



# Wellington SCHOOL



# The Turret

Wellington School Magazine  
Autumn/Winter 2023



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# Welcome

## From Mr Johnson, Headmaster

It is always an exciting day when a new publication of 'The Turret' arrives and this edition is full of news and stories that reflect the richness of Wellington Life. I hope that you enjoy the words and images in these pages, together with the happy memories that go with them.

Sport is an important element of school life and we are always pleased to celebrate both participation and excellence. Several pages of this edition are filled with achievements in a wide range of activities, from the familiar team sports of rugby and hockey to more individual sports like archery and showjumping. I congratulate all of those who feature and encourage anybody who is thinking of taking up a new sport just to get involved. The best time to start is now!

Pupils in S6 always make a big contribution to school life and charity fundraising is an important element of that. We have all been impressed by the enthusiasm with which this year's S6 have gone about raising money for Diabetes UK and several charity events feature in this magazine. It is hard not to be inspired by Emily and Kathryn 'taking on the Channel' by swimming 1344 lengths of the Citadel pool, and I am sure you will enjoy reading about this and all the other events that have happened so far this year. There are plenty more to come and the support of everybody who contributes is hugely appreciated.

This year marks the Centenary of the school's move to Carleton Turrets, of course, and you will enjoy seeing photographs of the excellent Centenary Ball, held in November at Ayr Racecourse and supported by more than 300 parents, former pupils, staff and members of the wider Wellington community. There are more flagship events scheduled for the coming months and the key dates can be found at the back of this magazine.

*Simon Johnson*



# Christmas in Dortmund

By Emelia Ewer

In late November, 36 Wellington pupils from S1-S3 spent a week on Exchange at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, Germany. Emelia writes about her experiences here.

My stay in Germany was amazing. It was my first time going abroad without my parents so I was very nervous before I went but I had a really great time and will feel much more confident going away next time. It felt like quite a long journey to get there but it gave me the opportunity to speak to people in my year on the trip that I hadn't had the chance to chat with as much since they started at Wellington. That was an aspect of the trip I hadn't expected and really enjoyed.

When we got to Düsseldorf airport, we all got on the bus and headed to the hotel where we were to meet our German families. When we first got to the hotel, I was getting a bit worried because I couldn't see my family or my suitcase. A few moments later, I found my suitcase but still not my family. It was a couple minutes and then my German family came up to me and said 'hello'. I was surprised at how well they could speak English. It was a short car journey to my family's house which was very pretty. It had a cellar and three floors. I never went in the cellar or the top floor but the other two floors I went on frequently. The first night things seemed unfamiliar and I missed my big sister but the family made me very welcome and helped me settle in.

It was the first night and all was going well. The next day, we were going to take the train to one of the cities called Cologne. Sadly, on that day, the Christmas market was shut because it was a Sunday and it was 'Totensonntag'. It was sad because the Christmas market looked very good! It took about an hour to get from the train station to Cologne. We went with Ella, Grace, Felix and their families. It was fun to take the trip in a group with plenty of people to chat to. We went to the Cathedral which was amazing and very tall. We climbed up to the top of it and got some good pictures. I was glad that I am not afraid of heights! We looked around the Cathedral and inside the church part then went to the Lindt chocolate museum. We went in and then started queuing when the fire alarm went off! We were then waiting outside in the rain for a while dreaming of chocolate. Then, when we finally got inside we got to go straight through because the families had already paid for the tickets. The museum was actually very informative. It gave you all of the ways that Lindt makes the chocolate from getting the beans to making it into chocolate. We went through quite quickly then went to the chocolate tasting section. There was a Lindt chocolate fountain! Oh my gosh, the chocolate was good! The chef stuck some wafers in and then gave it to us. It was delicious. I did need to lick my hand because the chef accidentally dropped the wafer on my hand. It was alright though. I sanitised my hand afterwards. After we had finished up in the museum, we walked to a restaurant to have a drink before we went back on the train back to the house. Ella, Felix and I went while Grace and her partner waited for their chocolate sculptures. Ella, Felix and I kept walking at our normal pace and we always ended up at the front. I don't know whether that was because we are really fast walkers or if the others were just slow. We will never know. When we got to the restaurant, it was pouring down with rain. We were sitting outside but there was a waterproof surround so that we didn't get wet. We had our drinks and then we needed to go to the toilet. When we went, it turned out that we needed to pay for it. We started to go in then the lady told us that we needed to pay but we didn't have any cash. We started to walk away when the lady said that we could just go in anyway.

On Monday, it had been two nights. We drove to school and the first activity was an Ice breaker activity. It was really fun because we did the most random things like put a certain number of body parts on the floor and we were in a group of a certain number of people. We then had a tour of the school and then a selfie tour of Dortmund Christmas Market. On Tuesday, we went to the Wuppertal Schwebebahn Museum and went on the suspension railway. We also went to the local Christmas market. On Wednesday, we attended

the first two lessons, which were art, and then went to Phoenix de Lumieres. Then we did an art project on the Hundertwasser art show. Thursday was the workshop day. We created our own computer game, wrote a Scottish and German fairytale, learned about Christmas across the World and we did either a battle of the cultures or played football. I chose the battle of the cultures and it was really fun. We played different games from different countries. We did some social dancing as well which was really fun. Friday was then our last day. We attended the first two lessons, English, and then went to the Borussia Dortmund stadium. It was really great. We did walk there and back but it was fine. There was a recording studio which my friends and I spent most of our time in. We did many karaoke songs that were in German without knowing any of the words or the tune to them, but it was still fun.

The last day was very sad. I had had such a lovely time and I was wanting to go home but I didn't want to at the same time. It was nice to go home though. Overall, I had such an amazing experience with going to Germany and it has given me a lot more confidence when going away without my parents.





# S1 History

S1 History have been enjoying investigating primary source artefacts in their courses recently with Ms Hyslop and Mr McLaren. 1C were privileged to have a special guest presentation during their lesson from S4 pupil Blair Thom.

Blair delivered a very informative and passionate presentation to the class and showcased one of his own family artefacts collected by himself and his grandfather. Our S6 mentor Saad Omer provided some insight into German History during the lesson and supported pupils with their investigations. Our pupils asked Blair some thought provoking questions at the end which he handled very professionally. The History Department would like to thank Blair for sharing his wonderful primary sources with us. You can check out Blair's presentation below!

## Who am I and why am I here?

- My name is Blair, I am in S4.
- I am a collector of old war and post war artefacts.
- I also am a vintage coin collector.

## Where do I find these artefacts

- From my Grandparents.
- Had multiple family members served overseas during the First and second world war.
- Collected when some of my family members were abroad.

What have I brought with me to show you today?

Any guesses?



Firstly: 1901 Queen Victoria one penny



Next: 10 groschen from the German Empire in 1900



This Japanese box from Japan after WW2.

1940-1945

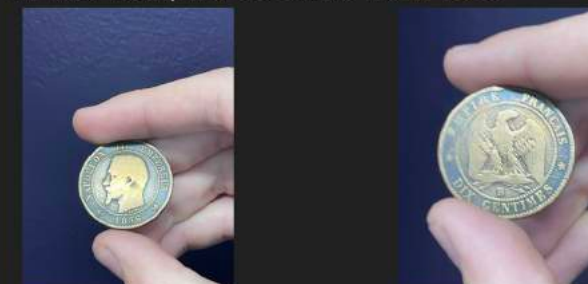
Coin used in Guinea between 1830-1940



Japanese coin dating back to 1600



French Empire 60 cents from 1835







## A year with WSPTA

The Wellington School Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) is led by a committee of parents and teachers from all stages of the school – nursery, primary and senior.

Throughout the year, the PTA hold a number of fund-raising events. In 2023 these included Halloween discos, and the hugely popular Summer and Christmas Concerts. The PTA also raise funds through the organisation and running of the Uniform thrift shop.

WSPTA Chair, Laura Alexander caught up with us to let us know how 2023 went:

We've had an extremely busy year. We started off with our very successful Ceilidh which was held in the beautiful location of Boswell Coach House and raised over £6,000!

We supported the Junior School in May to hold a Coronation celebration: this included games, parades and refreshments.

In the month of June we supported the school at the Sports Day, providing a tuck shop for both pupils and guests.

Our WSPTA Summer Concert was held at Ayr Town Hall and was very well received by parents and guests. Pimms and canapés were very much enjoyed before the musical performances.

In October and December the Junior School enjoyed Halloween and Christmas parties in which the WSPTA helped provide snacks and decorations.

Our final event of the year was a Christmas concert at Ayr Town Hall. We welcomed guests with Christmas punch and mince pies. The music department showcased how talented our pupils really are!

All these events would not be possible without the help and support from all the Committee members and Teachers. I would like to personally thank them all very much for their support throughout the year.

The money raised from all our events have allowed us to support the school with some fantastic purchases. Our biggest purchase has been new Headsets and Microphones for our Music department, the cost of this being well into five figures. These have been very well received and enhanced the school shows, the most recent being Mary Poppins and P7 pantomime.

A new Hockey Goalkeeper kit was purchased for the PE department. Smaller purchases have been new football kits and balls for our Junior School Football Team.

A Drum Screen was purchased for the music department, beanbags for the Junior school library, plants for the chill zone and an LED projector also for the Music Department.

Our Thrift Shop plays a huge part in the funding of purchases for the school. With its new location in Carleton Turrets, we have sales planned throughout 2024. These dates can be found on the school calendar.

Our next AGM is on Tuesday 5th March at 7pm.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported our events during 2023 and we look forward to welcoming you to our next event in 2024. Details to follow.





# EPAS at Wellington

## By S3 Junior Ambassadors

In October, Wellington School joined the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme. This is open to young people in schools in the European Union member states and former member states. The programme encourages young people to engage in active participation in democracy and citizenship activities in their school communities and beyond.

Our Junior Ambassadors meet once a week to plan and organise events for pupils in the school. In the Autumn Term our Ambassadors represented the programme at our Open Evening and talked to parents, pupils and friends of the school about what it offers.

In December, our S3 Ambassadors delivered an informative presentation about languages in the workplace to their year group. They demonstrated how learning a language can open doors and help in later life.

Anastasia, Blair, Freya, and Jess spoke about different careers that involve foreign languages and about the opportunities young people can consider related to areas of study or work. The S3 audience were made aware of some job opportunities that are available that use languages, but are not commonly associated with learning or speaking a foreign language, such as working for GCHQ or for an accountancy firm.

The S3 pupils took part in interactive activities which gauged their understanding of career opportunities both before and after the presentation. All of the participants learned a great deal about languages in the workplace and how these can be used as part of a career and when studying or travelling and how languages help with making connections with people.

Feedback from the S3 pupils was extremely positive and many commented on the video interviews they had watched where a range of careers were represented. They enjoyed finding out about the job opportunities available to them where knowledge of foreign languages enhances prospects and about the challenges that speakers had to overcome as language learners.

Our Junior Ambassadors have further exciting projects in the pipeline for 2024.





# Sporting Achievements

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

## Sports Coach of the Year

First up S3 pupil, Imogen, was recently awarded the Under 25's Sports Coach of the Year award at South Ayrshire Sports Awards.

Imogen volunteers and coaches at Team BFS at Ballochbroe Farm Stables, an equine learning club for children and young people.



## Table Tennis

Congratulations to Padma, who was selected and competed in an International Table Tennis game with Ulster recently in which Team Scotland won.



## Swimming

Congratulations to P7 pupil, Sophia, who swam 4 events with the South Ayrshire Swim Team recently. Sophia got personal best times in each swim and she finished second in the 50m breast and third in the 50m back stroke.



Sophia, along with P7 classmate Sofia also represented the school at the Ayrshire Schools swimming Championship in December. Sophia secured silver in the 50m back stroke and 50 m breaststroke with personal bests. Sofia gained personal bests in all events she took part in.



Congratulations to P6 pupil, Benjamin, who won a medal for the South Ayrshire Swim Team. Benjamin came third in breast stroke.



Over the summer P4 pupil, Zora achieved level 2 swimming and is now making his way through level 3.



## Showjumping

S6 pupil Fergal has had a very successful 6 month in Showjumping. Back in September, Fergal was selected by the British Showjumping Association to compete for Great Britain at the FEI Jumping Youth Nations Cup in Austria, where he won in his class.

Fergal then claimed victory in the Under 25 group at 130 Grand Prix Arena UK, where he won with his 8 year old mare- Karima. Fergal rounded up the year competing at Northcote in Blackburn back in November and qualified for the London International Horse Show.



S4 pupil, Cara and her homebred mare Khaleesi II, won their class at the Scottish Horse Show of the Year back in September.



## Athletics

Huge well done to pupils Millie and Kate, who attended the Ayrshire Championships back in September. Millie came 1st in High Jump and Hurdles and Kate came 2nd in High Jump and 3rd in Hurdles.



Several Wellington pupils took part in the Ayrshire Cross Country Championships in Kilmarnock back in October. Congratulations to S1 pupil, Caleb, who placed 2nd and S2 pupil Murphy, who placed 3rd.



## Karate

Two S4 pupils saw great success at the Scottish Alliance Karate Championships back in September.

Sam took home 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals and Josh took home a gold and a bronze medal.





## Hockey

In Novemebr 2023, the 1XI hockey team played Earlston High School in the quarter final of the Senior Girls Challenge Plate.

At full time the game was 3-3, 3-3 after strokes and then 3 sudden death strokes at 1-1, 0-0, with Earlston eventually winning 1-0.



## Figure Skating

We are very proud of S1 pupil Lewis, who took part in 'Skate Celje', an International Figure Skating competition in Slovenia.

Lewis competed against boys from across Europe in the Basic Novice Boys (under 13s) categorsy and impressed the judges to take first place. He also earned an impressive new Personal Best score.



## Archery

Congratulations to S3 pupil Laura, who attended the National Indoor Championships back in December, shooting in both the Senior and Junior categories.

Laura was the only archer to shoot two different bow styles at the Junior Indoor Championship, Laura finished 4th in the U16s Individual round, she also represented her country at the Home Nations event winning gold.



## Rugby

Huge well done to Ayr/Wellington U16's for making it to the Scottish Cup Semi-Final in December after a hard fought match against Hawick's U16's. A tough match, but Charlie, Oscar, Jamie, Harry & Jamie played very well.



Also in Rugby, Ayr/Wellington U15's won the Inspiresport National Club 1 Conference. The boys put on a superb performance last term with 9 wins, no losses and one game cancelled due to weather. We are delighted for them on their success and commend David, Harry, Adam, Enzo, Billy, Oliver, Archie and Fin on their efforts.



Step right up to the  
greatest show on earth!

Save the date for our  
Wellington School Dance  
Show "Under the Big Top",  
5th & 6th March 2024 in  
Carleton Turrets Hall.

Tickets can be purchased  
from the Finance Office in  
the school.





# Christmas Fair 2023

By Maddie Arnott

Wellington School's annual Christmas Fair was recently held in December, supporting this year's S6 Charity, Diabities UK. It saw a high attendance, with local businesses in attendance holding stalls such as skincare and home baking. We also had Santa's Grotto, a calender stall, and a craft room. The S6 Pupils were keen to make this a great day and all put in work to make the event a success.

## Calender

The school calender was available to purchase, with a theme of Wellington Through the Years, celebrating the school's 100th anniversary at it's current site. Sarah and Max, this year's Head Boy and Head Girl, delved into the archives to find forgotten about photos and albums to implement into this year's calender. They found photos documenting old trips, classrooms and year group pictures and created a calender which tied new and old together. It gave us all the opportunity to celebrate the school's journey and what it has accomplished through the years.

## Activities

Santa's Grotto returned yet again, with a Santa and his elves in attendance to greet everyone. Children were able to get a photo with Santa in his grotto and a chocolate for their travels. Face painting, a bottle stall and a teddy tombola were all activities going on as well throughout the day with both S6 Pupils and staff running them.

## Raffle

As every year, a raffle took place took place at the end with staff, pupils and family having the opportunity to purchase tickets on the day and the week leading up to it. The Herbarry Troon, Enterkine House, Cherry Soda and many more local businesses kindly gifted us prizes which were raffled off. As always, S6 Pupils chipped in to buy prizes to include. This year we purchased an Xbox and an electric scooter. This year Mr Byers won the electric scooter and happily accepted!





# Netball at Wellington

By Maddie Arnott

An important part of Wellington life is giving pupils the opportunity to try new sports and grow existing skills. Over the past several years the schools Netball teams have grown dramatically, with seven teams playing in the Ayrshire schools league; and most recently four teams competing in the Scottish Cup.

## Recent Achievements

Since Netball training began several years ago at Wellington, Miss Duffy, a PE teacher and S3/4 Year Head, has headed it. With participation from pupils Miss Duffy has been able to enter teams from P7-S6 into an Ayrshire league.

Last year our S1/2 first team won the Ayrshire league. This is the first team to ever do this at Wellington. It was an amazing achievement and gave pupils the chance to compete at a high level.

Pupils have also had the opportunity to trial for the Ayrshire District Squads, with many of them being successful in the trial. Over the last few years, we have had twelve pupils selected across both the U15 and U17 age group. This squad gives young people the opportunity to be seen by Scottish Netball coaches and grow their netball path. It also allows pupils to make new friends and grow relationships which they will have for the rest of their lives.

## Current Season

The 2023/24 Netball Season has been going well so far, with all teams putting in hard work on and off the court. Currently, four out of seven of our teams remain undefeated and are on track for another promising season.

This year, four teams have been entered into the Scottish Cup. Our S1 team won their first round and progressed in the Cup, whilst our other three teams progressed in the Plate. This competition saw teams travelling across Scotland to compete in high level competition. Our S3 Team are through to the Quarter Final of the plate.

## Opportunities

The introduction of Netball to Wellington has allowed pupils to discover skills and friendships they otherwise would not have. The life skills which participation in sport can give you is amazing and allows all pupils to improve in many aspects of their life.



# Aladdin

By Primary 7

Back in December, Primary 7 pupils put on a festive display with their Pantomime, Aladdin (oh no they didn't!)

Our pupils commented on their favourite thing about the show:

The best part was getting ready before the show and watching the S5's do the Dame's make-up, all the laughs and the costumes were amazing!

- Luella Hutton

My favourite part of the panto was when everyone ganged up on the Evil Queen and we put her into the lamp!

- Murray McAleese

My favourite part of Aladdin was that I loved playing a lead role because I have never played a lead in a school show before!

- Sophia Greenan

My favourite and funniest part was when the smoke machine stopped working and I just stood there not knowing what to do but there was still an amazing GONG at my entry!

- Noah Ritchie

I think the funniest part was when Christian, the Dame, had his intro, where he was talking to the audience and picking out people to have a laugh with!

- Riley Stevenson





# High School Musical Jr: Rehearsals!

By Lottie McEwen

Whilst the fun of Musical Theatre may be over for our senior pupils for the next few months, Wellington's Music department is always hard at work on something new! Miss McKinlay is the Musical Director of this year's junior show, High School Musical Jr!

The cast are incredibly talented and it is a pleasure watching them in rehearsal each Thursday. So far, the cast have been 'Sticking to the Status Quo' as they learn choreography, lines and harmonies to help make songs even more entertaining and iconic than they already are. Since the beginning of High School Musical, many of the cast members have come out of their shell, and it has been a pleasure to see them become confident and enjoy performing.

Many of the cast members from the previous junior show at Wellington, Mary Poppins, have obviously caught the performing bug- and are in the chorus or have principal parts in High School Musical.

Miss McKinlay and Mrs Bradley are working incredibly hard on the show- and after the success of the previous shows, I can't wait to help backstage at High School Musical when the time comes around.

Be sure to buy your tickets when they go on sale later this year!







**Wellington**  
SCHOOL

COMING  
SOON!

A WELLINGTON SCHOOL  
PRODUCTION OF

Disney

# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



Book by  
David Simpatico

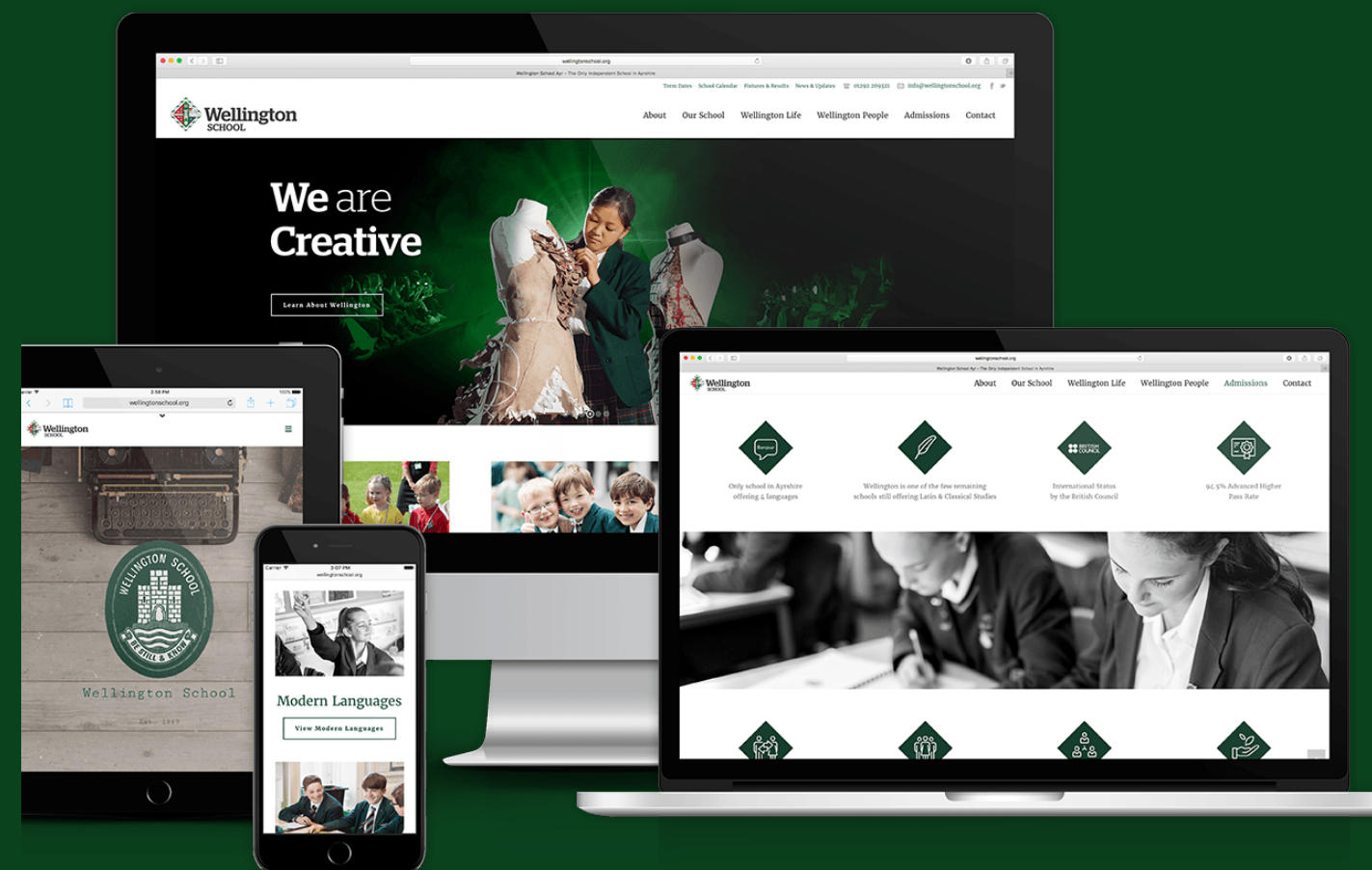
Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by  
Peter Barsocchini

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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on our social media accounts:

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[Twitter.com/Wellington\\_Ayr](https://Twitter.com/Wellington_Ayr)  
[Instagram.com/wellington\\_schoolayr](https://Instagram.com/wellington_schoolayr)  
Youtube.com - Search Wellington School Ayr  
[www.wellingtonschool.org](http://www.wellingtonschool.org)





# S6 CHARITY

By Charmaine Samra

This Year's Sixth year has chosen a charity, which is very close to our hearts. The chosen charity to raise money for is Diabetes UK which was nominated by Evan Kirkwood. Diabetes UK is a charity which helps many people suffering from Diabetes whether it be type 1 or 2.

## Charity Fundraising Activities

S6 have participated and arranged many activities to raise funds over the last 6 months. Our House Captains for Churchill and Nightingale - Grace Dunlop and Ryan Ritchie - organised the Charity Days which were a huge success. Our festive Christmas Craft Fair, organised by S6 raised £4,000. S6 have also hosted various tuck shops at the P7-S1 Halloween parties in which S6 also got into the spooky spirit and put on costumes themselves. Tuck Shops were also provided at the P7-S4 Christmas dances with their Christmas Jumpers to get everyone in the festive spirit. S6 pupils Emily and Kathryn took on the mammoth task of swimming the distance of the Channel at their local swimming pool! You can read all about their experience on the next page.

## Charity Days

### Churchill and Nightingale Charity Days

Some could say Churchill House went all out during the spooky season in order to support their chosen charity, by organising activities for the pupils to enjoy, such as a haunted house in which many pupils got a good scare and was frighteningly decorated also by our very own S6 pupils. However the Fundraising did not stop there as 4 S6 pupils, along with Mr Ritchie from the PE department, volunteered to get their legs waxed by pupils in order to raise money for Diabetes UK. We would like to congratulate them on their bravery, so well done to our smooth legged pupils - Evan Kirkwood, Maxwell Wyllie, Jack Bryson, and Ben Graham, along with Mr Ritchie.

Nightingale Charity was nothing short of fantastic as they organised many different activities. The charity day consisted of a game room, where pupils could challenge their friends to different games, as well as a tuck shop in the hall, which created a fun atmosphere. This was intensified by the music and dancing from staff and pupils!

Along with these charity days S6 offered staff the chance to get their cars washed, to which many staff members jumped at! We designed calendars for 2024, with the theme of 'Wellington Through the Years' to go along with the Centenary celebrations taking place. Recently, S6 pupils and some staff took part in the 'Dip wi' a Nip', where they took on the freezing winter waters of Ayrshire and plunged into the sea. S6 would like to thank all the people who sponsored us for our prelim plunge and the supporters who came to watch.

Stay tuned for more charity events planned for the coming terms, such as the Kilt Walk, quiz night, dance shows, music hair cut, and the musithon. We would also like to give a special thank you to Mr and Mrs Wyllie who are taking on the challenge of covering 100 miles within 24 hours in order to help raise awareness and funds for our S6 charity.



**DiABETES UK**  
**KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.**



# Emily And Kathryn Take On The Channel

By Ross Gibb

On the 12th Of December 2023, two S6 Pupils (Emily & Kathryn Taylor) challenged themselves to swim a combined length of the English Channel in an effort to raise money for the S6 chosen Charity, Diabetes UK. They completed their swim at the Citadel in Ayr, swimming around 33 km or 1344 lengths of the pool! This challenge took them 10 hours & 21 minutes to complete and they managed to raise a huge £2460 for Diabetes UK.

Why did they want to do the swim and why did they choose that length to swim?

Both Emily and Kathryn wanted to do their part to support the S6 chosen charity and wanted to organise a sponsored event. As competitive SAST swimmers, they thought that a swimming event would be “the obvious choice”. Their reason for choosing the length of the English Channel was because they “wanted a distance not many could do, but also something that was achievable”. In addition to that, swimming the Channel is already recognised as a swim that some people challenge themselves to do.

What Preparations did they do for the day?

As competitive swimmers they both already swim multiple times per week on a regular basis. They “had attended a warm-weather training a couple weeks beforehand” which they say helped them to “build up their endurance”. Furthermore they say that food played a big part in their training, saying that “it was mainly carb-loading in the days before the swim” to make sure they had enough energy for the swim and it was also important that they “had the right food to snack on during the day”.

How was their experience swimming on the day?

Emily says that she “found the physical part of the swimming ok actually”, finding the biggest challenge to be “the boredom that came with counting so many lengths and focusing as to not lose count”. Explaining that if her mind wandered, she would lose count of the lengths she had already swam, which was “really annoying” for her.

Kathryn found that energy levels in the morning started out “pretty high” and she was excited to get started. Finding “the most important thing to be settling into a rhythm while swimming” so that she didn’t deplete her energy too quickly. She says that in the final quarter, she could feel the exhaustion kicking in but all she could do was keep going. The final 400 lengths felt like they “were in the home stretch so things got easier”.

How did they feel after the swim? Would they do it again?

Emily found that she “was absolutely exhausted, and excited to go home and have some proper food that wasn’t gummy bears!”. She would like to do it again some day but would like to wait a couple of years till she forgets how strenuous and long it was. Hoping to work up to doing it on her own some day.

Kathryn says that she felt “so relieved and excited after finally finishing the swim”. After spending over 10 hours in the pool, she couldn’t believe that they had finally completed it. She honestly “was looking forward to going home afterwards and getting a good sleep”. She would definitely like to do it again despite how difficult she found it, explaining that the feeling she had after realising that they had completed it was “incomparable”.

Emily and Kathryn would both like to give a big thank you to everyone who came to support them at the poolside and especially to their mum who was there for the entire day, counted the lengths for them and almost walked as far as they swam!

We as S6 would also like to give a huge thank you to all the people who sponsored the Swim but ultimately to Emily and Kathryn who without, we could not have raised so much money for Diabetes UK. So thank you so much girls, we all appreciate the amount of effort you put into the swim!





# Sister Act: The Musical

## Wellington School's Second Show of 2023!

By Lottie McEwen

### Staff and Pupils alike were 'Taken to Heaven' With Our Shows!

After Legally Blonde:

When the curtain fell on Legally Blonde and we said our tearful goodbyes to another fantastic generation of sixth year performers, we began to focus our attentions toward the new show which would be performed on the same Gaiety Theatre stage that we had come to love so much, and had so many incredible memories on. The Music department teased about the potential shows Wellington would be doing for a good few weeks, until one fateful Friday... where Mrs Docherty told us there was a hint in her room that would reveal what our next theatre adventure would be. Desperate to know, I searched her classroom frantically, until I saw it. A mug, with the words 'Sister Act' written on it. That day, we were all added to the Google Classroom and realised... it was happening again. We had a new show to work on! Miss McKinlay, Miss Gilmour and Mrs Docherty are extremely good at keeping secrets!

The Casting:

In contrast to Legally Blonde, the audition process felt a little more relaxing this time around. We had new faces to impress, and the choice of a different character to play. Our auditions came and went- and the dreaded wait for the castlist began. As Sister Act was our last show, we all hoped for the characters we were given. I received the cast list whilst at supported Study for history... And when I learned I was going to be playing Mother Superior, I was ecstatic. This was a role I knew would challenge me, I would have fun with and I grew closer to people I wasn't as close with before.

Rehearsal Process:

Our new producer for this show was Martin. His wife Lynne, would be our Choreographer. Our cast clicked with Martin and Lynne almost immediately, and our relationships with them developed over the few months we had to produce Sister Act. Martin is a very talented producer and leaves no small detail out, and his vision helped us put on an incredible show. Lynne is incredibly creative and a fantastic choreographer, helping all the Nuns, who may not have had much dancing experience or not have the most confidence (myself included!) find a love for dancing and learn to embrace mistakes. As a sixth year student who only got to work on one show with Martin and Lynne, I am very jealous of our current fifth years, who are currently tossing and turning over the potential new show for 2024 and will get to work with them again this year. Although the rehearsals are a commitment of time, they are a real labour of love.

Rehearsal in the Theatre:

The days practising in the theatre are always the most exciting part of any show- and Sister Act was no different! Armed with my camera and determined to capture every moment, I ended up with over 850 pictures of the whole experience! I think people were getting fed up with my trusty lens toward the end- but it was all worth it when our memories were forever encapsulated on camera. Some of my favourite memories from our tech practices and dress rehearsals include: seeing Evie and Jenna, our fantastic leads dressed up as Deloris for the first time, Bobby and his caffeine addiction, Ross' fabulous tan, and the team talks expertly presented by our talented cast members. With the dress rehearsals completed and little to nothing going wrong, we turned our heads toward the main event... the actual performances!

Frustratingly, we had a whole day of school before having to head to the Gaiety- but the moment that school bell rang, the whole cast were out the door and ready to perform.

The Shows:

Similarly to Legally Blonde, most of the principals were double cast. Straws were drawn, and I was paired with the incredible Evie, who I can confidently say is an absolute pleasure to work alongside with- and the part of Deloris was made for both her and Jenna. Also, I got to work with Wellington's own Head boy and girl, which was a blast! Thursday's show opened, and Jenna delivered an incredible performance alongside her Mother Superior and my close friend, Emily. The show ran amazingly, and it made me wish Friday, and my turn would come around even quicker!

The feeling of the curtain falling on a successful opening night, and our whole cast hugging each other was a magical moment. Seeing how happy I and everyone else was, really emphasised the importance of the Music department and the talented music staff. Evie and I could not wait to debut our casts' performance on the Friday. Standing in front of all those people and performing with my favourite 'priest' Bobby, Evie and the brilliant Police officer, Max, brought back so much happiness- just like Legally Blonde had done! When the show closed on Saturday night, I remember crying as soon as Mr Johnson began his speech. Our time as performers at Wellington had come to an end- whilst it was heartbreaking no longer having shows to do, the beauty of the music department is that there are always things going on! Musical Theatre club was set up and choir, Madrigal Group, and the Wicked trip in December 2023 scratched the musical theatre itch which was felt after Sister Act's end. But, not to worry! The junior performers of Wellington are already hard at work on High School Musical, under the Musical Direction of Miss McKinlay I, which opens in June!





# Interview with the Cast!

By Lottie McEwen

**What differences did you notice between Sister Act and Legally Blonde:**

**Hugh:** "It was a more organised environment, probably due to the fact that more people already had show experience."

**Jemima:** I felt more relaxed the second time round, probably because it wasn't my first time doing it and I knew my surroundings and the order of things already, so I could focus on other things and not worry about knowing my way around the place. But Sister Act just felt more relaxed and orderly overall compared to Legally, the lack of quick changes definitely helped as well!

**Max:** Obviously the shows were completely different, we went from pink, law and dogs to nuns and gangsters. But both were equally awesome in their own ways.

**Evie:** Despite them being completely different kinds of shows in most aspects (unfortunately there were no screaming sorority girls in the convent) I found Sister Act to be more of a slow burner in terms of loving it, but ended up being way more fulfilling! Knowing Legally Blonde inside out before doing it, I already knew I would love the outcome no matter what, but with SA. Not knowing it well made the hard work and end result more satisfying!

**Evan:** The main thing for me was the show- Sister Act felt more relaxed. Legally Blonde was a little more chaotic. Sister Act was easier to pick up as we had done it before.

**Any special memories from Sister Act:**

**Hugh:** "I really enjoyed getting to know Martin and Lynne and the entirety of show week for my favourite memory. I also loved the dress rehearsal where we got to see everything come together for the first time."

**Jemima:** Oh god there's so many I can't choose! I remember I'd go down to the wings and watch the start of the production every night with the backstage crew, going into everyone's dressing rooms and just chatting, Johnny being the pope the list goes on.

**Max:** Getting my gear off on the Gaiety stage (again)!

**Evie:** Honestly most rehearsals produced different memories but overall it was amazing to strengthen the friendships already made during LB and also meet and grow closer with Martin!

**Evan:** Hugh and I's team talk, and closing night.

**What was the Rehearsal process like?**

**Hugh:** It seemed very seamless, and things flowed really nicely.

**Max:** It was fun and organised. Rather stress free.

**Evie:** Even though sometimes rehearsals could be hard work, personally I had to be engaged the majority of the time which I think made me enjoy it more. Especially once we began to piece the show together, it was fun to be more involved in different aspects and trying something new each run to develop my own version of Deloris!

**Evan:** I enjoyed it, for the most part. It was fun! It was nice to catch up with people I hadn't spent a lot of time with, and was so much fun getting to know Martin.

**What differences did you notice between the character you played in Legally Blonde and Sister Act?**

**Hugh:** They're quite similar. But, Curtis being a more obvious villain was fun. I thoroughly enjoyed playing both characters.

**Jemima:** Well for me personally there was quite a difference in singing style but the sort of attitude stayed basically the same. I still don't know how I retained my voice after show week but can't say I'm complaining.

**Max:** Both characters I played were the 'good guys' who were both reserved and nervous but 'got the girl' in the end.

**Evie:** Where to start... To be honest, some smaller aspects of Vivienne and Deloris were similar - they are

quite confident characters. The development of both characters throughout the two shows is also relatively similar so that made SA easier. However I don't think Deloris is quite as mean as V was!

**Evan:** I preferred playing Curtis to Warner quite a lot, I felt like I could get into character much better.

**Are you sad Sister Act is over:**

**Hugh:** "Yes, I'd like to do more. Hopefully I'll get to do more at Uni."

**Max:** Very sad, it was such a great musical and such a brilliant cast, I could have asked for a better last school show to share with such a wonderful group of talented people.

**Evie:** Very! I think not having the time with the cast and crew is something I miss the most, as well as not having the chance to perform every week. It's a huge commitment, not just physical time but also emotionally. Having the time in theatre for show week definitely made leaving it behind harder as that week is the most intense but also the most rewarding - I definitely had post-show withdrawal!

**Evan:** Yes I'm very sad!





# HALLOWEEN AT WELLINGTON

By Charmaine Samra

Halloween arrived at Wellington in October with the S1, Primary 7 and Junior School Halloween Parties!

Primary 7 and S1 arrived in their scariest attire to their party that was hosted by our 4 Heads of School, Maxwell Wyllie, Sarah Mason, Evan Kirkwood & Amy Scott. Pupils entered Drumley Hall to see it all decorated with skeleton banners, ghosts and otherspooky decorations.

S1 & P7 costumes were fiercely fantastic. They ranged from blow up minions to scary zombie cheerleaders and skeletons, we even had our very own Wednesday Addams show up. The pupils enjoyed the different activities and the tuck shop which was also run by S6.

The WSPTA also hosted Halloween parties for our Junior School. Our youngest pupils went all out with their costumes ranging from Vampires to Willy Wonka! They danced the night away to their favourite songs and enjoyed an array of Halloween themes games.

A big Thank you to our S6 pupils and our WSPTA for organising these magnificent parties which the pupils all loved!





# S6 Christmas Dance

By Charmaine Samra

As S6 come to the final months of our school life within Wellington, we got ready for our final Christmas Dance at Dumfries House, which was nothing but a welcoming venue to us all.

Dumfries House was beautifully decorated with their lovely large Christmas tree, where we all lined up to take pictures with our friends and teachers, capturing memories from the night. We then enjoyed a lovely meal before taking to the dancefloor.

We had a fantastic band who played all night and encouraged us to get up and do some Ceilidh Dancing!





# CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The history of Wellington School goes back to 1849, when it opened its doors to twelve 'young ladies of quality'. Mrs Gross, the founder of Wellington, named the school after its address, which at the time, was 22 Wellington Square.

By the turn of the century, the school was bought by Miss Smith and Miss Cay, who purchased additional property in Wellington Square and enhanced the school's academic reputation. This pioneering spirit in girls' education saw numbers steadily rise and in 1923, Wellington School moved to its current site, Carleton Turrets. Wellington are delighted, therefore, to be able to celebrate a very special Centenary this year, as the school has now occupied Carleton Turrets for exactly 100 years!

A hundred years is a long time, and the Wellington School of 2023 is quite different to the one of 1923. The school now welcomes boys and girls aged 3 to 18 and in addition to Carleton turrets, it also occupies the three neighbouring buildings of Craigweil House, Craigweil Lodge and Drumley House. A sports campus and outdoor nursery at Doonside completes the estate and ensure that pupils of all ages have access to appropriate facilities. Despite all the changes and additions, the family spirit that animates Wellington is just as vibrant now as it was 100 years ago.

As part of the Centenary celebrations, Wellington have arranged a programme of events throughout this academic year starting with the Centenary Ball which took place on Saturday 18th November. We were delighted to welcome three hundred former pupils, current pupils, staff, parents, and friends of Wellington at Ayr Racecourse, where the evening began with a drinks reception and music from French teacher and local celebrity, Jermey Levif. Guests then enjoyed a 3 course dinner, dancing to music from Arcadium and games hosted by Primary 7 teacher, Mrs Bradley. All guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and it was a good excuse for former pupils to get together and reminisce about their time at Wellington School.

The Centenary Ball ended with an Auction, the proceeds of which went to the Wellington Centenary Appeal. The aim of the appeal is to generate additional funds to support Wellington's comprehensive Bursary programme and their ambitious campus development plans. In the short term, Wellington intend to renovate Carleton Turrets Hall, which is the busiest multi-purpose space in the school. Looking further ahead, the construction of a Sports Hall at Doonside is their primary large-scale objective to meet both the curricular and the extra-curricular needs of the pupils.

In the new year, Wellington have several events planned, including:

- Centenary Exhibition - 4th - 18th March at The Cutty Sark Centre
- Centenary Concert - 20th March at Ayr Town Hall
- Former pupil's Lunch - 1st June at Carleton Turrets Hall

For more information on these events and the Wellington School Development Plan, please visit [www.wellingtonschool.org](http://www.wellingtonschool.org)







# CENTENARY SAVE THE DATES

**5th - 18th March 2024**

Centenary Exhibition  
at Cutty Sark Centre



**20th March 2024**

Centenary Concert  
at Ayr Town Hall



**1st June 2024**

Former Pupils' Lunch  
at Carleton Turrets

## 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. 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.

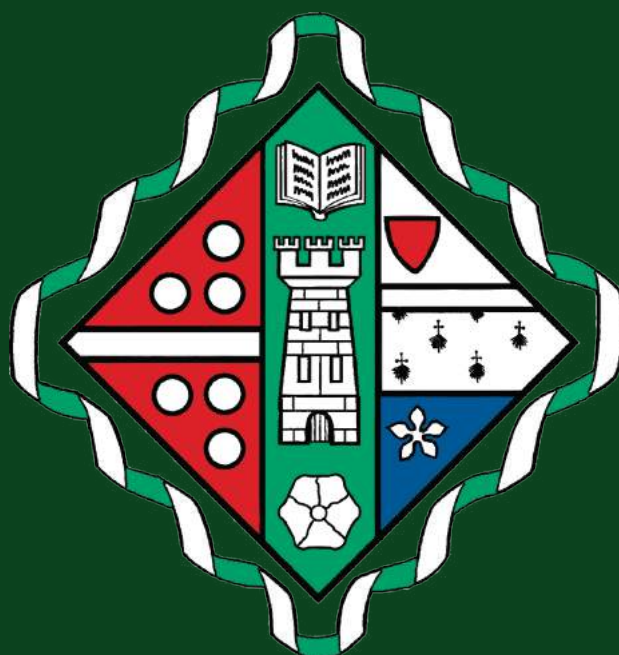
I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Turret, the pupils & staff who have shared their news and work to be displayed, especially to our article authors for this edition. I would also like to make a special thanks to my Assistant Editors; Maddie Arnott, Ross Gibb, Lottie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





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