



Wellington
SCHOOL

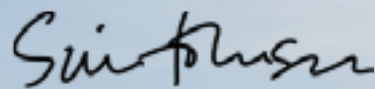
Inspiring Confident Ambitious

Annual Report 2018



Introduction

This report is an attempt to capture the achievements of a whole school year. As you can tell from the number of pages, this is no easy task! I hope, however, that you enjoy reading about everything that has happened over the course of the last twelve months, and to celebrate with us the successes of which the whole school community can be so proud.



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 so that we can update the online version at the very least!



SQA Results 2017

Gail Johnston, Assistant Head (Director of Studies)

At Wellington School, we were once again delighted with the academic attainment of our pupils. It is no secret that we pride ourselves on academic excellence and the results published in August 2017 did not disappoint us. As a small school, we realise the importance of celebrating individual achievements as well as looking at the school’s overall success.

SQA results at Wellington School compare very favourably to National Standards and to standards reported for the Independent sector. Looking more closely at National Standards, Wellington pupils consistently attain top passes at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the gap widening between the School and the national average. We are delighted to report that the school outperforms national averages year on year, but we are also seeing improvements to our own achievement levels.

6th Year Advanced Higher Report (2017)

Our Sixth Year pupils all secured offers for their chosen University course. 28% of our S6 pupils commenced courses in Humanities, Languages and Law, 22% in Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry, 19% in Music, Theatre and Art, 14% in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, 14% in Business and 3% in Teaching. One S6 applicant secured a place for Exeter College, Oxford, while 31% secured places at Russell Group Universities, 25% of students secured places at Strathclyde, 8% at Glasgow Caledonian and Stirling, 6% at Napier and 3% at St Andrews.

The percentage of A-C passes at Advanced Higher in 2017 was 92%, well above the National Average. Ten out of thirteen departments recorded a 100% pass rate. Twenty one of twenty nine students (72%) achieved one or more Advanced Higher.

S6 Advanced Higher Examinations	2017			2016			2015		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	57%	32%	3%	69%	20%	6%	51%	25%	18%
Nationally	32%	25%	23%	34%	26%	22%	32%	27%	23%

S5 Higher Report (2017)

In S5, the 2017 results were equally impressive and from a cohort of fifty five, eleven students achieved five grade A passes which included three students who achieved six grade A passes. The % A-C pass rate at Wellington School was 97%, nationally this was 81.7%.

S5 Higher Examinations	2017			2016			2015		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	54%	27%	15%	63%	20%	12%	55%	29%	13%
Nationally	29%	26%	23%	29%	25%	23%	30%	25%	22%

National 5 (2017)

The National 5 examinations produced a 96% pass rate at grades A-C with twelve pupils from a cohort of forty one achieving a clean sweep of eight A grade passes in their National 5 examinations. Together with the seven of forty one who achieved seven A grade passes, this amounts to 46% of the year group. 69% of Wellington pupils achieved a grade A at National, well above the national average of 31%. Our % A-C pass rate of 96% was once again well above the national average of 79.5%.

S4 National 5 Examinations	2017			2016			2015		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr	69%	21%	6%	72%	18%	6%	62%	21%	13%
Nationally	31%	24%	19%	36%	24%	19%	36%	24%	19%

This set of results is a collective achievement of which we should be proud. We very much hope that the 2018 results will be just as impressive and will stand our pupils in good stead for further study and for their future careers. Every pupil who sat examinations in the 2017 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. *The results for the 2018 diet are released in early August.*



Wellington School: Top Independent School by Advanced Highers 2017

The following article appeared in local and national press following the announcement

Ask someone what they might expect from an independent school and it is almost certain that they will say ‘academic excellence’. They would be justified: independent schools pride themselves on the quality of their education, their exam results and subsequently, their position in league tables. Like any other school, Wellington is proud of pupils’ results. Not only are they testament to the dedication and educational innovation of our inspirational staff, but most crucially, they play a key part in shaping futures – as the passport to further or higher education.

Wellington nurtures pupils to achieve their very best. While healthy competition is an important motivator, it is important to recognise that every person learns, works and performs to their own rhythm. Sadly, many children gauge their success against that of their peers, siblings or, in many cases, their parents. Often, they compare themselves to the (almost always) unachievable ideals portrayed on social media. This sort of thinking can be destructive. Instead, Wellington celebrates the achievements of individuals and our solid ethos encourages every child to realise their full potential. Gratifyingly, our system works: every pupil currently in the sixth year has gained entry to a university of their choice and three pupils from a year group of 47, have accepted offers to the University of Oxford.

The eminent academic and international advisor on education to government, Professor Sir Ken Robinson, highlights the problem of pack mentality and achievement: “education doesn't need to be reformed – it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.”

Given our progressive attitude towards education, Wellington was

honoured to receive an award for our ranking in Education Advisers’ 2017 Independent School League Tables: Top Scottish Independent School for Advanced Highers in 2017. Surprisingly, none of the Glasgow schools even made the top ten – see, healthy competition in action! Wellington was also placed in the top 15 for Highers with over 80% of pupils receiving A and B passes. These statistics are impressive and we hope that every pupil will meet, if not exceed, their own expectations in the upcoming diet of examinations.

‘Education doesn’t need to be reformed – it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.’

Professor Sir Ken Robinson

While League Tables are an indication of a school’s academic standing, they do not tell the whole story. The opportunities available to Wellington children of all ages are unsurpassed in South Ayrshire: the Junior Duke, John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh Awards are offered to children throughout the school; we boast a thriving Support for Learning department; our International Education Programme involves every single child in school; our sector-leading Outdoor Nursery provides an innovative learning environment for children throughout the Junior School; and an untold number of extracurricular clubs sow the seed of new passions. In addition to all of this, we are continuing to improve our facilities with an ambitious programme of significant investment over the next decade.



Art & Design

Joyce Morton, Head of Department

2018 has been a year of change for the Art Department with Mrs Morton arriving as the new Head of Art at the end of April. Mrs Morton previously taught at Loudoun Academy where she was a Principal Teacher and had whole school responsibility for Interdisciplinary Learning. She graduated from the University of Edinburgh with MA (Hons) in Fine Art. This joint degree had equal weight placed on the studio practice of drawing and painting at Edinburgh College of Art and the academic study of Art History at the University of Edinburgh. Mrs Morton is SQA Senior Team Leader for National 5 Art & Design and also a writer for the SQA National 5 Question Paper.

The department is always busy and we welcome our pupils to work at lunchtimes. This session, Mrs Hunter run an exciting STEAM Club combining skills in science, technology, engineering and art. This club saw a group of boys in S2 design and build rocket prototypes. We look forward to seeing their ideas develop in S3.

Our talented Higher photography pupils have used their skills in reportage and portrait photography to contribute to our charity calendar, school show programme and other school ventures.

S2 and S3 pupils visited the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in May and were inspired by the Mackintosh exhibition. They enjoyed taking part in workshops learning how to replicate the world famous Glasgow style of design.

S1 pupils also visited Rozelle House in May, taking part in workshops to create prints that will form a costume for the Day of the Deid procession. We look forward to seeing this costume later in the year in the Ayr High Street parade.

Meanwhile, Primary 7 pupils created wonderful outdoor art as part of their John Muir Award at Culzean.

I look forward to building on the existing strengths in the Art Department

while also bringing new ideas. I hope to start a new after school club for budding fashion designers in the Autumn Term, with a view to entering the national fashion competition ‘Junk Kouture’. Both Lesley Hunter and I also look forward to welcoming you to an art exhibition showcasing the artistic talent of our Wellington pupils.

We continue to be astounded by the talent and imagination shown by our young people. This has been another year full of inspiration and creativity in the Art Department.

I have looked on in admiration at those who work so hard in the classroom, who show such determination on the sports field and who devote countless hours to music, debating, the Duke of Edinburgh award and a whole range of other activities. This community is greatly enriched by their endeavours.

Simon Johnson, Headmaster



Classics

Charles Dudgeon, Head of Department

Higher Classical Studies

As part of the course, pupils studied the plays “Oedipus the Tyrant” and “Agamemnon”. Pupils read the play aloud, taking parts, which helped them explore the key concepts in Greek tragedy, and understand the motivations of the characters and the audience watching the play. This also allowed pupils to explore how a modern audience might respond to themes such as leadership, fate, freewill and gender in a different way to that of a Greek audience.

Higher Latin

One of the areas studied this year was oratory. Pupils read in Latin the speech of Cicero against Verres, the corrupt Roman governor of Sicily. We explored the use and abuse of oratory today, and looked at speeches delivered by modern politicians such as Barack Obama and Tony Blair – there is nothing new under the sun! Pupils discovered that all the techniques used to sway an audience today can be found in Classical orators such as Cicero.

Advanced Higher Classical Studies

Pupils studied classical political philosophy by reading Plato’s Republic, Aristotle’s Politics and Cicero’s On Duties. They explored such ideas as how do we live together?, what is true justice?, and the moral code of politicians. This gave pupils the opportunity to examine modern political ideas such as the ideals of communism; utilitarianism; the role of the state; who should govern; and the debate over the strengths and weaknesses of democracy – both ancient and modern. We also looked at the views of later philosophers such as Machiavelli and John Locke. The class completed a case study of the rule of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the 1970s.

The Oresteia

Senior pupils in Higher Classical Studies and Advanced Higher Classical

Studies visited the Citizens’ Theatre in Glasgow to attend a performance of the Oresteia, a trilogy of tragedies written by the Greek playwright Aeschylus in the 5th century BC concerning the terrible events which struck the royal family of Argos in the aftermath of the Trojan War.

Wellington students study the first of these plays, “Agamemnon”, in Higher Classical Studies. It was a marathon session, lasting four and a half hours, but the time flew by as the production was superb, well-deserving the rave reviews it obtained from the Edinburgh Festival. Students particularly enjoyed the startling scene of the murder of Agamemnon.

Hadrian’s Wall

Senior 1 Latin pupils went on the annual trip to Hadrian’s Wall in June. After travelling via Gretna to the rolling hills of Northumbria, the pupils visited the Housesteads Fort, situated at Hadrian’s Wall. They were put through their paces in training to join the Roman Army by a Roman officer who quickly brought his new recruits up to speed on the demands of army life. They followed basic drill commands in Latin and, as well as getting to try out first-hand the heavy and cumbersome armour worn by soldiers of the time, they also practised the Testudo (tortoise) shield wall formation.



Computing

Stephen O'Connell, Head of Department

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

Every year, Wellington pupils take part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This international challenge is organised in over 40 countries and is designed to get students excited about computing. All pupils from P7, S1 and S2 and Computing Science students from S3 and S4 took part in the Challenge again this year.

The aim is to introduce students to computational thinking using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and applications. Examples of these techniques include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction. The tasks, which are delivered online, are fun, engaging and based on problems that Computer Scientists often tackle.

The tasks can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. The aim is to solve as many problems as possible in the allotted timeframe. Every Wellington participant received a Certificate of Participation with the top 25% in school achieving a Certificate of Distinction and the top 50% a Certificate of Merit.

Primary 7 pupils completed the Junior Challenge with a Best in School certificate going to Sarah Mason. In Senior 1 and 2, pupils tackle the Intermediate Challenge with a Best in School certificate being awarded to Cameron Holland. Finally, Senior 3 and 4 pupils participated in the Senior Challenge where Dillon Leahy took the Best in School.

Governors' Award

Last year, pupils and staff experienced Google Expeditions for the first time following a Google Pioneer visit organised by Mrs Bartholome. Pupils throughout school went exploring – from Chile to Japan, under the sea and back to the trenches of the Great War. Due to the resounding success of

this visit, the Computing Department made a successful application for a Governors' Award in order to purchase 5 virtual reality headsets for use with Google Expeditions.

The headsets open up a wealth of learning opportunities for our pupils as there are over 700 expeditions to discover. With sessions on 'How Animals See The World', excursions up to the temples of Abu Simbel and travelling back in time to experience Ancient Greece or Rome, there is truly something for everyone.

This resource is available to all pupils and staff with Mr O'Connell delivering training to those wishing to use this invaluable learning resource.

Animation Software

In Senior 1, Wellington's Computing students learn how to produce professional animations. They are involved in the entire creative process – from writing a script and performing it, to moulding characters and scenery from clay. Then, using Zu3D software, they make their stories come alive!

Pupils work in small teams to produce the best animation and once their masterpieces are complete, they are submitted to Mrs Morton, Head of Art & Design, who judges the best one. Ava Morgan and Gabriella Cooke's vlogging inspired piece, Sully, took 1st place this year. Mrs Morton said 'I was so impressed by their great story, punchy effects and the way they engaged the audience. Ava and Gabriella displayed a good use of humour and the sound works harmoniously with the visuals.' Sully is available to watch on the school's Facebook page.

The runners-up were Rebecca Kelk, Brinda Kandimalla, Nathalie Buesa, Charlie Cowan, Ruaridh Hunter and Jack Craig.

‘Without pupils, there would be no school and I must begin by thanking most sincerely all of the children and young adults who make Wellington such a special place.’

Simon Johnson, Headmaster



English

Alison Sheils, Head of Department

Fostering a love of reading and writing is at the heart of everything that we do in the English Department. Consequently, we have tried to expose our pupils to a variety of literary experiences throughout the session. S2 pupils attended the Edinburgh Book Festival in August and heard humorous and thought provoking presentations from Marcus Sedgwick and Robert Muchamore. In September, Michael Malone, Ayr crime author, spoke to S5 and S6 pupils about how he creates characters and where his inspiration comes from. He read a little from his superb novel 'A Suitable Lie', largely set in Ayr and which discusses domestic violence against men. We were delighted to welcome back award winning Scottish author Martin Stewart who ran two workshops with S5 and 6 pupils about ideas and structure in creative writing and the importance of editing their folio pieces. Moreover, a group of S1 pupils were so moved by their reading of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' that they wanted to take part in the Holocaust Postcard Project. Pupils wrote to a survivor after having read her story and a reply was sent back thanking them for their sensitive responses.

Theatre visits really help our pupils to understand and appreciate stagecraft when studying drama in the classroom. This year we have been fortunate enough to experience a variety of fabulous theatre productions including 'Trainspotting', 'A Streetcar Named Desire', 'Faithful Ruslan- the story of a guard dog' and 'Cinderella'. The Advanced Higher pupils travelled to Edinburgh to soak up the Festival atmosphere and see a performance of 'The Chess Men' and 'The Performers.' In addition, they visited London in October to see a performance of Chekhov's 'The Seagull', one of the texts studied at Advanced Higher, and an exhibition by former pupil Sarah Muirhead at The Leyden Gallery. They also experienced a creative writing morning in Glasgow, followed by play 'The Late Sleeper', at Oran Mhor.

Debating at Wellington continues to thrive. Following its success last year, we hosted pupils from Belmont Academy and Carrick Academy for Debating Coaching sessions, run by Stand Out Speaking who worked with our own pupils to develop their skills. The feedback from this seven week

course, sponsored by a Govenors' Award, was again extremely positive. We have taken part in the Scottish Junior and ESU Mace Debating Competitions, reaching the second round in both; it was encouraging to see four younger pupils participate in their first competitive debate. For the first time, a Wellington team- Anubha Bal and Meera Mohankrishnan- reached the semi-finals of The Donald Dewar Memorial Debate, run by the Law Society of Scotland. The girls have subsequently been invited to participate in the Floor Debate at the final, held in the Scottish Parliament in June. Callum Duffy has been an outstanding Debating Captain, running a weekly lunchtime club for both Junior and Senior debaters as well as chairing ESU debates, attending the selection process for the Scottish Debating Team and reaching the quarter-finals of The Donald Dewar Debate with team mate, Christopher Summers. Moreover, a group of S6 pupils are travelling to St Andrews University in June to compete for the John Stuart Mill Cup, a battle of philosophical discussion and debate. Also in June is the annual McKinstry Debate. This competition, kindly sponsored by Mr Graeme McKinstry, encourages new and experienced debaters to get involved in this challenging and exciting activity. There will be live 'tweeting' from the event.

Once again, a group of S5 and 6 pupils took part in the News Academy Conference for budding young journalists at the News UK Glasgow office. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions to journalists in all areas of the business, from sports to features including Sun Editor Alan Muir and BAFTA-winning BBC journalist, Sam Poling. Kaye Adams gave an insightful keynote address on the changes she has experienced in journalism and the issue of fake news.

The Advanced Higher English class, along with those studying History and Modern Studies, were accompanied to Glasgow University library to enable them to access necessary additional reading and criticism for their Literature and Dissertation papers. Having been issued with an annual library card, they could return to the library regularly throughout the year.

The Women's Aid conference took place this year in Kilmarnock Campus, Ayrshire College. Three S6 Pupils and one S5 pupil attended, accompanied by Mrs Ulph. The focus of this conference was on the concept of control in relationships and the stages of manipulation that can occur in the lead up to an abusive relationship. This was exemplified perfectly in the presentation of a dramatic monologue.

Miss Dunn, Mrs Sheils and Mrs Ulph, marked national qualification exam papers for the SQA at all levels National 5 to Advanced Higher in the 2017 and 2018 exam diets with Miss Dunn and Mrs Sheils taking on the role of Team Leader.



Enterprise Education

Linda Munn, Head of Business Studies & Accounting

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

Visiting Speaker: Mr Cecchini, Cecchini's Restaurants

Mr Cecchini gave up time in his extremely busy schedule to visit the S3 Business Management Classes where he presented to pupils on “the challenges of starting up and running a successful business”. This was an extremely informative lesson for the students as it allowed them to make links between what was being taught in the classroom with the real world of business.

S1/2 Enterprise – Fairtrade

The annual S2 Fairtrade event was another highlight, with pupils displaying excellent awareness of the principles of Fairtrade as well as creativity, teamwork and an ability to make a profit (all of which was donated to the 6th year charity, Alzheimer Scotland).

South Ayrshire Schools' Fairtrade Conference

Pupils visited Kyle Academy to participate in the South Ayrshire Schools' Fairtrade Conference. Wellington pupils told the other attendees about our S2 Fairtrade event and as part of an open dialogue, pupils heard how other schools embrace Fairtrade. This certainly gave Wellington pupils inspiration for future events.

S2 German Exchange Enterprise Day

Mr Byers organised another very successful Enterprise Day with the Wellington S2 students and their German counterparts. The day consisted of students working together on a variety of tasks to develop their team working, communication and enterprising skills. The focus of this event

was to generate ideas for the next exchange visit, with Mallinckrodt Gymnasium, which will celebrate 30 years of our partnership.

Fabulous Fiver Challenge

Building on the success of the event last year, the Fiver Challenge was launched once again with students P7 to S3. This year, 55 students signed up for this voluntary activity, all of whom worked tirelessly to turn their fiver into profit. Like last year, pupils displayed a great deal of creativity and their innovative business ideas generated a buzz around school. The aim is to make as much profit as possible with teams permitted to keep 50% of the profits, with 50% going to the school charity. However, once again, the generosity of Wellington pupils shone through with the majority choosing to donate every penny they raised to the school charity, a sum totalling over £1660.

Design a Sub Challenge

The challenge, which was launched in Scotland, for the first time by the Subway® brand, asked budding entrepreneurs from schools and colleges across Scotland to come up with their own design and marketing campaign for a brand new 6-inch Sub or flatbread. Our Wellington team, comprising Eve Meechan, Bethany Wake, Laura Scott and Francesca Bailie reached the final held in the SECC Glasgow, competing against five other schools. ‘I am so proud of the girls. Their presentation skills were first class and they were a real credit to the school’.

Advanced Higher – London Trip

In February, the Advanced Higher Business Studies pupils took advantage of a trip to London. They visited the Bank of England museum where they enjoyed the many interactive activities which helped them understand the role the Bank of England plays in the UK economy and the importance of interest rates. They were also very fortunate to attend a talk at the City Halls from the Mayor's Principal for Business Engagement. This extremely interesting talk focused on the economic challenges facing the City of London, including the possible impact of Brexit. Pupils enjoyed a very informative guided walking tour around the Silicone Roundabout at Shoreditch where they learned about the challenges facing new start-ups in the area and how they have overcome them. Before catching the train home, the class even managed a whistle-stop sightseeing tour of the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and St James' Park. All of the pupils were a delight to spend time with and a real credit to the school.’



Geography

Richard Ledingham, Head of Department

Curricular News

Fieldwork, and outdoor learning, continue to inspire pupils in the Geography Department, and form the foundation of success experienced by pupils at Wellington School.

The S1 Geography pupils started the year with a detailed study of the factors affecting the school's micro-climate. The use of new digital anemometers and thermometers allowed them to gather a plethora of data around the school grounds, prior to processing and analysis in the classroom. Weather Station Circles and bar/line graphs were used along with wind roses to explain the links between the various elements and the impact of the local environment.

S2 pupils compared the physical and human geography of Brazil and Japan, whilst simultaneously investigating the significant challenges facing these nations, with regards to rainforest destruction, environmental pollution and tectonic hazards. Pupils engaged in summary projects prior to their end of year exams, which saw innovative story telling through hand-written projects, ICT and documentary style videos.

The annual visit by National 5 students to Drymen and Balmaha, Loch Lomond National Park, took place in June. The new S4 students investigated the impact of tourism on an upland glaciated environment. Pupils were taught how to plan a geographical study using a variety of gathering techniques, presentation methods and methods of analysis. This first-hand data collection enabled them to start their individual Assignments based on their own hypotheses. The day was spent gathering information on footpath erosion, trample zones, vegetation cover, environmental quality, traffic/pedestrian flow, car origins, tourist questionnaires. Last year the National 5 cohort enjoyed impressive results, with twice as many receiving an 'A' compared to the SQA national average for the subject. The Assignment marks were superb and played a significant role in this success with the assignment being worth 20% of the overall mark at National 5.

Higher pupils 'enjoyed' a slightly damp physical field day, on the Culzean

coast, contrasting the beach landscapes of constructive and destructive environments. Data collected for beach profiles, storm beach sediment, infiltration rates, wave frequency and geomorphological features were used to compare the beaches of Culzean and Maidens. In preparation for their Assignment, students were taught how to write a detailed methodology and to evaluate the techniques that they used. To fulfil the human element of their fieldwork, the Higher students completed an urban land use survey for Ayr to illustrate the changes in land use with distance from the Central Business District. Students used RICEPOT categories to complete their maps, recorded building height, completed a bi-polar survey on environmental quality, pedestrian counts and a 'living streets' survey.

The annual Advanced Higher residential fieldwork weekend in Kindrogan was a huge success yet again as Wellington pupils worked seamlessly with other schools to complete an impressive array of techniques over a relatively short period of time. The skills and methods learned here influenced the choice of Geographical Study for each pupil's folio, with topics ranging from a comparison study of Ayr and Prestwick to biogeographical studies of the Brown Carrick Hill.

Extra-Curricular News

At the end of March, 15 pupils from S3 and S4 embarked upon the trip of a lifetime as they travelled to Iceland, one of their National 5 case study locations. The study tour included a visit to the popular open air geothermal swimming pool at Laugardalslaug as well as numerous geographically significant sites such as Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where they were able to walk behind the veil of water itself. Other unforgettable locations visited were the Solheimajokull glacier tongue, the newly opened Lava Centre and the spectacular coastal scenery at Reynishverfi beach, where pupils witnessed the powerful waves creating almost textbook-like formations along the black shingle beach. However, the highlight of the trip was almost certainly the final day on which we visited the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station, Pingvellir National Park (the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates), Great Geysir and Gullfoss waterfall before relaxing at the world famous Blue Lagoon resort, under a canopy of stars and the majestic northern lights!

In April, two teams of three pupils represented the school at the regional heats of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers Worldwide Quiz. Both teams progressed to the regional finals where they finished in 1st and 2nd place, seeing off competition from numerous schools from across Ayrshire. The winning team will now take part in the National Finals later this month!

Finally, the department continues to embrace technology with the acquisition of new fieldwork equipment, additional ICT support and subscriptions to several information services, including the Digimap service provided by the University of Edinburgh. A successful Governors' Award bid has also allowed the purchase of numerous GPS units which will not only assist with curricular activities, but to launch orienteering and geo-caching as extra-curricular activities offered by the department in the new academic session.



History

Amy Hyslop, Head of Department

September: S4 Joint Trip with Modern Studies to London

The 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 led by Ms Hyslop on the first day. 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.

January: S3 National 5 Trip to John Knox's House and Holyrood Palace

As part of their National 5 History course, S3 students learn about the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. Arguably one of the most enigmatic figures in Scottish history, this trip to Edinburgh was highly relevant to their National 5 history course in S3.

Pupils are then given a guided tour of John Knox's House and Holyrood Palace where they visited Mary's personal chamber and the very spot where her Italian secretary David Riccio was murdered.

February: P7 and S1 Trip to France and Belgium

This residential trip took place over the February holiday, in conjunction with the Modern Languages Department (French). The trip involved some fascinating Historical visits such as 'Les Boves' the underground tunnels and the Belfry, Azincourt Museum, the World War One Memorial Museum at Zonnebeke and Menin Gate in Ypres. Pupils were able to research any family connections in the Ypres area with records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org).

The aim of this trip is to pique pupils' interest in World War I and to prepare them for the topic, which will be covered in S2.

April: S2 Trip to The National Museum of Scotland

Senior 2 went on a trip to Scotland's most treasured museum in April where they took part in a 'Scots Emigration to Canada' Workshop examining artefacts, primary source evidence and other aspects of their study of Scottish Migration and Empire. They were also given the opportunity to explore the museum's collection by taking part in a group research trail on all their topics studies this year including World War One, The Industrial Revolution and Scottish Migration and Empire. The trip proved to be highly beneficial to enhancing the pupils' learning of each element of their S2 History course. May: S3 National 5 Cross Curricular Educational Workshop with Computing

In a cross curricular link with Computing, Mr O'Connell provided the computing facilities for a visiting speaker who delivered a workshop to National 5 History pupils on the study of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The project is part of a PhD undertaken by Nelson Mundell from Glasgow University (a qualified secondary teacher). The project is called 'The Runaway Slaves in Britain'. Nelson Mundell designed the Minecraft created island of Saint Lauretia which pupils had the opportunity to explore, and the graphic novel associated with the project is Freedom Bound. Nelson delivered a fantastic workshop for pupils along with a presentation on the runaway slaves themselves. All schools and teachers at Wellington who took part in the project will get a mention in the final submission of the project's research and there will hopefully be room for the best of the students' work.

June: Primary 7 Trip to The Bannockburn Centre, Stirling

Mrs Shaw organised this year's trip to the popular 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 included object handling, role play and decision making exercises that supported their experience on site.

S1 Cross Curricular Project with French

Pupils made cross curricular links with French on their study of the French Revolution in both languages. They each chose an event from the topic on which to present their research, using both English and French.



International Education & Modern Languages

Susan Coontz, Head of Department & International Programme Manager

International Education continues to be a main strength of Wellington School and this session the opportunities offered to our pupils have continued to expand and develop.

A group of S5 and S6 pupils spent part of their Christmas holiday in India where they visited Jaipur, Agra and Delhi. As always, there were many memorable moments but a highlight of the tour was the visit to the Taj Mahal. The group also spent time at Humayun's Tomb in Delhi which is as impressive as the Taj Mahal but does not draw the same numbers of international visitors. Our partners at St Edmund's School, Jaipur, enriched our pupils' shopping experience by taking the girls sari-shopping in the local market. The group looked so stunning at the New Year's Party in Agra that they made the newspapers. Collaboration with St Edmund's School has continued throughout the session with Wellington School supporting them with their Enterprise Activity 'Waste to Wealth' by selling merchandise in school. Dr Singh (Director) and Mrs Singh (Director Academics) visited from Jaipur in May to learn about our educational system and Mrs Coontz and Mr McDougall return to Jaipur during the summer break to develop more collaborative projects.

UK-German Connection awarded Wellington School a grant of £1000 to support pupil visits to the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund. The funding will subsidise the costs of the Senior Exchange for those participating in Session 2018-19. Two pupils have been awarded places on courses in Germany organised by UK-German Connection. Hamish Ablett (S6) spent time in Berlin in June taking part in a youth conference 'Cultural Heritage in a Digital World' and Ruby Magee will spend two weeks in August studying German language and culture. S1 German classes have worked on a Culture in a Box project with a class at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium and have exchanged materials on Christmas, cultural festivals and school.

Pupils from S2 and above spent a week at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium on exchange in December. They enjoyed the diverse programme organised

for them and the Christmas markets were especially popular. During the return visit to Scotland, junior pupils took part in an Enterprise Day and developed ideas for activities and souvenirs for our 30th Anniversary celebrations in Session 2019-20.

P7 and S1 pupils spent a week in the north of France and Belgium during the February half-term. They thoroughly enjoyed the visits and activities organised for them by M Levif. The chocolate factory was a huge success. The most poignant moment was listening to William Shiels play the bagpipes at the Menin Gate, an imposing World War One memorial to the Fallen in Ypres. Our two P6 classes have started a letter exchange with a primary school in Rennes, Brittany. For the second year running, Osman Omar has represented the school at the finals of WordWizard, a foreign language spelling bee. This year, he was placed second in Scotland for excellence in German.

Four pupils have completed the requirements for the UCAPE European Diploma.

Our Erasmus+ project, Art Nouveau-Art Renouveau, (funded by the European Commission) has been awarded a Good Practice label and has been identified as a successful project for inclusion in a brochure highlighting Erasmus+ opportunities. The Primary Erasmus Club entered a photo competition to celebrate 30 years of Erasmus and they won one of the two main prizes. Mrs Archbold travelled to London in October to collect the prize on behalf of the pupils. The group decided to spend their winnings on telescopes to use for the new Erasmus+ project.

In August 2017 we learned that our application for EU funding to support Eurostronomia, an astronomy-themed Erasmus+ project, had been successful. In April, Wellington pupils travelled to Slovenia to work with other young people on the project and three pupils will go to Romania during the summer holidays. In September, we will welcome 34 young people to Wellington School, together with their teachers. This new project involves participants from eight countries: Bulgaria, France, Germany, Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Scotland. Our Indian partner school will also be involved with this mobility.

We hosted three foreign language assistants this session, Frau Laura Rosenberg from Germany and Mademoiselle Lea Masciocchi from France and Señora Nelly Herera from Chile.



Mathematics

Peter Richmond, Head of Department

UKMT Mathematical Challenges

In the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Mathematical Challenges, pupils throughout the school won various awards at Gold, Silver and Bronze level.

In the Senior Challenge (November 2017), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, the top 60% nationally receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. This year, at Wellington, Bronze Awards went to Kirstie Howat (S5), Sarah McGaffin (S5) and Emily Nolan (S5), with Silver Awards and Best in Year certificates awarded to Emily Henry (S5) and Matthew Taylor (S6). Matthew also won Best in School.

The Intermediate Challenge (February 2018) saw Laurence Shinn (S4) gain a Bronze Award, with Silver certificates going to Callum Shinn (S4), Dillon Leahy (S4), Jayden Lyons (S3) and Amy Barbour (S4), who also gained Best in Year. Of most noteworthy mention is the result from Euan Graham (S3), as once again he gained a Gold certificate and Best in School, as well as an invitation to sit the more challenging follow-on Pink Kangaroo paper.

The Junior Challenge (April 2018), aimed at children in S2 and below, saw large numbers of pupils participating from across both the Senior School and, for the first time, from Primary 7. We are delighted to have attained some 24 Bronze certificates, in addition to 5 Silver Awards from Evan Kirkwood (P7), Faris Alnakkas (S1), Elouisa Cairns (S2), Mhairi Chalmers (S2: also gaining Best in Year) and Emily Stribling (S1: also gaining Best in Year and Best in School).

The list of Bronze certificate winners is: Sam Bowyer, Amy Grassom, Lucinda Haye, Tori Laird, Lucy McColl, Scott Mitchell, Osman Omer (S2); Cameron Hainey, Sidonie Harris, Cameron Holland, Bhuvan Kandimalla, Abigail McPartlin, Kate Miller, Noah O'Brien, Beth Peat, Lucy Robinson, Summer Saunders, Catriona Smith, Matthew Wardrop, Kiera West (S1);

Adam Bondar, Callum Peat, Fraser Rillie, Amy Scott (P7).

UKMT Team Challenge

The UKMT Team Challenge saw David Bondar (S2), Amy Grassom (S2), Erin Grier (S1) and Emily Muir (S1) compete in a regional heat at Forth Valley College, Falkirk. They put in a sterling effort, taking part in four rounds across the competition: Group Round, Crossnumber, Shuttle and Relay.

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).

The top-scoring S1 and S2 certificate winners were invited to a prizegiving ceremony at The University of Glasgow, including a talk on 'Platonic Solids', where certificates and mugs were presented; congratulations go to Catriona Smith (S1: Bronze), Kiera West (S1: Bronze), Kate Miller (S1: Silver) and David Bondar (S2: Gold). Meanwhile, in Primary 7 the following pupils were worthy certificate winners: Jack Bryson, Bentley Cai, Saad Omer, Kathryn Taylor (Bronze); Mikey Maxwell, Callum Peat, Amy Scott (Silver); Adam Bondar, Morgan Laraway (Gold); well done to all.

Inaugural Mathématiques Sans Frontières Competition

For the first time, Wellington took part in the Mathématiques Sans Frontières whole-class competition, a stimulating and light-hearted affair which combines Mathematics and Modern Languages, aiming to motivate pupils. Those in S4M1 attempted 10 questions, divided up between groups, within a 60-minute time limit, before deciding on and submitting their final answer.

Pi Day

In March, the department celebrated Pi Day (and the birthday of the physicist Albert Einstein). Senior 1 pupils baked pi(e)s, had a competition to see who could memorise the most digits of pi and then completed a workbook full of mathematical quizzes and brainteasers. Rebecca Kelk and Elsa Dunsmuir were noteworthy winners in the memory competition.



Modern Studies

Alistair McDougall, Head of Department

The Modern Studies department continues to offer a varied programme of curricular activities which allow pupils to explore the social and political landscape nationally and internationally. Learning beyond the classroom is a key part of the subject and pupils are encouraged to engage in active learning opportunities which will enhance their overall experience in the department.

This session saw the appointment of the first ever Social Subjects Captain for Modern Studies, History and Geography. Lauren O’Brien, who studied Advanced Higher Modern Studies and Advanced Higher History, was an ambassador for the department and carried out various duties. For example, Lauren assisted in organising and chairing the mock election with P7 and S1 and she worked hard to mentor younger pupils.

The mock elections, took place in March. They gave P7 and S1 pupils an opportunity to engage in the political process by convincing their counterparts to vote for their party. The three S1 classes each elected a candidate who then delivered speeches at a ‘hustings’. As in previous years, the S1 classes were invited to create their own party names, policies and identities; pupils created campaign materials to display their party’s message around the school. This brought the process of elections and voting to life in a colourful and creative fashion, which the pupils really enjoyed.

S3 and Higher pupils also stepped into the world of politics when, in December, they were visited by the newly-elected Conservative MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock, Bill Grant. The Member of the UK Parliament enlightened the class on the work of an elected representative and democracy more generally. Pupils were able to ask questions about his roles and duties and were able to gather important information for use in their research assignments.

Earlier this session, S4 were given a talk by PC Gilmour who discussed the work of the police for the Crime and the Law unit and more specifically,

the role of a community police officer in preventing crime, protecting the public and enforcing the law. Various curricular activities then followed, making the session invaluable to our National 5 candidates.

September saw the annual joint S4 Modern Studies and History trip to London which involved a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a workshop on elections and voting, and a visit to the Museum of London.

Members of the Higher and Advanced Higher classes took part in the South Ayrshire Youth Forum Conference at the County Buildings in Wellington Square. Callum Duffy, Eve Meechan and Bethany Wake all took part in workshops and roundtable discussions with pupils from other schools across South Ayrshire. The topics for discussion included strategies for encouraging young people to participate in politics and ways that young people could be helped to better manage finances when attending college and university.

Advanced Higher pupils are required to write a dissertation for which they undertake considerable research. As part of the research component, they received a seminar from Miss Cara Garven, former Principal Teacher of English and now a teacher at HMP Kilmarnock, to discuss rehabilitation of offenders in prison. They then arranged their own personal research opportunities by visiting police officers, social workers, courts and solicitors’ offices with the aim of gathering first hand primary research.

This session also saw the creation of the Model United Nations Society. A number of Advanced Higher pupils were instrumental in setting up the group and encouraged several of their fellow pupils to join. In Scotland, school pupils have been encouraged to set up their own model UN societies and take part in conferences with other schools to really get a flavour of what the UN can achieve and the issues that are discussed today at the UN General Assembly. It is also designed to encourage pupils to develop critical thinking skills, improve their presentation and communication skills and develop literacy and numeracy skills by doing research and preparing papers before attending the conference. In February, Wellington sent its first delegation of Model United Nations (MUN) participants to a national conference at Hutchesons’ Grammar School, Glasgow. Schools from all over Scotland and northern England sent teams of students to take part in activities designed to encourage debate and critical thinking about global issues. Six Wellington students took on the role of honourable delegates from Italy for the two days and were charged with preparing position statements and resolutions for the various committees the delegates were invited to attend. The issues they discussed ranged from the problem of gangs in Italy and other countries around the world, and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The Model UN group is looking forward to further opportunities to attend conferences and debate global issues in the near future.

Music

Dennis Haggerty, Director of Music

Ayrshire Music Festival

The Ayrshire Music Festival culminates in the ‘Premier Trophies Evening’. There were two competitions for the selected best performances of the festival, the Howard De Walden Silver Challenge Cup for the Best Vocal Performance and the Elizabeth McNair Trophy for the Best Instrumental Performance. Of the four finalists in the vocal prize, two were Wellington pupils: Sophie Craig and Katie Carmichael. Both pupils were outstanding and a credit to our school. Katie won first place. Matthew Taylor and Ruby Magee both played piano in the instrumental competition and although they did not win, played extremely well. Wellington School was well represented at this event and many of our peripatetic instrumental instructors came to watch. Other successes of the festival include:

Singers

Howard De Walden Trophy (For Best Vocal Performance)

Winner: Katie Carmichael

Opera (Open Class)

1st Place: Katie Carmichael who won the *Ayr Intimate Opera Company Trophy*

Oratorio (Open Class)

1st Place: Katie Carmichael who won the *Ayr Intimate Opera Company Trophy*

Light Opera (Open Class)

1st Place: Sophie Craig who won the *Ayr Amateur Opera Company Trophy*

Vocal Recital

1st Place: Sophie Craig, who won the *Springhill Challenge Trophy*

Songs from the Shows: S5/S6

1st Place: Claire Wilson

Songs from the Shows: Duets & Ensembles (Open Class)

1st Place: Claire Wilson and Katie Carmichael

Songs from the Shows S3/S4

3rd Place: Charlotte Robb

Songs from the Shows S1/S2

2nd Place: Katie Thomson

Songs from the Shows P6/P7

1st place: Jessica Hays

Junior Vocal Solos Girls in S5/S6

1st Place: Katie Carmichael

2nd Place: Ruby Magee

Junior Vocal Solos S1/S2

1st Place: Carly Martin

Choirs

Songs from Shows Choirs

1st Place: Wellington Senior Choir

Female Voice Choirs

1st Place; Wellington Madrigal Group

Primary Choral P2/3

1st Place: Wellington School P2/3 Choir

Strings

Violin Solos Division G

1st Place: Jessica Ewer, P4

Violin Solos Division F (b)

1st Place: Andrew Irvine, P4

Violin Solos Division F (c)

1st Place: David Ness, P4

String Duets Division D

2nd Place with Distinction:

Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin and Freya Day-Byrne

String Sonata

1st Place: with Distinction: Christopher Summers

Cello Solos: Open and the McGill Cello Cup

1st Place: with Distinction: Morven Murdoch

Violin Solos: Open (Baroque)

1st Place: with Distinction: Jennifer Bowie

Scots Fiddle Open Class

1st Place: Fiona Sykes

Violin Solo Juniors

1st Place: Beth Peat

Piano

Instrumental Recital Class

1st Place: Matthew Taylor

Piano Solos Division F

1st Place: Lillie McCluskie

Open (Romantic) Piano Solos

1st Place: Ruby Magee, who was also awarded the *Annie P Barclay Trophy*.

Ensemble

String Ensemble Class

1st Place: Wellington Primary Ensemble

Speech & Drama

Sophie Craig won all of the following:

The *Elocution Trophy*

The *Coila Trophy* (Scottish Verse)

The *Shakespeare Marjory McKinlay Trophy*

1st Place: Favourite Poem (Open)

Robert Burns World Federation Competition

Following Sophie Craig's success in the 2018 Ayrshire Regional Burns Competition where she won trophies in both singing and recitation, she was invited to compete in the Robert Burns World Federation National Finals. The National Finals were held on April 21st in Stirling and Sophie competed against all other Scottish regional winners.

Sophie won first place in Verse Speaking and came second in the Singing competition. This follows on from the success of last year winning the singing competition and coming second in the verse speaking. This is an outstanding achievement for a pupil to compete at a National level two years in a row. The competition was, as always, of an exceptionally high standard.

Departmental, Curricular & Extra Curricular News

The music department has recently welcomed a new member to the teaching staff to accommodate a significant increase in pupils opting to study the subject in academic session 2018/19. After successful implementation of four new courses last year, Higher Music Technology was added to the framework. We are delighted to appoint Ms Nicola McKinlay to the full time music teaching staff. Nicola arrives from Kilmarnock Academy with a wealth of experience teaching Music and Music Technology to all levels of certificate music. Mrs Susan Docherty will now teach three days in the classroom and two days as a peripatetic piano teacher. Susan has successfully taught piano for over twenty years and Mr Haggerty is delighted to have her vast experience in the classroom and also her expertise as a piano teacher. Changes to our list of specialist music tutors include the return of two former tutors, Ms Ellen Martin (Cello) and Mr Scott MacKay (Drum Kit). Both tutors are delighted to be back at Wellington and our pupils will benefit greatly with two professional musicians of this calibre. New instructors include Mr Ross Miller (Bagpipes), a member of a world champion winning pipe band; Mr Andy McTaggart (Voice), an experienced professional opera singer; Stewart Forbes (woodwind) the renowned expert in woodwind who has played with many top orchestras in the United Kingdom and Mr Matthew Hynes (Piano), organist at St Columba Church. The department now has 16 Peripatetic Industry Specialist Music Instructors delivering a wide range of instrumental tuition and who all have high ambitions for our pupils.

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. Future collaborations with the Modern Languages Department are in planning for the 30 year celebration concert. The Chamber Choir and Orchestra have just recently returned from a successful concert tour of Salzburg, Austria. The pupils prepared a full-length programme of one and a half hours of a variety of music to perform

throughout the region of Salzburg. The next music department trip is being planned for June 2020.

Higher Music Technology was successfully incorporated into the curriculum last academic year, and the forthcoming Advanced Higher Music Technology will be offered when available. Choosing music as an option in the senior school has steadily increased over the past three years with many pupils opting to study the subject in the 2017/18 academic session.

In the past three years, several pupils have gone on to pursue a career in Music with successful entrance to performance degrees at the Royal Northern College of Music, Edinburgh University, Newcastle University and Conservatory of Music in Genoa as well as education degrees at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Edinburgh University. Meanwhile this year, two pupils will also pursue a career in music: Musical Theatre at the prestigious Mountview Academy in London and Music Technology at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

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 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 S3-S6); Madrigal Group (girls S4-S6); Chamber Choir (Senior select mixed voices); Junior Choir for mixed voices (P7-S2); Wellington School Training Orchestra (beginner to Grade 2); Wellington School Orchestra (Grade 3 and above); String Ensemble; Jazz Band; Senior Folk Group (Senior pupils); Musical Theatre Club (P7-S2); Rock Band (Senior Pupils), Woodwind Ensemble and Wellington Youth Theatre (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.

Choral Programme

The Choral Programme continues to thrive with successful performances at Harvest and the Christmas and Easter Services (both in the Junior and Senior Schools.) Our choirs from Nursery to S6 continue to perform at charity events inside school and also in the wider community, bringing joy to many audiences. There are many of these events organised throughout an 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 Girls' Choir of Scotland and Katie Carmichael and Ruby Magee successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir of Scotland. At National Orchestra Level, we have two senior pupils who are members of the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of Scotland with the most recent addition, Beth Peat in S2. Many singers and instrumentalists attend the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Issy Girgis has recently been

accepted to the Junior Conservatoire for violin and will join our singers Katie Carmichael and Ruby Magee in August. 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 the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra.

Concerts

Our pupils sing and play at many prestigious events in Ayrshire and promote the good name of our school. This year we have had after dinner performances for Ayr Guildry, Arts Circle, Alloway Rotary, Inner Wheel, Ayrshire Seniors events in the Town Hall and Showcases at the Gaiety Theatre Ayr. Through these concerts, a substantial amount of money has been raised for the school charity.

Pupils who deserve special mention for their commitment, enthusiasm and talent brought to these events are Claire Wilson, Katie Carmichael, Sophie Craig, Ruby Magee, Jennifer Bowie, Emilia Darwent, Fiona Sykes, Megan Short, Alexander Cheng and Conrad Lynch.

Shows

As many of you know, in October 2017 our Senior School Show was 'Les Miserables' by Claude-Michel Schonberg with words by Alain Boublil. This is one of the most challenging shows in the musical theatre repertoire and our senior pupils gave four outstanding performances to a full house. This was the first show in the history of Wellington that was double cast. We have so many talented singers that we provided two casts of equal high quality. This was Mr Haggerty's fourth show as Musical Director with Mrs Mackenzie as producer and Heather Rennie as choreographer. Rehearsals have already started for the next show, the Broadway sensation, 'Chicago'.

At Christmas, collaboration between the Wellington School 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 the Junior School Concerts continue to present performances of the highest quality and once again, outstanding feedback was received from all who attended. The success of these events led to a Summer Performing Arts Concert for both Senior and Junior Schools, which has now become a regular platform for our talented pupils.

Junior School

Music in the Junior School continues to flourish with many musical performances and productions

throughout the year. Highlights include the P1 musical, 'Charlie' by P3 and Burns event by P6.

Following the success of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in June 2017, there will now be a Junior School Musical Production every two years and not three. Pupils are fully committed to the productions and consistently give up valuable playtime to ensure that their shows are a success.

The annual Nativity productions took place as usual and the Nursery delighted audiences with their show, which was produced by the staff, with music played by Mrs Wilson. The Junior School Nativity was the ambitious 'Bethlehem the Musical'. The primary school staff collaborated on the production side and Mr Haggerty provided the music.

The Lunchtime Concert Series 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.

‘When families come to look around the school, they often ask whether a newcomer will be made to feel welcome. They never ask that question after they have completed a tour and met some of our wonderful teachers.’

Simon Johnson, Headmaster



Science

Andrew McPhee, Head of Physics & Science

This has been a very busy academic year in the Science Department with record numbers of Advanced Higher pupils taking Biology and Chemistry.

Ms Karis Leckie joined Wellington as Head of Chemistry following the retirement of Mr Robert West. Ms Leckie has integrated into the department seamlessly and has become a very popular teacher with her pupils.

The Science Department has also been trialling a new type of study support which involves senior pupils mentoring their younger counterparts. Advanced Higher Science pupils have been making themselves available on Tuesday lunchtimes to work with students from S3 to S5. This has enabled pupils who may have been reluctant to ask for help from their teacher, to access help from their peers. It has proved very successful and will be offered again next year. Thanks to our Science Captains Fiona Sykes and Hamish Ablett for helping to organise this. Please note that help from teachers is still available during other lunchtimes.

The Biology Department ran a very successful weekend trip to the University Marine Biology Centre in Millport, Great Cumbrae for the Advanced Higher class. Thanks to Mrs McIntyre for organising this and to Mrs Ness for her help with the trip.

Primary Science has been as dynamic and fast-paced as ever with Mrs Ness enthraling P5 and P6 throughout the year. Further up the school, Mrs Ness again organised the annual trip to the Glasgow Science Centre.

The Erasmus club has been meeting weekly in the Science Department as part of the EU funded Astronomy project, Eurostronomia. In addition to a very successful mobility visit to Ljubljana, Slovenia in April, the club has carried out a host of exciting activities from debating about the colonisation Mars; studying astronomy themed music; and building up an astronomy library and then studying the books. Club members have also watched themed films such as The Martian and Salyut 7, followed by vibrant discussion.

Preparations are underway for the Scottish mobility in September when Wellington will host pupils from France, Germany, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia for a week of Astrophysics activities.

The department continued to be very well represented in its work for the SQA. Ms Leckie again marked Advanced Higher projects and Higher Chemistry examination papers, Mrs McIntyre was again a team leader for Higher Biology and Mr McPhee continued as Senior Team Leader for Advanced Higher Physics.

While pupil numbers for Biology and Chemistry continue to remain high, Physics numbers are also particularly strong next year. Session 2018/19 is set to be another busy and hopefully successful year throughout the department.

‘Ask any teacher about a lesson, an activity or a trip and, with enormous warmth and affection, they will explain how the pupils made it so enjoyable and memorable.’

Simon Johnson, Headmaster



Physical Education & Sport

Alastair Ness, Head of Department

Multisport

Ayrshire Schools' Secondary Cross Country Championships

In the Ayrshire Schools' Secondary Cross Country Championships, the S1 girls team won the Bronze medal. Team members were Katie Murray, Beth Peat, Emily Muir, Danniella McCormick, Logan Ness and Eve Littlejohn.

The S2 girls won their team event. The team members were Mhairi Chalmers, Leigh Timothy, Amy Grassom, Lucy Haye and Tori Laird.

Scottish Schools' Secondary Cross Country

The SSAA Secondary Cross Country Championships took place on Saturday 17th March, at Hopetoun House Estate. The school was represented by two pupils: Eve Littlejohn and Katie Murray. Both girls ran exceptionally well in difficult conditions, as the photo demonstrates!

Scottish Schools' Secondary Road Race

Five pupils from S1 and one from S2 competed in the Scottish Schools Road race at Falkirk Stadium on 4th October. Mhairi Chalmers (S2) was the highest placed pupil finishing in 7th place. Katie Murray was the first Wellington girl to finish. She was placed 27th in the S1 girls race out of a field of over 100 runners.

Prestwick Aquathlon

On Saturday 23rd September, six P4 and P5 pupils competed at the Prestwick Aquathlon, which is part of the Scottish Aquathlon Race Series.

Competitors came from all over Scotland and our competitors performed very well after a strong swim and a fast run. The competitors were as follows: **P4** Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin, 4th Place; Lara Marshall, 5th Place; David Ness, 2nd Place; and Harvey Ashley, 5th Place. **P5** Rory Marshall, 7th Place; P6 Finlay Ashley. 5th Place; David Ness, 2nd Place.

*Photo: Session 2016/2017 Head Boy, Cameron Reece & Head Girl, Celeste McGinley lead the school in the annual **Sports Day Marching**, a uniquely Wellington tradition.*

Scottish Schools' Aquathlon 2018

An enjoyable day was had by Nathan Hughes at the 2018 Scottish National Schools Aquathlon Championships on the 21st of April.

Fifty schools, and over 240 pupils took part in the event with pupils from S1 to S6 competing in their year groups. Nathan raced in the S1/2 category where competitors were required to swim 300m and run 4km. Nathan swam well and was in one of the fastest lanes. He changed quickly in transition before starting on the run. He ran with determination and finished strongly.

South Ayrshire Schools' Off road Duathlon

Pupils from S1-S3 competed in the annual off-road Duathlon at Culzean Castle. The event involved a 6 kilometre mountain bike ride around the estate followed by a bracing 3k run. The pupils were strong competitors and achieved top 10 placings in all three age groups.

Scottish Athletics U15 Championships

On Sunday 20th August, the Scottish Athletics Under 15 Age Group Championships, Jack Edwards won the Gold medal in the U15 Boys 300m in a time of 39.99 secs. Jack is in S3 and competes for Kilmarnock Harriers.

Scottish Schools' Relays

Wellington had both girls and boys teams in the Scottish Schools' Primary and Secondary School's Relay Championships. The S1 boys were placed 8th in the 4x100m and the S3 boys were placed 6th in the 4x400m Final.

Swimming

Ayrshire Schools Swimming Results

The Primary Girls team from Wellington won the 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay in the Primary Gala at the Citadel on Saturday 18th November. The team was Charlotte Hardy, Rowan MacDonald, Evie Scott Galli and Emily Taylor. Evie Scott Galli also won a bronze medal in the 50m Freestyle event.

A week later, Amy Grassom was very successful in the Secondary Schools Gala winning a gold medal and two silver medals. Amy was swimming in the 13-14 age group. She won the 100m Butterfly event and was second in both the 200m Freestyle and the 100m backstroke events.

Twelve other Wellington pupils participated in the galas and in many events they achieved personal best times.

Inter House Gala 2018

On the 11th May, Churchill won the annual Inter House Swimming Gala with 52 points! In close second place were Curie with 50 points and third, Montgomery with 44. Bringing up the rear with a still admirable 26 points were Nightingale. A number of personal bests were achieved on the day too.

The Curie Girls Relay Team set a new record of 1.06.79, meanwhile Amy Grassom broke the junior backstroke record with a time of 34.97 and the open girls 25m butterfly record with a time of 15.47. Evie Scott Galli broke the primary 25m breaststroke record with a time of 20.06 and the primary 25m freestyle record with a time of 14.61.

Scottish Schools Relay Championships

On Wednesday 6th June, the Wellington Primary Relay Team travelled to the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh to participate in two relays. The participants were Charlotte Hardy (P6) and Rowan MacDonald, Evie Scott Galli and Emily Taylor (all P7).

In the 4 x 50 metre freestyle race, the girls finished a creditable 6th place in a time of 2.19.72. They were only about 2.5 seconds behind Erskine Stewart's Melville who finished in 3rd place. In the medley relay the girls' order was Rowan (backstroke), Charlotte (breaststroke), Emily (butterfly) and Evie (freestyle). They achieved a time of 2.42.29 and finished in 6th place again. These results are excellent and the girls should be commended for their commitment to the sport.

Netball

Pupils from P7 to S2 were given the opportunity to participate in netball training every Monday after school. An S1 team were entered into the Ayrshire league where they competed against eight other schools. The girls played well, and committed whole heartedly to training, resulting in them finishing 7th in the league.

Unfortunately, the Primary 7 team didn't have a league this year, but played in seven friendly matches. They have shown great potential, winning five games in total! Next year they will step up into the same league as S1.

Netball is in it's infancy at Wellington, but we already have 28 girls working on their skills and regularly attending training. It is hoped that next year, the sport will maintain its popularity and will attract more players. If existing players continue to improve at the rate they have been progressing, we can expect exciting news from the Netball report next session!

Athletics

Inter Schools Competition

The InterSchools Athletics Competitions this session have produced some excellent results for Wellington. Some pupils have had the opportunity to consolidate their already strong athletic ability and have showcased their skill competitively meanwhile, burgeoning athletes have enjoyed taking part and have perhaps developed more of a taste for the various events we offer.

In total, 150 Wellington pupils have participated in a variety of athletics events. Personal bests have been achieved as well as some notable new school records. Wellington competed and had wins in various age groups against schools such as Craigholme School, St Columba's School, Lomond School, Queen Victoria School, Hutchesons' Grammar School, The Glasgow Academy and The High School of Glasgow.

Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships

In February, Hazel Kirk placed 6th in 60m hurdles in the O16 category at Scottish Indoor Athletics in February.

Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships

Competing in June 2018, the following pupils were 3rd in their event: Johnathon Lynch (Hurdles); Emily Muir (High Jump); Kori Howard (800m); and Helen Miller (Javelin).

The following pupils were 2nd in their event: Mhairi Chalmers (300m); Danniella McCormick (Discus), Callum McMahon (Discus) and the S1 boys Relay Team, whose team members were: Callum McCallum, Cameron Hainey, Charlie Cowan and Jack Craig.

The following pupils were 1st in their event: Eleana Meikle (Discus); Mhairi Chalmers (800m) and Jack Napier (Discus).

Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships 2018

Wellington was represented at the Track and Field Championships 2018 in Grangemouth by four pupils:

Mhairi Chalmers	Girls D U14	800m
Katie Murray	Girls D U14	800m
Jack Craig	Boys D U14	100m
Libby White	Girls D U14	200m and Long Jump

Scottish Indoor Athletics 2018

Taking part in the Scottish Schools' Indoor Athletics Championships on the 7th and 8th February, Wellington was represented by 3 strong athletes. Libby White ran well in the 200m as did Isla Kirk in the 800m. Hazel Kirk was the only pupil to reach the finals where she recorded a time of 9.45 secs in the Over 16 Hurdles.

Rugby

Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield Final

Ayr/Wellington was represented by the U18 team in the National Youth League Cup Finals for the third year running. They played on the main pitch at the BT Murrayfield stadium, the home of Scottish rugby. The following Wellington boys were selected to play: Sean McLarty, Chris Easton, Mitchell Wyllie and former pupil, Craig Miller.

In the final, Ayr/Wellington went into the match against Stirling County in fine form, despite having been beaten by the side twice during the season. Both teams played with passion and competitive spirit throughout. Stirling County started well and scored first. Despite an excellent try from Christopher Easton, Ayr/Wellington could not bridge the gap. Ultimately, Stirling County won but the Ayr/Wellington side can be proud of their achievements - not only at the final but throughout the year. It is worth noting that our partnership with Ayr RFC allows Wellington players the opportunity to play at a more professional level than other school teams.

Hockey

Throughout the year, Wellington's hockey teams have competed on a weekly basis against West District schools and in tournaments.

Primary 6

The P6 team attended a tournament hosted by St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh. They played four matches; one against each of the following: Loretto School, Clifton Hall School, Craigclowan Preparatory School and St George's School. The highlight of this tournament for the players was receiving a masterclass from Samantha Judge (who plays for the national hockey team). Two Primary 6 teams also attended a tournament at Craigholme School in March where they played close matches against Craigholme School and Kelvinside Academy. The P6B team had a successful tournament winning their pool.

Primary 7 – Senior 2

The P7 and S1 hockey players demonstrated commitment to both training and matches, and all improved their ability and knowledge of the game.

Meanwhile, the S2 team had a very successful season where they did not concede a game until after the Christmas break. In March, they attended a tournament at Hutchesons' Grammar School where the girls enjoyed the competitive nature of the event but were unfortunate not to get past the group stage. They beat Marr College, drew with Kelvinside Academy and lost to Glasgow Academy.

The S2 and 3XI teams played against touring teams from Balleyclare. Both teams scored goals in exciting matches.

First XI

The 1st XI participated in The High School of Glasgow 7s tournament; despite meeting tough competition, the players were not phased and instead displayed a high level of skill and fitness in every match. Unfortunately, they did not qualify for the semi-finals. Congratulations to those selected to play.

The Senior 3 team and 1XI were also entered into the S3 & Open Scottish Schools Tournament. S3 enjoyed the opportunity to play unknown competitors, Peebles High School and Robert Gordon's College. The 1XI played St George's School for Girls and Kelso High School. Our teams fought hard and showed great skill level but missed out on progression to the semi-finals of the plate.

End of Season Fun

At the end of season, a friendly tournament was held at Doonside. Players from P6 to S6 as well as a parents team, former pupil team and a staff team came together to celebrate a successful season. The weather was glorious and attendance was a record high with over 100 people! The staff team were victorious and all of the hockey coaches hope that it gave our players the encouragement to build on this season's success knowing there is a great deal of support from the wider community.

Scotland v Ireland

In May, all Wellington players were invited to attend an international hockey match between Scotland and Ireland at Glasgow Green. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The girls met players after the match and requested their autographs and at half time we all got to meet the mascot.

District Representation

Every year, Wellington pupils are nominated to attend trials for South West Hockey based on their performance throughout the season. Selection is an honour as the number and quality of players in

the district is considerable. Pupils from Marr College, St Columba’s School and Kelburne Hockey Club are all in the running; this year was particularly successful for Wellington with Amy Grassom and Leigh Timothy selected for the U14 South West Hockey final team where they competed against the teams from the rest of Scotland. Amy Grassom was honoured to be made captain of the team, a notable achievement! Olivia Stark, Eilidh Thomson and Bethan Rees were also selected to play for the district squad in the under 16 and 18 categories.

Hockey Tour

On 15th June, the S1 and S2 hockey teams travelled to Holland to play against Hurley Hockey Club and Amsterdam MC 7. A full training session with a professional hockey coach was a highlight of the trip; not only did this inspire our players but it helped them really hone their skills. The girls thoroughly enjoy a jam-packed itinerary which included a interdisciplinary trip to Anne Frank House (covering both History and English) and a river boat trip and a visit to Walibi Theme Park. To finish the tour, players attended an awards presentation on a river boat cruise.

Dance

Dance show

Pupils from Primary 6 to S6 are given the opportunity to participate in dance club on a Monday lunch time. This extra-curricular club widens the opportunities for pupils to participate in physical activity at Wellington.

In October, auditions were held for pupils who wished to enter their own dances into the showcase. Over the process pupils showed great creativity and commitment spending time choreographing and attending practices. There were a variety of styles performed including tap, ballet and modern. Performing in front of an audience allows the girls and boys who attend to develop confidence. The showcase was a great success – as always! – and was enjoyed by all.

Cricket

A grand total of 48 pupils from Primary 6 up to S4 have been involved in cricket this year. Sixteen Primary 6 pupils have been attending the Wednesday training sessions and there is potential for a strong team in the future.

The Primary team performed well in the Glasgow Academy tournament and in the game against Kelvinside Academy they had the opposition on 0 runs for 2 wickets after the opening 2 balls bowled. Mikey Maxwell, the team captain of Wellington, had to retire(due to the tournament rules) playing

against the host’s team after scoring 28 runs. He also scored 20 runs against Dollar Academy.

Brothers United

It’s not unusual for brothers to play in the same team. However what about 4 pairs of brothers in the same side with only 3 of the cricketers not having a brother as a team-mate?

This happened in the match away to Lomond. Captain of the Wellington team, Lewis Lilley, scored 28 runs (including 2 sixes) and took one wicket for 8 runs. Ruaridh Hunter(S1) was the best bowler with 2 wickets for 8 runs.

Ayr 1st XI

Captain of the 1st XI, Richie Simpson, has been playing in the Ayr 1st XI this season. This is a very high level of cricket for someone so young and Richie has already shown his ability with the bat at Senior level.

We are grateful to Cambusdoon for the use of their facilities for matches and training. It’s also been excellent for our players to have Kenroy Peters (Ayr Cricket Club Pro) and Mikey Miller (Ayr 1st XI player) involved in the coaching.

Cricket Matches v Kelvinside Academy

Playing away from home, the Wellington Junior team (which includes players from P7 to S2) were involved in a very close match. Wellington batted first with captain, Charlie Baker, scoring 28 runs in a total of 75 all out. Ruaridh Hunter and Euan Porter bowled very well and each took 3 wickets, but Kelvinside won the game by one wicket in the 17th over of their 20.

Lewis Lilley (S2) made his debut for the 1st XI at Cambusdoon. He bowled very accurately and took 2 wickets for 17 runs in his 5 overs. However, in terms of the match result it was to no avail as the 1st XI lost the game by 7 wickets. Lucas Short took the other wicket in an excellent spell of fast bowling.

The Primary team played their match at Doonside on the astroturf. They were outplayed by an older Kelvinside Academy Primary team, but they stuck to their task and took several wickets. Quinton Dunlop(P6) was the best batsman for Wellington. The positive attitude of the Wellington team was excellent led by Captain, Morgan Laraway, and Vice Captain Ewan Hamilton.

Football

This year a S3 football team was created by Mr Campbell, our PE Student from The University of Edinburgh. They played against local schools Ayr Academy, Queen Margaret and Carrick Academy.

The team had a successful season being captained by Ziyad Elageili beating all opponents.

Primary Football

Mr Graham, P6 Teacher (and now Head Coach!), recently started a Junior School football team which is open to boys and girls from P5 to 7. A number of pupils were trialled and there are now 14 players who compete under the ‘Wellington School’ team name. Mr Graham says that his team are already showing great promise; they are competing in three tournaments over this season so the weekly training at Doonside is crucial. However, Team Wellington won their most recent game last week against Tarbolton and a final score of 7-1 just shows how that training is paying off!

The team are looking particularly strong in the Craigie Cup Tournament and Mr Graham very much hopes that Wellington School’s football team will become a feature of life here. Given the enthusiasm and skill of the players, and the experience of Head Coach Graham, we do not think it will become any less popular! We look forward to sharing in the successes of our footballers this year – and beyond!

Golf

Johnathan Lynch, S3, won the Competitive School Sports South Ayrshire Club Golf Competition on Tuesday 24 April. The competition was played over Lochgreen Golf Course and Wellington completed a one-two, with Sandy Ronnie (S2) finishing in second place. In the primary school event held on the same day, Harris Fleming (P7) triumphed for Wellington.

In other news, John Lomas (S6) was a key part of the Ayr Belleisle team which one the Ayrshire Team Championships at Skelmorlie Golf Club in April. Since then, John has gone on to represent Ayrshire.

The 2018-19 season will commence with the Loretto Golf Academy Junior Championship and Simmers Cup in September. We hope to have boys and girls across the year groups participating at Crigielaw Golf Club.

Strength and Conditioning

At Wellington, we pride ourselves in sporting excellence. In recent years, our partnership with Ayr Rugby Football Club has allowed Ayr-Wellington to continue to be one of the best known and respected teams in school rugby, frequently and consistently beating sides from some of the most competitive schools in Scotland, including Strathallan, Hutchesons’ Grammar and Merchiston Castle. Our hockey teams have also enjoyed the benefits of this partnership with all teams showing

an improvement in skill and discipline, especially since taking part in Strength and Conditioning programme. The sessions teach pupils techniques to improve their stamina and ultimately, they help our sportspeople to perform at their optimum, without sustaining injury.

David Watt, Sports Therapist, Strength and Conditioning Coach from Callachan’s Health & Therapy delivers sessions for all S5 and S6 pupils who wish to take advantage of this elite training. David provides strength and conditioning support for athletes of all ages and has worked with various sports teams and individuals during his career. He has a keen interest in injury prevention in youth athletes and believes that the promotion of quality movement and effective strength training is key. These three areas are the foundation for our Strength & Conditioning training and it is clear that David’s wealth of knowledge and experience is crucial in helping our athletes take their performance that one step further.

Two of Wellington’s most accomplished sportspeople, Emma Wishart and Mitchell Wyllie, offer their experiences on Strength & Conditioning for any pupils considering the sessions to improve their performance. As back row player for Ayr-Wellington U18s, Mitchell Wyllie feels that ‘through the S&C work that I have done so far, I have become a more physical player as it has helped me add strength and size, two significant factors in rugby. Not only do the sessions fit into my timetable seamlessly, they are also enjoyable, even though they can be quite demanding! I do think that this is something that the school should continue doing as it is very beneficial and I would recommend it to all rugby players.’

As Captain of the school’s first XI, Emma Wishart has found the sessions invaluable: ‘Strength and Conditioning has helped enhance my hockey performance by improving my fitness and stamina, which is essential for any hockey position. It has fit easily into my timetable as it has been scheduled into my free lessons and is also made enjoyable by doing the sessions with your teammates, I would recommend strength and conditioning to any pupil.’

The sessions are open all pupils in S5 and S6 with Mr Ness, Head of PE, rolling out Strength and Conditioning to the whole school over the coming year. He is also keen to highlight that these sessions are available to staff as well! In the future, the department would like to develop the programme by including nutrition for sport (and general well-being) in conjunction with nutritionists and sportspeople linked to Ayr RFC.

Ayr RFC 1st XI player and former pupil, Danny McCluskey has been in school delivering strength and conditioning sessions during PE. Pupils from S1 to S6 thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from his programme and the techniques they have learned are still being used to improve their performances in a variety of sports. This opportunity really boosts the learning of our pupils and we are grateful to Danny for his professional insight. We very much hope he enjoyed visiting his old school!

Sixth Year Report

Alistair Byers, Head of Senior Years

The Next Step

UCAS applications were a focal point for students and staff through the Autumn and Spring Terms. Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Oxbridge applications came first. Applications, entrance tests and interviews yielded excellent results, with all Medicine and Veterinary Medicine applicants receiving offers. Meanwhile, four out of the six Oxbridge applicants received an invite to interview and subsequently, three received offers. Additionally, Wellington continued to support students in South Ayrshire Schools by providing guidance on the Oxbridge process and presenting them for entrance testing. Two students utilised this opportunity, with one securing an interview and an offer. This gave the school a 50% return on offers to applications, quite a feat!

Pupils applied to a wide range of courses, ranging from Accountancy to Philosophy, and it is pleasing to note that 95% of applicants received either an unconditional or conditional offer for the course/institution of their choice. Mr Byers also supported students in making applications to college and to other progression routes such as Graduate Level Training. This year the 6th Year started Session 2017-18 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.

Fundraising

This Session, the 6th Year elected Alzheimer 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

Photo: a pupil wears a spectacular headress for the annual Fun Run, where pupils and staff donate at least £1 to wear fancy dress and race (or simply saunter!) along the beach.

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 “Post-Prelim Plunge”, a successful coffee morning in December and donations from School Show and other events have added significantly to the overall total. The school calendar, a project which was expertly managed by Mitchell and Emma, involved every child in the school. Thank you to all the parents who sponsored the production of the calendar and to everyone who bought one.

In addition to the financial support provided for school-based activities, there were some parents and members of staff who went “above and beyond” for Alzheimer Scotland. The Head Boy’s parents, William and Jillian Wyllie, bravely volunteered (well, that’s what Mitchell tells me) to do an eye-watering 10 marathons in 10 days! Meanwhile, Junior School Parent John Cartner swam 10 miles and Sixth Year student Mia Cullis and I completed the Edinburgh Half Marathon. Your support both financial and otherwise got us through the run and saw donations increase by well over £600.

However, it was not all all about sporting exploits. The Music Department’s Mrs Docherty faced her fears and had her long locks snipped off, raising more valuable funds. Added to this the "Fabulous Fiver Challenge" saw young entrepreneurs from P5 to S3 spend the month of March wheeling and dealing. Mrs Munn, Head of Business Studies and the driving force behind this initiative, was staggered by the pupils' collective efforts; they raised a in excess of £1600 for the charity coffers, a considerable sum!

The pupils have cooperated very well together to achieve their goals and have really enjoyed their Sixth Year experience. I would like to thank our Heads of School Mitchell Wyllie and Emma Wishart and the Deputy Heads of School, Harry Ledgerwood and Lucy Davidson, for their commitment, enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination to succeed. Special praise is due to Harry and Lucy for their meticulous planning and execution of a fantastic Prom, which was held at Turnberry. All who attended enjoyed a fantastic meal and had great fun dancing the night away.

Overall, the 6th year charity has a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Parents and Staff and so achieve these exceptional results annually. It is to everyone's credit that the school has raised another extraordinary sum for another very worthwhile cause. This year the sum passed to Alzheimer Scotland is in excess of £40,000.

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 modern 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. I wish all of them the very best for the future.

Nursery & Junior School Report

Jimmy Cox, Head of the Junior School

STEM

STEM Focus Fortnight is always a fun and hands-on supplement to the children's learning, uniting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Pupils designed STEM badges to accessorise lab coats that were worn to celebrate the event. Children from the Nursery right through to P6 take part in activities such as designing and constructing different types of beds for Goldilocks (Nursery), building shadoofs, Egyption irrigation tools (Primary 1) and pyramids (Primary 4). Further up the school, pupils applied their scientific and mathematical skills to engineer strong three dimensional bridges using spaghetti.

Inspirational guests visited Drumley and children presented their findings and discoveries. This annual event lasts a fortnight and all of the activities, which are arranged by the teaching staff, supplement the curriculum and greatly add to the children's learning experience.

Health Focus

The eight days of Health Focus 2018 went by in a whirlwind of interdisciplinary activity! As always, every child in the Junior School participated, with a focus on healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy diets. Children were given permission, and encouraged, to wear their PE kits to school each day allowing everyone – including staff – to participate in activities throughout the eight day period. Activities such as 'The Daily Mile Run' for older children, 15 minutes of vigorous exercise for younger pupils and early morning activities held in the playground before the start of school (aerobics, circuits, yoga and relay races) were extremely popular amongst pupils and parents.

The Health Committee, comprising pupils from the Junior School, was instrumental in organising many of the events throughout Health Focus and their commitment to promoting the message of healthy living should be commended.

Grandparents' Day

Over 100 grannies and grandads joined their grandchildren for an insight in to life in the Junior School. The Grandparents' Morning, usually held in the second half of the Summer Term, is always extremely well-attended. The children just love showing their grannies and grandads round their school, after they have had the opportunity to hear performances from pupils over refreshments (including Mr and Mrs Gray's raspberry tarts!).

This year, the P3 Drumming Clan, some of the finalists from Wellie's Got Talent and Winners of the P6 Burns Competition took to the stage and delighted the audience. The Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefects gave highlights of life in the Junior School, too, and then our visitors were introduced to class teachers where they got the chance to participate in a typical lesson.

The Thistle Tea

The Wellington Nursery experience instils a great deal of confidence in the youngest members of our community. Children are given countless opportunities to perform for parents and to challenge themselves. The Thistle Tea is one of the Nursery's annual fixtures – parents, grandparents and friends pile into Drumley Hall to hear the Nursery children sing all their favourite Scottish songs including Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny, Three Crows, Ali Bali, Jelly on his Head, Jeanie McCall and Auld Lang Syne.

Mrs Lomas, Depute Head of the Junior School and Nursery Manager, says that this event is very much a 'celebration of Scotland and a culmination of all the children's recent Scottish-themed experiences in the Nursery.' This event ties in with the children's learning, specifically their topic on Scotland. The children explore all things Scottish: searching for the Loch Ness Monster, learning about castles as well as identifying and drawing the saltire and the Scottish thistle. The children also discover Scottish rhyming words and try their hand at weaving tartan and painting Scotland themed pictures.

This year, Thistle Tea attendees donated £534.29 for The Ayrshire Hospice. Thank you from everyone in the Nursery.

Nursery Toddle Waddle

In October, the children in the Nursery took part in a sponsored Toddle Waddle along Ayr Beach promenade and at Doonside. The children wore beautifully hand-decorated headbands and were accompanied by parents and friends who walked with and supported them. This event raised a



staggering £940.65. A giant cheque was presented by the children to Amanda Harris from Meningitis Now.

Teddy Bear’s Picnic

Another highlight of the Summer Term in the Nursery was the Teddy Bear’s Picnic in our Outdoor Nursery woods at Doonside. Sixty-five children, all of the Nursery staff and a teddy bear on exam leave enjoyed a fabulous morning! There was a zip slide for all the bears, toast and honey cooked on our fire, an obstacle course, mud kitchen porridge making, and a selection of craft activities.

This event united the Indoor and Outdoor Nursery experiences that we offer, making for a truly memorable day for everyone involved.

Primary 5 and Primary 6 Residential Trips

Both Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils took part in ‘residentials’ this term. Primary 5 stayed at Dumfries House for three days and Primary 6 stayed at Loch Ken for five. The experience of staying away, working in teams and challenging themselves meant everyone was keenly involved. Pupils pushed themselves to their limit in one way or another and staff were proud of their tenacity, work ethic and team spirit.

Sporting Achievements in the Junior School

A number of pupils in the Junior School have taken part in sporting activities in which they have represented the school. These achievements are detailed in the Physical Education Departmental Report. Other pupils have taken part in events out with school and these will be covered in other school publications over the coming months.

Mini & Junior Dukes

For the first time, the Junior School participated in the Mini and Junior Duke Awards. As pre-cursors to the ever popular John Muir and Duke of Edinburgh Awards, participants take part in a range of activities and challenges which foster an array of useful life skills.

Children from Primary 2 to Primary 6 opt in to this scheme (Mini Duke Silver and Gold for P2 and P3 respectively and Junior Duke Bronze, Silver and Gold for P4, P5 and P6 respectively). Every child who takes part is required to complete seven challenges of their choice – all of which encourage independence and self-motivation. There have been very special assemblies at which pupils who

completed the Awards were presented with a certificate and medal by Mr Mooney, John Muir & Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager. The children’s efforts also count towards a Duke House Cup which was presented at the end of term at a very well deserved party.

‘Without our pupils we would have little to celebrate. Any teacher knows what a privilege it is to work with young people whose optimism, energy and capacity for invention are a constant inspiration’

Simon Johnson, Headmaster



Outdoor Education

Leon Mooney, Duke of Edinburgh & John Muir Awards Manager

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This session we have had 28 Bronze entrants, with one or two having already completed their award.

Nineteen of last years' Bronze entrants have signed up for their Silver award. Eight pupils have completed their Gold award and will receive their certificates in the summer at Holyrood Palace or St. James' Palace. This includes two former pupils, one of whom, Natasha Bailie, returned to Wellington to receive her badge at assembly with a few of the sixth years. Across all levels, we have had over 40 awards completed this session.

John Muir Award

The Primary 7 have completed their John Muir Award under the four principles of Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share. This took place along the River Doon from its source at Loch Doon to where it meets the sea at Ayr Beach, with a sharing event given for parents in June.

Photo: Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award brooch.

Staffing Changes

Art & Design

In March, Mrs Gillian Gabriel moved on from the Art & Design Department to take up a new position as Head of the Creative Faculty at the new Kilmarnock school campus. In her place, we are pleased to welcome Mrs Joyce Morton, who joins us from Loudoun Academy.

Mathematics

Following the retiral of Mrs Linda McCall in October, we were pleased to welcome back Mrs Frances O'Hare as a permanent member of the department. Mrs Mary Welsh departed to begin her maternity leave at Christmas and we are grateful to Mrs Fiona Miller, who stepped ably into her place.

Modern Languages

Mrs Julie Bartholome left in March with our thanks and best wishes in order to take up a promoted position as Head of Modern Languages at Prestwick Academy. We are pleased to give a warm welcome to Mrs Isabel Rabeyrin, who takes her place. Meanwhile, Mrs Colleen Davidson is currently on maternity leave and the teaching of Spanish is in the capable hands of Mrs Sally McCandless.

Music

We are delighted to welcome Miss Nicola McKinlay, who recently joined the Music Department.

Junior School

Mrs Chrissie Lamont leaves her position in the Junior School in order to take up a teaching post at St George's in Madrid. We welcome in her place Miss Jennifer McGowan, who joins us from Doonfoot Primary.

Maintenance

We are delighted to welcome Mr Ali McCall, who takes on the Maintenance position previously filled so ably by Stan Trousdale. Stan left Wellington in March and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Administration

Mrs Carolynne McEwen joins the administrative team in August when she takes up her position as Office Manager.

Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

Simon Johnson, Headmaster

This year, one of the performances at Speech Day is a rendition of Andrew Lloyd Webber's poignant and well-known song 'Memory' from the musical Cats. The song invites the listener to take a nostalgic look at the happy days that are past and look ahead to the promise of a new day that is about to begin. In this Vote of Thanks, I would like to do the former, to look back at the school year that is just about to end, and to give my sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed to its success.

Without pupils, there would be no school and I must begin by thanking most sincerely all of the children and young adults who make Wellington such a special place. Ask any teacher about a lesson, an activity or a trip and, with enormous warmth and affection, they will explain how the pupils made it so enjoyable and memorable. For one particular group of pupils, of course, the song 'Memory' will be especially meaningful and unforgettable. Most of us will return after the summer, happily rested and ready to begin the cycle of the school year all over again. For the sixth year leavers, however, today really is the coda to a period of their lives that they will never forget. They will 'smile at the old days' and, perhaps, as Former Pupils, return to visit and 'let the memory live again'. The class of 17 – 18 have been exceptional in many ways. They have raised an astonishing sum of money for Alzheimer Scotland and I thank them for the immeasurable contribution that they have made to the school throughout the year.

No school can function in the 21 century without a professional team of support staff and Wellington is no exception. I would like to pay tribute to all of those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the wheels turning. Particular thanks go this year to Mr & Mrs Gray and their catering team, who have fed us so well, despite the challenging circumstances that they had to endure last term. Elsewhere, the Finance Office never sleeps and I must pay tribute to Linda Peters, who has made such an impact in her short time as Financial Controller. I would like to give a special mention today to the office staff, who cope every day with the unpredictable deluge of phone calls, deliveries and inquiries, without ever losing their sense of humour. Particular thanks also go to Graham Miller, who keeps our IT systems running, and to Roberta Bianchini, for her marketing flair and her dedication to the school.

I turn now to the teachers, for whom working at Wellington is so much more than just a job. When families come to look around the school, they

often ask whether a newcomer will be made to feel welcome. They never ask that question after they have completed a tour and met some of our wonderful teachers. Indeed, I am often asked what is special about the school and one of the answers that I give is the teachers, without whom none of the things that appear in this report would have happened. So, I offer my warmest gratitude to each and every member of the teaching staff, throughout the Senior School, the Junior School and the Nursery. Thank you also to the support staff who provide daily help looking after our youngest children.

It is customary and fitting to give special thanks to those who are moving on. Ms Lamont has taught in the Junior School for only a short time, but she has contributed a lot in that time. She is leaving to take up a post at St George's School in Madrid and goes with our thanks and best wishes for the future.

I would like now to turn to the members of the Senior Management Team, each of whom has a significant part to play in every aspect of school life. Recently, I was explaining to the new Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies that their jobs have a glamorous side and a less glamorous side. Mrs Smith was there at the time and she smiled, because her job definitely has a less glamorous side. It is hard to believe that Mrs Smith has been with us for only a year and I am immensely grateful to her for her commitment, her expertise and her appetite for everything that is Wellington. If anybody deserves a holiday, it is Mrs Smith. Somebody else who has made a significant impact in a short time is our Bursar, Mr David Kennedy. I am not sure if Mr Kennedy could possibly have guessed what lay in store when he accepted the job a year ago, but I thank him for his dedication, his tenacity and his boundless enthusiasm. The remainder of the Senior Management Team deserve equal praise and I give my warmest thanks to Mr Cox, Mrs O'Connell and Ms Johnston once again for their hard work and wise council. Finally, I thank Marian Dunlop who, in addition to all of the excellent administrative work that she does in so many areas, keeps my diary in working order and makes countless pots of coffee without complaint.

Next, I thank the Board of Governors, who are in the public eye only on this most special of days, but who work so hard to ensure the current and future success of this school. We are very fortunate to have such a loyal and capable group of volunteers and I thank each one of them for the generous support and expertise that they provide throughout the year. I thank in particular Mrs Jennifer Simpson, who is the school's number one supporter.

Finally, I thank all of the parents for choosing Wellington and for putting their trust in the school. I wish everybody in the community an enjoyable and restful summer break.



Top Scottish Independent School for Advanced Highers in 2017

Wellington was honoured to receive an award for our ranking in Education Advisers' 2017 Independent School League Tables: **Top Scottish Independent School for Advanced Highers in 2017.**

Surprisingly, none of the Glasgow schools even made the top ten.

This award goes to our staff and candidates in 2017 in recognition of their achievements.