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WELLACRE

INSPIRE

ISSUE 6
SUMMER 2017

bringing out the *best* in boys



OFSTED SUCCESS FOR WELLACRE



WELLACRE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Reader,

I hope you enjoy reading our final newsletter of the academic year, which gives you a taste of another very successful and eventful year in school.

I hope it not only informs you about all the wonderful activities and events that have taken place this term but also inspires more of our students to broaden their horizons and try something new and exciting next year.

We are extremely proud that Ofsted has recognised Wellacre as a Good School, highlights of the report are included further on in the newsletter.

We still have lots planned for the remainder of the year including sports day, our annual awards evening, rewards trips and Year 10 work experience. Our current Year 10 students are being trained to take over prefect duties from our outgoing Year 11

students and the Head boy and deputy Head boy interviews took place in June, and a full staff and student election ballot for Head Boy to coincided with the General Election.

We are looking forward to celebrating another year of excellent results in August. The 17th August will be an exciting day for Sixth Form students picking up their results which will hopefully confirm their acceptance of university offers from all around the country. With the 24th August being an exciting day for our Year 11 students, who will pick up their GCSE results and start enrolling on the next part of their journey in education, whether that is college or an apprentice.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Miss Wicks
Principal

SEN PARENTS EVENING

SEND Parents forum was attended by over 30 parents. The Forum is an opportunity for parents to meet with key members of the Learning Support and Inclusion team and discuss their son's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP's are a key document that offer a 'one stop' tool for communication between the classroom teachers, student and home. They detail each students' aspirations as well as barriers to learning and possible support strategies.

Parental feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly positive with parents stating that they feel very well informed of their child's progress and IEP due to the high levels of communication in place.

The Learning Support and Inclusion teams run three parents' forums throughout the year focusing on transition, IEP's and other key SEND issues.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

10TH - 19TH MARCH 2017

Wellacre was delighted to welcome a group of Year 5 pupils into its Science labs during British Science week to participate in a range of challenging scientific activities.

31 Acre Hall pupils visited us to take part in Wellacre's Physics Olympics run by our newly crowned champions; the STEM ambassadors.

8 Teams attempted to score consistently highest in 4 different challenges; testing a different set of skills and creative talents. Competition throughout the morning was tight, all teams were in the running going into the final event. The final team set a Wellacre record of 43 seconds in the "defying Gravity" challenge to secure victory. Wellacre would like to thank the Acre Hall pupils for their resilience and competitiveness in the challenges. Special thanks go to the STEM Ambassadors and Mrs Lynch for making the day a success! We look forward to more records being broken at the next event.

On the Tuesday of Science Week, Wellacre was joined by sixty Year 5 pupils from Flixton Juniors, all super keen to get 'hands on' with Science. First came an engineering task worthy of Isambard Kingdom Brunel - 'The Tower of Power'. Pupils had to build a structure to hold an oxo cube as far away from the desk as possible, using only straws and genius. After many cries and the shed of a few tears, one team reigned victorious with an impressive effort of over 1.5 metres. Next, a test of Maths. Using only a spring and some graph paper to find the mass of Mr Asha's cuddly lion board rubber. The Year 5 teams displayed good maths skills to evaluate the mass to within 3g of the correct value. I'm sure Mr Shiner would have been amazed! Finally, who could make the best version of Donkey Kong, a test of old school knowledge and physics. This resulted in the room being full of screaming, ping pong balls and nostalgia. Then it was time to go. A flurry of Haribos and cheery goodbyes left the room in silence. Only the screams of the cleaners gave an indication of what had gone on!

A great day was had by all and hopefully the flame of investigation and a love of Science had been lit.



FLASH BANG!

Dr Frank Mair from The University of Manchester, School of Chemistry

Continuing our year long list of Transition events, Wellacre welcomed local primary school students to enjoy the always popular Flash Bang Show.



Through a series of exciting experiments and reactions, Dr Frank Mair, from the University of Manchester alongside our Year 7's, provided an exhilarating extravaganza of sound and vision!

Our guest students, were able to witness science in action, revealing both the joys of chemistry and an introduction to atoms, molecules, solids, liquids and gases via the many flashes, crashes, pops, bangs and explosions during the show.



WELLACRE WE STAND TOGETHER, STUDENT TRIBUTE



A City United

Wellacre students from each year group have used their Art lessons to make over 100 red roses with 22 white roses as a simple tribute to the victims of the Manchester attack. Our Humanities students have also helped to prepare messages for a chain of hope.



Year 8 Students - left to right: Max Renwick, Kaine Blanshard, Clayton McDougall.

Organised by Miss Niebel, Leader of Art and Miss de Costa, Teacher of Photography, our students were encouraged to ask questions and discuss their thoughts in response to recent events whilst paying their respect by drawing, cutting and making their roses.

Mrs Irwin, Leader of RE and Mrs Chowdhury, Teacher of Humanities supported our students to help emote their thoughts and feelings through messages, poetry and creative writing. The students, using what they had written, helped to create a Chain of Hope.

Our chain was placed alongside the other incredible tributes in St Annes Square.



Year 7 Students - left to right: Jacob Scott, Jamie Sutherland, Nicholas Anderson, James Harris, Ubaidullah Shaan.

The completed roses and poem, written by Max Hannon, Year 7, are now on display in our Main reception as a tribute to all of the innocent victims and their families. It will also serve as continuing reminder of the incredible strength shown throughout the wider Manchester community during these difficult times.



'We will not separate. We will only join. We learn. Manchester's few that unfortunately died may not be on the streets, but always in the heart. I learn to help.'

Max Hannon, Year 7

Further discussion and support has been provided to students via year group assemblies and form time activities.

IRLAM LOCKS, YEAR 8 RESEARCH TRIP

Year 8 students enjoy a morning walk to experience local history.

Accompanied by our Humanities dept, students left Wellacre for a research trip to Irlam Locks, a feature on the historic Manchester Ship Canal.

Students were guided through the history of this interesting site whilst walking along the River Irwell. By considering both their surroundings and local history our students were provided with a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life by exploring the ways in which the Industrial Revolution helped to create and form the communities they live in today.



WELLACRE - THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has inspired and transformed the lives of millions of young people from all walks of life.

At Wellacre we are committed to providing fantastic opportunities



to help enrich our students education and learning. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a life changing challenge open to anyone aged 14 to 24 and is helping our students to gain new skills whilst working towards their award and achieving their personal goals.

Organised by Mr Richard Irving, Pastoral Assistant, The DofE at Wellacre has been developed to offer a wide range of activities and possibilities. Our Year 9 students have held meetings to discuss what activities they would like to take part in and supported to create to Award groups.



One group meets on a Monday afternoon between 3-4pm to work towards their physical recreation section of their Award. They complete a variety of Cardio and Resistance training workouts, with exercises including running, skipping, squatting, sit-ups and press-ups etc.

Another group, supported by Mr Asha, Teacher of Science, are volunteering to work in our Eco Centre and meet on a Wednesday between 3-4pm. So far, their work has included planting their own vegetable patches and readying our chicken coop for the arrival of some recently donated chickens! They have also begun to dig out and lay a new pathway around the Eco Centre and aim to have this completed before our Summer Break.



COOKING CLUB

The after school cookery club has been well attended and had a major impact upon the students involved. The club has a different focus and target group each half term to enable more students to join in.

The club began with 'Bake It'; and was aimed at Year 7's to support their transition into high school. We made dishes including chilli cheese scones, mince pies and mini quiches. The club was very popular and all of the boys who attended enjoyed themselves and made at least one new friend!

Next saw the launch of 'Clean Plate Club'. This was a joint venture with the PE Department aimed at Year 9 and focused on high protein, healthy, savoury recipes which celebrated natural and unrefined ingredients. We made recipes including spicy chorizo eggs, turkey meatballs with herby tomato sauce, spicy beef kofta with Greek salad. Students attended this club in very high numbers, thanks to Mr Glover's recruitment and promotion tactics and again, all the boys enjoyed the dishes they made.

The 'Excellent Eggs' club came next, and was aimed at KS3 students. The club celebrated the many culinary uses of eggs. We made a mixture of sweet and savoury dishes such as; muffins, pancakes and omelettes.



Finally the club is focusing on 'Cool Cooking', this is an opportunity for our Food and Cookery Subject Leaders, to develop their skills in running the club. We are making recipes which include challah bread, pizza and apple tart.

The Cooking Club has enabled students to develop their cookery skills in a fun and relaxed environment. It has also allowed students to develop new friendships across different year groups and experience new foods and tastes.

Food and Cookery Subject Leaders are currently developing their leadership skills. Before we finish for the summer holidays they will put on a showcase club. Watch this space for more exciting recipes.



OFSTED SUCCESS FOR WELLACRE



“The behaviour of pupils is Good.”

The principal and senior team provide motivating leadership that inspires staff and pupils to do their best.

- Areas identified as requiring improvement at the last inspection have been **tackled successfully**. The effective practice already in school and **strong leadership and governance** provide the school with good capacity to sustain **further improvement**.
- Governors share leaders’ high aspirations for pupils and **provide good support** and challenge.
- The school’s values, ‘**honesty, pride, respect, aspiration and resilience**’ are at the **heart** of the school’s work.

The behaviour of pupils is good.

- Pupils **feel safe and are safe** in school. Pupils feel safe and **free from bullying** and harassment in school. They show respect for each other and **bullying is now rare**. Any issues are dealt with effectively.

- Pupils’ conduct around the school is **consistently good**. They are **self-disciplined** and **orderly** when they move around the school.
- The atmosphere is **calm and safe**. At break-times, pupils are **sociable and respectful** towards each other. Pupils are **respected and show respect** for one another.
- The school is **highly inclusive and welcoming**.

Parental engagement is good.

- The **vast majority** of parents who responded to Parent View, the Ofsted online questionnaire, would **recommend the school** and say their children are **happy**, feel **safe** and are **taught well**.
- Parents **recognise the improvements** the school has made in the last two years. Comments such as: ‘The school has made every effort to improve behaviour and attainment. The leadership is strong, communication is good. It has come a long way’ is typical of the many positive comments received. Inspection findings **endorse these views**.



**“Pupils are proud of their achievement
Outcomes for students is Good.”**



- One parent commented that, ‘the network of staff, form tutors, subject teachers and senior leaders, who give additional time to support [our child] and ourselves as parents **has overwhelmed us**. We cannot thank them enough for their **care** and **dedication**.’
- As one parent said, ‘the young people develop as **well-rounded citizens** and have the skills such as **resilience, self-confidence and self-worth and empathy** to prepare them for the next **stage of their lives**.’ **Inspection findings** support these views.

Pupils are proud of their achievements and a credit to the school.

- The vast majority of pupils have **good attitudes** to learning. They are **attentive** and contribute **enthusiastically** in lessons. Pupils show **high levels of concentration** when they are given extended tasks to complete. They show **resilience** and **perseverance** when tackling challenging work.
- They are attaining **higher grades at GCSE** than they have in the past.
- There is some **inspiring teaching** that captures pupils’ imagination and results in pupils’ making rapid progress in several subjects, particularly in English, mathematics, Sport and Business Studies.
- Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities make **rapid progress**. They are supported effectively in class by teachers and teaching assistants and benefit from **expert teaching** in smaller groups.

“Teaching, Learning and Assessment is Good.”

- **High-quality careers advice** ensured that **all leavers** in 2016 went into further education, training or employment.
- Pupils are **prepared well** for life in modern Britain.
- Pupils’ **improving attainment**, the broad curriculum and their **effective** all-round personal development **prepare them well** for the next stage of their education, employment or training. The **highly effective** advice and guidance on option choices and careers supports pupils to make informed choices and **achieve their aspirations**.

You can read the full report at:

www.wellacre.org/our-academy/ofsted-reports/

Why not come and see the school in action at our open evening from 6pm on Wednesday 20th September 2017.



SKI TRIP 2017



‘CURIOUS MINDS’

WORKSHOP - CONTACT THEATRE

Year 10 Performing Arts students supported by ‘Curious Minds’

Wellacre Year 10 Performing Arts students took part in a lively, informative and entertaining ‘Curious Minds’ Creative workshop, presented by Contact Theatre, Manchester.

Our learners investigated and explored their own creative thinking and processes whilst enjoying and undertaking a range of creative writing challenges. Working individually and in groups our Yr10 students tried out new techniques to help generate ideas and ways in which to grow these into their own projects and school work.

Throughout the morning our students were encouraged to share, discuss and feedback on their thoughts and ideas, with each student presenting a short monologue, written during the workshop.

We would like to thank Contact Theatre and their ‘Curious Mind’ leaders for providing an exciting and entertaining workshop.

Austria 2017

Wellacre embarked on its annual Ski trip to Austria, heading off for adventure on the mountains of the Hochalm piste.

Located just outside Hintertglemm our students and staff stayed in the family-run Jugendpension Berghof and engaged in a fantastic and rewarding half term experience. All level of skiers were catered for, with beginners enjoying their first outings on the gentle slopes in Hintertglemm and the more experienced skiers making their way to the ski lifts, allowing them to explore the whole of the Saalbach-Hintertglemm valley.

Before traveling to Austria, Mr. J. Duffy, Teacher of PE, organised both beginner and intermediate ski sessions at the Chill Factor for our students, allowing for a full and exciting experience whilst away . These group sessions proved very popular and our students were able to bond as a team whilst learning new skills like understanding how to link parallel turns, enabling them to ski directly from their hotel to the slopes.

Our huge thanks to everyone at the Jugendpension Berghof and to Mr J. Duffy for organising another fantastic trip, ably supported by Mr. P. Bittles.



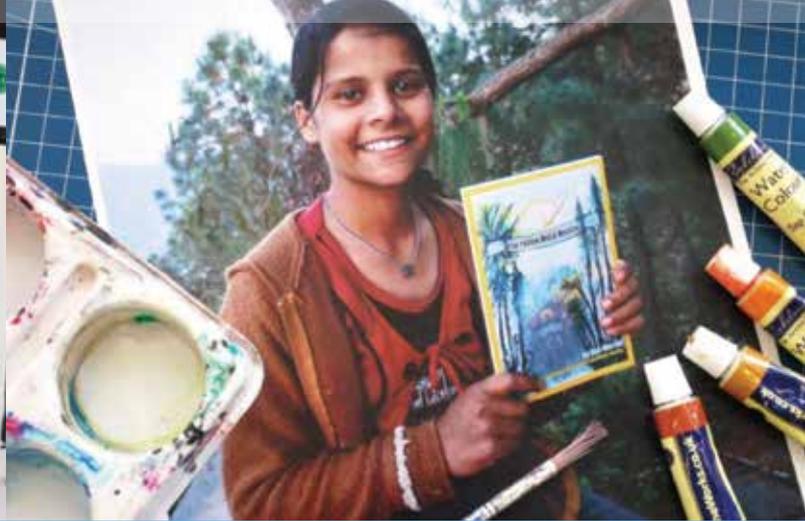
CPR TRAINING

Wellacre invited the North West Ambulance Services to provide vital first aid training for our Year 8 Student Leadership team.



The students took part in a session of ‘CPR awareness training’ helping to build their skills and raise awareness for ‘Restart A Heart Day’ which aims to help Schools and students save lives.

Our Year 8 Student Leadership team is now aware of CPR technique and know how to deliver it safely and effectively.



WELLACRE AND THE YELLOW METAL MONSTER

Year 11 Art student now a young published illustrator!

Earlier this year Wellacre was approached by Mr R Merrell, Head Teacher of Oldfield Brow Primary School to help illustrate his soon to be published book, titled 'The Yellow Metal Monster'.

Miss Niebel, Leader of Art was keen to get our students involved in this exciting opportunity and talented Year 11 Art student, Alexander Hickey, enthusiastically volunteered.

After meeting with Mr Merrell to share their thoughts and ideas the duo were inspired

to bring the vibrancy of the book to life. Wonderfully written, the story is told through the perspective of a young girl, Sapna and centres around the lives of the children and adults living in a small Indian village called Kandikhal, a place often visited by Mr Merrell and his family. Determined and inspiring, Sapanas infectious enthusiasm keeps you engaged throughout the story.

Alex and Miss Niebel worked for 6 weeks to create the artwork and Alex's dedication can be seen in the final high quality, professional and stylised illustrations.

Upon publication, Mr Merrell recently visited the village with his book and we were delighted to hear the children loved the book! Both Alex and Miss Niebel were thrilled to receive copies of the book along with a letter from Sapna and a photo.

Mr Merrell has dedicated his book to all the children of Kandikhal as well as the all the children who have attended both Garhwal English Medium School and of Oldfield Brow Primary school.

Wellacre is enormously proud of Alex and his work and thank Miss Niebel for inspiring Alex to become a young published illustrator.

6TH FORM STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT MUSTARD TREE

Inspiring day volunteering

Wellacre 6th Form students spent an inspiring day volunteering at The Mustard Tree, a charity to help the homeless.

'Since 1994, Mustard Tree has transformed the lives of people in Greater Manchester who are trapped in poverty or homelessness, by enabling them to gain the skills and self confidence they need to reach their full potential.'

During their time at Mustard Tree our students gained experience of the ways in which charities are run, funded and operated on a daily basis, gaining a better understanding of the wider implications of becoming or dealing with homelessness. They were also able to give something back to their community and hopefully making a difference to the people around the area.

Since their return our students have been encouraged to look further into Charities & Non Profit Organisations and linking this to their Business and Enterprise studies.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership at Wellacre is a central strand of student achievement, that enables confidence building to raise aspirations and recognise the talents of all our students. We encompass our core values of Honesty, Aspiration, Resilience, Pride and Respect in all that we do.

Earlier this year we appointed over 70 student leaders in various roles such as; Subject Leaders, Student Ambassadors, Principal Ambassadors, Child Net Digital Leaders, Literacy Leaders, STEM Leaders and Sports Leaders as well as our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Form reps and Executive Council members, culminating in a strong and dynamic Student Leadership Team. Students have received bespoke training and are actively working towards an accreditation in Student Leadership through the SSAT.



I am delighted to report that students have been actively involved in all our charity events, bag drop days as well as mentoring and coaching in Maths, baking in Food Technology and blogging in Art. Selected students in Years 9 and 10 have been involved in a university initiative called the Brilliant Club. They have visited the University of Manchester, had a series of lectures by Dr Grazyna Lipoowsaka-Bhalla who has shared her research papers on cancer. They have submitted a 2000 word thesis, which is set one Key Stage above their own. Students are attending their graduation ceremony at the University of Liverpool on the 17th May.

We have welcomed our new Prefect Team and the appointment of our new Head Boy this Summer term. This year we are having a whole school vote with students and staff having a say on their Head Boy. We look forward to viewing the new candidates' video manifestos later this term.

YEAR 6 ARE GETTING READY!

As we are now in the final term and our current Year 7's have nearly completed their first year with us, it is nice to take a moment to look back over the year to see how much they have developed.

This academic year has given our year 7's many experiences and opportunities such as; the Condoval residential, Business & Enterprise trips to JLL and My Bnk, Student and Executive Student Council, Student & Subject Leaders, the school production of Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, the Christmas Pantomime at the Opera House, trips to Austria and participation on the school sporting teams, to mention but a few. These are just some of the exciting opportunities that await our new Year 6 students when they arrive in September.

During the Summer term, Wellacre will be holding a number of events to welcome our new starters and their parents into the Wellacre family. These events are designed to ensure your son is happy and confident about starting at secondary school and to give parents the chance to get to know the school and to inform us of any concerns you might have so that we can quickly address any problems and ensure your son is fully supported. Full details of these events are listed in the pack received via the post and can also be obtained by contacting us at admin@wellacre.org.

We look forward to meeting you all very soon!



RED NOSE DAY

Last term Wellacre students, staff, parents/carers successfully raised £1700 for our chosen charity; Red Nose Day. Initially, ideas were generated for charity events, through the executive student council and it was decided that we would make this the most competitive charity event in Wellacre history. Each year group were given a week on week challenge to compete against each other to raise as much money for charity as they could. Form tutors were hugely instrumental in providing exciting and original ideas for their form to raise money.

Each week form totals were placed on the board for students to see, we kept @RND on twitter up to date with all our successes and they were delighted with all our hard work. Students were so proactive and worked hard to raise as much money as they could. There were some super and ambitious ideas; students ran a tuck shop, took part in football tournaments, guessed the number of sweets, named the bunny, held an Easter egg raffle and even created a new olympic sport; bin shots! and aeroplane throwing. The students were extremely motivated throughout, as they competed to be identified as the overall form group winners, of this fundraising campaign.

Well done on a huge effort.



STRICTLY WELLACRE



Once again, Wellacre was delighted to host the extremely popular fundraising extravaganza 'Strictly Comes to Wellacre'.

This annual event provided all the glitz and glamour as seen on it's BBC namesake, with latin and ballroom performances from regional and national IDTA finalists.

This year's special guests 'Tour Guide' had the audience on their feet as they sang their way through a variety of rock classics.

The evening was an overwhelming success and raised funds for Wellacre's South African student exchange programme called AFRITWIN.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2017

Thursday 20th July

Rewards Trips / Activities Day

Friday 21st July

School Closes for Summer Holidays
at 12.30pm

Thursday 17th August

A Level Results Day

Thursday 24th August

GCSE Results Day

Wednesday 6th September

School reopens for Year 7 & 10
students only

Thursday 7th September

School reopens for all students

Thursday 14th September

Year 7 Parent Information Evening
at 6pm

Year 10 Patent Information Evening
at 7pm

Tuesday 19th September

School photographs for Years 7 & 10

Wednesday 20th September

Open Evening

School closes at 2:05pm for students

Friday 22nd September

Horrible Histories Primary Day

School closed for Wellacre students

BOXING CLEVER AT WELLACRE



Courtney Fry is a Light-Heavyweight Boxer who competed in the Sydney Olympics in 2000. He now works with Sky Sports as an Elite Athlete Mentor, working with children from all around the U.K. sharing his 'Steps to Success'.

Courtney stated that "My experience as a mentor has taught me how sport really can engage young people and motivate them to make changes in their lives. I look forward to building a rapport with the students I meet and sharing my story with them."



YR11 STUDENT SIGNS PROFESSIONAL RUGBY CONTRACT FOR WARRINGTON WOLVES' UNDER-19S



Congratulations Henry!

Wellacre rugby star Henry Collins continues his fantastic journey towards the Super League!

Earlier this year we celebrated Henry's successful call up to the England Rugby Youth Squad and he has now followed this up by signing a three year professional contract to play for the Warrington Wolves' Under-19s.

Henry has worked and trained extremely hard to build upon his successes to achieve his next sporting step.

We will continue to support Henry as he moves on from Wellacre and wish him continued success as he moves forward with his rugby career.