WELLINGTON
COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS





The College

Wellington College is one of the UK's — and indeed the world's — great coeducational boarding and day schools. Set within 400 acres of stunning parkland in leafy Berkshire and less than an hour's drive from London and Heathrow, the school was founded in 1853 as the living memorial to the Duke of Wellington, described by Queen Victoria as "the greatest man this country has ever produced".

A wonderful fusion of heritage and modernity characterises our educational philosophy. Our curriculum, facilities, and teaching methods are constantly adapting to the challenges of preparing young people for the ever-changing world of the 21st century. Wellington College is a school which is dynamic in every sense of the word, and yet all that we do is rooted firmly in our five College values — Kindness, Respect, Courage, Integrity and Responsibility — values which underpin every aspect of life here at Wellington.

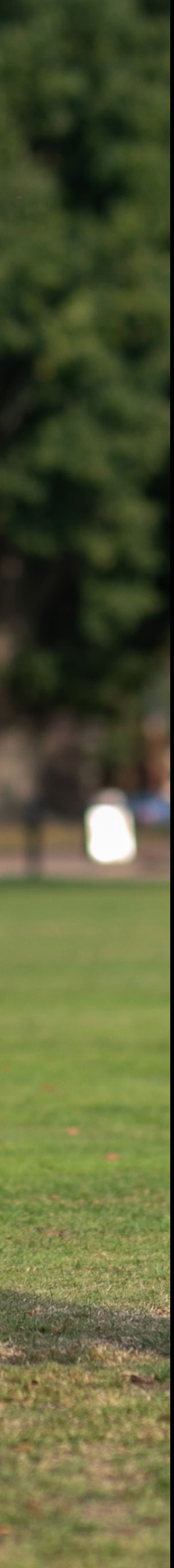
The achievements of our pupils and staff, both inside and outside of the classroom, are remarkable: consistently stellar examination results at GCSE, A Level and the IB Diploma; an Arts programme, the breadth and quality of which would rival the West End or Broadway; an enviable reputation as one of the strongest schools for sport in the UK; and groundbreaking and sector-leading pastoral care, wellbeing and mental health provision. These are just some of the things that make a Wellington education not only outstanding, but also a way of life.


HEROVM FILII


“Outward-facing and modern.
A leader in the world of education.”
- TATLER SCHOOLS GUIDE







The Master's Voice

If I had to put my finger on the one aspect of Wellington College that excites me most, it is the all-pervading culture of ambition and aspiration, an atmosphere which encourages every pupil, teacher and parent to believe that anything is possible.

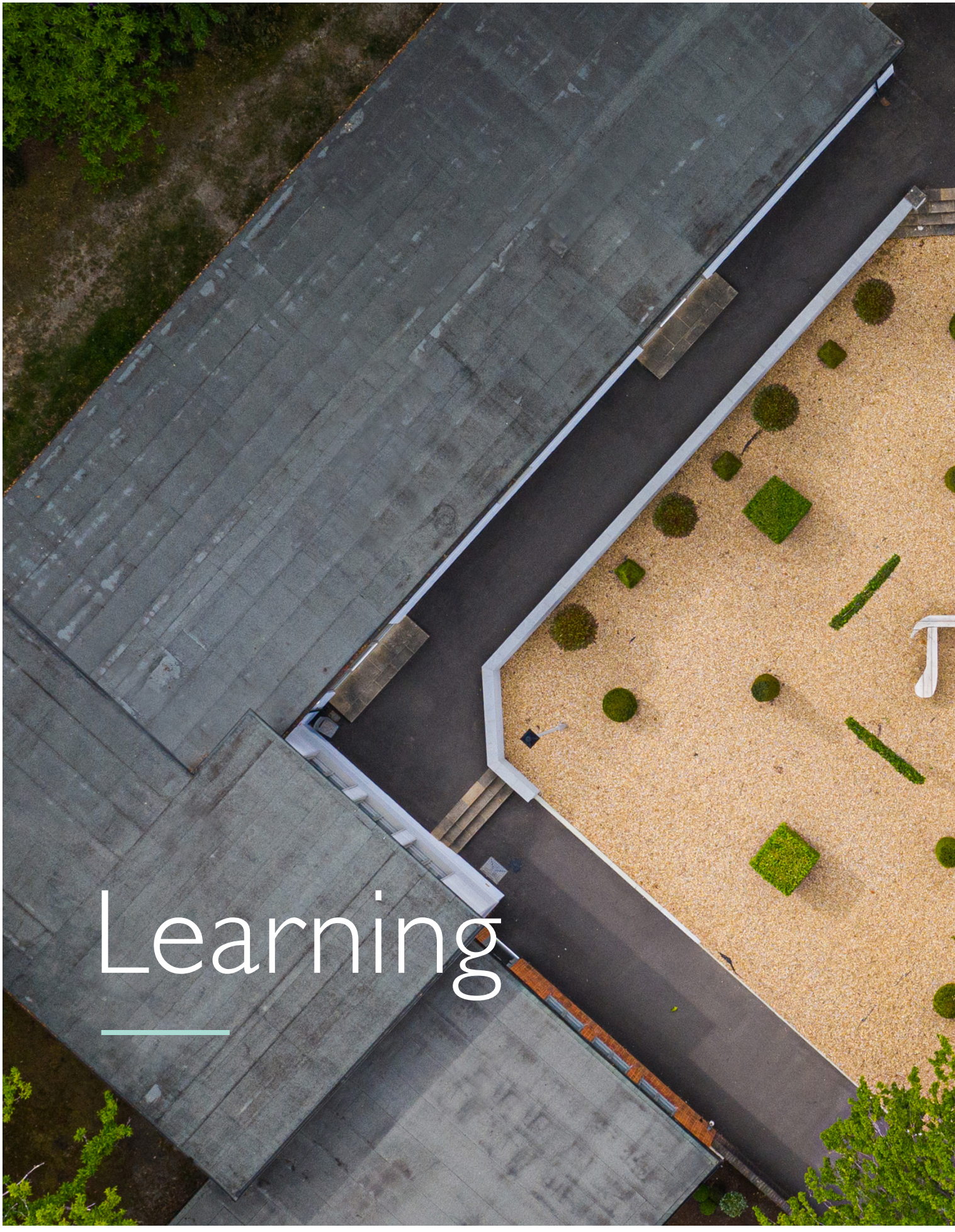
If education is about providing every child with a framework within which they can develop themselves fully as a unique individual — and I truly believe that it is — then at Wellington we not only provide our pupils with every opportunity to do so, but our whole school culture also encourages them to believe that they can achieve anything in life.

It is their journey to self.

Every Wellingtonian starts this journey with a blank canvas in front of them. We will support, nurture and guide them as they make those initial brush strokes and their unique, individual picture starts to emerge. We want every pupil to stand back after two, four or five years at the College with a most magnificent, colourful and detailed painting in front of them — and to know that they have become the very best that they can be.

I hope that this prospectus will show some of the ways that Wellington College will help your child flourish, thrive and grow.

James Dahl
15th Master of Wellington



Learning











"Exam results are stellar, but more important is the emphasis placed on the life of the mind."

Wellington is a highly academic school that prides itself on the breadth and depth of its curriculum, the excellence of its teaching staff and its clear focus on equipping pupils with the skills — and the desire — to become life-long independent learners.

Academic life is at the forefront and centre of every Wellingtonian's experience of their time at College: it is the foundation on which all else is built. As you would expect, exam results are stellar: our IB students have averaged over 40 points for several years now, making us one of the highest achieving schools, not just in the UK but across the world, while our A Level statistics are similarly impressive. Around 25 students each year go on to Oxford, Cambridge, or Ivy League universities, while entry to Russell Group universities is almost a given.

More important is the emphasis placed on the life of the mind. A wide variety of academic societies, our Harkness philosophy, a constant flow of visiting speakers and outstanding lessons delivered on a daily basis allow our pupils to thrive. The Mallinson Library is the intellectual beating heart of the College: positioned in the very centre of the school it stands as a symbol of Wellington itself: from the outside it looks thoroughly traditional, inside it is innovative and ground-breaking. Just the place in fact to allow our pupils to develop their own deep joy of independent reading, debating and learning.

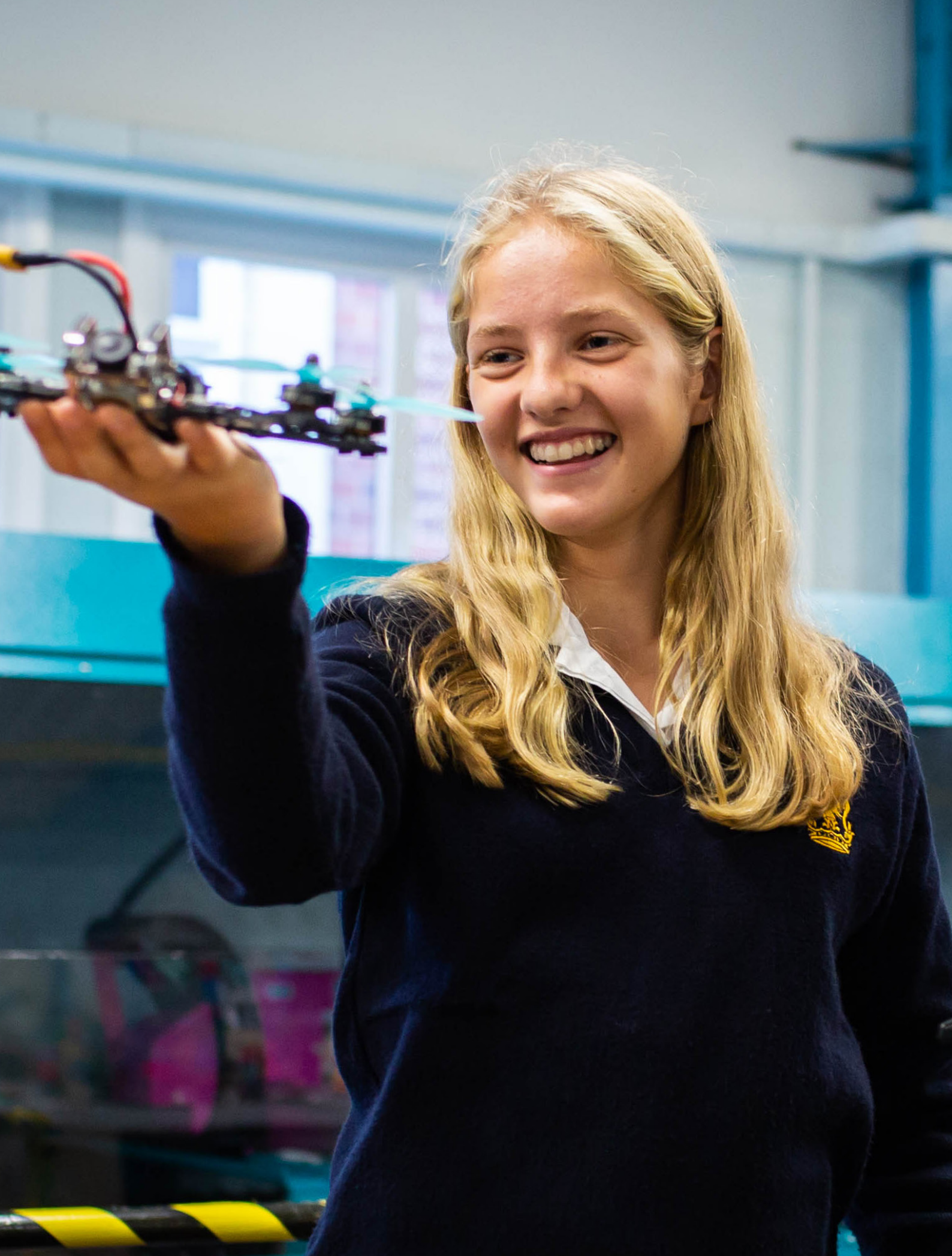
Elodie

"My ambition is to become an astronaut, so I've found the lectures we've had on Astro Physics brilliant."

"The best thing about Wellington is being alongside like-minded, ambitious people and the way we are always encouraged to live up to our full potential. The support I get from all my teachers gives me the confidence to try new things. In a funny sort of way it is like practising to be an adult, but in a safe environment. I've been taught that it doesn't matter if I fail as long as I learn from the experience.

When I was in the Third Form I was part of the team that swam the English Channel and partly because of that I was encouraged to take up triathlon. I'm now very close to GB qualification. The academics are very strong here and I like the amount of extension activities there are: lectures, discussion groups, competitions and awards that force us to go far beyond the syllabus. My ambition is to become an astronaut, so I've found the lectures we've had on Astro Physics brilliant, even if they have been very hard!"







Pastoral







"The positive coping strategies that our pupils learn prepare them for healthy, happy and successful lives after school."

Wellington prides itself on the outstanding levels of pastoral support we offer our pupils. By providing an environment where each pupil is able to flourish and thrive in every aspect of their school life, we allow them the freedom to become their very best selves.

Over the last few years, we have regularly won National and Gold awards from bodies such as the Boarding School Association and the Carnegie Centre for the excellence of our pastoral care and the commitment we have towards promoting mental health. In 2020 Wellington ran its first Community Mental Health Day and the school is nationally regarded as being a leader in this sphere.

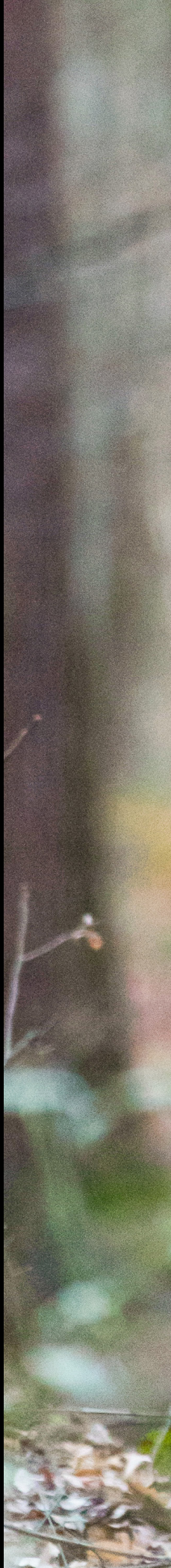
House life lies at the heart of each pupil's experience, and it comes as no surprise that every Wellingtonian is convinced that their house is the best! Housemasters and Housemistresses, dedicated Tutors, Matrons and Housekeepers all ensure that the House truly is a home away from home. Our nationally recognised Wellbeing curriculum focusses on embedding growth mindsets and building grit and resilience: the positive coping strategies that our pupils learn not only allow them to make the most of all the opportunities available to them at Wellington, but also prepare them for healthy, happy and successful lives after school.

David

"At Wellington you can be whoever you want to be."

"I first read about Wellington when I was 8 and knew it was the school I wanted to go to. When I came to look around, the school was totally open to my needs. I have cerebral palsy and live my life in a wheelchair, but they have always tried to find a solution for me, even to the most seemingly inaccessible areas of the campus.

Being here has definitely taught me to work hard. I'm fully involved in everything, even sport. I've acted as bagman, rugby coach and cricket scorer. The highlight for me was definitely when we won the National Under 15 tournament at Twickenham. At Wellington you can be whoever you want to be. This last year I started up the CP Trust charity to give another child like me the same operation as I had. To raise funds, I set myself the challenge of completing, on foot, the school's cross-country course and the whole school got behind my effort. It's been an amazing time."







Coeducation




UAG

"By drawing on each other's strengths unhelpful stereotypes are challenged, and opportunities created."

Founded in 1853 as a boys' boarding school, Wellington began the journey towards coeducation in 1975 when girls were admitted to the Sixth Form. In 2006 the school became fully coeducational: a new girls' house was built, while several boys' houses were converted. The last phase of the transformation is now underway and by 2025 Wellington will have equal numbers of boys and girls.

Wellington prepares young adults to take their place in the world, and it is quite clearly a coeducational world that they will be entering. The lessons that the boys and girls learn about working alongside each other at school are really important, because they learn to respect and embrace the different qualities that men and women can often bring to the table. Perhaps even more importantly they can see that these qualities do not always need to be mutually exclusive, do not always need to be divided into male and female.

By drawing on each other's strengths unhelpful stereotypes are challenged, and opportunities created. At Wellington some of our best dancers are boys, some of our leading officers in the CCF are girls. Girls' sport is taken as seriously as boys' sport, while the Arts programme is enthusiastically embraced by all. Boys and girls mix freely in lessons, in the cocurricular programme and, of course, socialise during meal and leisure times, while the single sex nature of our boarding houses means there are also times when boys can be boys together and girls can be girls.







Matilda

"I'd been at a single-sex London day school: coming to Wellington has given me so much more than I could have imagined."

"I'd been at a single-sex London day school: coming to Wellington has given me so much more than I could have imagined. There is a lot more space and a lot more choice. In fact there is so much variety beyond the academic side of life that, at times, you have to make choices about what you want to do, which can be frustrating, but I guess you can't do everything!

I like the way there is plenty of support here, but also how we are encouraged to become independent. You can literally take a day at Wellington and shape it however you want. I've done a lot of dance and music and have been in several shows. I also manage to go to a lot of the academic extension lectures and societies. My favourite is Set Zero Maths, which goes way beyond the syllabus into some quite quirky areas. I'm a day girl here, but there is so much to do that most weeks there are at least two days when I don't leave school until 9pm!"

Cocurricular
















Canon




W.C.P.C.I.

"In all about 150 cocurricular activities are available, and 70 clubs and societies provide unique opportunities."

The overarching attitude at Wellington among both staff and pupils is 'why not', 'can do' and it's definitely a school where it's cool to be keen, packed as it is with over a thousand pupils all wanting to make the most of every day. While lessons, art, music, dance, drama, sport and service provide the basic daily framework, they only tell half the story of what Wellington life is really like.

We pride ourselves on our cocurricular programme, so one of the most exciting events in our calendar is the College Carnival, where pupils get to see the variety of clubs, societies and activities on offer — and are encouraged to sign up to them!

In all about 150 cocurricular activities are available, and 70 clubs and societies provide unique opportunities, from WTV (Wellington's own television company) to the pupil-run radio station, DukeBox, which broadcasts 24/7, reaching listeners in 41 countries across the globe. It is hard to imagine a more diverse or exciting cocurricular programme and it is this as much as anything that leads to each pupil creating their own unique experience of the school.

In order to help each pupil navigate their way not only through their individual academic programmes, but also the astonishing range of cocurricular opportunities available every day at the College, the pupil-run Computer Science Society developed MyWelly, (an app run by pupils, for pupils). This one-stop platform gives all Wellingtonians (and staff!) easy access to the dizzying range of activities on offer every week at the College and ensures that life at Wellington is lived to its absolute fullest.





Ned

"You have to throw yourself into everything, because here, you can do anything."

"At Wellington there is a great sense of community and pride. Being at school is like being at home, such is the sense of family in my boarding house, in the whole school and in the dance community. I love being so fully immersed in everything, but I also like that I can go home on Saturdays after lessons and sports. You have to throw yourself into everything, because here, you can do anything.

The work at Wellington never feels like a chore because everyone is wanting to do well. We all help each other. My friends are so close and supportive, and the teachers are always approachable and give up their time so willingly. They are selfless."



Sport








GA
mitre


23

"We seek to inspire both the elite and the beginner and want all pupils to enjoy their sport."

It's all very well having great facilities, but you need to have a philosophy that allows all pupils to thrive.

Wellington is blessed with amazing facilities: within our 400-acre campus we have two floodlit AstroTurf pitches, a modern, well-equipped sports hall and an even newer indoor netball, tennis and cricket centre. Add in 16 rugby and football pitches, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 22 hard tennis courts, 9 cricket pitches, 2 lacrosse pitches and 10 netball courts and you begin to see the extent of our sporting provision. On top of that we have a gym, a dance studio, basketball and volleyball courts, a recently refurbished rackets court, and a brand-new real tennis court. There is plenty of provision for squash and badminton, and a challenging climbing wall, all contributing to the variety of activities possible here. A nationally acclaimed nine-hole golf course perhaps lays claim to being the jewel in Wellington's sporting crown.

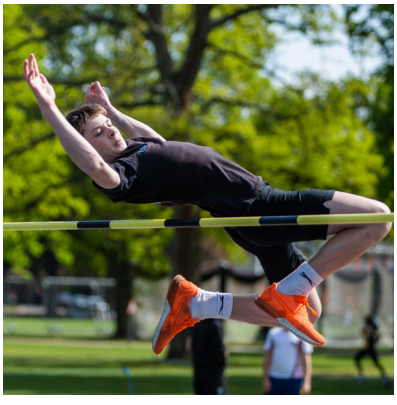
At Wellington sport is emphatically for all. We seek to inspire both the elite and the beginner and want all pupils to enjoy their sport, to seek excellence in their field and to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Our talented and dedicated coaching staff strive to create the best possible environment for pupils to learn, with a judicious mixture of challenge, open communication and expertise.














1100




1376
648



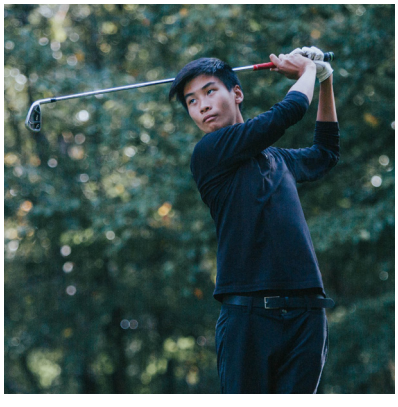




















Darcy

"Wellington has given me so much. It taught me that it's okay to dream."

"Wellington has given me so much. It taught me that it's okay to dream, and that dreams can come true. My dream is to represent GB at the Olympics. Wellington has helped me, not just with coaching, but with the extra support when I've had to miss school for international commitments. I've been representing England U21s and training with the GB Elite Development programme, so being able to catch up with online lessons through OneNote has been really useful.

The staff here always seem to go the extra mile for us; we are definitely treated as individuals in our own right, and how we do seems really important to them. I don't think I'd have thought about studying in the United States — I'm going to Duke next year — had it not been for the careers and university advice we were given in the Sixth Form. That's the thing about Wellington, we're always told to look beyond ourselves."

The Arts





"No Wellingtonian should leave the school with their song unsung, their canvas unpainted."

With its 900-seat G.W. Annenberg Performing Arts Centre, its six other performance spaces, its music department, its dance studio and the uniquely designed art studio, it was no wonder that the National Arts Council awarded Wellington the prestigious Artsmark Gold standard. The facilities are breathtaking and allow for all Wellingtonians to explore their creative sides.

Wellington's ongoing and inclusive Arts programme ensures that every Wellingtonian, from the very start of their school career, is involved in our imaginative and dynamic Arts programme. We seek to inspire their creative imagination and to make the very most of their artistic talent and potential.

Across drama, dance, music, creative writing and art & design we offer pupils the opportunity to pursue their passions through an eclectic programme of annual events with opportunities to perform and showcase their learning and talent. Whether they are budding actors, singer-songwriters, designers, journalists, film-makers, musicians, authors, poets, singers or dancers, each and every Wellingtonian is encouraged to engage with their creative selves so they can discover the beauty and joy to be found in the Arts.

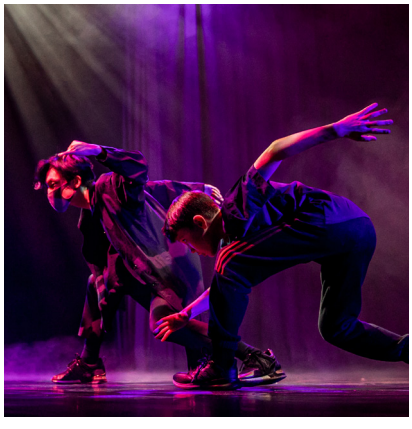
No Wellingtonian should leave the school with their song unsung, their canvas unpainted.














Freddie

"The atmosphere and ethos inspire you to push beyond your comfort zone."

"Wellington is like a buffet — you can help yourself to so many different things and throw yourself into everything. It doesn't matter how good or bad you are, Wellington will help you develop. The atmosphere and ethos inspire you to push beyond your comfort zone. There are no barriers. Sporty boys can do art and *vice versa*. I've done a lot of music and drama, but I've also played a lot of sport.

I came from an international school in Brussels and found Wellington very similar, not just because of the diversity but also the teaching style, with discussion-based independent learning so widespread. I couldn't imagine going to a single sex school. I love the range of opinions and how both boys and girls benefit from mixed discussions and all the different attitudes to work. I love the broad spectrum of life here. I was a full boarder in my first year and loved the chilled Sundays and especially the College family brunch."

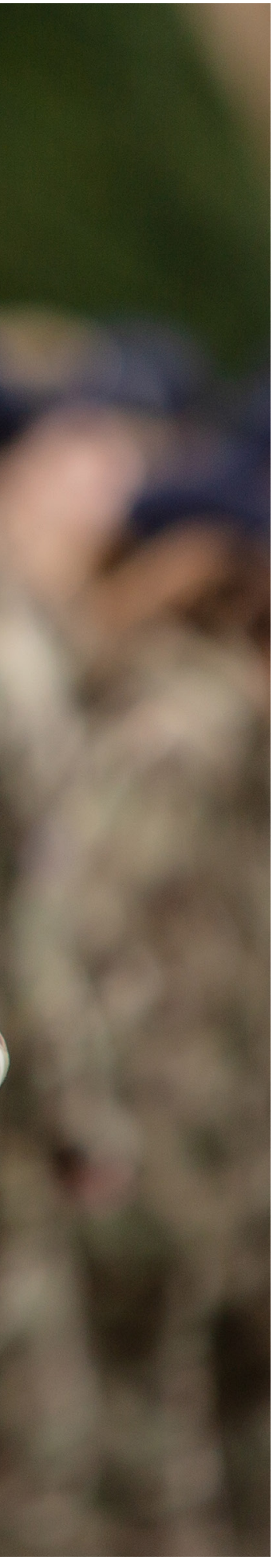






Global Citizenship





"The Global Citizenship programme sees a whole host of activities which help pupils understand their role in the world."

'The path of duty was the way to glory' wrote Tennyson in his ode to the Duke of Wellington, and a commitment to service remains the foundation on which a Wellington education is built.

From their first week at the school pupils are engaged in service activities, and our Wednesday afternoon Global Citizenship programme sees a whole host of activities which help pupils understand their role in the world, serve others and begin to lead positive change locally, nationally and internationally.

Leadership is a key aspect of everything that Wellingtonians do — on the sports field, in CCF, academically, serving in the community, cocurricular activities and in the Arts. All pupils receive leadership training throughout their time at the school and many go on to take part in the exciting Global Social Leaders initiative. As well as our flourishing Combined Cadet Force, we also run a hugely popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and offer a variety of adventurous and life-changing trips and expeditions every year. Each house has an adopted charity which gives all our pupils the opportunity to make a significant difference to the lives of others. Wellingtonians quickly learn that they must be the change they want to see in the world.

Georgie

"Wellington's emphasis on values has taught me so much: how important it is to be resilient, kind and to give back."

"Wellington has taught me how to work hard and to take pride in doing things properly. But somehow, there has always seemed time to have a lot of fun as well. I'd played cricket for my county so in my first summer term at Wellington I ended up playing for one of the boys' teams. I'm a fast bowler and loved surprising boys from other schools! I wasn't an academic scholar but always had a passion for science and from an early age wanted to become a doctor. I took Chemistry, Biology and Maths for my A Levels. The classes were about 50/50 boys and girls and the amount of extra help the teachers gave outside lessons was incredible.

As well as sport and academics I've enjoyed the chances Wellington has given me to help others. For my Global Citizenship activity I got involved with a local centre that looked after mentally disadvantaged adults and I was honoured to be made Head of House and a College Prefect. Wellington's emphasis on values has taught me so much: how to make the most of myself by working hard and how important it is to be resilient, kind and to give back. I know I'll need to draw on those lessons when I'm a doctor."



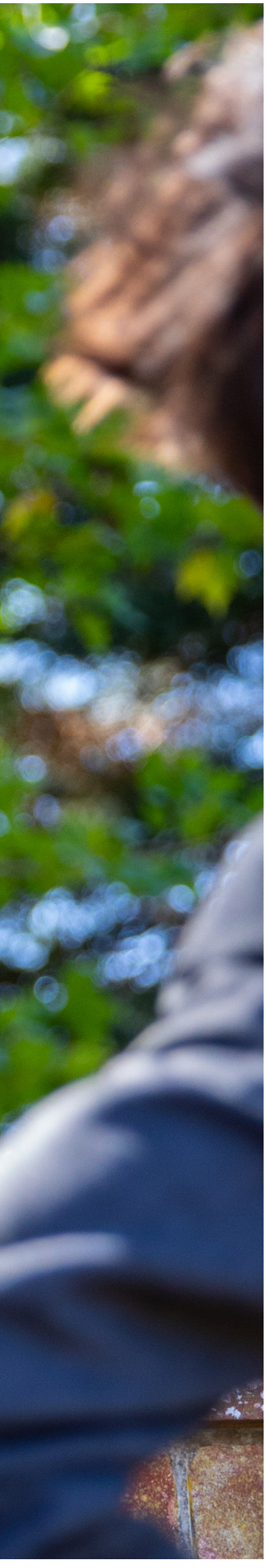

HIS ROOM
BEEN KNOWN
ROM THE
LY DAYS OF
COLLEGE AS
AT SCHOOL

Admissions









"We consider the character, interests, talents and personality of every individual child who applies."

Although Wellington College is an academic school, we believe passionately in an all-round holistic education. Selection for entry is not solely based on academic criteria as we also consider the character, interests, talents and personality of every individual who applies. We try as hard as we can to find out whether Wellington is a good fit for your child, and whether they have the drive and determination to become the very best version of themselves.

That is why our selection process for 13+ entry is in two stages: children sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test in either Year 6 or 7 and on the basis of their results and the strength of their head teacher's reference they are invited to spend a day at Wellington. Each year about 500 children will come to one of these selection days, where they get the chance to see what Wellington lessons are all about. No more tests or exams, just six different activities that are all fun and exciting — and which give them the chance to show us what they are really like. We are not looking for the outgoing children, just the ones that exhibit real engagement, determination, and a sense of joy in learning.

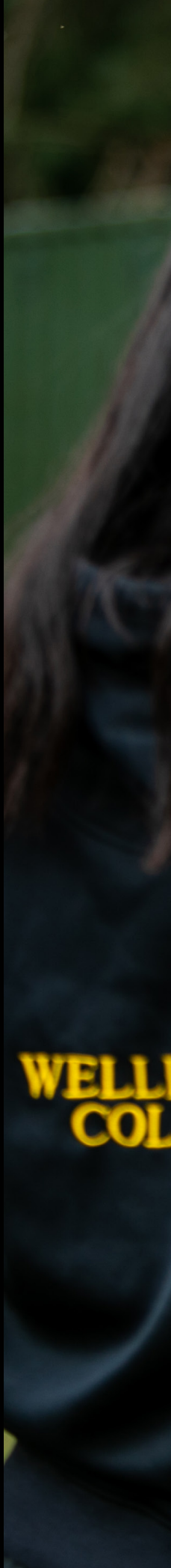
16+ entry is slightly different, but again we are looking for students who will set out to make the most of the two years they have with us: an online personal statement and reference will see us invite about 200 students to Wellington where they will sit exams in their likely A Level or Higher Level subjects, as well as an interview and also a Harkness style extended lesson which will give them a taste of how Sixth Form lessons work at Wellington.

Bea

"It's just this amazing whirl of energy, with so many new things to do and new people to meet."

"The thing about Wellington is that it's just exciting. When I started we were kept so busy there wasn't time to feel nervous or sad, just this amazing whirl of energy, with so many new things to do and new people to meet. It's really diverse and kindness is so important here. It's one of the College Values and everyone goes out of their way to help you.

I've learnt to be more independent and to take more responsibility for myself. It's up to you to try different things. I've started to go to all sorts of talks, done lots of art and have been very involved in hockey, which is taken really professionally here with coaching from international players! The lessons are really fun but we are expected to prepare properly so that we can contribute. I see my Academic Tutor each week and that helps me prioritise what I have to do. I love all the socials and things that go on in the House. Wellington is busy but it's great to have hot choccy and marshmallows with the other girls at the end of the day. Sometimes it's just nice to relax!"




WELLINGTON
COLLEGE


G.W. ANNENBERG

The Wellington Community







Ramarni

"Wellington's a place where differences are accepted and celebrated."

"Wellington's been a unique experience for me. I'd never boarded before nor been to a school that had so many opportunities. There's something very special about it and for me it's been life-changing to spend my formative years here. The breadth of experience is staggering.

I've had so many different experiences at the College. I've taken up fencing. I've been in plays and early in my time here one of my teachers said that as I liked arguing in classroom discussions so much I ought to join the debating society. It's become my thing, I suppose, and we've gone on to be national champions. Wellington's like a diamond. It has so many facets, all cut and polished and waiting to catch the light. I opted to study the IB Diploma, ended up with a maximum score of 45 points and am now going to Oxford to read Philosophy, Psychology and Linguistics."

"We have developed a global professional and social network, deliver a diverse programme of events, and offer invaluable careers support, guidance and mentoring opportunities."

The Wellington Community

A school is for life, not just for Christmas! The role of the Wellington Community is to build a supportive life-long community for pupils and parents. We have developed a global professional and social network; deliver a diverse programme of events; and offer invaluable careers support, guidance and mentoring opportunities. Pupils and parents, past and present, form our growing community and our Career Opportunity Groups, which cover a wide range of occupations, meet regularly to educate, socialise and network.

Welly Connect

Welly Connect acts like a bespoke LinkedIn, allowing both pupils and parents to utilise the trusted Wellington College environment by expanding and exploring professional networks. By fully integrating with social networks, and cultivating a culture of helping and giving back, the Wellington Community is a vibrant and exciting space.

Old Wellingtonians

The OW Society boasts a wide range of clubs and activities and OWs are always welcome at the frequent events organised for specific age groups, either at Wellington or further afield. Whether just for friendship, or for career opportunities and guidance, never has the saying, 'the best thing about leaving Wellington is becoming an Old Wellingtonian' been more accurate.






CURRAN
57
CURRAN S
58
CURRAN
59


783







Issie

"It's the people who make Wellington so unique, not just all my friends but the staff as well."

"I know it sounds corny, but it's the people who make Wellington so unique, not just all my friends but the staff as well. It was a bit of a shock to start with, being surrounded by so many talented people, but having so many high-achieving students engenders healthy competition. It guides you and makes you realise what can be achieved.

There is a definite sense among the pupils that it's okay to be working hard. It's great that there is the same mentality to enjoy yourself, but also to work hard and achieve and thrive. At Wellington it seems that it's cool to be keen! My time at Wellington wasn't without setbacks, but it helped me learn resilience and boarding definitely helps that. I learnt the confidence to try new things, to accept and embrace challenges."

"Parents are always welcome at Wellington, whether it is to watch matches, go to plays or concerts, or attend many of the spectacular lectures."

Parents

Wellington is committed to keeping the channels of communication between pupils, the school and parents as open as possible for the duration of a family's relationship with the College. Parents are always welcome at Wellington, whether to watch matches, go to plays or concerts or attend many of the spectacular lectures that take place on a weekly basis.

Importantly parents are encouraged to be in regular contact with HMs, tutors and teachers. Frequent reporting and updates from tutors ensure that parents can keep close tabs on their child's academic progress, as we firmly believe that pastoral care is always delivered most effectively when there is a consistent approach to issues both at home and at school.

One way in which we have sought to nurture ever stronger relationships is through our weekly Parental Masterclasses which take place on Saturday mornings during term time. The aim of these sessions is to engage regularly with parents on a variety of pastoral topics which affect the lives of teenagers and about which parents may wish to learn more.

It is a real strength of Wellington that parents are so involved in the life of the school: we welcome their expertise, understand the ambitions they have for their children, and take our responsibility to them extremely seriously.

We want parents to understand that their child's connection with Wellington offers life-long opportunities and support.









Oscar

"You definitely have to throw yourself into things and take advantage of all the opportunities."

"I'm a day boy in the Raglan. I catch the school minibus and get to school at 07:50, which gives me the chance to do some music practice. I play piano and viola and have just started the organ. The school orchestra is really professional. The big concert we did in the Annenberg was definitely a highlight of my first year. I also enjoy sport and it's good to get to choose which ones we play. I thought we'd have to do the big 'core' sports but that's not the case. I've done squash and swimming so far and I'm looking forward to doing sailing in the summer.

I found it easy to fit in but you definitely have to throw yourself into things and take advantage of all the opportunities. I think it would be a waste not to. Some of the Fireside Talks I've been to in the Master's Lodge have been really inspirational. Wellington's already opened up so many new opportunities for me and I find my days are pretty busy, but there's time to relax as well. The V&A café is a real bonus!"



Wellington College is a school like no other. Blessed with an enviable location, beautiful campus and astonishing facilities, everything is in place for its pupils to thrive. What sets it apart though is its restless desire and ambition to be the very best it can be — and to instil that attitude in all its pupils. It is their journey to self that matters most, which is why we take their growth as independent learners so seriously — and why Wellington becomes not just a school but a way of life.

Choice lies at the heart of all we do: one size does not fit all at Wellington, which is why every pupil experiences the school in their own unique way. We challenge them to dare to dream – and they in turn learn to challenge themselves and make those dreams come true.

I hope that these pages have painted a sense of Wellington life, and all that lies in wait for your child here, but I do hope you will come and see the school for yourself. Please do visit wellingtoncollege.org.uk/visit to book a place on one of our regular Visitors Days that are held throughout the year. After all, the most wonderful journeys always start with the smallest steps, and it would be wonderful to see your child's dreams take shape on the Wellington canvas.

I look forward to meeting you.

James Dahl

How to apply

Website: Please navigate to the 'Joining Wellington' page in the Admissions section of the website. Once you have found that page, you will be able to register your child for 13+ or 16+ entry by completing our online forms.
wellingtoncollege.org.uk

Phone: Please contact our Admissions team on
+44 (0)1344 444 013

Email: Enquiries can be made directly to our Admissions team via the Admissions email:
admissions@wellingtoncollege.org.uk

Visiting Wellington: Please see our website wellingtoncollege.org.uk/admissions/arrange-a-visit to find out the ways in which you can visit Wellington.

@wellingtoncollege @wellingtonuk


Oxford
London
Wellington College
Heathrow

Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7PU

www.wellingtoncollege.org.uk
+44 (0)1344 444 000