



WELLACRE

INSPIRE

ISSUE 2
SPRING 2016bringing out the *best* in boysWellacre
wins national
Good Schools
Guide Award.BEST PERFORMANCE BY BOYS
TAKING IGCSE ENGLISH LITERATUREEXCELLENT PERFORMANCE BY BOYS
TAKING IGCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGEThe awards scheme is designed to
recognise and reward excellence.

Principal, Melanie Wicks said,
“We are absolutely delighted to be
acknowledged in this way for our
excellence in English. This is a proud
moment for Wellacre and will inspire all
students working towards their GCSE
examinations in the Summer.”

bringing out the *best* in boysWELLACRE ENJOYS JUAN
IN A MILLION SCHOOL DAY

BY PLAYSTATION SCHOOLS

We had a day to remember, as **World Cup winner Juan Mata** kicked off the 2015/16 PlayStation Schools' Cup Tie of the Round roadshows in style.

The Manchester United midfielder visited Wellacre to support us in their second round clash in the Under 15 PlayStation Schools' Cup against North Liverpool Academy. Juan's magic touch certainly seemed to pay off as Wellacre produced some great football to win 7-0 and advance to the next round.

Juan took part in a pre-match warm-up with the Wellacre team as well as a Q&A with both teams and a number of our sports journalists team. With the opposition school comprising a number of Liverpool supporters, they had to laugh as Juan proclaimed last season's 2-1 victory at Anfield (where he scored twice) as

his most memorable game in a Manchester United shirt.

Juan unfortunately wasn't as successful on the PlayStation@4 with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Wellacre's very own Dylan Sumner on FIFA 16. Juan, playing as Manchester United, had good friend David De Gea to thank for keeping him in contention as he sent the virtual De Gea the right way to keep out a penalty from his opponent.

Away from Juan's appearance, PlayStation transformed a classroom into a PlayStation gaming zone for the day which acted as a reward mechanism for well-performing students in school. The English Schools' FA also added some variety to the day's PE lessons as they provided two professional football coaches for the day.





Dear Reader

It's been a great start to the new academic year here at Wellacre. I hope that all our new students and parents are as pleased as I am at the way the year 7 boys have settled in and have taken to life at Wellacre in a mature and committed fashion.

It has also been great to see students in our new uniform, sporting our new crest and representing Wellacre so well in the community through their smart appearance. It really does reflect the changes that are ongoing at our school which are making Wellacre a much better place for our boys to receive the top quality education they deserve.

The changes to teaching and learning practice are reflected in our GCSE results for 2015. At 5 A*- C including English and Maths results improved by 12% on 2014 putting Wellacre boys' achievements well above the national 'boys only' figure for 2014 for the same measure. It also places us well above many other Trafford high schools and those in surrounding areas including schools in Cheshire, Salford and Manchester. **Wellacre has been identified as the most improved school in Greater Manchester, and we are extremely proud of this achievement.**

Following on from our full Ofsted inspection in May, we were pleased to welcome inspectors back into school for an update visit in November. I am very pleased to report that the changes we had implemented both prior to and since the full inspection have started to have real impact.

The inspectors stated that *"senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement."*

They also said that:

- There is a **new, clear and shared vision** for the school.
- The school is undergoing a **rapid process of change.**
- Students interviewed were **very positive** about the changes taking place.
- Students noted that **behaviour around the school was much improved**, that punctuality to lessons was more rigorously challenged and that there was **less disruption in lessons.**
- Students felt that the **zero-tolerance of poor behaviour** was having a positive impact.
- Staff were providing more **frequent and detailed marking and feedback** on students work.
- Year 11 students interviewed were **aspirational** and almost all had clear plans about future career pathways.

The full letter from Ofsted can be found on our website, containing much more detail, especially on the improvements in teaching and learning and the management and procedures for staff. We are striving to continually improve in these areas and have introduced rigorous procedures and systems that will assist us in the process.

Due to the improvements in student attainment and progress last year, we are now an **award winning** school. Wellacre has been awarded two Good School Guide Awards for **excellence in English Language and English Literature examination results.** We have out-performed all other English schools in this category. The prestigious annual awards, which are in their 9th year, are based on a detailed analysis of the most recent examination results, and are designed to **highlight consistently good teaching.** We are extremely proud to be recognised for our hard work and dedication.

We achieved a Gold Award for our English Literature results. This means we achieved the best performance by boys at an English Comprehensive School. We also achieved an Excellence award for our English results, placing us in the top 5% of schools for boys taking English Language at a Comprehensive School.

To continue our award winning term, we received the British Council International Schools Award, the Silver CIAG Award, the Gold Kitemark for School Sports and the Artsmark Gold Award!

I would like to thank you for your continued support. We are on a journey of improvement and we are making progress every single day in transforming Wellacre into the outstanding school I know it can and will be.

I look forward to even more success for Wellacre in 2016.

Miss Wicks
Principal

CHARLIE HIGSON, THE ENEMY BOOK SERIES AUTHOR VISIT



Charlie Higson (The author, actor, comedian, TV and radio writer) held an event at a local school in November. Wellacre were delighted to be able to take a group of our students along to the event.

Many parents and staff are probably familiar with Charlie for his roles on television; however you may know him more for his role as an author. You may have read 'Monstroso' or the 'Young Bond' series. Charlie is also the brains behind ITV's current Jekyll & Hyde series. He is becoming one of the most popular children's authors in the country, constantly in demand from schools and literary festivals, and he is also rather good at 'C.O.D-Modern Warfare', which he plays when he is supposed to be writing.

Charlie gave a highly entertaining talk about his work, focussing on the final book in 'The Enemy' series. It was interesting to hear how he used his son as a critic during the writing process. Charlie was not satisfied with any chapter unless his son had nightmares! After the talk we had the chance to meet and chat with Charlie, students also had their books signed.

We have one copy of the first book in the series, signed by Charlie, to be won in our January competition. The library will release the entire series for book loans following the competition. Check out www.the-enemy.co.uk for more details about the book series or visit your local library if you cannot wait to read it!



PRESENTATION EVENING

The successes and achievements of our Key Stage 4 students were celebrated at our annual Key Stage 4 Presentation Evening which took place in the Main School Hall on Thursday 12th November 2015.

Over 100 students received a variety of awards and trophies in recognition of their hard work and endeavour and collected their Examination Certificates.



On the evening numerous awards were handed out including subject prizes for 'excellent commitment to learning', as well as awards for 'Outstanding attendance', 'Dedication and commitment', 'Achievement against all odds', 'The Principal's award for Outstanding Contribution', 'the Governor award for special service to the academy' and 'The Billy Molden Inspirational achievement award' in memory of an inspirational young student who lost his life to cancer a couple of years ago.

The awards were distributed by Miss Wicks, Principal, along with special guest Rik Waddon, Paralympian, School Governor Stephanie Hughes and Year 11 Learning Director Mr Duffy.

It was great to see so many parents, carers, staff and supporters of the school congratulating the achievements of our young people. Well done to all concerned and many thanks also to DHL who donated and presented a trophy.

CARRINGTON SHIELD
Jack Evans

OUTSTANDING
ATTENDANCE AWARD
Luke Phillips

MESSENGER BOOK PRIZE
Nicholas Criddle

SAM WILKINSON
MEMORIAL SHIELD
Jaimie Hamby

DAVID MURRAY
MEMORIAL AWARD
Muhammed Mulla

DANIEL SPENCER
SHINING STAR AWARD
Thomas Potter

AMBASSADOR CUP -
GOVERNOR AWARD
Alex Park

PRINCIPAL'S PRIZE
Jake Alexander

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT PRIZE
Jack Lees

ERIC CROSBIE AWARD
Anthony Durbin-Wood

YEAR 11 LEARNING
DIRECTOR'S AWARD
Kane Shelmerdine

WILKINSON COWAN TROPHY
Lewis Williams

ANSELL & BAILEY TROPHY
James Barry

RAY HOWELL AWARD
Joe Bamford

BILLY MOLDEN AWARD
Gyorgy Pogacsas

ROAD TO RESPECT AWARD
Thomas Harrison

CONDOVER TRIP 2015

The long anticipated year 7 residential took place in October 2015 and was thoroughly enjoyed by every student and member of staff who attended. During an action packed three days, students scaled great heights climbing, firing rockets into the air, orienteering, learning circus skills, laser quest conquest, participating in the run around quiz in the Condover grounds plus much, much more.

All students were fantastically behaved for the entire trip and were a credit to the school and their parents. During the residential, it was great to see so many new friendships being made and the boys grow in confidence. As a result students (and staff) arrived back thoroughly exhausted!



ROALD DAHL

September is Roald Dahl's birth month, and each year we celebrate with a wonderful array of primary liaison events centred around his birthday on 13th September.

This year we got crafty with some of our favourite characters from The Twits to The Witches to Matilda.

We would like to thank our Primary schools for attending and can't wait for next year.

If you are considering in choosing Wellacre for your son, ready for the September 2016 academic year, or are interested in visiting our school in term time, please contact admin@wellacre.org to arrange for a guided tour.



TECHNOLOGY FACULTY AUTUMN 2015 SUCCESSES

As the autumn term of 2015 draws to a close it is time to reflect on the many successes achieved in the Technology Department.

The term started with a new staff 'team' as colleagues moved on and Mr Seggie joined as the new head of faculty, with Miss Brunning becoming second in charge.

Years 7, 8 and 9 projects were re-vamped with a new timetable and schemes of learning that focused on providing more opportunities for students to make and learn practical skills. Some excellent examples can be seen below.



Year 7 Trinket Box Project

Year 7 have been designing and making trinket boxes, learning a number of hand skills and Computer Aided Design to produce lots of high quality outcomes.



Year 8 Grabber Project

Year 8 students have been designing and making a mechanical grabber influenced by animals, the boys have thoroughly enjoyed the project and couldn't wait to take the products home.



Year 9 Aftershave Packaging Project

Year 9 students have been learning the art of packaging and graphic design using industry standard Adobe Photoshop to create a brand new aftershave product.



**Year 7
Food Class**

**Year 9
Forging Project**

Another huge success for the Faculty, and school, was the awarding of funding by SSAT and Dulux to refurbish a classroom and establish a state of the art STEM teaching room that will be used as a hub for STEM related teaching in the academy.

The 6th Form also received good news in the form of feedback from one of our external contacts to let us know how well a previous student is doing on his construction apprenticeship with them. They were particularly impressed by the 'industry ready' standard that the student had left Wellacre upon completion of his studies with us.

Continuing the construction theme, Mr Seggie recently took some students to visit a building site run by Casey on behalf of Trafford Housing Trust. It proved to be a very informative trip that is already proving useful in preparing students for their external theory exam in January. Casey have also invited us back to see the development again once building work had further progressed.



Miss Brunning has also been out with her Year 10 Design Engineer Construct (DEC) class:

As part of the Design Engineer Construct programme year 10 students visited two iconic buildings in Manchester. We were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the hotel football allowing the students to explore various spaces including the very impressive 5-a-side football pitch on the roof. The visit allowed students to develop their understanding of how public buildings are designed including the scale, layout, materials and costs. The second part of the trip involved a visit to the plot of land that students will use as the focus in their project; as they investigated the surrounding buildings, access, ground type, sun path and wind direction. I am looking forward to seeing how the learning gained will inspire the students' designs over the next term.



YEAR 7 ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE AT SALE SHARKS

The students had a an inspirational day out at the AJ Bell understanding how Sale Sharks runs as a business in terms of their income and expenditure. They were tasked with creating their own rugby club and exploring how they would make money for their own business whilst completing some motivational team games along the way!

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

You may have seen (or heard) our Young Enterprise students using their sales techniques at recent parents evenings and at the school production. The Year 11 and 9 team have been producing and selling hand crafted decorations over the Christmas period as part of the Young Enterprise competition. As part of the programme they spent a day a Stretford Mall alongside several other schools, although a quiet sales day the students certainly developed their understanding on marketing and sales and came away with ideas for the next stall in February. The profits made will be reinvested into the students 'big business idea' which is to be developed over the next half term. Watch this space for the big announcement....



CAROL SERVICE

A special part of our events calendar is our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St John's Church; the boys' choir was joined by the Davyhulme brass band, our very own samba band, soloists, musical interludes, family favourite hymns and mince pies from our wonderful Parent Guild. A fabulous festive finale to the year!

SHOE BOX SUCCESS

Our annual Christmas Samaritans purse appeal has been running since 2010 and has delivered smiles to hundreds of children over the years. In fact, we have sent over 2,000 shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations!

Our Prince's Trust students lead the way and managed the whole process, from launching the appeal in September during our assemblies to engaging all students in every year group to donate a box and a gift. This year we would like to congratulate Miss Niebel and her form 7O for their magnificent contribution.



KEY 103 MISSION CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year Trafford FC students, Wellacre Sixth Form and Wellacre have pledged its support to Key 103's Mission Christmas campaign in order to support those children who spend their Christmas in poverty. Statistics have shown that 1 in 3 children are living in poverty in Greater Manchester, meaning that there are some unfortunate children who go to bed at night without a hot meal or central heating. Approximately 150,000 children in Manchester will not have a present to open this Christmas. We have made it our aim to provide presents to try and make it a happy Christmas for all of these children. Students, staff and parents have been generously dropping off extra gifts over the last few weeks; we have a fantastic selection for all age groups and our proud to have been part of such a wonderful initiative. A special well done to the Football students for raising an extra £50 to buy even more presents and to class 7.0 for donating so many gifts. We are so proud of everyone that got involved.



GREASE REVIEW

We received a "rave review" for our recent production of Grease from Paul Downham of the North West End theatre review company. It was so good we thought we would let you all take a look at his kind words!

One of the joys of this job is travelling all over the north of England to schools, youth groups and amateur companies and witnessing raw talent that one day, who knows, could be shining on the West End stage.

Tonight I was at Wellacre in Flixton for their production of Grease. Being a school production this took the form of the original stage version of the show, one some people may not be as familiar with. Some of the songs are different to that of the modern version of the show based on the film, also some songs have been curtailed and edited to suit the age group of the performers. The story is still there though, and as one of the most recognisable musical films around I don't think I need to remind you of the storyline.

Featuring a cast of 30 plus a choir in front of the stage as with every school production there is always a chance the stage can look cluttered but director Miss McDonough has done an excellent job of avoiding this scenario and with the assistance of Miss Spencer providing the choreography the larger ensemble numbers look neat and tidy.

The story as we know revolves around Danny (Peter Gagan) and Sandy (Chloe Chesworth) who both rise to the challenge of the roles and tonight in good voice. Their performance however suffered slightly from a couple of sound glitches where their microphones didn't seem to be working properly making some of the busier musical numbers difficult to hear at times. That aside, both oozed confidence with Gagan proving to be the slick, cool character we all have come to expect, that is until he is in the presence of Sandy. Chesworth also embraces the role from shy innocent teen through to confident woman.

Danny is of course part of the T-Birds gang with Kenickie (Tom Davies), Doody (Harry Ackerman), Roger (Harry Merrell) and Sonny (Oliver Pagan) whom all play confidently throughout. Dressed in their signature leather jackets with the T-Birds logo on the back it is nice to watch the mini stories happening in the background as they fall for their individual Pink Ladies.

Moving onto the Pink Ladies, I have to say that they shone brightest tonight of all on stage. This group of young ladies, Rizzo (Evie Headford), Frenchy (Hannah Weiner / Grace Holmes), Jane (Rianne Kerry) and Marty (Soraya Holloway) commanded the stage whenever they were on it. There were particularly strong performances from Kerry as Jane and also Elissa Headford as the annoying Patty Simcox.

However, for me the star of the night was Evie Headford as Rizzo. With a great voice and superb stage presence, not once all night did she fall out of character even when at the back of the stage. Every show has a stand out performer, and for me Evie was this production's.

Other notable performances by Maisie Galea as Miss Lynch, Yasmin Brownhill as Cha Cha DiGregorio and the hilarious Ryan Ogden as the hapless Eugene all help to make this fun show a memorable one and send you home with a smile on your face.

I also have to mention the band who were on fine form throughout the evening under the directorship of Miss Spencer who were the final piece in this production's jigsaw.

I note from the programme that Wellacre is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and I for one can't think of a better way to celebrate than by putting on this production. Yes it had its minor faults (what show doesn't), but it is a fun night out and features some very talented youngsters up there on the stage.

Review by: Paul Downham

PAST STUDENTS MEET SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Wellacre welcomed two of its first ever students from 1955 to meet our Head Boy and Executive Student Council. Mr Brian and Mr Tony Timms first walked through Wellacre's doors in 1955 as fresh faced eager students with a passion for technology and cricket! Fast forward to 2015, the two have had hugely successful careers in engineering and print technology, travelled the world, worked in Switzerland and Australia, speak three languages, raised families and now enjoy well deserved retirement.



The brothers were hugely impressed with our student ambassadors and thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon with us.

We are recruiting for our Alumni right now, so do please sign up, share your success with us and join us in our 60th year Celebrations later this Summer term.

Email Alumni@wellacre.org to join up today

60TH CELEBRATIONS



Wellacre is 60 this year, and we are choosing to celebrate 60 years of bringing out the best in boys, in a variety of ways. We have a range of activities and events planned including:

- Welcoming back our first students from 1955.
- Ceremonial planting of an oak tree and copse.
- Presentation of hand made furniture, by our Prince's Trust students, to local Primary schools.
- Summer Fair Extravaganza in July 2016.
- Launch of our Alumni organisation through our new Wellacre website.

We hope the planting of the copse will provide exciting learning opportunities for our students, our photographers can shoot the changes in the copse over the seasons, our literature students hope to improve their descriptive writing by studying the trees, our Prince's Trust students will care and manage the copse, our mathematicians



will chart their growth and our artists will draw their images.

The Ceremonial tree was planted in a prime location at the front of our school, it will act as a reminder of 60 years of bringing out the best in boys and will serve as a daily reminder of our Core Values of Honesty, Respect, Aspiration, Pride and Resilience.

We would like to thank Mr Mullarkey from International Timber in Trafford Park for their kind donation.



Did you attend Wellacre or do you know anyone who attended the school?

If so, we need people like you to get in touch, not only to update us on what you are doing now, but also to spread the word to any friends, relatives or colleagues who you know attended the school dating back to 1955.

For further information please contact the school on 0161 748 5011 or email us at alumni@wellacre.org



SO FAR THIS YEAR WE HAVE RAISED £1,000!

The majority of the money raised is being used towards the cost of a new school mini bus.

The monies have enable a year set of RE text books to be purchased - 'Religions to Inspire for KS3: Christianity' by Diane Kolk and the Creative Arts and Media Faculty hope to buy a set of new cameras for the photography GCSE class

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS – SPRING TERM 2016

Wednesday 6th January

Afritwin: Parent Meeting 7pm

Thursday 7th January

January GCSE Exam Season Begins

11th and 12th January

Year 9 Immunisations

13th – 15th January

Year 11 & Year 13 Students -
London Trip

15th January

January GCSE Exam Season Closes

Wednesday 20th January

School Closes at 2.05 p.m.
(Staff Training)

Thursday 21st January

Year 9 Interim Reports Available
on SIMS

Friday 22nd January

Careers Fair, parents welcome
from 3pm

25th and 26th January

Year 11 Immunisations

Thursday 28th January

Year 9 Options and
Parents Evening

Friday 5th – 21st February

South Africa Trip

Thursday 11th February

Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 12th February

Ski Trip departs to Austria

Half Term Break

Closes Friday 12th February and
opens Monday 22nd February

Wednesday 2nd March

School Closes at 2.05 p.m.
(Staff Training)

TRAFFORD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Wednesday 9th December, over twenty of our students took part in the Trafford Cross Country Championships at Crossford Bridge Sports Ground in Sale. This is a major sporting event in our school calendar as we also organise the championships with fifteen of our sports leaders.

The day was a huge success for all of our leaders who were involved. They helped set

up the course, marshal the races and organise the finish line. Over three hundred students from 18 different schools in Trafford took part in the event.

The boys that represented the school in each of the races were a credit to the school. They all showed plenty of resilience on what was a very cold December day. Although we had no individual successes, we managed to finish in the top ten in each of the team events.

Results:

Year 7 – 5th place

Year 8/9 – 7th place

Year 10/11 – 6th place

Well done to all of the boys who raced on the day.

ELLIS ON PAR!

Congratulations to Ellis Willot, winner of the Par 18 Lee Westwood golf competition in Newcastle.

A super effort and thoroughly well deserved success.



A ROYAL MARINE VISIT



Twenty year 10 and year 11 students were put through their paces with the Royal Marines.

The Marines visited Wellacre for a morning as part of our continued commitment to Work Experience and career options for when our students leave school. The first part of the session involved a presentation by the Royal Marines explaining all the different job roles that are available to all Marines not just soldiering. The second part of the session put the students through their paces as they took part in an hour's physical training. Students learnt the importance of team work and how to be resilient.

RUGBY SUCCESS

I have played rugby with Cadishead Rhinos for two years. Our coach Paul is really good, he works very hard and is very supportive of me and all his team. Our team works hard together and we support one another on and off the pitch.

I received my award for Most Improved Player of the Year 2015, this means a lot to me as it shows my hard work and efforts are paying off.

I play in the position of Winger, and it is a position I enjoy because I can run with the ball and score tries.

My teams best result was 22-6 and I scored 1 try. My target is to score a try every match, sometimes I do this but if I do not, I am resilient enough to keep going and aim for the next game.



I'm looking forward to our new season with the Rhinos and hope to grow even stronger this season.

My favourite team are Salford Red Devils, and I like to watch them play when I can.

Alfie Birkett Year 7