



THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 24

OCTOBER 2012



Message from the Head of College

Year 7 students have now been at the College for just over 7 weeks and I am pleased to report that they have settled in very quickly to life at Arthur Mellows. Four of the new Year 7 students were even brave enough to stand up in front of hundreds of visitors at our recent Open Evening, after just 21 days at the College, to talk about their new experiences. A special well done to Abigail Rayment, Harry White, Ella Blake and Oliver Foster – you did us proud!

I would also like to congratulate those students who helped the College achieve record breaking examination results, yet again, this Summer. Despite a lot of negative press nationally at the time, 97.8% of Arthur Mellows Year 11 students achieved 5 A* to C grades, with 75.9% achieving 5 A* to C grades including the very important Maths and English. This bucks the national trend which saw a 0.5% drop overall. A Level students in the Summer also achieved extremely well, with many students being successful with their university places.

This term has also seen the launch of our very first Cinema night. A number of residents from the local community enjoyed the screening of 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' in our Auditorium last week. The event proved to be a huge success with excellent feedback. The next Cinema night will be held on Thursday 22 November 2012 when 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' will be shown. For more information and to reserve tickets for this evening, contact Liz Atfield at the College.

M Sandeman, Head of College

THIS ITEM BELONGS TO

Please remember to label all students' property, including shoes, trainers, school bags, pencil cases etc...

We have lots of missing bags/PE kits which we would like to return to the rightful owners but are unable to do so, as they are not labelled.

Thank you

OFFICIAL OPENING INNOVATION CENTRE AND LIBRARY

On Thursday 27 September 2012, Arthur Mellows Village College welcomed Gwenne Henricks, President of Perkins Engines to open the Innovation Centre. The newly refurbished Library Resource Centre was opened by Councillor John Holdich OBE who is also the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University as well as a Governor at the College.

This was an enjoyable event for everyone concerned. The students at the College are extremely lucky to have such extensive facilities available to them; we certainly have an Engineering resource and Library Resource Centre to be proud of.



Key Dates next half term

Term resumes	Monday 5 November 2012
Sixth Form Open Evening	Wednesday 14 November 2012
AMTEC Day	Wednesday 14 November 2012
Normandy Trip	Thursday 15 November 2012 to Sunday 18 November 2012
Year 13 Parents' Evening	Monday 19 November 2012
Year 8 HPV vaccinations	Tuesday 20 November 2012
Duke of Edinburgh Launch Evening	Wednesday 21 November 2012
Cinema Night	Thursday 22 November 2012
Dance Achievement Evening	Thursday 13 December 2012
Year 11 Health Day	Friday 14 December 2012
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 18 December 2012
Academic Day	Friday 21 December 2012
Term Ends	Friday 21 December 2012

TO ALL PARENTS WHO COLLECT STUDENTS BY CAR

A complaint has been received regarding cars parking on the pavements and in small side streets adjacent to the College when students are picked up.

In order that we can maintain a good relationship with our neighbours, could I ask all parents to park considerately, avoiding the pavement, so that access for pedestrians and pushchairs does not become an issue.

Your co-operation would be very much appreciated.

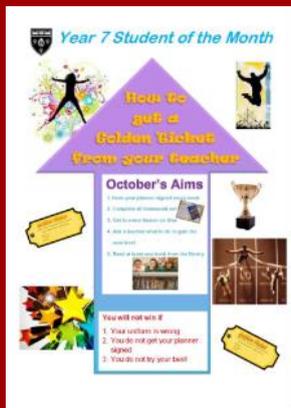
Thank you.



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Delivering Learning for Life within an Aspirational Culture

YEAR 7



STUDENT OF THE MONTH (GETTING THE START 'RIGHT')

Each month every student will be challenged to be part of a new competition being held throughout Year 7. Students seen by a member of staff as hitting the 'Aims' for that month will be rewarded with a Golden ticket and

entered into a prize draw. Some of the Golden tickets are 'specially' marked so the more tickets a student wins the more chance they have of winning.

A massive well done to the September students of the month.

SEPTEMBER WINNERS:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| • Harrison Cochrane | • Ellie Bryant |
| • Kiera Cooper | • Harry Baker |
| • Rebecca Hallam | • Bradley Lee |
| • Clark McDonald | • Oliver Foster |
| • Dane Stockhill | • Luca Tocci |

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

As a school, we realise the importance of not only supporting our students academically, but also to support their emotion and social development. The College has introduced a new system of mentoring throughout Year 7. The mentoring will be performed by Form Tutors and myself, with the initial work focusing on developing the students' abilities, reflecting on their progress and their feeling on how well they are performing. My aim is to allow students to have an improved outlet to ask for help enabling them to gain confidence in their own abilities. By supporting their emotional development on entering the school system. I hope that, as they progress through Arthur Mellows, their mechanisms for coping with the academic demands of GCSE's and A Levels will be improved.

Mr Foxton, Head of Year 7



FIRST AID

The College operates a First Aid service; unfortunately we do not have a qualified School Nurse on site.

An increasing number of students are presenting themselves at the First Aid room saying they feel unwell first thing in the morning. This is becoming increasingly difficult for the College to manage, as sickness bugs, coughs and colds are an inherent part of our daily lives. There is very little a First Aider can offer for general 'cold' symptoms other than ask students to return to lessons. If you believe your child is ill then they should be kept at home or referred to the appropriate external health professionals.

Please rest assured that First Aid staff will always contact the parent should they be concerned that your child is not well enough to be in school.

Your support in helping the College is very much appreciated.



A2 BIOLOGY KINGSWOOD TRIP

On Sunday 9 September 2012 at 9:15 am we departed for Kingswood, ready for a weekend gaining first hand experience in ecological sampling study techniques, coinciding with our recent study of ecology for our A2 course.

Whilst at Kingswood, located in Overstrand, Norfolk, we undertook 2 practical examinations contributing to our A Level grade, under the supervision of Nicola; a qualified ecologist. The opportunity to undertake these tasks in such idyllic, relevant settings as Sherringham beach provided us all with an insight into the ways of ecological sampling and analysis, something which cannot necessarily be achieved by textbook alone.

It was not all academic however, as the evening saw both students and teachers participating in group activities such as problem solving, and the infamous Kingswood leap of faith; which was only for those with a head for heights. Overall the weekend was an excellent experience, not only of academic gain, but also strengthening friendships within the group.

James Hughes, A Level Biology student



ParentPay—online payment service

If you are not aware already, we like to remind you that we are accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and resources that College might decide to offer. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay is our preferred method of making payments to the College.



What are the benefits to you?

- ParentPay is easy to use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7 – the technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach us safely – offering you peace of mind
- payments can be made by credit/debit card
- full payment histories and statements are available to you securely, online at anytime
- your children won't have to worry about losing money at school
- Paying on line avoids queues at the cash machines for your child during their free time

How to get started with ParentPay...

Contact College via e-mail at enquires@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk requesting your log-in details.

COLLEGE NEWS

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience is an opportunity for students to experience the world of work whilst still at school. It enables young people to learn and use a range of transferable skills, personal qualities and competencies that will contribute to their employment. The placement is usually for 10 days during the summer term.

Prior to the placement, every employer will be visited by qualified staff. The visit covers Health and Safety aspects, as well as child protection issues. Every student is given a Work Experience Diary to complete throughout the 2 weeks. There is a section in the diary for employers to give feedback and comment on how they feel the placement has gone. If an employer has found a student exceptional, they can nominate their student for a Certificate of Distinction. Additional feedback from both students and employers is obtained to ensure placement details are correct.

This year 9 students were nominated for Certificates of Distinction; Mrs Reilly, Assistant Headteacher presented the certificates to students during a Year 11 Assembly. Mrs Dawson and Mrs Crick were so impressed with 4 of the students' reports that they were given High Street Vouchers as well as their certificates.

We have included some of the many positive comments that we receive from employers.

Mrs Dawson, Work Experience Co-ordinator

Marissa Channing-Bates 10 MRI

Marissa is a fantastic student, and is very helpful, she is good with staff and customers – EXCELLENT, a hard worker and a lovely young lady.

Belinda Campbell – BHS

Emily Stevens 10 CCU

Excellent! Brilliant! 'Everyone loves Emily!' She picks up tasks very quickly – she is a great asset to the workforce.

Belinda Campbell – BHS

Libby Field – 10 SBL

Libby is a fabulous worker, she is absolutely super! 'we are loving having her – thanks for sending her to us' - **Jill Thomas – Tinker's**

Rhian Shah

I have been so impressed with Rhian's attitude to work. He is an incredibly humble and gracious young man, who demonstrates maturity beyond his years without being oppressive. He embraces all new experiences, even when some of them were initially unpalatable. He was able to speak confidently to all members of the team, including the Company Director. I would not hesitate to employ him should he decide to fulfil his dream of becoming a dentist.
1a Dental Practice

Emily Hunter 10 MRI

Emily is a credit to her school and her family, she has come to work early in the morning and got stuck in'. She has carried out office duties and has been involved in activities for The Kings School at the Cathedral. Emily is very motivated, it has been a pleasure to have her working with us. **Matt Wild—The CROPS Trust**

Myles Phillips – 10 ABU

Myles is a lovely lad. 'I took Myles with me to a Health and Safety meeting, I feared he would be bored, but seemed very interested, and interacted well with staff explaining what he was doing and what he had learnt – everyone was impressed! Myles is an asset to school and parents – hopefully we will be in a position to offer Myles an apprenticeship next year!'

Suzanne – Baker Perkins

LIAM PRIDMORE

MEMORIAL CYCLE RIDE

Year 11 student, Luke Ellis recently took part in the "Liam Pridmore Memorial Cycle ride". This was to raise money for Children with Cancer.



Luke completed the 25 mile course in an hour and a half and came 4th in the group.

People could join in the ride and contribute a minimum donation of £10.00. Luke decided to get sponsors and raised £290.00 for the charity. (This was the highest value raised by one individual)

Well Done, Luke!

Mrs Warrington, Head of Year 11

WOMEN ONLY FITNESS SESSIONS

Wednesday Evenings: 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm (Term Time)
Cost: Pre-payment per term £21.00 for 6 weeks (only £3.50 per session)

For further information call: Mrs Burke on 01733 254030



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The last couple of editions of the Voice have focused on student achievement outside the College, eg success with canoeing, bowling, horse riding etc. If parents or students have any newsworthy items they would like the Voice to cover, specifically involving student success in an extra-curricular activity, please email d.sanderson@arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk so that this can be covered in a future edition and celebrated in school appropriately.



COLLEGE NEWS

FILM-MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

On Thursday 27 September, Andy Simpson, low-budget film-maker, came to talk to Year 12 Media students about the grass-roots world of the independent film industry. Having enjoyed minor success with his first film 'Young Hearts Run Free', set during the Miner's strike of the 1980's, he is now working on his second feature, and is arranging funding through BBC Films, Film Four and other funding agencies, supported by short viral films designed for the mobile market with back stories about the main characters.

He started with a few basic film-making tips, using his first-hand experience of directing to explain the 180 degree rule, the rule of thirds and other important aspects of shot composition. After a screening of his film, (there is a copy of the DVD in the Library), we held a Q and A session, in which Andy explained the role of a film producer, and in particular the complex world of film distribution. He supplied our students with loads of great ammunition for their forthcoming exam on the film industry, explaining that there is a technological revolution taking place on-line, with a lot of really talented film-makers exploiting social networking sites to distribute their work to a rapidly growing audience.

The film world does not start and end with Hollywood films shown to popcorn-munching crowds at the Showcase. In fact, there is a fascinating new world out there taking place, and hopefully Arthur Mellows will be part of it. There is certainly no lack of talent.

Mr Zaidi, Head of Media

WOOLSTHORPE MANOR

If you are stuck for an educational day out, you could do far worse than head up the A1 to Woolsthorpe Manor, near Grantham, about 25 minutes away. This little gem of a place is the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest ever British minds, best known as the scientific genius who first explored the concept of gravity.

You might even recall the famous story of the day an apple fell off a tree in his garden, prompting him to wonder why things always fell down. Amazingly, the tree is still there, having survived for four centuries, and the house itself has been



turned into a great little hands-on museum. You can try all sorts of experiments to help you understand the concept of gravity, whilst the actual house has been restored to something like its original state, with loads of fascinating details about Newton's extraordinary life, and even preserving some of the pictures he drew on the walls as a child. For somebody from relatively humble origins, and born so prematurely that he was not expected to survive, the success he enjoyed in his lifetime, and the huge place he still occupies in the list of great thinkers in Science and Mathematics, is truly remarkable.



You might also be interested to know that **Belle Hillier**, in Year 8, recently won a design competition to design a commemorative coin and wax seal to celebrate the life of Sir Isaac Newton. The coin has been minted in gold, silver and pewter and is on sale in the

gift shop, and has also been filed at the Royal Mint.

Mr Zaidi, Head of Media

BBFC VISIT

For the second year in a row, Ian Massiah from the British Board of Film Classification came in to talk to A Level Media students about the role of the BBFC in safeguarding us from potential harm when watching films at the cinema, on DVD or on-line. The BBFC is the independent organisation that is legally required to make judgements about what classification should be awarded to films, and a big part of their work is to get out into the wider community to get feedback on the decisions they make, to help them learn about how we feel about the decisions they have made previously and where they might have got it wrong, to make better informed decisions in the future.

In an entertaining and highly informative presentation, the BBFC examiner explained his daily work routine and the legal constraints he works under, using examples from films such as 'The King's Speech' and 'The Hunger Games' to explain the judgements made and even illustrate the cuts they have made in certain key

scenes. What shines through is that the BBFC really does make every effort to leave films as uncensored as possible, whilst making sure that they carefully consider the 'likely harm' that bad language and violence might have on potential viewers. The approach is very much that parents, teachers and young people all need to take some responsibility to use the classifications to make informed choices about what it is okay to watch. There are now BBFC websites and even smartphone apps to help you learn more about the films you are interested in watching, with clear guidance and advice about potentially difficult content.

Students also completed questionnaires as part of the BBFC's on-going research into the viewing habits and concerns of young people, this will be fed into the latest guidelines to be published in 2013, and will help examiners such as Ian Massiah to continue his role in safeguarding young people far into the future.

Mr Zaidi, Head of Media