



The Turret

Wellington School Magazine
Spring/Summer 2024



Wellington
SCHOOL

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Welcome

From Mr Johnson, Headmaster

The publication of ‘The Turret’ is always something that I look forward to, as it helps us to look back at all that has happened over a six-month period and see the bigger picture. Schools are busy places and inevitably, we all get caught up in the minutiae of today and tomorrow. The school year, however, follows a rhythm of its own that is made up of the exam cycle and the annual programme of events and activities that fill the pages of this magazine. It is always inspiring to look back at what our pupils have achieved!

I cannot write this editorial without reflecting on the Carleton Turrets Centenary, which we celebrated in such style throughout the 2023-2024 school year. A hundred years is a long time and if the building could speak, Carleton Turrets would have plenty of tales to tell. Speaking of telling tales, I thank all the Former Pupils who attended our Centenary events and brought them to life by sharing their own stories of Wellington with such enthusiasm and joy. Thank you also to the pupils, staff and parents who worked so hard to make these events such a success. I invite you then to turn the pages of this publication and read about all the things that make Wellington so distinctive and enriching. Whether it is the extraordinary charity fund raising efforts of last year’s S6 that catches your attention, the wonderful artwork, the stories of overseas travel or the report on our newly opened Modern Languages Hub, there is something for everybody to enjoy.

Session 2024-2025 is already well underway and the stories that will fill the next edition of ‘The Turret’ are being written day by day. I hope you all enjoy watching them unfold and take a moment sometimes to take stock and reflect on what makes the bigger picture such a special one.

Simon Johnson



At the end of term, we had our annual Speech Day celebrations in Ayr Town Hall where we celebrated the successes from 2023/24 with all our pupils, staff, friends and family.

Well done to all our pupils, the orchestra and singers. Thank you to our Guest Speaker and former pupil Louise Dewar for her inspiring words to our S6 leavers and current pupils. It was wonderful to have her back!

Senior School Prize Winners

General Excellence in Primary 7

Louie Balmer
Joe Conetta
Archie Hobbins
Christian McIndoe
Mithian Perry
Noah Ritchie
Riley Stevenson

The Torrance Cup for Progress

Evangeline Jamieson

General Excellence in S1

Mia Barbour
Holly Carter
Ellen Clachan
Lewis Flynn
Fallon Kyle
Sian McLaughlin
Grace Thomson

Senior 1 Progress

Olivia Caldow

General Excellence in S2

Sophia Borthwick
Charlotte Dale
Matthew Muirhead
Scarlett O'Sullivan
Eva Taylor
Amber Thomson
Padma Unnam

Senior 2 Progress

Sophie Hastings

Senior 3 Merit

Aimme Clitheroe
Anastasia D'Angelosante
Jessica Ewer
Layla Hasan
Calum Kelly
Ada McLaren
Alexander Melvin

Senior 3 Progress

Ava Clachan

Senior 4 Merit

Charlotte Carter
Madison Niven
Ivy Richardson
Jamie Wardrop
James Watson
Cara Wilmer

Senior 4 Progress

Joshua Brennan & Nate Munro

McMillan/Kilpatrick Prize for Achievement in S3/4

Daisy Windows & Milla Potts

The Cup for Effort in Senior 5

Rohan Sunderesan

Coats Challenge Cup for Golf

Sarah Melvin

Wellington School Scratch Golfer of the Year

Quintin Dunlop

Ross Cricket Cup

Oscar Kirkwood

Primary Football: Player of the Year

Archie Hobbins

Primary Football: Most Improved Payer

Lucienne Garman-Black

Netball Player of the Year

Emma Henderson

Trophy for Rugby

Presented by Shiona Douglas

Thomas Campbell

1st XI Hockey Player of the Year: Girls

Amy Scott

1st XI Hockey Player of the Year: Boys

Ryan Ritchie

The Cala Trophy for Services to the PE Department

Cara McGlynn

The McGlaughlin Cup for Outstanding Effort in Sport

Emily Goodwin

Willians Plate

Callan Forsyth

The Junior Boys' Sports Championship Trophy

Rory Cumming

Dale Quich

Awarded for the most Meritorious Performance in a Championship Event

Warwick Fenwick

The Craig Trophy

Senior Boys' Sports Champion

Jake Woodhouse

Primary Girls' Sports Champion

Sofia Manners & Lucia Cornelius

Belcher Family Cup for Swimming

Callan Forsyth

1st Year Championship Trophy (Girls)

Alexa Watters

1st Year Championship Trophy (Boys)

Caleb Ghosh

Logan Trophy

Junior Girls' Sports Champion

Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin

Wellington Rosebowl

Senior Girls' Sports Champion

Iona-Mary Fairbairn

The Morrison Cup for Best All-Round Spots Boy

Charlie Windows

Laughland Cup for Best All-Round Sports Girl

Emma Henderson

Special Prize for Higher Accounting

Ross Gibb

Prize for AH Accounting

Amy Scott

Reynolds Cup for Art

Awarded for Outstanding Work in S4

Isabelle Wilson

Special Prize for Art & Design

Sophia Girgis

Prize for AH Art & Design
Jemima Harvey

Gainsborough Cup for Art
(Awarded for outstanding work in S5/6)
Annabel Barrett

WSA Award for Outstanding Contribution to Art & Design in the Senior School
Evie Scott-Galli

Special Prize for Higher Biology
Emma Henderson

Prize for AH Biology
Mícheál Magee

Special Prize for Higher Business Management
Mícheál Magee & Neve Ticcioni

Prize for AH Business Management
Grace Dunlop

Special Prize for Higher Chemistry
Sophia Girgis & Benjamin Richmond

Prize for AH Chemistry
Kathryn Taylor

Special Prize for Higher Classical Studies
Grace Dunlop

Cup for Higher Computing
Katherine Paisley & Fraser Rillie

Prize for AH Computing
Kathryn Taylor

Rosebowl for Higher English
Sophia Girgis

Prize for AH English
Catherine Ronnie

Prize for 3rd Year Public Speaking
Jessica Ewer

Old Girls' Public Speaking Cup
Emily Taylor

The McKinstry Cup for Debating
Catherine Ronnie & Kathryn Taylor

MacDonald Prize for Creative Writing
Euan Alexander

The Terras Cup for General Services to the School
Megan Seales & Charlie Windows

The McKinlay Trophy for Commitment to the school
Ewan Hamilton

Milne Cup for Citizenship
Sarah Mason & Maxwell Wyllie

The Cup for Higher Modern Languages (French)
Sophia Girgis

Special Prize for Higher Geography
Sophia Hamilton

Prize for AH Geography
Mícheál Magee

Special Prize for Higher German
Ross Gibb

Clark Prize for Higher History
Johnathan Dunn

Taylor Cup for AH History
Catherine Ronnie

Special Prize for Higher Latin
Benjamin Richmond

McFarlane Cup for Higher Mathematics
Iona Marquez-Higgins

Prize for AH Mathematics
Kathryn Taylor

Special Prize for AH Mathematics of Mechanics
Jeevan Basra

Trophy for Higher Modern Studies
Megan Seales

Prize for AH Modern Studies
Catherine Ronnie

Cup for Higher Music
Sophia Girgis

Prize for AH Music
Sarah Mason

Special Prize for Higher Music Technology
Euan Alexander

Prize for AH Music Technology
Jemima Harvey

Ayr Amateur Opera Senior Vocal Award
Hugh McCulloch & Emily Taylor

Quartz Cup for Commitment to Music
Charlotte McEwen

The MB Hay Trophy for Excellence in Music
Adam Reid

The Brady Award for Performing Arts
Maxwell Wyllie

Special Prize for Higher Physics
Emma Henderson

Prize for AH Physics
Kathryn Taylor

Special Prize for Higher Physical Education
Charlie Windows

Prize for AH Physical Education
Cara McGlynn

Special Prize for Higher Spanish
Suri Soto Yañez

Prize for AH Spanish
Ross Gibb

The Patrick Smith Prize for Outstanding Contribution to School and Community
Emily & Kathryn Taylor

Sinclair Cup for All Round Achievement in the Senior School
Maddie Arnott & Ryan Ritchie

The Kenneth Manderson Prize for Academic Excellence in Sixth Year
Kathryn Taylor

Proxime Accessit 2023-24
Emma Henderson

Dux of School 2023-24
Sophia Girgis

Retiring Head Girl 2023-24
Sarah Mason

Retiring Head Boy 2023-24
Maxwell Wyllie

Head Girl Session 2024-25
Megan Seales

Head Boy Session 2024-25
Charlie Windows





S6 Charity Presentation

The 6th year chose to support Diabetes UK as their nominated charity for 2023-2024. This cause held special significance for Deputy Head Boy, Evan Kirkwood, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes just a few years ago.

Throughout the year, S6 worked exceptionally well as a team, resulting in a very successful year with the charity. A wide array of activities was undertaken to raise funds, alongside our traditional House Charity Days, non-uniform days and regular cake and candy stalls. These efforts generated substantial funds, while one-off events such as the Glasgow Kiltwalk, Dawn to Dusk Golf Challenge and the English Channel Swimming Challenge were both enjoyable and successful for the staff and pupils involved.

A huge “thank you” is owed to the entire Wellington family for their overwhelming support, whether through participating in challenges or donating generously. We must also extend a special tribute to Mr and Mrs Wyllie, who once again went “above and beyond” in support of the school’s fundraising efforts. Their completion of 100 miles in 24 hours was a monumental achievement, demonstrating remarkable determination and resilience. This marks the third, and final, charity challenge they’ve undertaken over the years, and the various charities that have benefited from their tireless support are undoubtedly grateful.



The 6th year charity continues to have a profoundly positive impact throughout the school, uniting pupils from ages 3-18, as well as parents and staff, to achieve outstanding results each year. It is to everyone’s credit that the school has raised another extraordinary sum for a worthy cause, with Diabetes UK receiving a remarkable £50,146.06. This is an incredible amount, especially considering the challenging economic climate of recent years.

Well done to our Heads of School, Maxwell Wyllie and Sarah Mason, and the rest of S6, for their unwavering commitment, enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination in leading many charity initiatives this year. Whether they were fundraising, giving tours of the school, mentoring in classes, or tackling any other task we set before them, their poise and positive demeanour made a lasting impression on everyone they encountered. They have truly been outstanding ambassadors for the school.





Celebrating 100 Years at Carleton Turrets

The history of Wellington School goes back to 1849, when it opened its doors to twelve 'young ladies of quality'. Before long, the school had outgrown its premises on Wellington Square, leading to the move in 1923 to its current site at Carleton Turrets. We were therefore thrilled to celebrate a particularly special Centenary, marking exactly 100 years since the school settled into this wonderful building, and we commemorated the occasion in grand style.

Wellington Centenary Ball

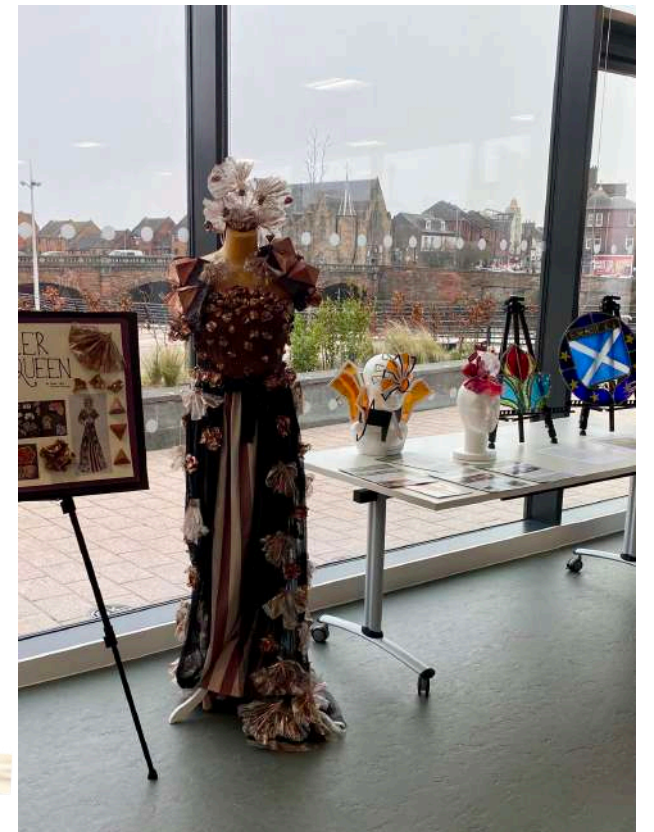
The first event of the Centenary year was our Centenary Ball, held at Ayr Racecourse in November 2023. We were delighted to welcome 300 guests, including former pupils, current pupils, staff, parents, and friends of Wellington. The evening began with a drinks reception accompanied by music from French teacher and local celebrity, Jerney Levif. Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner, dancing to music from Arcadium and games hosted by Primary 7 teacher, Mrs Bradley. The night concluded with an Auction, with all proceeds supporting the Wellington Centenary Appeal.



The Wellington Centenary Appeal seeks to raise additional funds to support Wellington's comprehensive Bursary programme and their ambitious campus development plans. In the short term, Wellington intends to renovate Carleton Turrets Hall, the school's busiest multi-purpose space. Looking ahead, the primary long-term goal is to construct a Sports Hall at Doonside, which will address both the curricular and the extracurricular needs of the pupils.

The Centenary Exhibition

Our next event was the Centenary Exhibition, held at the Cutty Sark Centre in March 2024, which was attended by over 700 visitors. Organised by Head of Art, Mrs Morton, with contributions from S6 pupils and staff, the exhibition took us on a nostalgic journey through Wellington's history, showcased through photographs, memorabilia, video footage and artwork. Many of these pieces were generously donated by our former pupils, featuring works from their time at school alongside their current artwork. The exhibition launch was a delightful evening, featuring musical performances from current pupils. We were joined by staff, parents and former pupils, who popped in to celebrate with tea and a Wellington-themed cake, kindly baked by former pupil, Fiona. Fellow former pupil, Heather, whose drawings and paintings from her school days in the 1950s featured in the exhibition, cut the cake.



Centenary Concert

Next was our Centenary Concert, held in Ayr Town Hall in March 2024. The Town Hall was adorned with displays of old photos, uniform and banners that vividly showcased the school's history. Tickets to this highly anticipated event were in high demand. Organised by the Director of Music, Mrs Docherty, the evening was brimming with musical performances from our current pupils, choir, orchestra and bands. We were also delighted to welcome back former pupils who contributed to the event with solo and choir performances.





Former Pupil Lunch

The final event of the year was our highly anticipated Former Pupil Lunch, held in Carleton Turrets Hall in June. We were delighted to welcome back over 140 former pupils, spanning several generations – including those who left in the 1950s – who spent the afternoon reminiscing on their time at Wellington School. The sun shone brightly during the outdoor reception, which was followed by a two-course lunch catered by our very own Dot and David. Guests were treated to musical performances by both current and former pupils and joined together to sing the school hymn. The day finished with tours around the school buildings, where even more memories were brought to life.



We would like to thank all those who attended our events over the last year, it was wonderful to welcome you all back and to share in memories of Wellington School. We hope you all enjoyed them as much as we did!



Wellington Nursery Celebrates Outstanding Care Inspectorate Report

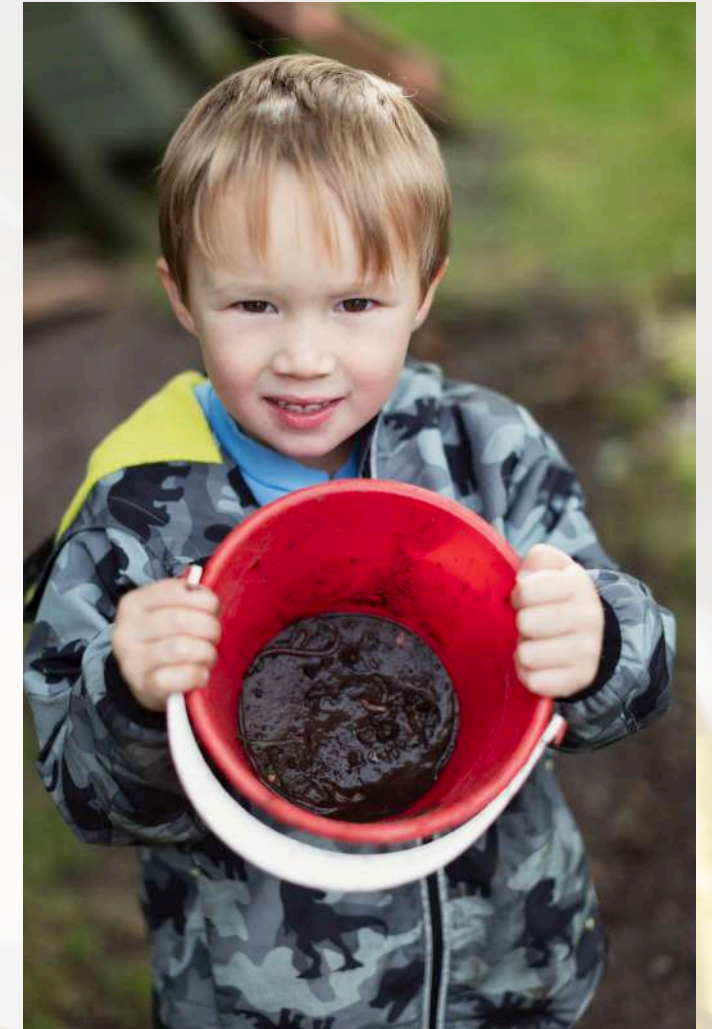
During the last week of summer term, Wellington Nursery received an unannounced inspection from the Care Inspectorate, the regulatory body overseeing day care facilities in Scotland. We are thrilled to share that the Inspectorate's findings were extremely positive, awarding Wellington Nursery a grading of 5 - Very Good across all four quality indicators: care, play and learning, setting, leadership and staff.

The inspection highlighted Wellington Nursery's commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive environment where children feel 'happy, confident and secure'. The Care Inspectorate praised the staff for their kindness, care and commitment, noting that they create a space where children are actively engaged in their learning.

The Nursery was also recognised for excelling in family involvement, outdoor learning, and maintaining positive relationships with children and families. The inspectors praised the skilled staff who work diligently to ensure the well-being and development of every child in their care.

"The report reflects the exceptional work that all of the dedicated staff involved in the Nursery undertake. I cannot praise them enough for the care and attention they give to every child and their family, every day, and I was delighted with the feedback we received. As always, we will continue to look to improve and provide the very best for everyone connected with Wellington Nursery."

Mr Cox, Head of Junior School and Nursery Manager



Prom 2024

By Lottie McEwen

Wellington's Senior Prom was held on the 13th June 2024; and fifth and sixth years spent many hours preparing for the night of nights; which happened to be one of the wettest days on record for 2024. Dressed in all colours of the rainbow, some in dapper suits and others in beautiful dresses, sixth year pupils were generously invited to Head Boy, Max Wyllie's home for pre prom, whilst the fifth year pupils were kindly hosted by Lemoni Dempster.

The event was skilfully organised by our Deputy Head Girl and Boy, Amy and Evan, who chose the wonderful Lochgreen House Hotel in Troon. From the moment we arrived, the space was decorated to the nines, and the staff treated us all so kindly as we received a welcome drink and were taken to our tables. Soon, our meal began, three delicious courses chosen by every individual pupil and member of staff. Personally, I had Tomato Soup to start, then Steak and Ale Pie, followed by Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert. It was all delicious! Our party favours of the night were a callback to the previous year, neon-coloured sunglasses. I received a pink pair.

At our prom, there was a professional photographer from Air Image Photography, a photobooth that was extremely popular amongst both teachers and staff, with many different props and poses being captured by the camera.

Of course, prom would not have been completed without an amazing DJ. His playlist was a very good mix of both modern and classic music, keeping everyone happy. Everyone was on the dancefloor having the time of their lives as soon as we arrived, and many had to be told to sit down!

Having two proms is such a privilege and something so few schools get to do. All sixth-year pupils had an amazing time and looked fantastic. I know it was the perfect way to end our year.



Modern Languages Hub Created in Drumley Annexe

New teaching space creates freshly refurbished teaching rooms with additional IT investment.

The teaching of Modern Languages is a key part of the Wellington curriculum starting with French vocabulary in Primary 1, and progressing in every year group to national examinations at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in French, Spanish and German. So, when the opportunity presented itself to consolidate the junior school classes into the Drumley building, the chance to invest in a bespoke teaching “hub” for the department was too good to miss.

Under the leadership of newly promoted Head of Department, Mademoiselle Isabelle Rabeyrin, the department took on the challenge of moving lock, stock and dictionaries across Blackburn Drive to new accommodation in the Drumley Annexe building. They were not alone in this move and were helped by a refurbishment programme under the direction of the Facilities team and an investment in educational technology lead by our IT Manager, Mr Carr.

The teaching staff were consulted on the choice of painting colour scheme and room layout, and it is fair to say that the results have been transformational for the department. With each room displaying an individual touch enjoyed by pupils and staff, while also making best use of available space.

The department now enjoys three full sized classrooms, all equipped with Clevertouch smart boards; a small group teaching class for up to 8 pupils; and a language tutorial area, when the opportunity presents for more reflective and informal learning. Much needed storage and resource space has also been created.



Our Language Assistants, who contribute greatly to the pupil experience, have not been forgotten either. They now have a dedicated working space, where they can prepare materials or work one on one with pupils to deliver that extra bit of study and revision that is so vital to enhancing understanding and learning.



Speaking on behalf of the department, Isabelle commented:

“When we were told that we were moving buildings, we were all quite apprehensive. Everyone worked really hard over the summer to make the new ML hub ready for the start of the academic year. I must say that we are delighted with our new hub. We all feel very privileged to have spacious, modern rooms. Pupils’ feedback has been very positive, they even call the new hub: a mini language school.”

The good news does not stop there. Continuing the theme of making best use of space within the school, plans are in place to expand and improve the capacity of Business Management and Accountancy and creating much needed study and welfare spaces for staff and pupils. We will look forward to updating you on the progress of these exciting projects in future editions of The Turret.

Model United Nations Conference, Xanten, Germany

Last session's Model United Nations Conference brought together 80 young people from nine schools in three countries. Wellington staff worked together with our partners at the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium to organise transport and accommodation, but the conference itself was run by our pupils. They chose the committees and the ten topics for discussion beforehand. Our five Chairs guided the Delegates from partner schools through the process of writing Position Papers, and then they led the committee proceedings during the conference. The evening programme included ice-breaker activities, a short visit to Xanten and a Delegates' Dance. On the final day, Wellington participants had time to explore Düsseldorf, too, before returning to Scotland.

Below, Lara Bryce, S6, Chair of the Environment Committee, reflects on her experience.

As the Chair of the Environment Committee from last year, it's my pleasure to reflect on the extraordinary experience we shared over the three-day programme in Xanten, Germany. The Model United Nations event our school organised was nothing short of unforgettable. The dedication, passion and work provided by everyone's involvement was impressive, as each delegate brought their unique perspective to addressing the urgent environmental challenges that I set for our committee to discuss. We worked hard as a team by debating, understanding and producing innovative solutions with a level of formality and maturity that truly made us feel like professionals. This was nothing but inspiring for what the future holds for each of us. The diversity across the countries - Scotland, Germany, and France - made each person gain at least one new friend. Together, we learned, challenged, and grew. I extend my thanks to all the delegates, chairs, staff, and volunteers who made this event unforgettable. This experience was one of my personal favourites as it is similar to what I would like to do in the future, therefore I am ecstatic to help run it again this year. I urge anyone that is interested to join in.

The Model United Nations Society meets weekly at Tuesday lunchtime and welcomes pupils from S4-S6 who are interested in Politics, Current Affairs, Public Speaking and Debating. We are already looking forward to our 2025 international conference which will be held in Bad Homburg, Germany.



Mr Mitchell Attends the Prestigious EinsteinPlus Programme

Our Head of Physics, Mr Mitchell, recently attended the EinsteinPlus 2024 programme run by Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Canada, in July.

This was a highly competitive one-week intensive course for international physics teachers that focused on modern physics, including quantum physics, special relativity, and cosmology. Teachers were put through their paces in numerous workshops that focused on how to effectively teach these complex topics to young people.

There were also opportunities to learn some of the latest developments in physics from expert researchers at the forefront of human knowledge, enjoy lab tours, and share knowledge and resources with like-minded teachers from around the globe.

Mr Mitchell found this to be a truly rewarding experience and can't wait to try out some of what he learned with his classes this year.





P7's Gowanbank Adventure

Unsurprisingly, many of our P7 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 everyone certainly utilised the opportunity to have fun: fostering new friendships, whilst nurturing existing ones, and developing increased resilience and independence.



Art Department's Open Studio Event

Senior School artists put on a fantastic showcase of work for parents at an Open Studio Event in March. The corridor and art studios were full of a range of beautiful expressive and design work from National 5 and Higher Art.

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.

Our senior pupils studying at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level have demonstrated passion for the subject and worked hard all year.



Caledonian Club Schools Art Exhibition

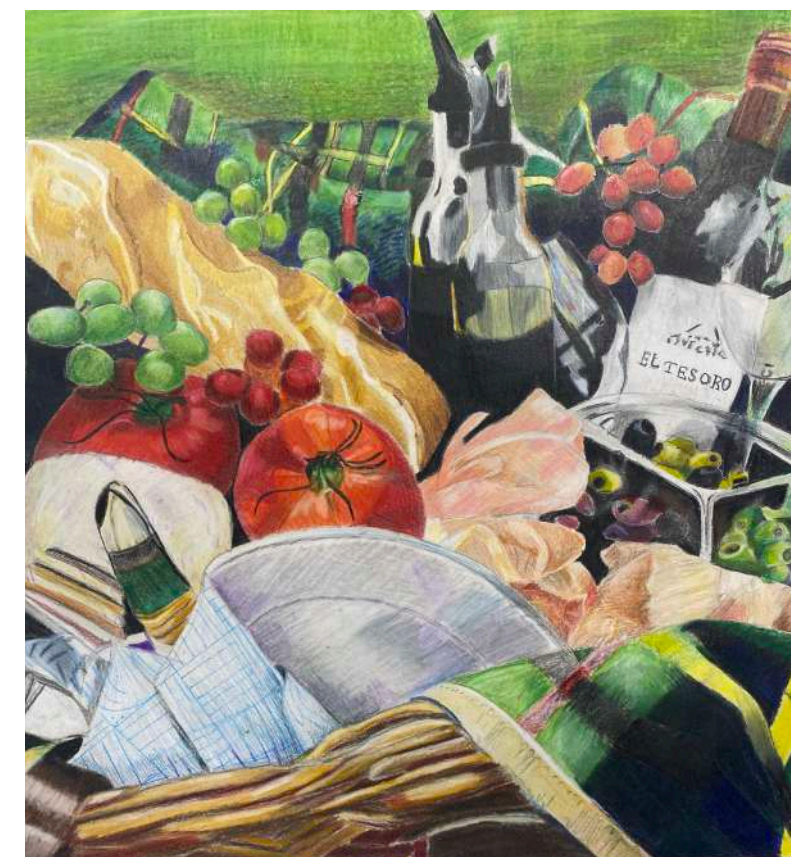
In March, we were delighted to be invited to exhibit in the prestigious Caledonian Club Schools Art Exhibition in Belgravia, London for the first time. Work from Evie in S6 and Katherine in S5 featured in the exhibition and Oonagh, Anna, Annabel, Sophia, Thomas and Bobby in S5 were selected to exhibit in the digital showcase.



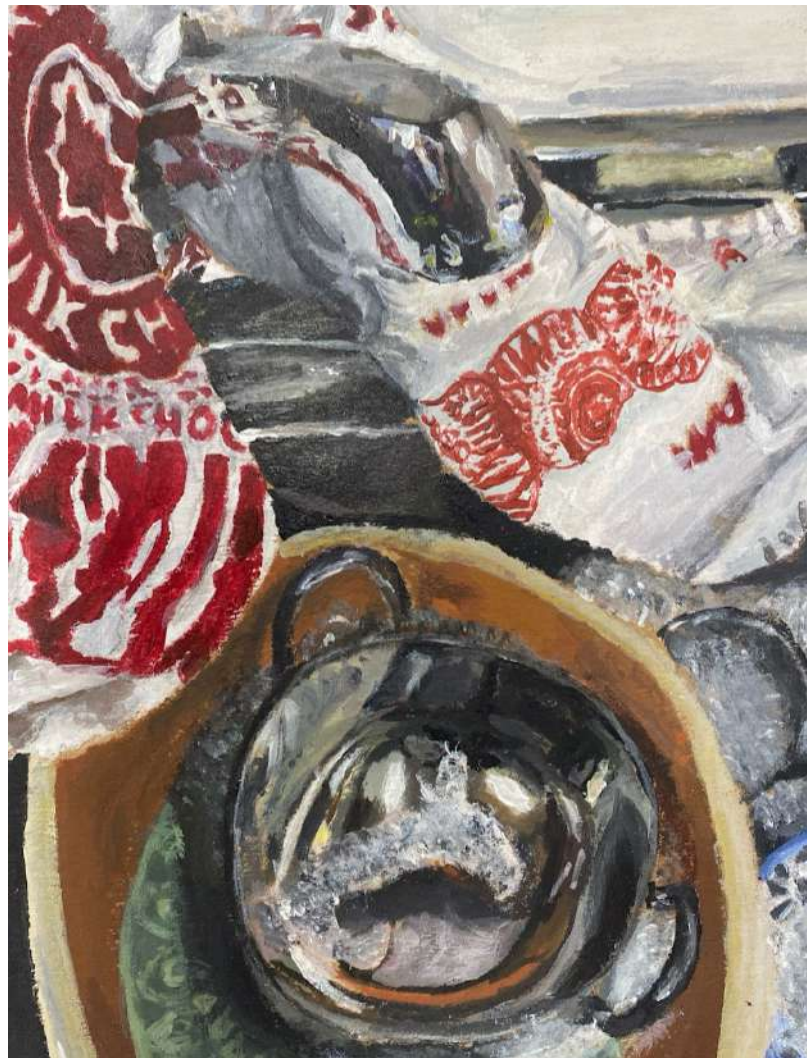
'Afternoon Tea at Glenapp' - Acrylic on Paper, A5
Katherine Paisley



'Golden Dew' - Gold leaf, acrylic,
pencil on paper
Evie Scott-Galli



Oonagh Clark 'Picnic Basket'



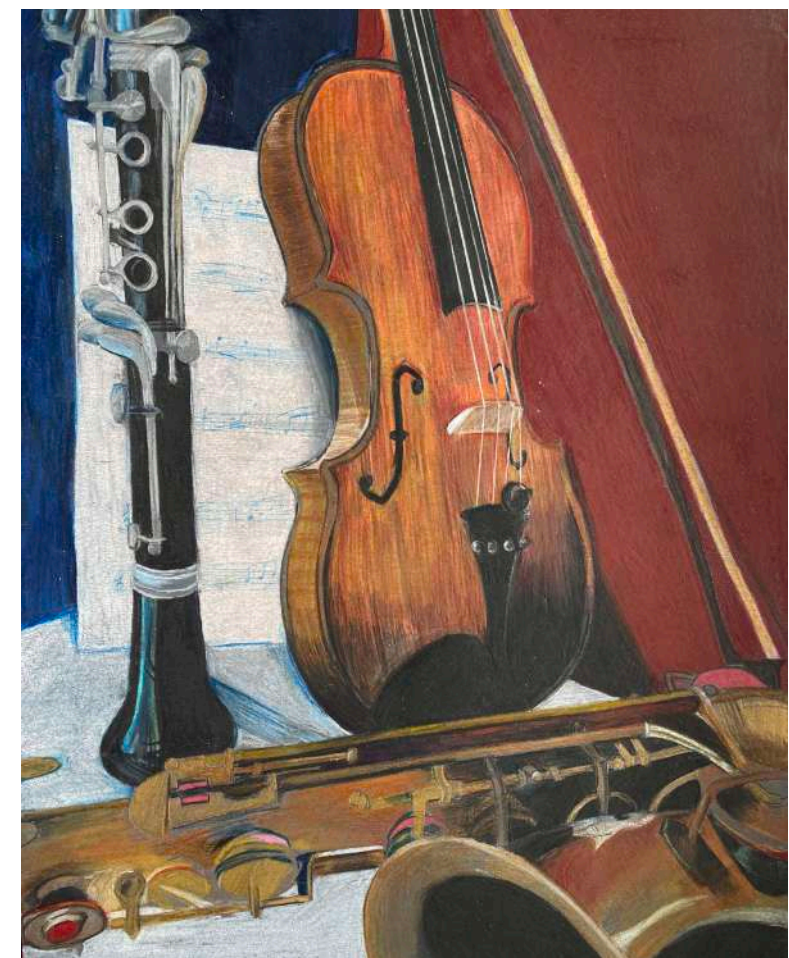
'Begging for a Dishwasher'
Sophia Girgis



'High Heels and Pearls'
Anna Hunter



'Still life with Roses'
Annabel Barrett



'Orchestra'
Bobby Curran

European Parliament Ambassador School

By Freya Day-Byrne

As Wellington's European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) ambassadors, over the past academic year, we have worked together on a number of projects to promote languages and the European Parliament whilst also learning a lot ourselves - through our research, tasks and trips.

Our first event was a presentation to our year group (S3) about languages and where they can take you. Firstly, pupils were given a short brief by two of our ambassadors on what they were going to be doing. They were then asked to write down as many jobs as they could involving languages, before watching a series of videos by people working in various fields (that required them to speak a foreign language). We then repeated the previous exercise to see how much they had learned.

Following the success of our first event, we were invited to replicate it and present it to the S2s, during the time they were picking their subjects - to give them a bit more knowledge on what they could do with languages once they left school.

Next, we organised an activity for Primary 7 on Valentine's Day, whereby they wrote messages such as "Happy Valentine's Day" or "I Love You" on hearts in multiple different European Languages and decorated them. We then collected in their hard work to create a wall display.

For Europe Day, our school lunch hall treated us to a choice of European dishes, such as: Italian Minestrone, Vegetable Paella, Currywurst or Paninis with Belgian waffles for dessert.

Our most recent event was the mini version of Model United Nations with Primary 7. We allocated a country to each group/pair, set the topic of child labour and tasked them with researching the issue and how it affected their country. They then had to come up with resolutions, lobby each other and vote on which one they thought was best. The team with the winning resolution was thoroughly questioned and the other teams took it in turns to stand up and share why they supported or opposed the resolution. Overall, there was an extremely positive result from the morning and it ran smoothly and roughly in the style the United Nations would carry out this sort of conference. Both the P7 pupils and we ambassadors gained a huge amount from this experience and it's definitely something we would do again.

In conclusion, this year has been very busy but also hugely rewarding for everyone involved. Through everything we have done this year, we have done so much for the development of ourselves, all of the pupils who participated in our events and for EPAS - in spreading the message of their work and the benefits the programme can have for so many young people across the continent (e.g. communication, organisation, confidence, time management, people skills and so much more).



Wellington School was awarded full EPAS accreditation in June, the first school in Scotland to achieve this, and our Junior Ambassadors received certificates to recognise their active participation and hard work.

The EPAS Society is open to all pupils in S3-S6 and meets once a week. In October, a group of pupils will attend Euroscola in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.



LUX Award Ceremony & Seminar - EU Parliament, Brussels

By Anastasia D'Angelosante & Jess Ewer

Although the UK left the European Union back in January 2020, thanks to Mrs Coontz's amazing skills we were able to participate in this year's LUX Award Ceremony and seminar hosted by the EU Parliament in Brussels. We were delighted to join with students from almost all EU states for a day full of talks and interactive activities as part of the Junior Ambassadors' Programme.

Our trip was organised by EPAS. As Wellington is a member of the European Parliament Ambassador Schools programme, which operates in all present and former EU states, we were asked to represent the UK at the event. As a part of the EPAS club, we learn the importance of leadership, and try to encourage as many young people as possible to get involved with their local areas, appreciate other cultures and languages, and to stand up for what they believe in.

In the middle of April, we travelled with two of our teachers to Brussels, where one of the two seats of the EU Parliaments is. On our first full day in the Parliament, we took part in lectures, and, as this trip focused on the LUX Film award ceremony, we were able to speak with some of the directors and ask them any questions we had after watching their films. These films were all focused on prominent issues and cultural nuances from the directors' home countries. We also had a few activities based on the EU Parliament elections which were on the 6th June this year, and had discussions on the best way to get people to participate in politics and have a say in these elections. One of the most exciting parts of that day was seeing an unreleased video which had been created as publicity for the elections. We were the first people to see it in the whole of Europe! During the day, we managed to make friends with other young people from all over Europe, forging friendships, and it was enlightening to see how similar some of us were, even though we live thousands of miles apart.

After our day of seminars, we all went to the EU Parliament chamber for the LUX Award Ceremony. We were seated at the desks where European Parliament members sit during conferences and parliament sittings. The desks curve round to face the front, and in a nook of the desk space were headsets. The headsets are used to translate whoever is speaking in Parliament, and around the hall you could see the small booths in which were the translators. There were more than 20 booths for all the main European languages, and in each one a few translators. While someone was speaking, they would take it in turns between them to translate the speaker into their language, so that everyone in Parliament could understand. If they didn't speak the speaker's language, they would connect to another translator and translate from a secondary language. It was incredible watching them throughout the ceremony and hearing the pace at which they could translate. This allows the Parliament to be more inclusive and truly hear the voices of those all across Europe.

At the beginning of the ceremony, there were two incredibly talented musicians who played throughout the event for musical breaks. The directors then went up to the stage, showed us a trailer of their movie as we hadn't seen all of them, and talked about their inspiration, what message they meant to give to the audience, and any other information that related to the film. A film that particularly resonated with us was 'The Smoke Sauna Sisterhood', by Estonian Director Ana Hints.

The film was based on her own experiences and, as part of her description of the film, she taught the whole audience a traditional Estonian song that was used to send the main messages of the film. In the end, the winning film of the LUX audience awards 2024 was the 'Teachers' Lounge' directed by Ilker Çatak, which is another great film.

On our final day in Brussels, we did some sightseeing! This involved seeing the Belgian Royal Palace, and the Grand Place right in the centre of Brussels. The architecture was breathtakingly beautiful, and it was a fascinating experience to walk through a city where in less than two minutes you could hear four different languages being spoken, and see multiple different cultures coming together as one. Also, of course, there were also great shopping opportunities for us, and lots of different chocolatiers creating some of the best chocolate on the market (and good hot chocolate, too!)

EPAS has greatly encouraged us to speak out and voice our opinions to make change. It has been an awesome experience to help us appreciate other cultures and differing points of view from all across Europe.



Music Department News

From Mrs Docherty

The Spring Term in the Music Department is always one filled with the Ayrshire Music Festival and SQA Performing Exams. We had many entries into the Festival, from pianists and instrumentalists to solo singers and choirs. With numerous placings in a variety of classes, Wellington shone once again. We were delighted to have two vocalists in the final evening competition, Hugh and Emily, who performed to a very high standard. They were commended for their performances and choice of songs.

We were also pleased to open our doors and host the Rotary Young Musician of the Year area final, and the Scottish Young Musician Independent Schools final at Wellington. There was a fine display of talent on both days.

Throughout the year, the Music Department is the Centre for Trinity College London Music exams, where entrants can use the facilities to sit their exams in a variety of instruments. Our examiners always marvel at the sea view from the window!

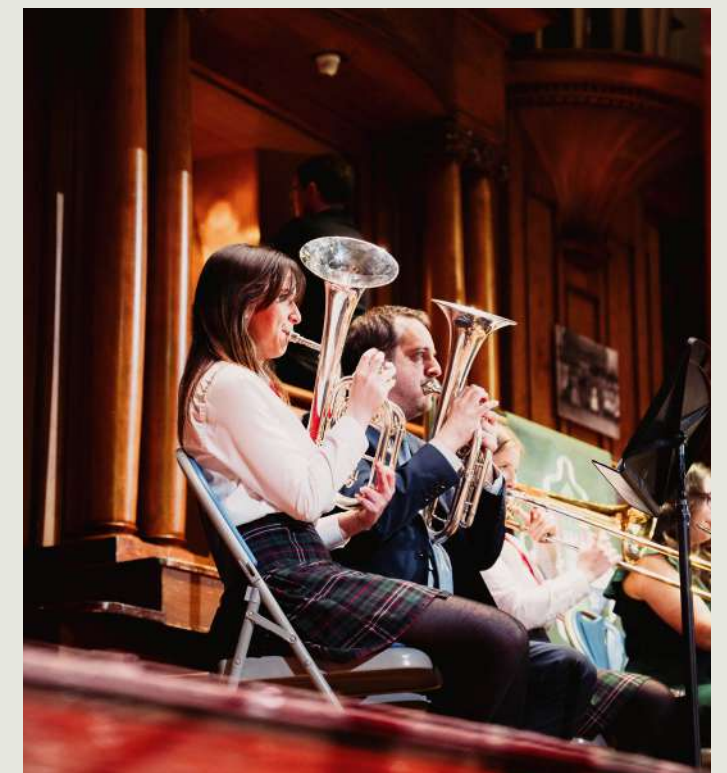
Our SQA Visiting Assessors for N5/Higher and Advanced Higher enjoyed two days of examining in our Music Department. Early results show high marks in many of the performances on these days. Pupils have worked hard to have their programmes ready and should be pleased with the rewards.

The Summer term brought the Centenary Concert, where we were joined by former pupils in our Senior Choir, Madrigal Group and Senior Orchestra; some of these pupils are now parents of current pupils and it was a magical experience having all of these performers on stage together, sharing the joy of making music together. As part of the celebrations, a group of our pupils also performed at the Centenary Exhibition and for Former Pupils at their Centenary Lunch.

At the end of term, we were delighted to showcase our P7-S2 pupils in their production of High School Musical; the rehearsal stages were covered in the last edition of The Turret, and our audiences were delighted to see the final show. Sold out on all four performances, and with a band of mainly S6 pupils, this was a spectacular event. Huge congratulations to our cast, band and to everyone who helped. Special thanks go to Mrs Bradley, our producer and Miss McKinlay, the Musical Director. This year, it is the turn of our P4-6 who will be performing in June 2025 with Annie Jr. Look out for announcements!

Our Autumn term is looking busy already, with our Senior production of Guys and Dolls. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased through our Eventbrite page, with a link on our social media pages. This year's venue is Ayr Town Hall, which offers us larger facilities and a more flexible approach to staging. This musical is a firm favourite with many and is not to be missed.

We have already started taking requests from local community groups for performances nearer the festive season and details of where you can hear us perform will be advertised soon.



High School Musical

By Lottie McEwen

The Junior Show for Wellington's 2023-2024 session was High School Musical Jr! Led by the fabulous production team of Miss McKinlay, Mrs Bradley and Sarah Mason, the show was a roaring success and provided a lovely sense of nostalgia for both the production team of the show and the S6 Helpers.

The show ran for four nights and played to audiences of more than 100 people. Every single member of the cast put on such an amazing performance, but an honourable mention must go to our principals, so many of whom spent many hours learning lines and practising their dances.

Once again, I had the pleasure of working on costumes alongside the very talented Mrs Patton and Mrs Bradley. Over a number of months, we created a series of plans and rough ideas, some which came to fruition and others evolved into further designs and ideas.

Mrs Patton and I went into the school's costume storage and came up with as many different ideas as we could. The satisfying feeling at the end of the process was a very special one. Getting to see everybody dressed up in their costumes for the dress rehearsal was so exciting and gave me the same joy I receive when performing myself.

Seeing our cast be so proud of themselves and enjoy the show was just amazing. I hope they continue to love Musical Theatre and take part in senior shows when they are too old for our junior productions!



Wellington
SCHOOL

A WELLINGTON SCHOOL PRODUCTION



AYR TOWN HALL

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th October 2024 at 7.30pm
and Saturday 5th October 2024 at 2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £16 - £20



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tickets or use the link below

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A Musical Fable of Broadway

Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon

Music and Lyrics by
FRANK LOESSER

Book by
JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Physical Education Department Update

From Mr Ness

Sport plays a vital role in the physical and mental wellbeing of the pupils. Some engage in sports for recreation and comradeship, whilst others thrive in the competitive aspect.

Hockey

Hockey continues to flourish with large numbers of players regularly attending after school training, games and local hockey clubs.

The number of young people participating at District and National level are the highest we have seen in recent years, and 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 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.



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. 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.

In weekly Saturday matches, regular exposure to a competitive environment has produced great results from P6 through to the 1XI. 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. Unfortunately, we were defeated in running penalties to a strong Glasgow Academy.

The season ended 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 the game.

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 wishing to showcase their own dances, including routines from other dance schools, exam pieces, and original choreography. Pupils showed great creativity and commitment, spending time choreographing and attending practices. The audience at the dance enjoyed a night at the Circus, featuring over 100 pupils performing various styles, including tap, ballet and modern. The event was a success, and preparation is already underway for next year's showcase!

Rugby

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 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. 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 this year.

Cross Country Championships

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

- P6 Girls - Lucia Cornelius - 1st Place
- P6 Boys - Ruari Witteveen - 4th Place
- S1 Boys - Caleb Ghosh - 2nd place, Cameron McGeoch - 5th place
- S2 Boys - Murphy Neish - 1st Place
- P7 Boys - Archie Hobbins - 5th place

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

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.

Scottish Schools’ Aquathlon

On Friday 19th April, pupils from Wellington competed in the Scottish Schools’ Aquathlon. 80 schools, and over 300 pupils took part in the event which involved a 400m swim followed by a 3km run.

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 embraced the challenge of various athletics events, with many achieving personal bests and setting 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

Pupils competed at the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships on Tuesday 11th June (30 school event).

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 McKinsty - 100m
- Katie Ablett - 200m
- Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin - 100m and 200m
- Kate Robinson - 300m
- Adam Keston - Shot
- Iona Fairbairn - 200m
- Millie McKellar - High Jump
- James Cruickshank - High Jump
- Jack Ritchie - 100m
- Harry Morton - Javelin
- James Watson - Discus
- Senior Girls Relay Team - Millie McKellar, Verity Findlay, Iona Fairbairn and 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 and Shot
- Millie McKenzie - Hurdles and High Jump
- Natasha Hardy - Javelin

Callan Forsyth – 100m
Verity Findlay – 800m
James Cruickshank – Long Jump
Harry Morton - Shot
The Senior 2 Boys Relay Team - Pearse Wilson, Oliver King, Rory Cumming and Murphy Neish
The Senior 3 Girls Relay Team - Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin, Millie McKenzie, Kate Robinson and Holly McNeilly
The Senior 3 Boys Relay Team - Hamish Marquez-Higgins, Callan Forsyth, Harry Paton and David Ness
The Senior Boys Relay Team - Jack Ritchie, Harry Morton, James Cruickshank and 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 seven teams from S1 to S4. Each team displayed excellent changeovers and sprinting ability throughout the afternoon. The Under 15 boys team (Rory Cumming, David Ness, Oliver King and Callan Forsyth) reached the Scottish final, finishing in 4th place.

Scottish Schools’ Track and Field Championships

This year, Wellington entered eight pupils, with many achieving personal best times or distances. Three pupils reached the semi-final stage and four reached the final. Oliver King was placed 4th in the Discus and narrowly missed out on the medals.

Golf

This year saw 21 pupils with various Handicaps from S1-S6 compete in the Annual School Golf Tournament at Seafeld golf course. There were some excellent performances from Quintin Dunlop, Thomas Carlyle, Hugh Dunlop, Sarah Melvin, Alex Melvin, Harry Caldow 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.



Skiing

On Saturday 23rd March Wellington pupils took part in the Ayrshire Ski Slalom race at Newmilns. We entered two primary teams, with the Wellington Primary A team finishing 2nd and 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
Georgina Watters

Cricket

The Cricket season was success in many areas. We achieved our goal of increasing participation of pupils in the Junior School and across S1-S3 with 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 P5-7 play pairs at Doonside, which they won in 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 unfortunately 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 Kyle Good being named as Batter of the Day, Hugh Dunlop as Bowler of the Day and Harry Caldow as Player of the Tournament.

In our 1st XI team, we have exciting prospects with Mikey Maxwell being selected for the district team and Oscar Kirkwood and Jake Woodhouse being selected for the Scotland Under 17s Squad, as well as being asked to train with the Scotland Under 19s teams.



Ayr Rugby Club

Rugby for all ages, boys & girls from Primary 1 to U18s.

For more information:

P1 - P7 contact minis@ayrrugbyclub.co.uk

S1 - U18s contact info@ayrrugbyclub.co.uk



A Message to our Former Pupils

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

We would like to remind all former pupils to stay in touch by signing up to our Alumni Network.

We are also always looking for stories, pictures and videos of your time at Wellington. If you have anything you can share with us about your time at Wellington or would like to sign up as a Former Pupil, please get in touch.

Email: formerpupils@wellingtonschool.org or visit: <https://wellingtonschool.org/alumni/>

A Note from the Editor

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

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has contributed to the Turret, the pupils and staff who have shared their news and work to be displayed.

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

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

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

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

