



Wellington
SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

Introduction

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

Simon Fraser

Contents

- Academic Report
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computing
- English
- Debating
- History
- Geography
- International Education
- Outdoor Education
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Modern Studies
- Music
- Primary 7
- Physical Education & Sports
- Netball
- Physics
- Sixth Year Report
- Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

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





Academic Report

Gail Johnston, Assistant Head (Academic)

Academic Report

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 seven. Wellington pupils can enjoy curriculum breadth and enhanced subject choice as a result, as they embark on a two-year course structure that ensures detailed coverage with time for creativity and challenge.

S6 Leavers Report 2024

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

	2024			2023			2022		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	35%	35%	12%	44%	26%	21%	45%	22%	17%
National Results at Advanced Higher	30%	23%	22%	33%	25.5%	21%	33.7%	26%	21.6%

S5 Higher Report

In S5, the 2024 results were just as impressive as in previous years. From a cohort of 54 pupils, 15% 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 84%, above the national average of 75%. 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 and their chosen destination.

S5 Higher Examinations

	2024			2023			2022		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	43%	26%	15%	57%	27%	10%	69%	16%	10%
National Results at Higher	30%	24%	21%	32.8%	24%	20%	34.8%	24.3%	19.8%

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

	2024			2023			2022		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School Ayr	54%	21%	12%	56%	22%	13%	82%	12%	4%
National Results at National 5	38%	21%	18%	36.8%	22%	17.8%	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

It has been another very successful year in Art and Design. We never cease to be inspired by the innovation and creativity shown by our young artists and designers.

Barcelona

In September S4, S5 and S6 pupils travelled on an Art trip to Barcelona with Mrs Morton, Mrs Hunter, Miss Johnston and Mr Howie. We spent a day exploring the historic Gothic Quarter and Ravel district where we learned about the contrast between the city's Roman heritage and vibrant multi-cultural present. Among the narrow stone streets and medieval buildings, we discovered a hidden Roman ruin—a temple built at the end of the 1st century AD in honour of Emperor Augustus. Today, visitors can see remnants of the temple in the form of towering Corinthian columns that still rise nine meters high.

The Gothic Quarter, with its labyrinthine streets and picturesque buildings, also houses the Picasso Museum, where we saw an extensive collection of the artist's works, including some of his early paintings completed when he was just 15 years old.

One of the trip's highlights was visiting the Joan Miró Foundation, where we not only admired Miró's colourful and imaginative works but also enjoyed breathtaking views of Barcelona from the hilltop of Montjuïc. We also visited the stunning Parc Güell and the world-famous Sagrada Família, both of which allowed us to marvel at the genius of architect Antoni Gaudí. The intricate designs and innovative architecture of these landmarks sparked our creativity and left us eager to bring new ideas and inspiration into the classroom.

The Caledonian Club Schools Art Exhibition

We were once again delighted to be invited to exhibit in the prestigious Caledonian Club School Art Exhibition in Belgravia London. Sophia Girgis in S6 exhibited an outstanding oil painting of her grandfather and Charlotte Dale in S3 exhibited an exceptional coloured pencil drawing of Flora her Highland cow. The competition was judged by Scottish textile artist Jill Blackwood and Charlotte was highly commended with the judge saying, 'on a level of drawing skill, technique and composition – it doesn't fail to impress'. Members and visitors to the exhibition also loved Charlotte's work as it received 2nd place in the Members Choice Award.

Junk Kouture

Our Junk Kouture club proved to be a major hit this year, transforming the art department into a vibrant hub of creativity and innovation. Junk Kouture is a national competition that

challenges young people to think differently, work collaboratively and express themselves through fashion all while highlighting the importance of environmental responsibility. We are very proud that Eva and Sophie in S2 reached the London UK final. The competition is open to students aged 12 to 18 from schools across the country so making the UK final when only S2 is an amazing achievement.

Art School Success

Two of our S6 pupils have secured places at prestigious art schools.

Sophia Girgis was successful in gaining offers from Glasgow School of Art and Edinburgh College of Art, The University of Edinburgh. She has accepted an offer to study Jewellery and Silversmithing at the renowned Glasgow School of Art.

Annika Cooke was successful in gaining offers from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design and Edinburgh Napier University. She has accepted an offer to study Interior Design at Edinburgh Napier University.

Printmaking Workshop

We were delighted to welcome David Farrar printmaking technician at Glasgow School of Art into school this year to do printmaking workshops with our senior pupils. David helped set up our new printmaking press and demonstrated etching and paper plate lithography. We look forward to using the printmaking press with all year groups next session.

S6 Art Captains

Thanks, must be extended to our Art Captains Charlie Linton and Sophia Girgis. They have been a joy to teach and inspirational to our younger pupils, giving them the confidence to participate and succeed. We wish them all the very best for their next chapter.

The coming year promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for artistic growth and discovery. From an exhibition to inspiring gallery visits, we have a range of opportunities planned that will showcase and nurture creativity and talent.



Biology

Marion McIntyre, Head of Department

The spirit of scientific enquiry continues to flourish in the Biology Department, and this academic year has been one of curiosity, exploration, and achievement at every level. From our enthusiastic S1 learners embarking on their biological journey to our Advanced Higher students conducting independent investigations, Biology has remained a vibrant and engaging subject for all. Practical activities—using test tubes, petri dishes, microscopes, quadrats, and more—remain central to our pupils' learning experience, allowing them to investigate the living world in a direct, hands-on, and meaningful way.

We were delighted to welcome back Mrs Newall to the department this year. Her return has been seamless, and she has quickly re-established strong relationships with our S2 and National 5 biology pupils.

Our first-year pupils have embraced the biological sciences with remarkable enthusiasm. Their year began with an exploration of Cells and Body Systems, a perfect starting point for nurturing observational skills and biological thinking. Pupils learned how to prepare and view microscope slides, helping them visualise plant and animal cells up close. One particularly memorable practical involved dissecting a chicken wing to understand how muscles, bones, and tendons work together. Their curiosity and willingness to get hands-on experience have been a credit to themselves and to the school.

Our S2 biologists also delved into some fascinating areas this year. Their study of animal behaviour, particularly using snails and woodlice, was both entertaining and educational. The lab was filled with squeals of delight as pupils constructed choice chambers to investigate the response of woodlice to different conditions, recording and presenting their results with commendable attention to detail. Pupils also explored thermoregulation and water balance, developing an understanding of homeostasis. The dissection of a pig's kidney was a memorable experience for many, offering insight into the structure and function of this vital organ.

Our S3 students made a confident and energetic start to the National 5 course. They explored ecosystems by surveying local biodiversity, using quadrats to monitor plant populations and setting pitfall traps to investigate soil invertebrates. These fieldwork opportunities helped bring ecological concepts to life and connected classroom learning with the world around them.

S4 pupils demonstrated impressive dedication in the run-up to their exams. Dissecting

a lamb's heart and a brain provided valuable anatomical understanding and reinforced theoretical knowledge. Their commitment to learning and willingness to engage with both the theoretical and hands-on aspects of biology has been admirable.

Our Higher Biology students have had a dynamic and enriching year. They've explored molecular biology in depth—constructing models of DNA replication and learning about techniques that are foundational in modern science, including PCR and gel electrophoresis. Understanding the role of these techniques in real-world applications, such as forensic science and Covid testing, helped pupils appreciate the relevance of biology beyond the classroom. We are especially pleased that a large number of our Higher students have opted to continue to Advanced Higher next year which is proof of their enjoyment and ambition within the subject.

Our Advanced Higher pupils have met the challenge of this demanding course with maturity and resilience. Their year has centred around scientific investigations—designing, carrying out, and analysing their own research projects. These experiences not only strengthened their practical and analytical skills but also prepared them well for the rigours of university. Whether working independently or collaboratively, our students have shown a commendable work ethic and intellectual curiosity throughout the year.

Thank you to our Biology Captain, Erin Ward. Erin has been a fantastic ambassador for the department, providing support to younger pupils, helping with displays and resources, and contributing to the welcoming, inclusive atmosphere of our labs. Her enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment have made a real difference this year.

A very big thank you to our science technician, Mrs Peden, for her invaluable support. Her behind-the-scenes work ensures our department runs smoothly every day—from preparing materials and organising resources to maintaining our living and preserved specimens. Her quiet dedication underpins so much of what we do.

We are proud of all our students—from those just beginning to explore life's building blocks, to those preparing for further study or work beyond school. Their energy, enthusiasm, and growing expertise make our department a place of constant learning and discovery.

As we look ahead to a new academic year, we remain committed to nurturing curiosity, developing scientific skills, and inspiring the next generation of biologists. The natural world offers endless questions and mysteries to explore, and it is a privilege to guide our pupils on their journey.



Business Studies

Linda Munn, Head of Department

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

S2 Fairtrade Event

In March we held the S2 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 - Blood Cancer 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. 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 have been a success without you.

Tenner Challenge

Due to inflationary pressures, we rebranded the 'Fiver Challenge' to the 'Tenner Challenge' and this took place during the month of March. The pupils were given a tenner (£10) to kick start a business idea and then, over the course of 4 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. Pupils and staff were able to purchase cake and candy, book their cars into the car wash, and there was even a photo booth service. At least 50% of all profits made by each team were donated to the school charity, Blood Cancer UK, some pupils very generously donated 100% of their profits. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and all the support which was received from parents/ guardians. A special thank you must go to Mrs Clachan and Mrs Bradley who guided Primary 7 pupils through the event, ensuring pupils were keeping their records up to date and all the organised events ran smoothly. The pupils all had great fun taking part in this event, but they also learned valuable life skills - handling money, calculating profits, teamwork and communication.





Chemistry

Karis Leckie, Head of Department

A day in the life of a Chemistry Teacher...

Forget coffee, the quickest way to wake up in the morning is in the knowledge that S2 are about to descend upon your lab! Being on your toes, being ready for the rush of enthusiasm, being fully prepared for the deluge of questions – these are the pre-requisites for the start of the lesson and, to be fair the energy levels do not really depreciate! Teaching Chemistry to S1 and S2 is not for the faint-hearted; the nature of the course allows pupils to self-pace and hence the lab is a healthy mix of practical skills, note writing and questions - lots of questions! Class 2K were my highlight of the session. They were an energetic bunch who absolutely loved practical tasks and took to the active approach we endorse beautifully. There was a lot of laughter amidst the learning, and they delivered magnificently when the end of rotation assessment was placed before them. A lot of happy memories and new, novice scientists were made.

Next-up we have S5 – two Higher classes back-to-back. This is where we witness focus, determination, brain-building and resilience. The teaching style changes from one of cheerful control (with required eyes in the back of your head!) to one of support, attention to detail, sharing of wisdom and general inspiration. Higher Chemistry is one of my favourite classes to teach. I enjoy watching the development of pupils from their first over-whelming lessons on Trends in The Periodic Table through the high-octane world of Chemical Energy where confidence is beginning to rise as they realise the sums are their favourite part of the course. Finally, the amazing world of aldehydes, ketones and esters finishes the course off. It felt like an overnight switch had been activated – but the progression had actually been a sure and steady one which resulted in a cohort who were totally ready to tackle the SQA exams and give the exam their absolute best shot. Congratulations to Isla Hall for winning the Special Prize for Higher Chemistry. From start to finish, Isla approached Chemistry with a tenacity beyond her years – a model pupil who left no stone unturned in her quest for understanding. A most worthy winner.

The morning ends with the arrival of S4. This cohort are special to me as I have been responsible for their chemistry education since S1. They are a product of the new Junior Chemistry and updated Nat. 5 courses - they are the pioneers, and they represent my vision. I am immensely proud of how they have flung themselves into education – they have accepted every challenge, and they have delivered. They have taken the ‘fails’, learned from them and improved. They have listened intently and asked insightful questions to take their knowledge to the next level. I unwittingly selected the finest bunch of pupils to test-drive my new courses. I am so very proud of them and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their energy, their commitment and their fun. It really has been a magnificent four years – looking forward to taking them onto Higher already! Two pupils from S4, Ada McLaren and Alex Melvin, had the amazing opportunity to shadow a final year PhD student in Chemistry, Katy Hillan. This was very special as Katy was also a former pupil of mine! Ada and Alex spent time making paracetamol, glass blowing, being part of research meetings and generally just being

exposed to what Chemistry can be like post school. Many thanks to Glasgow University for allowing such an exciting opportunity to take place.

Lunch is not simply a time to revive and re-energise – it is the designated time to sort out other life situations. The doors to Lab 3 just do not stop opening! I describe it as a ‘Chemistry Café’ – the place to have a chat, solve a problem, prepare for interviews, share a joke – the list is endless. I like to think of lunchtime as that point in the day when anything goes; hopefully time to eat but always time to refill and of course there is always that small matter of preparing for the afternoon’s forthcoming practical sessions. This is where I rely upon Mrs Peden– she is central to all the great Chemistry that we push out to our pupils. Her exemplary organisation allows me to focus on the delivery of content. I cannot thank Mrs Peden enough for her knowledge and unwavering support and, of course, for always being ready to join in the fun!

The afternoon arrives and so too does S3. What an impressive bunch of pupils enters the lab! From meeting them for the first time this year – I have been blown away by their ability, their desire to be successful and just their overall niceness. I do not lie when I say that I look forward to S3 arriving. They are crazy ambitious and their ability to soak up everything I throw at them is first class. My highlight of the year was when I watched them conduct their final experiment of the session – it was a challenge to work out the concentration of sodium hydroxide. From the moment they entered Lab 3, glasses and lab coats were on, instructions were read and discussed, equipment was cleaned and experiments initiated. I sat and I observed, and I was proud. I was superfluous to requirements and that felt good. S3 safely and with confidence completed the task on their own – and they did it well with extremely accurate results. What a way for them to finish off their year!

Last period arrives, and last, but not least we have Advanced Higher. My favourite course but the individuality of every cohort makes the approach different every session. The class of ‘24 were a serious bunch who wanted to do well – there were entry conditions from University to meet. Several pupils are off to read medicine, but we also had two chemists and a palaeontologist and a lawyer! It is always lovely when a student stays on to advance their chemistry studies when it has no direct relevance to their chosen course – so I tip my hat to Head Girl Megan Seales for her continued effort even when the unconditionals came flooding in! Many congratulations to Chemistry Captain Emma Henderson who won the S6 Special Prize for Chemistry. Emma has been the master of juggling her sporting commitments with her academic studies; I wish her well as she heads off to read Medicine at Glasgow University.

And then the Laboratory is quiet. Time to reflect on a high-energy day, time to consider what worked and what could be improved, time to prepare to do it all again tomorrow.



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 engaged in topics including Game Development, Cyber Security, a brief introduction to Artificial Intelligence and App Design across the academic year. Those in S4 to S6 have continued to attain highly from National 5 to Advanced Higher, and one of our S6 pupils has had success and been offered a Graduate Apprenticeship place with JP Morgan Chase. We aim to maintain this success in the upcoming academic year and beyond.

In September a group of S3/4 pupils visited the National Robotarium at Heriot Watt University's campus. This is the UK centre for Robotics & Artificial Intelligence, and our pupils were able to take a tour of this state of the art facility learning about the work that is carried out there and how it is having an impact on various industries across the world such as medicine, agriculture & manufacturing. During the tour, our pupils got the chance to interact with "The world's most advanced humanoid robot" and were treated to demonstrations of a Boston Dynamics robot called Spot which can be used for search & rescue operations in situations deemed to be dangerous for humans. Finally, they then competed against each other by programming their own robots to complete various tasks as quickly and accurately as possible. This experience provided our pupils with an insight into how Computing & Physics can combine, and be used in numerous real-world jobs and situations, and potential career pathways.

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.

After the Christmas break, 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. Two of our teams gained recognition this year, with one being selected as one of the 3 overall winners. **Nelly & Bert: Autism Heroes** from Dava & Aarna was one of the runners up and **Grow & Glow** from Jane was one of the 3 National Winners. Both teams were invited to the awards ceremony at City of Glasgow College in April to receive their prizes. This builds on the success from 2024 and we look to continue this with more recognition in next year's competition.

Finally, Ewan, one half of the Computing Captains for 2024/25, secured a place on JP Morgan Chase's Graduate Apprenticeship programme for Software Engineering. Along with working towards a BSc Honours degree in Software Engineering, he will also be working at one of the world's leading financial institutions in their European Technology Hub in the centre of Glasgow. This is an outstanding achievement as he successfully navigated the application process, being selected out of thousands of applicants. We are incredibly proud of Ewan and wish him every success as he begins his career in September.

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



English

Daniel Howie, Head of Department

In English, our pupils' results speak for themselves. Last year, our A grade pass rate at National 5 was over 30% above the national average, and the A grade pass rate at Higher was 20% above. With results like these, it is clear that our department is filled with exceptional, valued staff who deliver high-quality learning opportunities. They are especially inventive and experienced, crafting memorable lesson sequences that are deeply informed by their knowledge of the curriculum and SQA marking practice. They frequently go the extra mile to ensure every pupil is supported and empowered to achieve their very best.

Of course, the study of English is also about the richness of experience that leads to these results. This year, the department played host to a plethora of events and initiatives that enriched our pupils' understanding and appreciation of language and literature. I am deeply grateful to all the English staff for their continued hard work, and am proud to summarise the highlights of their practice over the past year.

P7/S1 Script Writing

In January, Mrs Sheils led a collaboration between the English Department and Primary 7, in which all P7 and S1 pupils worked together in a series of workshops focused on script writing and performance. Each group was tasked with writing a script with the theme of Inequality or Discrimination, linked to the literature that both year groups covered this session. The resulting performances were a joy to watch with a wide variety of approaches - from quiz shows to news broadcasts, bus journeys to raps.

Theatre Trips - 'A Streetcar Named Desire' & 'An Inspector Calls'

'What makes Streetcar such a profound play is its exploration of human vulnerability and the often tragic conflict between fantasy and reality'. These words from artistic director, David Greig, neatly summarise the importance of Tennessee William's play. In October, Mrs Sheils and Mrs Bruce took their Higher class to The Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh to see a powerful production of this American masterpiece. What followed on the train journey home was discussion and debate around the use of the revolving stage, allowing the audience to feel a real connection to the action and the presentation of the protagonist, Blanche. As the pupils were studying the play as part of their Higher English course, they enjoyed seeing it brought to life, and this in turn was reflected in their Critical Essay writing. Later in the year, S4 pupils and some of our Advanced Higher English class enjoyed a visit to the King's Theatre in Glasgow to see "An Inspector Calls". This gave S4 an opportunity to see the play they have studied as part of their National 5 course live on stage, no doubt enhancing their analysis as the final exam approached.

Book Presentations

S1 and S2 had the opportunity to deliver presentations on books they have been reading in their own time. Pupils enjoyed being able to share their thoughts on novels spanning a wide time frame, from classics such as 'Huckleberry Finn' to 21st Century releases like 'One of Us is Lying', to name but a few.

A rich variety of genres was discussed with passion and genuine intrigue which encouraged pupils to delve

into the amazing adventure that is reading. As the American academic Charles W Eliot once said, "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers" - which is valuable advice for our young people today.

S1/2 Spelling Bee

All staff contribute to the running of the Spelling Bee, which still proves to be a successful event for our S1 and S2 cohorts, run separately. The winners are excited to keep the cutest Bee Cup - which celebrates their extraordinary spelling skills - for a whole year. The words become progressively harder with each round until only a few candidates remain. Words like "audacious" or "prescient" are not an obstacle for our pupils. After the winner is declared, the audience enjoys taking turns to tackle the words misspelt during the earlier rounds.

Advanced Higher Trips

Some of our S6 English, Modern Studies and History pupils recently enjoyed a day out to Glasgow University Library where they had the opportunity to explore extra reading relating to their dissertation topics. Not only did this allow for additional research but it also gave pupils a taste of university life and helped to develop their independent learning skills. Furthermore, a trip to see the National Theatre's production of Macbeth was thoroughly enjoyed by some of our Advanced Higher English pupils in February. This live-streamed production starring David Tennant and Cush Jumbo was an unforgettable experience. Nothing brings a text to life better than experiencing it live on stage!

Literacy Captain

We were lucky to have Lauren Peckover take on the role of Literacy Captain for this session. Her enthusiasm for reading and story writing, as well as her willingness to work with the younger years, was much appreciated in the department, once again highlighting the value of such positions of responsibility for our young people at Wellington.

In short, there is a lot going on in this thriving department! Congratulations also to our prizewinners this year: Euan Alexander wins the Macdonald Creative Writing Prize for the second year in a row, Milla Potts wins the Rosebowl for outstanding academic achievement at Higher level, and Charlie Linton wins the Prize for Advanced Higher. These pupils represent the pinnacle of the literary skill that our department instils in our learners.

Debating

Daniel Howie, Head of Department

This was a significant year for growth in our debating programme. We have enjoyed increasing attendance in our weekly training sessions and consistent success on the national stage. Meanwhile our own competition - the Ayrshire Debating Cup - has expanded significantly since its inception in 2023. This year we delivered two further installments of the Cup and it has become a prominent and popular competition on the Scottish debating calendar for pupils across the country. To the best of our knowledge, we are currently the only school in Scotland running a national debating competition for all year groups. It is completely free for all schools to enter and is judged by a team of experienced debaters from the university circuit.

The 2024 Cup ran in August and there were strong achievements for Wellington at the event - Jonathan Dunn was the highest scoring speaker and he, together with his teammate Milla Potts, was part of the highest scoring team to reach the Grand Final. Broxburn Academy took the win in a closely fought debate. The 2025 Cup took place recently in June and saw the event double in size to include a total of 15 schools. Five teams from Wellington competed against schools from across the country, some travelling from Perth and Edinburgh to attend. We also welcomed local schools from Ayrshire, some of whom had attended free training sessions at Wellington earlier in the year as part of our outreach programme. Two Wellington teams reached the Junior final - well done to Hannah Briggs, Ella Freestone, Amalie Cotter and Evie Mae Cattanach for this significant achievement. Amalie and Evie Mae were the highest scoring Wellington team and will receive a Speech Day prize for this. We look forward to running the next Cup in June 2026.

Elsewhere in national competition, Wellington debaters flourished. Jonathan and Milla formed a team for the annual Mace competition, reaching the finals for the second year in a row by finishing in the top 8 teams during qualifying. The same pair placed first in two rounds of the Glasgow University Schools competition in November. Milla partnered with Jess Ewer for the annual St Andrew's Debate in Edinburgh - the pair came very close to reaching the finals and this is a competition we are firmly setting our sights on for success next year. We also competed in the Edinburgh University Juniors competition and the online London Juniors - both of these were excellent training opportunities for our upcoming novice debaters who will no doubt go on to see success in the future.

A significant achievement was to reach the semi-finals of the Law Society's Donald Dewar competition for the second year in a row and fourth time overall. Milla Potts, Ling Ling Edmond-Pan, Freya McAleese and Jonathan Dunn all joined this team in different rounds,

with Milla and Freya taking us through round 2 to reach the semi-final. The semi-final itself was very closely fought between us and three other schools - Milla and Jonathan provided the superior analysis on the night, but the judges chose to favour the style of another team. We'll be back next year to claim our place in the final!

A highlight towards the end of the year was our best ever run in the Glasgow Bar Association Juniors competition. Sophie Hastings, Freya McAleese, Evie Mae Cattanach and Amalie Cotter all took part, debating topics such as public vs private transport and recycling deposit schemes. Sophie and Freya reached the grand final - a first for Wellington - while Evie Mae and Amalie commendably reached the semi-finals and were knocked out by the eventual winners of the competition. The judging panel at the final reached a split decision, with one judge favouring Freya and Sophie, but it wasn't to be on this occasion! We'll certainly be back next year for another run in this event.

The Ethics Cup has traditionally been a competition we take very seriously, with our team engaging in months of preparation to learn the case set before the first round. This year was no different, with Charlie Linton, Lara Bryce, Milla Potts, Jess Ewer and Jonathan Dunn forming a very strong and knowledgeable team. Training sessions enlightened them on philosophical theories - it is quite unlike any other competition on the calendar. Possibly due to this uniqueness however, the judging criteria can be a little inconsistent! Nevertheless, our team went on to win one of their first round matches.

Internally, we continued to run our traditional speaking competitions. The Interhouse debate changed format this year and teams will no longer be locked to each house - congratulations to Adam Reid and Emma Atcheson for their winning performance, and to Fallon Kyle as best speaker. Jess Ewer won our longstanding Old Girls' Public Speaking competition for her speech on the myths of feminism, with Milla Potts as runner-up. Our S1 debate reached its 5th year - well done to the winning team of Luella Hutton, Louie Balmer and Rebecca Black, and to Joe Conetta as best speaker. Finally, we ran a club league throughout our spring term - congratulations go to Hannah Briggs and Fallon Kyle for emerging triumphant and to our runners-up, Zechariah Wilks and Euan Alexander.

All of our speakers challenge themselves and become more knowledgeable, confident individuals with a rounded sense of character. We encourage all pupils to give debating or public speaking a try - the benefits to their lives can be immeasurable. The club meets on Thursday lunchtimes in room 5.

Finally, a special thanks must go to Jonathan Dunn, this year's Debating Captain. He has been truly outstanding in his willingness to go the extra mile, coach enthusiastically and pass on his knowledge to younger members of the team. He will be missed by the club and will no doubt go on to achieve great things in his upcoming legal studies and career.

Follow welly.debating on Instagram for regular updates on our debating achievements.



History

Amy Hyslop, Head of Department

This session our History Department (Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren 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:

S4 History and Modern Studies Trip to London (September 2024)

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. We also visited the Cenotaph and toured Parliament; where it is true to say that the historians were impressed and plans are already well underway for the next trip with Ms MacGlade, Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren and Mr McDougall.

P7-S2 Junior Trips

P7 pupils led by Mrs Windows 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.

We continued our annual trip to Holyrood Palace in April with S2, accompanied by Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren, Mrs Wulff and Mrs Windows. 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.

For the first time we organised an S1 History trip to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh with Ms Hyslop, Mr McLaren and Mr Ledingham. We were also assisted by one of Wellington's own ex-pupils and top historians Holly Bradfield who is studying at Edinburgh University. Our pupils received an informative guided 'Museum Explorer' tour which showcased the museum's range of collections. We had the privilege of seeing the

most popular objects such as Dolly the Sheep, alongside some hidden gems which allowed our historians to develop their skills in critical thinking and gain further insights into how these objects relate to their current studies. After lunch, pupils explored the museum independently, taking part in a challenging quiz set by Ms Hyslop as well as an engaging mini-documentary task. These activities encouraged them to delve deeper into the exhibits. Overall, the trip certainly had a positive impact on our learners, with the hope of sparking further curiosity and enthusiasm for history.

Junior History Club

This year we relaunched our Junior History club. The club met fortnightly on Fridays and was led by S6 Advanced Higher History captains Suri Soto Yanez and Lauren Peckover. The club has their own google classroom page with new members being added as they join. Our club aims/mission statement was:

- To enjoy learning about History with fellow passionate historians
- To take part in fun historical activities and research topics of interest either individually or in groups
- To contribute to the club wall displays
- To discuss and debate general areas of historical interest
- To offer a 'drop in homework support' facility for pupils to ask for any help if needed to any S6 mentors available to help

Some of our favourite activities included: 'The History of Halloween and Valentines Day', 'Heroes versus Villains Profiles' and 'The History of Christmas' and other activities such as Historical festivals across the world. The club is very much 'pupil centred' as S6 pupils communicate the themes and challenges for the sessions, design and organise the club wall displays and support pupils with their activities. We also endeavored to take into account every new member's views on their own particular areas of historical interest, any ideas they had for activities and to hold on to any of their quality work. We have listened to historical songs, watched several Horrible Histories videos and discussed history in our safe space with fellow passionate historians. The club showcased our pupil work on their wall display in room 12. We hope to continue the club this year.

MARS club

Ms Hyslop ran a fortnightly Rock Music club (MARS - Metal and Rock Society) this year with S6 Captain Euan Alexander, S5 Captain Erica Baird and support from other enthusiastic staff: Andrew McPhee and Leon Mooney. The club covered various themes such as: the history of rock music, rock trivia, rock image, engaging discussions on different genre styles, symbols of rock, band alphabet challenge and quizzes. The pupils particularly enjoyed Mr Monney's rock covers quiz. The club page covered gig reviews and band recommendations. Many pupils who attended enjoyed the safe space of discussing their special interest in this type of music with likeminded staff and pupils from S1-S6. Our club aims/mission statement was:

- To enjoy listening to and talking about Rock and Metal music.
- To participate in themed discussions and activities.
- To share reviews of gigs and band recommendations.

- To create a MARS Spotify playlist.
- To meet new like-minded people and welcome new fans.
- A safe place to be yourself.
- To respect all tastes with no judgement (soft - heavy).
- Overall, to be an inclusive, non-judgemental society.

Black History Month Activities (October 2024)

S2 classes have been studying Civil Rights in America with Ms Hyslop, Mrs Windows 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 in room 12. 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

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 Captains Lauren Peckover and Suri Soto Yanez have been instrumental in supporting younger pupils and contributing to our wall displays throughout the year.

History Highlights: Learning Activities

S1 Examination of History Artefacts (September 2024)

S1 History enjoyed investigating primary source artefacts in their courses with Ms Hyslop and Mr McLaren. These objects included: artefacts from both World Wars such as: gas masks, an empty artillery shell, a replica Lewis Viking chess piece, a replica terracotta warrior model, suffragette memorabilia, Victorian photographs and several others. We also showcase these at our school open evening.

S2 New Swinging 60s Topic (May 2024-5)

Last year we developed and launched our new S2 unit: 'The Swinging 60s'. We are continuing this year with a group research task on a sub-topic of the 1960s for pupils to produce a poster on their topic and take part in a carousel activity to teach other classmates about their topic. Our topics have included 60s fashion, music, gangs, wider world events such as the cold and Vietnam War, the peace and hippie movement, the Space Race, gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights.





Geography

Richard Ledingham, Head of Department

This year the Geography department has excelled in providing pupils with an exceptional educational experience - as evidenced by the large numbers of candidates choosing to study the subject at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, as well as the impressive pass rates achieved at all levels. Whilst teaching and learning are dominated by modern methodologies and the extensive use of technology, the theme of this year has been 'exploring the world beyond the classroom'.

In August, our youngest geographers in P7 started their subject specialism journey by studying Tropical Storms - investigating the causes, impacts and mitigation strategies for these dangerous events - in the height of Hurricane season itself. Several pupils even commented on using some of this information to help them prepare for the impacts of Storm Éowyn in January. Next they 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 it is very clear that these foundations allow for a much greater breadth and depth of learning later in their academic journeys.

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. We also ran the now well-established cross-curricular trip with Modern Studies for S1 pupils to Edinburgh in May to visit the Scottish Parliament and Dynamic Earth.

Our three S3 classes have built upon 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 pupils 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 and ensuring that strong prelim performances are produced in November.

The S4 pupils continued to work tirelessly through their National 5 Geography course and completed their SQA Assignment Fieldwork data collection, prior to the extensive work

of writing up their findings. This process allows them to combine their excellent knowledge, with skills and techniques learned over their time in the department. Due to their hard work and preparation the summer exam passed without incident and all pupils left 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. Undoubtedly a highlight for our National 5 Geographers was our trip to Iceland in April - thanks to the stunning scenery, the epic weather and the good humour of our fantastic pupils this was truly a magical experience that will stay in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

Both Higher classes 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 performed excellently during their coastal fieldwork data gathering and produced high quality assignment pieces as result. The complexity, and the high level content, always pose a challenge for our senior pupils, but yet again their hard work and preparation for prelims and final exams will have ensured success. In October our S5 and S6 pupils had the opportunity to visit Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon, to see first hand how the Colorado River is managed to sustain life in the barren landscape. Upon our return to the UK, everyone involved confirmed that despite the jetlag they were enriched by the experience, bringing back not only souvenirs but also a deeper appreciation for nature, culture, and the vastness of the world beyond our home - a truly unforgettable experience for all.

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.

A group of approximately ten students, both boys and girls, are standing in a line on a paved path. In the background, the iconic white marble dome and minarets of the Taj Mahal are visible under a clear sky. The students are dressed in casual summer attire.

International Education

Susan Coontz, International Coordinator

2025 is a year of anniversaries, we celebrate 35 years of our partnership with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium, Dortmund, Germany, 25 years of collaboration with the Institut Saint-Dominique, Mortefontaine, France, and 15 years of cooperation with St Edmund's School, Jaipur, India. This was also a year of new beginnings; in the Spring Term, we had our first pupil exchanges with Los Salesianos, Huesca, Spain.

Our international programme is firmly embedded in our school curriculum. This session, 100 girls and boys from P7 to S6 have travelled abroad to our partner schools and almost every pupil has been involved in activities when we have hosted our partners at Wellington.

In December, 22 children from Primary 7 travelled to Germany for our 'Magical Christmas' trip. They visited the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund where they made friends with girls and boys in 6A, their partner class. They spent time in school playing games, singing Christmas songs, writing stories, dancing and doing sports. They also explored the Christmas markets in Dortmund and were amazed by the largest Christmas tree in the world. The highlight of the visit was the afternoon that our girls and boys spent at the homes of their new friends. Each family organised activities for our children who then returned to the youth hostel laden with gifts. Eight S6 mentors travelled with the group and they were wonderful 'big brothers and sisters' to the younger pupils.

Our plans for the 35th anniversary celebrations of our German partnership are well-advanced and details will be shared later in the year.

In November, we welcomed our French Exchange partners from the Insitut Saint-Dominique to Wellington. The group enjoyed a wide range of activities involving pupils from P4 upwards. Senior management from France joined the pupils for our anniversary ceilidh and for meetings to plan new initiatives for the coming academic year. Wellington pupils made the return visit to France at the start of June. As well as improving their French-language skills and they learned about French culture and family life. A visit to Parc Astérix at the end of the week was a high point for many. Throughout the year, our Primary 7 pupils have corresponded with a class at Saint-Dominique. This has been very successful and many have chosen to continue to write to each other after the end of the project. As they proceed into S1, they may have the opportunity to meet their friends when they go to France with

our new Sports Exchange in September.

Our newest partnership is with the Colegio Salesiano San Bernardo in Huesca, Spain. The school is a long-term partner of Saint-Dominique. Like Wellington, Los Salesianos has a strong sense of family. The classes are small and everyone knows everyone else. Huesca is a town in the foothills of the Pyrenees. It is three hours from Barcelona and far from the tourist hotspots. As such, the experience is of real Spain and our group had an excellent introduction to the culture of Aragon. The programme included opportunities for joint work as well as outings to Jaca, Montearagón and to Zaragoza. The Spanish group came to Scotland in March and they were warmly welcomed by our families who reciprocated the generous hospitality we received in Huesca.

Fifteen years ago, we took the first steps towards our partnership with St Edmund's School in Jaipur, India. Since then, staff and pupils have visited regularly. This year, fourteen S5 and S6 pupils will set off at the start of the summer holidays to go to school in the Pink City. While we are there, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of St Edmund's School in July 1975. Our group will take part in joint activities with their peers from St Edmund's and will visit a government school and local industries. Later in our visit, we will visit the Taj Mahal before returning home via Delhi.

For the second year running, Wellington School has been accredited as a European Parliament Ambassador School. Our Junior Ambassadors have organised activities for their peers. In October, 13 pupils, including many of the Junior Ambassadors, travelled to Strasbourg in France to attend Euroscola at the European Parliament. Here, they took on the role of MEPs and debated in the parliamentary chamber. After the event, there was time to spend a morning exploring Strasbourg before the flight home.

Through our membership of UCAPE (Union for Culture and Professional Advancement in Europe), our pupils play a major role in an international Model United Nations conference. This year, 107 young people from 10 schools in four countries met in Bad Homburg, Germany, to debate international issues and to try to find solutions to the major challenges facing the international community today. This, now annual, event, is led by senior pupils from Wellington School. Five of them lead the committees and guide the Delegates in the writing of position papers and resolutions in the months leading up to the conference. At the conference, they chair the committee proceedings. Two of the Chairs also play the part of Secretaries General and have the added responsibility of opening and closing the conference and of leading an emergency debate. In the evenings, there was time for socialising and for ice-breakers, a quiz night and a Delegates' Ball.

As this session closes, we look forward to the new academic year which will start with our Sports Exchange for boys and girls in S1 and S2. Further plans for our international activities will be shared in the Autumn Term.

Outdoor Education

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

This session in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, Wellington School had thirty-seven Bronze entrants in S3 who completed their Expeditions in the Galloway Forest area in the Autumn. Seven of these pupils have already completed all sections of their Award.

This session also saw the return of our Silver Expeditions. Fourteen pupils from S4 undertook their Practice Expedition near Lauder and successfully completed their Final Expedition at Blair Atholl.

Twenty-three of our Primary 7 pupils made the most of 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, Canoeing and Tree Climbing





Mathematics

Peter Richmond, Head of Department

This year has certainly proved to be a very busy one in the department, not least with staffing changes, as Mr Stribling chose to step away from teaching to focus on his family business and Mrs MacNeill returned from maternity leave, meaning Mr McPhee retired...for what amounts to the fourth time! In addition to day-to-day lessons and activities in the classroom, and Supported Study sessions at lunchtime and after school across the week, participation in various mathematical competitions at both individual and team level has certainly kept our pupils and staff occupied! This includes competing in the annual Maths Wi Nae Borders competition for some of our S2s, enjoying a day at Fettes College for the S3/4 Enterprising Mathematics Independent Schools heat, participating in the whole-class cross-curricular Mathématiques Sans Frontières contest and the traditional United Kingdom Mathematical Trust (UKMT) Mathematical Challenges.

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 2024), aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, over 80000 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 Isla Hall, Connor McGlynn, James Watson and Cara Wilmer (S5), with Isla also gaining a Best in Year Certificate. Not to be outdone, two pupils in S6 (Emma Henderson and Benjamin Richmond) also secured Bronze Awards, with Benjamin attaining a Best in School Certificate for the second year running.

Over 250000 students from more than 3000 schools and colleges across the UK participated in the Intermediate Challenge (Jan 2025). Jessica Ewer, Callan Forsyth, Natasha Hardy and Calum Kelly (S4), alongside Arkle Findlay, Freya McAleese, Margaret Scott, Amber Thomson and Padma Unnam (S3), all gained Bronze Awards. Meanwhile, Anastasia D'Angelosante, Alexander Paisley (S4), Scarlett O'Sullivan, Roisin Renwick and Eva Taylor (S3) secured Silver Awards, with Scarlett also attaining a Best in Year Certificate. Alexander Melvin (S4) continued his success in the UKMT Challenges with the reward of another Gold Certificate and a Best in School Award, alongside an invitation to participate in the UKMT's follow-on Pink Kangaroo round, in which he achieved a most noteworthy 95 marks from a possible 105 and an inaugural Gold Kangaroo Certificate. Our heartiest congratulations go to Alexander, and we look forward to seeing what he can achieve when he embarks on the Senior level of this

competition next year.

The Junior Challenge (May 2025), aimed at children in S2 and below, is certainly the most popular across the UK, with over 270000 pupils taking part this year in an attempt to gain a certificate at Gold (6%), Silver (13%) or Bronze (21%) level. Wellington saw a large number of pupils participating from across S1 and S2, and we are pleased to have attained Bronze Awards from Mia Barbour, Cameron McGeogh, Finlay Stevenson and Grace Thomson (S2), alongside Archie Hobbins and Noah Ritchie (S1). It was a delight to see Eva Cowan and Blair Campbell (S2) securing Silver Awards, with Blair also receiving a Best in Year Certificate, whilst Louie Balmer (S1) similarly gained a Silver Award for his efforts and scooped a Best in School Certificate for good measure.

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

This year, pupils once again took part in the annual Scottish Mathematical Challenge, a problem-solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools (mainly P7). The competition is divided into 4 divisions, and this year in the Senior School, we had pupils taking part in the Junior Division (S1), Middle Division (S4) and Senior Division (S5/6).

On Thursday 12th June, the top-scoring certificate winners were invited to a prize-giving ceremony at The University of Strathclyde, including a mathematical workshop and presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates, with much-coveted accompanying prize mugs for the latter. After their successes across the two rounds of the competition earlier in the year, Rebecca Black (S1), Alexander Melvin (S4), Cara Wilmer (S5), Lauren Peckover (S6) and Benjamin Richmond (S6) all received the honour of being invited to the prize-giving. All pupils performed brilliantly in the competition, with Rebecca and Cara securing Bronze Awards, and Alexander, Lauren and Benjamin attaining Silver Awards.

Mathématiques Sans Frontières competition (13th March) and Pi Day (14th March)

Wellington once again took the opportunity to compete in the annual Mathématiques Sans Frontières contest, a 'competition with a difference...aimed at motivating pupils in their studies' through 'a stimulating and light-hearted combination of Mathematics and Modern Languages'. Pupils in S4M1 attempted 10 questions, divided up between groups, within a 90-minute time limit, before deciding on and submitting their final answers, and we are pleased to have once again made it into the top 10 schools in the Junior Division category.

On 14th March (or March 14th, 3/14), as part of our Pi Day celebrations in the department, various pupils completed Pi Day booklet activities, put their artistic skills to the test with a Pi Skyline, and even partook in some homemade culinary Pi(e) delights. Celebrating this fundamental constant in mathematics, with its infinite decimal expansion, has become an annual global opportunity to engage with the subject in a playful way, and we always look forward to taking part and encouraging interest in both mathematics and other STEM fields.



Modern Languages

Isabelle Rabeyrin, Head of Department

What a transformation for the Modern Languages department! We started off the year with a big move to our brand-new ML hub, located near the nursery. We are extremely pleased with the spacious learning environment and pupils enjoy having lessons in the ML hub.

In Primary, P7 pupils had the opportunity to have their own fashion week. After learning vocabulary on clothing and colours, they set up a fashion show with their own outfits. It was a great success, and pupils were keen to model their own creations. P7 have continued their pen pal exchange with our long-term partner school Saint Dominique near Beauvais. Wellington pupils wrote their letters in French and their French pen pals 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.

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 2 whole school assemblies which showcased the importance and benefits of learning languages. They made it very interactive by adding a quiz for pupils to take part. 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.

All S1 pupils have enjoyed having 2 weekly lessons of Spanish for the first time this year. This has allowed them to make great progress and develop their cultural awareness. We celebrated the Day of the dead in November and looked at various Spanish and South American festivals. In March of this year, we welcomed the staff and pupils from Salesianos in Huesca. S1-S6 pupils had several workshops with the Spanish pupils. S3 pupils had the opportunity to attend various workshops and practise their Spanish. Wellington pupils also taught them some Scottish songs, one being 'Oh! you cannae shuv yer grannie aff a bus!' It was a fun and memorable day, and we look forward to continuing our exchange programme.

We are a very international department and always welcome new staff and ideas. We had two language assistants this year, Clara Cerdo from France and Nuria Molina López 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 S3 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 two German student interns: Mary Ellen Niesel and Lorenz Tondera, who delivered activities with our pupils in both German and French classes. We will continue welcoming future teachers from abroad next academic year.

We are sad to say goodbye to our dear colleague, Karen McGibbons, who took voluntary redundancy in June. Karen has decided to start her own business, offering Spanish classes to adults. We wish her all the best.



Modern Studies

Gill MacGlade, Head of Department

Throughout Session 2024-25, Modern Studies has been the subject which has helped pupils to navigate their way through complex and fast-changing political, social and international issues. As a department intent on providing pupils with access to the latest news stories and debates, this session has again seen pupils excel, in terms of exam performance and participation.

The 2024 exam results for the department were excellent: with many pupils achieving top grades and personal bests, and we continue to achieve results which are well above the national average – from National 5 through to Advanced Higher. This does not happen without the commitment and talents of pupils, but it would also not be possible without the dedication and expertise of the teachers in the department. They continue to offer the best possible experience, both day-to-day in class, and to trips and opportunities which broaden our pupils’ horizons and enable them to achieve excellent grades and a passion for the subject. Thanks go to Mr McDougall and Mr McLaren for their support and enthusiasm, and I extend my thanks to you, as parents, because without you the trips would not be possible.

S1 sees pupils study the subject in a discrete fashion for the first time, and is where the interest in, and passion for, learning about societies begins. We 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 ‘interesting’! We teamed up with the Geography department again this year to visit the Scottish Parliament and Dynamic Earth. The Mock Election is always a highlight, and this year we had six teams battling it out; congratulations to Joe and ‘The Orange Party’, whose policies included action on vaping and developing Ayrshire’s tourism potential.

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. This year’s group demonstrated their knowledge and skills to an excellent level and many pupils have chosen to take the subject at National 5.

It has been another very busy session for our National 5 pupils. S3 pupils have enjoyed learning about ‘Democracy in the UK’ and Crime and the Law. They have made excellent progress and performed well in the S3 exam diet. We invited Elaine Stewart MP into school to talk about her first months in the job and afterwards she wrote to say it had been a

pleasure to engage with our inquisitive young people, and that Wellington was fostering a generation of informed and engaged citizens. We look forward to meeting up with her in the Houses of Parliament in September. Our large S4 group this year were a pleasure to take to London on our annual History and Modern Studies trip; their behaviour was impeccable, and they were excellent company. The first day saw us visit the Imperial War Museum 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 well everyone engaged. We toured Whitehall, seeing the Cenotaph and Downing Street, before a trip on the London Eye. We extended our engagement with external speakers this year and welcomed a serving police officer, a prison officer from HMP Stirling and two parents from the Wellington community who have extensive knowledge of, and experience in the running of, the Children’s Hearing System. All were invaluable in helping pupils to develop their knowledge and carry out research for their assignments.

Senior pupils returned in August eager and fuelled by their exam results. The Higher class has worked hard all year and the General Election and U.S. Presidential election in November certainly gave us a lot to talk about. Advanced Higher pupils, many of whom will carry on their study of humanities-based subjects at university, were given exciting opportunities this year to engage with people from various parts of the criminal justice system, as part of their study into 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 participated in the session with an officer from HMP Stirling and had a visit to the Glasgow Drug Court and online Q&A with a former Chief Constable. 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.

Wellington’s Model United Nations (MUN) Society continues to go from strength to strength. Under the guidance of Assistant Head and Modern Studies teacher, Mr McDougall and our International Coordinator, Mrs Coontz, the young people at the heart of MUN have developed a set of impressive skills; researching, constructing arguments and debating proposals for addressing global issues. The highlight of this year’s activities saw us work in conjunction with our European partner schools to host a MUN conference in Bad Homburg, Germany. This involved around 80 pupils and 20 teachers from across Europe, and schools formed delegations to represent various countries and speak from the point of view of those national governments. The weighty topics of nuclear proliferation, water sanitation, fast fashion, refugee crises, and women’s rights put the delegates through their paces. Five pupils from Wellington’s MUN group chaired the event as Secretaries General and Committee Chairs, honing their leadership skills and tactfully facilitating compelling debate. A further ten pupils took part as honourable delegates at the event where they engaged in debates and procedures with gusto. All enjoyed their time working with like-minded young people from across Europe, and the cultural delights on offer in western Germany. Firm friendships have been formed and the MUN Society is looking forward to more activities in the coming year.



Music

Susan Docherty, Head of Department

The Music Department has continued to thrive in session 2024-2025 and there is plenty to report on both our curricular work and our extensive extracurricular programme.

Curricular update

Music and Music Technology are popular subjects amongst our students; our results in the 2024 SQA exam diet showed that pupils continued to perform very well, with a 100% A-C pass rate for all students undertaking Music courses, and 92% A-C pass rate for our Music Technology students.

In Advanced Higher Music, we had seven students this year, which exceeds uptake in many larger schools, with a wide variety of instruments being performed, from voice to electric guitar, clarinet to bagpipes and tuned percussion. Most of these students have studied since N5 level and participate in more than one of our extracurricular groups. Advanced Higher Music Technology had three students, all of whom studied from National 5 and two of these students have continued studying Music Technology at University.

Our Higher Music presentation was also larger than usual, with 17 students following the course. Around half of these pupils crashed Higher Music this year and showed commitment to the course. We were delighted that all our students passed the exam with an A-C grade. Higher Music Technology saw 6 students follow the course, and again around half of these pupils crashed the course; these pupils also had a 100% A-C pass.

National 5 Music was a small cohort in this session, but these students gained very strong A grades in their final SQA exam. Music Technology was similar in that there was a small group, but again, there was a 100% A-C pass rate.

Our uptake has been good in both subjects for session 2025-2026.

P7-S2 have followed a broad general education in Music, having the opportunity to learn the basics of a wide variety of instruments, including ukulele, guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, tuned percussion, keyboard and voice. Pupils learn music literacy and musical concepts through topic-based work and gain some experience in music technology.

Junior school pupils have dedicated singing classes where they can develop their vocal skills in a safe environment and these classes are an ideal opportunity for us to prepare for

Harvest, Christmas, Ayrshire Music Festival, Easter and Prizegiving. They have also been learning about music theory and have an opportunity to learn to play percussion instruments, ukulele, and keyboard in class.

Extracurricular activities and events

The Music Department are proud of the variety of extracurricular activities on offer to our pupils at Wellington. We provide inclusive opportunities for pupils to join choirs, bands and orchestras, as well as encourage our pupils to create their own groups for free music-making. We have trialed a Brass Club, a Clarinet Club and a Chanter Club for pupils in P5 and P6 this year, and they are working very well, and we hope to develop these lunchtime clubs going forward. Details of our extracurricular activities will be sent out before the start of the new term.

We have a strong team of self-employed instructors who teach a wide variety of instruments including Piano, Voice, Woodwind, Brass, Violin, Cello, Harp, Guitar and Bass Guitar, Bagpipes and Percussion. We are grateful for their expertise and encouragement in the music lessons, and for providing performing opportunities for students at outside events, in school activities and music exams.

Soloists have had a successful experience at the Ayrshire Music Festival with many pupils winning first place, or being placed, with three of our competitors being asked to compete at the final evening overall awards in both vocal and instrumental events. We held our third Scottish Young Musician competition earlier this year, extending the entries into the Junior School; we had entries from pupils in P1 through to S6, and our guest judges were impressed with the commitment and determination shown by all our pupils.

This year has seen two more successful musical productions, firstly Guys and Dolls from our S3-S6 pupils, which was held in Ayr Town Hall, transformed into a theatre by Mrs Bradley. This was an exciting move, and thanks go to the Town Hall staff for accommodating us and being so helpful. We are grateful for the expertise brought to us by our producer, Martin Christie and our choreographer, Lynne Christie. Our second production was Annie Jr., presented by our P4-6 cast, directed by Mrs Bradley, with the musical directing overseen by Miss McKinlay. Our talented young cast gave us a glimpse of what the future holds for productions when they reach the Senior School!

The WSPTA have hosted two more concerts in Ayr Town Hall this year, which have seen record ticket sales. In addition to our traditional choirs and orchestras, we have our well-established Folk Club, our new Staff Band, "Staff This", and a newly formed Celtic Rock band. We are always keen to support the WSPTA with their fundraising events.

In addition to fundraising events in school, including the Christmas Fair, pupils have entertained at several events held by community groups and local charities. Our pupils are always keen to get involved and we thank everyone who volunteers their skill and talent for these events.

Looking ahead to the new session, we have a few exciting events already in the calendar, including our Senior production of Footloose in Ayr Town Hall on 2nd - 4th October 2025, the WSPTA Christmas concert, as well as some smaller charity events.

Thanks are extended to our S6 who are great supporters of the Music Department and are instrumental in encouraging younger pupils to give things a go and to get involved. We also thank all of the school staff who assist us with our larger events. Without these staff helping to supervise, organise and pack up at the end of an evening, it would be difficult for us to do so ourselves.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Nicola McKinlay, Wendy-Anne Wilson, Fiona Clifford (congratulations to Mrs Shrinivas and Stewart on their wedding) and our team of instructors for their support, enthusiasm and camaraderie.



Primary 7

Lynn Clachan, Head of Department

P7 Year in Review: A Year of Achievement, Growth and Lasting Memories

As we look back on an incredible year for our P7 pupils, we do so with immense pride. This transition year is a pivotal time in a Wellington child's educational journey, providing a bridge between the comfort and security of primary learning and the exciting challenges of secondary school.

Let us take a moment to celebrate the many highlights of this special year.

Curtains Up: Performing Arts Shine

One of the most memorable elements of this school year was the opportunity for our pupils to perform in their P7 Panto Aladdin. From initial rehearsals to final performances, the pupils threw themselves into the process. Oh, yes they did! Through this production, our pupils not only developed their performance skills but also built confidence, resilience and a sense of camaraderie, with each pupil playing a role in making the show a success. The laughter and enthusiastic applause from proud family and friends was a fitting reward for their efforts.

Speech, Drama, and the Art of Communication

In March, P7 took centre stage once more—this time at the Ayrshire Music Festival's Speech & Drama Section. Each participant demonstrated poise, passion and preparation, with several bringing home top honours.

Particular congratulations goes to the following pupils:

'Write you own Poem' Primary 4-7 - First Place: Freya Vennard

'Poems of Burns' Primary 6-7 - First Place: Freya Vennard, Third Place: Alivia Lennox

'Public Speaking' Primary 6-7 - First Place: Imogen Clark, Second Place: Alivia Lennox

In addition to the festival, we hosted our own 'Talking Week' in school—a wonderful opportunity for pupils to explore topics they care about, such as "Do Sharks Really Want to Attack Us?" and "How Tech is Taking Over..." Their thoughtful, impassioned speeches highlighted not only their communication skills but also their growing awareness of the world around them, with Freya's talk 'What is the Best Sport?' winning overall.

Budding Entrepreneurs: The Tenner Challenge

Our young innovators truly impressed us this year with their participation in the Tenner Challenge—an initiative that encourages enterprise and creativity in young people. Each



team started with just £10 and a big idea, and what followed was a flurry of planning, budgeting, marketing and selling. Two teams were highlighted in particular: 'The Photobooth Gals'— Annie and Imogen —stood out for their creative approach, while Buck, Jane and Eloise wowed us all with their extremely popular business, 'Ultra Car Washes'. All pupils showed that entrepreneurship is alive and well in P7, and we're sure these early ventures are just the beginning.

Stepping into History: Bannockburn

In April, we journeyed back in time with our trip to the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre. Pupils were able to step into the shoes of knights, warriors and civilians through hands-on exploration. Trying on armour, holding weapons (safely!), and interacting with expert guides brought history vividly to life.

Our guide praised the group's excellent behaviour and historical knowledge—testament to their curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. This immersive experience added real depth to their understanding of Scotland's past.

Tech and Maths Excellence: DigilInventors and Scottish Mathematical Challenge

This year, we saw success in two prestigious competitions that highlighted our pupils' skills in innovation and critical thinking.

Back in January, P7 pupils recorded their submissions for the DigilInventors Challenge. The challenge tasked them with researching common health and care issues, coming up with innovative digital health and care solutions.

We were thrilled to have both a winner and runners up: Jane's app 'Grow and Glow', designed to empower children to make healthier choices and build positive habits, was selected as a winner; Dava and Aarna's app 'Nelly & Bert Autism Heroes', designed to help young people with autism, was selected as runner-up. Both teams were invited to the Winner's Award Ceremony which took place in the City of Glasgow College.

In the realm of Mathematics, Zechariah, Ruari and Jane certainly rose to the challenge of the Scottish Mathematical Challenge! Zechariah earned a Gold Award, while Ruari and Jane each achieved Bronze. Zechariah was also invited to the awards ceremony, which combined mathematical wit and a celebration of young talent.

Adventure Awaits: Gowanbank Residential Week and Magical Christmas in Germany

Unquestionably one of the most anticipated experiences of the year was our residential week at Gowanbank Outdoor Centre. Nestled in the heart of the Irvine Valley, this week-long adventure gave our pupils the chance to push themselves beyond the classroom walls and into nature.

From crate climbing and abseiling to archery and bushcraft, every activity offered opportunities for personal growth. The pupils worked together in team challenges, learned about the environment, and developed essential life skills such as resilience, independence, and cooperation. All pupils achieved a National Outdoor Learning Award.

Earlier in the year, a large group of P7 pupils also travelled to Germany to do a variety of Christmas-related tasks with pupils at our twin school in Dortmund. They were awestruck by the infamous Dortmund Christmas Tree, which at around

46 metres is the biggest in the world. Exploring the collection of 300 traditional wooden stands selling toys, decorations and holiday-season delicacies was another highlight. Bonds were quickly established with their Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium contemporaries.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare to say goodbye to our wonderful P7 cohort, we do so with confidence in their readiness to move forward. They are heading into S1 with a wealth of experiences behind them, a strong sense of self and the tools to thrive. They have impressed us all with their creativity, leadership, kindness and enthusiasm—and above all, their willingness to seize every opportunity.

It has been a privilege to witness their growth this year and we know they are more than ready for the next chapter. We look forward to watching 'our' children continue to flourish in the years ahead and wish them every success and happiness in their journey through secondary school and beyond.

Well done, P7—you've made this year truly unforgettable.





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 Hockey continues to flourish with large numbers of players regularly attending after school training, Saturday fixtures and local hockey clubs. The number of young people participating at District and National level are the highest we have seen in recent years.

We have observed continued success at district level with Sophie Alexander and Eva Cowan competing at U15 level for South West in the Inter district tournament in May. 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.

Congratulations to Lemoni Allan-McLaughlin, Iona Fairbairn, Emily Goodwin, Freya McAleese, Daisy Windows and Jamie Crumlish on their selection for Brave Academy, the talent pathway for Scottish Hockey. We are proud of our players' success and commitment to this programme with the players attending additional training and competitive opportunities. We wish them all the best in their hockey journeys.

This year we entered 3 teams (1XI, Junior and Boys) into the Scottish Schools competitions. Our 1XI were victorious in the first round of the Scottish School Senior Challenge Cup competition and went on to play St Margaret School. The team were up against some tough weather conditions and were unfortunately beaten in a close game, 2-1.

Our junior team are this year's Scottish Schools Junior Challenge Plate Champions! We are very proud of this team's achievements and their effort and dedication throughout this season. They beat the following teams Gordonstoun and St Columba. The Senior Boys team attended the Scottish Schools Aspire Cup in October where they had the opportunity to apply their skills and play a range of teams.

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. Every team came out victorious in over 50% of their matches, a great achievement for a small school. 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 plate semifinal where they drew. The match then went to running penalties where we were unlucky to be defeated by a strong Hutcheson Grammar side.

We ended the season with our Whole school tournament where current pupils were joined by parents and staff in a fun morning of hockey. With over 70 players attending it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying their hockey. This was an opportunity to thank those who have been committed to hockey throughout their Wellington career. We also said a big thank you and farewell to Dot who has provided catering at Doonside on a Saturday morning for many years.

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 2025//2026. We look forward to welcoming all of our players back in August 2025.

Dance

Pupils from Primary 3 to S6 are given the opportunity to participate in dance club at lunch times where group routines are taught by Mrs Penton, Miss Banks and Mrs Mitchell. 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. A dance workshop was offered to our Higher, Advanced Higher PE pupils and selected senior pupils. This was choreographed by Lisa Muir from LJM. Auditions were also 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 of 'Iconic' dances and songs 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

Rugby has had a strong year at Wellington, with the U15, U16 (boys and girls), and U18 teams all reaching the West Cup Finals in March. The U15s secured a fantastic result by winning the West Shield. Several pupils have also been selected for District and National training squads, including Lucy Reid, who earned a spot in the Glasgow District team after only starting the sport in October. Oliver King and Blair Black have also been chosen for District training, with Oliver receiving an invitation to train with the Scotland U17s squad.

Our Junior School teams have participated in several fixtures against local schools, delivering excellent performances. The S1 boys have shown great individual and team progress, consistently representing the school with pride.

Looking ahead, rugby at Wellington will take on a new shape, with pupils preparing to compete in local fixtures and the National U16s Schools Competition.

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 U14 team competed at the Carrick tournament for the first time in May and made it through to the semi-finals.

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. Lewis Relly was our highest placed pupil finishing in 2nd place where he was narrowly beaten in the final metres of the course.

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

The event was held in the majestic grounds of Hopetoun House, Queensferry on Wednesday 5th March. The school entered 3 pupils - Hannah Briggs, Ella Freestone and Lewis Relly. Conditions were windy and cold on the day and the course was hilly. All the pupils ran with determination and finished strongly.

Scottish Schools' Aquathlon

On Friday 19th April 2024, Lewis Relly in S2 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. Lewis Relly swam well and ran brilliantly where he managed to finish in 3rd place.

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 3rd June (30 school event)

The following pupils were 3rd in their event.

Oliver King - Shot
Katie Ablett - 100m
Hannah Briggs - 1500m
Callan Forsyth - 200m
Fraser Peters - 800m
Mia McKinstry - 800m
Finlay McEwen - Discus

The following pupils were 2nd in their event.

Rory Cumming - 300m

Charlie Gillies - 80m Hurdles

Katie Ablett - 200m

Ella Freestone - 800m

Alexa Watters - 300m

Lewis Relly - High Jump and 1500m

Mia McKinstry - 100m

Millie McKellar - Long Jump

The Senior Girls Relay team

The following pupils were 1st in their event.

Kate Robinson - 300m

James Cruickshank - High Jump

Jessica Needham - Long Jump

Natasha Hardy - Javelin

Rory Reynolds - Long Jump

James Cruickshank - Long Jump

The Senior 3 Girls Relay team

Special Recognition - Ayrshire Schools' Athletics Championships

The S3 girls relays team won the Shield for the best relay performance of the championships. They also set a new Ayrshire record.

Kate Robinson won the Campbell Bone Trophy for the best senior performance of the championships with her 300m run.

Scottish Schools Relay Championships

The school entered one team into the championships - U17 girls 4x100m relay. The team broke the school record which was set in 2009 (54.32secs) by finishing 3rd winning bronze medals. Their record time was 52.79secs. Team members were Katie Ablett, Lemoni Allan - McLaughlin, Zara Wightman and Mia McKinstry.

Scottish Primary School Relays

The school entered one boys and one girls team into the 4x100m relay. The boys made the finals and came 7th over all which is a great achievement. The team members were Sandy O'Sullivan, Campbell Lennox, Ben Freestone and Jamie Levisianos.

The girls won both of their heats in the first round and the semifinal. The girls won bronze medals in the final which is outstanding. The team members were Lucia Cornelius, Eden Paton-Browne, Georgia McGeoch and Annie Cumming.

Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships

Wellington entered 4 pupils this year. Pupils managed to achieve personal best times or distances. Three pupils reached the semi-final stage and 4 reached the final.

Golf

Golf has enjoyed great success at Wellington this year, with many pupils from various year groups taking up the sport. This was highlighted by the impressive turnout of 25 participants in our annual school golf competition at Seafield Golf Course. The standard of play was outstanding, resulting in a highly competitive event.

Quintin Dunlop (S6), Hugh Dunlop (S3) and Thomas Carlyle (S3) have taken part in nationwide tournaments at St. Andrews and Crieff this year. All three boys have played at a high level throughout the year and represented the school and their club positively at these tournaments.

Skiing

On Saturday 29th March Wellington pupils took part in the Ayrshire Ski Slalom race at Newmilns. We entered 2 teams and I am delighted to say that both the primary and secondary teams finished 1st winning Gold medals and retaining the Bobby Pollock trophy.

The Primary and Secondary Ski team had a successful day winning the Ayrshire Primary and Secondary Ski Slalom Race at Newmilns.

Primary Ski Team
Annabel Borthwick
Georgia McGeoch
Caelan McDevitt
Jamie Levisianos

Secondary Ski Team
Matthew Borthwick
Sophia Borthwick
Cameron McGeoch
Poppy Waterland

Cricket

Cricket has had a successful year, with lots of pupils enjoying Cricket in Games and PE lessons. Our U18s team managed to reach the Quarter Final of the Scottish Cup with some excellent performances from all the players. Oscar Kirkwood and Jake Woodhouse have been selected for National U18s training squads and will be representing Scotland over the summer. Both pupils play 1st XI Cricket for their clubs and are highly regarded in Scottish youth Cricket.





Netball

Nicole Craig, Head of Department

This year has been an outstanding one for Netball at Wellington School, marked by exceptional commitment, competitive success, and growing enthusiasm across all year groups. With 57 pupils from S1 to S6 participating, it's been one of our strongest seasons yet.

Team Participation & Achievements

We entered six teams into the Ayrshire League—three in the S1/2 league and three in the S3/4 league—as well as one senior team in the Scottish Schools Cup:

- Our S1/2 League 1st Team had a fantastic season, finishing 2nd out of 32 teams, narrowly missing out on first place in a very close final match.
- Our S3/4 League Green Team were Champions, finishing top out of 28 teams across Ayrshire, a true testament to their hard work and team spirit.
- Our Senior Scottish Cup Team competed with great resilience. After a narrow loss in the opening round, they entered the Plate competition, progressing through four tough rounds to reach the Quarter-Final, where they were just edged out of a semi-final spot.

District Netball Representation

Wellington has once again had strong representation at the District Netball level, with many pupils competing at both U15 and U17 levels:

For the 2024-25 Season:

- U15 District Players: Sophie Alexander, Eva Cowan, Holly McKenzie, Lara Marshall, Freya McAleese, Holly Carter, Elissa Wilmer
- U17 District Players: Emma Henderson and Holly McNeilly

Looking ahead to the 2025-26 Season:

- U15 Selected Players: Sarah Melvin, Sophie Alexander, Eva Cowan, Luella Hutton, Mia Barbour, Sian McLaughlin, Freya Innes, Poppy Williamson
- U17 Selected Players: Freya McAleese and Holly McNeilly

Five additional pupils are currently preparing for late trials—we wish them every success!

We are incredibly proud of the pupils who have stepped up to this level, showing their skill, commitment, and love of the sport.

Kit Sponsorship

A special thank you goes to Barassie Engineering for their generous sponsorship this year, providing all of our netball dresses. These have been a real highlight—boosting team identity, confidence, and pride. The teams not only played with passion but looked absolutely fantastic doing so.

Netball Awards 2024-2025

Overall Netball Player of the Year Emma Henderson (S6) – A true leader, Emma has been a consistent and dedicated force in Wellington Netball throughout her school career. She finishes her time with us having set an exceptional standard for younger players to aspire to.

S3/4 Awards

Player of the Year – Lemoni Allan - Recently transitioned into defence, Lemoni has been nothing short of unstoppable. Her presence on court has earned praise from opposition teams and coaches alike—she is truly a force to be reckoned with.

Most Improved – Elissa Wilmer and Lara Marshall - Both Elissa and Lara joined District Netball this year and have demonstrated tremendous growth. Their confidence has soared, and they now consistently read the game well and work fluidly with teammates.

S1/2 Awards

Player of the Year – Mia Barbour - Mia is our quiet assassin on the court—composed and clinical, barely missing a shot. Her performance this year has been exceptional, consistently leading by example.

Most Improved – Grace Robinson and Sian McLaughlin - Both girls are relatively new to netball but have shown incredible enthusiasm and determination. Their willingness to learn and adapt has been fantastic—they've soaked up every bit of coaching and are progressing rapidly.

Looking Ahead

Wellington Netball is in a strong position for the 2025-26 season. With rising talent from P7, an influx of district-level players, and continued commitment from our senior pupils, the future of the sport at the school looks incredibly bright.



Physics

Liam Mitchell, Head of Department

This year marked my second year (but first full academic year) at Wellington, and it definitely flew by! Towards the start of the academic year, Dr Jakoby left us to take on a new role as a Teacher of Biology/Physics at a school in Paisley. Following her departure, Mrs Newall stepped in to teach S1 and S3 Physics classes, and she did a fantastic job inspiring our next generation of young Physicists. Thanks, Mrs Newall! We look forward to having her back teaching S1 and S2 Physics this coming year.

Last year I mentioned that one of my main aims for the department in the near future was to build up the range and amount of modern practical equipment that we have. So far, good progress has been made purchasing new equipment to enhance learning and teaching, specifically for the National 5 and Higher Electricity topics. I aim to continue growing the scope of equipment going forward.

With a strong desire to improve outcomes for the Physics pupils in the school, I recently undertook SQA marking of Higher Physics assignments and National 5 Physics exam papers for the 2025 exam diet. These experiences were great at highlighting areas of potential difficulty for pupils, how to score highly in assignments and the final exam and finally helped to refresh my knowledge and skills in specific areas.

In S1 and S2 Physics, pupils were put through their paces with a new set of topics complete with class resources, including The Electromagnetic Spectrum, Forces and Electricity in S1, and Heat and Matter, Space and Electromagnetism in S2. Pupils did well to build a strong foundation of Physics knowledge in these topics. Through pupil voice surveys, I aim to make amendments and improvements to these resources based on pupil feedback. Earlier in the year, three of our S2 girls – Fallon Kyle, Emilia Ewer and Hannah Briggs – were selected to attend the Young Weir-Wise S2 Girls into Engineering programme run by the University of Strathclyde. The girls were great ambassadors for the school and really enjoyed their experience.

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. The S3 Physicists were also fortunate enough to join the S3 Computing Scientists on a day trip to the National Robotarium at Heriot-Watt University, where hands-on workshops and engaging demonstrations were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mr Currie, Head of Computing, for

organising this. Furthermore, one of our S3 girls – Sophia Borthwick – was selected to attend the Engineering the Future for Girls programme run by the University of Strathclyde. This was a highly competitive course to get on to – well done Sophia!

In S4 and S5 Physics, pupils worked extremely hard to get to grips with tricky Physics concepts. Pupils welcomed the challenge and all of them successfully carried out their assignments (which involved doing an experiment in groups before writing a scientific report under exam conditions). A whopping 19 of our S4 Physicists have gone on to study Higher Physics this year, and I can't wait to see how they progress.

As part of Advanced Higher projects, like last 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 obtaining and analysing data for their chosen experiments. Pupils enjoyed pizza for lunch in Paisley town centre 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. In addition, we liaised with the Computing Science department to make use of their 3D printer in Physics. This involved creating 3D printed objects for the Advanced Higher Physics projects. This was greatly appreciated by the pupils involved. Thanks again to Mr Currie!

The last day of classes called for a Domino's Pizza celebratory lunch for the S5 and S6 Physics pupils, before they embarked on study leave. This was a nice way to reward everyone for all of their hard work throughout the year.

Benjamin Richmond was elected as Physics captain for the 2024-25 session. The department would like to thank Benjamin for his contributions throughout the year, and we wish him all the best as he goes on to study Palaeontology at university in 2026.

Finally, congratulations to our prize winners this year – Joshua Brennan (S5) who won the Special Prize for Higher Physics and Benjamin Richmond (S6) who won the Prize for Advanced Higher Physics. Both boys demonstrated an admirable work ethic throughout and a natural flair for problem solving. Their enthusiasm for Physics and Science was infectious. Well done boys!



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. Beyond our university applications, all students moved on to positive destinations in the world of further education, work and professional training.

The 2024-25 session got underway with appointment of our Head Boy, Charlie Windows and Head Girl, Megan Seales, who received their Badges of Office from the retiring Heads of School, Maxwell Wyllie and Sarah Mason.

The 6th year elected to support Blood Cancer UK as their nominated good cause. The inspiration behind this nomination was Montgomery House Captain, Amber Brodie, whose family has a specific connection to the impact blood cancer can have on young people and families. As always with the Wellington S6 Charity, this was an amazing organisation to support, especially given Amber's personal story. 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, the 24 hour Golf Challenge, Lands' End to John O' Groats cycle were all fun and highly successful activities for the staff and pupils involved. A huge "thank you" must be paid to the entire Wellington family, who gave such overwhelming support of the charity work, whether through completing a challenge or giving so generously in support of them.

The 6th year charity continues to have a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together 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 Blood Cancer UK receiving over £43,000. 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, Charlie and Megan, 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 Craufurdland Estate's treetop trail, ScotKart, Millport and a fun day of food, games and music at Doonside 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

As another school year ends, I thank all those who have made it possible. I begin by thanking first and foremost the pupils for their enthusiasm, their laughter, their energy and their sense of fun. Pupils are the life and soul of the school, and I thank them all, right through from Nursery to S6.

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 the catering team. I am also particularly grateful to Garry Carr, our IT Manager, and to Nicole Cain, who did excellent work as Marketing Manager during Aimee Patton's maternity leave. We are delighted to welcome Aimee back at a time when marketing has never been more important.

The work of teachers is central in any school because they provide the energy and the inspiration behind everything we do. We have an outstanding teaching staff at Wellington, who are passionate about their subjects and helping young people on their journey to adulthood. The Nursery is where it all starts, and I thank all the staff there for the wonderful work they do. Thank you to every teacher in both the Junior and Senior Schools for providing inspiration in the classroom day after day. The Heads of Year and the wider pastoral team deserve a special mention for the outstanding support that they provide for our pupils in good times and bad.

At the end of a school year, sadly, we must say farewell to staff who are leaving. I begin with Mr Cox, Head of the Junior School, and I pay tribute to him all that he has done for the school. Drumley is very much Mr Cox's empire, which he has led with authority, compassion and a twinkle in his eye for more than 11 years. He cares deeply about every child in the Junior School and in the Nursery, and he will be greatly missed. I am sure that Mr Cox is too young to retire, but he is a keen hillwalker and there are plenty of Munros for him to climb. I thank him for his commitment, hard work and kindness. Also in the Junior School, Mrs Bowyer leaves after many years of loyal and dedicated service to the school as a teacher, a parent and a clarinet player. She leaves to spend more time in her beloved Torridon and we wish her health and happiness in the years to come. I thank also Helen Walkinshaw, who retires from the Nursery after 36 years. Generations of children and their parents have reason to be grateful to Helen and I thank her most sincerely for the dedication and kindness that she has shown for so many years.

In the senior school, there are three leavers and I pay tribute first to Mrs Linda Munn, who has been a member of the Business Education Department for 20 years and head of it for the last 9. Countless pupils owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs Munn and I wish her every happiness in retirement. At the same time Mrs Alison Shaw retires from her role as a teacher of social subjects. Mrs Shaw was appointed 22 years ago as a Geography teacher and it is impossible to do justice to the contribution she has made. Thank you, Mrs Shaw. Finally, Ms Karen McGibbons has only been with us for a few years, but her love of Spanish language and culture shines through. She leaves for new adventures and we wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Next, I must thank the Senior Management Team. Schools are necessarily busy and messy places. A lot happens and nobody knows exactly what is going to happen next. Every member of SMT takes this in their stride, and they do it with a very high level of expertise and professionalism, whilst demonstrating seemingly infinite patience, resilience and compassion. I have already thanked Mr Cox, but I give sincere thanks also to Marie Windows, Gail Johnston and Alistair McDougall who are all members of the teaching staff. I also thank Linda Peters, Finance Manager, and Robbie Stewart, Operations Manager. This is not an easy time to be in charge of finance or operations at any independent school and I thank Linda and Robbie for their dedication and attention to detail. At the same time, I must thank Marian Dunlop not only for the coffee, but also for her calm dependability and her discretion.

Last, I turn to the Governors. As we all know, independent schools throughout the country are operating in an extremely challenging financial climate. The imposition of an education tax in the form of VAT has forced all independent schools to make hard and unpopular decisions. I have worked in Scottish independent schools for 35 years and I can confidently say that throughout that period, the responsibilities born by Governors have never been greater. We are fortunate to have a loyal and dedicated group of Governors who this year have given countless hours freely in service of the school. I thank each member of the Board and in particular the Chair, Jennifer Simpson, for the time and the energy that they have given in the service of Wellington this year.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parents, for choosing this school for the education of your children. The future of independent schools like ours depends on the loyalty and commitment of families like yours and I thank you most sincerely for maintaining your trust in Wellington.



Wellington
SCHOOL