

THE AMMONITE

www.wellswayschool.com

Issue 942 11th October 2019



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	INSET days	25 th Oct & 4 th Nov	
	Parent Information Evening	17 th October	CANCELLED
7			
8			
9			
10	Geography Fieldwork Trip	23 rd October	Forest of Dean
11			
Sixth Form	Open Morning	23 rd October	8.40am – 10am, Common Room

During Open Evenings and Open Mornings, I often hear parents who attended Wellsway reminiscing about their memories of Wellsway School. This week, I spent a really interesting hour with a visitor whose father had worked at Wellsway between 1959 and 1989, and who had attended the school himself until 1978 and his nostalgia about the school made me feel really proud to now be the principal here. He was interested to see the Languages block that used to be a swimming pool and noted the same woodwork benches in tech. As I'm sure many current parents have also noticed, he was impressed with some massive moves forward that we have made in the last few years, such as the open unisex toilets in science and Mendip (which have recently opened); the new Inclusion Centre that has been refurbished in Mendip; the graphics on corridor walls in science and maths and the impressive new chemistry lab. Over the time I've been at Wellsway, we have been able to fund three new science labs; as I'm sure parents can understand, we're unable to afford more than one a year, but look forward to more in the future. It was a privilege to spend an hour with him this week and discuss how we are developing the school community. Parents and students won't necessarily notice all of these developments, but they are just part of the things that create the atmosphere we want. Hopefully there will be more news to come on some future developments from this meeting.

Despite the rain and wind, Sixth Form Open Evening was really busy and students and parents were overwhelmingly positive about the advice and support staff were able to provide about such an important life choice. I hope those who visited liked the new addition of having the trees lit up (thanks to our technical team)! It was interesting to hear so many students who were excited about the new courses we're offering in response to student voice and? I would urge students who were unable to attend to speak to their teachers – there really is something for everyone at Wellsway and, as one parent said, 'why would you choose anywhere else?!' If parents or students have any last questions before making applications, please do speak to staff here or email our enquiries@wellswasychool.com and we'll do our best to help.

Matthew Woodville
Principal

School News

Parent Information Evening – CANCELLED

The parent/carers evening that was scheduled for Thursday 17th October has been cancelled.

Votes for Schools

As part of tutor time last week, we discussed 'Will vaping be banned?'. Students were made aware of evidence from both sides of the argument, encouraged to debate the topic and then decide for themselves whether it should be banned. During Monday's tutor time, students will have the opportunity to vote 'Yes' or 'No'. The results of this vote will be compared with students locally and nationally (just like in a real election!).

Miss Tithecott



World Mental Health Day – 10th October 2019

Every year nearly 800,000 people worldwide take their own life and many more who attempt suicide. It's the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds.

Members of staff at Wellsway School dressed in yellow raising awareness and supporting Mental Health Day 2019.

This week in PSHE the students have been supporting World Mental Health Day and YoungMinds charity by proudly wearing yellow ribbons to raise awareness.

Make Your Mark campaign - PSHE

Last week all Wellsway students successfully took part in Make Your Mark campaign. The national result will prioritise issues for a debate in the House of Commons. The ballot papers have been counted and Wellsway students voted to protect the environment and put an end to knife crime.

Miss Brewer

Music & Performing Arts News

Choir

We are delighted to have so many students attending our Chamber Choir which meets after school on a Monday 3.15pm-4.15pm. In addition to this, our main school choir on a Thursday lunchtime continues to thrive, with over sixty students attending on a weekly basis, including lots of boys! However we always welcome new singers. It's never too late to join, especially Year 7s who may be finding their feet!

Ms McLean

Music Clubs

Thanks to two DoE students we have a new Musicals Club which will run Wednesday lunchtime in M03. It's open to any Year 7 and 8 students who love singing songs from the musicals. Bring your lunch. Our Drum Club takes place after school on Tuesday 3.15pm-3.45pm in M03. We definitely have more drums – no experience is required!

Ms McLean

Lord of the Flies - Rehearsals

The next rehearsal for Lord of the Flies will be Tuesday 15th October, 3.15 - 5. The following characters are needed: Ralph, Piggy, Roberts, Gordon, Jack, Sam, Eric, Henry, Maurice, Simon, Bill and the Tribe Leaders.

Miss Coles

Theatre Tech Club

Theatre Tech Club will be running from 12th November, 3.15 - 4.30. If you are interested in learning about how to use the lighting and sound equipment a sign-up sheet is outside the Performing Arts office!

Miss Coles

Sixth Form

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 10th October

Thank you very much for coming to our Sixth Form Open evening on Thursday and making it such a wonderful event.

I am pleased to say that applications for September 2020 entry are now open. Simply log in to Insight and select - General – Options offer – and then click on the blue puzzle icon by each subject.

We hope you found the evening informative, but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at sixthform@wellswayschool.com

Mr Bray

Year 11 Competitive Courses Group

The Year 11 Competitive Courses Group (also known as CCG) will start again very shortly.

This group is for any Year 11 student who is interested in applying for any of the following after Sixth Form – Oxford University, Cambridge University, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Law or any university institution that requires AAA entry grades or higher at A Level. The group meets with Mr Bray, our Director of Sixth Form, regularly and is designed to support you through the initial process of researching, understanding, preparing for and eventually applying for these courses after Sixth Form. We have a fantastic record of students obtaining amazing placements, with over 40% of Year 13 students going to these top universities.

The group carries on throughout Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13, and attendance is entirely voluntary. If you are interested, please forward your name to Mrs Turner at aturner@wellswayschool.com

Mr Bray

Challenge Cup – Round 1 – The Mega Quiz

It is amazing how quickly a fun event can become highly competitive! In a tense hall our sixth form students crammed their heads together for the first whole-Sixth Form round of the Challenge Cup of the year – The Mega Quiz. In the end just a few points separated the top teams, who will be announced next week.

Thank you to all who took part, and especially to the Officer Team for both creating and hosting the event.

Mr Bray

Congratulations

Congratulations to Finnola Stratton in Year 12 who last week won the *Pairs Head* rowing competition in London in the under-18s category. Finnola has now been invited to a training camp for GB junior athletes which will determine selection for the Junior Rowing World Championships.

Mr Bray

School Visits

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Silver & Bronze – Form & Payment Deadline Reminder

Please don't forget that the deadline for handing in (or sending electronically) your enrolment form and completing the online payment for the deposit is Friday 18th October 2019. If you miss this deadline, you will not be able to backdate any sectional activities to 1st September. Thank you.

Mr Sage



Duke of Edinburgh's Award-Bronze – Important Clarification

At Wednesday's parent/carer evening I indicated that just turning up for scouts or guides for 1 hour per week was sufficient for volunteering. After consultation I can confirm that this is NOT the case. However, there are several volunteering opportunities within the scouting & girl guiding movements, & these might vary between different scout or guide groups. Therefore, if you wish to do D of E volunteering with scouts or guides, it is important that you first discuss with your leaders to find out what opportunities are available. Therefore, you need to write more than just "scouts" or "guides" on your programme planner. Specify what volunteering you intend to do e.g. Young Leader. Apologies for any confusion this might have caused.

Mr Sage

Sport

Teen Gym - Correction

Students aged 14-16 years old can access 'Teen Gym' every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3.15-4pm. Sessions are just £3 pay as you go, or you can buy a block of 10 for £24. We are aware an incorrect amount was previously printed and apologise for any confusion. Teen gym sessions are supervised by sports centre staff who can offer advice and guidance when needed.

Mrs Gaiger

Clubs and activities

Wellsway Sports Centre and SBL Sports Centre are home to numerous sports and activity club during the evenings and weekends, from football and rugby to ballroom dancing and taekwondo. For a full list of everything we have going on visit www.sblsports.co.uk or www.sportwellsway.com. Alternatively email lgaiger@wellswaymat.com for more information.

Mrs Gaiger

October Half Term Holiday Camps

We are delighted to have Fit For Sport with us at Wellsway Sports Centre during half term! Providing a range of sports activities plus arts and crafts, Fit For Sport will be with us Monday – Friday. You can save 10% on bookings now by using promotional code OCT10, just visit www.fitforsport.co.uk for more information and to book!



Mrs Gaiger

Careers



CAREERS UPDATE & INFORMATION

All students are welcome to drop in during the school day for any careers information, advice or support.

We are based;

'Careers Hub' - Sixth form corridor next to M32

Open to ALL STUDENTS

Monday – Thursday 8.45 – 3.00

Either pop in OR Email; amillard@wellswayschool.com

Wednesday Lunchtime Employer Pop-Up sessions returning week commencing 16th October

Drop in on the day

1.30 -2pm, Careers Hub

DATE	EMPLOYER	SPECIALISM
16.10.19	MoD Joe an ex-student at Wellsway is an apprentice at MoD. Come in to listen to his journey so far	STEM – Nuclear, Weapons, Ordnance, Ammunitions & Explosives, Aerospace
23.10.19	TBC	
06.11.19	TBC	
13.11.19	Avon Construction	Civil Engineering and large scale building contractor
20.11.19	TBC	
27.11.19	Creative Access	Creative Media; Gaming- Games development, Games Art, Games technology Media – Creative Media (Film, Video, Photography) Music – Production,

TBC – To Be Confirmed; Wessex Water, Care South, SSE, BANES

UPCOMING EVENTS –

- Wessex Water Apprenticeships – Open day Saturday 19th October 9.30am – 2pm
www.wessexwater.co.uk/careers
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Open day, Saturday 19th October www.oldvic.ac.uk/open-day
- Bath College Open event, Saturday 19th October 10am – 1pm www.bathcollege.ac.uk/openevents
- Pilot Careers Open event, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November, Terminal 5, London Heathrow – flight training exhibition. www.pilotcareernews.com/live

- **Legal Apprenticeships, Burges Salmon** have an **Open Evening** event, Tuesday 5th November from 6.30pm <https://www.burges-salmon.com/careers/apprenticeships/legal-apprenticeship/legal-apprenticeship-open-evening/>
- **Interested in a career in sport ?** We have the new prospectus from The **Bristol City Robins Foundation** in the careers hub. Please drop in for further information
- Planning ahead - **Bath College** are running **taster experience days** in the February holiday; Health & Care, Service Industries, Arts, Business and Technology, Animal Care, Trade (construction). www.bathcollege.ac.uk/experience

Looking for careers inspiration – www.careerpilot.org.uk OR <https://nationalcareerservice.direct.gov.uk>

PTA News



Wellsway Artisan Craft Fair – Sunday 10 November

We are looking for more volunteers to help at the Wellsway Craft Fair on Sunday 10 November. Tasks include taking money at the doors, clearing down after the fair, and helping set up the day before. This annual event raises much needed funds for the school and can't happen without our wonderful volunteers. If you can give an hour or so of your time, please get in touch at pta@wellswayschool.com.

Friends of Wellsway PTA

Staff Vacancies

For current vacancies please click [here](#)

Community News

Raise Christmas Cheer in your Santa Gear and support Children's Hospice South West

Children's Hospice South West are holding their annual Santa's on the Run event on the Bristol Harbourside on Sunday December 8th this year. This fun family event helps the hospice raise funds and provide vital support for children with life limiting conditions and their families at Charlton Farm in Bristol. To sign up online and for full event information, visit: <https://www.chsw.org.uk/event/santas-run-bristol-2019>
Don't miss our earlybird prices – save 25% if you book before 14th October.



Bath Half 2020 – Sunday 15th March 2020

If you're thinking of running the Bath Half in 2020, why not join the Children's Hospice South West team? Our charity places are available to buy on our website for just £30 (£16 cheaper than a normal place). Our runners help us to support local families and to make the most of short and precious lives. Sign up today at: <https://www.chsw.org.uk/event/bath-half-marathon-2020>