



From the Headmaster

This term has been a whirlwind of activity at the School; it's safe to say that I cannot remember a busier autumn in my career. Our students arrived in September full of energy and drive, and our team of teaching and support staff have worked tirelessly in supporting them realise their ambitions.

This Newsletter is proof – if any was needed – of our students' remarkable array of abilities and interests. They have shown such enthusiasm and resilience, and we could not be prouder of their efforts and achievements.

Thank you for all the support you have offered your children and the School this term. We understand how busy your lives are, and appreciate that parents sometimes have to be magicians to ensure that they don't drop any of the balls they are juggling.

I would like to praise and thank every member of staff for all they have done this term, indeed this past year. Everyone has played their part in making sure that Wellington School has remained a safe and supportive environment, regardless of the stresses and strains they have faced on a daily basis. Everyone has worked extraordinarily hard – giving of their time freely, whether it be during or out of normal 'office hours'.

All this effort has often come at a price. Fatigue and frustration set in as the term wore on – but the team kept on going. Staff have had to do and become more than they could ever have imagined. They have been called on to offer social support, be a shoulder to cry on and carry out COVID tests; they have had to set up vaccination centres and carry extraordinary levels of uncertainty as regional and national landscapes have changed. On top of that, teachers have had to deliver a curriculum in the hope that students will be able to show their learning in external exams next summer.

I could not be prouder or more grateful for what the team of staff at Wellington have achieved this past term. We are one team – teaching and support, Prep and Senior – and everyone has stood together to ensure that Wellington School has been true to its values, and remained the School which we know and love.

I hope that you all enjoy a merry and restful Christmas, and that 2022 is a happy and healthy year for you and your loved ones.

With my best wishes,

Eugene du Toit



LESSONS AND CAROLS



The Chapel rang with the joyous sound of our Chapel Choir on 3 occasions during the final week of term as students, parents and staff joined for Lessons and Carols in our beautiful Chapel.

CHRISTMAS

Charity Christmas Jumper Day



At the end of term it was time to don the Christmas jumper with all its sparkles, glitter and motifs to raise funds for our School charities. This year we are supporting four charities at home and abroad. Students always have fun pairing these Christmas creations with their uniform and it certainly brightens up the campus having so much festive knitwear around.

This year the event raised over £500 for our charities; Young Somerset, MIND, Cancer Research UK and Water Aid.



Elf on the Shelf Competition



The Elf on the Shelf returned to School for the end of term, hiding around campus in the most unusual places. However our pupils used all their skills to track him down and were rewarded with a delicious prize. Thank you to our wonderful Caretaker, Mr Davey, who assisted the Elf in his endeavours, provided the rewards and even agreed to dress up at breaktime and dispense candy canes to children.

Christmas Lunch Celebrations



Our students and staff enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch with all the trimmings in a fabulously decorated dining room.



End of Term Activities



Wow, what a final day of term students enjoyed! Along with individual House singing performances, students took part in a carousel of activities including House Quiz, Ultimate Frisbee, Capture the Flag and a Scavenger Hunt. A great way to round off the term with some great fun.

Winter Wonderland



Ice skating, Christmas stalls and delicious Christmas treats on offer at our first ever Winter Wonderland kicked off the festive season.

ACADEMIC

Students invited to Oxbridge Interviews



We congratulate the 5 students who have been called for Oxbridge interviews. The wide range of subjects - from German to Philosophy - reflects the breadth of their interests.

Maths Olympiad Success



Year 11 students, Jecky and Peter, sat the highly competitive British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) exam, taken by the top 1000 mathematicians in the UK, many of whom are older, Sixth Form students. They qualified for this demanding three and a half hour paper by excelling in the recent Senior Maths Challenge and were both successful in the Year 10, Hamilton Olympiad earlier this year.

Design in Action



In Design Technology Year 12 and 13 students attended the Product Design in Action seminar day virtually today. The students watched presentations and workshops from 5 leading product designers. Students particularly enjoyed Pascal Anson's practical workshop on form and aesthetics of products and Alice Stewart's talk on creative technology and how this was used to create a wearable hug for people experiencing loneliness, particularly during the recent lockdowns.

EAL Competition Apprentice-style



Our Year 11 EAL students created "Apprentice" -style presentations for their vision for a new international airline. The presentations were judged and the winning airline was 'Careline' presented by Vienne (Project Manager), Peter and Austin. The standard was excellent and the judges were immensely impressed!

Top Results in BEBRAS Computational Thinking



All Year 4-9 pupils, plus those who study Computer Science in Year 10-12, took part in the BEBRAS Computational Thinking Competition with results that placed us in the top 10% in the country. Our students received;

30 Gold

43 Distinction

71 Merit

GCHQ Christmas Challenge



We are excited to be taking part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge. Pupils 11-18 pit their wits against tricky puzzles and uncover the hidden festive message.

This aims to inspire an interest in problem solving and thinking

differently (key skills for STEM subjects).

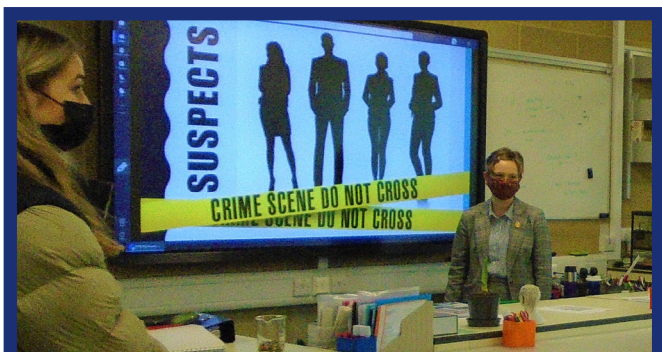
ACADEMIC

Sheep Brain Dissection



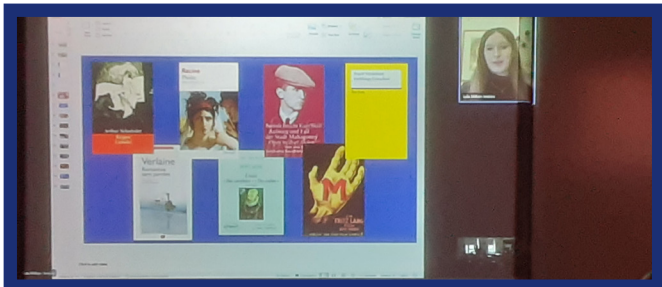
Year 13 psychology students are studying brain structure and function with Dr Jolliffe, and to help them understand this amazing organ we dissected sheep brains. Students were able to relate models and diagrams to the real thing, and spot structures such as the cerebellum, cerebral cortex, brainstem and corpus callosum. All students got totally absorbed in this hands-on lesson, and this experience makes a great link to psychological studies of hemispheric lateralisation and 'split-brain' patients.

Psychology Club Forensic Profiling



The Psychology Society (Years 12-13) created a murder mystery for the Psychology Club (Years 9-11) to solve. They were given forensic reports and questioned the 'suspects', then had to solve the murder using forensic profiling.

Personality Testing in Psychology



Lola Milton-Jenkins, a first year French and German undergraduate at Brasenose College, Oxford, gave a fascinating presentation to our Year 11 modern linguists. She talked them through a typical week, with lectures, seminars and tutorials, as well as giving them a glimpse into the variety of co-curricular activities on offer. The students asked lots of interesting questions, ranging from the transition from school to university, the advantages of the collegiate system, whether single or dual-honours courses are better, to the year abroad experience.

Raban Society hosts fascinating Talks



Raban Society, our academic society, enjoyed two outstanding talks this half term. The first from Catherine Rayson was a fascinating and insightful talk about language families and the factors influencing language change. Her talk provoked great interest and debate amongst the audience, which included students and staff. Recently Joe Woodward spoke about Caesar, asking us to consider whether he was a tyrant or populist. A large and supportive audience enjoyed both the talk and the ensuing discussion, where topics discussed included the depiction of Caesar in literature and whether we can draw parallels with any modern-day politicians.



Crypto Currency Talk



In our Economics and Business Society, Sina and Mykhaylo produced a fantastic presentation on crypto currency to a packed audience of Sixth Formers. The quality of their presentation and their passion and understanding provoked good questions.

Author Visit Focuses on Historical Fiction



Caroline Lawrence, the author of *The Roman Mysteries* and other novels, spoke to our Year 7s today in a joint English and Classics writing workshop about her writing tips for any budding novelists. After her talk, they are writing their own short stories in a competition to win one of three signed copies of Caroline Lawrence's *Time Travel* novels!

MUSIC

Autumn Concert wows Audience



Musicians performed a glorious array of James Bond themed music at our Autumn Concert. It is truly wonderful to enjoy live performance once again and see the great talent within our School.



Wellington Young Musician



Over 160 of our young musicians 3-18 have performed in the initial rounds of WYM, in the Debut, Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced, Virtuoso and Contemporary Classes. There were some truly phenomenal performances and an amazing amount of talent and future potential very much in evidence, across all classes. Shortlists are currently being decided of which musicians will go forward to the

Semi-finals stage in February. Every musician who has taken part will receive a certificate, along with adjudicator's feedback and a WYM2022 badge. 'WYM was conceived as an inclusive performance platform for all our young musicians, across all ages and stages and all genres of music. Once again, it was truly inspiring to hear the range and quality of the performances that took place last week and I can't wait for the Semis next term', said Director of Music, Andrew Trehwella

Vocal Faculty Concert



This year's Vocal Faculty Concert, was a keenly-anticipated highlight of the term. The programme featured singers from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth and a wonderfully varied range of musical styles, from Baroque to contemporary Musical Theatre and from Art Song to the Great American Songbook.

It's been a particular joy this term to return to live performance, with performers of varying ages and an actual, rather than virtual,

audience.

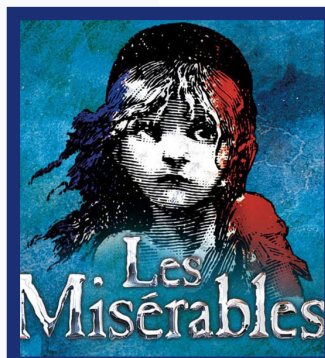
DRAMA

British Youth Musical Theatre Selection



A number of our drama scholars auditioned to be a part of the British Youth Musical Theatre Company. We are very proud to report that Romilly, Mary and Joe have already heard back and have been offered places. This is an outstanding achievement with auditions taking place on a national scale.

Les Miserables



Rehearsals are now well underway for our production of Les Miserables, the performance will take place in the last week of the Spring Term. There is a real sense of community emerging among the cast, working together across the year groups.



GCSE Drama



Our Year 11 drama students presented their devised work to a small audience this week. The pieces were original, creative and showcased a lot of skill. It was fantastic for our Year 11s to finally be able to have an audience to share their work with. The majority of students in Year 11 have now completed 60% of their overall drama grade!

DRAMA

A Level and GCSE Drama Trip



Year 10 GCSE and A Level drama students travelled to the West End to watch *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*.

DANCE SCHOOL



Dance School goes from strenght to strength with both senior and younger pupils enjoying ballet classes as well as modern dance.

LAMDA EXAMS



At the end of term LAMDA students were able to sit their exam and celebrate all their hard work by sharing their performances with the examiner. We also celebrated an amazing set of LAMDA results with 87% of students achieving the top grade.

STAGE SCHOOL



We have had a hugely successful term of Stage School with our Senior students enjoying Acting Classes and Musical Theatre Choreography sessions - you can watch the end of term showcase by following this link <https://vimeo.com/657444634>

SPORT

Area Cross Country



Over 25 runners took part in the Area Schools Cross Country at Taunton Racecourse on Tuesday with fantastic results across the age groups.

In Year 7, Alex Seaton stormed home in the top ten with the race of his life, closely followed by Mungo Fasham on top form. Matthew Hitchin and Xavier McCormack battled it out and the girls were lead home by a closely packed trio of Nerys Jones, Issy Irving and Allegra Wilson. In Year 8, Fergus Stockman was our superstar in his first race of the season with Oscar Milton, Henry Peniston-Bird, Oliver Taylor and Abe van der Beugel backing him up in the pack. Freya Ashford finished strongly and Romilly Page-Turner put in a brave run. In the Year 9 race with Alice Mackey off, it was left to Izzy Ainge, Eli Knight and Amelie McCormack to put in strong performances in the girls and Daniel Hitchin for the boys. The Inters saw a stand out performance by Max Jaffe in 5th, pulling away from Patrick Cole and Peter Zhu in the final lap. Mike Hardy picked up the rear but performance of the day to Mackenzie O'Dea for a strong win in the Senior girls. Top placed runners will represent Somerset in the County Schools Championships in January.



Golf Team in League Fixture



The Golf team were out on the course at Oake Manor Golf Club this week in a Western Schools Golf League fixture against Blundell's. Well done to Sixth Formers Charlie, Joe and Oliver and Year 9 Freddie.

SPORT

A First for Girls' Football



An exciting first for Wellington - a Girls Football match. Girls from Year 9 to Upper Sixth, who have only had a few sessions of training, played a very good game at Taunton School, which finished in a 3-3 draw. With a large crowd, Edith, GG and Amelia scored those precious goals! There was some really good individual skill on display, and an increasing sense of teamwork and positioning as the game went on. The girls should be really proud of their performance, and there is plenty to build upon as we look to put regular sessions and further matches in place for next term.

Staff v Students Hockey



Staff and Students faced each other on the Astro in an end of term hockey match. Great skills and much enjoyment was on display with a huge crowd looking on.

Staff v Students Rugby



Students demonstrated their rugby skills in a staff v students game to round off the rugby season.

Year 7 Girls take on Staff in Tug-o-War



Well done to our 35 Year 7 girls, who thrashed a large (in several ways) staff team

CHARITY

Children in Need Fun raises over £1500



Students organised a huge range of activities for BBC Children in Need. There was breaktime hot choc and buns on sale, with busking too. Pupils of all ages enjoyed some delicious donuts and our own special Pudsey Bear made an appearance!

Later on the quad, the whole senior school turned out to watch the Headmaster and other teachers and house captains being water bombed!

These activities run by our Houses raised an amazing £1936.95.

ARC Shoebox Christmas Appeal



We are so grateful to all our families who donated gifts for our Shoe Box Appeal, in aid of Arc formerly Taunton Association for the Homeless. The filled and decorated shoeboxes, full of essential items and gifts were presented by Prep School Captains Isabelle and Sam and children to Rosie from ARC. She told us that Christmas can be a difficult time of the year for those experiencing homelessness, so the shoebox appeal supplies a festive shoebox to make sure they do not miss out.

Students serve their Community



Siblings Dulcie and Rufus Harding have been helping to get around 500 meals to unpaid carers. They have been working on a project with Feeding Communities, which gives carers a month's worth of Friday night

meals for them and their family so they can have some respite from cooking.

Dulcie has also produced a 2022 calendar, which she is selling to raise funds for Feeding Communities. You can purchase these via School Reception for £5.



COP 26



This half term students took part in a COP26 Climate Action Plan Awareness Programme with a range of expert speakers, activities, events and initiatives, to raise awareness of this vital issue throughout the School.

The programme opened with a thought-provoking talk from Zafar Masud, air crash survivor and CEO of the Bank of Punjab. Zafar spoke openly about his experiences and his work with public sector organisations in Pakistan which has enabled him to collaborate on environmental projects and he implored our Sixth Form students to consider the legacy they leave for generations to come, particularly in relation to climate change.

Old Wellingtonian, Jasper Hassell, the Estate Chief Executive of the famed Castle Howard estate on Interdisciplinary Careers in the age of Climate Change and finding your inner ikigai - reason to live.

Over 75 members of the Wellington School community swapped their car journey for a walk or cycle during the fortnight. Walkers and cyclists were rewarded with a locally sourced bacon roll in the dining room on arrival.

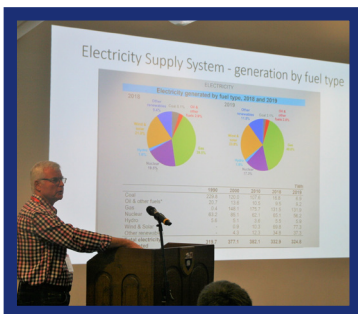
Megan Toon, Old Wellingtonian and Environmental, Social and Governance Consultant at KPMG. Her Horizons talk, entitled : COP26 and Business: the inflection point for Commercial Resilience was fascinating and insightful.

Megan addressed issues including 'What does COP26 mean for our business/pressures they are facing? What are the challenges and solutions to enable progress toward climate commitments for our business/industries?

Year 10 and 11 extended their knowledge of the UK Energy Sector in a lecture entitled The Challenge for Renewables

Dave Stapleton,, who has has extensive experience in the UK Electricity Supply Industry in power system design and operation covering nuclear, coal, oil and alternative (now termed renewable) energy extraction, generation, infrastructure, and distribution. He has covered project, maintenance and operational roles in Nuclear Power Stations.

At the end of the fortnight students took part in The Big Welly Garment Exchange today! They brought in one garment that they would like to exchange for a "new" one, to highlight the nation's harmful addiction to new clothes.



CCF Remembrance



The CCF were involved in two Remembrance events in Wellington town. The first on the 11th November featured a small number of cadets and the second on the Sunday involved the Corps of Drums and the full contingent at the ceremony in Wellington Park.



Year 10 Cadets Competition



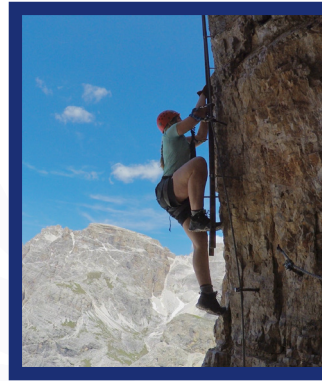
Our Year 10 CCF cadets had their recruits competition. There was some impressive marching, excellent manoeuvres and some very shiny boots! Congratulations to Finlay - the the best cadet!

Contingent Photograph



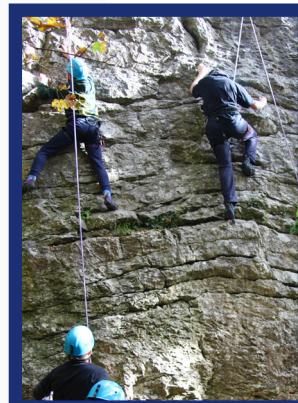
It was wonderful to see our CCF contingent turned out impeccably for the annual contingent photograph.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION Spotlight on Outdoor Education

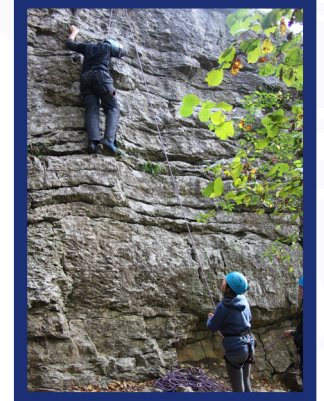


We are incredibly proud of our superb Outdoor Education provision which spans the whole School from Nursery to Sixth Form. We are immensely grateful to the numerous dedicated and motivated staff who spend many weekends and holidays on trips and expeditions with students of all ages You can find out more about this outstanding area of school life [here in our Spotlight on Outdoor Education.](#)

Rock Skills



Five of our students completed a Mountain Training Rock Skills Introduction course. They learned to climb and belay on real rock, with some routes up to 30m high. And then there was the big free-hanging abseil.



NEWS

Great Welly Project



We are delighted to launch The Great Welly Project 2021 - now open to all Senior School pupils. Head of Enrichment, Mr Stevens will be visiting assemblies and tutor groups to discuss the project in depth and invite questions from students. The key elements are:

- A variety of project options: essay, investigation, artefact, performance
- An exhibit, a record (or diary), and a presentation
- The GWP runs until half term
- Awards evenings for category winners and highly commended entries.

Lower Explorers' Club



Lower School Explorers Club designed flags to celebrate Antarctica Day in an opportunity with the UK Polar Network. The flags were then sent out to the British Antarctic Survey, where they made their way on board RRS Sir David Attenborough and will be displayed on the ship, which is currently off the east coast of the Antarctic peninsula.

Christmas Reading Recommendations

"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."

Dumbledore may have been wise with regard to most things, but surely wrong on this count – aren't books always so much better than socks? If you're buying gifts from the wonderful new Bookshop by the Blackdowns in Wellington this Christmas, opposite are some suggestions for all age groups from Duke's Library.

Mrs Edmonds, Librarian

Friends of Wellington School



The Friends of Wellington School have been working hard recently to raise funds for School projects with a refreshments cafe at the Winter Wonderland and a virtual balloon race. There has also been time to socialise and welcome new families through the wonderful Walk and Talk meet ups and the Friendly First Fridays in the School cafe.

Sixth Form Road Safety Training



Our Sixth Form are looking at personal responsibility and living in the wider world and heard from Somerset Road Safety experts Learn2live about the main risks to young drivers and passengers and how to minimise those risks by acting responsibly in driving related scenarios. Scenarios and personal experiences highlighted how a decision made in a moment could change the course of events for better or worse in road

safety. Distractions of peer pressure, mobile phones, alcohol, drugs and fatigue were discussed and strategies to avoid these suggested. The talk was well received and feedback suggests has made students think carefully about the decisions they make both as passenger and driver.

