



Wellington Weekly

16th February 2024



Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you well.

Recent weeks have witnessed our first steps in competitive sport, with both football and tennis fixtures held at the school - it has been superb for WCI Pune to act as hosts. Providing opportunities for pupils in this regard is a key feature of a Wellington education and will play an

even more prominent role as pupil numbers grow. It is not just the competitive spirit that I love on these occasions, it is the inclusivity of events and the joy that pupils experience through collective, or individual, participation. It is that sense of personal motivation, that certain drive or commitment to raise one's level higher, that I find so welcome and all-embracing. Indeed, with parents in attendance too, one can also see the growth in a school's culture and this is to be heartily commended! We are also looking forward to our first swimming gala meeting on Saturday 9th March and we hope that will be another exciting chapter for the school's journey.

In a similar fashion to sporting culture, I am encouraged by the school's ongoing focus on the Arts, Music and Literature. It is excellent to read in this Wellington Weekly of our commitment to orchestrating events for pupil performance and how enriching these can be. I know these opportunities will be fully supported by all in the Wellington community.

The process of founding a new school is always a Herculean task, no matter the country, and it is unquestionably a team effort. A founding Master, such as myself, must rely upon exceptional Heads of Schools from the outset, to build (quite literally) the structure, environment and educational culture in which young people can grow & thrive. It is therefore with especial sadness that I note Mr Conrad Botha's departure from WCI Pune. He has been exceptional in establishing the Early Years and I know how much he will be missed by all in the community; we wish him the very best in all his future endeavours and we will strive to maintain his legacy!

As the school is closed on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th February, it only remains for me to wish all parents and pupils, and colleagues, a very relaxing long weekend.

I look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday 21st February.

With best wishes,

Dr Murray Tod

Head of Early Years

Dear Families,

With my very last newsletter to you as a community, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to you for your unwavering support, commitment, and encouragement as we began our journey together this year in establishing the very first Wellington Early Years here in Pune. I have been blessed, beyond measure, to have had an opportunity to work with all of you and your children. Before our journey together as a founding community, I had never worked alongside a team of staff members and families, who were so committed to rolling up their sleeves and finding ways to bring to life the very best learning experiences for our children. I will greatly miss the children and the phenomenal team, as they are the reason why we have been able to achieve nothing more than this excellent early years programme and community. Their joy, sense of humour, positive energy, and individual uniqueness will forever be imprinted in my heart.

At the same time, I am delighted to share with you that Ms. Rashmi Dixon has been appointed as Early Years Coordinator, and I am confident that she will work alongside you and our team of expert educators in continuing the exciting journey of our early years. To support Ms Rashmi in her role as coordinator, Ms. Fiona Carter will be in school on the 22nd and 23th February and monthly moving forward.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our learning community. I am and will always be forever grateful for the experience Wellington College offered me in my professional career.

Wishing you and your families all the very best!

Conrad Botha

Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

As we take a short mid-term break, it is a good time to reflect on the amazing progress made by our students so far this year. During assembly this morning, children chose what to share about their most recent learning. We were treated to an engaging and in depth explanation of the Himalayan mountain range, songs in Spanish, a lively performance on the Stone Age and ancient inventions and tips and strategies for how to regulate emotions and develop a Growth Mindset.



In the past few weeks we have also seen a lot of hard work paying off and great progress in speaking, writing and presentation. I hope you all enjoy a well deserved rest!

School will be closed on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th February, we will return to the normal schedule from Wednesday. Please see below for a reminder of some upcoming events in February:

Wednesday 27th February, Marathi Day

Pupils will celebrate their learning from Marathi lessons and find out more about the unique culture, including trying some traditional foods. Any pupils who have Marathi traditional dress are invited to wear it to school on this day. Those who do not can continue to wear their normal school uniform.

Thursday 28th February, Parent Information Session

Building a community of writers and communicators – How we teach writing at WCIP.

Kind regards,
Katie Byrne

Head of Senior School

One of the key aspects of a Wellington education is to ensure that all students are given opportunities to participate in the Arts. There is no doubt that the Arts provides a powerful vehicle in which students can develop competencies such as teamwork, communication, creativity and collaboration, which are so highly valued by employers. In a world where AI, robotics and machine learning are becoming increasingly important, the development of these so-called 'soft skills' can act as a point of differentiation for our students. Furthermore, the Arts allows students to experience setbacks in a safe environment. They may, for example, forget the correct moves in a dance ensemble or stumble over their lines during a recital. But these setbacks represent learning opportunities and students build greater resilience from having the courage to push themselves outside of their comfort zone and perform.

There is also a growing body of research that suggests that there is a strong correlation between exposure to the Arts and positive wellbeing. Students can experience a state of flow where they can get 'lost' in an activity and this helps them recharge their energies and maintain a sense of perspective. For some of our students, they may previously have had limited experience participating in the Arts but I really hope that a Wellington education provides the right environment for them to discover new interests and passions.

It has been so pleasing to witness the preparations under way for our inaugural Arts Festival, which will take place on 26th-28th March at the College. More details will follow in due course but it promises to be a really exciting and enriching event, showcasing the outstanding work students are doing in music, art, dance, and drama. It will be a great way to close out the Term!

Have a lovely long weekend.

Kind regards,
Iain Sutcliffe

Events Gallery

Huma Qureshi Book Launch

An evening of inspiration and empowerment unfolded on Friday, 2nd February as the talented Bollywood actress Ms Huma Qureshi launched her captivating book 'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero' at Kukoo. Dr. Murray Tod and Mr Tehseen Poonawalla shared the stage, adding an extra level of enjoyment to the event. The collaboration of literature and education blended seamlessly, fostering a celebration of knowledge and creativity.



Welly Boots Festival

What a fantastic day we had hosting the Welly Boots Festival on Saturday 3rd February at Wellington College International Pune.



We had a blast at the super interactive Picnic Playdate for moms and kids. Plus, the weather played along nicely, making it a flawless day!



The Welly Boots festival wowed us with the innovative, genuine, and organic approach to teaching and learning. Who wouldn't want their kids in such an amazing school, with a team of dedicated and passionate staff!



Football Competition

Wellington College International Pune hosted a friendly football competition on Saturday 3rd February that brought together pupils from different year groups, in both Junior and Senior schools, for a memorable morning on the pitch.



The WCI Pune teams, representing our institution with pride, consisted of 19 dedicated players who exemplified skill, discipline, and teamwork. Each player showcased their undoubted commitment, contributing to the team's overall performance. On the other side, City FC Pune brought a formidable squad of 20 players, each demonstrating a commendable level of proficiency and sportsmanship. Mr. Esmaeili, our PE teacher at WCI Pune, exhibited great leadership and determination in preparing the pupils for the much-anticipated football match, along with our football coaches. Our pupils emerged victorious, securing not just a win on the field but also strengthening the bonds that make the school community thrive. We are committed to building a strong community at Wellington, illustrated by the superb parental support on display, and aim to nurture further sportsmanship in our pupils through more events in the future.



Wellington College International Visit Wellington College International Pune

In recent weeks, we were honoured to host Mr David Wilson and Mr Scott Bryan at our campus. Mr Wilson is the International Academic Director of Wellington College International (WCI) and is responsible for organising global pupil exchanges across the Wellington schools, running summer schools for international pupils at Wellington College UK, peer mentoring across the family of schools and facilitating the Gap Student/Intern programme.



Mr Bryan is the Managing Director of WCI and oversees the family of Wellington schools. He is responsible for developing the global Wellington brand, supporting current school partners as they build and grow successful Wellington schools. We were delighted to host him again in Pune, benefitting from his overarching knowledge of the Wellington brand.

Tennis Match

Our talented pupils enjoyed an exhilarating tennis match on Saturday 10th February with players from the FuturePro Tennis Academy. Guided by our inspiring coach Devidas Chakhale and WCI Pune PE Teacher Amid Esmaeili, our pupils showcased excellent sportsmanship and skill on the court. The energy was electric as parents watched excitedly from the sidelines, cheering on their children. Backhands, volleys, and powerful serves – it was a display of pure passion and determination.



Congratulations to our students, including the exemplary ballgirl and ballboy, for putting on an outstanding show. Furthermore, it was wonderful to witness the parental support and participation at the conclusion of the event!



Maths Mastery

At Wellington, all students, irrespective of their starting point, are provided access to challenging material through intelligent practice, reasoning tasks, and real-world problem-solving opportunities.



During our recent Maths Mastery Workshop led by Ms. Katie Byrne, Head of Junior School, and Ms. Claire Herault, Head of Learning Support & Multi Language Learners, parents delved into the approaches and fundamental concepts. Our Maths Mastery approach nurtures students' reasoning and problem-solving abilities, fostering academic growth and confidence in learning.

“... research should prompt educators to abandon the traditional fixed ideas of the brain and learning that currently fill schools—ideas that children are smart or dumb, quick or slow. If brains can change in three weeks, imagine what can happen in a year of math class if students are given the right math materials and they receive positive messages about their potential and ability.” - Boaler, J. 2016



Upcoming Events



Join us for

IGCSE

Information Session

at Wellington College International Pune

Gain insights into the subject choices for IGCSE. This session is exclusively for parents of WCIP pupils.



Monday,
26th February



03:30 pm - 4:30 pm



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Experience our commitment to
nurturing excellence in every learner



Join us at the
Senior School

Open Day



**Saturday,
2nd March 2024**



10:30 am to 12:00 pm



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