



INSPIRE

ISSUE 8
SUMMER 2018

bringing out the *best* in boys

WELLBEING AMBASSADORS

At Wellacre, we are focusing on mental health and wellbeing with a variety of initiatives including appointing Student Wellbeing Ambassadors to underpin the school's pastoral support system.

The group, including students from Years 7 to 10, are available to speak with any students seeking help and have been trained to offer their support or advise them on sources of further guidance.

Wellacre recognises the issues faced by our students and we are constantly working to provide key support, including designated and trained staff and peers, raising awareness throughout school of current mental health issues and creating an understanding that students do not suffer from their personal issues alone, there is always someone to talk to.

Principal Miss Wicks, said:

“We are proud to introduce our Student Wellbeing Ambassadors, they are a group of students who recognise there are times that people need a little extra support for many different reasons. Having students who are happy to help their peers and lend an ear, adds to our supportive environment which is at the core of Wellacre’s philosophy.”

Successful students were appointed after a rigorous application process which involved answering pertinent questions surrounding topics such as mental health, bullying, wellbeing, reflection and their own experiences of helping others.

Wellacre’s Student Wellbeing Ambassadors will have a range of responsibilities including undertaking relevant training, working with



students and staff to provide support and guidance to those that need it and to raise the profile of mental health awareness across the school.

Students have already received training from The Proud Trust on tackling LGBT phobia and celebrating all identities, with further training planned on Mental Health Awareness.

The Proud Trust said on Twitter following the training:

“Fantastic morning with the #LGBT ambassadors at @WellacreAcademy. Some brilliant ideas for tackling LGBT phobia and celebrating all identities!”

WELLACRE OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 26th September 2018 from 5.45pm until 8.00pm • The Principal will speak at 6.00pm



WELLACRE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this edition of the Wellacre Academy Inspire Newsletter.

As Principal, I feel immensely proud of all the students and staff when I put pen to paper for the Inspire magazine. The sheer breadth of opportunities, the scale and range of achievements and the planning and care that goes into the provision really is something to behold. In this issue alone, we can see examples of: promoting diversity and wellbeing, inspirational and aspirational speakers in school, amazing and inspiring trips to countries near and much further afield, academic excellence and an insight into the exciting world of work.

We want to make sure that all boys in Trafford can experience the same levels of commitment and excellence that our current students avail themselves of. Therefore, we are opening our doors to ensure that all boys in Trafford have the opportunity to attend Wellacre and have updated our admissions policy for entry in September 2019, to include boys from the whole of the Trafford area.

This is in response to a growing demand for high quality single sex education from parents and our vision to offer more boys the high quality and unique provision that Wellacre specialises in. This was endorsed in last years' GCSE results whereby, Wellacre boys achieved significantly higher than boys nationally in English and in Maths, providing us with our highest set of results in 10 years.

I would like to extend an invitation for all prospective parents and students to visit us here at Wellacre for our forthcoming Open Evening from 5.45pm on Wednesday 26th September. This is always an exceptional evening during which students and staff take the opportunity to showcase our school and the great teaching and learning that Wellacre prides itself upon, every day of the school year.

You are also welcome to visit by appointment and see for yourself how our Ofsted rated 'GOOD' school operates on a daily basis and meet some of our fantastic and inspiring student leaders.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest news regarding our students, the activities and achievements, which we are extremely proud to share with you.

Miss Wicks
Principal

ALL EQUAL, ALL DIFFERENT

Anti-Bullying Week

The message "All Equal, All Different" was clear from Year 8 Daniel Caldeira, the winner of Wellacre's Anti-Bullying Week competition. He was rewarded for his powerful poster, which raises awareness of the key anti-bullying messages and won himself a Trafford Centre voucher.



Daniel said:

"I think it's unfair to hear of young people being ridiculed for being different; I entered the competition to encourage people to be more understanding and reduce bullying."

During the week, Wellacres' Anti-Bullying Ambassadors delivered assemblies and promoted both their lunchtime drop-in sessions and the new confidential 'Record it, Report it, Don't Support it' bullying incidents post box in the Pastoral Base.

RESPECT lessons were also undertaken by all students, with the re-launch of the Anti-Bullying Charter, which was signed by each tutor group and displayed.

Phil Pemberton, Vice Principal, said:

"At Wellacre, we are committed to anti-bullying practice and we are proud of the work and effort of our students in promoting an inclusive environment, where they can feel safe and happy."



LGBT History Month

To celebrate and promote LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans) history month in February, students and staff were invited to enter a competition to celebrate

successful LGBT individuals, highlighting their achievements and any obstacles they had to overcome to achieve their goals.

Congratulations to all the winners who were awarded with certificates and chocolate prizes in assemblies last week: William Heaton, Thomas Rabbetts, Noah Tuffley, Ryan George, Alex Bailey, Roan Carlisle, Edward West and Miss de Costa.

Rainbow Flag Award

Initiatives, such as these competitions, support Wellacre's continued focus on students mental health and wellbeing. We are delighted to share the news that raising awareness, celebrating diversity and equality, and providing excellent support has helped us achieve our first two merits towards The Proud Trust's Rainbow Flag Award - Supportive Governors and Parents, and Pastoral Support.





BE STRONG ONLINE

Wellacre students have been successfully appointed as Be Strong Online Ambassadors and, as part of their commitment, have attended a regional training day in collaboration with The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign.

Leader of Computing at Wellacre, Mrs Lunn, said:

“Wellacre’s Be Strong Online Ambassadors have made a pledge to cascade their learning from this initial training day and raise awareness within the next 12 months. We are extremely proud of the commitment they have showed to this initiative.”

In their role as Be Strong Online Ambassadors, Wellacre students will continue in-school training and have been planning their own campaign to raise awareness of various online topics in school. They will provide support to other students, running online safety campaigns, sessions and assemblies in school to help their peers increase their digital resilience.

During the Be Strong Online Ambassador training day, students were inspired by learning about the issues affecting young people online, topics such as cyberbullying, digital footprint and digital detox, and the positives and negatives of the online world.

The training day also provided a networking opportunity for Wellacre students to meet and share ideas with staff, professionals and young people from other schools, academies and organisations in the North West.

Mrs Lunn added:

“These students will take on a range of responsibilities including further training with a range of modules provided by the Be Strong Online Diana Awards, working with students and staff to offer support and guidance to those that need it and to raise the profile of Being Strong Online.”

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Wellacre promotes the importance of online resilience and e-safety and, last term, supported national Safer Internet Day to encourage students to play their part in building a better internet.



The campaign’s mission this year is “Create, connect and share respect: a better internet starts with you”.

Wellacre’s Computing students participated in ‘Digital Dilemmas’ which asked them to think about situations in which young people can feel pressure online.

There were a series of learning activities as well as lively, open discussions, with students suggesting resolutions and advice to address issues faced by young people online.

MOVING MINDS

Commonwealth Gold Medallist boxer, Courtney Fry, joined Wellacre students as part of a Mentally Healthy Schools pilot to support the emotional wellbeing of its students.

Organised by partner agencies, Moving Minds and 42nd Street, Courtney joined Wellacre to work with Year 9 students to build their confidence and help them reach their full potential.



Shivam, Year 9 student, said:

“It was great working with Courtney and hearing his experiences and advice; we listened lots but there were plenty of fun activities too.”

Year 9 students first spent the day with Courtney exploring physical and emotional wellbeing, confidence building and achieving their potential in school and life through physical activity and developing life skills.

Courtney said:

“Wellacre students have been really open with me today about their stresses and coping mechanisms. They came up with lots of good ideas and have set positive goals for themselves.”

Courtney then worked with Year 9 Young Health Ambassadors, appointed by Wellacre, who are undertaking training to support their peers in making healthy lifestyle choices that affect mental health.



LEVI TAFARI INSPIRES WELLACRE ANTHOLOGY

Year 9 Wellacre boys are sharing a poetry anthology with their school, parents and wider community, inspired by renowned poet Levi Tafari and illustrated by local artist Mancsy.

Levi joined Year 9 students for a day-long poetry workshop, as part of World Book Day celebrations, about identity and culture. Together, Levi and students, examined poetic techniques, structure, form, language choices before developing their ideas and exploring how to express themselves.

Mr Chisnall, Director of English and Whole School Literacy, said:

“It was an inspirational day for students and unlocked their creative talents in poetry writing, which everyone will be able to enjoy in Wellacre’s anthology.”

Wellacre are proudly sharing copies with students and parents, as well as presenting them to local primary schools.

Levi Tafari said:

“The work that Wellacre students produced is absolutely fantastic and shows what confident writers they are becoming.”

Hearing about the Manchester-focused project, famous local artist Mancsy, was keen to collaborate with students and agreed for the specially-commissioned Wellacre bee artwork to be featured on the front cover.

Jack Kelly, Year 9 student, said:

“I found that working with Levi really inspired me and gave me lots of ideas to write about. It helped me think about what being from Manchester really means and I enjoyed representing my culture through my poem.”

A Manchester Poem

by Year 9, Jack Kelly:

United in Manchester:
People born here,
Migrants drawn here,
Tourists and sightseers,
Going to cloud nine to face their fears.

Glaring across stunning Salford Quays,
The tattooing of Magnificent Manchester bees,
Hope, unity,
Delicious diverse cuisines.
Italian, Spanish,
British drinking teas.

Urbanisation conjoining many towns.
Urmston and Flixton,
Home to many sounds.
Football,
Which kids play on playgrounds.
Salford Reds making touchdowns.

Stretford Mall and the Trafford Centre,
Emmeline Pankhurst protested; they let her.
Christies they are a research centre,
They are stopping cancer: The Preventer.

Home to comedians Carr, Manford, Kay,
To inventors, Alan Turing, founder of
computers, he was Gay.

To music from Oasis:
“Don’t look back in anger I heard you say...”
To roads like M60, Mancunian way.

Full and vibrant:
People upon people shopping full of
excitement.
Silence in the Arndale the sound of thunder,
As The Ship Canal reflects its wonder.

Manchester kicked off the Industrial
Revolution,
Making cotton,
A thriving institution.
Everyone ‘chipping in’ to make a contribution.
Economical English evolution.

Cobbled Coronation Street,
And dramas filmed like captivating Cold Feet,
Peaky Blinders filmed in the quirky Quays,
Now this poem is nearly complete.

But not really... the terror attack,
When Manchester stuck together like blu-tac,
No matter what race white or black,
Manchester will always bounce right back.

Mancunians with happy hearts of solid stone,
Clouds pitifully pouring out rain, snow,
sometimes hailstone.

Sun provides us with heat hurled through
the ozone,
Mancunians all feel like they are sitting on
a throne.

Manchester the belly and guts of the nation,
Show the city some appreciation.
As we built the first railway station,
Manchester would be my recommendation.

Love... don’t hate,
Commemorate,
Don’t fight,
Just Unite.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT ITV

Year 10 students were invited to go behind the scenes at ITV Granada Reports when they opened the newsroom studio to showcase how the popular news programme is made.

Mr Rob Chisnall, Director of English and Whole School Literacy, said:

“This was a fascinating, hands-on experience for students with an interest in media as a career choice; they spoke in-depth to a range of ITV staff and relished the opportunity to try their hand at various elements of TV production.”

As part of discovering how the newsroom functions, the students participated in a series of activities including presenting a news report, using media equipment such as studio cameras and lighting, and working behind the scenes to create a report. ITV Reporter Tony Morris was on hand to offer advice and guidance on presenting skills!

Joshua Wash, Year 10, said:

“Visiting ITV Granada Reports and going behind the scenes of a news report was really successful for our group and demonstrated a whole range of new career ideas in the media.”

MATHS FEAST

In March, Year 10 students took part in the 2018 National Maths Feast Competition held at Manchester University.

Wellacre’s team of Anton Anderson, Joshua-Lee Walsh, Oliver Pagan and Bailey Crolla entered the exciting Maths competition. A series of challenges combined mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offered students an alternative way of expressing and developing their enjoyment of mathematics.



Mrs Eagling, Assistant Leader of Maths, said:

“Our team competed really well and managed to solve some very difficult problems. They were commended for demonstrating the best teamwork and won a certificate and prize.”

Joshua-Lee added:

“We really enjoyed the event. It was very challenging but rewarding when we solved the problems.”

The competition is organised by the Further Mathematics Support Programme and challenges teams in several rounds of mathematical problems, which require different skills and strategies for success. All materials were made available for schools to take back with them to enrich and extend learning in classes.

PEERS IN SCHOOLS

We watched Parliament TV live as Lord Goddard of Stockport raised a question in the House of Lords on behalf of Year 10 student, Conner Pollitt.

This followed a visit by Lord Goddard, as part of the Lord Speaker's 'Peers in Schools' Outreach Programme, to encourage students to become more engaged with the political and parliamentary process.

Lord Goddard met a group of students from Year 9 and 10 to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords, followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process, life at the Houses of Parliament and issues raised by students they were passionate about.

One question in particular, from Conner, captured Lord Goddard's interest relating to the Grenfell Tower survivors who have yet to be rehoused or compensated as per the Government's promise.



Lord Goddard assured Wellacre students he would take the question to the House of Lords and he secured a parliamentary question to ask the Minister, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, about the progress of help for the victims of Grenfell Tower.

Mrs Irwin, Teacher of RE at Wellacre said:

"It was touching to hear politicians' praise for Wellacre students, in particular, Conner for his interest and concern for this ongoing issue. Lord Bourne also extended an invitation to Conner to visit the House of Lords himself, which was met with great excitement!"

Watching the workings of Westminster today and being part of democracy in action was a great opportunity for Wellacre students."

Year 10, Conner Pollitt, added:

"It was great to hear my name and Wellacre being mentioned in the House of Lords. My question about Grenfell Tower was answered in detail and with a lot of appreciation."



WW1 BATTLEFIELDS TOUR

In March, Year 10 Wellacre students Saif Ali and Conner Pollitt were selected to tour the World War 1 battlefields, following the 'Manchester pals' route of 1918 through Belgium and France.

Mr Gillan, said:

"We can describe the battlefields of the First World War in the classroom, but to actually see the landscape, imagine the challenges and follow in the footsteps of soldiers involved in that conflict, was a powerful experience."

Students visited a range of historical, battlefield and memorial sites before joining the memorial service for the centenary of the battle of Manchester Hill.

Year 10 Saif added:

"Conner and I had an amazing time; we learnt so much about the conditions for soldiers and the weapons they used. It will be an experience I will always remember."

INSPIRING CREATIVITY IN ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Recent trips for Year 11 Art and Photography students to Liverpool galleries and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park have inspired creativity and helped them prepare for 2018 examinations.

In January, students visited Liverpool Tate Art Gallery as well as the Open Eye Gallery as part of their preliminary research and preparation for their 2018 examination.

Miss Niebel, Leader of Creative Arts & Technologies, said: "The trip to Liverpool was an engaging and inspirational day that went down a storm with both students and staff."

In February, students travelled to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to focus on capturing light and dark images, as well the human figure for the art exam. The students also participated in a workshop to create their own abstract sculptures.

Year 11 Joshua said:

"The best part about this trip was being inspired by other artists, who have created wonderful pieces that embody their creative ideas, and putting these to use in my work and final pieces."



TALENTED CHEFS

Wellacre has been on the hunt for the next MasterChef with a 12-week after school club for new young chefs keen to learn more about the culinary world.

Wellacre's food talents, from Years 7 to 9, have been put through their paces in a series of cooking challenges to hone their cookery skills and develop an understanding of ingredients.

Miss Jones, Teacher of Food and Nutrition, said:

"It's been 12 weeks of fun and friendly competition! The boys have learnt lots of new skills, as well as practising and improving others. Well done to our winner and to everyone else for taking part."

Delicious plates of food have been created including chinese noodles, curries, Victoria sandwich cakes, scones and old school Easter cakes to mark the end of the Spring term.

Congratulations to our MasterChef winner - Daniel Rimmer, Year 9!





AFRITWIN - WELLACRE'S ADVENTURES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Wellacre students have travelled to South Africa for the culmination of their exciting AfriTwin adventure.

Jack Rogers, Year 10, Alex Blakeley Year 9, Dylon Small Year 8 and Callum Heaton, also Year 8, have been part of the two-year AfriTwin exchange programme. They first invited students from Ferrum High School, South Africa, to visit the UK and stay with participating host families in 2017.

The incredible 3-week return trip in February 2018 included a Durban beachfront bike ride, a visit to Ushaka Marine World where students swam with sharks, a trip to Fort Ameil and Mount Amajuba

to learn a little about the Boer war, a visit to a lion farm and a short safari, and a cable car ride up Table Mountain.

As part of the programme, the group visited Wellacre's adoptive township school, Chelmsford Primary and donated pens, pencils, chalk, pencil cases, sports kits and boots.

Organiser Mrs Eagling, Assistant Leader of Maths, said:

"The AfriTwin experience is a wonderful and unique opportunity for the students. This year, Wellacre students have again made the very most of their three weeks in South Africa and were energetic, inquisitive and engaged throughout - they were a pleasure to travel with."

Jack, Alex, Dylon and Callum were fantastic ambassadors for the school. When they met and stayed with their host families everyone was thrilled and the boys were made to feel very welcome."

SPORT SUCCESS

Wellacre students regularly strive for their best in sporting matches and competitions, with success against other schools in Trafford and Manchester.

The Year 8 and 9 football teams remain unbeaten in the league this season; both have gained promotion to the 1st division. The Year 10 and 11 teams have both reached the semi-finals of the Trafford Cup - we hope they can pick up some silverware in the finals!

Our fantastic Sport Leaders are an exceptional team, providing support and

encouragement at events such as the Primary Indoor Athletic Championships, the Key Stage 2 Multi-Sports event and a Primary Dodgeball competition. The Year 8 Sports Leaders officiate at the Secondary Trafford Cross Country Championships. The whole team are now planning a Year 5 Multi-Sports event at Wellacre, which will go towards their National Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership. The PE team enjoy hearing of sporting ambitions beyond school teams; with students reporting personal success in sports including Rugby, Karate and Gymnastics.

Wellacre extends the PE curriculum with a fantastic sport enrichment on offer at lunch and



after school. Clubs include Basketball, Tennis, Cricket and Athletics, and are open to all!

FORTHCOMING DATES 2018

2nd July 2018

Year 10 Work Experience Week

3rd July 2018

Year 6 Parents' Transition evening, 5.30-6.30pm

4th July 2018

Primary Schools Multi-Sport event

5th July 2018

Year 6 Pupils' Transition Day

5th July

Year 10 Full reports to students

6th July 2018

Community Cohesion Day

6th July 2018

Strictly Comes to Wellacre evening

7th July 2018

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award assessment weekend

9th July 2018

Key Stage 3 Awards Evening from 6.30pm

16th July 2018

Watersports trip to Mimosa, The Ardeche (until 24th July)

18th July

Year 8 and 9 Exam results published on Class Charts

19th July 2018

Reward trips and activity days

20th July

School closes for summer holidays



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Every year, Wellacre students choose a charity for a special fundraising drive and Year Groups are challenged to raise as much money as possible with a dedicated week each in the Spring 2 term, culminating in a sponsored non-uniform day.

This year, students chose the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH) and raised a grand total of £1,325.99!

Fundraising highlights included a battle of wills and stomachs at 9A's Bushtucker Trial with students facing teachers to eat rotten eggs and dog food to collect £45.65!

10N students, alongside form teacher Mrs Lunn, donned tutus, lipstick and monobrows for the day to raise £55.70.

Many lessons were a little quieter as many students took on sponsored silences; members of 7A said nothing at all to help their form raise £40.50.

The 10H boys waxed their legs to generate £60.06 from spectators.

RMCH visited Wellacre to meet some of the students involved in the fundraising and to extend the charity's thanks.



CELEBRATING ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 50TH BIRTHDAY

St John's is celebrating its 50th birthday and we welcomed Bishop Mark Davies of Middleton to Wellacre as part of a special programme of visits to Flixton schools and churches for Holy Week.

The Bishop was presented with a new decorative cross designed by teaching staff and Year 8 students to mark 50 years of links with St John's; the church building has a cross on its entrance created by students of Wellacre College in 1968, when it was built.

Principal Miss Wicks, students and staff welcomed Bishop Mark as well as Rev Huw Thomas, vicar of St Michael's Church, and the Rev Rodney Green, Associate Minister of St John's Church, who was also a student at the college when the first cross was made.

Bishop Mark delivered an assembly as well as answering questions from Year 10 RE students.

WHERE ARE YOU HEADING?

In March, Wellacre hosted a Careers Fair for all students in Years 7 to 11 as part of National Careers Week.

During Careers Week, Wellacre staff shared their own career pathways and there were opportunities for students to think about 'where they are heading.'

Every student prepared questions to encourage discussion and engagement with exhibitors at the Careers Fair at the end of the week. A wide variety of employers, education and training organisations joined Wellacre to provide inspiring careers and education information.

The annual Careers Fair proves to be a huge success year-on-year and students consistently give positive feedback on the information they receive at the event.

Harry Merrell, Wellacre's Head Boy, said:

"I found the Careers Fair very informative; it was a great opportunity to talk to different providers. It gave me more ideas about how to follow my career pathway into teaching and made the path I want to follow clearer for me."

Year 8 form tutor Mrs Warren reported great enthusiasm from her students after the event:

"Some of my form are now aiming for places at Pendleton College following the Careers Fair. They used the careers questions they prepared in form time to find out what they need to do at Wellacre in order to reach their goals and speaking to Pendleton College has now encouraged them to work even harder."





BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Wellacre invited local primary school children to join in a series of exciting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) events in celebration of British Science Week, from 12th to 16th March.

Acre Hall Primary School experienced Wellacre's 'Flash Bang' roadshow at their school in Flixton and enjoyed using scientific equipment and resources for a wide variety of interactive, colourful and, sometimes, noisy and fiery, Science experiments!

Year 8 Wellacre STEM Ambassador students were on hand to demonstrate the experiments and assist Year 3 to Year 6 children.

Experiments included creating 3D shapes from magnets, observing cells under a microscope, discovering chromatography with ink, testing acids and alkalis, learning about reflection by building periscopes and learning about polymers by driving a skewer through a balloon without making it pop!

Year 4 Acre Hall pupil, Kara, said:

"I really liked learning about things we haven't done before in primary school."

Wellacre also welcomed Victoria Park Junior School Year 5 pupils from Stretford for the Polar Explorer Challenge, a series of arctic-themed experiments.



To prepare for a Polar expedition, pupils were tasked with designing a boat to carry the largest load of 'food, water and scientific equipment' much like the 'Sir David Attenborough'. They also tested and compared materials to find the best insulator to make clothing suitable for temperatures of -30 degrees.

Davani, from Victoria Park, said:

"The experiments were more fun than what we do at primary school. We had really good teamwork and did well in the challenges."

Fellow pupil, Sarah, added:

"I can't wait to go to high school so I can do lots more experiments like these; the tests have been different and more advanced. I really liked it!"

WELLACRE SUPPORTS URMSTON IN BLOOM LAUNCH

Wellacre students supported the official Urmston in Bloom launch event in February at Davyhulme Park.

Wellacre Academy students, alongside Teacher of Science Mr Asha, presented their award-winning garden design from a Royal Horticultural Society Green Plan-it competition to event visitors. They were keen to showcase the innovative green space they had designed, which included a calming zone and play area.

The Mayor of Trafford was in attendance and the event drew a great number of visitors. Davyhulme Park groundwork offered



a practical volunteering session on the day and volunteers helped rejuvenate an area of the park under their supervision.

On twitter, Wellacre parent Mrs Hynes said:

"So proud of our Joseph and @WellacreAcademy for winning the national award from the @The_RHS for their model garden design. Thank you to Mayor @CllrJRCoupe and The Urmston partnership for organising Urmston in Bloom launch."