



The Turret

Wellington School Magazine
Autumn/Winter 2022



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Welcome

From Mr Johnson, Headmaster

This edition of The Turret documents a busy and exciting term, the first since the pandemic in which we have been able to enjoy the full range of activities that make Wellington life so vibrant. We have all enjoyed the return of music and you will enjoy reading more about the P7 - S2 performance of 'Matilda', which was such a highlight of the autumn term. Do not forget to book your tickets for the forthcoming senior musical, 'Legally Blonde', which will be performed at the Gaiety Theatre in March.

At the same time, the freedom to travel has once again enabled so many pupils to broaden their horizons and experience life in another country. It is hard not to be a little envious of the P7 pupils who took part in the 'Magical Christmas' trip to Dortmund, but there will be plenty more travel stories to look forward to in the next edition.

Turn the pages and it is impossible not to be impressed by the wealth of sports and activities in which Wellington pupils excel. We encourage all of our pupils to make the most of the opportunities available to them and it is wonderful to see that so many take this advice to heart. The pursuit of excellence develops some of the best habits for life that we can acquire, and nobody can doubt the benefits that come when we give of our best.

Finally, the closing pages include some important dates for your diary as we approach the Carleton Turrets Centenary. It will soon be 100 years since Wellington School moved to its current site and I hope that you will all have a chance to join us as we celebrate this very special anniversary.

Mr Johnson

Wellington Art Exhibition By Summer Saunders

We were delighted to open up our Art Department for our first Art Exhibition after covid, welcoming parents, pupils and the Wellington community to view the huge array of talent that our pupils have to offer.

Pupils presented their work in various different forms showing the variety of talent within Wellington, ranging from headwear, dresses, paintings, pastel work and graphic design.

Dot and Dave provided incredible hospitality with delicious canapés, prosecco and orange juice. Pupils in S6 offered their help to Dot and Dave behind the scenes, welcoming parents as well as collecting for the S6 Charity, Revive MS Support.



WSPTA

Spring Fling

| FEB | SAT 25 | 2023 |





**BOSWELL COACH
HOUSE**

Tickets include:

- Drinks reception
- Three course meal
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Live music from Ceilidh band Jimjam

Individual tickets from £85 or you can purchase a table of 10-12 seats

**Free coach travel to Boswell Coach House
from pick up point in Ayr**

Halloween at Wellington

The WSPTA organised our Halloween parties in October last year, where pupils from from the Junior School donned their scariest costumes and headed to the eerie Carlton Turrets Hall, which had been decorated with pumpkins, skeletons and other spooky characters!

Pupils dressed as many different characters such as clowns, zombie cheerleaders and witches. We even had an Oompa Loompa from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Pupils enjoyed spooky games including "eyeballs in the hay" and 'musical statues, as well as dancing, singing and enjoying a range of gory treats from the Tuck Shop.

Thank you to the WSPTA for organising this wonderful event and for raising £771 to be put towards future school developments!





Sporting Achievements

At Wellington, we are proud of all our pupils when it comes to their sporting achievements. Here are a few of our success stories from the last 12 months.

Football

Our Junior Football Team got their competitive season underway with a resounding victory against Coylton Primary School in November, where there were some superb individual performances but most importantly, a great team effort! (Photo above)

In other news, S2 pupil Kyle was recently selected to play for the Coerver Scotland National Team in Sweden. Kyle played an exceptional game against national sides from Sweden, Norway and Iceland in the Nordic Cup.

Rugby

S1 and S2 pupils participated in an Ayr schools rugby tournament earlier this month. The teams played well against Belmont and Kyle teams and were unbeaten throughout.

In May 2022, the S1 Rugby Team took part in a tour at Ellon RFC in Aberdeenshire. Some fantastic rugby was played by all the boys with Ayr bringing home the trophy at the end of the second day.

S1-S3 pupils took part in the SP Energy Networks Warriors Championship in March 2023. The Championship returned to Scotstoun for the first time since 2020, with over 800 participants from 20 schools. The pupils had a great day and all teams played well, as well as getting to enjoy some good Scottish sunshine!



Swimming

Primary 6 pupils Sophia, Charlotte & Lewis recently swam for Wellington in the Ayrshire School Swimming Championships. Lewis swam exceptionally well and picked up three gold medals, Sophia won a silver medal in the 50m breaststroke with Charlotte taking the bronze. The girls were also placed 4th and 5th in the 50m freestyle.

S4 pupil Lauren also swam for Wellington in the Ayrshire Schools Swimming Championships. Lauren received a 1st place gold medal for her 200m backstroke and 3rd place bronze for her 200m individual medley, producing personal bests in both races.

S3 pupil Chloe recently took part in the Scottish National Artistic Age Group Events held by Scottish Swimming, competing in Artistic Figures with other synchronised swimmers from across Scotland and England.

Earlier in 2022, S2 pupil Callan and S1 pupil Oliver were part of the 4 x 100m relay team, who won a silver medal at the Scottish Swimming National Age Group Competition representing South Ayrshire Swim Team.

As well as this, Callan won 2 gold and 4 silver medals at South Ayrshire Swim Team Spring Graded Meet. Oliver also won silver for his freestyle and bronze for breaststroke at the West District Pentaqua meet.

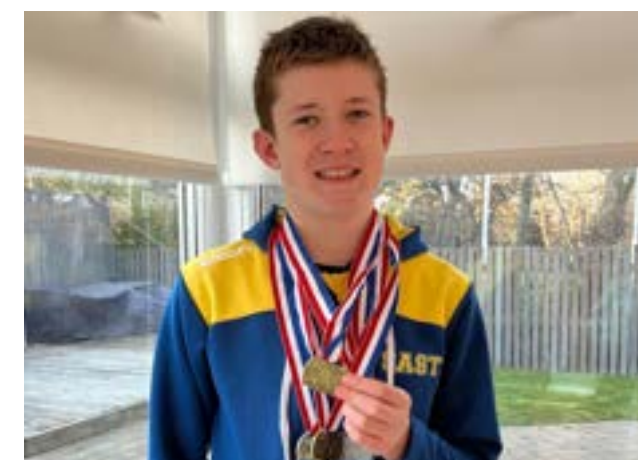
Primary 7 pupil Lewis scooped up 7 medals at the North Ayrshire graded swim meet, which had over a hundred swimmers from 10 different Scottish teams.

Finally, 10 pupils from S1-S4 competed in the Scottish Schools Aquathlon, where they performed against 80 different schools from all over Scotland. All Wellington pupils performed very well and recorded excellent swim times.

Tennis & Table Tennis

S1 pupil, Freya had great success in September when she was runner up in the U14 Club Championships at Troon Tennis Club.

S1 pupil Padma played a phenomenal championship in early 2022 where she won silver in the Primary School International Table Tennis Championships held in Guernsey. She played as part of Team Scotland and narrowly missed out on gold.



S2 pupil, Isla had her best year of tennis yet as she soared through Wimbledon Rounds for U14s taking her to Wimbledon to compete in the U14 girls singles championship finals.

There were 10,000 competitors and only 192 made it to the finals.

Showjumping & Horse Riding

Primary 7 pupil, Amelia competed at Caledonian Championship horseshow towards the end of 2022. Along with her pony Wizzard, Amelia took home gold for the Breeders Championship, as well as receiving rosettes in other classes with her ponies Rush and Billy.

Fergal has had a very succesful year in Showjumping. At the start of 2022, he qualified for the Royal International Horse Show, then, later iin the year Fergal jumped a double clear on his pony 'Little Flexible' to assist Team Scotland in securing gold at the English Home Pony International.

S3 pupil Cara attended the Scottish Horse Show of the Year and won the 1m open!

S2 pupil Imogen, competed at Blair Castle International Horse Trials in the NPS (National Pony Society) finals last week. Imogen competed with her pony 'Titan' in the Novice Ridden Welsh As and Bs Class and came a very impressive 9th place overall.

Golf

S5 pupil Harry came third in a national golf competition at St Andrews earlier in 2022. Harry took part in 'The Race to the Open' where he beat 30,000 golfers during the year to get down to the last 30 competitors and then came third on the day.

Senior pupils, Harris, Noah, Quintin and Hugh secured some great golfing results from the Ayrshire Junior Team Championships (hosted at West Kilbride Golf Club).

In the scratch team event for the Matt Lygate Trophy, it was the Troon Welbeck Team, including Harris & Noah who took the title. The Andrew D. Nimmo Trophy, for the best nett team score, was won by the Turnberry team which included Quintin & Hugh. The competitors enjoyed fine, sunny weather throughout the competition.



Gymnastics

Primary 4 pupil, Lisa competed for Dundonald Gymnastics Club at their 2022 competition and came 1st place on the floor and vault, as well as taking home the gold with her team.

Charlie comepted in the Scottish Tumbling gymnastics championships in 2022 and placed silver. His high score allowed him to qualify to represent Scotland in the British Championships.

Further success stories

S2 pupil, Laura was selected for the Scotland Youth Cheer Team and was in training towards the end of last year for the World Championships which take place in April in Florida and the European Championships which take place in July in Italy.

S5 pupil Mícheál and his teammates at local football club Dregghorn Boys FC were crowned the winners of the West of Scotland Youth Football U16s League A, having gone undefeated throughout the season against all opponents. They also achieved a unique footballing double and won the West of Scotland U16s Youth Football League Cup A at Dam Park.

As a result of their success, Mícheál and his team have been asked to join one of the top football clubs in Ayrshire, Auchinleck Talbot, to establish their future youth football development plans with a view to ultimately developing and moving through their Junior and Senior teams!

Laura has continued to achieve great success in Archery, having a wonderful summer of great results including 1st place and Scottish Record double and single metric British record at Longmynd Archer Club, 2nd place at Ayr Archery Club & improving her best score.

S5 pupil Libby had a successful 2022, when she set a British indoor U17 triple jump record of 12.41m at the Scottish Schools Championship, she then furthered this score by jumping 12.63m at the English Indoor Age Group Championships, qualifying her for the European u18 championships.



S6 Charity Revive MS Support

By Summer Saunders

Every year, a member of sixth year nominates a certain Charity that the school community will support, the charities put forward are then put to a vote, this year the winning charity was Revive MS Support nominated by Sofia Logan. Revive MS Support is a charity dedicated to helping those living with Multiple Sclerosis. Their aim is to enable people to maintain and improve their quality of life, and live life to the full. We Spoke to Sofia about her nomination:

Why did you decide to put this particular charity forward?

I feel as, although I myself have been around my Dad who has had MS most of my life, it is not a particularly well known disease despite the large population in Scotland that suffers from it. I previously worked with the charity through the YPI initiative, I chose to support MS Revive as my Dad has used their facilities and always came back with a glowing report in the help they offer. It is an amazing charity with a great team which offers so much support to people struggling with MS.

What do you hope to achieve by fundraising for MS revive?

I hope to raise awareness to younger generations that may have parents or relatives that have MS, and be able to fund the support that's given to those who use MS Revive to aid them.

So far S6 have held a car wash, bake sales, charity day's and brave pupils and teachers have taken on the Firewalk. Recently S6 have taken on the Dip With A Nip, where pupils and staff braved the Scottish weather and plunged into the freezing sea. Other year groups and staff came to support and donated sponsorships to go towards to charity.!

Over the next few months, S6 pupils will be taking on a tough mudder, the kiltwalk and many other fundraising activities!



MUSIC IS FIRMLY BACK ON THE CALENDAR

By Mrs Docherty

After a long break and slow start after restrictions, the Music Department is providing a full range of activities for pupils once again, from choirs to orchestras, bands and shows; our calendar can be viewed on the website. Activities are open to all pupils who wish to participate, and we encourage all who take music lessons to get involved. We have also reintroduced our lunchtime concerts in the Junior School which have been popular so far. Our music instructors nominate pupils to play, so if there is any pupil in the Junior School who has not yet performed and wishes to, they should speak to their instructor.

Our first term got off to an exciting start with the launch of our first P7-S2 musical production of Matilda Jr the Musical. The production was so popular that we had to extend to an additional evening. The show ran for four evenings in November to a sell-out audience each night. Congratulations go to the cast, Miss McKinlay, Mrs Bradley and their team for their outstanding work and for starting our musical year with such a high standard.



In partnership with the WSPTA we presented two very successful Carol Evenings at Christmas which included pupils from P3 to S6 with a variety of music from traditional carols to our newly formed Boy Band singing some classic Christmas hits.



We also enjoyed three church services this term, with our Harvest Festival in the Junior School and our Junior and Senior Christmas services. Our annual nativities, starring our nursery children and P1-3 pupils were very well-received. These were all welcome ends to our half terms. The Music Department have also been busy with several charity events this term, including supporting fundraising for the Alloway Rotary Club, performing at the switching on of the Ayr Christmas lights, singing with the Ayr Community Gospel Choir and Kilmarnock Concert Brass Band. Pupils in the Senior school are performing at Burns Suppers and Burns afternoons in the community.

Our next event is the Young Musician competition, where the winner will go forward to the next stage in the Scottish Young Musician competition. Following this, we will be back at the Ayrshire Music Festival where pupils from P1-S6 entered in the choral classes, as well as many solo competitors. For the first time, the Senior Orchestra will be performing in the 'Anything Goes' class, alongside the Folk Club, in a non-competitive class. We are very much a community orchestra with several staff players offering their musical skill in each section.

The week after the choral classes at the Festival, our senior pupils take to the Gaiety stage to present Legally Blonde. This is our first production since 2019 and promises to be a great night out with a talented cast, cute dogs and a whole lot of pink! Tickets can be purchased from the Gaiety Theatre

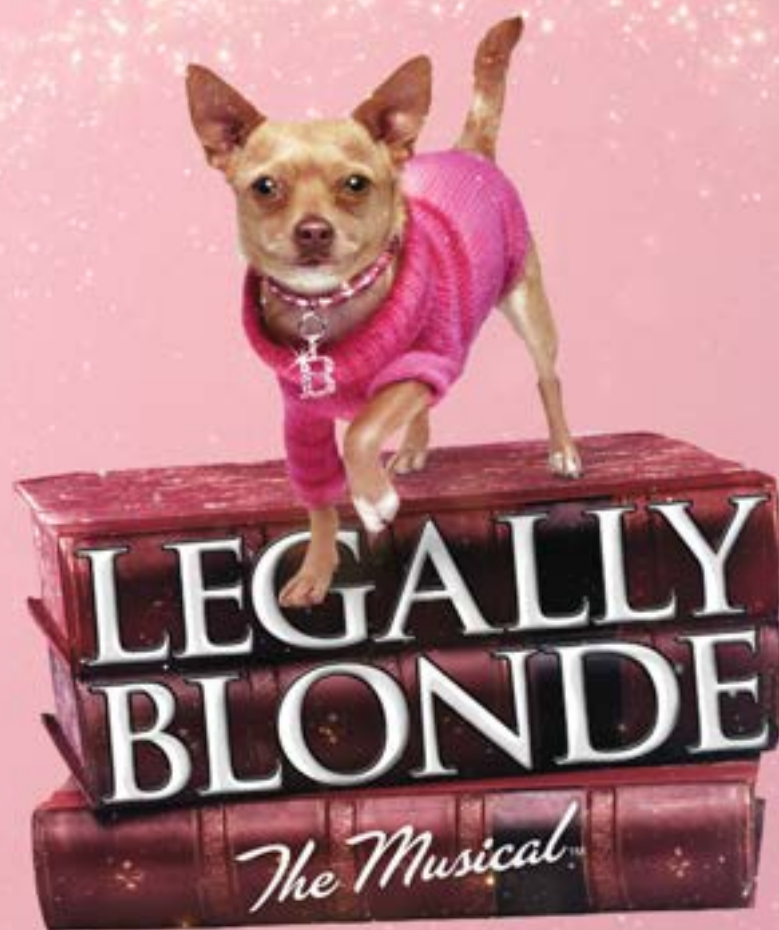
In addition to our extra-curricular activities, our pupils are also preparing for their upcoming SQA exams. We have over 30 pupils undertaking Music and Music Technology and we wish them every success.

It's great to have so many pupils involved in musical activities and the rest of the session is shaping up to be fun-filled and busy.

Susan Docherty
Director of Music



A WELLINGTON SCHOOL PRODUCTION



GAITY THEATRE AYR

Thursday 16th March
7.30pm

Friday 17th March
7.30pm

Saturday 18th March
2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £11-20
(family ticket available)

Music and Lyrics by
LAURENCE O'KEEFE & NELL BENJAMIN

Book by
HEATHER HACH

Based on the novel by
AMANDA BROWN & THE
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER MOTION PICTURE

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

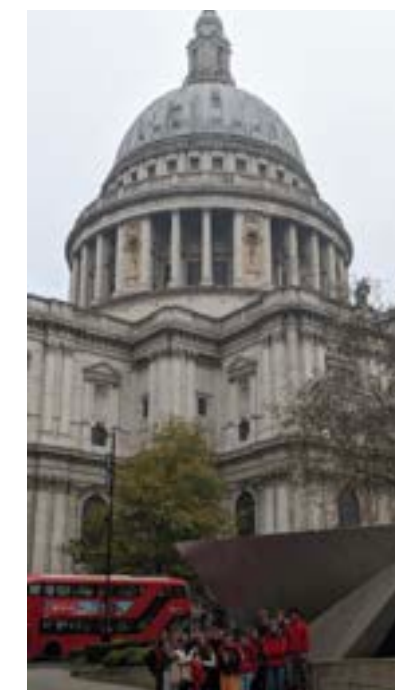
S5 'Macbeth' London Trip By Mr Howie

Pupils in our S5 cohort, accompanied by Mr Howie and Mrs Wulff, enjoyed a recent two-day trip to London to see a live performance of 'Macbeth', alongside a guided tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Most of the pupils are currently studying the play for Higher English; the trip greatly enhanced their learning by allowing them to appreciate the play as originally intended.

The play was superbly performed by five actors playing multiple roles from the well-regarded acting troupe, 'Actors From The London Stage', which was co-founded by Sir Patrick Stewart. The accompanying tour provided a fascinating insight into Shakespeare's life, his motivations for writing and the conditions under which his works were first performed.

An added bonus was staying next to St Paul's Cathedral, the bells of which could be heard by all throughout the night!



Christmas at Wellington

By Summer Saunders

Christmas Craft Fair

This year saw the return of the well-loved Wellington tradition, the Christmas craft fair. As our first craft fair since the start of the pandemic, we decided to re-vamp the occasion. We held the event during the day, which provided a more family friendly feeling. We hosted stallholders both old and new, aswell as expert catering provided by everybody's favourite, Dot and Dave! We also sold our Christmas card and the S6 charity calendar throughout the day.

We had a very special guest joining us for the event. Santa and his elves spent the day in their cosy grotto, welcoming many excited children, who happily left with a chocolate reindeer and polaroid photo! The Grotto was built by Mr Mcall & designed by S2 pupils, Anastasia, Millie and Freya.

As always we held our raffle, with main prizes including a stay at a 5-star hotel and an XBOX-won by Mrs Coontz!

Thank you to our stallholders, S6 pupils and everyone who participated within the event allowing us to bring back such a special and cherished day.



Nativities

Primary 1-3 pupils took to the stage just before Christmas to perform their Annual Nativity, this year was "A Midwife Crisis". A modern take on the Nativity, it is based around a busy midwife, her donkey, Steve and other friends as they race to help deliver a special baby born in Bethlehem.

The pupils all performed with their biggest smiles and parents, grandparents, teachers and pupils all enjoyed the performance!

Nursery pupils also took part in their Nativity in front of friends and family. Their production of "Hey Ewe" is a musical based around the original nativity story, but is told through the eyes of a curious sheep. All our pupils were very brave and put on a baa-riliant performance!

Primary 7 Pantomime

Primary 7 put on 2 hilarious shows (1 for each class) of the classic pantomime, Aladdin. Fib Youth Theatre worked hard with all our pupils on the lead up to the shows, which were performed in Carleton Turrets Hall in front of friends and family! Primary 7 proved they had talent, with both shows receiving large cheers and lots of laughter from the audience!



Junior Erasmus Club Activities

By Mrs Archbold

Since the start of session 2022-2023, the Junior Erasmus Club has been busy contributing to a range of activities for the Europe on the Move, FuturEnvironment and Small Countries, Strong Cultures projects.

Our first task was to create a kinetic chain reaction by storing energy in interwoven ice-lolly sticks. This was to explore the science of movement for Europe on the Move. First we made a chain about 1m long (the pattern was tricky to begin with). Next we reached 2m60cm and finally we built a chain right across the classroom - fabulous team work! The most satisfying part was releasing the stored-up energy, seeing the sticks jump and hearing the lovely sound that they made as they moved. "I could feel the pressure building in the sticks as the chain got bigger," said Elena (P4). The lunchtime domino rally club was not to be outdone and made a rally that went round the hall. Aaryan (P4) said, "We had to build in spaces so it wouldn't fall down before we were ready!" They loved the motion and the sound it released.



In class, P4B joined in with FuturEnvironment and created swimming costumes for their teddy bears from recycled, outgrown clothes brought from home. It was around the same time that Mrs Archbold and Mrs Bowyer travelled with the senior pupils to Slovenia for a project mobility.

One of the features of the trip was the fashion 'swap shop'. Everyone took a pre-loved item of clothing, donated it to the shop and could pick something else in return. Mrs Archbold and Mrs Bowyer shared their experiences with the Club on their return.



Sticking with the FuturEnvironment theme, we finished 2022 with 'Recycled Christmas'. First we designed cards to send to the partner schools. We chose Christmas tree and bauble outlines and lined them with recycled maps of Scotland (making sure that Ayr featured!). The children picked a suitably Christmassy insert message and signed it from The Scottish Erasmus Club. Ruari (P5) liked the fact that the cards were "going all over Europe." We hope they beat the postal strike and have arrived at their destinations - so far we have received 3 back. Then we made recycled Christmas trees for our classrooms using cardboard, items from home and resources from the art room. "I really liked sticking stars onto the trees with hot glue," said Adriana (P3). The children were very creative, as you can see below:



The Erasmus Club restarted at the beginning of Spring Term, on a new day - Monday. There are still activities to finish for all of the projects. Lucienne (P6), a long-standing member of the Club, loves the 'chilled' atmosphere and always having a new craft project to take part in. Regular and new members were welcomed by Mrs Archbold. We will see where our links with the schools in France, Germany, Belgium, Slovenia, North Macedonia and Poland will take us in 2023!



A Meeting with Royalty By Summer Saunders

Kate and I were invited to The Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh to attend the royal opening of the new factory. After practicing our curtsies we were brought down into the refurbished factory and museum and stood next to the cutting station, where our dress 'In Flanders Fields' stands as a permanent exhibit.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was taken on a tour around the museum and finally began walking in our direction, we were introduced and performed our curtsies. The Princess Royal had then asked us about our dress - how it was made and our inspiration, and seemed very taken with the dress saying that it was just wonderful. The Princess Royal had then asked what we were going to be doing in the future, after telling her about my place at University, she replied saying "Oh how lovely, that is nine miles down the road from me".

Once the Princess Royal had progressed onto the next stage of the museum, her lady in waiting approached us. She was very interested in the design and said that "It would make a wonderful party frock". Poppy Scotland even worried that she may take it with her!

As the tour came to an end, The Princess Royal was presented with a plaque reading 'In Flanders Fields', as well as 'In Future Fields' which was written by Sophie, also from Ayrshire, who also attended the day.



After The Princess Royal had departed, we were joined by the Board of Poppy Scotland, the Trustees and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh for lunch. During our lunch we were presented with a bouquet of poppies and a bag of Poppy Scotland merchandise By Helen Owen-The Chair of Poppy Scotland. We were also taken for an interview with The British Forces Broadcasting Service and asked about our dress and our meeting with Royalty.

Our families were invited to recreate the tour that The Princess Royal had just been taken on, being the second VIP tour to be given, we were shown around the factory, seeing the items that we had previously picked out as items of interest to younger people throughout the factory, we left our dress in it's permanent exhibit where it can be enjoyed and viewed by the public on future factory tours.



“Classical Music is my Favourite Music to Skate to”

An Interview with Catriona Smith

We sat down with S6 pupil Catriona to interview her about her ongoing success in Figure Skating. A member of Magnum Figure Skating Club at Auchenharvie Ice Rink, Salcoats, Catriona discusses her training schedule, inspirations and future plans.

Hi Catriona, how did you first get into Figure Skating as a sport?

“Well basically my brother was at tennis one day and I was there with my dad. We were kind of bored so he asked if I wanted to go and see the skaters at the rink, so we went to Ayr Ice Rink and saw all these people skating and I was absolutley amazed, they were so cool. When we got there, a woman asked if I wanted to join them the following week and try skating for myself. I decided to go back to try it and I loved it, from then on I went every Saturday morning.

What age were you when you started?

I had just turned 10 when I first tried out skating.

Tell us a bit about your competitions and training:

I try to do as many competitions as possible but there are not many running at the moment, especially the last few years due to Covid. In terms of my training, i usually go to the ice rink about 5 or 6 times a week and I usually train before school. I tend to get onto the ice about 6am and train for an hour or so, then get ready for school.

What has been your biggest achievement in Ice Skating to date?

That’s a hard question! One year I went to the British Qualifiers and I came 7th out of 40 skaters, that was also effectivley the British Championships that year as the actual championship was cancelled, so I was quite proud of being 7th in Britain. There were also other years where I came 1st in the rankings at one level and 2nd in another level, which I was quite happy about because again it was across the whole of Britain. I’d say they are probably the times where I have been most proud of myself.

When you are on the ice, are there any moves you like to do most?

Oh, I really love jumping, all jumps! Just the feeling of doing a jump is so cool. When I first started jumping it was terrifying but now I am just so excited to do them, I forget all feelings of fear and just go for it!



When you are performing, do you have specific programmes and music you use?

Yes, I have two programmes that I perform at competitions, my short programme and my free programme (which is longer). I currently skate to “Phantom of the Opera” for my free programme and “Good Omens” for my short, both of whcih are quite classical as this is my favourite genre to skate to!

We remember hearing you skated at Braehead arena to an audience of 3,000, that must be very nerve-wracking. Do you get nervous when about to perform in front of large crowds?

It was a little scary going on to perform for the crowd of 3,000, but I was also excited for it so I kind of forgot all my nerves! I had made up a special rock routine which I really enjoyed performing and it was great to have such an amazing audience! Whenever I get nervous at a competition or performance, I just like to run through whatever I’m about to do in my head, which relaxes me.

Are there any famous skaters that you look up to?

I’ve always looked up to Katarina Witt, she’s a German skater and also Olympic Champion from the Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan era. Her Carmen programme is my all time favourite programme, I love it so much that I did a similar one at a show! A few years ago she sent me several signed photos and a book all about her skating journey, which was so amazing. My favourite current skater is Anna Scherbakova, who won the Olympics in Beijing in 2022. She’s one of only a few ladies to be able to land quadruple jumps and she’s only 18!

Do you do any coaching for younger skaters, or is this something you have considered doing in the future?

Yes, I really enjoy coaching the younger skaters! I help out at the Magnum Figure Skating Club’s Skate UK programme sometimes on a Sunday which is lovely because I get to meet all the new skaters coming into the club and pass on some of the tips and tricks I’ve learned so far. I would say to anyone thinking of starting skating, give it a go, it may seem pretty scary at first, but just point your feet in the direction you want to go and you’ll be absolutley fine!

Finally, what are your plans after Wellington?

I’m hoping to go to University, I’m really interested in all things to do with the sciences so I’d love to do a degree that allows me to keep doing these. I’m also hoping to keep up my skating at University, it has been one of the biggesfactors when deciding where to go after school, looking at where rinks are and what universities have clubs I can join. I also want to continue competing as much as I can and improve as a skater, there’s always something to work on!



Advanced Higher Pysics Pupils Head to UoG

By Emily Stribling & Kiera West

In September, the advanced higher physics pupils went to the University of Glasgow's quantum technology school. Quantum technology is a new and emerging field of physics which uses the laws of quantum mechanics (to do with subatomic particles) to make powerful computers and more reliable clocks among many other things.

Whilst we were there, we were able to attend four workshops and four presentations to learn about what quantum technology involves as well as the University of Glasgow specifically and the courses they offer in the field of physics and quantum technology.

On the first day, after receiving some very fancy freebies from the students and staff running the programme we made our way to the lecture theatre where we had our first presentation. This was a brief tribute to the expansive history of physics. Dr Sneddon entitled his presentation, 'Think like a physicist' and consisted of a series of physics legends and their discoveries including Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. Sadly Mr M.J Murray was not featured!

The first activity of the day was a tour around the physics labs where we saw a car on a frictionless track which was able to happen by liquid nitrogen. This was really interesting to see being used up close and all the protective equipment that had to be used alongside it.

After a lunch filled with tacos, we learned about cryptography and decoding messages. This is a use of quantum technology that takes the morse code to the next level! During this session we were able to understand some of the real life uses of quantum technology and put them into practice in a competitive decoding contest (which some pupils from our school won!) Just before the end of the day, we completed an experiment lead by one of the senior lecturers at the university in polarisation and ciphers. We were able to talk to other advanced higher physics students attending the school as well as Dr Sneddon about his job in the university and the research he's taken part in. It was really interesting to learn about his work in educational physics including his focus on the students' attitudes towards laboratory teaching.

On the second day of our trip we received a presentation on quantum key distribution from Dr



Adetunmise Dada, which was then followed up by workshops on 3D imaging and MacroPhoton Quantum Key distribution. We learned about how it can be used to keep data secure, by encoding and decoding messages.

The final presentation of the day titled "What is quantum computing?" (we still don't know!), presented by Professor Martin Weides, gave us a deeper insight into quantum computing as well as making quite a confusing and complex topic enjoyable.

The quantum technology school was a really interesting and enjoyable experience which got us talking about the stereotypes in physics and the amount of change it's going through. In contrast to other schools, Wellington has a much higher number of girls taking the subject which leads by example for the future of the subject as a whole. Overall, it was an insightful course and one which led a lot of us to think about a future career in quantum technology.



Matilda

By Summer Saunders

In November, our P7-S3 pupils put on a 3 night production of Matilda Jr! Under the direction of Miss McKinley & Mrs Bradley, the pupils rehearsed all through the October Holidays to make sure they put on a fantastic show about an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, tasks a stand and changes her own destiny. The cast and crew were exceptional and all 3 shows were a hit!

We spoke to 3 of the cast members, P7 pupil Eva (who played Matilda), S2 pupil Jessica (who played Miss Trunchbull) and S2 pupil Daisy (who played the role of Miss Honey) to find out how they got on:

How did you find the auditions? Did you spend time preparing and if so, how did you prepare?

Eva: I found the auditions nerve racking but also very fun. Yes, I did spend time preparing and I did it with my parents.

Daisy: I was just doing it for fun and I didn't expect to get a lead. I had my mum read out one part and I practised saying the other lines.

Jessica: At the audition I wasn't really that nervous because I didn't expect to get anything, but it was good fun when we did it. I spent a little bit of time preparing for the audition but not much because whenever I over prepare I feel really nervous for the actual audition and feel more stress. I prepared by having my little sister read the lines and said them back to her.

How did you feel when you got the part?

Eva: I felt very happy and very excited.

Daisy: When I got the part I felt surprised because I wasn't expecting to get a lead but I don't think I realised how much I would actually have to do and prepare for the show.

Jessica: I was very happy but equally I wouldn't have been disappointed if I got a smaller role. It was a busy time because the lines were very difficult to learn.

How did you find the rehearsals? What did you get up to?

Eva: I found the rehearsals all so much fun. We practised scenes, learnt lines, learnt songs and dances.

Daisy: In rehearsals we were taken out on our own to learn songs and practice lines. Jackie was really good because she made us feel our lines rather

than just say them.

Jessica: We had fun in the music department with Miss Gilmore, and she taught us how to sing the songs and what to include in our songs aswell.

What was your favourite part of the whole experience?

Eva: My favourite part was definitely all 3 of the shows.

Daisy: The second and third show were definitely better, as the first show was the dress rehearsal which didn't go as planned and the second show went perfectly and was so much fun.

Jessica: The second show was definitely the best bit of it because we were really nervous for the first show-just in case you mess it up and the third show was the last one so we were equally happy and sad for it to be ending, but the second show we were right in the middle of it and ready to perform.

How did you feel onstage? Were you nervous?

Eva: I felt so excited and nervous at the same time but it was so much fun.

Daisy: In the first show we knew everybody in the audience, it was the first night and we were very nervous as we didn't know what it would be like and we had only had one dress rehearsal. We felt nervous as we didn't want to mess it up for anybody else.

Jessica: I was nervous for the first show, firstly because I knew a lot of people in the audience-such as people from my year, who turned up to support us, but we hadn't really performed yet which made it more scary. We were praying for it to go well, which it did in the end. We were a tight knit group and didn't want to let each other down by underperforming.

Any other statements you would like included (optional):

Daisy: It was a very fun experience, which we all enjoyed. It was quite a mixed group and no one really knew each other very well initially, and we all glued, so it was a really good group by the end of it we all became really good friends

Jessica: It helped me get to know different people, that I didn't really speak to before and we all had fun together. It gave us all something in common to talk about, making the rehearsals less tense than they could have been



Primary 1's Festive Trip to the Farm

Before the festive break, Primary 1 pupils were lucky enough to visit Downhill Farm to learn all about life on a farm as well as enjoying some Christmas activities to get them in the mood for Santa. As the pupils and staff arrived at the farm, they were warmly welcomed by Mr and Mrs Crawford, even though it was very cold outside and they were given their itinerary.

First stop was a picnic lunch in the cosy garden room. After lunch it was all aboard the trailer for an exciting bumpy ride through the fields, festive music played from the tractor and tinsel adorned the trailer! The next stop was to collect vegetables from the fields and learn all about how they are planted and how they grow. Vegetables such as cabbages, leeks, turnips and kale were all gathered before heading off to the next field to pick potatoes and carrots for the reindeer. To finish up the outside activities, pupils were treated to a chocolate and brussel sprout hunt around the gardens!

The day ended with story time inside with pupils being gifted festive balloons to take home with them. The minibus home was packed full of happy children, balloons and vegetables after a very fun and festive day out!

Thank you to Mr & Mrs Crawford for welcoming us to Downhill Farm.



Magical Christmas

By Summer Saunders

Pupils from Primary 7 alongside S5/6 senior mentors travelled to Dortmund and met up with our partner school Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium. Students had the opportunity to take part in all things Christmas as they participated in workshops including designing Christmas jumpers, singing German Christmas songs, sports and dancing. The tour allowed our pupils to spend their time with new friends that they met at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, embracing the local culture in which many tried new foods and some even went ice skating. One particular highlight was the German Christmas Markets, where pupils explored, gaining an insight into the culture that was on display, taking a trip around the ferris wheel, and eating far too many churros and chips!

Senior mentors had also gained independence and leadership skills through their role in looking after the younger pupils at the airport and around the markets, as well as aiding pupils when they required help in writing their diaries and general support.

All students greatly enjoyed their experiences at the magical Christmas trip to Dortmund and are very grateful for this opportunity to travel and learn.



Magical Christams Diaries

By Primary 7

As part of their Magical Christmas trip to Dortmund, Primary 7 pupils were asked to keep a diary of activities and memories. Below are extracts from these diaries to highlight some of the memorable experiences they had.

Fraser

After a long day travelling, I woke up on Thursday morning ready for our walk to the school. I was astonished by how big it was, we got a great welcome from the Head Teacher! The main differences between our school and the German school I noticed was that the school had different food that we found strange, they also wear non-uniform, the German pupils were also far better at speaking English than we were speaking German!



Honour

After we had lunch at the school, we completed a Selfie Tour around the Christmas Market, we then went to visit our German Family, where we made cookies and special marmalade. I also loved playing the board games with our new friends and their family.



Eva

During break, I learnt how to walk on really high stilts! It was so much fun! Later that day we had a workshop where we made angels out of recycled music sheets and cardboard. We then went to the Christmas Markets which were so much fun. I loved seeing them for the first time, I got gifts for my family and a ring for myself.

I really enjoyed all the activities. My new friends are called Nicola and Mariah they are from Hungary & Greece and they are so caring. I feel so happy that I had so much fun with my friends but sad to go home. Hopefully we will keep in touch as we exchanged numbers.

Holly

I was a little bit nervous to meet the parents of my German friends, I was scared that they would laugh at how terrible my German is. The first thing that we did was decorate Christmas cookies. It was a lot of fun and they were so, so tasty.

We then went to the Christmas Market, I went into a jewellery shop and the lady was very nice, she gave me two beautiful pieces of jewellery for free! The day was a lot of fun. It was really cool to see how the German family eat and live, everyone was so nice and it was sad to say goodbye.



Caleb

In the morning we had to get up really early to go to the German school. We met our new friends and took part in PE it was so fun! There were two options and I chose to do the football, where we played a championship.

In the afternoon we went out for break and I played football with my new friend called Henry, he is really nice. Then we went to a workshop where we had to design our own Christmas jumper. All the pupils at the school are really nice.

On Saturday I visited my German family where we went to the park and then went up the tallest tower!



Mitchell

While visiting my German family, we baked cookies and then went to play the Nintendo. Later in the day, we went to a fancy restaurant then over to the Christmas Market.

I think the highlight was going to the restaurant, it was very fun and the family were really nice.

I really enjoyed my trip and loved every part of it, especially seeing the school. I have learnt lots from this trip, like how Germans live, all the food they eat and facts about a German Christmas Market. I now can't wait to go to other countries in the future!





CENTENARY SAVE THE DATES

As our Centenary fast approaches, we have some key dates to save in your diary:

- 18th November 2023 - Centenary Ball at Ayr Racecourse
- 20th March 2024 - Centenary Concert at Ayr Town Hall
- 1st June 2024 - Former Pupil's Lunch at Carleton Turrets

We hope you can all join us in celebrating 100 years at Carleton Turrets and look forward to welcoming you to our events!



A Message to our Former Pupils

The former pupils of Wellington and Drumley House Schools still play a pivotal role in the life of our school, with many actively shaping our present and our future.

With the Centenary Celebrations taking place in 2023/24, we would like to remind all former pupils to stay in touch by signing up to our Alumni Network. We have a lot of things planned for the coming year and would like to keep in touch to let you all know what we have planned.

We are also looking for stories, pictures and videos of your time at Wellington as part of a special project for our 100th anniversary next year. If you have anything you can share with us about your time at Wellington, please send us a DM to our Facebook page or email formerpupils@wellingtonschool.org

If you are a former pupil and would like to sign up to our Former Pupil database, you can do so via our website:
<https://wellingtonschool.org/alumni/>



A Note from the Editor

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

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Turret, the pupils & staff who have shared their news and work to be displayed, especially to our article authors for this edition; Kiera West and Emily Stribling. I would also like to make a special thanks to my Assistant Editor, Summer Saunders, who has written, edited and designed many pages of this edition.

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

In the event of there being a factual mistake, please accept our apologies. If you get in touch, we will amend the digital version of the magazine, which is available on the School Publications page of the website: wellingtonschool.org/wellington-life/school-publications.

If you have any feedback, enquiries or requests, please contact Miss Cassells via email: press@wellingtonschool.org or by telephone 01292 269321.

Additionally, the school would be delighted to supply you with extra copies of The Turret at no extra cost, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Stay Social!



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

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www.wellingtonschool.org

