

The Ammonite

A weekly newsletter for students, parents, carers, families
and friends of Wellsway School

Message from the Principal



Dear parent/ carer

New beginnings

Welcome back to the summer term here at Wellsway, I hope your Easter break was enjoyable; sunshine has brightened things up and long may it continue.

This term begins the cycle of transition with our Year 11 and 13 students coming to the end of their courses, moving on up, and welcoming our new Year 7 students who have just received notification of their places. Today I was delighted to join some of our Year 11 prefects as part of that cycle of transition in our Year 10 assembly, where we discussed the opportunity for Year 10 to take on the mantle of being senior student leaders. Their first and most important job will be to oversee that transition day for our new Year 7s in July. I am sure like this year's Year 11, they will be fantastic role models, ensuring our new cohort receive a warm welcome. We are very much looking forward to getting to know them this term and also celebrating the time Year 11 and 13 have spent with us.

We are now in the final school days before our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be the first cohorts to sit GCSE and A level examinations after the two-year break due to Covid. These pupils have coped with considerable disruption over the last two years and I commend them for the resilience and adaptability that they have shown.

It has been a time of uncertainty and they have displayed great Wellsway characteristics in making the best of a tricky situation; well done to you all! Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant teachers if you or your children need further support or advice. I wish them the very best of luck and am confident that their hard work will pay dividends.

Following on from our Open Mic event just before the holiday, a special mention goes to our Sixth form band, Youth Undone, who played a gig at Saltford Hall in aid of 'Off the Record', a charity for teenage mental health. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to them performing in school.

I am sure this term will see many other celebrations of our talented young people.

Fingers crossed for some sunshine this weekend and I hope you have an enjoyable bank holiday with family and friends.

Best wishes

Rob Pearsall
Principal & Executive Head of School
Wellsway School and IKB Academy

Issue : 1029—Friday 29th April 2022

Key dates

Monday 2nd May

Bank holiday - school closed

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May

DofE Silver qualifying Expedition

Thursday 12th May

HPV vaccinations for Y8 students

Wellbeing Parent/Carer information evening 6-7pm

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May

DofE Bronze Practice Expedition

Student Attendance

Attendance—A reminder that when sending emails regarding student attendance, please send them to our enquiries email inbox - enquiries@wellswayschool.com with the subject FAO Attendance Improvement Officer Ms Louise Fox or email direct to Ms Fox lofox@wellswayschool.com. Please do not email direct to Miss Lucy Fox - lfox@wellswayschool.com who is one of our science teachers. We realise that this is an easy mistake to make and thank you in advance for your support with this request. Mr Ive.



Principal's Student of the Week

All our winners have demonstrated Endeavour, Resilience and Empathy; Wellsway School students striving to be confident, respectful and ultimately successful learners. Simply "Being the best versions of themselves".

At Wellsway School, we have something we try and instil into students: it is okay to fail if you do not give up. It is important to see the journey and remember that you simply haven't got there yet! This week's nominees have all demonstrated that mindset and trait.

Congratulations go to our winners:

Year 7-Katie Young – super presentation to the tutor group

Year 8 –Harry Black- excellence in tutor time

Year 9 -Olivia Brown- fabulous custom cakes for peers

Year 10 -Anna Furlong and Luke Beaumont - helping with a transition event

Year 11 -George Kelly - resilience

Year 12 -Max Tantram - Excellent Criminology assessment

Year 13 - Jake Jenner - Excellent involvement in Disco Inferno



Music News

Our 6th formers continue to be an absolute delight to work with here at Wellsway. The following news highlights the importance not only of their commitment to Music but also the wide range of music students are involved with. The Music Department continues to be for everyone, no matter what style of music.

Congratulations to Marcus N on guitar, and Becky B on piano who have both recently achieved merits in their Grade 8 music exams. Learning an instrument takes years of hard work and practice but the reward can be great! We're hugely impressed with not only passing but passing with Merit!

Other Sixth Formers also continue to thrive in Music. The sixth form band, 'Youth Undone' took part in a local fundraising gig in Saltford for OTR on Sunday evening. Reviews have been superb and it's clear they have a bright future ahead of them. Well done to Joe T, Ash B, Emily P-C, James C, Amy N and Lauren A.

6th Form Leadership: Our newly created Soul and Funk band consists of instrumentalists across year groups but is only happening thanks to the drive and dedication of Harvey Lees, who is not only running the band but creating superb arrangements for them. Ms McLean and Miss Hinchliffe enjoy listening to 'Everybody Loves the Sunshine' by Roy Ayres last night - impressive stuff!

Finally, two 6th Formers, Amy N and Lauren A, have put out a call to all violin, flute and guitarists who would like to join the student-led folk group which meets every Wednesday in M03 at lunchtime. You can be a beginner on these instruments - you need to know about 8 notes to get involved. It's a wonderful group and Amy and Lauren are keen to help beginners who might never have played in a group before.



Cost of Living Support and Advice

We are sharing the following information recently published by B&NES. The [squeeze on household budgets](#) is hitting everyone and for some this means a stark choice of having to choose between food or fuel. We want people to know about the support and advice that is out there, including the Welfare Support scheme for people who are on a low income and in financial hardship, Housing Benefit to help paying rent, and Council Tax Support which could reduce the amount you have to pay on your bill. The websites live-well.bathnes.gov.uk and banesfoodfinder.org.uk/ have more information. The council is also working hard to develop a system to distribute funds such as the [council tax rebate scheme](#) announced by the government.



If you believe your child may be newly eligible for Free School Meals please contact me, in confidence, and I can support you with your application to B&NES. Please email your child's name and year group to me frogers@wellswayschool.com and I will email/call you back as you prefer. In addition to accessing meals in school, your child will be eligible for Pupil Premium funding which brings further benefits so please do not hesitate to get in touch, I am here to help you access the support you and your child are eligible to receive.

Mrs Rogers

Upcoming B&NES Courses

We would like to let you know details of new, upcoming course dates. COOK IT, HENRY and LEAP starting in the next few weeks. COOK IT and LEAP would be suitable for our students and their families. We hope that the HENRY course may be of interest to families with younger children.

COOK IT is a free five-week cookery course for parents and children. You can discover how to make easy, healthy budget friendly recipes.

HENRY is a free programme for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 5 years old. It covers: feeling more confident as a parent; physical activities for little ones; what children and the whole family eats; family lifestyle habits; and enjoying life as a family. The programme provides everything you need to help your little one get off to a great start.

LEAP is a free programme for families of children and young people who are above a healthy weight, and offers face-to-face, group support for 5-10 year olds and a combination of face to face & virtual, 1:1 support for 10-17 year olds.

To find out more or book a place on any of these courses, call 0300 2470050 or email bathnes.thehub@hrcgcaregroup.com.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Vaccination Session Thursday 12th May

The School Age Immunisation Team will be in school on Thursday 12th May to give the HPV vaccination to year 8 boys and girls. You will have recently received information and an e-consent via Insight so a prompt return is appreciated. Please note the link closes at midnight on Thursday 5th May.

Wellsway School is unable to answer any queries about the vaccinations so should you need support in completing the consent or have questions relating to this programme please contact the School Age Immunisation Team on VCL.immunisations@nhs.net or phone 0300 247 0082 and an adviser will be able to assist you.



World Earth Day

Last Friday was World Earth Day, and Wellsway School is fully committed to promoting environmental awareness amongst its pupils.

We are focussing on two main strands this year.

We have begun developing a kitchen garden to help pupils engage with reducing their food miles and with the idea of 'Think globally; act locally!'

We are also aiming to make the whole site more bee- and wildlife- friendly. We are beginning with our new 'garden hub' next to the lane to Chandag schools, and hoping to establish a pollinator patch there. (Not a meadow, more of a cottage garden!)

If you have any cuttings, or newly separated clumps, of perennial or self-seeding pollinator-friendly or pretty cottage plants, we would be very grateful to receive them.

The simplest way would be to drop them over the low fence down the lane. If you'd like to include your name on the plant label, we can thank you every time we read it!



Futura Music Concert

We're delighted launch our first ever Futura Learning Partnership Concert. Every student across the partnership is invited to participate in the performance and by the end of next week our Director of Music, Ms McLean, will have completed 18 assemblies explaining the event to students. We will be performing a 30 minute piece for three choirs and an orchestra at Bath Forum on 19th July. The piece tells the myth of how the River Avon came into existence. The composer has worked with Year 10 students across the trust to create the initial melodies. This is a wholly inclusive project and after a long period of not being able to sing, we want to encourage as many students as possible to opt in and take the plunge! Further details of the event can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Muo8gh-74Dtc> Students can sign up on the following form <https://forms.office.com/r/Z1AxHfgjGE>



'My Relationships' in PSHE

During this term, students in years 7 to 10 will be exploring the theme of 'My Relationships' in PSHE.

Year 11 will be looking at 'Careers'.

Session content for week commencing 2nd May:

- Year 7: Relationships and consent
 - Year 8: The media
 - Year 9: Being Assertive
 - Year 10: Attraction
- Year 11: My career and CV

Sculling Club

Sculling (rowing) club will be starting on Friday afternoons from 4:00pm – 5:30pm at Avon County Rowing Club in Saltford (The Saltford Rowing Centre) this week (the first session is 29th April).

Why don't you come and have a go?

It is fine to just turn up but better if you can email

juniors@avoncountyorowclub.org.uk

or phone 0779 282 1306 to let us know you are planning to attend.

Scullers need to wear stretchy close fitting clothes and trainers but nothing they value as clothing can get torn/muddy on the boats. No jeans, no wellies. All equipment is provided.

Penny Senior

Junior Coordinator, Avon County Rowing Club

Autism Awareness Week

Last month, Wellsway recognised Autism Awareness Week through our tutor time programme.

Some of our Autistic students also gave presentations to their classes to share their stories and experiences.

Below are some of the slides we showed to our students.

Well-known autistic people



Chris Packham



Anne Hegerty



Talia Grant

Considered autistic

- Sir Isaac Newton
- Alan Turing
- Albert Einstein

**World
Autism
Awareness
Week**
29 March
- 4 April



Experiencing the world differently

Communication challenges

Needing time to process information

Difficulty with unexpected change

Even small changes can cause huge anxiety

Sensory differences

Noise, smells and lights can be very overwhelming

Repeating things and routines

Taking the exact same route to school or liking the same food

This can lead to meltdowns or shutdowns
Like the one Alex had in the film

World Autism Awareness Week
29 March - 4 April

How you can help

“If you see anyone having a meltdown, be kind and understanding and give them the space to calm down.”

Talia Grant

- Don't stare or be mean
- Be kind and understanding
- Give time and space
- Speak clearly using short sentences
- Wait for an answer

World Autism Awareness Week
29 March - 4 April

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FACEBOOK MESSENGER

Facebook Messenger is a communication app through which users can exchange messages and send photos, stickers, and video and audio files. Messenger allows both one-to-one and group chats, has a stories feature and – via its latest addition, Rooms – can host a video call with up to 50 people. As of 2021, the app had 35 million users in the UK alone (more than half the population!) among its 1.3 billion users worldwide. Whereas Messenger is integrated into Facebook on desktops and laptops, it has existed as a standalone app for mobile devices since 2011.

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Messenger's numerous features can encourage children to spend more time on the app – and therefore on their phone, increasing their levels of screen time. It also invokes FOMO (the Fear of Missing Out), especially among older children, who will almost certainly have a high proportion of their friends communicating via the app.

LIVE STREAMING

The new Rooms feature lets Messenger users hold video calls with up to 50 people. A young person can join any room they see, but the other people in these rooms don't even necessarily need to be Facebook account holders. This live streaming development heightens risk factors around privacy, security and the possibility of exposure to inappropriate content.

REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

If the Facebook profile which accompanies their Messenger app is set to public, there's a possibility that young people will receive message requests from individuals they don't know. There have previously been reports of grooming attempts on Facebook, with predators using fake profiles to engage children in conversation.

OVERSHARING PERSONAL INFO

If the app is given access to their device's photo library or location services, young people can unintentionally share sensitive information (private photos, videos, their number or current whereabouts) with people on Messenger who they don't know. Even among friends, shared photos or videos don't always stay private: the recipient(s) could save and re-share them with others.

CYBERBULLYING

Like many communication apps, Messenger can be an avenue for cyberbullies or trolls to target children. This might take the form of harassment, abusive messages or being purposely excluded from (or targeted in) group chats. A 2021 Ofcom report revealed that more than half (55%) of 12–15-year-olds had suffered such negative experiences online in the preceding year.

SECRET CONVERSATIONS

The Secret Conversations function lets Messenger users have encrypted exchanges that no-one else can read. Unlike regular chats on the app, these can only be viewed on the device being used at the time. Messages can also be set to delete once read (although screenshots can be taken), so a child could chat privately with someone without any record of that conversation having taken place.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE ADDITIONAL SECURITY

Messenger's App Lock feature uses your child's fingerprint or face ID to ensure that nobody else can access their messages without permission. Messenger has also added a variety of optional tools to increase young people's safety on the app, including two-factor authentication, login alerts and filtered message requests.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

If your child experiences anything negative on Messenger, you can help them report it. Facebook can then take action such as disabling the offender's account, limiting their ability to send messages or blocking them from contacting your child again. If your child doesn't want to display to others that they're online, they can switch off Active Status in the app's settings.

ADJUST PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make your child's Messenger stories visible only to their friends. Avoid adding your child's phone number (so they can't be found by someone using their number to search for them), and not syncing contacts lets your child choose who to add (or not) individually. Via Settings, you can control who appears in your child's chat list, who goes into the message request folder and who can't contact your child at all.

REVIEW THE CHAT LIST

Some parents regularly check their children's Messenger conversations (to see who they're talking to, rather than what they're talking about). While this is certainly safe, it can seem intrusive. If approached in a sensible, collaborative way, however, it can help parents and carers to keep an eye on exactly who their child is communicating with.

DISCUSS LIVE STREAMING

Talk with your child about safe and secure video calling. When setting up calls on Messenger Rooms, only invite people who your child knows and trusts. Show them how to lock a room if they don't want other people joining – and how to remove anyone they don't want on the call. Remind them about behaving responsibly during a live stream, even if it's with people they know.

ENCOURAGE SAFE SHARING

Ensure your child knows to send pictures and videos only to family and trusted friends, and not to publicly share images which compromise their location (showing a landmark near home or clothing with identifiable logos, like a school or local club crest). Encourage them to pause before sharing anything – if there's a chance it could harm their reputation (or someone else's), don't send it.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Wellsway School Careers Hub –

Drop in to ask a question, enquire about anything ‘careers’ OR

Email – careers@wellswayschool.com



Parent/Carer Information

Would you like to know more about your child’s career options and opportunities

<https://icould.com/information-for-parents> OR <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone>

Students

General Information & Events

Access Creative - Access Creative taster days - 13th of August, for our 'New For 22' courses that start in September this year! <https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/open-events/acc-new-for-22/> also **Open Event 3rd May** <https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/open-events/>

South Bristol College Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair - Thursday 12 May 2022
11am-2.30pm

The Highest Paid Jobs You Can Do Without a Degree - <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/highest-paid-jobs-without-degree>

Work Experience Opportunities

BT are offering a wide range of Work Experience opportunities; https://digdata.online/partner-events-bt-live-online-career-challenge/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=210983318&hsenc=p2ANqtz--BU3lvBFcMmPif2NFP9CjLWcu7PCp3TZi04Dcmw3thEhxVmpaHtdlk8dc-VorBLGsP210ZHx21_GYI-9IpubSRyAE9vm_0BTBU1wxEq2nlZHIUYol&utm_content=210983318&utm_source=hs_email

Summer Career Experiences - https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-summer-experience-ages-15-18?utm_source=UK+SCHOOLS+MASTER&utm_campaign=cb310eaa82-bankersschoolmar_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bfccb03bbd-cb310eaa82-139390457&mc_cid=cb310eaa82&mc_eid=28e99f8e49

Virtual Work experience with a wide range of employers - <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

INVESTIN

****Medicine Summer Experiences - In hospitals and clinics in London I For Ages 12-18**

[https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-medicine-summer-experience?](https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-medicine-summer-experience?utm_source=UK+SCHOOLS+MASTER&utm_campaign=84af7c8728-bankersschoolmar_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bfccb03bbd-84af7c8728-139390457&mc_cid=84af7c8728&mc_eid=28e99f8e49)

[utm_source=UK+SCHOOLS+MASTER&utm_campaign=84af7c8728-bankersschoolmar_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bfccb03bbd-84af7c8728-139390457&mc_cid=84af7c8728&mc_eid=28e99f8e49](https://investin.org/pages/choose-your-medicine-summer-experience?utm_source=UK+SCHOOLS+MASTER&utm_campaign=84af7c8728-bankersschoolmar_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bfccb03bbd-84af7c8728-139390457&mc_cid=84af7c8728&mc_eid=28e99f8e49)

**** There is a cost to these opportunities**



Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering opportunities in Keynsham –

<https://www.keynshammencap.org.uk/volunteer/>

<https://keynsham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

<https://doit.life/volunteering-opportunity/md/118643>

Post 18/HE

Year 12 Mathematicians looking at Oxbridge next year ??

On **May 7th at midday** Trinity Hall Cambridge will be holding an information session on the Mathematics Tripos for interested potential applicants. It will take place on Zoom.

Any students / potential applicants can register onto the event [via this link](#)

The full programme can be found here: <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/admissions/opensday>

Career Pilot

Careerpilot



Career pilot is a fantastic resource! Students can sign up to link with the school, and can find out information about the range of options and opportunities.

Use this link www.careerpilot.org.uk, or scan the QRcode.

