



# Wellington

SCHOOL

## Annual Report 2020





# Introduction

This has been a year like no other, but there is much to celebrate and this report aims to provide an insight into all that has happened, both before and after the Coronavirus lockdown. The doors may have closed in March, but the school has remained well and truly open online. In extraordinary times, the teachers and the pupils have shown themselves to be endlessly adaptable, innovative and determined. It can be in difficult times when the strength of a community shines through most powerfully. A lot happens in a year and I hope that you enjoy reading about just some of the academic achievements, the sporting successes, the performances and the trips that have made the 2019 - 2020 session so special.

Simon Johnson  
*Headmaster*

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*Each report has been written by the Head of Department, sometimes with input from departmental staff. Due to the length of the school year, not to mention that teachers are busy teaching, there can sometimes be irregularities or omissions. We always try our utmost to ensure this is not the case, but if you do notice something awry, please do not hesitate to contact [press@wellingtonschool.org](mailto:press@wellingtonschool.org) so that we can update the Annual Report.*





# Curricular Report 2019

## SQA Results

*Gail Johnston, Assistant Head (Director of Studies)*

As a school that is proud of its academic success, at Wellington we are pleased to have some of the best individual results in Scotland – striving always to ensure every pupil achieves his or her best possible outcome. As a small school, we realise the importance of celebrating individual success as well as looking at the school's overall statistics.

SQA results once again compare favourably to National Standards and to standards reported for the Independent Sector.

Further, at Wellington School, our National 5 students study eight National 5 subjects, when many local authority schools offer only six. Wellington pupils are able to enjoy curriculum breadth and enhanced subject choice as a result.

### 6th Year Advanced Higher Report

Overall, our Sixth Year pupils achieved a 91% pass rate at Advanced Higher. This was once again well above the national average of 79%. 48% of students were awarded an A, with 6 students achieving three or more straight A grade passes at Advanced Higher. Our pupils were just as successful when reviewing their destination Universities.

Our Sixth Year pupils all secured offers for their chosen University course. 26% of our S6 pupils commenced courses in Humanities, Languages and Law, 23% in Business, 14% in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, 6% in Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry, 6% in Architecture and Design, 6% in Music, Theatre and Art and 6% in Teaching. 50% secured places at Russell Group Universities, 13% of students secured places at Stirling, with St Andrew's and Strathclyde being examples of other destinations.

Twelve out of sixteen departments, offering Advanced Higher, recorded a 100% pass rate. Twenty eight out of thirty one S6 pupils (90%) achieved one or more Advanced Higher.

S6 Advanced Higher Examinations	2019			2018			2017		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	48%	22%	21%	52%	24%	18%	57%	32%	3%
National Results at Advanced Higher	31%	24%	22%	32%	26%	22%	32%	25%	23%

### S5 Higher Report

In S5, the 2019 results were just as impressive as in previous years. From a cohort of forty one pupils, twenty nine percent of our pupils achieved straight A grade passes in five or more subjects. The A-C pass rate at Wellington School in S5, at Higher level was 90%, fifteen percent above the national average of 74%. SQA focus on recognising positive achievement, and at Wellington we are extremely proud that many of our students perform individually well and are achieving the marks required that contribute to the overall pass rate.

S5 Higher Examinations	2019			2018			2017		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	56%	40%	10%	54%	25%	16%	54%	27%	15%
National Results at Higher	28%	24%	22%	28%	25%	23%	29%	26%	23%

### National 5

The National 5 examinations produced a 92% pass rate at A-C, compared to 78% nationally, with an impressive 68% of A grade awards, which is 33% above the national average. From a cohort of forty one pupils, more than one third achieved eight A grade passes at National 5.

S4 National 5 Examinations	2019			2018			2017		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	68%	14%	10%	70%	17%	7%	69%	21%	6%
National Results at N5	35%	24%	19%	35%	23%	19%	37%	24%	19%

The results achieved across S4, 5 and 6 is a collective achievement of which we should be extremely proud. Staff and pupils have worked hard all year round and through Supported Study and individual pupil support, all pupils have the best possible educational opportunities. Tailored school trips, educational exchange visits, musical tours, school shows, visiting lecturers, and curricular competitions offer an exciting programme of a well-rounded education, that is second to none. While I reflect on the 2019 academic performance, at the time of writing, we have all experienced the most unusual Term and of course, the 2020 diet of examinations was cancelled, along with many exciting trips and opportunities. Wellington on-line very quickly ensured that our pupils did not miss out academically. S4 moved on to their Higher choices, with S2 following suit, embarking with National 5 choices. The success of our on-line provision was very much down to the hard work and dedication of the staff across both the Senior and Junior Schools. We very much hope that the 2020 results will be just as impressive. Staff worked tirelessly to collate Prelim evidence and to meet SQA deadlines for 'refined estimates'. Every pupil, who sat examinations in the 2019 diet, is to be commended for their hard work.

'The success of all our students at all levels of attainment deserves praise. Whilst examination results are important, we are equally committed to the all-round education, health and well-being of our students'.





Elouisa Cairns - Melting Ice Creams

# Art & Design

*Joyce Morton, Head of Department*

It has been another very successful year in Art and Design. The department is always a hive of activity and we never cease to be inspired by the innovation and creativity shown by our young artists and designers.

## Competitions

Our pupils have been recognised in national competitions. Elouisa Cairns was awarded 1st place in the Scottish National Galleries of Art Schools Competition. Her painting was displayed in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, throughout the summer of 2019, before travelling to other exhibition venues in Scotland. Elouisa's striking image of melting ice creams features in the 2020 Scottish National Galleries Schools calendar.

Amber Brodie in S1 was highly commended in the Royal Scottish Academy School Art Awards for her outstanding painting of a winter forest. This highly regarded competition receives entries from schools throughout Scotland.



Amber Brodie - Winter Forest

Ella Snowden in S4 and Iona Marquez-Higgins in S1 were selected for the prestigious Royal Academy in London, Young Artists' Summer Show. Their work will feature in the online exhibition in July. The judges were a panel of award winning artists including artist and Royal Academician Cathie Pilkington and Eliza Bonham Carter, Curator and Head of RA Schools. This year there were over 17,000 entries from schools across the UK.

## South Ayrshire Schools Exhibition

S4-S6 pupils exhibited in the MacLaurin Art Gallery in December in the South Ayrshire secondary schools exhibition. Ayesha Nur S6 and former pupil Fiona Sykes were awarded Highly Commended prizes.

## Erasmus

The art department has continued to be involved in Erasmus projects this year and a highlight of this year was our S2 pupils having the opportunity to exhibit their photography at the St. Stanislaus Institute in Slovenia in a joint exhibition with pupils from Slovenia and Belgium.



Ella Snowden - Big Mac

## Visiting Artists and Designers

We were delighted to welcome back graphic designer Taylor Quate to work with P7 on an Erasmus logo design. Award winning milliner Pea Cooper also returned in October to give an excellent workshop to Higher Art pupils on millinery techniques.

Glass artist Leona Stewart worked with P6 on a stained glass project. This cross curricular project was led by S6 pupil Myah Neilson as part of her Baccalaureate in Modern languages.

## Virtual Art Classroom

Wellington School art exhibition scheduled for March was postponed and we look forward to rescheduling this when circumstances allow. Our art pupils have enjoyed exhibiting their work virtually through our social media feeds. One of the recent highlights of the virtual art class was The Getty Challenge. As we were unable to take trips to art galleries our pupils made recreations of famous paintings using props at home.

## S6 Art Captains

In addition to producing outstanding Advanced Higher art work, our S6 Art Captains Ellie Haye and Ayesha Nur have worked hard to inspire our younger pupils. They ran a lunch time art club for P7 pupils to create decorations for the school Christmas Fair raising funds for our school charity Epilepsy Scotland. Ayesha mentored Mrs Morton's S2 Art class and Ellie inspired Primary 7 with question and answer sessions on her work. We will miss our wonderful Art Captains and wish them every success in the future.

Mrs Morton and Mrs Hunter continue to demonstrate a commitment to delivering learning and teaching that reflects current national standards through undertaking roles with SQA.



S6 Art Captian Ayesha Nur



S6 Art Captain Ellie Haye's Artwork



# Classics

*Charles Dudgeon, Head of Department*

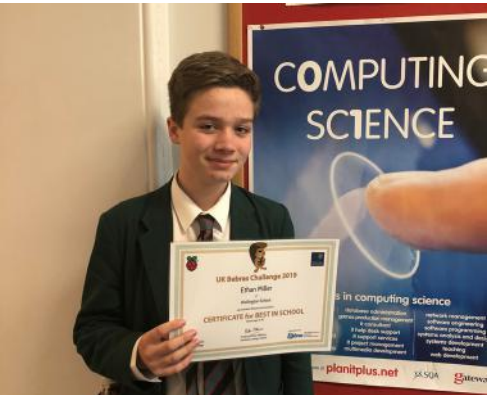
Last session closed with the annual visit to Hadrian's Wall. This time it was a joint trip with S1 and S3. We toured the site at Housesteads, walked the wall (well a bit of it), saw the best preserved Roman toilet this side of the Alps, dressed up as Roman soldiers, and had our fish supper from those lovely ladies in Longtown. When asked what was the highlight of the trip, the pupils all agreed - "The bus". So next year, we are just going to hire a Dodds bus and drive around Ayr for three hours!

In all seriousness, sadly the present S1 did not visit the Wall because of the lockdown, so next year we will make it up to them, and I promise that they will get their trip.

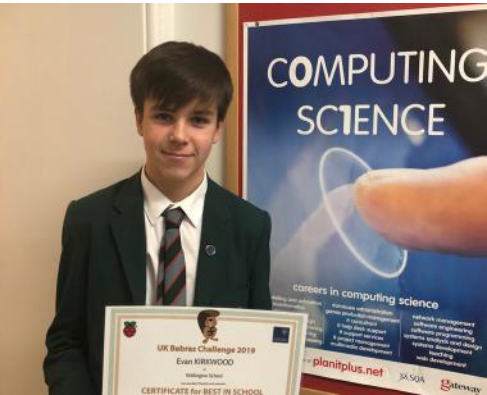
We are still hoping to expand our archaeological links with Archaeology Scotland to explore a part of the Antonine Wall or possibly the odd Roman remain in the west of Scotland. Recent research has uncovered a Roman fort near Skelmorlie, and possibly a Roman harbour at Hunterston. Again, the pandemic lockdown has put these plans on hold.

In Higher Latin we changed one of the books we study. Instead of looking at Cicero's speech, we are now exploring Pliny's description of the eruption of Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii. This has allowed the use of lots of videos and consideration of the latest theories about what happened during the eruption in AD79.

As I write this, we are in lockdown amidst the trauma (a Greek word for wound incidentally) of the corona virus pandemic (another Greek word). One small benefit to come from it is that it forced me to look for more innovative ways of teaching, and delivering resources. It is amazing how many videos, articles and interest there are related to the classical world and how we can adapt to the challenging times.



Ethan Miller



Evan Kirkwood



James Watson & Euan Graham with Mr Johnson

# Computing

*Stephen O'Connell, Head of Department*

During the week of 11 November 2019, P7 to S5 pupils took part in the 2019 Bebras Challenge.

This is an international competition which involves solving problems using computational thinking skills and it is organised in over 40 countries. In the UK alone, there were over 250,000 participants.

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation, Merit or Distinction. Whilst the emphasis is on participation, it is also important to recognise top performing students.

Best in School certificates are presented to:

For the Junior Challenge	James Watson
For the Intermediate Challenge	Evan Kirkwood
For the Senior Challenge	Ethan Miller
For the Elite Challenge	Euan Graham





# English

*Daniel Howie, Head of Department*

Every year brings change and this year, one change was of particular significance: Mrs Suzanne Ulph left the English Department after almost twenty years at Wellington. She will be fondly remembered by so many staff and pupils. In turn, we have welcomed Ms Kirsty Bellwood to the department.

In English, each year brings with it fresh opportunities to encourage reading and responding to texts in original, creative ways. This year has been no different, and we continued to do this in the context of the First Minister's Reading Challenge by asking S1-S3 pupils to read as many fiction and non-fiction texts as possible and record these on classroom wall displays. S1 and S2 also presented to their peers about a book of their choice in any format they wished, and responses ranged from posters to cake baking.

Our weekly Book Club run by Mrs Bruce continues to grow; last year this was an S1 effort, and this year pupils from other year groups were invited and regularly attended. Book reviews from members of the group featured in The Turret. Going forward, we will be opening this club up to all year groups. Furthermore, Mr Smith launched a weekly creative writing club that was frequently attended by P7 upwards. In class, we trialled a weekly ten-minute creative writing session with S1 pupils; they enjoyed the freedom to write what they wanted on a regular basis and we plan to make this a regular activity in future.

We always actively encourage pupils to enter national competitions, and in the context of writing, we challenged S3 to complete a piece of historical fiction which was entered into the Young Walter Scott Prize if the pupil wished. All entrants received encouraging feedback from their submissions, and we will be making this a permanent fixture of the S3 course for the foreseeable future.

Speaking of competitions, no year would be complete in the English Department without our ongoing enthusiasm for, and participation in, debating and public speaking. First and foremost, special mention must go to the outstanding efforts of our Debating Captain Meera Mohankrishnan, and our Deputy Debating Captain, Emma Stevenson. The girls breathed new life into the weekly Junior Debating Club, which saw attendance at a record high across P7-S3, and worked incredibly hard to coach pupils for national competitions. This renewed enthusiasm was expertly supported by the return of former Debating Captain Callum Duffy, who planned and delivered advanced coaching to all Senior School pupils at weekly after-school sessions, in the established British Parliamentary format. Additionally, coaching

experts Stand Out Speaking returned to provide their own engaging inputs.

Perhaps the biggest change with regard to debating this year, was its incorporation into our S1 curriculum in the form of weekly lessons that culminated in twelve pupils taking part in the new 'S1 Debate' in November. Generously (and entertainingly) chaired by Mrs Bradley and Mrs Carlyle, with Naomi Cecchini on timekeeping duties, our S1 debaters delighted their peers in two passionate rounds of debate on the pressing issues of the merits of vegetarianism, and whether Santa Claus is a good role model for children. Congratulations to the winning team of Jonathan Dunn, Ellis Porter and Jake Woodhouse. The S1 Debate will return next year and we are now planning similar debates in other year groups.

As always, our pupils entered national debating and public speaking competitions and enjoyed success in this regard. In the ESU Juniors' Debate two teams competed well, consisting of Enid Malloy and Jonathan Dunn, and Emily Taylor and Callum Peat. Well done to Emily and Callum, who progressed to the second round of the competition. In the ESU Public Speaking competition, Zoe Thomson and Emily Stribling (Juniors) and Gabby McLatchie and Grace Woodhouse (Seniors) competed; congratulations to Zoe Thomson who progressed to the national final. Perhaps most notably, Anubha Bal and Meera Mohankrishnan finished as semi-finalists in the Law Society's Donald Dewar Memorial Debate, their second time achieving this impressive result. Mr Howie thoroughly enjoyed coaching them throughout the year.

We continued to enhance our learning and teaching experience by offering additional excursions and extra-curricular experiences for our pupils. In September, our Advanced Higher students visited the Oran Mor for the well-known event, 'A Play, A Pie and a Pint'. This was followed by a visit to the library of the University of Glasgow, to access this useful resource to support their wider reading for the Literary Study and Dissertation components. Our department collaborated with Modern Languages and Art, in having S2 pupils write an accompanying description of a photo collage, as part of the Erasmus 'Small Countries, Strong Cultures' project.

Finally, congratulations to our subject prize winners this year: Callum Byers for his mature imaginative piece that won the MacDonald Creative Writing Prize; Anubha Bal's outstanding performance at Higher level that earned her the Rosebowl for English; and Amy Barbour, whose continued profundity and dedication won her the prize for Advanced Higher.



S4 visit to Paper Mill & Gales Hotel



S4 visit to Paper Mill & Gales Hotel



AH Business visit to Escape Rooms

# Enterprise Education

*Linda Munn, Head of Business Studies & Accounting*

The Business Studies department enjoyed another busy year both on the academic and extra-curricular front.

## S4 Business Management and Accounting visit to Paper Mill and Gales Hotel.

In September the S4 Business Management and Accounting classes, accompanied by Mrs Munn and Mrs Carlyle, experienced a very informative visit to the Caledonian Paper Mill followed by the Gales Hotel - both in Irvine. This allowed the pupils to compare and contrast two very different types of businesses organisations. During the visit the hosts provided a very formative guided tour of the premises where the pupils were able to gain an insight into manufacturing and service sector organisations in operation. Experiencing these environments helps pupils see the theory they learn in the classroom being put into practice in a live working environment. Perhaps the highlight of the visit was, before returning to school, they were able to enjoy lunch in a restaurant of their choice - McDonalds!

## AH Business Management - Escape Room Visit

Prior to commencing the “teams” topic in the course, which explores the stages of team development, Belbin’s team roles and the importance of team working, the AH class, accompanied by Mrs Munn, Mr Byers and Mrs Carlyle, were treated to a real “team” experience at the Escape Rooms in Ayr. The challenge was very appropriate - to escape from the “abandoned academy” within 60 minutes. Set in a very old classroom there were many clues to solve and codes to break. The pupils worked tirelessly in unison and harmony to overcome the challenge and escaped from the room in 53 minutes and 12 seconds - all in one piece! This visit was enjoyed by all and was a real fun experience, but it did bring home the importance of team working and recognising the different contributions that everyone brought to the task.

## S2 Fair Trade Event

The annual Fair Trade event was another highlight, with pupils displaying excellent awareness of the principles of Fair Trade as well as creativity, teamwork and an ability to make a profit (all of which was donated to the S6 Charity - Alzheimer Scotland). This

year our pupil’s creativity shone through with some very innovative ideas on show. These ranged from creative stalls and promotional techniques which they used to attract customers to their stalls.

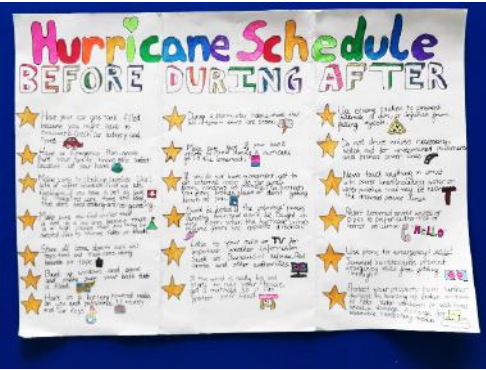
## Online Lions’ Lair (Wellington’s own Dragons’ Den)

The purpose of this event was to allow the S3 Business Management pupils to put their marketing knowledge into practice. However, due to lockdown we were not able to carry out this task in the usual way but still wanted to give the pupils an opportunity to express their creativity and subject knowledge. Pupils were paired, then challenged with devising a new sandwich for the fast food chain - Subway. They were required to carry out market research online and devise a marketing plan for their new product. Each pair had to present their final proposal, via google meet, to Mrs Munn and Mrs Carlyle who then had the very tough task of choosing a winner. It was very encouraging to see all pupils engage with the task, work collaboratively online and exercise excellent IT skills. Overall winners were Libby White and Eve Littlejohn for their excellent presentation and innovative ideas. Bhuvan Kandimalla and Jack Craig were awarded the “best concept” prize for their new sandwich - the Breakfast Beast.

## German exchange “Enterprise Day”

Mr Byers conducted a very successful Enterprise Day during the German Exchange visit in early March. The theme for the day was “Success”. Pupils from Wellington and their German counterparts worked together on a variety of tasks designed to foster discussion on how we define, measure and celebrate success. This culminated in each team creating and delivering a short school assembly which “sells” exchange programmes to younger students. They also devised a poster campaign which promotes school exchange programmes/ERASMUS. All tasks aimed to develop team working, communication and business skills.

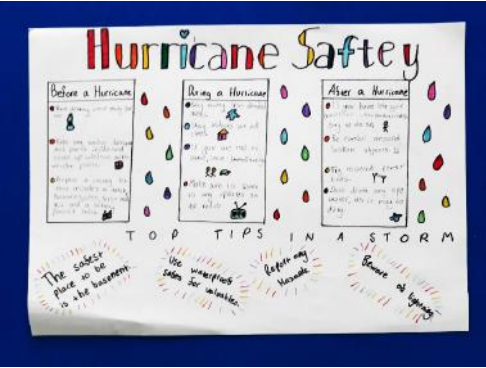




P7 Research on Hurricanes



P7 Research on Hurricanes



P7 Research on Hurricanes

# Geography

*Richard Ledingham, Head of Department*

## Curricular News

I am delighted to report on another successful year of innovation and opportunity in the Geography Department, all of which started with the comprehensive refurbishment of Room 11 back in August. As a contemporary and wide-ranging subject, we have the ability to cover a diverse number of topics across our year groups, allowing all pupils to gain new skills and experiences, as they set, meet, and exceed their own personal targets.

## Primary 7

P7 pupils started their senior school education with an introduction to one of Geography's most iconic components – Atlas and Ordnance Survey Map Skills. This work, set in our real world surroundings, broadens knowledge of place, and will soon be enhanced further with the introduction of GPS & Geocaching activities, thanks to the recent acquisition of new technologies. The second unit saw the pupils working digitally, in what is retrospectively an incredibly beneficial coincidence, as they completed a research based unit on Hurricanes – how do we name them, how do we measure them, and perhaps most importantly, how can we predict, prepare and plan for them?

Thanks in part to the piloting of this “paper-free” topic, the pupils made the transition to home learning seamlessly when schools across the country were forced to shut their doors at the end of March. The pupils not only maintained their previous work ethic but have revelled in the final unit of the P7 course – Geography: Mission Explore. This fieldwork based topic encourages children to look for geographical significance in their everyday lives – whether it be the international trade of household objects, the accessibility of their local town or an exploration of the changes that have taken place in their neighbourhood over the last century using digital mapping software.

## S1

S1 pupils completed their Weather unit between August and December. In addition to learning about various aspects of the UK's ever-changing meteorological conditions they undertook a series of fieldwork experiments around the school grounds to establish the nature of our micro-climate and subsequently used this first-hand data to formulate their

own presentations. Following this, the pupils completed a new unit on Kenya – A Developing Country. This detailed case study allowed pupils to investigate one of Africa's most famous, and yet largely unknown, countries through studies on population structure, pressures on urban areas, the struggles of rural tribes and the emerging industries that are driving development – tea, flowers and tourism.

The final, online, unit covered World Biomes and focused primarily on the Tropical Rainforests and Hot Deserts. An analysis of the locations, climates and the flora & fauna was rounded off with a project to build either a Triarama, a Shoebox Jungle or a working Rainforest in a bottle.

## S2

As with the previous year groups, the S2 course is designed to cover all aspects of modern Geography - physical, human and global issues – in keeping with the demands of SQA courses further up the school. In contrast to Kenya, the pupils started their year studying Japan – A Developed Country. After a thorough examination of the Japanese economy, population and culture the pupils prepared a detailed presentation on the nature of environmental pollution caused by Japan's world dominating industries. The middle part of the year was given over to the study of Earth Forces – as pupils discovered the theoretical setting of our planet's raw power and the awesome impact of natural hazards such as Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Whether it be playing a game of “Rock eBay”, designing and testing earthquake proof buildings or researching and presenting information on a devastating past event, this is always a popular unit for staff and pupils alike.

The switch to remote learning came after pupils had already chosen their subjects for National 5, so the focus at the end of the year was on building skills and their online capacity for in depth learning – including virtual assessments and extended writing.

## National 5

Continuing to benefit from a two year National 5 course the pupils in both S3 and S4 have worked diligently since August. The third year cohort covered a range of topics from all aspects of the subject, finishing the year with a new unit on Climate Change – which provided another excellent opportunity for virtual work. Recently they completed a digital “Jamboard” very successfully in place of the normal cut and stick activity in their workbook – a fantastic effort by all and not a single piece of paper on the classroom floor or missing glue lid – there are definitely some benefits to our “new normal”.

Meanwhile the S4 pupils started their year by completing their course assignments using the data that they had collected at Loch Lomond prior to the summer holidays. With these successfully accomplished their attention shifted towards the Prelims and finishing the course. Whilst many were genuinely saddened at the prospect of no summer exam, they had already proven their abilities across the course and took a short but well-earned rest prior to commencing their new Higher courses. As with all other subjects in the school our geographers have benefitted massively from the advanced use of technology and the ability to start new courses almost immediately – ensuring that more than ever before, they are better prepared than most pupils in Scotland when it comes to completing units. Whilst other schools will now struggle with the ability to cover the course, we have already had a month long headstart and extensive plans are in place to continue the highest quality learning in August – regardless of the pupils physical location in the blended learning model of home and school.



## Higher

The Higher course is always a whirlwind affair as eleven content laden units must be covered prior to the commencement of exam leave – this “race to the finish” was further exacerbated by the SQA’s decision to move the Higher Geography exam forward by a full month compared to last year, reducing the time pupils would have to consolidate their learning after Easter. I am proud to report that the pupils rose to this challenge and worked tirelessly to ensure that they not only completed the work but did so in detail, seeking additional support when necessary. As has become tradition, the Assignment Fieldtrip took place following an initial postponement due to inclement weather. However, the pupils performed admirably when collecting and analysing this data to complete their coursework pieces. Perhaps the most encouraging sign of a dedicated cohort, and an enjoyable year, is the high number of pupils choosing to continue with Geography at Advanced Higher – the largest for nearly a decade.

## Advanced Higher

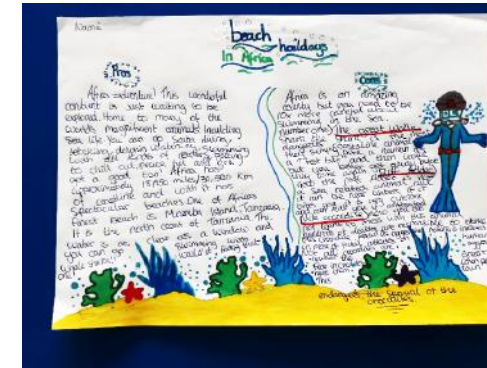
Following the annual residential fieldwork weekend, the Advanced Higher pupils focussed on the creation of their folio pieces. This year’s topics included essays on the drought contingency plans along the length of the Colorado River and the new wave of deforestation taking place in the Amazon Rainforest, led by Brazil’s somewhat controversial President Jair Bolsonaro. The investigative fieldwork studies covered comparisons of neighbouring coastal environments via the innovative exploration of sediment transfer rates and off-shore bathymetric measurements and a fascinating examination of the River Irvine that included a chemical analysis and biogeographical evaluation. It is just a shame that these excellent pieces of work will not be read by a wider audience, as the SQA cancelled the submission of coursework in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, these outstanding pupils are now well prepared for what lies ahead of them and we wish them all the best.

## Other News

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak this year’s Scottish Association of Geography Teachers Worldwide Quiz was cancelled. This is especially frustrating as our ascent up the National Rankings from 4th in 2018 to 2nd in 2019 had suggested a win for us this year. Nevertheless, work will soon begin on building a strong team to ensure victory in 2021 instead!

In addition, the bi-annual trip to Iceland in March was also postponed. However, after a great deal of effort by all concerned, we are delighted to say that this has now been rescheduled for June 2021, ensuring that this cohort of pupils will not only experience the amazing beauty and wonder of Iceland’s geological power but also soak up a little bit of midnight sun.

There is no doubt that when we return to school in August our working lives will be significantly different. However, I am confident that our pupils will rise to the occasion, and that everything we have learnt in the last few months will only seek to strengthen the provision of education offered by the department to those in our care. It is definitely an exciting time to be a geographer at Wellington School.



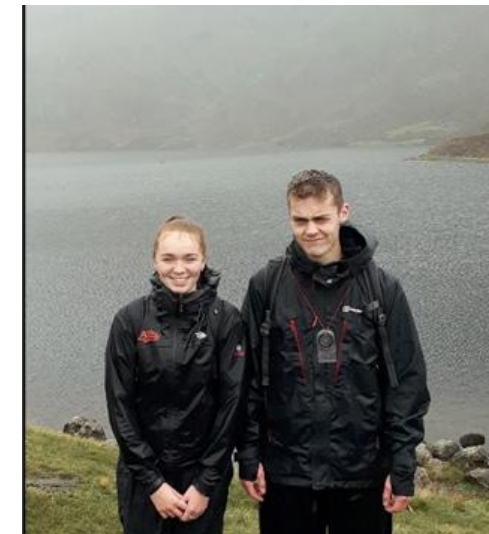
S1 Learning Unit - Kenya - A Developing Country



S2 Learning Unit - Earth Forces



Higher Geography Fieldtrip



Advanced Higher Fieldwork





# History

*Amy Hyslop, Head of Department*

June 2019

## Primary 7 History Trip to The Bannockburn Centre, Stirling

Mrs Shaw organised and led our annual trip to the popular Bannockburn Centre. Pupils received a guided tour to examine the area surrounding the triumph of Scotland in the 1314 Battle of Bannockburn. Pupils also took part in an interactive 3-D digital battle workshop which allowed the class to be in the middle of a medieval battle. Other activities which enhanced their experience on site included: object handling, role play and decision-making exercise. Unfortunately, our 2020 trip has been cancelled due to the current pandemic.

September 2019

## S4 Joint Trip with History and Modern Studies to London

Our annual Social Subjects cross curricular trip took place in September. History pupils visited the Museum of London Docklands and took part in a slavery research trail. On the second day, pupils enjoyed an engaging tour of Westminster and visited the Emmeline Pankhurst monument. This supported their study of British political history and the Atlantic Slave Trade unit in National 5 History. Pupils were able to make several cross-curricular connections with both subjects throughout the trip as well as enjoying the sites of London and a popular show.

November 2019

## S2 Poppy Remembrance

On Friday 8th November and Monday 11th November 2019 Mr Bardsley and Mrs Shaw presented a power point presentation to all S2 pupils on the significance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and how poppies grew in the northern plains of France and Belgium, where some of the deadliest battles took place. The pupils discovered that the idea came from a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant John McCrae, who wrote the poem called 'In Flanders Fields'. We also examined the other point of view of people who disagree with the red poppy and this led to thought provoking debates. The pupils really engaged in this

lesson and the aim was to make them fully aware of the importance of honoring all who have fallen in war since the Great War of 1914-1918. The classes discussed whether we should celebrate or commemorate those who have died. This meant that when S2 attended the assembly on Monday 11th to reflect on and remember the sacrifice of men and women they had a greater understanding, and in the following lessons that week, more discussion took place of what they had learned from the Remembrance Assembly.

November 2019

## S6 Advanced Higher History Trip to Auschwitz, Poland

This year the Department organised a new and exciting trip which adheres to our studies of World War One and the Holocaust. Miss MacGlade and our History pupils travelled to Poland to take part in a prestigious 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project. On their trip pupils heard from a holocaust survivor and took part in a workshop with other students on the site. In January, two of our History scholars, Cameron Murray and Katie Brennan delivered a very impressive and emotive presentation during a whole school assembly to showcase their work and share their reflections of the experience.

June 2020

## Battlefields Overseas Trip

Unfortunately, our new Battlefields trip (again, organised by Miss MacGlade) which was scheduled to take place in June 2020 has been cancelled due to the current pandemic. We hope to reinstate this trip in our future plans. The trip will be to France and Belgium for five days and visit various war museums, monuments and relevant historical sites. This will serve to further expand pupil knowledge bases and their experience of history. I am sure Miss MacGlade's stalwart endeavours have not been in vein, as we hope to make this a regular event every few years following, what we hope to be a successful first trip.



# House Reports

*Margaret Newall, House Coordinator*

The most significant event this year was the start of the new House Points system in the Senior School. Points are awarded for house tokens and first through third places at house events. The table of winners and the overall winning house are shown below.

At the start of the year, all staff and pupils heard about the new system at an assembly. Mr McCall built and labelled 4 tubes for collecting the house point tokens. All teachers had a supply of green house tokens to give to pupils. Pupils were enthusiastic about collecting and depositing their tokens throughout the year.

During this abbreviated school year, two Interhouse activity days were held. The usual events were held plus a new Interhouse Board Games competition held on Interhouse Day 2.

The House Coordinators would like to thank all staff and house captains who helped supervise activities throughout the year. Thank you to Mr Ledingham who assisted Mrs Newall this year while Mrs Penton was on maternity leave.

In a change, this year two house charity days were held on the two Interhouse Activity Days, one in October and the other in February. The third charity day was held in December and the annual staff Christmas coffee morning was held in addition to other fundraising activities.

Results through 20th March, 2020

Interhouse Event	Winning House	House Points Totals
Junior and senior rugby, junior badminton, senior quiz, junior football, senior board games, tied for senior badminton	Churchill	1789
Junior chess, senior football, tied for senior badminton	Curie	1605
Interhouse Debate, junior and senior basketball, tied for junior quiz, junior and senior hockey, basketball and netball, senior chess, junior board games	Montgomery	1841
Tied for junior quiz	Nightingale	1462

The overall house points winner for 2019 to 2020 is Montgomery House with a total of 1841 points.

# House Guide



Churchill (CH)



Curie (CU)



Montgomery (MO)



Nightingale (ND)





# International Education & Modern Languages

*Susan Coontz, Head of Department & International Programme Manager*

This session our international programme has been very busy and two important anniversaries have been marked. We have celebrated the 30 year anniversary of our partnership with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, Germany and our 20 years of collaboration with the Institut Saint-Dominique, Mortefontaine, France.

A main highlight of the year was our German partnership anniversary celebrations which took place in Dortmund in December 2019 and again in Ayr in March 2020. Over forty pupils travelled in each direction, together with members of the school orchestras. At our joint concerts, Mr Johnson and Herr Weishaupt exchanged Time Capsules prepared by junior classes. These will be opened in 20 years' time at the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

During our exchange visit to Dortmund, younger participants visited the Borussia Dortmund stadium and the Christmas Markets in Dortmund and Bochum. Our senior German pupils made the most of the opportunity to spend time in classes with their hosts to improve their German. We hope to mark our anniversary with France in the coming months, conditions permitting.

Primary 7 and S1 pupils spent a week in France and Belgium in February practising their French and learning more about life in France. They visited a bakery, a chocolate factory, museums, the sealife centre in Boulogne and learned about World War One history.

Every September, we celebrate European Day of Languages. This session, the focus was on languages spoken within our school community and our Languages and International Captains made a video showing the range of languages spoken by both pupils and staff at Wellington.

In October, the school hosted an international conference and welcomed over 80 teachers from Europe and India.

Twenty pupils from S5 and S6 travelled to India during October half-term. The highlight, of course, was our visit to the Taj Mahal, which always exceeds expectations. While in Jaipur, we spent a day with our partner school, St Edmund's. Our pupils were introduced to some subjects not on the Wellington curriculum, for example, yoga and Bollywood dancing. The

most emotional event of the trip was a visit to a school in the Jaipur slums. Our pupils distributed cosy pullovers to the children in the school who often miss classes in winter as they have nothing warm to wear.

In November, Mrs Coontz was invited to London to receive the International School Award (Reaccreditation) and in March, Mr John Rolfe, MBE, British Council travelled to Ayr to present the Award again to the school during our Anniversary Concert. Much of our international work is supported by the British Council and Erasmus+. In August, our three-year Eurostronomia project comes to an end. Work with our partners in five European schools has been on-going since 2017. In September, a small group of pupils and staff went to Portugal to work with our partners on physics and astronomy experiments. The final pupil mobility was to have taken place during the Easter holidays but this had to be cancelled. Celebrating Success, our bilateral project with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, also draws to a close this summer. This project co-funded our visits to Germany for the Anniversary Exchange and Concerts. Smaller groups of pupils have also travelled between Scotland and Germany to work on aspects of the project. In 2019, we launched a new project, Small Countries Strong Cultures, together with our Slovenian and Belgian partners. In February, a group of pupils travelled to Slovenia to learn about Slovenian culture. This project will run until summer 2021. We have an application pending for FuturEnvironment, an Erasmus+ project which will fund work with Belgium, France, Germany, North Macedonia and Slovenia.

In 2020, we have increased our involvement with eTwinning. This is a closed online platform which allows pupils from over 40 countries to work together. Our Primary 4 pupils have contributed to Travelling Ted, Primary 7 have had great fun using their French to communicate with a class in Mons, Belgium and we have used eTwinning to collaborate with schools across Europe on an interdisciplinary project, 30 Days 30 Challenges, during the summer term. In addition, one of our S6 Scottish Baccalaureate candidates used the platform to organise her interdisciplinary project, Heroes, with a Primary 6 class. Our S6 Scottish Baccalaureate candidates have once again produced outstanding interdisciplinary projects. This year they have chosen to study Architecture, Crime in Scotland and France and the Rise of the Far Right in France and Spain.

In the summer term, pupils from S1 to S3 were given a time allowance taken from their language classes to make short films in a chosen foreign language. Most worked in friendship groups and produced a variety of genres ranging from stop-motion animations to puppets. Contributions went beyond the French, German and Spanish studied in school to include Japanese, Swedish and Turkish. The subjects covered were varied: life in lockdown, political commentary, a day in my life at schools, my pets, etc.

Our S3 Spanish class has made a vlog to share with our Spanish partner school and two senior pupils have worked with SAMMTALK on a virtual platform to share information with Spanish-speaking pupils in other countries.

UK-German Connection has awarded Wellington School a grant of £1000 to support pupil visits to the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund in 2020.

Our Foreign Languages Assistants this year were Mademoiselle Léa Masciocchi (French), Frau Luisa Grote (German) and Señora Nelly Herrera (Spanish). We also hosted Herr Kolja Klid, a German trainee teacher, for a three-month placement. Frau Grote led our very successful junior German Club, some of whose members sang two songs at the Anniversary Concert in the Town Hall.

We thank them for their hard work and valuable contribution to life at Wellington.





# Mathematics

*Peter Richmond, Head of Department*

This year has certainly been a memorable one, in more ways than one! As a department, we continued to perform well across the various mathematical competitions we took part in, both at individual and team level. A small number of pupils enjoyed taking part in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) monthly mentoring scheme, just one mathematical enrichment activity aimed at pupils with a strong ability in the subject, and we hope to revive the weekly Easy as Pi mathematics club from August.

## UKMT Mathematical Challenges

In the UKMT Mathematical Challenges, students have between 60 to 90 minutes to answer varied multiple-choice mathematical problems, with high scorers being awarded certificates to recognise their success in the subject. Pupils throughout Wellington won numerous Gold, Silver and Bronze awards across the various levels of the competition.

In the Senior Challenge (Nov 2019), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, over 80000 pupils from across the UK took part, with the top 60% nationally receiving a Gold (10%), Silver (20%) or Bronze (30%) certificate and each institution receiving a Best in School certificate. This year, at Wellington, Bronze Awards went to Callum Morrision (S5), Robyn Munro (S5) and Nickon Tajali (S6), with Silver Awards awarded to Issy Girgis (S5), Euan Graham (S5), Dillon Leahy (S6) and Callum Shinn (S6). Best in Year certificates were won by Issy and Callum, with Callum also achieving Best in School.

Over 250000 students from more than 3000 schools and colleges across the UK participated in the Intermediate Challenge (Feb 2020). David Bondar (S4), Cameron Hainey (S3), Rebecca Kelk (S3), Abigail McPartlin (S3) and Matthew Wardrop (S3) all gained Bronze Awards, whilst Silver Awards were achieved by Cameron Holland (S3), Noah O'Brien (S3) and Lucy Haye (S4), who also attained a Best in Year certificate. Catriona Smith (S3) continued her fine form in mathematical competitions, achieving a Gold Award alongside Yiming Sun (S3), who also won Best in Year and Best in School certificates. Both pupils were invited to take part in the UKMT's follow-on round, the Pink Kangaroo, and we await news of how they have fared once the UKMT offices at The University of Leeds reopen in the hopefully not-too-distant future.

The Junior Challenge usually takes place annually in April, but this year it was necessary to postpone this very popular event. Not to be outdone, the UKMT were delighted to announce that the event would go ahead in June, being taken online for the first time. Aimed at

children in S2 and below, this is certainly the most popular across the UK, with typically over 270000 pupils taking part in an attempt to gain a certificate at Gold (6%), Silver (13%) or Bronze (21%) level. Pupils from across S1 and S2 rose to the challenge of competing via technology this year, and we eagerly await news at the beginning of July as to their level of success.

## UKMT Team Challenge and Senior Team Challenge, and Enterprising Maths competition

The UKMT Team Challenge saw Jessica Haye (S1), Benjamin Richmond (S1), Callum Peat (S2) and Kathryn Taylor (S2) compete in a regional heat at the UWS, Paisley. Attending a number of lunchtime training sessions at school beforehand, they put in a first-rate effort on the day itself, taking part in 4 rounds across the competition: Group Round, Crossnumber, Shuttle and Relay. Meanwhile, the Senior Team of Anubha Bal (S5), Euan Graham (S5), Dillon Leahy (S6) and Callum Shinn (S6) were pleased to compete in their own regional heat earlier in the year, whilst Cameron Hainey (S3), Catriona Smith (S3), David Bondar (S4) and Amy Grassom (S4) participated in the annual Enterprising Mathematics competition, held at Hutchesons Grammar School.

## Scottish Mathematical Challenge

This year, pupils once again took part in the annual Scottish Mathematical Challenge, a problem-solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools (mainly P7). The competition is divided into 4 divisions, and this year we had pupils taking part in the Junior Division (S1 and S2) and the Primary Division (P7), with those in S1 and S2 completing two rounds of five problems, and primary pupils completing three sets of three questions. At the time of writing, we are awaiting news of how pupils have performed overall, with marking still to be completed and worthy certificate winners to receive these, along with any accompanying mugs, through schools. Unfortunately, formal prizegivings have been unable to take place this year, but we hope to reward pupils in the way they deserve, once we are able to, in our own way.

## Mathématiques Sans Frontières competition (6 March)

The ever-popular Mathématiques Sans Frontières whole-class competition took part in March, and Wellington once again took the opportunity to compete in this 'competition with a difference', working as a team within each competing class to tackle the puzzles within the allotted 90-minute timeframe. Aimed at motivating pupils in their studies, this stimulating and light-hearted international affair combines Mathematics and Modern Languages. It is aimed at S4-6 pupils and has been centrally run by the Académie de Strasbourg since 1989, involving a number of mathematical puzzles where one of the puzzles is posed, and must be answered, in a foreign language. Those in S4M1 attempted 10 questions, divided up between groups, before deciding on and submitting their final answer, whilst those in S5M1 tackled 13 questions. We were delighted to be able to combine our participation this year with the German Exchange visit by pupils from Mallinckrodt Gymnasium, Dortmund. 43 entries from 23 different schools were submitted this year and following our success in the S4 Junior Division category last year, we were very pleased to achieve a noteworthy 7th place in the S5 Senior Division category on this occasion, with the Mathématiques Sans Frontières Twitter account stating "It's an all-Ayrshire 7th place as Wellington School takes the Senior accolade, Wellington topped the Junior Division last year and have continued their fine form this year."

We always look forward to taking part in these various activities throughout the year, and next year is no different. Looking ahead, we hope that things return to a more 'normal' state for the new academic year, and that pupils continue to enjoy and benefit from the numerous opportunities available within the department.





2020 Model UN

# Modern Studies

*Gill MacGlade, Head of Department*

It has been another busy and productive year in the Department and pupils have studied many of the big issues dominating current affairs; both in the UK and internationally. At a glance, this year has involved debate and discussion of diverse topics including: 'Brexit' and its potential impact; the US President and views on gun control and immigration; China's emerging role as a 'super-power'; the strain on the NHS and ways to tackle poverty and an assessment of the methods used to counter terrorism. Modern Studies is a subject that is, by its very nature, constantly changing and pupils are asked to question, assess and form their own opinions. This has been a year like no other, and pupils have certainly risen to the challenge. The activities detailed below give a snapshot of their terrific performance this year.

Our S1 course is focused on key concepts like equality, representation and participation and gives pupils an excellent grounding for their citizenship education. In the Human Rights topic, pupils produced and then presented their own 'desert island societies' using different political ideologies. It is certainly true to say that there were many interesting and diverse societies to choose from! A study of Democracy and the Scottish Parliament culminated in a visit to the Scottish Parliament, and online learning saw our mock election go digital for the first time. Pupils created their own parties and delivered presentations with manifesto pledges and candidate speeches. With a recent General Election to take some inspiration from, the ideas produced were imaginative and insightful.

This year S2 pupils have had the chance to develop their research and report-writing skills with different case studies including the U.S. gun debate and the Communist Party of China's Two Child Policy. Our study of Terrorism involved hearing from Wellington parent and former Special Branch Officer, Bob Roper, who gave pupils an excellent insight into the work of the security forces and some of the challenges they face. We visited the Sky Academy again this year and those who took part had the chance to develop their knowledge and ability to work as part of a team. Using interactive technology in this way is central to engaging our young people in politics and gives them invaluable skills in being independent and taking ownership of their own learning. Online learning for S2 has involved studying life in China and we were very impressed with the presentations which compared the education system in the country with that of Scotland.

S4 National 5 pupils took part in the annual trip to London at the start of September and

a packed two-day itinerary saw them go on a tour of the Houses of Parliament; during which they saw a rare Friday-sitting of the House of Lords, as well as take part in a workshop on elections and voting. We visited the Museum of London, the London Eye and also took in a West End show. This long-established trip is a chance for pupils to develop their knowledge of UK democracy and make links between History and Modern Studies. This year's group proved once again how successful learning outside the classroom can be.

In December, the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class took part in a visit to HM Prison Greenock. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the role penal systems play in our society and to understand more fully the reasons why people commit crime. The pupils were given a tour of the prison and were able to enter cells, explore education and work areas and see the inmates' exercise spaces. The highlight of the visit though was the opportunity to meet with a female prisoner. Our pupils, who were conducting primary research for their dissertations on Crime and the Law, were able to interview and hear a first-hand account of what reasons lay behind the lady committing her crime but also her experiences of being inside a prison and how she is preparing for release back into society. This gave the class a unique insight into how one of Scotland's prisons functions, and the role it plays in punishing and rehabilitating offenders. They left the prison with a heightened understanding of life behind bars and challenges faced by the prison system in Scotland.

Over the past year, Wellington's Model UN (MUN) Society has gone from strength to strength. With the aid of the Governors' Award programme, society members were able to engage in training for Model UN conferences in January with Rob Crawford from UN House in Edinburgh. The society members were able to hone their research and presentation skills and learn important tips from a highly experienced MUN advisor who had run the largest conference in Scotland for many years. Two teams from Wellington attended the annual Model United Nations conference at Hutchesons' Grammar School on 22-23 February. They assumed the role of honourable delegates from the UK and Germany with the goal of debating global issues and reaching resolutions to tackle these issues. Weighty topics were discussed: everything from climate change to drug trafficking. All the pupils acquitted themselves well. Angus MacDonald (UK) won the accolade of 'commendable', which is the runner-up prize, for his role in the Political committee and Anubha Bal (UK) earned an honourable mention for her tenacious performance in the highly competitive Security Council. The pupils who took part were: Meera Mohankrishnan, Anubha Bal, Grace Woodhouse, Angus MacDonald and Olivia Stark who formed the United Kingdom delegation. Brinda Kandimalla, Findlay Peters, Callum Byers and Emma Stevenson represented Germany. They all acquitted themselves very well indeed.



Angus MacDonald at Model UN



2020 Model UN





# Music

*Dennis Haggerty, Director of Music*

The Music Department has enjoyed yet another hugely successful year where our pupils have excelled academically and also in performance. Our musicians are fully dedicated and committed to the busy musical calendar that takes place throughout the academic year at Wellington in both Senior and Junior Schools. The results of their efforts are clearly evident in the high quality of musical performance consistently presented in concerts, exams, festivals and shows. This once again highlights Wellington School as a centre of excellence in music and performance.

## Departmental, Curricular & Extra Curricular News

After successful implementation of five new courses over the past three years, Advanced Higher Music Technology was added to the framework this year. We joined only a handful of schools Nationally in delivering this award in its first year. This puts our music department in a privileged position of being equipped to run both Music and Music Technology courses to an Advanced Level. Our purpose built Recording Studio is maintained to the highest standard and equipment is upgraded on a regular basis. We have an impressive list of musical instruments available to pupils and continually add resources to enhance pupil experience in the department.

Changes to our list of specialist music tutors included the appointment of Mr Lewis Bettles (Brass) in August 2019. Lewis was a previous finalist of the prestigious BBC Young Musician of the Year competition and is highly regarded as one of the most promising trombone players in the country and has a wealth of experience in all Brass instruments. The department now has 18 Peripatetic industry specialist music instructors delivering a wide range of instrumental tuition and who all have high ambitions for our pupils. The Instrumental Services has become so popular that a large percentage of Wellington pupils study instruments on a one to one basis at school. Due to increase in the Instrumental Services provision, I am delighted to say that Mrs Fiona Shrinivas was appointed as Music Auxiliary at the beginning of the academic year.

The International Education Concert Programme continues to thrive and develop. The flagship events in this initiative were the anniversary concerts to celebrate the 25-year partnership between Mallinckrodt Gymnasium, Dortmund and Wellington School. Most recently we joined with Mallinckrodt Gymnasium to perform concerts to celebrate the 30th Year anniversary. The first concert took place in Dortmund in November 2019 and highlights

of the evening were our soloists, Jessica Haye and Emma Stevenson. The combined orchestras joined forces to perform 'A Christmas Festival', 'Highland Cathedral' and the world premiere of 'A Magical Story', a piece composed by Mr Haggerty for the occasion. The return concert took place in Ayr Town Hall in March 2020. Plans are in place for another orchestra and choir concert tour after the enormous success of the Salzburg trip in June 2018.

The department has grown with the addition of Music Technology to all levels and choosing music as an option in the senior school has been steadily increasing over the past five years. We have an impressive number of pupils opting to study music/music technology as a subject in the 2020/21 academic session.

In the past five years, many pupils have gone on to pursue a career in Music, Musical Theatre and Music Technology. This year we have two pupils pursuing a career Musical Theatre, Charlotte Robb (Music Captain) will study at GAMTA in Glasgow and Rosina Cooley (Deputy Music Captain) is heading for MGA Academy in Edinburgh. Joshua Martin (Deputy Music Captain) will study Music Technology at Edinburgh University. The music department support is for all pupils at Wellington and not just those that select the subject. One of our fully committed extra-curricular musicians, Ellie Crosbie, was offered a place at the prestigious Arts Education in London to study Musical Theatre but has decided to pursue languages at St Andrews instead.

The Music Department encourages all pupils with an interest in music to take part in our extra-curricular activities. We have added a number of additional groups this year and further altered the structure of the school orchestras to offer more options for the range of musical abilities throughout the school. The current list of activities is: Senior Choir (mixed voices S4-S6); Madrigal Group (select girls S4-S6); Chamber Choir (S3-S4 mixed voices); Junior Choir for mixed voices (P7-S2); Wellington Junior School String Orchestra (beginner to S2); Wellington School Orchestra (grade 3 and above); Jazz Concert Band (open to all Brass and Woodwind players); Folk Group (senior school pupils); Rock Band (senior pupils); & Wellington School Show Productions (S3-S6). The choral programme in the Junior School is timetabled for all pupils from Nursery to P6. The experience gained from extra-curricular activities will enhance pupils' skills and develop confidence in the art of performance.

Wellington School is currently a centre for examination for the three main music exam boards in the United Kingdom: Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for Theory Exams, Trinity College London for Classical and Rock and Pop, & London College of Music for Musical Theatre Exams. This offers more options and choice for examination to suit a variety of musical styles.

The Choral Programme continues to thrive with successful performances at Harvest and also Christmas services in both Junior and Senior School. Our choirs from Nursery to S6 continually perform at charity events inside school and also in the wider community, bringing joy to all audiences. Many of these events are organised throughout the academic year and pupils, parents and colleagues are thanked for their support and commitment to charity musical events.

At National Choral Level, Emma Stevenson became a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and attended her final year at the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Issy Girgis (Violin), our leader of the orchestra, will continue to study at the Junior Royal Conservatoire for another year. Many of our musicians from Primary through to Secondary take part in extra-curricular orchestras and ensembles with South Ayrshire and a selection of our instrumentalists play in the South Ayrshire Chamber Orchestra and West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra. Isla Kirk successfully made it to the Final of the Rotary Young Singer of the Year competition held in the Royal Conservatoire



Scotland in March 2020 and gave an impressive and accomplished performance to an appreciative audience.

### Concerts

At Christmas, collaboration between the Wellington School Parent Teachers Association and the Music Department successfully repeated the addition of a second Carol Concert in order to meet with the demand for tickets for this most popular event; it also allowed us to extend the programme to include musicians from the Junior School. The Senior and Junior School Concerts continue to present performances of the highest quality and once again, outstanding feedback was received from all who attended. Our Summer Concert was held for the first time 'online' and performed on the school's YouTube channel. This was a huge success and a challenging project to produce two halves of 45 minutes online with ensemble items. Once again, our pupils presented an impressive concert of the most professional standard and each and every one are a credit to our wonderful school.

Our pupils sing and play at many prestigious events locally, Nationally and Internationally and promote the good name of our school. This year we have had a wide variety of performances including Burns Suppers at Royal Troon Clubhouse, 'Light up A Life' Ayrshire Hospice Concert, Alloway Rotary Events, Whitely Retreat Ladies Day, Ayrshire Seniors Concert in the Town Hall, Troon Arthritis Group Annual Dinner, Showcases at the Gaiety Theatre Ayr and many more. Through these concerts, a substantial amount of money has been raised for the school charity.

All pupils who perform on behalf of the school deserve special mention for their commitment, enthusiasm and talent brought to these events. They are all ambassadors for Wellington School. Special thanks must go to Abigail Kirkwood, Archie Kerr, Charlotte Robb, Ellie Crosbie, Emma Stevenson, Findlay Peters, Isla Kirk and Joshua Martin for performing at a number of charity concerts during the year.

### Shows

In October 2019 our Senior School Show was Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber's spectacular masterpiece, 'Phantom of the Opera'. This was an ambitious choice for a school production and a first for the Gaiety Theatre accommodating one of the most challenging shows in the musical theatre repertoire. Our senior pupils gave four outstanding performances to a most appreciative full house. In order to showcase our talented pupils, we once again double casted our show. We have so many talented singers that we always produce two casts of equal high quality. This was Mr Haggerty's sixth show as Musical Director and third taking the dual role of Director and Musical Director with choreography by Heather Rennie and the final show of a long impressive career as Stage Manager, Mr Roger Robinson. Positive feedback received with regards to the show from parents and people with no link to the school at all, has been overwhelming. Rehearsals have already started for the next show, 'Hairspray'. Rehearsals have been online using 'Google Meet' for music and 'Instagram' for dance with our new outstanding choreographer, Ellie Crosbie, one of our S6 leavers.

### Junior School

Music in the Junior School continues to flourish with many musical performances and productions throughout the year. Highlights include the Lunchtime Concerts, Nursery and P1,2,3 Nativity Productions and also the Junior Show Musical that takes

place bi-annually. Following the success of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in 2017 and 'Aladdin' the musical in 2019, we are hoping to present another showcase musical for P4-6 in 2021 with Mrs Harper as Musical Director.

The annual Nativity productions took place as usual and the Nursery delighted audiences with their show, which was produced by Mrs Fleming, with music played by Mrs Wilson. The Junior School Nativity was a triumph and was directed by a number of the primary school staff and musical direction by Mrs Docherty. The singing at all performances was of an impressive standard for pupils so young.

Our successful lunchtime Concert Series performed in Drumley Hall will return next academic session when permitted. This has been so popular that we aim to increase the number of concerts to accommodate demand and to allow all levels of the talented junior musicians to perform in front of an audience. Ayrshire Music Festival

Our many choirs, ensembles and soloists from Primary and Senior School were prepared and ready to compete as always in The Ayrshire Music Festival until many of the events were suddenly cancelled. Wellington School will return next year as always to support this outstanding local musical event.

Some classes did go ahead and some of our singers and instrumentalists achieved success and were awarded places. Our Junior Orchestra under the direction of Miss Nicola Connell won first place and the trophy in the Junior Orchestra Class, a most competitive competition up against many primary schools in Ayrshire.

### Conclusion

This academic year we continued to offer many excellent opportunities for pupils to develop their musical ability. It is my pleasure as Director of Music to be surrounded all day, every day with enthusiastic, aspiring young musicians and greatly appreciate the continual support of all colleagues from the music department.





# Nursery & Junior School Report

*Jimmy Cox, Head of the Junior School*

Throughout the year, our children really showed what a Wellington Junior School pupil is all about but never more so than during Lockdown. Online learning saw a concerted effort to maintain our high standards of provision in Literacy and Numeracy as well as focusing on Health and Wellbeing activities. The former was down to the exceptionally hard work of the teachers whilst Mrs Lomas and I concentrated on Health and Well-being activities through our weekly virtual assemblies. I was absolutely astounded by the engagement, perseverance and creativity of the children. However, it would be completely remiss of me not to mention the huge support during this past year, but especially in this last term, from the parents. I would like to thank you, personally, for the huge number of kind and supportive words that I received and also for helping the children thrive during the last term.

Thankfully, there was some normality to the year. We were entertained, in December, to fantastic Nativity plays, P6 visited the Titanic exhibition, Welly's got Talent took place, our first and hugely successful Masked Reader, STEM Focus Fortnight and the unforgettable Christmas Nativities. The Nursery and staff of the infant classes deserve great credit for their hard work and the 'end product' is always truly fantastic and well-received by everyone.

I feel that it is often wrong of me to mention groups or individuals but on this occasion, I will. I took up my Headship here, in January 2014, when the present Primary Group 6 were in nursery. I fondly remember speaking at my first nursery prize giving in June that year and then having to rush to the stage to present books to them because our guest called off about 10 minutes before the ceremony. I am very happy to say that since then our guest has always turned up. I won't embarrass the children who are still here by commenting on their curtsies and salutes that day. This group have been excellent ambassadors for us and whilst it is always difficult to say good bye to our P6s, it is especially so this year. However, they are ready for the move 'across the road' and it has been my huge privilege to be a very small part of their journey and watch them grow into fine, young people.

Our Nursery children were introduced to 'Friends' from our Primary 5 classes and it was really lovely to watch them share stories together and look at picture books. Children participated in a dance lesson together and completed a Shape Hunt. The Nursery children all thoroughly enjoy the experience, as did our Primary 5 pupils. Children at both stages benefit hugely from these interactions and learn lots. As a final activity during Lockdown

P5 children made videos to send to what will be our new Primary 1 class, sharing memories of their Primary 1 years and giving them some information about how exciting starting school at Wellington is. Our P5s have been hugely impressive with their videos to our nursery children during this last term. Our future is in good hands.

Of course, the last term saw us work in ways unimaginable only a few months ago but the entire Junior School staff rose to the occasion. I know that everyone of us has significantly better IT skills and this has allowed us to take the confident step of investing heavily Chromebooks for next year.

Working in different ways has seen the emergence of a new language in the Junior School. Will we chat in TEAMS, G Classroom, Zoom or why don't we be old fashioned today and call each other? These are all great but perhaps less great were the new Junior School virtual assemblies. Thankfully, Mrs Lomas and I can laugh at ourselves and, we needed to. We are not 'presenters' and had the Edinburgh Fringe been taking place this year, no act would need to have worried about a new comedy show on the block. As I say to the children, "it doesn't matter, just try your best". Unfortunately, we did. Isn't it nice to follow your own mantra so publicly? I suspect not, and you will be the judges of that, but we did try and we can both honestly say that since March we have not fallen out once. Mrs Lomas, thank you for all your unbelievably hard work and support.

This last term has challenged every one of us, in ways we never thought about and I have been asked, "Why do you do this job?"

Because...our children are great! There have been so many moments this year but especially during this last term and definitely too many to mention individually. The videos and emails sent in by the children left me touched beyond belief, tears in my eyes from laughing with them, in awe of their lack of inhibitions, perseverance and skills but overall they just impressed me, hugely. They are Junior School children. We should never be afraid to challenge them to reach for the stars. They are Stars and they will reach them anyway. I can't wait to see them again in August!





# Outdoor Education

*Leon Mooney, Duke of Edinburgh & John Muir Awards Manager*

This session we had 41 Bronze entrants in S3 - our largest group for some time - who undertook their Expeditions in Galloway Forest in the autumn. Fourteen pupils in S4 signed up for their Silver award but unfortunately their Expedition plans have been put on hold due to COVID-19. Two S5 pupils have already signed up to do Gold level. Across all levels, we have had over 20 awards completed this session along with a number of pupils who are very close to completion - some taking advantage of the recent easing of the rules to allow them to complete their activities during lockdown. A number of S6 and former pupils have now completed their Gold award, but sadly will have to wait another year to be able to receive their certificates at Holyrood Palace.

# Primary 7

*Lynn Clachan, Year Head*

## Ode to Primary 7

Primary 7 you've certainly been,  
Awesome, amazing - a real dream team!  
You've risen to challenges, big and small,  
And impressed us by achieving them all!

You started the year thinking, 'How cool...  
We're finally over in the 'BIG school',  
You had now crossed 'over the road',  
And you even mastered your locker code!

This year has certainly been a busy one,  
With new subjects to study and lots of fun,  
You had a Hallowe'en Party and a Christmas one too,  
You've worked so hard; we're so proud of you!

In the Young Journalist Competition - Learn2Think,  
Our winners Sushanth, Verity and Isla were in the pink!  
With special commendations for Fraser, Jamie and James,  
Look in future broadsheets for these writers' names!

Then came Jack and the Beanstalk, our panto,  
'Oh yes you did' put on a fab show!  
Our Burns' Poetry event kicked off the next year,  
Our winner Jamie's Toothache got us all back in gear!

The Dance Showcase was another big hit,  
As if anyone would ever have doubted it!  
You danced right through the alphabet,  
With tap, jazz, modern and pirouettes,

Then for the Ayrshire Festival - Speech and Drama - you did  
rehearse,  
P7T even won the choral verse!  
With twelve more winners in Public Speaking, Favourite Poem  
and Burns Poetry classes,  
When it comes to talent, ne'er a school surpasses!

We kicked off John Muir with 'Discover, Explore',  
On stunning Ayr beach, right outside our door,  
You looked forward to hiking, camping and canoeing beside  
the sea,  
But sadly, these adventures just weren't to be.

At the end of March, you starting Home Learning,  
You left your school, teachers and friends with longing and  
yearning,  
You quickly adapted, using your chromebook know-how,  
Staying connected with your Wellington family in a new way -  
wow!

You developed new skills while you learned at home,  
Focusing on the positives, with barely a moan,  
You can see you're more mature than before,  
With added flexibility, resilience and much more.

This isn't the transition to S1 we intended for you,  
And we wish we could have been with you each day too,  
But you really have been our superstars,  
And we know, with your talents, you can't fail to go far!





Wellington Hockey



Alphabeat Dance Show



Charlotte Hardy - Scottish Schools  
Secondary Meet

# Physical Education & Sport

*Alistair Ness, Head of Department*

Ayrshire Schools’ Secondary Cross Country Championships Success!

The school entered 6 teams into the Ayrshire Schools’ Cross Country Championships. All pupils ran very well over varied terrain and in challenging conditions. Out of a field of up to 120 runners, the top finishers were Khalan Lendrum who finished 6th in the S1 race and Emily Muir who finished 9th in the S3 race.

Team members were:

S1 Girls	S1 Boys
Katie Cowan	Khalan Lendrum
Charlotte Hardy	Rory Robinson
Lillie McCluskie	Fraser Steward
Sophia Hamilton	Jake Woodhouse
Emma Henderson	Steven Basra
S2 Girls	S2 Boys
Emily Taylor	Callum Peat
Grace Dunlop	Mikey Maxwell
Georgia Stark	Michael Magee
Rowan MacDonald	Evan Kirkwood
Gracie Kerr	Lucas Keston
S3 Girls	S3 Boys
Emily Muir	Nathan Hughes
Daniella McGarrity	Charlie Cowan
Catriona Smith	Findlay Peters
Amy Morrison	Cameron Holland
	Alexander Smith

Hockey

Our teams competed on a weekly basis and in tournaments throughout the year with

varying degrees of success. Pupils continued to show commitment to the sport, with games being offered to those from Primary 5 to S6.

The weather was not on our side for the majority of the year but the girls remained motivated and turned up to train regardless. It was great to see our crowds at Doonside starting to grow for Saturday morning fixtures and we hope this will continue when we get the chance to play again.

South West

I am pleased to announce that a large number of our girls have been selected to go forward for South West Trials this year. These were due to take place in March/April, but due to the abrupt end of season, all trials have been postponed. We wish the girls the best of luck for when the time arrives.

Scottish Squad

This year we had the privilege of one of our S4 pupils being selected for the U16 Scottish Squad. Amy Grassom successfully made it through the tough selection process to secure her spot - Well Done Amy!

Hockey Awards

With the cancellation of our end of season hockey tournament we didn’t get the opportunity to recognise players in the way we normally do. So I would like to share with you the coaches player and most improved player from the 2019-2020 season.

Our coach’s player is someone who we think lives and breathes the Wellington School ethos. They are dedicated to both training and games, always give 100% effort and our Saturday morning games would not run as smoothly without them!

Our most improved player is someone that we have seen working hard year round. They have the patience and resilience to work on their skills and we are seeing the benefits.

Team	Coach’s Player	Most Improved Player
Primary 6	Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin	Ava Clachan
Primary 7	Iona-Mary Fairbairn	Cara Wilmer
S1	Katie Cowan	Sophia Hamilton
S2	Amy Scott	Lottie McEwen
2nd XI	Mhairi Chalmers	Katie Thomson
1st XI	Amy Grassom & Heather Houghton	Ella Snowden

Player of the Year

In addition to our individual team awards we have an overall Player of the Year award that is normally presented at Prize Giving. This goes to someone who embodies everything we value in a well-rounded player. This year the award is being



presented to our 1st XI captain Eilidh Thomson.

Netball

This year we had two netball teams entered into the S1/2 Ayrshire League. The girls have improved so much this year, with both teams holding their own against strong competition. The netball season runs later into the academic year than hockey does, and as a result their season was impacted a lot more. Despite this, the A team finished 3rd in the league with four games still to play, a fantastic achievement and our highest placing so far. Well done girls!

Netball Awards

Similarly to hockey, we didn't get the opportunity to recognise players in the way we normally do. So I would like to share with you the coach's player and most improved player from the 2019-2020 season.

Team	Coach's Player	Most Improved Player
A Team	Emma Henderson & Rowan MacDonald	Jessica Haye
B Team	Amy Scott	Maddie Arnott

Dance

This year the theme for our dance show was Alphabeat and the night featured an astonishing 28 dances from both primary and secondary pupils. To top it off we had a record breaking number of performers this year, with 104 in total!

The night was an amazing success with tickets managing to sell out on both nights. The proceeds from this, alongside the Governors Grant we received, allowed us to not only hire a photographer but a videographer too. This is something that has been highly requested in the past and that I hope to replicate in future years.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the pupils who participated as we could not have run the show without your hard work, dedication and commitment. Learning choreography is difficult and the hours of free time you gave up doesn't go unnoticed!

Swimming

Our swimming season was impacted the most this year and yet we still achieved tremendous success.

Ayrshire Schools Primary Meet

We had nine pupils competing at the Ayrshire Schools Primary Meet. All pupils swam fantastic and we had a lot of personal best times. The highlight of the day was our boys relay team who placed second on the day and achieved a qualifying time for the Scottish School Relay Finals. The team was made up of Harry Caldow (P6), David Ness (P6), Toby Crawford (P5) and Oliver King (P5). Unfortunately, the Scottish Schools Relays was cancelled this year but it is still a fantastic achievement for the

boys!

Scottish Schools Secondary Meet

Charlotte Hardy successfully made it through the Ayrshire Schools Secondary Meet to qualify for the Scottish Schools in January this year. Charlotte has managed to achieve some fantastic results. In the 100 Meter Breaststroke for Girls (age 13-14) Charlotte was the Scottish Schools Champion, winning in a time of 1:16.18, which is currently the fastest time in the UK for her age group and is the second fastest of all time by a 12 year old in Scotland.

She also won the silver medal in the 200 Meter Breaststroke for Girls (age 13-14) with a PB of 2:51.41 which is the fastest time in Scotland for her age group and 4th fastest in the UK.

Athletics

Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships

This year the school was represented by Jack Edwards, Libby White and Grace Dunlop. Grace and Libby both ran well in the 200m whilst Jack took on the challenge of the 400m. In the Field events Libby represented the school in the Long Jump. As a result of her performance Libby was invited to attend the Scottish Schools' Athletic Association Coaching Day at Grangemouth Stadium, on Saturday 14th March 2020

RUGBY

Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield Semi - Final

The Ayr/Wellington rugby institution was represented by the U18 team in the National Youth League Cup Semi Finals for the 5th Year. The venue was the indoor pitch used by the Scotland team "The Orium" and the opposition was Jed Thistle RFC.

Going into the match Ayr/Wellington were unbeaten and had already won the top tier Shogun Conference at under-18 level. From the start Ayr/Wellington raced into the lead when an overlap try was created for wing Danny White, and stand-off Richie Simpson added the conversion.

A fire alarm and the subsequent evacuation of Oriam caused a hiatus in play but when the game restarted Ayr resumed where they had left off, again showing good handling skills to engineer a second try for the quick-footed Danny White. Jed Thistle had not entirely allowed Ayr to walk over them and appeared to be gaining more than parity in the forward battle, the reward for which was a penalty goal. Then when Thistle drove a line-out Ayr took down the maul and immediately conceded a penalty try leaving the Millbrae side with a narrow 12-10 lead at half time.

The lead was extended after the interval with a Ritchie Simpson penalty goal followed by a fine solo effort from full-back Aidan O'Connor, whose sheer pace gave him the try of the match. At this stage Ayr/Wellington extended their lead to



22-10. With 10 minutes to go Ayr/Wellington lost their key decision maker Ritchie Simpson due to a knee injury and Jed changed tactics by employing their driving maul. The next two attacks by Jed led to scores as the referee awarded penalty tries for collapsing the maul over the line. In the dying seconds Ayr/Wellington saw their dream of reaching Murrayfield for the 5th consecutive year vanish as Jed Thistle won the match 24-22.

Richie Simpson won the U18 Player of the Year as well as the U18 Player's player of the year award. This is in addition to winning Wellington Schools' Best Rugby Player award 2019/2020

### Football

Wellington School football team was a great success in the 2019/20 season. We were able to field teams from P6 - S6 across the school with most teams tasting success during the season.

The Under 13s team came across some fierce competition in the South Ayrshire League but played some fantastic football and pushed all teams they came up against. The team also took part in the Ayrshire District Cup and managed to make the Semi-Finals after beating Kyle academy in a close fought penalty shootout, with Ellis Porter making the winning save. The team also tasted success in the South Ayrshire Cup by beating Kilwinning in the Quarter Finals. The match was a back and forth contest with Kilwinning taking the lead with a few minutes to play, until a great team passage of play allowed Rory Kilpatrick score the equaliser to push the game to another penalty shootout. Once again Wellington prevailed and progressed into another Semi-Final.

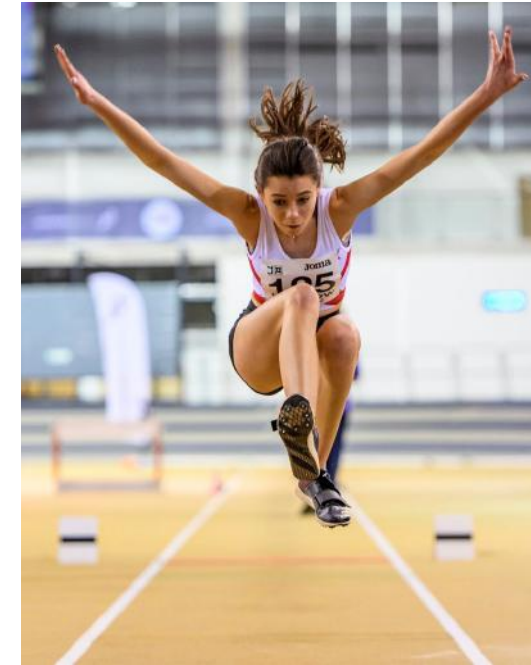
Unfortunately due to Covid - 19 events the rest of the season was cancelled and the boys were not able to compete in the two Semi-Finals that they deserved to be in.

The Under 15s football team played their first season in the Ayrshire league. They played nine league and cup games and scored 14 goals. Max McCorkindale was top scorer with 7. Brendan McLaughlin led the way as an ever-present captain, with Cameron Hailey and Thomas Hay also playing every game. Nineteen players in total were involved with the games and this shows the level of interest for football at Wellington. Although they didn't win any of their games, the coaches of several of the teams commented that the matches against Wellington had been the most competitive games of the season. They played to the final whistle every week and showed great commitment and character. A big thanks to Andy McPhee who coached and managed the Under 15s team this season!

The Under 18s team played a handful of matches this season. Due to low numbers and timing during the academic year it was difficult for the senior team to play many matches. The few matches they did play were all very close fought matches, with the boys showing great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. Wellington played Carrick Academy a couple of times as bounce games to allow some pupils from either school to be assessed for their Higher or National 5 performances. All players knew how serious those games were to their teammates and ensured they did not let them down.

Wellington were also able to get a girls team up and running this season. There were around 15 girls in regular

attendance at the lunchtime club that Mandy McLarty led with the help of some senior pupils. The girls were very eager to play and to learn the game but unfortunately no games were played but the hope is to get some games organised against other local schools and it's something we can target in the future.



Libby White competing at Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships



Wellington Football Team



Richie Simpson - U18 Player of the Year  
& U18 Player's Player of the Year



Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield  
Semi-Final



Infra-Red Camera Images

# Science

*Andrew McPhee, Head of Physics & Science*

Science Captains:

Morven Murdoch and Nickon Tajali were elected as Captains with Callum Shinn as their deputy. The three captains ran the science supported study on Thursday lunchtime for the full year. They also helped out every Monday lunchtime with the Eurostronomia Erasmus club and were a great help at the open evening, leading the Chemistry and Biology experiments and giving a lesson on how to use telescopes.

Science Club:

Mrs Ness registered the school for a Formula 1 design activity that would run for most of the year. First years would design their car (using CAD software), build the car and take it to a test day with pupils from schools around Scotland. It was a very exciting activity for the students and very well attended with up to 25 students working on the project each week. Two teams of pupils competed at the F1 in Schools Scottish regional finals in February.

Student Courses:

Two students, Anubha Bal and David Bondar submitted strong applications to attend the prestigious Perimeter Institute's International Summer School for Young Physicists in Waterloo, Canada. Unfortunately the course was cancelled due to Coronavirus. Both students will be encouraged to apply again next year.

Rory McLuskie successfully applied for a Headstart Chemistry summer school at the University of Kent, Issy Girgis was successful in her application to study an Engineering Headstart course and Anubha Bal was accepted for an Aerospace Headstart course at Coventry University. Again, unfortunately none of these courses will go ahead during 2020.

Competitions:

Four students were entered for the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate level (Issy Girgis, Anubha Bal, Euan Graham & David Bondar) and two for the Advanced level (Callum Shinn & Dillon Leahy). All of the Intermediate students achieved a Gold Award which puts them in the top 5% and the two Advanced level entries achieved Silver Awards which puts them in the top 14% of entries. Very well done to all.

Erasmus + Eurostronomia:

In September Mr McPhee and Mrs Coontz took 6 students to Esposende in Portugal for the third mobility in our three-year Physics Erasmus project. The students enjoyed their six days in this beautiful part of northern Portugal. As part of the mobility Mr McPhee gave a two hour

lecture/activity lesson entitled "Apollo 11, to the moon and back". It was very well received by the 60 students who took part.

The activities ranged from simulating the communication between ground control, control module and lunar module, replicating the moon landing using parachutes and potatoes and simulating the launch with water rockets. In one of the activities the students took directions from ground control via walkie talkies and the command module then gave directions for the lunar module astronauts to follow. The Portuguese students in their classrooms were engrossed watching these students walking around their playground in full white boiler suits simulating the space suit. Mr McPhee had to apologise for the disruption to normal lessons. Prior to leaving for the mobility, the four boys in the Advanced Higher Physics class had built a Lego model of the Saturn V rocket and it successfully made the trip to Portugal and back unscathed.

Unfortunately the mobility in March to Dortmund, Germany had to be cancelled. Mr McPhee had planned to deliver another 2 hours interactive lesson on "The Evolution of the Universe". It is hoped that it may be possible to deliver this activity at Wellington School in August.

School Show:

Mrs McIntyre surpassed herself again with some spectacular costumes and alterations for the school show.

Discrete Sciences S1 & S2:

There has been a major revamp of the S1 and S2 science course and for 2020-2021. Students will be taught the three discrete sciences in 8 week blocks by specialist, biology, chemistry and physics teachers. This is an exciting change for the Science department and should also be good for the students' experience.

GSK Science Award:

The Science department was lucky to be awarded a grant from GSK to enhance learning in science. This year we purchased an Infra-Red Thermal Imaging camera. This proved to be an excellent purchase with all junior science classes using it. Thank you very much to Mrs Napier for organising this grant (photos attached).

Primary Science:

Mrs Ness put on an excellent "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" activity for P3. Mrs Peden, Miss Leckie and Mr McPhee did a STEM Energy activity for the whole Primary School, it was very well received (photos attached).

Diagnostics Lab at Glasgow University

Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Ness took Higher and Advanced Higher Biologists to Glasgow University where students worked with Glasgow University Science researchers for a hands-on diagnostics lab exploring bacterial and parasitic infectious diseases.

Corona Virus:

It has been a very strange end to the school year but all of the science teachers have embraced On-Line learning and have still managed to deliver experimental lessons to all of the students in their virtual Classrooms. Very well done to all of the teachers and to their pupils who have worked as well with this experience as they could have.

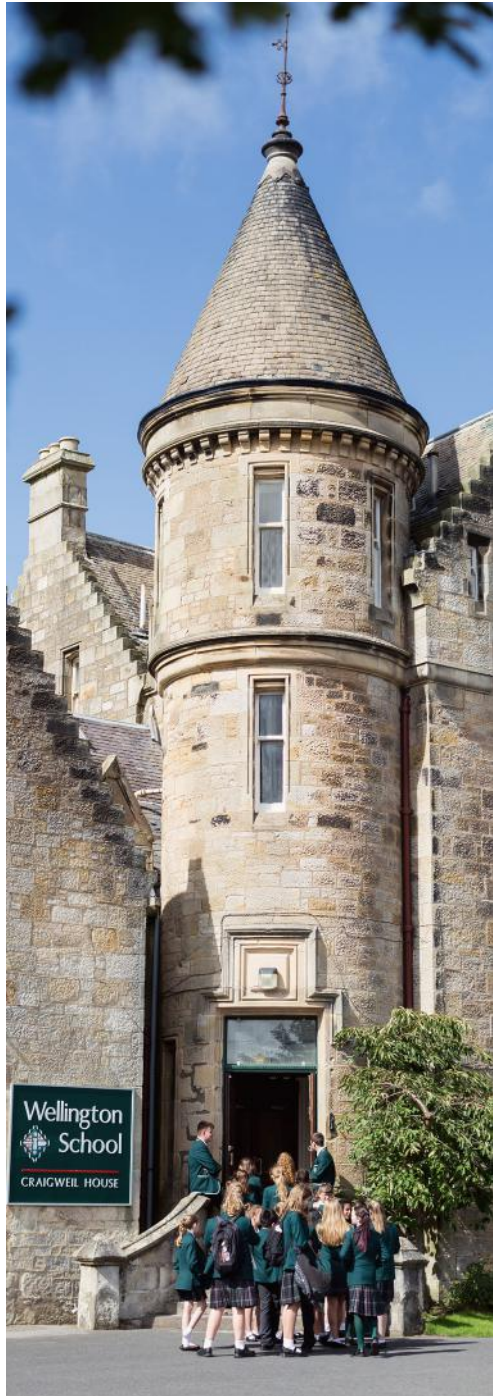


STEM Week



Diagnostics Lab at Glasgow University





# Sixth Year Report

*Alistair Byers, Head of Senior Years*

UCAS applications were a focal point for students and staff through the Autumn and Spring Terms. Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge applications came first as these have an earlier deadline of mid-October. Thereafter, pupils applied to a wide range of courses, ranging from Accountancy to Product Design, and it is pleasing to note that the vast majority of our cohort received unconditional offers. Wellington continued to support students from South Ayrshire Schools by providing guidance on the Oxbridge process and presenting them for entrance testing. Three students utilised this opportunity for the 2020 cycle and the school looks forward to assisting more students over the coming months as we look ahead to 2021 entries.

This year the 6th Year started Session 2019-20 by undertaking a teambuilding event which was extremely instructive and was well received by all. Delivered by the excellent Katie Banham of “Learning to Flourish” the aim of the day was to inspire pupils to generate new ideas for fundraising, as well as to develop a close bond amongst the year group, something which is so important within the Wellington community. The feedback was very positive and undoubtedly got 6th Year off to the best possible start. We look forward to welcoming Katie back to school this August.

This Session, the 6th Year elected Epilepsy Scotland as their nominated good cause. Throughout the year they have worked exceptionally well as a team and have consequently had a very successful year with the charity. A myriad of activities has been undertaken in order to raise funds including House Charity Days, themed non uniform days and regular cake and candy stalls. The Christmas Craft Fair and the Fun Run generated extensive funds, while the “Firewalk” was a hair raising new experience for staff and pupils alike!

Overall, the 6th year charity has a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Parents and Staff and achieves exceptional results annually. It is to everyone’s credit that the school has raised another extraordinary sum for another very worthwhile cause, with Epilepsy Scotland receiving a sum well in excess of £20,000. This is a tremendous effort, especially in light of the testing environment of recent months.

I would like to thank our Heads of School, Archie Kerr and Eilidh Thomson, and our Deputy Heads of School, Scott Grassom and Ellie Crosbie, for their commitment,

enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination in driving many of the charity activities. However, the charity fundraising, tours of the school, mentoring and much, much, more is a team effort and my thanks go to each and every member of Sixth Year – they are all excellent ambassadors for the school.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the massive impact of Covid-19 on Sixth Year. This has been, undoubtedly, the most surreal period in my life and career; I’m sure you will feel the same.

For our young people, the cancellation of SQA exams and the removal of social interaction with friends have each been significant challenges and I know that, for some, this period has been more stressful for some than others. Your love and support has never been as important as it is right now. I thank you for the way in which you, and you sons and daughters, have remained in touch with the school throughout this period of lockdown in order that I can provide the best support and guidance possible.

This is the section of my report which normally reflects on the June activities programme, Prom, Sports Day and so forth. Sadly, this was all lost due to lockdown and, so too, was the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the school careers of all of our S6 leavers. Nevertheless, I hope that we will be able to meet together to share a meal and some friendly conversation; perhaps in the form of a reunion dinner next year.

To finish, I wish each and every member of our departing Sixth Year all the very best for the future. Wellington has provided them with the opportunity to develop the academic ability and social skills required of a valued member of society and I know that each and every one of the group will go on to find success in his or her field of study/profession. Please keep in touch with me, the school and each other.

# Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

*Simon Johnson, Headmaster*

I always look back on a school session with gratitude for all the wonderful things that have happened and this year is no different. Wellington, like every organisation, has faced great challenges on account of the measures imposed to suppress the Coronavirus. It has risen to these challenges, however, because of the hard work, the commitment, the good will, the enthusiasm and the energy of pupils, staff and parents alike. I thank every single member of the Wellington family for the part that they have played in maintaining such a strong sense of connectedness in such difficult times.

As always, I begin with the pupils. Visit any classroom – whether it be in ‘real life’ or online – and you will come away uplifted by the enthusiasm, the good humour and the sheer inventiveness of what you see. Just a few days ago, I took the opportunity to join P5 for their ‘Virtual Residential Visit’, which replaced the traditional excursion to Dumfries House. The pages of Google Classroom lit up with ideas and images, and were filled with a warmth that only a few months ago we may have thought to be impossible to achieve online. The virtual world will never be a substitute for the real one, but we have seen that nothing can suppress the vitality of our community. I thank all of the pupils for being so willing to embrace opportunity and to make the most of a situation that none of us would have chosen.

The end of a school year is of particular significance to the S6 Leavers and, in some ways, the lockdown has affected this group more than any. We all remember our final days at school, perhaps because it is often the first occasion in our lives when we truly stop and reflect on times past. We look around at the people with whom we have grown up and no matter how filled with promise the future may be, we know that life will never be quite the same again. This year's S6 have missed out on so many of the special events that mark this rite of passage, but the class of 2020 will not be forgotten. They have been an excellent year group in every way and they have raised a very substantial sum of money for their chosen charity, Epilepsy Scotland. I thank each and every one of them most sincerely and I look forward to the day when we can all enjoy a reunion of some kind. This year's leavers will always be special members of the Wellington family.

No school can function without a professional and dedicated team of support staff and Wellington is no exception. I thank all of the support staff for their hard work this year. Generous thanks go to those in the office, to Dot and David Gray and their catering team, and to the maintenance and janitorial staff who do so much to ensure that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. I also thank our Finance team and Marketing Manager, Aimee Cassells, who single-handedly updates and maintains the school's presence online. In this strangest of years, I pay particular tribute to our recently appointed IT Manager, Garry Carr, who has not only kept us all connected during lockdown, but has also gently introduced us to new ways of working and held our hands metaphorically every step of the way. His ‘virtual coffee mornings’ have been a particular success.

Nobody ever chose ‘online teacher’ as a career, but that is the job that every teacher at Wellington has been doing for the last three months. I have nothing but admiration for the way in which our dedicated staff have adapted to this new challenge and their daily routine has probably never been more demanding. The pupils of Wellington are fortunate to be served by such inspiring and dedicated professionals and I thank each and every member of the teaching staff for their hard

work this year, both in school and during the period of online learning.

At the end of the year, it is usual to say farewell to some member of staff and this year is no exception. Mr McPhee has been Head of Science and Head of Physics for 14 years and he has inspired and entertained a generation of pupils. I will miss watching his practical lessons on the Back Grass, rain or shine, and his contribution to recent Erasmus projects added a substantial European dimension to his fan club. You will join me, I am sure, in wishing Mr McPhee a happy and long retirement. Mr O'Connell has been a member of staff at Wellington for many years and he relinquishes his position as Head of Computing with a view to retirement. Now is not the time to say farewell to Mr O'Connell, however, as he remains at Wellington for a further year as a part-time teacher of Mathematics in place of Mrs Welsh.

Life is an adventure and for one member of staff, the attractions of a teaching post in Italy proved to be too strong. Ms McLarty joined the Wellington PE Department in 2016, but she now leaves to take up a similar position at the International School in Milan. Lovers of coffee and ice cream will understand and we wish Ms McLarty every success and happiness in this new chapter of her life.

Mrs Lees came to Wellington as a P7 class teacher in 2014, but it was not long before she took charge of an expanding and rapidly developing Support for Learning Department. This area of the school has thrived under her leadership, but Mrs Lees is now embarking on a new journey as Teacher of English at Drumchapel High School, close to her home in Glasgow. We give generous thanks to Mrs Lees and wish her every success in the future.

Meanwhile, a smaller number of classes is required in the Junior School next session and, as a result, Mrs Gibson leaves Wellington at the end of this term. We give generous thanks to her for her hard work and dedication to the school over the course of the last two years.

I turn now to the Senior Management Team. The school year is always busy, but it normally follows predictable patterns. Since we first knew that school closure was inevitable, nothing has been predictable and each day has brought new challenges. I cannot thank my senior colleagues enough for their loyalty, their commitment to the school and their ability to maintain a sense of humour in times of great uncertainty. They have worked tirelessly with me to talk through the consequences of new guidelines, to draw up plans for implementation that will work for Wellington and to fill in many of the practical details. They have been surefooted, purposeful and mindful throughout of the needs of pupils, parents and staff alike. I cannot thank them enough.

Next, I must thank also the Board of Governors for their unfailing support and wise counsel throughout the last three months. Governors bear a great burden of responsibility and that is never more apparent than in difficult times. Wellington School is very fortunate to be governed by a group of people who care for the school in the same way as they would their own family or business. Whilst often unseen, they are at the heart of Wellington life and we owe a debt of gratitude to them for all the work that they do for the school on an entirely voluntary basis. I thank in particular the Chair of the Board, Jennifer Simpson, who is always quick to guide, support and help. She is the school's ‘top fan’.

Lastly, I would like to thank parents, grandparents and all of those who have supported the school so generously throughout the year and particularly during the Coronavirus crisis. We share a common belief that few things are as important as education and I thank all of you for the faith that you have shown in the work that we do. Successful education is a partnership and here at Wellington, it is the strength of that partnership that creates the magic.