

# The Ammonite

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

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

Over the last two weeks it has been wonderful to celebrate the time of both Year 11 and 13 students from Wellsway and IKB and we look forward to our final celebrations with Year 11 at their Prom. There is a final year group photo towards the end of the Ammonite, which shows Year 11 at the annual celebration assembly. This was held last Friday to mark the end of the exams.

Year 13 were back to formally end their year with a Leavers' Brunch yesterday. It was an absolute pleasure for us to celebrate with them and we got to listen to the band as well. Just wow! 'School's out for Summer' still ringing in our ears! In next week's edition, we will find out more about their Leavers' Dinner.

Having only known both these year groups since September, I wanted to thank them all personally for the warm welcome they have extended to me as Principal since I joined Wellsway and IKB. What has impressed me, is seeing how the last two years has not defined them. Their resilience and perseverance is evident in how they have approached any challenge that has come their way.

They have done it in their own style but it was lovely to see them laughing and enjoying this important milestone together.

Their time to shine.

Also in this edition:

Our Sports Leaders support our local primary sports festivals, we celebrate some amazing student achievements, hear about some fantastic visits last week, including 'The Big Bang', a trip to Bristol University and find out about our talented musicians and their participation in The Keynsham Open Mic Night.

Best wishes

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



Issue : 1037—Friday 1st July 2022

## Key dates

**Wednesday 6th July**  
Summer Concert

**Friday 8th July & Tuesday 12th July**  
Sports Days

**Saturday 9th July**  
PTA used uniform sale 11-1

**Monday 11th July**  
Inset Day

## Student Attendance

**Attendance**—A reminder that when sending emails regarding student attendance, please send them to our enquiries email inbox - [enquiries@wellswayschool.com](mailto:enquiries@wellswayschool.com) with the subject FAO Attendance Improvement Officer Ms Louise Fox or email direct to Ms Fox [lofox@wellswayschool.com](mailto:lofox@wellswayschool.com). Please do not email direct to Miss Lucy Fox - [lfox@wellswayschool.com](mailto: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 mind-set and trait.

### Congratulations go to our winners:

- Year 7**- Alexis B – participation in extra curricular
- Year 8** – Maggie T – participation in extra curricular
- Year 9** - Lily T – leadership in sport
- Year 10** —Sofia H – leadership skills and resilience
- Year 12**— Callum S – great attitude in biology



## Principal's Personal Achievement Award

### Congratulations to our winners:

- Helena P Year 7, Holly K Year 8 and Chloe S Year 10 for their amazing achievements in Artistic Swimming.
- Tom M Year 10, for his amazing success in baseball.





## Holly S – Athletics

Congratulations to Holly S who last week, won the South West Schools Championships in Exeter under 15's Junior girls 800m, with a winning time of 2 minutes 19 seconds.

This competition included the six counties of Somerset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. We wish Holly all the best when she competes in the next competition, representing Avon, at the English Schools Championships in Manchester next month.



## DTP/Men ACWY vaccinations for Year 9s and some Year 10s (Mrs Dursley)

This session takes place on Monday 4th July for students who have consented. Please ensure your child has eaten breakfast and is wearing a shirt that enables them to roll up their sleeves and girls are wearing a t-shirt or vest top underneath their school shirt.

## Sports Day 2022

Sports Day sign ups have begun and this week they took place in House Team assemblies and for Year 10 in PE lessons. If you have not yet had the opportunity to sign up for events for Sports Day please speak to your PE teacher in your PE lessons.

Please don't forget sports day is; Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July tutor and P1 for 800m

and 1500m, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July P3 and P4 for all Year 7 events (except the relay), Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July tutor and P1 for Year 8, P2 for Year 9, P3 and P4 for Year 10 and 12 and finally all relays will take place P5.

If you are participating in an event, please come to school in your PE kit as we will not be using the changing rooms on this day. When it is your year groups time to participate, please come down to the sports centre and meet the PE team on the grassed area behind the sports centre. Further information will be shared with you through your tutors.

If you have any questions or problems please email Miss Randall ([jrandall@wellswayschool.com](mailto:jrandall@wellswayschool.com)) or Mr Evans ([revans@wellswayschool.com](mailto:revans@wellswayschool.com)).

## CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Wellsway School Careers Hub

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

Email – [careers@wellswayschool.com](mailto:careers@wellswayschool.com)

[Careers Update: 29th June 2022](#)

## 'Changing me' and 'Careers' in PSHE

During this term, students in years 7 to 10 will be exploring the theme of 'Changing me' and 'Careers' in PSHE.

Session content for week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> July:

- Year 7: Local jobs and career opportunities
- Year 8: Local jobs and career opportunities
- Year 9: Local jobs and career opportunities
- Year 10: Local jobs and career opportunities

## Wellsway School Sports Celebration Evening 2022

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, we are hosting a sports celebration evening in Mendip Hall for students who have attended extra curricular clubs or represented the school in fixtures this academic year. We have collated this list from team sheets and extra curricular registers, however there is a chance we may have missed students from these lists when sending out the invitations. If you believe you have been missed from the invite list, please either email Mr Barter ([bbarter@wellswayschool.com](mailto:bbarter@wellswayschool.com)) or Miss Barron ([mbarron@wellswayschool.com](mailto:mbarron@wellswayschool.com)), or find a member of the PE department before Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.



## Sports Ambassadors Support Sports Days

Our team of Sports Ambassadors have been in action again supporting sports days at two more schools in the Futura Partnership. On Friday 11th Year 8 students travelled to St John's Primary School in Keynsham where they worked alongside staff helping to run the track events. On Monday 10th Year 9 students work with children at Chandag Infant School, setting up equipment and encouraging them to do their best. At both events our students were fantastic and it was great to see how far their leadership skills have progressed over the course of this academic year. Mr Livingston at St John's said 'Your sports leaders were phenomenal, true ambassadors.'

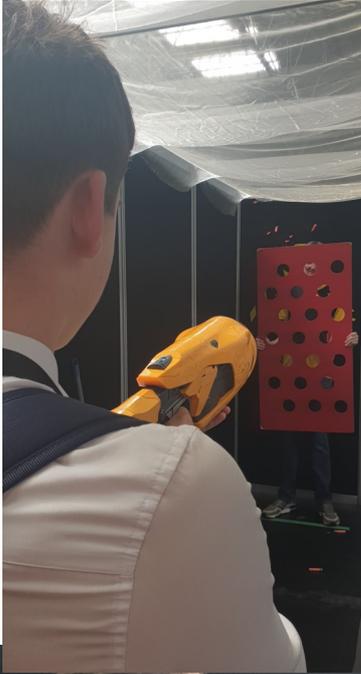
Well done to all the Sports Ambassadors who were involved. Mrs Burston.



## Strike Fielding Fun at Keynsham Cricket Club

On Wednesday our Year 9 Sports Ambassadors ran a Strike Fielding Festival at Keynsham Cricket Club for 120 Year 6 children from Chandag Junior, Salford and St John's Primary Schools. The weather was against us initially, with the children needing to take shelter in the clubhouse. However, we remained patient and the sun eventually made an appearance allowing the event to take place. The Ambassadors led sessions on Rounders and Cricket, helping the Year 6s to improve both their batting and fielding skills. Most importantly the Year 6s worked in mixed school groups making new friends ready for the transition to secondary school in September. A special thank you to the Sports Ambassadors for remaining so positive and enthusiastic in challenging conditions. Mrs Burston.





**Year 9 Visit to The Big Bang**

Last week our Year 9 students joined over 40,000 other young people in visiting UK's biggest celebration of STEM for young people at The NEC in Birmingham. The Big Bang Fair was packed full of exciting, interactive activities and was designed specifically with 11- to 14-year-olds in mind, to provide the best careers inspiration, advice and opportunities to meet with real scientists and engineers.





## Year 12 Chemistry Trip

Year 12 pupils had a fantastic time with Mr Brunt extracting caffeine from tea leaves at the University of Bristol's world renowned teaching laboratories. Pupils were able to work through the whole process independently then test their products using Infra-Red spectroscopy along with the melting point - with all pupils successfully extracting a relatively pure sample.

"It's been a fantastic day, and it has been great to be a university student for a day and use such fancy equipment!"



## Futura Open Mic Night - Keynsham Music Festival

A fabulous time was had at Temple Canteen on Thursday with our very first Futura Open Mic Night. Over the course of two hours, compered by our brilliant 6<sup>th</sup> Form, we had over 15 performances ranging from Year 7 bands to song-writers. It was particularly lovely to see Wellsway and SBL students supporting one another. Photos to follow next week!

Spare piano! We have a family who recently moved to the area who are looking for an upright acoustic piano. Do you have one taking up space in your house and would like to donate to some musical students? Removal of the piano would be paid for by the family. Contact [music@futuralearning.co.uk](mailto:music@futuralearning.co.uk) if you know of a piano which needs a good home!

## Summer Concert

A reminder that the Summer Concert takes place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July starting at 6pm. Doors will open at 5.15pm. Tickets will be purchased on the door and charged to your child's Sco-Pay account. £4 per ticket, £2 concession. We hope the sun will shine! Please feel free to bring a picnic (no alcohol), garden chairs and rugs. Our thanks to the PTA who will be providing a bar and also selling ice cream. There will be an Art Exhibition to enjoy. If we have to have the concert indoors, please remember that only one ticket can be purchased per student performing in order to ensure every student has someone watching them.

Summer Concert rehearsals on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

P4, 12.25: Orchestra and choir, including the oratorio choir. Please go directly to Mendip Hall

P5 2.05-3.05pm: Glee Club, Folk Group in Mendip Hall, Orchestra in M03

After school: Soul and Funk Band and Youth Undone.



To celebrate Year 11 finishing their exams we held the annual celebration assembly last Friday. It was lovely to see students relaxed and happy with their peers. The Year 7 photo reel went down particularly well, along with the fabulous performance from Laurie. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow from the very young students we saw in those photos to the lovely students we have today. The whole year group photo shows everyone with big smiles and we hope those smiles will continue on results day, all students have worked very hard and we know your hard work will pay off. Students showed exemplary behaviour on the trip to Hollywood Bowl after the event and we hope everyone had a fantastic time. We look forward to seeing everyone at prom, please continue to check Insight for further details about this event.

Miss French



# The Ammonite

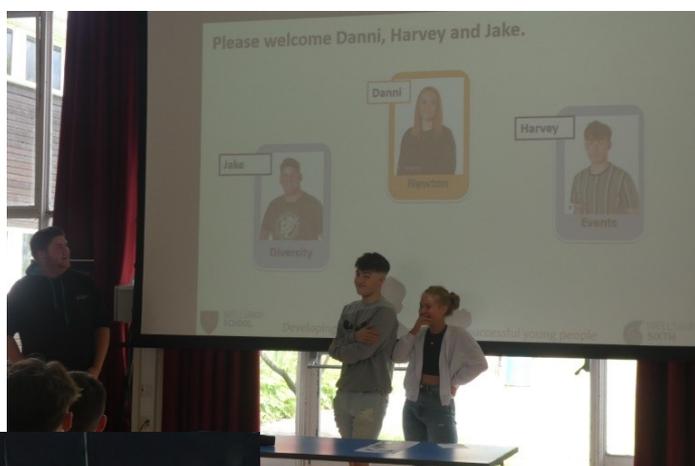
A weekly newsletter for students, parents, carers, families and friends of Wellsway School

It was nice to welcome Year 13 back for their Leavers' Brunch to formally bring an end to their year. Whilst we know we will see them again on results day, and for a celebration evening in December, the brunch marked the end of 2 years in Sixth Form, and for most, 7 years at Wellsway.

The students said their farewells to each other and their teachers, gave brief highlights of standout moments of their time at Wellsway, handed out 'most likely to awards', and by far the biggest hit was the Sixth Form Band!

They are a fantastic year group, and we look forward to hearing of their future success. We wish them all the best as they move on to new adventures.

Mr Littleboy



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**Year 11 Art  
Exhibition**  
**Wednesday 6th July**  
**5-6 PM**  
**6TH FORM CENTRE**

Poster artwork by Sara Salmen '11



To coincide with the Summer Concert, Artwork by our very talented Year 11 students will be displayed in the sixth form centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Please join us between 5 -6pm to celebrate the fantastic work that they have made before the summer concert begins.

Ms Wilton



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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ESPORTS

British Esports describes 'esports' as "competitive gaming, human-v-human, usually with a spectator element to it". In recent years, the esports industry has grown significantly – and is expected to reach an overall worth of \$1.2 billion, with around 30 million monthly viewers, by the end of 2022. This rapid evolution has presented even more opportunities – but, of course, opportunities usually come with a risk. Here, we've highlighted some of the potential hazards within the esports arena and suggested ways to help young people stay safe so they can make the most of this exciting space.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions are in-game purchases that unlock new features or give players special abilities, characters or content. These can cost anything from 99p to £99 (and sometimes more!). The topic of microtransactions in gaming is heavily scrutinised – with cosmetics, pay-to-win features and loot boxes all being a source of contention for gamers and governing bodies in recent years.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Studies show that esports competitors face the same level of mental health issues as athletes from traditional sports, along with some specific additional demands. Like mainstream professional sport, esports is an incredibly tough industry – requiring countless hours of practice. Competing at the highest level can lead to pressures such as handling setbacks, stressful situations and facing criticism.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT & BEHAVIOUR

Only 22% of gamers globally are aged between 10 and 20 – meaning the majority are adults, who might not always act or talk in a way that's appropriate for children. Like traditional sport, esports has many athletes and 'personalities' to look up to. However, it's important that your child stays aware of how influenced they are by the people they follow, and whether the athlete is age appropriate.

### TROLLS & TOXICITY

An internet troll is someone who tries to offend people and cause trouble by posting derogatory comments. Toxicity, as in the real world, refers to negative behaviours like harassment, verbal abuse and inappropriate conduct, which all impact on wellbeing. Trolls and toxicity are an issue within esports, perhaps due to its pressurised, extremely competitive and high-stakes nature.

### POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION

The revenue in esports is potentially vast. Organisations often look to professionals and content creators to help grow their brand, in exchange for the organisation's backing, a salary, and marketing and sponsorship benefits. However, the industry is still in its infancy – and so is its regulation. In some countries, esports isn't regulated at all, so things can get sticky if players don't know what they're doing or who they're working with.

### PHYSICAL EFFECTS

The common perception of esports involves a sedentary lifestyle, an unhealthy diet and very little physical activity – which has obvious health implications. It's certainly true that players sit at their desk for hours, looking into bright screens and not getting regular exercise. Some professional esports players have nutritionists, personal trainers and dieticians specifically to protect their health.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENCOURAGE BALANCE

Dedicating oneself intensely to any activity – including esports – can be harmful, both mentally and physically. Make sure your child's gaming routine is balanced with exercise, regular breaks, healthy food and plenty of water. If your child spends long hours gaming, using a chair with the proper supports and taking the time to practise good posture will help protect their lower back, neck and wrists.

### UNDERSTAND GAMING

Chat to your child about the games they play; ask to watch or even take part to get an idea of how appropriate they are. This will give you an awareness of the phrases esports players and content creators use, helping you understand young gamers' slang. If you find some of the games unsuitable, talk to your child about why. You can also explore age-specific settings on apps like YouTube and Twitch.

### GET EXPERT HELP

If your child does start on the road to becoming a professional, get in touch with an esports-specific agency who are experienced in industry terminology and loopholes. Do due diligence on any team or organisation offering your child a contract: a key point is how long your child would be contracted to them – the esports industry changes quickly, so there might be better and more secure offers out there.

### BLOCK TOXIC USERS

Monitoring in-game chats, or disabling them altogether (either through the console or in the game itself), is a comprehensive way to avoid negative experiences and reduce the risk of toxic messaging. Your child also has options to block messages from particular players and only interact with their friends; this can also help to prevent them from encountering the blocked users in future games.

### Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is an experienced gamer, teacher and athlete. He is Course Leader for the BTEC Esports programme at Salisbury Sixth Form College. Nathan has more than 10 years' experience working in schools and colleges, and holds a Masters degree in Sport Psychology.



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