

A culture of GIVING BACK

A vital part of the Berkshire school's history and identity, Wellington College's community partnerships and social mobility initiatives are thriving to this day

Wellington College strives to improve access and opportunity for young people from all backgrounds, and support the local community. These values are integral to the school, which opened in 1859 to educate the orphans of war.

Wellington pupils develop empathy, leadership, and a sense of responsibility to their community through the college's service culture, while learning to understand a wide range of perspectives. Above all, the aim is to prepare young people to become their very best selves, and to serve and help shape a better world.

The Prince Albert Foundation

One of the most important initiatives is The Prince Albert Foundation (PAF), which widens participation by enabling children from low-income families, and in challenging circumstances, to study at Wellington. The scholarships are fully-funded through school and beyond. Uniform, school trips and enriching experiences are included, with scholars able to apply for additional gap-year and research-project



funding up until the age of 26. Dedicated staff support the scholars, providing assistance on everything from school supplies and pastoral care to leadership development and careers guidance.

Currently there are 37 pupils in the Prince Albert Foundation programme and the aim is to grow this number to 50 by 2030.

Wellington works with partner organisations, such as Royal Springboard and Eastside Young Leaders' Academy, to identify suitable candidates, and pupils can also apply directly. The goal is to improve outcomes for families locally, and nationally by working with partners to reach social mobility 'cold spots'.

PAF scholars integrate seamlessly into college life, and two are currently part of the college's EDI Steering Group, providing vital perspectives. Scholar Nicole regularly speaks at Inclusion Ambassador training events, receiving overwhelming positive feedback from fellow pupils on her insights on developing a true sense of belonging for all.

Pupils on the PAF scholarship have achieved phenomenal academic success with Wellington's support. In 2024, 38% of PAF A-level pupils achieved grades that were higher than those that had been predicted based on their GCSE results.

Two scholars gained particularly outstanding results in 2024. Isam, who came to Wellington from Forest Gate Community School in east London achieved one A* and three As in maths, further maths, physics and computer science and went on to Imperial College London to study electronic and information engineering. Meanwhile, Shiloh achieved one A* and three As in geography, maths, art and chemistry, moving on to Cambridge University's Murray Edwards College to study architecture.

Both pupils are the first in their families to attend a UK university, and their determination and hard work paid off, giving them access to two of the most prestigious universities in the world. They're true role models who will undoubtedly flourish into future leaders.

Another of the Prince Albert Foundation's recent alumni, Eszter, is in her third year at LSE studying law and anthropology. She found out about the programme



After achieving excellent A-level results, PAF scholar Eszter now studies at LSE







Wellington College's Berkshire campus is set in 400 acres of beautiful parkland

THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE ARTS FUND (WCAF) WAS LAUNCHED IN 2020. *Over the last five years, it has distributed more than* £125,000 IN GRANTS TO MORE THAN 75 LOCAL STATE SCHOOLS

through Eastside Young Leaders Academy (EYLA).

With help and mentoring from EYLA and her secondary school, Eszter successfully applied for a place at Wellington to study politics, economics and history at A-level. The robust support provided by her housemistress, the PAF team, teachers and peers made the transition to boarding life smooth, and Eszter embraced every aspect of school life.

Alongside her studies, she participated in a school trip to Washington DC, tried her hand at new sports, helped to organise a charity fundraising event and built friendships with pupils from around the world. She's recently returned from a visit to her best friend in Hong Kong.

Eszter says that one of the best things about the PAF scholarship was the realisation that Wellington College was benefiting just as much as she was. She said, "It was a two-way process. I learned that my strength is my experiences and that sharing different perspectives is the best way to foster understanding".

Eszter went on to achieve a fantastic A* and two As in her A-levels, and credits the support of Wellington's world-class teaching in helping her achieve her goal of studying law. She attended a law networking event while at the college and used its professional networking platform, Wellington Connect, to secure work experience at a family law firm. Her goal is to work in finance and business law after studying for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

Eszter's scholarship has had a hugely positive ripple effect on her family. One of five siblings, her brother has recently accepted a bursary at a prestigious prep school after seeing what has been possible for her. Another brother used Wellington Connect after he graduated to secure a job opportunity in Switzerland. Eszter said, "Wellington College empowered me to fulfil my potential. The support of people who believed in me has given me huge confidence and encourages me to inspire others."

Grants for local schools

Wellington proudly offers several different grants aimed at local state primary and secondary schools. Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School in Bracknell was able to open a Nurture Nest with funding from the college's Big Ambition Grant – a competition launched in February 2024 to help fund extraordinary local school improvement projects.

The Nurture Nest provides a dedicated, calm, welcoming space for pupils who might struggle in a mainstream classroom. Small groups of pupils can work separately or together, receiving extra help and practising social and emotional skills before rejoining usual lessons.

Ian Garner, headteacher at Wooden Hill said: "The Nurture Nest is a fantastic extra resource for us. It's homely – which instantly removes a stressor from the children – and it's practical for a whole range of learning activities"

Before the introduction of the Nurture Nest, SEND



Wooden Hill Primary pupils enjoy taking time out in the homely Nurture Nest

pupils and those with mental health challenges who needed time out of the classroom had few alternatives. Having a relaxing, inspiring place to go has meant that these pupils can receive increased one-to-one learning assistance and benefit from periods of respite in a quiet space

The Wellington College Arts Fund (WCAF) was launched in 2020. Over the last five years, it has distributed more than £125,000 in grants to more than 75 local state schools, funding enriching creative initiatives, such as music lessons, dance workshops, drama equipment and fine art resources.

The money is raised through fundraising and ticket sales from Wellington's performing arts events, and any local school can apply for a grant by completing a simple form.

The WCAF recently funded dance workshops for boys at Yateley School. Head of Dance, Helen Wearing, was able to set up a performance group who went on to participate in an all-boys' dance platform at The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton in 2024. She said "the project provided a safe and supportive environment where boys could explore their own creatively and be physically challenged". Year nine pupil Charlie said, "The Manmade dance project played a vital role in my taking up dance inside and out of school."

In 2024 a grant was awarded to Hatch Ride Primary School in Crowthorne to fund a term of recorder lessons delivered by Berkshire Music Trust for 120 key stage 2 pupils. The music and drama departments at Ranelagh School in Bracknell have also benefited from grants which have gone towards music and drama equipment.

The college is marking the fifth anniversary of WCAF with a year of events, culminating in a collaborative *Celebration of the Arts* in October where pupils from local schools will showcase their talent at the G.W.A Theatre.

Simon Williamson, Director of Music at Wellington said, "We know that an involvement in the arts is a vital part of every child's education and cultural upbringing. We've been delighted to have connected with thousands of local students over the last five years with our arts fund."