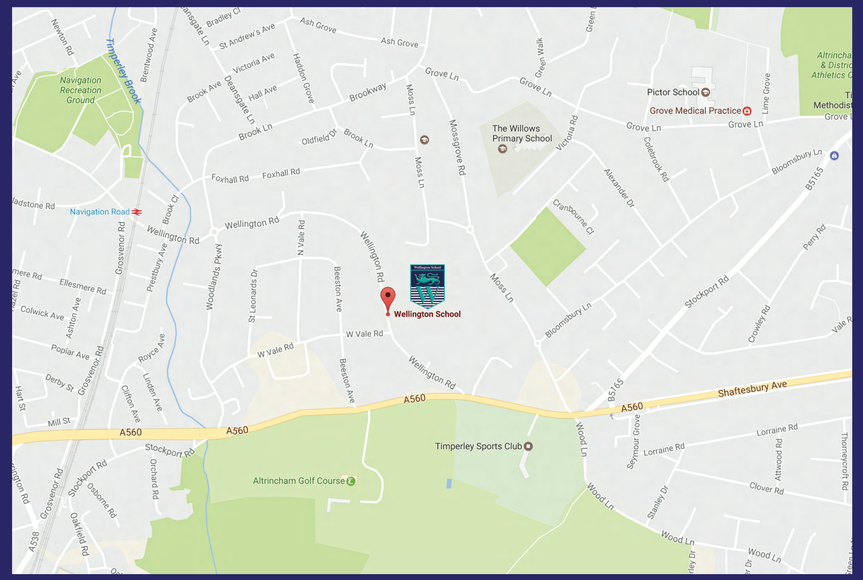

Wellington School

11-18 Academy | Headteacher: Mr S P Beeley

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Wellington School

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.

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Welcome to

Wellington School

I doubtless say this every year but once again, in my humble opinion, the Wellington community has surpassed all expectations over the past 12 months. Schools are perpetually on a 'journey', never quite reaching that final destination, but I believe with the gains we have made of late, we are closer than ever to the vision of what we want to be.

I do hope this prospectus, the website, our annual Newsletter, my blog/vlog, the School's reputation and indeed, the time you spend with us on Open Morning, reflects this and will suffice to reassure you that Wellington is indeed the right environment for your child regardless of their background, needs, interests or talents.

Instrumental to our ongoing success and popularity have been our School values and I will talk about these in greater depth and with great passion at Open Morning. After all, they lie at the heart of all our achievements and developments in recent years and are woven into the very fabric of school life.

Our values of Honesty, Community, Excellence, Fairness and Endeavour have been very much in evidence as always this year and I could cite countless examples of each. The Wellington ethos has continued to endure and pervade all we do during what has been a challenging few years: the constant, honest and open dialogue with young people and their families has been more important than ever; colleagues have shown repeatedly how deeply they care, often going 'above and beyond' to meet the needs of students, their families and the wider community; our mantra of individually and collectively endeavouring to be the very best version of ourselves has been demonstrated in myriad ways by our students (of course, our A Level and GCSE results continue to be as excellent as ever despite the trials and tribulations those cohorts had endured).

Our value of Fairness recognises that society and education more specifically are not level playing fields and that requires us to act more decisively now than ever; finally, if we are indeed going to prove successful in the current climate we will all need to demonstrate the capacity to work hard but also to take appropriate risks, as encapsulated by our value of Endeavour.

I also look forward to sharing with prospective students and parents our new vision statement; "Empowering our community to make a difference". Language is so important and plays an essential role in the creation of 'culture' and this statement will be our 'North Star' in the years ahead.

Our position as a lead school in both the 'Autism in Schools' and 'Attachment and Trauma Informed Practice' projects across Trafford is testament to our inclusivity and relentless pursuit to meet the needs of all our young people. Of course, it is important to add that this understanding and acceptance of the diversity of our student body is NEVER an excuse for lowering standards and expectations. We insist that students are, 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'.

So, I will be delighted once again to meet visitors in person at Open Morning and equally delighted that our brilliant young people will have the chance to 'show off' (with the greatest of humility of course) and to articulate their absolute pride in their School.

Ultimately, I look forward to working with you and your child to create something special; I am optimistic for the future here at Wellington and our capacity to genuinely make a difference.

I hope you are able to join us on the exciting journey that lies ahead.

My very best wishes

Stuart Beeley
Headteacher

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 joining us. Wellington continues to develop curricular links to further facilitate the transition from Key Stage 2 – 3. Indeed, this process is enhanced by the provision of T-Buddies; existing Wellington students who are there to enable Year 7s to make the best and most confident start possible.

Throughout Years 5 and 6, we arrange visits for partner primaries to enable pupils to sample our fabulous facilities and learn a little about life at Wellington.

Events such as Primary Day of Languages sees our own students teaching our young visitors about their language and culture, while our Primary Maths Challenge introduces an element of competition!

Our annual three-day residential to Anglesey in the spring term is open to all Year 7 students and serves to cement relationships and underline our students' place as a part of the Wellington community.

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

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 a relational approach and support needed for each individual to succeed. It is qualities such as these which have lead Ofsted to deem the well-being of children at Wellington as 'Outstanding'.

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, our well-being programme, and our annual charity drives and sponsored walk which have become a part of the Timperley landscape! This commitment to the local community has not only raised over £800,000 in recent years, but also exemplifies the qualities of teamwork and respect 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 ideally 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 'Causing others no 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 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 and download our ClassCharts app. This enables parents to follow 'real-time' updates on their child's progress and homework schedule as well as contact all staff directly.

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, numeracy and oracy 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 and other examinations begin with students being set according to attainment in some subjects. 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 addition of Drama to the core curriculum at Key Stage 3 has proven to be such a resounding success, we have extended this provision to Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

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 accountability measures which require 8 good GCSEs.
Again, the Key Stage 4 curriculum is constantly under review to best cater for all our learners and, consequently, we have recently added five new Level 2 qualifications to our offer 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 range 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 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

wellington-school.co.uk

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 invest in the Unifrog Careers platform which provides a record of experience throughout the Wellington journey.

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 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. 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 provide our students with the environment they deserve. 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 diary and ClassCharts app. 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.

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 out in the wider community.

The key to the success of Wellington School is our insistence on the highest standards in everything we do. 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 are exemplified by the 145 Year 9 students who this year completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze 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 widen 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. Numerous annual trips at home and abroad including our ski trip which is open to all students help to 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 all Year 9 students who can then move on to Silver and Gold in Years 10 and 11; The Geography department has recently run residential trips to the Lake District, Shropshire, 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 school-based activities.

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. Sporting strength at Wellington is underlined by our bi-annual sports tour to South Africa which is scheduled for next Easter.

At Wellington School, our relational behaviour 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. Reward points, Team KS3 badges, certificates, reward trips, letters and postcards home, as well as participation at our Annual Awards Evening at the Bridgewater Hall and participation in our annual WellyFest extravaganza, 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