



WELLINGTON SCHOOL, AYR

ANNUAL REPORT SESSION 2014-15

Mark Twain famously remarked “I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.” As we see our Sixth Year pupils depart after some 15 years at Wellington, I would hope they feel that their schooling has had a very significant and positive impact on their education as they go forward into the world as successful, confident, responsible individuals, fully prepared to make the most of what lies ahead and to contribute fully to society.

With all the changes that occur in education, some aspects are timeless. Aristotle said that “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Year on year, our pupils achieve some of the best results in Scotland, but I always remind them to aspire to embrace fully the four key values of Scottish society inscribed on the mace of the Scottish Parliament: wisdom, justice, compassion, integrity.

SQA results

With the publication of the SQA exam results in early August 2014, we were delighted to find that Wellington School had achieved second place in Scotland at Advanced Higher, with a pass rate (A-C) of 96.4%. This was 3 percentage points above the SCIS average (93%) and 15 percentage points above the pass rate for all schools in Scotland (81%). Additionally, 82% of all Advanced Higher passes were at A and B grades.

At Higher, the pass rate (A-C) was 93%, 2 points above the SCIS schools average and 16 points above the average for all schools in Scotland with three quarters of all Wellington candidates achieving A and B passes at Higher. Eleven pupils (24% of the cohort) achieved 5 or more A Grade passes at Higher: Rachel Alner, Alex Brown, Emma Carmichael, Yasmin Habib, Lucy Illingworth, Charlotte Lochhead, Cordelia Loughlin, Craig Morley and Rosalyn Thomson all received 5 Grade A passes, while Kenneth Manderson and John McLaren both achieved 6 A Grade passes at Higher.

Last summer saw our first presentations and results for the new National Curriculum Qualifications. Our S4 Year Group was presented for National 5 awards and achieved an excellent 96% pass rate (A-C), 2 points higher than the SCIS schools’ pass rate, with 62% of all S4 pupils achieving Grade A passes. Additionally, 91 pupils sat Intermediate 2 exams achieving a remarkable 73% A grade pass rate. Ten pupils (18% of the S4 cohort) achieved all Grade A passes in their Intermediate 2 or new National 5 examinations. A Curriculum for Excellence is now firmly embedded in Wellington and the present S4 were presented almost exclusively in National 4 and National 5 courses, dual running with Intermediate 2 Music, in some cases, for the final time before Music too will be presented at National 5 next session.

In addition to the 18 subjects we can offer at both Higher and Advanced Higher, we have now successfully re-introduced Spanish into the curriculum (initially in S1-S3 but eventually all the way through to S6) and National 5 PE in S6. Both subjects will be SQA examined in the future. Additionally, two pupils have been prepared for the Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages this session and both have been awarded Grade A in this qualification.

Year on year, a very significant majority of Wellington pupils receive unconditional offers from the universities of their choice and I know that the S6 pupils would all like to thank Mrs McMahan for the remarkable work she does in preparing pupils for their UCAS applications at a time where university places are becoming harder to obtain. Every single pupil has the opportunity to develop an attractive portfolio of ‘supporting’ skills, successes, and experiences in arts, music, sports, mentoring, volunteering, work experience and the Duke of Edinburgh Award which will amply demonstrate their resilience, drive, commitment and participation and highlight their potential as both team players and leaders.

Music

Excellence in Music has been one of the most significant themes of Wellington school over recent decades and, with the retirement of Mr Derek Goudie in October 2014 and the subsequent appointment of Mr Dennis Haggerty as Director of Music, we are pleased to see that Music continues to be in very good hands with the highest expectations in terms of participation and quality. Mrs Wendy-Anne Wilson also joined the team as the primary music specialist and has already made a significant impact. The Music Department gives every pupil the opportunity to perform at the highest level and all pupils with a love of, interest, or ambitions in music are encouraged to join our many choirs or ensembles. We currently have 410 pupils taking curricular music and 180 pupils who take individual music lessons and 450 who participate in choirs, orchestras and ensembles.

One of the main goals this year was to take the subject 'beyond the classroom' and into the wider community. The Chamber Choir were invited, by special request from Alex Salmond, to perform in Glasgow at the auction of Peter Howson's original artwork for the First Minister's charity Christmas card. The choir were praised highly by Mr Salmond in his speech and they were all a credit to the school. During an extremely busy Christmas period the choirs performed at a wide and varied selection of charity events: the Chamber Choir performed a full concert programme in aid of Meningitis Now for Ayr Music Club, the Madrigal group were invited to sing for Inner Wheel, and the Primary 6 choir toured several nursing homes performing carols and songs, finishing off at Ayr Hospital Radio Station. Christmas events were completed with an outstanding Carol Concert, thought by many to be our best ever, and this was followed by yet another, original Junior School Nativity, with words by Mrs McKenzie and songs written by Mr Haggerty. Working with the Modern Language department, there are future plans to take the orchestra to perform in Germany at the end of the year and also links for the choir to perform in Slovenia.

The start of this session focused mainly on two major theatre productions, "World War One", a Junior School collaboration for Primary 1 to Primary 6, and the Senior School Show, "Crazy for You" at the Gaiety Theatre. "World War One" delighted audiences for three magnificent performances in Carleton Turrets Hall with many songs from the era intertwined by an original and educational script. "Crazy for You" by Gershwin demonstrated the full skills of the Performing Arts with outstanding displays in dancing, acting and singing by our talented pupils: a very impressive spectacle enjoyed by all!

The Junior and Senior School Choirs had one of the most successful Ayrshire Music Festivals ever with 8 first places and 7 trophies awarded, including the first ever triumph for the Senior Choir, with the added bonus of receiving the trophy for the best choir performance of the week. There were numerous other success stories with many of our pupils from both Junior and Senior Schools gaining passes with distinction in external music exams, the launch of the primary school lunchtime concert series and the introduction of the new Music Technology course. At National Level, several pupils are members of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and National Youth Orchestras with 5 pupils currently attending the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The Music Department are fully committed to the Curriculum for Excellence and work hard to ensure that every pupil leaves as a confident and effective learner with the ability to contribute to their community and the wider world.

Art and Design

The two after school Art Clubs and the Open Door lunchtime club continue to attract many pupils from P7 upwards. Students have taken the opportunity to experiment with new techniques or extend their own coursework. Reaching across the curriculum, activities included the creation of 'Land Art' in the grounds of Culzean Castle as part of the P7 John Muir expedition as well as the 'design challenge' for the S1 enterprise activity.

This year's Art and Design SQA candidates were encouraged to attend holiday classes and a weekend class through October, December and April where they were engaged in many activities allowing them to enrich their SQA portfolios. In addition, most got the opportunity to work with the renowned artist Andrew Ratcliff where they were able to work, first hand,

with a well-known artist and be inspired by his painting technique. The enrichment that this imparted to the pupils who took part in workshops was extremely special. It was also very informative for the art teachers and any other visiting teachers.

As a school, we have now embarked upon an international Erasmus project entitled 'Art Nouveau-Art Renouveau' an exploration of Art Nouveau and its relevance in the 21st century, jointly with partner schools in France, Germany, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Some of the projects already started include photography, stained glass and student led workshops. The project has clearly enhanced the opportunities for a wide range of pupils. These activities are truly at the heart of A Curriculum for Excellence and have allowed our pupils (not only our Art pupils) to work with their peers and students currently studying art/design with specialisms in architecture, textiles, printmaking and photography. The notion of allowing pupils in Wellington to be steered and inspired by people who are only a few years into further education is an extremely worthwhile opportunity.

In S6, Enterprise pupils embarked on a number of craft and design activities in aid of this year's School Charity. The most exciting of these activities was the Charity Calendar featuring different films for every year group. This allowed everyone to be involved in the creative production of a very positive event. It also allowed staff and pupils to work together in a very different way.

Two very special moments this year were the exhibiting of art work from two of our most accomplished pupils: Georgie Taylor's work was selected and displayed at the RSA in Edinburgh and Heather Larkin's work won a prize and was exhibited at the Rozelle Gallery.

English

This year we have been fortunate enough to experience a variety of fabulous theatre and live streamed productions including Hamlet, 1984, Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, To Kill a Mockingbird, A Streetcar named Desire and A View from the Bridge. Mrs Ulph also accompanied the Advanced Higher pupils to London where they saw a production of Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard at the Young Vic, a play on the Advanced Higher syllabus.

In October, S2 pupils were visited by popular Scottish author Catherine MacPhail who spoke to them about the process of writing and read extracts from her new novel Another Me, currently in film production. Another eminent Scottish author and playwright, Alan Bissett, ran two Creative Writing workshops with the S5 and S6 pupils. His enthusiastic and inspiring presentation was very well received and pupils were able to use what they learned as a stepping stone towards their SQA Portfolio.

Once again, this has been a very busy session for debating and public speaking where we have taken part in the ESU Junior (reaching the quarter finals) and ESU Mace Debating Competitions (reaching the second round), The Law Society Debating Competition (second round) and the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Public Speaking Competition where a Wellington team made it to the District Finals for the third year in a row. The Debating Club, run by Mrs Sheils and Debating Captain, Kenneth Manderson have met every Tuesday lunchtime and enjoyed many lively discussions. The annual McKinstry Debate will be held in June.

The News Academy Conference for budding young journalists at the News UK Glasgow office saw a group of S5 pupils attend a mock press conference where they were given the opportunity to ask questions of journalists in all areas of the business, from sports to features, and included the Sunday Times Scotland Editor, Jason Allardyce and Sun political reporter, Chris Musson. Mrs Sheils' S3 class also took part in the BBC School Report, investigating tourism in Ayr and interviewing parent and local businessman Kenneth MacPherson.

The Creative Writing Club for S1 and S2 pupils continues to thrive, with Ellie Crosbie reaching the final round of the BBC2 '500 words' competition. We have also had pupils' work published in numerous Young Writers' collections. In addition, a cross curricular project with the Art Department culminated in S1 pupils taking memorable lines and images from poems on the subject of seasons and using this as the stimulus to produce posters in the style of Russian artist Ekaterina Panikanova. The posters will be displayed in the English Department.

Enterprise Education

Enterprise Education is prominent at all levels in the school as we give opportunities to develop a range of essential skills and experiences for the future. Our S1 pupils continue to benefit from the new Enterprise Course, learning aspects of design, ethics, sustainability, communication, and leadership. Our S2 pupils worked in teams on their Enterprise Challenge which contributed to a very successful Fair Trade Afternoon in Drumley Hall. S4 pupils all participated in our very well established Work Experience Programme, spending time in a variety of workplaces and gaining a great deal of targeted career learning as well as more general personal development. For our older pupils, the S6 Charity pushes entrepreneurial skills to the limit. Every year it is quite remarkable how resourceful our Sixth Year pupils are in terms of money making schemes. It is relatively easy to come up with ideas but following through and implementing (successfully) a range of activities is indeed a challenge! Happily it is one for which the Sixth Year were more than a match.

International Education

International Education retains its place at the centre of the school's work and, as every year, the opportunities offered to our pupils expand and develop. This year we were delighted to welcome three new members of staff (across German, French and Spanish) to our Modern Languages department (M Levif, Mrs Bartholome and Mrs Davidson) and we hosted two foreign language assistants this session, Frau Katharina Griepenburg from Munich and Monsieur Etienne Grignon from Quebec.

Our Comenius Project 'Wise-up now to our Eco-future' reached its successful conclusion in Summer 2014 and the school's application for a new Erasmus project funded by the European Commission has been successful. This month we hosted visitors from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Romania and Slovenia on the first mobility of our three-year programme of joint study of Art Nouveau and 21st Century art and design.

The centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 was marked by an international conference which brought together young people from France, Germany and Scotland. Wellington School hosted a week of reflective activities and over the next three years there will be events in other countries to collaborate on work together.

There have been several exchanges with our partner schools – junior and senior exchanges to France and the senior exchange to Germany - and our junior rugby exchange again upheld Scotland's reputation on the rugby pitch. The school has developed a partnership with a school in Murcia, Spain with a view to organising the first exchange next session. Next session we celebrate 25 years' of partnership with the Mallinckrodt-Gymnasium in Dortmund and joint concert exchanges are planned to dovetail with the traditional junior exchange.

In the junior school, international collaboration is ongoing between Wellington and our partner schools in France and Romania. Our Connecting Classrooms partnership with St Edmund's School in Jaipur also goes from strength to strength and, in October 2014, a small group of Wellington pupils spent ten days at school in India attending classes, taking part in joint activities and even enjoying a day trip to the Taj Mahal!

Outdoor Education

All Primary 7 pupils received their John Muir Discovery Award certificates at their recent Sharing event having undertaken a wide range of activities including orienteering, pond-dipping, willow weaving, beach cleaning and land art in a programme involving the 4 key elements of Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share.

In the Duke of Edinburgh Award, 46 pupils recently completed their Bronze Level Assessment Expedition in Galloway with ventures completed on foot and on horseback. S4 pupils undertook a Silver level training expedition to the Galloway Hills area, with an assessment expedition planned for August in the Lowther Hills area and, at the highest level, our Gold group of 14 students have recently returned from a 4 day trip to Ardgour. The majority of S3 pupils have signed up for Bronze level DofE next session. In total, 16 Bronze awards, 14 Silver awards and 2 Gold awards have been presented this session.

Sports

This year has seen major changes within the PE Department. As well as welcoming Miss Garlick and Miss Jones, we have actively looked at how sport flourishes and grows. Within the curriculum the school has started National 5 PE. This provides pupils with an opportunity to look at how they can develop different aspects of fitness and improve their performance in their chosen sport. It requires pupils to reflect and evaluate their work, learn the factors that impact on performance and develop practically.

Hockey

In Hockey there has been a good level of commitment and improvement in skill. Plans and preparation for next year's extra-curricular hockey are in place. The department has organised a meeting for players and their parents in a bid to grow the sport and move it forward. Scottish Hockey courses are organised for next season and it is hoped that pupils and parents can take advantage of these opportunities.

Wellington has again enjoyed representation at District level. Sophie Fairhurst was selected to play for the SW U16 team and Eva Richardson and Jade MacIntyre were selected for the U18 District team. The Primary 7 girls were Plate semi-finalists in the Glasgow Academy Tournament narrowly losing to the eventual winners George Watsons' College. The junior and senior teams experienced success against some of the larger independent schools in the group stages of their tournaments with all players showing improvement in skill and commitment to their teams.

Rugby

In Rugby thanks must be given to parents who have been instrumental in fostering closer relationships between the school and Ayr Rugby Club. This partnership of cooperation and sharing of expertise has never been stronger with the recent news of Wellington and Ayr RFC merging their player strength and resources in a bid to play the top club and school sides in the country. The time and dedication that parents have given to strengthen, coach and supervise the school teams this year has been greatly appreciated.

Cross Country and Athletics

At the Ayrshire Schools Cross Country, Wellington pupils consistently finished in the top 10 out of a field of 150 runners. In the team placings they won Gold and Silver.

The school participated in the Scottish Indoor Championships as well as the Scottish Relays and the Track and Field Championships. Four teams reached the finals of the Scottish Schools' Relays whilst 8 pupils competed in Scottish Finals in a variety of events.

Matthew Davidson was invited to Pitreavie to receive further coaching from Scottish Schools Athletics coaches in the Javelin. At district level Wellington won the medal table for another year and Hazel Kirk and Lucy Davidson were selected to represent Ayrshire in the Inter District Championships. The Primary pupils also had their chance to shine by winning the South Ayrshire Primary relay Championships and reaching the final of the Scottish Schools' relays. The school was represented at the Scottish Track and Field Championships with athletes competing in 16 events. Eve Meehan won Silver in the Shot Putt whilst other pupils managed to record personal best performances.

In Inter school competitions up to 150 pupils enjoyed the challenge of competing and winning against other larger independent schools. The popularity of Athletics has again meant that numbers turning up at training were anywhere between 60-80 pupils.

Swimming

At the Ayrshire Schools Swimming Gala Wellington won a range of medals in different events and age groups. This strength in swimming was evident at the Scottish Schools' and Age Group Swimming Championships. Among other successes, Lucy Illingworth was 1st in the Open 400 metres and Marshall Illingworth was Scottish U14 open water champion for 2km and 5km last summer and was the fastest at the 800m Great Scottish Swim in Loch Lomond.

Maths

In Mathematics, our pupils continue to represent the school in numerous regional and national Mathematics Competitions. We have had success in both the Individual and Team competitions run by the Scottish Maths Council and continue to perform well in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior rounds of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust competitions. In total we achieved 8 Bronze, 4 Silver and 2 Gold awards for the UKMT challenges and 3 Bronze Awards for the SMC challenge.

Science

This session has been another busy year for the Wellington School Science Department, with four members of staff involved with the SQA at the highest level as Team Leaders and Senior Team Leaders for the new National Qualifications.

In November, the Science Department played a major role in the school's centenary celebration of the first World War, in which students from Germany and France spent a day in the department studying various scientific and engineering developments arising from the conflict. This was an exciting and valuable experience for all of the pupils involved. The Sciences continue to be popular at Wellington with a nationally strong level of presentation at the highest level. Attendance at the Wednesday evening Science Club for S1 and S2 has again been excellent with all pupils enjoying the experience.

Humanities

In Geography, pupils had extensive opportunities to engage in field work at every level. National 5 students visited Loch Lomond National Park investigating the impact of tourism on an upland glaciated environment. They had the opportunity to gather their own primary data (which included measuring footpath erosion, trample zones, vegetation cover, carrying out environmental quality surveys) and gained extensive first-hand experience of the role of precipitation in the water cycle! Along with the Higher students, they also enjoyed a day 'in the field' experiencing the urban Geography of Glasgow. This was the first year that the trip was offered to S4 students and allowed them to look at urban change in both the Central Business District and inner city areas of Glasgow, in relation to housing, commerce, industry and transport. At Advanced Higher our pupils continue to participate in the residential field course at Kindrogan Field Study Centre where they can study vegetation succession, soil studies and hydrology, whilst becoming familiar with Global Information Systems in fieldwork. Looking to the future, the department is very excited to be preparing for a field excursion to Iceland next Easter which will involve pupils from the new S3 to Higher.

The Geography department has close ties to History and there have been many examples of joint ventures including visits to Stirling, and our S1/2 pupils participating in the 100th anniversary of the Great War, through a series of joint workshops.

In Modern Studies, our S6 Advanced Higher pupils visited Her Majesty's Prison, Cornton Vale near Stirling to gain a deeper insight into how prisons operate and the wider challenges facing the penal system in Scotland. Former Head of English Miss Cara Garven also visited the Advanced Higher class to discuss her work as a volunteer creative writing tutor at HMP Kilmarnock. To reinforce the fundamental learning theme of responsible citizenship, the annual Mock Election took place, where P7 and S1 pupils created their own party names, identities and policies. S3 pupils did Q&A sessions with former MP Sandra Osborne in December and a community police officer in May as part of their research for their National 5 qualifications. A joint excursion with History allowed pupils to visit London where they enjoyed a tour of the Houses of Parliament and then participated in a workshop on voting and electoral systems.

Classics

S1 and S2 Latin pupils visited Hadrian's Wall earlier this month. Pupils visited the Roman Army Museum to appreciate the life of a Roman soldier based on the wall, and Vindolanda, site of the world famous writing tablets, where we received a stimulating talk on the recent

excavations of the civilian settlement and the nearby Roman fort. We were able to walk on the wall near Cragside, and see the remains of the Wall and a milecastle in situ and view the stunning Northumbrian countryside.

Although Mr Dudgeon's expertise has seen him appointed as Principal Assessor of the new Higher Classical Studies, his empire now extends beyond Rome. This year's Wargaming Club has studied and gamed the Russian Civil War, the role of Turkey in the First World War, the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1914 to 1918, and key battles of the American Civil War around the city of Atlanta. Furthermore, a cinema club for senior pupils has begun, which will continue next session. Students will explore some of the important films of directors such as David Lynch, the Coen Brothers and David Mamet.

6th Year Charity Meningitis Now

The Sixth Year began Session 2014 - 2015 with a teambuilding event. This proved to be very effective and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The activity was built around the charity and was intended to encourage the pupils to develop new ideas for the Sixth Year Charity. They produced a number of new possibilities and the whole day exercise did allow for a lot of fun and a degree of bonding.

This session the Sixth Year chose Meningitis Now as their Charity. They have gelled very well as a team and have had a very successful year with the Charity. A myriad of activities have been undertaken including weekly cake and candy stalls, themed non uniform days and House Charity Days all of which raised substantial sums. In addition the Christmas Craft Fair raised £6300 - a record sum. The Fun Run also raised over £6000. A charity golf tournament, school show donations and the Wellington Wade all added to the charity total. New activities included a film themed calendar with scenes from Oliver, Despicable Me and Star Wars. The pièce de résistance was the Sixth Years re-enacting the sinking of the Titanic in the sea complete with Rose and Jack on the prow and a floating glacier! It is wonderful to see that the pupils enter wholeheartedly into all the events. The Charity brings everyone together to fundraise and it is a combined effort from Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Staff and Parents to achieve these fantastic results.

This Year's cohort has maintained the high academic standards that the school has enjoyed for many years with 74% of the pupils gaining unconditional offers. At present gaining entrance to university is a demanding process but the wide range of both academic qualifications and extra - curricular activities coupled with many opportunities to display leadership, teamwork and commitment that our pupils can exhibit makes the transition achievable.

This Sixth Year pupils have worked exceedingly well together and have really enjoyed their Sixth year experience. I should like to thank the Heads of School Martin McHard and Rosalyn Thomson and the Deputes John McLaren and Alexandra Brown for their enthusiasm, hard work, creativity and commitment this session. It is to their great credit that in a time of austerity they have raised the sum of £27,361.49 for the School Charity.

Pupil Welfare: GIRFEC and Dyslexia Friendly Schools

In light of new legislation - the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 - where wellbeing is a central consideration and every child from birth to 18 will have access to a Named Person service, the School is particularly pleased to continue working in close partnership with the GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) team in South Ayrshire to ensure that the School becomes 'GIRFEC compliant' by August 2016. This partnership working is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people and through early and targeted intervention to ensure that all of our young people do well now and in the future. Parents will hear more about this in due course.

The School is also currently working towards Dyslexia Friendly Schools accreditation at Bronze Level. In yet another good example of partnership working, South Ayrshire has kindly agreed to our being accredited through their DFS scheme and, as such, the School has joined the Kyle Academy cluster to proceed with this.

Vote of thanks

Typically, I sum up in the Annual Report with a mention of the leavers, and after ten years at Wellington I'd like to mention that I'm also one of this year's 'leavers' and I'd really like to use the opportunity to pay tribute to all others who have made this such a special time for me.

In some ways the 'family' atmosphere of Wellington could be seen as an over worn cliché – but it is a family and it does have a very special atmosphere. I am lucky enough to have worked in very good schools for most of my life: schools where children are valued and where academic excellence and extracurricular involvement are paramount – and this has invariably been possible only through all members of the community being willing to go the extra mile: teachers, janitors, and administrative staff. In this aspect, the Wellington community is second to none: all are treated with respect and all treat each other with respect; this respect is embedded in our fabric and is at the core of our ethos.

I would like to thank the many members of the parent body who have given of their time so generously. Many new developments have come from the work of Parent Focus Groups which provide a forum to discuss topics of interest including homework, curriculum, Prelims, Parents' Evenings, work experience, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Once again, the Wellington School Association has also been instrumental in supporting the school and I know that they are always looking for new members and new ideas for fundraising. I am very grateful for all members of the WSA Committee for all their hard work over the last ten years. Parents are also actively involved in so many other ways: coaching and supporting in sports; supporting in music and supporting the very many charity events. Thank you to you all.

As I move on to pastures new (or rather, perhaps, out to pasture) I shall miss the day-to-day involvement with pupils but I shall also miss working with a staff whom I hold in the very highest regard. They are all remarkable individuals and they form a remarkable team who, year after year, contribute to our pupils achieving some of the best results in the country. It does not surprise me that many of our S6 pupils will leave this term with tears in their eyes as they too say goodbye to their subject teachers and form teachers: mentors, guides and friends who have stood by them over many years. I'm reminded of the prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola, which all our pupils will know, which could be applied to all our staff: "to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward". They are a special team of the very highest quality.

Amongst our teachers, I would like to pay special tribute to the Senior Management Team of Wellington School who give of themselves so generously. They each have a special remit and discharge that in a special way. Their work covers links with all academic departments and a variety of clubs and activities at all levels. Their basic work level is defined as 'busy' but I am often reminded that this periodically rises to the 'very busy' level when I get late night e-mails at 4 a.m. and the early morning e-mails at 5.30 am!

I would like to conclude with special thanks to the Board of Governors: a mix of old heads and new: unpaid and yet immensely knowledgeable, dedicated and talented. Above all, they care passionately about the ethos, health and direction of the school.

Finally, they do say that if you want a job done, give it to a busy person, and there is none more qualified in that respect than the Chair of our Board, Sheriff Foran.

Sheriff Foran, I commend this, my tenth and final Annual Report to you.

RM Parlour, Headmaster

23 June 2015