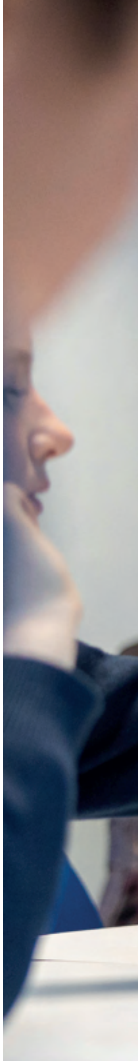


Wellington Today

Mid-Year Edition 22/23







From the Editor

September. A time of beginnings and a time of endings. The end of summer brought no sadness, but instead happy memories and brilliant news of remarkable exam success for Wellington pupils – GCSE, IB and A Level passes at record levels. Congratulations and the best of luck to them all for the next stages of their academic journeys. But the start of autumn, and the beginning of the new academic year was, as ever, full of hope and anticipation for all that lay in front of the 1100 pupils who made their way up the Kilometre to make the school their own.

As Kipling almost said, 'If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run, you'll be a proper Wellingtonian', and the last several months have proved that beyond doubt, with an astonishing range of academic and co-curricular opportunities and achievements. Festivals, lectures, dance shows, dramatic productions, service, concerts, Outward Bound, CCF and first-class sport all enthusiastically embraced alongside the

daily backdrop of serious study, and if at times it was hard to know just where the staff and students found the space and energy to do it all, then the moments of sober reflection during Remembrance Week served as a reminder of the legacy and example that the current generation is so committed to honour and embrace.

It's a busy school full of busy people, all keen to make the most of the myriad opportunities the College affords: let these pages act as a smorgasbord of Wellington today!



"If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run, you'll be a proper Wellingtonian."



Exam Results

As ever, the Summer Term brought with it many of the best things about Wellington: Speech Day, Graduation, Maniacs, and long lazy days on Turf. But into the mix this year came slight unease, as the students prepared to sit public tests for the first time since the pandemic reared its ugly head. Few of our students had ever had the experience of formal exams, but their hard work, and the commitment and professionalism of their teachers, ensured that there was nothing to worry about.

The results across the board were simply stunning: GCSEs, A Levels and IB all passed at or near record levels, proving once more that whatever else a Wellington education offers, it is based on high level study and academic rigour.

While all Fifth Formers take GCSEs, Wellington College is one of the few schools in the UK that offers its Sixth Form pupils the choice between A Levels and the International Baccalaureate. James Dahl, Master of Wellington was justifiably proud, and congratulated all the pupils on their achievement.

The headline figures speak for themselves.

A Level and IB

- **48% of grades were A* or 7**
- **84% of grades were A*/A or 7/6**
- **98% of grades were A*-B or 7-5**
- **22 pupils with all A*s, 12 pupils with a maximum 45 points**

GCSE

- **48.5% grades awarded were 9s**
- **74.8% of all grades were 9s or 8s**
- **23 pupils with straight 9s**

Outstanding Academic Success for Prince Albert Foundation Scholars

After an unprecedented few years in the UK education system, two remarkable Wellingtonians have achieved the ultimate outcome in their A Levels.

Alexandra T and Thierry W are both Prince Albert Foundation scholars. The Prince Albert Foundation (PAF) aims to widen participation to families who would not normally consider, or be able to access, independent education, and for whom the College can offer a genuine shift in opportunity.

Alexandra achieved A Level results A* A* A for Economics, Art History and Politics. She outstripped the grades required to attend St Andrews University from September 2022 to read International Relations.

When she was in Year 11, Alexandra was competing for her then state school, Collingwood College, in a debating competition when she was spotted by Wellington College's Head of Sixth Form, who encouraged her to apply for the PAF programme. Alexandra secured her place and arrived as a day student but moved to boarding in February of her Lower Sixth year.

The Prince Albert Foundation offers a breadth of co-curricular opportunities, alongside additional pastoral support and access to further academic tuition. Alexandra played trumpet and euphonium for the Wellington College Concert Orchestra, participated in inter-school debating and, during her Upper Sixth year, engaged with academic support, including 1:1 tuition and the Easter Revision course, enabling her to achieve these impressive results.

Alexandra commented on her experience of the PAF programme: *"I have never seen a programme like it before. The support was unbelievable. When I needed somebody to help there was always someone I could turn to academically or personally. They supported me in every way possible. The Prince Albert Foundation programme has been my gateway to university, and I would not have got these grades without their support."*

Alexandra went on to talk about her hopes for the future: *"The dream is to work hard at university and get good grades there. Then I hope to go on to a career in politics and create some sort of positive change in the world."*

Thierry, from South London, who is a talented rugby player and played hooker for London Irish Academy, joined the PAF programme in the Lower Sixth. He achieved A Level results of A* A* A for Biology, Economics and Maths and has secured a place at Bath University to read Accounting and Finance.

Thierry commented on his experience of the PAF programme: *"The extra support you get on the PAF programme is something special. Wellington has given me the best opportunity to achieve well in my academics as well as a balanced life outside the classroom."*

The College offers 10-12 PAF scholarships per academic year and is on target to have a combined total of 40 PAF scholars by September 2025.



Academic Achievements



Jemima, winner of the David Newsome Philosophy Essay Prize, and runners-up Aurelia and Melissa.



Aurelia, Matthew and Melissa received commendations for their entries in the John Locke Institute Junior Essay Competition.



Alicia, Charlie, Anouschka and Mei Mei were winners of the European DNA Day Essay contest. Students from 22 European countries submitted 167 essays and 23 videos this year.



Amelie wins a prestigious literary award for young writers – the HG Wells Short Story Competition.



Nicholas passed his Stanford University High School Diploma in Astrobiology online whilst studying for his GCSEs.

Sporting Success



Tilly was selected for the UK's Under 16 show jumping team and will compete in the European Nationals held this year in Strezgom, Poland.



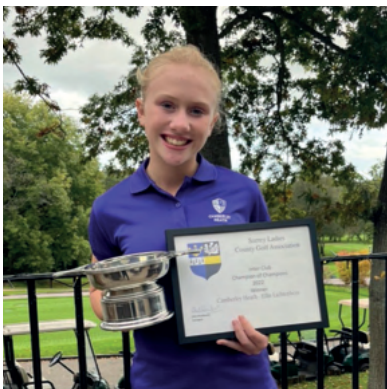
Caitlin qualifies for the World Triathlon Championships.



Cesca is now Rackets World #1.



Isabella wins 14 and Under ITF European Tennis Championship.



Ellie becomes the youngest ever Surrey Champion of Golf Champions.



Cecily and Shakila selected for U16 England Hockey squad 2022/23.



Wellington Runners Race With Soul!

The half-term holiday was ushered in with style as hundreds of runners came together to take part in Wellington's annual 10km fun run. The event, normally run on the first Sunday of the Michaelmas Term, commemorates the memory of Jimmy Higham, a brilliant young teacher who lost his life tragically early, and raises funds for an award in his name which seeks to support a talented young sportsman or sportswoman by enabling a place at Wellington. Despite the race being postponed from its traditional place in the calendar due to the period of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, there was no lack of enthusiasm from the Saturday morning runners.

Competitors had the choice of a 5km jog through the picturesque College grounds, or a more serious 10km race which saw the runners complete the course twice. Congratulations go to those hardy souls who opted for the longer race, but the real plaudits must go to all who took part, and whose good-natured enthusiasm ensured that Jimmy was remembered in just the right spirit.

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A Marathon Task

Ed Venables, Wellington College's Director of Admissions, is always busily involved with the marathon task of processing the 1500 applications he receives annually for places at the school. This autumn, however, he was also involved in a very different – and certainly more physically demanding – marathon. Along with his wife Kate, and two other Wellington parents with children at the school, Rosie Perry and Helen Watson, Ed ran the London Marathon for the Cerebral Palsy Trust (which raises funds for life-changing operations for children with cerebral palsy) and for Autistica (fundraising for medical research into autism). Seemingly a glutton for punishment, Ed and his fellow fundraisers ran the marathon dressed as different coloured crayons!

It was great day, and we made our target time of sub five hours.

Ed Venables



Slam-Dunk Spanish Style

Valencia, long regarded as the European mecca for basketball, welcomed 21 Wellington pupils from the Under 15, 16 and 18 teams during the Michaelmas half term for an intensive three-day training camp. During their stay the Wellington players enjoyed training sessions led by top Valencian coaches, took part in closely fought 3 on 3 and 5 on 5 competitions, and pitted their skills each evening against fast-paced and well-drilled local teams.

All the Wellington players gained much from this very rewarding tour, and the lessons learnt from the skilful and tough opposition will add much focus to their ongoing training sessions and will hopefully prove invaluable for the upcoming Lent Term fixtures. Congratulations to them all, not least for their exemplary behaviour both on and off court which not only earned them much respect wherever they went but also reaffirmed the importance of basketball as a popular and high-profile Wellington sport.

Wellington Named as One of the Best UK Schools for Cricket

The UK's best schools for cricket have been revealed in The Cricketer's Schools Guide 2023 and Wellington is proud to be included.

This year's guide features the top 100 senior, top 50 prep/junior and top 20 all-girls schools for cricket in a bumper 156-page supplement.

2023's successful roll call of schools – which features both state-funded and private establishments – was finalised after an exhaustive selection process which saw a huge number submit entries for inclusion in the guide.

All entries were then judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.





Jaaikaran's #playforukraine

After seeing the fallout of the conflict in Ukraine, Jaaikaran C decided to take action. The news of Europe's quick response to accept refugees filled him with a sense of relief; then spurred him on to show his own support through his love of football.

Jaaikaran explains:

“ I decided to launch the #playforukraine initiative to raise funds to send footballs and kits to refugee camps to provide some relief to the stressful situation Ukrainian children are experiencing.

During the first couple of weeks Jaaikaran reached out to many charities in the UK, Poland, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine, and was able to send out 200 kits to four charities: Voices of Children – Romania; Caritas Poland – Poland; United Way Romania – Romania; and UNICEF Romania – Ukraine.

#playforukraine didn't stop there as Jaaikaran continued to grow the initiative by setting up a GoFundMe page, Instagram page and Twitter account. He was rewarded for his efforts, partnering with a football manufacturer to make 400 more kits. With each kit sent, Jaaikaran also shared a small note from himself to each child.



Wellington Rocks to the Sound of Musical Theatre

When an elite cast of talented young singers and dancers from a group of local schools come together to celebrate musical theatre, there are few better venues than Wellington College's G.W. Annenberg theatre. Friday 21 October saw a full house as performers from Edgbarrow School, St Crispin's, Garth Hill College, Eagle House and Wellington College joined forces to reprise hit numbers from a variety of shows, and to raise funds for two causes dear to Wellington's heart, Autistica and the Cerebral Palsy Trust.

Autistica is the UK's leading autism research charity, with a vision of creating long, healthy, happy lives for autistic people and their families. The CPT, inspired by the example of David Lofthouse, was created by a group of Wellington students who wanted not only to raise awareness and support for the cerebral palsy community, but also to raise funds to enable life-changing operations for children with cerebral palsy.

This year's show, imaginatively put together by Wellington students and ambassadors for those charities, Ollie P and Jasper K, was effortlessly compered by Wellingtonians past and present, and saw excerpts from musicals as diverse as *Six*, *Les Mis*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Hairspray*, and *Oliver*.

This was an evening full of song and dance and fun and laughter, and one which saw the audience on its feet, keen to contribute to performances that will live long in the memory. By the time the whole ensemble came together for a rousing and emotional rendition of *One Day More*, opinion was unanimous: why travel to the West End or Broadway when young talent like this is right on your doorstep?!



House Dance 2022

House Dance is always one of the most eagerly anticipated events in Wellington's cultural calendar, and October's renewal proved well worth waiting for. This year's competition, 'Art in Motion', was inspired by a range of visual artists, with each house choosing an artist from a prescribed list to theme their routines. What was impressive this year was not only the diversity of interpretations, but also the inclusive nature of the event. Although the rules stipulated that the large dance group had to be at least 12 members strong, many houses had all their pupils on stage: in total more than 750 pupils took part in the heats, while 350 made it through to the finals.

Congratulations to the Talbot who won the Small Dance category with an electric fusion of Latin, ballroom and Michael Jackson, inspired by the work of Roy Lichtenstein, and the Orange, who were Large Dance winners with a clever interpretation of Hokusai's *The Wave*. Notable mentions must go to the Hopetoun and Picton who tied as runners-up for Large Dance, while the Apsley were Small Dance runners-up for their streetwise Warhol routine.

Caroline Kenworthy, Wellington's Director of Dance was delighted with the way all houses got behind the event and said, "We saw some outstanding dance, with many houses beginning their rehearsals from the very beginning of term. Hip hop, ballet, street and acro all featured, and it was great to see new faces turning their hand to dance – pupils with no prior experience seeking guidance, trying something new and encouraging their houses to do the same. On finals night there was a real buzz around College: I could hear last-minute rehearsals, pupils cheering, final pep talks – it was a fantastic atmosphere."

Well done to all involved for an evening that beautifully demonstrated not only the popularity, but also the strength in depth of Wellington Dance – and which certainly whetted the appetite for the end of term dance show, *Alice in Wonderland*, which showcases the school's most talented dancers.

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Prep School Musicians Realise Their Potential on the Wellington Stage

What a delight to hear the GWA, Wellington's impressive new 1100-seater theatre, full of the sound of music! Concert goers and proud parents were treated to a musical treat as 130 young musicians, from some of the UK's finest prep schools, joined forces to perform a rousing finale to Wellington's annual Prep Schools' Orchestral Day.

Under the direction and baton of Natalia Luis-Bassa, Professor of Conducting at the RCM and Principal Conductor of the Wellington College Symphony Orchestra, the youngsters – drawn from Years 5-8 – developed their sight-reading skills and learnt to play in a full orchestra. Their day began with small sectionals to learn the music, then reconvening as a full orchestra, splitting once more into Strings, Woodwind, Percussion and Brass, before coming together again for the last rehearsal and final performance. And what a performance it was, with the orchestra taking Smetana and Grieg in their stride, and then finishing with the traditional gypsy number, *Ritmos Ciganos*, a piece matched only in exuberance by the enthusiasm of the young players and their dynamic conductor – their encore was richly deserved.

Many congratulations to all the musicians, and a special word of thanks to Susanne Henwood, Assistant Director of Music Performance at Wellington who organised the day so beautifully and had this to say, "We always hope the pupils have great fun while at the same time developing their musical skills: the collective sound and transformation from 10.30am when they started to the final presentation at 5.30pm was utterly brilliant. It was lovely to see many happy faces and hear them all humming the *Ritmos Ciganos* melody as they left the stage".





The Limelight

Parents, staff and drama pupils attended the very first 'Limelight' on Monday 14 November in the Christopher Lee Theatre. These informative Q&As put theatre professionals, educators and drama schools in the limelight. Our first speakers Aisha Jawando and Joe Evans answered questions from the drama scholars and audience on getting into drama schools, getting an agent and working successfully in a competitive industry. This was followed by a very special performance by Aisha, who was chosen by Tina Turner to play the lead role in the West End production, *Tina the Musical*.

Thank you to all the guests and speakers for creating such a successful debut event.

Hispanic Theatre Festival

There can't be many better ways to mark Fiesta Nacional de España (National Day of Spain) than competing in the Hispanic Theatre Festival in London, and that is exactly what a group of Wellington College Spanish students did on Thursday 13 October.

The competition sees each school perform a ten-minute vignette of a Spanish play which can be an original production created by the participants or a piece by a well-known playwright.

Congratulations to the entire team for performing *La casa de los espíritus* by Isabel Allende. A brilliant evening finished with Sofia L winning 'Best Spoken Spanish Individual'.

In the students' own words: "We found it very useful to speak Spanish outside the classroom in a playful environment. We enjoyed this journey so much that it has increased our passion for Spanish".

Sofia L added, "The experience I had was transformative. I felt completely submerged in the Hispanic theatre and, who knows, maybe I shall be the next Antonio Banderas..."



Choral & Concerto Concert 2022

Both Advent and Christmas came early to Wellington this year!

On Friday 18 November, the GWA hosted a magnificent performance of Handel's *Messiah (Part 1)*, which tells the story of the long-awaited birth of Christ. An impressive mass choir of 160 voices, comprising the Chamber Choir, Parent Singers and Crowthorne Choral Society, sang the famous choruses – finishing in *Hallelujah!* – accompanied by the stylish Wellington College Sinfonia directed by Mr Williamson, with harpsichord continuo provided by Mr Farrell and chamber organ by Mr de Voil.

The 250-strong audience and pupils alike were thrilled and delighted to hear solo arias performed by three of our own singing teachers, Susanna Fairbairn, Richard Robbins and Greg Hallam, alongside Luthien Brackett. In the first half of the concert, the composer Philip Moore was present for the premiere performance of his best-known work, *All Wisdom Cometh From the Lord*, in a new orchestration. Well done also to Andres B and Alvin W, who performed their instrumental solos with the orchestra with great panache.



Wellington's Winter Wonderland

Christmas came early to Wellington as the students gathered to enjoy College's traditional November Fair. All of a sudden, Princes' Quad was a Christkindlmarkt, Selangor Court a fairy-tale arcade. Pop-up food stalls, milling crowds, warming braziers, trees and lights, fun and games: a Wellington wonderland right in the heart of College, to the accompaniment of a medley of Christmas favourites performed with gusto by a band of Wellington's hardier musicians!

Lower Sixth pupils were tasked with putting together stalls that would not only contribute to the fun of the fair, but also raise money for their house charities, the choices on offer proof of both imagination and a desire to celebrate Christmas with a swing. Pancake and hot chocolate stalls kept winter temperatures at bay, while candy-cane tossing, wet sponge throwing, and sweets-in-jar calculations offered traditional competition. Charities as wide ranging as Allegra's Ambition, Papyrus, Autistica and Seb's Foundation all benefitted from the generosity

of the revellers, with nearly £2000 raised on the night. The kitchens played their part too, with take-away turkey rolls, pigs in blankets and mince pies. As Noddy Holder might have noted: at Wellington it's Christmas!

December's icy snap saw College transformed into a white Christmas wonderland, a magical backdrop for Wellington's end of term traditions. Trees and decorations, carol services for pupils and parents, house dinners, gala concerts and dance shows, the all-embracing and complex Christmas tree game (only Wellingtonians can even begin to know the rules), turkey and crackers, and of course, on the last night of term, spirited renditions of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* echoing round the quads on the stroke of midnight.

What a way to end the term, what a way to start the holiday!



Keira's Christmas Card Tops the Polls!

When Keira L joined Wellington from St Joseph's International School in Malaysia last year it's fair to say the last thing on her mind was being the artist behind this year's College Christmas card. However, Keira, now in the Fourth Form, soon impressed with her artistic ability and it came as no surprise to see her design come out top in a Wellington Winter Wonderland competition.



It was a great honour to have my design chosen and I still can't really believe that my art will be on so many mantlepieces this Christmas!



Shakespeare in Love

Take one Bard, sprinkle liberally with quotations, fold in a love story and a generous dash of humour and you've got all the makings of a great story. Put these ingredients in the hands of a Wellington College cast and chances are you'll create a masterpiece. And so it proved as the Christopher Lee Theatre was transformed into Shakespeare's Globe, a fitting backdrop to two hours of farcical and romantic intrigue as the Wellington players put on Lee Hall's imaginative stage adaptation of Tom Stoppard's *Shakespeare in Love*.

Nick Huntington, Wellington's Director of Drama, tells us the play is a 'tale of vocational love that transcends gender and its historical (yet ongoing) barriers – but ultimately it's a love letter to the theatre'. And what a love letter this production was, with Shakespeare, brilliantly played by Sam G consumed not only by his love for the enigmatic Viola, sensitively portrayed by Laetitia J, but also for the creative process itself. Top performances from Nel H, Oscar W, Millie L, Harry S, Ella A, and Claudia M ensured that the spirit, bustle and

double-dealing of Elizabethan theatreland was effortlessly recreated, while Theo D, Oscar G and Barney V's immaculate comedy timing enriched the evening with fun and laughter. Ravi C-V's pantomimic stage villainy added texture and threat and Flo C's haunting vocal range from the gallery, backed up by effortless instrumentals from a select band of Wellington's finest musicians ensured that the spellbound audience was literally transported back in time.

Many congratulations to all the cast, and in particular to Director Melissa Price whose theatrical artistry conjured and created moments that will live long in the memory. The programme notes suggested that the Elizabethan era has often been seen as a golden age, and this was most certainly a golden performance: those lucky enough to see it surely felt that a new and special era of Wellington drama was also being ushered in.



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We're All Mad for Wellington Dance!

With over 90 students studying academic dance, you don't need to go down too many rabbit holes to find amazing dancers at Wellington – and this year's dance show, *Wonderland*, spectacularly showcased their talents.

The show, an imaginative take on Lewis Carroll's much loved classic, followed the increasingly frustrated efforts of Dr Ernest Wellington, dramatically portrayed by Alex M, as he tried to instil some order into the asylum, only to find the lunatics, aka Queen of Hearts (Marina H), Alice (Eloise K), White Rabbit (Scarlett D), March Hare (Mary C B), Cheshire Cat (Ani D), Caterpillar (Amelia W), Dormouse (Scarlett B) and Tweedledum and Tweedledee (Luca J and David W) had already taken over! As Alice entered a wonderland world where imagination was her only weapon in the war against reality, she encountered 23 different scenes that allowed upwards of 100 performers to grace the GWA stage in an unforgettable explosion of controlled skill and energy. Breath-

taking choreography saw the Wellington dancers explore and perform a variety of styles and genres: contemporary, lyrical, contact, street, commercial, ballet, tap and acro all featured, as did Amelia T's breath-taking silks routine, high above the Annenberg stage.

Many congratulations to all the cast – and especially to the two producers, Clare Cook and Caroline Kenworthy. Not only did they conceive, create and mastermind this show, but they have also elevated Dance at Wellington to levels rarely seen beyond the professional world. As the saying goes, this wasn't just any old dance show, it was a Wellington dance show, a show that left the spellbound audience literally in wonderland.







It was an evening full of the most sublime music.

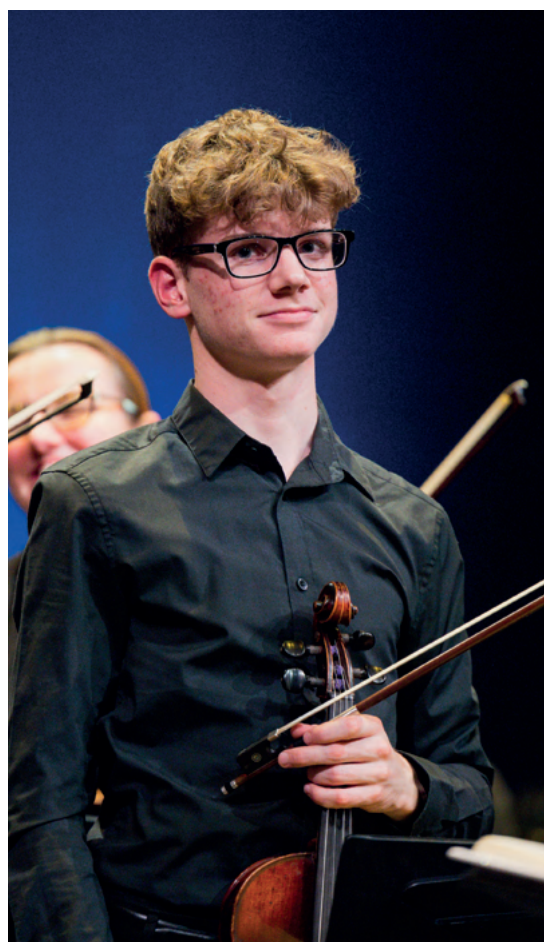




The Gala Concert Hits the Heights

Wellington's Gala Concert is always eagerly anticipated, and this year's renewal more than lived up to expectations. Over 100 of the College's finest instrumentalists performed a programme full of musical highlights in the G.W. Annenberg theatre on Friday 9 December. The Concert Band opened the show with an upbeat *Final Countdown*, before Heeley and Bailey's imaginatively composed *Young Person's Guide to the Concert Band* allowed Nell H to guide the audience through the band's constituent parts as they variously played Copland's traditional Shaker melody. Camerata, Wellington's string orchestra, took to the stage after the interval, their sensitively performed programme featuring works by Shostakovich, Mozart and a sensuous arrangement of *Liebertango* by Susie Henwood.

For many, though, the highlight of the evening came when wind and strings combined. Under the inspirational baton of Natalia Luis-Bassa, the Wellington College Symphony literally filled the stage. *Crown Imperial* set the tone, before violinist Cindy G, in her first performance accompanied by full orchestra, interpreted Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnol* with a musical maturity seldom seen from a student. A rousing finale of Dvořák's *New World Symphony* not only rounded off the evening perfectly, but showed just what can be achieved when talent, ambition and commitment come together: by anybody's standards it was an evening full of the most sublime music.



Remembrance

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them**

Remembrance Week holds special significance for the College – over 1200 Wellingtonians lost their lives in the two World Wars – and is always marked with solemnity and respect.

Candlelit readings and music in Great School, refurbished in 1949 as a memorial to the fallen in both wars, enabled each house to hold its own remembrance ceremony in front of the vellum panels listing those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

The CCF gathered on Armoury Field for a Drumhead Service on the Wednesday afternoon, while Armistice Day was marked by the whole school, with wreaths laid by the Chaplain, the Master, the Heads of College, and OW Brigadier Sir Michael Bray, who led the ceremony. Sunday morning saw chapel services and the College's traditional Act of Remembrance in Front Quad where, as ever, the two-minute silence was impeccably observed.



Wellington Marines Push it to the Limit

Few challenges in the CCF year are more taxing than that posed by the Pringle Trophy, but it was a challenge wholeheartedly embraced by Wellington's team of young Marines. The prestigious competition, run annually by the Royal Marines, asks cadets to compete and complete a variety of strands such as an assault course, navigation and orienteering, an endurance test, and even an urban close quarter battle exercise, over a gruelling three days at Lympstone, home of the Marines.

The Wellington team featured boys and girls from Fifth Form, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth: selection was based on Commando characteristics of excellence, integrity, self-discipline and humility. These qualities were displayed in abundance, not only during the competition, but also while training for the event – early morning fitness runs became a regular feature of their daily routine. Although the competition didn't start well for the Wellington team, they displayed great resilience in coming back from a couple of unscheduled dates with cold water and from losing two key members of personnel through injury, eventually finishing the event in 8th place. Their 2nd place in orienteering; their performance on the endurance course (that tests even the most battle-hardened Marines) where they overtook a side that had started over two minutes before them; and their enthusiasm for the affectionately titled 'Fish and Chips' (fighting in someone's house and causing havoc in people's streets) exercise, were particularly notable. Special mention must go to Jamie who showed great maturity when asked to take command of the section after injury ruled out the two senior members of the unit.

Mr Mungo Walls congratulated the whole team saying:

It was great to see the Wellington cadets bond together and give it their all. Everyone at Lympstone commented on how well they worked as a team and how supportive of each other they were, especially when in the face of adversity.

Team: George E, Jamie B, Lachie C, James C, Rufus S, Leo S, Saffron E, and Olly F.





Wellington Students Help Care4Calais

In the third week of September thirty members of Wellington College's Sixth Form volunteered for a very different sort of weekend. The group, who were all members of WCPCI, the College's Peace and Conflict Institute, travelled to Calais to spend two days supporting the work of Care4Calais in the refugee camps. The WCPCI, part of Wellington's Global Citizenship programme, allows students to learn about worldwide conflict and pathways to peace. The initiative has seen pupils travel to Rwanda and Northern Ireland in the past and is never short of young Wellingtonians anxious to serve and help shape a better world.



Gold DofE Success

In July an elite group of Lower Sixth DofE students travelled to Dartmoor to complete their Gold Award assessed expedition. Ahead of them lay three nights camping out in the wild, as well as four days trekking across the bleak moorland, all the while carrying their own survival kit. Having missed most of their Silver programme due to the pandemic, they were justifiably nervous as to what lay ahead, but demonstrating great grit, resilience and determination they completed their expedition with aplomb. Day time conditions ranged from perfect to scorching, although the evenings were decidedly on the chilly side – campcraft was at a premium if morale was to stay high. The students conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the expedition and can look back with great satisfaction on all they achieved. Many congratulations to them all.

Wellington Helps Youngsters Learn How to Lead

As part of Wellington College's Global Citizenship programme, 72 Year 7 pupils from local prep schools were invited to take part in a Leadership Day. Hosted and led by 30 students from Wellington's Lower Sixth, the pupils took part in sessions focussed on building connections, learning communication skills and thinking about their responsibilities to lead globally and care for the planet.

The opening talk, given by a panel of Wellingtonians, emphasised the importance of kindness and courage and dealing well with failure. They pointed out that the best leaders make everyone around them know they are valued, and that leadership doesn't require a specific position as we can all make a positive difference and influence others for good.

The youngsters had great fun all day, engaging positively with sessions on creativity, the practical applications of leadership, global leadership, and what lies at the heart of leadership. They particularly enjoyed the challenges of Wellington's low ropes course, impressed with their commitment, and formed lots of new friendships throughout the day.





Midterm Trip to Washington

Politics is one of the most popular subject choices for A Level and IB students at Wellington College, and with Washington gripped by Midterm election fever there was no better time than October for 28 Wellington Politics students to visit the city. The four-day trip allowed the pupils to see the main political sights, get a flavour of how Washington and American government works, while also soaking up the museums and culture of the US capital.

Fireside Talks

Perhaps the jewel in the crown of Wellington's Enrichment programme, and an eagerly anticipated moment in the weekly programme, are the Monday evening Fireside Talks. Wellingtonians have the opportunity to listen and question eminent figures from a variety of fields. This autumn's programme has been one to savour, with brilliant speakers covering a host of topics. Singer songwriter Amrit Kaur Lohia kicked off the series, and the students have gone on to enjoy talks by Dr Tom Crawford on Maths modelling (which included advice on the best place to aim a penalty kick), Art Historian Dr Jaimie Ramirez on the artefacts of the medieval period, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant Jack Fitzpatrick on neurodiversity, and Ben Fennell on the importance of diversity, purpose and

growth. Lord Woolley, Principal of Homerton College spoke about dreaming big but working small to rectify justice while changing the world, Olympian Grace Prendergast gave an insight into the life of an elite athlete and Mary Ann Sieghart gave a fascinating explanation of the authority gap and unconscious bias. The programme resumes early in the New Year, and we are looking forward to hearing from DCI Will Lexton-Jones on counter terrorism who will kick off another fascinating programme of enrichment talks.

Wellingtonians have the opportunity to listen and question eminent figures from a variety of fields.





Careers Speed Networking

A core part of the work of the Wellington Community is to provide the students with high quality careers advice and guidance and we do this in a number of ways, but the careers speed networking events are one of our favourites. These sessions are a joint venture between the Wellington Futures (Careers and HE team) and the Community team.

Our latest speed networking session took place on Saturday 15 October. These sessions are broken down into 10-minute slots giving the students the opportunity to talk to parents and OWs to explore career options, get some practical tips on next steps and practise that all important skill of networking. We had over 40 parents and OWs take part and around 60 students came to the session. It was another energetic, fun and successful event.

The students were clearly buzzing from the session, and it has generated all sorts of ideas about their future direction as well as giving them their first experience of networking – which as we all know is a vital and lifelong skill.

These events can only work by having the involvement of parents and OWs willing to share their expertise, passion and wisdom and we are so grateful to all the parents and OWs for coming in and for making the event such a great success.



“ The students were clearly buzzing from the session, and it has generated all sorts of ideas about their future direction.

Futures Festival

The second annual Futures Festival saw students of all year groups attending talks each day during their usual activity slots, some of which were co-hosted by particular clubs and societies.

The week began with the regular Fireside Talk on Monday evening: Lord Woolley addressed the audience about the power young people have to be in the 'driving seat' of their own life choices – professional and otherwise. A few lucky students were offered signed copies of his new book for their excellent participation and questions!

On Tuesday, the Politics and the PhEng societies hosted 'Geopolitics and the Ethics of the Stock Market'. Students heard from parent Peter Massey-Cook on the five days that changed his life, the benefits of intelligent risk taking, and the importance of taking every opportunity to upskill yourself.

On Wednesday, we welcomed back OW Will Mann, and a great number of students heard from him about why degree apprenticeships can be such a lucrative route for school leavers. Will is currently undertaking a Computer Science degree at Leeds while working for PwC and is looking forward to continuing his employment with them upon graduating.

Thursday was a busy day – LawSoc hosted Laura Duff and Alistair Wilson (OW) who talked through the different roles of solicitor and barrister and described a day in the life of each. Simultaneously, the Maths, Economics and Science societies hosted parent Andrew Peck to discuss 'Squiggly Career Paths to Investment Banking, Tech, Data and Beyond'. Later that evening, Brian Lewis engaged the audience with questions on corporate responsibility regarding sustainability. Students asked brilliant questions and the conversation could have continued all evening!

We finished off the week with a talk on Medicine and AI. OW Will Maunder-Taylor spoke to an audience of aspiring medics, scientists and computer scientists on how the digitalisation of people and operations is shaping our national healthcare.

All week long, Third and Fourth Form have been taking inspiration from these talks to submit entries for a Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan into a national competition. Sixth Form students have enjoyed the opportunity to continue their conversations with speakers at dinners after the events.

Students of all year groups have been benefitting from the conversations taking place this week – rather than choosing a career path to commit to now, the purpose has been to hear from inspiring individuals about what they love doing and find out the wealth of opportunities open to them in the future.





Heads of School Conference

On Friday 7 October Wellington College hosted the 17th annual Heads of School Conference. Started by the head boy of Wellington in 1995, this conference is always a highlight in the calendar and this year was no exception!

Despite battling train strikes, over one hundred heads of school attended, from 52 different schools. The theme of the day was 'World Class: Why Teamship is More Important than Leadership' and the opening plenary was by Will Greenwood who has published a book on that theme. He reflected on his own journey of leadership and the top ten lessons he would share with new leaders. These covered themes such as self-leadership (having high expectations of yourself, being prepared, strategic use of time and being kind to yourself), also the importance of having clear team values that people buy into and live out. A quote from Will that resonated with many of the students was, "Be strong on values and flexible on opinions."

There was plenty of time for networking and our prefects designed and led three breakout sessions on the topics of:

- United Leadership: Every person, a piece of the jigsaw
- Social Leadership: Creating cultures and dealing with conflict
- Sustaining Leadership: Looking after our mental health

The day ended with a Q&A session where the students quizzed a group of leaders (with experience in professional sport, the corporate world, academia and education) about their views.

Overall, it was a day when new friendships were formed and the students were encouraged and inspired to keep going with the joyful burden of leading schools.



Mental Health Festival

Wellington's third annual Mental Health Festival took place on Saturday 25 June. The event provided pupils, staff and parents with the chance to pause and prioritise wellbeing as they approached the end of a busy summer term.

2022 was a welcome return to normality after the Mental Health Festival took place online last year. This year, talks and activities took place in venues across campus with the main quad transformed into the epicentre of the half-day Festival attended by around 700 people. Live music, including British singer-songwriter Henry Grace and an acoustic guitar set performed by pupils, added to the atmosphere.

The Festival was originally established by Delyth Lynch, Deputy Head (Safeguarding) and is now run by Dave Walker, Deputy Head (Pastoral) alongside the Parent Mental Health Committee led by Andy Coughlin. With parents invited, it's very much a community event with the chance to find out more about the challenges faced by young people and discover positive ways to improve wellbeing.

Dave was keen to continue the Festival in order to keep mental health firmly at the top of the school's agenda.



Wellington's Mental Health Festival gives pupils the opportunity to spend a morning purely focusing on different ways they can look after themselves and their friends, away from the distraction of schoolwork. It also prompts them to think about ways they could look after other people who are struggling. It's very valuable for parents to attend in order to encourage open conversations about mental health at home.

Dave Walker
Deputy Head (Pastoral & Wellbeing)



Meet Naima Charlier

New Director of Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Responsibility



Appointed at the start of the 2022 academic year, Naima is already making a big impression at Wellington as she focuses on building on our strong sense of community to create a lasting ethos of belonging, representation and inclusivity.

Naima has spent the last eight years at Nord Anglia school in Hong Kong where she was Director of Teaching and Learning and worked on a global EDI taskforce creating strategies to address inclusion.

Prior to that, her international career saw her working for 10 years at the British School of Bucharest. She started her position when the school was newly opened with less than 100 pupils, and left as Deputy Principal of a large, thriving school which today has 650 students from 60 nations. She has also held positions in the state sector in London and in Atlanta, USA where she worked in a school with a predominantly black student and staff body.

Why Wellington?

Naima was drawn to the role at Wellington as it incorporates so many areas that she is passionate about – working with students and staff members, taking a deep dive into the curriculum and analysing what we are teaching young people and why it matters so much.

She says, “It’s so important to teach deep empathy so that all pupils feel able to go out into the world and do positive things. You can’t flourish if you don’t feel valued and understood for you and everything that makes you unique.”

Wellington’s focus on EDI is vital when many pupils will go on to have influence in their adult lives, giving them the chance to positively impact others when it comes to inclusion, equality and diversity. As a society we share a collective responsibility to lift other people up, particularly if our voices have power.

Naima adds, “I’m incredibly excited to be working somewhere as exciting and innovative as Wellington. Diverse collections of people create richer groups. We develop and deepen our understanding of the world around us and of ourselves, when we interact and collaborate with people who are different to us. With students coming from a range of global cultures, Wellington has a great starting point.”

Embedding EDI in all aspects of school life

Naima admits that there is no blueprint for a role like this, which gives it so much potential. Her first priority is to understand the context of Wellington, from its rich history to the current school system today. She’s already begun doing this through classroom observations, data gathering and lots of conversations with everyone in the school community from teachers, pupils, parents, prefects, curriculum heads and the leadership team through to HR, the admissions department, pastoral staff, grounds people and catering.

Naima wanted to set up a structured student programme from the outset and has established two inclusion ambassadors for each of the 17 school houses. The ambassadors have received two days of training with external

speakers that included an LGQBT spokesperson, an anti-racism campaigner and a former Wellington Prince Albert Scholarship student. The ambassadors also attended sessions on leadership and finding your voice and motivation. Naima will be working alongside the housemasters/mistresses to support the implementation of the new inclusion plans created by the student ambassadors.

As EDI transcends all aspects of school life, Naima has attended conferences on diversity in recruitment, is assessing current EDI policies and is looking at how to build belonging and inclusion into every area of the curriculum and wider College.

Naima says, "Representation matters. I'm looking at who and what we are studying and why. Are all pupils seeing themselves represented in the curriculum? How global is it and to what extent are we seeing stories that push against stereotypes and preconceived notions of how the world is?"

She is most excited about the scope and scale of the role and the impact she could have.

She says, "The young people at Wellington are phenomenal. They are hugely capable, passionate and driven. They will go into the world and do amazing things. If I can be the voice of inclusion and belonging and help to instil that deep understanding into these future change-makers, they will help to create a world where difference and diversity are valued."

Naima acknowledges that EDI can also be challenging because naturally it's hard to tackle things that make people uncomfortable, but she reiterates that it's OK to make mistakes as long as we do so from a place of empathy and kindness. She wants to normalise the fact that these conversations often feel difficult but that having the conversation in the first place is what matters.

First year goals

Naima's goals for her first year in post are to build on the sense of belonging and community at Wellington by raising awareness of the enormous value of diversity. She will promote the benefits of having people around you who are different to you and how this helps people grow and develop personally.

As well as developing a detailed EDI strategy, by the end of the 2022/23 academic year, Naima hopes to achieve a strong, shared understanding of how we measure inclusivity at Wellington through data, and to what extent students and staff feel valued and included. She will extend her vision beyond campus by partnering with global organisations within the diversity arena and aligning with the UN sustainable development goals.

On a personal level, she is busy settling her family, cat and dog into a new life in Berkshire after so many years of living overseas, and is looking forward to discovering the outdoor pursuits that the local area has to offer.

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Jane Jones

Appointed Head of Eagle House School



In January 2023, Mrs Jane Jones started as the new Head of Eagle House School.

Jane consistently excelled throughout a comprehensive and robust recruitment process and was the unanimous choice of the final interview panel, which consisted of seven members of the Eagle House Council and two representatives from Wellington College.

Jane was an England U18 hockey trialist, before reading Law at Cambridge University, where she also played Rugby Union for the Women's Blues team and rowed for her college. Having spent the first half of her career as a very successful Barrister and, later, a District Judge in the Family Courts, Jane then moved into the education sector and, for the past four years, has been Head of Swanbourne House prep school in Buckinghamshire, a 4-13 coeducational day and boarding school where she has established herself very quickly as one of the leading prep school leaders in the UK. As well as steering the school through the pandemic with great success, Jane introduced the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate to replace Common Entrance and was the driving force behind the creation of the Stowe Group, incorporating both Swanbourne House and Winchester House prep schools into the Stowe School charitable trust.

Her vision, drive and forward-thinking approach to what a modern, child-centred educational offering should look like in 2022 and beyond ensured that Jane was the stand-out candidate in a large and very strong field. We have no doubt whatsoever that, under Jane's leadership, the next chapter in Eagle House's illustrious history will be as exciting as it is successful.

Reflecting on her appointment, Jane writes:



I am thrilled and honoured to be appointed as the next Head of Eagle House Prep School. Eagle House has felt like the perfect fit for my second

headship throughout the thorough, appropriately challenging and highly enjoyable recruitment process. I am very much looking forward to spending more time getting to know the school and its community of pupils, parents, colleagues and governors over the coming months before taking up my post in January 2023. Eagle House is clearly a good and very special school and together we have a great deal of potential to be even better. The school is also most fortunate to have its partnership with the mightily impressive Wellington College, from which we will be looking to build stronger relationships and create further opportunities for our pupils. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with the Eagle House and Wellington College teams to lead and serve Eagle House through its next successful chapter of educating, supporting and inspiring our wonderfully diverse cohorts of day and boarding children from age 3 to 13 to be the best and most fulfilled that they can be, with us and in their future lives.

Jane brings with her to Sandhurst her husband Mark, a horticulturist, strength and fitness trainer and former international middle and long distance triathlete, and two of her three children, Connie (Year 10) and Alex (Year 2). Her eldest daughter, Lydia, will remain in Lincolnshire where she is in the Sixth Form at school and trains as a recently selected member of the GB Pony Eventing team.

Wellington College remains hugely grateful to Andrew Barnard for giving 16 years of remarkable service and leadership to the Eagle House community, and his contributions were properly marked over the course of the Michaelmas Term before his departure in December. He leaves a wonderful legacy and very large shoes to fill but, in Jane, we believe that we have found absolutely the right person to lead Eagle House forward on the next stage of its exciting educational journey.



WELLY
GIVING
WEEK

17-22 October 2022

Giving Week '22 – A New Record!

After last year's remarkable Giving Week success, we knew that this year would require even more of a team effort to match or even better what had been achieved the year before. To this end, the first of many planning meetings with the amazing Giving Week House Ambassadors was held last November!

This group of dedicated parents working alongside the Community Team, HMs and former Prince Albert Scholars ensured that enough funds were raised to offer an additional 17 Prince Albert Scholarships for the Sixth Form. This is a truly remarkable achievement and takes us ever closer to our goal of having at least 40 Scholars at the College by 2025.

What has become clear, particularly over the last few years is that the parent body believes wholeheartedly in the Prince Albert Scholarship programme and what it is trying to achieve in its aim to provide young people from areas of socio-economic disadvantage a fully funded place at Wellington.

We are so grateful to everyone that made this year's Giving Week such a success; the former Scholars for being such wonderful ambassadors and for giving up their time to be interviewed for

the various films that are produced for the Week. They continue to not only be advocates for the programme but they also help us develop the programme ensuring that it is delivering for our current Scholars who are so brilliantly supported by Sarah Miller, Head of the Prince Albert programme.

As for the now legendary Giving Week Ambassadors working alongside the House Reps – it was another amazing effort in encouraging fellow parents to get involved and support the programme and the Week – the messages of encouragement via the matrix of WhatsApp groups were amazing to behold. A huge thank you to our terrific HMs who throw themselves into the week (some quite literally) and provide a wonderful array of 'incentives' – including singing, dancing, and even sky diving to show their belief in the programme and what it delivers for the young people on it and for the wider student body.

The only question remains is how on earth are we going to match this next year?

With enormous thanks from Murray, the Community Team and the College.

The Wheeler Programme

For Miles, taking part in the Wheeler Programme helped him find his direction in life. Now at Portsmouth University studying Business and Management, he says: "The Wheeler Programme helped me greatly in finding where my true passion lay, which was in business, thanks to the lessons, public speakers and trips to universities such as Oxford. The study days and residential stays allowed me to access a much wider understanding of knowledge; from the lessons we did with other Wellington students to the resources we were introduced to. Overall, it was an amazing opportunity that I was glad to be a part of."

For Aimee, the programme was about developing confidence both academically and socially.

She says: "It helped me ground myself both in my studies and sense of self. Through experiencing new outlooks and different approaches to learning, I have become far more confident in my academic studies and general life."

Now studying Geography at Lancaster University, she adds: "I felt thoroughly supported by the programme and my coach throughout my time at Wellington, from my GCSE revision to my successful university application and personal statement."

Miles and Aimee are just two of the 13 students who graduated from the programme in June this year, the second cohort of students to do so. Funded by Nick Wheeler, the programme takes in around 20 students from state schools in Year 9 and supports them until they graduate in Year 13. Pupils who graduated were from state schools in Berkshire, Hampshire and Wales, and their programme involved group activities, visits to workplaces, universities and organisations; talks, lectures, workshops and discussions; individual coaching and tailored mentoring.

Lucy Reynolds, head of year 12 and 13 at The Piggott School, Twyford, said "Our students gained confidence and were given the chance to





Taking part in the programme allowed all three students to spark a renewed interest in their academics and aim high.

Lucy Reynolds, The Piggott School, Twyford

experience a wide range of bespoke opportunities. Two of the three students who graduated from the programme in 2022 went on to university and a third secured a degree apprenticeship and is studying alongside working in finance in London. Taking part in the programme allowed all three students to spark a renewed interest in their academics and aim high.”

There are currently three groups of Wheeler students taking part in the programme. The Year 12 and 13 students are working hard at A Level study skills, university or job applications and personal statements. Covid meant there were no students recruited from what is now Year 11, but the Year 10s are finding their feet, having attended a residential stay in June and their first study day in September.

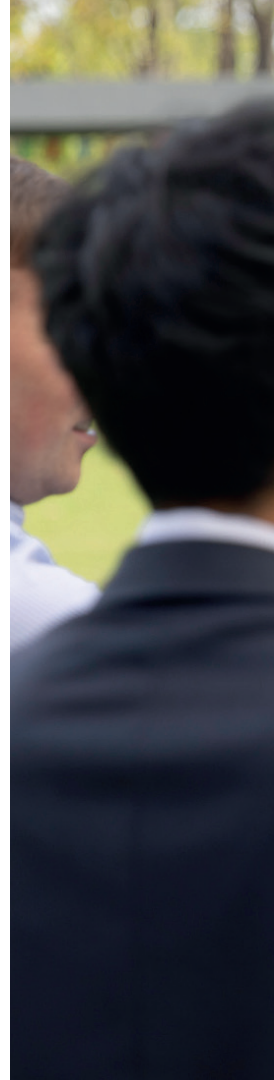
The programme is part of the Wellington College Learning Alliance. As well as the Wheeler Programme it runs the Student Alliance, which offers state school students many extra opportunities, and the Teaching Alliance, which collaborates with teachers in the area, allowing them to share best practice.



International Exchange – Octavia Leads the Way

One of the great benefits of belonging to a family of schools is the opportunity for Wellington College pupils to take part in student exchanges. This November, fourth former Octavia V took full advantage of this by electing to spend a fortnight studying at Wellington College International Bangkok.

Octavia was alerted to the possibilities of such an exchange back in the Summer Term during a year group assembly, and from the moment she heard about our flourishing and exciting school in Bangkok she was determined to spend time there. Unfazed by swapping half term for school, and English winter for Thai summer, Octavia plunged straight into Year 10 lessons at the busy Bangkok school and was immediately struck by the friendly welcome she received and how quickly she felt a sense of belonging.





It helped that we were following the same IGCSE syllabuses, although I did feel a bit out of my depth with the Thai language lessons which are compulsory for all international schools out there! Every day was very busy, with nine lessons, co-curricular activities, and lots of sport: I played football and golf which they take very seriously, and even took part in a school netball match. I was staying with my exchange, Ton Aor, who was lovely. It was so interesting to live with a Thai family, although the food, which was delicious, took a little bit of getting used to: rice and spice with everything, and even rice for breakfast! I'm looking forward to welcoming her to England in March so she can see what it's like being a boarder at Wellington. It wasn't all work though and I had a chance to relax and experience new things at the weekends: we went to Hua Hin, a nearby coastal resort and I have to admit to feeling quite smug when swimming and jet skiing knowing that all my friends back at Wellington were stuck on some freezing hockey pitch.

The most memorable part of my stay was a history field trip to Kanchanaburi on Armistice Day to visit the Military Cemetery and to learn about the Death Railway, immortalised in the famous film, *The Bridge over the River Kwai*. It was a great honour to lay a wreath at the remembrance ceremony: my

great grandfather was the chaplain in the Royal Army Service Corps and was a prisoner of the Japanese, so knowing he had ministered to so many of those we were honouring was especially poignant.

Overall, my exchange was fantastic. I can't wait to go back to Wellington Bangkok again, maybe even to teach there during a gap year. I would definitely recommend exchanges like this to any Wellingtonians who are looking to seek out new experiences and stretch their horizons!

Wellington College International:

Visiting our schools again at last

With the relaxing of restrictions on international travel, the opportunity for the WCI Directors to visit all our partner schools during the Michaelmas Term returned. Their aim was to enhance the support given to our international partners and join with them in celebrating the immense successes and growth despite the challenging circumstances that Covid-19 created.

Thailand

Fiona Carter (Director of Education, Primary and Early Years, WCI) and Chris Woolf (International Director WCI) arrived in Thailand in November where they were warmly welcomed by the staff of Wellington College International School Bangkok. For both, it was their first visit since joining WCI and was an ideal opportunity to finally meet our international colleagues face to face. It was also a chance to tour and appreciate the continuing growth and development of the school facilities and community. Fiona and Chris sat in on lessons, chatted with current students and spoke to groups of staff about nurturing the educational and pastoral links with Wellington College, UK.

Plans were also created to establish an assessment programme of wellbeing amongst staff and students across the group, to develop a regional Early Years event on inspirational practice and to begin a pupil-initiated project on ecological issues within the Junior School.

Jane Jones, Head of Eagle House School, another member of the WCI family, also joined them on the trip. Jane was keen to discover more opportunities for international collaboration with the preparatory school and our partner schools in future – watch this space!

Iain Henderson, Deputy Head (Educational Developments and Partnerships) also visited WCI Bangkok to attend the full governing body meeting and deliver six days of coaching training

to teachers and parents at the school. Iain also presented, to nine other top tier international schools, the details of the inaugural Festival of Education, Bangkok, to be held in November 2023. This exciting event seeks to replicate the impact of the outstandingly successful Festival that is held annually at Wellington College. The event provides the best professional learning, facilitates the educational conversation and creates exciting network opportunities. In short, it aims to also be a service to the international education community and will be “where those who inspire find their own inspiration”.

One of the great benefits of belonging to a family of schools is the opportunity for Wellington College pupils to take part in student exchanges. A successful student exchange programme was launched in 2022 and in November, fourth former Octavia V took full advantage of this by electing to spend a fortnight studying at WCI Bangkok. The return visit takes place in the Lent Term. Plans are being made by David Wilson (WCI Academic Director, International Partnership Programmes) to again offer the international exchange programme to Wellington College students in 2023.

The authentic connection between Wellington College and Wellington College International School Bangkok continues to develop, with sixth formers at Wellington College acting as Peer Mentors to the Bangkok Year 9 students as part of WCIB's comprehensive Options, Pathways and Careers sessions for every student.



India

Earlier in the month, Fiona Carter also visited our new school in Pune, India together with Scott Bryan (Senior International Director WCI) and Ed Wai (Group Estates Bursar). They were excited to be able to tour the developing site and meet with the project's architect and design team. WCI Pune opens in September 2023 and promises to be an outstanding addition to the international school market in India. The spectacular admissions launch was held at the Ritz Carlton hotel, Pune during their visit where Fiona, Scott and Ed were able to present to and meet with press, prospective families and India-based Old Wellingtonians.

It is particularly exciting that the school welcomes in the founding team three new Heads of School across the Early Years, Junior and Senior Departments who have been recruited from across the existing Wellington College family of schools.

China

During a busy 3-week schedule of visits in China, Scott was able to visit WCI Shanghai and their Early Years Centre, Huili Shanghai, WCI Hangzhou, Huili Hangzhou, Huili Nantong and WCI Tianjin. Scott was warmly welcomed by all the leaders, teachers and support staff across the WCC partnership who have continued in these extraordinary times to ensure their schools are providing a world class education.

This excellent quality of teaching is reflected in impressive IGCSE results across all the WCI and Huili schools and resulted in outstanding A Level results in WCI Tianjin. WCI Shanghai produced first class results with an IBDP average

score of 39.2 and can celebrate being rated one of the top 40 schools globally. WCI Shanghai was recently shortlisted as part of the COBIS International School of the Year Awards, and for the British Chamber of Commerce in China 'School Award for Science and Technology' which recognises exceptional schools that integrate innovative STEM and EdTech into their teaching and learning. WCI Hangzhou has become the first school in China to receive the Carnegie Centre of Mental Health in Schools, School Mental Health Award. WCI Hangzhou and WCI Tianjin are also in the process of COBIS accreditation and CIS re-accreditation respectively.

Wellington Colleges China has also won HR Asia's 'Best Companies to Work for in Asia' award for two years running, highlighting our partner schools are fantastic places to work!

Singapore

Finally, Fiona Carter and Chris Woolf arrived in Singapore in late November, where they joined Clare Hillman (Director of Licensing WCI) in visiting WCI's new partner there. Together they visited several impressive local and regional schools and held discussions regarding new school development. The visit was a great success on many fronts, including simply helping to build a stronger and more aligned and ambitious partnership that will deliver the quality of schools and education that befits the Wellington name.



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