

A large, stylized blue lion is the background for the top half of the page. The lion is facing left, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. Its mane is thick and textured, and its tail is visible on the right side. The lion is set against a light blue background.

Wellington School

An Overview

LEARNING FOR LIFE



Wellington
SCHOOL

Introduction

Wellington School was founded in 1837 and continues to thrive as a leading independent school in the South West of England. The School has been fully co-educational for forty years and with the addition of the purpose-built Prep School in 1999, it is now home to nearly 800 day and boarding pupils. It combines the best of a British public school ethos with a strong grammar school influence that results in a powerful mix of tradition and innovation.

The School occupies a 35 acre site in close proximity to the town centre which has a population of 12,500. The town lies equidistant between Taunton and Tiverton railway stations and will benefit from faster communication to London over the next five years, which is part of a progressive plan for business and infrastructure in this part of the South West. The surrounding area, situated between the Blackdown Hills, the Brendon Hills and the Quantocks, is quintessentially British and beautiful.

The School boasts excellent facilities not only for teaching, but also key areas of co-curricular life such as sport, music and drama. A phase of investment has been completed with an improved study centre, Sixth Form Centre, social and boarding facilities, new Prep School playground and the relaying of our Astroturf.

As an incorporated charity, the Governors, as the Trustees of the charity, are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School. The Headmaster and Prep School Head are members of HMC and IAPS respectively. The School is also a member of the BSA.



The School

Wellington School provides an outstanding education to girls and boys between the ages of three to eighteen. The educational philosophy of the School is based on three pillars:

1. Building outstanding relationships: we want each of our pupils to feel known, valued and understood and the relationships we form across our community are central to achieving this
2. The pursuit of excellence: we aim to do the best we can in all we do and to be the very best version of ourselves at all times
3. A love of learning: in all its settings and in all its forms, we believe in the innate value of learning about and engaging with the world around us.

We celebrate our ethos of being 'one school' but recognise that children of different ages have different academic, pastoral and social needs. Our Senior and Prep Schools work closely together and share an overarching belief in doing all we can to support the children in our care in becoming all they can be.

The Senior School has 660 pupils between the ages of eleven to eighteen and the gender balance is approximately 55% boys and 45% girls. A strong House tradition exists for all pupils who are allocated to 6 mixed houses comprising pupils from Years 7-13, day and boarding. These houses provide the building blocks of pastoral care and Heads of House are supported by Tutors, Head of Year and Heads of Section (Lower School – Year 7/8, Upper School – Year 9 -11 and Sixth Form).

The Prep School is immediately adjacent to the Senior School and shares many of the facilities and staff of the Senior School. The 200 girls and boys in the Prep School, typically progress to the Senior School.



Academic

We are a selective school with natural entrance points at Year 7, 9 and 12, but with a proven record of adding value to all pupils. We cater for the most academically able as well as supporting a number of pupils who have special educational needs.

We offer a range of 23 A Level subjects and a BTEC Diploma in Sport in the Sixth Form. Results over a five year period have seen 15% of all grades achieve the top A* grade and 75% of all grades achieving A*-B. Nearly three quarters of pupils gain places at Russell Group Universities or equivalent, including conservatoires and art schools. Each year we also have a number of pupils who take up places at Oxford or Cambridge.

At GCSE, a number of departments follow the IGCSE specification. Results over a five year period have seen over 20% of all grades achieve the top A* / 9/8 grade and 75% of grades achieving A*-B (9/5).



Co-curricular

A wide range of co-curricular activities enriches the all-round education of every pupil. It is possible to join one of three divisions of the Combined Cadet Force, participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme or a range of community programmes. A dedicated Outdoor Education department leads trips including canoeing, hiking, climbing and camping and there are a wide range of national and international trips and activities on offer.

Based in our Olympic Standard Sports Centre, which was opened by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, our innovative Sport and Wellbeing Department provides excellent coaching in core sports, and well as focusing on basic fitness, conditioning, psychology and physical wellbeing.

The Music Department offers over 35 bands and ensembles, specialist music tuition and a plethora of regular concerts, competitions and productions. We have beautiful Bosendorfer or Yamaha pianos in all the rehearsal suites and fully equipped recording studios and Imac composition suites.

The vibrant Drama Department, brings a range of productions from Macbeth or Lord of the Flies to musicals such as School of Rock, Sweeney Todd and Les Miserables and all pupils have the opportunity to perform or become involved in the technical aspect of production.

The strength of our Art and Design offering is borne out by the fact that many of our A Level students move on to the most prestigious art schools in the country and are viewed as Foundation level before they arrive.



Facilities

The School has witnessed an extensive building programme over the last twenty years. The new buildings having been carefully and tastefully blended in with existing architecture. Most recent buildings include a new study centre, library, computer suite and café facility. A £2.6m sports complex was opened by H.R.H The Princess Royal, English classrooms and an examination hall opened in January 2009 and major improvements to music and performing arts facilities were completed. A new flood-lit astro-turf was opened in Autumn 2017 and further building projects, including the upgrading of all the boarding houses, a new Study Centre, Sixth Form Centre and a new Prep School Playground are all complete.

In addition to the Olympic Standard Sports Complex, there are 5 rugby pitches, 9 tarmac tennis courts, 9 astro tennis courts, 4 purpose-built netball courts, a floodlit artificial turf hockey pitch, cricket pitches and a 300m athletics track, 2 squash courts and a covered, heated swimming pool.

The Memorial Chapel of St Michael and George sits firmly in the middle of the site and follows the Anglican Communion.



Our Ethos and Values

We are a busy, grounded and happy school which welcomes local, national and international pupils from diverse backgrounds.

We offer a strong academic curriculum and a wealth of co-curricular opportunities underpinned by sensitive pastoral care and a well-founded sense of values.

We believe that:

- the values of participation, perseverance, integrity, courtesy and kindness will serve pupils well at school and beyond.
- the best in education cannot and should not always be measured and that lessons are learned both in and out of the classroom.
- patience, understanding and a strong partnership with parents are required to support pupils through their childhood and teenage years.
- education has many parts - intellectual, cultural, physical, emotional, social, moral, spiritual - and pupils flourish at different times, in different ways.

We aim to:

- emphasise the importance of resilience, of taking responsibility and valuing relationships.
- combine the best of the public and grammar school ethos which is intrinsic to Wellington and maintain a spirit of tradition and innovation.
- see pupils leave Wellington ready to face the future with confidence and humility.
- foster a sense of community, centred around our beautiful Chapel, where the needs of the group are articulated, but individuals are recognised, nurtured and valued.
- provide a secure and challenging environment where pupils learn, learn how to learn, learn about others and about themselves.



