11MTU)



Top students in Year 8, 10 and 11

*By Miss Baker, Assistant Head of Year 10*

## Health and Social Care



February has been a busy month for the Health and Social Care department. We have had visitors from the Peterborough Soup Kitchen to talk about the homeless, and an Army Nurse talking about work in Afghanistan. We have visited the Amazon Children's Ward at Peterborough City Hospital, and the Little Miracles centre for disabled children.

Health and Social are always keen to meet people who work in health, so please contact myself at the College, if you have time to come and talk to us.

*By Mrs Blackmore, Health and Social Care*

## Artist of the Month Chloe Cuthbert Year 9





# COLLEGE NEWS

## CONNECTING CLASSROOMS

### VISIT FROM OUR KENYAN PARTNER SCHOOL



Over the past 2 years, Arthur Mellows Village College has been involved in the Connecting Classrooms Project with our partner schools in Kenya and Sudan. We have been slowly getting to know our partners, through teaching in lessons and events such as Skype and collapsed days.

During a week in mid January, we were lucky enough to have our first visit from Peter Githiomi, Headteacher of Mianzini Secondary School in Kenya. Hampton College and Middleton Primary School in Peterborough also received visitors at the same time. Mr Githiomi spent his week experiencing school life in Britain as well as taking part in some sightseeing trips across the region. Despite arriving during the cold and often wet weather, he was keen to immerse himself into our school.

The purpose of the visit was of course to enable Mr Githiomi to learn more about the British school system, but importantly for our students to be able to learn about the similarities and differences of education in Kenya. A number of Music and Geography lessons were taken by Mr Githiomi during the week which featured a distinctly international theme! He also observed a number of other lessons, many of which are not taught on the Kenyan curriculum. Student Council representatives were able to meet Mr Githiomi and discuss a variety of topics during their meeting. Many have written letters to be taken back to pupils at Mianzini. Other events during the week included:

- ✱ An opening assembly with the Mayor of Peterborough as the guest of honour
- ✱ Connecting Classrooms club's weekly meeting focusing on waste and recycling with Mr Githiomi discussing waste issues in Kenya
- ✱ Sessions learning about I-behave, data tracking and pupil progress
- ✱ Trips to London and Cambridge and Peterborough mosque
- ✱ Bowling, 3D cinema and a bitterly cold Tuesday evening watching Peterborough United Football Club.

Overall, the week was a huge success, both for our visitor from Kenya and students and staff at Arthur Mellows. It was incredibly special to have been able to host someone from such a different country at our school, but someone who ultimately has the same aspirations for his students as staff at Arthur Mellows. A great deal of collaborative learning took place during the week, as well as firm friendships being made. Below and over the page are a selection of photographs and quotes from pupils about Mr Githiomi's visit.



"I never thought I would meet someone from somewhere so far away, it was really amazing"



"Mr Githiomi taught us lots about his school, I learnt that so many things are the same as in England"

"I learnt that you can stand on the equator in Kenya...now I really want to go"

"At Mianzini School, pupils have to wear a uniform just like us"

"I can't believe that some of the pupils in Kenya have to walk up to 5 miles per day to get to school, often when it's really hot".

"I don't like the sound of having so much corn to eat in Kenya, but I would like to try goat stew"

"Mr Githiomi showed me some Kenyan shillings!"

**By Miss Banks and Mrs Gray (Community Cohesion).**

# COLLEGE NEWS



When Peter came we all asked him questions about his lifestyle like 'what's your favourite animal?' It was a cow because he liked them for the milk and meat they produce. We all enjoyed him being in our Tutor Group and us being allowed to ask what we liked. We found out he loved Arsenal and school. He had 10 hours at school a day and the last hour was sports hour. His favourite sport was Football along with all the other Kenyans. The School Council have more power in the school, compared to our school. **Sam Clayton, Ben Milner and Sam Revel 8SBL**

Denzel said he found the talk really interesting and it was nice to listen to someone with different experiences. It was nice to hear Peter say how nice everyone here was and how much he had enjoyed visiting London.



The School Council meeting where we met the Headteacher, Peter from Kenya was really interesting and inspirational. He told us about life in Kenya and what his school is like. Then he explained the differences that he had noticed on his visit. We all got letters from the kids there and it was interesting to learn what we have in common and what we do not. Overall it was lovely, **Sarah Peart, 9CTO**



'After my meeting with Peter I learnt about Kenya's animals (the big 5), there were elephants, leopards, giraffes, rhinoceros, and lions.'

**Matthew Newall of 8JGI**



Meeting Peter and learning about his school and culture was fascinating and finding out about their school council system was very interesting too. The fact they have 9 lessons a day was very surprising and how they are at school from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm. **Holly Crowther, 9TMA**





# COLLEGE NEWS

## Kirkland Rowell Survey 2013-14

Many thanks to the parents and students who took part in this survey last term. 84% of both parents and students rated the College's overall performance as excellent, with the majority of parents stating that they felt the school had improved over the last year. All areas were graded as good or excellent, with no areas recorded as in need of attention, which was most reassuring.

A number of departments, apart from the core subjects, received top ratings from Parents, including Media Studies, Engineering and Travel and Tourism, whilst our students gave top scores for Travel and Tourism, Physics and Health and Social Care.

Across the non-academic areas, parents gave top ratings to our facilities, security, careers advice, discipline and exam results. The students agreed with parental views on facilities and discipline, whilst also rating highly Social Health education and the availability of resources.

There were some interesting gender differences between students, with females giving significantly higher scores for Art and Dance, whilst boys prefer PE.

Most of our parents felt that their child received about the right amount of homework, with the time spent completing homework increasing with age. Interestingly, Parents recorded that their children spend more time on homework, than the students themselves recorded, so raising questions about what else they are doing, when they tell you they are doing their homework. Facebook etc. comes to mind!

**By Mrs Reilly, Assistant Headteacher**



## In Year 3 Gym and Dance Display at Arthur Mellows

February over 200 Primary students filled the Sports Hall and participated in a festival of Dance and Gymnastics. Every student took part in a

class dance or gymnastic sequence, which they had prepared during their curriculum time at school. It was a great opportunity for students to show their work and perform in front of an audience.

Sports Leaders from Arthur Mellows were on hand to guide and support the students during the display. Year 9, 10 and 11 Dance students showed some of their set pieces and moves, which was a great inspiration to the youngsters.

Classes from Glington, Newborough, Northborough, Eye, Wittering and Castor attended.

The Dance students led everyone in a mass warm



up and cool down which was great fun, active and inclusive.

Particular praise must go to our enthusiastic and committed Dance Leaders who were a great inspiration and super role models throughout the display..

**By Mrs Wilding, PE Department**

**Year 9** - Ben Gombah; **Year 10** - Amy Fielding, Jessica Atkins, Cara Termine, Jessica Reed, Chloe Gwilliam, Charlotte Cawsey, Charlotte Brewer, Esmae Bennett; **Year 11** - Saxon Clarke, Zoe Crowson, Lorna Wonnacott, Hannah Banister, Louisa Hendry, Emmie Vaughan, Emily Zdravkovic, Ellie Clowes

## YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

A Huge congratulations to the Year 8 boys Football team who achieved the amazing feat of reaching the last 16 of the under 13 FA Schools Cup.

Arthur Mellows success did not go unnoticed with scouts from Nottingham Forest and Leicester City attending their final game. Seven hundred and four teams were entered into this year's competition



with Arthur Mellows finally succumbing in round 7 to Northampton School for Boys. The competition saw Arthur Mellows with some memorable victories over Boston Grammar 2 - 1, in extra time, and beating Northgate High Ipswich in the 6<sup>th</sup> round in a dramatic penalty shootout. Well done boys maybe next year we can go one better.

**By Mr Moffatt, PE Department**

# COLLEGE NEWS

## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

World Language School in Peterborough are urgently looking for English speaking Host families to accommodate teenage European students. It is very important for the students to be with a family and feel the home from home environment, as for many of the students it will be their first time away from home and their parents.

Student ages range from 12 years to 17 years. We pay £15.00 per night, per student, for an average week it will be £105.00. The students are only here for 1 or 2 weeks at a time. We require each family to take at least two students with a maximum of 4 depending on space and conditions.

For more information, please call Vicky Simpson, from the World Language School on 01733 555925.



## Message from the Arthur Mellows Association (Arthur Mellows' PTA)

Dear Parents/Carers

You will hopefully have seen the fantastic new minibus in and around the school over the past two months. We were thrilled to have been able to fund this bus, especially as it will benefit the whole school for many years to come.

The AMA fund raising activities leading up to Christmas allowed us to pay an additional £1,000 towards the bus, leaving us only £1,500 short of the final instalment! It has taken a lot of hard work to get us to this point, and we wanted to thank you for your continued help and support.



In the coming weeks, we have a number of fund raising activities organised; providing refreshments at the school show and also selling uniform at the Year 9's Parents' Evening. We are also planning to hold a quiz night in the spring time, which has in the past always been great fun and very well supported.

The AMA are a relatively small band of parents that meet every month with the sole purpose to raise money for items that would not normally be funded by the school, but always make a positive difference for our students. It is only through your generosity that we can make this happen.

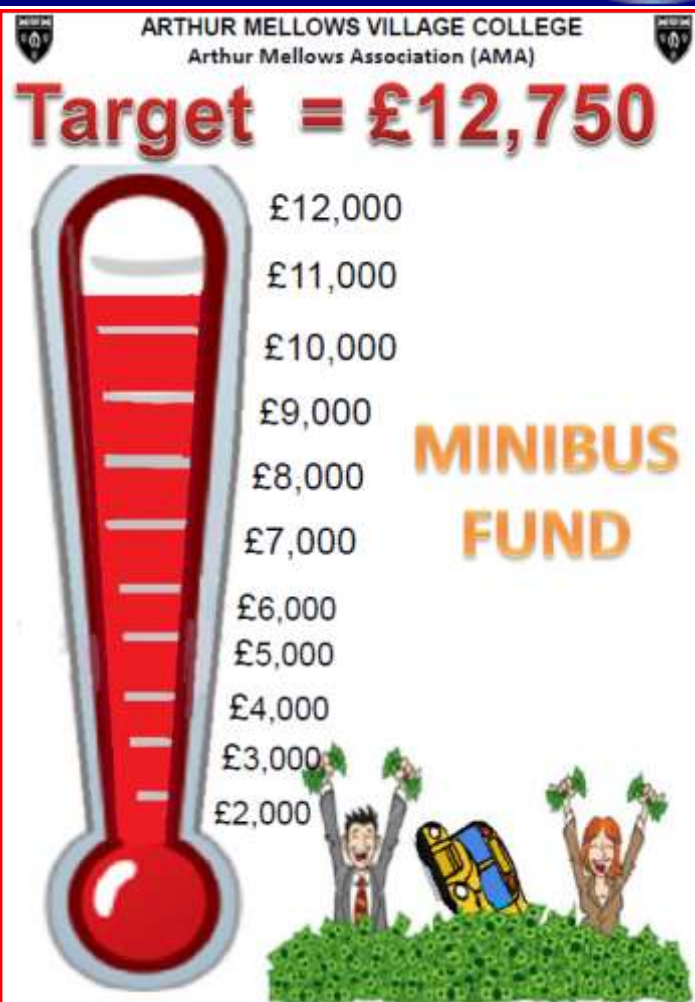


**Even if you do not have time to be involved in these meetings and activities, you can easily donate to the AMA School Minibus Appeal through ParentPay. Any contribution, no matter how small, would be appreciated**

To embrace social media, we are in the process of setting up an AMA Facebook page, so look out for an announcement in the coming weeks and we will "see" you online!

Many thanks

**AMA COMMITTEE**



## UNIFORM

### *Don't bin it – recycle it!*

We are always seeking donations of outgrown school uniform, which we can turn into cash to spend on enhancing the school experience for our children! Donations of all good condition AMVC uniform, coats and PE kit – with labels removed – are gratefully received.

Please hand in all donations to school reception in a bag labelled **AMA Uniform**.





## COLLEGE NEWS

# New York 2014

Another year, another trip to New York, another reason to be grateful for the fantastic students we are blessed with at the College. This is a great trip, 100mph and packed with great activities to help students learn from the professionals how to make films and a wide range of other excursions designed to enhance student learning in other subjects as diverse as the arts, sport, architecture and, of course, shopping.



We started off with a trip up the Empire State Building where one student at least discovered why they are called skyscrapers – because “they really touch the sky!” – and we all learned the meaning of zero visibility. That was followed with a trip to Times Square where we ‘studied’ marketing and product design, as well as learning all about commercialism and gross consumption. The next day was the academic one, where we had a 3 hour film location tour around Manhattan, followed by a film-making workshop with a film production company called Hayden 5, which was great. Later that evening, we travelled to Brooklyn to watch the Nets defeat last year’s NBA runners-up, the San Antonio Spurs. If you had stayed up to watch BT Sport’s coverage of the game, you might have seen 16 over-excited English media students high-fiving the Nets players as they ran onto the court. An unforgettable experience for all of them.

Friday morning was a rare moment off before a trip to the brilliant Museum of Moving Image in Queens, where we looked at film, television and videogames in terms of how technology is constantly evolving. And we saw Chewbacca! After that, we forced students to go to the Museum of Modern Art to contemplate some of the greatest artworks of the last 150 years by Picasso, Dali, Monet, Warhol and Klimt, but even the concept of standing in a room with billions of dollars of art wasn’t sufficient to impress some of the party, though others were happy to take the opportunity to do some detailed research for their Art A Level course. On the last morning, we went to Wall Street, saw the Statue of Liberty and visited the understated and moving memorial at Ground Zero before last minute preparations for the long and weary journey home. In between, we encountered the Naked Cowboy, and saw a bizarre American-style dog show in the hotel with fancy dress pooches being pushed around in prams by mentally disturbed owners, offering yet another snapshot of the weird and wonderful world across the pond.

As ever, the students were quite rightly wide-eyed with wonder and infectiously enthusiastic from start to end and made an exhausting trip utterly worth the effort.

**By B Zaidi, Head of Media**

Dear Parent/Carer

### DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

At the end of the last term the Student Council had the opportunity to talk to Simon, the Head Chef of our school canteen.

Many students had questions to ask including, when certain foods are served in the week and how it is decided. Simon was happy to address the food choices, explaining that Cucina operates on a 3 week rotation which is available on the school website.

The canteen consistently provides a variety of hot and cold meals with vegetarian options every day. However at the meeting we found there was a lack of awareness about specially prepared meals.

If your child has any other dietary restriction, such as halal or gluten free, Simon asks that they see him before or after school to discuss what he can provide for them. For requests such as halal meat more notice may be needed as it would need to be ordered in.

Thank You

**By Ashwin Pathiyath, 13EWT (Head Boy)**

