

# Wellington School

## Annual Newsletter

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Barcelona Trip



Sports Day



Awards Evening



Ski Trip



Sponsored Walk



Sports Awards Dinner

Honesty Community Excellence Fairness Endeavour

# Welcome to our latest Wellington School Newsletter



**I write this introduction as we approach the mid-point of the summer term and I would have to**

**conclude that, up to this point, it has genuinely been an absolutely fabulous year!**

Schools are always on a journey, never quite reaching their destination, and constantly seeking to improve in the best interests of their young people. It's fair to say, Wellington was already doing pretty well for itself but there have been some very pleasing and tangible gains this year. I'll save the details for the Board of Governors, Ofsted and the like but from a prospective pupil's or parent's point of view, all you need to know is ... this is 'the place to be'! As you read this Newsletter I have no doubt that you will get a sense of the joy, enthusiasm, commitment and pride that, in my humble opinion, is so typical of the Wellington community. It is quite staggering what we have achieved once again this year and I cannot thank everyone enough for what they have contributed. It's a genuine team effort.

Our success, the School's reputation and the happiness of staff and students can only be achieved if we get the culture right ... and I believe we do. Our School Values underpin everything and I am excited to launch our brand new Vision Statement ahead of September; 'Empowering our community to make a difference'. This was co-created during the course of last year and carries real meaning and purpose. I'll talk more around this, our values and the School's ethos during my Open Morning presentations.

One practical manifestation of our school culture, and one which I believe has enhanced our provision here at Wellington even further, is the Relational Behaviour policy launched in September last year. As the title suggests, it is founded on good relationships (as life is) and is a culmination of what I have found to be true and impactful over the past 32 years in education. It demands high standards and expectations but considers the individual needs of a young person; we get to know, understand and care for each of our students, even if at times that

may mean making decisions with which they or you, as a parent, may not agree. I spoke about this last year at Open Morning and it was well-received and I will provide a flavour again this year.

I often pick out a few highlights of the school year in this introduction but there are quite literally too many to mention, and each young person and member of staff you speak to today will have their own – ask them. What I will say, however, is that whatever your child's interests, there is something for them at Wellington. Extra-curricular sport (so many different sports and loads of silverware), music (the Carol Service and Easter concert were amazing) and drama (Mary Poppins and Romeo and Juliet blew the audiences away) continue to go from strength to strength and the wealth of clubs, societies, trips and visits is something we are immensely proud of. We deliver an education in the broadest possible sense.



Our annual Sponsored Walk was another resounding success and we hope to hit the £30,000 mark once again. This year we decided to 'divvy' out the money raised between two great charities; one local and one global. The recipients this year will be Centrepoint, helping young rough sleepers in Manchester, and Camfed, a charity supporting the education of women and girls in Africa. Hopefully, the staff walk around Ullswater in June can add to the coffers.



Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far and particularly to Mrs Stephens, who organised the Sponsored Walk, and Mrs Taylor-Crooke, who is coordinating the staff walk.

We take our Community value seriously and encourage our students to be up-standers and demonstrate their selflessness whenever the opportunity arises.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our Year 11 and 13 students, who, as I type, have just begun their GCSE and A level examinations. Both are fantastic year groups and we are so proud of what they have achieved so far. I am not a betting man but I am predicting a particularly successful year in academic terms. The students have inevitably shown that true Wellington grit and character and we are confident that they will meet their own high expectations come results' days. I must also commend my colleagues for managing these students (academically and emotionally) with such care and dedication through this challenging period.

Anyway, that's quite enough from me, enjoy the Newsletter, I hope Open Morning confirms all those (positive) rumours and feelings about us and thank you to all our Wellington 'family' for continuing to support us.

**S P Beeley, Headteacher**



We are absolutely delighted to have received the following awards this year. Well done to everyone involved - we are very proud that the efforts of all of our School Community are being celebrated!

Miss Hitchens

## One Education Gold Reading Award



We are delighted to have our dedicated approach to the School's Reading Culture rewarded by achieving the One Education Gold Reading Award.

The Award recognises the efforts of all stakeholders from staff, to pupils, and to parents/carers.

As acknowledged by One Education, 'This accreditation is testament to your hard work in making reading a true priority. It was lovely to meet with you all and our discussion of your evidence showed that you have fulfilled the requirements for the award. You have begun to build an amazing reading curriculum and there is much to celebrate.'

We have been accredited with the award until 2027 and are excited for the next stages in our development of our reading culture.



## ArtsMark Gold Award



Artsmark Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts Council England

We are delighted to have been awarded the Gold ArtsMark award by the British Arts Council! It's a real credit to our Arts departments and the School Community as a whole!

The panel made the following comment about our submission:

*'You have used this Artsmark journey to maintain and develop new partnerships to support you in providing your students with cultural experiences and opportunities in the arts. Your consistent engagement with the Shakespeare in Schools Project has earned you a Bronze Award for three continuous years of affiliation. Your collaboration with Waterstones has led to many authors visiting the school and your work with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra has enabled some students to participate in music workshops. Students have also had the opportunity to attend careers-specific events at the Royal Northern College of Music. Careers in the arts and creative industries are actively promoted. For instance, creative/digital media, marketing and architecture were represented at a recent Careers Fayre. The arts departments have introduced bespoke careers content into their curriculums through project days, professional visits from creative industry practitioners and tours to Media City. It was great to read a number of your students taking up animation or architecture or fashion marketing at Higher Education institutions. Cultural events such as the Chinese New Year are celebrated and as are opportunities to celebrate groups of students' cultural experiences. The students from Hong Kong who have recently settled in the UK must feel really valued by being given the chance to tell and share their stories. Students are offered a range of arts-based qualifications at KS4 and Arts Award Explore at KS3... We look forward to reading where your Artsmark journey takes you next.'*



## EAL Quality Mark Gold Award School

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Wellington School has been awarded the 'Gold Award' by the EAL Quality Mark.

The praise was extensive and our commitment to teaching and learning that is EAL-friendly was championed as well as the commitment of senior and middle leaders to ensuring that the academic and social experience of pupils was meaningful and valuable.

Last year, we set up our first Young Interpreters Committee and in November, 43 Year 7 pupils were keen to be trained as Young Interpreters by the committee. Pupils completed four training sessions which explored empathising with pupils

who speak English as an additional language, learning how to be a buddy for new pupils and coming up with ideas for how we can further enhance the Wellington experience for our pupils.

All pupils involved earned a certificate and badge at 'graduation'; what was particularly lovely though was to hear the anecdotes of how so many pupils have helped others this year as well as the hotly-contested competition in the room as to who could speak the most languages! Can you believe we had a pupil who can speak SEVEN?!



### KS3 Homework

Our homework booklets continue to house some amazing pictures and pieces by Key Stage 3.

Work in the booklets extends art skills and experiences for the key stage, with connections to skill sets explored in class.

Well done on some superb homework pieces!

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras



### Art Exhibition

We are looking forward to welcoming parents, students and staff to celebrate the work of our talented Year 11 and Year 13 students on Thursday 11th July. All welcome!

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras



### Young Interpreters Committee

Exploring language and being inclusive to all of our students is very important for Wellington.

Spearheaded by Miss Hitchens, ensuring all languages are acknowledged and seen by our students and visitors has been a big push in the last year or so.

The Young Interpreters Committee wanted a visual record of this in school, so we set about designing the words for 'Welcome' and 'Hello' across the languages many of our students speak.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marneras



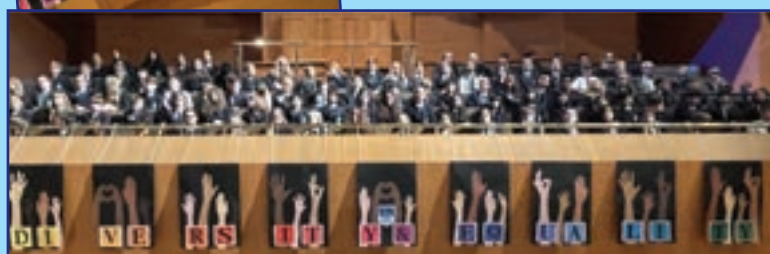
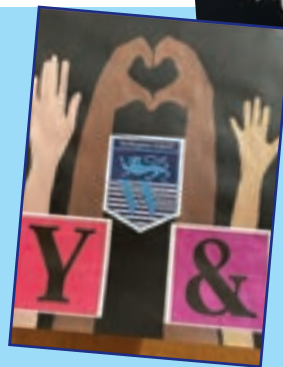
### Awards Evening

A wonderful event on the school calendar, celebrating success and effort across all areas of school.

Making it a visual feast were these lovely banners across the back of the stage highlighting two elements that are vital in Wellington's day to day running.

They have been much admired on the Art corridor since then.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marneras



### World Book Day

We were keen to join in what has become a bit of a tradition in school, with staff embracing the dressing up as characters from books.

Our characters were very real and created some great works of Art in their life times.

Hope you have guessed who we are and have gone on to look at the wonderful work these three characters created!

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras



## Year 7

### Mark Making

Year 7 began the year exploring mark making and the different ways this can be achieved using various materials. The students explored mark making using stick and ink, scraffito, stippling and wax resist.

They researched the work of Clare Youngs, a designer-maker and paper craft collage artist, illustrator and author. The students used her work to inspire them and their mark making knowledge to create beautiful animal illustrations made from their own collaged papers using the technique of wax resist.

Well done Year 7 you completed a lot of work developing your knowledge and skills on mark making.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marneras



### Project in a Day

Room 13 in Art turned temporarily into Hogwarts for Project in a Day!

Last July, Year 7 were creating Mandrake plants! You know the ones that scream and had an adverse effect on Neville!

These 3D pieces took great concentration, and many wonderful characters were created to sit in their pots!

Quicker than you can say 'Wingardium Leviosa', these pieces were certainly something Professor Sprout would be proud of!

Miss Grey



### Year 7 Prayer Mats

Our Year 7s learned about Islamic Patterns and worked together to produce intricate fabric pieces using printmaking and stencilling. (Beautifully stitched together by our wonderful technician).

Many thanks to a local Interior Design business (designhousemcr) for their kind donation of fabrics.

We shared these prayer mats at our Community Eid Celebration and later auctioned them to raise money for a water well for the Human Relief Foundation .

Well done to everyone involved.

Mrs Kearney



# Year 8

## Colour Theory

Year 8 studied colour theory and it involved studying hues, tints, tones and shades as well as the colour wheel and classifications of primary, secondary and tertiary colours. Complementary and analogous colours were also important concepts to understand colour combinations, to make stunning art work.

The students then looked at the work of artist Victoria Potrovitza and her use of maps within her work and combined this research with their colour theory knowledge to produce eye-catching map artwork.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marneras



## Lunar New Year

This year we celebrated the Year of the Dragon.

We explored the meaning of the year and the rituals that surround this infamous Chinese celebration.

Every Year 8 student decorated their own circle with Chinese patterns and calligraphy using paint and collage.

The Dragon ended up being approximately 12ft long and was displayed at our School's Lunar New Year celebration, providing a perfect backdrop to the event.

Well done to all Year 8 students for their contribution.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras



## Year 9

### Colourful Cells

Year 9 began drawing work in a number of different mediums looking at cell forms.

They explored different ways of drawing including wax resist, collage, relief and stitch work. Students also explored different surfaces, textures and experimented with layers of mixed media and mark making.



### Art Nouveau

Year 9 have continued to explore different materials and manipulate them into these beautiful Art Nouveau pieces.

Wax resist studies explored the stylised floral work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the flowing whiplash lines of ceramic tile patterns were recreated in mixed media and paint.

Beautiful work Year 9.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marnaras



Students were inspired by the work of Betty Busby and each student created a piece that has formed a wall hanging installation with in the style of Jacob Hashimoto.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marnaras



## Trafford Holocaust Memorial Event

Our Year 9 students all worked together to produce an installation for this year's Trafford Holocaust Memorial Event at Waterside Art Centre which took place in January.

The students responded to the work of Christian Boltanski. They used images and words in their response to create some wax trap pieces which were stitched together and suspended from the Star of David symbol. Some fairy lights added some extra drama to the stars which were show stoppers at the event.

Well done to every Year 9 Art student for their contribution to the event.

Mrs Kearney



# Year 10

## Year 10 Mould

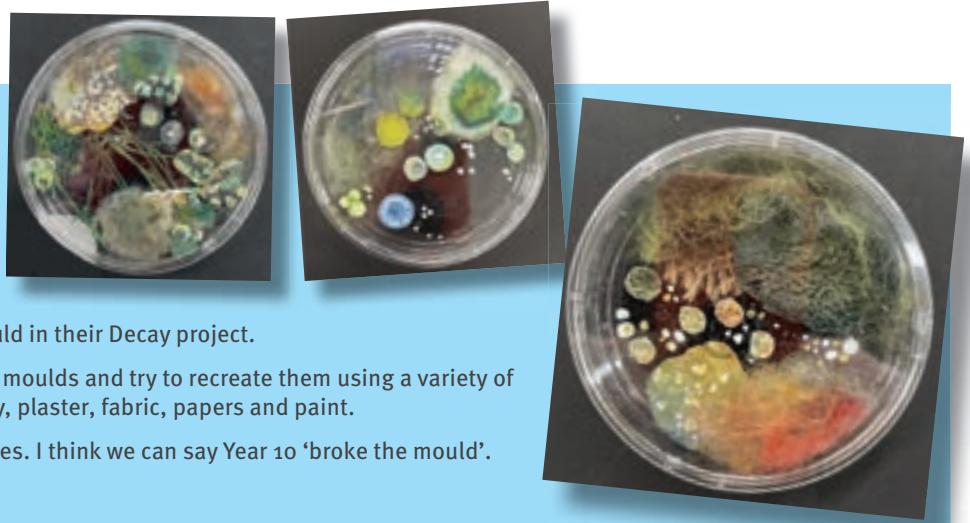
When you hear the word 'Mould', it rarely brings good things to mind, perhaps a lovely stilton cheese at best!

Year 10 have demonstrated the beauty of Mould in their Decay project.

Students began to look at images of different moulds and try to recreate them using a variety of different materials including, wool fibres, clay, plaster, fabric, papers and paint.

Their works were then presented in petri dishes. I think we can say Year 10 'broke the mould'.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marnaras



# Year 11

Another great year with students creating some marvellous work across a range of different media and subject matter.

Word is lots of them are coming back to do A-level Art which is great to see.

Well done on your hard work and success this year, Year 11.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marnaras





## Year 12 Young Artist Competition

Well done to our Year 12 Art students who all entered a piece of Art work for this year's 'Young Artist Competition'.

This year's theme was 'Rebuilding'. Our students have produced work based on nature's resilience and growth, personal growth and places in transition.

Special mention goes to Sofia Popplewell who won the regional heats for her age group.

Art competitions are an exciting way for students to test their skills, creativity and determination.

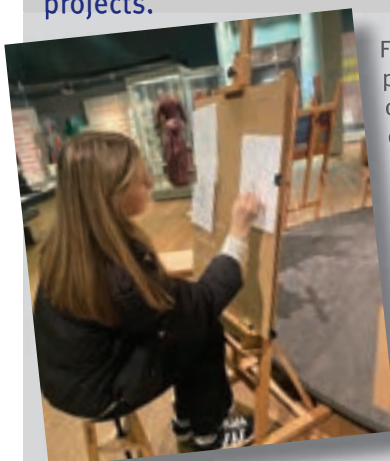
Well done for your contribution.

Mrs Kearney



## Photography Trip

Year 12 A-level Art students were busy in Manchester resourcing their new projects.



Following presentations on ideas and concepts of their new themes, students headed into Manchester to get photo happy!



With new projects exploring animals in fashion, the beauty industry, reflection, dance and decay there were many images to be collected

Some great photographs were taken to support the next stage of their work and students were able to enjoy a quick trip into the Manchester Gallery for further inspiration.

Can't wait to see how this research develops! Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras

# Year 13

## Year 13 – Fine Art

A wide range of beautiful work has been created by our Year 13 artists.

Themes are varied objects and still life, portraits, animals and architecture. The range of starting points is vast – here is just a taste of the work created.

Some of our students are going on to study Art at university – after a great two years from everyone we wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Marneras



## Graphic Communication

Our Year 13 Graphics students have pulled out all the stops and created some wonderful designs inspired by selected briefs.

Students developed images using a range of Photoshop techniques, used their own photography and evolved work for products, social media presence and advertising.

Well done Year 13 Graphic Designers!

Miss Grey, Mrs Kearney and Mrs Marneras



## Year 10 Business Studies

The department has been busy this year offering a range of enrichment opportunities for our Year 10 Business cohort.

### Year 10 Enterprise and Marketing

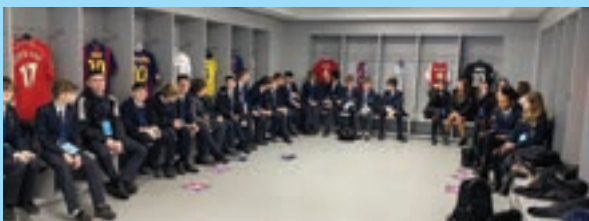
Our current Year 10 Enterprise and Marketing students are working towards their OCR Cambridge National qualification and have made a fantastic start to the course developing a new ice cream product for the NEA project.

They had the opportunity to visit the Trafford Centre to complete their market research, investigating the range of ice cream products that are currently available. Some were lucky enough to have some free samples.



### Year 10 GCSE Business

Our GCSE Business Studies cohort continues to grow each year and our current students have shown a great enthusiasm and interest for the subject. As part of their studies, the students visited the Etihad Stadium to learn more about the world of commercial sport.



It was an opportunity for students to see a football club from a different perspective. Our first activity was to take part in a workshop, delivered by one of Manchester City's education team, focusing on marketing and the importance of branding. All of the students fully engaged with the discussion and showed a good understanding of the impact social media has on consumers as well as the value of having a strong brand and reputation. This was followed up by a guided tour of the stadium. It has been pleasing to see the students use the knowledge picked up on the visit in our lessons.

Well done Year 10 and keep up the fantastic work!

Mr Shelton & Mrs Clarke

## Year 11 Enterprise and Marketing

Our Year 11 Enterprise and Marketing students returned to school with a continued determination to succeed following some outstanding performances on their first NEA unit at the end of Year 10. It was a testament to their hard work and positive attitude that so many of them performed so well on this aspect of the course.

This year, students continued to work on their NEA, producing a business proposal for a new hat. Part of this assessment included producing a detailed marketing and finance strategy for their new product, culminating in completing a 'Dragons Den' style pitch in front of Mr Shelton, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Shelley and Mr Beeley. We were all really impressed by the quality of their presentations and it was clear that the students had spent a lot of time preparing. Following the completion of their second NEA unit, the students have been working hard preparing for the final examination in May and we wish you the best of luck for the summer.



### Year 11 GCSE Business Studies

Our Year 11 students have been working hard this year to prepare for their GCSE exams, showing a real determination to succeed. They are the first cohort to sit GCSE Business examinations following the qualification's re-introduction last year and they have been fantastic.

Well done to all of our Year 11 cohort, you have been a pleasure to work with. We look forward to seeing a lot of you in September when we start the A Level Business Studies course.

Mr Shelton and Mrs Clarke



## KS3 Enterprise Club

This year the Business Studies department introduced the KS3 Enterprise Club to Year 7, giving budding entrepreneurs the opportunity to demonstrate their business acumen and test their entrepreneurial skills.

Club members set up a mini-business and sold their products at the School's Christmas Market, helping to raise money for Francis House.

Each team decided on what product they were going to sell and I was extremely impressed by the wide range of creative ideas. Products ranged from a gingerbread stall to 'lucky' dip raffles, to sweet bags and homemade Christmas cakes.

Once their product ideas were finalised, each business prepared a budget, set prices and created promotional material to be on display around school to raise awareness of the event. The event was a success, raising over £100 for charity.

An amazing effort and well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs Clarke



## Year 12 Business Studies

Our very talented and entrepreneurial Year 12 cohort have made a fantastic start to the course. From the start of the year Mrs Clarke and I have been impressed by their enthusiasm and passion for Business.

During the year, the group have studied a number of topics, including Finance, Marketing, Human Resources and Operations. Part of the Marketing unit included working as part of a team to develop the marketing strategy for a local community event. Students then pitched their idea to a potential investor outlining the key elements of their marketing strategy. The winning groups demonstrated excellent presentation skills and conveyed their ideas with confidence. Well done!

### Business Studies London Trip

In January the Business Studies cohort visited London as part of the department's enrichment programme.

The highlight of the first day was a visit to the Museum of Brands to investigate the importance of brand image and packaging. Students took a journey through the history of branding, before redesigning the packaging for a number of well-known brands.

During the second day the students developed their understanding of the role of the Financial District in UK economy and took in key locations of the City of London during a guided walking tour. The group also visited the home of Chelsea Football Club to learn more about the business of football and gained valuable insight into the inner workings of one of Europe's most successful clubs.

On the final day the students got to learn more about the UK economy with a tour of the Bank of England. Before heading home we also got to see London from above, taking a trip to the 72nd floor of highest building in the UK, The Shard.

Well done Year 12, you have been fantastic. Keep up the good work!

Mr Shelton and Mrs Clarke



## Year 13 Business Studies

And so, to Year 13. You have been a pleasure to teach over the past 2 years and have shown a real passion for Business throughout the course. You returned to school in September determined to succeed and the progress you have made has been remarkable. You applied yourself well to your studies and continued with your enthusiasm for the subject.

### Business Studies Strong Foundations Workshop

In December, the Year 13 Business Studies cohort took part in a Tutor2U Strong Foundations workshop at the Trafford Centre. The workshop provided a challenging and engaging learning environment where students developed their skills of analysis and revised key exam theory. The workshop was designed and delivered by experienced AQA examiner presenters, all of whom have a deep understanding of what students need to focus on in order to succeed in their Business Studies exams. All of our students performed brilliantly at the event!



We hope that you enjoyed your business experience and take away some happy memories.



All the best Year 13 and good luck for the future.

Mr Shelton and Mrs Clarke

## Annual Bebras and OUC Challenge

Wellington Computing students took part in the annual Bebras Challenge last Autumn. The aim of the challenge is to develop computational thinking skills such as pattern recognition and algorithm design. Students solve a number of problems that are not related to any specific curriculum area.



46 students scored in the top 10% nationally and were invited to take part in a further competition called the Oxford University Computing Challenge, which tests programming skills. Pictured are several students from 7A who all qualified. Congratulations to Charles Green (7HPY), William Foggan (9MPY), George Lewis (10FBE) and Edward Davies (12DWS), who were best in school in their age categories.

Mr Little

Lewis Goodwin (8EHS) was Wellington's top scorer in his age category, despite being up against Year 9 students.

Lewis is a superb coder and some of his work can be viewed on the Scratch website: <https://scratch.mit.edu/users/DarknessStrike>. Be warned, his games are very addictive!



## Ada Lovelace Day Trip to Money Supermarket

Ada Lovelace Day celebrates the achievements of women in STEM subjects. Ada Lovelace was a pioneer who is considered the first programmer. Many organisations celebrate this day by hosting events to inspire the next generation of girls in STEM.

The Computing department were lucky to be invited to the Spinningfields offices of MoneySuperMarket. We took a group of Year 9 students for an industry experience day. They were able to meet inspirational women who work in tech and heard about their career pathways. There were practical sessions including coding MicroBits, hacking a vulnerable website and critical thinking.

It was a fantastic experience for our students but I think they were most pleased with the free slush that was available on tap!

Mr Little



# KS3 - Year 7

## Year 7 – Cooking and Nutrition

Year 7 pupils have worked extremely well this year, showing plenty of passion and enthusiasm for this subject.

The Year 7 curriculum is designed to develop both practical skills and also knowledge of nutrition and tools used for monitoring health. Pupils have learnt about the Eatwell Guide, traffic light labelling, weights and measures and have used a specially designed computer program to calculate the nutritional value of one of the dishes made in class.

In the practical sessions we have made a variety of healthy main meals such as veggie pasta sauce, cheesy frittata and chicken stir-fry. We also made a carrot cake tray bake which, not very surprisingly, was a hit with all the pupils.

I've been very impressed with the standard of work produced, in particular the practical dishes which have all looked delicious. It's also been pleasing to receive some photos of dishes produced at home too.

Well done Year 7. I look forward to working with you all again in Year 8.

Mrs Ryan



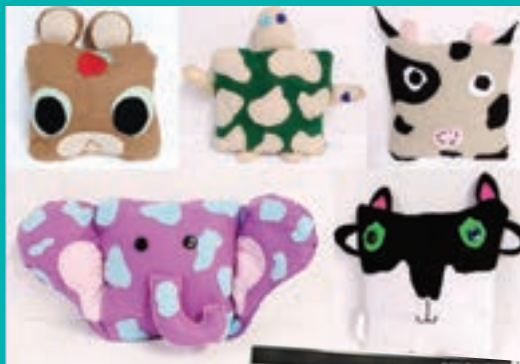
## Year 7 Textiles

Year 7 students have been learning to develop their sewing skills to design and make felt animal cushions for an intended user which are personalised in their own style.

Students have learnt how to develop their hand sewing to applique designs using hand embroidery, sew buttons and more advanced skills such threading and using the sewing machine.

I'm sure you will agree these animal creations are fabulous!

Great work Year 7!



## Year 7 Automaton Project

Year 7 Design and Technology students have designed and constructed an automaton based on a theme of their choice.



Before construction each student submitted a 3D CAD image of their creative visualization of the project and also detailed how different mechanisms would work.

Mr Brown



## Year 7 Product Design

Year 7 students have worked independently and systematically to design and make a toy boat of high quality.

They have developed their skills in the workshop, working with timber and utilising various construction methods. The students have also considered the appearance of their product using CAD (Computer Aided Design) in the creation of their custom sail.

Mr Travis



## KS3 - Year 8

### Year 8 Product Design

Year 8 have continued to develop their Design and Technology workshop skills manufacturing a working clock. This was based on a frame design incorporating 4 housing wood joints at 90-degree angles to enable precise construction of the clock body.

The students have also designed the face for their clock using Computer Aided Design facilities and vector graphics. I am sure you will agree; the outcomes are fantastic. Well done Year 8!

Mrs Cotton and Mr Travis

Year 8 students have been designing and making pizza cutters. This project explores various engineering tools and processes including centre turning, metal shaping, drilling, riveting and metal shaping. Students have also explored the importance of ergonomics. They have designed and implemented their own ergonomic handles on to their pizza cutters. Enjoy using your pizza cutters Year 8 - they look fantastic!

Mr Brown



### Year 8 – Mediterranean Cuisine

As always, our Year 8 pupils have followed a brief to create Mediterranean style dishes. This project has been very popular, especially making pizza.

Pupils learn about research techniques and then use these skills to research the Mediterranean and they are then encouraged to narrow this down to one particular Mediterranean country. To aid pupils we make a number of dishes from countries such as Greece, France, Italy and Morocco before going on to plan their own choice final dish.

The work during the rotation is designed to develop a wide range of skills such as using different types of research, organisational skills and time management. It has been pleasing to see pupils developing in these areas.

The final assessment for all Year 8 pupils was a practical task. The pupils were required to find a Mediterranean recipe of their own choice. This was then used to develop a detailed time plan which was followed when making their chosen dish.

Some amazing dishes have been prepared this year and I have been very impressed with the standard of dishes.

Fantastic work  
Year 8 – well done.

Mrs Ryan



### Sustainable Toys

Year 8 students have been designing and making sustainable toys made from Fairtrade Organic Cotton, recycled felt and buttons.

The toy designs are aimed at young children and are based on 'friendly monsters' and have been created with their own unique and original characters.

Students have experimented with a range of decorative techniques to enhance the fabric using tie dye, hand embroidery to appliqué, and machine sewing skills to manufacture the toy.

As well as developing their practical skills students have also been learning why organic cotton is better for consumers and the environment and why Fairtrade is important for those who farm and produce cotton too!

As you can see these monsters are colourful and creative, great work Year 8!

Mrs Booth & Mrs Cotton



## KS3 - Year 9

### Year 9 – Asia, Africa and the Americas

With the cost of living becoming an increasing consideration in our diets, Year 9 pupils were challenged to design a low-cost dish, suitable for a family. To encourage pupils to try new cuisines the project also focused on dishes from Asia, Africa or the Americas.

In theory lessons pupils have been developing their analytical skills by analysing a design brief. They then looked at how to research and select relevant information before then using the information to plan the final dish they would make in the practical sessions.

Over the ten weeks we have tried to cook at least one dish from each of the three continents chosen and all pupils made Bunny Chow (South Africa), Chinese Chicken Curry (China), either Mexican Chilli, Brazilian Chicken or Mexican Bean Soup (Americas) and Nigerian Pound Cake (Africa). Pupils then chose one of the continents and made a final dish of choice, which was assessed.

Amazing effort Year 9. Mrs Ryan



### Year 9 Product Design

#### LED Light

Year 9 students were tasked with building a USB powered LED light. This advanced project covers a range of skills and techniques from Computer



Aided Design work, resistant material manipulation, electronics and soldering. Given the vast range of knowledge students needed to learn and use they did a brilliant job making this product. Well done Year 9!

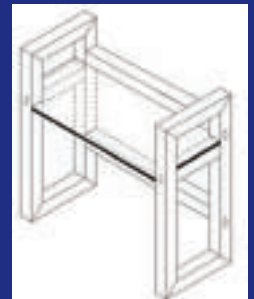
Mr Brown



#### Wooden Frame Storage

The wooden frame storage is a very popular Year 9 project. It is manufactured using softwood and has an MDF shelf. The Year 9's cut 16 identical mitre joints into 8 lengths of correctly sized square section timber. The joints are checked for precision and then glued and clamped to assemble two identical frames. The shelf and cross members are then manufactured and screwed together to add to the structural integrity of the model. The project requires a great deal of accuracy and perseverance and I'm delighted with how the Year 9's have approached this manufacturing challenge.

Mr Travis



### Hot Water Bottle Cover Designs

Year 9 students have been developing their skills to create a range of novelty hot water bottle covers.

Students researched a potential theme to develop design ideas to suit an identified target audience.

To develop their sewing skills students learnt how to use the sewing machine to create a variety of decorative techniques to create their original designs such as machine applique, computerised embroidery and embellishing.

These creations look fantastic, well done Year 9!

Mrs Booth & Mrs Cotton





# KS4 - Year 10

## Year 10 Textiles

Year 10 Design & Technology have completed a Design & Make project to prepare them for their Non-Examination Assessment which commences in June 2024.

The project aim is to design a fashion top based on teenage lifestyle. Students identified a client and investigated their needs and requirements. They have analysed existing products and designs for inspiration before creating their ideas.

To develop their practical skills students used a variety of tools and equipment to produce their design.

To support these skills students have been studying the theoretical elements which also help them prepare for their Non-Examination Assessment and their end of year examination.

The students have worked hard and I look forward to seeing how their ideas develop in their Non-Examination Assessment in Year 11.

Mrs Booth



## Year 10 Product Design

Year 10 Design & Technology students have been developing their investigative, analytical, design and making skills to complete a number of projects.

Their initial task was to investigate a context and design products for a specified audience and their needs.

To develop their practical skills students used a variety of tools and equipment to produce a box design, again for a specific use or purpose created from timbers, manufactured boards and polymers. They used skills such as precision wood joints, vacuum forming and decoupage to make their final box. They are currently learning how to use Computer Aided Design software to manufacture a tealight for a specified client using the laser cutter.

Fantastic work Year 10 – keep up the hard work!

Mrs Cotton



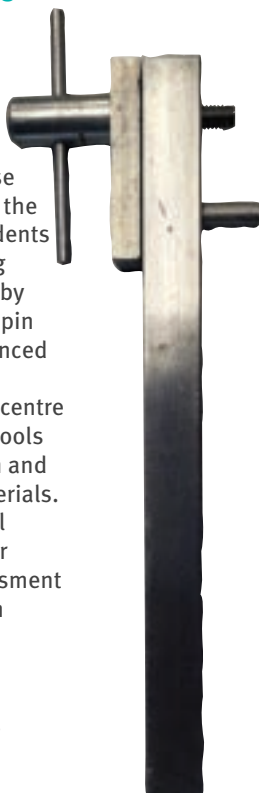
## Year 10 Engineering

Our Year 10 Engineers have made excellent progress so far this year.

They have worked exceptionally hard towards taking the external assessment component of the course which will take place in the summer of Year 11. Students have also been building on their practical skills by making soft jaws and a pin vice. They have experienced an array of engineering equipment such as the centre lathe and marking out tools as well as manipulation and shaping of various materials. All of this hard work will contribute towards their internal synoptic assessment which will commence in September 2024.

Well done Year 10!

Mr Brown and Mr Travis



## Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

This year the pupils in Year 10 have been working hard learning the main practical skills required for GCSE as well as learning how to conduct investigations into the chemical properties of ingredients and understanding the nutritional requirements at various life stages.

Pupils have worked in groups on a practice NEA 1 task where they were required to experiment with ingredients to find out what works best. All pupils planned their own investigations and decided how they would record results, before analysing their findings.

We have also done a short pastry project with pupils learning to make a variety of pastries including shortcrust, flaky and choux.

The group have worked extremely well this year and I have been impressed with their efforts.

Mrs Ryan



# KS4 - Year 11

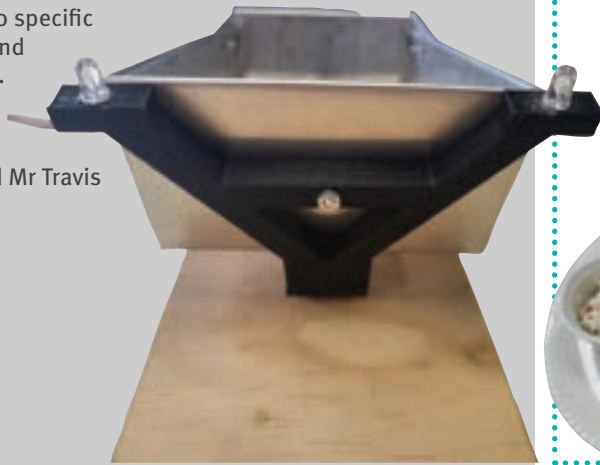
## Year 11 Engineering

The Year 11 Engineers have been working hard on their assessed Synoptic Project.

Students have planned and manufactured an engineering product specified by the exam board – in this case a scale model of a dumper truck.

They have shown their skills using hand drawn and CAD drawings and have also demonstrated their manufacturing skills to produce the 3D outcome to specific dimensions and requirements. Well done Year 11.

Mr Brown and Mr Travis



## Year 11 – GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

As always our Year 11's were required to produce 3 dishes in 3 hours for their final GCSE assessment.

Pupils were able to select their preferred task: making dishes for a family on a limited budget, 3 dishes promoting fresh and seasonal foods, or dishes celebrating an event, occasion or festival from around the world.

All pupils worked hard researching their chosen topic before selecting 4 trial dishes to produce. The trial dishes were then used to plan the final menu with pupils justifying their choices.

Parents joined us at the end of the day to test the dishes, with some very positive feedback being given. Thank you to those who were able to attend, it was greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, we are unable to show the photos as they are examination work – however there are some from the trial run we did in Year 10, which are just as good.

Mrs Ryan



## Year 11 – Textiles

Students studying GCSE Design & Technology (Textiles) have been working hard to complete their Non-Examination Assessment, they have had to investigate a contextual challenge of 'Climate Change' or 'Playing Games'. They have designed and manufactured prototypes for specific clients and potential users to identify their wants and needs.



Students have worked hard and shown dedication and commitment as the outcomes are diverse and commercially viable, these include a range of fashion clothing, children's toys and play activities.

A fantastic effort with your Non-Examination Assessment Year 11 and I wish you the best of luck for your exams this summer!

Mrs Booth



## KS4 - Year 12

### Year 12 Product Design

Year 12 have made a brilliant start to this year covering much of the external assessment content in these first two terms. To supplement the learning of these skills and knowledge students completed mini practical projects such as; a bespoke wooden box using laser cutting to engrave their designs and disassembling a Dyson cordless Hoover.



The class were also set a mini design and make project with a client brief based on a chair for a teddy bear. In two teams, students researched, designed and prototyped the products with brilliant end results. We will be soon embarking upon their NEA project on their chosen context. Well done Year 12.

Mr Brown, Mrs Cotton and Mr Travis

## Year 13

### Year 13 Product Design

Year 13 have been working tirelessly to not only complete their NEA coursework but continuing to improve their subject knowledge for their upcoming exam.

Students have been able to choose their own context and client, gaining a real understanding of what it means to be a designer. First students had to identify and investigate design possibilities by doing their own research and communicating with their client, from this they produced a design brief and product specification which they could work to. Afterwards, students had to explore possible design solutions and develop those designs with feedback from their client. A prototype product was then made which was tested and evaluated against their specification. Everyone has done amazingly well, well done Year 13, good luck with your end of year exams!

Mrs Booth and Mr Brown



## Events and Visits

### GCSE Design & Technology (Textiles) Taster Session

At the GCSE Design & Technology (Textiles) taster session in January students worked collaboratively as a design team to model their design and making skills to create a toile (a prototype garment) from recycled paper.

Students were tasked to create a design for a high-profile event or occasion and took inspiration from historical fashion eras and the latest trends. Each group presented their toiles explaining their thought process, ideas and the intended target audience.

All students worked hard and I was delighted with the outcomes as they were very bold and creative, well done Year 9!

Mrs Booth



### Textiles Club - Chanel's Metiers D'art Manchester

Manchester's history has always been entangled with the Textiles & Fashion industry playing a significant role in the industrial revolution and not to mention the birthplace of both the rave culture and Britpop.

To celebrate Chanel holding its Metiers D'art fashion show in



Manchester students attending Textiles Club were asked to design a fashion outfit or garment that reflected the Chanel brand and modern & contemporary fashion.

Some amazing ideas created by Ruby Wang, Leyla Shi, Dilara Gencer and Emily Gray.

Mrs Booth



# Events and Visits

## Tesco Community Grants

We are delighted to announce that once again our application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been successful and we received funding to enable us to buy equipment and ingredients for a fully funded extra-curricular club for the summer term.

Pupils have had the opportunity to further develop the key skills learnt in lessons and to work with ingredients they may never have worked with before. They were able to try new foods and it was hoped that some pupils may try foods that they may not have wanted to try before.

By encouraging pupils to try new foods and learn to cook things for themselves we hope they will be more proactive cooking at home.

The club is for Year 8 and 9 pupils and has been very well attended.

Thank you to those who voted, we appreciate all your support. Mrs Ryan



## Remembrance

Textile Club students created a commemorate display to honour those who fought, served and died in wars and other conflicts and those who continue to serve and protect us.

Mrs Booth



## Year 10 – GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition – Restaurant Trip

Year 10 food pupils visited Borrello restaurant in Sale to investigate food plating techniques as well as examining portion sizes and Italian cuisine.

Pupils sat down to enjoy the two course, early bird menu which offered a wide variety of dishes at a very reasonable price. Before eating each course, we studied and discussed how the food had been plated, highlighting techniques such as using a balsamic glaze, adding fresh herbs and using specific style plates to accentuate the food. It was great to see how effective some simple techniques could be used to ensure the diner has a quality experience.

Well done to all the Year 10 pupils involved, who were extremely polite and courteous throughout and helped make it a very enjoyable event.

Mrs Ryan



## Trip to Luxfer MEL Technologies



The Design and Technology department took the Year 12 Product Design class to Luxfer MEL Technologies in March.

Materials, minerals and mining engineering play a crucial role in our lives as everything around us has been made from materials originating from the ground beneath our feet.

These fast-moving fields impact upon the technology we rely on to improve our quality of life and yet how often do

you stop and consider the intricacies of these things around you? The one-day conference gave students the opportunity to explore the Luxfer MEL Technologies site, investigate careers in the metals industry and discover the vital role light metals play in our everyday lives.

Mr Brown and Mr Eckersley



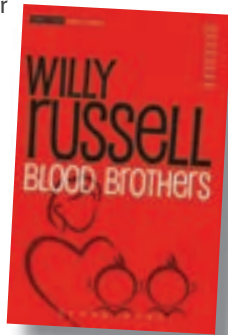
## KS3 Drama

Key Stage 3 Drama is a time to explore new skills, adapt them and build on our character development. We have enjoyed exploring stories, script and learning how to use real life stories to explore performance.

A highlight for Year 7 is exploring the very spooky Dark Wood Manor. Students explored the background of the house and what made it so famously scary, they became objects and Gargoyles using physical theatre whilst also exploring thought track to express how a character is feeling. Another firm favourite is always Roald Dahl and his magical stories. We started with his famous Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, using film clips, character studies and scripts, the pupils leapt into the roles of Verruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Augustus Gloop and Mike Teevee to explore how to use their voices and body language in character presentation. The exploration of Roald Dahl did not stop there and neither did the opportunity to learn new skills, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, George's Marvellous Medicines and The Twits helped students to explore skills such as physical theatre, conscious alley, ensemble and script work.



Our favourite scheme to teach Year 8 is always Blood Brothers. Using a bank of body language skills from Year 7, students explored a range of characters from different social backgrounds and different ages. They allowed themselves to have fun and let their guards down to be fun and energetic 7-year olds, whilst understanding that adult life can take a quick turn and superstition can change everything! The performances and characters created by the students were fantastic and staff within the department were blown away by many of the performances. Many questionable, funny and fantastic Liverpool accents were used as well!



Year 9 is a little different because the students are getting ready to choose their GCSE options, meaning we like to 'show off' what Drama is all about and how once you have those skills banked from Year 7 and 8 you can start to build on these and bring them to the work of practitioners. Our favourite practitioner to explore with Year 9 is Frantic Assembly, they looked at the 'Frantic Method' of building blocks working with, Round-By-Through and Chair Duets. They then took their newly learnt skills and created a performance around the idea of fear and how fear can be portrayed on stage through physicality rather than words. Really impressed with the performances that were created and there was a lot of fun had in each lesson learning a new element of Frantic Assembly!

Well done to all Key Stage 3 students - you have been incredible and we love teaching you!

Miss Pusey

## KS4 Drama

### Year 10 GCSE

What a fantastic start to your course, you have been inquisitive and creative and you have made teaching so much fun!

The first half of the year is spent learning a range of techniques and practitioners in order to prepare for their GCSE exams. The class have been busy preparing for their devising unit. Pupils were given a range of stimuli including watching the google advert, 'where is the love' remix and array of different images; all relating to world events in the last two years. Students were busy researching various different themes and topics in preparation for the creation process. Students will perform these pieces for their parents in a showcase event. Their attitude to learning and approach to their GCSE has been fantastic, keep up the great work Year 10 and you will achieve nothing but successful things in Year 11!

Miss Pusey

### Year 10 Performing Arts

Well done on a fantastic start to the Performing Arts course. You have adapted to the performance work amazingly and have worked really hard on the written element of the course. I have really enjoyed exploring Peter Pan with you and working on the workshops. Well done on a brilliant pantomime performance! It was very funny!

Mrs Richardson

### Year 11 GCSE

What a class! You have had us on our toes from the moment you started Year 10, from your humour, creativity and commitment to learning, we have been blown away. Your scripted performances for Unit 2 were unreal and we loved working with you on these, big shout out to Bouncers and Psychosis 4:48- to contrasting scripts but two performances we were absolutely blown away by!

Congratulations on all the hard work and we wish you all the luck in the world with your future endeavours!

Miss Pusey and Mrs Richardson

### Year 11 Performing Arts

I have really enjoyed working with this class, from their performance to their approaches to the industry, we have laughed together and learnt together and you have created some brilliant performances and pieces of coursework!

Your pitch for your Unit 3 were brilliant and the ideas around the brief of 'World Earth Day' were unique and interesting and I enjoyed supporting you on this journey!

Well done and good luck on your future endeavours.

Miss Pusey

## Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Students from Year 7 got to boo and hiss their hearts out when they attended a professional pantomime performance at Manchester's Contact Theatre in December.

The Eight-Freestyle company welcomed Wellington School students back for a matinee performance of 'Cinderella' and it certainly did not disappoint with it's amazing magic, song, dance and jokes.

Not only was it a great way to mark the festive season but a fabulous learning tool for their drama skills. This is the third successful Pantomime trip for the school and next year's trip is already being organised.

Mrs Simpson



## Mary Poppins

School shows are always a firm favourite with not only the Drama department but also the whole School community - from the excellent cast, the students and staff who take their time to support and watch and also the local primary schools who bring their Year 6 students to show them a taste of what life at Wellington is truly like.

Each year has been a success but each year they just get better and better! This year we went for Mary Poppins - a classical favourite! Auditions took place and the world of Mary Poppins began to form.

Our leading lady, Tilly Fletcher (Year 10) is a dedicated member of the department, having been in every single one of the shows since being at Wellington. It was Tilly's turn to be our leading lady and what a 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' job she did, from the excellent characterisation to the unbelievable vocals- you blew us all away.

Laura Jerome (Year 10) played the incredibly challenging role of Burt and she blew us all away having such confidence in the role. The Banks Family, Joe Allan (Year



9) and Hannah Arthur (Year 10) as Mr and Mrs Banks and Daniel Harding (Year 7) and Isla James (Year 9), all demonstrated the family so well and the family connection was evident on stage, from the cheeky children, caring mother, to the 'strict' dad - you were incredible, especially your vocals. Other shout outs go to Penny Coombs (Year 10) as Miss Andrew, Ellen Thomas-Anderson (Year 10) as Mrs Brill, Mikey Bailey (Year 9) as Robertson Ay and Connie Needham (Year 10) and Marlis Robson (Year 9) who shared the role as Mrs Corry. You all portrayed your characters with flare, comedy and professionalism. Finally, the brilliant ensemble, this would not be a show without you – special shout out goes to those students who were performing on stage for the first time. You did us proud!! You made this musical a show shopper.

An enormous thanks to the staff that put hard work and effort into making Matilda a memorable show for years to come.

A great big thank you to the Art department for helping us bring the Wellington stage to life and providing us with the set. Since a musical wouldn't be complete without music, a special thank you must be extended to the wonderful Mrs Moorhouse, through her direction the students were able to sing incredibly as an ensemble and during solos. Thank you Mr Briggs and Jasper Welton (Year 10) for your help with the tech.

Mrs Richardson, Mrs Simpson and Miss Spencer put great efforts into the overall flair of the production, co-directing scenes, creating exciting choreography and sorting a fantastic bunch of costumes. Without their efforts, commitment and dedication to the show and the pupils, the show would not have been the magnificent performance it was.

Miss Pusey

## Shakespeare for Schools

On Tuesday 19th March a cast of Year 7, 8 and 9 students performed at The Contact Theatre as part of the Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

They performed a spectacular, visually beautiful and physically skilled and disciplined 30-minute version of Romeo and Juliet. Rehearsals started in January and from that moment the cast were enthusiastic, professional and creative and they made rehearsals an absolute dream to be a part of. The hard work and dedication paid off when it came to the performance night, we were so proud of you. We received this comment from our Stage Manager:

***“What a strong ensemble! You arrived well prepared and ready to work, showing patience and professionalism during the technical run, plus a thorough knowledge of your text and blocking. Your generous attitude towards the other younger companies was also noticed and appreciated. Your dedication to the work shone through on stage in your disciplined stillness or attention to detail in your background acting, alongside your actors’ character study and emotional expression.”***

Well done on achieving the bronze award this year! We are so excited for next year!

Miss Pusey





## Animal Farm: English Theatre Trip to the Octagon Theatre, Bolton

In February of this year, the English Department took 47 students, from across a range of year groups, to see a dynamic adaptation of Orwell's novel "Animal Farm" at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton.

Students were, without exception, impeccably behaved and thoroughly engaged in the performance, discussing thoughtfully what happened.

We loved the televangelist interpretation of Moses the Raven and were intrigued by the robotic humans, who appeared in the final scene, their mechanical hearts having been constructed from surveillance cameras that previously looked down on the fall of Old Major's utopian vision.

It was a really, really positive experience for everyone involved (aside from the animals, obviously) at a beautiful little local theatre.

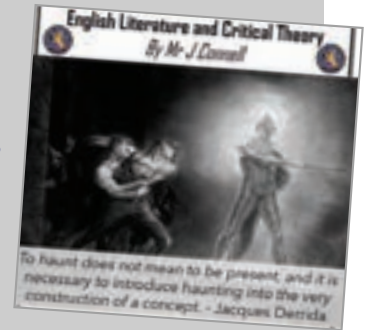
Check out the images for an impression of the clever staging, dark mood and (contrastingly) the jolly Wellingtonian audience!

Ms C Spencer-Cruise



## Who's there? An Overview of Ghosts in English Literature & Critical Theory

On a dark Wednesday evening in November, fifteen of our students from Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 went to a lecture by Mr J Connell; it was a 'super-curricular' opportunity as part of Urmston Grammar School's 'Community Lecture Series'.



The lecture ranged over all manner of interesting facts and aspects of critical theory – from Marxism – a 'spectre haunting Europe' - through the great thinkers and theoreticians of the 20th Century, such as Freud and Derrida – but also encompassing films such as 'The Shining', a range of literary texts, and even an episode of 'The Simpsons'. This was a great taste of what a university lecture would be like, and the manner in which critics discuss texts that we study now in school, but at a higher level. The GCSE set texts 'A Christmas Carol' and 'An Inspector Calls' both featured in what was an exhilarating and fascinating journey through the big ideas of the last 200 years.

Mr Ahern

## Arts Award Winners!

It has been so lovely, this year, to celebrate our inaugural Arts Award winners!



Year 8 Winners

Congratulations to the cracking writers: Martha Adams, Milly Roberts, Isla Adams, Louise Denny and Alice Hardy in Year 8!



Year 9 Winners

Well done to our wonderful wordsmiths: Lucy Johnson, Lucy Shepherd, Elizabeth Leigh-Valero, Harry Durkin, Maiko Fairbrother, Leah Saward, Imogen Finan, Eva Barton, Alice Heap and Annie Evans in Year 9!

Salutations to the excellent scripters: Jennifer Horlock, Oliver Freer, Penny Coombs, Jessica Barlow, Lola Brumby, Misha Mullick in Year 10!

These students spent one night a week, every week, after school, learning about scriptwriting and creating their own original concept for a TV show before scripting the opening of the first episode. As a consequence of their hard work and commitment, portfolios were submitted to Arts Council England and now these fantastic young writers have certificates for the qualification of Arts Award: Explore to prove their creativity and invention.

I'm really proud to have worked with these students - they were so engaged, creative, articulate and mature! I'm certain that amongst them there is a hit TV show to emerge.

Scriptwriting will be an option for our current Year 7s during the 'project-in-a-day' - I encourage anyone with a creative mind to get signed-up!

Ms C Spencer-Cruise

## Chris Warburton Visit

We were fortunate to be visited by BBC presenter Chris Warburton in June, who came in to speak to Media Studies students about his career in broadcasting and to give advice for students who may be considering a career in the media.

Chris spoke about his experiences as a radio presenter on BBC5 Live and the different events he has covered, ranging from Champions League finals to the death of the Queen. He answered questions that students had about his career and also explained what goes on behind the scenes to ensure that a programme is ready for broadcast.

The talk ended with Chris imparting fantastic advice to the students on what they need to do in order to be successful in the media industry, recommending that they need to be passionate, curious and to always persevere.

Sincere thanks to Chris for giving up his time to come and share his insights with us – and also for staying after the talk had finished to speak to students individually and have photos taken with them!

Mr Williams



## Media City Trip

In June, two groups of Media Studies students visited the BBC studios at Quay House in Media City, Salford Quays.



During the visits, we had a Q&A session with researchers, a journalist and an apprentice at BBC Sport, who gave us an insight into what working at the BBC – and in the media industry in general – is like and the skills and qualities that are needed to be successful within the industry. It was excellent to get the ‘inside track’ from Katie, Katie, Becky and Elizabeth and it no doubt inspired and gave food for thought to our students who are considering a career within the media.

Students also had a tour of Quay House and saw the journalists and production teams at work. We saw what happens behind the scenes at BBC Sport and Five Live and everything that has to be done to get the finished content on to our screens and airways: it was quite eye-opening to see and hear all the different parts of this process.

Thank you to Mrs Fletcher, Miss McCann and Mr Beeley for accompanying us on the visits and a huge thank you to Mrs Coombs (mother of Penny in Year 10 and Daisy in Year 13) who co-ordinated the visits for us and was our ‘host with the most’ during our time there! Mr Williams

## European Literature Society

Starting with the classic of weird, ‘Metamorphosis’ by Franz Kafka, this year’s European Literature Society got off to a thought-provoking start.



A young man wakes up and he’s been transformed into a beetle: so begins one of the most unusual of the last century’s literary classics. The group discussed matters ranging from ‘what is literature for’ to ‘what can literature do’, and why does this German story, written over a hundred years ago, have such a hold on our imaginations to this day.

The group then moved on to one of the most famous of French philosophical works: Voltaire’s ‘Candide’, which raises a vast array of philosophical issues, as well as presenting us with a clearer idea of what literature can and should do. Reading two more French works – Gustave Flaubert’s ‘A Simple Heart’ and ‘The Moustache’ by Emmanuel Carrère – we were back again to considering what literature can and should do. Flaubert is the master of making the ordinary deeply moving and engaging, whereas the more modern Carrère seeks to disturb the reader and make them doubt themselves, a key feature of more modern works of literature. Carrère’s novel is an exploration of the power of the mind and how utterly terrifying it may be when one loses control of it.

Returning to German literary classics, the group moved on to ‘Death in Venice’ by Thomas Mann. Published in 1911, when the world was ‘silently spinning into an abyss of death and destruction’ of The Great War. We were struck by how very odd this book is. The group discussed Mann’s theme of mortality, in a story where an aging writer walks past a graveyard and sees a strange man walking out of a church, two seemingly inconsequential events that have a profound impact on the protagonist.

Drinking tea and coffee, eating cake, and discussing literature, we have covered such a swathe of literary classics in one year. Our latest novel is the second and final novel written by English author Anne Brontë; ‘The Tenant of Wildfell Hall’, published in 1848. It is considered to be the most shocking of the Brontës’ novels, and it had instant and phenomenal success on publication; however, after Anne’s death, her sister Charlotte prevented its re-publication in England until 1854. Critics now consider ‘The Tenant of Wildfell Hall’ to be one of the first feminist novels. So a great novel to end the year on – prompting a trip to the Bronte museum in Haworth in June, to cap off a phenomenal year.

Mr Ahern



## Word Book Day

As per long standing tradition, the English Department celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as Shakespearean characters.

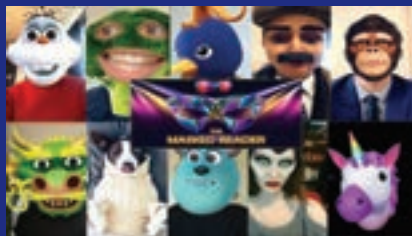


Students did very well guessing who was who, however no-one managed to guess who Mr Ahern was (Yorick – a dead Jester in Hamlet) nor Mr Williams (colourful socks being the only clue). Mrs Jordan as Cleopatra – of ‘Anthony & Cleopatra’ fame – was the most marvelled at entry: if there’s one thing English teachers love more than books, is dressing up as characters from books. The students really got involved, using knowledge of Shakespeare gleaned from lessons in Years 7,8 and 10 – when Shakespeare plays are studies.

The English Department

## Masked Reader Competition

Another way the English Department got students involved in the fun of reading this year was an old favourite: the Masked Reader Competition.



In lessons, students were shown a series of videos of readers who were disguised reading extracts from their own favourite books. This was a test not only of how well students know their books, but how well they know their teachers. A number of carefully placed clues were included, but it was still a difficult task. Well done to those who managed to guess so many. Mrs Jordan





## Staff and Student Reading Bulletin

The staff and student weekly bulletin now feature a recommended book read.



It's been fantastic to have students contribute to their own bulletin and pupils have recommended a variety of non-fiction and fiction books to their peers. Similarly, we've been building up a staff library in the LRC, with lots of exciting reads from a variety of genres. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and I look forward to seeing what books will be recommended next.

Mrs McDonnell

## National Book Tokens Competition

Hot on the heels of World Book Day came the opportunity to design a book token in English lessons, a prestigious competition sponsored by National Book Tokens.

The overall winner will see their design printed on real book tokens which will then be sold nationwide. The standard of entries this year was very impressive, with pupils creating designs based on the theme of this year's World Book Day - Read Your Way. In the English department, we picked out our own favourites and rewarded pupils with Class Charts points, before choosing an overall winner in each Key Stage 3 year group. The winning designers each received a £10 book token to spend as they wish. Congratulations to:



Year 7: Alina Yen



Year 8: Leyla Shi



Year 9: Elizabeth Sant

Twenty of our favourite entries will also now be entered into the national competition, and we will wait with crossed fingers and bated breath for the winners to be announced! Good luck, everyone!

Mrs Jordan

## Anime Club

Anime Club has continued to grow in popularity.



Not only because there is an explosion of worthwhile Anime to watch, but there has been an increasing interest in Manga too (the books from which the animations are based). So much so, myself and Ms Gilbert have collaborated to discuss the positive impact Anime Club is having on pupils' reading across Key Stage 3. Many more pupils are engaging with reading on account of manga becoming readily available in the LRC. Furthermore, pupils are watching Anime and then because of their enjoyment of the story, go on to read the original story within the manga, alongside researching web-comics and articles online. Reading anything is better than reading nothing and manga really does offer a world of fascination and excitement, one which sadly, has previously been disregarded as material worth reading.

Individual reasons for reading aside, Manga helps to make narratives more accessible to some pupils who are put off by a lot of writing. There are a variety of genres of Manga and one title everyone will be familiar with is 'Demon Slayer'. It's rise in popularity has given way to further interest into the genre of Fantasy and Adventure.

Overall, it's always great to see pupils being excited to watch more of a storyline or learn more about a character. It can fuel their reading skills, writing skills and their imagination. Let's hope that Manga titles continue to excite their modern-day audiences and that the pupils here, will keep reading them!

Miss Tedford

## Fact Not Fiction: KS3 LRC Project

In January, each student in Key Stage 3 was challenged to read a narrative non-fiction book.

Recommendations were given to pupils but ultimately, pupils could choose their book which best supported their own individual interests and experiences. Pupil chose books from a wide range of different genres: from climate change choices like The Extraordinary Life of Greta Thunberg to historical books such as Stolen History.

During LRC and English lessons, pupils spent time reading their books as well as using the computers to research their chosen author and book. Once that had been completed, it was time to start preparing for the individual presentations. We wanted to hear about the books that had been read and understand why they were chosen and whether they would be recommended.

Well done Key Stage 3! You embraced the challenge and hopefully enjoying reading a different genre of book.

Mrs Sheehan



## Key Stage 3 Book Club

Since November, some fabulous Year 7 and 8 pupils have been attending 'KS3 Book Club' on a Tuesday lunchtime, where we have read lots of amazing short stories.

We've been reading an array of genres from horror to romance, then discussing them afterwards whilst eating biscuits! This is a great group of KS3 pupils who are always thoughtful and engaged in their reading and I look forward to many more weeks of story adventures with them.

Mrs McDonnell



## 7R Reading Goody Bags

7R have worked tirelessly hard this year and their teachers decided they deserved a treat!

At Christmas - after a call from Lapland - a special delivery came into Mr Ahern's English lesson where pupils all received a goody bag full of books connected to their current studies... from Horrible Histories to Greek myths. Even our Year 13 English Literature elves came along to deliver them!

As always, the pupils were full of smiles and gratitude! It was great to see pupils immediately starting to read the books and their excitement. We hope you enjoyed your well-deserved treats, 7R. Miss Hitchens



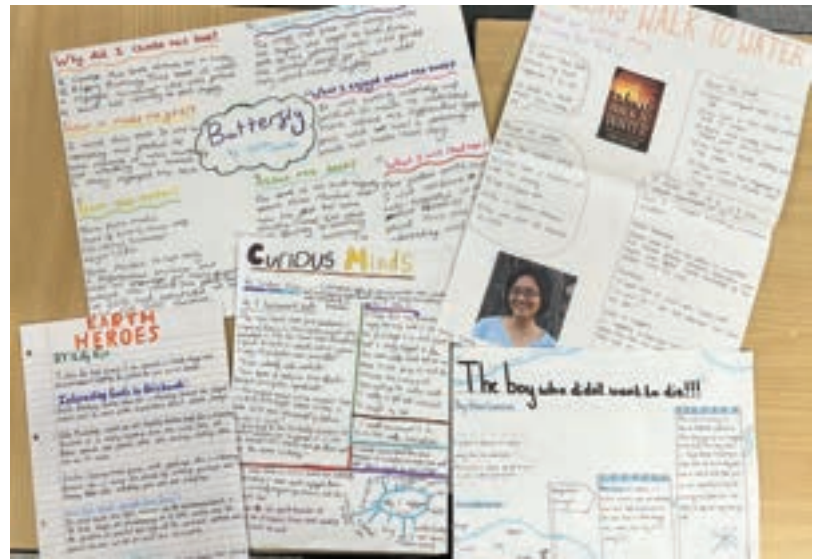
## 7T – Fact Not Fiction Projects

Throughout the Spring Term, KS3 were challenged to read a narrative non-fiction book.

At the end of the term, they were asked to plan a presentation on the book they had been reading. We wanted them to teach the rest of the class about what they had learnt from their non-fiction book, along with why they chose to read it and if they would recommend it to the rest of the class.

Every student in 7T stood up in the LRC and spoke to the rest of the class about their chosen non-fiction book. Well done 7T! It takes bravery and courage to stand up in front of your classmates, so you should all be very proud of yourselves.

Miss McCann



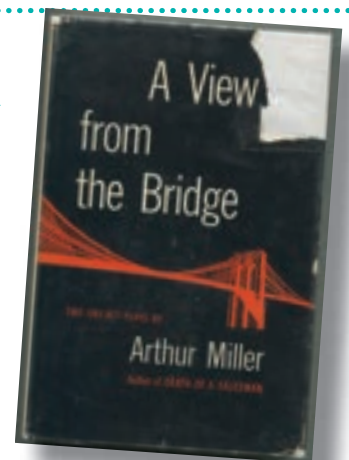
## 9A English

As well as refining their writing skills, my Year 9 students have also been studying the classic modern tragedy 'A View from The Bridge'

Although set in the 1950s, Miller's Brooklyn tale deals with some very relevant themes such as relationships, family, community, love and loyalty and the students took a very mature attitude to these intriguing subjects and plot twists. It was pleasing to take part in the ethical and historical debates and it certainly gave the students plenty to consider.

I was also delighted that we have had so many amazing and varied book presentations in their LRC lessons, leading to many discoveries of exciting new genres or non-fiction novels to inspire their reading choices.

Mrs Simpson



## Year 10 and 11 Theatre Trip – A Christmas Carol

An after-school trip to the Altrincham Garrick to see a production of **A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story** turned out to be a very rewarding experience for 30 Year 10 and 11 students – along with Ms Spencer, Ms Sampson and myself.



We all left filled with the spirit of Christmas, and it was only mid-November. As a set GCSE text, this was a great chance for our students to see a modern interpretation of the text and to consider its relevance for a modern audience, thereby deepening their appreciation of the text and the author's original intention. Mark Gatiss' adaptation was truly faithful to the heart and spirit of Charles Dickens' much-loved festive ghost story, and a great evening at the theatre for our students.

Mr Ahern

## Crafted Writing

In preparation for the GCSE English Language exam, 11Y3 have been working on producing more crafted pieces of writing.

We have looked at writing as a process and not as an end product, and have endeavoured to write and redraft focused paragraphs of description. Pupils have really zoomed in on vocabulary choices and sentence types to try and develop the sophistication of their writing. They have been very successful in utilising effective imagery too, inspired by the texts we have studied for English Literature.

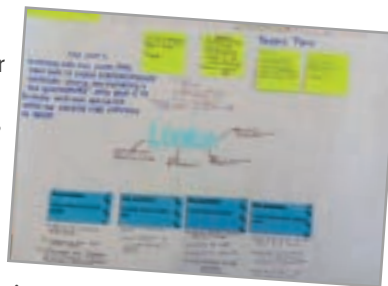
Mrs Collinge

## Easter School - March 2024

The Easter holidays turned out to be a very busy period in school for many Year 11 students, with a series of **Master Classes** offered by the English Department, covering all the literary texts studied at GCSE.

Also, there has been a big push this year to help students refine their writing, focusing on technical aspects of writing, from sentence construction to Tier 2 Vocabulary; hopefully, this will have an impact on English Language grades this year, with 50% of the GCSE in English Language dependent on how well students can write a polished and exact piece of prose. The atmosphere was relaxed but focused, and a lot of hard work was done, resulting in some beautiful pieces of writing being turned out.

Mr Ahern

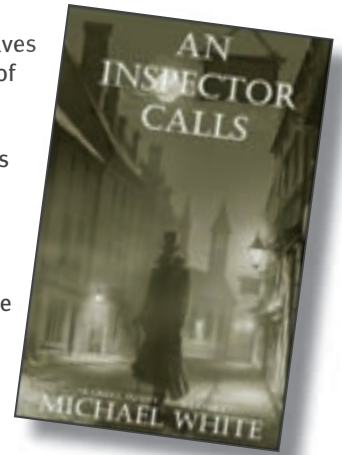


## 10A English

I have been delighted by many of my Year 10 students this year who have really risen to the challenges of the KS4 English curriculum.

Many students in my class have sought to push themselves and grasp a range of tricky tasks and texts while maintaining high standards.

They have dedicated themselves to understanding the tropes of Shakespearean tragedy, the ideologies of 'An Inspector Calls' and increase their skills of perception, inference and essay writing to achieve success. Furthermore, the class have vastly improved their descriptive and narrative writing skills to showcase a range of fantastic ideas and talents giving them a great base for Year 11.



Mrs Simpson

## Much Ado about 11X4

I have been delighted by many of my excellent Year 11 students this year who have really risen to the challenges of the KS4 English curriculum.

Many students in my class have sought to push themselves this year, to be better, to work harder, to impress and surprise both myself and my colleagues who have marked their work.

Like Shakespeare's wonderful protagonists, Beatrice and Benedick, 11X4 prove our capacious potential for personal growth and positive transformation.

They have strived to achieve perception in their inferences, to add detail via chains of inference, to write with extended metaphors. It's not been easy, and they're not there yet, but a quick look at these independent Much Ado About Nothing revision mats shows so, so much promise.

Best of luck this summer, 11X4. Keep investing in your English until the end and it will pay off.

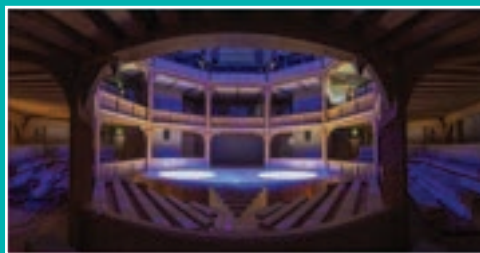
As with Much Ado about Nothing – we can get a happy ending if we try. Ms C Spencer-Cruise



## Macbeth Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 12th September, alongside fellow Shakespeare enthusiast Ms Fletcher, we accompanied 27 Year 11 pupils to see a production of *'Macbeth'* at the relatively new Shakespeare North Playhouse.

The production sought to present a modern take of Shakespeare's original play. Whilst the dialogue was kept in traditional Shakespearean language, the addition of communication by text message, grisly and graphic murders viewed by the audience through a CCTV camera, and Lady Macbeth vaping, certainly challenged what our perceptions of what a Shakespeare play *should* and *does* look like. The inclusion of a CCTV camera served to highlight some of the more violent parts of the play and was executed effectively.



The modern take on the play appealed to pupils and it helped them to better understand not only the context of the play but also Shakespeare's characterisation as presented on stage. The 'modern' take also allowed pupils to see particular scenes from a range of perspectives not present in the original text (e.g. the idea of Macbeth in fact being 'possessed' by the witches and Macbeth brutally murdering Macduff's wife by suffocating her).

Overall, it was an enjoyable trip and I am glad that pupils gave positive feedback on the production itself, even if it was not to the taste of Bard traditionalists!

Miss Tedford

## KS5 English - Rebecca

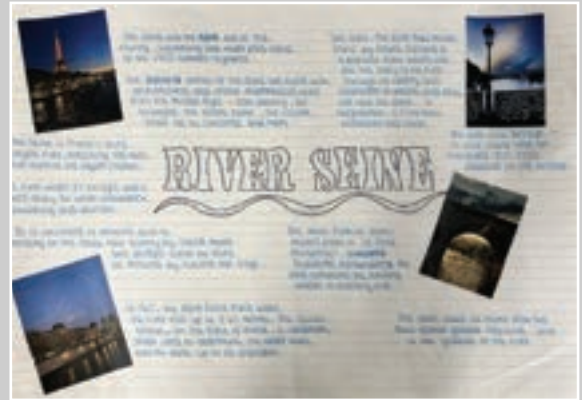
New to the OCR English A level specification is the phenomenal novel, *'Rebecca'* by Daphne du Maurier.



*'Rebecca'* is a 1938 Gothic novel which explores a chilling tale of love, loss, and identity.

Year 12 and 13 have both been studying this Gothic novel in preparation for their exams in 2024/2025 and they have thoroughly enjoyed discussing some of the terrifying psychological aspects of the novel. It's always exciting studying new texts in English and this one has been no exception. A definite summer read for all our older students!

Mrs McDonnell

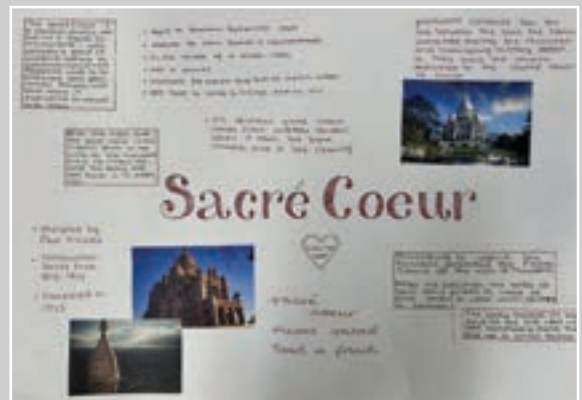


## Year 12 LangLit: Introduction to Paris

At the beginning of Year 12, and before embarking on their first topic of the year, the students in 12B English LangLit were given an area of Paris to research.

Their first topic explores a range of non-fiction texts based in and about Paris, looking at places such as The Louvre, Musee D'Orsay and the River Seine. This research project allowed students to learn about some of the aspects of Paris that they would come across in during their studies and also allowed them to teach each other about what they had learnt. As you can see, a lot of hard work and research was put into these projects and the task enabled the students to begin their course with a wider knowledge of Paris.

Miss McCann.





## Reading Recommendations!

Looking for books to add to your summer reading list?

Our Year 12 Literature and Lang/Lit students have got your back!

Here are their suggestions:

- Normal People by Sally Rooney
- The Paris Connection by Lorraine Brown
- Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
- The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré
- Treasure Island by R. L Stevenson
- Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid

There will be more reading recommendations, published on our Instagram page, before the holiday begins – why not give us a follow on @wellington\_english\_and\_media ?

Thanks to Poppy, Sam, Zainab, Mollie, Megan, Maggie and Alexa for these terrific reading tips!

Ms C Spencer-Cruise



## Language & Literature at A Level

A huge 'Well done!' needs to be said to our Year 13 Language & Literature cohort this year. I have no time to say it, in lessons, as we're cranking the gears, hurtling towards our examinations, full steam ahead!

They're an ambitious group, who will really put in the hours on a good project. Check out their (frankly epic) Othello context research!

Another thing that I have really appreciated about this group of young adults, is their capacity for thoughtful, focused collaboration. As you can see in these images, when asked to join forces to battle the foe of complex and archaic Shakespearean language, to unite against the modality of the Paris Anthology texts, they go for it: 'OK, I'll start!'

It's so nice to overhear their productive conversations and their kind feedback. If the world has any justice in it at all: this Summer will hopefully be equally kind to them.

Best of luck to Liv, Scarlett, Miwa, Daisy, Jena, Ruby, Emily, Will, Iwan, Lily, Matt, Ava and Sophia!

Ms C Spencer-Cruise



## A Level Film Studies

This year's A level Film Studies class have been zooming in on their new films as they discover the in-depth ideologies and skills of this amazing art form.

As well as learning the terminology and essay structures the students have also been able to get to grips with British classic movies such as 'Trainspotting' and 'This is England' for their first module where they were whisked back in time to life in the UK in the 1980s and 1990s.

Their current module, American film, has recently had a revamp and they have just completed their analysis on the modern phenomenon 'Joker' (starring Joaquin Phoenix in the titular role) after it's addition to the exam board choices.

Mrs Simpson



## Design your Own MOJO Magazine

For the GCSE course pupils have to study MOJO magazine, analysing the media language on front covers.



In order to check everyone's understanding of conventions of magazines and MOJO's house style, Year 10 were given the same image of Dave Grohl and had to create their own MOJO front cover on Canva. I was very impressed with the results and many covers looked like a professional MOJO cover!

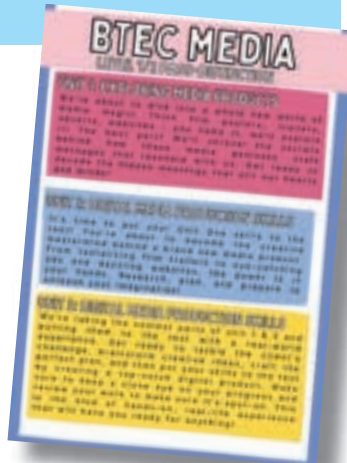
Mrs Fletcher

## New Course: BTEC Tech Award

We are excited to introduce a new qualification in September 2024 - a BTEC in Creative Media Production!



This course is designed to enhance pupil's enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in our daily lives. Pupils will plan and create digital media products throughout the course for example creating a trailer for a film or launching a website. Mrs Fletcher



## Year 9 Taster Sessions GCSE and BTEC

In January, Year 9 were considering which subjects to select for their options and had the opportunity to attend a taster session for the original GCSE Media Course and a new BTEC in Creative Media Production.

I had lots of engaged pupils who gained an insight to what the subjects cover and the types of activities we do in lessons. We had some fantastic ideas shared during our discussions on the power of the media, music video, magazines and film.



I was so impressed with the practical task I set, in just 15 minutes pupils were able to create these fantastic magazine and film poster mock ups! There was so much creativity on display in such a short space of time. Thank you to everyone who took part and I can't wait to meet the new Media Studies GCSE and BTEC cohort.

Mrs Fletcher

## Music Videos

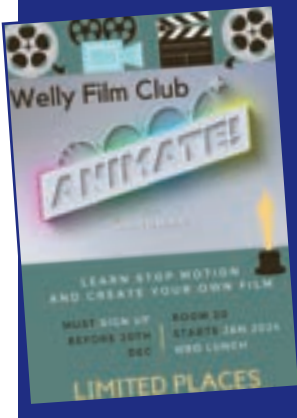
Year 10 were challenged to bring an existing music video to life.

From rocking the iconic outfits to nailing the dance moves, they recreated into the world of music videos to develop their practical skills. The outcome was fantastic - it looked like everyone had a lot of fun!

Mrs Fletcher



## Film Club



Film Club is in full swing, crafting quirky characters and creative set designs for their epic stop-motion masterpieces. Get ready to be wowed by the final flicks!

Mrs Fletcher

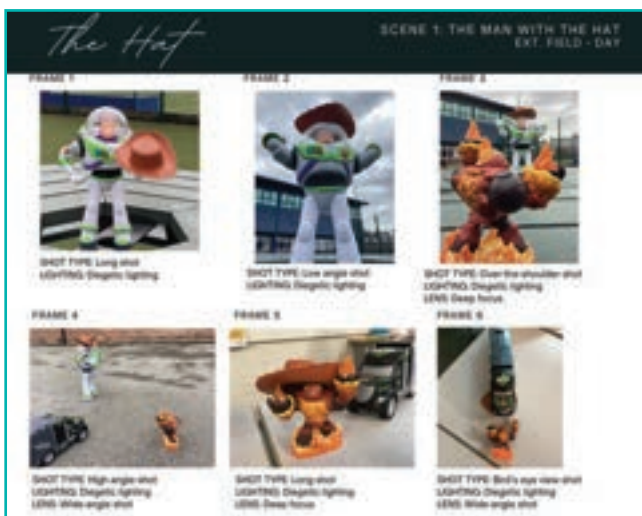


## Introduction to Media Language

We had a fantastic start to the Media Studies course out on the school site taking photographs.

Year 10 were tasked with taking as many different shot types using iPads and a prop. It was a great activity to introduce new vocabulary in a practical way.

Mrs Fletcher



## Project in a Day

Students worked in small groups to film, edit and present a new music video for their favourite song choice as a fun and educational way to end the term.

They were given a range of media equipment and support to delve into the work of the world of directing, performance, music, editing and production and the results were spectacular!

Mrs Simpson

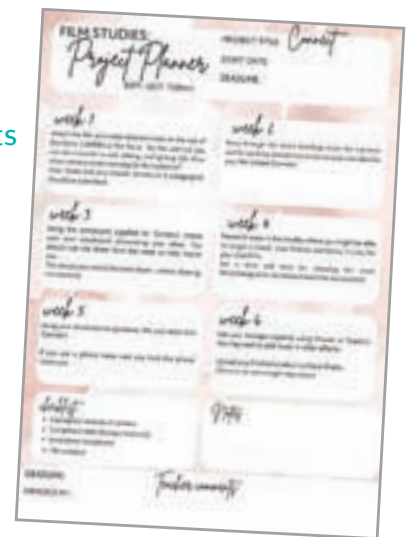


## Create your own Film

Year 12 Film Studies students analysed a range of short films, ready to craft their own cinematic masterpiece for the NEA.

Every few months, they delved into a new short flick, focusing on different elements, before putting their director hats on to create their own movie magic inspired by 'Connect', 'The Gunfighter', and 'La Jetee'.

Mrs Fletcher



## LRC

It's been a busy year in the LRC – we have celebrated National Poetry Day, Valentine's Day, Black History month and various other significant dates in the calendar; including, of course the now legendary World Book Day – staff really do love to dress up! Various competitions and activities took place including BookFace, (the winning entry pictured here) and a book themed cake stall, which raised over £100 for the School's charities.

Christmas saw another Scholastic book fair in the LRC- always popular, with a great selection of books for pupils to buy for themselves or as presents – we earned over £100 worth of books for the school, so thank you for your support.

We have welcomed 3 fabulous authors to Wellington this year; we had well- known children's author Tom Palmer come to give a talk to Year 8 - his books are very popular in the LRC, as was obvious from the large number of pupils who came to meet him and request autographs, photos and signed copies of his books. Thank you, Tom for a fabulous afternoon, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it.

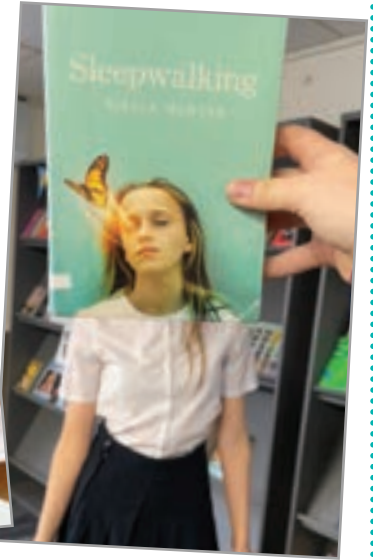
AM Dassu talked to the Year 7s about her latest book Kicked out, set in Hale Barns, which is a sequel to her book Boy, Everywhere. Her characters come from all walks of life, cultures and background and her books are full of empathy and compassion for people who find themselves forced to leave their homes.

Sathnam Sanghera treated the Year 7s to a very interesting and entertaining talk about his new book, "Stolen History", which balanced the more serious aspects of the British Empire with some fun facts (for example, who knew that Queen Victoria had a Pekinese dog called Looty!)

Sathnam's visit was especially exciting as BBC Newsround accompanied him and filmed four of our pupils interviewing him for an episode of the programme- they did a brilliant job, journalists of the future in the making!

We look forward to next year, there are some exciting projects in the pipeline and we look forward to welcoming the new Year 7s in September and helping them discover all the wonderful, magical places that reading can take you.

Ms Gilbert





## Careers in Geography

This year the Geography department organised a calendar of afterschool careers talks related to our subject area.

During the organisation phase of the programme, we were simply amazed by the number of parents willing to present and we are extremely grateful for their involvement. Students have been treated to a number of talks delivered by environmental consultants, transport planners, architects and many more. Our students recognise the value of the Geography curriculum and are able to explain how the skills taught in lesson are desirable and transferrable to the world of work. The students behaved with maturity, engaged thoroughly and asked insightful questions at each event. Thank you to all involved and well done to those who attended.

Mr May

## Darts Club in Geography

Darts Club is hosted twice a week in the Geography department. This has been a clear hit with students in Year 9, 10 and 11.



Many students are becoming very good and their mental arithmetic has improved no end!

The club is extremely popular and so both boards are always in use at lunchtime. The students have a lot of fun while also taking it very seriously. Who knows, the next Luke Littler may be in our midst. Mr Whitaker

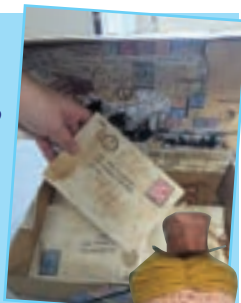
## Geography Awareness Week, Research Famous Adventures, November 2023

As part of Geography Awareness Week in November, we asked students in Geography to research famous adventures.

The quality of homework was outstanding and students were incredibly creative. With the help of Geography Club, we awarded Daisy B (Year 9), Eve B (Year 9), Ella C (Year 7), Holly L (Year 7), India W (Year 7), Kitty (Year 8) and Tyler P (Year 7) the top prizes.

A big well done from the Geography Team.

Ms Baker



## GA WorldWide Quiz

The Sherlockhomies competed in the WorldWide Quiz organised by the Geographical Association and hosted at MMU in November 2023.

There were a number of weekly heats and an exceptional amount of revision in preparation for the quiz. In the team were Daisy Bennett, James Kirkup and Alfie Gibson-Buckley.

With 15 teams eager to win the GA trophy competition was tough. The students did exceptionally well. Not only did they come fourth, with only 1.5 points between them and the 3rd team, they were also the youngest team in the top ten groups. The team held their nerve and approached each round with enthusiasm, teamwork and focus.

We are so proud of the students. They were determined, committed and focussed. We might not have won this year, but we came extremely close!

Miss Baker and Miss Hennessey



## Christmas Decorations

After a busy term in Geography Club, we decided to get into the festive spirit by creating our own decorations.

We put our origami skills to the test and used OS maps in need of recycling to create a festive decoration.

The group worked well as a team to help each other through each step. Here is one of the lovely decorations that were made.

Ms Baker



## Geography Awareness Week, Cake Competition, November 2023

In November 2023, the department organised a cake competition to celebrate Geography Awareness Week.

The students were asked to bake something topical and were judged based on the taste and design. An amazing nineteen students took part! All bakes were brilliant. We were so

impressed by the tasty, eye-catching bakes and are so proud of everyone who got involved. I imagine they took a lot of time and effort to bake and decorate!

We are very lucky to have such talented, committed students at Wellington.

Miss Hennessey



## Year 10 Physical Fieldwork, Blencathra

For the GCSE Physical Fieldwork investigation, the Geography department took the Year 10 cohort to the Lake District.

After a short walk up Blencathra, the students came to their first site along Glenderrterra Beck. Here they learnt how to take river measurements, including velocity, channel width and depth. With a bit of practice, they were soon collecting accurate and reliable data and demonstrated the ability to evaluate their methods.

The students did brilliantly and seemed to enjoy the dramatic landscape of the lakes. Good effort Year 10.

Miss Hennessey



## Year 12 Fieldtrip, Lake District

The Year 12 geographers enjoyed a gloriously hot three days at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre in the Lake District in the late summer term, 2023.

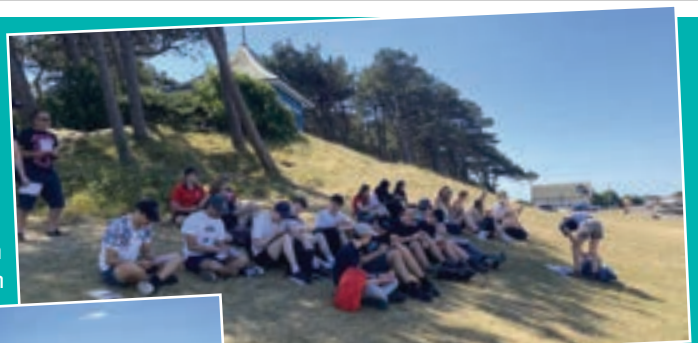
They practised a smorgasbord of fieldwork techniques and ideas to help them plan their own investigation, a core part of their A Level. On day one, they practised human geography techniques in Keswick town and lakeside. These techniques included practise interviews, environmental quality surveys, field sketches and land use mapping.

On Thursday morning, with blue skies ahoy, we headed to the north Cumbrian seaside town of Silloth. We had fantastic views of the Isle of Man and Scotland! We measured the size and shape of beach material and the effectiveness of the sea defences constructed there. We then headed to the harbour area to study the development of sand dunes and how humans can impact their stability. Students loved the sea air and the ice creams! We then headed back to the centre for a write up and, the most important part of the day... dinner!

In the evening, the students befriended a group of geographers from another school and hosted their own basketball competition.

The students were fantastic and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the residential. The FSC were extremely impressed by the politeness of our Wellington students and their level of focus. Well done to all involved!

Mr Whitaker



## Year 13 Berlin Trip

In October, myself, Miss Hollis and Mr Brown went to Berlin with the most wonderful group of Year 13 History and Technology students.

We had a fantastic and rewarding time, exploring all that Germany's capital city had to offer.

Each subject had its own interesting itinerary, as well as some whole group activities. These ranged from visiting the German Bundestag, the Volkswagen factory, and moving visits to the Holocaust Memorial and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Students also visited Berlin's Olympiastadion - home of the German national football team.

Both students and staff had a superb and educational visit, and made memories to cherish.



Thank you to Year 13 for being a credit to the school and to all the staff involved in planning the trip.

Mr Cawley



## Black History Month

October is Black History Month and I'd like to share with parents what we planned for pupils to celebrate this event.

Year 7 took part in a treasure hunt competition and homework task based around this year's theme of Celebrating our Sisters - learning about the



lives of 5 influential Black British women. The treasure hunt was won by Jake Drinkwater, Averie Tse and Kelly Tse. Congratulations! We hope you all enjoyed your prize and continue to learn about Black British History through this wonderful book. Year 8 and Year 9 have completed specially designed homework tasks to support their current units of learning, with Year 8 learning about the Black presence in Tudor England and Year 9 learning about the impact of the Bristol Bus Boycott on British Civil Rights. KS4 and KS5 pupils have had a tutor takeover discussion centred around the importance of Black History Month and the steps we can take as a school to make Wellington more Equal, Diverse and Inclusive. It was a wonderful month of commemoration and we all learned an awful lot.

Mr Gerschler

## Guardianship Programme

In July 2023, it was my pleasure to welcome back guests from the Jewish Fed and also Anne Super, Gisela Feldman and Marianne Phillips.

Anne, Marianne and Gisela are all Holocaust survivors that have worked closely with the History Department this year. We were approached by Danielle Jeffries from the Fed in November 2022 and offered the chance for our pupils to become part of the Fed's Guardianship programme and we jumped at the opportunity! The History Department are firm believers in teaching the Holocaust through human experience; to truly understand the impact it created. We have redeveloped our teaching of the Holocaust to use Ike Alterman's story and many of you will know that we renamed a building at School in Ike's honour in April. However, we were really keen for our pupils to learn more from a wide range of stories and broaden their understanding of how survival took many different forms.

12 Year 12 pupils were selected to become our maiden cohort of Guardians and have spent the last 6 months studying the stories of Anne, Marianne and Gisela. All 3 women have remarkable stories of survival: Anne was a hidden child, Marianne made it to Britain on the Kindertransport and Gisela arrived here via Cuba on the St Louis. Our pupils have learned with and from these survivors, with the intention being to continue sharing these stories in the future. The Year 12s organised some really

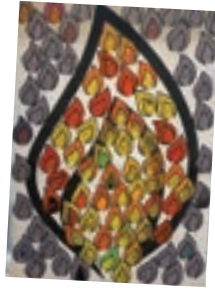
interesting presentations and did all three survivors proud with how they explained their hardships and experiences. They finished this year off by presenting what they'd learned to all of our Year 9 classes. Through the Guardianship project, we've helped to share these wonderful stories to ensure that they will never be forgotten. On Tuesday 18th July 2023, we held an afternoon tea to celebrate everything we've achieved together this year. This really was a lovely end to months of hard work and preparation. We hope this is just the start and that we continue this every year! I'd like to thank the Fed for their support, Gisela, Marianne and Anne for their stories and our Guardians for doing such a great job sharing what they've learned.

Mr Gerschler



## Holocaust Memorial Day

Saturday 27th January 2024 was Holocaust Memorial Day. 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.



Every year, we promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day – the international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. All KS3 pupils had a specially designed lesson to reflect on the lessons we can learn from these horrific events.

One of the most common methods of commemorating the Holocaust is to light a candle in remembrance of those lost. In the UK, a tradition has grown of lighting a candle in remembrance of a Jewish victim that was not related to you. Although we could not light a candle at School for health and safety reasons, we asked all KS3 Historians to help us create a series of candles to display in the Alterman Building to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2024.

Mr Gerschler

## Trafford's Holocaust Memorial Day Event

On the 25th of January, Wellington School were invited to attend Trafford's Holocaust Memorial Day event.



The students were asked to create a piece inspired by Boltanski

and had been working on the art piece in the lead up to the event. The piece Year 9 created was a series of Stars of David's with pictures of Jewish men, women and children who lost their lives in the Holocaust. These pictures were threaded through the Star of David and then displayed above the stage during the event. Year 9 then read out a speech explaining their influence and artwork, drawing inspiration from Boltanski's use of light and how it serves as a guiding force out of darkness but also a spotlight on the atrocities that have been committed in the past. All the Wellington students behaved phenomenally and they were a credit to the school and the Trafford community. Mr Gleave

## IWM Loan Box

Over a fortnight in November 2023, Year 9 Historians had the opportunity to handle some artefacts from the First World War.



We were very lucky to be able to borrow a loan box of items from the Imperial War Museum North and every Year 9 class had the opportunity to study these items in a History lesson. It was great fun and a fantastic opportunity to study some really unique artefacts from the Great War. We learned about jam tin bombs, 105-year-old Memorial plaques, Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, Princess Mary tins and tank masks. It really helped our pupils empathise with the experiences of British soldiers living and fighting from the trenches. Thank you to the IWM for giving us this experience. Mr Gerschler

## Lessons from Auschwitz

On Wednesday 11th October 2023, Phoebe Tuzio, Zainab Ali, Jessica Hill and Chloe-Mae Bedicer from Year 12 visited Poland as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.



Since 1999, over 41,000 students and teachers have taken part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', this four-part course explores the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The LFA Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

Our pupils were able to experience the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum through a one-day visit to Poland and share their experiences via follow up seminars. All four students have spoken about what a memorable experience the project has been and the numerous lessons they've learned from the visit. Mr Gerschler

## Dungeons and Dragons Club

Dungeons and Dragons Club this year has seen a great deal of creativity, laughs and monsters!

Well done to our DMs, who have been creative, learned lots of new rules, and managed the chaos and fun of their parties. Well done to our players, who have worked on their characters, added to the stories, and been respectful of their DMs. A special congratulations to Jack Goodman, awarded Best DM, and Alfie Cain, awarded Best Player! The roll-off for the Ducky Dice was legendary!

Ms Hollis

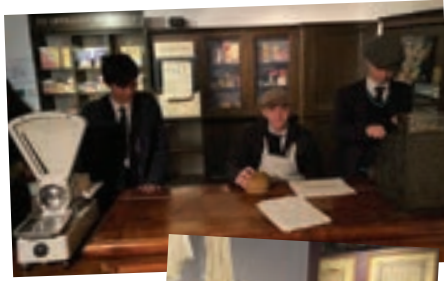




## Year 9 Trip to the People's History Museum

In November, 30 Year 9s went on a trip to the People's History Museum in Manchester.

Pupils solidified their learning of their Democracy unit by seeing exhibits about the Peterloo Massacre, the Suffragettes, and more modern civil rights issues. The pupils represented the school excellently and completed their learning booklets in a great deal of detail. Ms Hollis



## Year 10 London Trip

On Wednesday 13th March 2024, the History Department took 38 Year 10 pupils to London to learn all about the development of Medicine.

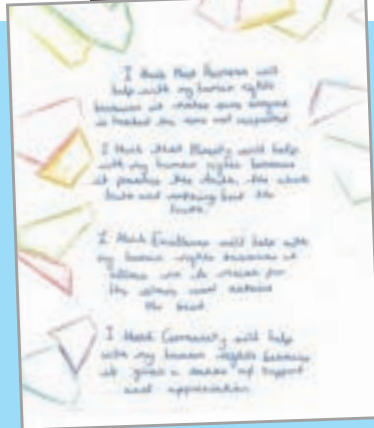
We visited the Science Museum, the Alexander Fleming Museum, the Old Operating Theatre and had a Jack the Ripper walking tour of London's East End. We even managed to squash in a visit to Honest Burger and a leisurely stroll around Borough Market. Staff and pupils had a wonderful time. Mr Gerschler



## RFK Human Rights

10th December 2023 saw the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the historic document was the first international agreement which outlined the rights and freedoms everyone is entitled to.

The History and Geography departments once again continued their collaboration with the charity RFK Human Rights to mark this event, by exploring how the freedoms and rights in the document are reflected in our school values and the Wellington Way. Students were also encouraged to write three pledges that our pupils could follow in order to uphold human rights at school and in our local community. This work was then collated onto a display board in the Alterman building, some of which you can see here. Mr Scott & Mr May



## Political Consultants Visit

With a General Election looming in 2024, the History and Politics department welcomed former Westminster insiders and current political consultants Declan and Helen McHugh to give a talk to our Politics students.

The session covered potential careers that studying Politics can lead to, as well as an insight into voting behaviour, predictions for the next General Election and the inner workings/tensions within the Labour Party.

Helen and Dec provided a fascinating insight into the world of Westminster having worked for former Foreign and Home Secretary Jack Straw, and former leader of the Labour Party, now Lord, Neil Kinnock. The students were captivated by their insights and asked a range of thoughtful questions throughout the session. The positive impact was evident when several students stayed well after the session to ask questions on an individual basis and seek guidance on possible career paths. Mr Scott & Mr Murphy

## Year 7 Warwick Castle Trip

On Friday 1st December 2023, the History Department braved the icy cold to take 44 Year 7 pupils to Warwick Castle.

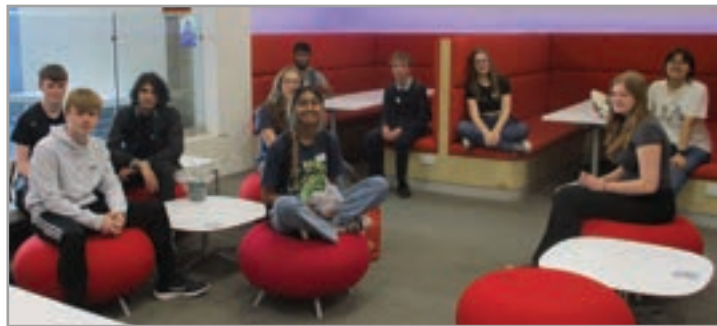
We learned all about the Castle's early life as an Anglo-Saxon fortress, how it then developed into a Norman Motte and Bailey in 1068 and eventually how it became the Stone Keep you see today. We toured the main Hall, fed the peacocks, raided the giftshops and even enjoyed some Hot Chocolate and Toasted Marshmallows at the Christmas Market. Multiple members of staff at the Castle commented on how polite and well-mannered all of our pupils were during the visit. A lovely bunch of young Historians! Mr Gerschler



## STEM Experience Day – Liverpool University

In June of last year, Miss Lee and I took a minibus full of keen Year 12 students to Liverpool University for a STEM experience day.

Students attended two sessions from a diverse range of topics within Chemistry, Computer Science, Maths and Physics. From considering the prospect of artificially Intelligent Lego and how to communicate during a Zombie apocalypse, to the inside of an environmental Time Machine and the idea that a Radioactive Cat has 18 Half Lives. From sitting in a lecture theatre to working in a science laboratory and relaxing in a student meeting area, our students had a great taster of life on campus. An enjoyable and informative day, which left our students with much to think about. Mrs Fairbairn



## Maths Inspiration

Back in November our Further Mathematicians went to the Royal Northern College of Music for this year's Maths Inspiration.

The speakers gave captivating talks about the mystery of patterns and the application of maths in our world today. These included: the truth behind scary statistical headlines; what Chat GPT can do well and what we can do better; the study of fluid dynamics and how it can be used to accurately predict the distribution of pollution in the oceans and from the rivers; and finally, the unpredictability of patterns and their application to juggling. We were continually encouraged to think like a mathematician and question the seemingly simple and explore the possibility of alternatives. A brilliant day out really extending our understanding of Maths and its applications.

Mr Hodson



## Intermediate Challenge 2024

On Wednesday 31st January a group of Year 9 and 10 students attempted the prestigious UKMT intermediate challenge. A series of challenging multiple-choice questions that test the most able mathematicians' resilience.

We are very proud of our students who managed between them a number of certificates including 35 Bronze awards, 8 Silver awards going to Kimi, Alex, Isobel, George, Diganth, Joshua, Matthew, Jimi and a Gold to Jacob. Congratulations to everyone taking part. Mrs Fairbairn



## The Merseyside Challenge

During the February half term students were invited to try some Maths questions hosted by the University of Liverpool.

Every year we have a number of excellent entries and this year was no different.

Congratulations to Carys Morrow who won Best in School and has been awarded a certificate of merit.

Carys has been invited to a presentation evening at the university where she will receive her certificate and participate in a roadshow of Mathematical intrigue.

A massive well done to all those students who took part in this year's challenge - the quality of entries was very high and it must have been difficult for the University to select a winner. Mrs Golden



## Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to our Year 12's and 13's who took part in this year's Senior Maths Challenge, it was our best ever for high scores with five students qualifying for the follow-on Senior Kangaroo Challenge on 15th November and many other students achieving silver and bronze certificates.



Well done to everyone who took part, a great achievement and all the best to our qualifiers.

Mr Hodson



## TTrockstars

In March, the Maths department hosted a TTrockstars Year 7 tournament where

forms were challenged to answer as many multiplication questions as possible. A staggering 276343 questions were answered correctly in four days...14% of them from two students alone!

The winners were the excellent 7MRN! With a fantastic median average of 851, it took a brilliant group effort to win this, here they are with their chocolate and the coveted TTrockstars Trophy. James Lam is pictured holding the trophy as he answered a staggering 12052 questions to help his form lift the trophy. Well done to all the Year 7s for a fantastic effort.

Mr Hodson



## Pi Day

We all celebrated Pi day (14th March) with lots of different activities through the day. In form time, students were challenged with a Pi day connecting wall (as seen on the game show OnlyConnect but this one was produced by our very own Maths Club).



Year 7, 8 and 9 were tasked with finding digits of Pi throughout the day that were placed on different teachers across the school, Mr Crabbe getting the prestigious decimal point!

At lunch time, students came to Room 66 to have an apple pie and make some colourful bracelets that were themed and designed to show the digits of Pi. Jasmine Hallett, produced a beautiful cheese and onion pie which she then shared with her friends. During this lunch time we had regular showcases of brilliant Pi reciting. Carys Morrow, Ben Prince and Daksh Balasubramanyam recited more than 20 digits but our winner of this competition was Kimi Chau who recited over 50 digits of Pi!

Thanks to everyone who was involved in the day, a really enjoyable Maths day!

Mr Hodson

# Maths Club

## The Cafe Illusion

There was fun at Maths Club in December trying to reproduce the Münsterberg illusion.

This became well known in 1973 as the cafe wall illusion when someone recognised the design in the tiles of a cafe wall in Bristol. The illusion is created using only horizontal and vertical lines, but drawn in a way that makes the lines in the image appear to be sloped!

Mrs Fairbairn



## Cantonese Maths Lesson

|   |                |   |                |   |                |
|---|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| 〇 | Zero<br>'ling' | 一 | One<br>'yat'   | 二 | Two<br>'yee'   |
| 三 | Three<br>'sam' | 四 | Four<br>'say'  | 五 | Five<br>'mm'   |
| 六 | Six<br>'lok'   | 七 | Seven<br>'cha' | 八 | Eight<br>'bah' |
| 九 | Nine<br>'gow'  | 十 | Ten<br>'sap'   |   |                |

In April of this year the Maths Club hosted an excellent lesson from our very own Wellington students Ella Chan, Mia Chan and Alina Yuen (Year 7) on how to say and write numbers in traditional Cantonese.

Everyone was getting involved in writing and the girls even prepared a short test at the end! Luckily, I had some other Maths club members on hand to check my answers! Thanks to the girls for their well-organised, enjoyable and informative lesson.

Mr Hodson



## Mobius Loops

In March of this year, members of the Maths Club were getting all tied up making Mobius Loops.

The standard Mobius Loop consists of one twist which forms a loop with a continuous single sided surface. These are easy to make so we decided to work in groups and use multiple twists. Very soon things got 'out of hand'; the result was loops within loops and lots of paper!

Mrs Fairbairn

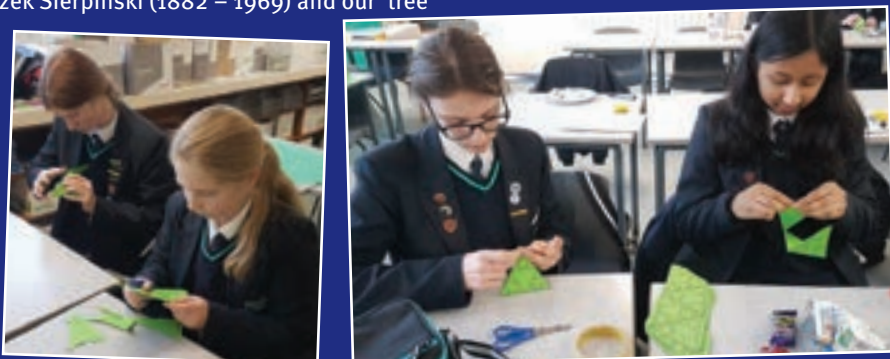


## Sierpinski Christmas Tree

It was all hands to the cardboard cutting, sticking and glue guns at Christmas as the Sierpiński Christmas tree was completed.

It was a combined effort from our Year 7, 8 and 12 Mathematicians, with  $4^4(256)$  tetrahedrons glued together plus 7 for the star on top. The fractal design was named after the polish mathematician, Wacław Franciszek Sierpiński (1882 – 1969) and our 'tree' is the effect of stacking 4 fractal units on top of each other. I'm sure you'll agree, it's an impressive Christmas tree.

Mr Hodson





## Year 10 Barcelona Trip

35 excited pupils met at Manchester airport in April, suitcases packed and ready to embark on an adventure in a bustling Barcelona.

Even being in Barcelona doesn't mean Year 10 pupils can avoid an early morning get up for school, straight after breakfast in the hostel we were onto the metro to make our way to language school. After two hours of Spanish lessons with language tutors we began to explore the city. We arrived at the Sagrada Familia already excited because of the impressive exterior. However, when we began the tour and entered the huge basilica we got to experience the real beauty of one of Barcelona's most iconic landmarks.

The afternoon was spent in the city centre. Pupils went shopping on Passeig de Gracia and Plaça de Catalunya then a trip down the famous Ramblas and into la Boquería market for fruit smoothies and ice cream.

Day two began with a 4D Gaudi experience, followed by some free time exploring Parc Guell. The park was beautiful and the clear blue skies made some fantastic

views over the city. The afternoon was spent on the beach before an evening stroll through the city and past the Arc de Triomf.

Our last full day of sightseeing brought us to Camp Nou, the home of FC Barcelona. The biggest football stadium in Europe may have been under a huge redevelopment but we got to experience the immersive Camp Nou experience learning about the history and culture of the club. We finished off the last day with a delicious variety of tapas and pupils were keen to try the local cuisine.

All pupils exemplified our value of community throughout the week.

Mr Walker



## 7R's Progress in French

7R have been learning how to describe themselves and have used their reading and listening skills to design some paper people and then put their own speaking and writing skills into practice by describing themselves.

Mrs Ramsumair



## Year 12 Home Cinema Visit

On Tuesday 28th November Year 12 Spanish pupils spent the day at Home cinema in Manchester for an A-level study day.

The day started with a university style lecture which set out a brief synopsis of the film they were going to watch, information on the play it was based on and details of the director, Paula Ortiz. This was led by Dr Carmen Herrero from the Manchester Metropolitan University.

They enjoyed a screening of 'La Novia' a 2015 film based on 'Bodas de Sangre' a play written by Federico García Lorca. After lunch they studied the film in greater depth looking at the main themes and symbolism in the film. The day was a great introduction to film study which the pupils will be doing as part of their course later this year and Federico García Lorca, a poet and dramatist, the author of the play they will be studying in Year 13.

The pupils participated with enthusiasm in the activities and enjoyed the film immensely.

Mr Walker



## German in the Hive

The Year 7 students in the Hive have been learning some German this year and have really impressed me with their eagerness and interest in the language and culture.

The sessions have included learning greetings, numbers, colours, animals and some cultural information on how different festivals are celebrated in Germany. In November they learnt about Sankt Martinstag and made their own lanterns, which brightened up the classroom in the Hive! In December, they loved hearing about Nikolaustag and were all very eager to fill their own shoes (in their exercise books!) with Nüsse, Süßigkeiten und Schokoladen!

In March, they heard about Easter in Germany were interested to hear about the Easter tradition of painting real eggs and hanging them on an 'Osterstrauch' (Easter branch) They coloured in their own Ostereier and hung them in the quad garden where they made everyone smile and feel cheerful! They made great use of their knowledge of German colours and animals, understanding the tradition of the 'Osterhase' (Easter Bunny) and the Pferde (horses) involved in the 'Osterreiten' tradition. Frau Ramsumair



## Ramadan in Germany

Year 7 German classes have learnt about Ramadan celebrations in Germany with our trainee teacher, Mrs Idrees.

They learned about the origins and customs of the festival, watched a video in German about one young man's life in Hamburg, and designed their own mosques. Students' knowledge of Islam and Ramadan, and their interest in Muslim communities in Germany really impressed us – well done!



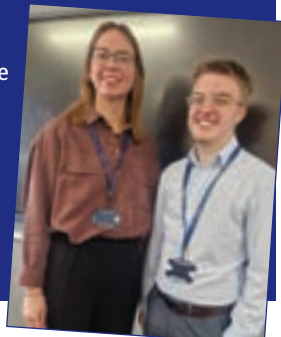
Mrs Ramsumair

## Foreign Language Assistants

This year we have again welcomed two Foreign Language Assistants through the British Council Assistantship programme.

Laura from Halle in Germany and Elio from Arras in France joined us in October and have been working with our students on their spoken language skills, as well as bringing an insight into their own experiences and traditions. Our students love to 'hear it from the horse's mouth' and have always shown respect towards our assistants, benefiting from their input and asking lots of questions! We will be very sad to see them go at the end of May and look forward to hearing how they get on in the next stage of their careers. Danke, merci, thank you Laura & Elio!

Mrs Ramsumair



## Year 13 Trip to Paris

During the Autumn term, our Year 13 French A level group visited Paris. We had an excellent journey on Eurostar, and we travelled around Paris by metro. Although it was only a short stay, our itinerary was crammed.

We arrived on a Sunday evening and enjoyed a meal together at a lovely restaurant (ordered in French, of course). The next day, we took the metro to the Jardins du Luxembourg and then had a leisurely walk to the Tour Montparnasse, where we were able to get an excellent panoramic view of the city. Then it was off on the metro to the Louvre and a walk through the Tuileries gardens, where we paused for a much-needed café stop. From there, we took another metro to the Eiffel Tower and took a boat ride along the Seine. After a short bout of souvenir shopping, we then headed back to the hotel and had a quick spruce up before heading out again for dinner - our students put their French to the test again by choosing a restaurant and ordering for themselves. We finished off our day with a stroll along the Champs Elysées where we saw the magnificent golden Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe by night and window-shopped past the beautiful shops. Fantastique!

Mrs Williams



## Awards Evening

Thank you to all the performers who worked incredibly hard to prepare for the Awards Evening which was held just 2 weeks after the beginning of term at the prestigious Bridgewater Hall.



We were well and truly ‘Rickrolled’ by the Orchestra’s rendition of ‘Never Gonna Give You Up’. The Year 7 students, supported by the KS3 Rock Band, sang ‘Mountain’ by the wonderful Sam Ryder. It was a truly amazing performance and Sing’s stripped back version of ‘Landslide’ was beautiful. The cast of Mary Poppins also came along to perform ‘Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious’. The KS4 Rock Band performed one of Mr Beeley’s Britpop favourites, McAlmont and Butler’s ‘Yes’. A huge well done and thank you to Ellen Thomas-Anderson and Seiji Ivision who led the String Orchestra’s debut performance of an Abba classic. However, the highlight of the evening must be ‘Brighter Days’ where all of our 350 performers joined together to create a closing performance worthy of the stage on which it was performed.

Mrs Moorhouse

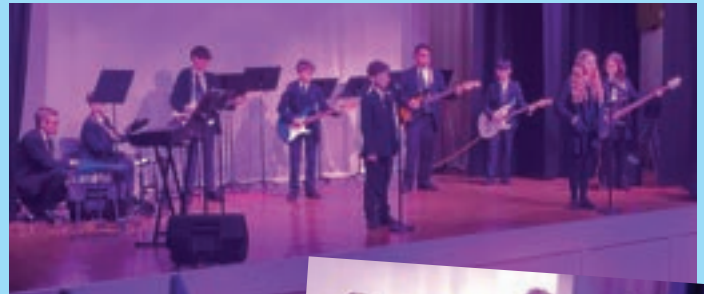
## Lunar New Year Musicians

As part of the whole school Lunar New Year celebrations a number of our musicians volunteered to provide the musical entertainment for the evening and they did not disappoint.



The performances ranged from piano solos, violin solos and electric guitar solos in a number of different musical genres and musical traditions.

Mrs Moorhouse



## Easter Concert

On the 21st March a number of our students participated in our Easter Concert.

It was a lovely evening that included items from our established extra curricular groups as well as the Brass Ensemble’s second outing. It also featured a number of solo performances by our vocal, strings, piano, brass and woodwind students who were preparing for their ABRSM exams later on in the year. Thank you to Mr Briggs for his work with the orchestra and also thank you to Mr Briggs and Miss Brankin for their work with the KS3 Rock Band.



## Christmas Community Events

Our musicians love nothing more than going out into our local community to perform.

In the run up to the Christmas period Sing and Sing with 7s performed at the Altrincham Christmas Lights Switch On celebrations and braved Storm Elin – or was it Fergus? – for their Lantern Parade performance. Thank you to all the members of the Wellington Community, staff and parents, who came to support us at these events.

Mrs Moorhouse



## Carol Service

It was lovely to be back at Christ Church, Timperley for our annual Carol Service in December.



The service once again was a beautiful way for our school community to start the festive celebrations with a mix of sacred and secular festive favourites. There were performances by our established ensembles such as Sing, the Rock Bands and the Orchestra as well as our new emerging ensembles such as the String Group, run by Mrs Woodward our string teacher, and the Brass Ensemble run by our brass teacher Miss Shaw. However, a personal highlight for myself was 'Be Home at Christmas' a song written and performed by the Year 10 GCSE group. Well done to everyone involved. Mrs Moorhouse

# Exam Success

## Music Exam Results

### Year 8

- Nia Roberts - Piano, Grade 4 (Distinction)
- Abby Tsang - Violin, Grade 3 (Distinction)
- Athena Tse - Flute, Grade 4
- Justin Yip - Violin, Initial (Distinction)

### Year 9

- Eva Barton - Violin, Initial
- Dominic Chater - Piano, Grade 1 (Merit)
- Racine Lau - Piano, Grade 2 (Merit)

### Year 10

- Libby Wakes - Drum Kit, Grade 3 (Merit)

### Year 11

- Charlotte Davenport - Piano, Grade 3 (Merit)
- Beth Dunham - Singing, Grade 6 (Distinction)
- Jenny Yu - Violin, Initial (Distinction)

## Music Exam Results

### Year 7

- Lucie Arthur - Flute, Grade 3 (Merit)
- Arthur Baker - Tuba, Grade 3
- Emma Blackburn - Violin, Grade 3
- Savannah Orange - Voice, Grade 1 (Distinction)
- Lucas Sorensen - Trumpet, Grade 5

### Year 8

- Arushi Bhatt - Flute, Grade 4
- Sourish Chanda - Flute, Grade 4
- Athena Cheng - Piano, Grade 5
- Jaden Chiu - Trumpet, Grade 2 (Merit)
- Sourish Chanda - Flute, Grade 4
- Rosa Lyle - Piano, Grade 2 (Merit)
- Carys Morrow - Flute, Grade 2 (Merit)

## Ski Trip 2024

In February half term this year, we took 40 students from Years 8 to 10 to Kaprun/ Zell am Zee in Austria for a week skiing.

The trip was a huge success and lots of fun was had by all. Weather conditions were fantastic and towards the end of the week all groups were able to ski on the glacier. As well as the 6 days skiing, the group also played Austrian Skittles and took part in a Slalom race to finish the week.

Miss Kelly



# Dodgeball

## Dodgeball

After the success of last year (2022/2023 National U14 Champions), the interest in Dodgeball has continued to grow, despite few competitive opportunities.

Training has taken place twice a week thanks to Mr & Mrs Bailey, and recently Year 9 student Mikey Bailey has been helping to coach too.

We took 2 squads to the regional championships in Manchester and we are now looking forward to the National Finals in Nottingham in July to see if we can retain our crown!

Dr Davidson

### Achievements:

**'A' team – winners of Regional Championships, qualified for the National Finals**

**'B' team – third in the Regional Championships**



# Swimming

## Trafford Swimming Competition

Another great year at the annual Trafford Swimming Competition, with students from all year groups competing against other schools.

Huge success in individual races for most of our students, gaining 1st place in multiple events.

A big shout out to our Year 8 Boys team who finished 2nd in their competition. Well done everyone! Miss Challinor



# Netball

It has been another fantastic year for our School netball teams.

This year we have had 11 teams from Year 7-11 competing in the Trafford league and Trafford tournaments.

As well as this, all years have played in numerous friendly games against local and Greater Manchester based schools. Our Sixth-Form team have also played friendlies in their enrichment lessons against other Sixth Form centres in Trafford. Our year 9A and 10A teams have had additional success in the Sisters 'n' Sport National plate and cup, making it to the later stages of the competition.

Miss Kelly



## 2023-24 Achievements

### Year 7

- 7A—Runners up Trafford League, 3rd place Trafford Tournament
- 7B—Trafford League winners, 3rd place Trafford Tournament

### Year 8

- 8A—4th Place Trafford League, 8th Place Trafford Tournament
- 8B—Runners up Trafford League, 3rd place Trafford Tournament
- 8C—3rd place Trafford League, 8th place Trafford Tournament

### Year 9

- 9A—runners up Trafford League, 4th place Trafford Tournament
- 9B—Trafford League winners, 3rd place Trafford Tournament

### Year 10

- 10A—Trafford League winners, 3rd place Trafford Tournament

### Year 11

- 11A - 4th place Trafford Tournament

# Hockey

Hockey now has teams for Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and U16 for both boys and girls.

We are thrilled by the numbers of students taking part and subsequently we have entered many competitions this year, including: 9 Trafford events; 3 Greater Manchester; 3 Cheshire and 2 England Hockey State Schools events. Alongside these events we have played numerous friendlies against local schools, including our mixed Sixth Form team. We are lucky to have some very dedicated Year 10 and 12 students who kindly give up their time to umpire various Trafford wide events, including all the Trafford tournaments as well many primary school tournaments. Miss Richards



## 2023-24 Achievements

### Year 7

- Boys: 3rd in Trafford Tournament
- Girls: 2nd in Trafford Tournament

### Year 8

- Boys: 1st in pool in Trafford Tournament
- Boys: 3rd at U13 Cheshire Tier 2 Tournament
- Girls: 3rd in pool at Trafford Tournament

### Year 9

- Mixed: 3rd in pool in Trafford Tournament
- U14 girls: 4th in EH NW State Schools' Tournament
- U14 boys: 9th in EH NW State Schools' Tournament

### Under 16

- Boys: Cheshire league 3rd in pool
- Boys: Cheshire Tournament 3rd in pool
- Girls: 2nd in Greater Manchester Tournament





# Rugby

I would like to start by thanking every student who has represented the School's Rugby teams this season.

I have thoroughly enjoyed witnessing the energy, enthusiasm and commitment that all teams have demonstrated and I eagerly look forward to next year, where we can build upon the successes that have been achieved in 2023-24.

On behalf of all the teams, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks and gratitude to both Mr Heaton and Mr Beeley for their significant contributions throughout the year with coaching and transporting teams; thank you.

Each year group has played a number of friendlies and also competed in the Cheshire Schools' 7's tournaments. Year 7 and 8 have also competed in the Trafford Schools Finals.

Unfortunately, we have had no competitive fixtures in Girls' Rugby this year, but a massive thank you to the very keen bunch who have trained with enthusiasm each week – hopefully we can get some fixtures in the calendar for next year!

A separate congratulations to all those players who have played representative rugby this year and all those players who commit week in week out for their club sides. Mr Roberts



the Trafford

## 2023-24 Achievements

### Year 7

- Only lost 2 games
- Over 20 players represented the team this season
- Winners of the Trafford Schools' Finals!
- 3rd in the Tier 2 Cheshire Schools' 7's Competition

### Year 8

- 3rd in The Trafford Schools' Finals
- 4th in the Tier 2 Cheshire Schools' 7's Competition

### Year 9

- Only lost 2 games
- 2nd in the Tier 2 Cheshire Schools' 7's Competition

### Year 10

- Only lost 2 games
- Winners in the Tier 2 Cheshire Schools' 7's Competition

### Year 11

- -Only lost 1 game

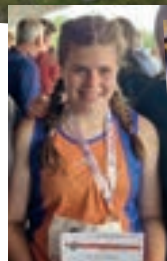
# Athletics & Cross Country

It has been another brilliant year for our athletes! Even though we still have a few competitions to go, the indoor league was well underway in December.

All years have performed exceptionally well at the indoor competitions at Sportcity with individuals coming away with medals!

It has been a fantastic season for our Cross Country athletes. There have been great numbers at Longford Park, but a special shout out goes to our FAB Year 7 Girls, with both teams coming 1st and 2nd place in the school relays! Well done! Our amazing Jess Wilkins in Year 10 who competed in the English Schools Championships last year and won a bronze medal, has made the qualifying standard again for the hammer for this year's championships! GO JESS!

Next up is the Trafford Boys & Girls competitions, Greater Manchester Track & Field Cup, and to finish the season the annual Sale Harriers open competition at Sportcity! Good luck to those competing! Miss Crewe



## 2023-24 Achievements

### Year 7

- Year 7 Girls – Trafford Schools Cross Country winners!
- Year 7—Sale Harriers Indoor Athletics runners up
- Alesha Gubas-Hartsog 3rd 800M, Elin Bywater 3rd Long Jump, Jasmine Horner 2nd 60M, Chloe Wong 3rd 60M, Finn Conyers 3rd 60M

### Year 8 & 9

- Year 8 & 9 – Sale Harriers Indoor Athletics runners up
- Clara Edwards 3rd 200M, Alex Edwards 2nd High Jump, Will Rodwell 2nd Shot Putt

### Year 10

- Year 10 – Sale Harriers Indoor Athletics runners up
- Ailsa McKenzie 1st 300M, Cerys Smith 2nd 200M, Evie Scott 3rd 800M, Harrison Gladman 3rd 100M, Jamie Spencer 3rd High Jump, Girls 2nd 4 x 200M Relay

# Boys' Football

A superb year for Boys Football, entering teams from all year groups across the school into the English Schools, Greater Manchester and Trafford competitions.



A harsh winter means we are still waiting for final positions in leagues and cups. One thing is clear, this could be our best ever trophy haul. On the right you can see where each team is up to with plenty still to play for.

Mr Morgan



## 2023 – 24 Success

- Year 7- 3rd in Trafford League
- Year 7 - Greater Manchester Plate Finalist – playing at Wright Robinson in May 2024
- Year 8 – Trafford League final position TBC
- Year 8 - Greater Manchester Cup 3rd Round
- Year 8 - Trafford League Quarter Final
- Year 9 - Trafford Cup Semi Finalists
- Year 9 - Greater Manchester Plate Quarter Finalists
- Year 9 - Trafford League 2nd place
- Year 10 – Trafford League Champions, Trafford Cup Quarter Finalist, Greater Manchester Plate Winners
- Year 11- 2nd place Trafford League
- Year 11 - Semi-Final of Trafford Cup (still to play)
- Year 11 - Semi-Final Greater Manchester Plate (still to play)



# Basketball

## Trafford Basketball Leagues

Wellington entered teams in all three Trafford Basketball leagues.

Training was attended well in the Autumn term with Mr Foss and Mr Roberts working hard to improve the skills of the Year 7 team and 8/9 combined team. I worked with the 10/11 combined team and would like to say thank you and good luck to the Year 11s who have represented the school so well over the past five years. They finished 2nd in the 10/11 Trafford league with victories over Broadoak, North Cestrian and Sale Grammar.

The Year 10 and 11 Girls were outstanding in their debut in Trafford this year, winning the South League and finished runners up in Trafford overall. Mr Morgan



# Girls' Football

It has been a fantastic year for Girls Football, entering teams from all years across the school into multiple competitions, with huge amounts of success.

We have taken part in the local Trafford schools league, as well as the Greater Manchester Competition and the Sisters 'n' Sport national competition.

Competitions are still on going as we have made it through to various semi-finals and finals, so keep an eye out for final results later in the year!

Miss Crewe



## 2023-24 Achievements

- Year 7 Trafford League Winners
- Year 7/8 GMCSFA Finalist – playing Crompton House at Boundary Park Stadium May 2024
- Year 8/9 South Trafford League runners up
- Year 9/10 GMCSFA made it through to the 3rd round
- Year 10/11 Trafford League runners up
- Year 9/10/11 GMCSFA quarter final runners up
- Year 10/11 Sisters N Sport – through to the last 16 in the national competition
- Year 7/8 B 5-a-side tournament runners up – 2nd and 3rd place



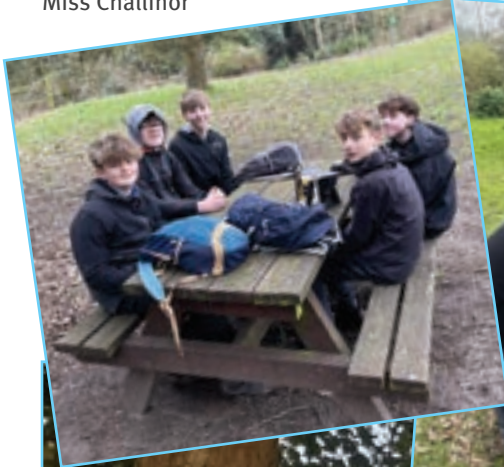
## Duke of Edinburgh

Another brilliant year for the Duke of Edinburgh award this year. We have had 120 students sign up for Bronze award, and 60 for the Silver award.

The Bronze award has had 3 training days after school, a practice walk at Wythenshawe Park and then the assessed expeditions in and around the Chorley/Rivington area. Sub-zero temperatures for the first cohort on their assessed expedition in April, but all students stuck to it and were successful in completing their expedition. Well done! Hopefully we will get warmer weather for the 2nd cohort in May.

This year the Silver cohort will be canoeing down the Bridgewater canal from Boothstown for their practice expedition in June, and Preston Brook for their assessed expedition in July. Two nights camping on each expedition with the help of our partner group, GRIP Adventure, will surely challenge them all!

Miss Challinor



## Animal Testing Lab

40 GCSE Full Course and A Level Religious Studies students had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the University of Manchester's animal research facilities.

Whilst adhering to strict safety protocols, students were given a thorough 'behind the scenes' tour by researchers at the university. We met sheep who have pace makers fitted to try to treat heart failure, rats used in behavioural studies, zebra fish with translucent brains and more baby mice than you can shake a stick at. Following the tour, students did a very good job of grilling Dr Ian Brassington, senior lecturer in philosophy and a member of the University's ethics board.



We are immensely grateful to the University of Manchester for giving both staff and students this opportunity to see the reality of animal testing facilities. Many students have now gained a deeper understanding of this complex moral issue.

Miss Crump and Mr Brown

## Buddhist Retreat

In January 2024 our A Level pupils were given an opportunity to travel to The Taraloka Buddhist Centre in Shropshire.



This was a valuable experience for our pupils who have to learn about key beliefs and practices within Buddhism and what better way to do that than to live out the life of someone who is dedicating their whole life to their faith.

We were given the opportunity to meditate with the members of the community that reside at the centre, complete a variety of different activities that relate to ethical and philosophical Buddhist concepts and were even given the chance to quiz our hosts on all things Buddhism. It was a fantastic trip and our pupils were an absolute credit to the school, fully immersing themselves in the experience by handing over all electronic devices, adhering to a strict vegetarian diet (which some found challenging!) and engaging with all parts of the opportunity fully.

Mr Harrison and Miss Crump

## Rewards

30 of our absolute REP superstars were rewarded in May for their outstanding work in REP throughout the year.



We hold our annual fine dining pizza party in July but it would have been a travesty not to have celebrated the achievements of Year 11 and Year 13, as many will have left Wellington by then. Throughout the year, we track pupil progress and reward them using a sticker chart system on the front of their books. Those with the highest number of stickers and points from excellent work completed in and outside of lessons are invited to our pizza party!

We look forward to hosting our superstars from the remaining year groups from this academic year in the Summer term. From all of the REP department, we would just like to say to Year 11 and Year 13 how proud we are of your achievements so far, good luck in your exams and the next step on your journey.

Mr Harrison, Mr Brown, Miss Crump and Mrs Stephens

## Police Museum

In September, our Year 11 REP pupils jumped on the tram into Manchester to visit the Police Museum.

This related to their learning on the developments of crime, punishment and the justice system in Manchester. Pupils were guided around the Museum (which is a former police station) by an ex police officer and pupils got the opportunity to engage with all manner of different activities. They were shown a variety of different aspects of policing and punishment, including holding cells, a booking in office and a courtroom. There were many opportunities to dress up but I won't embarrass those that did but thank you for being good sports and getting stuck in!

Mr Harrison



## Jewish Museum



In November, 50 Year 8 students spent the day at the Manchester Jewish Museum.

Students amazed the museum staff with their knowledge of Judaism which they have been studying this year and were given the opportunity to explore the museum's exhibits at their leisure, discovering more about the fascinating history of Jewish migration to our city. In the afternoon, students had a go at baking traditional challah bread (shout out to Joseph Daniel who has definitely done this before!) whilst learning the importance of food in festivities such as Passover and Hanukkah.

Miss Crump and Mr Harrison



## SCIENCE News

### Chemistry in Action Conference

Last November we took a group of Chemistry students from Year 12 and 13 travelled into Manchester to attend the Chemistry in Action Conference.

There were 5 sessions during the conference with leading scientists presenting their findings from the impossibly small nano-microscopy up to the impossibly big problems in using forensics to solve UK waste crime. All students gave positive feedback about their experience, and generally agreed that Dr Tim Gregory (Nuclear Chemist at the Sellafield nuclear power plant) was the most engaging and inspiring personality. Ameer was up onto the stage like a shot to help demonstrate how electron microscopes can use the principle of light diffraction, and Jacob was keen to speak to Dr Gregory at the end of his talk with further questions. A grand day had by all, and a new trip to add to the Science department rotation!

Mr Ashfield and Ms Ayub



### Eco Committee

Eco Committee have been very busy this year.

They have been recycling pens and crisp packets, planting 30 trees around the school site, planting bulbs and flowers in planters and planning their next beach clean at Formby beach.

They were very pleased when solar panels were installed at Wellington this year and they are already looking forward to next year and thinking about what they would like to achieve from September!

Miss Tierney



## Gardening Club

Our small but dedicated Gardening Club has been busy this year taking care of the Science Department plants that are regularly used in plant science experiments.

The gardeners have also successfully planted and grown lasagna plant pots, a clever way of planting spring bulbs in layers to create a continued display of flowers.



These have really brightened up the school's front entrance over the last few weeks. The gardeners have also split down an overgrown Aloe Vera plant into NINE new plants that have been distributed around the Science Department. A special thanks to Gardening Club's Charlie and Scott from Dining Hall for their donation of plants and seeds this year.

Recently the gardeners have started to venture into the school's well-being garden. Needless to say, a cold winter and wet spring has left the garden needing some much-needed care and attention. Our plans over the summer term will be to weed, prune and encourage growth in the three large flower beds to bring the well-being garden back to life.

Dr Glass



## Step into the NHS Competition

Year 7 took part in the Step into the NHS competition this year.

For their homework students were asked to make a job advertisement for a role within the NHS. There were many wonderful entries and the winning entries in each class have been submitted into the national competition. Well done to everyone who took part!

Miss Tierney

## Science Club 2024

Another great year for our Science Clubbers! Our new Year 7 and loyal Year 8 students have been attending every Wednesday at lunchtime and have taken part in various themed activities throughout the year.

At Halloween we explored spooky scenes with Chemistry, the students formed reactions with gaseous products to go with their beautiful displays of ghosts and pumpkins! At Christmas we discussed the Science behind the gunpowder that gives us the 'crack' in our crackers and made some cracker designs of our own. We are also trying to keep things eco-friendly and so this Spring we grew sunflowers in our own hand-made compostable flower pots made using Origami techniques. This links nicely with our Year 8 topic of plants.

We rescued some hearts from the local butchers and looked into the anatomy of the heart. This linked in nicely with our Term 2 Biology topic of Transport and Exchange in Animals. We demonstrated two different methods of heart dissection and the students used the equipment beautifully to carry out their own dissection of choice.

We have been playing with fire during our amazing combustion demonstrations carried out by our very own experts. We then had a go at making some soda snakes by igniting our chemicals in ethanol, the students watched in amazement as black tendrils emerged and grew at their desks. If that wasn't enough, our Scientists made their own fire extinguishers out of a chemical reaction to mimic a real-life foam extinguisher and related this to our fire triangle. They then used these to put out real fires in the lab. Don't try this at home!

Through our love of Science and Engineering we have also been getting creative this year. The kids have carefully designed rafts, parachutes, spaghetti towers, bridges and balloon cars! These have all been tried and tested vigorously by our experts! Prizes have been given out for best aesthetic design and also most successful design.

Our budding Scientists have been up to so much more than this, too many wonderful weeks to name. We would like to say a huge thank you too all attending Science Club this year and our wonderful Science Technicians who make it all possible. We look forward to finishing off the year carrying out murder mysteries, elephant's toothpaste and a spot of pond dipping as the weather improves through the summer term.

Mr Ashfield, Ms Ayub, Dr Lane, Dr Glass and Ms Moussallati



## Year 9 STEM Day

In February, Year 9 took part in STEM day. Over the course of the day they took part in 7 activities across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Technology, Computer Science and Geography.



These were all based around looking at how STEM is important in our changing world and included activities such as rocket launching, sampling future food sources such as crickets and playing a game to look at population control.

Miss Tierney





## A-Level Biology Field Trip to FSC Castle Head, Grange-over-Sands

In October, the Year 13 Biologists spent a fantastic three days learning about and performing many ecological sampling techniques in wonderfully scenic surroundings of FSC Castle Head in Grange-over-Sands, using their new skills to complete two A-Level required practicals.



The techniques they practised included methods of sampling and studying a variety of plants and animals. Quadrats were placed, ponds were dipped, overnight traps were set, woodlice were (harmlessly) marked and released all with the goal of investigating population distribution and behaviour. With the expertise and equipment provided by the centre, a diverse range of wildlife was identified, monitored and recorded.



The students conducted themselves excellently and were brilliant ambassadors for the school. The centre staff commented on the exceptional behaviour and how efficient Wellington pupils were at designing their own investigations and gathering their data.



Judging by the high standard of the written work that followed, the trip was a great success and may even lead to some future ecologists from our pupils.



Mr Crabbe, Miss Tierney and Dr Glass

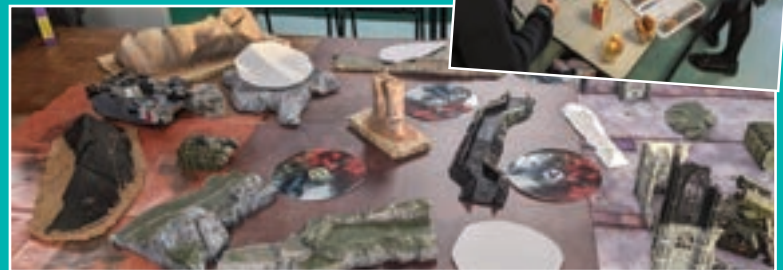
## Warhammer Club

It was great to welcome almost a dozen very enthusiastic new members and to see the old guard coming back to enjoy sharing their hobby with others in the club.

We encourage models or games from any system, but the majority of this year has been spent around the new Warhammer 40K 10th Edition. Photos show club members working on their models on a Thursday lunchtime and working on new resources for the club. Our veterans that played regularly this year include Jasper Welton (now a club Primarch!), Luka Taylor and Jacob Somerville, who have regularly turned up on a Friday after school to enjoy a couple of hours of hard-fought miniature wargaming!

Anyone interested in turning up to the club to use our (now extensive) collection of models, scenery and paints should get in touch with myself or Mr Crabbe.

Mr Ashfield



## Year 7 Chester Zoo 2024

On the 15th of March, 212 Year 7 pupils went to Chester Zoo accompanied by our amazing team of teaching and support staff.

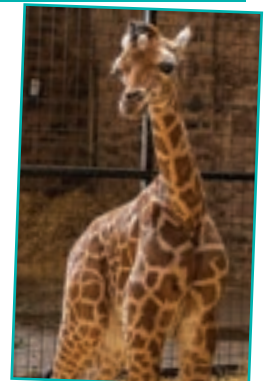
This linked in nicely with the next Biology topic of Ecosystems in term 3 and coincided with British Science Week. We arrived at the Zoo on 5 coaches and 1 minibus and were lucky that the weather held out for us!

The animals were very active on the day, we saw the Tiger, Monkeys, Chimps, Orangutans, Lions, Painted Dogs, Bats, Penguins amongst lots of others. We are certain though that the highlight of everyone's day was the 2-day old Giraffe, Stanley! Our students were so thoughtful and walked through cautiously to avoid scaring the baby.

Our students were excellent ambassadors for the School and displayed our school values brilliantly. Staff were complimentary about the students they spoke to on their travels and all adhered to the timings of the day for lunch and line up. I am pretty sure we cleared out the gift shop on the way out too!

Our wonderful team of staff as well as our Year 7s had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Thanks to all involved!

Ms J Ayub



## What is the Hive?

The specialist support class (SSC) is a resourced provision for our pupils with an EHCP and a diagnosis of autism/TASC pathway. The Hive is led by a SEN teacher, who is supported by a teacher and a core team of teaching assistants.

The provision offers a holistic approach to education, offering a range of reasonable adjustments to enable our students to achieve their potential. The students are encouraged to access their core subjects within the mainstream nurture classes and have choices on the remainder of their subjects, to promote autonomy and decision making. Each student is treated as an individual and may have differing timetables to their peers depending on their resilience and ability to cope with a mainstream timetable.

The Hive also offers a preparing for adulthood (Pfa) curriculum. This is designed to support students to achieve their Pfa outcomes in line with their EHCP. Lessons will focus on independence and social interaction in a range of practical methods.



## Life Skills

The pupils have continued to follow the Preparing for Adulthood curriculum this year by participating in cooking sessions.

These sessions have focused on developing our experience and resilience to different foods, flavours and textures whilst improving our independent living skills by using a range of different kitchen utensils.

Healthy eating has been a focus in Mrs Hancock's lessons. The pupils have been preparing different vegetables and comparing flavours, textures and smells of raw carrot, broccoli and cauliflower. From this, they have added some onion and then some apple and raisins and made different versions of coleslaw.

The healthy eating theme has also included smoothie making in Miss Wilkin's lessons. Once again, pupils have shown superb independent food preparation skills, hygiene and choice making of the ingredients they preferred. There has also been a focus on health and safety. Students were encouraged to use electrical blenders and sharp knives to prepare their smoothies. This may have been challenging for some of our students. However, they overcame the barriers over the term with repetition and gentle prompting from staff.

Miss Wilkins and Mrs Hancock



## Events and Trips

Trips and events are a perfect opportunity to build on the 4 Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) outcomes that are outlined in our young people's EHCPs.

The 4 main areas are:

- **Employability/Education.**
- **Independence.**
- **Community Participation.**
- **Health.**

Each main area is explored during trips and events and although they might just seem like fun, there is always learning opportunities when out in the community.

Trip: **School of Digital Arts – Game Design Workshop**

Benefits:

- Opportunity to explore future educational aspirations
- Visiting new environments
- Social interaction with peers

Trip: **Chester Zoo- Science Department**

Benefits:

- Opportunity to meet new peers
- Engaging learning
- Trust building (time away from support)

Trip: **Conwy Year 7 Residential Trip**

Benefits:

- Meeting others
- Team building
- Independent living

Event: **Starling Project**

Benefits:

- Pupil voice
- Future aspirations
- Team building

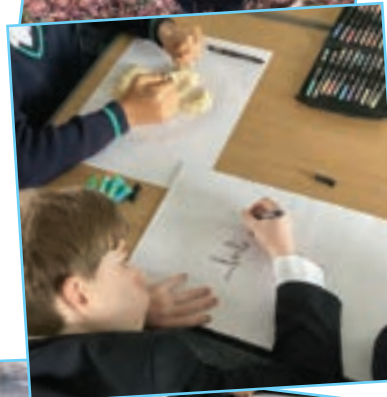
Trip: **Trafford Centre Reward Trip**

Benefits:

- Money skills
- Visiting new environments
- Trust building (time away from support)

Well done to all our students who have made Wellington proud during their time in the community, we look forward to arranging more trips in the future.

Miss Wilkins



## Horticulture in the Hive

This academic year has seen the introduction of our new Horticulture Curriculum within the Hive.



Before

The students have developed a range of skills including health and safety, team work and social communication skills. They have also without doubt had to develop their resilience as the weather has not been kind to us!

We started way back in September with the massive job of removing all the box plants which had been destroyed by the box plant caterpillar last year. The plants were large and well established, and digging them out was no mean feat! However, the students persevered and worked as a team to clear the spaces ready for planting come rain or shine (although as you can probably guess it was mostly rain!).

Eventually, the weather warmed, the soil thawed and we could finally add our bedding plants and heathers to the garden. Once again, the pupils worked amazingly as a team and planted all 3 beds with bulbs for spring flowers and bedding plants to give just a small amount of colour to our garden.

Mrs Hancock



After

## Year 13 Exam Workshop with Tutor2U

December saw our talented and committed 13A Sociology students take to the Trafford Centre to complete a Tutor2U Strong Foundations Masterclass.

The event provided an interactive, intensive and engaging learning environment where students developed their exam technique and revised core topics. There was also lots of opportunities to develop contemporary examples or ideas! The day also included taking me onto a tram for the first time, so there was learning happening all round!

The event is designed and delivered by experienced AQA examiner presenters, each of whom have a deep understanding of what students need to focus on in order to succeed in their exams. The students worked really hard throughout the day and took part in all of the activities which was great to see as well! Well done 13A! Mrs Bousfield



## Psychology Trip to Chester Zoo

On Friday 15th September, 53 Psychology students embarked on an adventure to Chester Zoo.

We took part in a Primate Behaviour workshop looking at aspects of animal Psychology such as Classical Conditioning and Attachments with both the Orangutans and the Chimps, we were even lucky enough to get a little look at the newest member of the Orangutan's family! Students were given some free time to explore the Zoo and saw a wide variety of different animals on the day. Some staff even braved the bat cave with the students, where there were a few close calls with the bats!

Year 11 Psychology were an absolute delight to take and really enjoyed their day, they truly are a credit to our Wellington Community.

Many thanks to Mrs Taylor-Crooke, Miss Swords and Mr Burgess for taking the time out of their busy schedules to make this day happen! Miss Doggett



## Christmas Hampers

Just before Christmas, I accompanied 10C in delivering Christmas Hampers to two local care homes in Altrincham and Timperley.

We had a lovely, festive morning and were able to meet a number of residents. The students were a perfect representation of Wellington, acting in a mature and sensitive manner throughout the whole day. They spent quality time with residents, talking with them and providing them with treat hampers which they had beautifully hand made themselves!

Well done and thank you to 10C and the whole Wellington community for donating to create such wonderful hampers. It was such a proud day, all in the spirit of the season for giving!

Mrs Bousfield



## Visit to Shrewsbury Prison

On Friday 22nd March 2024, the Social Science's department ventured off to Shrewsbury.

Starting nice and early in the morning, we took a cohort of Year 10s and 12s to see what an old working prison looked and ran like. Whilst there we learnt about Shrewsbury's dark history from when the prison first opened in the Georgian era up until it's closing in 2013.

Students were given a guided tour of all the prison blocks, told what they were used for and some cells were set up to represent what they would have looked like. We learnt all about the prison's hauntings, the gruesome manual labour that was inflicted as punishment in the Victorian era and how the prison system has changed throughout the years.

Some time was spent looking at rehabilitation of offenders, with offering apprenticeships instead of longer prison sentences and the impact this has had on society with specific links made to our Psychology and Sociology specifications. I think the most fun was had in the escape rooms! Students were grouped and locked in a cell together and had 1 hour to escape using the clues given but those brave enough had bags placed over their heads, were handcuffed together and locked in a pitch-black room – just to make the escape room a little harder! Luckily no students were left locked in the cells when we came home.

Overall, students and staff had a wonderful day and the trip was a great success with lots of knowledge to be taken away! Thank you to Miss Swords, Mrs Bousfield, Mr Murphy, Mrs Jaunbocus-Cooper and Mr Crooks for coming along and assisting, the day wouldn't have been possible without you. Miss Doggett





## Anti-Bullying Week 13th - 17th November 2023

In November, a whopping 120 students attended training to become our new KS3 and KS4 Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Leaders.

We discussed the results of our latest anti-bullying survey which made pleasing reading (although we are not naïve to think this doesn't need to continue to be an issue we target and raise awareness about in School). Students demonstrated allegiance to the cause by wearing odd socks on Friday and had fun completing Kindness Bingo. In addition to this, the students were oozing with ideas for what we can include in our new Welly Wellbeing pocket book. I am so super proud of how committed our young people are.

Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## Staff Walk for Charity – Ullswater Way

Last year you will recall that a large number of the Wellington staff body walked up Wyddfa (Snowdon) to help raise contributions to the charity POPYRUS.

We managed to raise a whopping £3260 (exceeding our target of £1000). This year we have chosen to walk the Ullswater Way (20 miles). This money will go towards improving the lives of so many young people via the charity work by Centrepont and Camfed and will be in addition to the incredible amount our students have raised already.

Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## ‘So-Me’ University of Manchester Research Project

What a fantastic and interesting experience some of our pupils have been having.

The University of Manchester is conducting the “So-Me” project and it is wonderful to be a part of this research. Not only will the research deepen our knowledge of the relationship between social media and mental health, but it should also inform our students about the potential negative effects of their usage of social media. One of the researchers was kind enough to give a talk to our Leaders in Wellbeing. The findings of this ground-breaking study, which is being conducted for the first time in the UK, will be shared globally. Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## Mental Health Week

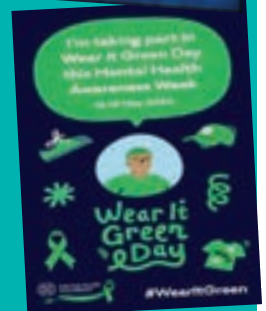
The week commencing Monday 13th May was Mental Health Week and this year's theme was Movement.

It is scientifically proven that exercise aids mental health. When we move our bodies, endorphins are released. Endorphins send signals to our brain that make us feel happier. To embrace this year's theme, we decided to focus on movement for the entire month of May.

All students were invited to partake in an interform challenge. Each student was given an activity challenge card where they were asked to keep a daily record of their activity minutes throughout the month. The tutor group, in each year, that collated the most activity minutes in May received a rewards breakfast together.

Staff also embraced this challenge and signed up to their own MOVE IN MAY CHALLENGE. In addition to this, students received a self-care check card that is laminated and can be used all year round (pocket size). This has been designed by our Wellbeing Leaders in school. It is hoped that this will help students develop self-efficacy around maintaining positive mental health. Finally, students were invited to wear something Green on Friday 17th May and contribute £2 to the Mental Health Foundation. Positive vibes all round.

Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## #BeeWell Manchester University Young Researcher Programme

I am super excited that 5 of our Year 10 Psychology and/or Statistics students, Oliver Freer, Aiza Iqbal, Joshua Salt, Rose Selwood-Metcalf and Jodie Stevenson were lucky enough to be involved with this once in a lifetime research programme at such a young age (this is our second year of being involved).



#BeeWell is a programme led by the University of Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Anna Freud Centre that seeks to measure young people's wellbeing and, in collaboration with schools and partner organisations, deliver positive change as a result. The #BeeWell survey will help to embed long-term improvements in wellbeing by finding the right way to support young people's wellbeing across Greater Manchester.

The Young Researchers Programme is a five-part course that introduces Year 10 pupils to the world of academic research, with a focus on wellbeing. The course introduced pupils to key concepts and helped to equip them with basic skills in measurement and statistical analysis. The course also gave pupils the opportunity to get hands on with the #BeeWell data analysis – interrogating the results and shaping future research carried out by the University of Manchester team.

The sessions took place out of school hours, so this really is a testament to their commitment - I am super proud. The future of Psychology research and the Wellbeing of our Wellington Community is most certainly in good hands. Mrs Taylor-Crooke

## Welly Wellbeing Pocketbook

We are so super proud of our Wellbeing leaders in school.

They worked so hard gathering information about what should be included in our very own student wellbeing booklet. A small group of students acted as editor-in-chief once all ideas had been shared. This is a truly fantastic resource and has been used as an example of good practice in other institutions. The team have also helped to generate a self-care checklist for all students. Making wellbeing a priority!



Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## World Teacher Day - Thursday 5th October 2023

Students took the time to bring a smile to their teachers faces by sending various 'Thank You' cards.



Research shows that compliments often make the receivers feel better than most people anticipate. In addition, making compliments and thanking others also improves the mood and wellbeing of the compliment giver. Win-win we say!

A huge thank you to the 6th form leadership team who were the driving force behind this mammoth delivery project. Mrs Taylor-Crooke

## World Mental Health Day - 10th October 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in #HelloYellow! This was our second year celebrating this event.

By wearing yellow and donating you helped show young people that they matter and that they deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what.

Together, we made a real difference. With our uniform substitution donations, cake sale and those who just chose to give, we raised a whopping £550. Thank you everyone.

Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## Children's Mental Health Week – 5th - 9th February 2024

Well, what a fabulous week this was. Students had a tutor takeover assembly focussed around mental health from Place2Be and a presentation from Kooth sent out via Classcharts.

Staff hosted numerous lunchtime activities promoting wellbeing from mindfulness colouring, crafting and meditation, to boardgames and a natter and gardening. In addition, numerous subjects have embraced the mental health and wellbeing theme in their lessons. There was amazing Art work produced by the students in the Hive. I'm sure you'll agree Art work that will most certainly spread joy for years to come. In fact, lots of fun has been had; gaming, baking and self-care activities - smiles all round. It was a lovely week to end a busy half term. A huge thank you to all staff and students involved. All students now have a Welly Wellbeing Pocket book designed by our Wellbeing Leaders in school, in which there is lots of information; where to get help in school, where to get help in the community, how to help others and activities to help with self-care.

Mrs Taylor-Crooke



## KEY STAGE 3 News

We are impressed with the personal and academic development of our Key Stage 3 students – here are some of the highlights of the year.

### Breakfast with the Boss

For students with the most achievement points in Year 7, 8 and 9 we arranged 'Breakfast with the Boss'. Students were able to sit down with Mr Beeley and enjoy a hot chocolate and waffle. Well done team!

### Year 8 Leadership Programme

Year 8 have completed a leadership programme. They have been focusing on building skills in communication, leadership, creativity and working collaboratively as a team. They have been learning how to set themselves target and goals and to reflect upon this in the future.

### Year 7 Residential Trip

We took the majority of Year 7 on a residential trip to Conway Centre. The purpose of the trip was for the year group to bond with each other and have fun! They participated in water activities such as canoeing, mountain biking, high ropes and much more. Year 7 had lots of tales to tell when they returned to school. The staff on the trip spoke very highly of the year group and praised them for their hard work and resilience throughout.

### Rewards at KS3

This year we have given out many badges to lots of hard working and amazing students. Well done! We also took 30 pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 to the Trafford Centre in December. They were able to do some Christmas shopping and have lunch in the food hall. As well as this, we organised a movie afternoon. Over 100 students were given popcorn and sweets as we watched the Disney film 'Up'.

Mr Tomlinson and Mr Richardson



## Y7 'Make Home 'Work'' Project Day

October saw the project-phase of our Year 7 'Make Home 'Work' Scheme. Every department had supported pupils with advice and skills from organising their planner to researching a project.

Pupils chose a subject brief to complete which allowed them to explore an Arts-based research and creative project, often underpinned by scientific and mathematical themes such as the Fibonacci Sequence and the Big Bang.

This culminated in a project day all day in the Adshead Hall and the Hive where pupils spent the morning finalising their projects and supporting their team mates to ensure their work had the WOW factor. During Period 5, pupils made a showcase of their tutor team's work ready to show-off to parents and staff after school.

Each tutor group had volunteers to present on behalf of their class mates and staff were massively impressed by not just the quality of work but the eloquence of the pupils speaking to them, equipped with their certificates for completing the scheme!

What a day, Year 7 - you were phenomenal!

Miss Hitchens



## KEY STAGE 4 News

### Understandably it has been a very busy year for the Key Stage.

Year 10 are just starting their journey and learning to adapt to the demands of upper school whereas Year 11 have nearly come to the end. Although exams are a huge part of the Key Stage, and at times it does feel as though we bounce from mock exams to mock exams, we have undertaken so much more.

As a Key Stage we have been on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, raised enormous amounts of money and completed the sponsored walk, had guest speaker assemblies to raise awareness of societal issues, had a reward trip to the Trafford Centre, had pizza lunch rewards, had huge numbers at both the KS4 and GCSE preparation evenings, had the largest ever attendance at Easter School, engaged in careers fairs and practice interviews and had a very impactful mock results morning. In addition to these we have also had over 18 departmental trips aimed to support Key Stage 4.

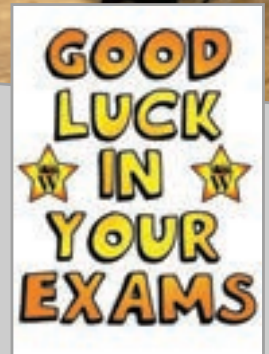
I am proud of the way they have conducted themselves during this challenging and demanding year. The level of engagement through these events, the appreciation afterwards and the desire to grow as an individual just again demonstrates the maturity within the year groups.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the exams the year groups have worked through this year. Our Key Stage ethos is 'Attitude is Everything'. This truly was the case during these exams. The behaviour, punctuality, level of preparation, focus etc shown by all the pupils, both Year 10 and Year 11 has been amazing.

I am looking forward to helping Year 10 steer the challenge of what Year 11 brings. They have definitely set solid foundations this year and, quite rightly, have set their own high expectations for us all to aspire to. They are a fabulous year group and I hope they all have a great summer.

Year 11, it has been an absolute pleasure being part of your year group and seeing you making the most of the opportunities available to you at Wellington. Thank you, as ever, to all the parents/carers for your continued support and contributing towards making this year a positive one. Although, for many, your journey at Wellington is shortly coming to a close, your life is only truly beginning and you have given yourselves the best chance to enjoy it to its fullest. I would like to wish you all the very best of luck in your exams!

Mr Gubbins





## Careers

Our Careers provision at Wellington is underpinned by the Unifrog careers platform.

All students have received workshops on how to create and get the best out of their online account. Students use Unifrog to search for college and university places, research careers, take personality tests and build their CVs. Unifrog is used in PSHE lessons at KS3 and one-to-one careers meetings are recorded on Unifrog at KS4. During KS5, the platform is used for references, to create University short-lists, to manage work experience and create UCAS applications. Visit [unifrog.org/sign-in](http://unifrog.org/sign-in) today!

In addition to our virtual offer, students benefit from a wealth of bespoke careers experiences. In December, Years 11-13 enjoyed a seminar on Apprenticeships and in February Year 9 attended a week of special assemblies geared towards preparing them for their KS4 option choices – local employers were joined by staff from The Manchester College and Trafford College to outline potential pathways and opportunities after students have completed their GCSEs.

Perhaps our largest event of the year took place in October as we welcomed businesses and colleges to our Careers Fair. Year 11 students and Sixth Formers spent the day at a range of workshops before visiting 37 stalls in the Adshead Hall. A wide range of industries such as hospitality, healthcare, education, sport & leisure and finance were represented.

Year 10 learned how to complete an application form in preparation for their practice interviews which took place in April. We were lucky enough to welcome over fifty employers from companies as diverse as Sellafield, KPMG, Siemens and Network Rail who put our students under just the right amount of pressure on the big day!

As well as in-school opportunities like our Year 10 Enterprise Challenge, we have also run a large number of off-site visits to universities, colleges and businesses this year. The UK Higher Education Exhibition at Old Trafford kept a few hundred older students busy while smaller, targeted groups of younger students enjoyed visits to a range of colleges and workplaces.

In addition to all of the above, however, the strength of our careers programme lies within the delivery of our curriculum. Visiting speakers and school trips, as well as lunchtime clubs and activities, invariably open students to new experiences and ideas beyond the classroom. This year the Geography department ran a series of after school lectures, History & Politics were visited by ex-parliamentarians and many other departments hosted invited guests. We are always happy to hear from parents and members of the wider community who are able to enhance our careers provision in whatever ways they can.

Mr Holt



## Wellington 6th Form - The Highlights!

**Fasten your seat belts – this is a whistle stop tour of a few of the things the students get to participate in in our 6th form!**

Only 3 days into term and Year 12's time in Sixth Form got off to a bang with a visit to Liverpool John Moores University and Wild Shore Aqua Park in Delamere for our annual Bonding Day. A great morning seeing a taste of university life from lectures to campus tours and then in the most glorious sunshine a cracking afternoon taking on the various water challenges! Mr Stafford and Mr Morgan also joined in!

A more sobering event was attended by Year 12. It was the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' event at Middleton Arena. This project was launched by the emergency services in an effort to reduce the number of young people killed and seriously injured on our roads. Their aim is to raise road safety awareness among young people. A very difficult watch, but vital for students to be aware of driving and road safety.

Always mindful of the local community, the 6th form led the way in organising our food bank appeal for the Trussel Trust. Collecting and collating from all year groups we had an outstanding collection of goods for our local centre. Well done everyone who contributed!

'Snow'body compares to our 6th formers when it comes to a Christmas jumper! They were out in force along with festive ties, deeley boppers and hats! Even lots of staff joined in! We raised £429.64 for the homeless charity Centrepoint.

We celebrated World Book Day with our students organising their own recommendations which were collated into a booklet for perusal. It also included books by local Manchester authors and some great quotes about what reading offers. The 6th form staff also gave their recommendations, quite the variation in titles and subject matter, so interesting to see!

The Sponsored Walk saw the 6th form once again take to costume beautifully. Armed with buckets they went collecting in the local area. We had super heroes, sharks, smurfs, fruit, and angels amongst many others. But you missed out if you didn't see the dinosaur race – if you know you know!

Our 2024 Soiree is not too far off and we are looking forward to it, but last year's send off was fabulous and it is as always, a great end to the year, sending our students off into the big wide world to make a difference!

Besides all this, the students have also been very busy with the following . . . attending lessons, completing homework and coursework, applying to university, writing personal statements, planning work placements, completing Curriculum Enrichment activities, preparing an EPQ, having motivational talks, attending Easter School sessions . . . the list goes on! All this ably supported by the amazing 6th form team, tutors and Welly staff!

Miss Grey and Mrs Wilson





## Wellington 6th Form - The highlights!



## EVENTS News

### Eid 2024

This event just gets bigger and better!

Over 150 guests attended this year and £1053 was raised for the Zakat fundraiser, so we can purchase a water pump in Ghana through the wonderful charity Human Relief Foundation.

A huge thank you to Zainab Ali in Year 12 for her organisation and contacts and to Year 7 for the prayer mats they made in Art that were auctioned, causing some intense out-bidding!

Thanks as well to all the stall holders, henna artists, Mr Awan from the Hale and Altrincham Mosque Association, the Iman for The Manchester Central Mosque and Taste India in Timperley for the food.

Mrs Jaunbocus-Cooper



## Lunar New Year

In February, we held our second Lunar New Year celebration.

For the year of the dragon, the whole of Year 8 helped make a huge 12-foot dragon in their Art lessons. Musical performances and readings, plus lovely food and treats made this event bigger and better than last year.

Mrs Jaunbocus-Cooper



Please scan here to view our School Prospectus



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