



Extracurricular Activities at Wellington

Welcome

At Wellington School, the importance of extracurricular activities is never underestimated, especially by the dedicated staff members who provide an array of opportunities to pupils in the Junior and Senior Schools. From choral singing to philosophising, skateboarding to war gaming – there is something stimulating for everyone.

Enjoyment is the principal motivator in joining a club, however, it is widely acknowledged that extracurricular activities offer a wide range of other benefits. Some of these benefits include:

- Promoting well-being
- Nurturing strategic, lateral and independent thinking
- Developing new (transferable) skills and consolidating others
- Giving a broad education
- Fostering a sense of ownership and citizenship

This guide provides some more information on the extra curricular activities available at Wellington, including:

- Ayr-Wellington Rugby Team
- Eco-Schools Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- John Muir Awards
- Music at Wellington



Councils & Clubs

In the Junior School, Pupil Council meets regularly, allowing representatives from all stages to express their views about their education and learning environment. Listening to and acting on their club suggestions ensures that Wellington Junior School continually provides the best experiences for every pupil.

The Eco-Schools programme is an international initiative designed to encourage whole-school action for the environment. The Junior School's Eco Group comprises both children and staff, with regular meetings held throughout the school year which help drive our Eco-Schools commitment to continuously improve our environmental performance. We actively encourage our pupils to engage with recycling, energy conservation and many local community projects.

Meanwhile, in the Senior School, there are a range of extracurricular activities for our pupils to attend, pupils also have the opportunity to create and run their own clubs to suit their hobbies and preferences. Current clubs include:

- Art
- Drama
- Chess
- Computing Science
- Creative Writing
- Debating
- Swimming
- Skateboarding
- Rugby
- Football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Film & Theatre
- Eco Committee
- French Song
- Spanish
- Young Enterprise
- War Gaming



Ayr - Wellington Rugby

Sporting Tradition

Wellington School has a long tradition of sporting excellence and the partnership with Ayr Rugby Football Club, produces outstanding results. In 2016, the Ayr Wellington U18 and U16 teams both competed in the National Youth League Cup Finals at Murrayfield, where the U16 side emerged as National Youth Champions. These results are not surprising considering that the Club is renowned for its impressive match record, that it boasts one of the largest youth training centres in Scotland and that Wellington, in its own right, had a consistently strong reputation at all levels.

Player Development

Ayr Wellington players have greatly benefitted from the amalgamation of facilities and expertise that both institutions have to offer. Player development is a key focus and includes work on tactics, strength and conditioning, and nutrition. One of the most significant benefits of integrating a club and a school team is the collective talent of players and coaches that has led to Ayr Wellington competing in Scottish Rugby conferences they would otherwise be unable to access.

Beyond School

Beyond school, Ayr Wellington players can progress to the ARFC Advanced Academy. The Academy is aimed at promising players just below national level who wish to pursue the sport after school or while at university. Former Wellington pupil, Robbie Fergusson, used to coach at Ayr Rugby Academy and now plays professionally. He is an excellent ambassador for the sport, the school and of course, is a role model to the current Ayr Wellington teams.

The Benefits

- Access to one of the largest youth training centres in Scotland
- Access to expertise and facilities of both institutions
- Participate in previously unattainable Scottish Rugby Conferences
- Play Scottish schools with very well established rugby credentials
- Access to the collective talent of player mentorship and coaches



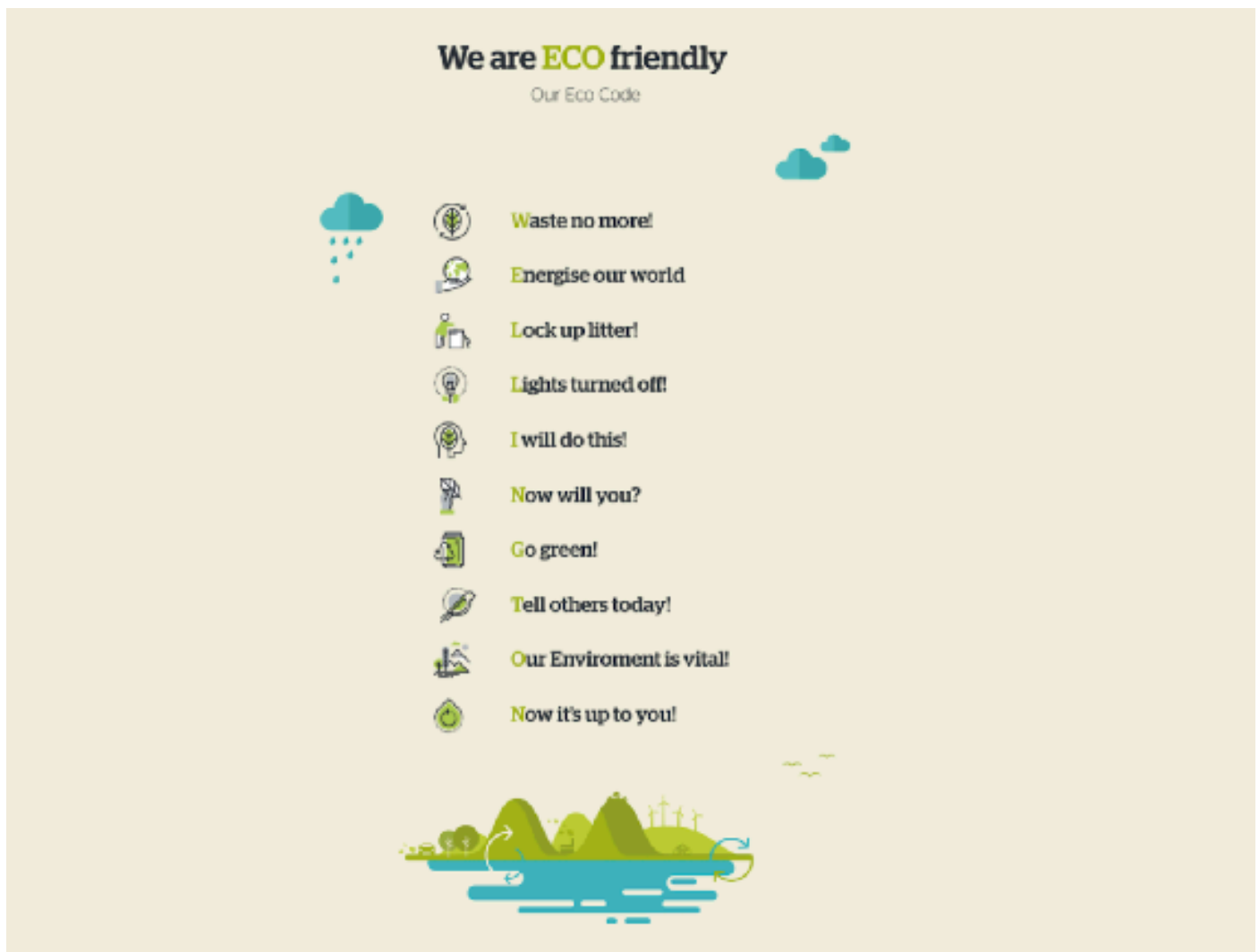
Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world, connecting 15 million children, young people and teachers through sustainable development education.

Wellington School joined the Eco Schools programme in 2007. We received our first Eco-Schools Green Flag in 2010 and at the time, Wellington was the only Senior School in South Ayrshire to have achieved this prestigious award. Our second and third flags were awarded in 2012 and 2016 respectively. This ongoing commitment to the environment is an outstanding achievement for the entire school.

In order to achieve our Green Flags and maintain our excellent standards, Wellington School has:

- An Eco Committee made up of enthusiastic pupils and staff who take forward the aims of the programme and the schools Eco Action Plan.
- Participates fully in the ten topic areas set out by Eco-Schools Scotland (Litter, Transport, Waste Minimisation, Health & Well-being, School Grounds, Food & the Environment, Biodiversity, Water, Energy and Sustaining Our World).
- Uses our staff expertise to ensure that environmental education is taught at all levels.
- Continues to develop partnerships that support issues of global citizenship and sustainability.
- Encourages environmental good practice among staff and pupils.
- Ensures that the management of the school grounds is in line with environmental good practice and the Action Plan.
- Endeavours to ensure that our suppliers and external contractors apply an appropriate level of concern to environmental matters.



We actively encourage pupils to engage with recycling, energy conservation and many local community projects. As such, our last Green Flag Assessor's Report was glowing!

The assessor, Julie Wilson, Education and Learning Manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful, was extremely impressed with the school and was full of praise for all of the pupils she met, especially the "enthusiastic, articulate and well-informed Eco-Committee..."

She also said that she "...sensed a warm, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in school" and commended our outreach activities by saying "your links with local farms B7Q, Fresh Ayrshire and the Culzean Rangers' Service are wonderful examples of this collaborative approach - well done. Furthermore, you have been sharing good practice with other South Ayrshire nurseries, as well as fostering outstanding links with partner schools overseas in India and Africa, and making excellent contacts with educational establishments in France, Germany, Bulgaria and Slovenia as part of the ERASMUS programme, thus enhancing your pupils' global perspective. I was also most impressed by how well you had taken pupils learning out with the campus via your Outdoor Nursery and Forest Schools' activities, as well as your residential outdoor education courses, in Arran, for example.

Moving round the campus and speaking with staff and pupils from various stages and departments, made it very clear how well you have integrated the Eco-Schools Programme into Wellington's curriculum and calendar. These links were illustrated well via class-based work such as your Water Cycle topic, your water focus for World Poetry Day and your participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the John Muir Award on the theme of "the river Doon, from source to sea", for example.

It was good to see that eco-related activities also featured prominently throughout the year, for instance during your Health & Wellbeing Fayre, your Fairtrade Day and your participation in the Wise Up To Your Eco Future now conference. Additionally, you are to be warmly commended for your beach cleaning activities, for your awareness-raising and promotion of Fairtrade and the Rights of the Child in school, for your generous support of worthwhile charities, such as Water Aid and the local Food Bank, and for your fundraising for an African Primary School as part of Camps International. Your young people are truly responsible, global citizens."





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Wellington School has been delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or DofE since 1987. The DofE is the world's leading achievement award for young people. It is a balanced programme of activities which develop the mind, body and soul in an environment of social interaction and team working. It encourages young people to live life as an adventure!

There are three progressive levels of DofE programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four areas of the Award: Volunteering, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expeditions. Involvement in the Award requires commitment and initiative, and develops independence and confidence.

All pupils in S3 are encouraged to sign up for Bronze level meanwhile, in S4, they then progress to Silver. Pupils aged 16 or over are offered the possibility of attaining their Gold Award.

The DofE is celebrated its Diamond Anniversary throughout 2016, having supported millions of young people in the UK and across the globe to achieve DofE Awards since it was founded in 1956.

In May 2016, Mr O'Connell, Principal Teacher of Computing and Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager at Wellington attended a once in a life time Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace. Mr O'Connell was presented with a special plaque from the DofE Charity by Michelle Mone, acknowledging the school's commitment to running the DofE and thanking us for giving young people the opportunity to transform their lives.

Wellington School has been delivering the DofE since 1987 and since then, a great number of pupils have achieved a DofE Award after volunteering in their community, learning a skill, getting fit, going on an expedition and, for Gold, taking part in a week-long residential. The DofE programmes significantly impact on young people's futures, enabling them to develop vital skills for life and work, such as confidence, commitment, resilience and team work. It is widely acknowledged as the world's leading achievement award for young people.

"Through the DofE, Wellington School is inspiring the success of its young people; equipping them with the attributes and skills to get a job and build strong relationships whilst opening up their worlds and introducing them to a broad range of interests. We are truly grateful for the work that you do, you're an integral part of the DofE family, and our Diamond Anniversary is a fantastic opportunity to say thank you." - Peter Westgarth, Chief Executive of the DofE Charity



John Muir Award

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on the natural environment or wild places. Named after John Muir, the Scots-born conservation pioneer known as the founding father of National Parks, it promotes educational, social and personal development through engagement with wild places and involvement in conservation. At Wellington, all Primary 7 pupils take part.



The aims of the award are:

- To help appreciate and value nature, urban greenspace and wild landscapes.
- To encourage awareness, understanding and responsibility for wild places.
- To promote personal development and healthy living through outdoor experiences.
- To encourage an environmental agenda – for individuals and organisations.
- To recognise and celebrate achievements of each individual.
- The John Muir Award vastly differs from the traditional 'green' agenda by promoting adventure, personal growth, enjoyment, art, culture and creativity. Wellington pupils have taken part in a variety of activities in school grounds and urban settings, National Parks, coastlines, rivers and woodlands. They have explored topics such as sustainability, biodiversity and citizenship as well as themes surrounding the curriculum.



To achieve a John Muir Award, pupils must:

- Meet four Challenges – Discover a wild place, Explore it, Conserve it and Share your experiences.
- Show enthusiasm and commitment.
- Have an awareness of who John Muir was.
- Understand what the John Muir Award is and why they are participating.
- At Wellington, the Award is used to illustrate to pupils that the environment is at the heart of adventure, learning, creativity and wellbeing. It is an integral part of the Primary 7 experience and an excellent precursor to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Music at Wellington

Our extensive and enriching extracurricular music programme enhances and compliments what is being taught in the music curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to take part in one of our many and varied Instrumental and Vocal ensembles. This not only fosters great camaraderie but also encourages pupils to work as part of a team. They would also be key contributors to promoting the ethos of the school through their music.

Choral

We are very proud of our singing heritage at Wellington School and have many former pupils studying towards becoming professional singers at conservatories or currently working in the profession. The foundation to our success in singing starts at the very beginning of education with the following choirs available from the early years to S6:

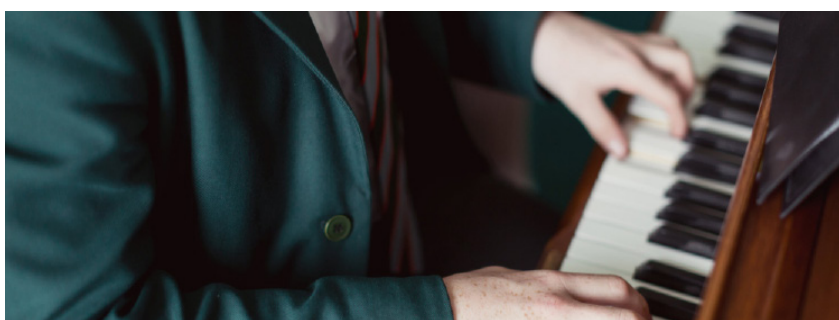
- Nursery Reception/Transition Singing Ensemble
- Primary 1 Choral
- Primary 2/3 Choral
- Primary 4/5 Choral
- Primary 6 Choral
- Junior Choir (P7 - S2)
- Chamber Choir (S3)
- Madrigal Group (Girls from S4 - S6)
- Senior Choir (S4 - S6)

Instrumental Ensembles

There are also many opportunities for our instrumentalists to develop their musical skills, technique and also build confidence through social interaction as part of an ensemble or orchestra. Our groups are carefully structured to support and challenge young musicians:

- Drumley Brass Group (brass players in Primary School)
- String Orchestra (all pupils from beginner to Grade 2)
- Junior and Senior Folk Groups (Primary and Secondary)
- Rock Band (pupils from S3-S6)
- Jazz Concert Band (all woodwind and brass pupils)
- Orchestra (all pupils - Grade 3 minimum level)

Weekly rehearsals in Choral and Instrumental Ensembles lead to regular concert performances to celebrate success throughout the year like Harvest Festivals, Christmas and Summer Concerts, Ayrshire Music Festival, Charity Events in the local and wider community and a series of Church Services and full musical programme at Prizegiving.



Graded Music Exams

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

Theatrical Performances

A highlight of the academic year is the annual Senior School Musical Production held in the local theatre. In October 2019 our School Show was Sir Andre Lloyd-Webber's spectacular masterpiece, 'Phantom of the Opera'. This was an ambitious choice for a school production and a first for the Gaiety Theatre, accommodating one of the most challenging shows in the musical theatre repertoire. Our senior pupils gave four outstanding performances to a most appreciative full house. In order to showcase our talented pupils, we once again double casted our show. We have so many talented singers that we always produce two casts of equal high quality. Previous shows have included Chicago, Les Miserables and West Side Story.

Theatrical performances in the Junior School continue to flourish with many musical productions throughout the year. Highlights include the annual Nursery and Primary 1-3 Nativity Productions and also the Junior Show Musical for Primary 4-6 pupils, that takes place bi-annually. Past shows have included 'Bugsy Malone', 'Aritocats', 'Joseph the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' and most recently, 'Aladdin'.

International Concert Platform

The International Education Concert Programme for Choirs and Orchestras continues to thrive and develop. The flagship events in this initiative were the anniversary concerts to celebrate the 25 year partnership between Mallinckrodt Gymnasium, Dortmund and Wellington School. Most recently we joined with Mallinckrodt Gymnasium to perform concerts to celebrate the 30th Year anniversary. The first concert took place in Dortmund in November 2019 with the return concert in Ayr Town Hall early 2020. Plans are in place for another orchestra and choir concert tour after the enormous success of the Salzburg, Austria trip in 2018.

Music Technology

Our music technology pupils from National 5 to Advanced Higher are encouraged and offered an opportunity to assist with the sound engineering requirements of live concerts and events throughout the academic year. They work as a team to set up live sound for concerts and performances and also create high quality recordings, using Pro Tools software.

Pupils have gained valuable experience in the industry working alongside professionals in the Gaiety Theatre, Ayr Town Hall and other venues in the local community. In our most recent orchestra trip to Dortmund, one of our Advanced Higher Music Technology pupils travelled with the musicians to set up microphones and record the concert.

The Music Department encourages all pupils with an interest in music to take part in our many and varied extracurricular activities. The experience gained from participation will enhance pupils' skills and develop confidence in the art of performance and social interaction.



