



# THE VOICE of Arthur Mellows Village College

Issue 26

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## Message from the Head of College

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report that the College has been awarded the NACE Challenge award for our work supporting and challenging Able, Gifted and Talented students. We are the only school in Peterborough to have received this award, which is recognised by external bodies, such as Ofsted, as a mark of quality provision and only the 274th school nationally, many of which have independent or grammar school status. Challenge Award schools sustain success and continue to improve; the self-evaluation framework ensures that we continue to revise and develop our provision for the more able, using the NACE framework of quality assurance.

Staff, parents, students and Governors were instrumental in pulling together the evidence for this award and meeting with the Assessors. A huge thank you goes to everyone involved, though particular mention goes to Mrs Sarah Reilly, Assistant Headteacher, who was the lead for this initiative and was responsible for collating the evidence to meet with the specific criteria we were provided with.

*Mr M Sandeman, Head of College*



## Key Dates next half term

Term resumes	Monday 18 February 2013
Year 9 Options Evening	Monday 25 February 2013
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Monday 4 March 2013
A Level Music Recital	Wednesday 6 March 2013
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Monday 18 March 2013
Duke of Edinburgh Training Day	Saturday 23 March 2013
Presentation Evening	Tuesday 26 March 2013
Term Ends	Wednesday 27 March 2013
Easter Holidays	Thursday 28 March 2013 to Monday 15 April 2013
Term resumes	Tuesday 16 April 2013



## IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER

In light of the recent period of bad weather, I can confirm that a message to confirm if the College is open OR closed will now 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 experienced in January 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

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Over 50 students took part in our Christmas concert on Tuesday 18 December 2012, and the night was almost a sell out! Many school groups took part, including the school orchestra, the junior band, the choir and the brass band. Students performed to their usual high standard, and highlights of the evening were certainly the orchestra's performance of "Santa Claus is coming to town" with Callum Mackenzie singing, and the beautiful saxophone solo by Hester Baird.



We were raising money for the "CLIC Sargent" Charity and, from the ticket sales, we raised £166.00

All photographs taken on the evening have been placed in the photo gallery on the College website, or by following the link: <http://www.arthurmellows.peterborough.sch.uk/gallery/default.asp?pid=60&gcatid=21&albumid=39>



*By Mrs Hammond, Head of Music*

## CHARITY EVENT: CLIC SARGENT

In February 2012, a close friend of my family passed away from having a brain tumour. One of the charities who supported her through her fight, and still supported her family after, was CLIC Sargent. CLIC Sargent is aimed at children and young people with cancer. They help the people battling the cancer, and they help the families cope.

On the last week of term, before the Christmas holidays, I sold teddy bear key-rings, badges, bracelets and pens to raise money for the charity; Year 11 students helped me throughout the week. I had a cake sale at the end of term in which Elise Campbell and Kiera Cooper, both Year 7, helped. I also came in on Academic Day to raise even more money. Altogether I raised £152.50.

On Tuesday 18 December 2012, my mum and her close friend spent 10 hours outside Morrisons, also raising money for CLIC. They managed to raise £390.00.

I would like to say thank you for everyone who donated, it means a lot to me, CLIC Sargent and all the families in England who are going through this traumatic experience.

*By Abbie Baillie,  
10CCO*



*Pictured: Abbie Baillie,  
Hayley Peal (Year 11),  
Elise Campbell and  
Kiera Cooper (Year 7)*

## BOOK REVIEW: *LIFE OF PI* BY YANN MARTEL

A boy. A boat. A Bengal tiger. These are the basic elements of Yann Martel's magnificently absurd masterpiece '*Life of Pi*'. After a cargo ship sinks in the Pacific Ocean, Piscine Patel finds himself stranded on a lifeboat with the only survivors: a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena and a Bengal tiger. Before too long, Pi and Richard Parker, the tiger, are all that is left. They become companions in a small boat floating on a seemingly endless ocean, in an adventure which takes in flying fish and carnivorous islands. Although '*Life of Pi*', for the majority of the novel, has only 2 characters, only one of which is human, it is a strangely enthralling and emotional read. A story which is at once heartbreaking and hilarious; with all the comedic brilliance that could be expected from a tale about the relationship between a precocious teen and a 450 pound tiger.

Now out as a film by Ang Lee, *Life of Pi* is a book that demands reading first.

*By Beth Oliver, 13BCU*



# COLLEGE NEWS



## 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 £4.00 per session)



For further information call:  
Mrs Burke on 01733 254030

**FIRST VISIT AND  
INDUCTION FREE**

## Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics

Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics has been a recent success with both the boys and girls winning their events at Stanground. The team sheets were very strong indeed and included the likes of Oliver Allan, Joe Mills, Anna Warrington and Lia Cataldo. All that took part did very well, especially in events such as the 4x2 lap relay, the Shot Put and the Vertical Jump. These people now join the Year 7/8 girls in the County finals at St Ives School which takes place on 6 March 2013 and we wish them luck to bring home a trophy.

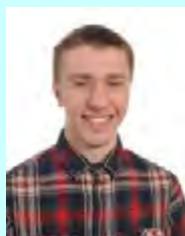
*By Harry Jackson 13SCO  
Aspiring Sports Journalist*



*Pictured above: Katie Rowe, Mia Purnell, Natalie Smith, Harley Meadows, Oliver Foster, Oliver Allan, Jake Peachey, Joe Mills*

## Congratulations

To Dan Mutton in Year 13 who has reached the semi finals of Sky One's "Got to Dance". The final of the competition is in March.



## New York, New York

The Daily Mail published an article last week condemning school trips to New York as a waste of time. In that context, this seventh trip for Media studies A Level students was weird because we seemed to have an amazingly educational time. Between Wednesday afternoon when we arrived and Saturday afternoon when we left, the trip incorporated a film-making session with a successful Manhattan based film and music video production company, Hayden 5, which followed a tour of film and TV locations around the city, looking at technical - and practical - aspects of filming in a major city in which film and TV is a \$5 billion industry. Our guide, Gary, even had a couple of lines in the recent blockbuster movie, 'The Bourne Legacy'!

We also took in architecture and design – visiting the amazing newly built Museum of Moving Image in Queens and the even newer Jay Z owned Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where we watched the Brooklyn Nets beat the Chicago Bulls in an NBA showdown.

The previous evening, we checked out Manhattan's subcultural scene, watching The Vaccines bring their UK indie rock to an adoring crowd of New York 'hipsters'. On the last day, we paid our respects at Ground Zero, bizarrely described by the tour guide as a 'sacred' site, alongside a group of Amish visitors, an intriguing clash between the modern vibrancy of New York and the simple rural life of a community who embrace a way of life so traditional that they don't even own cars. It remains a solemn and moving reminder of the clash of ideologies which has marked the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, though it was hard not to laugh at our tickets, which were booked under Arthur Mellows Village Cottage. Americans have such a charming view of life in England. A splinter group also took in the delights of the Metropolitan Museum of Art which featured works from classical times through to the European Renaissance, and Modern Artists such as Andy Warhol.

As ever, the students were a pleasure to be with, and infectiously excitable as they enjoyed each and every aspect of New York life. On our return, one student described it as the best 4 days of her life, which says it all. A waste of time? Hardly.

*Mr Zaidi*





## JAXON SIMMONS SWIMMING

Jaxon Simmons (8KCL) is making big strides in the world of swimming and England Disability swimming.

Jaxon did not start swimming competitively until the end of Year 6, when he was spotted at school swimming sessions. He then began attending sessions at the Regional Pool. His strength comes from his determination and natural athleticism, which is a result of him not letting his eyesight problems get to him, and his competing in Athletics and Football all through junior school. Jaxon is now training up to 12 hours a week with the City of Peterborough swimming team. He competes regularly in individual and club galas whilst also being called on to represent Team East - The East of England Disability swimming team. As a swimmer of this calibre, Jaxon regularly receives visits from the ASA England Swimming Disability team workers, who monitor his progress and work with his coach. As a result of these visits Jaxon has now been invited on the ASA Talent Development programme. Athletes selected for the Home Nations Talent programme are seen as potentially possessing the skills and ability to progress onto the British Disability Swimming World Class programme. The programme will provide opportunities to develop his talent and help him progress to the highest level possible.

Jaxon currently holds the record for his classification S13 (visually impaired) in the following races for 50m, 100m freestyle and 100m and 200m individual medley, which he set recently during the Nationals held at Sheffield in November 2012.

In March, this year, Jaxon will be swimming in the British Gas International swim meet in Leeds, where his focus will be freestyle and individual medley races. We wish Jaxon the best of luck at the British Gas International and with his current target to represent GB at the next Paralympics.

*By Mrs Wouldham, LSA*

## Peterborough's Young Footballer of the Year?

Being an English teacher, I do not really know much about football. I can just about kick a ball around ... but it doesn't usually end up where I want it to go! So why am I writing about it?

Last January (2012) I was waiting for the then 10x3 now 11x3 to slouch/crawl/drag their feet into the room, but there was one person missing. During a friendly kick about in the Christmas holidays, Megan Parrett in 11CCU seriously broke her leg, so much so that they warned her it was limb threatening.

Obviously this would be scary for anyone, but since she was very young, football has always been a passion of Megan's - even being spotted by the Chelsea training programme when she was 9. She was also half way through her first season with Milton Keynes Dons girls Centre of Excellence u17s. The thought of not playing anymore was awful. Megan had many operations and 2 blood transfusions and said that every time she woke up she would feel to check her leg was there. Luckily, the doctors managed to save her leg, but told her she would never play football again.

Megan was completely devastated, but worked extremely hard in physio, training and rehab of her leg, and over many months beat the Doctor's diagnosis and began to kick the ball around again. But even that wasn't quite enough. With continued physio, Megan set a goal to get back into the MK Dons girls Centre of Excellence. After a short trial period she was offered a place again and now trains two nights a week and plays weekend matches too, against the best girls' teams in the country.

As a result of all this hard work and dedication, Megan has been impressing the people of Peterborough. Recently, she has been nominated for Young Footballer of the Year in the Peterborough Telegraph (this honour has never been won by a girl). Megan has made the final three thanks to all the support she has received, so fingers crossed that she wins it for the icing of the cake of a hard come back.

So even if I don't know very much about football, what I do know is that Megan is an absolute model of what you can do if you work hard and put your mind to something. Well done Megan.

*By Miss Baker, English Teacher*



## County Schools Cross Country



Another term meaning more success for the school, and as per usual, it comes in the form of cross country. The County Schools Cross Country, which took place at Kings School, Ely, was certainly not to be missed. The day consisted of close races and even though none of our students won their individual races, 8 of them, including Greg Dunn, Charlotte Harris and Olly Shackleton, now have a place on the Cambs County School Team. This is a huge achievement for the school and next month, the students will be running at Anglian in Grantham and we wish them all the best.

Year	Boys	Girls
7	Olly Shackleton	Anna Warrington, Emma Hickling
8 and 9		Imogen Woodard, Serena Korkmaz
10 and 11	Damian Rutterford, Ryan Hunter	Aisling Ruff
12 and 13	Greg Dunn, Grady Wing	Shannon Ruff, Charlotte Harris

*By Harry Jackson 13SCO  
Aspiring Sports Journalist*