



Wellington
SCHOOL

Annual Report
2024



Introduction

The end of another school session has arrived and once again, it has been a very busy and successful year in the classroom, in sport, in music and in so many other areas of school life. It has also been the Centenary of Wellington School's move to Carleton Turrets and we have celebrated in real style. I am grateful to everybody who has supported the school by attending or helping at any of our special events. As always, this Annual Report provides a catalogue of all that has happened over the last twelve months, department by department. I hope you enjoy reading it and sharing in the achievements and successes of our pupils.

Simpson

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

Academic Report

Gai Johnston, Assistant Head (Academic)

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

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

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

S6 Leavers Report 2023

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

S6 Advanced Higher Examinations

	2023			2022			2021		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	44%	26%	21%	45%	22%	17%	84%	11%	3%
National Results at Advanced Higher	33%	25.5%	21%	33.7%	26%	21.6%	51%	23.3%	16%

S5 Higher Report

In S5, the 2023 results were just as impressive as in previous years. From a cohort of 51

pupils, 23% of our pupils achieved straight A grade passes in 5 or more subjects. The A-C pass rate at Wellington School in S5, at Higher level was 94%, more than 15% above the national average of 77.1%. SQA focus on recognising positive achievement, and at Wellington we are extremely proud that many of our students perform individually well and are achieving the marks required that contribute to the overall pass rate.

S5 Higher Examinations

	2023			2022			2021		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	57%	27%	10%	69%	16%	10%	90%	8%	2%
National Results at Higher	32.8%	24.1%	20.2%	34.8%	24.3%	19.8%	47.6%	22.1%	17.5%

S4 National 5 Report

The National 5 examinations produced a 91% pass rate at A-C, compared to 78.8% nationally, with an 56% of pupils receiving an A grade award, above the national average. From a cohort of 54 pupils, one fifth of the year group achieved eight A grade passes at National 5.

S4 National 5 Examinations

	2023			2022			2021		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	56%	22%	13%	82%	12%	4%	82%	12%	4%
National Results at National 5	38.6%	22.4%	17.8%	46.7%	20.7%	18.4%	46.7%	20.7%	18.4%

The results achieved across S4, 5 and 6 are a collective achievement of which we should be extremely proud. Staff and pupils have worked hard all year round and through supported study and individual pupil support, all pupils have the best possible educational opportunities. As a school we are still very aware of the impact that Covid had on the lives and learning experiences of our pupils and we look to support our pupils to ensure the very best outcomes. With SQA's announcement of the reintroduction of coursework this academic year, and a return to full course coverage, teachers and pupils have been faced with a new set of challenges. Particularly our senior pupils (S5/6) who will have

completed coursework activities for the first time to be externally assessed at SQA, without the building blocks of National 5 coursework behind them.

Tailored school trips, educational exchange visits, musical tours, school shows, visiting lecturers, and curricular competitions continue to offer an exciting programme and provide a well-rounded education that is second to none. A special thank you to all staff who contribute to educational opportunities out with the classroom.

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



Art & Design

Joyce Morton, Head of Department

Centenary Exhibition

A highlight of this year was our Centenary Exhibition in Cutty Sark in March. Visitors explored the history of the school through photographs, memorabilia, video footage and artwork. Visitors were very impressed by the talent of Wellington's young artists and designers and enjoyed speaking to the artists about their work. We give thanks to Anastasia D'Angelosante in S4 for giving a live painting demonstration at the exhibition and also give thanks to Lara Marshall in S4 who demonstrated how junk can be made into couture. Thanks also to Jemima Harvey in S6 who produced the outstanding video and sound material telling the story of the school.

Open Studio Event

Senior artists put on a fantastic showcase of work at an open studio event in March. Seeing completed folios and work in progress gave parents an insight into the creativity and hard work that goes into producing high quality folios for national qualifications. The corridor and art studios were full of a range of beautiful expressive and design work from National 5 and Higher Art.

Our senior pupils studying at N5, Higher and AH level have demonstrated passion for the subject and worked hard all year.

Caledonian Club Art Exhibition

Paintings by two Wellington School pupils were selected in February for the Scottish Schools Art Exhibition at the prestigious Caledonian Club in London. Katherine Paisley in S5 and Evie Scott Galli were delighted to showcase their talent to a London audience. They also eloquently discussed their working methods on the Caledonian Club's social media platforms.

Glasgow Print Studio

Advanced Higher Art pupils visited Glasgow Print Studio in November where they had the opportunity to develop printmaking skills while working in studio space used by many of Scotland's most esteemed artists.

Jupiter Artland

We were delighted this year to work with the education team at Jupiter Artland. S5 and S6 Art pupils had the opportunity to construct short films using an industry standard green screen and accessible softwares. They also visited award winning artist Rachel McLean's

installation in Ayr High Street. We look forward to taking up further opportunities with Jupiter Artland next session.

Mrs Hunter, Miss Bindlay and myself never cease to be amazed by the creative, imaginative and artistic abilities of our pupils. We look forward to the next session where a particular highlight will be our Art trip to Barcelona in September. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore the architecture of Antoni Gaudi and artists such as Picasso and Miro.



Biology

Marion McIntyre, Head of Department

Curiosity is alive and well at Wellington School, where our biologists have been buzzing with activity this year. The blend of hands-on laboratory experiments and fieldwork in our beautiful location forms the backbone of courses. We aim to give our budding biologists insights from the world of science to fuel their passion for discovery and innovation.

Our first-year biologists enjoyed discovering organ systems such as the musculoskeletal system by dissecting a chicken's wing and building a model of the respiratory system. They also extracted DNA from plant tissue, investigating its essential role in life itself. Second-year students learned how the body maintains a constant temperature and water content. Dissecting a kidney helped them understand the importance of removing poisonous waste from the human body.

Third-year biologists made a great start to the National 5 course and have been busy making models of different types of cells and investigating the process of osmosis. Our fourth-year students are to be congratulated for all the hard work they put into preparing for their exams. Dissecting a heart and brain fuelled their curiosity and deepened their understanding of anatomy.

Higher Biologists have engaged in diverse activities, including constructing models to understand DNA replication, and mastering essential techniques such as PCR and gel electrophoresis which are crucial in forensic analysis. Dissecting a mammalian heart and an entire fish has provided them with valuable insights into anatomy. We are pleased that some of our Higher students have chosen to continue their biological studies at Advanced Higher level next year.

Advanced Higher Biologists honed essential research, practical and presentational skills through the reintroduction of Biology projects which will benefit them in their future studies. We enjoyed a laboratory session with Lucienne McCallum from Timstar, learning about the ELISA technique's application in the diagnosis of an infection.

In primary 5 science, as part of their 'Astronaut training', pupils investigated bone health, the importance of water on the human body and methods for identifying specific nutrients in food. Primary 6 pupils explored the impact of ocean acidification on living organisms and delved into inheritance through a Harry Potter themed investigation of mandrakes, constructing models to illustrate inherited traits.

In March, Dr Jakoby facilitated bilingual workshops during the exchange visit of Mallinckrodt Gymnasium pupils from Dortmund. German students collaborated with their Scottish hosts in lab experiments, examining plastic pollution in sea water and comparing pH levels in river samples from Ayr and Glasgow.

Thank you to our Biology Captain, Neve Ticcioni for her inspirational leadership this year. Neve has been instrumental in mentoring our younger students, from nursery to Higher level, supported by our other Advanced Higher Biologists: Ewan Hamilton, Micheál Magee, Kiki Douglas, Sarah Mason, and Emma Thomson.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Peden, whose dedication makes it possible for our department to conduct such enriching activities.



Business Studies

Linda Munn, Head of Department

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

Future Asset

In September, for the third year running, we entered the Future Asset national competition. Three of our senior girls formed this year's team - Leah Kerr, Charmaine Samra and Cara McGlynn. The aim of the competition is to educate young females about careers in investment which is, currently, very male dominated. The girls were tasked with choosing a company and preparing a case to attract potential investors - the girls chose to focus on Vestas - a Danish company who manufacture wind turbines for the renewable energies market. The girls worked tirelessly on their presentation and even took time to film their elevator pitch in the Carrick Hills and Whitelee Windfarm. All their hard work paid off as they were selected to attend the final held on 1st March in Edinburgh City Chambers. A total of 70 schools entered the competition but only five schools made it through to the final - a real achievement for our girls - we are so proud of them. On the day, they gave an excellent presentation to six judges who all worked in the investment industry. It must have been a very nerve-racking experience for the them, but they embraced the challenge with great enthusiasm and gave a very confident performance. Hopefully, this experience has given them an insight into the financial investment world, and even if they don't pursue a career in this field, it will have helped develop their communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills - all of which are essential in every walk of life.

S2 Fairtrade Event

In March, the S2 pupils held the Fairtrade event in Carleton Turrets Hall. Once again, our pupils surpassed all expectations, displaying excellent awareness of the principles of Fair Trade as well as creativity, teamwork, and an ability to make profit - all of which was donated to the 6th year charity - Diabetes UK. Our pupils' creativity really shone through with very innovative ideas on show. These ranged from the creative ways which the stalls were presented to the varying promotional techniques used to attract customers. One group member, with a little help from her grandfather, built a very impressive shelving unit to display the products. We would like to express a huge thank you to all parents/guardians, staff and pupils who supported this event by spending their hard-earned cash - this event could not be a success without you.

Fiver Challenge

After the February break, we ran the Fiver Challenge for pupils P7-S2. With rising prices, we

were able to increase the initial investment from £5 to £10 - next year it may have to rebranded the "Tenner Challenge". The opportunity to take part in the challenge was welcomed fervently by all, particularly the P7 pupils. The pupils were given a tenner to kick start a business idea and then, over the course of 3 weeks, they were required to use their entrepreneurial skills to maximise their profits. The playground area was a hive of activity over the course of the challenge. Once again, our junior pupils showed immense creativity with their innovative ideas. During lunch times, we were able to sample lots of lovely home baking, buy homemade bracelets, have our portraits drawn, and there was even a chance for staff to get their car washed. At least 50% of all profits made by each team were donated to the school charity, some very generously donated 100% of their profits. The pupils raised over £1000 for Diabetes UK - an amazing achievement - thank you to everyone who took part and all the support which was received from parents/ guardians, Mrs Clachan and Mrs Bradley. The pupils had great fun taking part in this event, but they also learned valuable life skills - handling money, calculating profits, teamwork and communication.

Visit to the Paper Mill, Irvine

With the Covid restrictions now over we were delighted to be able to re-establish our links with industry. In March, our Higher Business Management pupils visited the UPM Caledonian Paper Mill based in Irvine. During the visit Bryan McMurdo (General Manager) and Fiona Paterson (Quality Development Supervisor) gave very detailed and informative presentations on UPM's operations with particular emphasis on how UPM ensure sustainability in its processes. We were also treated to a tour of the factory where we were able to see first-hand the paper being manufactured. This visit allowed the pupils to see how the theory that is taught in the classroom is implemented in a real-life working environment. We are very appreciative of the time which our hosts took out of their busy schedules to make us feel very welcome and answer questions from our pupils.

Computing

Graeme Currie, Head of Department

The Computing department has had a busy year. Our students participated in several competitions in Computational Thinking, Cyber Security and Robotics, showcasing their programming and problem-solving skills. S1 & S2 courses have introduced more Physical Computing aspects so pupils can gain an understanding of how the skills they are learning can be applied in physical devices in the real-world, and Primary 7 students were introduced to a new course during the academic year, including Game Development, Cyber Security, a brief introduction to Artificial Intelligence and App Design. The number of students pursuing Computing Science from S3 to Advanced Higher has continued to increase, and they continue to attain highly. We aim to maintain this success in the upcoming academic year and beyond.

This year, a group of S2 students participated in the First Lego League, organized by The Institute of Engineering & Technology in the UK. This program aims to provide students with real-world problem-solving experience through a global robotics program. With guidance from the Computing and Physics departments, the students programmed a Lego robot kit to complete various challenges within a 150-second time limit. They also presented their robot design, explaining its different features. Although they came in a very close second, narrowly missing out on winning their heat, the students performed admirably and are eager to improve their performance next year.

In March a group of pupils from Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund visited on the return leg of the German Exchange and, with a group of their Wellington hosts, visited The National Robotarium at Heriot Watt University. They learned about how robotics (and different type of robots) can be used in different careers and industries such as Healthcare, Construction, Sport & Fitness, Farming, among many others. Pupils also received a first-hand demonstration of a four-legged robot designed for use in dangerous search & rescue situation before taking part in a competitive workshop ending in a robot race. This was an excellent and enlightening experience for all involved and we look forward to visiting with a group of Wellington pupils early in the new school year.

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

of this focus, we have had pupils take part in courses & competitions set up by Cyber First, a program set up by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). These courses give a broad look at the field of Cyber Security and pupils got to experience workshops on Ethical Hacking, Physical Security & Digital Forensics to name a few.

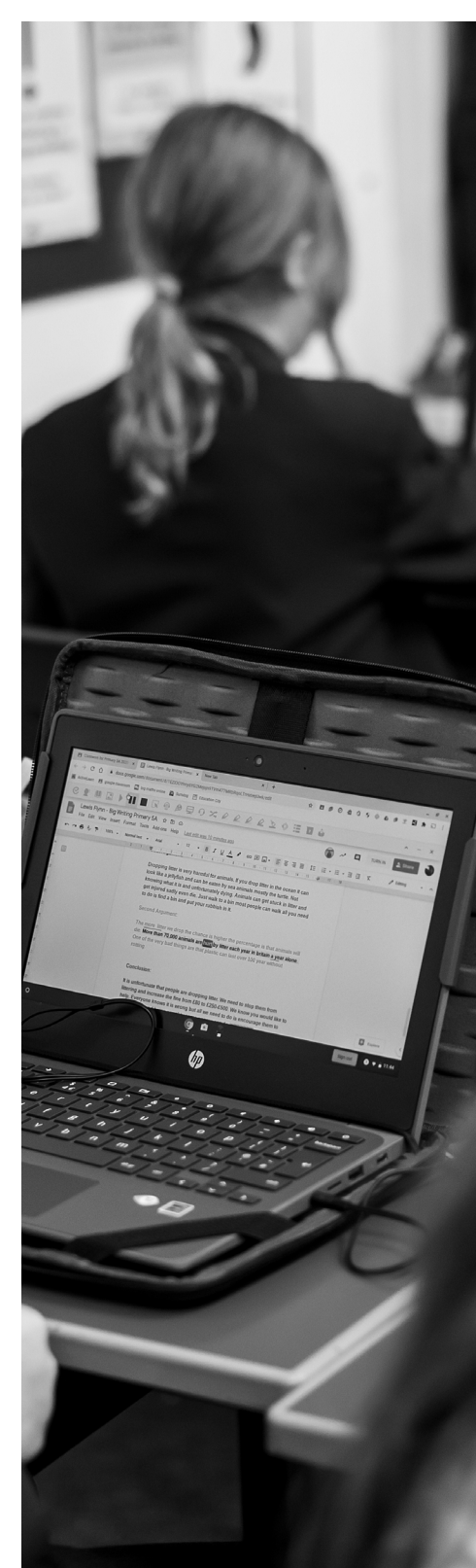
In November/December we also had a group of S2 girls compete in the Cyber First S2 Girls competition where they learned about cryptography, encryption & decryption along with Digital Forensic techniques and had to work together to solve problems & complete challenges in these areas. This is a yearly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

In October/November all pupils within the Computing Department, from P7 to S6, took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Competition, which is a UK wide competition, organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford. Pupils are presented with problems of increasing difficulty, and through attempting these challenges develop abstraction, decomposition, and pattern recognition skills which can be applied to solve problems in any field. The following pupils achieved the best score from Wellington in their category.

- Elite (16 - 18) - Bentley Cai
- Seniors (14 - 16) - Alex Melvin
- Inters (12 - 14) - Freya McAleese
- Juniors (10 - 12) - Noah Ritchie

Finally, P7 entered the DigilInventor competition to design health related apps. Pupils are challenged to research common health and care challenges and come up with ideas that could be transformed into a digital health and care solution. The challenge is run by the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre who run it in partnership with the City of Glasgow College. One of our Wellington teams of Evie, Mithian and Sofia were announced as winners for their app designed to help those with Autism. This is an excellent achievement being one of only 3 winners from primary schools across Scotland.

As you can see it has been a busy session with the next academic year looking equally packed.



Chemistry

Karis Leckie, Head of Department

Effort. Such a small word, yet it profoundly underpins the academic journey. Effort is a widely used word in the vocabulary of a teacher. Frequently, pupils will be cajoled and tempted by the promises of what more 'effort' will bring. Teachers bring effort to the classroom every day as we seek to inspire even further 'effort' in our respective cohorts; academic success and effort are intimately intertwined. Effort is used to inspire intellectual improvement or alternatively initiate a metamorphosis in the reluctant scholar. I have had cause to be reminded, and humbled, of the power of sustained effort this session.

My stellar moment did not come from the result of any one of the numerous assessments delivered by enthused chemists as they proudly demonstrated their knowledge to achieve personally excellent grades. My deepest satisfaction of my 'job' was not found amongst the many times I sat back and watched with pride as the young scientists before me adeptly completed practical tasks with silky skills beyond their years. This session, my defining moment was found within an individual who had failed. A student who found themselves lost in a swirl of ionic and covalent bonds with no idea where to find those electrons that would lead them to a stable solution. The student made a decision to try again. They opted to buy in. They chose the path that required sustained diligence. I watched a pupil start again. They cleared their head and they faced their misunderstandings. They accepted the challenge of breaking chemistry down and rebuilding to a better model. It has been such a privilege to be part of this total reset. It has been so rewarding to navigate this pupil from a place of cloudy chemistry to one that is brimming with energy and clarity. Irrespective of final outcomes - the student learned, and the teacher was reminded of, just what can be achieved when undiluted effort is applied.

Chemistry within the senior school this session has been dominated by the re-introduction of practical assignments and projects. These tasks have returned to, once again, take a central part of the final grade for our S4 to S6 pupils. Mrs Newall prepared her S4 cohort beautifully - no stone was left unturned. It was a delight to observe the initial tentative steps from the pupils blossom into confident practitioners ready to deliver for this additional practical assessment. Typical investigations involved combustion of alcohols, acidity of vinegars or factors affecting reaction rate. Thanks to Mrs Newall's efforts, these pupils now have a strong foundation for the challenge of the Higher course.

The S5 cohort had the unenviable task of approaching Higher assignments with no previous experience from Nat.5. They were frankly superb in their approach. They listened, they read, they researched. Investigation themes were similar to Nat.5 with additional theoretical knowledge expected alongside a more complex processing of results. The Higher classes this session have been characterised by their cheerful manner. Always hard-working and keen to learn, they approached their studies with a smile on their face. The Special Prize for Chemistry this year was jointly awarded to Sophia Girgis and Benjamin Richmond. On the day, it was impossible to separate these two impeccable students - their appreciation of the content of the course was magnificent. Congratulations to you both - so well deserved.

A busy Advanced Higher class thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to project work. With classes suspended - the pupils took over Lab 3 in pursuit of some tangible results that could provide the foundation for a credible report. All pupils worked individually and explored vastly different topics ranging from Synthesis of Paracetamol through to an Analysis of Bleach! At this point, a massive thank you must be made to 'Queen Barbie', our very own Mrs Peden. Organising individual projects for AH is an onerous task. We are very spoiled to be supported by the extremely experienced 'Mrs P'. Her practical support is fundamental to the success of the Projects and as a department we would function less well without her steady influence.

This AH cohort have been recognised as fabulous scientists throughout their days at Wellington. It is such a special feeling to watch them 'graduate' from school science to further explore such a diverse range of subjects - Astrophysics, Medicine, AI and Engineering. They have been a delight to discuss chemistry with and there is no hiding from the fact that I will miss their joyous enthusiasm and unfaltering work ethic. I have been so very thankful to have their support whenever we have run special events for the likes of nursery or open days. En masse they volunteer to get involved and spread the 'Chemistry Love'. Many congratulations to Chemistry Captain Kathryn Taylor who won the Special Prize for Chemistry. From start to finish, Kathryn has embraced Chemistry - her enjoyment and, of course, her effort has been inspirational. I hope Computational Chemistry fills her eye at University.

Thank you to all the students of Chemistry who have shown resilience this year when their head hurts from the theory and the deadlines are looming. Please know your effort is seen and is very much appreciated.

Karis Leckie
'Chemistry Barbie'





English

Daniel Howie, Head of Department

It has been a very productive year in the department, as well as an eye-opening one. The last twelve months have been defined by our desire to further re-establish our pre-COVID routine, most notably in our return to the theatre with greater frequency. Yet in the midst of the comfort of normality, the department has seen the recent global developments in AI spark a departmental dialogue about how this will (positively) influence our practice going forward. It is certainly an exciting time to be an English teacher, and we're sure our pupils benefit from our ongoing passion, curiosity and expertise as practitioners. These attributes will certainly not be replaced by AI, although some in the department feel it may offer some better alternatives to Mr Howie's jokes!

This year we welcomed a new full-time member of staff to the department - Mrs Kolgan, who previously worked with us during part of the previous academic year. It is remarkable how quickly she has taken to the role. She has created and shared countless engaging resources throughout the year, and added to what was already a key strength of our department - the support each teacher lends to others, ultimately to the benefit of all our pupils. We all agree that our department shines due to our productive teamwork, peer support, resource sharing and consistent engagement in best educational practice. Mrs Kolgan enhances this culture further and we hope she works with us for many years to come.

We continue to offer a wide variety of trips to our various cohorts. This year we embraced the theatre with renewed vigour, organising two trips to the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Mrs Wulff arranged for our S1 pupils to see a visually resplendent production of 'The Life of Pi', and Mrs Sheils led our S3 pupils to see the modern horror classic, 'The Woman in Black'. The latter greatly enhanced their study of the text, which was being undertaken at the time of the trip. Additionally, Mrs Bruce ensured that our Advanced Higher pupils embarked upon our annual pilgrimage to the library of the University of Glasgow, encouraging engagement with secondary criticism and wider research to enhance dissertation and folio work, as well as preparing them for university study. They also enjoyed a performance at the Conservatoire before the return journey home.

Mrs Sheils organised an enriching transition project that brought the P7 and S1 cohorts together for a fun morning of slam poetry workshops, from composition to performance. Pupils were first taught the fundamentals of poetic craft before being put into groups and tasked with writing and performing their own creations. The final performances were varied and frequently humorous, allowing our pupils to express themselves with greater confidence.

Elsewhere, we engaged in best practice by implementing more retrieval practice in our lessons, developing new unit studies on modern films such as 'Ready Player One' and 'Green Book', and diversifying our group talk assessments by presenting pupils with moral dilemmas that required keen problem solving skills to unravel.

Debating & Public Speaking

This was a landmark year for debating at Wellington. For the first time ever, we invited schools from across Scotland to join us for a full day of debating at the inaugural Ayrshire Debating Cup. We welcomed teams from a broad geographical area, including St. Columba's School, Broxburn Academy and Strathallan School in Perth.

Our speakers enjoyed success on the day - Katie Ronnie and Mia Littlejohn won the Silver Final. Milla Potts and Lingling Edmond-Pan also made it to the Silver Final and were the top two novice speakers respectively. Plans are already underway for the second instalment of the competition.

Yet this was also a landmark year for debating in another respect - we broke the Wellington record for entering the most national speaking competitions in a calendar year. In November alone we competed in seven national competitions, and with this came much achievement for our budding orators.

Here are some of the highlights of our successes this year:

- Jess Ewer, Ava O'Brien and Andrew Irvine - Runners up for the second consecutive year in the Rotary Youth Speaks District Final. Jess also won our internal S3 public speaking competition, and the Inter House debate alongside her sister, Emilia.
- Milla Potts and Lingling Edmond-Pan ended their impressive run at the online London Juniors competition just a single point away from getting to the Silver Final.
- S1 Debate - Congratulations go to the winning team of Olivia Caldow, April Baird and Emilia Ewer.
- Jonathan Dunn and Saad Omer reached the quarter finals of the Mace. Jonathan was also chosen to judge the final of the St. Andrew's Day Debate, based on his judging expertise in previous rounds.
- Katie Ronnie and Emily Taylor reached the semi-finals of the Donald Dewar debate, aided by Saad Omer's impressive performance as a substitute in the quarter-final. The girls also reached the quarter-finals of the Mace, narrowly missing a semi-final spot following a split decision on the judging panel.
- Emily also won our Old Girls' Public Speaking competition for the second year in a row, and progressed again to the finals of the Young Speakers Scotland national public speaking competition alongside her sister, Kathryn.
- Anastasia D'Angelosante progressed to the finals of the YSS public speaking also, and reached the semi-finals of the Glasgow Bar Association debate alongside Lewis Flynn, Khya Paterson and Ella Freestone.
- In our final debating showcase, sponsored by the McKinstry law firm, Katie and Kathryn took the victory. A double victory for Katie in this event!

Congratulations to all these wonderful speakers - they are an inspiration to all and have equipped themselves with invaluable skills for the rest of their lives.

Katie and Emily were also our Debating Captains this year; they helped to run the weekly club meetings with great enthusiasm and expertise. This saw the membership of the club grow, which bodes well for our competitive results in future.

As for competitions, why stop at Scotland? Next year we plan to compete at Durham Schools, one of the largest debating competitions in the UK. We can't wait. Follow [wellydebating](https://www.instagram.com/wellydebating) on Instagram for regular updates.

History

Amy Hyslop, Head of Department

This session our History Department (Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren, Mrs Shaw and Mrs Windows) and pupils have been engaged in a variety of enjoyable learning activities, trips and enriching courses which have certainly made a positive impact on our pupils and staff alike. Below is a summary of our Historical endeavours this session:

S1 Examination of History Artefacts (September 2023)

S1 History enjoyed investigating primary source artefacts in their courses 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, and all pupils enjoyed the lesson.

S2 New Swinging 60s Topic (March 2024)

This year we developed and launched our new S2 unit: 'The Swinging 60s' taught by Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren and Mrs Shaw. The Department wanted to focus on how this period changed the world and the impact it has had on our future lives in Scotland, Britain and beyond. 'The Swinging 60s' was considered to be a youth-driven decade of cultural revolution where art, music and fashion flourished. Technicolour replaced black and white and there was an emphasis on new values (modernity, pleasure, new political freedoms and civil liberties were gradually opening up). Times Magazine officially anointed London as 'The Swinging City', turning it into hub for American tourists and at the centre of all excitement. Our topics covered the following: British culture in the 60s (people, fashion, music); 1960s Glasgow (culture and gangs); The struggle for equal gender and sexual rights since the 1960s and key events impacting the wider world in the 1960s (Cold War, Vietnam War, the peace and hippie movement). Pupils particularly enjoyed engaging with older family members who grew up in this generation. A favourite question to ask our families was: Were you (or would you have been) a 'Mod' or a 'Rocker'? or even 'a bit of both!' as Ms Hyslop's dad proudly claimed.

S1 Cross Curricular Project with French (May-June 2024)

Our S1 Historians have enjoyed taking part in a cross curricular project this month with French. Pupils created their own mock BBC Political Broadcasts in groups as if they were back in time during the period of the French Revolution. Having researched a key event

from the topic such as the execution of the royal family, they then performed a role play exercise to demonstrate what they had learned in History. Group roles included: a news broadcaster, field interviewer, French witnesses, and a camera operator. Pupils were given the additional challenge of including some French language in their scripts (accents encouraged) with the help of the Language Department. Each group filmed their performances and professionally edited their videos which were shown in class and peer assessed. We had a lot of fun with this activity and hope to expand our links with the French Department next year on this topic further.

S4 History and Modern Studies Trip to London (September 2023)

We were delighted to run our joint History-Modern Studies S4 trip to London in September, and as part of their study of the Great War, pupils were taken to the iconic Imperial War Museum. It is difficult to encapsulate this period and all that it entailed, but pupils thoroughly enjoyed the interactive nature of the displays and engaged well with the documentary-style challenge they were set. In small groups, they were asked to present a feature on an aspect of the war which had captured their imagination and use the resources to bring the issue to life. The group took the opportunity to visit the other floors on World War Two and the Holocaust; both extremely interesting and emotive. We also visited the Cenotaph and toured Parliament; where it is true to say that the historians were impressed with Westminster Hall and the installation to commemorate the Suffrage Movement. Plans are already well underway for the next trip with Ms MacGlade, Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren and Mr McDougall.

Junior Trips (S2 to Holyrood Palace (April) and P7 to Bannockburn Centre (April 2024)

We continued our annual trip to Holyrood Palace in April with S2, accompanied by Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren, Miss Duffy and Mr Ledingham. On this trip pupils took part in an educational workshop examining historical artefacts from the time period and were then given an informative guided tour of the Palace where they visited Mary's personal chamber and the very spot where her Italian secretary David Riccio was murdered. P7 pupils led by Mrs Shaw and accompanied by P7 staff enjoyed an excursion to the popular Bannockburn centre in Stirling. The trip was to consolidate our pupil learning on our main topic: The Scottish Wars of Independence 1249-1329. Pupils received a guided tour to examine the area surrounding the triumph of Scotland in the 1314 Battle of Bannockburn. Pupils also took part in an interactive 3-D digital battle workshop which allowed the class to be in the middle of a medieval battle. Other activities included: object handling, role play and decision-making exercises that supported their experience on site. The highlight of the day was without a doubt the infamous fierce P7 'war cries' under the Robert Bruce monument. We would like to thank Alison Shaw for organising this successful annual trip and her immense contribution to the Department over the years in delivering Junior History. She will be missed but we wish her luck as she focuses her expertise next year in the Geography Department.

S3 Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium (May 2024)

Our S3 Historians and other social subject pupils embarked on the first ever week-long Battlefields trip to Belgium and France, accompanied by Miss MacGlade, Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren and Mr Stewart. They had the opportunity to learn about the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought on the Western Front in World War One by visiting key sites such as Black watch corner, Brothers in Arms memorial, Hill 60, Vimy Ridge, Messines, Ridge, Newfoundland Park, Tynecot and Langemarck cemetery and even getting into an authentic trench from 1916 at Sanctuary Wood. Some pupils and staff



were able to pay tribute to their own relatives, and this added a very personal and moving touch to the visit. We rounded off the trip with a visit to the city of Ypres and laid a wreath at the Menin Gate ceremony, which was then followed up by our own private ceremony as the Wellington Pals Battalion; an unforgettable experience. S3 Battlefields Trip to France and Belgium (May 2024)

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Black History Month Activities (October 2023)

S2 classes have been studying Civil Rights in America with Ms Hyslop, Mrs Shaw and Mr McLaren this year. To celebrate Black History Month, our pupils were allocated a different Black Hero from History and they produced a research profile of some well-known figures, such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks, as well as other 'unsung heroes' such as Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman and Muhammad Ali. Pupils researched their character's career, famous achievements, any iconic quotes and completed their work with their own reflections on why their characters are so inspirational in relation to their positive impact on Black History. Some of our best pupil work can be viewed in the display outside our main History classroom. Of course, Black History should certainly not just be limited to discussions once a year. At National 5, our pupils also study the topic: The Trade in Enslaved African People.

History Equality and Diversity Calendar (November 2023)

One of our Department targets this year has been to promote positive moral and social values through History lessons (e.g. in our celebration of diversity, equality, inclusion, social justice etc). We have endeavoured to use the S6 mentors to support younger pupils in a more active capacity and celebrate Historical events more openly through a variety of learning activities and wall displays to commemorate events such as: Black History month, the Armistice, International Women's Day and LGBTQ+ History Month. We have a wall display calendar for the yearly activities to celebrate within our classes and hope to expand this next year. Our S6 History Captain Katie Ronnie has been instrumental in supporting younger pupils and contributing to our wall displays throughout the year.





Geography

Richard Ledingham, Head of Department

The department has continued to go from strength to strength, with our Geographers benefitting from a diverse and enjoyable curricular provision at all levels. This is reflected by the subject's increasing popularity and in the securing of pass rates at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher that are far in excess of the national averages.

In August, our P7 pupils started their subject specialism journey with a topic on Tropical Storms - investigating the causes, impacts and mitigation strategies for these dangerous events - in the height of Hurricane season itself. They then developed their mapwork skills, using atlases and Ordnance Survey maps to explore the world around them before finishing the year investigating the urban landscape in our local area through analysis of their own fieldwork data. The benefits of this early exposure to the subject cannot be underestimated, and allows for a much greater breadth and depth of learning.

S1 and S2 pupils continued to learn knowledge and skills across a range of topics designed to stretch and inform them. Across these two years Physical topics included Weather and Rivers, Human units are based on the contrasting case studies of Kenya and Japan and our Global Issues of World Biomes and Earth Forces completed the picture. Where possible this work included group fieldwork, independent research and active learning tasks such as building earthquake proof buildings. This year also saw our first cross-curricular trip with Modern Studies for S1 pupils who went to Edinburgh in May to visit the Scottish Parliament and Dynamic Earth.

Our three S3 classes have built on these foundations to help them cope with the demands of the National 5 qualification. Covering Coastal Landscapes, Rio de Janeiro, Climate Change, Population and Weather allowed for a robust summer exam which provided all with a strong indicator of their progress. The individual feedback and insight provided by this event is crucial in ensuring the next steps towards establishing final target grades.

The S4 pupils have continued to work tirelessly through their National 5 Geography course, including completion of the newly reinstated SQA Assignments. Mitigation

work during the pandemic, as well as the many opportunities provided since, ensured that a gap in skills was not evident when it came to producing quality write-ups. The summer exam passed without incident near the beginning of this year's diet and all pupils exited the hall feeling confident in their performance. As always, the full success of individual journeys won't be known until August, but we were encouraged by the number of pupils capitalising on frequent supported study clinics. As always, there is no time to rest and the department is already looking forward to our next study tour to Iceland - scheduled for April 2025.

The Higher class coped well with the change in pace and volume in comparison to National 5 and their skills and knowledge multiplied rapidly as the terms passed by. The pupils also did well to cope with the return of Assignments, given their lack of experience with this requirement in previous years. The number of pupils choosing Geography at this level, and also continuing to Advanced Higher, has increased yet again, indicating that the subject matter and learning activities are providing exciting learning opportunities. The countdown is on to our Las Vegas Study Tour in October.

The annual visit to FSC Blencathra was another huge success with our Advanced Higher candidates experiencing the pleasure of a residential trip - albeit not in a sunnier clime. Throughout the year classroom work built on their already extensive knowledge to equip them with cartographical, statistical and analytical skills that will prepare them well for further study at University. Yet again, the pupils impressed us with a wide range of personal studies and essays and we know that their hard work will be appropriately rewarded in August.



Modern Languages

Isabelle Rabeyrin, Head of Department

This has been another busy session in the Modern Languages Department.

P7 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their penpal exchange with our long-term partner school Saint Dominique in Beauvais. Wellington pupils wrote their letters in French and their French penpals replied in English. This has been such an enriching experience for everybody. Our pupils got an insight into French culture and school life. Many of them were keen to exchange email addresses to maintain contact after leaving Primary 7.

We started off the year with a brand-new course for our S2 French pupils. Our course offers new topics that allow pupils to develop their listening, reading, speaking and written skills in a fun way, using more transactional language. S2 pupils learnt about ordering food and drinks in a restaurant, designed their French menus and performed their “at the restaurant” dialogue in front of their peers. The course also includes a film study on “Les Choristes” with an emphasis on grammar. Pupils were asked to write a film review in French, using the past tense. The new course builds a strong linguistic foundation, enhances communication skills, promotes confidence, and prepares pupils for the National 5 French course. The feedback from pupils has been extremely positive, and we hope to adapt the S2 German and Spanish course in the next academic year.

The European Day of Languages in September is always an event that everyone at Wellington looks forward to. Our three S6 language captains prepared and led a whole school assembly which showcased the importance and benefits of learning languages. This was followed by an international bake sale, where pupils could buy delicacies from all around the world. The money raised was donated to our S6 charity. The Modern Languages teachers and language captains also organised fun language activities and Art competitions based on the European Day of Languages for P7-S6. We hope to continue celebrating the European Day of Languages in such a creative way in the future.

We are a very international department and always welcome new staff and ideas. We have been lucky to have two language assistants this year, Rachel Steiner from Switzerland and Irene Garcia from Spain, who spent six months working in the Modern Languages Department, sharing their culture and knowledge with our pupils. They worked hard to help the Senior pupils with their listening and speaking skills by running one-to-one speaking

sessions with every pupil from S4 to S6. These regular sessions have been extremely beneficial to our pupils, who gained in confidence and performed extremely well in their SQA speaking exam. We were also very fortunate to have Benedikt Hafermaas, a trainee teacher from Germany, who delivered excellent activities with our pupils in both German and Spanish classes in February. We will continue welcoming future teachers from abroad.

In the Autumn term, we invited two Spanish teachers, Tatiana Labarta and Gil Moreno, from Huesca in Spain, as part of a teaching programme. They were here to shadow Modern Languages colleagues with a view to establishing a future partnership between our two schools.

In February and March, S2 and S3 pupils had the opportunity to attend a Careers event at Wellington, where they learnt about jobs involving languages. This was intended to raise awareness of the range of careers using languages that pupils could pursue. They learned from people working in intelligence services as well as from bilingual governments. This was a successful event that will be embedded in our curriculum.

In the summer term, S1 pupils took part in a cross curricular project with History on the French Revolution. They learnt about famous landmarks in Paris that were linked to the Revolution and were asked to make a presentation in French to their peers. They thoroughly enjoyed using their historic knowledge in the French class, and we hope to continue working with the History department next year.

International Education

Susan Coontz, International Coordinator

This session's German Exchange was the largest since the Pandemic. Thirty-six Wellington pupils spent a week at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund in December. In Germany, we spent time at the Christmas markets, took a ride on the Schwebbahn in Wuppertal, visited the BVB stadium and worked together in workshops learning about Christmas traditions, art, sports and creativity. We welcomed our partners to Ayr in March and swapped the city centre for the seaside, to the delight of our guests.

Our Model United Nations Society took part in an international MUN conference in Xanten, Germany, in February. Five experienced MUN participants from Wellington led the conference and prepared the Delegates from French and German schools for the committee proceedings and debates. Two S6 pupils served as Secretaries General and presided at the plenary sessions. Both the German Exchange and the MUN conference were supported by funding from the Turing Scheme.

This year, Wellington School has joined the European Parliament Ambassador School Programme and we are delighted to announce that we have just been awarded Full Accreditation and are the first school in Scotland to achieve this. The EPAS programme is open to schools in the UK as well as to those in the EU. Our Junior Ambassadors have worked very hard and have organised and led a range of activities for their fellow pupils. S2 and S3 classes took part in workshops about using languages in the workplace and P7 celebrated a multilingual St Valentine's Day and a mini-Model United Nations event to mark Europe Day. On Europe Day, the whole school enjoyed a themed lunch organised by our catering team. Two Wellington pupils were chosen by EPAS to represent the United Kingdom at the LUX Film Awards at the European Parliament in Brussels in April. The pupils enjoyed a busy day of workshops at the EU Parliament before the evening event in the debating chamber. Our pupils will also take part in Euroscola in October where they will have the opportunity to debate in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.



Outdoor Education

Leon Mooney, Outdoor Education Co-ordinator & DofE Award Manager

This session we had 47 Bronze entrants in S3 - our largest group for some time - who undertook their Expeditions in Galloway Forest in the Autumn. Six of these pupils have already completed all sections of their Award and a three have now moved onto Silver Level.

Our Primary 7 pupils had their outdoor experience during their residential at Gowanbank in May. The trip was a great success, with the pupils working in groups and undertaking activities such as Abseiling, Archery, Bushcraft, Orienteering and Tree Climbin



A hand in a red sleeve is writing mathematical equations on a whiteboard. The equations include $x = 6$, $= 36 + 6$, $x = \sqrt{100}$, and $x = 10$.

Mathematics

Peter Richmond, Head of Department

The department are very pleased to have witnessed this year not only the high levels of attainment within the classroom, but the continued successes of pupils within various mathematical competitions outwith their day-to-day experiences in lessons. Not least is the large number of pupils achieving certificates in either the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Mathematical Challenges or the Scottish Mathematical Challenge:

UKMT Mathematical Challenges

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

In the Senior Challenge (Oct 2023), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, over 65000 pupils from across the UK took part, with the top 60% nationally receiving a Gold (10%), Silver (20%) or Bronze (30%) certificate and each institution receiving a Best in School certificate. This year, at Wellington, Bronze Awards went to Gurjeevan Basra, Amy Scott, Emily Taylor and Evan Kirkwood (S6), with Evan gaining a Best in Year Certificate. Meanwhile, S5 pupils Katherine Paisley and Benjamin Richmond also attained a Bronze Award, with Benjamin securing a Best in School Certificate.

Next up was the Intermediate Challenge (Jan 2024), when over 235000 students from more than 3000 schools and colleges across the UK participated. Anastasia D'Angelosante and Calum Kelly (S3), alongside Charlotte Carter, Isla Hall, Nate Munro and James Watson (S4) all gained Bronze Awards, whilst Tiffany Cai (S4) went one better, receiving the reward of both a Silver Award and Best in Year Certificate. Alex Melvin (S3) continued his fine form in this competition, once again receiving a Gold Award for his sterling efforts, also gaining Best in School and an invitation to take part in the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round. This took place in March 2024, with Alex receiving a well-deserved Certificate of Participation.

The Junior Challenge (April 2024), aimed at children in S2 and below, is certainly the most popular across the UK, with over 270000 pupils taking part this year from across 3500+ schools. Wellington saw a large number of pupils participating. We are thrilled to have continued our success in this competition, attaining no fewer than 18 certificates this year, including 14 Bronze Awards (Mia Barbour, Holly Carter, Emilia Ewer, Sian McLaughlin, Khya Paterson and Finlay Stevenson (S1); Sophia Borthwick, Charlotte Dale, Byron McIndoe, Roisin Renwick, Eva Taylor, Amber Thomson, Padma Unnam and Saraswati Unnam (S2)) and 4 Silver Awards from Archie West (S1: also attaining a Best in Year Certificate), Hugh Dunlop (S2),

Freya McAleese (S2) and Margaret Scott (S2,) who also received a Best in School Certificate.

Our congratulations go to Evan, Benjamin, Tiffany, Alex, Archie and Margaret, and to all of those across the various UKMT competitions who achieved such worthy results.

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

We are pleased this year to see participation across not only the Primary Division of this popular national competition, but also the Secondary Middle Division (aimed at S3/4 pupils) and Senior Division (aimed at S5/6 pupils). After partaking in a number of rounds of the competition across the year, we were delighted to see Louie Balmer and Kennedy Richmond (P7) achieving a Bronze Award and Gold Award respectively in the Primary Division, alongside a Middle Division Bronze Award for James Watson (S4) and a Middle Division Silver Award for Alex Melvin (S3). Two pupils chose to enter the Senior Division this year, described by the organisers as "one of the most demanding mathematical competitions you can do for your age group", and we were thrilled to receive the news of success for Nikolai Hoekstra (S6: Silver Award) and Benjamin Richmond (S5: Gold Award). With this came the invitations for Gold and Silver winners to attend their respective Award Ceremonies at the University of Strathclyde, where Primary and Secondary Division winners alike got to witness between them a wonderful mix of mathematical humour, some 'Magic Mondays' and 'Sum Singing' from the ever-popular Chris Smith (of Grange Academy 'newsletter' fame in mathematical circles) and, of course, presentation of the much-coveted Mathematical Challenge mugs.

Pi Day (14th March)

On Thursday 14th March (or March 14th, 3/14), as part of our Pi Day 2024 celebrations at school, S1 and P7 pupils completed various Pi Day activities and some even partook in some homemade culinary Pi(e) delights. Various Pi puzzles were on offer, ranging from Sudoku Pi and the Pi Maze Challenge through to some cross-curricular offerings, with Pi Anagrams and the chance for pupils to write their own 'Pi-ku', a suitable variation on the haiku poem. One very popular choice is partaking in the 'Pi memory game', with pupils being set the task of trying to recall from memory as many digits of Pi as possible. With a long-standing record of 168 digits from one of our S6 leavers, Saad Omer (when he was in S1), dogged determination resulted in a new title-holder from this year, with Louie Balmer (P7) recalling 169 digits, clinching the record by the narrowest of margins! Our heartiest congratulations go to Louie, and well done to all of those who took part in this fun day to celebrate one of the most well-known and important numbers in the subject. We look forward to no doubt witnessing others next year vying for the title!

We look forward to taking part in these various activities again next year, and to hopefully challenging once more for positions in the likes of the annual 'Maths wi nae Borders' and 'Enterprising Mathematics' contests, as well as the Mathématiques sans Frontières whole-class competition, one 'with a difference, aimed at motivating pupils in their studies, through a stimulating and light-hearted combination of Mathematics and Modern Languages.



Modern Studies

Gill McGlade, Head of Department

Modern Studies is a subject which is constantly evolving, and we thrive as a department on making current affairs accessible to our pupils. Helping to create a well informed and active student body is at the heart of what we do, and I am pleased to say that many of our pupils are taking opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills through debating and public speaking, for example. While, at times, the world of politics, social affairs and international issues may seem to move at frantic pace, pupils continue to demonstrate an enthusiasm and passion for learning and bring a refreshing outlook on some of the most serious and pressing issues facing us today.

Session 2023-24 started with an impressive set of exam results, and we were particularly delighted with the performance of our Advanced Higher pupils, who excelled in both the exam and dissertation. Many studying the subject at this level go on to study Law at university and they are certainly well prepared for the next chapter. Results are testament to the hard work and commitment of both pupils and staff, and I would like to start by thanking Mr McDougall and Mr McLaren. Their effort and enthusiasm to do their best for our pupils, not only day to day but especially when it comes to our many trips and activities, is appreciated. I would also like to extend my thanks to you, our parents, as we could not offer the opportunities we do without your support.

Our S1 cohort focus on the key concepts of equality, representation, and participation. Pupils produced and presented their own 'desert island societies' using different political ideologies and it is safe to say that some of their suggestions were certainly different! We teamed up with the Geography department to visit the Scottish Parliament and Dynamic Earth. Our visit to Holyrood included a tour, and photo opportunity in the chamber, followed by a session in the education centre. The S1 Mock Election is always a highlight, and the three candidates gave excellent speeches. Congratulations this year goes to 1C and the 'Welly Equality Party'.

S2 Modern Studies has an international focus and pupils have developed their critical thinking and decision-making skills this year through engagement with issues like gun control, suitable punishments for convicted terrorists and the differences between capitalist and communist countries. We had two visiting speakers this year as part of our Terrorism unit; one from the Ministry of Defence and another from the National UK Counter Terrorism Coordinator. Both gave pupils an in-depth, fascinating look at the work being done by security services and we thank them for their time. We are always keen to utilise the knowledge and experience of the parent body and welcome contact from parents who feel they could

bring something to one of our courses.

It has been another very busy session for our National 5 pupils. S3 pupils have gone from strength to strength this year and they have made excellent progress. They invited Allan Dorans MP into school to talk about his work and they certainly made sure he had a full list of questions to address. They also visited Sky Up, where they produced their own news report using digital technology and their knowledge about the importance of political participation; there may well be some budding journalists in our midst. S4 pupils went to London on our annual History and Modern Studies trip and had a great time. The first day saw us visit the Imperial War Museum, where pupils get to produce a video on an aspect of WW1, and that night we went to see Mrs Doubtfire in the West End. The next morning, we toured the Palace of Westminster, and the guide was very impressed with how knowledgeable our young people are and how well they engaged. We toured Whitehall, seeing the Cenotaph and Downing Street, before a trip on the London Eye. The group were very good company and a credit to themselves and the school.

Although not an obvious trip to write about in a Modern Studies annual report, I was proud to lead Wellington's first Battlefields trip this year. S3 pupils set off to Belgium and France in a bid to understand the experience of WW1 soldiers and to remember their sacrifice and courage. While some pupils on the trip had built up knowledge from their N5 History course, this trip was about citizenship and appreciating the value of human life. Two of our pupils laid a wreath at the official Menin Gate ceremony, a proud moment indeed, before we held our own 'Wellington Pals' ceremony in a quiet little cemetery near Ypres. I'm sure pupils will have memories to last a lifetime.

Our senior pupils in S5/6 have been hard at work. This year saw the return of the assignment for Higher classes and pupils worked hard to research and then produce interesting and detailed reports on current social and political issues. Advanced Higher pupils have had exciting opportunities this year as part of their study of Crime and the Law. They attended an AH conference where they heard from well-placed and experienced speakers, including those with lived experience of crime and incarceration. The class also welcomed an officer from HMP Barlinnie to the school for a Q&A session. These opportunities gave them invaluable material for their dissertations and, especially for those going on to study law, gave them a rare insight into the criminal justice system.

The Model UN Society continues to flourish, and pupils have enjoyed opportunities to take part in conferences, both local and international. The highlight was undoubtedly February's conference in Xanten, Germany, where pupils from Wellington joined their counterparts from Germany and France to discuss global issues. Emily and Kathryn Taylor were our Secretaries General this year and Wellington pupils led and chaired the committees including Human Rights and the Environment with skill. The Model UN Society will reconvene in August and pupils in S3-S6 are warmly invited to come along and join in.



Music

Susan Docherty, Head of Department

Session 2023-2024 has been another busy and productive year in the Music Department with a variety of activities on offer, as well as some excellent work taking place in and out of the classroom.

Curricular update

We were delighted with our results in the 2023 SQA exam diet. Music students at National 5 had a 100% A-C pass rate, with 89% of those achieving an A grade and 11% achieving B grades. At Higher level, there was also a 100% A-C pass rate, with 75% of those passes at A grade and 25% at B grade. At Advanced Higher, again there was a 100% A-C pass rate, with 66% of candidates achieving an A grade and 34% achieving a B grade.

This year saw the reintroduction of externally assessed assignments for pupils undertaking the Music course, which has required Composing skills for pupils in S4-S6, and Analysis skills for those undertaking the Advanced Higher course. This placed additional demands on the skills of our pupils, and they rose to the challenge.

Music Technology continues to be a popular subject with numbers rising at both National 5 and Higher level. In the 2023 SQA exam diet, pupils at National 5 level achieved 100% A-C passes, with 50% of students achieving an A grade and 50% achieving a B grade. At Higher, the pass rate was 100% A grades for all students. There was a 100% A-C pass rate at Advanced Higher. This year, we have two students who have opted to continue their study of Music Technology with unconditional offers from their chosen institutions.

Pupils in P7-S2 follow a course which develops a broad range of skills in performing, composing and music literacy, understanding music and music technology. They can experience several instruments in the classroom including keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, tuned percussion and drum kit.

Our Junior School continues to perform well at all ages, with pupils participating in Harvest Festival, Nativities, Ayrshire Music Festival, Easter Service and Prizegiving. The repertoire for these events is rehearsed during dedicated choral class time. Some of these performances are open to the public, and we are commended on how well our pupils are presented and the high level of performance they produce. Pupils have also had the opportunity to develop their composing and performing skills; bucket drumming has been a big hit!

Extracurricular activities and events

Our wide-ranging extracurricular provision continues to be inclusive to pupils at all stages for their age, and participation as a vehicle for excellence is the department's vision. Pupils can freely join our choirs, orchestras and bands throughout the week. All pupils can access a great variety of instrumental lessons from one of our 15 highly skilled instructors, ranging from Piano, Voice, Woodwind, Brass, Strings, Harp, Bagpipes and Percussion. Pupils are encouraged to join a group as soon as they feel able to develop their skills in a safe environment and to make music with like-minded students.

Our soloists also display a wide range of talent through competing at the Ayrshire Music Festival where many of our pupils were placed in their classes. Two of our senior students also competed for the top vocal prize. We also held our annual Young Musician Competition at which our judges not only took some time deliberating the winner, but also commented on the high quality of performance on offer. We can also offer solo opportunities for our younger pupils at our popular lunchtime concerts in the Junior school and for our Senior students at our termly concerts.

Our Junior Orchestra has gone from strength to strength this year under the baton of Miss Connell, and we created our first Wellington String Orchestra for the Ayrshire Music Festival this year, where string players from all ages at Wellington participated together.

Pupils from P7-S2 can join the Junior Choir freely, and this group excelled themselves at the Ayrshire Music Festival this year, winning the MacRae Trophy in their section. Pupils in these year groups were also invited to take part in our hugely successful High School Musical Junior, with expert direction from Miss McKinlay, Mrs Bradley and Miss Gilmour. This was the first Junior production to perform on four consecutive nights with tickets being sold out on most evenings. S6 pupils also assisted with the rehearsals and choreography. In another Wellington first, there was a live band for this production, almost exclusively comprising S6 pupils.

Senior School choirs continue to thrive, with the Senior Choir winning their class at the Ayrshire Music Festival and bringing home the Templeburn trophy. The Madrigal Group were highly commended for their performance in the Adult class at the Festival. Vocalists in the senior school shone again on the stage of the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr in October 2023 with their production of Sister Act; the chorus won the Houldsworth trophy at the Festival with their performance of Spread the Love Around. Rehearsals are already underway for the Autumn production of Guys and Dolls, which will be held in Ayr Town Hall this year and summer rehearsals will provide an intensive week of immersive work.

We have a wide variety of instrumental groups on offer to all pupils in the Senior School, including the Senior Orchestra, Concert Band and Folk Pop Club (run by Mr Levif and Mr Mitchell). The three 'Bands' who are self-formed, comprising the Boy Band, Junior Boy Band and Girl Band; these have spurred on the formation of the Staff Band who performed at the recent WSPTA Summer Concert.

In addition to our traditional Christmas and Summer concerts, pupils past and present took to the stage for the Centenary Concert, which was a superb event for both participants and audience alike. Wellington has a rich history of music tradition, and it was a privilege to be part of this special event. We were also delighted to participate in the Centenary Lunch held in school.

Charity work continues to be an important aspect of the musical calendar, with support at events including the Ayrshire Hospice, Rotary, HopeWellbeing, local care homes and concerts supporting the S6 charity, Diabetes UK.

Thanks must be extended to our departing S6, who have been not only supportive to the music staff with a long service record in our department, but also inspirational to our younger pupils, giving them the confidence to participate and succeed. We wish them all the very best for their next chapter.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our team of Instructors, Mrs Fiona Shrinivas, Miss Nicola McKinlay and Mrs Wendy-Anne Wilson for their unending energy and support. Special thanks must be paid to Miss Marion Gilmour, who leaves us at the end of this academic year to travel and work in Australia; she has been a huge asset to the Music Department and will be missed. We wish you all the very best for your exciting future.



Nursery/ Junior School

Jimmy Cox , Head of Department

As always, the children in the Junior school have astounded me with what they have managed to do this year.

It has not been long since I returned from a fantastic P5 residential trip to Dumfries House. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and every instructor I met told me how polite and helpful the children were. One said that they had never seen a group be so helpful and considerate to their classmates.

Running concurrently with the P5 residential trip was the P6 residential to Dolphin House. I visited them a couple of times and saw what a good time they were having. As I write, the time is getting near to when we say goodbye to our P6s. For many, this has been a hugely successful year, in many fields, both in and out of the classroom and it has been a pleasure watching them grow over the year. Many of them will collect prizes at our end of term Prize Giving but every one of them can be proud with what they have achieved this year.

In particular, the girls in P6 deserve a special mention for their hard work in supporting the S6 charity. Overall, they contributed to an exceptional effort, from everyone in the Junior School.

Several areas have contributed to our extra and co-curricular activities. Permeating much of this has been our work to acknowledge the centenary celebrations of the school. Over the year, we have contributed to many events as well as having our own. We decorated Drumley Hall with class displays of 'Why I love Wellington' and have our hanging display of every child's work to commemorate the centenary in the school on our hall stairwell. We also introduced an Action Group to complement the work of our Pupil, Eco and Health Committees and looked at environmental and social issues such as sustainability and poverty, which added to class topics. Mrs MacRae led the Dukes Programme, and this coupled with celebration assemblies has seen Drumley Hall decorated with hanging stars of children's achievements.

Once again, our P1s have been fantastic. Their confidence is always fantastic to see, and they are very much the new 'owners' of the front hall of the school. They keep everyone right about what you can and cannot do there. They also performed at the Ayrshire Music Festival and their performances were truly fantastic, with some children singing small, solo parts.

Welly's Got Talent is always an event that we look forward to and this year's performers

did not let us down. My thanks go to Mrs Bowyer and her Pupil Council team for giving up numerous lunchtimes to judge auditions. The final was won by Honey R in P6, not long after she joined us. She blew us away with her beautiful voice.

We also had lunchtime concerts to showcase children's musical talents. These are always great events, and their informal nature give novices to very accomplished musicians an opportunity to perform in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Our Health Committee's programme for our Health Week activities was excellent. Morning activities came and went and Robbie Ferguson and some of the Ayrshire Bulls came to meet the children. The Guess the Teacher baby/childhood photos of staff being physically active was hilarious and it doesn't take much working out which male submitted the only black and white photograph. Clue: It wasn't Mr Graham.

For this first time in several years, our Remembrance Day display was not visible outside of school. However, that did not make it any less impressive. A display of decorated stones, in Drumley Hall, was a fitting tribute to all of those we remembered. Our P1s deserve a mention for being so respectful during the service.

As I write, I have just been visited by children, as the culmination of their Transition Programme to receive certificates and who will be joining us next year for P1. Our nursery to P1 transition programme is truly excellent and run by Mrs MacRae.

Our football team has had another successful season and only narrowly missed out of defending the Craigie cup - losing in a keenly contested final. This young team can look forward to next year with much confidence. Teamwork was also seen during the Dance Show which was very well supported by the Junior School. From P1 to P6 children took part in well-choreographed routines. This was so well attended that our children had to put on an extra performance and very well done to them.

A new initiative that we undertook was to get parents into school to talk about their occupations. These have been riveting and from P1 to P6 children have had 'light bulb' moments where they have said, "I want to do that". From aeronautical engineers to air traffic controller to medical science to physical therapist to vet, the list could go on and on. I would like to say thank you again to everyone for taking part.

Recently, I watched our P4s presenting their 'Scotland' assembly to peers and parents. This summed up, quite beautifully, what the Junior School is about and what it instils in children. The children spoke with confidence and clarity, they presented themselves well and they sang 3 Gaelic songs for the first time in front of an audience. From my meeting with their parents afterwards, I know how impressed they were. I would like to say a huge 'well done' to them and to every other child in the Junior School for their hard work this year, their participation and their success this year.

Finally, I almost forgot to mention that children do undertake class work and they did that exceptionally well, too. They can pat themselves on the back for another hugely successful and rewarding year. I think they enjoyed it!



Primary 7

Lynn Clachan, Head of Department

Our P7 pupils have certainly seized every available opportunity throughout their transition year. As well as their academic accomplishments, there have been many life-enhancing experiences that will surely prove to become long-lasting memories.

This year's highlights have included: our Panto Aladdin, High School Musical, The Fiver Challenge, our many successes in the Ayrshire Music Festival - Speech & Drama Section, our trip to Bannockburn, success in the DigilInventors Challenge and the Scottish Mathematical Challenge and, of course, our residential week at the outdoor centre Gowanbank.

Panto and High School Musical

P7 gained so much from working on both our P7 Panto Aladdin and the P7-S2 production of High School Musical. Rehearsals and performances were full of confidence-building drama and laughter and our pupils certainly relished performing in front of audiences of loved ones.

Fiver Challenge

P7 proved themselves to be highly innovative entrepreneurs of the future through their enthusiastic participation in this year's Fiver Challenge. The prizes for 'most creative' were awarded to the 'Carwash Crew' Joe, Christian and Louie and to Stella for utilising her artistic talents by taking on portrait commissions. The most profitable company, run by Lucienne, Evie and Sofia, sold delicious baked goods.

Speech and Drama

In March, all P7 pupils took part in the Ayrshire Music Festival - Speech & Drama Section. There was a good atmosphere in the morning with the room filled with the competitors and their supporters.

All our pupils performed well and we had many winners:

- Winner of the Primary 6-7 Poems of Burns and the James T Picken Cup - Mithian with runner up Mhairi,
- Winner of the Primary 4-7 Favourite Poem - Mithian,
- Winners of the Dramatic Scenes Primary 4-7 - Luella, Eva, Erika, Sophia, Joe and Oliver,
- Winner of the Speakers Club Trophy and the Public Speaking Primary 4-7 class - Rebecca.

We also held a 'Talking Week' in school, giving pupils the opportunity to hone their Public Speaking skills. Impressive research and content ensured impassioned delivery, culminating in speeches covering a wide variety of topics our pupils feel strongly about, from 'What is Happiness?' to 'Magical Musicals'.

Bannockburn

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

DigilInventors Awards and the Scottish Mathematical Challenge

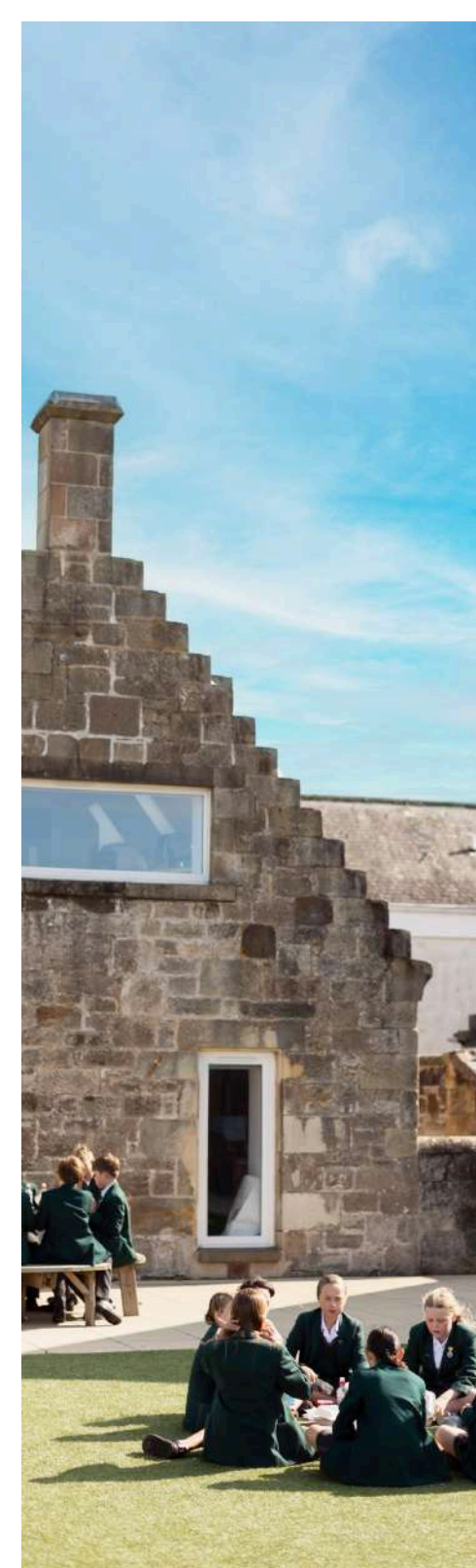
We were delighted that three of our pupils, Mithian, Evie and Sofia, won the DigilInventors Challenge 2024. Their innovative app, designed to support autism, was recognised from 103 submissions from schools across Scotland. Their achievement was recognised at a lovely evening of celebration at City of Glasgow College.

Kennedy and Louie were also proud winners of the Scottish Mathematical Challenge, with Kennedy gaining a Gold Award and Louie a Bronze Award. Kennedy then enjoyed attending the Scottish Maths Challenge Awards ceremony where there was a wonderful mix of mathematical humour and the presentation of the much-coveted mugs and certificates.

Gowanbank

Unsurprisingly, many of our pupils' highlight of this school year was our residential week in Gowanbank, an adventure centre nestled in the heart of the Irvine Valley. Our pupils engaged in many activities including: archery, abseiling, crate climbing and team challenges. Interspersed with their adventure activities, pupils learned about the local environment and engaged in bushcraft activities, culminating in every pupil achieving a National Outdoor Learning Award. We are proud to say that our pupils certainly utilised the opportunity to have fun: fostering new friendships, whilst nurturing existing ones, and developing increased resilience and independence.

They are certainly now ready to embrace all that S1 has to offer and I look forward to watching 'our' children continue to thrive throughout the rest of their school career!



Physical Education

Alastair Ness, Head of Department

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

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

Hockey

Wellington's 23/24 Season developed well and will undoubtedly lead to a strong start for next season. Hockey continues to flourish with large numbers of players regularly attending after school training, games and local hockey clubs. This year saw the introduction of Primary 1-4 after school hockey running from August until October which was extremely well attended.

The number of young people participating at District and National level are the highest we have seen in recent years. We have achieved our target of doubling the number of Wellington Players involved in the Scottish Hockey Brave Academy. Congratulations to Amy Scott, Jamie Crumlish, Iona Fairbairn and Daisy Windows on their selection. We wish them all the best in their hockey journeys.

We have observed continued success at district level with Freya McAleese, Hallie Swift, Sophie Alexander, Holly Carter and Eva Cowan competing at U14 Level. It is encouraging to see so many individuals going forward for selection and the efforts of all involved should be commended despite some narrowly missing out on selection.

This year we entered 3 teams (1XI, Junior and Boys) into the Scottish Schools competitions. The 1XI played Earlston High School in the quarter final of the Senior Girls Challenge Plate in a very exciting game. At full time the game was 3-3 at full time, 3-3 after strokes and then 3 sudden death strokes later 1-1, 0-0 with Earlston eventually winning 1-0. The Senior Boys team also had great success finishing 3rd place in the Aspire Cup. Congratulations to all those who played in the Wellington performance teams.

In weekly Saturday matches regular exposure to a competitive environment has produced great results from P6 to the 1st XI. Our teams have also attended several tournaments throughout the second half of the season including High School of Glasgow 7s, Hutchesons Grammar new 5 a side format, S2 Hutchesons Grammar and P7 Glasgow Academy. The P7 reached the shield semi-final beating St Aloysius in running penalties. We were defeated in running penalties to a strong Glasgow Academy.

We ended the season with our Centenary tournament where current pupils were joined by former pupils and staff in a fun morning of hockey. With over 70 players attending it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying their hockey. Thank you to all that participated.

Overall hockey at Wellington remains an integral part of the school's sporting success, we hope to capitalise on the momentum of this season for 2024//2025. We look forward to welcoming all of our players back in August and the prospect of a sports tour in 2025.

Dance

Pupils from primary 4 to S6 are given the opportunity to participate in dance club at lunch times where group routines are taught by Mrs Penton and Miss Banks. This extra-curricular club widens the opportunities for pupils to participate in physical activity at Wellington.

Dance is also part of the physical education curriculum at Wellington and some of the pieces created were performed at the showcase. Auditions were held for pupils who wished to enter their own dances into the showcase. These included dances learnt from other dance schools, exams pieces and routines choreographed by the pupils themselves. Over the process pupils showed great creativity and commitment spending time choreographing and attending practices. Those in the audience for the dance showcase enjoyed a night at the Circus where over 100 pupils performed the routines, they had put so much effort and enthusiasm into throughout the school year. There were a variety of styles performed including tap, ballet and modern. The showcase was enjoyed by all, and preparation is already underway for next year!

Rugby

Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield Final

The Ayr/Wellington rugby institution has been represented by pupils from P1-S6. The boys have experienced regular matches at weekends and have been involved in tournaments throughout the season.

The Under 18's reached the final of the Shield Final at Murrayfield where they produced a dominant display to beat Hawick 64-27 in the final. The U18 also won the Glasgow West Cup playing against Marr Rugby and winning 35 -29. There were 5 Wellington pupils involved in the team. The U16 team also experienced success winning the West Plate competition 38-12 against GHA.

Wellington was represented by Charlie Windows, Freddie Bradley, David Hendrie and Thomas Campbell.

Although Logan Hendrie does not play for Ayr/Wellington he was selected to play for Glasgow U18 and had 3 training sessions with the Scotland U18 squad.

The Under 16s Ayr/Wellington team had a successful season across all competitions. In the National Conference League 1 we had some excellent competitive performances against Mackie, Stirling and West of Scotland, with notable team performances and wins against Boroughmuir and GHA.

Our focus for the season was to be top of our group and to ensure we had a Home Quarter-Final. In the group stages we put our best performance of the season together to beat Currie, who went on to be eventual Scottish Cup Champions. By topping the league, we secured a Home Quarter Final against GHA which we won to secure a Home Semi-Final against Hawick. The under 16s team became the first Ayr/Wellington team in recent years to reach this stage of the

Scottish Cup competition and unfortunately the emotion of the occasion got the better of the team and we narrowly missed out on reaching the Final.

In the second half of the season, we competed in the West Cup and again reached the Semi-Final of the competition. We played a very strong Marr side away from home and ran them very close, unfortunately losing out 17-15. The resilience and determination displayed by the team to stay in the game was outstanding. We entered the Final of the West Shield and resoundingly beat GHA 38-12 to win the West Shield. To win this competition rounded off an excellent season for the Ayr/Wellington Under 16s team.

Football

This season, the School Football teams took part in the South Ayrshire Schools League. Mr Graham runs the primary team and the PE Dept runs the U13, U14, U16 and U18 teams. The games have been competitive and the highlight has been beating Carrick and Robert Burns Academy with the U14 team and the U13 beating Carrick in a friendly match. There are plans to grow the football next year.

Cross Country Championships

Taking part in the South Ayrshire Cross Country Championships at Rozelle Park on a very wet and windy day all Wellington pupils displayed determination and excellent stamina.

- P6 Girls - Lucia Cornelius 1st Place
- P6 Boys - Ruari Witteveen was the highest placed P6 boy finishing 4th. (Ruari ran the course brilliantly and was in 2nd place with 5 metres to go. He was overtaken in the sprint finish)
- P7 Boys - Archie Hobbins 5th Place
- S1 Boys - Caleb Ghosh, 2nd Place & Cameron McGeoch, 5th Place
- S2 Boys - Murphy Neish, 1st Place

All the other pupils finished within the top 10 -20 runners in the field. Well done everyone.

Ayrshire Schools Cross Country Championship Finals

Competing at the Ayrshire Schools Championships in Kilmarnock, Wellington was represented by 8 pupils running in races from S1 to S3. Out of a field of 250 runners, strong performances were recorded with the pupils finishing in the top third of their field. Caleb Ghosh finished 2nd in the S1 race and Murphy Neish finished 3rd in the S2 race.

Scottish Schools' Cross-Country Championships, Hopetoun House, Edinburgh

On Wednesday 6th March Wellington was represented at the Scottish Schools' Cross-Country Championships by 3 pupils. Competing in the U14 race Caleb Ghosh and Lewis Relly ran extremely well over a hilly course to finish strongly in their race. Murphy Neish also produced a determined performance in the U15 4km race. Well done to those athletes who performed so well.

Scottish Schools' Aquathlon

On Friday 19th April 2024, pupils from Wellington competed in the Scottish Schools' Aquathlon. Eighty schools, and over 300 pupils took part in the event with pupils from S1 to S6 competing in their year groups. They swam 400m before

exiting the pool and running 3km.

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

S1 - Lewis Relly & Caleb Ghosh

Athletics

Inter School Competition

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

Ayrshire Schools Championship Finals

Competing at the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships on Tuesday 11th June

The following pupils were 3rd in their event:

- Fallon Kyle - 100m, Alexa Watters - 200m, Holly McNeilly - Long Jump, Finlay McEwen - Discus, Millie McKellar - Long Jump

The following pupils were 2nd in their event:

- Jessica Needham - 300m, April Baird - Discus, Lewis Relly - High Jump, Mia McKinstyry - 100m, Katie Ablett - 200m, Leroni Allan-McLaughlin - 100m & 200m, Kate Robinson - 300m, Iona-Mary Fairbairn - 200m, Millie McKellar - High Jump, James Cruikshank - High Jump, Jack Ritchie - 100m, Harry Morton - Javelin, James Watson - Discus, The Senior Girls Relay team - Millie McKellar, Verity Findlay, Iona-Mary Fairbairn & Mia Swift.

The following pupils were 1st in their event:

- Caleb Ghosh - Long Jump, Rory Cumming - 300m (and a new South Ayrshire Record), Oliver King - Discus & Shot, Millie McKenzie - Hurdles & High Jump, Natasha Hardy - Javelin, Callan Forsyth - 100m, Verity Findlay - 800m, James Cruikshank - Long Jump, Harry Morton - Shot, The Senior 2 Boys Relay team - Pearse Wilson, Oliver King, Rory Cumming & Murphy Neish, The Senior 3 Girls Relay Team - Leroni Allan-McLaughlin, Millie McKenzie, Kate Robinson & Holly McNeilly, The Senior 3 Boys Relay Team - Hamish Marquez-Higgins, Callan Forsyth, Harry Paton & David Ness and The Senior Boys Relay team - Jack Ritchie, Harry Morton, James Cruikshank & Warwick Fenwick.

Special Recognition - Ayrshire Schools' Athletics Championships

Wellington won the Kevin McCrorie Shield for the 2nd year in a row for winning the medal tally for the most successful Ayrshire school.

Scottish Schools Relay Championships

Wellington entered 7 teams from S1 to S4. Each team displayed excellent changeovers and sprinting ability throughout the afternoon. The Under 15 boys team reached the Scottish final finishing in 4th place. Team members were Rory

Cumming, David Ness, Oliver King and Callan Forsyth.

Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships

Wellington entered 8 pupils this year. Pupils managed to achieve personal best times or distances. Three pupils reached the semi-final stage and 4 reached the final. Oliver King was placed 4th in the Discus and narrowly missed out on the medals.

Golf

The Golf at Wellington School this year saw 21 pupils with various Handicaps from S1-S6 compete in the Annual School Golf Tournament at Seafield golf course. There were some excellent performances from Quintin Dunlop, Thomas Carlyle, Hugh Dunlop, Sarah Melvin, Alex Melvin, Harry Caldwell and Robbie McFadzean. We had two Senior pupils, Quintin Dunlop and Harris Fleming, represent the school at the Morrisons Academy Scottish Schools Golf Tournament in Crieff this summer. Both boys were in the top two groups out in the tournament, and both had excellent rounds, with Quintin placing in the top 10 out of 155 players.

Netball

Netball at Wellington continues to thrive. This year we had 68 girls between P7 and S6 training on a regular basis. Below are just a few of our highlights from this year.

Our S3/4 Team 1 were undefeated in the Ayrshire League. They beat Kyle Academy in the final, securing a 16-13 win. This is the first team in Wellington History to win the Ayrshire Cup two years in a row.

Our S1/2 teams also experienced a lot of success, and two of our teams came head to head in the Ayrshire Final! It was an incredibly close match but Team 1 secured the win over Team 2 in an 18-14 defeat. Well done to all of the girls involved. Our S3 Scottish Cup Team also experienced great success by making it through to the semi-final of the Scottish Plate. They narrowly missed out on a final at the Emirates Arena!

On Sunday 16th June 2024 we had 16 pupils trial for U15 District and 3 for U17 District. We wish them the best of luck as they wait to hear if they were successful.

Finally, our end of year tournament was a great success with eight teams competing. Our teachers came in 1st place, Seniors 2nd and our parents team came in 3rd (with a little help from some former pupils). It was a great evening with a high level of friendly competition. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and helped to umpire on the day.

Our end of year awards were given out as follows: P7 Most Improved -Ailsa, P7 Player of the Year - Luella, S1 Most Improved - Eva, S1 Player of the Year - April, S2 Most Improved Eva, S2 Player of the Year - Holly, S3 Most Improved - Emily, Senior Most Improved - Maddie & Senior Player of the Year - Emma.

Skiing

On Saturday 23rd March Wellington pupils took part in the Ayrshire Ski Slalom race at Newmilns. We entered 2 primary teams, and I am delighted to say that the Wellington Primary A team finished 2nd winning silver medals. The Wellington

secondary ski team won the event winning the Bobby Pollock trophy.

Secondary Ski Team - Sophia Borthwick, Matthew Borthwick, Cameron McGeoch & Poppy Waterland
Wellington Primary Ski A Team - Matthew Borthwick, Annabelle Borthwick, Georgia McGeoch & Caelan McDevitt
Wellington Primary Ski B Team - Jamie Levisianos, Sandy O'Sullivan, Charlotte McGaughey & Georgia Watters

Cricket

The Cricket season this year has been a success in many areas. A goal was to increase participation for pupils in the Junior School and across S1-S3 which was achieved by them playing matches against St Colombas and entering Scottish schools' softball tournament in Perth. The Junior School match against St Columbas saw boys and girls from P5,6 & 7 play pairs Cricket on a Saturday morning at Doonside which they won a high scoring game. Noticeable performances came from Millie Marshall and Georgina Watters from P5 and Max Mullin from P7.

The S1-S3 team also played against St Columbas but were narrowly defeated and caught for 79 runs and 7 wickets. The boys put in a huge effort throughout the match with their bowling and batting being a strength. They then travelled to Perth to compete in the Scottish schools' softball tournament where they played 6 matches and placed 7th out of 15 teams for the day. They all played fantastically well with batter of the day being Kyle Good, Bowler of day was Hugh Dunlop and Player of the Tournament was Harry Caldwell.

Our Senior teams had a few matches organised for the season but due to poor weather this Summer they were unfortunately cancelled. We have exciting prospects in our 1st XI team with Mikey Maxwell being selected for the district team and Oscar Kirkwood and Jake Woodhouse being selected for the Scotland Under 17s Squad and have recently been asked to train with the Scotland Under 19s teams.





Physics

Liam Mitchell, Head of Department

The Physics Department has seen a lot of change this year, with Mr Murray leaving in October 2023 to take up a position as a Teaching Fellow on the PGDE programme at Strathclyde University. Although it was a busy time of year to make a move, I was delighted to fill his shoes as the new Head of Physics after the October holidays.

As with any new working environment, I was keen to start putting my own stamp on things. Immediately I started making the Physics classroom my own, clearing out old clutter and dated equipment to make space for new equipment. It's still a work in progress, but I'm getting there! One of my main aims for the department over the next few years is to build up the range and amount of modern practical equipment that we have. After all, Physics is a practical subject and having more up-to-date equipment should allow for more experiments during lessons to ensure our young people get the best learning experience possible. Larger class sizes in Physics across the different year groups compared to previous years also reinforces the need for more equipment.

On a similar note, this year I have developed brand new S1 and S2 Physics courses, in an attempt to make them more engaging and prepare the students well for moving into S3 National 5 Physics. The new S1 course now focuses on three fundamental physics topics: The Electromagnetic Spectrum, Forces and Electricity, whilst the new S2 course comprises: Heat and Matter, Space and Electromagnetism. These courses should help pupils to develop their practical, numeracy and problem solving skills, and ensure they have a strong foundation to build upon in S3.

Furthermore, I have introduced the use of my own resources for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in S3 to S6, consisting of summary notes, worked examples, problem booklets, check tests, key definitions, data booklets and online flashcards for each topic. The same colour system for booklets is used for each course in order to ensure consistency across the year groups and help pupils to stay organised with their class materials.

Following her successful completion of a physics qualification last year, Dr Jakoby taught the physics blocks in P5 and P6 Science, the S1 Physics course and some S3 Physics. In P5 Science, pupils expanded their knowledge of the work undertaken by engineers. Dr Jakoby was full of praise for her P5 pupils who were keen to take on challenges and improve

their team-working as well as their problem solving skills. Some of the highlights this year included the construction of roundhouses with only marshmallows and spaghetti, testing various designs for Roman bridges and building multiple versions of catapults to evaluate their effectiveness.

In P6 Science, pupils enjoyed investigating static electricity during their Harry Potter flying lesson. They also made predictions and constructed density columns to analyse their ideas. Following very successful work on individual investigative skills throughout the year, Dr Jakoby felt that the classes were ready to conduct their first full, independent investigation. The pupils were highly focused and engaged when they collaborated in groups to run their tennis ball bounce investigation at the start of the summer term. The classes were able to demonstrate not just their enjoyment of science but also their increasing knowledge and investigative skills set.

In S3 Physics, pupils progressed through the first half of the National 5 Physics course at a good pace. They developed their numeracy, analytical and logical reasoning skills and were able to try out different revision strategies in preparation for the S3 exam. In S4 and S5 Physics, we saw the return of National 5 and Higher Physics assignments this year. Pupils welcomed the challenge and all of them successfully carried out an experiment in groups before writing a scientific report under exam conditions.

With the return of Advanced Higher projects this year, the S6 Physics students visited the Physics labs at the UWS Paisley campus in February to carry out important experiments. All pupils succeeded in doing at least one experiment (with some doing two), obtained results and then analysed their results. Pupils enjoyed a free lunch as well as a tour of the facilities at the UWS campus. They were great ambassadors for the school and feedback from the staff running the labs was very positive.

Emily Taylor was elected as Physics captain for the 2023-24 session. Thanks to Emily for her contributions throughout the year. We wish her all the best in her future studies!

Finally, congratulations to our prizewinners this year - Emma Henderson (S5) who won the Special Prize for Higher Physics and Kathryn Taylor (S6) who won the Prize for Advanced Higher Physics. Both girls demonstrated an exceptional work ethic throughout and a natural flair for problem solving. Their talent for Physics and Science in general really shone through. Well done girls!

Sixth Year Report

Alistair Byers, Head of Department

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

The 2023-24 session got underway with appointment of our Head Boy, Maxwell Wyllie and Head Girl, Sarah Mason, who received their Badges of Office from the retiring Heads of School, Findlay Peters and Katie Thomson.

The 6th year elected to support Diabetes UK as their nominated good cause. This was an especially personal choice for Deputy Head Boy Evan Kirkwood, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes only a few years ago. Throughout the year they worked exceptionally well as a team and consequently had a very successful year with the charity. A myriad of activities were undertaken in order to raise funds, in addition to our traditional House Charity Days, non-uniform days and regular cake and candy stalls. All of these generated extensive funds, while one-off events such as the Glasgow Kiltwalk, Dawn to Dusk Golf Challenge and the English Channel Swimming Challenge were all fun and highly successful activity for the staff and pupils involved. A huge “thank you” must be paid to the entire Wellington family, who gave such overwhelming support of the charity work, whether through completing a challenge or giving so generously in support of them. However, I cannot write this report without paying tribute to Mr and Mrs Wyllie, who went “above and beyond” once more in support of the school’s fundraising activities. Completing 100 miles in 24 hours was a huge undertaking, yet their determination and resilience got them to the finish line. This was the third, and final, charity challenge they’ve done over the years, and the various charities which have benefited from their tireless support are, I am sure, eternally grateful.

The 6th year charity continues to have a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together pupils from 3-18, parents, and staff and achieves exceptional results annually. It is to everyone’s credit that the school has raised another extraordinary sum for another very worthwhile cause, with Diabetes UK receiving the fantastic sum of £50,146.06. This is an unbelievable sum of money, especially in light of the testing economic environment of the past years.

I would like to thank our Heads of School, Maxwell Wyllie and Sarah Mason, and their Sixth

Year counterparts, for their commitment, enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination in driving many of the charity activities. Whether the task in hand was charity fundraising, giving tours of the school, mentoring in classes or anything else we threw at them, their poise and positive demeanour made a lasting impression of all who interacted with them - they are all excellent ambassadors for the school.

The completion of what is always a tumultuous SQA exam diet led us into the calmer waters of the June activities programme. The Senior Prom, Sports Day, and our S6 farewell Dinner were highly successful events, while the day trips to Go Ape, ScotKart, Millport and the Edinburgh Dungeon offered an opportunity for our S6 Leavers to share some fun times in these, their final few days as Wellington pupils.

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





Headmasters Vote of Thanks

Simon Johnson

At the end of the school year, I must give thanks to all of those who have made the school year such a success. I begin by thanking first and foremost the pupils for their enthusiasm, their laughter, their energy and their sense of fun. For S6, of course, this is the day when they hang up their Wellington blazers for the last time. They will be sad to leave, I am sure, but it is time for them to go and begin the next chapter of their lives. They are the finished Wellington product and I hope that everything they have learnt during their time here stands them in good stead for the rest of their lives. So, departing S6, go well and keep in touch.

I turn now to the staff, who are the school's greatest asset. The support staff are unsung heroes, and I give generous thanks to the cleaners, the janitorial team, the Junior School auxiliaries, those in the school office and the finance office, and the catering team. Special thanks go to our Maintenance Manager, Ali McCall, to Office Manager, Carolynne McEwan and to Dot and David Gray, who feed us all so well throughout the year. I am also particularly grateful to Garry Carr, our IT Manager, and to Aimee Cassells, Marketing Manager. Garry and Aimee both do a first class job, often in pressurised circumstances, and both have done extraordinary work behind the scenes this year to support not just our regular events, but all of the Centenary events as well. I know that you will join me in wishing Aimee well as she begins her maternity leave over the summer holiday.

The role of a teacher has changed a lot in the last 30 years, and here at Wellington our teaching staff blend the best of the old and the new. They are passionate about the academic side of their work, but they understand that the pastoral side of the role is equally important. The Nursery is where it all starts and I thank all of the staff there for the wonderful work they do both in Drumley and also out in the woods at Doonside. Visiting the Junior School to take Assembly on Wednesday is always one of the highlights of my week and I thank the Junior School staff for their school such a special place. Thank you also to the Senior School staff for providing inspiration in the classroom day after day. The Heads of Year deserve a special mention for the outstanding support that they provide for our pupils in good times and bad.

At the end of the year, we must say farewell to those who are leaving. The list is short this year, but Isabel Archbold is leaving the Junior School after more than 10 years. Mrs Archbold has been an excellent class teacher, but she has also helped with a wide range of overseas projects and inspired a generation of pupils through her Erasmus Club. She leaves with our warmest thanks and best wishes. Miss Gilmour has worked in the Music Department and

as a piano teacher for just two years. She leaves Wellington to travel, and her next stop is Australia. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well on the next stage of her journey. Marian, remember to send us a postcard. Another person who has been with us for only a short time is Tanya Audley. Tanya has worked in the School Office for two years and we are very grateful for all that she has done. She leaves to train as an English teacher and we wish her every happiness and success.

I turn now to the Senior Management Team, who join me on the daily rollercoaster of school life, much of which takes place offstage. They are exceptional people, who maintain a calm professionalism in even the most challenging circumstances, and whose care for both the education and the wellbeing of your sons and daughters knows no bounds. There cannot be a group of people who are more fair-minded, more hard-working and more committed to the wellbeing of young people. Marie Windows, Mr McDougall, Ms Johnston, Mr Cox, Mrs Peters and Mr Stewart – thank you for all that you do, day in day out, for Wellington School. I must also thank Marian Dunlop for putting up with us, and for understanding the true value of coffee and cake.

Next, I would like to pay tribute to the group of people who share the stage with me today. The Governors of a school carry a heavy responsibility as never before and we are immensely fortunate to have a Board of Governors who provide expertise and wisdom in abundance, and who are all deeply committed and loyal to this school. I thank each member of the Board and in particular the Chair, Jennifer Simpson, for the support that they provide for the school and for me personally throughout the year.

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



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