



THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College



Message from the Head of College



Welcome to this festive edition of The Voice. You will see that we have a lot to report in this edition, including tremendous success within activities arranged by the English, Maths, Food and PE departments. The College is looking forward to 2009, particularly the handover of our new buildings and the continuation of our refurbishment. These ongoing works will produce facilities that we can be extremely proud of and will benefit students' education immensely.

Parents will have recently received a letter home regarding traffic safety around the College site at the start and end of the school day. I would like to reiterate to parents the importance of adhering to traffic / parking restrictions for the safety of all users of College facilities.

I would like to wish good luck to all students who are taking external exams during January. Students should have received their individual exam timetable giving full details of dates, however, a summary timetable can be viewed on the College website: www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk.

Finally, please may I express my best wishes for the season to all parents, students and the local community, and we look forward to your continued support throughout 2009.

Meet a new member of staff:

Name: Chris Otterwell

Job title: Assistant Head teacher / Head of Science

Main responsibilities: Member of the Senior Management Team working on whole College issues; Leading the Science Faculty; Managing the Technology College Specialism; Working on the new Diploma courses.

Hobbies: Golf – handicap 14 and getting worse, playing guitar – badly these days as I don't practice enough, music – love going to gigs and concerts, gardening – I have an allotment to grow lots of my own vegetables, walking – there is nothing like walking in remote areas or coastal paths to appreciate the beauty of our country.

Favourite book: Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks – a deeply moving story of a young man set in the horrors of the first world war.

Favourite film: I can't make my mind up but here are a few – The Shawshank Redemption, Lord of the Rings Trilogy (I know it's three!), Silence of the Lambs, Life of Brian.

What do you like about AMVC?: So far I would have to say that the students here are wonderful and the staff are not bad either!



'Youth Speaks' Competition

Four students from Year 9, **Eleanor Moore, Alex Chiarizia, Paige Roden** and **James Hughes**, were crowned as the city's public speaking champions (11-14 category) at Jack Hunt School on Thursday 27 November. Under the guidance of Mr Norris and Mr Puddephatt, they crafted a speech entitled '*The Moral and Ethical Costs of Today's Fashion Industry*'. Their speech explored the hidden costs behind the rise in the availability of cheap clothing and the impact this has on people across the world. Each of the students spoke with passion, clarity and confidence, sweeping all other schools before them!

The competition is run by The Rotary Club and is a prestigious nation-wide search for the most articulate and expressive young speakers. The team will now head for the area final in Grantham on 20 January where they will come up against winning schools from across the East.

Mr Norris and Mr Puddephatt
English Department

Key Dates for 2009

- End of term: 19 December 2008
- Spring term opens: 5 January 2009
- Half term: 16 - 20 February 2009
- End of Spring term: 3 April 2009
- Training Day: 20 April 2009
- Summer term opens: 21 April 2009
- May Day: 4 May 2009

Year 10 Parents' Evening/AMA Uniform Sale:
19 January 2009

Year 10 Work Experience Evening:
22 January 2009, 7.00 pm

Year 11 Reports Home:
13 February 2009

TRIPS / ACTIVITIES

Normandy trip: Year 11 History November 2008

After a very early start on the Friday, our first visit was to Pegasus Bridge and the surrounding area. We went into the museum which was very interesting because it had such things as old war uniforms and photographs. We also got to walk on the original Pegasus Bridge and look inside a glider. We then went to the 360 degree cinema which was very loud and intense and made you feel like you were actually there on D-Day. Before heading back to the hotel, we had some free time in Bayeux to visit all of the shops and eat cake!



On the Saturday we drove to Omaha beach where Neil (our guide) told us the story of what had happened there. The beach was beautiful and we had great fun running down the hill and slipping over. We then visited the American cemetery which was very sad especially when you saw how many graves were there and heard stories about some of the soldiers that were buried there. In St Mere Eglise, we visited both the Airborne Museum and looked at the beautiful stained glass window in the church which shows how an American paratrooper got stuck on the church spire. We then went back to the hotel to have dinner and a fun night out at bowling.

On our last day we visited the huge 'Peace museum' and the massive Commonwealth cemetery at Bayeux. Before heading back to Ouistreham for a very choppy ferry journey we laid a wreath from everyone on the trip from AMVC and paid our respects to the fallen.

We had a very enjoyable, informative and fun time.

Emily Campbell and Ashleigh Cain (Year 11)

Poland Trip

In October half-term, 22 Sixth Form students accompanied Mr Barrett and Mrs Price on a History trip to Krakow, Poland. On arrival we met our guide, Paulina, who told us about the area in which we were staying and gave us some basic information about Krakow and Poland in general. After a (not so) early night, we had an early start to Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. This was a very humbling and emotional experience. On the third day we visited the salt mines, a world-famous tourist destination (where many of the boys were licking the walls!) before more shopping. On the final day, we had a chance to buy souvenirs for family before it was time to pack and head back to the airport. Thanks to Mr Barrett and Mrs Price – Poland 2008 was an amazing trip, and one we'll never forget.

**Rob Graham (Year 12) and
Yasmin Patel (Year 13)**



Auschwitz Memorial

Good Food Show, Birmingham NEC - Friday 28 November 2008



It was a cold, wet and foggy 8.15 am on Friday morning when 14 keen and eager AS and A2 Food Technology students gathered at the minibus for their trip to the Good Food Show (it's amazing how the lure of free food tasting can encourage even the most reluctant of staff and students to be at school early). The journey was quiet and was only interrupted once by the ominous question of 'are we there yet?'

The NEC was a hive of activity with a wide range of food stalls, equipment stalls, theatres, demonstrations and even book signings. The hunt was soon on to spot the famous chef, taste the free food and hope to gather some free goodies too. We didn't do a bad job as a group, between us we saw: James Martin, Ainsley Harriott, the Hairy Bikers and Hardeep Singh. Equipment to add to Christmas lists now includes: Diablo circular toasting pans, superdooper frying pans to which nothing can stick and multi-purpose peelers that also sliced and diced. Some students were also brave enough to try foods that were new to them: haggis, buffalo burger and oysters to name a few.

After lots of walking and with tired legs and arms from carrying our many carrier bags, we headed home. I believe that a good time was had by all. I know that I certainly did, it was a pleasure to take such a polite and enthusiastic group of students on a trip. They represented themselves and AMVC in such a positive way.

Sally Nash (Food Technology Teacher)

SPORTS NEWS

Netball

We have had a very successful term most noticeably the U14 team are County champions this year, after they beat St Mary's of Cambridge in the final. The U16 team have done nearly as well - they were runners-up in the final of their competition, losing narrowly to the Purse School of Cambridge. Both teams go forward to represent Cambridgeshire on Saturday 7 February 2009 in Essex.



The Senior team has finished their glittering career with another victory, coming out as winners in the Peterborough League again this year. Years 11, 10 and 9 are in the finals of their Leagues as well. Well done to all the girls - it has been a pleasure to work with them and to continue our success again this year. Year 7 and 8 matches will start in the New Year.

Football / Basketball / Badminton

AMVC Football team has had a very good start to the season. The new Year 10 team who did so well last year have continued to excel again this year. They have reached the last 32 of the National competition so far with a game against Robert Smythe of Market Harborough on Friday, so good luck to them!

All age groups have had a winning start to their matches this term. We now turn to badminton and basketball tournaments for the winter months. We are pleased to have an U16 girls' basketball team taking part in a competition for the first time in a while. We have also taken some students to the badminton competition and the girls won through to the finals, so well done to them.

Cross Country

The Peterborough Schools cross county championships took place at Bretton Park on 5 December. Once again, we had some fantastic team and individual performances, most noticeably the Year 7 girls, with **Katie Hutchinson** winning the competition, **Megan Haines-Eynon** coming in at third place and **Poppy Wing** finishing fifth. Years 8 and 9 also had some good results with **Gregg Dunn** winning his race and **Shannon Ruff** finishing fourth. The Years 10 and 11 students completed the good results with **Amy Haines Eynon**, **Callum Ramsey**, **Ed Hewitt** and **Henry Dunn** all finishing within the first four of their respective competitions.

A big well done and a thank you to all who took part as it was a team event and we needed everyone to do their best on the day and represent AMVC in a sensible manner. We have built up an excellent reputation over the years for great runners and impressive students.

I must say a big thank you to **Janice Burke** who not only gets us organised but runs the event on the day.

K Griggs (Head of PE)

Primary Sports Events at AMVC

Through the work of the College's Sports Co-ordinator, AMVC have put on two events for our feeder primary schools this term.

A new event to the calendar was the **Year 5 table-tennis festival** which took place in November. 180 Year 5 pupils learnt new skills in table-tennis – many playing for the first time. They were guided through the festival by Sports Leaders from Years 10, 12 and 13.



The pupils left the festival buzzing with excitement to continue playing at their own schools. To continue the good liaison work, students from Year 13 are arranging follow-up sessions at some of the more local primary schools –

using regular class tables and improvising with wood as nets.

Good luck to them

Sportshall Athletics

In December Year 4 classes from our 9 feeder primary schools joined us in the Sports Hall for a morning of Indoor Athletics. Pupils participated in both 'track' and 'field' events and there was a real team spirit

Again, the Sports Leaders helped with the festival – organising the events, moving the equipment, ensuring pupils knew what they were doing, scoring and much more. It was a great event for all who took part.

In first place was Eye Primary School followed by Newborough and Barnack Primary Schools in second and third place.

Thanks to all the Sports Leaders (too many to list) whose help was invaluable at both events.



CONGRATULATIONS

Read, Write, Inspire

The city council have been running a series of competitions and events under the banner 'Read, Write, Inspire' to encourage students to use their literacy skills in positive ways. It was with delight that we heard that **Michael McDonald** in Year 8 had won one of these competitions for his Gothic story. Michael submitted the story he had written in English this year and was chosen as overall winner from across the city. Head of English Matt Norris said, "It's fantastic that our students are gaining recognition for the high standard of work they produce here at AMVC. Hopefully this sort of competition will allow pupils to see how what they produce in class relates to the world outside school and the very real benefits of reading and writing."

Michael has won a day at Anglia TV studios, with a full guided tour and a chance to learn how local television programmes are made.

Well done Michael, and a big thank you to all others who submitted entries for this competition.

Readathon All students in Year 7 have been taking part in 'Readathon', an initiative designed both to encourage reading and to raise money for charity. Students were issued with sponsorship cards in English lessons and encouraged to set targets as to how many books, chapters or even pages they would read during Readathon.



A big thank you to all who sponsored our students in this venture and especially to those students who have really responded with enthusiasm to the Readathon, helping to raise money for the charities 'CLIC' and 'The Roald Dahl Foundation'.

Maths Challenge News

On 5 November, over 30 Year 12 and 13 students entered the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge along with over 90,000 other entrants nationally. **Lewis Armstrong** and **Chris Bill** (Year 13) were both awarded gold certificates and Lewis was 'The Best in School'.

Ben Scott (Year 13) was awarded a silver certificate. **Gabby Griggs, Megan Lee and Joe Riley** (Year 13), **Seb Clayton, Josh Lovell, Sarah Owen and Amy Freeman** (Year 12) were all awarded bronze certificates. Anyone wanting to try some of these questions out for themselves online should go to www.ukmt.org.uk. They are certainly worthy of the title Challenge! The next UKMT Challenge will be the Intermediate Challenge for Years 9 to 11 on 5 February 2009.



Calculators

There are still some Year 11 students arriving at tests and mock examinations without essential equipment or a calculator. There are nearly always some available to buy in College at £5. If Santa is stuck for ideas this Christmas, maybe he should check that all children have a calculator for their next test or examination. They are not just needed for Maths exams either!

Maths Revision Guides and Workbooks

Year 11 will have finished their mock exams by now, so they may well be thinking of ways to improve their understanding. We recommend the maths watch CD, revision guides, workbooks and past papers, as well as the internet and TV.

Well Done!

Food news! **Chris Greenacre**, AMVC's budding chef, took part in the local finals of the national competition 'Futurechef' at the regional college on 20 November. He was up against some very tough competition but as usual Chris kept his cool calm in the kitchen. Although, Chris did not win first prize, he did secure for himself a day at The Haycock in Wansford and another certificate to put in his ever increasing portfolio. Well done Chris. Mrs Clark and I are very proud of you. Also thanks must go out to Mr Trevor of Jims Yard in Stamford who spared his time to mentor Chris, and to Miss Lee for transport.

Mrs Cavanagh, Food Technology Department



Number Day

Thursday, 4 December was Number Day. We used the day to celebrate the number π (pi). π is what we mathematicians call an "irrational" number, in that it cannot be expressed as a terminating decimal or a recurring decimal. This means that the digits of π begin '3.14159..' and will carry on forever without ever repeating or forming a pattern.

A sponsored ' π recitation' challenge was organised, where students tried to memorise as many digits of π as they could to help raise money for the NSPCC. Some of you may remember ex-student Ashley Sykes managing to recall 320 digits a few years ago. This year we congratulate **Jennie Clayton** who managed to recite 600 digits of π , smashing the previous school record!

Jennie showed great dedication to achieve such an impressive feat and in doing so has helped raise money for an excellent cause. She was not alone as we had lots of students take part helping to raise what we expect to be over £200! Special mention should go to Nicola Evans-Reid in Year 7 who memorised over 100 digits and also Hannah Pound in Year 12 who memorised 140! We also had some students from our feeder primary schools involved and Dylan Dhokia of Glinton cum Peakirk Primary managed 165 digits.