



Wellington

SCHOOL

Annual Report
2022



Introduction

I am writing this introduction on the morning of Sports Day. The sun is shining and I am sure that everybody is looking forward to the House Marching, the sports events and then, later in the week, Speech Day in Ayr Town Hall. It is hard to believe that we have not been able to celebrate the end of the school year in this way since 2019. There is, as always, so much to celebrate and once again this Annual Report is a catalogue of all that has happened, and everything that has been achieved. It would be easy to reflect on the disruption of the pandemic, but let us instead rejoice in the successes of the last twelve months, and look forward with enthusiasm to all that lies ahead.

Simon

Contents

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Computing
- English
- Geography
- History
- International Education & Modern Languages
- Mathematics
- Modern Studies
- Music
- Nursery & Junior School Report
- Outdoor Education
- Primary 7
- Physical Education & Sports
- Physics
- Sixth Year Report
- Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

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 Annual Report.

Art & Design

Joyce Morton, Head of Department

National Competitions

Our pupils have seen success in a number of National Competitions.

Isla Hall in S2 travelled to 10 Downing Street in the Autumn term to meet the Prime Minister after being selected as a prize winner in Creative Earth, a nationwide competition where young artists addressed the future of the planet. Isla's beautiful design was also displayed at COP26.

Ally Lamont in Primary 7 saw his portrait selected for the 2022 Royal Academy Young Artist's Summer Show in London. Ally's drawing was selected from over 21,000 submissions and will be displayed in the Royal Academy in London over the summer.

Oli Bicket in S1 was highly commended in the Royal Scottish Academy School Art Awards for her atmospheric Scottish landscape.

Emily Browne in S5 was highly commended in the Royal Scottish Academy Chairman's Challenge where senior pupils in Scottish schools were challenged to create an artwork on the theme of 'Renew'.

Junk Kouture is a national fashion competition that challenges young people to design, create and model fashion made from recycled materials. Kate Miller and Summer Saunders in S5 travelled to Ireland in the Autumn term for the 2021 Grand Final. They were also selected to promote Junk Kouture at the Youth Strategy Marketing Event in London. At this event Kate was photographed by Getty Images for the Times newspaper. Following on from their success in Junk Kouture the girls have been invited to be Young Ambassadors for Poppy Scotland. Summer showcased the design for Poppy Scotland at events in Edinburgh and Dundee and she was photographed for the national press. The girls also took part in fundraising events with Poppy Scotland's interactive mobile museum while sharing the story of the poppy. Their beautiful poppy dress is now on permanent display in Lady Haig's new education facility which will be officially opened later this year.

Elouisa Cairns and Mhairi Chalmers in S6 were selected as finalists in the 2022 competition for their innovative costume designs made entirely from recycled

materials. They will perform on stage in the Hackney Empire Theatre in London later this year to compete for a place in the Abu Dhabi world final. We wish them every success in

the competition.

Erasmus and British Council projects

The Art department has continued to be involved in Erasmus projects this year and we look forward very much to sharing artistic ideas with our partner schools for new projects. Working with other schools in Europe broadens our artistic and cultural awareness. Our S1 pupils created oil pastels and paintings of Scottish landscape and seascape that were then translated into weavings for the Erasmus project Europe on the Move.

S6 pupils took part in a British Council project with Erasmus prize winning artist Grayson Perry creating a collaborative pot with each section expressing their individual identities. Holly Bradfield in S6 took part in a live webinar with Grayson Perry to discuss the collective ideas explored by the Advanced Higher Art class. Images of Wellington's collaborative art project are currently on display in The British Embassy in The Hague.

Through Erasmus funding the department has acquired four new IMacs. These will offer pupils the chance to learn how to use design software used in industry.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Art Captains led a very popular lunch time art club for pupils in S1 and S2. Pupils from S3 to S6 attended after school costume design club.

The Lion King

S3 and S4 pupils travelled to Edinburgh to see The Lion King in The Playhouse Theatre in June. This was a wonderful opportunity to bring learning to life, as they have been studying Julie Taymor's Lion King costume designs for the National 5 Art Question Paper.

Mrs Morton and Mrs Hunter continue to demonstrate their commitment to providing learning and teaching that reflects current national standards, by undertaking SQA marking. This year Mrs Morton took on the role of Principal Assessor for N5 Art and Design and Mrs Hunter marked Higher Art and Design.



Biology

Marion McIntyre, Head of Department

In Biology, we are fortunate to always have our 'outside laboratory' to learn about the natural world, and it is another delight to be back in school on a full-time basis, where we can also carry out test tube and petri dish-based investigations.

This session, our new S1 learned about Cells and Body systems. Our eager biologists immersed themselves in their studies of the human body and carried out a wide range of activities such as preparing microscope slides, dissecting a chicken's wing, and building a model of the respiratory system. Their enthusiasm was tangible, and they are a credit to themselves and the school.

There were a few screams of delight coming from lab 1 when S2 were studying the behaviour of snails and woodlice. They relished the challenge of constructing choice chambers to investigate the effect of light on the behaviour of woodlice. Pupils were meticulous in their recording and presentation of their results. S2 also studied how humans control their body temperature and researched the urinary system to understand its role in water balance and getting rid of poisonous waste. The dissection of a pig's kidney was an activity many of our students will not forget in a hurry (and certainly not the smell)!

Our S3 have made a great start to the National 5 course and have been busy monitoring populations of plant species in our school grounds using quadrats and setting pitfall traps to survey soil invertebrates. S4 are to be congratulated for all the hard work they put into preparing for their exams. It was a joy to see them engaging in activities such as building a model of the human heart as well as dissecting a lamb's heart. We were also very impressed with their chalk drawings of mammalian heart anatomy.

Higher Biologists have been engaged in a vast array of activities such as building models of DNA replication and learning about essential techniques such as PCR and gel electrophoresis and their uses in paternity testing, forensic analysis and of course, Covid tests. Our biologists also enjoyed carrying out dissections to compare heart anatomy in different vertebrates and studied how animals avoid or survive in adverse conditions. We are thrilled that so many of our higher students have chosen to continue their biological studies to advanced higher level next year.

Advanced Higher Biologists rose to the challenges of this rewarding but demanding course. They carried out research into the actions of signalling molecules which they presented to their peers with confidence and even some humour. Although we never made it to Millport this year, we did carry out field work on Ayr beach using line and belt transects.

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. 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.

Biologists were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Ness in December, when she returned to a career in Veterinary Medicine, but we know that she will be back in the department over the coming years to deliver exhilarating workshops. We are delighted to welcome Dr Jakoby and wish her every success in her new role as Biology and Science teacher at Wellington. She carried out her PhD in cancer research at York University and has recently moved to Scotland after ten years teaching in England. Miss Laura Wells joined us for two of her teaching placements and inspired our junior pupils with her knowledge of marine biology.

A very special thanks goes to Mrs Peden, without whom the department would not be able to carry out such wonderful activities.

Thank you to George McCartney and Lucy McColl for being wonderful Biology Captains this year.

We are thrilled to have such incredible pupils who are inquisitive and want to learn about issues that affect them such as food security and the transmission of disease. We aim to enrich the experiences of pupils in biology by using a wide range of technology such as microscopes, electrophoresis tanks, centrifuges, and visualisers as well as online activities such as ClickView and Google Classroom. We wish our school leavers every success in their future careers and look forward to beginning a new session in August.



Business Studies

Linda Munn, Head of Department

After two years of disrupted learning, we are delighted to have managed to achieve a full academic year teaching in the classroom. Once restrictions were removed, we were able to re-introduce some of the events which were once regarded as a normal part of our calendar, as well as adding a new one.

Future Asset

Our first extra-curricular activity started in October 2021 when, for the first time, we entered the Future Asset national competition. Five of our senior girls - Lucy Robinson, Gabriella Cooke, Nathalie Buesa, Amy Leaman and Iona Magee formed a team. The aim of the competition was to educate young females about careers in investment which is, currently, very male dominated. The girls were tasked with choosing a company and preparing a case to attract potential investors - the girls chose to focus on Tesla. All their hard work paid off as they reached the final, a great feat considering there were more than 40 schools competing. The final took place online in early March where they had to present their case to an array of judges from the world of investment. Subsequently, they attended a celebration event in June which was held in Edinburgh. They visited Black Rock, a multinational investment company, followed by a celebration event hosted by Future Asset. This experience will stand the girls in good stead in the future and it may open their eyes to the career opportunities that the investment world can offer. Even if they don't pursue a career in this field it will have helped develop their communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills - all which are essential in every profession and walk of life.

S2 Fairtrade Event

In May we were able to resume the S2 Fairtrade event, this year held in Drumley Hall. Once again our pupils surpassed all expectations, displaying excellent awareness of the principles of Fair Trade as well as creativity, teamwork and an ability to make profit (all of which was donated to the 6th year charity - Beatson Charity). This year our pupils' creativity really shone through with very innovative ideas on show. These ranged from the creative ways which the stalls were presented to the varying promotional techniques used to attract customers - it seems that offering free chocolate is an excellent promotional tool! We would like to express a huge thank you to all parents/guardians, staff and pupils who supported this event by spending their hard earned cash - this event could not be a success without you.

Lions' Lair Competition (Wellington's version of Dragons' Den)

This event was held in the department for our S4 Business Management pupils to allow

them to consolidate their learning on the Marketing topic. They were challenged with designing a new product for the Subway Sandwich chain and putting together a marketing plan for their product which they subsequently presented to our esteemed judges - Miss Duffy and Mrs Docherty. After much deliberation our judges finally decided on the winners. The best sandwich concept prize went to Logan Hendrie, Ellis Porter, Luca Harris and Archie Young, and the best presentation prize went to Rory Robinson and Fraser Steward. A big congratulations to all the winners. However, taking part in these events has benefits for all participants as it enhances communication, team working, presentation and creative skills, all of which are essential in education and beyond.



Computing

Graeme Currie, Head of Department

Computing Department

This has been quite a busy year within the Computing department. New clubs have started, competitions have resumed with more on the horizon, and with a return to normalcy after the last 2 years we have been able to reintroduce more physical computing aspects into courses. The number of pupils continuing with Computing Science from S3 to S6 has increased and pupils are performing well at all levels, and with some exciting opportunities coming in the next academic year, hopefully this will continue.

Erasmus - Europe on the Move

As part of the Europe on the Move Erasmus+ project the school has procured a class set of Lego Spike Prime robotics kits. These kits are an excellent way to engage pupils in the fundamentals of robotics & programming as pupils must design & build a physical robotic solution to a problem while designing and creating a program to control the robot. As part of this project pupils will compete against our partner schools from Germany, France, Slovenia, Belgium & Poland in our RobOlympics competition over the next year.

As part of the recent German Exchange with Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, a group of S2 & S3 pupils tested out one of the planned events where they had to design a robotic forklift and program it to collect and deliver sweets. The robots had to complete their task without any human interference.

As these kits are quite flexible in terms of acting as an entry point to programming and also being able to teach more advanced concepts, we have been able to use these throughout the school year for various year groups.

P6 Robotics Workshops & Club

In January, I ran robotics workshops in the Junior school for both P6 classes. Pupils had to design a “hopper” robot. It had to be able to move along the floor without the help of wheels. Once pupils had created their robot and programmed it to move forward, we had a race to find out which group had created the best robot. These workshops led to a P6 robotics club running between February & April. Due to the response from pupils this will continue to run next year.

First Lego League

Due to the success and engagement of pupils with regards to the Lego kits we will be looking to enter teams into the First Lego League next session. In the UK this is run by

The Institute of Engineering & Technology and is designed to help pupils “gain real-world problem-solving experience through a guided, global robotics program, helping students build a better future”.

We aim to have teams from both Junior & Senior School taking part.

Cyber Security

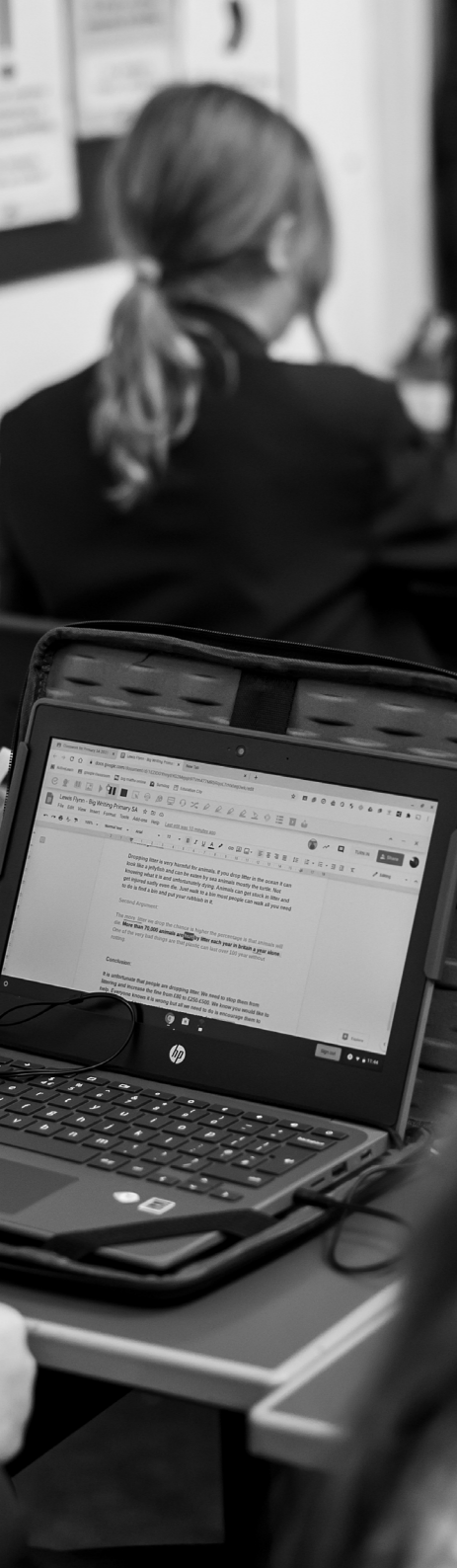
In class during S1/2/3, and as extracurriculars from S4 to S6 we have embedded core cyber security concepts across senior school classes. Pupils have learned concepts from knowing how best to protect your online information & devices, cryptography & code cracking, computer networking and knowing about different career paths to those pupils would traditionally see through N5/Higher/Advanced Higher Computing Science.

As part of this focus, we have had pupils take part in courses & competitions set up by Cyber First, a program set up by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). Last Summer (July/August 2021) we had several pupils from S4 to S6 take part in multi-day, virtual Cyber First courses. These courses give a broad look at the field of Cyber Security and pupils got to experience workshops on Ethical Hacking, Physical Security & Digital Forensics to name a few.

In November/December we also had a group of S2 girls compete in the Cyber First S2 Girls competition where they learned about cryptography, encryption & decryption along with Digital Forensic techniques and had to work together to solve problems & complete challenges in these areas. This is a yearly competition so I'm sure we will have more competitors ready to give it a go next year.

There will be competitions available for pupils in S4 to S6 in this area next academic year as we look to give pupils as many opportunities as possible to build and demonstrate their talents and get involved.

With everything that has been mentioned here also continuing again next, with more in the pipeline, there should be plenty for pupils to get involved with next year.



Chemistry

Karis Leckie, Head of Department

Simple things are always the best. Sometimes it's hard to appreciate the significance of such a modest statement until complications surround you and a yearning exists for a return to what truly matters. A full year in the Lab with pupils in front of you; such a simple picture yet so profoundly welcome and celebrated this year.

Enter our labs and the energy in the room is so very tangible – the buzz, the fun, the determination, the focus – all created by our excellent young people. Energy is a core concept in Chemistry; we use it to make chemical reactions happen, we measure it and we use it to help explain the 'Why?' in certain theories. The energy created by pupils in a Lab is infectious, and is the finest endorsement of the First Law of Thermodynamics, where we in turn become enthused by these same pupils to push onwards and upwards in our efforts to produce a happy and productive environment. Never has working directly with young people felt so valuable; we did online learning exceptionally well but the humble joy of standing in front of a class is a pleasure which will not be taken for granted again.

S1 are a sparkling cohort of young scientists. They have enjoyed nine weeks of Chemistry. They have embraced the self-paced approach, enjoyed every (any) experiment, pushed through written tasks to explore the next practical activity and diligently completed check tests ensuring their workbooks were signed off. Their enthusiasm and diligence were widespread; each class brought their own style but across the year group they had one factor in common – desire. They all wanted to learn, they all wanted to get facts correct, they all wanted knowledge, they all wanted to improve. To a pupil, they have achieved. After the inevitable assessment, we went on to enjoy many mini projects such as 'Crack the Code', 'Flight to Mars', 'Racing Raisins' and the much loved 'Crystal Challenge'. The competitive spirit within S1 burns brightly. They like to win and this has provided many opportunities to indeed win in a splendid fashion but also to face failure. Losing well is such an important lesson; resilience is a skill which our young people require in abundance. I cannot wait to get back into Lab 3 with these scientists after the summer. There is so much more enjoyment, success (and disappointment!) to be shared and explored. Thank you S1 for a magnificent year, it has been a real pleasure to share Lab 3 with your indomitable energy!

The new S2 course was delivered for the first time this session. The students built upon what they learned in the first year. The approach was the same – independent pace, centred around practical activities, regular checkpoints. However, the content subtly shifted to skills which are central to the novice chemist. Many Nat.5 outcomes were considered and explored. There was a lot of gas involved! We made gas, we collected gas, we measured

gas, we investigated how quickly a gas could be made. This cohort had hot air in abundance! S2 were certainly made to 'think' this session, but they delivered. Major progress was made in so many areas – reading instructions, ability to design and implement a fair test, problem solving. This cohort are absolutely ready for Nat.5. They have finished off this session working with Mrs Newall on essential Lab Skills; she has been very complimentary on their ability to approach and complete the tasks. A job well done S2! A timely mention must be made for Mrs Peden. She has been absolutely instrumental in the development of the Junior Chemistry courses. She has patiently listened to my ideas, trialled my experiments, supported classes and suggested changes. The pupils and I are most grateful for your daily input.

Nat.5, in its entirety, was the responsibility of the very experienced Mrs Newall this session. Our S3 and S4 pupils have been in very safe hands! No stone was left unturned in the preparation for the S4 Grading Papers and Prelim. The results were good and the characteristic attention to detail in Mrs Newall's approach to revision sent the pupils off to their first SQA exam with self-belief. I have now inherited one of the S3 classes and I am looking forward to taking them through S4 next session. It has been lovely to spend some time with them in the last few weeks of term. I would like to thank Mrs Newall for her sterling efforts; the class are knowledgeable, well drilled and very motivated.

We often talk about year groups being "sciencey"! Let me introduce the S5 cohort as such an example. It has been my absolute pleasure to share the lab with this eclectic collection of scientists. So many different personalities yet so many similarities. S5 are immediately recognisable by their shared commitment to academic success. They want to fully appreciate a concept, they leave no stone unturned in their preparation, they are organised and they have ambition. Yet their approach is diverse. There are the workaholics – the students who just can't get enough questions to attempt – always honest about their efforts and struggles, always well prepared; there are the cool kids – the students who never ask for help – natural problem solvers who quietly work hard and achieve well; there are the enthusiasts – those who are genuinely interested in science and ask inspired questions, frequently looking beyond the curriculum. Congratulations to Emily Stribling who secured the Chemistry Prize; she was pushed hard by her peers but was a worthy winner. Variety is the spice of life and I thank S5 for bringing the maximum zest to Lab 3. The finest example of being SHARP!

Advanced Higher – the pinnacle of Chemistry at school. Not for the faint hearted or uncommitted, this course is unashamedly my personal favourite. Finally, we dispel some generalisations (or untruths!) that have gone before, we lay the foundations for future studies, we promote independence, and we truly go up a level. The class of '22 have worked hard. They found themselves in the unenviable position of sitting their first SQA exams in S6. I cannot fault their commitment or preparation. Despite the inevitable distractions that the final year of school brings to the mix, S6 worked hard. There were, naturally, peaks and troughs, but the energy was always present to go up a level at any time of asking. Most pupils take AH Chemistry for career progression; this year our cohort included future medics, chemical engineers, lawyers and indeed two future Chemistry undergraduates. There were many unconditional offers; it was so pleasing to see S6 remain engaged, interested and focussed. Congratulations to Lucy McColl for securing the Chemistry Prize; she has consistently demonstrated an exceptional appreciation of the finer details of Chemistry and is a most deserved prizewinner.

And there we have it – a straightforward, probably unremarkable school year has come to an end. Yet it has been so



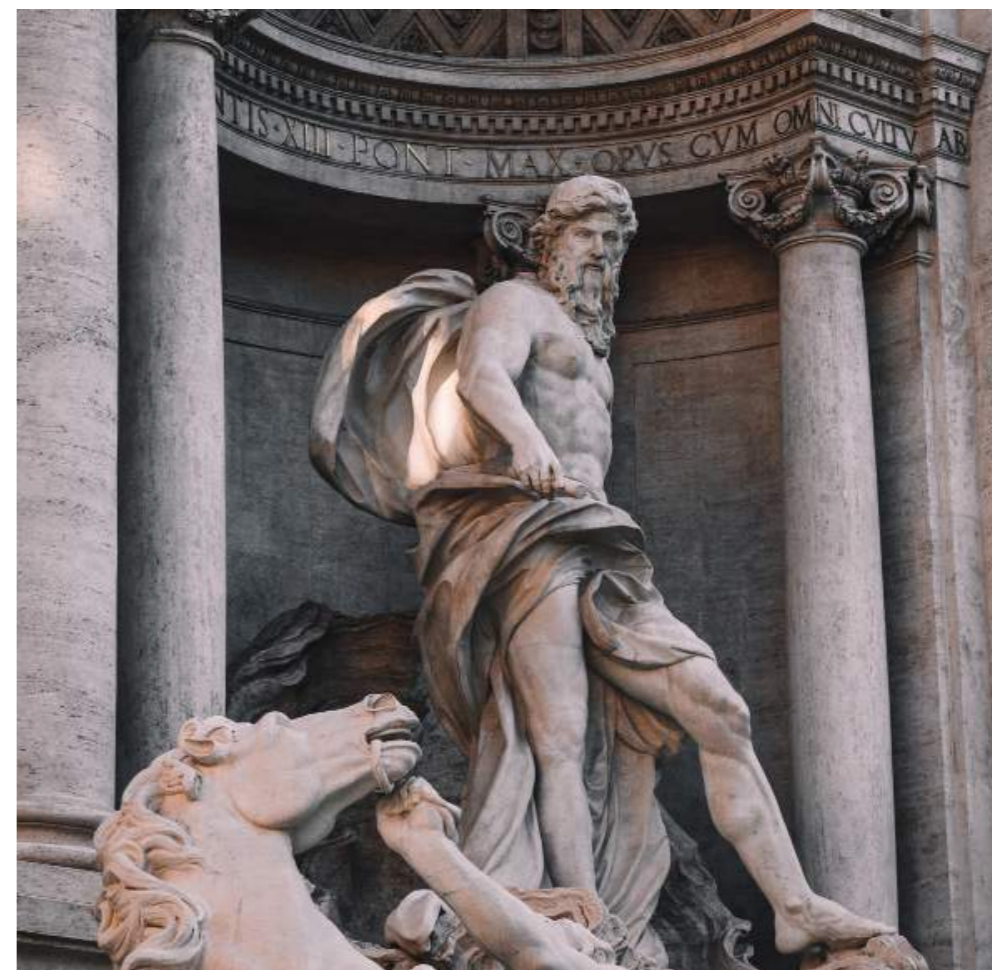
very poignant and so very enjoyable and it felt extraordinary. It has been magnificent to simply attend school every day and talk Chemistry with pupils. To be enthused by their energy, to be a part of their academic journey is a privilege. The recent years have taught us to be very thankful for these simple things.



Classics

Charles Dudgeon, Head of Department

It was great to have the Hadrian's Wall trip back. Pupils toured the site and were dressed as Roman auxiliary forces. They learned the difference between legionary forces and auxiliaries and where the men who built the wall came from. We also learned about life on the wall for civilians, and looked at the case of the skeletons of civilians who were almost certainly murdered. We had previously investigated the case of the child skeleton from the National Geographic programme. the sun shone on us all day, and it was back home after fish and chips at Longtown.





English

Daniel Howie, Head of Department

“The world of literature has everything in it, and it refuses to leave anything out.”
Pat Conroy

When we consider literature’s ability to encompass every facet of our lives, we inevitably think of the writers who propagate this idea the most.

This year, we returned to one of the greats by introducing Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’ to the whole of our new S3 cohort in August. This is a new initiative, ensuring every pupil at Wellington experiences the work of the Bard during their time studying English. As an introduction, this was very successful in helping pupils learn of the history of Shakespeare as well as becoming acquainted with the language, perhaps for the first time. Various teaching methods were employed, such as paired and group reading tasks, role-play and video resources online, including materials from Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre. This led to a critical essay on the play and paved the way for future study higher up the school. We look forward to continuing this initiative going forward - our next S3 cohort will enjoy the same experience and some of our new Higher cohort will study ‘Macbeth’.

For the rest of S1-3, no stone was left unturned when it came to literature: we kept S1 on the edge of their seats with the firm favourite dystopian novel, ‘The Declaration’, as well as a study of the classic Romantic poem, ‘Daffodils’. In S2 we saw poetry from one-time Scots Makar, Liz Lochhead, alongside the play version of ‘Tom Sawyer’ and the sprawling fantasy epic, ‘The Wind Singer’.

The relaxation of Covid regulations allowed us to organise our first trip out of school for some time. We took our S1 cohort to see the pantomime, ‘Peter Panto’. This was produced and performed by drama students from City of Glasgow College, and overseen by theatrical specialist Dr Ronan, who also taught with us in the department during the Autumn term. The Tall Ship in Glasgow was the perfect setting for the pantomime and our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Oh yes, they did!

Our Literacy Captain, Holly Bradfield, led our new ‘Rebel Reading’ project, in which she curated a range of modern texts for our S2 pupils to read, which all featured minority voices. Our pupils went on to read their chosen text and reflect on the key issues explored within. We are keen to expand the project next year and beyond, widening awareness of cultures and histories that will enrich our pupils with a better understanding of our world.

Our senior pupils also enjoyed a wide range of more challenging texts - whether it be Orwell’s political allegory ‘Animal Farm’; Miller’s searing commentary on the Red Scare (‘The Crucible’) and his intimate portrayal of man’s capacity for love and self-destruction (‘A View from the Bridge’); Kazuo Ishiguro’s beautiful ‘Remains of the Day’; the poetry of Duffy, Kay, and MacCaig; non-fiction essays from Orwell, Keane, and Andersson - pupils studying in S4 and S5 enjoyed studying texts exploring a wide range of themes and socio-historical contexts.

Higher pupils also had the opportunity to spend a period each month discussing books they had been reading in their own time. Pupils enjoyed being able to share their thoughts on novels spanning a wide time frame, from classics such as Hardy’s ‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles’ and Austen’s ‘Pride and Prejudice’, to 21st Century releases, ‘Atomic Habits’ and ‘One of Us is Lying’ to name but a few.

A rich variety of genres were discussed regularly with passion and genuine intrigue, which encouraged pupils to delve into the amazing adventure that is reading. As the American academic Charles W. Eliot once said, “Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers”, which is valuable advice for our young people today.

This year we also expanded our offering of media texts - an important aspect of teaching communication. Media literacy is a vital skill in a world where technology and media become more and more embedded in our everyday lives. ‘The Truman Show’ is a film study that is particularly relevant, looking at aspects of media control and exploring what it means to be a human being in a world where your every move can be broadcast and watched by others. ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ is another important media text our pupils enjoyed, exploring themes such as determination, escape from poverty and conflict. Studying film gives pupils a thorough understanding of the conventions of film-making, whilst deepening their understanding of the world around them. Film studies also included Tim Burton’s gothic visual masterpiece, ‘Edward Scissorhands’, Hitchcock’s iconic thriller, ‘Psycho’ and the eternally hopeful, ‘The Shawshank Redemption’.

Furthermore, Advanced Higher pupils enjoyed the poetry of Robert Frost and wrote their dissertations on a variety of modern and classic texts, including ‘The Secret History’, ‘Dracula’, ‘The Color Purple’ and ‘The Collector’.

SQA marking resumed in full this year, with all members of the department marking a range of components in all the qualifications we offer, from National 5 to Advanced Higher. This enables us to reflect on the national standard thoroughly, engage in meaningful professional dialogue and adapt our provision of learning and teaching for the year ahead to ensure it best prepares our pupils to attain excellence.

Finally, we end as always with a recognition and appreciation of the achievements of our pupils. Congratulations to Kiera West for winning the Macdonald Creative Writing Prize, Catriona Smith in claiming the Rosebowl for her outstanding performance at Higher level, and Holly Bradfield for her dedication and talent, earning the prize for Advanced Higher.

We look forward to exploring more inspiring works of literature with our pupils, and nurturing their skill in all forms of communication, next year.

Debating & Public Speaking

For our pupils, debating over the past year has been particularly enjoyable thanks to most competitions returning to performing in person. Debating is, after all, all about interaction and communication, and we thrive when these skills can be developed without the hindrance of slow internet connections and muted microphones.

Two of our most experienced debaters, Katie Ronnie and Emily Taylor, started the year by competing in a unique international competition organised by the debating union at the University of Glasgow. This event brought together students from Scotland and China to debate together. Katie and Emily performed strongly, reaching the final across a day of challenging competition. The girls performed very well as a pair, and went on to represent the school in the Donald Dewar Memorial debate, run by the Law Society of Scotland. They progressed to the second round this year, debating on topics including arming the police, and introducing university fees in Scotland. The pair completed a superb year by going on to win the McKinstry debate, our headline school competition sponsored by local solicitor Mr Graeme McKinstry. We welcomed the Lord Lieutenant for Ayrshire and Arran, Sheriff Iona McDonald, and former pupil Meera Mohankrishnan, to judge the debate alongside Mr McKinstry. In recognition of Katie and Emily's ongoing commitment and success, both girls earned half colours for debating.

We often compete in the Edinburgh Schools debates - two events for both juniors and seniors. In the Juniors, four of our pupils took part. Isla Hall and Charlotte Carter took 1st and 2nd across three rounds, and Evie Miller and Andrew Irvine earned two 2nds in what was their first competitive debate. Charlotte also placed in the top ten novice speakers across the whole day. In the seniors' competition, two of our pupils competed over a day of high-quality debate. They placed first in their final debate of the day, beating St Columbas, The Mary Erskine School and Newcastle High on the subject of whether people are destined to find true love.

Isla and Charlotte also formed a team for an annual public speaking competition run by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. They delivered two stylish and well-informed speeches on the merits of online learning, answering questions from the judges with insight.

Elsewhere, three senior pupils took part in the University of Glasgow's annual schools debate. Holly Bradfield, Gabi Cooke and Debating Captain Keira Ticcioni took three 2nds between them, particularly enjoying the motion on youth engagement. Furthermore, congratulations also go to Joanna Meikle for her outstanding speech on the importance of colour that won her the Old Girls public speaking competition for senior pupils. Likewise, Jonathan Dunn's winning performance in the S3 public speaking competition was a highlight of the year. Our internal S1 debate also returned, in which our pupils discussed the merits of abolishing exams and a world where people cannot lie; the winners, Jess Ewer, Daisy Windows and Evie Miller, were particularly insightful. Finally, well done to Isla Hall and Freya McAleese, who formed team Nightingale for the Inter-house debate, winning on a motion voted for by staff and pupils - that social media does more harm than good.

A frequent highlight of our debating calendar is our ongoing participation in what is now titled the Ethics Cup. We assembled a new team of four outstanding senior pupils to compete in this UK-wide competition (formerly the John

Stuart Mill Cup, of which Wellington are the inaugural winners). After a few months of coaching, they competed in the regional heat at the University of Glasgow, discussing a range of complex ethical issues such as digital resurrection, anti-natalism and the banning of short domestic flights, with pupils from other schools. Evie, Mia, Lucas and Saad performed superbly, winning one of their opening rounds and very narrowly missing a place in the regional finals. They intend to reconvene as the Wellington team next year.





History

Amy Hyslop, Head of Department

The launching of junior History club (2021)

This year we have launched our first junior History club which has been very exciting for staff and pupils alike. The club met fortnightly on Mondays and was led by S6 Advanced Higher History pupils (Social Subjects Captain Iona Magee, Vice Molly Kerr and S6 Mentor Holly Bradfield) and Ms Hyslop. The club now has their own google classroom page with new members being added as they join. Our club aims/mission statement is:

- To enjoy learning about History with fellow passionate historians
- To take part in fun historical activities and research topics of interest either individually or in groups
- To contribute to the club wall displays
- To discuss and debate general areas of historical interest
- To offer a 'drop in homework support' facility for pupils to ask for any help if needed to any S6 mentors available to help

Some of our favourite activities included: 'Halloween themed Historical face masks', 'Heroes versus Villains Profiles' and 'The History of Christmas' including Victorian Christmas quiz facts. The club is very much 'pupil centred' as S6 pupils communicate the themes and challenges for the sessions, design and organise the club wall displays and support pupils with their activities. We also endeavored to take into account every new member's views on their own particular areas of historical interest, any ideas they had for activities and to hold on to any of their quality work. We have listened to Historical songs, watched several Horrible Histories videos and discussed history in our safe space with fellow passionate historians. We hope to continue the club this year.

October 2022

Black History Month Activities

This year our S2 classes have been studying Civil Rights in America, delivered by Ms Hyslop and Ms MacGlade. To celebrate the occasion, our pupils were allocated a different Black Hero from History and they produced a research profile of some well-known figures, such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks, as well as other 'unsung heroes' such as Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman and Muhammad Ali.

Pupils researched their character's career, famous achievements, any iconic quotes and completed their work with their own reflections on why their characters are so inspirational in relation to their positive impact on Black History. In further activities, pupils wrote an

imaginative three day diary for pioneering activist Rosa Parks. Others created a storyboard to summarise the key events of Little Rock Arkansas in 1957, when Elizabeth Eckford bravely became the first black student to enrol in the Central High School. These events attracted world-wide attention to the Civil Rights Movement. Some of our best pupil work can be viewed in the display outside our main History classroom.

There has been a renewed focus on Black Civil Rights since the death of George Floyd on 25th May 2020, who was killed by a police officer during an arrest in Minneapolis. This sparked a wave of protests against police brutality across the US and internationally. This has shone a light on the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. In light of recent events, the History Department firmly believe that there has never been a more relevant time to educate young people on Black History which is, in essence, a vital part of World History. Of course, Black History should certainly not just be limited to discussions once a year. At National 5, our pupils also study the topic: Britain and the Atlantic Slave Trade.

November - February

S6 Lessons from Auschwitz project

This year Ms Hyslop supported Advanced Higher History pupils (Holly Bradfield and Molly Kerr) in taking part in a prestigious online course 'Lessons from Auschwitz'. Ms MacGlade has also previously led this course and taken pupils to Auschwitz on a school trip. The course this year moved online and is run by the Holocaust Education trust for post-16 students on a journey of learning and reflection; offering them the opportunity to explore the Holocaust through a ground-breaking, interactive, digital platform. Students took part in three live online seminars guided by experts in the field of Holocaust education where they heard the first-hand testimony of a Holocaust survivor and took part in a virtual site-visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum as it is today. Live seminars were interweaved with an independent, online learning journey where students became immersed in text, music, photographs and film, with an overriding focus on testimony and individual experiences. Our students learned about pre-war Jewish life and the former Nazi death and concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, before considering the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. Holly and Molly successfully completed their 'Next Steps' Project to share their learning with others in school as they created an insightful, artistic and well researched wall display which was shown to younger pupils and can be seen in the History classroom. Evidence of their project was submitted to the trust along with their 500 word reflective statements of their experience which demonstrated what they accomplished. The girls have since gained accreditation for their work in the form of 3 ASDAN credits and an ASDAN certificate in recognition of their hard work. Most importantly, Holly and Molly have now been awarded 'Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassador' status, inspiring them to continue to share their knowledge further whilst encouraging others to remember the Holocaust. The girl's project can be viewed in the next edition of the school magazine.

March

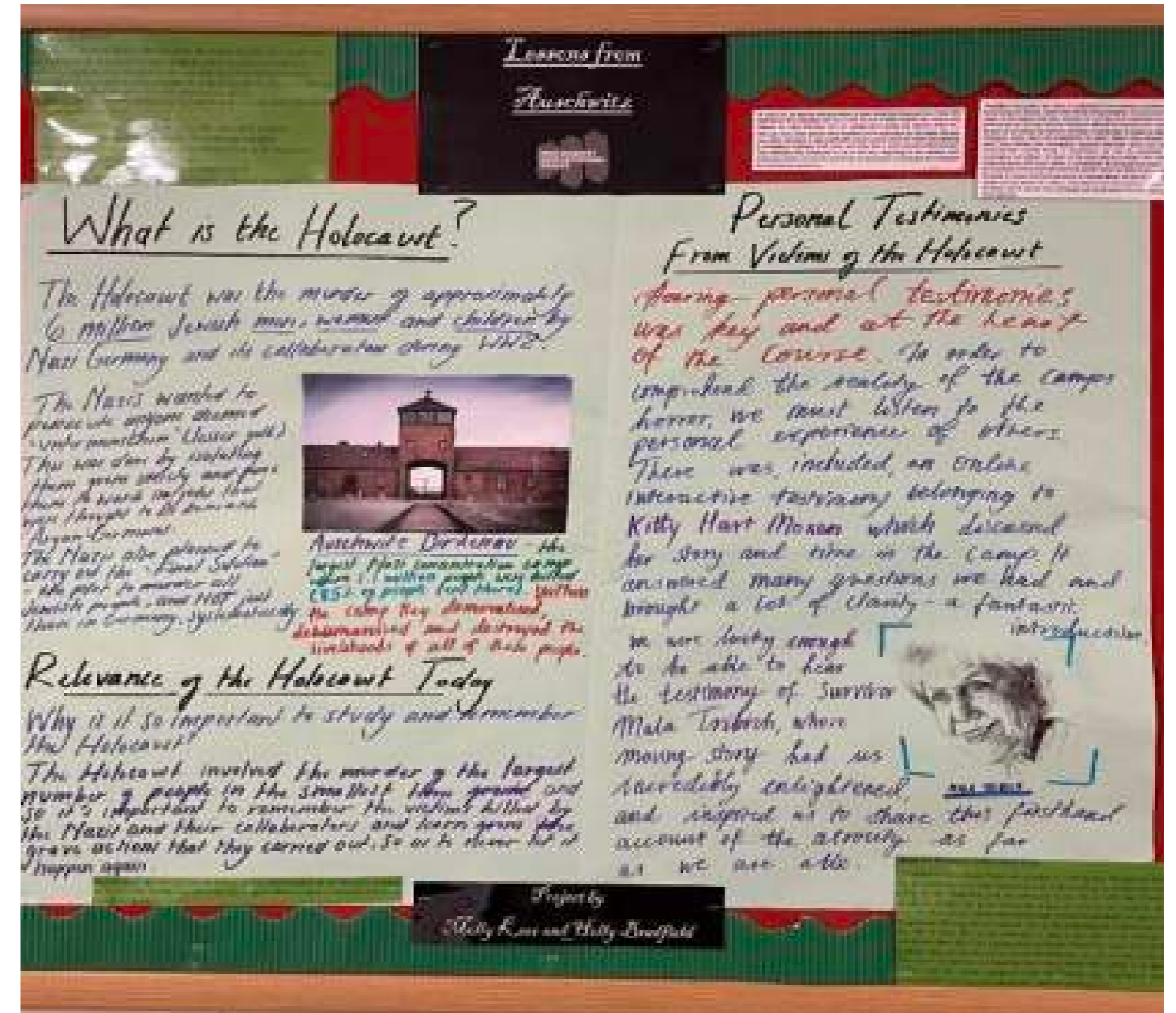
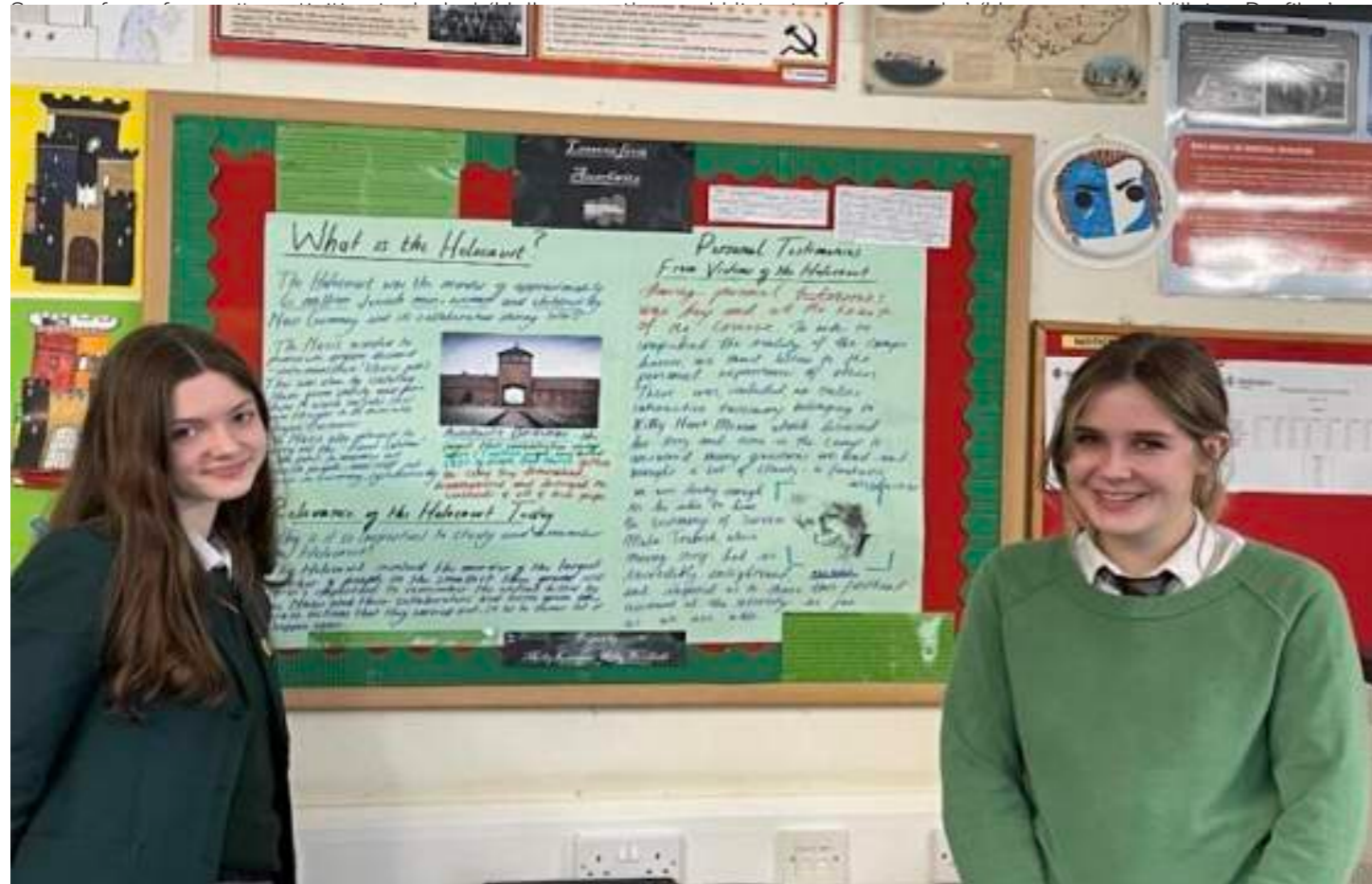
S2 Trip to Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh

As part of their S2 History course, students learn about the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. Ms Hyslop, Ms MacGlade, Mrs Shaw and Mr Ledingham accompanied pupils to Edinburgh to visit the iconic Holyrood Palace. On this trip pupils took part in an educational workshop examining historical artefacts from the time period and were then given an informative guided tour of the Palace where they visited Mary's personal chamber and the very spot where her Italian secretary David Riccio was murdered. Erica Baird produced a wonderful article for the school magazine which perfectly

The launching of junior History club (2021)

This year we have launched our first junior History club which has been very exciting for staff and pupils alike. The club met fortnightly on Mondays and was led by S6 Advanced Higher History pupils (Social Subjects Captain Iona Magee, Vice Molly Kerr and S6 Mentor Holly Bradfield) and Ms Hyslop. The club now has their own google classroom page with new members being added as they join. Our club aims/mission statement is:

- To enjoy learning about History with fellow passionate historians
- To take part in fun historical activities and research topics of interest either individually or in groups
- To contribute to the club wall displays
- To discuss and debate general areas of historical interest
- To offer a 'drop in homework support' facility for pupils to ask for any help if needed to any S6 mentors available to help





Geography

Richard Ledingham, Head of Department

After a period of uncertainty it was with great pleasure that we re-entered the Geography classrooms in August of last year. Ironically the department flourished during successive lockdowns with an array of new and exciting activities and opportunities being created. As a result every pupil has a plethora of bespoke support at their fingertips and we now find ourselves in the privileged position of dovetailing innovation with tradition. Whilst the harnessing of technology has been liberating - nothing compares to the interactions and spontaneity of learning in an inspiring environment surrounded by friends who constantly motivate you to push past your perceived 'limits'.

The P7 classes took full advantage of this straight away as they embarked upon their Mapping Skills unit. This first topic allows pupils to explore the traditional concepts of Geography, nowadays reserved almost exclusively for TV Gameshows - countries, capitals and flags! This baseline knowledge was quickly augmented with detailed work on Latitude & Longitude in addition to Ordnance Survey symbols, grid referencing and topographical analysis. Next they continued their voyage of discovery by investigating the causes, impacts and possible mitigation methods for Hurricanes. An assessment which incorporated detailed research and analysis of a case study storm of their choice, allowed pupils to display a wide range of skills and presentation formats and provided a vehicle for them to deepen their knowledge on these natural hazards. We finished the year by exploring our local area - initial classroom activities explaining the geography of Ayrshire gave way to fieldwork investigations of the urban landscape around the school. It was a delight to watch our youngest geographers evaluate their surroundings as they undertook a range of different gathering techniques and began to offer detailed explanations for their findings.

S1 pupils took advantage of the late summer climate to investigate Weather upon their return to school. In addition to completing, and subsequently processing, their own meteorological diaries they also collected primary data on the school's microclimate and learnt about the reasons for Britain's variable weather conditions. The second topic was Kenya - a popular destination for development comparisons. Detailed study of culture, population and the emerging economy provided ample opportunity to research many aspects of modern life. This year's final unit on World Biomes focussed on the Tundra; paying particular attention to the climate, plant & animal life and the difficulties experienced by native people as they struggle to safeguard their traditional customs in a rapidly changing world. This unit concluded with pupils analysing the contentious matter of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - ensuring that they can develop a personal opinion based upon facts and knowledge gained.

As in the preceding year groups, pupils in S2 study the three aspects of modern Geography - Physical, Human and Global Issues - in preparation for SQA courses further up the school. To contrast with Kenya, they commenced the year looking at Japan. Highlighting various aspects of this vibrant and beautiful country, the pupils explored the dichotomy of success against all the odds for this island nation with limited resources, little flat land and frequent natural hazards. Having contrasted modern and traditional life, we concluded by examining the potential for a sustainable future in a country that embodies innovation. Our second unit, Earth Forces, developed a deeper understanding of our planet's awesome power and the impact of Earthquakes and Volcanoes. Geological theory was supported with multiple fun, classroom based activities, including the designing, building and testing of earthquake proof structures, the hilarious role play/costume based "Rock eBay" and an analysis of how accurately these seismic events are portrayed in some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. Prior to timetable change, the final unit on Rivers managed to capture the reliance of the human species upon this fundamental resource. Having covered the fundamental physical processes that create the stunning landscapes that we associate with rivers, pupils evaluated the various land uses from source to mouth - culminating in an informative, and often beautifully crafted, leaflet for tourists.

The S3 cohort have used their time in Geography to develop a host of skills and study techniques to help them mature and settle into the demands of a nationally examined course. Coastal Landscapes, Rio de Janeiro, Climate Change, Population and Weather were all covered in detail prior to the summer exam diet - an event which was itself hugely beneficial for pupils and staff alike.

Due to their high level of commitment over the past 2 years, the S4 pupils successfully completed the National 5 course to a high standard, prior to sitting their external exam at the end of April. It is always nice to see them leave the exam hall with smiles on their faces, indicating that their extensive preparations made the experience "almost enjoyable" in the words of one candidate this year. As such I am hopeful that our National 5 geographers will receive an excellent set of results in August.

The Higher class was a joy to teach from start to finish. Embarking upon a course, without sitting the previous year's examinations, is always tricky but these pupils threw themselves into their learning with enthusiasm, dedication and good humour. Skills and knowledge multiplied rapidly as the weeks hurtled past and high quality answers to complex questions, seemingly unthinkable in August, were commonplace by February. Again the requirement for fieldwork was removed by the SQA, but the class experienced as many opportunities as restrictions allowed over the course of the session - laying the groundwork for the significant number that have chosen to continue with the subject at Advanced Higher level.

The three Advanced Higher candidates worked throughout the year to produce an excellent portfolio of work. With a strong foundation of knowledge from Higher already in place, this course focuses on the development of skills - cartological, graphical, statistical and analytical - in preparation for further study at University. Topics for this year's essays were the impacts of COVID upon efforts to prevent malaria, the poppy trade of Afghanistan and the viability of hydrogen as a fuel alternative for personal vehicles. Investigative fieldwork studies combined primary and secondary information

to explore Ayrshire's diverse coastline, the biogeography of Brown Carrick Hill and the links between poverty and crime across Ayr.

The Scottish Association of Geography Teachers Worldwide Quiz should have been hosted by Wellington School this year, but the local situation for other schools and education authorities still did not allow this. However, we did host an online event for over 300 pupils from the Outer Hebrides to the Scottish Borders, which proved hugely successful in attracting a diverse range of participants. Hopefully our "home advantage" will be decisive when we return to in-person challenges next session!

With the impact of COVID now dwindling, and normal life resuming, it will only be a matter of time before the department can host the usual trips be they local, national or international. Watch this space. The future's bright - the future's Geography!



International Education & Modern Languages

Susan Coontz, Head of Department

As the school year draws to a close, we are delighted to see a return to 'normality' for our international programme. In May, 14 S2s and S3s spent a wonderful week at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, with their German partners exploring the theme 'Food for Thought'. The highlight for our group was a visit to the Chocolate Museum in Cologne where free samples were abundant and the shop did a roaring trade. Everyone enjoyed the hot, sunny weather, too. Our partners came to Scotland in June and were treated to normal Scottish weather. The group continued working together on 'Food for Thought' and enjoyed making glass hangings of healthy fruit and vegetables and a visit to Sky Academy where they made a short news report.

Our Primary 4 class has taken part in a UK German Connection-sponsored project with the Meerkatklasse at the Nordmarktgrundschule in Dortmund. 'Isla, Marco and a Meercat' saw our two classes exchange bears who had adventures in the host countries. Mrs Archbold took Isla to Dortmund and brought Marco back to Wellington. The classes have exchanged letters and photos about their school day and loved meeting each other over Zoom. We thank, especially, Frau Luna Lipecki and Findlay and Leo in S5 for helping this project be such a success.

At the beginning of the school year, we celebrated European Day Languages. This year, the emphasis was on our primary classes where the young learners had a taster lesson in a new foreign language. We were also happy to celebrate home languages not taught at school.

Emma in S6 led an introduction to Chinese session for senior school pupils. This was extremely popular and her students found out about Chinese New Year as well as learning a few simple greetings.

Once again, one of our S6 pupils was offered a digital internship at SCILT. This gave her the opportunity to work with other young linguists across Scotland and to share her expertise with learners of Spanish. Amy also used her digital skills to produce a superb video as the final outcome for her Baccalaureate.

The British Council in the Netherlands invited Wellington School, one of only four in the UK to be chosen, to take part in an art project to mark the award of the Erasmus Prize to

Grayson Perry. We were twinned with a school in the Netherlands and explored the theme of identity together. We were excited to receive invitations to the Royal Palace in Amsterdam but Covid put paid to our travel plans.

In the Autumn term we hosted two Spanish teachers from Cataluña. They observed classes in the Junior School and worked with our seniors prepare them for their speaking assessments.

The Erasmus Club in the Senior School has met every Friday and the group has prepared materials for our ongoing projects as well as looking forward to next year's mobilities.

Looking ahead to next session, we hope to offer our full range of trips and exchanges again. In the Autumn term, Erasmus groups will travel to France, Slovenia and Belgium and there are many other exciting opportunities in the pipeline.



A hand in a red sleeve is writing mathematical equations on a whiteboard. The equations include $x = 6$, $x = 36 + 6$, $x = \sqrt{100}$, and $x = 100$.

Mathematics

Peter Richmond, Head of Department

This year has once again proved challenging in more ways than one, due to COVID restrictions, but despite the likes of the annual United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Team and Team Challenge competitions having to be cancelled until 2023, pupils in the Mathematics Department at Wellington have risen to the occasion over the course of the year, both in terms of their academic studies and extra-curricular activities on offer. We are delighted to have seen continued success at various levels in numerous mathematical competitions, both at individual and team level, as well as for a small number of enthusiastic pupils to take part in the UKMT monthly mentoring scheme, just one mathematical enrichment activity aimed at pupils with a strong ability in the subject.

UKMT Mathematical Challenges

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

In the Senior Challenge (Nov 2021), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, over 80000 pupils from across the UK took part, with the top 60% nationally receiving a Gold (10%), Silver (20%) or Bronze (30%) certificate and each institution receiving a Best in School certificate. This year, at Wellington, Bronze Awards went to Cameron Hainey, Cameron Holland, Nathan Hughes, Abigail McPartlin, Emily Muir, Noah O'Brien and Emily Stribling (S5), with Silver Awards achieved by Leo Curran, Catriona Smith and Yiming Sun (S5), who also gained a Best in School Certificate and an invitation to take part in the follow-on round of the competition, the Senior Kangaroo.

All of our S1 and S2 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in the UKMT's 25th Anniversary Challenge in January 2022, a shorter-style version of the Junior competition, aimed at encouraging mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency whilst promoting a love of problem solving...after all, these younger pupils will be the problem solvers of the future when school is but a long-distant memory!

Next up was the Intermediate Challenge (Feb 2022), when over 250000 students from more than 3000 schools and colleges across the UK participated. Katherine Paisley, Benjamin Richmond, Fraser Steward, Rohan Sunderesan and Alf-Kirk Penman (S3) all gained Bronze Awards, with Alf-Kirk also earning Best in Year. In S4, Ross Gibb, Lucas Keston, Sarah Mason, Catherine Ronnie, Amy Scott and Kathryn Taylor achieved Bronze Awards, with Saad Omer attaining a Silver Award. Bentley Cai (S4) continued his success in the UKMT Challenges with the reward of a Gold Certificate, Best in School Award and an invitation to participate in the follow-on round, the Pink Kangaroo.

The Junior Challenge (April 2022), aimed at children in S2 and below, is certainly the most popular across the UK, with over 270000 pupils taking part this year. Wellington saw a large number of pupils participating. We are thrilled to have attained some 21 certificates, including 12 Bronze Awards (Tiffany Cai, Shangling Edmond-Pan, Nate Munro, Laura Paterson, Jamey Ratcliffe, Cara Wilmer and Isabelle Wilson (S2); Jack Charters, Robyn Dunlop, Calum Kelly, Hamish Marquez-Higgins and Alexander Paisley (S1)) and 7 Silver Awards from Fraser Holland (S2), Jack Ritchie (S2), Charlie Thomson (S2), Jamie Wardrop (S2), Anastasia D'Angelosante (S1), Freya Day-Byrne (S1) and Laurence Richmond (S1). James Watson (S2) and Alex Melvin (S1) each received a Gold Award for their sterling efforts, with Alex also gaining Best in Year and James attaining Best in School. Both were invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round, and we eagerly await the results of this before the end of term.

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 were delighted to see pupils taking part in all of these: Senior Division (S5 and S6), Middle Division (S3 and S4), Junior Division (S1 and S2) and Primary Division (P7).

After his successes across the two rounds of the competition earlier in the year, Yiming Sun (S5) received a Bronze Award for the Senior Division, the most challenging level of the competition. Meanwhile, Alex Melvin (S1) and Alexander Paisley (S1) attained Silver Awards in the Junior Division, whilst Katherine Paisley (S3) and Benjamin Richmond (S3) received the honour of Gold Awards in the Middle Division. Much-coveted Scottish Mathematical Challenge mugs accompanied Gold and Silver Awards as prizes for these four individuals. Meanwhile, not to be outdone, in their Primary Division, Eva Taylor and Freya McAleese were worthy Bronze and Silver Certificate winners respectively, with Rory Somerville going one better, achieving a top-level Gold Award. Congratulations go to all who took part in this competition throughout the year.

Mathématiques Sans Frontières competition (10th March) and Pi Day (14th March)

Wellington once again took the opportunity to compete in the annual Mathématiques sans Frontières whole-class competition. This 'competition with a difference' is aimed at motivating pupils in their studies, through a stimulating and light-hearted combination of Mathematics and Modern Languages; those in S4M1 attempted 10 questions, divided up between groups, within a 90-minute time limit, before deciding on and submitting their final answer. We are pleased to have once again taken a top-ten place in the competition, coming in 7th from over 40 different schools participating across the country.

On 14th March (or March 14th, 3/14), as part of our Pi Day 2022 celebrations in the department, S1 and S2 pupils completed various Pi Day booklet activities and some even partook in some homemade culinary Pi(e) delights. We once again hosted the 'memory game', with pupils being set the task a few days beforehand of trying to recall as many digits of Pi as possible. This year's worthy winner was Natasha Hardy (S1), who recited 100 decimal places of Pi, making use of a popular online Pi Song to help her memory recall. Well done to Natasha and all those who took part in this fun competition to celebrate one of the most well-known and important numbers in the subject.

We look forward to taking part in these various activities again next year and to expanding, wherever possible, the opportunities open to pupils within the department.

Modern Studies

Gill McGlade, Head of Department

As things have started to return to normal over the course of this session, the Modern Studies Department has been at the forefront when it comes to organising trips for our pupils and taking learning outside the classroom; both in person and virtually. The department is a vibrant and exciting place to be. We continue to play host to the topics which discuss the most current and pressing issues, both here at home and internationally, with war in Ukraine, the ongoing consequences of the COVID pandemic and the renewed debate surrounding the possibility of a second independence referendum forming just some of our work and discussions with pupils from S1-S6. It has been another excellent year for debate and pupils continue to impress with their knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, current affairs and the world around them.

Our S1 cohort have focused on the key concepts of equality, representation and participation this year. In the first unit on Human Rights, pupils produced and then presented their own 'desert island societies' using different political ideologies. There were many interesting and diverse societies to choose from and democratic systems proved to be the clear favourite! As part of their study of democracy and the political system, pupils had the opportunity to visit the Scottish Parliament where they took part in a session in the education centre before attending either First Minister's Questions or other business in the debating chamber. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed seeing democracy in action and the chance to question some of their Regional MSPs was a particular highlight. The S1 Mock Election was back with a bang this year as pupils from 1A, 1C and 1S competed to win the votes of their peers and Primary 7 pupils. The three candidates gave excellent speeches and policy ideas were very varied and well-thought through. We were very impressed with the quality and commitment shown and well done again to Laura and the Enlightenment Party who emerged as the winners.

S2 Modern Studies has an international focus and revolves around the study of the USA, Terrorism and China. Pupils have developed their critical thinking and decision making skills this year through engagement with issues like gun control, use of the death penalty for convicted terrorists and the Communist Party of China's Child Policies. We have examined the Presidency of Joe Biden compared to that of Donald Trump and drawing comparisons between life in a capitalist versus communist country continues to be a central theme to our study of the 'super powers'. Pupils have also identified inequality in both countries and studied the differences between education, health and punishment. Such is the nature of the subject, we respond to events as they happen, and pupils have contributed to interesting and informative discussions about the US response to war in Ukraine, and ongoing tensions with countries like North Korea. Terrorism is a major global issue today and our S2 course

equips pupils with knowledge of possible causes and the responses of countries like the UK and USA. Recently, S2 pupils visited Sky Academy for the first time since the pandemic. They impressed us with their imaginative and professional news report on the need for youth engagement in politics and I am sure we have some budding journalists in our midst.

It has been a very busy session for our National 5 pupils and, while the assignment was removed as part of the SQA's COVID-related modifications, both S3 and S4 pupils have had lots of opportunities to develop their research and presentation skills. For the second year running, we took part in online interactive sessions run by the House of Commons and this helped to reinforce the key aspects of our unit on Democracy in the UK. While it is not quite the same as seeing Westminster in person, these sessions have been imaginative and engaging. I would like to thank S4 pupils, in particular, for the work they did online during the disruptions caused by the pandemic and wish them all the best for results day in August.

Our senior pupils in S5/6 also responded admirably to any challenges posed by COVID this year and enjoyed the opportunity to take part in online sessions. In November, as part of our study into gender inequality in the UK, we took part in a workshop with speakers including Ruth Davidson, the Director of the Confederation for British Industry (Scotland) and the Rector of Edinburgh University. Pupils heard about the experiences of these women; including the challenges they have overcome and their perspectives on how parity can be achieved across different sectors. Our Higher pupils have also visited the Scottish Parliament recently. We were hosted by Siobhian Brown MSP and were taken on a tour of the parliament building before attending a lively First Minister's Questions. Given all pupils in this age group are now eligible voters, this insight into the inner workings of parliament and the chance to see accountability in action is invaluable; not just as part of their Modern Studies qualification, but also key to their citizenship education. For the second year running, the Advanced Higher Crime and Law Conference was held virtually and students heard from a range of very well placed and experienced speakers, including a Sheriff, community groups and those with lived-experience of crime and incarceration. This conference is a crucial part of dissertation-writing at this level and always gives pupils the chance to gather incredibly useful information and unique viewpoints about the complexity and challenges of the issues discussed. We wish all of them well; both for results day and for the next chapter after leaving Wellington.

The department also reconvened the Model UN Society this session and we have a large group of eager participants from S3-S6. Weekly meetings have focused on debating weighty international issues such as conflict in Eastern Europe, climate change and responses to COVID around the world. In conjunction with the Modern Languages department and UCAPE, we are busy preparing for an international Model UN conference in Bavaria in November. Pupils are refining their research and communication skills ahead of the event and will gain valuable experience of chairing and hosting the event. This is just another excellent example of pupil-led learning in the department and we look forward to representing the school in Germany with our friends from across Europe.

Music

Malcolm Godsman, Head of Department

Welcome

It is my pleasure on behalf of the department to write the 2021/2022 Annual Report for the Music Department here at Wellington School, Ayr. This academic year we have seen us start to emerge from many of the COVID19 restrictions that affected Music, and we are now starting to see some sense of musical normality returning to the classroom and performance. Whilst I have only been with the school for a year, I have been impressed by the wealth of musical ability, talent and interest demonstrated by our students and it has been lovely to work alongside them in a range of opportunities. Change is never easy, particularly when relationships and routines are built, established, cherished and ones that we take comfort from relying on. However, as we have worked through some of the biggest changes to the creative arts due to the pandemic, I hope that, personally, I have been able to develop and foster an open-minded, resilient and balanced approach, encouraging greater self-sufficiency, enquiry and independent learning skills with our young musicians and showing them new ways of thinking, doing and developing as they continue on their musical journey in school.

The Music Department is ably supported by a strongly skilled team of staff, both academic and instrumental tutors. I must personally thank Ms. Nicola McKinlay, Mrs Susan Docherty, Mrs Wendy-Anne Wilson, and Mrs Fiona Shrinivas for all their immense help and support in so many ways, giving much to our students and the life of the music department.

Music Curriculum

We are fortunate at Wellington School to have a Music Curriculum that extends across the whole school from Primary 1 through to Secondary 6, and this continuum musical education provides a range of skills and opportunities to develop not just direct musical skills, but also the many hidden skills that allow the brain to grow through language, numeracy, memory, co-ordination, achievement, discipline and resilience, social skills and emotional development. Whether we are singing songs in unison or in parts, we are learning how to perform as a soloist, composing music, or listening to music - the obvious and hidden skills are numerous, and these are all covered on a daily basis in our classrooms. With the return of singing being allowed in classes, we've invested in "Sing Up", an online resource to develop singing with our Junior Classes. In the Senior School, we've introduced site-licenses for Noteflight and Focus on Sound to develop and embed literacy, listening and IT skills with our Secondary 3 to Secondary 6 classes. SQA Performing Examinations for N5, Higher, Advanced Higher students returned in a live face to face setting, with over 30 students

completing these. Music Technology continues to be a popular choice for many, and 28 students across N5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses have completed Radio Broadcasts, Multitracks, Research Projects and Audio Masters working alongside professional studio musicians, and making the most of a new iMac Technology Suite. Latest versions of Apple Logic and ProTools have been introduced, to move our students to a more 1:1 technology based, independent and efficient way of working with up-to-date music technology.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Events

As COVID19 restrictions have started to ease over the course of the academic year, we have been able to safely resume our Extra-Curricular programme across the school. Primary Choral classes have raised the roof in Drumley Hall every week, so much so, wonderful singing could be heard from the playground and the street - which is just wonderful to hear! Our Senior Orchestra and String Orchestra have resumed rehearsals, playing at key events during the year, and the String Orchestra (ran by Mrs Nicola Connall) played so well at our Easter Service, with many people commenting on their musical security as a young ensemble. The choirs in the Senior School are all up and running again, led by Ms McKinlay and Mrs Docherty. The Folk Group has re-established itself, led by students and staff and we also started a student-led Musical Theatre group, run by Gemma Hope (S6). All of these ensembles feed into a number of events throughout the school year. In October, we were able to have a Harvest Service with the Junior School, where all classes sang their songs, and the whole school raised the roof of the St Columba's with beautiful hymn singing. In December, restrictions meant that our Nativities and Christmas Concert had to go online, but being able to bring groups together to perform, albeit without an audience, was still a step in the right direction, and great experience for our young performers to have to perform to the camera, with thankfully not too many re-takes! We've supported the Rotary and Burns Clubs with their events, providing choirs and soloists. Our choirs, and numerous soloists entered the Ayrshire Music Festival in March, where we returned to school with certificates and silverware to recognize our achievements. Students have been performing at Senior School Assemblies on Tuesday and Friday, to showcase our wealth of confident solo performers. "Welly's Got Talent" was a great event for the Junior School in March, run by Mrs Bowyers, and some talented young musicians sang and played their instruments - overcoming their fears, and becoming stronger and securer musicians at such a young age! Easter Services took place as normal, with choral classes, the String Orchestra, Senior Orchestra, Senior Choirs and Soloists all taking part. Over the Easter holiday, the school hosted the British Suzuki Conference, with some 500 delegates and specialists taking part. Summer Concerts, Prize Givings and Speech Day have seen a large number of pupils taking part to provide music for these events too. The performing achievements of our Senior School students have been recognised in the Colours Award scheme, with a full audit of the Senior School taking place in Term 1. Several of our students have participated in RSNO and Scottish Opera events, which are also recognised as part of this awarding scheme. And of course, the much-cherished School Musical, which after 3 long years of waiting and frustration, we are able to resume, and the opportunity to tread the boards of the Gaiety Theatre will be back with the Wellington School community, to stage "Legally Blonde" in October 2022.

Instrumental Tuition Programme

At the start of the academic year, guidelines permitted a full return to all instrumental teaching, with no restrictions, which has been one of the biggest steps back to normality for the music department and the many students working with our instrumental staff in this programme. Just under 200 students are receiving instrumental

tuition at the school, with a panel of 14 instrumental teachers. We are very fortunate to have some highly skilled professional musicians working with our students, sharing their skills, knowledge and talent to develop our students musical learning. They are an asset and an immense support to the department, including supporting our Extra-Curricular programme, preparing students for SQA Examinations, accompanying and working alongside our Music Technology students, but also being a panel of on-hand musical expertise for students and staff to refer to and work alongside during the year. We said farewell to Mrs Cate Howard (Violin/Viola) at the end of Term 2, and we thank her for her work at the school with her students over the past few years. Students have been entered for ABRSM and Trinity exams this year, in both live and digital settings.

Summary

It has been a year for the department to re-emerge and re-establish again, giving an opportunity to our students in curriculum and performance to develop their skills and gain confidence once again in the musical endeavours and enjoyment. The Music Department staff have all immensely enjoyed supporting the students here, and the department will continue to grow and develop from strength to strength. There will no doubt be further change ahead, as I move on to pastures new in August, but as Socrates says "The secret of change is to focus all your energy on building the new", and as musicians, young and old, this is something we should embrace to keep our musical minds as open as possible to learn, grow and develop.





Nursery/ Junior School

Jimmy Cox , Head of Department

I am delighted to say that the Junior School is back! Not that we were ever away but we have left behind the 'new normal' and despite the Pandemic being such an import part of our lives, we have, with regards to school life quickly adapted, back to what we used to do so well. The one big exception being that Primary 6 children now attend the Junior School Prize Giving ceremony, and not Speech Day with the senior pupils. This meant that this year, we were able to give them a great send off.

In fact, all in all, the P6s have had a fantastic year. They have had a residential trip to Dumfries House, played major roles in our excellent Platinum Jubilee Party and some have even helped select menus for school lunches. Looking at their academic achievements over the year and the list of prize winners shows that P7 are getting a great year group.

Every year group has contributed fully to the success of the Junior School. Our P1s were an absolute delight all year and having watched them start to learn sounds and letters, last August to listening to them read as the year progress has been an absolute joy and I am so proud of every one of them. One of my favourite moments of the year was seeing our them sing at the Ayrshire Music Festival. They followed a group of much older children from another school, and I wondered how they would be. I should never have doubted them. They strutted to the stage, waving to mums and dads seated in the balcony as they went by and proceeded to sing two songs, beautifully, including one with a number of solo parts.

There have been some significant events recently and our Platinum Jubilee Party was one not to be missed. We worked closely with the WSPTA, especially Laura and Carole, to make this day a resounding success and Mrs Lomas deserve every plaudit going for her hard work. She even managed to get our very own 'Queen' to attend.

Mr Graham and his Health Committee ensured the Health Week was widely anticipated and it did not let us down. Morning activities, runs, smoothies and a 'snoozle room' to relax in was only part of what was on offer. We also ran our Duke Award Scheme and for the first time P1s could take part in the new Micro Duke. The uptake in the Junior School, for this scheme, is tremendous and well done to everyone who achieved their awards this year.

Our River of Poppies on Remembrance Day was unforgettable. If you did not see it, it flowed down from the very top window in Drumley to the playground. This was a day of

thoughtfulness and our bugler, Mr Richmond, played as we held our service in the playground.

Of course, the Junior School is so much more than just putting on good shows and events. I visit every class to watch work, work with the children and take lessons. I am always hugely impressed by the knowledge of the children and looking over their work lets me know that they as individuals and us as a school are in a good place. I have attended virtual Head's meetings throughout the year, and I am always proud to discuss many of the features of our school.

We have also just run our most extensive and, in my opinion, best extra-curricular programme - thank you to all teachers and staff who helped with this. If ever there is a surprise to be found in the Junior School, it is in our annual Welly's Got Talent show and to this end, I am going to mention Amelia. Although she didn't win, she astounded us all with her beautiful singing voice. The winner, Mia, blew everyone away with her piano playing but it is the competition that makes this day such fun and I would like to thank everyone for having the courage to enter. To Mrs Bowyer and the Pupil Council, it could not have happened without you!

In the last week of term, I watched our P5s working with Nursery children as part of our Transition to school programme. I can confidently say that come August 2023, the P5s have shown me that we are in very good hands. I look forward to working with them as they fill positions of responsibility.

When I spoke at our Junior School Prize Giving, I extoled the virtues of our children and how I am always proud to tell new and prospective parents what we do. In short, when I spoke about everything our children do in school, whether it be in class, performing or speaking to visitors, I said:

They take these things in their stride.
They do them with confidence,
and they do them brilliantly well.

That's because they are Wellington Junior School children.

Well done to everyone, children, teachers, and staff alike. It has been a great year!

Outdoor Education

Leon Mooney, Head of Department

This session has seen some normality return to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Wellington, with the easing of restrictions allowing pupils to resume or begin their various Skill, Physical and Volunteering activities. Following the Bronze Expedition in June of 2021, the rest of the S4 pupils were able to complete their Expedition in August, and this was followed by the S3 Bronze Practice and Qualifying Expeditions in September - our first under "normal conditions" since September 2019. Our Silver Expeditions have resumed also, with ten senior pupils having recently spent a few days on Arran undertaking their Practice Expedition - they will be doing their Final in August just before the start of the new term. S2 pupils have been signing up for Bronze Level, with some of those keen to start their activities over the summer holidays. Another aspect which resumes is the Gold Award Programme which takes place at Holyrood Palace in July, where former pupils will be presented with their Awards by HRH The Earl of Forfar - better known to everyone as Prince Edward.

It was also good to see the return of the John Muir Award, with Primary 7 pupils spending a very enjoyable week at Barcaple Outdoor Centre doing several exciting and challenging activities, returning with memories that I am sure that they will treasure.





Primary 7

Lynn Clachan, Head of Department

We are extremely grateful that as this year has progressed, we have been able to give P7 the experiences and freedoms that we have missed over the last couple of years. This year's highlights have included: our Panto Cinderella, our involvement in the Ayrshire Music Festival - Speech & Drama Section, our trip to Bannockburn, success in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge and, of course, our residential week at the outdoor centre Barcaple in Kirkcudbrightshire.

Panto

P7 gained so much from working with Jacqui from FIB drama, with rehearsals full of confidence-building drama and laughter. The opportunity to then get dressed up in over-the-top costumes and film their panto in front of a green screen with added special effects resulted in impressive performances. Although we were unable to have a 'live studio audience' at this part of the year, I am sure that our families enjoyed watching the performance in the comfort of their own homes, with popcorn in hand, as part of the Christmas festivities!

Speech and Drama

In March, all P7 pupils took part in the Ayrshire Music Festival - Speech & Drama Section. There was a good atmosphere in the morning with the room filled with the competitors and their supporters. All our pupils performed well and we had many winners including one of our Choral Speaking groups.

We also held 'Talking Weeks' over the year, giving pupils the opportunity to hone their Public Speaking skills. Impressive research and content ensured impassioned delivery, culminating in Term 3 speeches covering all types of prejudice and discrimination.

Bannockburn

In April, we travelled to the Trossachs to visit the location of The Battle of Bannockburn. Pupils immersed themselves in the award-winning Battle of Bannockburn experience as they witnessed a digitally recreated version of the battle, up close. They learned more about the role warriors, pages, knights and civilians played by trying on costumes and holding weapons (with safety in mind!). Our guide gave glowing feedback about our group's impressive knowledge and behaviour.

Maths

We are proud of our Scottish Mathematical Challenge winners this year: Eva Taylor (bronze),

Freya McAleese (silver) and Rory Somerville (gold). Mr Johnson highlighted their achievement and presented their certificates at a school assembly.

Barcaple - John Muir Award

Unsurprisingly, if you were to ask our pupils what their main highlight of this school year has been, there would be a resounding cry - BARCAPLE!

The adventure centre, Abernethy Barcaple, is in a rural setting in the Scottish Borders. Our pupils engaged in many activities including: archery, mountain biking, canoeing, climbing and team challenges. Interspersed with their adventure activities, pupils learned about the local wildlife and engaged in ecological projects, culminating in every pupil achieving the John Muir Award.

After the challenges of the pandemic, it was lovely to watch our pupils experience a week with increased freedom in a beautiful location. We are proud to say that our pupils certainly utilised the opportunity to foster new friendships, whilst nurturing existing ones, and developed increased resilience and independence. They are certainly now ready for all that S1 has to offer!





Physical Education

Alastair Ness, Head of Department

Pupils have enjoyed participating in Dance, Netball, Football, Cricket, Rugby, Tennis, Table Tennis, Athletics, Hockey and Golf. The uptake has been encouraging and we hope to see this continue in the future.

The school has also managed to pick up fixtures against other schools and clubs in Hockey, Athletics, Cricket and Rugby. Wellington is also involved in a National Golf competition where pupils submit their scorecard and points are awarded to the school.

Sport plays a huge part in the physical and mental wellbeing of the pupils. Some enjoy sport for recreation and comradeship whilst others thrive competitively.

RUGBY

Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield Final

The Ayr/Wellington rugby institution has been represented by pupils from P1-S6. The boys have experienced regular matches at weekends and have been involved in tournaments throughout the season. Congratulations to Callum Hamilton for being selected for the U18 Glasgow squad.

The Under 18s reached the final of the West Cup where they lost narrowly to West of Scotland RFC. The Under 15s team made it to the Semi-final of the West League Cup and have produced a large number of Wellington Pupils that were selected for the District Rugby Squad. Lots of these boys are in the Ayr RFC Academy for the upcoming Under 16s season and will benefit hugely from that experience.

This year the school put forward an Under 13s and Under 14s boys teams and an Under 13s/14s Girls team at the Glasgow Warriors Schools 10s tournament. The Under 13s boys were undefeated throughout the day and the Girls team won half of their matches against other schools across Scotland. These teams also played a tournament against local Ayrshire Schools at a 10s tournament at Doonside playing fields with Ayrshire Rugby's Development officers commenting on the high standard of rugby played by Wellington Pupils.

Hockey

Wellington's 21/22 Season developed well and will undoubtedly lead to a strong start for next season. Hockey continues to flourish within the junior school with large numbers of players regularly attending school training, games and local hockey clubs. Regular exposure to a competitive environment has produced great results from P6 to the 1st XI.

The numbers of young people participating at district and National level are the highest we have seen in recent years. Amy Grassom, Amy Scott and Sarah Mason should be congratulated on their involvement in the Scottish hockey Brave Academy with Amy Grassom being appointed as Scotland U18 Captain.

We have observed continued success at district level with Juliet Cartner (S3) competing at U16 South West level and Mia Swift, Izzy Wilson, Cara Wilmer and Charlotte Carter(S2) competing at U14 Level. It is encouraging to see so many individuals going forward for selection and the efforts of all involved should be commended despite some narrowly missing out on selection.

Other successes this year have included the U16 girls involvement in the Scottish schools Challenge plate final which concluded with a win from a strong St Columbas side, Our P7 group stormed their way into the semi-finals of the Glasgow Academy P7 tournament however were pipped at the post during sudden death penalties.

Overall hockey at Wellington remains an integral part of the school's sporting success, we hope to capitalise on the momentum of this season for 2022/2023 and look forward to welcoming all of our player back in August.

The Wellington girl's P7 had a successful afternoon competing in the Glasgow Academy Hockey Tournament. We were drawn against strong opposition in our pool. In the first game Wellington beat Hutchesons' Grammar 1-0 and then drew 1-1 against Glasgow High School. The 3rd game was against Jordanhill School. Despite having most of the possession and creating some excellent scoring opportunities the score was 0-0.

This meant that the girls reached the Quarter Finals where we were drawn against George Watsons. The game was evenly contested in normal time and at the final whistle the score was 0-0. Running penalties were next and 3 girls from each team were selected. At the end of running penalties the score was 2-2 with both schools having had a shot saved. This meant sudden death. George Watsons took the lead which meant that Wellington had to score. Determined to reach the semi-finals Georgia Young hit a hard low shot but the keeper saved. Georgia regathered the ball and went in for a 2nd attack. Again, the keeper managed to save this and agonisingly we were out of the tournament.

Huge congratulations to the girls who represented the school and played so well.

Isla Macleod, Georgia Young, Hallie Swift, Freya McAleese, Eva Taylor, Alice Braund, Hollie Mckenzie, Scarlett O'Sullivan, Padma Unnam & Logan Mitchell.

Scottish Schools' Aquathlon

On Friday 22nd April 2022, 9 pupils from Wellington competed in the Scottish Schools' Aquathlon. Eighty schools, and over 290 pupils took part in the event with pupils from S1 to S6 competing in their year groups. They swam 400m before exiting the pool and running 3km.

All the pupils swam brilliantly against a strong field and reached Transition 1 to change into their running shoes in good times. The run was a mixture of off road and track. The pupils competed very well and enjoyed their day.

S1 - Callan Forsyth, David Ness & Aimee Clithero

S2 - Erica Baird & James Cruickshank

S3 - Charlie Windows

S4 - Emily Taylor, Katherine Taylor & Emma Thomson

Athletics

Inter School Competition

150 pupils have enjoyed the challenge of participating in a variety of athletics events. Personal bests have been achieved as well as new school records. Wellington competed and had wins in various age groups against schools such as St Columbas School, Lomond School, Queen Victoria School, and Hutchesons' Grammar.

Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships - February 2022

Libby White, Millie Baker, James Cruickshank and Rachel Toner competed at the Emirates Stadium in the Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships.

Libby White in S5 won the trophy for the most Meritorious performance at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships. Libby set a British indoor under-17 triple jump record of 12.41m at Glasgow in the Scottish Schools Championships on February 9. In Sheffield on February 13th, at the English Indoor Age Group Championship, she furthered this with a jump of 12.63m. Only one British athlete in her age group has ever jumped further outdoors. She is ranked no.1 in Great Britain and her jump gave her the qualifying mark for the European u18 championship in the Summer. Libby won the trophy for the most meritorious performance at the championships.

Ayrshire Schools Championship Finals

Competing at the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships

The following pupils were 3rd in their event:

Callan Forsyth - 100M (selection for Ayrshire team)

Millie McKenzie - 100m

David Ness - Hurdles

James Cruickshank - Long Jump

Duncan Singh - 100m and 200m

The following pupils were 2nd in their event:

Isla Hall - 1500m

Rowan MacDonald - 800m

Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin - Javelin

The following pupils were 1st in their event:

Imogen Allan - 1500m

Dean Murray - Javelin and Shot Put

The Senior 1 Boys Relay team whose members were Tommy Dempster, Callan Forsyth, David Ness and Kyle Good

Special Recognition - Ayrshire Schools' Athletics Championships:

Dean Murray was awarded the Campbell Bone Trophy for the best field performance in the Javelin and Shot Put

Highly commended recognition - S1 Boys Relay Team whose members were Tommy Dempster, Callan Forsyth, David Ness and Kyle Good.

Football

This season, the School Football teams took part in the South Ayrshire Schools League. We had teams representing the school at Under 14s, 16s & 18s this year with lots of pupils playing in the age grade above. The boys trained regularly throughout the school year with the Under 14s squad training on Tuesday afterschool with Mr Ritchie and the Senior boys training on a Friday Lunch with Mr Ness and Mr McPhee. All squads played multiple matches against local schools and gave each team a stern challenge. Being a relatively new school sport, participation numbers have increased throughout the year, and with high interest in the sport across the Junior School and Senior School, the future looks bright for the Wellington School Football Programme.

Cricket

The cricket season finally got back underway this year after a two year hiatus. Participation numbers have been large this season across the whole school from P6 - S6. The Junior Cricket teams have Trained on a Tuesday afterschool with Mr Ritchie and have developed their basic skills of Bowling, Batting and Fielding. The Junior Team played a closely fought match away against Kelvinside Academy, while the Senior Team played against a very strong Kelvinside 1st XI. Both teams represented the school well and set a good platform to build on for future years. Robbie Stewart had kindly offered to lead the Senior Cricket training this year, bringing with him a vast amount of knowledge and experience of the game, improving the skills of all the pupils who attended. The uptake of Cricket has been fantastic this year and has set a great foundation for the future of Wellington Cricket.

Netball

The netball at Wellington continues to grow, with sixty-three pupils training and competing on a regular basis. This year we entered five teams into the Ayrshire League, with each team competing in at least five matches each. It has been great to see the girls enthusiasm for the sport. The growth, improvement and dedication has been incredible to see.

Throughout the duration 2021-2022 we had five pupils play as part of the District Netball Team. This gave them the opportunity to attend additional, high quality training sessions and compete against other Districts. This month twenty-seven girls attended District Netball Trials and I am pleased to announce that ten have been selected to join the 2022-2023 squads for U15 and U17. These include Oli Bicket, Robyn Dunlop, Emily Goodwin, Natasha Hardy, Holly McNeilly, Daisy Windows, Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin, Emma Henderson, Megan Seales and Maddie Arnott.

Finally, our end of year tournament was a great success and I would like to say thank you to everyone who took part. There were a number of prizes to be awarded as part of this:

For S3/4 the winners were:

Players Player: Rowan MacDonald
Most Improved: Maddie Arnott
Coaches Player: Emma Henderson

For S1/2 the winners were:

Players Player: Oli Bicket
Most Improved: Holly McNeilly
Coaches Player: Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin

Well done to all those who competed this year and I look forward to another successful year next year!



Physics

Michael Murry, Head of Department

Osman Omer and Scott Mitchell were elected as Physics captains for the 2021-2022 session. They were both excellent ambassadors for the subject throughout the year and we wish them both well as they embark on their journey toward becoming Dr Omer and Dr Mitchell.

There were several applications made to the University of Strathclyde's Scottish Space School this year. Catriona Smith in S5 was the only successful entry from Wellington, making her 1 of only 100 pupils in Scotland to make the cut. Catriona attended a week of online workshops alongside NASA astronauts, giving an insight into studying and working in the field of engineering and taking part in several group projects. With the easing of restrictions, Space School should be in person next year giving our new S5 pupils the opportunity to meet someone who has been to space!

Lillie McCluskie in S3 took part in a four-day course in February run by the Royal Air Force. There were several practical activities involved, all of which focused on the role of engineering in delivering humanitarian aid. These included bridge building, constructing a water pump and designing and building electrical generators.

We had several girls in S3 applying for Strathclyde University's 'Engineering the Future for Girls' programme. There were a huge number of applications this year, so some missed out, but Lara Bryce and Lillie McCluskie were selected to attend. The three-day virtual event was hosted at the start of June where the girls engaged with a variety of engineering challenges and received inputs from employers including BP, BAM Nuttall and Weir Plc.

Work was carried out with the Junior Erasmus Club through May and June to assist them in their Mars Balloon Project. Nine experiments were designed and put together by the young scientists and sent in a balloon to a height of 32km, where the conditions are similar to those on the Martian surface. The experiments are returned to the school for testing and measurements. We look forward to welcoming these brilliant minds to the department in the near future.

Uptake in Physics continues to be strong with the Higher class once again at capacity and numbers for Advanced Higher moving into double figures for the first time in recent years. The year ahead will give us more opportunity for school excursions, with a visit to the Quantum Technology School at Glasgow University planned for the new session.





Sixth Year Report

Alistair Byers, Head of Department

UCAS applications were a focal point for students and staff through the Autumn and Spring Terms. Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge applications came first as these have an earlier deadline of mid-October. Thereafter, pupils applied to a wide range of courses, ranging from Accountancy to Zoology, a true A-Z of courses, and it is pleasing to note that the vast majority of our cohort received unconditional offers.

The 2021-22 session got underway with appointment of our Head Boy, Euan Porter and Head Girl, Amy Grassom, who received their Badges of Office from the retiring Heads of School, Callum Byers and Olivia Stark.

The 6th year elected the Beatson Cancer Charity as their nominated good cause. This was an especially personal choice for Gemma Hope, Leigh Timothy and Poppy Easdale, each of whom had direct knowledge of the important work carried out at The Beatson. Throughout the year they worked exceptionally well as a team and consequently had a very successful year with the charity. A myriad of activities were undertaken in order to raise funds, in addition to our traditional House Charity Days, non-uniform days and regular cake and candy stalls. All of these generated extensive funds, while the return to the "real" Kiltwalk was a fun and highly successful activity for the staff involved. A huge "thank you" must be paid to the entire Wellington family, who gave such overwhelming support of the charity work, whether through completing a challenge or giving so generously in support of them.

The changing rules surrounding the pandemic led to fewer blanket closures, which in some ways made it more difficult to plan events - we did not know whether events would go ahead until the very last moment, and in some cases, they didn't. Nevertheless, the 6th year charity continues to have a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together Nursery, Primary and Secondary, Parents and Staff and achieves exceptional results annually. It is to everyone's credit that the school has raised another extraordinary sum for another very worthwhile cause, with the Beatson Cancer Charity receiving the fantastic sum of £20,022.64. This is a tremendous effort, especially in light of the testing environment of the past year.

I would like to thank our Heads of School, Euan Porter and Amy Grassom, and their Sixth Year counterparts, for their commitment, enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination in driving many of the charity activities. Whether the task in hand was charity fundraising, giving tours of the school, mentoring in classes or anything else we threw at them, their poise

and positive demeanour made a lasting impression of all who interacted with them - they are all excellent ambassadors for the school.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the massive, continuing impact of Covid-19 on Sixth Year. I have noted in my remarks over the past couple of years last year that it has been the most surreal period in my career; little did I know that this would continue into 2021-22. However, after the Christmas break we saw a gradual return to "normality". For our young people, a return to the more recognisable SQA certification processes, and the continued improvement surrounding social interaction with friends, have been welcomed and I am very proud that, whilst stressful, our senior pupils coped admirably with their exams in May. Your continued love and support of your children, and the backing you give to the school in what we do as part of the wider pastoral and academic care of our pupils, is very much appreciated.

I am very glad to be able, this year, to reflect on our traditional June activities programme; Prom, Sports Day and so forth. It was brilliant to have all of these events back on the calendar and so well supported by pupils, staff and parents. Furthermore, the day trips to Go Ape, ScotKart, Millport and the Edinburgh Dungeon offered an opportunity to share some fun times in these, their final few days as Wellington pupils.

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





Headmasters Vote of Thanks

Simon Johnson

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to look back over another extraordinary twelve months and to give thanks to everybody who has helped to make Wellington such a vibrant place in which to grow up and work. So quickly have things changed since the lifting of pandemic restrictions in March, it is hard to believe just how restricted school life was for a full two years. We all reflect, I am sure, on what has passed, but now is a time to look forward and not back. This term, we have been able to do again all of the things that we missed so much. The weeks have been filled with music, with sport, with trips and with events of every kind. We have seen an outpouring of enthusiasm and there is a tremendous appetite for catching up on missed experiences. Let us celebrate and make the most of our newfound freedom!

I begin by thanking the pupils, who every day surprise us with their creativity, their energy and their enthusiasm. Young people everywhere are endlessly inventive, optimistic and adaptable, but here at Wellington, these qualities are put to the best of purposes. If you ever need inspiration, just visit a lesson, watch a performance or join in with any activity or discussion. I guarantee that you will come away smiling and full of new ideas. It is a privilege to be with young people, and I thank each and every pupil for bringing this school to such joyful life.

This year, I would like to pay tribute to all of those who have sat SQA examinations. For every pupil who sat papers this year – whether at National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher level – this was their first experience of a ‘real’ exam due to the cancellation of the diet in 2020 and 2021. Despite the unavoidable pressure and inevitable anxiety that comes with any formal assessment, the exams went smoothly and for most, I think the chance to sit formal exams was a welcome sign of returning normality. I applaud all of our candidates this year and I hope that they achieve the results that they so richly deserve when the grades are published in August.

I must mention now the S6 Leavers, for whom this is a particularly special day. Leaving school has always been a poignant time, as it marks the transition from childhood to adulthood. When our leavers hang up their uniforms later today, they do it for the last time, and I know they understand the significance of that. When they wake up tomorrow, a world of endless possibility and opportunity beckons, but with that freedom comes great responsibility. I am confident that all they have learnt at Wellington will stand them in good stead and I know that they have the skills and the personal qualities that they will need to

thrive and to excel. They are the finished Wellington product. I am grateful for all that they have done for the school this year and I congratulate them on raising more than £20,000 for The Beatson Cancer Charity. Thank you S6, and go well on the next steps of your journey.

Next, I turn to the teaching staff, who unfailingly ‘go the extra mile’ for the pupils. The last few years have presented everybody with challenges, but the teachers at Wellington have more than risen to every one of them. Time and time again, they have shown themselves to be resilient, adaptable and determined. I thank all of the teaching staff throughout the Senior School, the Junior School and the Nursery, for their hard work and for being such an inspiration for the next generation.

Although much of their work is unseen, the support staff are no less important and the school could not function without them. I thank most sincerely all of the finance team, the office staff, the janitors, the cleaners, the catering team, the auxiliaries and everybody else who keeps the wheels turning smoothly. They are a vital part of the Wellington family and each of them plays an important part in ensuring that this is such a happy and caring school. Dot and David Gray deserve special thanks for feeding us so well. I am particularly grateful also to IT Manager, Garry Carr, who works tirelessly to keep us all connected, and to our Marketing Manager, Aimee Cassells, who manages our online presence so effectively.

At the end of a year, sadly, we must always say farewell to a number of leaving staff. It is hard to believe that Mrs O’Connell has worked at the school for 31 years and impossible to do justice to her contribution in a few short sentences. She will be known to many of you in her capacity as Assistant Head (Pastoral) and an English teacher, but we will all miss her expertise, her friendly, approachable style, her ability to tackle a problem head on and her knowledge of all things Wellington. I cannot thank Natalie enough for all that she has done to make this the successful and thriving school that it is today. She is far too young to retire and leaves big shoes to fill, but I know that you will join me in wishing her every happiness for the future.

We also say farewell to Mrs McCandless, who has been our lead Spanish teacher for 5 years, but whose association with the school goes back much further as a parent. Sally has contributed a great deal to the school in many ways and she leaves with our thanks and best wishes. Mr Godsman, Director of Music, has been with us for just a year, but he has successfully overseen the rebirth of musical performance after the pandemic and we wish Malcolm every success as he moves to a similar post closer to his home in Glasgow.

I turn now to the Senior Management Team, with whom I meet weekly to discuss the most important and the most mundane of issues. Just as in any organisation, the top team share the best and worst of times together and I thank them all for their dedication to the school. It is hard to believe that Mrs Windows has been with us for just one year, but as Deputy Head she has thrown herself into school life with huge enthusiasm and I thank her for her relentless energy and her surefootedness in all situations. Mr Stewart joined us as Operations Manager in April 2021 and in a short time, he has become an indispensable member of the team. An extensive programme of summer works is just about to begin and I thank Robbie for all that he has done to bring this together. I thank also Mr Cox, Mrs O’Connell, Miss Johnston and Mrs Peters for all their hard work and support over the course of the year. Lastly, Mrs Dunlop deserves thanks for putting

up with us all and for the calm, reassuring way in which she manages our admissions process and welcomes families who are visiting Wellington for the first time.

Next, I would like to thank that people who share the stage with me today. The Governors of a school carry significant responsibilities and Wellington is fortunate to have the support of such a capable and dedicated group of people. I thank them most sincerely for all that they do for the school behind the scenes, and for the support that they have always given to me. In particular, I thank the Chair of the Board, Jennifer Simpson, who gives her time and expertise so generously for the benefit of the school.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the parents who choose Wellington. Without the trust and support that you continued to give throughout the pandemic, we would not be here today. Thank you.



Let's Be Social!



Make sure you keep up to date with Wellington life by following us on our social media accounts:

Facebook: [@wellingtonschoolayr](#)

Twitter: [@Wellington_Ayr](#)

Instagram: [@wellington_schoolayr](#)

YouTube: [@Wellington School Ayr](#)

www.wellingtonschool.org