



THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 4

April 2009



Message from the Head of College

Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter. I am sure you will read with interest the articles on Peterborough's new Youth MP, news on the building and refurbishment work and interesting and poignant articles on two trips that have recently taken place.

In the last newsletter I commented on the development of parent partnership work. We have recently consulted with parents at three Parents' Evenings and are in the process of analysing the feedback received. The majority of parents rated the organisation of these events good or very good, however, comments concerning noisy venues and better time keeping of appointments will be considered for future evenings.

We are also in the process of surveying our Year 7 families on the primary to secondary transition process and feedback from this exercise will be incorporated in the planning for our new intake.

THE VOICE: MEET OUR MP:

Name: Josh Lovell

Job title:

Peterborough Youth
MP

Main responsibilities:

Making sure I attend the fortnightly local meetings, as well as regional and national meetings. I also attend Youth Council 6 times a year to make sure young people have a political voice.

Hobbies: Play guitar, fishing, reading, watching Posh, the Astronomical Society.

Favourite book: Animal Farm (minus the Communism) by George Orwell.

Favourite film: The Godfather or Training Day

What do you like about AMVC?: The collective spirit of the young people.

What would you like to change about AMVC?: The one-way systems for Sixth Form. Some of the dress code.

What would you like to be doing in 5 years time?: Finishing Degree in Physics at Cambridge University.



In Memory of Duncan Fleet

Most of you perhaps never knew Duncan. He taught PE but worked primarily as the College's Community Education Co-ordinator at AMVC from the late 1980s until he left in 1998 to become a Deputy Head near Watford. Duncan was very popular amongst staff and students; he got involved in school visits abroad, played for the staff football team and was always present at staff socials. He even married one of the French teachers, **Miss Berthou!** However, Duncan's legacy at AMVC is something that the College can be very proud of.

In 1990 Duncan set up the AMVC Duke of Edinburgh Award with a handful of Year 10 students and a minibus. From there it grew and within a few years the award at AMVC was flourishing. His team of **Mr Kitching, Mr Bushby, Mrs Mills** and, eventually me, saw the Award grow to cater for all three levels for Years 10 to 13 and, when the reins were passed on to me in 1998, AMVC was one of the largest and most successful Award centres in the region (if not further afield). The success of the Award is down to Duncan's passion and commitment and these were qualities which **Mr Walls** and I endeavoured to maintain when we took it on and which Duncan employed in his later position as Headteacher at a school in Bath.

Sadly, Duncan died aged 46 earlier this month leaving behind his wife Steph and his two daughters. His passion of working with, and for young people, will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

John Gilligan



Key Dates next term

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| End of Spring term: | 3 April 2009 |
| Training Day | 20 April 2009 |
| Summer term opens: | 21 April 2009 |
| Y7 Parents' Evening: | 27 April 2009 |
| May Day: | 4 May 2009 |
| Y11 Study Leave: | 15 May 2009 |
| Y12 Study Leave: | 18 May 2009 |
| Y13 Leaving Day: | 23-27 May 2009 |
| Half term: | 25 - 29 May 2009 |

AMA Uniform Sale

The AMA will be selling second hand uniform items on 27 April 2009 at the Year 7 Parents' Evening!

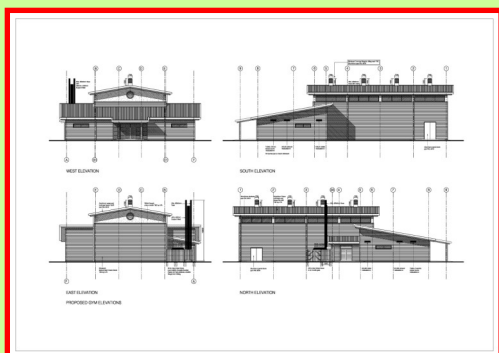


COLLEGE NEWS

New Gymnasium and Innovation Centre

As you may know the Local Authority have a duty to ensure a number of Applied Learning subjects via Diplomas are available across Peterborough schools by 2013. The College has entered into discussion with the Local Authority with a view to accepting on our campus the facility to teach **Manufacturing and Product Design** as the subject most akin to our generally academic ethos and, of course, our Technology status.

To accommodate this additional subject, specialist accommodation is required. I am pleased to be able to confirm that design work is currently progressing for the construction of a new gymnasium facility for the College. This gymnasium would be positioned adjacent to the swimming pool at the rear of the site, and would provide a similar sized gym area to the existing gymnasium however, with a significantly increased floor to ceiling height to facilitate trampolining and badminton. It will also provide changing facilities and equipment store rooms. Plans for this new building are shown below.



On completion of the new gymnasium, the plan is for the existing gymnasium to be converted into a new Innovation Centre to provide modern teaching facilities with a 'workplace environment' to allow 14-19 year olds, from both AMVC and other local schools / colleges, to study for the new Manufacturing and Product Design Diploma. Both projects are to be funded by Peterborough City Council.

Although the Cabinet Member for Children's Services has yet to approve the project the Local Authority will shortly submit a planning application in respect of the possible change of use of our current gym and construction of a new one.

Gilmour McLaren
Chairman of Governors

Thank you from the Governors...

Now that we can, at last, use the new building I hope you will agree that the frustrations of working and studying in a building site have been amply rewarded. On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank and congratulate everyone, staff and students, for the exemplary way you coped with the project being constructed around you. We now need to bring the original buildings up to the high standard of the new ones and of course build five new teaching rooms. I need to ask for your patience and co-operation, once again, while we achieve this. In a couple of years we will have a campus of which we can be duly proud.

Gilmour McLaren, Chairman of Governors



NEWS FROM YEAR 11

Year 11 Prom...

This year's prom is going to be held at the Marriott Hotel on Friday 10 July from 7.30 pm to midnight. It will be one of the biggest ever – 195 people have paid to come so far!

There will be a disco and also a buffet with a selection of food. A photographer has also been booked for the evening so bring money to buy your photos on the night. They will cost £7.00 each. Girls, if you haven't got a prom dress sorted – look at the Year 11 notice board for details of places you can get one from! See you all there!

Year 11 Prom Committee

The Year 11 Year Book is currently being produced. It will cost £10.00. To obtain a copy please complete the reply slip on the letter sent home before Easter and return to school with full payment by Tuesday 21 April.



Study Leave...

The proposed date for the Year 11 last day is Friday 15 May, however for individual students there may be variation. Obviously you should be starting your revision before then. Use the Easter holidays to make your revision timetables and get started! Have a Happy Easter! Mrs Warrington



Mathematics Exams Information

There are a number of useful websites to further aid revision: www.mymaths.co.uk covers almost everything from SATS to GCSE A* AND www.bbc.co.uk/revision and www.mathedup.co.uk include lots of links to other useful sites and resources.

All students should ensure they have the necessary equipment for maths exams. This should include pen, pencil, ruler, protractor and a calculator. A calculator can be bought from school for £5. For revision the **MATHS WATCH CD-ROM** that students have either bought, or had loaned to them, is one of the best resources available. The CD is interactive and talks students through problems that a normal revision guide can't. Students have also had the opportunity to purchase revision guides, workbooks and practice exam papers.

TRIPS

The AMVC Ski Trip is an institution. It has been part of the College calendar for over 20 years. On Friday 13 February, 42 Sixth Form pupils and 5 members of staff set off on Ski 09. We returned to the resort we enjoyed so much last year, Val di Fiemme in the Trentino region of Italy. It's always a risk returning to a destination that you have enjoyed as it may not live up to the expectations in some way. To be honest, I think the destination was partly irrelevant as the pupils on the trip made it the success that it was. Many came with us last year but we had 17 that joined us for the first time. The snow was fantastic, the weather cold but sunny.



As with all trips, there are moments of stupidity and on the ski trip we don't like to let these pass unnoticed, so we have 'the jumper' award, which recognises daily any incidents of note. This year's winners didn't let us down.

Of particular note was **Hari Soni** who seemed desperate to get the award, achieving more nominations than anyone else. We eventually gave in and let him have it for numerous incidents on the ski slopes. Also worth mentioning - **Sarah Owen** and **Luke Chapman** who seemed to be having a competition for who could say the daftest thing.

Skiing isn't an easy skill to learn and there were many pupils who, over the course of the week, had a problem to overcome. It may have been how to go forward a few metres without falling over for the beginners at the start of the week or, for the more experienced skier, the challenge of the first black run or a day where nothing seems to go right. Without fail the pupils showed great determination and courage to overcome the problems and the progress over the week was fantastic.

It is difficult to find the words to describe the attitude and behaviour of the young people we took—exceptional is the word that springs to mind. They threw themselves into every activity with enthusiasm. They were a delight, sensible and mature but also lots of fun. They didn't even



moan when both the journeys, there and back, were terrible. The company rep (who happens to be the ski company boss too!), ski school and hotelier were all full of praise for the positive attitude with which they approached everything. The progress in skiing was exceptional which is due in part to the excellent ski instructors but mainly the determination and willingness to listen and learn that the pupils demonstrated.

It was a pleasure to lead this trip and I was very proud to be a teacher at AMVC. To Y13 we bid a fond farewell - thank you for the spirit with which you took part and have many more great skiing adventures. To Y12 who came with us this year, thank you for slotting in so well and I look forward to taking you again next year. Coming soon-Ski 2010—look out for further information.

Mrs Gilligan



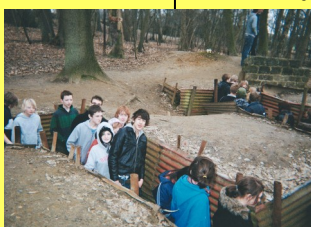
In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses row on row.

The Year 9 students recently encountered these pretty flowers on the annual trip to the Ypres area of Belgium to visit the World War One battlefields and their heads are bursting with the memories of the men who fought there and the men who died there.

The trip began with our first view of the Western Front, when we embarked upon a memorial in Nieuwpoort. Next came a real eye-opener, when we travelled to St George's Cemetery in Ramskapelle, the resting place of several hundreds of British, Australian, American and Canadian infantrymen.

On Saturday, the best part of the day was the Last Post ceremony, which took place in Menin Gate – the memorial containing the name of thousands of unfound soldiers. The entire building was silent as the bugles rang out and blended perfectly into a harmonious melody. The people who had gathered to watch the beautiful ceremony were completely quiet from 8.00 am onwards.

Talbot House, a regular building in Poperinge, home to hundreds of soldiers during the war, just an ordinary residential house, with



everyday rooms and items. A fact that makes this house so magnificent: it is still up and running today, as a hotel for guests and a place of great history for tourists.

Next came Passchendale – the home of Tyne Cot, the largest British WWI cemetery in the world. Some fantastic photos were taken here! Standing at the very entrance, you could see up to 7 miles of hills and greenery. Although spectacular, every grave told a story, and another wall of Menin Gate expanded at the back, another few hundred names of missing soldiers written on it. A sad but true monument of inspiration and realisation.

A poppy wreath with our name on it remains at the cemetery and if we return when old and frail, we can look at the graves of the men who saved our country and think of what a wonderful job they did and how, without them, life would be very different from how we know it.

Lest we forget the men who fought and died for England. Gone, but never forgotten.

Rebecca Guise 9TBE



PE AND DRAMA NEWS



Netball fixtures... have continued with the U14 and U16 teams training hard for the regional tournament they qualified for earlier in the year. I would like to thank **Mrs Compton** who came to help train the girls, without her input we would not have done so well. The U14s finished off a cracking season by winning the district league as well so they had a clean sweep of tournaments this year.



The Year 7 and 8 fixtures have been played this term and living up to our usual standards the Year 7 team were narrowly beaten in the final of the tournament 1-3 by Jack Hunt and the Year 8s had two fantastic games in the finals of the tournament and the league losing both by sudden death! Thank you to staff who helped with the netball, **Miss Lee, Mrs Cruise Mrs Reid, Mrs Ledbrook and Mrs Worricker** who have all given up their lunch times to train and support the girls after school at matches.

Sports Leader Awards

Mrs Wilding has been busy again with her School Sports Co-ordinator role and has launched the Higher Sports Leaders Award with some of our most dedicated Sixth Form students. Amongst many other commitments the students had to organise the District Netball Tournament and all went smoothly. They have been coaching and helping in several local schools and have agreed this sought after national award has been well worth the hours they have spent. Well done to **Catherine Driscoll, Chris Gregg, Matthew Fergusson and Seth Burkett**. The JSLA and CSLA awards are all in full swing again this year and pupils have enjoyed helping with table tennis festival, Soke football and netball to name a few.

Cross Country

We had several pupils represent Cambridgeshire in the English Schools Cross Country Championship. All ran really well and we are very proud of their achievements **Charlotte Hinch, Josh Reed, Ed Hewitt, Callum Ramsey, Shannon Ruff**, We have continued to do really well in the Fenland leagues and the minor girls won overall. Again thanks to **Janice Burke** who gets them all organised.

Trampolining

We held the Peterborough Trampolining competition on 25 March at AMVC. I am pleased to say for the third year running AMVC were victorious in the team competition as well as having some excellent individual performances. Particular success went to **Kimberley Tucker** for her 2nd place in the Club competition, **Georgina Hendry** and **Taylor Mumby** for finishing joint 2nd and **Sacha Mooney** and **Ben Reece-Hamshire** for finishing joint 3rd in the schools' competition. Well done to all competitors. Big thank you to **Miss Cole** for the organisation and to **Mrs Tucker, Mrs Gladders and Andy Gladders** for helping with the judging.

Basketball...Very successful season again this year. The U16s remained undefeated this year making their achievement of not losing a game throughout their time at AMVC, well done to all who took part especially **Alex Baines, Jordan Kennedy, Anthony Dinatale, Adam Whiles, Mitch Guest and Craig Talbot**.



The U16 girls had a great start to their basketball careers by winning the Peterborough Cup as well. Well done to all the girls.

Football...The football season is still under way, but so far our Year 9s have won through to the semi-final stage of the county cup and are playing St Ivo's for a place in the final. The Year 10s are still on course to win the league again this year as are the Year 8s. The Year 9s have already sealed victory.

OUR DAY OUT



Congratulations to Performing Arts staff and our drama students for another highly successful whole-school production. Early March witnessed three entertaining sell-out shows of Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out', led by our talented A Level Performing Arts students but well supported by students from Years 7-11. Many thanks to all who gave up their time to put together and support another great showcase of the wealth of talent we enjoy at AMVC.



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Comic relief money raised
£2,120.19
THANK YOU

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