

The Ammonite

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

Message from the Principal

Be bold - Be brave - Be you



We enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day on Tuesday - a culmination of this year's events. Congratulations to each student who took part and provided support and enthusiasm throughout the day! The efforts of all four Houses were remarkable and a demonstration of what can be achieved when we work together.

A huge thank you to the PE department for arranging this wonderful event and to our talented students, whose efforts and positivity made this Sports Day one of the best we have had! Special thanks go to Miss Randall, who coordinated this year's event.

The day was marked by some remarkable individual performances of excellence but everyone did their bit for their House. We are going to delay announcing the results until our celebration assembly next week on Thursday, where they will be published in the final Ammonite.

Sports Day is not only fun for the students; it creates a wonderful atmosphere and that sense of togetherness that we had sadly missed the year before. It is also the perfect opportunity to remind us all about the importance of teamwork, fair play and how to overcome one's own limits. The children certainly did us proud with their **'I can'** attitude and enthusiasm on the day. Stepping out of their comfort zone and supporting one another in a common goal.

The preceding day, I attended the Futura Conference hosted at Wellsway School. We had an important and thought provoking keynote speech from Matt Pinkett author of **"Boys Don't Try: Rethinking Masculinities in Schools"**, to support our wider school improvement work across all our schools.

In the afternoon, I attended a session led by guest speaker Victoria Humphries - **Managing change, coping with ambiguity and learning to be resilient**. This was one of the many afternoon well-being sessions to support strategies to develop mental health. These inspiring sessions left me with some clear messages that we will be taking into the next academic year. The important theme being one that we will be developing through our Personal Development Programme - **"Be bold, be brave, be you"**. Victoria's advice, based around her life experiences are:

Go for it, try new things
Just take one step, that's the hardest
Say yes and worry about it afterwards
You don't know if you're going to be good or useless, unless you try
Life is tough, you just have to get on with it and believe in yourself
Success is whatever you define it as.

I'm sure when you read the other stories in this week's Ammonite you will be inspired, as we have been on how our students have been demonstrating our trust values and aims of Respect, Opportunity, Collaboration and Aspiration. **"Always remember that anything is possible - just believe in yourself"**.

Have a lovely weekend

Rob Pearsall

**Principal and Executive Head of School
Wellsway School and IKB Academy**

Issue : 1039—Friday 15th July 2022

Key dates

Thursday 21st July

Last day of term. 1.25pm finish

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 lfox@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 – Chloe M – amazing leadership and effort in tennis lessons

Year 8 – Isaac L-C – being wonderful on the Year 8 trip!

Year 9 – Joe R – consistent excellent effort

Year 10 – Kieran S and Luke B – going above and beyond on transition day

(Kieran and Chloe pictured below)



Victoria Humphries

<https://www.anythingispossible.co.uk/contact-us.html>

A polar adventurer, three times Guinness World Record holder, mountain climber, marathon runner, author and businesswoman – Victoria Humphries claims to be just an average person who happens to believe that Anything is Possible if you put your mind to it. She believes that by using our lived experiences we can all become more resilient and adept at coping with change and overcoming adversity.

A member of the first all-female expedition to the North Pole, Victoria has a story to show that anyone can overcome their fears and thrive in a challenging situation; it's all about taking one step at a time and asking yourself '*why not?*'





Futura Oratorio Postponed

Futura Learning Partnership has made difficult decision to postpone the Futura Oratorio due to take place at The Forum in Bath on Tuesday evening. This is due to the predicted high temperature, which we feel will be very unpleasant for the performers and audience. We have consulted The Forum who support our decision and have offered an alternative date of 13th September 2022. The rehearsal on Monday 18th July will go ahead as planned at Bristol Grammar School, which has air conditioning, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generosity in hosting this for us. This has been a difficult decision but so much planning and preparation has gone into the Oratorio and we want to make sure the performance is a joyous event and a true celebration. Thank you for your support and understanding.

UKMT Maths Challenge Success

This year, 261 Wellsway students have completed in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior UKMT Maths Challenge - a huge well done to everyone who participated. We are delighted to see so many Wellsway students achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in this year's challenge (only the top-scoring 10% of students in the country achieve a Gold Award) as well as a selection of students being invited to compete in the next round called the UKMT Kangaroo Challenge. An extra-special congratulations must go to the following students:



Year 7

Oscar H (Best in Year, Gold Award and participated in the Junior Kangaroo Challenge)
Achilles D (Gold Award)
Rhys M (Gold Award)

Year 8

Edan G (Best in Year, Gold Award)
Layla S (Gold Award)

Year 9

Katie L (Best in Year, Silver Award and invited to compete in the Grey Kangaroo Challenge)

Year 10

Janos B (Best in Year, Gold Award, Merit in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)

Year 11

Laurie F (Best in Year, Gold Award and participated in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)
Lewis R (Gold Award and participated in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)
Isobel S (Gold Award and participated in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)
Adam L (Gold Award and participated in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)
Charlie B (Gold Award and participated in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge)

Year 12

Harvey L (Joint Best in Year, Silver Award)
Austin C (Joint Best in Year, Silver Award)

Year 13

Joseph S (Best in Year, Gold Award, Merit in the Senior Kangaroo Challenge)
Emma P (Gold Award and participated in the Senior Kangaroo Challenge)

Ms R Davey



Year 9 reward trip

On Tuesday 5th July 49 students attended the year 9 reward trip to the M Shed and Zaza Bazaar. Students with the most net house points and the fewest behaviour points were invited to thank them for their outstanding work this year. Students particularly enjoyed climbing aboard the old style bus in the museum and trying on various costumes! We also enjoyed finding Keynsham and Wellsway on the map. The real highlight was lunch at Zaza Bazaar – students practically ran through the doors with excitement! Some students managed 7 plates of food ranging from curries to nachos, noodles to ice cream. Everyone made it back to school in a slight food coma but happy with the day they had had. Student's behaviour was exemplary and we look forward to taking the other year groups on their trips this week and next.





Year 12 Induction

Over Monday and Tuesday, we welcomed our soon to be new Year 12s to Sixth Form as part of their Induction. A large number of students attended the 2 days, and this was increased further with students from SBL and IKB joining lessons too. Throughout there was an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation for the challenges of the 2 years ahead.

A personal highlight was seeing the fantastic attitude of our students; including when current Wellsway students welcomed those new to our school by making them feel part of our community from the off, and seeing new friendships being built!

During the 2 days the students experienced a lesson for each of the subjects they hope to take in September and explored the mindset of a successful Post-16 student.

The end of the 2 days culminated in team building activities and some fun on the field with a BBQ lunch.





Leavers' Ball

Following the Leavers' Brunch last week, Year 13 formally celebrated the end of their time in Sixth Form with the Leavers' Ball at the Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel.

There was a party atmosphere for the night and the students celebrated in style!

I am sure they had a good, if not late, night.



Message from the Wellsway PTA

A huge THANK YOU to our volunteers at the summer concert and used uniform sale last week. We made £2,192 at the uniform sale and £164 selling refreshments at the concert.



Phoebe S - Netball Success

A big congratulations to Phoebe S who has recently been selected to play and train as part of Team Bath Netball's U17 National Performance League. Phoebe will be a part of the Team Bath Athlete Development Centre, where she will receive specialist coaching plus lifestyle and sports science support. Alongside this, Phoebe will also be playing in Team Bath's Regional U16 squad.

An amazing achievement Phoebe - well done and good luck for the upcoming season!!

Mamma Mia

It's been a great couple of weeks for the drama department getting to take over 130 year 7 and 130 year 8 students to watch Mamma Mia at the Bristol Hippodrome. The show was amazing and the students were so well behaved, with many members of the public commenting on how exceptional they were. It was lovely to be able to give students the opportunity to watch some live theatre and to see all the students enjoying themselves.



Last week YA author Tracy Darnton visited the school and did a talk to some year 10s about writing, her books, and the publishing process. The students asked questions and were asked to send in an article to Miss Minto. The best article would go in Ammonite. The winning article by Phoebe P is below.

Tracy Darnton article by Phoebe P:

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of meeting successful young adult fiction author, Tracy Darnton. Tracy has published three YA books, a picture book and is currently in the process of writing a new adult thriller. In the meeting with Tracy, she took us through the process of writing a book, from the idea of a story, to this story being on a bookshelf in a shop for people to buy.

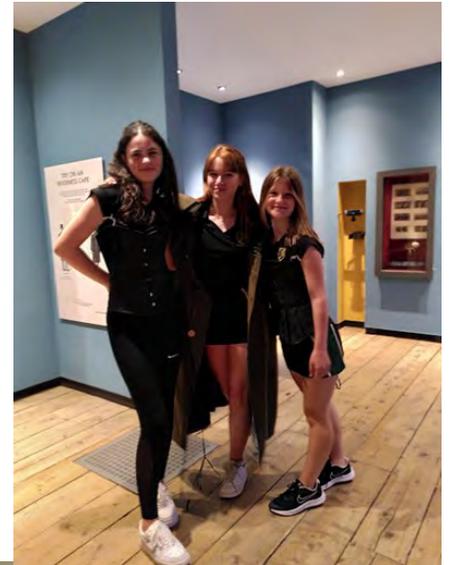
So, how does an author go through the lengthy process of writing a book? Well, Tracy said that it can take anywhere from 18 months to a year to fully publish a book. This includes the planning, the line edit, the copy edit, creating the proof copy, the final copy, and eventually the book launch. This extensive process relies entirely on timing, Tracy says on a daily basis she will attempt to write 1,000 words, and on an extremely productive day she will write about 3,000 words. Her latest book, 'Ready or Not' was released in early May of this year. As it is a summer read, Tracy's publishers tried to time it so that the book would be released just before summer. The release of a book is called the book launch, the book launch will be essentially advertising the book in bookshops, and is the author's chance to thank everyone involved in the book (cover designer, marketing, etc.).

Following this, we got to ask Tracy some questions. One being "Would you ever consider a change in genre?" Tracy said that her work with picture books is a much more arduous process taking as long as four years. Tracy also added that her and a lot of YA authors enjoy writing adult thrillers as they are easier and quicker. Another question asked was "Do you have any tips for creative writing?". To which Tracy helpfully replied with: writing things you are interested in; playing and experimenting with themes and styles; entering competitions to experience deadlines and wordcounts; and to keep writing.

Tracy was an inspiring writer to hear from and has motivated me throw myself into creative writing and enlightened me of

the world of publishing and the intricacies of writing a book.





Trip to the V&A

This week Year 10 Design, Art and Technology students from Wellsway and IKB visited the Victoria and Albert museum in London.

On behalf of Design, Art and Technology staff at both WW and IKB, a massive thankyou and well done to all students that attended. It was a real joy and pleasure to see the curriculum come to life and we were so impressed by everyone's behav-





Art News

This week year 7 and 8 have been busy working on their end of the year art assessments. On behalf of all teachers in the DArT team, we are so proud of how you all rose to the challenge. You put in an amazing effort and came up with some really inventive and creative outcomes. We are so impressed!

Very well done Y7 and Y8!

Miss Wilton









Biology Field Trip

The biology field trip to Margam Park was held this year from 6-8th July. We put into practice some of the skills that we have been learning in class by visiting and comparing deciduous and coniferous woodland, measuring species present at different stages on a sand dune and getting our boots on to kick sample a local stream.

It was great to be able to experience the theory 'for real'!

The students made the most of their free time too with football and trips to the on-site farm that had goats, pigs, a free roaming flock of geese and deer - there were photo opportunities galore!

Both Mr Sage and I were very impressed at the enthusiasm and positive attitude that the students showed at all times. They were a credit to themselves and the school.





Artistic swimming

Congratulations to Helena P, Holly K and Chloe S who recently completed in the Combo cup in the London Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park. TeamBath 15 and Under division (Helena and Holly) came joint 5th out of 21 clubs entered Nationwide which was an amazing achievement as the club was hoping for mid table. The 13 to 18 yrs Division 2 (Chloe) came 9th in their category. The amount of time training and the dedication from the girls to reach this level of performance is remarkable. Well done to all three girls, a fantastic achievement.



**JUNIOR SKELETON
TASTER SESSION**

12-15YRS OLD

LEARN HOW TO PUSH
A SKELETON SLED
WITH COACHING FROM
GB ATHLETES

£65PP

5TH AUGUST
9:30-11:30AM

@ THE UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

BOOK @
WWW.THEBBSA.CO.UK

The logo for the British Bobsleigh & Skeleton team, featuring a stylized bobsleigh and skeleton sled in red, white, and blue.

British Bobsleigh and Skeleton are offering Skeleton Taster Sessions for anyone aged between 12-15yrs old.

They will meet and enjoy 2 hours of pushing activities coached by GB athletes and coaches at the push track based on the University of Bath campus.





yoto
CARNEGIE
GREENAWAY
AWARDS



A 'slightly surreal' experience is how the Yoto Carnegie Medal winner, Katya Balen describes being told she had won both the coveted Medal and the accolade of also being the Shadows' Choice winner.

Library News

This year's winner of the Yoto Carnegie Greenaway awards is announced!

Over the last few terms, Wellsway Book Club have been busy reading this year's short list for the nationally recognised Carnegie book awards. Along with thousands of other schools, the Carnegie reading group shadow the role of the Carnegie librarian judges, reading the shortlisted books and debating who should win the prize. Shadowing is one of the UK's largest reading for pleasure initiatives - engaging tens of thousands of children and young people in reading.

Our students have been writing and posting public reviews on the books, and have voted in the national awards for their favourite read this year. Bookclub students were split this year, with both "Cane Warriors," by Alex Wheatle, and "When the Sky Falls," by Phil Earle, voted by our students as their favourites. Students were awarded for their reading efforts, with Beth winning the prize for completing all six books first, and Anna winning a £10 book voucher for the Best review for October, October.

Students described this year's books as -"heart-warming and heart-wrenching," "captivating," "educational and emotional,"

If you would like to have a look at what the students have thought of the books on the short list, take a look here:

<https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/group-magazine/9365/>

All of the books from the Carnegie short list are now available in the school library for students to borrow.

If you like the idea of trying out new reads and discussing your reading passions with other like-minded students, why join us for book club, every Thursday lunchtime in the library.

This year's book selection are-



WIN £1,000
FOR YOUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY

#rebuildthelibrary



NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Help us win £1000 for our school library plus £100 for yourself by clicking this link <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools> and nominating Wellsway School. The more nominations we get the better our chances of winning.

WIN £1,000/€1,000 to help your school rebuild their library – plus a £100/€120 National Book Token for yourself!

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 platforms 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 STEAM

Steam is a computer gaming digital distribution platform and storefront. It is the biggest platform for desktop- or laptop-based gaming, with a range of more than 30,000 games available. The platform has become a lively social environment for many gamers, and allows people to trade, sell and buy gaming items for real money. Valve, the developers behind Steam, have also released different hardware that works with the platform, including the Steam Deck – a hand-held console that lets users play their favourite games while away from their computer.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNSUITABLE GAMES

Among the 30,000+ games on the platform, there are many that aren't appropriate for children. Individuals can view and download games featuring adult content if they verify their age – but, of course, it's easy to enter a false date of birth online. This can lead to children and young people finding games that they shouldn't have access to: featuring violence or profanity, for example.

SPENDING SPREES

Steam hosts regular sales – including some where game prices are reduced by up to 90%. Some sales promotions also include a mini-game or event which encourages users to spend more money. The sales can be an excellent time for young gamers to purchase the titles they've been wanting, but the attractive discounts can also promote impulse buys driven by the fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Steam isn't a social media site, but it certainly shares some of their elements. Users can add other people as 'friends', for example (whether they know them in real life or not), and then communicate privately with them using text or voice chat. The platform also hosts public discussions and groups for socialising. Steam users can also leave comments on the profiles of other players.

POTENTIAL SCAMS

Sadly, Steam's immense popularity has made it a lucrative destination for internet scammers. The most common ruse is phishing: scammers send links to other users, aiming to trick them into entering their login details – which are then stolen. Once in control of the account, the scammer sends messages to everyone on the victim's friend's list, in an attempt to hijack their accounts too.

SHADY TRADERS

The Steam Community Market is a built-in trading area where players can trade resources for their games on the platform. Gamers can exchange items, or buy and sell them using real-world currency. It's possible for unwary users to be scammed through bad trade deals, and Steam doesn't usually get involved when this happens. There are also third-party trading websites, which can be risky to use.

SPARSE AGE RATINGS

Steam is a digital distribution platform for games of all kinds, including ones not rated by regulatory bodies. Getting a game rated takes a long time, and can be expensive, so developers only tend to follow that process when releasing a title that will be physically sold in shops. Most games on Steam, therefore, don't have an advisory age rating on the store page.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Steam does have some limited parental controls that can restrict exactly what games someone's account can view and access. This can be set up by navigating to the 'Family' tab in 'Settings', then selecting 'Manage Family View'. The platform then allows parents and carers to share a Steam account with their child and limit them to age-appropriate games.

USE GIFT CARDS

Having payment methods (like card details or PayPal) linked to a Steam account makes it very easy for a child to purchase new games or spend money on items in the marketplace. An excellent and safe alternative would be to buy a Steam gift card and let your child make their purchases with that instead – putting a manageable cap on how much they can spend on the platform.

APPLY STEAM GUARD

Steam Guard is an optional additional layer of security that protect accounts. Enabling it ensures that anyone attempting to log in to that account also needs to provide authorisation via their phone or email. The computer that your child uses Steam on can be authorised to prevent having to provide separate authentication for each login.

SHARE A LIBRARY

Using Family Library Sharing lets everyone at home share games across accounts (while still keeping their accounts separate). The entire game library from each account is shared with the other account holders – a great way to avoid having to purchase a different copy of the game for each of your children. However, if two users want to play the same game separately, you would need to buy it twice.

SAFE MODDING

Modifying a game to customise it or to introduce new content – known as 'modding' – is common on Steam. There's nothing inherently bad about modding, but installing the wrong mods can be disastrous: they can stop games from working properly, or at all. Steam's mods are unlikely to contain viruses or malware, but it's still possible – so ensure your child reads the mod's reviews first to avoid anything dangerous.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.powerspy.com/en/2022/07/01/998-2389-4378>
<https://help.steam.com/en/faq/new/5107-5300-294F-6184>