

# THE AMMONITE

www.wellswayschool.com

Issue 932 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019



WELLSWAY  
SCHOOL



Student absence line 0117 9161030

## Dates for the Diary

Parent, Carer and Student 'Need to Know' Dates			
Year	Activity	Date	Start Time and Venue
For All	Parent Information Evening (Safeguarding)	Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> June	6pm, Lansdown Hall ( <b>Please return reply slip emailed on 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> )
	Summer Concert	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	7pm, Wellsway School
	Sports Day	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> July	
7			
8			
9			
10	Internal Exams	W/C 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Various
11	Sixth Form Induction Day	Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> June	UWE
Sixth Form	Y13 Leavers Breakfast & Assembly	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> June	8am, Lansdown Hall
	Leavers Dinner	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	The Bristol

As we waved off the last Year 11 students from Somerdale Pavilion at 10.15pm last night, it was an absolute pleasure to hear how impressed both Somerdale and security staff were with the conduct of our Year 11 students at their Prom. I'd like to begin by publically thanking Mr Stirling-Turner for the huge amount of hard work he put in to ensure a memorable and upbeat celebration of Year 11's time at Wellsway School, giving up evenings and weekends in addition to many lunchtimes working with the Prom Committee to organise an event in collaboration with the student body. I'd also like to thank the huge number of staff who gave up their evening and the 20 plus staff who worked a 14 hour day by staying right to the end - above and beyond what we ask. The students who attended were exemplary and my morning has involved lots of conversations with staff about how positive they were throughout the evening and about what a lovely way it was to end the event with the crowning of the Prom Queen and King.

This is, and should be, an event for the students; students wanted it to feel special and we therefore actively sought a venue off site that met what the students wanted and addressed a number of safeguarding concerns that had been raised at recent Year 11 Proms held on Wellsway School site. Somerdale Pavilion was a fantastic venue and it was lovely to receive an email from them this morning complimenting both the organisation from the school before and during the event and the students' conduct on the night.

I am, however, aware that there were some difficulties prior to the event as students arrived. As we explained in writing to Year 11 Parents when communicating logistics, we do not have authority to direct traffic on a public highway and have no jurisdiction over members of public in a public space. We had worked with the venue and the security staff to fence off an area for Year 11 parents to see their children arrive and hoped other members of the community who wanted to watch the vehicles would line the road away from the Pavilion. I appreciate that due to how busy it was, some parents were unable to see clearly and despite having security there to support, regrettably a small minority of spectators ignored polite requests to move.

Despite this, we have had an overwhelmingly positive response from Year 11 students and parents, as one parent has said, 'Instagram is awash with smiles'. We are now looking forward to the year group's next exciting event, their Sixth Form induction that for the first year ever will take place at the University of the West of England with Year 11 students from across our family of schools. We will then look forward to welcoming many of the year group back to sixth form in September and wish those students moving to pastures new the best of luck.

There must be many parents of Year 13 reading this remembering their child's Year 11 Prom from 2017 and whose children are looking forward the Year 13's dinner in Bristol next week. I know I and many staff are also looking forward to this event and to seeing the year group off to their next adventure, whether that be university, apprenticeships or travels.

**Matthew Woodville**  
Principal

## Parent/Carer Evenings - Parental Surveys

### Year 7 Parent and Carers' Evening – Response to Feedback

Thank you to Year 7 parents and carers who attended last week's Parent and Carers' Evening – it was funny to think back to just over a year ago when students joined us with a mixture of excitement, anticipation and some understandable nerves for their Transition Day and to reflect on just how confident and enthusiastic the year group now are. Since I arrived in 2016, we have asked parents to complete a paper based questionnaire at the end of each Parents' Evening. These surveys are typed up the next day and reviewed at our Senior Leadership Team meeting the next week and always shared with governors. We keep all the responses and indeed used them with the Inspection Team last week as they show an interesting difference of opinion that appears to exist between those parents who attend parents' evenings and a minority of views expressed on Parent View.

It is with delight that I can share some positives from the evening where we had over 100 responses: 98% feel their child progresses well; 99% feel their child is taught well and 95% strongly agree or agree that appropriate homework is set. This is, however, just part of what makes for a successful school and I was particularly pleased to read that over 97% agree or strongly agree their child is safe and well looked after and that 96% feel their child is happy.

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to some of the responses and conversations I had with some parents and carers across the evening.

**Booking System:** I know that the Year 7 Evening can come as a bit of a shock for some parents and carers after their experience from Year 6, as, in a small number of cases, it is impossible that staff who teach multiple Year 7 classes can see the parents of each student in an evening. If you were unable to see a teacher of a subject and wanted specific feedback about your child's progress and achievement, please do email our [enquiries@wellswayschool.com](mailto:enquiries@wellswayschool.com) email address and this will be passed to the relevant staff.

**Timing of Year 7 Parents' Evening:** We are only able to schedule one parent/ carer evening for each year group across the academic year and as we know whichever year group is seen in Term 6 will feel late for parents, we deliberately organise the Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening in Term 1. This is so that Year 7 parents and carers have two opportunities across the year to discuss their individual child's transition and progress at secondary school, in addition to the other information evenings we hold. We also schedule the written report comment from the tutor to provide a balance of information from September to July. Please rest assured, that if we had concerns, we would contact you!

**Litter bins:** Litter is a problem I know many schools face and in response to student voice, we have invested heavily in fifteen new bins for the school site. We will continue to work on improving this aspect of school life with our student body.

**Communication:** It is with regret that this aspect of the school was rated lower than the other areas addressed by the parent questionnaire and this is something we have and continue to work on improving. Please do remember to use [enquiries@wellswayschool.com](mailto:enquiries@wellswayschool.com) to send in any enquiries or comments as we can then ensure the current staff receive the email and include line managers and if you don't receive a response, please do ring or email again, as we have had some instances of emails going to junk folders or can look into why there has been a lack of response.

We will continue to ask parents to fill these out at parent/ carer evenings as they provide us with really valuable views and ideas.

Mr Woodville

## School News

### Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

Year 11 enjoyed their end of year assembly on Wednesday this week. Each Head of House presented their students with awards and thank yous.

This was followed by the hand out of the Year Book along with the tradition of shirt signing. Good Luck to all of you. Enjoy your summer.



### Tutor group adjustments for the academic year 2019-20

Towards the end of every academic year, we review systems, groups and structures in consideration of student welfare, development and progress. As part of this year's evaluation, the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of House will be reviewing the combination of students in each tutor group.

Tutor groups are continually monitored to ensure the best possible tutor group experience for students. Changes are sometimes needed to ensure an optimal combination of students for both student welfare and to allow tutors to monitor and support their tutees' academic progress – a key aspect of tutoring at Wellsway School, where tutors work closely with Heads of House and Learning Mentors to identify underperformance and implement a wide range of support strategies.

Students will be informed of the changes by their tutors during week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June and the changes will be made during week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Tutors will prioritise getting to know new tutees during term 6 and identifying any support required to ensure they reach their potential at Wellsway School.

### HAPS Activity Morning 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of June, a group of students from years 7-10 took part in a beneficial challenge session focussing on EPQs (Extended Project Qualification), linking to independent work. We learnt about what they are, how we would go about planning and completing one and how greatly it can benefit us in the future. In doing so, we would be developing time management skills, extending knowledge and most importantly our independence. In our group we discussed: social expectations and gender roles throughout history; the changing lifestyles and normality of the people; and how history can help us move forward. This programme has helped us look towards the future and our future careers in a productive way.

**By Lauren, Amelia and Darcey.**

### Year 11 – Donations of uniform and sports kit

Should you wish to donate any uniform or sports kit we would really appreciate these items which we can sell on to families at a very reasonable price to help raise funds in order to improve our dining facilities for students.

## Sixth Form

### Sixth Form Induction Day – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June

A quick reminder that this year's event will be held at the University of West England (UWE). Students need to arrive in the Common Room at 9am before we board coaches to UWE. We will return at Wellsway at approximately 2.30pm.

Further details have been sent by Insight to all parents/carers and students attending the day.

### Leavers' Breakfast

The Year 13 leavers' celebrations for students will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 8am for the breakfast in Lansdown Hall! We are looking forward to seeing our students there, and celebrating their time here with us.

## Music

### Summer Concert

We intend for our Summer Concert to take place outdoors on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.00pm**. However, due to our current weather forecast of typical British weather we think it's wise to sell tickets on the basis that it will rain, and therefore need to be held indoors. Due to the high numbers of students involved we will need to run two concerts. ***Please note that orchestra, choir and drumming club will perform at both concerts.***

**Performance 1 - 7.00pm - 7.30pm in Mendip Hall.** This will feature our Year 6 transition choir, drumming club, orchestra and choir. If your child is in Year 6, you automatically have two complimentary seats. You will simply turn up on the night, and give your child's name. Additional to this we will have **50 tickets on sale** for this event for other parents. At the end of this concert, all Year 6s and their families will leave.

**Performance 2 - 8.00pm - 9.00pm in Mendip Hall.** This will feature all our music clubs. Orchestra, choir, Year 7 choir, drumming club, soul and funk band, folk group, ukulele group and 6<sup>th</sup> form performance. There will be 180 tickets on sale for this event and we respectfully ask that to ensure every child has someone watching them, you only purchase a maximum of two tickets per child.

However, if the sun decides to shine and we are able to go ahead with holding this outdoors we will have just one concert which will start at 7.00pm. You will be able to buy extra tickets on the door for this event because we will not be constrained by seating. Please refer to the school website on the day of the concert for confirmation of where the concert will be taking place.

Tickets will go on sale tomorrow (Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June) at 9.00am. Please click on the following Ticketsource link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wellsway-school>

## Sport

### Sports Day 2019

This year our Sports Day will be split over two days, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Both days will involve athletic events, with the Friday afternoon comprising of house relays and results. The event details will be advertised to students during PE lessons and tutor time, with sign up starting next week.

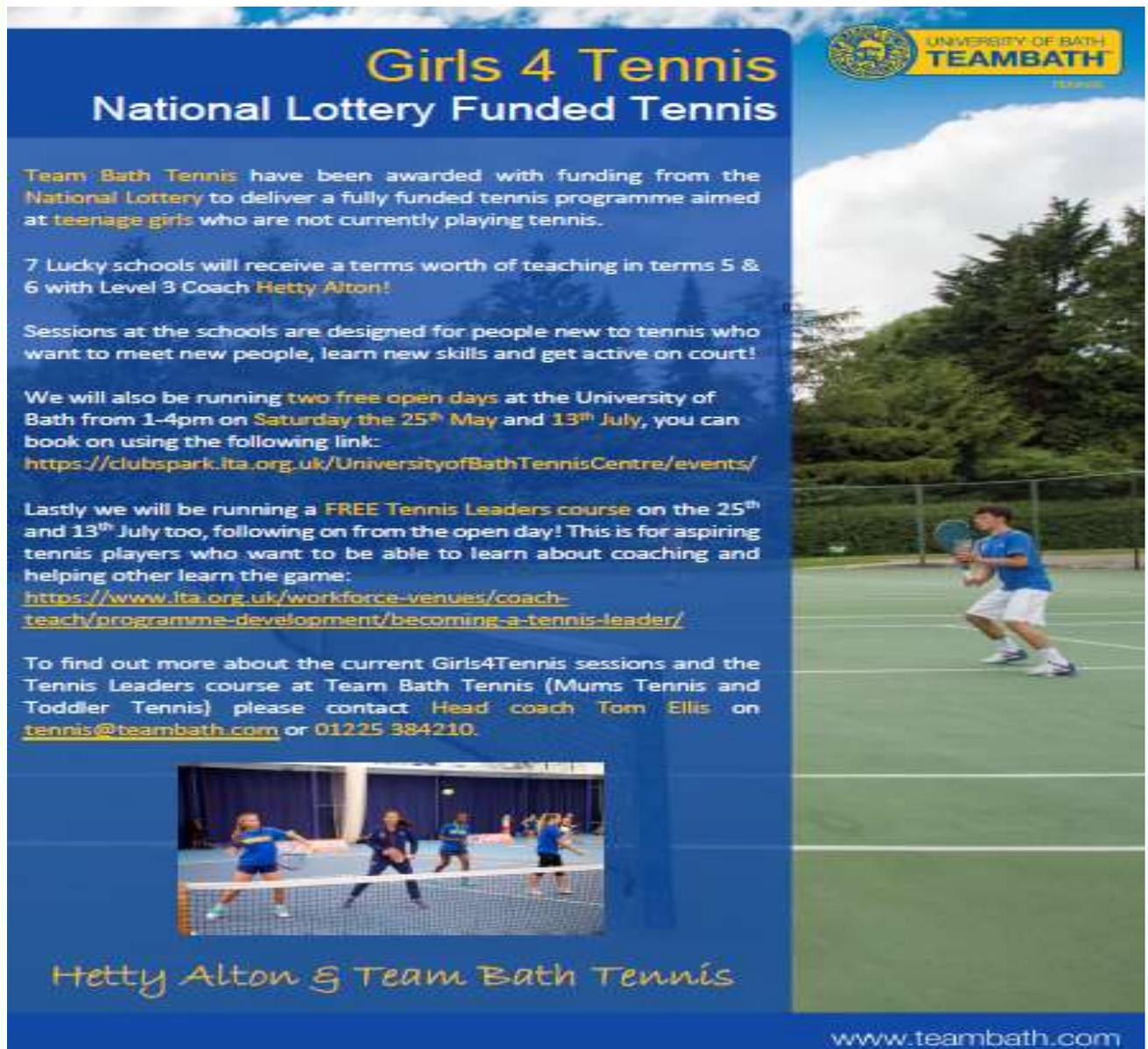
Mr Evans

### Girls in Tennis

We have run a number of tennis sessions this year in collaboration with Bath University in order to try and increase the opportunities for and the number of students involved in tennis. I would like to advertise the following opportunities that are coming up in the next few weeks:

- a) Run a tennis open day on the 13<sup>th</sup> July (1-4pm). Full details can be here: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/UniversityofBathTennisCentre/events/>
- b) Run a tennis leaders courts on the 13<sup>th</sup> July (4-7pm). Full details can be found here: <https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/coach-teach/programme-development/becoming-a-tennis-leader/>

Mr Evans



**Girls 4 Tennis**  
National Lottery Funded Tennis

Team Bath Tennis have been awarded with funding from the National Lottery to deliver a fully funded tennis programme aimed at teenage girls who are not currently playing tennis.

7 Lucky schools will receive a terms worth of teaching in terms 5 & 6 with Level 3 Coach **Hetty Alton!**

Sessions at the schools are designed for people new to tennis who want to meet new people, learn new skills and get active on court!

We will also be running **two free open days** at the University of Bath from 1-4pm on **Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> May** and **13<sup>th</sup> July**, you can book on using the following link:  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/UniversityofBathTennisCentre/events/>

Lastly we will be running a **FREE Tennis Leaders course** on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July too, following on from the open day! This is for aspiring tennis players who want to be able to learn about coaching and helping other learn the game:  
<https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/coach-teach/programme-development/becoming-a-tennis-leader/>

To find out more about the current Girls4Tennis sessions and the Tennis Leaders course at Team Bath Tennis (Mums Tennis and Toddler Tennis) please contact Head coach Tom Ellis on [tennis@teambath.com](mailto:tennis@teambath.com) or 01225 384210.

*Hetty Alton & Team Bath Tennis*

[www.teambath.com](http://www.teambath.com)

## Careers



**Careers Hub** (Located in the Sixth form corridor next to M32)

**Open to ALL STUDENTS** Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 3.00pm

Either pop in OR Email; [amillard@wellswayschool.com](mailto:amillard@wellswayschool.com)

**\*\* Wednesday Lunch-time Employer 'Pop-Up' sessions\*\***

**Informal information and advice direct from employers, no need to book, just come on in**

**UPCOMING EVENTS –**

<https://nationalcareerservice.direct.gov.uk>

## Friends of Wellsway PTA

### Success at school uniform sale

We made an amazing £847 at the Wellsway School used uniform sale at the start of June and sold almost all our stock within the first 40 minutes! The money will go towards tables and chairs in a second school dining area to help with crowding at lunchtime. Thank you so much to Denise, Tracy, Julie, Natasha and Corrina on the PTA for running the sale this year and to the parents who kindly donated uniform.

If you would like to join the PTA, we would love to have more members. Contact us at [pta@wellswayschool.com](mailto:pta@wellswayschool.com)

**Natasha Leeper**  
**Vice Chair, Wellsway PTA**

## Staff Vacancies

For more information please go to <https://www.wellswaymat.com/careers>