



The Turret

Wellington School Magazine
Autumn/Winter 2021



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Welcome

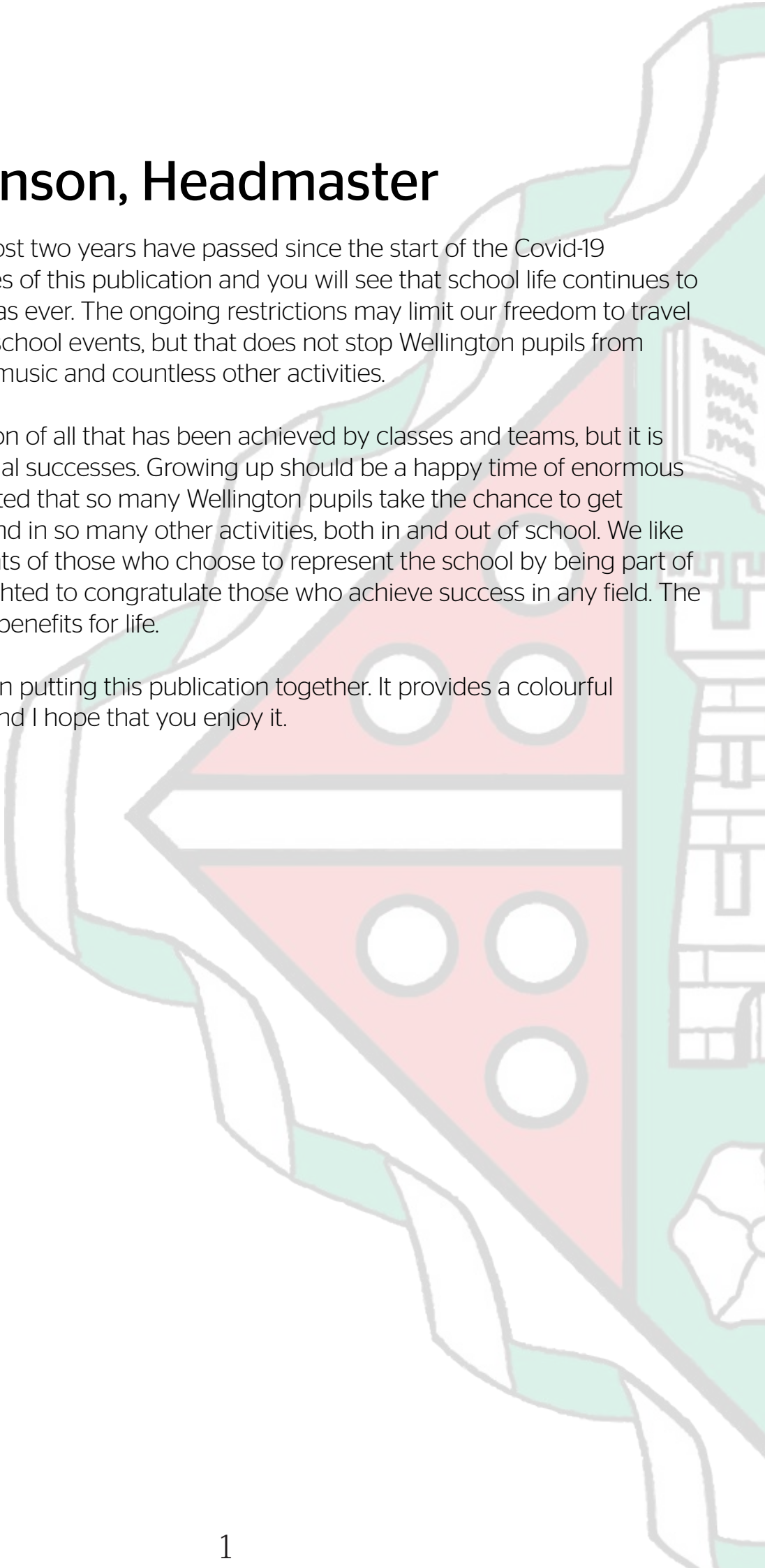
From Mr Johnson, Headmaster

It is hard to believe that almost two years have passed since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, but turn the pages of this publication and you will see that school life continues to be as vibrant and energetic as ever. The ongoing restrictions may limit our freedom to travel and welcome audiences to school events, but that does not stop Wellington pupils from getting involved with sport, music and countless other activities.

This magazine is a celebration of all that has been achieved by classes and teams, but it is also a celebration of individual successes. Growing up should be a happy time of enormous opportunity and I am delighted that so many Wellington pupils take the chance to get involved in sport, in music and in so many other activities, both in and out of school. We like to celebrate the achievements of those who choose to represent the school by being part of a team, but we are also delighted to congratulate those who achieve success in any field. The pursuit of excellence brings benefits for life.

I thank all of those involved in putting this publication together. It provides a colourful snapshot of Wellington life and I hope that you enjoy it.

Mr Johnson



The Ayrshire Music Festival Speech & Drama is Back!

We are delighted to announce, after having missed last year due to Covid restrictions, the Ayrshire Music Festival is back!

During lockdown the Speech & Drama Syllabus has been given a make-over and there are two new Directors at the helm, one of which is very well known to us here at Wellington School, as it is our very own Primary 7 Teacher, Mrs Bradley.

Mr Stuart McKinlay (yes he is related to Miss McKinlay - they are brother and sister) is the other Director, he is also a Teacher, but at Belmont Academy.

The Ayrshire Music Festival- Speech and Drama dates, these will be **Monday 7th March 2022 and Tuesday 8th March 2022**, again the venue will be the Baptist Church in Ayr.

Mrs Bradley explains. 'We have increased the number and variety of classes that can be entered, particularly in the Drama genre. Whilst the old favourites such as Set Poem, Favourite Poem, Scottish Verse and Poems of Burns remain as well as the very successful Public Speaking for Primary 6 & 7 and Senior Years, we have now introduced a Playlet category, Monologues, Storytelling and Write Your Own Poem class, along with many others.'

Many instrumental and singing pupils take part successfully and enthusiastically in the music classes and the Festival organisers are embracing the opportunity to offer alternative performance opportunities for those children who are talented in other ways.

The **Syllabus and Free Online entry** are now live and can be made by following the links on;
<http://www.ayrshiremusicfestival.org.uk>

All entries must be submitted online by 31st January 2022.

Please feel free to contact Mrs Bradley directly on speechdrama@btinternet.com should you have any questions regarding the above or wish to note your interest and she will get back in touch.



Mrs Bradley
Director



Stuart McKinlay
Director



Peter Panto Review

By Anastasia & Freya

On Wednesday 8th December, ourselves and the rest of S1 were treated to a trip to The Tall Ship, Glasgow, by the English Department. After an enjoyable bus journey full of jokes and laughs, we finally arrived at our destination, ready to watch the Peter Panto, a modern twist to the classic Peter Pan story. It was directed by the wonderful Dr. Jo Ronan, who kindly covered one of the S1 English classes earlier this year. When we arrived, we were amazed to see the panto was being held in an actual tall ship.

After stepping over the River Clyde and onto the humongous ship, we were shown inside and taken to our seats. We were welcomed by the lovely sound of music being played by two very talented men (one playing the guitar, and the other a violin). The music ended and two hilarious Christmas trees came skipping into view. After they had argued over who was the best decorated, the show began.

It told the story of Wendy and her brothers - Michael and John - and their adventure with Peter Panto and Tink to Never Ever Panto Land. It told us of the fights against Captain Hook and Smee, his assistant, and of Nana, the children's nanny, who had once been to Never Ever Panto Land and found the love of her life. Following on from this, Peter Panto reclaims his home, and Hook and Nana are married after being reunited.

By the end of the pantomime, Wendy has finally found herself, and stood up to her mother about who she wants to be, and what she wants to do with her life. We were all in the panto spirit when helping Nana, and were singing along to all of the songs. A big thank you to the English Department for such a marvellous afternoon out. We all really enjoyed ourselves.



WSPTA Under New Management

By Josh Bradley

Within Wellington School, parent involvement and support is a key component to our schools desire for excellence. Contributing to decisions throughout the school is the Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) which includes teachers and parents who meet regularly to discuss proposals to positively impact the Wellington community. At the commencement of the new school year, the committee has seen two of its members take on new roles. After many years of successful leadership, Victoria Birrell and Gillian Thomson have stepped down from their respective roles as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and the WSPTA is now led by a new Chairperson - Laura Alexander and Deputy Chairperson - David Watters. Recently, the new Chairpersons took part in an interview telling us all about them and the work of the WSPTA.

Laura explains the strengths she brings to her new role. "I very much enjoy working as part of a team and building good relationships with people. I think I'm a good listener and having a challenge to deliver a task motivates me." David has been a committee member since 2015 and was the WSPTA Secretary from 2019 until his new appointment.

In the past Laura's career involved managing a large group of staff at a well known retailer and all of us working together to achieve a high standard of service throughout the business. Part of her role involved planning for key events and making sure tasks were delegated with everyone having their own responsibilities. That along with David's enthusiasm, organisation and good humour makes them a formidable team.

I asked both Laura and David what the future plans are for the WSPTA. They hope to continue to hold fun fund-raising events and maximise revenue to benefit the pupils, to work alongside the school to support projects. They also want to make sure the parents are aware of what the WSPTA does and to let them know that their suggestions or fund raising ideas are all welcome. They hope to be an effective link between the school and parents.

The PTA have had many achievements over the

years from contributing towards the purchase of football nets, musical equipment and Summer and Christmas concerts. Most recently the Wellington School Ball was a real success and raised a fantastic amount of money.

Fun Facts about Laura and David

Laura once had lunch with Micheal Schumacher in 2001 at the Silverstone Grand Prix!

David once met Vinnie Jones three times in a week at three random locations throughout the country.

The WSPTA are always looking for new members and you are invited to join them at the AGM on Tuesday 8th March.



Laura Alexander
WSPTA Chairperson

David Watters
WSPTA Deputy
Chairperson



Callum heads to Benfica Football Club

By Ella Snowden

Callum was recently invited to take part in an elite training camp at Benfica Football Club in Lisbon, Portugal.

After training in Scotland with his club, Sons of Struth, under the tutelage of former professional goalkeeper Andy Goram, Callum has been nurtured as a promising young talent and was invited to take part in in this extended camp to hone his skills. Callum talks to The Turret about his experience:

How did you get selected to be a part of this training course?

Through my own football club up in Glasgow, the team spotted me there as they do training with my club and they also spotted me through my goalkeeper coach Andy Goram. That's how it all got set up.

What new skills did you learn?

You get taught about every aspect, from playing out from the back, just everything and playing with your feet is much more important out there. Like here there is much more playing out and going as long as you can whereas there you have to try and play to your defenders and it's much more technical.

What doors will this football camp open up for you?

There is another camp coming up, so I could be going along to that, though I'm not sure. Nothing has been said. But there are lots of different opportunities,

obviously my name is out there meaning that maybe other scouts may want to come and have a look, there's a lot of doors this has opened up.

What position do you play?

Goalkeeper

What was your favourite part of the training programme?

The level of intensity. It's much more intense over there, but also getting to meet new people from all around the world because there were people from Holland, Switzerland, Canada & America. So getting to meet people from different cultures was good as well.

Are there any other comments you would like to add regarding your time abroad?

Great experience, from such a high level club in Europe, probably one of the best. It was just such a good experience and obviously I hope it helps get me somewhere in the future.

What club would you like to play for in the future?

Rangers.



Sporting Achievements

At Wellington, we are proud of all our pupils when it comes to their sporting achievements. Here are a few of our success stories from the last 6 months.

Golf

First up in Golf, Primary 7 pupil, Freya became Troon Ladies Golf Club junior club champion following a successful summer season!



Congratulations to Harris, Noah and Quintin, who also had great success with Golf! The boys are part of an under 18 team from Troon Welbeck golf club and won the Ayrshire Junior Golf League earlier this year. The final took place at Irvine Bogside golf club against an Irvine Bogside team where the Troon team won through 4-2.

All three boys contributed greatly in the six preceding group stage matches (home and away versus Ayr Belleisle, Prestwick St Nicholas and East Ayrshire) to get the team into the final.



Tae Kwon Do

Congratulations to P7D pupil Rory, who previously attended the Scottish Open Tae Kwon Do Championships and won the Blue Belt patterns category!

As well as being extremely excited about his win, Rory was also very happy that he could gain some extra points for his School House.



Sailing

Three of our S1 pupils had a super time at Loch Tummel, where they competed in the RYA Scottish Club Trophy.

Ava, Hamish and Jess are all keen cadet members of Prestwick Sailing Club. Sam, S6, who is also PSC Cadet Captain was coaching and supporting the team. He was very impressed with their attitude and skill, 'Ava, Hamish and Jess were excellent representatives of Prestwick Sailing Club and our school. Jess and Ava winning a Silver Medal in the Regatta Fleet Feva racing was a great success'.

Well done Team Wellington!



Rugby

Well done to our Ayr Wellington Rugby mini team, who had a great season. At the Ardrossan festival earlier in the year, our P7 Camo Team were the overall winners and our P7 Hoops Team came in 3rd!



Showjumping

The Wellington School showjumping team, named the Four Leaf Clovers, competed for the first time together as a school team and have now begun to collect points on their record for the British Showjumping Association (BSJA). The pupils involved are Felicity in S6, Amy and Fergal in S4, and Cara in S2.

The team took first place in the schools class at the Morris Extravaganza show earlier this year, with everyone jumping clear rounds.



Tennis

Congratulations to Sushanth, who recently reached the finals and came runner up at the Under 18 boys tennis tournament in Chesterfield as well as placing runner up at an under 14 tournament in Shrewsbury.



Athletics

Huge well done to S1 pupil Lemoni, who recently attended Ayr Seaforth Athletics Club Annual Awards and took home 2 titles!

Ayr Seaforth Under 13 Girls Track & Field Championship Winner 2021 and Under 11 Girls Club Cross Country Winner 2019 (pre-covid races).



Football

Congratulations to S2 pupil, Carter, who has been selected for football trials for Scotland at Toryglen on 3rd Dec. Carter has been working towards this for 4 years now and is delighted to have been chosen.



Figure Skating

Huge congratulations to S5 Pupil Catriona, who recently participated in the Tayside Trophy International, in the "Advanced Novice" category.

Catriona was delighted to compete in what was her first opportunity for nearly two years (due to Covid restrictions). This two-day event, involved skating both "short" and "free" programmes, with the results from both days being combined.

Catriona performed well in both sections, qualifying 7th for GBR. Well done!



Also in figure skating, P7 pupil Charlotte recently competed in the Young Stars Competition in Sheffield, representing Kyle Figure Skating Club.

Charlotte achieved 1st place and a new personal best in her first ever event competing at Level 2.



Table Tennis

Well done to P7 pupil, Padma, who recently qualified to represent Scotland for the British Primary School championships in Table Tennis.



Archery

S2 Pupil, Laura (13) represented Scotland in the Indoor Archery Championships recently. Laura came a very impressive 6th place for her age category and 39th overall in the UK for under 21s.

Laura was asked to join the Northern Ireland team who were a member short of a ladies recurve archer - this earned her a Gold medal in the Home Nations section with the Northern Ireland Team.



Gymnastics

Emma Thomson recently competed in the British Artistic Gymnastics Disability Championships on the 17th of October 2021.

The competition was held in the Fenton Manor Sports Complex in Stoke-on-Trent. She competed in the woman's junior A class 1 section.

Emma is now the overall All-round British Champion for her class. She competed 4 routines on the beam, floor, vault and uneven bars. She is the British Champion on beam and placed second on floor. She also placed 4th on the vault and 5th on the uneven bars. This was her first national event since 2019 (due to the pandemic) and Emma was very pleased to compete again.





PROUD TO SUPPORT Beatson cancer CHARITY

S6 Choose to Support Beatson Cancer Charity

By Ella Snowden

Each year, the Sixth Year choose a charity to raise money for throughout their final year in school. S6 pupils have the opportunity to nominate a charity which they would like to raise money for, and a vote then takes place to decide which charity will be selected. All the charities suggested this year were for very worthwhile causes, but the clear winner was Beatson Cancer Charity.

The Turret interviewed two S6 pupils, Poppy and Gemma, who were the main supporters behind choosing Beatson:

Why did you decide to put this particular charity forward?

Gemma: I chose this charity because it's very close to my family's hearts. My dad passed away 5 years ago from cancer and received treatment at the Beatson. My Grandpa also received treatment from the Beatson when I was younger. The Beatson is an important charity that will benefit greatly from the support we can raise throughout the year.

Poppy: I chose the charity as it was where my uncle received his treatment for his MSD (blood cancer). Although he was not cured, it helped give him more time and more freedom than being bound in a regular hospital room, this really helped to boost our morale as a family.

What do you hope to achieve by fundraising for Beatson?

Gemma: I really hope we are able to raise enough to make a good change for the hospital, possibly even allow them to get a new scanner or just to make an impact on their equipment and support for their patients.

Poppy: I hope to raise enough money to ensure Beatson is still around for years to come to help every other family who may need it.

What does Beatson mean to you?

Gemma: It means a lot to me because of their treatment they were able to offer my family on a few occasions.

Poppy: The Beatson meant that we were able to see my uncle as the person he was before he was affected with cancer and although it didn't cure him, it made his last days exponentially better than it would have been if the Beatson was not around.

Are there any other comments you would like to add?

Gemma: I want to encourage everyone to get involved with all activities and if anyone has any fundraising ideas, please let a sixth year know!

Poppy: I want to thank everyone who has already joined in on donating whether it's from the house charity days or just contributing by bringing in money for the non-uniform day we held before Christmas. We couldn't make this possible without them!

Below are some photos of fundraising activities that have already taken place to support Beatson, including a Christmas raffle, Curie House Charity Day, where Ella and Mrs Ness were covered in slime and S1 pupil Ada's Christmas card, which was this year's chosen school card.





COP26 Inspires Wellington

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was hosted by Glasgow earlier this year. It was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference and it inspired many Wellington pupils and staff to get involved and do their bit for our planet.

Primary 7 created their own posters with phrases and drawings encouraging people to take action and warning us of the dangers of the current climate crisis. They then staged a Climate Change Protest and used their posters in the school playground.

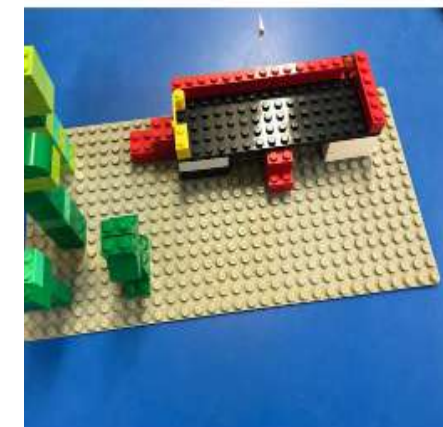


S1 pupils took part in The Great Big Lesson for Climate and Nature: Live from COP26. This was a huge interactive online lesson covering topics ranging from the future of food to the universe of soil.



Primary 2 learned all about COP26 through Lego. They had great fun building models of what they would like the world to look like in the future.

They also came up with 3 instructions that they would like to share with world leaders to help protect the planet from climate change.



I built a stage for speakers to speak from and some trees to help us breathe better.

Veer

S1 pupils, Jessica and Andrew are members of the RSNO Junior Chorus and were recently chosen to sing in a performance at The Green Zone for COP26.

The RSNO commissioned pieces for the event showcasing Scotland and calling for action on issues to tackle climate change. Well done to you both, what an amazing opportunity!



S2 pupil, Isla, was invited by the Prime Minister to join him at 10 Downing Street in the last week ahead of COP26 for a Cultural Showcase and Reception.

Isla's design for the Creative Earth logo competition was one of only 5 to be selected from 5,500 entries where pupils across the country were asked to show the judges their vision for the planet of the future. Judges including Muriel Gray, Geri Horner and Simon Reeve, looked at thousands of entries from across the UK and were particularly inspired by Isla's vision for a healthy earth with vibrant plant life and the use of sustainable resources.

Isla and her mum travelled to London and bumped elbows with Boris Johnson at Number 10 before being treated to an evening of film, music and dance to inspire action on climate change.



The Junior Erasmus Club is Back!

Mrs Archbold and Mrs Bowyer were delighted to relaunch Erasmus Club in the Junior School earlier this term. The 12 new club members are a very keen group of pupils from P3-P6 who are working on activities from one of the school's three current Erasmus + projects: Europe on the Move. The other two, FuturEnvironment and Small Countries, Strong Cultures will also feature the programme this term.

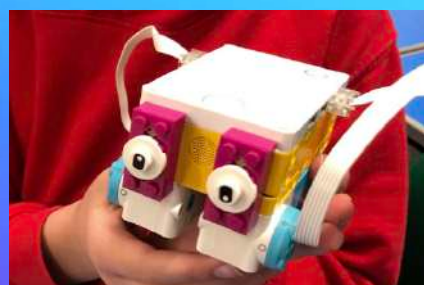
In times where travel is challenging, the exchange of project work is helping keep pupils connected across Europe. It gives them the opportunity to use their increasingly important digital communication skills, stay in touch and enhance their learning.

We updated the quality label winning 'Stars Across Europe' Christmas diamond exchange for Europe on the Move and diamonds are winging their way to us from France, Poland, Germany, Belgium and Slovenia. We can't wait to put them together as multi-national six pointed festive decorations for our classrooms.

All of the diamonds were made by the pupils and the five sets of 6 were sent recently in School Christmas cards.

All of Primary 6 have written and displayed colour poems for one activity. The poems from all countries will be made into an eBook.

Erasmus funding facilitated the purchase of Lego Spike Prime robotic kits - some of which are available for use by the Junior School. Mr Currie, IT teacher, treated the Club to a workshop recently and within 45 minutes they were having a 'hopper' race. Much fun was had by all! The Lego kits will feature in Europe on the Move's RobOlympics over the next two years. Who knows, club members might travel to Germany for the final in 2023?



UK German Connection Bears Project

Two months after connecting the classrooms of our Junior School pupils in P4B and the Meerkat class at Nordmarkt-Grundschule in Dortmund, Germany, the children are thoroughly enjoying exchanging ideas with our new friends.

P4B children wrote letters to each of the children in Dortmund, answering all 43 questions they were sent and asking some of their own.

The photo above shows Marco, the German bear in Scotland, with his Scottish pal James. They have the letters ready to send off to Germany.

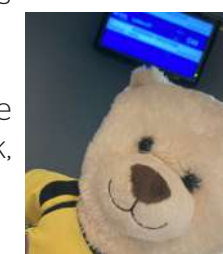
Isla, our Scottish bear at Nordmarkt-Grundschule is helping translate one of them. There was great delight in seeing that their letters had reached their destination. Marco is treated as a full class member and even joined in with our Halloween party. Count Marcula should have won a prize!

The two classes are currently learning about each other's Christmas traditions and exchanging worksheets and posters to show what they have learned. The Meerkat class is particularly keen on learning about our naughty 'elf on the shelf' who is currently entertaining us in the school dining-room.

They are excited at the prospect of an online meet-up to see one another in person and to sing Christmas songs together. The children have been learning the words for Tannenbaum, Stille Nacht and In der Weihnachtsbäckerei with the help of senior pupils on keyboard and our German Assistant, Fraulein Lipecki.

After Christmas we will continue our collaboration with future topics such as features of our towns and cities, days of the week, months and seasons, food, clothes and sport.

Our project is supported by UK German Connection.



Senior Erasmus News

Erasmus+ is a European Commission funded programme which supports international project work. Our pupils have previously collaborated with young people in schools across Europe.

Erasmus activities are an important part of the international collaboration that Wellington pupils enjoy and this term some new opportunities have been offered.

P7 French

Our girls and boys in Primary 7 have been putting their French to good use. Each pupils has a pen pal in the Belgian section of the SHAPE school in Mons, Belgium. They have exchanged two letters in French and one in English and have found out a little about their partners' lives. This is the third year that our Primary 7 classes have worked with pupils from Mons. Next year, some of our pupils will meet the boys and girls from the Belgian school during Erasmus mobilities.



Europe - on the Move!

Our new project is called 'Europe - on the Move!' and we have started developing skills for the joint activities with our partners in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Slovenia. The Art Department has taken delivery of iMacs which will allow our pupils to learn about computer-aided design. Sixty looms have also arrived in Art and next term our S1 pupils will weave tapestries inspired by the colours of the Ayrshire countryside. Their development work has included paper-weaving and colour studies



Erasmus Club Film Makers

Budding film makers have been learning to use our new Erasmus video camera during the Friday Erasmus Club sessions. Next steps will include learning to edit their films so that they are soon able to take charge of making a video record of our Erasmus activities.



Lego Spike Kits

The arrival of 15 Lego Spike kits in Computing has caused great excitement. These kits will help our pupils to develop programming and problem-solving skills through a series of challenges which they will undertake in competition with our partner schools. In 2023 we hope to lift the medals in our six nations Robolympics.



Quality Label for Joint Project

Our joint project with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund finished in the Autumn. 'Celebrating Success' focused on celebrating the success of our partnership which is now in its fourth decade. We were delighted to receive a Quality Label from Germany for the high standard of our project work.





An Update from the Junior School

Last term, in many ways, reflected the last eighteen or so months. We returned in August having to follow more, Covid restrictions and having to incorporate a number of mitigations into our working day but, nevertheless, the Junior School had an incredibly positive term. Our numbers rose slightly from last year and for the first time in several years, we have two Primary 1 classes. They have almost been the standard bearers, going on trips, visiting Dowhill Farm and using our outdoor facilities at Doonside. Mitigations and Guidance have not dampened their enthusiasm. P4 have been busy through, the Erasmus project, speaking to, and singing with, children in Germany. P5 had a great day out at the Roundhouse at Whithorn.

Our first 'big event' in some time was the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Columba Church. An almost full house with parents in attendance, excellent readings and singing and a warmth that has been sadly missing for so long was very evident. The positivity was short lived, though, as we were unable to hold the Christmas Service, my own favourite event of the year, or have parents watch our excellent Nativity plays. However, the nursery staff and the P1-3 staff excelled themselves and helped the children put on two excellent Nativities. I would like to thank Aimee (Marketing) and Garry (IT) for recording and editing the plays. I am sure they will be keepsakes for parents and children for many years.

I am delighted to say that I have visited both Primary 1 classes on numerous occasions and have had the joy of seeing many of the children progress from reading single sounds to reading books. This is a huge step for them and I was so proud of them all. Equally, I was just as proud of our Head Boy, Lewis, and our Head Girl, Sophie, for their excellent readings at the Harvest Service. Lewis told me it was more nerve-wracking than doing a Nativity play, but you would never have known, such was the quality of his reading. Very well done to both him and Sophie. Things such as this are taken for granted here but, in fact, this was the first time we had been in church since Christmas 2019.

After the Harvest Service, some P6s visited the Ayrshire Foodbank, taking a huge amount of donations to them – thank you so much for your support. They were given a tour and were told how the whole operation works. We all left feeling very humble and so grateful that we were able to help the organisation.

Our Remembrance Day Service took on a different slant, again, this year. Parents and children were met with a huge river of poppies flowing from the topmost window in the Junior School when arriving at the school and following Covid guidelines, we held our service in the playground. This touching service was attended by parents from the school railings. They were glowing in their praise for the respect shown by the children and the bugle playing of Mr Richmond from the senior school.

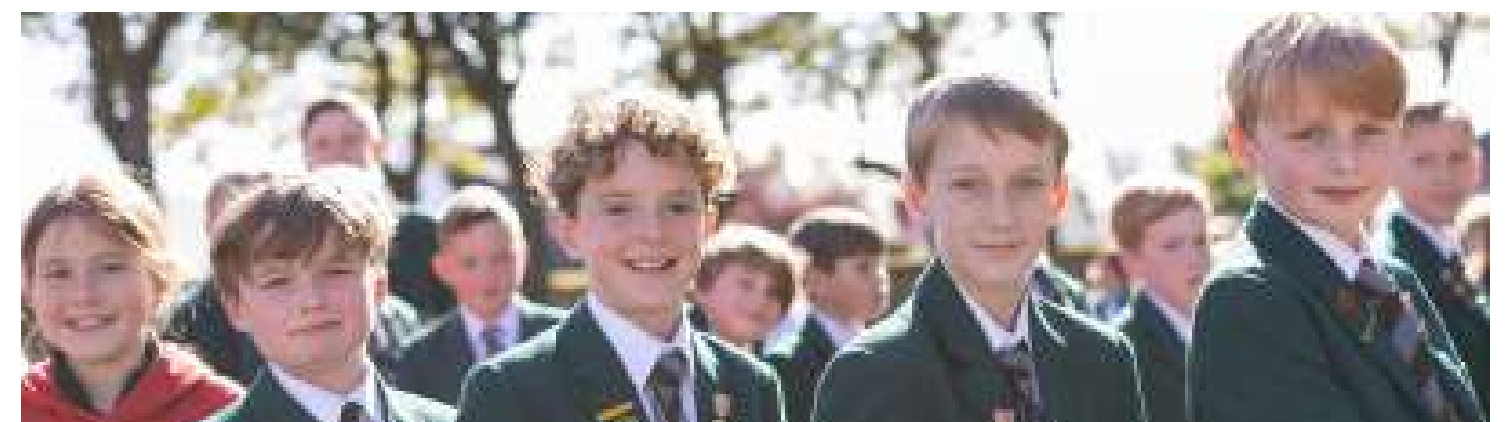
As you will read elsewhere, our P6s have been busy filling Smartie Tubes with pound coins in return for doing

work and chores around the house. They deserve a huge 'thanks' for supporting the school charity so well.

Finally, I am hopeful that the Spring term will see the Junior School get ever nearer to what it was pre Covid, but no matter what the future holds in that respect, I am always delighted to see our children enjoying life and taking to everything that is asked of them with great aplomb. As always, they are a great credit to everyone who works with them and they will take whatever comes their way and, in their stride to ensure another great term.

Mr Cox
Head Of Junior School

John Cox



Future Asset Finals for Higher Business Management Pupils

Five of our Higher Business Management girls have been taking part this term in an external investment competition - Future Asset. The competition was only open to girls with a purposes of attracting more females into considering a career in investment - an area which is currently male dominated. The challenge was to research, analyse and pitch a company which they considered to be a good long-term investment.

After much deliberation, Tesla was chosen. They then prepared a very detailed report supported by a 3 minute video pitch which focussed on convincing potential investors to invest in Tesla. The girls recently found out that they have made it to the Finals, which takes place on 1st March! Good luck girls!



The Scottish Youth Parliament Elections

The Scottish Youth Parliament elections were held in November last year. Wellington pupils participated in this event along with local authority schools and other independent schools across Scotland. The Youth Parliament allows young people to raise awareness of issues they care about and communicate key messages to politicians in power at Holyrood.

Wellington were lucky enough to have three candidates standing for election. Elliot (S5) and Monty (S3) were standing in the Ayr constituency and Lillie (S3) was seeking election in the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency in East Ayrshire.

Each pupil worked incredibly hard on their campaigns and spoke well to large groups at school assemblies and other events in the community.

When asked why people should vote for her, Lillie (S3) had the following to say: "I want to be an MYSP, for a few reasons. My main reason being that I am a lot younger than most MYSP candidates/ members as I am only 14, meaning that I would be a good representative for those not aged to yet vote, and I can provide the views of a young Scottish person. I feel that this would provide a good balance between other people, as some MYSPs can vote, I feel that it would be beneficial for someone younger to become part of the team. Another reason I feel that I would be a good addition is that I have a lot of confidence when it comes to things such as public speaking and debating, and I feel very comfortable talking in front of large numbers of people, of any age group. And finally, I know I will greatly enjoy SYPI!"

We were delighted to announce that Elliot was elected as an MSYP for the Ayr constituency. Lillie was also elected in East Ayrshire as MSYP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley. They can't wait to begin their work in earnest to represent young people in their respective communities.

Well done to you all!





The Success of Flanders Field

By Kate & Summer

Our design, Flanders Field, was inspired by the brave soldiers who fought for our freedom. We were lucky enough to visit the Lady Haig Poppy Factory, and were kindly gifted their leftover waste materials. This included scraps of silk from the poppy wreaths, which we used to assemble our skirt and broken poppies. After our fabulous experience with Junk Kouture, Poppy Scotland have made sustainability one of their key aims, and are consequently giving away more of their leftover materials to anyone hoping to create their own creations. Our bodice was created using leather from an old sofa, which we then fashioned to create our design.

We are thoroughly enjoying our Junk Kouture journey and all opportunities that have arisen from this. Throughout our process we have documented each step of our design, through instagram and tiktok. On our socials we have also regularly posted about other experiences that have stemmed from Junk Kouture, and have featured on Junk Kouture, Poppy Scotland and British Horse (British Horse Society) social media accounts.

We are so grateful to have been given the opportunity to travel to London to spend time with the Junk Kouture team. In London we launched the Junk Kouture UK 2022 competition, with the Junk Kouture young ambassadors.

Whilst in London we were photographed by a photographer from Getty images, and discovered that our photos were in the Times newspaper (British and Irish, which has an average daily circulation of 417,298), Fashion Network, Industry fashion and Edinburgh Evening news. During this time, we attended the Youth Marketing Strategy, where we took part in interviews which can be seen on the Junk Kouture youtube account, we also met several influencers and have featured on their social media.

At YMS we were given the opportunity to wear our dress on the catwalk, taking part in the Junk Kouture fashion show.

We have been given the opportunity to work with Poppy Scotland, in spreading awareness about sustainability, the importance of the poppy and also to promote Junk Kouture. We have attended Dundee Poppy day, where we were given the chance to meet and be photographed next to the Lord Provost of Dundee in our dress, and were showcased in the Dundee Courier. Along with this, we travelled to Edinburgh to attend Edinburgh Poppy day, where we were photographed by the Poppy Scotland photographer and the army press photographer, and we featured in newspapers, such as The Herald and The Daily Express which reaches an average of 315,142 people daily.

During our trip to Edinburgh we were interviewed and recorded by the British Forces Broadcasting Service, and performed alongside Highland pipers. Poppy Scotland have invited us to attend the Royal opening of the refurbished Poppy factory, and have also asked us to use our story as an exhibit in the new learning centre which we hope will inspire future generations of young people who visit the poppy factory learning center to reuse, recycle and re-energize junk to create sustainable fashion.

We recently met up with the Poppy Scotland team and the mobile museum - Bud in ASDA Ayr, where we spent time volunteering and promoting our story and the competition.

As well as this, we have had conversations with Ayrshire Magazine and the Ayr advertiser who have recently published articles about Junk Kouture and our design Flanders Field. Our process and design also featured in Dyslexia Scotland's Dyslexic Talents: Environmental Innovation and Activism blog. We are continuing to work

with Poppy Scotland and are attending a British Horse Society sponsored ride raising funds for the charity, showcasing our design this time on horseback.

To keep up to date with Flanders Field, follow them on Instagram @flanders.field.21





Primary 5 visit Whithorn Roundhouse

Primary 5 were fortunate last term to have the opportunity to visit the Iron Age Roundhouse at Whithorn Trust. Julia Muir Watt, former pupil of Wellington School and Development Manager of the Whithorn Trust, organised a superb day of activities so that children could experience life as a Celt.

Primary 5 pupils spoke to The Turret about their experience at Whithorn Roundhouse and had this to say:

“When we made bread and butter it was so tasty, I wished I could take my bread home! I learnt that by shaking liquid cream in a glass jar rapidly it turns into solid butter.”

Keira



“We loved the face paint with all the swirls that went on and on forever.”

Archie



“When I saw the log boat I was really amazed how many people had dedicated hours and days to make one log boat.”

Mithian



“I learnt that Ruadh means red and it was also the name of the log boat because it was made out of red wood.”

Noah



“I got a fright when a little chicken crept up behind me. Then we noticed that the chicken was protecting its eggs.”

Christian



“The walls were made of mud, manure and straw and the floors were made of willow.”

Joe

“Mike showed us about the round house and when you walked you heard the willow crack.”

Eva





Primary 1 take on Jack and the Beanstalk

Primary 1 pupils were recently introduced to Jack and the Beanstalk during storytime. Mrs Morgans and Mrs Bathgate were extremely impressed by how well everyone listened and got involved with the different activities.

Pupils created a giant beanstalk for their classroom, planted butter beans in a jar with damp paper and cotton wool to see if any germinate and maybe even grow into an enormous beanstalk. As well as this, both classes were set a challenge of safely bringing golden eggs down the beanstalk. Each child was given a golden egg and had to use different materials to protect it. The eggs were then dropped 50cm, 100cm and 150cm!

Primary 1 pupils also wrote their own versions of the story where they were the main characters, then they used their imaginations and turned the playhouse into a puppet theatre and retold the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Well done Primary 1!

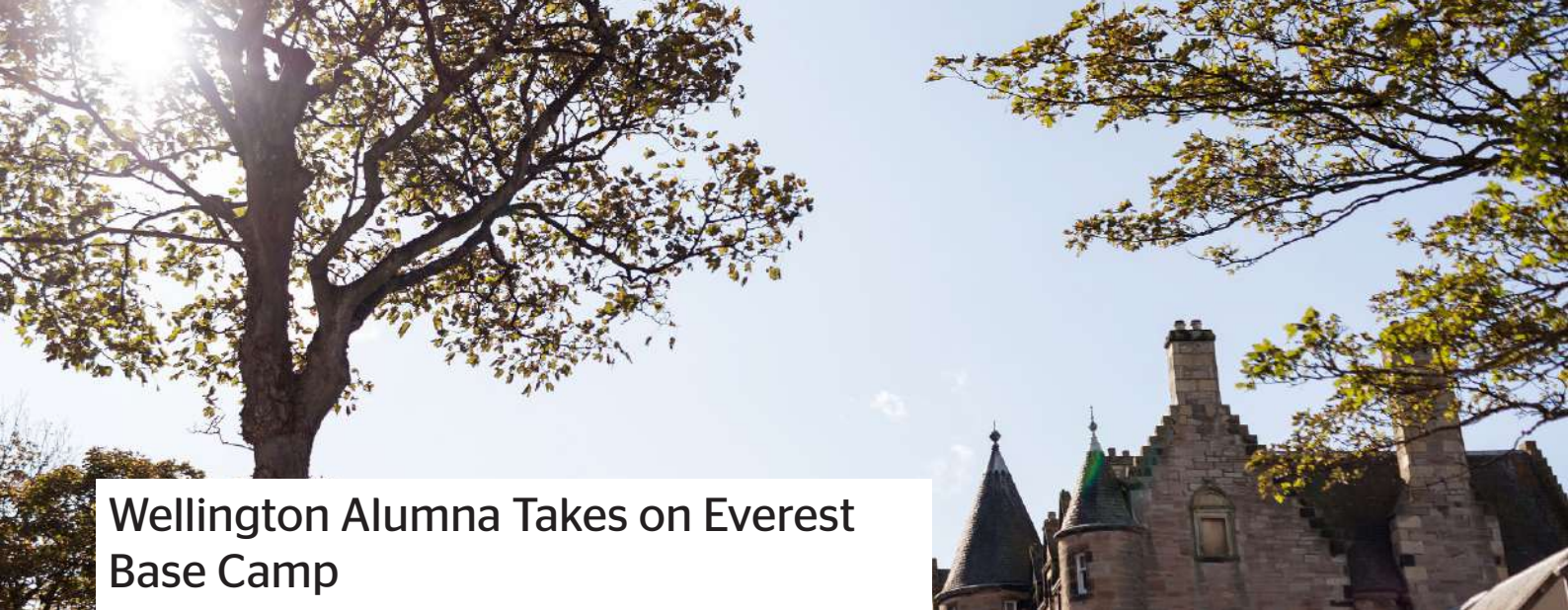


Wellington Nursery Meet Local Heroes!

Nursery pupils have had various visits from the Emergency Services over the past few months. The first visit was from both the Fire and police Department, who helped the children by teaching them how to stay safe.

As well as this, Police Scotland and PC MacPheat provided the children with books in support of their "You Can Be" campaign. The campaign is run by Zero Tolerance and aims to address gender stereotyping in the early years. The books are challenging, fun and informative and our staff and children thoroughly enjoy reading them together.





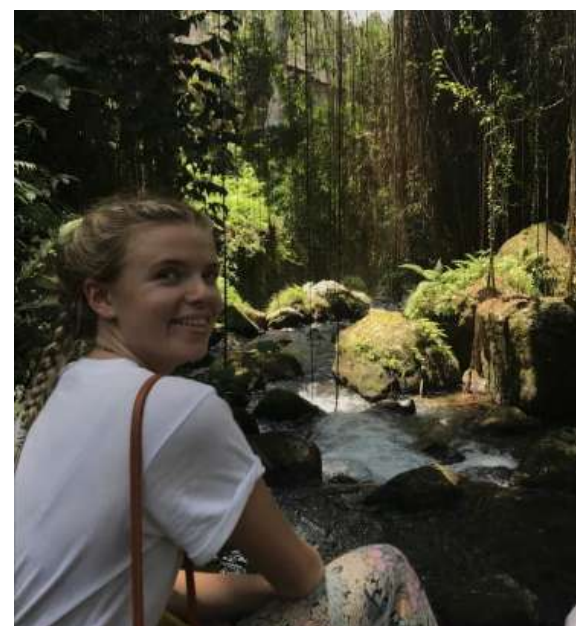
Wellington Alumna Takes on Everest Base Camp

Former Wellington pupil, Megan, recently got in touch to let us know of her plans for fundraising. Next summer, Megan plans to do a sponsored trek to Everest Base Camp to raise money for CHAS, a fantastic charity that supports and runs children's hospices across Scotland.

Megan had this to say about her challenge: "I am fundraising for CHAS by participating in a sponsored trek to Everest Base Camp next summer organized by Choose a Challenge. CHAS is a fantastic charity that supports and runs children's hospices across Scotland. They run these hospices, but they provide support for the families of terminally ill and sick children. This support system provided by CHAS is more critical now than it has been in the past due to the uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trek itself is an 11-day trek through the Himalayas, where we will summit on day 8, reaching an altitude of 5,364m. I want to take part in this fantastic challenge not only to prove my own capabilities to myself and do something I never thought I could do but also to help children and families that are going through something unimaginable by fundraising for such an amazing charity. Any donation would be greatly appreciated."

We are extremely proud of Megan and wish her all the very best for her trek! If you would like to support Megan by donating or to read more of her story, please visit her Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/megan-short4>



Biology Virtual interactive Session

Higher and Advanced Higher Biology pupils took part in a virtual interactive session where they met Dr Jenny Fraser who is a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at Edinburgh University and a scientist at The Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. She talked about her research into different diseases, including ageing, stroke and irritable bowel disease and her current work that focuses on prostate cancer and how it evolves. Her research hopes to identify "biomarkers" for prostate cancer; molecules like proteins and DNA that we can detect in blood samples from cancer patients. She is also working with doctors at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, and hopes that the research will lead to more personalised treatments for men with prostate cancer.

This session gave our Biologists an opportunity to learn about some of the science happening here in Scotland, and hear about different career paths to increase pupils' curiosity in STEM, help raise awareness of STEM careers and support pupils to reflect on their own science-related skills.





Music at Wellington

Excellence in Music has been one of the most significant themes of Wellington school over recent decades. The instrumental staff body has increased significantly in recent years as the demand for one to one music tuition grows. Our Director of Music, Mr Godsman spoke to the Turret to provide an update of the Music department and their recent events.

The Music department has had a busy first term back at Wellington School this academic year and it has been fantastic to get back to music making in the classroom, in our instrumental lessons, ensembles and even some performances. It's been great to get back to class singing again in the Junior School, and we've loved singing our hearts out in our choral classes, learning new songs, and performing at Harvest and The Christmas Concert. We've also been able to restart all of our ensembles again – which means Junior Choir, Senior Choir, The Madrigal Singers, Jazz Band, Junior String Orchestra, Folk Group, Music Theatre Group and Senior Orchestra have all been able to rehearse each week, and work towards showcasing our Whole School Christmas Concert, albeit an online recorded version. However, big progress with small steps forward and we're sure, with a few more steps forward, you'll get to hear us perform live again soon!

We've been able to acknowledge and celebrate our students musical successes with awarding Colours to students from Primary 7 through to Secondary 6, who have shown exceptional ability and commitment to their musical learning recently. In addition to this, we have recently hosted Trinity College (London) Music Examinations in the department, with some superb results from our students. Instrumental Lessons continue on a weekly basis, and another significant step forward has taken place, allowing these lessons to take place face to face now. Some 196 lessons take place on a weekly basis, across our 15 instrumental teachers!

In the classroom, we continue to see Google Classroom be embedded in our daily musical activities, to help the learning transition from home learning to school learning, and students are really engaged in a wide range of musical activities with learning technologies. Music Technology students taking N5, Higher and Advanced Higher Music have seen significant investment in equipment and software to support their learning, with new iMac computers, running the latest versions of Logic and Pro Tools, which will make a big difference to their skill acquisition and productivity in class. In addition to this, the Junior School and Choral classes now have access to Sing Up!, an online library full of singing resources, and we have also put in place Noteflight score writing software and Focus on Sound to help our certificate classes with listening, literacy and theory.

Next term, we look forward to preparing our students for the Ayrshire Music Festival, Burns Celebrations, welcoming our visiting examiners for N5 and Higher Performing examinations, a range of Solo Concerts, a Spring Ensembles Concert and the hosting of the British Suzuki Music Association.

Malcolm C Godsman
Director of Music





Remembrance Day at Wellington

As always, November was full of different activities dedicated to educating our pupils about both World Wars.

On November 11th, Junior and Senior pupils and staff attended our Remembrance service both in person and via Google Meet to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

The Junior school also created a poppy waterfall around the turrets of the Junior School building.



Primary 7 pupils had the pleasure of meeting Gareth, who came in as part of Remembrance Day events and to help the class on their World War II topic.

Gareth had a display of items from the war, including British Brodie helmets, weapons used and an invasion instruction leaflet. As well as this, pupils were treated to stories from the war that were passed on from our good friend and veteran Ron, who we sadly lost earlier this year.

Both pupils and teachers found the presentation very interesting and would like to thank Gareth for joining them.



As well as this, P7 travelled back in time to experience what WW2 foods were like by sampling Woolton Pie and Carrot Cookies.

They had to work out, in groups, the ingredients included in each recipe. Opinions were varied with marmite being the most difficult ingredient to identify!



Primary 7's Virtual Pantomime

Primary 7 worked with Jacqui from FIB to produce their very own version of Cinderella before Christmas, it went something like this:

"It is the countdown to Christmas here in the small village of Ashton Mathers. Every year at Christmas the Queen of the land holds a Christmas Party and people from all over the land are invited to join in with the celebrations and festivities.

Each year the Queen invites people to come and she will pick one village, only one, to be the best decorated and win 100 gold coins.

The villages have little money and they have been working incredibly hard to make decorations and to try and win this prize. However, this year it's more than just a prize they will get, the Queen has a trick up her sleeve and the whole land will need to prepare for the news whilst they get ready for what promises to be the biggest party in the land."



Debating News

Well done to Wellington speakers Emily and Katie, who progressed through the first heat of the Dewar Debate 21/22, hosted by Lawscot. The girls recently earned colours for debating and continue a strong run of performances this year.



Huge well done to Wellington speakers, who took part in Edinburgh Juniors Debate last weekend! Isla and Charlotte took a 1st and 2nd across three rounds, and Evie and Andrew earned two 2nd places in their first competitive debate! Charlotte also placed in the top ten novice speakers.

A Note from the Editor

We hope you enjoyed this winter edition of The Turret. This biannual magazine aims to capture the essence of Wellington School.

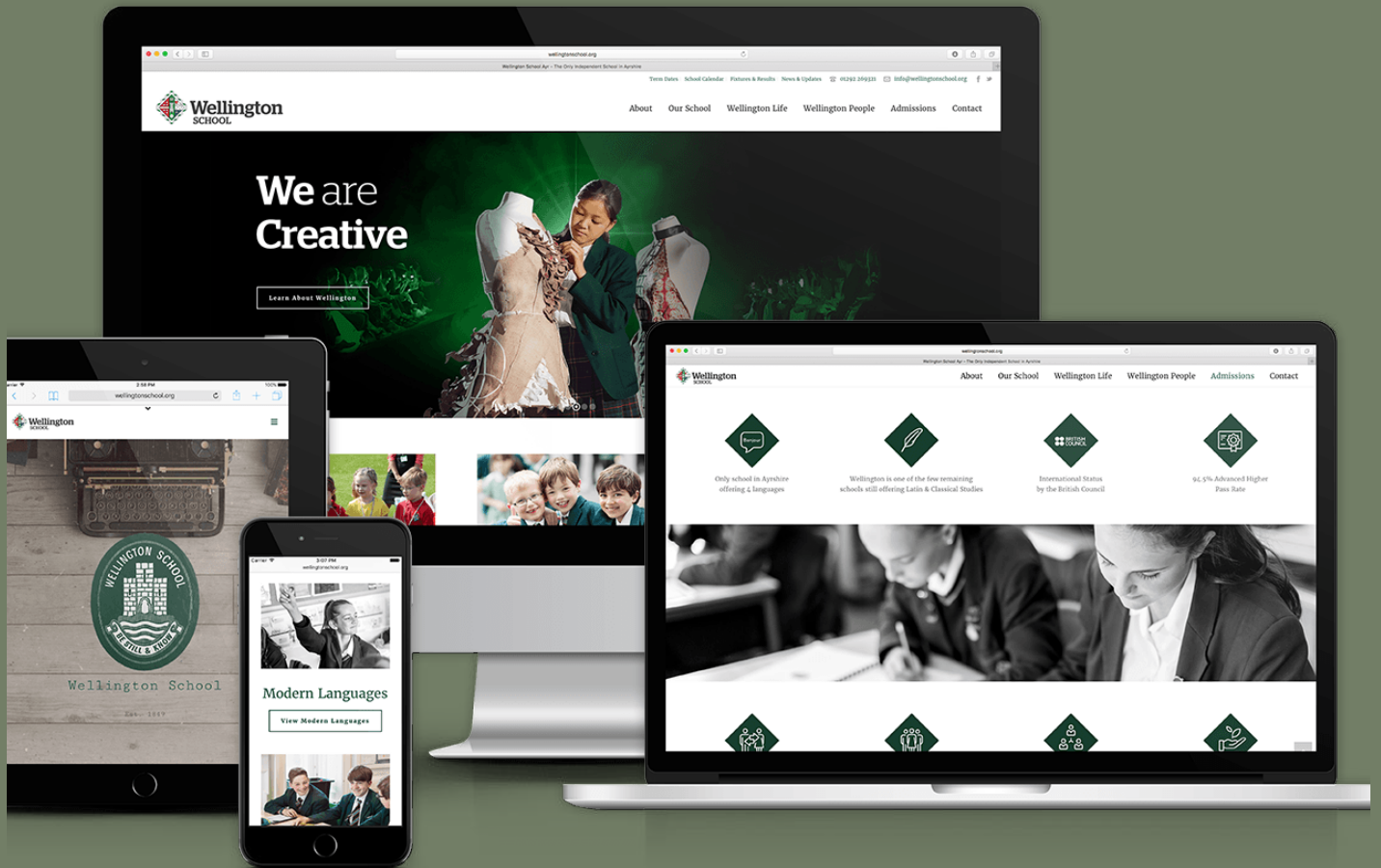
I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Turret, the pupils who have shared their news and work to be displayed and especially including our S6 pupils, who have written many of the stories within this edition. I would also like to give a special thanks to my Assistant Editor, Ella Snowden, who has helped to gather, write and design many of the pages in this edition.

While it has been exciting reliving the last few months of the academic year, as always, trying to fit all our stories in can be quite tricky! If you feel we have missed something, please get in touch and we will seek to cover your story either on social media, the website or even the next edition of The Turret.

In the event of there being a factual mistake, please accept our apologies. If you get in touch, we will amend the digital version of the magazine, which is available on the School Publications page of the website. If you have any feedback, enquiries or requests, please contact Miss Cassells via email: press@wellingtonschool.org or by telephone 01292 269321.



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