

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

THE AMMONITE

www.wellswayschool.com

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I know parents and carers have received a number of communications this week thanking you for your understanding; I repeat that sincere thanks not only for being patient as you wait for updates that have changed on a daily basis, but for the many emails of support and thanks that it has been a pleasure to pass on to staff.

Despite us managing such an unprecedented situation with the understandable anxieties and concerns of both students, staff and the wider community, the school has remained not only calm, but also positive and upbeat. When listening to the government's announcement of our imminent closure on the radio on Wednesday evening, my first thought was for how students of Years 11 and 13 would be feeling as they too heard this announcement. I am so glad that, even with such short notice, we managed to pull something off for these students and finished Thursday with a Year 11 celebration assembly followed by a BBQ and shirt signing and then began Friday with a Year 13 celebration assembly.

It is times like these that test a community's spirit and resilience, and this term has proven just what a special community we have. Our students should be proud of how they have dealt with what will have been very mixed emotions and the volume of help offered by staff has been overwhelming.

I'm sure you will understand that we will not be publishing a weekly Ammonite while the school site is closed, but I look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school at whatever point that may be. In the meantime, our staff will be working hard behind the scenes creating and sending work home; supporting our most vulnerable students and making preparations for when we are able to reopen.

In the meantime, please keep checking email as all updates will come via Insight and look after yourselves. We extend our warmest thoughts to you and your families.

Matthew Woodville
Principal

School News

Year 11 Leavers' Celebration

An early goodbye to our Year 11. Here are just a few snaps of their celebration held yesterday. Good luck to you all and we look forward to welcoming many of you back to Sixth Form.

Keep smiling



Year 13 Leavers' Assembly

It was a strange time to say 'Goodbye' to Year 13 this morning, but a lovely reminder in the celebration assembly of all the great achievements and lovely times you have had here. We are so proud of the way you care for each other and have conducted yourselves not just this last week, but since September 2018. Good luck, take care of each other, and we will be keeping in touch.

Mr Bray



School Nursing Service

We are aware that it is a very anxious time and there may be concerns about where to access support in coming weeks should there be school closures or you needing to self-isolate.

As a school nursing service we would like to let you know we are here to support you during this time.

For secondary school age young people:

- We have set up a confidential telephone service. Any young person that would like to call and speak to a qualified nurse on the end of the phone can call 0300 247 0090 Monday to Friday 12-2pm and speak to them.
- We also have our CHAT health text service so you can text a school nurse for advice or support for any health issues or worries, again this is confidential and you don't need to give your name if you don't want to. The number is 07480 635513.

For parents of any school age child:

We have duty school nurses available at the end of the phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm should you require any support with your school age child. This is available permanently for all parents to access for advice and support. If you would like support please call one of our nurses through our Single Point of access on 0300 247 0090

Wiltshire School Nursing Service

School Trips

Debate Club goes to City Hall

On Tuesday 10th March, our school debate team led by captain Braeden Wells travelled to the City Hall, College Green to debate in the regional finals of the RSPCA's national 'Great Debate' competition on animal welfare.

The team was given the motion 'this house believes that it is unethical to use animals in the service of humans' and was split into two teams, which then debated each other. The debate was scored on the quality of the points made, the interaction between team members and the presentation of the speeches.

As a condition of entry into the competition, Wellsway Debate Club members had to research the assigned topic and plan both sides of the debate. The debate was then presented to an audience of other schools and a panel of RSPCA judges. Four club members led the debate on the floor of the imposing Council Chamber. Fleur Hodgson and Laurie Fay proposed the motion, whereas Braeden Wells and Aram Cristiani opposed it. Other members of the Debate Club supported the debate team by aiding in research and speech writing and also running social media throughout the event itself.

Wellsway came runners up in hard fought competition with other schools from the region, with the eventual winner being Yate Academy.

The performance of the team was highly commended by head judge – David Allen; 'This was a well – prepared performance. The team spoke only from notes that really engaged the judges and the other teams'.

All members of the club who attended really enjoyed the event and hope to return again in 2021.

Report by Rohan Pai

Careers



CAREERS INFORMATION

'Careers Hub' - Sixth form corridor next to room M32

Open to ALL STUDENTS

Monday – Thursday 8.45 – 3.00

Either pop in OR Email; amillard@wellswayschool.com

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

Staff Vacancies

For current vacancies please click [here](#)