



# The Turret

Wellington School Magazine  
Spring / Summer 2023



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# Welcome

## From Mr Johnson, Headmaster

I eagerly await the publication of 'The Turret' twice a year, as it provides an opportunity to reflect on just some of the many wonderful events and activities that make school life so rewarding and exciting. It is impossible to cover everything, of course, and you will see that this edition focuses on musical theatre and meaningful travel, two important and vibrant aspects of life at Wellington.

It is hard to believe that 'Legally Blonde' was the first senior musical since the pandemic, as our pupils took to the stage with the confidence and the flair of seasoned performers. You will enjoy reading the interviews with some of those who took part, which provide a real insight into the rewards of being part of something so special and the wide-ranging benefits of getting involved. The Junior School's production of 'Mary Poppins' was equally special and we can be sure that the future of musical theatre is in safe hands!

Wellington has always attached importance to broadening the horizons of young people, both literally and metaphorically. Turn the pages of this magazine and you will get the chance to enjoy your own passage to India and learn more about our exchanges in France, Germany and Spain. These trips and visits give Wellington pupils an authentic opportunity to develop their understanding of other countries and cultures, which has never been more important.

Turn the pages and you will find lovely photographs from the S5 and S6 Prom, held this year in the stylish and elegant function suite of Enterkine House. I must also congratulate S6 for raising more than £35000 for Revive MS, and thank everybody who contributed so generously to make this possible.

Finally, it is 100 years since Wellington moved to its current site at Carleton Turrets and I hope that you will all get a chance to join us at one of the advertised events as we celebrate this very special anniversary.

*Simon Johnson*



# Mary Poppins: The Junior Show

## By Lottie McEwen S6

### Our Junior Show was ‘Practically Perfect’ in Every Way!

#### A Night to Remember

In June of this year, our P4-6 pupils took on Mary Poppins Jr under the direction of Miss McKinlay. She, alongside Mrs Bradley and Mr Carr, helped to put on a production which was a roaring success. From the excitement of helping in costumes backstage to watching the cast on stage for their bows, the applause seemed never-ending.

Working in costumes backstage alongside Mrs Patton and Miss Gilmour was a memory I will cherish, I feel like I am more than confident to say that the future of Musical Theatre at Wellington School is in safe hands. I think all the performers involved with Mary Poppins, including those backstage, have caught the performing bug! As an S6 pupil, I get to see a lot of the cast around the school, and they are always so sweet and pleasant. All the S6 pupils involved with Mary Poppins have a great relationship with the P7 pupils. We are lucky to have spent time with them!

### An Interview with The Cast!

We were lucky enough to interview some of the cast and crew to find out what their experience was of Mary Poppins.

#### A Reminder of some of The Cast

Mary Poppins- Eva  
George Banks- Joe  
Winifred Banks- Luella  
Jane Banks- Lottie  
Michael Banks- Archie  
Robertson Ay- Noah  
Ensemble- Lucienne, Sophia and Erika  
Backstage- Riley



#### What was your favourite part of Mary Poppins?

Eva- “I liked the magic of Mary Poppins and seeing how it worked behind the scenes.”

Lottie- “Learning Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. It was super fun! I also loved doing step in time.”

Archie- “Playing Michael. I liked his lines in Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. During it, we were doing the letters, one of my friends forgot the words!”

Joe- “When my character was no longer mean. I liked being able to act as a nice person instead of a mean one. Backstage when we were getting into costumes, all the boys were motivating each other.”

#### Did You Like Your Costume(s) for The Show?

Eva- “I did! But there were some hard parts as I had a very quick costume change. One time my microphone caught on my other costume!”

Luella- “I liked it a lot! I got to wear really pretty shoes but they hurt my feet!”

Noah- “I liked my costume- I thought it was a really fun design- pretending to be a butler whilst wearing a suit was fun!”

Erika- “My favourite costume was my police woman costume- the navy blue dress I wore was really pretty and I loved it.”

#### Are you going to the senior school shows once you get a bit older?

Eva- “Yes I will, because I have seen Matilda and Legally Blonde- and It looks so much fun performing on a big stage like the Gaiety.”

Lucienne- “I would like to try Backstage and learn a new skill.”

Sophia- “I want to take part in the shows when I’m older so I can try and get a bigger part!”

Erika- “Definitely. I loved the atmosphere- the feeling of being out on stage makes me feel so happy!”

#### Has doing Mary Poppins given you any very special memories?

Noah- “Yes- the memories of meeting new people, and socialising with the crew and teachers, and the thrill of pretending to fall unconscious on stage.”

Archie- “When I got my part. I was in the car and I was so happy when I got the role!”

Joe- “The boys being so kind to each other. It was really enjoyable.”

Riley- “Seeing Mrs Bradley in charge was cool as we got to see a different side to her.”

#### What was your favourite solo during the show?

Eva: “Practically Perfect was my solo as it explained my character a lot and the song was all about Mary Poppins introducing herself to the children she was going to be nannying. Singing in Mary Poppins was a really special experience and I loved every single moment of the show, especially getting a microphone and using all the props.”

Lottie- “The perfect Nanny. It was really fun, but I found it nerve-racking because it was one of the first songs in the show.”

Archie- “Jolly Holiday. It was fun because of the story behind it.”

Joe- “Cherry Tree Lane pt 1. It was nerve-racking at first but it became really enjoyable.”



What was it like learning all those letters for Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?

Eva- "It was hard and difficult but we got there in the end and it was cool to see it all come together."

Luella- "It was fun but frustrating- Miss McKinlay kept telling us the wrong letters!"

Noah- "It was very fun learning it, hard learning how to spell a made up word was fun! I also liked the dancing but sadly not all of us could perform."

Lucienne- "It was tricky learning so many letters in such a short amount of time."

Sophia- "It was hard to get the hang of in the beginning but it turned out really good."

Lottie- "It was very fun because Miss McKinlay was super enthusiastic about it. She made us laugh"

Archie- "It was exciting, and the best letter to spell was O because we got to do a fun dance for it."





# S6 Charity Revive MS Support

By Summer Saunders

This year sixth year decided to raise funds for Revive MS Support, a local charity which helps many every year who suffer from Multiple Sclerosis, this charity holds a strong connection to Wellington as it stemmed from a direct link to our Charity captain Sofia Logan.

As a sixth year we have worked hard as a team to provide charity events for the whole school including bake sales, house charity days, the sponsored walk, the sustainable style event and charity concerts as well as sixth year initiatives such as the fire walk, the kiltwalk, the goat fell climb and the tough mudder.

Sixth year would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to achieve our total, we couldn't have raised such a significant amount of money without the generosity of the whole school community, we will forever be grateful for all donations received. We would also like to thank members of the school community who individually raised funds, this includes Primary four who created and sold loom bands, raising £160! Holly Saunders also completed a virtual triathlon, covering a total of 2759 miles!

We were delighted to announce our final total for the worthy cause of £35,313.90 in which we have to thank the whole Wellington community for their generous donations of all forms throughout the year.





# Prom Night 2023

## By Summer Saunders

This year's S5 and S6 Prom was held at Enterkine house hotel, a magnificent venue which was appreciated by everyone involved. Having chosen our outfits months in advance, the excitement was rife and to the delight of everyone it was a warm and sunny evening. Enterkine is home to stunning country views as well as hosting a beautiful venue for our Prom night!

On arrival we were offered drinks as we found our seats and discovered what colour sunglasses we received! Enterkine provided a delicious dinner which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. Once we had finished our meal we explored the large balcony with beautiful views where our photos were taken by the photographer. We also had a photobooth which provided both students and staff with great entertainment through the evening, with different hats, glasses and props included in every photo!

There was also a DJ who provided the music through the night, which everyone joined in dancing and singing to his music, as well as having the opportunity to go behind the decks and play some songs themselves!

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in providing such a special night, through the organisation and all the little details which provided for a perfect prom!



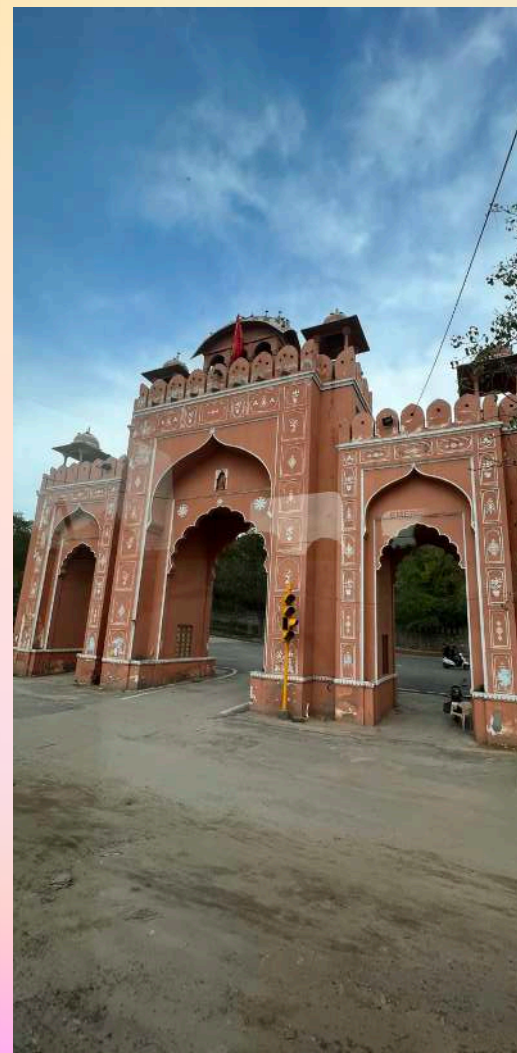


# A Summer in India

## by Wellington Senior Pupils & Staff

### Why go to India?

There are numerous reasons why someone, like many of us, might want to go to India. It's a country rich in culture, history and beautiful landscapes, plus the incredible food. A trip to India can also be impactful because it offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in a vibrant and diverse culture. From exploring ancient temples and palaces to witnessing the everyday life of schools, every experience in India is filled with rich history and profound meaning. Additionally, interacting with the warm and welcoming locals provided valuable insights into different ways of life and fostered a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity. The wildlife also provided a contrast to life at home, it included: elephants, camels, various birds and chipmunks. The sights, sounds and flavours of India created lasting memories that none of us will forget anytime soon, broadening our perspectives on the world. (Jemima)



### What was the journey like?

#### Days 1 and 2 Friday and Saturday

Travelling was an endurance test full of long flights and sleepy bus journeys. Our first sense of the overwhelming heat was in Dubai. After an eight-hour flight we stepped out of the plane into the heat and travelled through the immense Dubai airport. We had about a three-hour wait before our next flight which would take us to our destination - India. Our second flight was half as long, but felt as if it was ten times longer than the first. The tiredness really set in as we dozed in and out of sleep. Once we arrived, the journey had only just begun. We had a never-ending bus journey ahead of us to take us from Delhi to Jaipur. Throughout the bus journey, our first impressions of India became very apparent, extremely different. It was full of poverty and quite sad to see. Once we arrived, relief struck us as we could finally rest and enjoy our trip. The exotic food allowed us to try different tastes and explore their culture through spices. The hotels were exceptionally clean and they all had pools which was perfect for a game of rounders after a day of sightseeing in the heat. (Evan)

### Day 3 Sunday

#### Sightseeing - Amber Fort, Observatory, City Palace

On Sunday, we had a full day of sightseeing ahead of us. We started by visiting Amber Fort which used to be the seat of government before the capital was moved to Jaipur. To reach the Fort, we travelled in a fleet of jeeps. This was one of the most exciting parts of our whole trip. At the Fort, we were amazed by the beauty of the building, its architecture and its position on a hillside with views across the valley. We had our first encounter with street vendors and hawkers. 'No' is not a word that they understand.

After lunch, we went into the centre of Jaipur to visit the Observatory and the City Palace. The Observatory is filled with mathematical instruments on a very large scale and these were used for astronomy and astrology. They still work today, when the sun is shining. It wasn't when we were there. The last stop of the day was the City Palace, yet another stunning building. We enjoyed exploring and also had fun shopping in the craft gallery where we could watch skilled workmen making traditional crafts.

At the end of a hot and sticky day, we were happy to go back to the hotel and cool off in the rooftop pool. Work would start on Monday.



### Day 4 Monday

#### Welcome at school, Government Primary School, Jaipur Blue Pottery

We arrived at St Edmund's on Monday to be given a ceremonial welcome. Our stay at the school was very brief, but we had time for some photos before heading off to visit a Government Primary School, that St Edmund's supports. This was an incredibly humbling experience as we were able to see the difference between our experience of school and the harsh reality of those living in poverty in other countries. The school had minimal desks and chairs, but made the most of what they had. The welcome was warm and we were treated to some dancing and singing that their pupils performed. We also got involved by performing our own song as a group. Despite their lack of resources, the school clearly fosters a community spirit and all the pupils seemed incredibly happy and full of energy and inquisitiveness. After our visit to the Government School, we were taken to a local business that specialised in a form of pottery local to Jaipur, Blue Pottery. First, we were taken to the main office and shop, where we got the opportunity to browse and buy gifts from their extensive selection. We then were taken to the premises where the pottery was made to learn about the process involved to make them. The building was incredibly hot and humid, but the craftsmanship and effort involved in the production of their goods was incredible.

After this we returned to our hotel for some rest and recuperation by the pool.



## Day 5 Tuesday

### Workshops in School, shopping for saris and shirts

Following a tour of the school, we took part workshops with pupils from St Edmund's. We joined a yoga class in the gym on the school roof and this allowed us to get to know some younger Indian pupils and get some much-needed exercise in after all the naan bread we had been devouring. Next, we took part in a tie-dye session in the Art Department with pupils from the host school and finally, some of the Indian pupils did henna for us. This was one of the main highlights of our trip as it gave us a chance to speak to and learn about the pupils' lives in India which heavily contrasted with ours. After this we tried to learn a Bollywood dance which introduced us to another part of Indian culture. Sari- and shirt-shopping was one of my favourite activities as we were able to try on and bring a piece of India home with us, getting out of the humid air was also a plus! (Neve)



## Day 6 Wednesday

### Model UN, Step Well

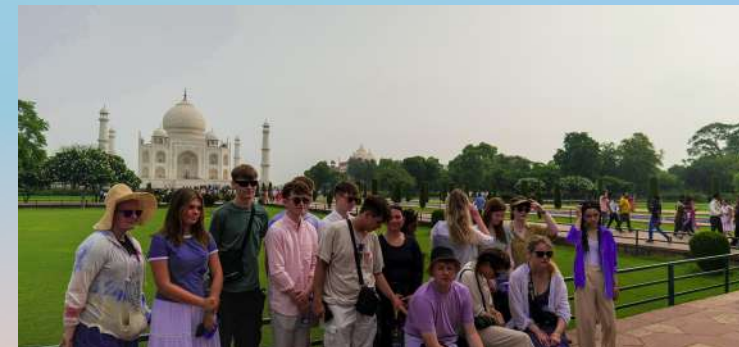
On our final day in Jaipur, we arrived at school ready for the morning ahead. The Model UN workshop allowed us to collaborate with our Indian counterparts, and not only get to know them, but work alongside them and learn from each other. I felt this was one of the most beneficial workshops for this reason, as it was incredibly valuable to view global topics from different perspective and learn that perspective first-hand from our peers from another country. After our goodbyes, and a lot of photos, we said farewell to Jaipur, and got on the road to Agra and the Taj Mahal. But not before making a breathtaking stop along the way, at the Chand Baori Step Well at Abhaneri. This Step Well needs to be seen to be believed. It is well over 1000 years old and is a truly impressive feat of construction. The weather was starting to get hotter, so after our stop at the Step Well, we retreated to our air-conditioned coach, and proceeded to Agra.



## Day 7 Thursday

### Taj Mahal, Agra Fort

Taj Mahal day was a hot and exceptionally humid day, but that didn't stop us from getting wrapped up in the history and culture of our surroundings. As soon as we arrived at the site we took in the harsh red sandstone walls surrounding the monument. While walking up to view the world-famous mausoleum, it was framed by the gateway arch resulting in a slow, impactful revelation of the white marble of the Taj Mahal. The rest of the visit was full of stories of its foundation and its founders, as well as the tragic love story which resulted in its construction. We moved on to Agra Fort, while feeling weighed down by the humid air, and we were once again struck by the vibrant red sandstone. The white marble was reserved for the view of the Taj Mahal and a secluded Mosque which we could see in the distance. Overall, the Fort and the Taj Mahal were both impactful and new experiences for all of us which was highly beneficial to our perspectives of the world. (Jemima)



## Day 8

### Travel to Delhi, Akshardham Temple, Lotus Temple

Heading for our final destination, back where we started the previous week, we departed Agra for Delhi. Once arriving in Delhi, en-route to our hotel, we stopped at two temples, the first of which was the Lotus Temple. This looked like a similar building to the Sydney Opera House but was shaped like a lotus flower. Despite its unique shape, it is also special, in that it accepts worshippers from all religions, to pray and meditate in a peaceful environment. As a result, no cameras or electronics are allowed inside, and our brief five minutes inside the temple gave us time to pause to reflect on our trip so far, and provided one of the few moments of peace and serenity since we touched down in India. After lunch, we visited the Akshardham Temple, a Hindu temple. This was one of the newer temples we had visited, and temple and its surroundings were incredibly grand. Our last stop of the day was our hotel, where we had our final night's rest before our long final day in India, and our journey home.





## Day 9

### Monsoon!

#### Old Delhi, New Delhi, Raj Ghat, India Gate, Gandhi Smriti, Qutab Minar

After the weather forecast threatening rain since we arrived, on our final day in India, the heavens opened. To start the day, and due to the weather, we were given a bus tour of Old Delhi. From our coach we were able to view the tightly packed, narrow streets full of vendors, but unfortunately, we were unable to stop and take in the sights of Old Delhi by Rickshaw.

From there we went to the Raj Ghat, the site where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. The rain was not too heavy at this time, so we were able to view the calm and pristine surroundings of the monument. On our way back to the bus, we got our first taste of monsoon rain, with a very heavy downpour. We all huddled under umbrellas as we made our way back to the coach. However, when we were viewing the 12th Century monument of Qutab Minar, the monsoon truly arrived.

As we huddled under shelter, a group of Indian school children were enjoying playing in the downpour. Due to the weather, streets were flooded, and we were delayed on our way to the next stop on our tour Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi. This however gave us time to dry before we arrived. This was the house where Gandhi spent his final months, and where he was assassinated in the garden. There is a small memorial and museum where we were able to learn about his life, and his part in the struggle Indian independence.

From there, we visited the India Gate, a war memorial commemorating the sacrifice of Indian soldiers during The Great War. Our walk to this monument was made more difficult by the weather, as the underpass we needed to use was flooded. Fortunately, our guide managed to secure our crossing, with the help of the local police, over a busy road to and from the monument. It was very impressive, and similar to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Finally, after a long and packed day, we made our way to a local restaurant for dinner, which was followed by our final opportunity for shopping, at a local department shop before heading to the airport. With the weather, the history, and the diversity & contrast between old and new in Delhi, it is certainly a city to remember.



## Day 10

### Returning home

We arrived at the airport around 10pm. With our flight at 4am, we had quite a wait on our hands. With our long day in Delhi behind us, we were all eager to for the flight to try and get some rest, however, it was delayed by around an hour.

This led to a very tight connection once we arrived in Dubai. Once we arrived, one of the Emirates staff was waiting for us to take us as quickly as possible to our departing plane for Glasgow, but another delay in the bus to take us to the opposite end of the airport was concerning.

Once we departed the bus, another staff member asked us to take a seat if we were going to Glasgow. Our hearts sank; we all thought we had missed the flight home, but fortunately, they had held the flight for us and we were rushed through security for the final leg of our journey.

Exhausted, we touched down in Glasgow to be greeted by family, and after the trip of a lifetime we were all ready to share our experiences with our families and for a day or two in bed.

You can join us on our travels by watching our video on our YouTube Channel!





# A Promise To The Planet

By Scarlett O’Sullivan

Over the summer, S2 pupil Scarlett entered a script writing competition with the theme ‘Last Chance to Save the Planet’. Scarlett’s script was chosen to be performed by professional actors at the Traverse Theatre during Travfest in Edinburgh. It was also published in a dedicated ‘zine’ and displayed at the Traverse during the festival.

A Promise To The Planet	GUY 2: Loser!
CAR PARK. SCOTLAND. DAY.	GUY 1 and GUY 2 leave.
GUY 1 and GUY 2 are hooting and jumping into a car. They zoom around in circles and dump a whole load of RUBBISH out the car window over GIRL, laughing childishly.	JACK: (To FERN) Who are you, and what do you want with me?
GIRL: Oi! What was that for? The bin is literally over there! Jack!	FERN: Ok, settle down. I don't have much time. My name is Fern, and I have come from the future with a warning.
Points to the bin.	JACK: (Bored and mocking) Yeah, right.
GUY 1 and GUY 2 laugh and pull faces at GIRL.	FERN glares at JACK. JACK puts his hands up in surrender. FERN rolls her eyes, exasperated.
GUY 2: Jack! Jack, ye coming?	JACK: Sorry, continue.
JACK: AYE!	FERN: Our planet is dying...and fast. 40% of this time’s Antartica has melted by just 2050. This is making the oceans rise, rapidly submerging coastal land. It’s warm and acidic. The earth’s temperature has increased so much that a lot of the land is too hot to be inhabited. There’s not much freshwater to go around, and it’s constantly hurricane, after wildfire, after earthquake. It’s horrible!
JACK starts to jog over to the car. Enter FERN. JACK stops. FERN has blocked his path.	JACK: Well, that’s a shame, but did you really just come here to tell me your sob story?
FERN: NO.	FERN: (Annoyed) Jack!
JACK: How did you get here?	JACK: You still haven’t told me how you know my name.
He tries to squeeze past her.	FERN: Well- uh- It’s complicated.
GUY 1: Jack, who’re you talking to? C’mon!	<i>Jack turns to walk away.</i>
JACK: Wait, you don’t see her too?	JACK: Yeah, I bet.
GUY 1: Who? There’s no one there. You’re going crazy.	FERN: (Desperate) No, Jack, wait!
FERN: LISTEN TO ME!	JACK: (Not looking back) Why? I shouldn’t have bothered with you anyway.
FERN stares at JACK intensely.	
GUY 1: Hurry up Jack, we’re gonna be late!	
JACK pauses. Giving in to GUY 1 and GUY 2.	
JACK: Just give me a minute.	

FERN: (Sighs) I’ve got to show you something.
<i>JACK looks back to see a MYSTERIOUS SHINY OBJECT in FERN’s hands.</i>
FERN: This thing will allow us to see 100 years foward into my time, nobody will be able to see or hear us, but we will see them and everything around them.
JACK: Woah!
FERN: Yeah. Now hold tight! ‘Cause it’s about to get a little bumpy!
<i>FERN reaches out a hand for Jack to take, which he does.</i>
<i>FERN presses down on the MYSTERIOUS SHINY OBJECT, and both FERN and JACK start jiggling as if they are travelling through time and space.</i>
JACK: Woooah woooooooooaahh AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!
<i>FERN smiles and chuckles to herself softly.</i>
FERN: First-timers!
JACK: HOW ARE YOU SO CALM???????
FERN: Practise, I guess.
<i>JACK looks around, shocked and disgusted, taking everything in.</i>
JACK: Is this where you live?
<i>FERN Shifts uncomfortably.</i>
FERN: Where we all live... and where you will too eventually if nothing is done about climate change.
JACK: Look, people!
<i>To the people, (they aren’t actors, just imaginary), waving hands up in the air.</i>
<i>FERN shoves JACK’s hands to his sides, slightly scared.</i>
FERN: What are you doing?! I already told you they can’t hear or see us.

We’re not really here!
JACK: Just testing, Wanted to see if they would hear if I was loud enough. That would be pretty cool.
FERN: We wouldn’t want them to see us anyway. I wasn’t actually meant to show you thus, It’s using up the last of all our power. Now I only have enough to get back. That’s it.
JACK: Why are you wasting it on me then? What’s so special?
FERN: We have tried to get people from the past to save our world, and they all seemed great and swore they would, but none of them did. You are our least promising option yet, but someone was insistent that you would be one to do the <i>right</i> thing.
JACK: Why?
FERN: I don’t know because you really don’t seem to care about this, but then again, I may be wrong. You’ll only have to prove it.
JACK: (Looking around. Sincere) I will. I will prove myself. I'll stop this terrible world from ever exisiting. You'll go back and find yourself living in the middle of a grassy meadow in a sweet cottage powered by solar panels, and you'll be employed to plant trees. The world will be carbon neutral. No Carbon -!
FERN: (Enjoying this) It’s actually carbon negative but go on.
JACK: And I will be a billionaire with a seventeen-part book series on my life because I fixed all the world’s problems and-
FERN: I think that world would be a world problem in itself!
JACK: You asked me to continue!
FERN: (Laughing) And now I’m regretting it.
JACK: No, but I’m serious.
FERN: Really?
JACK: I’ll do whatever it takes, promise.
FERN: Then my job here is done.



FERN grabs JACK’s hand and presses the MYSTERIOUS SHINY OBJECT with her other hand. The two start shaking again.

JACK: AHHHHH!!!!

FERN: My poor ears!

JACK: Sorry, but you didn’t give me any warning!

Fern: Don’t worry, it’s usually faster on the way !

They thump back onto the ground again

Jack: Why do i want to do that again now ?!

They both laugh

Fern:(sighs) well, much as i’d love to stay, i’ve got little time left now. I could go any second, but first, just promise me you will save us.

Jack: (To audience) help me, everyone. I can’t do this alone. we all need to work together. Promise me you’ll help me keep my promise to Fern.

Audience: I promise.

Jack: good. (To FERN) I swear on my life

Placing a hand on his soldier

Fern: Good luck, Jack Camwell, i believe in you. But remember: this is our chance to save the planet.

FERN travels back to her time. she is shaking, and there is beep booping to show this. EXIT Jack

FERN finishes travelling and stops shaking. She looks around and smiles.

Person: (Off stage) Fern! Are you finished planting trees yet ? we need to go back to our sweet cottage powered by solar panels in the middle of a grassy meadow! Oh, and remember your seventeen-part book series on that old billionaire guy who fixed all the world’s problems. He’s doing a signing !

Fern: Just coming !!! (To herself) My, my Jack camwell, go to say, i’m impressed.

END OF PLAY







**Wellington**  
SCHOOL

COMING  
SOON!

A WELLINGTON SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION OF

Disney

# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



Book by  
David Simpatico

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by  
Peter Barsocchini

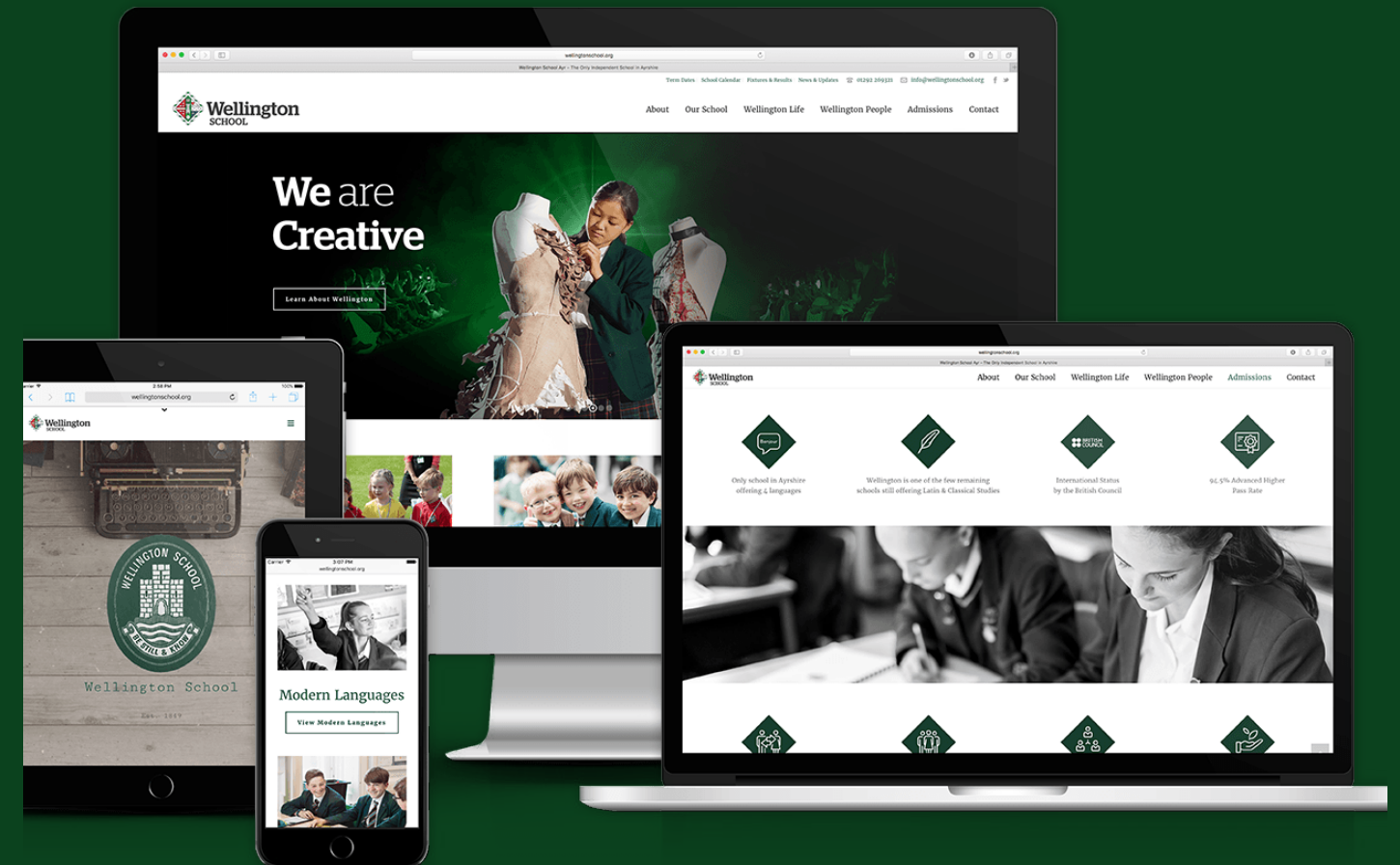
Songs by

Matthew Gerrard & Robbie Nevil, Ray Cham, Greg Cham & Andrew Seeley, Randy Petersen & Kevin Quinn  
Andy Dodd & Adam Watts, Bryan Louiselle, David N. Lawrence & Faye Greenberg, Jamie Houston

Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by  
Bryan Louiselle

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
Music Theatre International  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

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[www.wellingtonschool.org](http://www.wellingtonschool.org)







FRENCH EXCHANGE TO INSTITUT  
SAINT-DOMINIQUE MORTEFONTAINE 2023

In March we welcomed the Junior French exchange to Wellington for the first time since the pandemic. 17 girls and boys from our partner school, Saint-Dominique de Mortefontaine, arrived for a wet and windy week in Scotland and enjoyed a range of activities in and out of school. After the junior exams, the Scottish group went to France. Here they share some of their adventures and observations.

In June 2023 I was kindly given the opportunity to visit Wellington's exchange school St Dominique. When I arrived at Charles-de-Gaulle airport I was welcomed by my exchange partner Alexandre and his mum. When we had exited the airport I was taken to a nearby shopping mall where they had loads of shops and supermarkets. First of all I was taken to the supermarket where I chose my food for the time I spent in France. I found this very interesting as I have never been to a French supermarket before. We then proceeded to put the shopping bags in the car and go back up to the mall to see what we could have for dinner. I was treated to a lovely Italian which I really appreciated! It was then a 40 minute drive to where Alexandre and his mum lived. They welcomed me very well and said to me our home is your home for the week. (Harry)

On Monday morning I got up about 7:20 all set for a busy day ahead. I had breakfast which consisted of Nutella and toast and a glass of orange juice. Time was quickly catching up on us and it was nearly time to get to school. Gabriel's parents and Alexander's parents (another French pen pal) made a car share system which worked out well. We picked up Jamie and Alexander and then waited in the school playground for school to start. Once the headmaster had finished his welcoming speech we set off in the direction of the forest. We had our packed lunches and water to keep us hydrated on a very warm day. We completed the two-hour walk we had to motivate each other along the way as it was hard work especially because of the heat. Then we had our French baguettes that had ham and cheese in it. We then learnt all about the different perfume smell where we discovered our favourites and not so popular ones. We were relieved to see the bus as it would have been a long walk back to school after a busy interesting day of perfumery. Then we met our French pen pal at the school and got the car back home to his house. I found it fascinating living life in a different country and learning all about their way of life. This is what a day looks like in France. Every day there were different activities to do which made us more intrigued to what came next. (James M)

When we arrived at Saint-Dominique, I enjoyed spotting the differences between our schools and how the students behaved in these diverse educational settings. Some of their rules I quite liked, for example banning phones in the building so students are more focused and concentrated on their tasks. (Anastasia)

There was a lot of teamwork involved to carry out the activities whether it was the selfie task in Senlis or the group games. I learned how important it was to get involved in the discovery task in Senlis as the only way

to find out more about the town was to ask questions. The French students were very friendly and keen to involve the Scottish by letting us read the questions and looking at the map and asking me if I had seen the building etc we were looking for. (Isla)

One of my favourite days was when we went to Parc Astérix where I got to go on a few of the rides and my favourite rides were the water ones as they were very fast and the water made me nice and cool as it was 30 degrees. One of my other favourite days was the last day and I know you're probably thinking it was because I was going home, but it's not! My host mum took us to Paris on the last day which was very kind of her as she doesn't visit Paris unless she has to. We went on the bateau mouche boat ride as it takes us to the famous landmarks that you can see from the river. I found this very intriguing and exciting as I got to see the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and the Arc de triomphe. This was definitely a great last day spent with my hosts. (Harry)

My favourite part of this trip, and I'm sure everyone will agree with me on this, was Parc Asterix. This was my first time on a roller coaster and I wasn't sure if I was going to like it. But in the end, I was absolutely in love with roller coasters, but I had to go on a few to get over the fear. It was a great experience. I also really enjoyed the perfume making and it worked out perfectly because you have to wait 21 days until you can use it and on day 21 it's my mum's birthday so it's a perfect birthday gift. (Laura)

The outdoor games at the end of the school day such as throwing pizzas in an oven or walking along a short course blind-folded while your partner guides you were a great experience and grew relationships between the French hosts and the Scottish visitors. There was also an orienteering race, which I completed with my friends, which was also a great team bonding activity as the partners had to work together in order to finish the game. It was also good for learning French, as we listened to more native French speakers, and we learnt some useful French phrases, and the French hosts also improved in English as well. (Charlie)

On both days that were free, I was able to visit Paris. I really enjoyed exploring the city and this helped me with managing my time and finances more effectively. On the first free day, we visited the Louvre museum, and my partner and I were tasked with choosing where to go and how long to spend in each section. We spent the night before looking at the maps and the contents of each room, and then had to create an itinerary for the following morning. I also had to think about how much money I would spend on souvenirs, and not wasting too much money in the first days to buy more at the end of the trip. With my host family, I really had fun joining them for their clubs and after school activities. This really deepened my understanding of other cultures and made my confidence grow much more. (Anastasia)

The day activities on non-school days were very exciting, like visiting the palace of Chantilly, which was beautiful inside and fascinating to learn about all the paintings inside. I went on a day trip with my friends and their host to Paris. We went on a boat tour passing very famous landmarks of Paris such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Notre Dame. While in Paris, we also went to big fashion shops for leisure, as well as small souvenir shops so we could buy small gifts for family and friends back in Scotland. (Charlie)

We learned so much about French culture and scenery too. The mother in the host family took us to 3 castles which each had different history and showed what a historical region they live in. We also got to try a range of traditional French food including pastries, cheeses, and breads during the week. (Isla)

One aspect of French culture that I certainly did not enjoy was the incredibly strong and smelly cheeses. (Alexander)

During my stay, we also tried to speak in French as much as we could, and this really helped me improve my communication skills and my French vocabulary, which is very helpful as I will be able to start my NAT5 course much more confidently. (Anastasia)

My French is limited so every so often I tried to join in with a conversation but I struggled to keep up so I got some French lessons at night from my partner to help me with my French. By the end of the exchange I was



very upset to be leaving and would have liked to have stayed for another couple of days. The exchange was a great experience to learn new things and experience a different culture. I will definitely be heading back soon and have made friends for life with my exchange partner and her family. (Laura)

The French exchange taught me a lot about how different cultures work and the main things I took away were friendship with my partner and family, and increased knowledge of the language which I gained from speaking it in the host's household. A necessity on this trip was communication with both the Scottish and the French. I enjoyed going to class with my partner and meeting her friends and classmates. Talking to different kids in the French school let me improve my French by asking them questions and telling them about myself, the same goes for the French teachers who were very catering and eager to learn about school life in Scotland. In general, my favourite part of the trip was spending time with my partner and her family. Seeing a different way of life was really cool and we are already planning on meeting them again. (Isla)

You can find out more about the exchange by following this link to our video French Exchange 2023 - Wellington School @ Institut Saint-Dominique de Mortefontaine





# Legally Blonde The Musical

## by Lottie McEwen S6

### Senior Pupils get 'Whipped Into Shape' as Theatre Returns to Wellington!

#### Aftermath of COVID and The Story of a New Cast

As the curtain fell on Wellington's production of Phantom of the Opera back in 2019, Nobody expected the stage to remain empty for three long years. The cast of the past shows moved on, finished with school, leaving a new set of performers to fill their shoes. When 'Legally Blonde' was announced in October of 2022 as the first show back after COVID, I can honestly say I jumped for joy. Everybody else was happy too, although some took a little more convincing. Our auditions were a stressful but exciting situation, as we had a dance call alongside our auditions for our principal parts, which included singing and acting. No matter how many auditions we do, the nerves still get to us!

#### Castlist

The waiting game for the castlist was my least favourite part of the whole experience. My friends and I spent our entire day refreshing our emails, google classroom, and going to the music department to see if we could get any sneak peaks. And as we learned who we would be playing, no matter the size of the part, we all became extremely excited, proud of each other and ready to work on the task ahead.

#### Rehearsals

We all learned very quickly where our strengths lay. For me personally, I learned I was not the strongest dancer and would have to work on picking up choreography faster to be able to keep up with everybody else, who were a lot better. We started with the biggest number in the show. 'What You Want' has a run time of just over eight minutes. The number features several fast paced dance breaks and a large portion of the song required chorus singing whilst dancing. We also squeezed in learning the opening number, 'Omigod You Guys' and our scene work featuring our principal performers whilst we chipped away at this huge song. And within a few months, we had finished Act 1 and began to work on Act 2. Act 2 brought a few interesting things with it, including us falling in love with the Bend and Snap, and being thoroughly impressed with the absolute skill of the girls performing in 'whipped into shape'. The stamina and talent they all possess is something that is unbelievable.

#### Costumes

Finding costumes for the show was both incredibly fun and nerve racking, as it made everything finally real- the fact the show was actually happening and so soon really didn't sink in for a lot of us. There was plenty of debate, and for very tall people like myself, finding costumes whilst shopping in Primark was quite difficult as much of their stuff is made for smaller to medium heighted people. The costume call was one of the busiest nights of our lives. We had to dig into our wardrobes and find as many potential outfits as we could, before having them be approved. Trying to find what was required was quite difficult for certain pieces of clothing! As part of my Paulette costume, I got the privilege of wearing the most AMAZING metallic pink cowboy boots. I was so lucky to wear them and I even bought them after the show- I couldn't bear to be separated from them!

#### Show Week

When we got into the theatre for the first time, everything finally fell into place. The excitement of seeing the set for the first time and hearing the music being played brought everything to life. We were able to picture ourselves on stage, and it only made our excitement levels higher. Our two days in the theatre included running the show and learning our blocking. This was a long winded process but worth it in the end as it helped our confidence and adjust to being on the actual stage instead of in the school halls where we had been practising before. The dress rehearsals brought so much joy and kindness to everybody. People were so kind and supportive, and we really felt like a big family.

#### The Performances

The atmosphere was electric during our performances. The buzz backstage, the adrenaline which pumped through our veins, the full audiences, everything was perfect. By this point, we all had made friends with each other and our camaraderie was really special. After we took our bows on closing night, I cried a little, alongside many others. I didn't want this incredible experience to be over. It really had passed in the blink of an eye. It was crazy how when we had started the rehearsals, the show felt so far away, and it was now over. The Audience played such an important part in making the shows so special alongside Mrs Docherty, our Musical Director and her fantastic orchestra, Mrs Bradley our stage manager, Steven Swan, our Choreographer, Mrs Patton and Mrs McIntyre, our costume team, Summer Saunders, Ken & Astra Fentie our props makers, our Prompt, John Cartner and all our backstage crew who consisted of staff and pupils.

On behalf of the Legally Blonde cast,





## An Interview with The Cast by Lottie McEwen S6

A Reminder of some of our Cast!

Elle Woods- Megan Seales  
Emmett Forrest- Maxwell Wyllie  
Warner Hunnington the III- Monty Saunders  
Brooke Wyndham- Kathryn Taylor  
Serena- Emily Taylor  
Professor Callahan- Hugh McCulloch  
Chrous- Jemima Harvey



How did it feel to be part of the first show Wellington has debuted since the Covid 19 Pandemic?

Megan- "I felt really happy to see that we could do a show again so soon after COVID and it felt really special to be part of the new cast as it was a whole new generation of Welly pupils."

Kathryn- "Very nerve racking- we had to make a big impact. Having seen the shows when I was younger, I wanted ours to be just as good or even better. There was a very high standard to hit!"

Emily- "It was really exciting. I was super nervous because I had a cold for most of the performances but it was really cool to be part of the cast that brought performing arts back to Wellington."

Jemima- "It was very enjoyable and I was really happy to be a part of that. I think Legally right show for coming back- it was very energetic and made up for the few years we missed- we came back with a bang."

What was it like receiving such high praise from the hundreds of people who came to see the show?

Megan- "It put such a big smile on my face walking out at the end of the show to take my bow. Seeing all those people on their feet clapping for us made me so proud of everyone involved and it felt like everything had finally came together."

Monty- "It a bit odd. It was brilliant to get the recognition for all the hard work we did."

Max- "I was truly flattered by the high praise by the high praise we received. I was honoured to be part of Legally Blonde."

Hugh- "It was very special to receive such high praise- I thought I had worked really hard for my part."

What was it like playing the lead role in the school show?

Megan- "So unexpected. It was amazing. One of the best weeks of my life. I loved working with everyone and seeing them supportive of me doing what I love made me feel so overwhelmed with joy."

Would you recommend the experience of taking part in a school musical like Legally Blonde?

Megan- "oh definitely. If it's something that you enjoy, I would say go for it even if you're scared or shy. It's a great way to make new friends and potentially develop a new passion."

Emily- "Absolutely. It was an absolute blast and I think anybody can have a place in the school show regardless of acting/dancing/singing ability. There's something for everyone and it's an unforgettable experience."

Hugh- "Absolutely. It's a great environment to spend time in and a good place to make new friends."

Has Legally Blonde encouraged you to pursue an interest in performing going forward?

Megan- "Definitely. Just the thrill of being up on stage and the adrenaline you get makes it all worth it."

Max- "I would love to do musical theatre going forward as Legally inspired me."

Hugh- "I've always had an interest in performing but it definitely reignited my passion for it after taking a break from it for a while."

Do you have a favourite song in which you performed in the show?

Kathryn- "I LOVED whipped into shape. But otherwise, I'd have to choose between 'Gay or European' or the 'Bend and Snap'- even though I had to leave halfway through. Also, an honourable mention to 'Omigod you guys'!"

Monty- "Blood in the water. It was a brilliant number in which everybody was involved. Hugh was fantastic every time he did it."

Jemima- "My favourite song isn't on the original recording! It's the Scene of the crime. Because it had my little solo!"

**Our next senior school show is Sister Act the Musical which is at the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr on Thursday 28th September - Saturday 30th Septmeber. Make sure you get your tickets!**





## ERASMUS – the end of our story

After over fifteen years of participation in the Erasmus+ programme and Comenius, its predecessor, Wellington School's involvement must come to an end as the UK has withdrawn from the programme.

Since the New Year, we have made the most of our funding opportunities to take a large number of pupils from the Senior School to France, Germany and Slovenia and many more have helped with the hosting of young people from our partner schools.

With the Europe on the Move project, girls and boys in S1 and S2 spend a week in Slovenia in January where they took part in an international drama week with their partners from five other countries. They work in multinational groups to write and perform plays, each of which included a national symbol from one of the participating countries. Scotland was represented by the unicorn. For our pupils, the highlight was staying with the Slovenian families who had arranged a programme of after-school events to show off the best of the country. Some went to Lake Bled and some visited caves south of Ljubljana.

In March, the same age group travelled to Germany to work on digital skills and creativity with our Erasmus partners. They produced a stop-motion film, learned about pixelation, programmed with Lego Spike and raced cars and visited the famous BVB football stadium. The German families wanted to outdo the hospitality offered by the Slovenians and rose to the challenge of keeping everyone well-entertained in the evenings. You can watch the Slovenian plays and our general Europe on the Move project by visiting our YouTube channel.

In March, it was our turn to host the FuturEnvironment project and a large number of Wellington families hosted pupils from our partner schools. Our visitors were interviewed by Primary 4, went on a beach clean with Primary 7, learned about Scottish culture from Monsieur Levif and took part in a ceilidh. They spent a day out at Whitelee Wind Farm when the weather was at its best and the views stretched far into the Trossachs, they made a film at Sky Academy and discovered the history of Glasgow with an emphasis on developing future sustainability.

Older pupils taking part in the FuturEnvironment project and travelled to Germany in April. This mobility concentrated on sustainability and participants had to choose from a menu of activities including making musical instruments from recycled materials, making soap and shower gel, making a video, designing jute bags and designing the city of the future. Everyone visited the Fragile Paradise exhibition in the gasometer in Oberhausen. The video summary for this project can also be found on our YouTube channel.

Over the years, our pupils have travelled to Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia and the school has benefited from Erasmus funding of several hundred thousand euros to support travel and project activities. Although this door has closed, we will continue to offer a wealth of international opportunities to our pupils.





## Two Years of 'Bear Buddies' - Developing our UK/German Connections

For the last two years our P4B class has been exchanging information about themselves, our school and Scotland with the Meerkat Class at the Nordmarkt Grundschule in Dortmund. The link was established when Mrs Archbold first visited Dortmund with Erasmus+ in 2021. Frau Rautenberg, the Meerkat Class teacher, visited Wellington School on an exchange trip when she was a pupil at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, and kept in touch with her host family. The idea of connecting two primary classrooms was too good to miss! Exchanging teddy bears is the mechanism of 'connection' and many of you will have read about Isla and Marco in previous editions of the Turret. Mrs Archbold and Frau Rautenberg have also been able to visit each other's classrooms, further enhancing the experience.

In session 2022-2023, the two little bears swapped places in Ljubljana during an Erasmus Mobility to Slovenia. Marco travelled on to Germany, with Frau Bullman and Isla came to Scotland. Each pupil in the two classes had one or two 'bear buddies' and introduced themselves to each other during a zoom call, finishing with a virtual high five. The children then told each other 'all about me' on a worksheet, with identical questions in their own language. This made it easier to translate when they received their buddy's sheet. P4 were assisted with any tricky German words by one or other of their lovely German assistants who helped them out once a week. The worksheets were exchanged during P7's Magical Christmas trip to the German Christmas Markets. Their second exchange of English/German materials was a cartoon strip of Isla and Marco asking and answering questions that the children had for each other.

Mrs Archbold made a second trip to Dortmund in April and was able to spend the day with Isla and her German classmates. She helped the children with a workbook on Scotland and they showed off their English speaking and singing skills. This class will be buddies to Mrs Archbold's new (P3) class of 2023-2024. It was nice to make an in-person connection and have the prospect of working together for another year.

Frau Rautenberg, Isla and Mr Sheffield, her school 'helper dog', visited Mrs Archbold in Scotland as part of their summer holiday road trip. They spent a lovely day together with Marco, enjoying Afternoon Tea, before the bears swapped places to start the new school session in their own countries

How will they exchange places this year? Catch up in the next edition of the Turret.





## 2023 Spanish Exchange

Lemoni, Oli, Aimee, Anastasia, James, Harry, Laura and Ava

### Lemoni

My trip to Murcia in Spain was a fantastic experience. The day trips to different parts of the region were the most memorable aspects of the exchange. My favourite trip was visiting Cartagena. Meals in Spain differ greatly from those in Scotland. I tried a variety of dishes, including Seafood Paella, tortillas (potato omelette), Sopa de Pollo con Fideos (Spanish Chicken Noodle Soup), toast with tomato spread, and many others. Some I loved but others weren't as good but I didn't want to insult the family as they were so hospitable and kind.

### Aimee

The Spanish exchange was an amazing experience, all the people were so kind and amazing, the host families were very welcoming and invited me into their home, I learned new vocabulary from the family who I played board games and computer games with, this improved my communication in Spanish which I can use later on in life as I am taking Spanish in S3.

### Oli

When we arrived at the school in Spain it was a lot different than I imagined, such as the school hours and breaks. They had a lot more breaks during the day including lunch time where their food was a pizza-like bread. They also had an time of rest called siesta hour where almost all shops closed. This is because siesta hour takes place during the hottest hour of the day to give the people rest but after they must go back to work.

At the school we did many research activities in which we had to speak Spanish which meant a couple quick lessons before reading the text out in front of many people. It may not have been perfect but we gave it a go. We played many traditional Spanish games, one being gymkhana which is almost like a treasure hunt but with every pattern found you had to complete a game for the point.

### Aimee

During our school exchange trip to Spain, we explored the area around Torre Pacheco and learnt about the history of the places we visited. It was a great trip that I really enjoyed. After school, I liked discovering a little bit more about my friends and their exchange partners by spending some time with them. Everyone was very sociable and we felt welcomed while we walked through the town as everyone knew everyone else and many people were keen to meet us and say hi. I learnt a lot more about Spanish culture and I feel like it's a place I'd like to visit again, maybe with my family this time.



### James & Harry

This was a great experience for me to go abroad and experience what it is like on a day to day basis as a Spanish Student. When we had landed in Spain after the 3hr plane journey we got on the bus where we would arrive at the school to meet our host (Jesus) and his family. My host family was very nice. Jesus's parents were very friendly and made sure my time in Spain was as enjoyable as possible.

Overall my favourite days in Spain were when we went to the Spanish towns and cities. My favourite thing was seeing the boats at the marina in Cartagena which I found interesting because the town was a military base. After seeing all the artefacts about the town/cities we then got free time to spent with our Spanish friends going to a cafe in the city. We went to a restaurant to get a drink and some food.

I really enjoyed my time in Spain allowing me to learn more Spanish vocabulary and also Spain's culture. I'm looking forward to the next time I go on an exchange and would recommend this exchange to anyone who is thinking about going as it was a very enjoyable and fun experience.



### Laura

I loved the Spanish exchange because of all the new experiences I had. Spanish culture was really interesting and surprising to someone Scottish. There wasn't any rain when I was there and one day it was 18 degrees, in January! It was challenging eating at 10-11pm and waking up so early for school. I tried many new foods when I was there including paella and patatas bravas. We made homemade pizza and I spilled tomato sauce everywhere. It was very funny.

My host family was very nice to me. When I got off the bus the family had a confetti popper and popped it over me. There were balloons in my room and a sign that said "Welcome Laura".

### Ava

From the Spanish Exchange I was able to learn and adapt to the culture of Spain. Experiencing their life-style was so interesting especially when being compared to Scotland's. Going to my partner's extracurriculars and having dinner late at night was really fun. I loved spending time with my partner and her family, as well as everyone else that did the exchange - after bonding with them all, I feel grateful to have been able to meet them - they were super kind, funny and amazing to be around! The exchange also developed my understanding of another language and I think that my Spanish knowledge has improved a lot. I think I have become more confident with talking to new people too now that I have spoken with many, and travelling without my family has made me feel more independent.







# CENTENARY SAVE THE DATES

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

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

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



## A Message to our Former Pupils

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

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

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

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



## A Note from the Editor

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

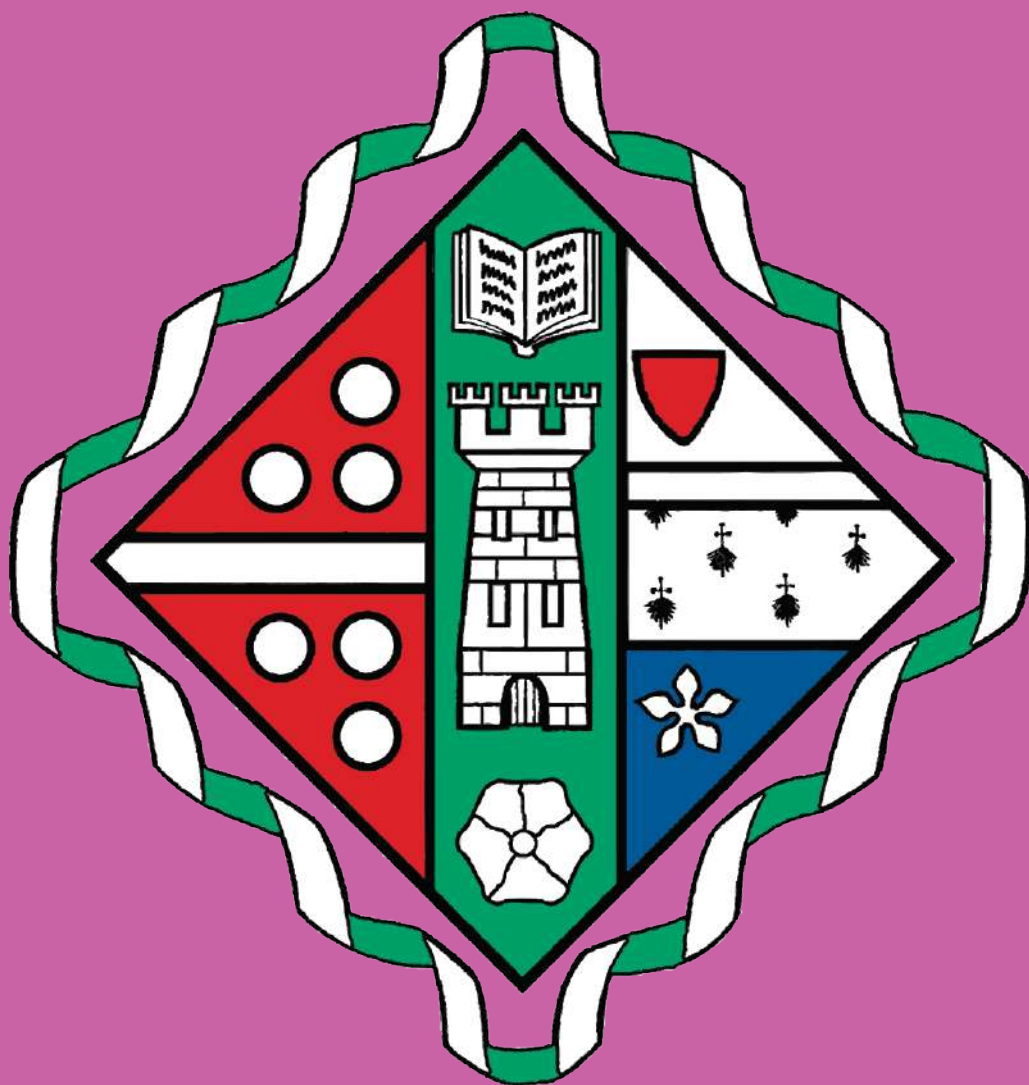
I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Turret, the pupils & staff who have shared their news and work to be displayed, especially to our article authors for this edition. I would also like to make a special thanks to my Assistant Editors; Summer Saunders, Lottie McEwen, Maddie Arnott, Ross Gibb & Charmaine Samra, who have written, edited and designed many pages of this edition.

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

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

If you have any feedback, enquiries or requests, please contact Mrs Patton via email: [press@wellingtonschool.org](mailto:press@wellingtonschool.org) or by telephone 01292 269321.





# The Turret

Wellington School Magazine  
Spring / Summer 2023