

# Wellington School

11-18 School



*Excellence in Everything*

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Summer Term Newsletter

May 2015

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about many of the activities and events that took place at Wellington during the Spring Term of 2015.

Ski Trip to New Hampshire



Geography Year 10 trip to Shropshire



Year 11 Textiles Montage



BBC News Report Day



Sponsored Walk – 6th Form fancy dress



The victorious Chamber Choir, Bowdon Youth Festival



## Welcome

**Yet again, staff and students crammed a huge amount into a term; trips, workshops, visitors to School, sporting successes, both personal and at team level, a fabulously successful (and dry) sponsored walk, wonderful performances at the Bowdon Music Festival, careers events – and so the list goes on, but I am sure you will want to read about these in more detail in the newsletter.**

Suffice to say, I am immensely grateful to our dedicated staff and the support of you, our parents, which enables us to provide Wellington pupils with a wealth of experiences both in School and beyond. Our pupils are always so grateful for the opportunities we provide and it is wonderful to see them 'grow' in so many ways from day to day as they seek to maximise their time here. So, I hope you enjoy this term's publication, a true illustration of that personal development and the vibrancy of the Wellington community of which I speak.

A summary of Spring Term staffing news. We were joined in January by Mr Ruaux (History), Mr Collins (MFL) and Mr Woodward (Science) as replacements for departing colleagues. After the half term break, I was delighted to confirm, three 'acting' appointments to the substantive posts of Head of Department; Miss Hitchens, English; Mrs Hoogenberg, Science and Mrs Collinge, Second in English. Congratulations to these colleagues. We welcomed back Mrs Kenny to the post of Head of Geography following her maternity leave at half term. Joining us from Easter, we welcomed Ms Rushby as Teacher of Sociology and Mr Wilkins as Assistant Caretaker replacing Mr Richards who retired from his full time post but stays with us on a part-time basis. One or two others will be leaving us at the end of Summer Term and we have been busy recruiting to fill their posts.

The Sponsored Walk took place on Friday 27th February, the one dry day of the week. We were delighted to be joined by Sally Dynevor (Corrie's Sally Webster) and Judi Hibbert, Fundraising Manager from this year's charity, Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention. I would like to thank all our students, parents, families and friends who

have contributed to another phenomenal total. At the time of writing, we have raised just over £37,000 but I am hopeful we can squeeze out a little more before we present the cheque at Awards Evening on the 23rd June.

We are already speeding headlong through another busy term with Sports Day, Sports Award Dinner, Open Morning, New Pupil Day, meetings for the parents of new pupils, primary school visits, sports fixtures, Awards Evening, reward trips, internal exams, report writing and of course GCSEs and AS / A Level examinations, all upon us or rapidly approaching. A lot of hard but rewarding work ahead for all of us and very best wishes to all our students undertaking examinations. We are hopeful of another record year!

Anyway, that's quite enough from me. Enjoy the Newsletter, keep up to date via the website, don't hesitate to contact the School to discuss any matters and, above all, have a great Summer Term.

**S P Beeley  
Headteacher**



sponsored walk

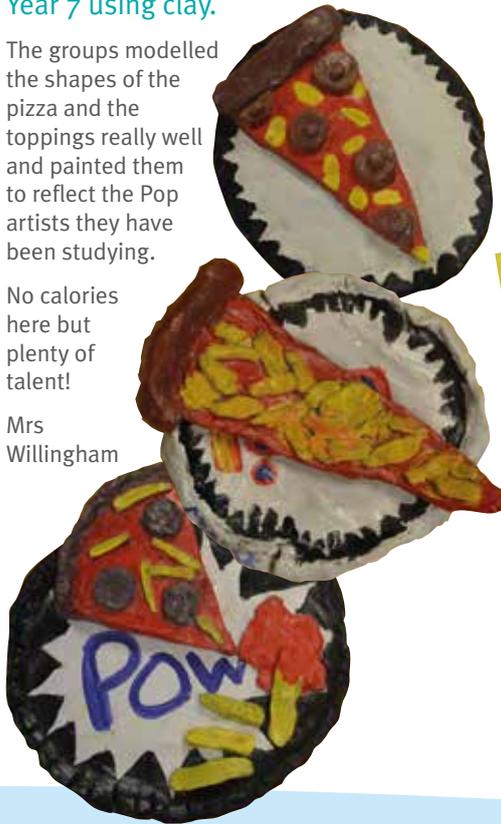
## Clay Cravings

These tasty treats were created by Year 7 using clay.

The groups modelled the shapes of the pizza and the toppings really well and painted them to reflect the Pop artists they have been studying.

No calories here but plenty of talent!

Mrs Willingham



## A fine feast for any Pop artist!

Well done to Mrs Kearney's Year 7 groups for producing these fantastic Andy Warhol inspired food paintings.

They look good enough to eat.



## Pow! It's fabulous fast food

Bam! Year 7 completed a range of studies of fast food and then explored the work of Pop Art.

Boom! They created these collages and painted pieces of fast food.

Ka pow! Look at the skills they have developed!

Well done Year 7!

Mrs Willingham



## Onomatopoeia

7.5A created these wonderful pop art style pieces of onomatopoeic words.

The pieces are really strong, showing super reference to the word and accurate painting.

I know your English teacher Mrs Collinge is looking forward to having them on display in her room as part of a cross curricular display.

Miss Grey



## Grub's up

Year 7 pupils worked hard to produce these super Pop Art meals.

They learned how to draw showing 3D effects and to add benday dots similar to those found in Roy Lichtenstein's work.

They look delicious!

Mrs Kearney

### Tate

We may have been next to the Mersey, but we didn't take a ferry!

We did in fact visit the Andy Warhol exhibition at Liverpool Tate with Year 7. We study Pop Art in Year 7 so it was too good an opportunity to miss.

The pupils loved the exhibition, seeing his infamous Campbell's soup and Marilyn images. The disco room showed clips of Warhol's film making and presented life from the 'swinging sixties'.

We also looked at the other works on display in the gallery, where as you can see pupils were fully engaged with some challenging work and filling in their sketchbooks.

With the talent we have seen with our Year 7's it won't be long before they get their work exhibited too!

Mrs Willingham



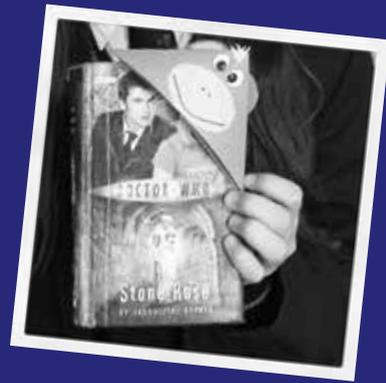
### World Book Day

The Art department ran a whole school bookmark club to celebrate World Book Day.

We were inundated with Year 7's keen to try their hands at origami and then turning them into incredibly cute animals. I was hugely impressed with the creative ideas and enthusiasm, especially from Miss Weeks who lost count of how many bookmarks she made! We hope to see all these bookmarks being put to good use.

Well done to all who took part, making it a real success.

Mrs Kearney

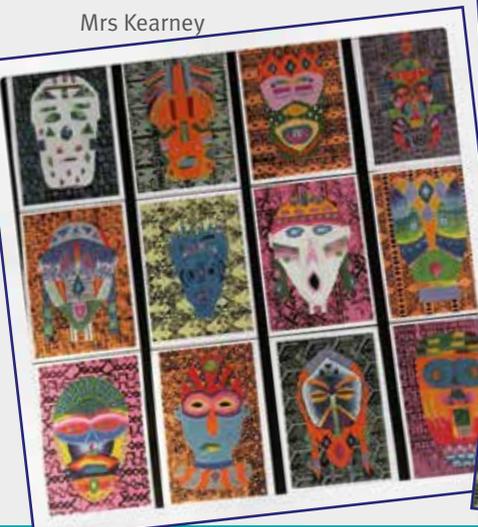


### African Masks

Well-done to 8.1A and 8.1C for producing these fantastic African Mask images.

The backgrounds have been completed by repeated lino prints showing African patterns and the actual masks have been produced using oil pastel. Pupils explored colour blending and use of complimentary colours to complete their work.

Mrs Kearney



### Indian Elephant

Well you will 'never forget' these beautiful pieces!

You could pack them in your 'trunk' and take them away; our readers are no 'dumbos'!

However not on your 'nelly' will you be getting your hands on these, they are a treasured display and staying put! Although maybe after seeing these, you will all want an 'elephant in your room.'

Well done 8.1B on your mixed media work.

Miss Grey



## Dream on!

Studying the native American Indians resulted in the creation of these dream catchers.

All the groups worked patiently when following the pattern format to create the pieces and I was really impressed with the team work and support pupils gave each other to get the sequences right.

Well done Year 8!

Mrs Willingham

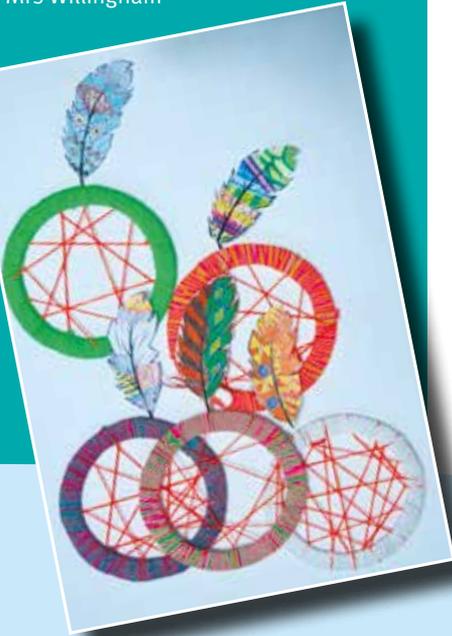
## Lowry Achievement

Well done to Thea Aldridge Year 8, Amy Beardmore Year 10 and Ella Heywood Year 13 who all had their work displayed in the Living Edge Magazine Schools competition which was held at the prestigious Lowry gallery.

Thea's work was a marvellous mixed media Indian art study, Amy presented a very proud peacock and Ella brought the circus to Salford quays.

Well done on this achievement and having your work published in the Living Edge magazine.

Miss Grey



## Cast your eagle eye!

8.1A and 8.1C are working hard at the moment producing some beautiful bird paintings and drawings.

They are using mark-making techniques to show texture and experimenting layering up colours with different materials. Keep checking our Pinterest page for more updates on their developments.

Mrs Kearney



## Chick chick chick chick chicken!

Look at these cracking chicken studies!

Year 8 have been exploring the use of complimentary colours and mark-making in their paintings.

Eggsellent stuff Year 8!

Miss Grey



## Perfect prints from pretty perfect pupils!

Well these beautiful designs would certainly suggest that - the 3 colour prints were influenced by Dale Chihuly and have turned out absolutely brilliantly.

Well done 9.4.

Mrs Kearney



## Bird House

To quote from the 1990 classic 'They Might Be Giants', there may be 'a little bird house in my soul' after looking at these beautiful examples!

The constructions are inspired by studies of birds and the pupils created them in collage and lino print. Well done Year 9.

Mrs Willingham



## Holocaust

The Art department ran a number of workshops alongside History lessons to commemorate the Holocaust.

Pupils responded to the information they had heard about the Holocaust using a variety of media including collage, paint, tags and 3D. It was rewarding to see how the students represented this emotive subject visually and in many cases worked as a team to create the work.

We were able to display the work during the visit of a survivor to School and she told us she was impressed with the work and the message it communicated.

Well done Year 9.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Willingham



## Happy Birthday Well Green

The Art department ran a number of workshops with Well Green Primary School to celebrate their school's 50th birthday.



Using the theme 'Pop Art/1960's' some groups worked on designing individual pieces of art before working together in teams to build their own Pop Art sculptures and a group mural piece.

The pupils had a fantastic time and were delighted with the end result. Well done to all involved!

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Willingham



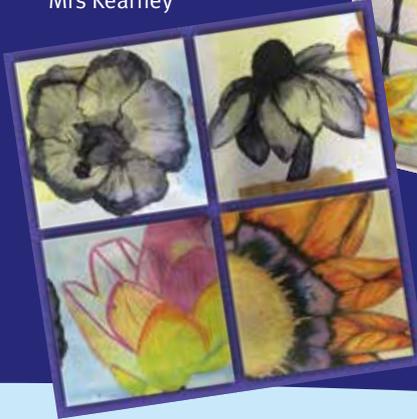
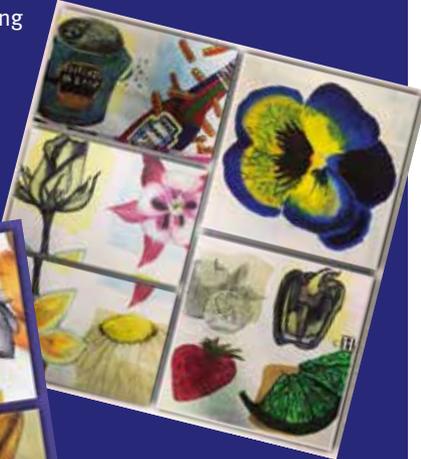
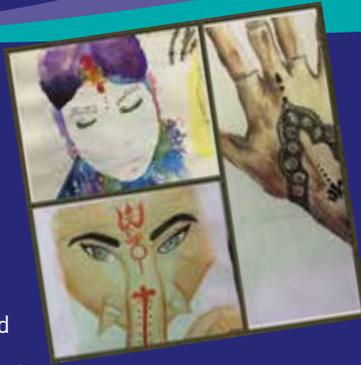
## GCSE project

Year 10's have made a fantastic start on their second GCSE project.

These are their initial drawing sheets and I am delighted with the range of images, materials and techniques shown. The class are currently working on developing their work in the style of their chosen artists. You can look forward to seeing their final pieces in the next newsletter!

Well done Year 10.

Mrs Kearney



## Let us draw you in!

It was hard to choose just three to show you, but Year 10 are really working hard on their drawing work in their new projects.

A huge range of work has been explored from cultures, war, flowers, architecture and food, everyone is working on themes they are interested in and I have been really impressed with their commitment and the development of their skills.

Can't wait to see how this develops!

Miss Grey



## Year 10 present ...

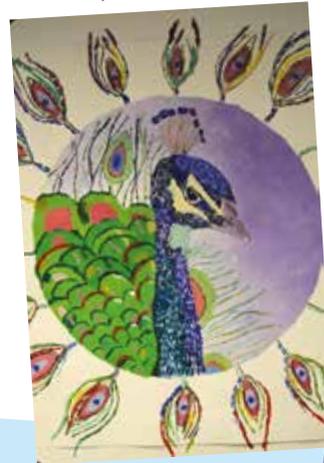
Following some amazing drawing, research and studying of artists, may I present the outcomes from the very talented Year 10 GCSE Art groups.

The work has explored the theme 'feather, fur, fin' and each student has developed these wonderful outcomes using artists of their choice.

I'm really impressed with how well the work has developed, the techniques and the style of work.

Well done Year 10, can't wait to see what wonderful work you create next!

Miss Grey



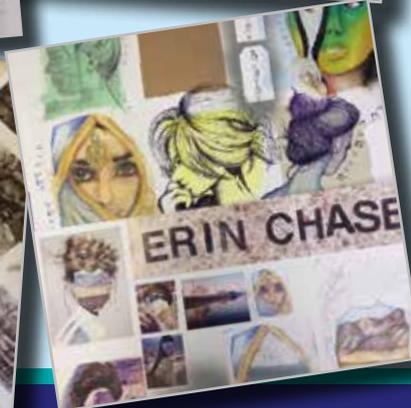
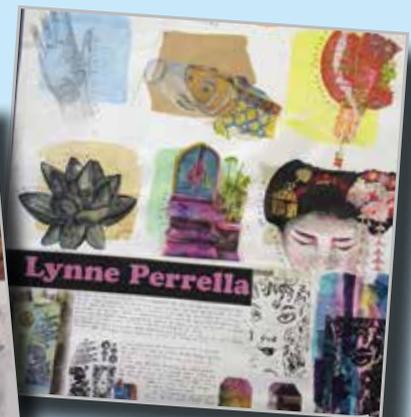
## Year 11 Exam Prep

Year 11 have made a super start on their external exam.

Each student has responded to the set themes in their own unique way and they have been busy attending Easter School and extra sessions to complete work.

Keep up the good work!

Mrs Kearney



### Culture close-ups

This stunning drawing work is from Amber in Year 12.

She is exploring the theme 'community' and has developed these beautiful tribal portraits in a variety of media.

Well done Amber.

Miss Grey



### Year 12

The work from Year 12 has had a variety of starting points and shown great experimentation, from the themes of evolution, weddings, through to shopping and a forest.

The work has explored many artists and techniques.

The outcomes shown demonstrate the mixed media that many of our students develop, including stitching into the paper, relief work and collage.

Well done everyone.

Miss Grey



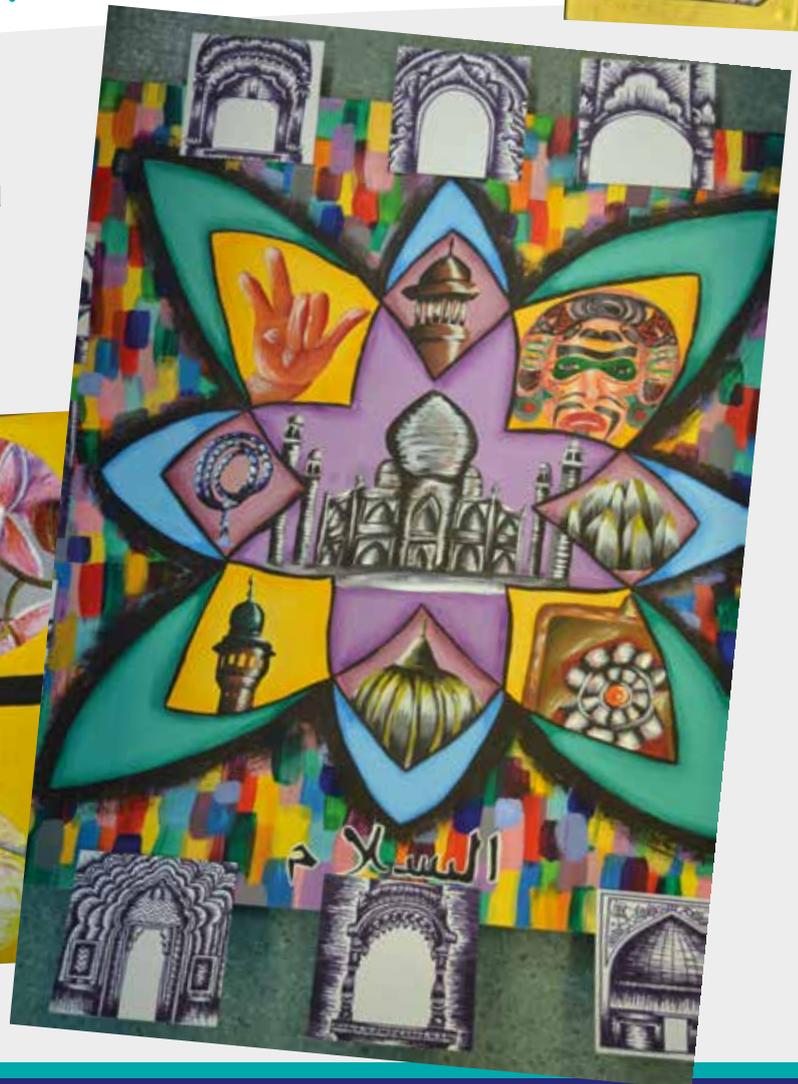
### Year 13

Students have explored a range of themes, artists and techniques.

Coursework can only be completed after a lot of hard work, diligence and meticulous attention to detail.

Well done on the great outcomes, all the best for your Art exam.

Miss Grey



## Year 7 Textiles

Year 7 students have designed and are in the middle of making a range of animal cushions suitable for a young child aged up to 3 years old.

These decorative cushions have been produced using a range of hand embroidery stitches and then sewn together using the sewing machine.

I am pleased to say that our Year 7 pupils are learning how to use the sewing machine very quickly and will have soon sewn all cushions together.

I am looking forward to seeing them all finished. Keep up the fantastic work,

Miss Hudson



## Year 7 Product Design

Year 7 have been busy hand crafting toy boats for children aged between 3-10.

They have been using a variety of the tools available to produce a final piece that also includes a moving part. In a similar manner to the recent homework project, technology strives to teach students how to be independent and resourceful. I have been incredibly impressed with their responsibility and use of the machinery within the classroom and the imagination that has been displayed. Students are now starting to paint their toy boats and apply final finishing parts. Keep up the good work!

Miss Carter



## Year 8 Product Design

Year 8 are currently making themed clocks. The theme they have been given is 'Your favourite subject'.

They have then decided how best to represent their favourite subject in the school and are constructing, from various different materials and with multiple moving parts, their final design.

I have been very impressed with their eager nature and also their pride when discussing their designs in class. The groups have also been extremely good at working within a team in the workshop scenario.

At the end of this rotation there will be a small exhibition of this work in the staff room to show teachers from each subject what has been produced, the results of this I'm sure will appear on the website. Well done Year 8!

Miss Carter



## Year 8 Textiles

Year 8 Textiles has continued with a cross curricular project with the REP department based on Hinduism.

Year 8 students are linking the work taught in their REP lessons to develop designs based on the Hindu festivals of Holi and Diwali.

Students have learnt how to create a number of decorative techniques such as dip dye, tie dye, block print and stencilling. They have been very creative with the theme and designed their own Rangoli patterns.

The students have been adding lots of hand sewn details with sequins and all outcomes are fantastic.

Brilliant effort Year 8, well done!

Miss Hudson



## Year 9 Textiles

Year 9 have designed and created a range of novelty hats.

Students researched their theme and audience to develop their ideas and learnt a variety of decorative techniques such as appliqué and reverse appliqué to develop their sewing skills.

As you can see, the outcomes are very creative. Well done Year 9.

Miss Hudson



## Year 9 Food

Well done to Year 9 Food pupils who have embraced the Bake Off project and produced some impressive competition dishes.

This year, the Technology department have introduced an element of competition with the Year 9 project, which has been inspired by the popularity of the television show "The Great British Bake Off".

Pupils have participated in technical challenges and produced signature dishes which have then been awarded points. Points were then totalled to give an overall winner within each class.

It has been pleasing to see the amount of effort in all groups and the enthusiasm that has been shown across Year 9. Pupils have displayed responsibility and resilience throughout and should be proud of their achievements. I'm certainly very proud of the work.

Mrs Ryan



## Year 10 Textiles

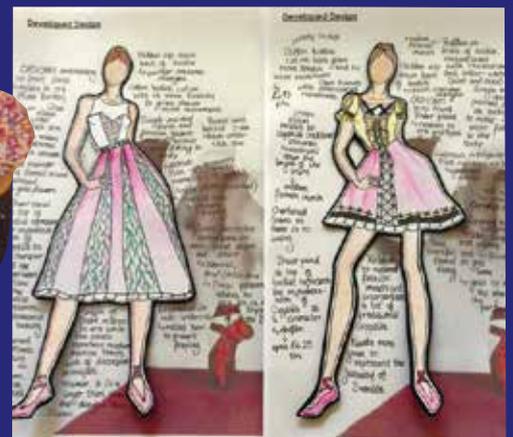
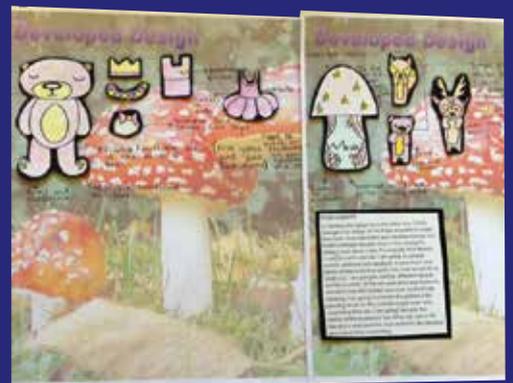
Year 10 Textiles Technology students have been given a choice of two briefs: to produce a costume for a west-end production or a child's educational toy.

Students have designed and manufactured textile products that reflect a specific theme, character or function. All students have been asked to design highly original yet functional garments or products that must be fit for a specific purpose.

I am very much looking forward to seeing their designs come to life when they produce a variety of samples that show experimentations with decorative and construction techniques.

Keep up the hard work!

Miss Hudson



## Year 10 Food

Last December the GCSE Food Technology class took part in the "Great Cheshire Pie Maker" Competition run by Reaseheath College.

The school had to put forward three entries, all of which reached the semi-final round. The three semi-finalists then made their pies again and a judge from Reaseheath College came into school to judge whether they would go through to the final. We then had a nervous wait to find out if any had reached the final.

Two of our entries were successful and on Friday 20th March, Grace Callaghan and Leah Robinson represented Wellington School in the finals of the competition. This involved going to the College and making the dish again whilst being observed and questioned by three local judges – all of whom work in the food industry. Both pupils had done extremely well to reach the finals, competing against over 30 schools (with 3 entries each) across the region.

The girls had two hours to bake a pie based on a sporting theme. It was a great opportunity as they were able to use equipment generally used in industry, as well as observing how pupils from other schools work.

Although both Grace and Leah did a fantastic job, the competition was fierce and neither girl placed in the top three. We all agree it was a great day though and one the girls won't forget.

Well done to all of the Year 10 participants who impressed me with their excellent practical skills. Keep up the good work.

Mrs Ryan



## Year 11 Food

Congratulations to Year 11 GCSE Food Technologists who have now completed the Controlled Assessment part of the course.

Over the last few weeks of last term we saw plenty of blood, sweat and tears as pupils raced to complete the work by the set deadline. Many pupils proved their dedication, staying until 6pm some evenings to ensure that work submitted was of a high standard.

Overall I have been impressed by the standard of work and the pictures of the final dishes that have been submitted.

I'm sure that the pupils will maintain their efforts over the next few weeks as we revise for the written examination.

Well done Year 11.

Mrs Ryan



Lucy Jones



Maisy Downing



Amy Ashmore

## Year 11 Product Design

This term has been the culmination of 2 years of work for Year 11.

They have all produced an MP3 docking station influenced by the Memphis Design group. They have been working very hard to complete their controlled assessment and to ensure that their practical work is finished to a high standard. Year 11 have incorporated various different joints including mitre, housing and lap joints into their designs, as well as soldering together their circuit boards. The standard of making is higher this year than ever before and we are proud to be able to present their work to the exam board.

Miss Carter



## Year 11 Textiles

Year 11 Textiles Technology students have designed and manufactured textile products that reflect a specific theme or function.

The students identified their target audience and client to ensure the products they developed met a specific need.

The students have worked extremely hard and have shown real dedication and commitment and the results are outstanding! The products have been made to an exceptional standard which demonstrate high levels of skill, originality and creativity.

I am so proud of your efforts Year 11 - well done!

Mrs Booth



## Year 12 Textiles

Year 12 students have been demonstrating their creativity and flair by creating unique garments for an identified client and audience; these have ranged from couture designers, theatre companies to high street stores.

This year, students have produced creative & highly skilled garments; their outcomes are a testament to their talent & hard work.

Well done Year 12, we look forward to seeing your creations next year!!

Mrs Booth & Miss Hudson



## Year 13 Textiles

It has been a pleasure to see how much the Year 13 students have continued to develop their creativity and skills over the last 2 years.

The students have designed highly original garments for an identified client and audience; these have ranged from couture designers, magazine editorials and theatre productions.

This year the students have definitely produced some of the most original, professional and creative garments. These products clearly demonstrate their dedication and passion for the subject and it is testament to their talent & hard work.

Well done Year 13, from two very proud teachers!

Mrs Booth & Miss Hudson



## Annual BBC News Report day 2015

Whilst the BBC news report club were busy reporting on events so were many students during lesson time.

Miss Spence's Year 11 Media studies group are studying the topic of TV News for their final examination, so used the opportunity to film their own news broadcast. Alicia was excellent as 'anchor', providing links to the various stories, while co-presenter Molly did a fantastic job of interviewing a guest speaker on the topic of volunteering. We had material from Maths on the annual Pi competition and even a French weather report! Well done to all involved in front of the camera and behind.

Tyler Spence, the guest speaker interviewed by students for a report on volunteering also visited students in Geography lessons to give a presentation and talk about his experience of spending 3 months volunteering in Senegal, Africa. The pupils were engaged in his stories of the culture, wildlife and environment and asked so many interesting questions that he was late for his next presentation!

Mr Williams' students also took part in the event. Students in 81c and 9.5 worked hard to develop their own lines of investigation to complete a written BBC School Report. Many opted to investigate issues that affected school children – such as whether too much pressure is put on students at school, and how younger people can be encouraged to eat more healthy foods – whilst some reported on more wide-ranging issues, such as the advantages and disadvantages of social media and how society can best look after troops returning from conflict. The students worked on their assignments in a committed manner and produced some very thought-provoking work. I hope that it has inspired some of them to go on and pursue journalism as a potential career path – remember that Media City is only down the road!



## Media City Tour

Once again, Wellington parent, Mr Waters, gave students the opportunity to tour Dock 10 at Media City in what is becoming a popular annual outing.

Media Studies students were taken on an insightful journey around the studios where popular TV shows are made. The tour included a look at all the different stages of production and post-production to understand the process of a TV show, from filming to editing. Pupils were particularly interested in the popular show *The Voice* that was filmed at the studios and managed to have a snoop round the stars' dressing rooms! A perfect opportunity for anyone interested in joining this industry.



## Modern Family

8.1A have recently been studying Shakespeare's Hamlet.

In addition to getting to grips with the plot and historical context of the play and understanding the complexities of Shakespearean language they have been trying their hands at a little drama of their own.

They were given the task of bringing the story of disintegration of family unity up to date by exploring the family relationships in a much more modern way. I'm sure that Shakespeare himself would have been impressed by the appearance of the cast of his play on the 'Jeremy Kyle Show'. The result was extremely entertaining!

Mrs Hartley

## 7.1A: Mountain-top Explorers Extraordinaire!

This term 7.1A boldly explored new territory.

They imagined themselves as Year 11 pupils and wrote highly emotive and sophisticated speeches about their journey through Wellington School, from Year 7 all the way to Year 11. In order to appeal to my penchant for high peaks and pretty views, the pupils all implemented a motif of mountains within their rhetoric.

The results were striking.

At the 'soaring summit' of the writing task (Mia Claude-Williams' words, not mine) the pupils described school as 'a massive beast of a mountain: a gigantic, ruthless beast of tall, hostile rock and limestone that would give Everest restless nights!' (Joseph Smith); homework became 'an uphill' battle (Cameron Armitage); pupils found solace in each other as Paige Cross became Jenny Gee's 'light and compass'; school years became 'cairns' (Nicolas Contos) marking progression towards results day.

It was an immense pleasure to read the efforts of my class and I would like to extend to each pupil a huge well done as they come to the crest of their own great hike to the peak of Year 7.

Miss Spencer



## 7.1B have just finished their Independent Homework Project.

7.1B have just finished their Independent Homework Project. They have written, illustrated and created beautiful books for primary school children.

The following seven pupils showed excellent effort and produced a book of a very high standard: Lucy Allan; Matthew Taylor; George Bancroft; Amelia Buckley; Mia Fenton; Louis Goodwin and Georgina Scarce.

They also participated in an interview broadcast which was filmed and produced for BBC School News Report Day. They asked questions and discussed their own reading habits, favourite genres and their inspiration for their own book.

Well done!

Mrs Sheehan

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

7.2B have enjoyed studying 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', especially when they have had the opportunity to act out sections in small groups.

A particularly memorable performance was given by Sam, Josh, Joseph and Luke as they decided to take the complaint Egeus had against his daughter and turn it into a Jeremy Kyle-style chat show, with hilarious consequences. Mrs Beese will never be able to think of Hermia and Lysander in the same way again!

Mrs Beese



## Year 7 Ballads

7.3A and 7.5A have been studying ballad poetry with Mrs Collinge. One that everyone enjoyed was "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes.

The classes were set the challenge of producing a dramatic reading of this poem to entertain their classmates and to help them to remember the poem's themes and structure. Pupils used dance; movement and a range of intonation to deliver the message of the ballad successfully.

After this, pupils used what they had learned from studying famous ballads to help them to write their own original poetry – with some fantastic results!

Mrs Collinge





## Year 10 Trip to Shropshire

At the end of the Spring term, on a sunny Monday morning, the Geography Department took fifty Year 10 students to a little village in the middle of the Shropshire countryside, we stayed in a 'haunted' manor house overlooking some lovely landscapes.

After giving them 20 minutes to get changed, we quickly rushed the students out into the the slightly soggy weather to enjoy the fresh air. According to the girls we walked miles, but a little bit of exercise was appreciated by all. There was lots of wildlife spotted on the walk including a horse (which Bradley thought was a cow) and lots of rabbits and pheasants! After warming up with some tea it was time for the famous Shropshire Quiz, the winners getting an amazing 35 out of 43! Well done girls & Jordan!

Tuesday saw the weather brighten slightly, and the students were keen to get their waterproofs on and get in the river. We measured a range of different variables, including velocity, gradient and material size, to see how a river changes downstream. We then battled against hail - some of us (Luke & Lucy) dancing up the mountain, trying to find the source of the river, which unfortunately turned out to be seriously underwhelming to most of the students. In Luke's words 'Miss, you made us climb to the top of the world to look at a puddle.' I think the walk back down, the break from the weather and the hot chocolate waiting on their arrival made their day far better!

Wednesday saw Mr Holt pull a fantastic April Fool informing the students that the motorway was closed and various forms of transport would have to be used instead! The groans were quickly gone as we went on a tour of the local farm, looking at the cows and calves, some only days old. The highlight of the trip for Jordan and Tom was definitely watching a lamb being born and then seeing it attempt to stand up for the first time! The students left tired, but definitely not hungry, and incredibly sad to be leaving, despite the lack of 3G - anywhere! I am sure the activities completed on the trip will add to the students' understanding of rivers and prepare them for their GCSE exam.

Miss English



## Year 12 Geography

The Year 12 Geography students took part in a residential trip to the Lake District on Tuesday 3rd March until Friday 6th March.

We stayed four days at the Blencathra FSC centre near Keswick. You may recall that the mountain was for sale earlier in the year for £1.7 million, as seen on Country File. We had a successful trip with no rain! Just as well really, as most days we were walking, in rivers or analysing glacial features and sediment. The students completed a fieldwork study for the examination in June and thoroughly enjoyed wading in rivers. The food was amazing as usual and the mini bus definitely felt heavier on the drive home. A big thank you to all the students who behaved impeccably, this was noticed by the centre staff who also thanked them.

Mr Whitaker and Miss English

## Geographer of the month

Massive congratulations to the Geographers of the Month for the Spring Term:



January 2015  
– Jasmine Spinks Year 9



February 2015  
– Lucy Smith Year 7



March 2015  
– Mollie Axon Year 11



April 2015  
– Luke Watson Year 10

Very well done to you all! Keep up that hard work!

Mrs Kenny

## Praise Postcards April

Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated to receive a praise postcard throughout the Spring term for their continued hard work and fantastic effort. Keep it up everyone and very well done!

### YEAR 7

- Carl Smith
- Holly Packer
- Anna Booth
- Emily Read
- Hamish Gonzales – Sweeney
- Harlie Edwards
- Grace O'Connor
- Alistair Lawlor
- Isabelle Leslie
- Katie Philpott
- Tily Balderstone
- Sinead Leach

### YEAR 8

- Marcus Jones
- Jessica Grundy
- Ellie Blake
- Harvey Baskerville
- Faith Bristow
- Aisha Shad
- Ruby Shaw
- Dan Addison
- Adam Jennings
- Phoebe Ross
- Kevin Carson
- Rebecca Riley
- Rebecca Wright
- Reece Gaulton

### YEAR 9

- Joe Ball
- Lily Hopkins-Murphy
- Max Brookes
- Connor Oldbury
- Ellie Ninian
- Ben Hayes
- Yasmin Lee
- Henry Hill
- Cody Wilson
- Arron Richardson
- Shane O'Connor
- Emily Kane
- Beth Clapham
- Amly Loftus

Mrs Kenny

## Holocaust Memorial Day

The History Department marked Holocaust Memorial Day over the month of January.

Year 9 students have been studying the Holocaust in lessons as well as completing a research homework project. Our students then had to complete a final piece of their choice using the research. The projects produced were absolutely incredible. Ranging from paintings, models, diary entries and artefacts, they were really inspiring. For example, in 9.1 Ben Ryder composed a piece of music, Charlotte Pilcher a stunning painting with newspaper cuttings from reports about the Holocaust to form butterflies, and Tom Eaton in 9.8 even built a model of Auschwitz. Additionally, Year 9 were incredibly lucky to have Joanna Millan a Holocaust survivor in school to talk of her experience of the Holocaust and how she came to be in England. It was a very emotional and inspiring talk and Year 9 were very mature asking questions throughout.

Also, 16 Year 9 students were invited to Sale Waterside to take part in the Holocaust Memorial service. At the service were the Mayor of Trafford, Holocaust survivors, survivors of other Genocides, MPs, Rabbis, Christians, Buddhists and many more important members of the community. Four of our students performed a piece of poetry that they had written in a competition in school. The students' presentations were exceptional and really did Wellington School proud.

Miss Davison



## Year 10 walk in the footsteps of children in the Industrial Revolution

The last day of the Spring term brought blue skies and sunshine and provided a perfect backdrop as our Year 10 GCSE students visited Quarry Bank Mill at Styal.

The visit forms part of the preparation for the Controlled Assessment work on the local textile industry and so gives the pupils the opportunity to see for themselves what life could have been like for them if they had been born 200 years ago.

The students were shown around the mill by museum guides and impressed all with their appearance, maturity and conscientious approach to their research, with many intelligent questions asked and perceptive contributions to discussions made by our students.

Now the students have an excellent opportunity to capitalise on this visit to ensure that their responses in the controlled assessment are as good as they possibly can be, providing a great foundation for success in their GCSE course.

Well done to all involved.

Mr Ashworth



## MATHS News

### Cryptography Club

During the Spring Term, Wellington School entered a number of teams into the annual Manchester University Cryptography Competition.

This is a national competition, aimed at gifted mathematicians, which was entered by over 1,000 teams this year. Wellington's best placed team this year was headed by Sam Gregg (9AGL), showing remarkable resilience when faced with very difficult problems. Sam's team finished in a very respectable 125th position.

In his relatively short life, Alan Turing - code-breaker, mathematician and founding father of computer science - made a unique impact on the history of computing, computer science, artificial intelligence, developmental biology, and the mathematical theory of computability. You can see a statue, commemorating Alan, in Manchester.

If you would like to try any of the puzzles from the competition for yourself, you can find them online at [www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography\\_competition/index](http://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography_competition/index).



### World Pi Day, Friday 13 March

The Mathematics Department celebrated the mathematical constant Pi with lots of activities.

Year 7 and Year 8 students learnt about the history of Pi in lessons, and then tried to discover the constant for themselves, making Pi bunting for their classrooms. In form time all years joined in the Pi Dingbats competition. Winners were 7SCE, 8CCE, 9PMI, 10ZHS and 11MLE.

Meanwhile there was only ever going to be one winner in the "memorise Pi" competition - Sam Pegg (8CSR) - who recited, from memory, the first 220 digits in the decimal expansion of Pi (thereby surpassing his feat of 2014). You may recall his performance at the last Talent Show (indeed, if you saw it, you could never forget it!). As ever, he won a pork pie for his efforts...

Mr Poole

## La Rioja

On Wednesday 25th March, class 9D went on a trip to La Rioja in Altrincham.

We all enjoyed the food and it was a very good experience because we got to taste the real Spanish culture and speak Spanish at the same time! The restaurant has been open for 20 years and the owner of the restaurant lived in Spain for 20 years too. Overall, it was a very good experience for us all and we would love to do it again.

By Regan Woodall and Joseph Ball



## Big Bake Off

On the 1st April 'The Big Bake Off' took place in Miss Ryan's room where a selection of pupils brought in their homemade cakes with an MFL theme.

The Language Leaders and MFL teachers judged their appearance and taste. These were then sold to all pupils where all donations went to the Anthony Nolan charity which helps many cancer patients. All participants' cakes were amazing (it was clear a lot of time and effort had gone into them, as you can see from the photographs!) but after a difficult, close decision, first place went to Rebekka Court, second place went to Rebecca Henry and third place went to Yasmin Lee. Congratulations!

By Emily Holland and Phoebe Barlow, Year 10 Language Leaders



## Russian club

Our recent foray into a new, exciting language has now come to an end.

A small group of students and one member of staff took the opportunity to learn a new language by attending a series of lessons with Russian student, Luke McAdam, from Manchester University. Luke taught the group about basic introductions, Russian culture, general conversation, opinions and colours – although the most challenging part was that all of this was done using the Russian alphabet, which is very different to our own! Lauren Roberts, Year 10, wrote about her experience, "Although it was quite complex at times, we learnt so much in the space of five weeks and it wasn't just learning a language, we learnt about a whole culture! Having a teacher who had actually lived in Russia for a year was definitely helpful and his stories were really interesting." Overall, it was a fantastic experience and a great insight into a different culture, many thanks to Luke & the University of Manchester!

Miss McShane

## Language Leaders help as Mentors

In the spring term, the Year 10 Language Leaders mentored some Year 8 students, who were perhaps struggling with languages and needed a little extra support.

We met up with them frequently to discuss their recent work. In addition, we encouraged them to develop their speaking skills through basic conversation, including many opinions. We could teach them new words and better phrases to use in homework - which hopefully impressed their teachers! As a whole, the mentees showed great enthusiasm and not a single one of them let us down - well done! Hopefully our work paid off and we helped them in as many ways as possible! Dankeschön/ Merci Beaucoup

Written by: Olivia Ignatowicz – Language leader

## Language Leaders Primary School

Between Wednesday the 25th March and Friday the 27th March, Wellington School had numerous primary schools come and visit them for some MFL tuition!

We began with The Willows, then Navigation, followed by Park Road and finally we ended with Heyes Lane Primary, a staggering 200 primary school pupils in total! Around the Watson Hall were many different stations complete with language based activities to get the children to interact with each other, the Language Leaders and the language itself. For example, we had 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' in German, traditional French handwriting, school subjects in Spanish, French conversation and everybody was treated to Miss McShane's energetic Spanish Zumba routine. Let's not forget the ever so popular continental café filled with croissants, Frikadellen (German meatballs), Belgian chocolate, Chorizo and much more! It was really interesting to be able to teach the children and make it fun for us and for them at the same time. Overall, having the role of a Language Leader definitely rewards you and gives you the chance to participate in great opportunities like primary events. It also rewards you with a sense of pride and achievement when you are able to enjoy such a day and be able to pass on what you've learnt to somebody else.

Lauren Roberts 10PRR, Language Leader



## German plane crash sympathy card

– written by Emily Holt - Language Leader

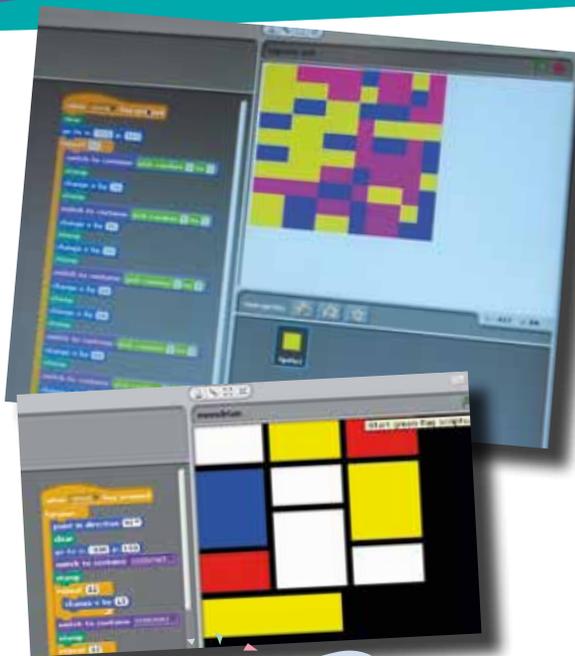
On the 24th March 2015, a German plane crashed in the French Alps, tragically all 144 passengers and six crew members were killed including 16 exchange students and 2 teachers.

As Language Leaders, our thoughts are with the families and friends of the victims and we cannot begin to imagine how horrible this time must be for them, especially as we have had our own German exchange and our friends have participated. So, we took the time to write a card of condolences addressed to the Joseph-König High School to say 'sorry for your loss and we hope you get the closure you need and deserve.' This was important to us because as our school community is so close, we know that it must be incredibly painful to lose beloved students and staff.

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

As part of our changes to the curriculum, where there is an increased emphasis on aspects of Computer Science, pupils have been programming using the Scratch tool.

One of many activities undertaken has been to create work in the style of Dutch artist, Piet Mondrian. Rather than paint and canvas, pupils use loops, variables and other programming techniques to write code to create their work. Here is the work of Rosie Delahunty (8JDN).



## On-line Portfolios

Pupils don't have a book for ICT and Computing so we are trialling an on-line method of collating their work and giving feedback called LearnerJourney.

Pupils will have their own electronic portfolio containing a collection of some of their best work, which parents will have access to. If you have a child in Key Stage 3, ask if they have an account and can show off some of their work. There is a teacher example, with some example pupil work at: <http://bit.ly/1Cst6gr>

Mr Little

## MUSIC News

### Bowdon Youth Festival

This year saw the return of our choirs at the Bowdon Youth Festival which took place at Bowdon Parish Church on the 5th February.

It was an excellent evening which highlighted the talent of the young people here at Wellington School. Three of our choirs took part. Sing, Sing with 7S and the Chamber Choir came fresh from their Christmas break following amazing performances at the Carol Service to work hard for the 5 weeks in the run up to the festival. Each ensemble had to learn 2 new pieces for the festival, and none of them disappointed in the quality of their performances.

Sing with 7S, who were led by Laura McDonagh, performed 'Reach' and 'Pure Imagination'. Steve Roberts, the adjudicator, was impressed by the quality that this young group of singers showed. Sing performed 'Shine' and a choral version of 'Who Will Buy' from Oliver. We also entered a programme of music from our Chamber Choir. They performed 'Run to You' and 'Evolution of Music', both songs performed without accompaniment which were arranged by the group Pentatonix. I am incredibly pleased to report that Wellington Chamber Choir triumphed and Sing came third. Sing with 7S were also highly praised by Steve Roberts. Many congratulations to our choristers.

However, there is no respite for our amazing choristers and rehearsals have started for the annual Awards Evening at the Bridgewater Hall. There will be performances by the three choirs this year, as well as our other ensembles in school. We always welcome new members so that we can continue with the tradition of quality musical performances that Wellington School always produce. Rehearsal times are published weekly in the Music Bulletin which students can find on their tutor notice board and parents can find under the 'This Week' section of the school website.

Mrs Moorhouse



### Graded Exams

Congratulations to Angus (Thompson) in 9NHN for passing his Grade 1 piano exam with Merit.

Please make sure you let Mrs Moorhouse know of any exam results you achieve, I know there are a few of you out there who are very shy about your accomplishments. And parents, if you know your son/daughter is one of the shy ones then please let us know.

### Talent Show

It's that time of year again. We're on the lookout for all different types of talent, so if you're a whizz on the juggling balls or keep-e-uppies, get practising.

Auditions will take place after the May half term. And if you're interested in joining our very able technical team then come and tell Mrs Moorhouse.

As we go to press Rachael (Quirk) 10 MBH has started her 3 night run at the RNCM as part of the RNCM Youth Theatre's production of Leonard Bernstein's 'On The Town'. We wish her all the luck for her performances. We love hearing about all our students' musical experiences outside of school, so please let us know if your son/daughter is involved with any Arts, Music or Dance groups.

### Instrumental Lessons

Just a reminder to students that instrumental lessons will carry on from term to term.

Also, you must ensure that you are involved in at least 1 extra curricular activity this half term. If you'd like to take advantage of our very competitively priced Music Service then please see Mrs Moorhouse for a letter.

The weekly Music Bulletin is published on the school website. It has details of all the weekly rehearsals for our ensembles, drop in sessions for students and extra lessons for examination groups so make sure you check it weekly, even if it's just to make sure the whole family listen to the Music of the Week. Send your nominations in to Mrs Moorhouse for any piece of music you think the students of Wellington School should be listening to.

Mrs Moorhouse

## Year 8 Experiential Learning

Year eight pupils have been enjoying a wide variety of interactive and experiential lessons this half term. Pupils particularly enjoyed taking part in a Hindu wedding ceremony and really entered into the spirit of the occasion making fantastic contributions to the lessons.

A particular mention must be given to those pupils (and their parents) who baked some delicious cakes, many of which would not look out of place at a real wedding ceremony (special thanks to Lauren Tidbury, Aisha Shad and Jessica Stamper). The lesson has been reviewed by Eve Selwood- Metcalfe who really captures the essence of the lesson...

Last lesson we recreated a Hindu wedding ceremony. As there were several candidates for the roles of bride and groom, Mrs Jones decided to put all the names into a hat and pick the winners. The first thing we did was dress the bride, groom, priest and best man in fine Hindu clothing. The saris were all bright and looked beautifully made of fine silk. Grace went outside to hide; Luke was standing by the front fire and being waved at by the front row. The bride then came out to greet the groom, both of them sitting in front of the fire. Holy water was then sprinkled onto them and their hands were tied together. Then came the vows and the prayers,

which were repeated after the priest as the couple held hands and looked into each other's eyes; they both walked around the fire before walking seven steps together. Finally the guests threw rice and flower petals.

The after party consisted of Hindu music, the best man's speech and a feast which all of us had contributed towards. This was our time to relax after the structured formality of the wedding. This was my favourite part (as well as when Grace and Luke exchanged vows) since although it was occasionally funny (since they wouldn't look at each other and it seemed a little awkward) it really portrayed the importance and genuine love that a wedding was meant to show.

This Hindu wedding ceremony was really enjoyable and helped me to understand a Hindu's way of life and the importance of their religion to them. It was a really informative, educational and enjoyable lesson.

Written by Eve Selwood- Metcalfe



## 'Court Red Handed'

Intense, heart-racing and exciting. These are just three terms I would use to describe the full course GCSE RE trip to Trafford Magistrates Court in Sale.

The excitement began as we arrived at the Magistrates Court on the morning of February 3rd. The mini bus, driven by Mr Crane came to a halt and we were all raring to go. All we needed now were some experts - Phil and Graham, two retired magistrates, who kindly greeted us at the entrance to the court. Phil and Graham were kind enough to explain how the courts worked, the maximum sentences given by magistrates, custody procedures and also touched upon events in the Youth Courts. They also shared some personal experiences of cases with us which were fascinating. But then it was time...

The butterflies in our stomachs fluttered as we took our first steps into the court rooms. We were taken into the court where it was expected that the defendants intended to plead guilty. We took our seats and the trials began.

Standing silently, we watched the magistrates enter the court room and take

their seats with the lead magistrate sitting in the middle. We then experienced three separate cases, all very interesting and yet extremely different.

The first case was an incident of drink-driving where the defendant had been caught driving with alcohol in his system without insurance and only a provisional licence. The man stated he regretted his decision but claimed he had good intentions as he had to get home to look after his three children. We felt sympathy for the man but it was shocking to think that his irresponsible actions could have caused a lot more damage. The magistrates concluded that he would be banned from driving for twenty months and be given a fine of £130 which he agreed to pay despite his struggle as he was unemployed. We were fascinated for the next case...

The second man came up from the cells in handcuffs due to the fact that it was a serious case of domestic violence. The man was being charged with assaulting his mother in their home. His case was reviewed and postponed until a later date due to the fact that his sister needed to be called as a witness to the attack. The man was released under bail conditions which were explained to us by Phil and Graham. This case really shocked us all as it was so serious and we began to realise that we were witnessing

real people and the magistrates had a huge amount of power to influence people's futures.

The final case was a middle-aged man who had stolen a T.V from Asda, with his friend also taking one. He had also taken cocaine the night before and it was still in his system. We were surprised that the court seemed to ignore the drug use and instead only dealt with the theft. Graham later explained that this was because he was charged with theft rather than drug use. We discovered that the man had previous convictions for theft which needed to be considered. The verdict given was that the man would be asked to complete some community service but we did not find out the details of this.

Overall, we really enjoyed the trip to court and would love to go again. It really gave us an insight into what happens in a court and really helped our understanding of the justice system for the current topic we are studying - Crime and Punishment. Our whole class would like to thank Mrs Stephens, Mrs Jones and Mrs Long for taking us, Mr Crane for driving us there and all the staff at the magistrates court for giving us a real insight into punishment for criminal behaviour.

Written by Phoebe Barlow, Paige Alcock and Samantha Brown

## Year 10 Football

The Spring term saw the undefeated Year 10 football team resume their football season with a catch-up league game against Sale Grammar.

With the tinkerman at it again, Mr. Tomlinson was trying something new and had to trust his team to carry out the game plan as he was referee for the game (and a mighty fine one at that!). The team were simply awesome and it was one the best performances collectively I have seen from them. Enthusiastic with and without the ball (and with each other), determined and encouraging - it was a pleasure to witness. We scored 3 early goals which was a little detrimental because we took our foot off the gas and allowed them to score late in the first half. We had a re-group at half time, discussed what we needed to do and they executed the second half very well, scoring a further 3 goals and not conceding any. Louis Welch marshalled his tricky winger very well and Luke Drummond and Jack Davenport were excellent at the back. Our front three of Cameron Morgan, Josh Wilkinson and Jack Rundle caused problems throughout the first half and special mention to Jake Sullivan and Mickolaj Mars on making their debuts. That finishes our league campaign unbeaten, winning all 5 games and South Trafford league Champions - we play Ashton in the league play-offs on Wednesday 6th May to see who makes it through to Carrington.

Unfortunately the team picked up their first defeat of the season against Urmston Grammar in the quarter finals of the Trafford cup. Like last season, penalties decided it and we were knocked out cruelly again. I can't fault the lads on their journey since taking over in Year 9. Urmston had some really talented players and considering we picked up some injuries and some players couldn't play, we battled hard. We scored first through Jack Rundle but after a somewhat fortunate equaliser we were stuck with penalties. For the team to be battling in the later stages of tournaments tells you the dedication and hard work they show for each other. Hopefully we can win the Ashton game and have a final to look forward to.

Mr Tomlinson

## Swimming

We took a Year 7 and 8 boys and girls team to St Ambrose for the annual swimming gala.

The competition is for swimmers at amateur level who haven't swam in the ASA county championships this year. Our Boys team came 8th out of 10, and the Girls team came 6th out of 10. All of the swimmers did very well in their individual events and worked well together in their relay events. Congratulations to the pupils who represented Wellington, and as always showed fantastic sportsmanship and perseverance.

Miss Hodges

## Sixth Form Football

2014/15 season was a first for both Trafford and Wellington, with the Sixth Form football team being involved in an organised league.

Matches were held on Wednesday afternoons, and the team managed to play in 10 competitive fixtures between November and February. Wellington played fixtures against Ashton, St Ambrose, Wellacre, Urmston Grammar and Sale Grammar both home and away. The team had mixed fortunes over the course of the year, but the real positive was being able to get an enthusiastic squad playing and enjoying every game. At the end of the season Wellington had four wins, four losses and two draws. We will be entering a Sixth Form team for next season and hope that we can build on a positive start for Sixth Form league football.

Player of the season – Kieran Wright.

Mr Morgan



## Year 7 girls' football

This year we had two Year 7 teams representing Wellington at the Trafford 7-a-side football tournament.

The numbers of pupils at training have been superb all season and the girls were looking forward to their first competitive games. They faced Urmston, BTH, Loreto, Ashton and Sale Grammar in the group stages of the tournament. With a number of games resulting in draws, the girls were unlucky not to progress from the group stage of the competition. There were some excellent individual performances from Eve Navarro, Melissa Kendrick-McFarland and Libby Mulcahy.

Miss MacGlinchey

## Year 8 and 9 girls' football

The Year 8/9 football team were lucky to have the opportunity to take part in the Manchester United girls' football tournament.

This is a very prestigious tournament and the level of skill from all teams was very impressive. The team put in some excellent performances and worked well, linking the midfield and forwards which resulted in wins against Irlam, Stretford, Oasis and Urmston. The girls were unlucky to finish out of the medals in 4th position but displayed good team work and positive, skilful play throughout.

In the Trafford 7-a-side tournament the girls were well prepared for the competition. With a number of pupils from all schools playing for clubs out of school, it was a level playing field. Wellington secured some good results with a 2-0 win against St Antony's; a 3-0 win against BTH and another 2-0 win against ACA. We finished in 3rd position narrowly missing out on reaching the final. Well done to Evie Chard, Jess Richardson and Niamh Tomlin for some excellent individual performances. Bring on next season!

Miss MacGlinchey



## Year 7/8 Girls' Basketball

This year we had some fresh faces at training with many players new to the sport of basketball.

The Year 7's and 8's gelled well together as a team and were ferocious in their play. In the Trafford tournament we came up against some strong (and very tall!) opposition with BTH, AOM, Stretford, Urmston, Sale High. The girls drew against BTH, lost against AOM but had a superb win of 20-0 against Broadoak. It was a superb team performance with everyone persevering, however a special mention must go to captain Connie Taylor for her exceptional performance and leadership throughout the tournament.

Miss MacGlinchey



## Trafford Cheer and Dance Competition

Following on from the event before Christmas, 27 excited girls arrived each and every Tuesday lunch time to rehearse our new routine

We had a new song and some new faces plus lots of new ideas too. Off we went to Urmston to see some amazing primary performances and then it was our turn. A quick recap backstage and we were ready. Points were awarded for our chant, the use of poms, our strong moves and smiling faces! We were thrilled to achieve second place in the key stage 3/4 category.

Megan Roylance and Toullie McVey from Year 10 also performed a superb piece as a duet and wowed the crowd. They too received trophies.



## Netball

The Year 8 team played their final tournament of the season at Stretford Grammar this term.

They faced BTH, Urmston B, AGGS and Stretford Grammar in the group stages. The team showed fantastic skill to beat their first 3 teams, and narrowly lost to AGGS. They met Urmston A in the semi final, which they were able to comfortably beat and then progressed through to the final to face AGGS again. The girls really put on a good show to lose 8-4, which is a brilliant effort for the last game of the season. Player of the tournament (as nominated by Mrs Thomson) was Eve Smith for her fantastic interceptions and passing centre court.

The girls also played in the semi finals and finals of the Trafford League. The girls faced Urmston Grammar in the semi final who they were comfortably able to beat this year. It was a great game, and was especially exciting to win as last year they were defeated in the final by Urmston. We then went on to play Sale Grammar in the final. It was another close game, but by the fourth quarter the girls were able to get a comfortable lead and won the Trafford title. With more and more of the team playing for outside clubs, the girls' appreciation and skills are going from strength to strength. We look forward to next season where we are hoping to be able to take the double!

Miss Hodges



## Year 7/8 Lacrosse

From February half term we were lucky to receive some free coaching from Timperley Sports Club.

They regularly have American coaches over for the season and two of their coaches came along to help our students develop their skills. This culminated in a tournament at Timperley against Sale Grammar and ACA. The boys were triumphant and voted Jake Lineham as man of the tournament. The girls came second and voted Georgina Scrace as their girl of the tournament. Well done to all who took part in the tournament and remember to look out for this opportunity next year.

Miss Richards





## Ski Trip

“This year’s Ski Trip was to New Hampshire and New York and I can honestly say it was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had.

The first five days we spent in New Hampshire, skiing every day for 4 hours; the slopes were breath-taking and the experience of skiing was equally exhilarating for beginners to the sport all the way up to the experts. After skiing, in the evenings, we were able to take part in fun activities, such as swimming, tubing, playing in the hotel arcade, a cinema visit and shopping!

As if the trip was not good enough already, we ended it in New York! We were able to explore all the amazing sights of the city, have a meal in Planet Hollywood in Times Square, see the city lights from the top of the Rockefeller building, walk through Central Park and do some souvenir shopping. Overall, the Ski Trip 2015 was a phenomenal experience that was spent in the great company of both friends and staff. I would highly recommend this trip to everybody without a doubt!”

By Mia Swift 10 ZHS



## Year 7 and 8 Greater Manchester Boys Indoor Athletics

Wednesday 11th March saw the Year 7 and 8 Athletics team represent Trafford at the Greater Manchester Indoor Athletics championships.

Following a practice on the Tuesday afternoon with John Snape from Altrincham Athletics, the boys felt prepared to compete against the best athletes in Manchester, especially following the advice from John - it proved especially beneficial for the Year 7's the following day. The Year 7 competition was in the morning and Year 8 boys in the afternoon - both teams deserving to be there.

The Year 7 team (pictured) performed gallantly throughout and could not have represented the School and Trafford better with their efforts. I was extremely proud of the team who never gave up. Carl Smith was man of the day winning his 4 lap race and the 4x2 lap relay team finished second. The performance saw us finish 4th out of 10 schools in Greater Manchester, which is an excellent achievement. I was extremely impressed with the boys' attitude and encouragement of each other. It was a pleasure to see them participate.

The tournament did not go so well for the Year 8 team. We picked up some injuries at key times and a couple of underperformances in some events saw the team finish a respectable 6th. Again their conduct and effort was outstanding. The 4x1 obstacle team finished first with Oli Tero, Dan Flisk, Tom Carr and George Harris-Stelfox and Jayden Barrington with Henry Howarth in the 4 lap race performing well. Again the 4x2lap relay team finished 2nd with James Drummond getting us a good start.

Mr Tomlinson



## Rugby

When I took over as Headteacher in September 2012, inevitably I had a number of objectives, one of which was to grow extra-curricular opportunities and participation even more.

We have made significant strides in this area and, as many of you will know, this period has seen the growth of sports such as hockey (thanks to the new astro) and rugby. My personal involvement in the latter has been one of the highlights for me and it's great to see our fixture list expanding and more and more boys (and some girls) joining local clubs having been bitten by the rugby bug. In short, I am pleased with the progress we have made, but there is much more to be done until we are fully competitive with the established rugby-playing schools.

Unfortunately, our fixture list was hit by the weather in the Spring Term with numerous cancellations and also by some schools being unable to honour fixtures at Year 10 and Year 11 level, unable to raise a team. That has not been a problem at Wellington and credit must go to the boys in these Year Groups and to Mr Tomlinson for organising the squad. It has been a real shame that they haven't had the number of games their enthusiasm and ability merited.

Across the years, however, we did play 22 matches (predominantly at Year 7 and Year 8 level), winning 12, losing 9 and drawing 1 and a handful of tournaments. Particular praise must go to the Year 8 squad who lost just one match all season. The Year 7s, with many novices to the game, have developed into a capable outfit and things bode well for their second season of rugby. Disappointingly, the Year 9 squad, bar a handful of notable individuals, have not demonstrated the commitment I would have expected and therefore did not play as many fixtures as intended. The squads each have two 7-a-side tournaments to play in the Summer Term and hopefully we will end the season on a high note.

So, where do we go from here? Well, a priority is to 'recruit' more rugby coaches. I am indebted to Messrs. Tomlinson, Morgan, Manifould, Travis, Gerschler and O'Rourke (apologies if I have missed you out!) but I appreciate they all have other academic and / or sporting commitments. I am keeping my eyes open for former internationals who are also 'outstanding' Maths or Science teachers but there don't seem to be many around. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who would be willing to lend a hand, then don't hesitate to contact me at School.

I would also take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support this season – the Year 7 parents in particular have turned out in big numbers. I do hope you will join us on Thursday 18th June at Bowdon Rugby Club for our annual Sports Dinner (further details to follow soon).

S P Beeley

## Science Assessment Trials

Two groups of Year 9 pupils took part in an assessment trial run by the NFER, which is an educational research group.

The idea was to trial a new type of KS3 assessment which could potentially be used in the future. It was a great privilege to be chosen to take part as many schools requested a place. NFER have contacted us to thank us for taking part and will be letting us know the outcomes of their research in May. So thank you to 9-1 and 9-5 who took part!

Mrs Brown

## Manchester Museum Visit

17 A-Level Biologists attended a 5 hour workshop replicating and sequencing DNA found in their own cheek cells at the Manchester Museum.

The session was delivered by a PhD student studying Archaeological Forensics, relating the uses of these genetic techniques completed by the pupils, to real-life situations e.g. crime, conservation of endangered species and as evidence to Evolution.

Pupils enjoyed using high-tech scientific equipment, applying the knowledge acquired in the classroom to practical lab work, in addition to the tour around the Vivarium, looking at a number of endangered poison-dart frogs' species and the research completed at the University to preserve them.

Miss Tan



## British Science Week: What Lurks Beneath?



The Science department was a hive of activity during British Science Week from Monday 16th March to Friday 20th March, which of course culminated in the Solar Eclipse! British Science Week (BSW) was a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths - featuring fascinating, entertaining and engaging events and activities across all Key Stage 3 lessons.

This year the theme was entitled "What Lurks Beneath?" – staff designed a range of activities around this theme which allowed pupils to behave as true scientists covering forensics, Environmental Chemistry and building their own pin hole cameras so they could safely observe the solar eclipse during their science lesson on the morning of Friday 20th March. Feedback from the pupils as always has been extremely positive!

A massive thank you to all students and staff involved in this truly enriching experience.

Mrs Hoogenberg



## Science Club

Here are a few highlights of some super science club activities from last term.

- There was a high wind at science club when we raced our impressive model balloon cars, at break - neck speeds around the department.
- Just before half term the students took on the tremendous challenge of posting a pringle in a custom made box via the royal mail and seeing if it would come back in one piece!
- We also made our own indoor fireworks - amazing black soda snakes - from sugar, baking soda and alcohol. This proved to be a very popular activity.
- In March, record numbers of students turned up to make gorgeous scented heart shaped bath bombs for mum on Mother's day.
- British Science Week went with a whizz, pop, bang... bang....bang....bang! Mr Stanley and Dr Lane carried out all manner of pyrotechnic antics, the science department was full to the rafters with students and teachers alike.
- At the end of the term, the students had to create some top notch winning designs, building paper aeroplanes. Prizes were awarded; for the longest distance, longest time in the air and best overall design.

At the end of term, those who regularly attended science club were rewarded with a certificate and the widely sought after science club badge. (Even our teachers wanted one!) Well done and thank you to all who contributed with such an abundance of enthusiasm and creativity.

Mrs Vickers, Dr Lane and Mrs Casey

## 8.2A Organs Homework project

This term 8.2A got a little bit creative with their Science homework project when they were asked to turn their bodies inside out.



They were tasked with creating a set of 3D organs, using only recycled resources, and then attaching them to an apron so that their organs were on the outside of their bodies. The class then showed off their work to the rest of the class in a fashion show. There were some fantastic pieces of work, which showed true creativity and initiative. These were the best of the bunch!

Miss Lee



## Chester Zoo trip

At the end of the Spring term, we took 44 pupils from Years 10 and 12 to Chester Zoo (a second trip to the zoo for Mr Williams, Mrs Brown and Mrs Soldiew in the space of a week – we love the place!)

Students took part in tutorial sessions on the role of zoos in conservation. It gave Year 12 a chance to see the theory they have covered in lessons in action and Year 10 the opportunity to preview a topic that some may cover in A Level Biology. The tutorials allowed students to study and observe the conservation of species such as the Painted Dogs and Asian Elephants, alongside how the roles of zoos have changed in the last 100 years.

Needless to say, all students were fantastic and represented the Science department superbly.

Mr Williams



## Chester Zoo Trip

As part of British Science Week the Science Department took 174 Year 7 pupils to Chester Zoo to enhance their study of ecosystems and animal behaviour.

The pupils completed a series of study tasks based on 5 animals of their choice researching their habitats and feeding habits. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially as it is baby animal season so there were lots of cute moments. The new Orang-utan was my favourite.

Mrs Brown

## Alton Towers National Science Week

With all of the fun Science activities that take place with KS3 during British Science Week, our Year 11 Physicists wanted to get involved too!

After another 2 week stint of mock exams they used a trip to Alton Towers to let off some steam, but also to apply their knowledge of the Physics units that they had been studying for their GCSE. The day started off with a presentation into the Science of Roller-coasters and then afterwards they experienced first-hand examples of forces, acceleration, energy transfers and circular motion. A great day was had by all and hopefully the short break has given them a new impetus to prepare for their summer exams. Miss Lee

## The Big Bang Fair

On Wednesday 11th March 2015 Mr Stanley and Mr Pilgrim took 40 of our Year 9 Scientists to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham.

The aim of the event was to inspire our future scientists and engineers through exciting hands on activities and interactive exhibits.

At the event our budding scientists and engineers were able to take part in the many exciting science and engineering activities put on by organisations such as Rolls Royce, Formula One and Water Aid.

The students had lots of fun getting involved and in the process they gained an insight into how science plays a role in all aspects of the world around us and into the diverse range of careers that are available in the sector. Who knows what the future will hold for our budding young scientists?

Mr Stanley & Mrs Hoogenberg



## A Level Trip to The Christie Hospital

During British Science Week a group of lucky A Level students attended a series of talks about Medical Physics at The Christie.

We were treated to an excellent lecture and series of demonstrations about using different imaging techniques to monitor the heart. We also had a series of three mini talks. The first was about using CT scanning during operations to monitor patients, which is a new use of the technology being researched at The Christie.

Then we had a look at one of the CT scanners and were shown how it worked to treat tumours. Finally we were shown how radiation therapy works in treating tumours. We left with our minds brimming with new information, a valuable experience for all who attended.

Mrs Brown

## British Aerospace & Royal Air Force STEM Roadshow 2015

On Friday 6th February, Year 7 and Year 8 watched a STEM Roadshow delivered on behalf of BAE Systems and the Royal Air Force.

The Roadshow was devised in response to the Government's acknowledgement that there is already a shortfall of 'home grown' scientists and engineers to meet the needs of the country and by capturing the interest of young people aged 10 – 13, we can hopefully increase the numbers that take STEM subjects and ultimately increase the pool of talent in years to come.

The presentation focused on lasers, sensing technology, Stirling Engine, pedal power (Dynamos), Theremin, virtual reality, magnetism and sound pressure (Ruben's tube).

Volunteers from Year 7 and Year 8 were super keen to try out the Virtual Reality glasses, operate a pedal powered dynamo to make electricity and pit their strength against the awesome power of some of the strongest magnets!

Overall, the presentation was a huge success – the students really enjoyed themselves, and we were proud to hear the presenters comment that our pupils here at Wellington were some of the most polite and engaged young people that they have come across. Well done to all involved!

Miss Tyrer



## STEM Club 2015

A new and exciting STEM club kicked off in January, involving the Science, Maths and Technology departments.

Our first project involved disassembling and then reassembling a real Dyson Hoover. This was a project run with the James Dyson Foundation, which aims to teach the pupils all about design engineering and the processes involved within it.

There was a large amount of enthusiasm from KS5 physics, Maths and Biology pupils and some Year 11's came along too. It was a great start to the club, and I'm pleased to say that everyone managed to fully assemble a functioning Hoover head, as tested by Miss Latham, who took it upon herself to give my lab a good Hoover!

Miss Tyrer



## Ultimate Car Challenge 2015

We are in the exciting first stages of the Ultimate Car Challenge with groups of Year 8 and 9 pupils. This is a project run by the University of Manchester, in which pupils have to design, market and then build their own scaletrix model car, using specific materials.

A University of Manchester engineering student works with the pupils each week, guiding them through the design and engineering process.

Once complete, the car will undergo drag races, circuit trials and crash tests in an attempt to be the winning group from our school. That winning group will then be involved in a Grand Finals Event, which is a two day residential at the University of Manchester, in early July, where the car will face all sorts of tests to prove that it is best!

We are all putting in our best efforts for this competition, as it is the first year that Wellington have competed against the surrounding schools, and a success would reflect all of the pupils' efforts.

Miss Tyrer

## Extra Curricular Fencing

The new Wellington Sabre Club has been a great success with pupils from Year 7-10 learning the basics of the Olympic sport of sabre fencing in their Wednesday afterschool training session.

Fencers have learned basic footwork and blade work skills and are progressing onto more advanced combinations of attack and defence techniques. At the club session pupils learn about core fitness work and training to support the fencing skills that they are developing.

We have already a good group of students who are able to fence competitively and who understand the basic rules allowing them to act as referees at club level.

The Head Coach Patrick Jennings is a current GBR Senior International fencer and supported by Emily Ruaux who is the 2014-15 U20 National Champion and Women's Commonwealth Games Sabre Captain. Mr Jennings has identified the tremendous development of the pupils who have participated and looks forward to some early entries in Regional Competitions next term. We look forward to seeing some early medals for our first Wellington pupils.

Mr Ruaux



## SIXTH FORM News

### Sixth Form News, Views and a couple of Reviews!

Sit down, get yourself a cup of tea ... Wellington Sixth Form has a lot to tell you!

Well it's been a busy old term. Our Year 13s have been attending university interviews across a number of subjects including teaching, Psychology and Media. Final choices and applications need to be secured and there have been a flurry of confirmations and organising of accommodation.

Some of our students are applying for apprenticeships so a visit to the 'Skills North West' event at Event City provided a great opportunity to meet employers offering Higher Apprenticeships and find out more about the 'Earn & Learn' path. Interviews are currently taking place across a number of areas including Finance, with one ambitious student having an interview with Bank of New York Mellon.

As mentioned in the Art section of the newsletter, Ella Heywood in Year 13 had her work exhibited at the Lowry, Salford Quays, for the Living Edge Magazine Schools competition. The work is a stunning piece depicting circus and fairground references, in beautiful colours and well executed techniques. Well done on such a great achievement.



Mr Cropper and Mrs Wilson took a number of our Year 12 students to the North West Oxbridge Conference at Haydock Park Racecourse, where they were able to hear about the requirements and how to tailor an application and techniques for the interview process. Even if the students decide an Oxbridge application is not for them, the hints and tips they acquired on the day will be extremely useful for any university application.

Year 12 also enjoyed a visit to the UCAS convention at Manchester Central this term. All the universities are represented and they are able to promote their courses, facilities and success rates. It also allows students the opportunity to speak to admissions officers, course administrators and student representatives to get a full insight into life at university. They all came back 'buzzing' with where they are planning to go and what they want to study.





Mrs Wilson arranged a trip to the Cornerhouse Cinema in Manchester with the Year 12 and 13 French A Level students for a special screening of Louis Malle's much celebrated film 'Au



Revoir les Enfants' which they are currently studying. This was followed by a Q&A session in the cinema's education room about the film's key themes, techniques and characters led by Isabelle Vanderschelden, Head of French at MMU. It was a couple of hours very well spent and will hopefully provide the students with the extra edge they need in their essay writing.

We have had a study skills day to help prepare our students for the next stages of their education, be it Year 13 or University. The day provided time to reflect upon study and revision techniques and review mock grades and set targets. Year 12 looked at the 'bigger picture' and how important the AS phase of their exams is in relation to university course



criteria and point requirements. Year 13 looked at how to budget and plan their finances when living away from home. There was also a workshop from 'Live-N-Learn' which explored confidence, self-esteem and developing a mind-set or can-do attitude. All in all, a busy day providing food for thought and tools for our students to continue to build on their potential.

The sponsored walk showed just how considerate, thoughtful and compassionate our students are. The Sixth Form students as always did themselves proud with a vast array of costumes, rivalled this year by the Sixth Form staff team who gave them a run for their money by also being in fancy dress! The students were out and about in the local area with their collecting buckets and you Timperley folk are very generous, contributing a huge £1500, all of which is going towards an amazing and very worthwhile charity, Genesis Breast Cancer prevention. Huge thanks for the great costumes and contributions to what is a great day at Wellington.

Another act of kindness from our Sixth Form students came with the vast majority participating in a research programme run by Central Manchester University Hospitals and the NHS Foundation Trust. The national research study is focused on understanding why a germ called the meningococcus, which is usually harmless, sometimes causes meningitis and blood poisoning. The study will help to understand the bacteria better and inform how vaccines can help protect people against this form of meningitis in the future. Well done to everyone who participated.

Everyday our students help support and supervise the school, whether helping out with lunch duty, mentoring of younger students, running homework support sessions and support events or visits and activities within School. So to reward them for these contributions a trip to Blackpool was organised at the end of last term. Now I haven't heard about any donkey rides or building of sandcastles from the trip, but there was a lot of talk about the rides. Looking at the photos it would certainly appear to have been a well-deserved and enjoyable trip.

Amongst all of these activities there have continued to be lessons, extra sessions, mentoring and revision classes ... and a further opportunity for more learning, reviewing and revising at the Easter School sessions kindly offered by the wonderful Welly staff!

A whirlwind of a term, we're sure you will agree, but for now we will sign off with a huge GOOD LUCK for all the Sixth Form students in their exams!

Mr Cropper, Miss Grey and Mrs Wilson



## Year 7 Projects

Year 7 students have had a change of format for some of their homework this half term.

They have been working on projects in Geography, Science, MFL, Technology and Art. The students were given a variety of different titles and had to produce a piece of work based around their chosen title. Students were given complete autonomy over how they interpreted the project title and how they chose to present their projects. The outcomes of their hard work culminated in an evening where they had to discuss their projects with parents, teachers and governors, who came to listen to them talk about what they had learnt. This event took place on over two evenings in the Watson Hall and the feedback from staff, students, parents and governors was extremely positive. The overwhelming response from students was that they had really enjoyed this style of homework and taking responsibility for their learning. Parents, staff and governors were very impressed with the knowledge that students had gained and the way they had chosen to showcase their work.

Mrs Shelley



## Year 7

Life has been great for the Year 7's so far at Wellington. On the whole, they have maintained their high standards throughout the year, particularly their appearance.

We continue to be the highest attending Year group and this is something which deserves great credit. Many thanks go to all parents, guardians and carers who consistently communicate the reasons for their child's absence to us. The majority of Year 7 students continue to have excellent attendance. We always seek ways to praise and reward such positive features of school life. The following tutor groups have achieved 100% attendance over a particular week. As a result, they were all awarded with a reward breakfast in the dining hall and various cash giveaways. Congratulations go to 7SPR who won the full term attendance award and 7NTN who won the half term attendance award.

In our next assembly there will be a draw of £10 for three lucky winners who achieved 100% attendance for the half term and one lucky winner will win £20 cinema voucher for 100% for the full term! Names in a hat time!!

In registration time, numeracy and literacy challenges such as the game 'Countdown' have also been implemented assisting with work done in Maths and English lessons. Interventions also take place during morning registration with various students working closely with Maths and English teachers providing noticeably effective outcomes in terms of learning and progress.

The Year 7 and whole school reward system 'Behaviour Watch' continues to be utilised and encouraged by subject teachers across the school as a positive behaviour incentive. Students collect points and their name is entered into a prize draw and they subsequently have the chance of winning various prizes and more cash incentives! You've no doubt gathered that we give a lot of money away rewarding students...I'm just relieved it's not out of my wages as there wouldn't be much left!



Congratulations go to Lucas Monks, Sam Webster, Leyi Wang, Reece Glassbrook, Michael Hough, Aadam Ashraf, Dylan Jones, Louis Goodwin, Darcy Popplewell and Evie Penfold who feature in the top ten at the time of writing.

A huge number of extra-curricular clubs continue to run and these are reinforced in tutor time. Please encourage your child to participate if they are not yet a member of an extra-curricular club.

Students are urged to continue to use the LRC for homework which runs every evening after school between 3.05pm and 4pm. A number of our Classroom Assistants kindly give up their time to supervise, supporting the learning of all Key Stage 3 students, not just Year 7's.

The end of Year reward trip is now in the initial planning phase. All students who have displayed the expected standards to date will be offered the opportunity to attend the trip. Please expect further information on this at a later date. Enjoy the rest of the Summer Term!

Mr Travis and Mrs Haley

## Year 8

Year 8 have been busy as always. The Spring Term has brought yet more tutor responsibilities and more tutor challenges.

The most recent tutor challenge has been to build a bridge out of only newspaper and sticky tape. The winning design actually held the weight of a member of the Year group! But a real focus of this half term have been tutor discussions based on a range of issues that impact upon the lives of teenagers. Topics discussed range from homophobia and 'sexting' to bullying, terrorism and radicalisation. Tutors have been impressed with the maturity and thoughtfulness of many of the responses given by members of the Year group.

Another big focus of last term was tutor mentoring. Tutors have been meeting with small groups of their tutees once a week to help students reflect upon the year so far and discuss problems or set targets for the rest of the year. Finally students have been problem solving to continue to develop their thinking skills. Typical of the problem was the following puzzle for Valentine's Day. Can you solve it?

Saint Valentine's Day falls on February 14 each year.

It is the traditional day on which people express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards anonymously.

Four boys each sent a card to a different girl.

- Diego did not send a card to Alexa
- Brian sent a card to either Avery or Andrea
- Avery did not receive a card from Adam or Adrian
- Neither Adam nor Adrian sent a card to Leah
- Adrian would never send a card to Alexa

Pair up the boys and girls

Next stop for Year 8 will be to design their own political parties and campaigns as the Year group hold their own general election, which I'm sure will be even more fiercely contested than the spats between Cameron, Milliband et al.

Miss Tidbury

## Year 9

Year 9 have had an incredibly busy term working to achieve success and then reaping the rewards! Students have been working hard in forms to win the interform championships.

This half term we were competing in the interform spelling bee and poetry competition. Every student in the year group entered one of the contests and first battled it out within their forms to select their champion who then progressed through to the Year group event. The spelling bee was won by Lekkie Howell from NMN, and the Poetry competition was won by Lauren Hamblett of LSS. Our next contest will be our interform 'Countdown' competition.

Students have also been working hard on the learning habits aspect of the tutor programme this term. Their first project centred on careers with all students engaged in P4C sessions, discussion and literacy based activities around the topic before summarising their ideas in a moodboard. The students are just finishing off the same activities for the current affairs topic, before moving on to exploring politics. It's lovely to see the pupils engaging in discussion and debate over such mature topics.

The focus of the first half term was options choices, ensuring the students were picking the right options based on their future education and career plans but also considering what they enjoyed and were succeeding in already. To help students with their decisions lots of extra activities and support was put into place and it was lovely to see how well the students engaged with such events to support them. We have had a visit to Chester University, where the pupils split into groups to attend lectures on life at University and student finance as well as lots of input on how their options choices will affect their higher education options. We have also had visitors from Manchester University and Manchester Metropolitan university to deliver presentations to the whole Year group focussing on options choices and links to careers and higher education. Mr Plaiter, our Connexions advisor was also able to speak to every tutor group offering further advice, and some pupils were able to have 1:1 meetings with him for extra help.

The second half term was just as busy with lots of projects we have been working on coming to a close. The first was the National Mock trial competition, which 16 pupils entered. The pupils travelled with myself to Warrington magistrates court, where they battled out court scenes against Lymm High School and Calday Grange Grammar school. I was immensely proud of the group, who had been working hard and practising weekly since October! It's been brilliant to see students develop in confidence over the course of the project, and gain skills that will be useful in Key Stage 4 and beyond. Thanks also to Mr Harrison for his help with the practice sessions.

We also saw the end of the Sky Sports Living for Sport project where a group of boys in Year 9 have spent a term giving up an hour after school

on Fridays to learn a new sport and develop their leadership and coaching skills. They finished the project by volunteering to teach a Year 7 group some of the skills they had learnt, this was a great way for them to show how mature they can be, and how much confidence they have developed in their own abilities, again skills that will support them as they go into Key Stage 4 and beyond. Thanks also to Mr Gubbins for the time and work he gave to the group.

Our final visitor of the term was Anthony Taylor who is a premiership and Fifa referee. Anthony came in over the Easter holidays to work with a group of pupils. He spent time talking to the pupils about his job and his experiences before doing some practical work to get the pupils to practise making the right decisions quickly, and thinking about the consequences when decisions are incorrect. The group learnt a lot from the time they spent with Anthony and again, it's always good to see the students developing positive attitudes and gaining in confidence.

Finally, we have been celebrating success in a whole variety of ways this term. Our Superhero awards have continued (100% attendance, perfect behaviour and perfect punctuality), with more pupils than ever gaining the prestigious award, which is fantastic to see. Those pupils who won the award for the first three half terms in the year were treated to a reward breakfast at Frankie and Benny's at the end of the term. We have also had multiple chocolate themed awards for attendance and punctuality, as well as celebrating our huge achievements with the Behaviour Watch scheme, where 150 pupils won prizes in Year 9!

Another absolutely fantastic term for Year 9, with not only great academic progress but also progress in our attitudes and commitment to learning and school life. We're looking forward to a fantastic final term before Year 10.

Miss Hodges



## Year 10

It has been an extremely busy term for Year 10.

The tutor period programme has been changed to incorporate as much revision for the Science and Short Course PE exams as possible. Feedback from tutors has been extremely positive, with pupils showing maturity and determination to perform as well as possible in the exams. This has been backed up by attendance at extra lessons that have been organised by Science and PE staff. Year 10 have shown how dedicated they are and I'm looking forward to some extremely positive results in August on GCSE results day.

On top of their studies, Year 10 have shown their support for Genesis, the nominated charity for the Sponsored Walk this year, by collecting as much money as possible.

I am immensely proud of the progress Year 10 have made in the past three years. I am hoping that all of the good work pays off in the Summer term – in fact, I am certain it will!

Mr Williams

Director of Year 10

## Year 11

The Spring term has been an unbelievably busy one for our troops as they prepare for the final exams.

We have had:

- TARGETTED SUPPORT SESSIONS AFTER SCHOOL
- EASTER SCHOOL REVISION SESSIONS
- INTERVENTION MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS
- APPRENTICESHIP ADVICE
- ADVICE ON REVISION TIME TABLES AND STRATEGIES
- REVISION WORKSHOP
- PRE-MOCK EXAMS
- MOCK EXAMS
- MOCK RESULTS DAY
- MENTORING

I am sure I have missed other strategies out, but I must say despite the intensity, pressure and stress, the students have handled it admirably. I couldn't be more proud of the maturity of our students and how serious they are taking the exams.

One of the memorable workshops was the "Growth mindset for exams" workshop through a company called Live N Learn. The idea behind the session was to work on students' mental state in the build up to the exams. Lucy (the lady from Live N Learn) talked about differing stress levels and some stress being a good thing. Her session was around the following principles:

- MAKING IT HAPPEN RATHER THAN WAITING FOR IT TO HAPPEN
- TIME MANAGEMENT - WHERE STUDENTS HAD TO PLAN "CASEY'S" LIFE
- ATTITUDE TO STUDYING AND LIFE - GROWTH VS FIXED MINDSET
- 4 STEPS TO SIMPLER REVISION
- QUALITIES EMPLOYERS WILL LOOK AT
- FUTURE LIFE CHOICES - "CLOUDHOPPING"

All delivered in a fun, factual way which everyone could engage with. Following conversations with the students, they all found it worthwhile and I believe it was the perfect message at the perfect time.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support across the five years (I'm getting quite emotional now) and watching the students progress into the individuals they are today has been extremely rewarding. Your support is appreciated and none more so than the 96% of parents who were able to attend parents' evening.



There was a positive vibe within the hall throughout the evening with many parents commenting on how informative the feedback had been.

Rest assured we are working tirelessly to get the last ounce of work we can out of our students. It is clear that they care about their grades with the recent attendance at Easter School - over 80% of our students attended 3 or more sessions over Easter. I am excited, but nervous, about the upcoming exams and I believe the students will get the grades they deserve. It has been a pleasure having them as a Year group, their behaviour and commitment are true strengths and that makes them great role models for the younger students in school.

Mr Tomlinson

## Announcements

After 25 years loyal and dedicated service to Wellington School, Mrs Armstrong has decided to leave.

Mrs Armstrong joined the School in 1990 as Deputy Headteacher, shortly after the amalgamation of the The former Wellington Boys' and Girls' Schools. In January 1996 she was appointed First Deputy Headteacher and amongst her many responsibilities was the line management of fourteen heads of department and the annual production of the school timetable.

She made a major contribution to the School's first Outstanding OFSTED report in 2002 and was commended by Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools in 2004 and 2005 for her implementation of the Key Stage 3 National Strategy across the School. In 2005 she was appointed Headteacher and in 2006 she led the School to its second successive Outstanding OFSTED grade. During her time as Headteacher she was asked to speak to three shadow cabinet ministers about leading school improvement and was invited to Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister following the School's successful bid to become an "Outstanding Academy".

Mrs Armstrong decided the time was right to step down from the role of Headteacher in August 2012 and for the last two and a half years she has worked part time overseeing the School's finance and estates department.

Following the School's excellent GCSE results in 2012, Mrs Armstrong received a letter from David Laws, Minister for Schools, in which she was commended for "her leadership in continuing the drive towards high standards of educational achievement."

The whole of John Watson's professional career has been dedicated to Wellington School. After 49 years he has made the decision to stand down. He was appointed in 1966 to the post of Physical Education teacher and subsequently rose through the promotional ranks to Head of Department, Director of Year, Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

In 1995, at a time when Wellington School's standing was at a low ebb, both academically and financially, John Watson was appointed to the post of Headteacher. His first act as a new Headteacher was to apply successfully to the Secretary of State for Education for a 'change of character' to Wellington School from an 11-16 school to an 11-18 school. As a consequence the first students were admitted to the new Sixth Form in September 1996.

Two years into his Headship Wellington 'topped' the GCSE table for like- schools in Trafford, a position maintained throughout the whole of his Headship. In 2002 Ofsted deemed Wellington School 'Outstanding' for the first time and many accolades followed. John Watson was twice invited to Buckingham Palace and to Highgrove to meet with Prince Charles.

In 2005, after 10 years of Headship, he took the decision to stand down from his post. The School roll had grown from 850 to 1250 and the Sixth Form from 6 students in 1996 to 150. Between 2005 and 2015 John Watson, on a part-time basis, mentored two successor Headteachers, but also represented the Department for Education in its initiative to raise standards in schools, in other Authorities, whose achievement did not match national expectations.

Perhaps his contribution to the success of Wellington School is best summarised by a quote from the 2002 Ofsted report: "The leadership of the Headteacher is outstanding, and is a substantive reason for the current success of Wellington School. He has a clear vision for its future, a vision in which little other than excellence and successful achievement of individual potential will be accepted. The remarkable improvement in the School's performance coincides with, and to a very large extent results from, his appointment as Headteacher six years ago. Fundamental to this improvement has been the unswerving intention to raise standards in teaching and learning."

## CAREERS News

### Year 9 Employer Event - Wednesday 1st April

60 Year 9 pupils were involved in an employer-led Careers event entitled "How are the subjects I'm studying going to help me in my future career?"

The pupils worked in groups of 5 looking at various employability skills. This took the form of a number of activities involving a team of employers from a number of companies from all over the UK.

The pupils entered the activity in trepidation but throughout the morning they grew in confidence and were able to present their ideas and findings to each of the other groups, showing increasing awareness and confidence. The employers interacted with the pupils and drew from their own experiences of the world of work, which inspired the pupils to ask lots of questions.

Quotes from students:

**"It was great talking to real people from real jobs"**

**"Really good morning with lots of interesting activities"**

**"Didn't realise a manager from Marks and Spencer's would be so easy to talk to"**



A huge thank you goes to the following employers who gave of their time freely to give our pupils an insight into the world of work:

**James Walton – Chief Economist, IGD.**

**Guy Mason – Head of Corporate Affairs for Morrisons.**

**Liz Payne – HR & Training Manager for Compass Group.**

**Jim Shannon – Distribution Manager for Booker Group.**

**Simon Connor – Foods Section Manager for Marks and Spencer.**

**Katy Kershaw – HR Manager for AB World Foods**

**Gabrielle McBride – Diversity & Inclusion Manager for Asda.**

**Sinead O'Brien – Future First Employer Opportunity.**

Mrs Mackay



### Summer Term 2015

Careers Events Scheduled for the Summer Term:

Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June  
Year 12 Professional Work Placements.

Thursday 18th June  
Year 10 Practice Interviews.

Thursday 2nd July  
Year 9  
“High Flyers Event”  
Manchester Airport.

Thursday 9th July  
Year 8 “Dragon’s Den”

Monday 13th July  
Year 10 Enterprise Challenge.

Wednesday 15th July  
Year 10 Armed Forces Event.

Connexions Adviser John Plaiter will continue to Interview Years 10, 12 and 13 Students ( 3 days per week ).

## Skills North West Careers Event

Wednesday 5th March 2015

“GET INSPIRED - GET SKILLED - GET INFO”

45 students from Year 10 and the Sixth Form, Mrs Mackay, Mrs Taylor-Crooke and John Plaiter, the School’s Connexions Advisor, attended the region’s biggest skills and careers event for 14-19 year olds at Event City, Manchester on Wednesday 5th March.

This event provided students with the opportunity to discover what the future holds for them. It was an interactive careers event where students could try out new skills, talk to employers, find out about college courses, meet apprentices and get ‘hands on’ with activities, challenges and competitions. The information and activities were designed to inspire, motivate and inform students about the various career pathways available to them. The students were given the opportunity to access over 100 different organisations from every major sector imaginable.

Just a few of the organisations included were:

- Universities and Colleges where students could find out about all the courses on offer from animal care / veterinary to wind turbines and fuel cells plus many more Science opportunities with PH testing, crystal growing, health and fitness, sports studies and many more.
- Apprenticeship training and including Higher Apprenticeships.
- Manufacturing, where students were able to get involved in many different activities including a “Make It “ stand, showing various types of manufacturing offering exciting and rewarding career opportunities.

Other organisations represented included the Armed Forces, Kaplan, Reaseheath College, C.I.T.B (Construction), Music, Games Education, National Careers Service, to name but a few.



The students returned to school exhausted but better informed on some of the career routes available to them. Hopefully they feel inspired for their futures. All agreed that it had been a very worthwhile event.

Mrs Mackay

## Dates for your diary:

Friday 22nd May  
School closes and re-opens Mon 1st June

Thursday 11th June  
Sports Day

Thursday 18th June  
Sports Awards Dinner

Friday 19th June  
Staff INSET Day

Saturday 20th June  
Open Morning

Tuesday 23rd June  
Award Evening

Wednesday 8th July  
Talent Show

Friday 17th July  
School closes – end of Term

Thursday 13th August  
A Level Results

Thursday 20th August  
GCSE Results



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