



Wellington Today



Autumn
2023





From the Editor

So, what makes a Wellington year? What makes a Wellingtonian? Two questions – both easy and both impossible to answer, as each year – and each pupil – are simultaneously the same and different. Schrödinger's Wellington, if you like! The set piece events are always there: Matriculation, lessons, school plays, matches, concerts, dance shows, Christmas dinners, Christmas carols, mock exams, the Kingsleys, real exams, Speech Day, Master's Callover, Graduation. But each year brings new iterations on the theme, just as each and every Wellingtonian builds their own special Wellington, becoming as they do their own unique self. The DNA is always there, but the song never remains the same.

Academic life lies at the heart of each pupil's experience, and this summer we have been able to celebrate yet more exam success, with IB, A Level and GCSE passes at stellar levels ensuring university entrance to the world's top universities.

Few would dispute the importance of exam certificates, but they only tell half the story, and the last several months have seen a myriad of academic enrichment opportunities available: particularly pleasing has been the commitment to individual project work and scholarship at all levels. Sport at Wellington has seldom been stronger with both team and individual achievements and there has been an explosion of activity on the Arts scene, with stunning plays, musicals and concerts. Service remains central to a Wellingtonian's heart, and the Global Citizenship programme continues to inspire our pupils to volunteer and reach out to others.

It's a busy school full of busy people, all keen to make the most of the countless opportunities the College affords: let these pages act as a celebration of all that is Wellington today – its wonderful traditions and even more glorious variations and precious memories.

Academic

Here are just a few of our highlights throughout the year:

A Level & IB: 73% of all grades were A*/A or 7/6

IB: 50 pupils scored 40 points or more

A Level: 41% of students received straight A grades or better

GCSE: 86% achieved grades 9–7

17 Oxbridge offers

10 offers to Ivy League universities

Early offers from Yale, UPenn Wharton, Brown, Columbia, Cornell and Stanford

11 Gold Awards in Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Linguistics Olympiads

11 finalists in the New College of Humanities Essay Competition

Over 50 academic subject choices

35 weekly academic extension clubs

18 Fireside Talks





Academic Achievements

1. Amelie R, winner of the HG Wells Short Story Competition
2. Tierney D, finalist in the Young Fashion Designer Competition
3. Alena C achieved Distinction in both rounds of the British Maths Olympiad
4. Intermediate Maths Challenge: 14 Gold Awards. Special mentions for Andrew L, Ishan V and Kieran M
5. Senior Maths Challenge: 25 Gold Awards. Special mention for Sandy W
6. Chemistry Olympiad Gold Awards: Alvin W, Eric Q and Rain T
7. Biology Olympiad Gold Award: Mary C-B
8. Physics Olympiad Gold Award: Clement D





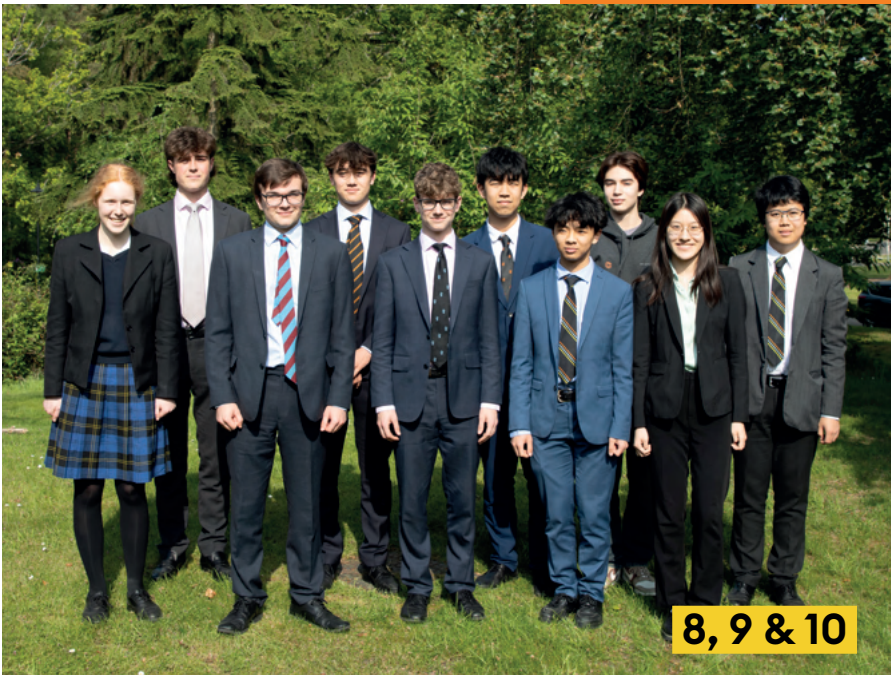
3



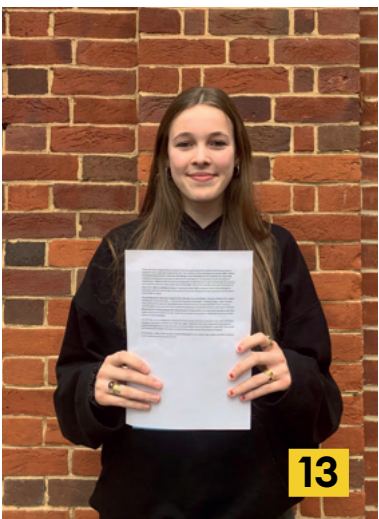
2



6



8, 9 & 10



13



4

9. Senior Physics Challenge Gold Awards: Iris C, Oscar F, Danny Y and Eric Q

10. Intermediate Physics Challenge Gold Awards: Alex J, Alex G and Olivia P

11. UK Linguistics Olympiad Gold Award: Claudia M

12. 11 finalists in the New College of Humanities Essay Competition: Amayra S and Amelie R (English Literature), Elia G (Law), Isabel C, Finbar T, Oscar F, Zoe C, Jacob E, Yi-Ann Y (Economics), Levi H (Politics & International Relations) and Ella A (History)

13. Sophie de M, winner of the Impetus Engineering Essay Competition

14. Toby H, awarded a place on the prestigious Cambridge University Medieval Worlds: Manuscripts, Texts, Film residential course

15. Sofia L, best spoken Spanish in the Hispanic Theatre Competition

16. Rufus S, winner of Rex Nettleford Essay Prize

17. Finalists in the New College of Humanities Essay Competition: English Literature: Amayra S (runner-up)

18. Annie S, winner of the Peter Mallinson Prize for Academic Extension for her depiction of Sonita Alizadeh

19. Amelia L and Harriet W have been awarded the DipLCM in Music Theatre, while Sunay P, Elia G, Joshua X, and Yvette Z have all received an ARSM in Piano. Stephanie O has been awarded an ARSM in Violin, and Yi-Ann Y has achieved the prestigious LTCL in Cello.

20. The winning group of Olivia P, Rain T and Jessica P were awarded the Peter Frankopan Prize for Academic Extension for their work on Space Physics.

21. Fabian R, Third Form Malim winner

22. Youth Forum trip to Switzerland

23. Upper School Academic Scholars' Presentations. The winners were: Rufus S and Ella R: 'The Crisis of Disparity in Care: Two Case Studies on the US governmental treatment of HIV/AIDS pandemic and the media treatment of Ukrainian refugees versus non-European refugees'. The finalists were: Anna R and Joshua X: 'The Economics of the Stars.' Max T and Sebastian V: 'What the Roman response to Pompeii can teach us about how to respond to the earthquake in Turkey'.







Students achieve outstanding IB and A Level results

Congratulations to the graduating class of Wellington Sixth Formers on their outstanding exam outcomes this year. The IB students secured an outstanding set of results earlier this summer with an average score of 38.6 points, the equivalent of A*AA at A Level. Not to be outdone, the A Level cohort has just received an equally excellent set of grades. In a year where the overall distribution of grades has gone back to pre-pandemic levels, it is pleasing to see that Wellingtonians have stayed ahead of that curve, with results significantly better than in 2018 and 2019. 41% of students received straight A grades or better with almost 90% of all grades being A/B.

To give an overall picture of the achievements of the year group, it is always best to combine the A Level and IB grades:

- 31% A* / 7
- 73% A*A / 76
- 94% A*AB / 765

Remarkably of the 234 pupils in the Upper Sixth, 50% of the year group secured either Higher Level 7s and 6s at IB or A* and A at A Level, with 19 students achieving straight Higher Level 7s or A*s.

The Master, James Dahl commented on the results, saying “We could not be prouder of this remarkable year group who have conquered so many challenges over the past four years and who leave Wellington College with one of the strongest sets of results in our history. To do this against the backdrop of a global pandemic and, this year, a planned programme of grade deflation is testament to their resilience, camaraderie and ability. They joined Wellington College in September 2018 when the world was a very different place but they move on with the knowledge, skills and character to thrive at university and in their adult lives. Hats off to them all.”

Red-letter day for Wellington's GCSE students

Thursday 24 August was a red-letter day for the GCSE students at Wellington College. Against a backdrop of national concern about a dip in top grades awarded, Wellingtonians achieved results which were stronger than 2019 across every metric. Over 36% of grades awarded were at the very highest level making 9 the most common grade achieved. Almost two thirds of the grades were 8s or 9s, with more than 86% of results being 9-7. Congratulations in particular to the 10 students who achieved a clean sweep of 9s.

Wellington Master, James Dahl had this to say: "The achievements of this year group are nothing short of remarkable. Having lost the final term at their previous schools due to the pandemic, they arrived at Wellington into a world of social distancing, mask-wearing and numerous other restrictions before a second bout of online learning in early 2021. In the face of these immense challenges, they have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into every aspect of life at the College, both inside and outside the classroom, achieving national accolades at sport, producing breath-taking performances on the stage, and proving themselves to be a delight around the school. These superb results, which are stronger than our 2019 GCSE outcomes at all levels, are just reward for years of hard work, resilience and determination. We are hugely proud of this group of Wellingtonians and cannot wait to see what they will achieve in the Sixth Form."

Well done to them all, and we do indeed look forward to seeing them embark on their A Level or IB Diploma careers when they return to College in September.



Graduation 2023

The last day of June, and the final day of their school career, Friday 30 will live long in the memory for Wellington's class of 23. The 234 graduating students started their day with a Chapel Service that was full of emotion and full of poignancy.

As Senior Master, Matthew Oakman, himself leaving College after 25 years of unbroken service, observed in his address to the leavers, the Chapel holds a special place in the heart of Wellingtonians, so what better place to start their last goodbye. Favourite hymns – *Jerusalem* and *I Vow to Thee My Country* – were sung, prayers were offered, and Sixth Form leaver, Daniel H, gave the Valedictory address. "I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days

before you've actually left them", he quoted, a sentiment shared by all who had gathered to celebrate and remember those good times.

Applauded out of Chapel by the rest of the school, our newest Old Wellingtonians joined their parents for lunch in the Dining Hall before congregating in the GWA for the actual Graduation Ceremony. For many this was the most nerve-tingling moment of their whole school career as they faced their respective HMs on the Annenberg stage to hear their contribution to the school summed up. They needn't have worried: the speeches were full of warmth, love and respect, confirming not only how well the HMs knew their young charges, but also that it had been a shared journey for them all.

The formalities of the day over, the celebrations began: champagne receptions in the seventeen Wellington houses, and then a sumptuous black tie dinner and ball, and one last chance to dine and dance together, an opportunity embraced with enthusiasm by one and all, and a reminder of the sheer energy that this special year group had brought to everything they had done over the past few years. What a day they had had, what a time it had been. Good luck and Godspeed to them all!





“ I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you’ve actually left them.

The Arts

The Arts are literally everywhere at Wellington: showcase events on the main GWA stage; three stunning plays in the Christopher Lee Theatre; Waterloo Hall host to our best solo singers and instrumentalists; the Driver Rooms, V&A and Art School serving as stunning and imaginative Exhibition spaces, not to mention South Front and the Old Gym also hosting spectacular events. What a year it's been, but the venues, final shows and concerts only tell half the story: it's the lessons, the practices, the rehearsals, the skill and imagination that ensure that not only is every day an Arts Day at Wellington, but that the College can truly be proud to hold the Arts Council's prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award.



Since its inception, £80,000 has been raised for Wellington College Arts Fund. The funds raised have been made available to local schools as grants of up to £1,000, to aid their own arts education.



Tes Schools Awards 2023
Shortlisted
Excellence in Creative Arts



Festival of Musical – TES Award Nominee 2023 for Excellence in the Creative Arts



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Wellington College received the Arts Council's prestigious Artsmark Platinum Award





Music

While the House Music competition, deservedly won this year by the Talbot, sees the greatest number of Wellingtonians involved in music-making, the various orchestras, choirs, bands, and groups have ensured real quality too. The Montgomery competitions, Welly Unplugged, the Wellington Symphony Orchestral Concert, the Concerto concerts, and the weekly excellence on show from the Chapel Choir, have all made this year an absolute joy.





Largest ever concert with
Crowthorne Choral Society
with over 200 performers



Dance

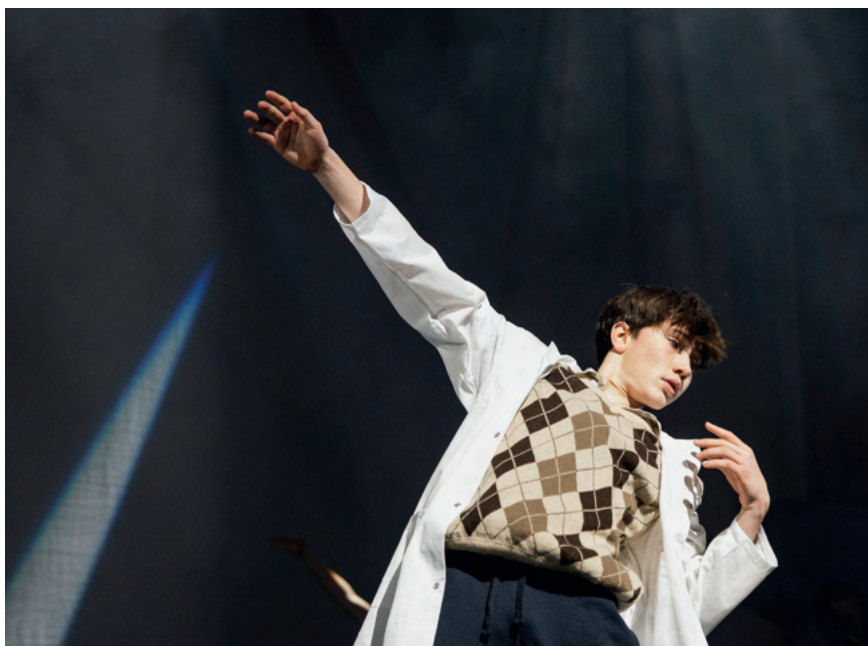
Wellington dancers have been in Wonderland this year! The Christmas extravaganza, themed around Alice's madcap adventures, allowed over 100 students to take to the Annenberg stage. Add in the Curriculum Dance Show, the breath-taking choreography of Legally Blonde, the Street Dance Challenge, and the keenly contested House Dance competition, and you have all the evidence you need that Wellington Dance is not only alive but literally kicking.

19 Royal Academy of Dance examinations
100% passed with Merit or Distinction

Over 700 students
performed in
House Dance



Over 80 performers from local schools took part in 'The Berkshire Independent Schools Dance Festival 2023'.



Over 100 students performed in Wonderland





4 incredible productions
Over 180 pupils cast and crew



Drama

The Festival of Musical Theatre, Shakespeare in Love, Legally Blonde, 1984, The Sentence, and The Two Gentlemen of Verona have been the stand-out productions in a year that has seen Wellington Drama in effervescent form. Be it Comedy or Tragedy, all year groups have had the opportunity to push back the boundaries of dramatic art and provide spell-bound audiences with entertainment of the highest quality.



House Fives: a brand new
format for House Drama



'The Sentence' written and
directed by Jess V: the first
ever full student production
to go to the Edinburgh
Fringe Festival

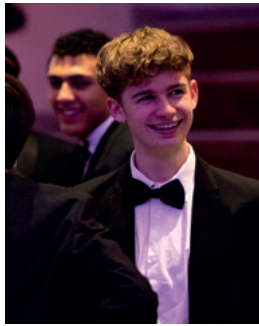


Legally Blonde



The Two Gentlemen
of Verona

Shakespeare in Love



The first Wellington
Drama Awards Ceremony



1984

Art

In October, our resident artist Ian Murphy led a series of inspiring workshops for students and staff. Art historian and broadcaster Dr Janina Ramirez launched Arts Fest with a fascinating lecture on medieval art. Life Drawing sessions remained popular amongst our students, and the mid-term A Level and GCSE photography exhibition showcased some stunning work. The Rule of Thirds featured an exciting programme of workshops for Third Form students, from screen printing to glass fusing. A number of students entered the external 'Write on Art' competition, and congratulations to Tierney D who was selected for the final of the Young Fashion Designer competition.

The Lent Term saw the launch of two new student-led societies; Textiles, Economics and Fashion Society as well as ArtLitUp, a discussion group about art and literature. The Art History Society continued to showcase the range of expertise amongst our students. MA Royal College of Art graduate Irena Posner hosted a fantastic stone carving workshop for students, using ethically destroyed crayfish from Swan Lake to process, cast and scale up for marble sculptures. Dr Joanna Pawlick from the University of Sussex met with Art Historians to discuss portraiture and identity. In the February half term, A Level and IB Art Historians as well as IB Visual Artists visited Paris to immerse themselves in the rich artistic and cultural history of the city. Photographers and artists across all year groups put together a varied exhibition in collaboration with the middle years production of 1984. The IB Visual Arts Exhibition in March showcased the incredible talent of our Upper Sixth students.

The end of year exhibition which took place in the Art School from 26 May to 12 June celebrated the achievements of all GCSE, A Level and IB artists, textiles and photography students.





Sport

With over 25 different sports on offer, involving 200 teams in 1,500 fixtures, it's been another bumper year for Wellington Sport. Over 30 Wellingtonians have been involved in National level sport, with 12 teams or individuals taking part in National finals. Well done to the Under 14 Boys Hockey and Rugby teams, the Under 19 Netball team, the Fencing and Polo teams, the Golf team who are HMC Strokeplay Tour Champions, the swimmers and the Tennis and the Rackets players.

Whatever the level, whatever the sport, there's something for everyone at Wellington, so congratulations to the players, the coaches, the ground staff, the coach drivers and the caterers for making it all possible – and for making sure that at Wellington it's not just about the winning, but definitely the taking part.





Over 25 sports on offer



12 teams or individuals
in National finals



200 teams



30+ pupils involved in
National level sport

1,500 fixtures

Team Achievements

Cricket

U15 Girls: runners-up in the Indoor County Competition

Fencing

Hymers College Cup Crystal Palace Plate at the Public Schools Fencing Championships

Golf

Team Champions at the HMC Strokeplay Tour Championships 2023

Hockey

U14 Girls: 7th at Nationals
Senior Girls: reached the quarter finals of the National Cup
U14A Boys: 5th at National Finals





Netball

U14, U16, U19: Regional Finals for National Schools for a second year!
U19: 5th at National Finals

Polo

1st place novice division and 3rd place intermediate division at the National Senior Championships

Rackets

U16 Girls Doubles: runners-up at the National Schools Championships
U16 Girls Singles: winner and runner-up at the National Schools Championships

Rugby 7s

Yearlings: runners-up at Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s

Running

U19 Girls: 1st at the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships

Skiing

Best overall school at the British Schoolgirls Races

Swimming

Girls team: 9th place in 200m medley relay at the Bath Cup

Tennis

U15 Girls: 4th at the Regional Championships



Highlights of the Year by Emilie and Zak

A poll involving pupils and teachers about the most important events of the school year revealed interesting priorities and differences. We wanted to take this opportunity to look back on some of the undoubted highlights from the pupils' perspective.

Probably the biggest event for the pupils is House Singing, and the atmosphere in the GWA this year was epic, the *Sweet Caroline* singalong at the end a genuinely magic moment. On the theme of singalongs, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Quad Carols at the end of term, and this year we all really enjoyed the newly invented (by us) Christmas Tree Capture game, which seems sure to become a tradition now; the inaugural game was won by the Stanley, so let's hope they take their exam revision as seriously! Christmas also gave us the 12 Days of Christmas quiz organised by the Heads of College which got the whole school in the festive mood.



To confirm that Wellingtonians don't just take the fun things seriously, the whole school gathered to give thanks and praise for the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II earlier in the term, and as ever we saw Remembrance Week impeccably observed by the pupils: we never forget the debt we owe to those who went before us.



"We never forget the debt we owe to those who went before us."



MNF (Monday Night Football) was as popular as ever this year, but it was good to see a girls' MNF competition for the first time. The razzamatazz of Friday Night Lights also put girls' sport in the spotlight, and it is great to see so many coming down to the Astro to enjoy the carnival atmosphere created by DukeBox commentary, street food, and excellent play.





At the start of the year, we were proud to host the Heads of College Conference, a valuable opportunity to share ideas with our contemporaries and to explore different ways of making pupil leadership really matter. Constant communication is the key, and although not an obvious highlight we hope that we have always been accessible and open to ideas: we like to think that the various non-uniform days that we've promoted not only raised lots of money for excellent causes, but also raised morale at key moments of the year. On the theme of pupil leadership, we were also delighted that the launch of the pupil Mental Health and Inclusion Ambassadors has gone so well.



"We were also delighted that the launch of the pupil Mental Health and Inclusion Ambassadors has gone so well."



The Lent Term is always a bonanza when it comes to the real Welly moments that we all look forward to so much, and this year seemed better than ever, despite the annoyance of mock exams threatening to spoil the fun! The Duke's Games went really well, and the democratic and open nature of the school was amply revealed by a third former winning the coveted prize. The Quad Rave was brilliant fun, again bringing the whole school together, and the Street Dance Battle proved an epic contest. It's often said that you can't consider yourself a proper Wellingtonian until you've braved the icy waters of Swan Lake, and this year's Kingsleys saw a near 100% turn out of enthusiastic, and not so enthusiastic, runners and waders!



And now it's the Summer Term once again, with Speech Day – and the Eve of Speech Day Concert – taking centre stage, closely followed by Maniacs (two lengths of the outdoor pool before breakfast every day for a month) and Graduation to look forward to. We've really enjoyed our year and want to say thank you to the school for all their support, and for continuing to respect these time-honoured pupil traditions, which only a Wellingtonian will properly understand.

And we haven't even mentioned the importance of V&A chicken nights!





CCF

The focal point of this year's CCF was our biennial inspection. It has, in fact, been four years since our last inspection. The Contingent presented itself, on South Front, to Rear Admiral Angus Essenhigh OBE. The cadets were in fine form and took great pride in their drill and turnout in honour of our distinguished guest. Rear Admiral Essenhigh delivered a poignant address, giving food for thought on the significance of Wellington's inception and the interlinked values of the College and His Majesty's armed forces. Before any of the ceremonies, our senior cadets had lunch with Rear Admiral Essenhigh during which they were confident and candid in their conversation. After the parade, our cadets dispersed and took part in a normal afternoon's activities. Rear Admiral Essenhigh toured the various stands and had plenty of opportunities to chat to cadets.

Other highlights of the year have included: gliding; sailing; overnight field exercises; a visit to HMS Queen Elizabeth; competing in The Pringle Trophy at CTC Lymstone and the expansion of the interhouse competition, The Salamanca Shield.

As the year draws to a close, our Fourth Form will battle it out to see who the winner of The Salamanca Shield is before departing for the various summer camps held across the South of England and Wales. During these camps, most of the cadets will enjoy an adrenaline filled adventurous training package, while a few volunteers will take part in a weeklong military style exercise. Cadets will live under a 'basher', eat rations, navigate their way across the training area and evade an enemy hunter force.

Finally, we say goodbye to our senior cadets, who have served the Contingent brilliantly, and welcome our new section heads. It is always a special occasion to see the changeover of RSMs and the presentation of prize winners just before Master's Callover on Speech Day.



Trips and Excursions

1. Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Aug 22 / Aug 23)
2. WCPCI to Calais (Sept 22)
3. US Universities trip (Oct 22)
4. US Politics and History trip to Washington (Oct 22)
5. Tiger Kloof Blücher trip (Oct 22)
6. Basketball trip to Valencia (Oct 22)
7. International exchange to Bangkok (Nov 22)
8. D of E Silver (Nov 22)
9. Canada Cup ski trip (Dec 22)
10. Academic Scholars trip to Youth Forum Switzerland (Jan 23)
11. British Schoolgirls & Schoolboys Ski Races (Jan 23)
12. Arts trip to Paris (Feb 23)





13. Yangrima visit, Nepal (March 23)

14. Third Form trip to Wales (Jun 23)

15. U14 Cricket tour (Jun 23)

16. U14 Tennis tour (Jun 23)

17. CCF trip to Fairbourne (Jun 23)

18. South Africa Biology trip (Aug 23)

19. South Africa Hockey camp (July 23)

20. South Africa Rugby camp (July/Aug 23)

21. Scuba Diving trip to Egypt (Aug 23)





Wellness Takes Centre Stage:

Exploring the Wellington College Wellbeing Festival

The Wellington College Wellbeing Festival, an annual event that has become a highlight of the year, took place on 23 and 24 June. This eagerly anticipated festival lived up to its reputation, offering a variety of exciting activities for students to prioritise their mental and physical wellbeing.

The festival began on Friday evening with a delightful street food-style takeaway dinner. Students explored the vibrant Combermere Quad and Princes' Quad, where they discovered pupil-led stalls featuring engaging activities like chess and cupcake decorating. This bustling atmosphere fostered camaraderie and allowed everyone to indulge in their passions while enjoying the delicious food on offer.

Later in the evening, the eagerly awaited GWA performance took place, featuring the comedic brilliance of Milton Jones and the mesmerising talents of Richard Jones. The performance captivated the audience, with students from the Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth attending, ensuring a night filled with laughter and awe-inspiring moments.

The following morning, the festival continued with a refreshing breakfast that energised everyone for the day ahead. Students then participated in a range of wellbeing activities designed to promote self-care and exploration. From yoga and outdoor swimming to drama games and mindful colouring, the festival

offered diverse activities catering to different interests. Girls' football sessions promoted inclusivity and encouraged participation from all, while the escape room provided an exciting mental challenge that fostered problem-solving skills and teamwork.

For those looking to relax and unwind, sessions in deep breathing and stretching allowed participants to reconnect with their bodies and find inner peace. The choir sessions provided a harmonious escape where students could express themselves through the power of music. And for the creatively inclined, knitting and origami workshops allowed for artistic expression and a sense of accomplishment.

As we reflect on the success of this year's festival, it is clear that the Wellington College Wellbeing Festival has firmly established itself as an unmissable event in the school's calendar. The memories created and the lessons learned during these two days will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the students, empowering them to embrace their wellbeing as an essential aspect of their lives.





Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Naima Charlier joined us at the start of the year to lead our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and to make sure that Wellington is a place where all staff and pupils feel that they belong and can flourish.

Our work this year has focused on developing a long-term strategy for Wellington to embrace EDI as the 'golden thread' running through everything we do, rather than a particular event or way of thinking. It is complex, nuanced and beneficial for everyone. Our pupils have fed into this strategy while also working on key priority events.

Moments where we marked Holocaust Memorial Day by bathing the College in purple to 'light the darkness' signify our commitment to stand against prejudice and discrimination. Moments like our assemblies, lessons and talks for Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, Gender Equity events and Neurodiversity days make space for us to raise awareness, celebrate and appreciate our diversity of thought and experience.

But just as important is our behaviour between these events, in the normal every day. This year we have appointed a team of pupil Inclusion Ambassadors. Together with the central, pupil-led EDI Committee, our ambassadors are helping to build a culture of inclusion in their respective houses and across the College. We want our pupils to be confident and curious to understand different points of view and respect intercultural understanding and diversity of thought. Our team of Inclusion Ambassadors undertook two days of training followed by a year-long series of talks and events to develop their thoughts of what makes an inclusive space for all. From the creation of a multi-faith space to examining the role played by food in bringing people together, we have focused on what links us as humans as well as potential barriers that we can help remove. We are excited to see how this work develops.





Environmental Sustainability

Wellington pupils are embracing Action for Climate Empowerment, a programme of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change with the goal to empower young people to understand and participate in the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient world. We applaud the work of our pupil groups, such as the Sustainability Committee and the Sustainability Ambassadors, and of our Head of Sustainability, Ana Romero, who was invited to participate in COP27, the 27th annual UN Climate Conference that took place in Sharm el-Sheikh earlier in the academic year.

We are continuing with our programme of improvements to increase the sustainability of the operation of the College site. For example, we are halfway through the painstaking task of replacing the Chapel's intricate lighting with low energy LED bulbs; and we are excited to have installed the ground source heat pumps that will heat our two planned new houses with low or no carbon emissions.

Equity of Opportunity

Wellington helps other schools to deliver great education and experiences for their pupils.

This year we launched the Local Schools Fund, in which all state funded schools within five miles of the College can bid for nine grants of up to £40,000 each to spend on their priority projects; and we continue to support the Berkshire Community Foundation which awards small grants to clubs and charities that provide extracurricular activities for disadvantaged children. The Arts Fund, raising money through tickets for Wellington's dance, drama, music and art shows has disbursed an extraordinary £60,000 to 44 state schools in support of their own arts projects.

Working directly with state schools through the Wellington College Learning Alliance, we have hosted more than 1,600 pupils at events including 15 outdoor education days and 13 specialist revision and university access events. New this year, our Future Founders Group includes both Wellington and partner school pupils working together to develop entrepreneurial skills.

State school teachers continue to develop professionally alongside Wellington staff, such as within our subject specific support groups for those teaching maths, dance, food and nutrition, engineering and technology. We have also been pleased to help our neighbouring school, Edgbarrow, with the loan of a specialist music teacher to help a class to complete their qualification.

And, of course, the Wheeler Programme has welcomed a new cohort. Our flagship programme now supports 89 carefully selected state school pupils, who join us in Year 9 for five years of additional academic and extracurricular experiences. This year's programme has included climbing, hockey, careers coaching and work experience, A Level specific enrichment and a planetarium visit.





Global Citizenship

The Global Citizenship programme helps Wellington pupils learn more about themselves and the world around them, serving others to make positive change on a local, national and international level.

To broaden our perspectives this year, we welcomed back the 'Big Gold Box', a shipping container outfitted with technology to elevate a video conference call into the more intense experience of seemingly talking with others in the very same room. Our pupils, and pupils from some of our partner state schools, were invited to enter the box and to talk with changemakers based around the world.

Our pupil volunteering is also back in full force. This includes intergenerational friendship at St Brendan's Care Home where our Fifth Form pupils and Ms Brown's dogs visit to lead crafts and companionship; and the painstaking refurbishment of Crowthorne's 'Millennium Mural' which has naturally eroded over the past 20 years. We have kept up a steady presence in support of the St Sebastian's food project, with staff covering for our pupils over the holiday periods to keep this vital community resource operational. And the Outdoor Group has once again welcomed local state primary school pupils to the College site to benefit from the skills that our pupils have gained to lead groups of children in low ropes climbing or paddling on Swan Lake.



Big Gold Box Project –
TES Award Nominee 2023 –
Best Use of Technology

Charities

By supporting the expertise and energy of others, we may further the overall contribution that the College can make to society. Here is just a tiny snapshot of the fundraising and collections for charity organised by our houses and pupils this year. Well done to all our pupils and staff for digging in to support others.

The Tiger Kloof school in South Africa is one of our longstanding charitable partners and a recipient this year of nearly £20,000 raised by the Blücher. The Benson has raised nearly £6,000 for the Junior Diabetes Research Fund; and the Mityana Charity which runs education projects in Uganda received nearly £5,000 from the Orange and the Raglan. College non-uniform days have supported the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal to help those affected by flooding in Pakistan, Comic Relief, and the Egmont Trust, an Aids charity working with children. One of our pupil-led committees organised a collection of period products for distribution locally to women and girls who cannot afford them; and the annual College concert in aid of the Crowthorne Community Minibus raised £1,500.



SPOTLIGHT: Support to Refugees



Winner of the BSA Best Community Work award

Research estimates that refugee and asylum-seeking children in England are 17.3 months behind other children in their GCSE subjects. The College's response is to provide academic support as well as to help ameliorate some of the contextual problems that negatively affect refugee children's ability to thrive in education. We are thrilled that these activities have been recognised this year by the Boarding Schools' Association.

A weekly programme at the College supplements the education and experiences of the children of local refugee families who are here in Berkshire. Each Wednesday, Wellington teachers and pupils provide academic tutoring,

information on the UK education and careers systems and – most importantly – fun and friendship to children who have been forced to leave Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

We back this up with financial commitment. We have established a £40,000 fund managed by our local education authority to help pay for items that are otherwise unaffordable for refugee children here, such as school uniforms, school trips and holiday clubs, and travel to and from school. In addition, one of our Prince Albert Foundation scholars is a pupil whose family sought refuge in the UK following conflict.

With a view to longer term change, pupils of the Wellington College Peace and Conflict Institute learn about the complex drivers of global migration, international legal obligations, the challenges of seeking refuge and of integrating into a new country. This includes three days volunteering in Northern France, working directly with stranded refugees to hear their stories and build an empathy which can help change how society views and educates asylum seekers.







State-of-the-art Sixth Form facilities to open in 2024

A new Sixth Form Centre and a new Sixth Form house will open at Wellington College in September 2024, providing world-leading co-ed facilities for 16–18 year olds.

The Sixth Form Centre will be an uplifting, sociable environment more akin to the university experience with a café, seating and event spaces downstairs and a modern workspace and library upstairs, along with the careers department. A new co-ed Sixth Form house will offer boarding and day places for around 30 boys and 40 girls.

Wellington welcomes up to 65 new pupils into the Lower Sixth each year. This includes up to 10 Prince Albert Foundation fully-funded scholars and around 20–25 new international students who bring different viewpoints and perspectives to campus. The driving ethos behind our Sixth Form provision is to provide the opportunities and independence that pupils crave at this stage of their education.

Director of Admissions, Phil Mann, says: “The choices you are able to make academically and on the co-curricular side are wide ranging at Wellington. This really appeals to pupils at age 16. We find that new students who join us in the Sixth Form throw themselves into every aspect of school life with great enthusiasm”.

Pupils who join in the Sixth Form can look forward to a wealth of academic and co-curricular opportunities. Wellington is unusual in offering both A Levels and International Baccalaureate with a 50/50 split among pupils and an exceptionally wide range of subject choices. We have world-class sporting, music, arts and drama

facilities with 150 active clubs and societies and over 25 different sports played, with national and international success. The College holds the Artsmark Platinum Award, houses a West End standard theatre and each week up to 1,000 LAMDA and music lessons take place.

A vital aspect of Sixth Form life is preparation for the next step. Wellington has a US university programme providing access to sports and means-tested scholarships and each October there is the chance to visit US universities. In 2022/23 Wellington students had 17 Oxbridge offers and 20 offers to Ivy League and top US universities including Yale, UPenn Wharton, Brown, Columbia, Cornell and Stanford. As pupils begin to hone in on their future career paths, ‘Welly Connect’ provides LinkedIn-style networking opportunities with over 5,000 members made up of old Wellingtonians, peers and parents.

It’s far from all work and no play. There are so many chances to have fun and make memories including subject and service-based travel opportunities, and scuba diving and skiing trips. On the pastoral side, Wellington provides a multi award-winning wellbeing programme and new students often tell us how accessible and caring they find our staff to be. In 2022, Dr Jenny Griggs was appointed as Head of Student Emotional Health and Wellbeing and under her leadership there are exciting plans for an innovative new Wellbeing Centre, ensuring Wellington remains at the cutting edge of mental health provision.

Wellington sixth formers leave on a high after an exhilarating two years, ready to embark on exciting futures and realise their full potential.

Introducing Phil Mann

Wellington's new Director of Admissions



Phil first joined Wellington to teach PE and Sports Science in 2008, before leaving in 2010 to become Director of Sport at Reigate Grammar School. Returning to Wellington in 2018 with his wife Bex and young family, Phil has been an exceptional Housemaster of the Hill, coached 1st XI cricket and has led the US Universities programme across the College. We caught up with Phil to find out his thoughts about his new role.

What are your main interests and enthusiasms?

'Bex and I share a love for travel, and I love reading, cooking, and playing sport. Our daughters Sienna and Clemmie take up much of our time away from work, and we enjoy surfing as a family in Cornwall, whatever the weather! It seems that some form of sporting activity is on the agenda most days, although downtime with friends and a good bottle of wine is never too far away!'

What sort of pupils do you think thrive at Wellington – and what are you looking for?

'Happy and independent pupils thrive anywhere, and especially so at Wellington. We want all our pupils to realise their potential, have the confidence to learn new skills, try new activities, and hone their passions during their Wellington journey. It is important to me that every pupil makes the most of all that is on offer here, while also leaving their mark on the College.'

How do you think the Wellington selection process helps identify youngsters who will be perfectly suited to Wellington?

'Our holistic approach enables us to see prospective pupils across a variety of activities and scenarios. We are invested in finding out as much as we can about each candidate and this is further supported and enhanced by our strong relationships with feeder schools, and the skill of our HMs when they interview each applicant. This process allows us to have as complete a view of each pupil as possible, so that we can make the right decision for each child, their family, and year group cohort.'

What advice would you give to anybody thinking about applying to Wellington?

'Do it! It is an incredible place with so many talented and dedicated members of staff who want pupils to succeed and are always willing to go the extra mile for them. Wellingtonians are incredibly proud of their school, and rightly so. There is an infectious atmosphere at the College – a belief that anything is possible – which is driven by the pupils. They are the most talented young people I have ever had the privilege to work with and every pupil in every house, be they day or boarding, offers something special to the community.'

What excites you about your new role, and what are your hopes for the future?

'The opportunity to shape the future of Wellington College as well as building strong relationships with all schools, be they prep, primary or international. I particularly enjoy meeting prospective families and enjoy the special bond which is created and nurtured. Our new day boy house, right at the heart of College, is an exciting development, and I love the way pupils who join at 16+ integrate so quickly. I'm excited by the strength of our Sixth Form provision: we offer both A Level and IB, we are building a new Sixth Form boarding house and a new Sixth Form Centre, and we continue to develop our UK and US University programme. Above all, the fact that we will have equal numbers of boys and girls in 2025 excites me: I am convinced that coeducation at Wellington creates the very best environment for all pupils to flourish and grow.'

“ There is an infectious atmosphere at the College – a belief that anything is possible – which is driven by the pupils. They are the most talented young people I have ever had the privilege to work with and every pupil in every house, be they day or boarding, offers something special to the community.



The Wellington Community:

Providing a lifelong social and professional network for students, OWs, parents.

The Community team supports students while they are at College as well as the years after, particularly with the transition from university into the world of work. We deliver this in two main ways: the Life Beyond Wellington careers programme and 'Welly Connect', our global professional networking site wellingtonconnect.co.uk.

Through 'Welly Connect' OWs can reach out for advice, work experience, help with CVs and much more – currently there are 6,000 parents and OWs offering careers support and work experience.

In recent months we have run networking events for a number of sectors including: Law, Finance, Insurance, the Arts, Media, Marketing, Advertising and Film. We have also hosted two hugely popular careers speed networking sessions at College for all year groups. We have been overwhelmed with the support from parents who were willing to share their experiences and advice with our students.

In October we held our fourth annual Giving Week, raising funds for our Prince Albert Foundation Scholarship Programme, our flagship initiative to widen access to the amazing opportunity that a Wellington education provides. Thanks to the incredible efforts and support from the parent body during this week we were able to offer 17 more brilliant young people a sixth form Prince Albert Foundation Scholarship, which is truly remarkable.





Wellington College International

Throughout this challenging academic year there was relief at the progressive lifting of global travel restrictions and WCI Managing Director, Scott Bryan and the team immediately took to the skies to visit each and every one of the schools in the Wellington family. The team was warmly welcomed by all the leaders, teachers and support staff across the Wellington College International partnership who have continued in these extraordinary times to ensure their schools are providing a world class education.



Thailand

WCI Bangkok was shortlisted for International School of Year in the prestigious International Schools Awards which recognise exceptional initiatives implemented by English international schools around the world. IGCSE courses at WCI Bangkok also began in earnest this year, and their Y10s are already on track for some exceptional results. In the theatre, the juniors delighted with an amazing production of Peter Pan, whilst the seniors took staff and parents on a journey to Alice's weird Wonderland. Their talented Art students featured in a major exhibition at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre.

From U7s to U15s, WCIB athletes blazed a trail through the Basketball and Football leagues. Wellington Golf is now No. 2 in the Bangkok schools table, and the team won the FOBISIA competition for the whole of South East Asia – despite only having students up to Year 10 and the golf programme only being open for two years.

In the pool, they are now placing among the most elite squads nationally. Athletics, netball, tennis, cricket, gymnastics, archery, table tennis, dance and more have also featured significantly across the year.



China

WCI Shanghai has been increasingly noticed for its achievements in IBDP, sustainability, social awareness and design.

The College has been named among the 'Top 3 IB Schools in China' and also one of the 'Top 40 Global IB Schools' by IB-schools.com, a globally recognised website that guides parents and pupils to schools with the best IB programmes in the world.

WCI Hangzhou has been awarded the Silver standard for the Carnegie Centre of Excellence Mental Health in Schools 'Further Education Mental Health Award'.

WCI Tianjin received an International Design Award for the recent renovation of its Founder's Library. Additionally, the Ecological Landscape Alliance recently recognised the College's campus beautification project with its annual Healing Landscape Award.

Dr Yang Yang, Master of WCI Tianjin was named 'Master of the Year' by Beijing-based research and consultancy firm New School Insight. She was also named '2022 Outstanding Contributor to the Integration of Western and Chinese Education' at the 'Echoes in China' Tencent Education International School Development Forum.

2023 began with several accolades from KingLead, one of China's most reputable school-ranking services with one of the highlights being Julian Jeffrey, WCC Chief Executive Master, receiving their 'Global Leading Principal' award.

India

In addition to our schools in China and Thailand, we are excited to support the opening of the eighth Wellington College International school, in Pune, India, and will welcome, in a spectacular opening ceremony in September 2023, their founding students and staff to the Wellington community. WCI Pune will be a coeducational day and boarding school for 800 pupils between the ages of 2 and 18, established on a new state-of-the-art campus which will accommodate three schools and will be the first of the family of schools to open in India.

Summer School and International Exchanges

In July, Wellington College UK was again delighted to host the Wellington Summer School, organised by David Wilson, International Academic Director, and welcomed a large number of G7/Y8 students from WCC and our partner school in Thailand for a full 2-week programme of activities and learning on and off our outstanding campus. The first student and staff exchanges since COVID, between our international schools and the College, have also now resumed in earnest.



Festival of Education

“Where those who inspire find their own inspiration.”

Iain Henderson, Deputy Head (Educational Developments and Partnerships) was able to speak this year, in person, at the Festival of Education, hosted by Wellington College China, Shanghai. The event brought together 40 thought leaders in education and 800 attendees to discuss everything from career development to cutting-edge theories and new teaching techniques. The 13th Festival of Education – the biggest professional learning event in secondary education in the UK – will be held again at the College in Crowthorne this summer followed by inaugural events being held in Bangkok and the USA next term.



WELLINGTON
COLLEGE

Performing
Arts

What's On

Oct 2023 – Feb 2024

All events are open to the general public.

Proceeds go to the Wellington College Arts Fund to support local schools' arts projects.

20 Oct

World Arts Concert
Involving 9 local schools

17 Nov

Choral and Concerto Concert
Featuring Brahms Requiem & Tchaikovsky piano concerto

29 Nov – 1 Dec

Jack Absolute Flies Again
A comedy by Richard Bean and Oliver Chris

6 – 7 Dec

Dance Show: The Quad, the Chapel and the Dorm
Performances taking you on a journey through life at a boarding school

8 Dec

Orchestral Gala Concert
The best of Wellington's ensemble music

26 Jan

Montgomery Recital
The senior instrumental competition

7 – 9 Feb

Les Misérables
performed by the Wellington Theatre Collective



Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Book now: wellingtoncollege.co.uk/boxoffice

Wellington College
Crowthorne Berkshire
RG45 7PU

wellingtoncollege.org.uk
+44 (0)1344 444 000



Realise
your **potential**