



Wellington School



Welcome to Wellington School

Welcome to Wellington School. You join us in our 80th year and what a fabulous year of celebration it has been and continues to be. From Christmas Fairs to Fashion Shows and Afternoon Teas to Summer Balls, the Wellington Community has come together to celebrate and raise a huge amount of money for charity (at the time of writing £66,000 and fast-approaching our £80,000 target). A great achievement and a real team effort; I hope you leave today wanting to be part of that team.

I would like to share with you an extract from an email received from a Wellington parent about this time last year, which I think accurately reflects what we are all about.

"Dear Mr Beeley . . . Thank you also for supporting children of all backgrounds and communities, and for actively safeguarding them against being on the giving or the receiving end of any intolerance. Your work at Wellington School is invaluable."

These words echo the view of Ofsted, voiced in their inspection report from March 2017; "the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding. Pupils demonstrate very high standards of respect for others' ideas and views. The school is an inclusive and outward looking community."


Music to my ears and these two observations reflect the importance of education and, more specifically, the admirable work of the teachers and support staff of Wellington School to educate our young people in the broadest sense. What we do does matter and we do make a difference; be assured.

During the academic year 2015-16, we reviewed our values, mission statement and aims. The latter are printed at the back of this booklet and do not require further explanation. I will elaborate at some length on the values in my talk on Open Morning. Suffice to say that I am incredibly satisfied with, indeed, proud of, the outcome of that review. (N.B. you will hear me use the words pride and proud a lot). All of our work is anchored in the values of Honesty, Community, Excellence, Fairness and Endeavour, and they are both a reflection of the School we are but also a vision of what we want to become. It is not by chance that Honesty precedes the others (self-knowledge and being truthful to oneself are essential starting points) and I pledge that we will always be open and honest with you, our parents and students; we see it and say it as it is. I would acknowledge that we are by no means perfect; we are on a journey and there is certainly no sense of 'arrival'. I would concur with all that is contained in last year's inspection report (although we have 'kicked on' again in the intervening period) but for one thing; we are an 'outstanding' school in my view. Granted, my criteria may differ somewhat.

Here we are in the midst of the public examination season and there is no doubt that our Year 11 and Year 13 students will once again achieve the usual levels of excellence in their GCSEs and A Levels this summer; but we are, although it is an inescapable priority, about far more than academic performance. I have had the pleasure and privilege in recent times to head to South Africa on our first ever overseas sports tour for our netball, football and rugby teams, to accompany Year 8 students to London to receive awards for their completion of a programme designed to develop their leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication, to attend a concert at the Royal Albert Hall in recognition of our fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and, most recently, to spend a weekend walking and camping with over 80 fabulous Year 9 students for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh; a mere soupçon of the wealth of opportunities that enhance the lives of our young people. That is a truer reflection of Wellington School than any 'report' produced.

Anyway, I have no doubt you will leave here with a strong sense of the 'Wellington Way', a sense of community and a sense of pride. Don't take my word for it, however, talk to the students - they're amazing!

Enjoy your time with us.


Stuart Beeley
Headteacher

We are delighted the school has done so much to ensure our son has felt welcome, settled and happy to learn. Wellington clearly has an understanding, empathetic, caring and positive management team and this filters down to the pupils.

Parent

Caring



Everyone at Wellington is proud of the positive, caring ethos which underpins the School's high standards and ambitious expectations for our students.

Students at Wellington enjoy the security of a community which is focused on preparing them for the rigours and challenges of their future while allowing them to become happy and confident learners.

We acknowledge that the move from primary to secondary school can be rather unsettling for parents and students alike and as such, do all we can to ease the way. We liaise closely with partner primaries throughout the year and the Year 7 Pastoral Manager who specialises in the transition process will have a detailed knowledge of your child before they arrive.

We offer an Induction Day when Year 6 pupils visit and work in School for a day during the summer term so that they become familiar with the site and staff before they join us, followed by a 'bonding day' early in the autumn term for all Year 7s. Wellington continues to develop curricular links to further facilitate the transition from Key Stage 2 – 3. Indeed, the transition process will be further enhanced this year with the addition of T-Buddies, a bespoke comic book for new starters, and student videos to enable them to make the best and most confident start possible.



Throughout Years 5 and 6 we arrange day visits for partner primaries to enable pupils to sample our fabulous facilities and learn a little about life at Wellington. We also host several sporting and educational competitions for local primary schools and our Student Leaders manage the organisation of these events.

Pastoral care is outstanding at Wellington. Each year group is led by a Director of Year and a non-teaching Pastoral Manager who provide an accessible, direct and clear line of communication between home and School. Both will have a detailed knowledge of each and every individual student. The Director of Year and Pastoral Manager work together to oversee a student's academic and personal development and will closely monitor academic progress, attendance, patterns of behaviour and self-esteem. Form Tutors add another layer of security for students by working closely with each child to provide the encouragement and support needed for each individual to succeed. It is qualities such as these which have led Ofsted to deem the well-being of children at Wellington as 'Outstanding'.



We are given the freedom to do things
- The freedom and the push to do the things that benefit the students

Teacher



The overall feel of the school is one of pride... staff are all keen to ensure that the school has a reputation for excellence.

Investors in People Assessor

Indeed, Wellington School prides itself on having built a network of support which ensures that the needs of each individual are identified and catered for. A dedicated school nurse, a committed and talented team of Teaching Assistants, professional counsellors and a network of outside agencies are on hand to lend help and advice to both students and parents whenever necessary.

We care for our students but of course we also expect our students to care for others and to be aware of their responsibilities to society. A culture of help and respect is typified by, amongst other things, our anti-bullying ambassadors and our 80th anniversary appeal. This commitment to the local community will not only raise £80,000 for charity, but also exemplifies the qualities of teamwork and mutual trust demonstrated at Wellington on a daily basis.

Our determination to develop the most positive of School cultures and, more importantly, the type of young person we want to send out into the world after 5 or 7 years at Wellington, has been enhanced by the 'Them and Us' programme now delivered across Key Stage 3. 'Kindness', 'Respect' and 'Living Without Harm' are, we feel, key ingredients in any School's diet.

Our responsibility to keep parents informed about the progress of their child is one we take very seriously. There is an expectation on staff to contact parents immediately and in person should the need arise. Parents regularly receive 'commitment to learning' grades and assessment scores, while Information Evenings and Parents' Evenings provide opportunities to meet staff to discuss their child's achievements. Detailed information about the School's work and activities appear daily on our website and we ask that parents subscribe to the Headteacher's blog which can be sent direct to your inbox or accessed via the School App.

We are a listening school, we are an approachable school and we are a friendly school. We do not get everything right every time and we want parents to let us know whenever they feel we have fallen short. The channels of communication between home and School are clear and open and in order for the Wellington community to maintain its exceptional standards, we believe it to be essential that students, staff and parents work closely together.



Learning



Our genuinely broad and balanced curriculum is befitting of our context, our catchment and our students. It provides all children with a wide range of subject choices but we ensure that, on entry, we focus on mastering the key literacy and numeracy skills required to succeed in public examinations and to thrive in later life.

Key Stage 3

In Years 7 and 8 students will be taught in classes of mixed prior attainment, while in Year 9 preparations for GCSE examinations begin with students being set according to their attainment at the end of Year 8. A wide range of strategies are employed to ensure that students are actively engaged in the learning process, and progress is carefully monitored through regular assessment.

In addition to the traditional 'core' (Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, PE, REP), all students study a range of subjects including Computer Science, Design and Technology and at least one Modern Foreign Language. We constantly evaluate both the appropriateness of our curriculum and the needs of our students, for example, the recent addition of Drama to the core curriculum at Key Stage 3 has proven to be a resounding success.



Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 students work towards formal accreditation at GCSE in a variety of subjects. A guided choice programme with a range of options is provided so that students make sensible, informed decisions. At Wellington we have a framework within which there is a strong focus on EBacc subjects whilst also allowing students to develop their own particular strengths. This allows for excellent standing under the government's new accountability measures requiring 8 good GCSEs. Again, the Key Stage 4 curriculum is constantly under review to best cater for all our learners and, consequently, we added four new Level 2 qualifications to our offer for 2018 with a view to meeting the needs of all our students even more effectively.

Key Stage 5

Wellington School boasts a well-established, thriving and successful Sixth Form of around 200 students. A significant number of our students stay with us from Year 7 to Year 13 in order to sit A Levels in a host of subjects. The Sixth Form not only provides a vibrant community in itself, but also adds huge value to the whole school in terms of the way in which younger students are provided with aspirational role models. In recent years, all students who have applied to University from Wellington have been awarded a place, with the vast majority securing their first choice course and destination. (Note: there is a dedicated Sixth Form prospectus and course guide available)



The level of pastoral care at Wellington is second to none. The support given to our son has been outstanding and enabled the transition from primary school to be a very smooth one.

Parent



We are delighted with Wellington. Staff are caring and approachable and any concerns are attended to. A safe environment is created where social responsibility is a focus. I would not have chosen another local school for our three young adults.

Parent

Across all Key Stages, Wellington boasts a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education which helps students to make sense of their place in the world. We also provide an unrivalled programme of Careers Guidance which begins in Year 7. Indeed, our commitment to the long term future of our students has seen Wellington achieve the prestigious Inspiring IAG Gold Award (twice!)

Teachers work hard to ensure that lessons are engaging, relevant and allow students to make rapid progress. All staff consider themselves to be life-long learners and seek to innovate and develop their practice. However, it is not simply excellent teaching and learning that enables Wellington to get the best out of its students, but an ethos of intervention and enrichment which serves to underpin the outstanding curriculum (and co-curriculum) and truly cater for the uniqueness of each individual.

Our curriculum is supported by well-equipped classrooms and outstanding facilities in Sport, ICT, Technology, Science, Music and Art. Each member of staff has their own teaching room and we have a well-stocked and used Learning Resource Centre staffed by a full-time librarian. The School has ten Science Laboratories and a fleet of five mini-buses which provide student transport for many activities. Our Sports Hall, all-weather pitch, Gymnasium, playing fields and Fitness Suite are used extensively both during and after the school day.

There are nine networked computer suites which provide a focal point for learning and independent study both during and after school and our fabulous Sixth Form facilities have recently been extended and renovated. Indeed, the commitment of governors to ensure a first class learning environment has provided us with amenities which rival any in the North West.

Creating independent learners is paramount at Wellington. Students are able to manage their own learning through the use of their own student planner and we regard homework as being vital in the development of independent learning skills. To this end, our Learning Resource Centre is staffed by teachers and Sixth Form Students each evening to facilitate the development of our students from individuals who merely attend school, to independent thinkers who are capable of driving their own improvement.

Furthermore, preparation of young people for life is surely the ultimate aim of any secondary school, and the introduction of the 'Edge' scheme in 2017, whereby students gain accreditation for activities completed under the headings of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication, have been a resounding success in developing 'character'.



Succeeding

The consistent and relentless pursuit of excellence by both teachers and students, ably supported by parents, means that academic achievement is a given at Wellington School.

GCSE and A Level results, details of which are available on our website, have topped Trafford's non-selective schools in published league tables for many years. However, what sets the School apart is the way in which it ensures that achievement is not measured through academic results alone, but through all manner of students' accomplishments both in school and beyond the gates.

The key to the success of Wellington School is our insistence on the highest standards in everything we do. Perhaps the most visible illustration of this is the high standards of appearance we expect from our staff and students. We have great pride in the way our environment and students are presented and this goes a long way in promoting discipline and the reputation of the School.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the myriad lunchtime and after-school activities on offer where all talents, tastes and abilities are catered for. Our co-curricular programme helps to improve motivation, confidence and self-esteem and ultimately enables students to become more effective learners. Indeed, high levels of extra-curricular participation at Wellington have seen us recognised nationally via the Sainsbury's School Games gold award.

Opportunities abound to unearth, harness and develop talents in Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Modern Languages, Science and Technology. Increasing the cultural capital of students is part of the 'Wellington Way' and the offerings available enable individuals to thrive, develop confidence, improve social skills and drive personal aspirations.



We are impressed with the home-school communication from staff at the school and enjoy the Headteacher's bulletin which keeps us up to date. The staff really care about the school and its pupils.

Parent

The philosophy at Wellington is that learning is not restricted to the classroom. We insist that all students participate in, and contribute to, as many aspects of School life as possible in order to broaden their horizons and experience the benefits of being part of a thriving community. Indeed, visits and excursions enrich the learning experience of all students at Wellington and serve to support and enhance the academic curriculum: recent visits to New York and India and an annual skiing trip which is open to all students provide life-long memories. We also boast a thriving exchange programme with schools in Germany and language trips to France and Spain are also organised; the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is incredibly strong at Wellington with bronze offered to Year 9 students who can potentially move on to silver and gold in Years 10 and 11; The Geography department has recently run residential trips to the Lake District, Paris and Iceland; The Music and Art departments organise theatre and gallery visits to London and Amsterdam, and every subject department in the school provides further opportunities for visits or invites visiting speakers to offer activities based in school.

It is widely acknowledged that a thriving culture of sport can have a huge impact on the success of a school. At Wellington, students take part in competitive fixtures in football, swimming, rugby, netball, rounders, cricket, basketball, cross-country and athletics as well as having the chance to sample many other sports.

The supportive, competitive, team ethos and sense of camaraderie is of benefit to all students and helps to mould our community. Indeed, this is demonstrated annually as the sporting year draws to a close; our celebration of sport in the form of Sports Day at Longford Park and our Sports Awards Dinner at Bowdon Rugby Club bring students, staff, parents and governors together in order to recognise the effort and achievement of our students as well as cement the relationships which have been built along the way. Indeed, as an indication of the burgeoning and thriving sports scene at Wellington School, Easter 2017 saw the first of our biannual overseas sports tour to South Africa.

At Wellington School, our Behaviour for Learning policy recognises the commitment to learning of our students. It is our belief that every student has the right to learn in a safe and welcoming environment which stimulates learning and drives personal aspirations. A culture of celebration and reward is central to this and Wellington students can expect to be recognised in a host of ways. Merits, certificates, reward trips, letters and postcards home, as well as participation at our Annual Awards Evening at the Bridgewater Hall, are just some of the ways a Wellington student is viewed as a unique individual and not simply a face in a crowd.



The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.

Ofsted

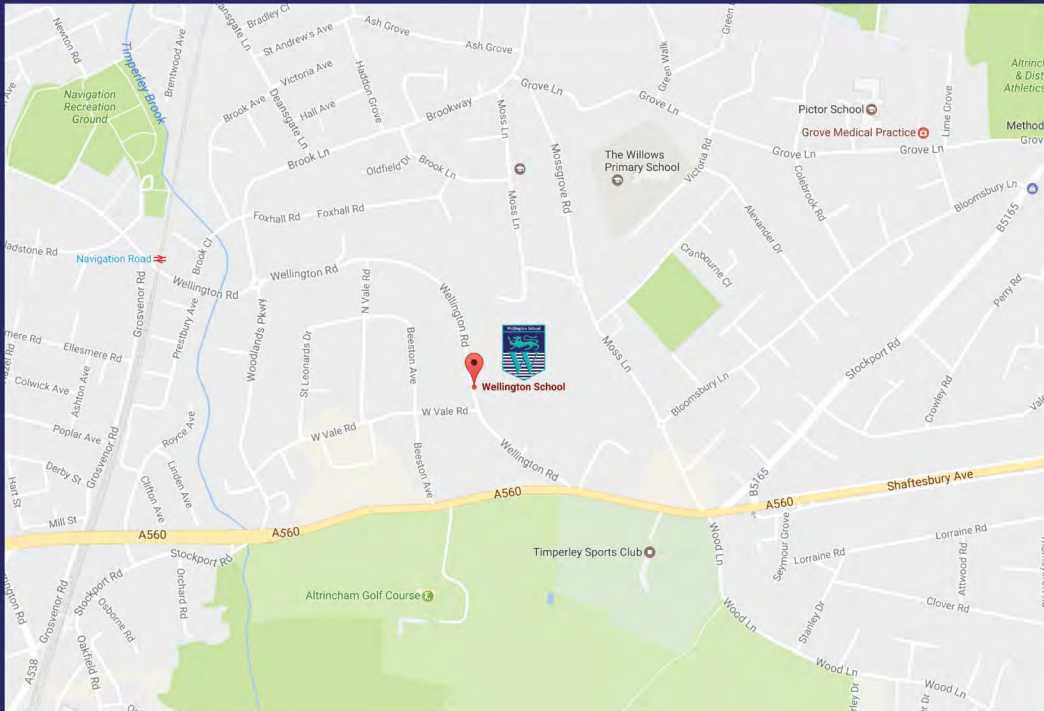
Mission Statement

Enabling every member of our community to flourish in an environment where high aspiration is expected and 'character' is acknowledged as the foundation of success.

Our Aims To...

- Create happy and successful young people
- Enable our students to be the best they can be
- fulfil the academic potential for ALL our students
- develop the skills and attributes in our students to live and work in tomorrow's global society
- instil the values and morals to be able to contribute to our community and beyond





Wellington School

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**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

