



# Annual Report

## Session 2015/16

### Introduction

A year is a long time in the life of a school and when we look back over the last three terms, a lot has happened. It is the energy, the enthusiasm and the creativity of our pupils that we celebrate at Speech Day and the number of achievements listed in this report is a tribute to all that they have accomplished. We invite you today to share in celebrating their success in examinations, in sport, in music and in countless other areas.

### Curricular Report

#### SQA Results

Wellington School prides itself on academic excellence and in August 2015, we received regional and national validation for our pupil and staff efforts throughout the year. The School was ranked in the top 10 Independent Schools in Scotland both for Higher and Advanced Higher Grades A to C percentage pass rates. The pass rate at Advanced Higher was 94.5% which placed Wellington as the top performing Independent School in the West of Scotland, a real accolade considering the competition in this region. In the SQA Higher examinations, 96% of entries resulted in an A to C grade pass, ranking the school in 7th position in the Independent Schools league table.

SQA results at Wellington School compare very favourably to National Standards and to standards reported for the Independent Sector. Looking more closely at National Standards, Wellington pupils consistently attain top passes at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the gap widening between the School and the national average. We are delighted to report that the school outperforms national averages year on year, but we are also seeing improvements to our own achievement levels.

Table 1 S5 Higher Examinations

	2015			2014		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr Higher	55%	29%	13%	49%	27%	18%
National Results at Higher	30%	25%	22%	28%	26%	24%

Table 2 S6 Advanced Higher Examinations

	2015			2014		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
Wellington School, Ayr Advanced Higher	51%	25%	18%	47%	35%	15%
National Results at Advanced Higher	32%	27%	23%	31%	27%	24%

## 6th Year Advanced Higher Report (2015)

Last year's S6 cohort sustained the high academic standards achieved over many years with every single pupil applying to university, 72% of whom received unconditional offers. Gaining entry to university or college gets no more straightforward, but Wellington pupils make strong applications based on solid academic qualifications, commitment to a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and a wealth of opportunities to exhibit teamwork, commitment and leadership.

In 2015, 52 of our 55 pupils achieved one or more Advanced Higher A-C passes with a 95% A-C pass rate at this level. The grade A Advanced Higher pass rate was 55%. Thirteen of our fifteen departments recorded 100% pass rates and a Wellington pupil was awarded a national prize for her Advanced Higher Chemistry Investigation. This is a third time in seven years that a Wellington pupil has won this prestigious award.

## S5 Higher Report (2015)

Moving on to S5 Highers, the 2015 results were equally impressive and from a cohort of 53 pupils, 22 pupils attained four or more A grades and 11 of these achieved at least five A grades. The A-C pass rate at Higher in 2015 at Wellington School was 96% and the grade A Higher pass rate was 55%.

## National 5 and Intermediate 2 results (2015)

The National 5 examinations produced a 96% pass rate at grades A-C with 11 pupils from a cohort of 37 achieving a clean sweep of grade A passes in their National 5 and Intermediate 2 examinations. Eighteen of the 37 pupils achieved at least seven A grade passes (almost 50% of the cohort) at National 5 and Intermediate 2.

This set of results is a collective achievement of which we should be proud. We very much hope that the 2016 results will be just as impressive and will stand our pupils in good stead for further study and for their future careers. Every pupil who has sat examinations in the 2015 and 2016 diets is to be commended for their hard work.

## Art & Design

Art Captain Hayley Drummond ran a successful Art Club after school aimed at S1 to S3 pupils, specialising in portraiture. The Design Club, which also takes place after school, was run by Elli McDonagh (S6) for P7, S1 and S2 pupils. Before Christmas, the club set about designing and making decorations which were then used to adorn the school's Christmas tree, which set the tone perfectly in Carleton Turrets. Another festive event from the department was an exhibition of pupils' work, ranging from S1 to S6, in the hall of St Columba's Church. There was an opportunity to see the exhibition on the day of the Christmas Service and we very much hope you were able to take a look at the many works on display.

As many of you may have seen on Facebook, Sam Truesdale won the coveted and prestigious Royal Scottish Academy Art Competition with a piece from his National 5 Portfolio. Sam concentrated on self-portraiture and distortion through reflections in his piece, which was selected from a record number of entries and was subsequently displayed at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. Livi Roseburgh, meanwhile, won an award in the local Maclaurin Art Gallery competition. Featuring both art and craftwork, Livi submitted a sculpture entitled 'Ballet Dancer' and was awarded a prize by the judge and renowned Scottish artist, Peter Howson who is also the Patron of the gallery. More than 40 pupils had their work displayed at the annual Maclaurin Art Gallery exhibition.

An independent panel of judges picked Caitlin Turner as the winner of Stuart Milne Homes Under 18s photography competition, aimed at budding amateur photographers. Judges look for originality, creativity and quality and Caitlin's landscape really showed these winning qualities.

## Classics

In June the Classics department again visited Hadrian's Wall with all S1 and S2 pupils learning Latin. They walked a section of the wall, and used the archaeological remains to understand what the purposes of the wall were. They also visited two museums; firstly, the Roman Army museum, where new interactive displays allowed us all an insight into the life of soldiers and civilians. At Vindolanda they saw the world famous writing tablets, and had a talk from an archaeologist about the most recent finds on the site such as the excavation of the army fort.

## English

This year, the English department has had the great fortune of experiencing a variety of fabulous theatre and live streamed productions including 'Vanya' and the Citizens' Christmas performance of 'Rapunzel'. Advanced Higher pupils enjoyed a performance of 'To Hell and Back' at Oran Mor followed by creative writing activities at various locations around Glasgow.

In October, popular Scottish author Lisa Ballantyne visited S5 and S6 pupils and spoke to them about the process of writing as well as reading extracts from her new novel, Redemption Road. The Creative Writing Club for S1 and S2 pupils continues to thrive with S1 pupil Ethan White reaching the second round of the BBC2 500 words competition. We have also had pupils' work published in numerous Young Writer's collections including Mini Monologues and Mini Sagas. Grania Archbold of S2 had the winning story in The Once Upon a Time collection with her writing appearing on the front cover. The Literacy Captain this year, Rhiannon Griffith, has carried out her duties with enthusiasm, transforming the library with eye catching displays to encourage others to read and running a 'First Line of a Novel' quiz for World Book Day.

Yet again, this has been a very busy year for debating and public speaking where we have taken part in the ESU Junior (reaching the quarter finals as this goes to print) and ESU Mace Debating Competitions (again reaching the quarter finals) and The Law Society Debating Competition (second round). The Debating Club has met every Tuesday lunchtime and enjoyed many lively discussions. The annual McKinstry Debate was held again in June. Public Speaking has enjoyed similar success. At the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Public Speaking Competition two Wellington teams made it to the District Finals in Glasgow for the fourth year in a row in both the Intermediate and Senior sections. In addition, S2 pupil Amy Barbour competed in the Regional Final of the ESU Public Speaking Competition at the end of May and went on to be crowned Scottish champion with her impressive speech: Are we Scottish, British or European?

We have made two visits this year to local nursing home, Creggan Bahn where Sophie Craig (S3) recited Burns poetry and Miss Dunn's S1 class wrote and performed their own Christmas stories. All received a warm welcome from the residents.

Other highlights this year have been the News Academy Conference for budding young journalists at the News UK Glasgow office, when a group of S5 pupils attended a mock press conference and were given the opportunity to ask questions to journalists in all areas of the business, including Jason Allardyce, Scottish Editor of The Sunday Times and Tony Gallagher, Editor of The Sun. MP Ruth Davidson gave a fascinating keynote address on media and the role of journalists in the age of social media.

The Advanced Higher class was accompanied to Glasgow University library to enable them to access necessary additional reading and criticism for their Literature and Dissertation papers. Having been issued with an annual library card, they could return to the library regularly throughout the year.

Miss Dunn has continued working in her role as a National Qualifications Verifier and she, along with Mrs Sheils, Mrs Ulph and Mrs Downie, marked national qualification exam papers for the SQA at all levels, from National 5 to Advanced Higher, in the 2015 and 2016 exam diets.

## Enterprise Education

The Business Studies department enjoyed another busy year on the academic front, with pupils being presented in Accounting and Business Management at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. A group of S6 students also enjoyed dipping their toe in economic waters by undertaking some Units of the Higher Economics course, which was enjoyed by all concerned.

## S1/2 Enterprise

Another excellent example of inter-departmental activity involved working in partnership with the Art Department. An innovative new enterprise course was launched for all S1 pupils. Knowledge of design, business ethics, sustainability, communication, leadership and other key business concepts were explored in the Autumn Term. The second half of the year saw all students compete in teams, with the aim of winning a tender for the organisation and running of an artists' workshop in school.

The annual S2 Fair Trade event was another highlight, with students displaying excellent awareness of the founding principles of Fair Trade as well as creativity, teamwork as and a keen ability turn a profit, all of which was donated to the 6th Year Charity, SAMH.

## Spanish Exchange ‘Enterprise Day’

Mr Byers conducted a very successful Enterprise Day during the inaugural Spanish exchange visit. Pupils from Wellington and their Spanish counterparts worked together on a variety of tasks designed to develop team working, communication and business skills. The Spanish pupils and staff particularly enjoyed the day as business education is not included in their curriculum at secondary level.

## Geography

National 5 students visited Drymen and Balmaha, Loch Lomond National Park, for one day of field work. S4 students were investigating the impact of tourism on an upland glaciated environment. Before the field trip they were taught how to plan a geographical study from conception to realisation looking at different gathering techniques, presentation methods and methods of analysis. This enabled them to gather their own data and to start their own Controlled Assessment Investigations based on the hypothesis that they chose to study. A full day was spent gathering their own primary data (which included measuring footpath erosion, trample zones, vegetation cover, carrying out environmental quality surveys, traffic surveys, tax disc surveys, pedestrian counts and questionnaires) before returning to school to commence their write up. Last year the National 5 cohort enjoyed Geography results well above the SQA published national average (77% achieving an A compared to the SQA average of 37%). In particular, our Assessment Assignment marks were notable and this is worth 25% of the overall mark at National 5.

As part of the new Higher, pupils enjoyed a physical field day, in the Carrick Hills, examining the relationships between channel variables and processes within a fluvial environment. Data was collected from The Sauchrie Burn. Mrs Shaw assisted in enabling two groups of students to gather data over six sites at regular intervals with distance from the source. This allowed 12 sets of data to be analysed. Variables such as river width, depth and velocity allowed cross-sectional area and discharge to be calculated, while measuring wetted perimeter then allowed students to calculate hydraulic radius. Students also sampled pebble size and roundness at all sites. In preparation for their assessment assignment Students have been taught how to write a detailed methodology and evaluate the techniques that they used. Since the excursion they have been processing and analysing their data to either prove or disprove their hypotheses.

To fulfil the human element of their field work, the Higher and Advanced Higher students completed an urban land use survey, on a blank Goad map of Ayr, to illustrate the changes in land use with distance from the CBD. Students used RICEPOT categories to complete their maps, recorded building height, completed a bi-polar survey on environmental quality, pedestrian counts and a ‘living streets’ survey. This experience can be written up to fulfil a learning outcome for the ‘skills’ unit assessment of the new Advanced Higher course and also fulfils four learning outcomes for the Higher students in the Human Environments unit assessment.

To supplement our AH course Wellington pupils joined forces with The High School of Glasgow and St Columba’s School and enjoyed a residential field course at Kindrogan Field Study Centre, Perthshire. Students had the opportunity to add to their repertoire of field skills by collecting data to investigate the differences in micro climate between grassland and woodland area, investigating how soil characteristics change along a soil catena and completing a survey which investigated drainage basin characteristics between coniferous and deciduous forest areas. These studies not only build on their knowledge of data collection but also enhance presentation techniques and data analysis through statistics when testing for scientific significance of emerging patterns between data sets. All skills are later examined through folio work worth 66% and then in the external examination. The Advanced Higher students devote a lot of time over the year to their folio. Geographical studies include ‘an investigation into changing environmental conditions with aspect’, ‘urban changes with distance from Edinburgh’s CBD’, ‘an urban investigation into pollution, living space and crime in Glasgow’ and a river study ‘examining the changing variables of a river with distance from the source’. Their geographical issues include discussing ‘the advantages and disadvantages of off shore wind farms’, ‘the environmental impacts of T-in the park music festival on the landscape’, ‘migration and its impact on the Scottish population’ and ‘the impact of the camping bye law on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond’.

At Easter the department, along with 30 Higher and N5 Geography students visited Iceland, assisted by Mrs Hunter and Mr O’Connell. The trip was a tremendous success. The tour included a visit to a local open air geothermal swimming pool at Laugardalur with flumes and hot tubs (puts the Citadel to shame!). Pupils

visited Seljalandsfoss waterfall which is more than 200m high and walked behind the veil of water. They also saw the Solheimajokull glacier tongue and visited the Eyjafallajokull museum, which is relevant to their N5 Global Issues case study on the 2010 Icelandic volcanic eruption. Pupils saw spectacular coastal scenery at Reynishverfi beach and witnessed the powerful waves on this very exposed black sand beach. The trip included the famous ‘Golden Circle Tour’ which took in Hellisheidi Power Station, Pingvellir National Park (meeting points of the two tectonic plates, North American and Eurasian), Great Geysir and Gullfoss waterfall before finally experiencing the Blue Lagoon!

## History

In June, P7 received a guided tour of the The Bannockburn Centre, Stirling where they examined the area surrounding the triumph of Scotland in the 1314 Battle of Bannockburn. Pupils also took part in an interactive 3-D digital battle workshop which allowed the class to be in the middle of a medieval battle. Other activities included object handling, role play and decision making exercises that supported their experience on site.

Meanwhile, the S1 class took part in a cross curricular project with French earlier this month by exploring reading comprehension on the French Revolution in both languages. The class then chose an event from the topic on which to perform a news broadcast and spoke both English and French in their role play exercise.

The History and Classics departments come together for a trip to Hadrian’s Wall, which also coincided with a visit to the Lanercost Priory. This gave S1 and S2 pupils who attended an insight into the writers of medieval chronicles, which is particularly relevant to their studies of the Scottish Wars of Independence and develops their understanding of historical timelines, part of the S1 course.

S2 took part in a Hands on History: Trench Warfare Workshop at The National War Museum, examining artefacts, primary source evidence and other aspects of their World War One Study. They were also given the opportunity to explore the castle and the National War Gallery.

As part of their National 5 History course S3 students learn about the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, arguably one of the most enigmatic figures in Scottish history, and a trip to Holyrood Palace was highly relevant to their National course. Pupils were given a guided tour of the Palace where they visited Mary’s personal chamber and the very spot where her Italian secretary David Riccio was murdered, his blood stains still visible to this day.

S3 Group Investigations see pupils undertake a mock political campaign by creating their own abolitionist group and media campaign. They produce posters, badges, slogans and film their own abolitionist speech dressed as a 19th century politician such as William Wilberforce. They also research historical opinion on the investigation of ‘Who killed Lord Darnley?’ and they present their own findings and verdicts on the suspects.

Further into the National 5 Course, S4 History pupils took part in a joint trip with Modern Studies to London. The pupils visited the Museum of London Docklands and were given a guided tour. They also take part in a tour of Westminster and visited the Emmeline Pankhurst monument. This supports their study of British political history and the Atlantic Slave Trade unit in National 5 History.

Higher and Advanced Higher History pupils went to the cinema to see the film, ‘The Suffragette’. As pupils study the Women’s Suffrage Movement as part of their Higher course, this portrayal of the era and the women involved was certainly beneficial. The class discussed the film and reflected fondly on their learning of this topic.

## International Education & Modern Languages

### International Education

International Education retains its place as a focal point in school life and the opportunities offered to our pupils continue to expand and develop. This session, 103 Europass certificates have been awarded to pupils in S1-S6 who have participated in residential projects with our partner schools in five countries. In addition, one pupil has been awarded the UCAPE European Diploma.

Our Erasmus project, Art Nouveau-Art Renouveau, (funded by the European Commission) is now reaching the end of its second year. Wellington pupils have travelled to Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria and have

experienced a wide range of cultural and artistic events. Next session, our pupils will travel to France and to Germany. A highlight of the French Mobility will be the opportunity to work on our joint project with a film-maker from California.

The very successful project of exchanges has seen our S5 pupils spend a week at the Institut Saint-Dominique in France where our rugby exchange boys also had an extended stay due to French air-traffic controllers. The very first Spanish Exchange was a huge success which bodes well for the future. The highlight of the session, however, was the 25th Anniversary celebrations of our links with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund. The concerts in both Dortmund and Ayr were a wonderful experience for players and audience alike. This partnership started in 1990 and grows from strength to strength. It is a notable milestone for both schools and is an enormous achievement for both.

In December, two S6 pupils travelled to Lyon to undertake research for their Advanced Higher languages projects, an opportunity which came about through Madame Bartholome's familial connections.

Boys and girls in P7 and S1 spent the February half-term in France and Belgium on an educational visit where they visited historical sites and learned about the French way of life. The highlights were the aquarium in Boulogne and the chocolate shop in Ypres. One set of parents were especially disappointed to learn that all their presents had been eaten before they arrived home!

Through the Connecting Classrooms programme (British Council), we are now in our fifth year of joint activities. The Principal and Depute Director of St Edmund's School, Jaipur, visited Wellington in October 2015 and S5 and S6 pupils spent a day at St Edmund's School during their visit to North India during the Christmas holidays.

### **Modern Languages**

We hosted two foreign language assistants this session, Frau Nina Klusmann from Germany and Mademoiselle Lea Maschiocci from France.

Our three candidates for the Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project have all been awarded Grade A and one candidate has been asked to allow her work to be used as an example of good practice by the SQA. This is an excellent accolade for all three pupils, especially as this is the first year that Wellington has offered this qualification. We very much hope to build on this success in the coming years.

S1 and S2 Pupils gained certificates in the Work Wizard Modern Languages Spelling Bee at Strathclyde University and three S3 French students were commended for their work on Healthy Eating in the national Scottish Association for Language Teaching.

Advanced Higher pupils have attended a multi-lingual debate at the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies at Heriot Watt University, the only Scottish University to offer double language degrees in interpreting and translating.

In the Junior School, pupils have performed plays in French, have put on a French fashion show and have exchanged letters and drawings with their pen pals at the Institut Saint-Dominique.

### **Mathematics**

An interdisciplinary excursion to South Queensferry saw S5 and S6 Mathematics and Physics pupils visit the Forth Replacement Crossing Exhibition Area. The Area not only gives visitors an unsurpassed view of the Queensferry Crossing currently under construction, but it also offers an excellent educational environment for secondary pupils. Wellington pupils took part in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Challenges.

### **Maths Challenges**

In the UK Mathematics (UKMT) Trust Maths Challenges, pupils throughout the school won awards. In the Senior Challenge, which is aimed at pupils between the ages of 16 and 18, the top 60% nationally receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. This year, at Wellington, a Silver Award, Best in Year and Best in School certificates went to Muchen Jiang and a Bronze Award was presented to Head Boy, Patrick Smith.

The Intermediate Challenge Gold Award, Best in Year and Best in School went to Matthew Taylor. Three pupils took Silver Awards, namely Hamish Ablett, Jake Freemantle and Jennifer Bowie and finally, Bronze Awards were awarded to Callum Duffy, Tom Scott, Mitchell Wyllie and Katie Stewart.

The Junior Challenge, which is aimed at children in S2 or below, saw some remarkable achievements as well with S2 Silver Awards going to Morven Murdoch, Amy Barbour, Archie Galbraith, Cameron Moore and Dillon Leahy, who also won Best in Year. Bronze Awards were presented to Callum Shinn, Ellie Crosbie, Laurie Shinn, Ellie Haye, Emma Bulabois, Grania Archbold, Meera Mohankrishnan and Nickon Tajali.

In S1, Silver Awards went to Callum Morrison and Jayden Lyons and Bronze Awards were presented to Oliver Ledgerwood, Angus MacDonald, Jack Napier and Ilsa Mason. In that year group, Euan Graham did particularly well, not only by winning the Gold Award, Best in Year and Best in School certificates but he was also invited to sit The Junior Kangaroo, a more challenging follow-on paper from the Maths Challenge. This is an excellent achievement for Euan, as he is the first Wellington pupil to have been invited to take part.

The UKMT Junior Team Challenge saw Amy Barbour, Callum Byers, Rosie Davidson and Dillon Leahy compete in the West of Scotland round, coming in a very respectable 15th place out of 32.

### **Modern Studies**

The Modern Studies department continues to offer a varied programme of curricular activities which allow pupils to explore the social and political landscape nationally and beyond.

In February, P7 and S1 took part in mock elections which gave the pupils an opportunity to engage in the political process by convincing their counterparts to vote for their party. The three S1 classes each elected a candidate who then delivered speeches at a 'hustings'. As in previous years, the S1 classes were invited to create their own party names, policies and identities; pupils created campaign materials to display their party's message around the school.

S3 also stepped into the world of politics, when in December they were visited by Mrs Corri Wilson MP. The Member of the UK Parliament enlightened the class on the work of an elected representative and democracy more generally. Earlier this term, S3 were given a talk by PC Gilmour who discussed the work of the police for the Crime and the Law unit and more specifically, the role of a community police officer in preventing crime, protecting the public and enforcing the law. Various curricular activities then followed, making the session invaluable to our National 5 candidates who will be progressing to S4 after the summer.

September saw the joint Modern Studies and History trip to London which involved a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a workshop on elections and voting, and a visit to the Museum of London.

The S6 classes have been undertaking research for their dissertation. Firstly, they received a seminar from Miss Cara Garven, former Principal Teacher of English and now a teacher at HMP Kilmarnock, to discuss rehabilitation of offenders in prison; secondly, the class visited Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institution, Cornton Vale where their research again focused on Crime and the Law.

This has also been a busy year for staff. Mr McDougall, Mrs Hemmings and Miss Dunn walked 26 miles for the Mighty Stride Kiltwalk. Starting in Glasgow and finished in Balloch, all three teachers made it to the finish line with relative ease, raising over £800 for the 6th Year Charity, SAMH.

### **Music**

In March, the annual Ayrshire Music Festival gave Wellington pupils a platform to showcase some of the very best talent in school. The week-long festival culminates in the prestigious 'Premier Trophies Evening' where two competitions are selected for the best performances of the festival. This year, these were the Howard De Walden Silver Challenge Cup for the best vocal performance and the Elizabeth McNair Trophy for the best instrumental performance.

In the vocal prize, there were four finalists, three of whom were Wellington pupils: Sophie Craig, Callum McCandless and Holly Martin. All three were outstanding and a credit to our school. Sophie Craig won first place for the second year running, a stunning achievement. Matthew Taylor played piano in the instrumental competition and although he did not win on this occasion, Mr Haggerty deemed his Bach performance to be noteworthy and surely at the forefront of the adjudicator's thoughts.

The other many successes from the festival bear testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of our pupils and teaching staff. Many competitors held their titles from last year and, meanwhile, for the second year in a row, choirs from the Junior and Senior schools achieved 1st place in eight choral classes at the Festival. Successful choirs were Primary 2/3, Primary 4/5, Primary 6, Junior Choir, Madrigal Group (two 1st Places) and Senior Choir (two 1st places):

#### **Songs from the Shows - S3/S4**

1st - Sophie Craig

2nd - Emilia Darwent and Ruby Magee

3rd - Katie Carmichael

#### **Songs from the Shows: Duets and Ensembles - Open Class**

1st - Holly Martin and Eve Brady

#### **Songs from the Shows: Duets and Ensembles**

1st - Katie Carmichael and Sophie Craig

#### **Duets from Opera**

1st - Annabel Gallocher and Ellie Girgis

#### **Songs from the Shows - S5/S6**

1st - Holly Martin

2nd - Eve Brady and Callum McCandless

#### **Violin Solos - Division E**

2nd Place - Lucy McColl

3rd Place - Scott Mitchell

#### **Piano Solos: Baroque - Open Class**

1st Place - Matthew Taylor

#### **Piano Solos: Classical**

1st Place - Matthew Taylor

#### **Piano Solos: Romantic**

1st Place - Matthew Taylor

#### **Piano Solos - Division E**

1st Place - Beth Peat

2nd Place - Laura Hampson

#### **Scots Fiddle - Open Class**

1st Place - Fiona Sykes

#### **Scottish Music**

1st Place - Fiona Sykes

#### **School Choirs - Secondary S1-S4**

1st Place - Wellington Junior Choir

#### **School Choirs - Secondary S4-S6 (Girls)**

1st Place - Wellington Madrigal Group

#### **Mixed Voice Choirs (SATB)**

1st Place - Wellington Senior Choir

#### **Songs of Burns - Mixed Choirs**

1st Place - Wellington Senior Choir

#### **Junior Female Voice Choirs**

1st Place - Wellington Madrigal Group

#### **Junior Vocal Solos Songs of Burns**

1st Place - Sophie Craig

#### **Junior Vocal Solos - Girls in S3/S4**

1st Place - Jennifer Bowie

2nd Place - Ruby Magee

3rd Place - Sophie Craig and Katie Carmichael

#### **Primary Choirs Scots Folk Song**

1st Place - Wellington P6 Choir

#### **Primary Choral - P4/5**

1st Place - Wellington P4/5 Choir

#### **Primary Choral - P2/3**

1st Place - Wellington School P2/3 Choir

#### **Junior Vocal Solos - Primary 6**

1st Place - Carly Martin

#### **Junior Vocal Solos - S5/6 (Boys)**

1st Place - Callum McCandless

#### **Junior Vocal Solos - S5/6 (Girls)**

1st Place - Isla Stevenson

#### **Speech & Drama Results from the Festivals**

Mrs Buchanan prepared a number of pupils for the Speech competitions in both the Ayrshire Music Festival and the Glasgow Festival. The exemplary results from former were as follows:

**Set Poem, Secondary 1** - 1st Tymon McGinley

**Set Poem, Secondary 2** - 1st Amy Edith Barbour

**Set Poem, Secondary 3** - 1st Alexandra Kendal

**Set Poem, Secondary 4-6** - 2nd Celeste McGinley

#### **Poetry Writing, Secondary 1 and 2**

Winner: Amy Edith Barbour with her poem, 'Message Delivered'

#### **Quick study, Secondary 1 to 3** - 1st Sophie Craig

#### **Open Quick Study Class** - 1st Celeste McGinley

#### **Favourite Poem, Secondary 1-3** - 1st

Meera Mohankrishnan

#### **Favourite Poem Secondary 4-6** - 2nd

Celeste McGinley

#### **Burns Poem, Secondary 1-3** - 1st Sophie Craig

#### **Shakespeare, Secondary 1-3** - 1st Sophie Craig

with Juliet's Speech from Romeo & Juliet

#### **Scottish Verse, Secondary 1-3** -

1st Alexandra Kendal

#### **In the Glasgow Festival, the results for Wellington School pupils are given here below:**

Celeste McGinley

1st place, with 1st Class Honours

1st place, Favourite Poetry with 1st Class Honours

1st place, Shakespeare monologue (Viola, Twelfth Night) with merit

Meera Mohankrishnan

1st Class Honours, Helena - Midsummers' Night's Dream

3rd place, Favourite Poem with merit

1st place, Prepared Speech - Women's Rights with 1st Class Honours

Anubha Bal

2nd place, Favourite Poem with merit

Returning to Music, the department has recently welcomed new members to the instrumental staff body in order to accommodate demand for one to one tuition. The department now has 15 Peripatetic Specialist Music Instructors offering a wide range of instrumental tuition with new instructors including Dr Andrew Sharkey, one of Scotland's leading session Bass Guitarists; Mr Paul Wood, former Head of Instrumental Services for East Ayrshire who will teach violin, viola and also String Chamber Group and Mr David O'Connell, who teaches cello at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and for South Ayrshire. Mr Haggerty is delighted to recruit three experienced tutors of this quality, who all have high ambitions for our pupils.

The newly introduced International Education Concert Programme is an excellent example of successful inter-departmental activity. The flagship events in this initiative were the anniversary concerts to celebrate the 25 year partnership between Mallinckrodt Gymnasium, Dortmund and Wellington School. In collaboration with the Modern Languages Department, both the School Orchestra and Chamber Choir travelled to Germany in November 2015 to perform with Mallinckrodt Gymnasium in the school hall. A second performance was given by Wellington pupils in a local cathedral for a special commemorative service. The second part of the exchange concerts took place in Ayr Town Hall in March 2016 and very professional performances from all involved made for a most memorable evening of music. The opening piece was the tremendous 'Zadok the Priest' by Handel which featured the joint orchestra and a large choir drawn from the school and the wider community, a video of which is available on the school's Facebook page. As part of the International Education Concert Programme, a choral trip to Slovenia is in the pipeline.

The Choral Programme continues to thrive with successful performances at Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services in the Junior and Senior schools. Our choirs continue to perform at charity events inside school and also in the wider community, bringing joy to many audiences. Most recently, Mr Haggerty accompanied four S3 girls to a meeting of the Troon Arthritis Group, where the pupils performed a varied repertoire of classical, Burns and popular pieces to a rapturous audience. Pupils and parents are thanked for their support and commitment to charity musical events.

At National Choral Level, we have several pupils who are members of the National Girls' Choir of Scotland, National Boys' Choir of Scotland and the National Youth Choir of Scotland. Three of our S3 pupils have been invited to perform in the National Girls' Chamber Choir at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer, which is an outstanding achievement. At National Orchestra Level, we have two senior pupils who are members of the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and also attend the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. A selection of our instrumentalists plays in the South Ayrshire Chamber Orchestra and also the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra. Two former pupils who left school last year are now studying for music performance degrees at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and

Edinburgh University. Meanwhile this year, two pupils will pursue a career in music – the first has accepted a place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for a degree in Education and the second will read Popular Music at Newcastle University.

As many of you know, in November 2015 our Senior School Show was 'Chess' by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus with words by Tim Rice. Although a challenging musical, our senior pupils performed the show with great skill and commitment. This was Mr Haggerty's second show as Musical Director with Martin Christie as Director and the introduction of Lynne Christie as Choreographer. Nine members of the Senior Orchestra were invited to play in the band for the run of shows and rose to the challenge, performing the difficult musical score admirably alongside hired professionals. Rehearsals have already started for the next show, 'West Side Story' by Leonard Bernstein.

At Christmas, collaboration between the WSA and the Music Department successfully resulted in a second Carol Concert in order to cope with ticket demands for this most popular event and also to extend the programme to include our musicians from the Junior School. The Senior School Concert and the Junior School Concert were equally impressive events and outstanding feedback was received from all who attended. The success of these events has since led to a Summer Performing Arts Concert for both Senior and Junior Schools.

Four new music courses have been incorporated into the curriculum this academic year, namely Advanced Higher Music, Higher Music, National 5 Music and National 5 Music Technology. Choosing music as an option in the senior phase has steadily increased over the past two years with 53 pupils opting to study the subject in the next academic session.

The Music Department encourages all pupils with an interest in music to join one of our many extra-curricular activities to enhance their skills and develop confidence from the art of performing. We have added a number of groups this year and altered the structure of the school orchestras to offer more options for the range of musical abilities throughout the school. The current list of activities is: Senior Choir (mixed voices S3-S6); Madrigal Group (girls S4-S6); Chamber Choir (Senior select mixed voices); Junior Girls Choir (P7-S2); Junior Boys Choir (P7-S2); Wellington School Training Orchestra (beginner to Grade 2); Wellington School Orchestra (Grade 3 and above); String Ensemble; Jazz Band; Senior Folk Group (Senior pupils); Junior Folk Group (Primary pupils); Rock Band (S1 and S2) and Wellington Youth Theatre (S3-S6). The choral programme in the Junior School is timetabled for all pupils from Nursery to P6.

Music in the Junior School continues to flourish with many musical performances and productions throughout the year. Highlights include the P1 pirate musical and 'Charlie' by P3. A video of P3 performing 'Pure Imagination' from 'Charlie' can be found on the school's Facebook page.

The annual Nativity productions took place as usual and the Nursery delighted audiences with their show led by Mrs Wilson. The Junior School Nativity once again included a performance with words by Mrs McKenzie and songs written by Mr Haggerty. The Lunchtime Concert Series has been a great success with an increasing number of concerts being put on to allow all of the talented junior musicians to perform.

## Science

One of the notable successes from the Science Department this session was the SQA Chemistry Prize for the best Advanced Higher Chemistry Investigation which was awarded to Lucy Illingworth (last year's S6). Lucy received full marks and was pitched against her counterparts across Scotland. This is a wonderful achievement and we wish Lucy every success as she studies Medicine at Edinburgh University.

The Science Club continues to grow in success with invaluable input from Mrs Peden and the 6th Year Science Captains, Lucy Stewart and Ellie Girgis. Staff across the department have been involved in the Scottish Qualifications Authority examinations: Mr McPhee is Senior Team Leader for Advanced Higher Physics, Mr West is the Senior Team Leader for Advanced Higher Chemistry and Mrs McIntyre is the Team Leader for Higher Biology. As a result, it has been a very busy year, made all the more challenging with the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher experimental assignments being delivered altogether for the first time. This was successfully achieved thanks to the hard work of all staff involved.

Various year group have had the opportunity to further their science learning with a range of excursions and extra-curricular activities. Liaison with the Junior School has resulted in a selection of science lessons delivered by specialist teachers; S2 visited the Science Centre in May; S3 and S4 science pupils benefitted

greatly from a Forensic Science Workshop, delivered by Education Interactive, based in Australia and a group of S3 pupils went to the Science Live show at the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow. The cost of attending the show was covered by a £500 bursary from GlaxoSmithKline, the purpose of which is to enthuse younger pupils about science and encourage them to consider a scientific career. Four of the UK's top scientists gave presentations on a diverse range of topics, ranging from IVF (Professor Lord Robert Winston), Nuclear Fusion (Dr Kate Lancaster), Genetics (Professor Steve Jones) and Computers and Robotics (Professor Dave Cliff)

The pupils who attended were extremely enthusiastic about the experience, especially when it came to Professor Winston's discussion about fertility and careers in science. Afterwards, one pupil recalled 'Professor Winston said that at school and university he wasn't the best in his class but he was passionate about science. He finished by saying that women shouldn't be afraid to compete with men, which I found very inspirational'.

Meanwhile, staff continue to inspire their pupils with their own achievements. Mr McPhee, for example, Principal Teacher of Physics & Science and Drew Burrett of the Institute of Physics, were asked to deliver a talk on the Expansion of the Universe to Physics teachers attending the Association of Science Education Scottish Conference held at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. This sort of activity is beneficial for the member of staff who undertakes it but also for pupils, who cannot fail to be encouraged and motivated by their teachers' continued passion for their subject. Recently, Mr McPhee was also elected to Fellowship by the Institute of Physics.

In terms of cross curricular activity, the Science and Modern Languages Departments have teamed up to bid for an ERASMUS project on Astrophysics. This is to run between 2017 and 2019 and would launch once the current project between Art and Modern Languages (Art Nouveau, Art Renouveau) is complete.

## Sports

### South Ayrshire Schools' Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to all pupils who competed in the South Ayrshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships at Rozelle Park on Friday 18th March. All pupils did extremely well, and enjoyed the event.

Well done to Charlie Cowan who finished 1st in the P6 boys race, Libby White who finished 2nd in the P6 girls race, Mhairi Chalmers who came 1st in the P7 girls race, followed by Leigh Timothy who finished 2nd.

### Ayrshire Cross-Country Results

At the Ayrshire Cross Country Championships, Wellington runners had a very successful day.

Individual Gold Medals went to S1 pupils Rosie Davidson and Jack Edwards, who competed in races consisting of between 150 and 250 runners. Rosie led from the front all the way around the course to finish in a convincing 1st place to win Gold. Meanwhile, Jack Edwards also came 1st winning Gold in a race that was decided in the closing metres.

In the team placings the S1 girls' team won Gold. Team members were Rosie Davidson, Olivia Stark, Georgia Glen, Susie Edwards and Amy Gibson.

### Scottish Schools' Primary Cross Country

14 pupils from P6 and P7 competed in the Scottish Primary Schools Cross Country Championships in Kirkcaldy. All of our pupils put maximum effort into this extremely competitive event. Special congratulations go to Mhairi Chalmers who finished 6th in the P7 girls race.

### Scottish Schools' Secondary Cross Country

At the Scottish Schools' Secondary Cross Country Championships, the school entered 9 pupils: Georgia Glen, Izzy Girgis, Olivia Stark, Rosie Davidson, Callum Byers, Cori Howard, Ethan White, Fraser Thomson and Jack Edwards. Rosie Davidson ran a fantastic race finishing in 4th place for the S1 girls. Jack Edwards was the first Wellington boy to cross the line and he was placed 30th. All other pupils showed excellent effort throughout.

## Swimming

Congratulations to Marshall Illingworth (S5) who recently competed in the Scottish National Age Group Championships which were held at Tollcross Pool from 30th March to 3rd April 2016.

Marshall's results were as follows:

1500 freestyle - 17:00.58 (2nd)

800 freestyle - 8:59.99 (2nd)

400 freestyle - 4:22.24 (6th)

200 freestyle - 2:05.76 (8th)

Marshall has also been accepted into the North and West Boys team for the Sainsbury's School Games which are held at Loughborough in September. This is an extremely prestigious invitation that is only extended to the best swimmers.

In his final year at Wellington, Patrick Smith won a Gold medal and a Silver medal at the Ayrshire Schools' Gala. He qualified to swim in the Scottish Schools' Championships at Tollcross and finished in 10th place in each event (400 metres freestyle and 200 metres freestyle). Callum Crossley was 4th in both his events at the Ayrshire Schools' Gala (200 metres and 100 metres breaststroke).

The Primary girls 4 x 50 metres relay team (Beth Peat, Katie Murray, Laura Hampson and Amy Grassom) finished in 4th place at the Ayrshire Schools Gala. Amy achieved another 4th place in the 50 metres butterfly event.

## Athletics

### Inter School Competition

150 pupils have enjoyed the challenge of participating in a variety of athletics events this season. Personal bests have been achieved as well as new school records. Wellington competed and has had wins in various age groups against a list of schools that includes Craigholme School, St Columba's School, Lomond School, Queen Victoria School, Hutchesons' Grammar School, The Glasgow Academy and The High School of Glasgow.

There have been some school records broken this season. Rosie Davidson finished the 1500m in a time of 5min 11s, Jack Edwards has a new 200m record and Eve Meechan achieved a new school record for the Shot Putt with a throw of 8m 99cm.

### Scottish Schools' Indoor Championships - February 2016

Congratulations to the following pupils who participated in the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championship: Nadia Simpson, Jamie Roberts, and Hazel Kirk.

Nadia achieved the most success on the day by recording a new personal best and finishing 4th in the final of the 200m.

### Ayrshire Schools Championship Finals

A number of pupils competed at the Ayrshire Schools Athletics Championships.

The following pupils were 3rd in their event:

Olivia Stark - 100M (selection for Ayrshire team)

Kirstie Howat - 200m

Jack Edwards - 100m

Stephen McLarty - 200m

Jamie Roberts - High Jump

Callum Shinn - Javelin

Emily Nolan - Javelin

The following pupils were 2nd in their event:

Georgia Glen - 75m Hurdles and 800m

Lucy Davidson - 800m

Mia Cullis - 1500m

Elean Meikle - 75m Hurdles

Sophie Fairhurst - Javelin

Rachael Foster - Discus

Kori Howard - 400m

Cameron Muir - 75m Hurdles

Jamie Roberts - Long Jump

Craig Miller - Discus

The Senior 3 Girls Relay team whose members were Emma Young, Jennifer Munro, Sophie Craig and Kirstie Howat.

The following pupils were 1st in their event:

Kirstie Howat - 100m

Olivia Stark - 200m

Rosie Davidson - 1500m

Hazel Kirk - 80m Hurdles

Eve Meechan - Shot Putt (selection for Ayrshire team)

Jack Edwards - 200m

The Senior 1 Girls Relay team whose members were Amy Gibson, Georgia Glen, Gabriella McLatchie and Olivia Stark.

The Senior 1 Boys Relay team whose members were Jack Edwards, Fraser Thomson, Ollie Ledgerwood and Callum Byers (with a new Ayrshire record as well).

The Senior Girls Relay team whose members were Jaquie Gibson, Hazel Kirk, Lucy Davidson and Nadia Simpson.

The Senior Boys Relay team whose members were Max Gibson, Jamie Roberts, Adam White and Mitchell Wyllie.

### Ayrshire Schools' Athletics Championships

Rosie Davidson was awarded the S1 Girls Shield for breaking the Ayrshire record by 6 seconds. Rosie has been selected to represent Ayrshire at the Inter District Championships as a result.

Jack Edwards was awarded the S1 Boys Shield for his performance in the 200m at the Ayrshire finals.

### Scottish Schools' Track and Field Championships 2016

Eve Meechan won a Bronze medal in the U15 Shot Putt. Nadia Simpson reached the finals of the 200m and Jack Edwards also displayed excellent sprinting ability by reaching the finals in both the 100m and 200m. Hazel Kirk narrowly missed out on the finals of the 75m Hurdles but managed a personal best time in difficult conditions. Rosie Davidson beat her PB and also ran in the finals of the U14 1500m. Sophie Fairhurst threw well in the Javelin finishing in 4th place. Other pupils who made Scottish qualification standard and who competed were Kirstie Howat in the 100m and Mia Cullis in the 3000m.

## Hockey

Teams at all levels have shown great spirit this season, playing convincingly in a number of tournaments. Overall, we have seen a great deal of commitment from players and the general standard of play has improved. Individually, players have sharpened their game and developed skills which will bode well for the next season when the focus will shift to gaining experience of playing in more competitions and improving our results. The hockey tour in June will allow S1 and S2 girls some important low-level international experience, which has proved beneficial to their rugby counterparts.

## The Glasgow Academy P7 Hockey Tournament

In February, the Primary 7 girls enjoyed a successful tournament despite meeting tough opposition in their section. They were drawn against The Glasgow Academy, George Watsons College and St Aloysius' College. They progressed to the Plate competition and in the quarter finals beat Morrison's Academy 1-0. They lost narrowly to The High School of Glasgow in the Semi Final.

## Tournaments and Tours

The 1st XI participated in the Hutchesons' Grammar School and High School of Glasgow 7s tournaments where they met tough competition. The girls mainly drew or lost by a goal in the group stages with each match being played at a high level. Congratulations to those selected to play. They also played a strong touring side from Carrickfergus Grammar School in a close match with the final score 3-1 to the opposition. The team reached the final of the South West cup and played St Columba's School. Unfortunately, the final was cancelled due to inclement weather and St Columba's School went through on previous results.

## District Representation

This has been a successful year and the following girls were selected to represent South West hockey; Leigh Timothy, Eilidh Thomson, Isla Novak, Kirstie Howat, Bethan Rees, Katie Stewart, Lucy Davidson, Sophie Fairhurst, Naomi Hunter and Wallis Wylie.

## Hockey Tour - Holland

In June the S1 and S2 hockey teams will be travelling to Holland to play against The British School of the Netherlands and The International School of The Hague. The girls will enjoy a busy itinerary which will include an interdisciplinary trip to Anne Frank's House as girls have already studied this in History and English, a tour of Amsterdam, a canal boat trip and a visit to the windmill museum.

## Rugby

This has been the first year of Wellington's new partnership with Ayr Rugby Club. Teams at all levels have delivered very strong performances and players have shown a high level of skill and commitment throughout the season. Most notably, Ayr Wellington U18 and U16 teams competed in the National Youth League Cup Finals at Murrayfield, where the U16 side emerged as the National Youth Champions. These results are not surprising considering the Club boasts one of the largest youth training centres in Scotland and is renowned for its impressive match record. Wellington has a longstanding reputation of being a consistently strong side at all levels but the amalgamation of facilities and expertise have greatly benefitted players. Player development will continue to be a key focus with nutrition, strength, technique, and conditioning training coming to the fore. Our teams have shown outstanding dedication to the sport and next season will give players the chance to consolidate and build on their skills.

At the Hutchesons' Grammar School Rugby 7s, the Ayr/Wellington team had a successful day.

Group results:

Hutchesons' Grammar School B 0 - Ayr/Wellington 50

St Columba's School 0 Ayr/Wellington - 19

Robert Gordon's College 7 - Ayr/Wellington 26

As group winners we were drawn against Hutchesons' Grammar School A in the semi-final of the cup. The Ayr/Wellington team won this 17-0.

In the final we played St Aloysius' College. After a hard fought game St Aloysius' College won 5 tries to 2.

Wellington team members were Angus Boyle, Cameron Reece, Logan Richardson, Jamie Roberts (and former pupil Harry Lynch.)

Well done to those boys who participated in the Tournament.

## Carrick U15 Invitational 7's

Ayr/Wellington won their section by beating The Glasgow Academy 29-14, Lenzie Academy 36-7, and Boclair Academy. They progressed to the semi-final where they were beaten by the eventual winners St Aloysius' College.

## Ayr/Wellington Rugby at BT Murrayfield Final

Ayr/Wellington rugby was represented by both the U18 and U16 sides in the National Youth League Cup Finals on the main pitch at BT Murrayfield in February.

The U16 team, which included 5 players from Wellington, came up against a competitive Highland side and a tight first 35 minutes led to a nervous half-time score of 6-5. The Ayr players showed their strength in the second half, however, to finish with a comprehensive 36-13 win and emerge as U16 National Youth Champions.

In the U18 final, despite an impressive try from Cameron Reece early in the second half, the Ayr team, with 5 Wellington players, were unable to defeat Stirling County. The final score was 17-12, but this was a very close, hard-fought game with impressive play from both sides.

## Rugby Exchange

The school hosted its fifth visit from L'institut saint-dominique de mortefontaine (Saint-Dominique), France, in November. The programme included a game on a frosty Doonside pitch and gave each player a chance to experience playing against an overseas school. The Junior Rugby Exchange pupils arrived from France on Thursday and managed to play at Rozelle in difficult conditions on Friday morning. The ground was wet and there were strong, gusty winds.

After a 10 minute warm up the boys kicked off. The Wellington S1/2 side managed to hold on to the ball and tried to move it to the corners to find space. Saint-Dominique put pressure on our attack and managed to turn the ball over in the tackle. They had bigger and faster boys in key positions and this made the difference. They quickly broke through and scored near the posts. Unfortunately, this was the story of the half. Saint-Dominique put a lot of pressure on our attack and with the windy conditions we started to make mistakes which lead to tries. The score at half time was 0-20.

In the second half the boys rallied and managed to get better field position. The few chances we could make were quickly snuffed out by the efficient French tackling. Whilst Wellington managed to get close to the try line on a few occasions we didn't manage to score. Saint-Dominique played well from counterattack and managed to score four more tries.

Wellington boys played valiantly against a taller and heavier team. Saint-Dominique was thrilled to win for the first time against a Wellington team.

The French boys visited Edinburgh on Friday afternoon where they visited the castle and had time for some sightseeing and shopping. In the evening they went to Murrayfield with their hosts to watch Edinburgh v Grenoble

On the Saturday we took the French visitors to Murrayfield to see Edinburgh play Grenoble and on the Sunday the French enjoyed a morning at Airspace in East Kilbride. Thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Galbraith for kindly providing a reduced group entry.

On the return visit to France the Wellington players enjoyed French hospitality in the form of a match played in the school grounds and a visit to the Air Space museum. The experience of playing rugby and staying with a French family will be treasured by the boys for many years to come.

## Dance

Pupils from P6 to S6 are given the opportunity to participate in dance club on a Monday lunch time. This is a new extra-curricular club, widening the opportunities for pupils to participate in physical activity at Wellington. In October, auditions were held for pupils who wished to enter their own dances into a showcase event to be held in the New Year. Performing in front of an audience allows the girls to develop confidence and pupils showed great creativity and commitment, spending time choreographing and attending practices. There were a variety of styles performed on the evening including tap, ballet and modern. The showcase was a resounding success, enjoyed by all - preparation is already underway for next session!

## Scottish Schools' Aquathon

On Tuesday 26th April, 7 Wellington pupils between S1 and S6 competed in Triathlon Scotland's Scottish School's Championships in partnership with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

The event took place at Dollan Aqua Centre and our athletes competed in various individual races (S1/2 - 300m swim, 2km run, S3/4 - 400m swim, 3km run, S5/6 - 500m swim, 4km run).

Marshall Illingworth was the fastest swimmer overall and came 8th. Well done Team Aquathon!

## Netball and Rounders

All girls in S1 and S2 were welcome to attend Netball Club and Rounders Club during the summer term. The girls developed their skills, played practice matches, and competed against Kyle Academy. We hope to promote both clubs more next year.

## Cricket

This has been an excellent season for cricket and our players have enjoyed some remarkable successes.

In the annual Fathers' match held at Cambusdoon, Captain of the Wellington Senior team, Jonathan Hulme, took 3 wickets for 14 runs and Kori Howard (S1) took 3 wickets for 7 runs. Jonathan Hulme made the highest batting score with 38 runs, while Vivek Konamme scored 15 runs. The Fathers' XI, however, put up a strong fight and won the match by 5 runs.

The Junior XI played away to Kelvinside Academy in the West District Schools' Cup. Jack Lynch took 4 wickets for 18 runs, while Kori Howard and Lucas Short each took 2 wickets for 15 runs. Jack Lynch was top scorer with the bat with 17 runs and Kori Howard scored 12 runs. Wellington won the match by 5 wickets.

As a sequel, this team went on to win the West District Schools' Cup by beating a strong team from Holyrood, Glasgow and now goes forward to the National Finals in Perth.

The Wellington Primary XI played The Glasgow Academy 'B' XI at Anniesland. Many of the boys played their first 20/20 game using the proper equipment. Osman Omer took 4 wickets for 27 runs and Captain, Joshua Porter, took 3 wickets for 21 runs. Charlie Cowan (24 runs) and Robbie Galbraith (22) were the best batsmen. Wellington won the match by 3 wickets.

Joshua Porter has been selected as Captain of the West District Under 12 team.

## 6th Year Report

### The 6th Year Experience

This year the 6th Year started Session 2015-2016 by undertaking a teambuilding event which was extremely instructive and was well received by all. The activity was designed to relate to the chosen charity and was aimed at inspiring the pupils to generate new ideas for fundraising. The pupils created a range of new possibilities and the full day exercise did engender a great deal of amusement and a degree of bonding which augured well for the future.

This Session, the 6th Year elected SAMH as their charity of choice. Throughout the session they have gelled exceptionally well as a team and have consequently had a very successful year with the charity. A myriad of activities has been undertaken in order to raise funds including House Charity Days, themed non uniform days and regular cake and candy stalls. The Christmas Craft Fair and the Fun Run generated extensive funds, while the Wellington Wade, a successful coffee morning in December and donations from School Show and other events have added significantly to the overall total. The Head Boy has volunteered to swim from the Lady Isle back to Ayr, a prodigious venture to raise further funds. Patrick's swim will take place on the 19th of June and he will be supported by Daisy Mitchelson and various members of Troon Rowing Club who will row alongside him.

Mr Levif, Teacher of French, wrote, performed and produced a song, Come Hail or Storm, the proceeds of which will go towards the charity total. Mr Levif is not the only member of staff to contribute so positively, with several members of staff participating in charity walks and 10K runs.

The year group would like to extend a heartfelt thank you, in particular, to Mr & Mrs Wyllie who ran 5 marathons in 5 days. The extensive proceeds they generated, bolstered the charity fund significantly.

Overall, the 6th year charity has a very positive impact throughout the school, bringing together Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Parents and Staff and so achieve these exceptional results annually.

The pupils have cooperated very well together to achieve their goals and have really enjoyed their Sixth Year experience. I would like to thank our Heads of School Naomi Hunter and Patrick Smith and the Deputes Wallis Wyllie and Luke Hughes for their commitment, enthusiasm, humour, hard work and determination to succeed.

It is to their credit and indeed to the whole of the 6th Year's credit that in the present economic climate they have raised an extraordinary sum in excess of £34000.

## Extra-Curricular, Environmental & Outdoor Education

### Environmental Education

Eco-Schools is the largest sustainable schools programme and learning network in the world, connecting 15 million children, young people and educators. Wellington recently received its 3rd Eco-Schools Green Flag, a fantastic achievement for which the entire school can take credit. The assessor, Julie Wilson, Education and Learning Manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful, was extremely impressed with Wellington and thanks must be extended to Mrs O'Connell who leads with this activity.

Ms Wilson was glowing with praise for all of the pupils she met, especially the 'enthusiastic, articulate and well-informed Eco-Committee'. Her report is roundly positive and a reflection of how environmental education and ecology are visible in every aspect of the school. Ms Wilson stated that she '...sensed a warm, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in school' and commended our outreach activities by saying 'your links with local farms B&Q, Fresh Ayrshire and the Culzean Rangers' Service are wonderful examples of this collaborative approach - well done.' She went on: 'Furthermore, you have been sharing good practice with other South Ayrshire nurseries, as well as fostering outstanding links with partner schools overseas in India and Africa, and making excellent contacts with educational establishments in France, Germany, Bulgaria and Slovenia as part of the ERASMUS programme, thus enhancing your pupils' global perspective. I was also most impressed by how well you had taken pupils' learning out with the campus via your Outdoor Nursery and Forest Schools' activities, as well as your residential outdoor education courses, in Arran, for example.'

'Moving round the campus and speaking with staff and pupils from various stages and departments made it very clear how well you have integrated the Eco-Schools Programme into Wellington's curriculum and calendar. These links were illustrated well via class-based work such as your Water Cycle topic, your water focus for World Poetry Day and your participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the John Muir Award on the theme of 'the river Doon, from source to sea', for example. It was good to see that eco-related activities also featured prominently throughout the year, for instance during your Health & Wellbeing Fayre, your Fairtrade Day and your participation in the 'Wise Up To Your Eco Future now' conference. Additionally, you are to be warmly commended for your beach cleaning activities, for your awareness-raising and promotion of Fairtrade and the Rights of the Child in school, for your generous support of worthwhile charities, such as Water Aid and the local Food Bank, and for your fundraising for an African Primary School as part of Camps International. Your young people are truly responsible, global citizens.'

### Film Club

Last session, senior pupils met to watch and discuss some films which are important to them and which had a significant impact in film making. These included the 'Spanish Prisoner' and 'There will be Blood'. Each discussion was led by a member of the club who explained what to look out for in the film, and what was influential about the production. Philosophy Club

This session, senior pupils met occasionally to discuss important philosophical questions. Topics examined included philosophical discussions on the existence of god; what reality really is; explorations of the nature of knowledge, and our understanding of morals and ethics.

## Outdoor Education

Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions took place this session at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Most notably, S6 pupil, Iona Murdoch, received the coveted Gold DofE Award Brooch. Completing the challenge in December 2015, Iona took the volunteering and skills development components (12-month duration) as well as the physical module (6 month) in her stride, volunteering at the church Sunday school and by taking harp and badminton lessons. At Gold level, there is an additional residential requirement and as first violin and leader of Wellington School Senior Orchestra, Iona attended an orchestra course with the West of Scotland Schools' Symphony Orchestra for a week, which helped improve her skills in playing in a large orchestra and to gain more experience of working in a group.

Iona's success is not only a remarkable personal achievement but it also sets an example for younger pupils at Wellington who should not be discouraged from trying to achieve their own personal best. As a result of completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Iona will be attending a ceremony at St James' Palace in London in the autumn.

The P7 John Muir Award, as many of you are aware, is a precursor to the Duke of Edinburgh Award and equally fulfilling for participants. The aim is to help pupils discover, explore, conserve, and share which they achieve by undertaking many activities such as walking, paddling, camping and conservation work, on their residential expeditions.

## Headmaster's Vote of Thanks

The long catalogue of achievements listed in this report does not happen without an extraordinary amount of hard work. This has been my first year as Headmaster of Wellington School and, at times, I have simply looked on in admiration at the boundless energy of the pupils, at the dedication and commitment of the staff and at the enthusiasm with which members of the whole Wellington community support one another.

I begin by thanking the pupils, who made me feel welcome from the start and whose friendly good humour, creativity and commitment inspire us every day. No matter what school event I attend, I come away uplifted by what I have seen and heard. It is a great privilege to work with young people and every day is a reminder of the optimism and excitement of youth. I would like to give particular thanks to this year's S6. Teachers always remember the first classes they teach and I know that Heads remember the first sixth year group that they work with. The sixth form contribute more to setting the tone of the school than they can imagine and this year's S6 have done an excellent job. They have also worked hard, played hard and shown great kindness in supporting younger pupils. They have excelled academically and they have raised an astonishing sum of money for their chosen charity, SAMH. Thank you to S6, each and every one.

The school would not run without the support and office staff, whose contribution must not be overlooked, and I thank them all for their hard work this year. Particular thanks go to Mr and Mrs Gray and their team in the Dining Hall, who feed us so well at lunchtime and on so many other occasions. The excellence of the food is matched by the warm welcome, the friendly smile and the kindly word that they have for every member of staff or pupil who walks through the door. I would like to pay tribute also to the work of our new Marketing Manager, Miss Roberta Bianchini, who assembled the material for this report and who, in a short time, has made her mark in many areas.

I move on now to thank Wellington's outstanding teachers, who not only deliver inspiring lessons day after day, but who will always go the extra mile to help an individual. It is this partnership that leads to the excellent results that our pupils achieve. The commitment of the teachers, of course, extends far beyond the classroom and none of the activities, the trips, the expeditions or the overseas exchanges would happen without their extraordinary dedication and hard work. Mrs Mary Murray and Mrs Caroline Downie retire at the end of this session and I thank them both for their commitment to the pupils and to the school.

Next, I would like to thank members of the Senior Management Team, who are involved in every aspect of school life. Sometimes they are in the limelight but, more often, they are working tirelessly behind the scenes to plan, to negotiate, to organise and to resolve difficulties. Mrs McMahan and Mrs McLaren both retire at the end of this year and I would like to thank them for their support, for their unstinting dedication and for all that they have done for the school over the years. They will both be sorely missed. We are very fortunate to have the pastoral expertise of Mrs O'Connell and I thank her for her work this year. Mr Cox is thanked for all his work in the Junior School, which provides a first class learning environment for our younger pupils

and which continues to go from strength to strength. I thank also my PA, Mrs Marian Dunlop, who is often the first person visitors meet, and whose calm, reassuring manner immediately puts people at their ease. Mr McColgan is well known to most of you and it is hard to overestimate his contribution to the school. First and foremost a people person, he deals sensitively and unobtrusively with all manner of issues and is always there to lend a helping hand. What can I say about Mr Stovell? Before I started, I asked him to explain his areas of responsibility. He replied 'if it moves, I organise it'. With typical modesty, he failed to point out that he organises everything, whether it moves or not. Mr Stovell devotes himself to this school and I thank him most sincerely for his work.

I would like also to thank the Board of Governors, for their support, their kindness and their loyal commitment to the school. In particular, I thank Mrs Foran, who has given wise council throughout the year and who has chaired the Board with skill and humanity. Finally, I thank parents for welcoming me so warmly and for continuing to put their trust in this school. I wish everybody in the Wellington community a restful, enjoyable and well deserved summer break.

