



Wellington

SCHOOL

Annual Report
2023



Introduction

At the end of a school year, it is always extraordinary to look back at all that has happened. Schools are busy places and hardly a day passes without achievements to celebrate, activities to participate in and events to enjoy. At the same time, classrooms are filled throughout the year with the energy, the fun and the sense of purpose that characterise all of the best environments for learning. As always, this Annual Report is a record of all that has happened, and all that has been achieved in departments throughout the school. There is much for us to be proud of and I hope that you enjoy reading this record of the last twelve months.

Simpson

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Each report has been written by the Head of Department, sometimes with input from departmental staff. Due to the length of the school year, not to mention that teachers are busy teaching, there can sometimes be irregularities or omissions. We always try our utmost to ensure this is not the case, but if you do notice something awry, please do not hesitate to contact press@wellingtonschool.org so that we can update the Annual Report.

Academic Report

Gail Johnston, Assistant Head (Academic)

As a school that is proud of its academic success, at Wellington we are pleased to have some of the best individual results in Scotland. As a small school, however, we understand the importance of celebrating individual success as well as looking at the school's overall statistics. Most importantly, we strive to ensure that all pupils reach their potential and gain the skills and the grades they will require to pursue their goals.

At Wellington School, our National 5 students study eight National 5 subjects, when many local authority schools offer only six. Wellington pupils are able to enjoy curriculum breadth and enhanced subject choice as a result.

Note that there were no formal SQA examinations in 2020 or 2021 on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. Grades were awarded in accordance with SQA procedures in place at the time.

S6 Leavers Report

Once again, our S6 pupils achieved an impressive set of results at both Advanced Higher and Higher. All pupils gained university offers, many for the most competitive and prestigious establishments and courses. Popular destinations include Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and St Andrew's, and the courses chosen include Medicine, Law, Engineering and a wide range of other options in the sciences, humanities and creative fields.

S5 Higher Report

In S5, the 2022 results were just as impressive as in previous years. From a cohort of fifty three pupils, thirty two percent of our pupils achieved straight A grade passes in five or more subjects. The A-C pass rate at Wellington School in S5, at Higher level was 95%, more than fifteen percent above the national average of 79%. SQA focus on recognising positive achievement, and at Wellington we are extremely proud that many of our students perform individually well and are achieving the marks required that contribute to the overall pass rate.

S5 H	2022			2021			2020		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington	69	16	10	90	8	2	67	22	10
National	34.8	24.3	19.8	47.6	22.1	17.5	31.5	26.3	21.1

S4 National 5 Report

The National 5 examinations produced a 97% pass rate at A-C, compared to 80.8% nationally, with an impressive 75% of A grade awards, which is almost 35% above the national average. From a cohort of fifty four pupils, more than one third achieved eight A grade passes at National 5.

S4 Nat 5	2022			2021			2020		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington	75%	15%	7%	82%	12%	4%	74%	14%	10%
National	40.3%	23%	17.5%	46.7%	20.7%	18.4%	37.5%	24.9%	18.7%

The results achieved across S4, 5 and 6 are a collective achievement of which we should be extremely proud. Staff and pupils have worked hard all year round and through Supported Study and individual pupil support, all pupils have the best possible educational opportunities. Tailored school trips, educational exchange visits, musical tours, school shows, visiting lecturers, and curricular competitions offer an exciting programme and provide a well-rounded education that is second to none.

'We are very proud of the success of all our students at all levels of attainment. Whilst examination results are important, we are equally committed to the all-round education, health and well-being of our students.'

Art & Design

Joyce Morton, Head of Department

National Competitions

Juliet Cartner was awarded the West Regional Award in the S3/S4 category of the RSA School Art Award and Anastasia D'Angelosante was awarded the West Regional Award in the S1/S2 category. This competition is regarded as the most prestigious art competition for Scottish schools with over 800 entries. Juliet and Anastasia's paintings can be viewed on the Royal Scottish Academy of Arts website.

Sophia Girgis in S4 was highly commended in Glasgow Museums Annual Art Competition. Her drawing was completed in-situ while completing work experience in Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

Exceptional Folios retained by SQA

SQA retained the Art and Design folios that were the most accomplished and creative in Scotland from the 2021/22 exam diet. Emily Browne's Advanced Higher Art folio and Sidonie Harris's Higher folio were selected. Their work can be viewed in the exhibition 'Flair' on the SQA website.

Erasmus and Turing projects

The Art department has continued to be involved in Erasmus and Turing 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 S3 worked with pupils in our French partner school Saint-Domenique in a millinery workshop with Pea Cooper Millinery. Hats produced explored issues around climate change. S4 worked with pupils from Slovenia and Belgium in a stained glass workshop with Leona Stewart.

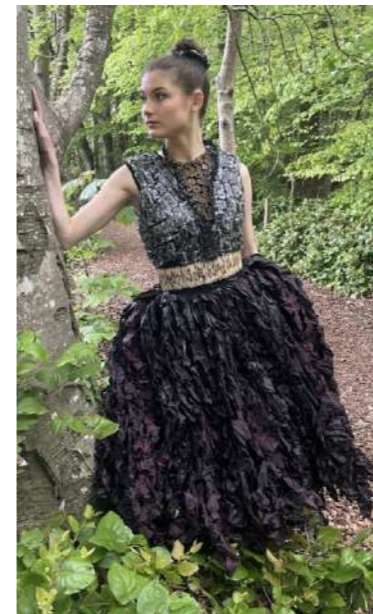
Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Art Captain Emily Browne led a very popular lunch time art club for pupils in S1 and S2. We thank Emily for her enthusiasm, innovative ideas and for sharing her talent with younger pupils.

Art Exhibitions

We held two very successful exhibitions showcasing art and design work from the senior school in December and work from the Junior School in June. Visitors were very impressed by the talent of Wellington's young artists and designers and enjoyed speaking to the artists about their work.

Mrs Morton continues to demonstrate commitment to providing learning and teaching that reflects current national standards. This year Mrs Morton continued in the role of SQA Principal Assessor for N5 Art and Design.



Biology

Marion McIntyre, Head of Department

Our biology students have been very busy this year at Wellington School. Laboratory and field work are integral in all our biology courses, and we also benefit from hearing about the exciting work being carried out by people in the fields of science and medicine

Our eager S1 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 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. Erica, Kirsten and Mila even spotted a beautiful elephant hawk moth in the school grounds.

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 dissecting a lamb's heart.

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 forensic analysis. We are thrilled that some of our higher students have chosen to continue their biological studies to advanced higher level next year.

Advanced Higher Biologists had a great time on the Isle of Cumbrae in September with marine biologists. They carried out a variety of sampling techniques to study a rocky shore as well as woodland and pond ecosystems.

Two of our former pupils, Antonia Craig and Dr Lucy Stewart visited the department this year. Antonia spoke to S6 about her amazing research involving tools to assess vascular

function which involved collecting and analysing blood from male prisoners. Dr Lucy Stewart spoke with S6 about her time spent at Edinburgh Medical School and gave her expert advice how to meet the challenges of a career in medicine from choosing the right university to dealing with patients.

A small number of S6 pupils took part in the interdisciplinary Science Beyond the Boundaries project that aimed to inspire the next generation of scientists. It was run by Dr Jakoby and facilitated by the University of York Science Education Group. The S6 pupils investigated the use of prenatal ultrasound diagnostic to look at the importance of scientific evidence in making informed medical decisions. Pupils learned to appreciate that science can only take us so far in answering some questions, and recognised how medical practice and procedures can strongly influence the quality of patients' decision making on what is right and best for them.

Higher and Advanced Higher Biology pupils took part in a virtual interactive session where they met Darragh Ennis from Oxford University. He gave a personal account of his journey from school to university as well as working as a Chaser on the ITV quiz show 'The Chase'. The pupils really enjoyed listening to his honest account of his scientific career and were inspired by his advice.

Thank you to Brinda Kandimalla and Noah O'Brien for being wonderful Biology Captains this year greeting our guest speakers and helping mentor the younger biology students.

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



Business Studies

Linda Munn, Head of Department

After another busy year and all exams now completed it's time to reflect on the events which have been offered to our pupils to supplement their classroom learning.

Future Asset

In September 2023, we once again entered the Future Asset national competition. Four of our senior girls formed this year's team - Grace Dunlop, Gracie Kerr, Millie Baker and Maddie Arnott. The aim of the competition is 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 Tomra - a Norwegian company who specialise in reverse vending machines for bottle return schemes. The girls worked extremely hard and submitted an excellent presentation and elevator pitch. Although they did not reach the final, they were awarded the prize for the best Environmental Social Governance Report - well done girls! Hopefully, this experience has given them an insight into the financial investment world, and 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 walk of life.

S2 Fairtrade Event

In May we held the S2 Fairtrade event 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 - Revive MS. 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. 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.

Fiver Challenge

In February this year, we relaunched the Fiver Challenge for pupils P7-S2. This challenge was welcomed fervently by all, particularly the P7 pupils. The pupils were given a fiver to kick start a business idea and then, over the course of 4 weeks, they were required to use their entrepreneurial skills in order to maximise their profits. The playground area was a hive activity over the course of the challenge. Once again, our junior pupils showed immense creativity with their innovative ideas. We witnessed lots of lovely home baking and arts and crafts being sold, there was even

shoe shining - I have never seen so many senior pupils with such lovely polished shoes. Some pupils even set up their own websites and were selling their wares online. At least 50% of all profits made by each team were to be donated to the school charity, some pupils very kindly donated 100% of their profits. The pupils raised over £1000 for Revive MS - an amazing achievement - thank you to everyone who took part and all the support which was received from parents/ guardians, Mrs Clachan and Mrs Bradley. The pupils all had great fun taking part in this event but they also learned valuable life skills - handling money, calculating profits, team work and communication.



Computing

Graeme Currie, Head of Department

Computing Department

The Computing department has had a busy year. Our students participated in several competitions in Cyber Security and Robotics, showcasing their programming and problem-solving skills. They also collaborated with our partner schools during the Europe on the Move Erasmus+ project, where they had opportunities to practice their skills. Additionally, senior students attended Cyber Security courses conducted by the National Cyber Security Centre. And, Primary 7 students were introduced to a new course during the academic year, including Game Development, Cyber Security & a brief introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

The number of students pursuing Computing Science from S3 to Advanced Higher has continued to increase, and they continue to attain highly. We aim to maintain this success in the upcoming academic year and beyond.

First Lego League

This year, a group of S1 students participated in the First Lego League, organized by The Institute of Engineering & Technology in the UK. This program aims to provide students with real-world problem-solving experience through a global robotics program. The theme for this year's competition revolved around energy and power. With guidance from the Computing and Physics departments, the students programmed a Lego robot kit to complete various challenges within a 150-second time limit. They also presented their robot design, explaining its different features. Although they came in a very close second, narrowly missing out on winning their heat, the students performed admirably and are eager to improve their performance next year.

Erasmus - Europe on the Move

As part of the Europe on the Move Erasmus+ project, groups of students had the opportunity to showcase their programming and problem-solving skills at an international level. They collaborated with partner schools from Germany, France, Slovenia, Belgium, and Poland in the RobOlympics competition, which concluded with a final pupil mobility in Dortmund. The participants were placed in mixed-nationality teams and programmed their robots to navigate a course using colour sensors to stay within red and blue track lines, with the goal of reaching a yellow finishing line. Since the teams did not know the course in advance, the students had to ensure their programs worked correctly regardless of the number of turns in the track. This experience was invaluable, as it involved collaborating with students from different countries while developing logical computational thinking skills.

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 2022) 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.

With all the activities and initiatives mentioned here, as well as future plans, we are confident that there will be numerous opportunities for students to get involved in the coming year.



Chemistry

Karis Leckie, Head of Department

Chemistry is an easy subject to impress upon people; we have bangs, flashes and electrons on our side. The irony is that Chemistry is far from easy to understand. It is such a simple thing to wow an audience with a sudden colour change or a green coloured fire. To explode methane or decompose hydrogen peroxide rapidly is fun and visually impressive. To understand the why and the how is something else entirely. Chemistry is a challenge; the conceptual nature requires a determined student who does not quit when the going gets tough. Fire in the belly is required to understand that fire! Chemistry generates resilience in pupils – they want to understand the explosion, but that appreciation requires a considerable degree of foundation learning. Nothing in life comes without endeavour – the joy of Chemistry is realising every hard moment leads you closer to a light bulb moment. A nice sentiment for life really...

S1 Chemistry welcomed Mrs Newall back from her secondment to Physics where she developed and implemented the S1/S2 courses. The pupils are very lucky to have a teacher with such extensive general science knowledge; she effortlessly brings facets of Biology and Physics into her daily delivery of Chemistry giving the pupils an extremely well rounded experience. Her experience of Primary 7 Science lends itself exceptionally well to the transition to S1 discrete sciences. Mrs Newall has reported that S1 have embraced the self-paced nature of the course and thoroughly enjoyed the experiments the course had on offer. In typical chemistry fashion – heads have been hurt by the concepts under study. However, with the support of Mrs Newall much progress was made. A great start to Chemistry has been made for sure.

The pupils in S2 have had an amazing session. They started where they left off last year and have embraced all the learning opportunities on offer. Topics under study have included: rates of reaction, combustion and neutralisation with a repeating focus on fair tests and variables and graphing skills. The S2 course has been designed to prepare students for Nat.5. Nothing has been too much trouble for this lovely bunch of pupils, and their enthusiasm remained sky high. Indeed, they have enjoyed critiquing the experiments and rating the course – I have taken their feedback very seriously! Many were happy to test drive new experiments and accepted all challenges laid before them. It was clearly evident by the end of the S2 course that our pupils are now very ready for the practical challenges that Nat.5 will provide. I am excited to see just what they can do, especially with the return of Nat.5 practical assignments.

S3 have enjoyed laying the foundations of chemistry covering rates of reaction in more depth, atomic theory, bonding, the mole and acids and bases. There have been some struggles as the pupils come to terms with the study required. The conceptual nature of certain topics can generate difficulty; indeed, the hardest topics of the whole Nat.5 course are covered in S3! The pupils are on a steep learning curve, but they are trying hard. Success will come from their sustained effort. S4 are extremely fun to be around – they have an edge and an energy unlike any other year group. Their fresh approach, at first glance, seems to contradict academic achievement but they can work hard and play well. Their academic potential is super, and they have approached their first

national exam diligently. This cohort have shown they can rise to a challenge, and they will only get better. At this point, mention must be made of the incredible support Mrs Peden provides to the Chemistry Department at Wellington. Nothing is too much trouble for “Mrs P”; she trials experiments for us, proofreads, organises our labs and is there to help with pupils in any way she can. It is testament to her ability that pupils naturally go to her for assistance – they instinctively know that she knows!

Higher – the jewel in the academic school journey. Higher Chemistry – certainly not an easy selection, but so respected and indeed expressly required by many universities. There is a significant ‘jump’ from Nat. 5 in terms of approach and pace; students naturally require time to adapt to this intensive and challenging course. I can honestly report that I was blown away by the approach of the S5 session '22-'23. From the minute they entered Lab 3 they have been absolutely on task. Of course, there have been dips, distractions and deviations BUT every pupil presented for Higher Chemistry has given it their all. We have had fun along the way – the energy from these students is tangible so it is inevitable that there is laughter amidst their diligence and commitment. Their enthusiasm is unparalleled and incredibly infectious. It has been a pleasure to help them progress along their Chemistry journey; I genuinely cannot wait to take them onto Advanced Higher. I am excited to see just what we can achieve together! Congratulations to the indomitable force which is Amy Scott, securing the Chemistry prize amidst intense competition. Amy is a natural Chemist and there was truly nothing about this course which troubled her. Well done on an exceptional performance!

And finally, we turn to the S6 cohort – acknowledged widely across the school as scientists and with an abundance of talent to bring to the Lab. The uptake from Higher was considerable - Chemistry welcomed some nineteen pupils after the summer to the study of Advanced Higher – I don't think I have ever seen Lab 3 so full of potential! It was a busy and bustling learning environment and certainly enhanced the independent learning skills, so crucial for Higher Education, for these final year students. AH Chemistry is a course which places considerable demands on a pupil – academic ability alone is insufficient to secure the best grades. A sustained work ethic is absolutely essential with an interest to go beyond the curriculum and a desire to understand. This is not a course for the fainthearted.

Just under two thirds of this Advanced Higher class applied to read Medicine this session. I found it most rewarding to lead these pupils through the extensive preparation required for a successful medical interview, although, they were seriously fed up with my chatter by the end of term one! Congratulations on all the offers received – most deserved and testament to your ambition and hard work.

Congratulations must also go to our joint Chemistry prizewinners this year – Catriona Smith and Yiming Sun - who pushed each other all session and could not be separated on the day. Their approach, enthusiasm for the subject and natural intellect could not be faulted. My heartfelt congratulations to you both as you approach your new respective challenges in Medicine and Maths.

And there we have it – an annual report which clearly details the chapters of the story of how hard work reaps benefits. A word equation seems a reasonable way to summarise:

endeavour + enthusiasm → excellence

English

Daniel Howie, Head of Department

“Literature always anticipates life. It does not copy it but moulds it to its purpose.” - Oscar Wilde

At some point in their career, English teachers will inevitably be asked a variant of the following question by a pupil: what does this subject have to do with real life? One reason this answer may not be apparent is because English is frequently concerned with written language; in a world increasingly filled with visual and auditory stimuli, the connection between the English classroom and the outside world can become unclear.

The answer to the question, however, is that the study of English has everything to do with life itself. It is less the study of ‘words’ and more the study of ‘ideas’. We still begin our studies with literature, echoing Oscar Wilde’s sentiments, yet we recognise that language and communication have greatly evolved to take on different forms. It is this open-endedness to our subject that we strive to embrace - in our lesson plans, resource development, professional dialogue and ultimately, in the way we support our pupils. We have no doubt that come the end of their studies, our pupils will leave not only with an essential qualification, but with a firm awareness of how their studies can be applied to their life.

This year began with a brand new initiative for our S1 and S2 pupils which will become an annual staple - the Spelling Bee Competition. All pupils took part in four weeks of spelling heats, the top scorers progressing to the final competition held before their year group. Congratulations to the overall winners: Sophie Hastings (S1) and Freya Day-Byrne (S2).

We expanded our studies of the Bard and offered new extra-curricular opportunities in the process. S5 pupils, accompanied by Mr Howie and Mrs Wulff, enjoyed a two-day trip to London to see a live performance of ‘Macbeth’, alongside a guided tour of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre. Most of the attending pupils studied the play for Higher English; the trip greatly enhanced their learning by allowing them to appreciate the play as originally intended. They enjoyed the superb performance by the well-regarded acting troupe, ‘Actors From The London Stage’; the accompanying tour provided a fascinating insight into Shakespeare’s life. An added bonus was staying next to St Paul’s Cathedral, the bells of which could be heard by all throughout the night!

We were so happy to be able to get back out and experience live theatre again this year. Mrs Bruce’s S4 English class also enjoyed a trip to Edinburgh to see Stephen Daldry’s multi-award-winning production of ‘An Inspector Calls’, which they studied as part of National 5. It was spectacular to see this classic thriller come to life on stage.

Our Literacy Captain, Abigail McPartlin, organised two successful book swap events this year. P7 pupils in particular relished the opportunity to exchange some popular reads for others and it was refreshing to hear their recommendations and thoughts with each other.

This year also marked the return of the ‘Bridge’ project for S5/6 pupils - a series of workshops run in the school by an attending member of the Royal Literary Fund. These sessions are aimed at preparing our most senior pupils for the rigour of academic writing at university level. All attending pupils greatly enjoyed taking part in a range of writing and research activities that stand them in good stead for the upcoming challenge of their chosen degree.

Debating & Public Speaking

I am pleased to report another very successful year for our pupils in the field of debating and public speaking.

We participated in a wide variety of competitions this year, both online and in person. Katie Ronnie and Emily Taylor saw notable success at the St Andrews University schools competition, in which they beat high-level teams from Douglas Academy, Dollar Academy, Craigmount and the High School of Dundee. Katie was selected to be on the training squad of the Scottish National team for the World Debating Championships, and Emily also claimed victory in our Old Girls’ public speaking competition.

Congratulations go to Lingling Edmond-Pan and Fraser Holland for triumphing in their second round match at Edinburgh Juniors. Lingling went on to debate alongside Milla Potts in the Imperial Juniors, winning their first round match against high-level debating schools from London. Elsewhere, Enid Malloy and Jonathan Dunn formed a team for Glasgow University Schools, winning a round against teams from the High School of Glasgow, The Mary Erskine School and St Peter the Apostle High School.

In S2, Jess Ewer, Alexander Paisley and Calum Kelly formed a team for the Ayr Rotary Club Youth Speaks local heat. Their performance earned them a place in the district final, in which they were runners-up. Jess also paired with Isla Hall in the annual public speaking competition run by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service - they progressed to the semi-final, our best result so far. Congratulations also go to Isla for winning this year’s internal S3 public speaking competition.

A highlight of the year was no doubt the Inter-house debate held just before Christmas. This year we had a twist, as pupils paired up with teachers from the same house to form teams. Congratulations to Enid Malloy for her winning performance alongside a very well-prepared Mr Ledingham!

Finally, special mention must go to two of our strongest performances of the year in national competitions:

Lucas Keston, Saad Omer and Jonathan Dunn formed our team for this year’s Ethics Cup, the boys spending weeks learning the case set before the regional heat. They were the highest scoring team throughout the regional, accumulating more points than teams from St Columba’s, Hermitage, Keswick and Kirkcudbright. They demonstrated a wide knowledge of ethical and philosophical theories across multiple skilled performances.

Most of all, a huge congratulations to Kathryn Taylor, who won the Senior category in the national final of the Young Speakers Scotland public speaking competition, delivering her impactful and well-researched speech about how we make sense of our complex reality.



History

Gill MacGlade, Acting Head of Department

This session has been a full and successful one for the History Department. We trialled new topics with P7 and S1 pupils, and welcomed back Mr Bardsley in November. Different year groups have the opportunity to step back into the lives of a wide array of figures ranging from Mary, Queen of Scots, to Rosa Parks and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. The study of history opens up plenty of opportunities for debate and pupils have enjoyed the variety and depth of topics available. Outdoor learning is an important part of the History curriculum and pupils have visited Bannockburn and Holyrood Palace as part of their studies.

Primary 7 pupils started the year with an introduction to History Skills and this was followed up by a unit titled 'Ayrshire Legends'. Pupils were able to personalise their learning and develop their research skills by examining relevant historical sources. The main topic of the year was The Scottish Wars of Independence and everyone enjoyed a successful day out visiting the Bannockburn Centre in Stirling in April. This interactive experience gave pupils the chance to handle weapons and the staff in the centre are most knowledgeable. This undoubtedly helped them to achieve a better understanding of how the Scots were able to win the battle and remains a highlight of the year. A trial topic introduced at this level is the Industrial Revolution and this has given pupils an appreciation of the development of the country and the legacy of this key period as they progress into the senior school. It has worked well and P7 have enjoyed a good session in History.

This year we also launched our new S1 topic on Ancient China, the Emperor Qin and the Terracotta Warriors. This exciting topic has introduced pupils to a very different period of history and has proved to be a positive change. Pupils started by learning about who Emperor Qin was, why he was important and about the world of Ancient China more broadly. They learned about what life was like for an ordinary person in China at the time and what the majority of people did for a living, as well as the inventions which were created during Qin's reign. Pupils particularly enjoyed learning about the Terracotta Army and designed wonderful posters exploring the different steps in their production and finally designing their own Terracotta soldier. The new topic has been a success and sits well alongside the existing units on Voyages of Discovery and the French Revolution.

In S2, our study of Civil Rights in America coincides with Black History Month and to mark this, pupils were given different, important figures from history and asked to produce a profile of some well-known figures, such as Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, as well as other 'unsung heroes' such as Ruby Bridges and Harriet Tubman. 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 a switch to a very different time period, pupils then moved on to look at the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots. Studying the turbulent public and private life of this Scottish monarch culminated in a trip to the Palace of Holyrood House in May and we enjoyed the chance to explore Mary's personal rooms and see where her private secretary was brutally murdered. While the 'blood stain' on the floor might test the limits of historical accuracy, pupils participated very well in the activities set and impressed with their knowledge.

We were delighted to recommence our joint History-Modern Studies S4 trip to London in February, and as part of their study of the Great War, pupils were taken to the Imperial War Museum for the first time. It is difficult to encapsulate this period and all that it entailed, but pupils thoroughly

enjoyed the interactive nature of the displays and engaged well with the documentary-style challenge they were set. In small groups, they were asked to present a feature on an aspect of the war which had captured their imagination and use the resources to bring the issue to life. The group took the opportunity to visit the other floors on WW2 and the Holocaust; both extremely interesting and emotive. We also visited the Cenotaph and toured Parliament; where it is true to say that the historians were impressed with Westminster Hall and the installation to commemorate the Suffrage Movement. Plans are already well underway for the next trip and we intend to make the Imperial War Museum a regular feature.

I cannot end without a mention for our senior pupils studying at Higher and AH level. They have demonstrated passion for the subject and worked hard all year. We wish all pupils who are awaiting results in August the best. We will welcome Ms Hyslop back next term and wish to thank Mr Bardsley for all that he has brought to the department and wish him well as he leaves us.



Geography

Richard Ledingham, Head of Department

The department has continued to thrive following an outstanding set of SQA results in August, which saw 100% 'A' grades for all Higher and Advanced Higher pupils; and our celebrations of success have created much excitement in the corridor outside Room 11 as the "Pupil of the Month" display is constantly updated to highlight those who are getting themselves noticed...for all the right reasons!

P7 classes have mastered their global mapping knowledge using atlases to explore continents, countries, capitals and physical landscapes as well as latitude & longitude. Additionally, the use of Ordnance Survey maps has enabled crucial skills to develop with regards to symbol identification, grid referencing and topographical analysis. Detailed investigation of the causes, impacts and mitigation strategies for Hurricanes followed this work and the classes have greatly enjoyed the recent beautiful weather as we have finished the year by exploring the urban landscape around the school - with pupils evaluating their surroundings via a host of gathering techniques.

S1 pupils started their course studying the science of meteorology and completed personal weather diaries, allowing them to produce a range of beautifully presented graphs which analysed these results. Local fieldwork investigations followed as they collected data on the school's microclimate and learnt about our variable conditions. The winter months saw detailed study of Kenya's culture, population and emerging economy with numerous opportunities to examine modern life in this fascinating country. The final most recent unit on World Biomes combined targeted work on the Tundra with pupil-led research on a separate biome of their choice - focussing on the climate, plant & animal life and difficulties experienced by native people as they struggle to safeguard their traditional customs in a rapidly changing world.

Completing their geographical journey, prior to selection of National 5 subjects, our S2 pupils studied Japan - exploring the unbelievable success of this island nation with limited resources, little flat land and frequent natural hazards. Our second unit, Earth Forces, focussed on the interaction between natural hazards and human existence with many fun, classroom based activities, including the construction and subsequent testing of earthquake proof buildings and role playing analysis of volcanic materials. Prior to timetable change the classes studied Rivers, looking at the core physical processes that create the stunning landscapes that we all know and love, as well as the associated land uses from source to mouth.

The S3 classes have developed skills and techniques to help them cope with 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. This event provided an invaluable insight into progression and provided crucial, individual feedback for all pupils on how to make the next steps towards their final target grades.

Whilst still feeling some impacts from a 'COVID lag' the S4 pupils did well to complete the National 5 course to a high standard, prior to sitting their external exam at the end of April. As always, whilst the full success of individual journeys won't become apparent until August, I am pleased to state that the classes pushed themselves well in the final stretches, capitalising on frequent supported study clinics and visits from external speakers such as Mr Colin Mason (Veterinary Investigation Officer based at the SRUC's Disease Surveillance Centre in Dumfries).

Following a very successful set of National 5 results last summer our Higher candidates embarked upon their course with optimism. Whilst the change in pace and volume of content is always tricky, their skills and knowledge multiplied rapidly as the weeks hurtled past - high quality answers to complex questions, almost unthinkable in August, were commonplace by February. As a result, a great deal of groundwork has been done by the significant number of pupils that have chosen to continue with the subject at Advanced Higher level.

Following an excellent residential field trip to Blencathra in the Lake District, the six Advanced Higher candidates worked well throughout the year to produce an excellent portfolio of work. With a strong foundation of knowledge from Higher already in place, they focused 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 palm oil plantations on Sumatran tigers, the Moses project in Venice, Scotland's electric car infrastructure, the sustainability of organic agriculture, the impacts of Brexit on farming and the concept of the human race being responsible for our own demise! Investigative fieldwork studies combined primary and secondary information to explore the urban setting of Ayr, and its change in recent decades, the disparity of healthcare provision in rural and urban regions, the potential for tourism in contrasting landscapes, the effects of biogeography and agricultural methods on crop production and the changing characteristics of rivers.

In May we hosted the regional heats and finals of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers Challenge Quiz. Pupils from across Ayrshire answered questions on olympic venues, european countries, general knowledge and map skills. Unfortunately, our teams could not capitalise on the 'home advantage' and did not progress to the National Final which will take place in September...but this has definitely ignited a determination in the S1 and S2 members who are eligible to take part again next year!

Finally, I am pleased to say that planning is well under way with regards to future expeditions to foreign locations, and I am looking forward to issuing full details soon.

International Education & Modern Languages

Susan Coontz, Head of Department

This session has been one of the busiest ever in the Modern Languages Department.

In the classroom, vocabulary-learning, grammar acquisition, reading, writing, talking and listening are the staples of what the Department does. Preparing our learners for success in external examinations is one of our main aims. Instilling an understanding of the importance of knowledge of other languages is also important. Young people are curious about people's lives in other countries and we encourage their curiosity. Competence in other languages broadens horizons and brings enjoyment and enrichment. At Wellington, we encourage our learners to make the most of all the opportunities that come their way to broaden their horizons.

This session, to enhance the learning experience, we have incorporated more IT-based activities into lessons, such as QR code listening carousels in S4 French which enable pupils to access audio tracts directly on their devices. This enhances their listening skills yet allows learners to develop at their own pace.

Three Modern Language Assistants joined the Department. They came from France, Germany and Spain. Mademoiselle Pinchet, Frau Aschenbrenner and Señora Casado helped pupils with developing their fluency in spoken languages and shared their cultures with them. We also hosted Señora Yolanda Moya Serra, a primary teacher from Spain, for two weeks.

Two S6 pupils worked towards the Scottish Baccalaureate in Modern Languages. This year, our candidates produced a group project which linked their interest in French with their love of French cuisine. They chose to work together with the P7 classes and introduced them to French food. As an end product, P7 girls and boys made and enjoyed French crepes and omelettes. The S6 group led lessons on food hygiene, cuisine and recipes and the P7s scrubbed their hands, whisked eggs and ate the final outcomes.

In the Junior School, P4 enjoyed their 'Bears' project with the Meerkatklasse at the Nordmarktgrundschule in Dortmund. Isla Bear has spent a year in Germany reporting back on her adventures in school and Marco Bear has experienced life at Wellington. While visiting Dortmund with Erasmus, Mrs Archbold spent a morning with the Meerkatklasse

and reported back to her pupils.

The Junior Erasmus Club met once a week. The activities they did linked with the current Erasmus projects. The Club initiated our new Lego Spike and after just 45 minutes of training, the girls and boys were able to programme and race their Lego cars. At the end of the year, they designed tea towels to commemorate seven years of Junior Erasmus Club.

A native Italian speaker in S2 led an Italian club from September to April. This was a huge success and her learners thoroughly enjoyed the introduction to basic conversational Italian and to the culture of the country.

After the enforced break for international travel we have been able to resume our work with our partner schools across Europe, and beyond. Providing access to countries where the languages offered at Wellington is important and we are also able to benefit from our excellent links with other countries. Our legacy Erasmus projects have been successfully completed. In August and March, we hosted our European partners and Wellington pupils of all ages were involved in joint activities. Everyone enjoyed the round-robin interviews that P4 conducted. P4 were surprised to learn about the pets that some visitors have and about their career aspirations. P7 joined the FuturEnvironment group for a beach clean on Ayr Beach. Our S1 and S2 pupils have travelled to France, Germany and Slovenia with the project 'Europe on the Move' Special moments included learning circus arts in Beauvais and visiting caves in Slovenia and the BVB stadium in Dortmund. Seniors have also travelled to Belgium, France, Germany and Slovenia to work collaboratively with their peers. As part of the cultural programme, they visited Brussels, Paris, Dortmund and Ljubljana. For all, the highlight was meeting young people and learning about other countries and cultures by living with the host families. In the final evaluations, 100% of participants said that they would recommend taking part in similar activities to younger pupils.

In November, 16 of our pupils took part in a Model United Nations conference in Bavaria. Five Seniors chaired the conference committees and practised the useful skills of tact and negotiation and learned to work and lead in a multilingual and multicultural environment.

In December, thirty Primary 7 pupils and fifteen mentors from S5 and S6 spent four days enjoying 'Magical Christmas' at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund. The boys and girls made new friends and learned about Christmas traditions in German-speaking countries. Our senior mentors developed leadership skills and a new respect for their teachers' pupil-management skills.

Our regular exchange programme continues and twenty-five S2 and S3 pupils hosted and stayed with their Spanish partners in Torre Pacheco and seventeen went to the Institut Saint-Dominique near Paris.

This year's international programme concludes with a visit to St Edmund's School, our partner school in Jaipur, India. Those travelling will also visit the Taj Mahal and Delhi. By the end of the session, 160 pupil mobilities will have taken place, all co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union or by the Turing Scheme.

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

We were delighted this year to continue with our various successes in numerous mathematical competitions, both at individual and team level, as well as for a small number of enthusiastic pupils to attend on a regular basis the weekly S4-6 Maths Club run by our Mathematics Captain, Yiming Sun, providing an opportunity to partake in numerous activities ranging from discussion of Mandelbrot Sets to unproven mathematical conjectures, attempting the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) monthly mentoring scheme, and some light mathematical reading in 'Flatland' and 'The Man Who Counted'.

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 (Oct 2022), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, over 65000 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 Gurjeevan Basra, Bentley Cai, Amy Scott, Emily Taylor and Kathryn Taylor (S5) alongside Leo Curran and Cameron Hainey (S6). Going one better, gaining both a Silver Award and a Best in Year Certificate, was Evan Kirkwood (S5), whilst Yiming Sun (S6) completed a fine set of results by achieving both a Gold Award, the Best in School Certificate and an invitation to once again take part in the follow-on round of the competition, the Senior Kangaroo.

Next up was the Intermediate Challenge (Feb 2023), when over 235000 students from more than 3000 schools and colleges across the UK participated. Quintin Dunlop, Katherine Paisley, Rohan Sunderesan and Erin Ward (S4) all gained Bronze Awards, alongside Tiffany Cai, Nate Munro, Charlie Thomson and Jamie Wardrop (S3), with Nate and Charlie earning joint Best in Year Certificates by the narrowest of margins. Silver Awards went to Jonathan Dunn, Benjamin Richmond and Ben Bicket (S4), with Ben also receiving the reward of a Best in School Certificate.

The Junior Challenge (April 2023), aimed at children in S2 and below, is certainly the most popular across the UK, with over 270000 pupils taking part this year from across 3500+ schools. Wellington saw a large number of pupils participating. We are thrilled to have continued our success in this competition, attaining some 25 certificates this year, including 18 Bronze Awards (Alice Braund, Findlay Clark, Charlotte Dale, Murphy Neish, Roisin Renwick, Hugo Ritchie and Margaret Scott (S1); Olivia Bicket, Aimee Clitheroe, Anastasia D'Angelosante, Robyn Dunlop, Archie Kilpatrick, Millie McKenzie, Mahesh Mohankrishnan, Alexander Paisley,

Madison Pearce, Tom Reid and Laurence Richmond (S2)) and 6 Silver Awards from Jack Charters (S2), Hamish Marquez-Higgins (S2), Arkle Findlay (S1), Freya McAleese (S1), Eva Taylor (S1) and Scarlett O'Sullivan (S1), who also received a Best in Year Certificate. Alex Melvin (S2) once again received a Gold Award for his sterling efforts, also gaining Best in School and an invitation to take part in the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round. As one of the top-scoring participants in this latter competition, Alex secured a much-coveted Certificate of Merit, the highest accolade for this level.

Our congratulations go to Alex and all of those across the various UKMT competitions who achieved such worthy results.

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

We are pleased this year to see both Yiming Sun (S6) and Mia Barbour (P7) attaining Bronze Certificates for the Senior Division and Primary Division of this competition respectively. Well done to the two of them, and we look forward to continuing to challenge for the much-coveted Mathematical mugs, awarded to Gold and Silver winners, from next term.

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

Wellington were once again provided with 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; pupils divide into small groups, and over the course of 90 minutes complete either 10 questions (for those in S4) or 13 questions (S5), before the class as a whole decide on, and submit, their final answers. We are pleased to have competed against over 40 different schools across the country, and look forward to further success in this competition in the future.

On 14th March (or March 14th, 3/14), as part of our Pi Day 2023 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. Various Pi puzzles were on offer, ranging from Sudoku Pi, the Pi Maze Challenge and, for those so inclined, the 'Pi memory game', with pupils being set the task of trying to recall as many digits of Pi as possible. Thrown into the mix, we even had some cross-curricular offerings, with Pi Anagrams and the chance for pupils to write their own 'Pi-ku', a suitable variation on the haiku poem. Well done to all of those who took part in this fun day 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 hopefully broadening the opportunities open to pupils in the subject, whether that be through a weekly Maths Club aimed at S1-3 pupils, competing against other schools in UKMT Team Challenges and Enterprising Maths competitions, or participation in World Maths Day or National Numeracy Day.



Modern Studies

Gill McGlade, Head of Department

The 2022-23 session could best be described as varied, extremely busy and productive for all involved in Modern Studies. We returned in August to a very impressive set of results from last year's exam classes and also welcomed a new member of staff to the department. As a former pupil, John McLaren has settled well into life on the other side of the Wellington family. Real-life learning is at the forefront of what we do and we have expanded the range of exciting opportunities open to pupils from S1-6. 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. The ongoing consequences of the COVID pandemic, the consequences of the cost of living crisis and the political changes at Westminster definitely kept us busy. You could say that there was almost too much to discuss this year - almost! 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 has focused on the key concepts of equality, representation and participation this year. Pupils produced and then presented their own 'desert island societies' using different political ideologies. They had the opportunity to visit the Scottish Parliament and take part in a workshop in the education centre, which included the chance to question their MSPs from across different parties. Both groups then watched a session in the debating chamber; one of which saw all the party leaders contribute to a motion to congratulate King Charles on his coronation; an historic occasion. The S1 Mock Election is always a highlight and 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 considered.

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, suitable punishments for convicted terrorists and the differences between capitalist and communist countries. This year's cohort had a particular interest in, and aptitude for, debating and this not only enhanced their subject knowledge but cross-curricular skills too. Our visit from Bob Roper, who works for the Ministry of Defence and who is a Wellington parent, gave pupils context to their study of Terrorism in particular, and we thank him for his time. We are always keen to utilise the knowledge and experience of the parent body and would welcome parents getting in touch if they felt they could help in any way.

It has been a very busy session for our National 5 pupils. S3 pupils invited Allan Dorans MP into school to talk about his work as an MP and they certainly made sure he had a full list of questions to address. S4 pupils were able to go on the long-awaited London trip in February of this year and it did not disappoint. In our first visit back since the pandemic, a large group had the opportunity to tour the Palace of Westminster and take in a rare Friday sitting of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Modern Studies pupils had the chance to sample some history with a visit to the Imperial War Museum before taking in a West End show, a trip on the London Eye and a stop outside Downing Street. Guides at Westminster were very impressed with the knowledge and engagement of pupils and they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Our senior pupils in S5/6 have been hard at work and in September, the Higher class visited the Scottish Parliament as guests of Siobhian Brown MSP. They 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 eligible voters, this insight into the inner workings of parliament and the chance to see accountability in action is invaluable. Advanced Higher pupils have had a number of exciting opportunities this year as part of their study of Crime and the Law. They attended an AH conference where they heard from well-placed and experienced speakers, including the co-founder of the Violence Reduction Unit and those with lived-experience of crime and incarceration. For the first time, they also visited HMYOI Polmont and were also granted access to HMP Low Moss to tour the prison and meet with staff involved in delivering rehabilitation programmes. The class also welcomed an officer from HMP Barlinnie to the school for a Q&A session. All of these opportunities gave them invaluable material for their dissertations and, especially for those going on to study law, gave them a rare insight into the criminal justice system. We wish all of them well; both for results day and for the next chapter after leaving Wellington.

The Model UN Society has gone from strength to strength this session. Eager participants from S3-S6 have met each week to discuss global issues such as climate change, child labour and the Covid-19 vaccination response. The undoubted highlight of the session was the conference in November in Bavaria. With the Modern Languages department and UCAPE, 16 Wellington pupils took part. Two of our S6 pupils, Findlay Peters and Brinda Kandimalla, assumed the role of Secretaries General, which involved opening and closing the conference, presiding over the awards ceremony and leadership of the event overall. Working alongside around 100 other students from across Europe, Wellington pupils led and chaired the event with impressive skill and all said they would recommend the experience to succeeding year groups. Plans are underway for the next conference in Xanten, Germany in 2024. The Model UN Society will reconvene in August and pupils in S3-S6 are warmly invited to come along and join in.

Music

Susan Docherty, Head of Department

Session 2022-2023 has been a fun-filled, action-packed year which has seen the Music Department thrive with all activities resuming and a huge number of events taking place, both in and out of school. Our pupils have been dedicated to making music and it has been heartening to see music back at the centre of school events.

Curricular News

We are fortunate at Wellington School to be able to provide musical education for pupils from Nursery to S6, offering us the opportunity to plan a cohesive curriculum throughout the school. We have a team of Music staff who work closely together to ensure progression in not only musical skills, but the additional benefits that a musical education affords, such as literacy and numeracy skills, teamwork, confidence and self-esteem, and life-long skills which are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on 'doing' rather than observing, and learning how to communicate with others.

In the Junior School, pupils have had the opportunity to sing again in classes, as well as learning instruments, writing their own music, listening to and learning about different styles of music and using music technology in the classroom. Our dedicated choral classes from Nursery to P6 have given us the ability to prepare for school events, such as Nativities, Harvest Festival, Christmas and Summer concerts and the Ayrshire Music Festival.

In the Senior School, we offer a broad musical education to pupils in P7-S2, including access to a wide range of instruments and styles of music, as well as music technology. This year, we were able to take some pupils into our purpose-built studio to record music and scripts. Pupils who opt to continue with Music in S3-S6 may take Music and/ or Music technology, which are discrete subjects in their own right. Our Music course encourages pupils to work beyond the minimum requirements of SQA and to strive for excellence in performance. We offer Music technology from National 5 to Advanced Higher, and several of our students show interest in continuing this into further education. We are fortunate to have a suite of Mac Minis in addition to our studio, which allows our pupils more time and flexibility to work on their assignments. Music and Music Technology continue to be popular choices, with 34 students being presented this year for SQA exams.

Extra-curricular news and events

Extra-curricular activities have thrived this year at Wellington, with a significant number of students participating and a variety of groups on offer. We have been able to offer a musical

production to every pupil in the School from the Nativities in the Nursery and Infant School to Mary Poppins Jr for P4-6, Matilda for P7-S2 and Legally Blonde for S3-S6. These have proven to be very popular and hugely successful, showcasing the enormous wealth of talent that we are fortunate to have at Wellington School. Rehearsals are already underway for the Senior production of Sister Act in September and the license has been secured for High School Musical Jr. in June 2024 for P7-S2. We have heard many positive comments about our productions on the professional appearance and the quality of the vocals and we are very proud of our pupils in their collaborative efforts to make these shows a success.

We offer a plethora of activities, which are open to anyone to join, from choirs (P7-S2 and S3-S6) concert band and Clarinet group, and Junior and Senior orchestras. We have a folk group and "boy band" which have been mainly pupil-led this year, and we have held jazz band and fiddle group sessions. These activities have been well supported by our pupils and the number participating is growing. Our Madrigal Group of experienced senior singers has been a joy to work with.

Our support of charities has always been a highlight and this year has been no exception. We have supported both Ayr and Alloway Rotary clubs in fundraising concerts and Burns Suppers; individual performers participated in the Ayr Lights Switch on and the Alloway Burns club Burns Supper and we have had two collaborative concerts with Ayr Community Choir and hope to work with them in the future. The Music Department has also supported the WSPTA in their Christmas and Summer concerts, as well as their Spring Fling Ceilidh at Boswell's Coach House. These concerts are always a highlight of our school year.

We were delighted to participate in the Ayrshire Music Festival in solo competitions, ensemble classes and choir classes with another successful year of outstanding music-making. We are incredibly proud of Findlay Peters who won the Howard de Walden trophy for overall vocalist; this has been awarded to Wellington pupils regularly, testament to the high level of singing in our school.

The Scottish Young Musician competition is a new addition to our calendar this year, and we enjoyed the heat stages with a wide variety of entrants. We held in-school competition stages for different levels of performers, allowing younger pupils the experience of taking part. Our school finalist was chosen by a panel of invited judges, and we were delighted that Yiming Sun was chosen to represent Wellington in the Independent Schools' final in Edinburgh. He is a most promising young player who was given very positive feedback on his performance.

Intrumental tuition

We have a strong team of 15 instrumental instructors offering a wide range of lessons from piano and singing to harp and bagpipes, catering for every orchestral instrument in between. There are approximately 180 lessons taking place every week in the Music Department. We welcome six new instructors to our team: Mr Ben MacDonald (Guitar), Mr Ewan Laing (Drumkit and Percussion), Mr Scott Garden (Bagpipes), Mrs Fiona McLean-Buechel (Upper Strings), Mr Ralph Brill (Brass) and Miss Marion Gilmour (Piano). They are an asset to the department, not only in providing high quality music lessons, but working with us to prepare pupils for extra-curricular activities, SQA exams, Trinity/ ABRSM/LCM music exams, accompanying and playing for our Music Technology students' recordings. The Music Department thank everyone for their hard work, expertise and support this year.

Summary

This has been a most exciting year in Music and I have very much enjoyed my first year as Director of Music. Our achievements as a department are not possible without teamwork, and I'd like to thank Miss Nicola McKinlay, Miss Marion Gilmour, Mrs Wendy-Anne Wilson and Mrs Fiona Shrinivas for their hard work, enthusiasm, and endless support. I look forward to the new school session and all that it brings.



Nursery/ Junior School

Jimmy Cox , Head of Department

I am delighted to be writing to you after another successful year in the Junior School. It has not been long since I returned from the P6 residential in Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders where I witnessed a group of fantastic P6s. These children really are the flag ships of our school and I refer to them, very regularly, when I speak to parents – prospective or current.

Many of them will collect prizes at our end of term Prize Giving but every one of them can be proud with what they have achieved this year. They have been leading lights in so many of the Junior School activities. They are a testament to what we are about here and with a plethora of individual and collective strengths, P7 are getting a very strong group.

I would like to mention one group of P6 girls in particular. They are Eva, Leoni, Luella, Sophia G. They organised and put on a super cake bake sale which raised £150 for the school charity. This contributed to an exceptional Junior School effort in raising £3500 over 3 days in the run up to Easter.

Running concurrently with the P6 residential trip was the P5 residential to Dumfries House and I along with all of the Junior school watched an assembly presented by the P5 children to their parents, telling us of the great time that they had there.

Again, we had our hugely successful Dukes Programme where the uptake was over 90% of the children. This is a significant and time-consuming undertaking which Mrs Macrae leads so well.

Once again, our P1s have been stars. They recently presented an assembly to parents and all of the children, and their confidence was a joy to behold. They also performed at the Ayrshire Music Festival and both performances were truly fantastic. I know from my very recent meetings with their parents that they are delighted with their progress over the year.

There have been other significant events over the year and our Coronation Day Celebrations saw Louie B (P6) plant a tree which mirrored a planting for the last Coronation in 1953. The children came to school suitably attired and took part in several activities over the day.

Welly's Got Talent is always an event that we looked forward to and this year's performers did not let us down. My thanks go to Mrs Bowyer and her Pupil Council team for giving up numerous lunchtimes to judge auditions. The final was won by Charlotte C who performed 'The Bogle'. She also won The Ayrshire Music Festival and was joint winner

in the P6 Burns Speaking Competition with Erika. Well done to both of them and to everyone else who entered the various competitions.

We also had several lunchtime concerts to showcase children's musical talents. These are always a great Friday lunchtime events, and we have our regular teachers and grandparents who come to watch and support the children, even when it is not 'their' children taking part.

Our Health Committee ensured our Health Fortnight was widely anticipated and it did not let us down. Morning activities, runs, smoothies and a room to relax in were only a small part of what was on offer.

Our Archway of Poppies on Remembrance Day was a fitting tribute and an excellent doorway into the Junior School. This was a day of thoughtfulness and our bugler, and ex-Junior School pupil, Laurence Richmond, played as we held our service in the Drumley Hall.

Perhaps the annual initiative that says the most about us is the nursery to p1 transition programme where our current P5s work with nursery children to help them prepare for P1. Every year they astound me with how caring, helpful and nice the older children are towards our youngest children. 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, over the coming year.

I am always proud of what the children achieve and there is nothing that makes me happier than seeing them be successful – whatever they choose to do. I opened this piece by telling you about the P6 residential trip. Seeing children push their boundaries and achieving success as well as working as a part of a team are some of the most enjoyable parts for me, as I watch children grow. Very recently I witnessed both success and teamwork when I watched the P6/7 football team win the Craigie Cup. An outstanding team performance saw Archie, Christian, Joe and Sandy from the Junior School give fantastic performances in the final. This is the first piece of silverware that Wellington School has won at football. Well done to them and to their coach Mr Graham as well as a 'thank you' to all the supporters who turned up to cheer the team to victory on a sunny and very hot Friday night.

My final comment about a team performance relates to the fantastic Mary Poppins performances. Over two nights, the children gave the audience two nights to remember. It would be easy to forget that these children were aged between 8 and 11. What was witnessed was a confidence to perform but also a group of children enjoying themselves and having fun.

I have already mentioned some distinct groups, but I must say, before I end that, every child in the Junior school is a fantastic ambassador for us and each and every single parent who visits the school, or comes to see me, always comments on how polite and welcoming the children are. These are fantastic accolades to give your child. Thank you again for working with us and supporting us in having another successful year.



Primary 7

Lynn Clachan, Head of Department

Primary 7

What a busy and varied transition year our P7s have experienced! As well as their academic accomplishments, there have been many life-enhancing experiences that will become lifelong memories. This year's highlights have included: our Panto Aladdin, Matilda the Musical, our 'Magical Christmas' week in Dortmund, our many successes in the Ayrshire Music Festival - Speech & Drama Section, our trip to Bannockburn, success in the Global Young Journalist Awards and, of course, our residential week at the outdoor centre Barcaple in Kirkcudbrightshire.

Panto and Matilda

P7 gained so much from working on both our P7 Panto Aladdin and the P7-S2 production of Matilda the Musical, with rehearsals full of confidence-building drama and laughter. The opportunity to finally perform in front of a live audience of loved ones again was very much appreciated.

'Magical Christmas' in Dortmund, Germany

It was such a pleasure to be able to take such a large group of our P7 pupils to Germany to do a variety of Christmas-related tasks with pupils at our twin school in Dortmund. They were awestruck by the infamous Dortmund Christmas Tree, which at around 46 metres is the biggest in the world. Exploring the collection of 300 traditional wooden stands selling toys, decorations, and holiday-season delicacies was another highlight. Bonds were quickly established with their Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium contemporaries and it is particularly heartening that many of our pupils are still in contact with their new friends.

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 a wide variety of topics our pupils feel strongly about, from 'Determination - What is it?' to 'Chickens'.

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.

Global Young Journalist Awards

We are delighted that three of our pupils, Olivia Caldwell, Blair Campbell and Emilia Ewer, were shortlisted within the top five in their categories, in the Global Young Journalist Awards. This is a huge achievement as there were over 550 worldwide entries, with our pupils the youngest in their age category.

Barcaple - John Muir Award

Unsurprisingly, many of our pupils' highlight of this school year was our residential week in Barcaple, an adventure centre 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.

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 to embrace 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.

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.

Hockey

This Academic session we have worked tirelessly to develop our core skills and mindset as a way of building an efficient and supportive hockey environment. While our season was deeply impacted by the weather this side of the year, we have managed to produce some very encouraging performances, during Saturday fixtures and at various selection stages. Most notably; 3 Senior girls were selected for The Brave Academy Emerging group and 5 players are competing within the South West District set up. A particular well done to our U15 girls and Senior Boys who fought hard during their respective competitions; the Junior Challenge Plate semi-final and Aspire Cup, both being narrowly defeated. The boys section has seen considerable growth this year with interest from all year groups, going forward we endeavour to have more regular fixtures.

A sometimes challenging but informative season this year has highlighted the need for early engagement, therefore grass roots hockey remains a priority for our staff, who are currently developing safe and age appropriate sessions for nursery and the infant school.

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.

The Under 18's reached the final of the Shield Final at Murrayfield where they produced a fine display to beat Melrose 36-7 in the final. The U18 also won the youth regional cup playing against Lomond/Helensburgh 54-18. There were 5 Wellington pupils involved in the team. The U16 team also experienced success winning the West Plate competition 52-7 against Ardrossan. In both senior teams the school has representation at Glasgow district level.

Football

This season, the School Football teams took part in the South Ayrshire Schools League. Mr Graham runs the primary team and the PE Dept run the U16, U16 and U18 teams. The games were competitive and

the highlight for the department was the U18 team beating Queen Margaret 7-6 in the group stage.

South Ayrshire Cross Country - March 2023

The following pupils finished on the podium:

P6 Girls - Luella Hutton (3rd place and Bronze medal), P7 Boys- Lewis Relly (1st place and Gold medal), Caleb Ghosh (2nd place and Silver medal), S1 Girls - Hallie Swift (3rd place and Bronze medal), S2 Girls - Imogen Andrews (1st place and Gold medal), S2 Boys - Callan Forsyth (2nd place and Silver medal).

Ayrshire Schools Cross Country Championship Finals

Competing at the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships in Kilmarnock the S2 girls won Silver medals in the team competition.

Scottish Schools' Aquathlon

On Friday 21st April 2023, pupils from Wellington competed in the Scottish Schools' Aquathlon. Eighty schools, and over 300 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.

Cricket

The Primary and Junior Cricket teams have worked hard on developing their basic skills of Bowling, Batting and Fielding this year. We are lucky to have Robbie Stewart helping at training. The Senior team had a good game against Lomond School but despite a loss, the boys acquitted themselves well. The school is lucky to have 3 pupils who have recently been selected to play at national level.

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 2023

Libby White in S6, yet again won the Rotary International Trophy for Best Female Performance at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships where she jumped 12.31m. She had a very successful ending to her Scottish Schools career by achieving championship best performance and setting a new Scottish Schools outdoor record of 12.33m at Grangemouth in June. She also retained the trophy for the most meritorious field performance for the championships. Libby is ranked no1 in GB with a PB of 12.63 metres in the Triple Jump.

The following pupils were 3rd in their event: Zara Wightman - Hurdles, Finlay McEwan - Hurdles, Natasha Hardy - Javelin, Kate Robertson - 300m. The Senior 2 Girls Relay team whose members were Millie McKenzie, Daisy Windows, Kate Robinson and Holly McNeilly.. The Senior Girls Relay team whose team members are Rachel Toner, Annika Cooke, Mia Swift and Eva Hare.

The following pupils were 2nd in their event: Millie McKenzie - 100m sprint, Mia Swift - 100m sprint, Imogen Andrews - 800m, Daisy Windows - Discus, David Ness - Discus, Rory Cumming - Javelin.

The following pupils were 1st in their event: Millie McKenzie - Hurdles and High Jump, Callan Forsyth - 100m sprint, Fraser Steward - 200m sprint, Sophia Borthwick - Discus, James Cruickshank - Long Jump, Oliver King - Discus and Shot Putt. S2 Boys Relay team whose members are Finlay McEwan, Callan Forsyth, Oliver King and David Ness. S3 Girls Relay team whose members are Verity Findlay, Mia Swift, Iona Fairbairn and Charlotte Carter.

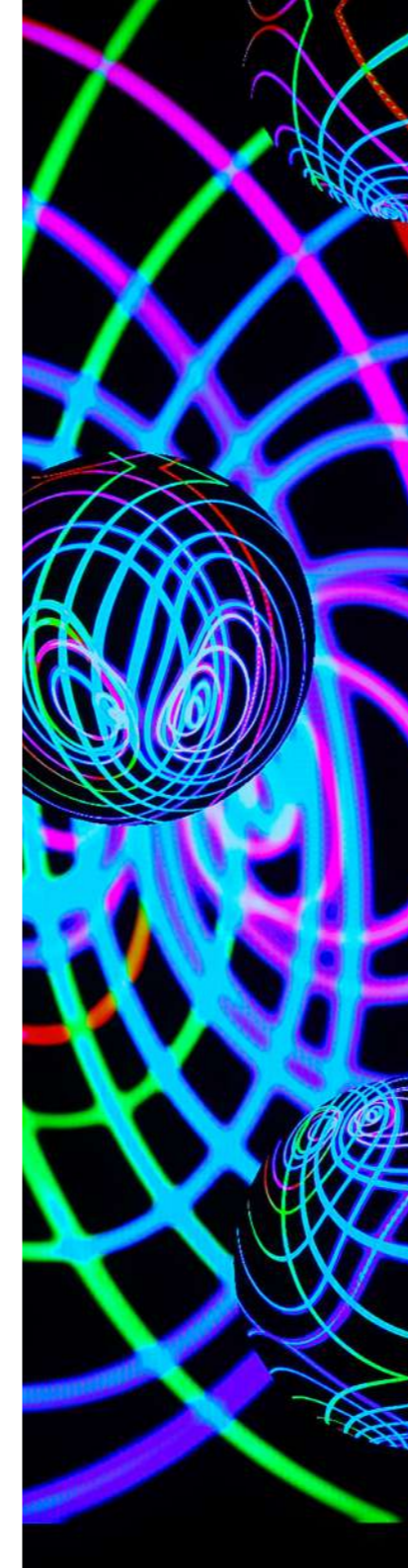
Special Recognition - Ayrshire Schools' Athletics Championships

The shield for the best performing school in the Championships - Oliver King - new record in the Discus and winning the shield for the best field performance

Netball

This year at Wellington we have seen an increase in netball participation with 65 pupils now participating in training each week. We entered six teams within the Ayrshire league and the pupils travelled to compete against schools in North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire. This is a highly competitive league with 51 teams entered across the three age groups. We had some fantastic results with our S1/2 2nd team finishing 4th, our S3/4 1st team finishing 3rd and our S1/2 1st team coming away the Ayrshire Netball League Winners for the first time ever!

In addition to our league success we had eleven girls selected for the District Netball Team for 2022-2023. Our girls had the opportunity to compete as part of Ayrshire Netball against Districts across Scotland. A number of girls trialed again for the 2023-2024 season and we have nine selected with three still to late trial. As part of the District team Daisy Windows (S2), Holly McNeilly (S2) and Emma Henderson (S4) were also selected for Scotland trials.



Physics

Michael Murray, Head of Department

Emily Stribling and Kiera West were elected as Physics captains for the 2022-23 session. We thank them both for their contributions throughout the year and wish them all the best for the future.

S6 Physics pupils attended the two-day Quantum Technology School at Glasgow University in September. They were given the opportunity to attend practical laboratory sessions on cryptography, polarisation and 3D imaging along with presentations on ciphers and quantum computing. The activities were delivered across the Physics, Engineering and Computing departments, showing that people working in technology in the future will require skills across all three disciplines.

S3 Physics pupils attended the Newton Flight Academy at Glasgow Science Centre in February. They learned how to use maths and physics to make a flight plan which they were able to put into action using full motion flight simulators.

Shangling Edmond-Pan and Madison Niven were selected to attend the University of Strathclyde Engineering the Future for Girls programme this year. They took part in 4 days of activities on campus, working alongside female scientists and engineers.

Physics alumni Anubha Bal visited the Higher Physics class during Equality week and gave a wonderful insight into studying Physics at University.

Uptake in Physics has once again been strong this year, reaching double figures with Advanced Higher for the second year running. Dr Jakoby has begun her journey towards full qualification in Physics and is teaching S3 pupils in the new session. This has allowed me to step into S2 Physics and I'm really excited to work with this year group for the first time.

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 2022-23 session got underway with appointment of our Head Boy, Findlay Peters, and Head Girl, Katie Thomson, who received their Badges of Office from the retiring Heads of School, Euan Porter and Amy Grassom. The 6th year elected Revive MS Support as their nominated charity for the session. This was an especially personal choice for Sophia Logan, who has a direct knowledge of the important work carried out by Revive. 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 Glasgow Kiltwalk was a fun and highly successful activity for the staff and pupils 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 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 Revive MS Support receiving the fantastic sum of £35,313.90. This is a tremendous effort, especially in light of the testing economic environment of the past year. I would like to thank our Heads of School, Findlay and Katie, 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.

For our senior pupils, the SQA exam diet dominated the Spring Term. I am very proud that, whilst stressful, our senior pupils coped admirably with their exams in May. The 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. Once again, our traditional June activities programme; Prom, Sports Day, and

so forth, were great successes and each activity represented an opportunity for our S6 leavers to make memories which will endure long after they hang up their green blazer. 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.





Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

Simon Johnson

It is customary for me at the end of a school year to give thanks to all of those who have made the last twelve months such a success. There is a Centenary theme this year and I begin by thanking all of those who guided the school and inspired its pupils over the course of the last one hundred years. One hundred years is a long time and the school will have been through good times and bad. It will have faced challenges of every kind and it has overcome them. For that, we are immensely grateful.

But turning to the present, I begin by thanking first and foremost the pupils for their enthusiasm, their laughter, their energy and their sense of fun. There is one group of pupils here for whom this is a particularly special day. S6 have been an outstanding year group this year. They have worked hard to achieve a very impressive set of university offers. They have put a huge amount of energy into raising money for Revive MS and I am delighted to report that on Tuesday they were able to hand over a cheque for more than £35000. But for S6, this is no ordinary day. When they hang up their blazers this afternoon, they do it for the last time. In her last Assembly, Mrs Windows talked about what the summer holiday means to her and what it meant to her as a child. She talked of days of endless sunshine spent with friends, when the routines of normal life are suspended and the world is filled with limitless possibilities. And last week, the senior choir sang an Andrew Lloyd Webber medley with its reference to 'memories of days in the sun'. A new day dawns for all of us tomorrow, but for those leaving school, it is much more than that. S6, we have enjoyed your company. You have had many days in the sun this year and I wish you all many more in the years to come.

I turn now to the staff, who are the school's greatest asset. The support staff are often unsung heroes and I would like to give generous thanks to the cleaners, the janitorial team, the Junior School auxiliaries, those in the school office and the finance office, and the catering team. Special thanks go to our Maintenance Manager, Ali McCall, to Office Manager, Carolynne McEwan and to Dot and David Gray, who feed us all so well throughout the year. I am also particularly grateful to Garry Carr, our IT Manager, and to Aimee Cassells, Marketing Manager. Garry and Aimee both do a first class job, often in pressurised circumstances, and both have done extraordinary work behind the scenes this year to support all three musicals.

The role of a teacher has changed a lot in the last 30 years, and here at Wellington our teaching staff provide the best of the old and the best of the new. They are passionate about the academic side of their work, but they also understand that the pastoral side of the

role is equally important. The Nursery is where it all starts and I thank all of the staff there for the wonderful work they do both in Drumley and also at our woodland site at Doonside. Visiting the Junior School to take Assembly on Wednesday is always one of the highlights of my week and I thank the Junior School staff for the magical world that they create. Thank you also to each and every member of the Senior School staff for providing inspiration in the classroom day after day. The Heads of Year deserve a special mention for the outstanding support that they provide for our pupils in good times and bad.

At the end of the year, we must always say farewell to those who are leaving. The list is short this year, but Amanda McLean is leaving the Nursery after 17 years. Amanda has been a first class member of the team and she leaves with our thanks and best wishes. I thank also Mr Bardsley, who has provided maternity cover in the History Department since just before Christmas. A number of other support staff and teaching staff have left in the course of the year and I have conveyed my thanks to them already in my letters to parents. Although not leaving, Mrs Coontz has decided to retire from her teaching post this summer. She continues, however, in her role as International Coordinator and I cannot thank her enough for all that she does to make meaningful travel accessible to Wellington pupils.

I turn now to the Senior Management Team, who join me on the rollercoaster of ups and downs that make up a school year. They are exceptional people, who maintain a calm professionalism in even the most challenging circumstances, and who care more than you could ever know about both the education and the wellbeing of your sons and daughters. There cannot be a group of people who are more fair-minded, more hard-working and more committed to the wellbeing of young people. Marie Windows, Alistair McDougall, Gail Johnston, Jimmy Cox, Linda Peters and Robbie Stewart - I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for Wellington School. I must also thank Marian Dunlop for putting up with us, and for knowing that when the word coffee appears in my diary, it is time to reach for the kettle!

Next, I would like to pay tribute to the group of people who share the stage with me today. The Governors of any school carry a heavy responsibility and we are immensely fortunate to have a Board of Governors who provide expertise and wisdom in abundance, and who are all deeply committed and loyal to this school. I thank all of the Board for the support that they provide for the school and for me personally throughout the year. One person deserves a special mention. Mrs Simpson loves Wellington events and last week, she attended Sports Day wearing a very smart and striking green jacket. The Deputy Head of the Junior School, was approached by a young pupil who asked: Mrs McRae, is the lady in the green jacket from the government? Well here at Wellington, Mrs Simpson is much more important than that and I cannot thank her enough for all the time that she gives so generously in service to this school.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parents, for choosing Wellington and for entrusting the education of your children to this school. The spirit of Wellington is alive and well, and that would not be possible without your ongoing commitment and support. I thank you most sincerely for that.

