

INSPIRE



Spring Edition: February 2024



ANTI-RACIST BULLYING AMBASSADORS

The Wellacre Buddies' commitment sees them receive further training on how to identify racist bullying behaviour and to use their knowledge and understanding to ensure we remain a kind, caring and respectful school.

Our first group of Wellacre Buddies have become trained Anti-Racist Bullying Ambassadors. The students completed training with The Diana Award, a charity which honours and empowers young people to make positive change.

As a team, the Wellacre Buddies are learning to work with their peers to create a supportive and inclusive school environment.

Ben, Year 10, said: *"We learned about racism and recognising forms of racist bullying, including micro-aggression. By talking about people's experiences, I learned how racist bullying can make others feel."*

"I found the training really interesting, learned lots and built up my confidence as an Anti-bullying Ambassador. I wanted to become an ambassador at Wellacre to help people at school, to make a positive difference and to ensure everyone is happy at school."

The newly appointed Anti-Racist Bullying Ambassadors were presented with their official Diana Award certificates to recognise their commitment to this training and their role as Wellacre Buddies.

As part of the training, the students will create an anti-racism campaign as part of a Tutor time activity to share their learning, raise awareness and be positive advocates for change.

Wellacre is a caring community which is a safe, welcoming and inclusive. The Wellacre Buddies programme, provides opportunities for students to take on roles such as Anti-Bullying, Anti-Racist Bullying and Wellbeing Ambassadors, and through this, we aim to empower our students to promote wellbeing, fairness and equity for all.

SPRING 2024 UPCOMING DATES

Monday 26th February -
Friday 22nd March 2024
Wellacre Careers Month

Thursday 7th March 2024
World Book Day

Thursday 7th March 2024
Yr 8 Parents' Evening

Friday 29th March and
Monday 1st April 2024
Easter Bank Holiday
(School closed)

Friday 5th April 2024
Spring 2 Term ends

Monday 22nd April 2024
Summer 1 Term begins

TRANSITION TOURS

Wellacre is hosting tours of our school during the school day, between March and May, to support the Year 6 transition process. Please visit the **Transition** section of our website to book a place for you and your child:

www.wellacre.org/join-us/transition/welcome-to-wellacre/



WELLACRE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are really proud of the superb efforts of students to consolidate their knowledge through excellent commitment to independent learning in recent weeks. Seneca has helped a huge number of students to establish very positive habits. We continue to top the list of schools regionally for our students' efforts!

Sports Ambassadors, Reading Champions, STEM Ambassadors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, House Captains and the Student Executive Council have all thrived in their roles in the last term.

Students have also excelled in their fundraising for charities and in their commitment to local, regional and national projects which strengthen communities and heighten students' understanding and appreciation of others.

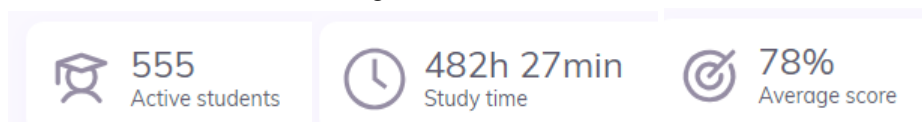
I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which gives a flavour of life at Wellacre and the huge range of curricular and extra curricular opportunities in this happy and thriving school. Happy reading!

Mrs Sharrock, Principal



Since adopting Seneca for the majority of independent learning at Wellacre, we have been impressed by the level of engagement of students. In the last fortnight, Aidan Z, Jonathan H, Jake M, Christian H, Hayden M, Ciaran B, Charlie L, Oskar B, Luke T and Jayden A were our top ten users with around 47 hours of study time between them! English led the way in setting the most assignments, followed by Science and Geography, and Wellacre remains proudly at the top of the regional school league.

Here is the latest data for the fortnight:



We encourage parents and carers to get on Seneca to support your son in developing greater fluency in his subject knowledge; please visit: www.senecalearning.com

CELEBRATING LITERACY

At Wellacre, we value and celebrate reading and as such, it is a key strategic focus for all.

Our commitment to reading at all levels includes staff-led Catch-up Literacy, Reading Ambassador peer programme (for Year 8 and primary children), Bookbuzz and book sharing scheme, and primary peer observation in the cross phase KS2/3 reading project.

We are pleased to note the impact of all our work on students' reading test scores for Autumn, with a significant 6.3% increase in the number of students reading at or above their chronological age. From our analysis, it is evident our work is successfully closing some of the gaps in students' reading ability and comprehension. This means that these students can access the curriculum more easily.

Principal Mrs Sharrock said: *"Well done to the boys for their efforts with reading and to all the staff who support reading and the development of vocabulary through subjects. The boys who work hard on Inclusion led reading intervention programmes have made amazing progress."*



At recent staff literacy CPD for reading, we shared the success of Literacy initiatives and focused on components of reading, decoding and comprehension.

Future initiatives planned to celebrate reading include a World Book Day programme of events, the introduction of Reading Champions, the training of Year 10 students to widen the scope of targeted reading with Year 8, and further KS4 intervention and support for identified students.

Mr Hedge, Assistant Leader of English, said:

"We're incredibly proud of the progress our students have made with their dedication to reading this academic year."

"We are looking forward to further harnessing our students' love for reading over the next few months. We hope our students will appreciate the wide range of activities and opportunities we have designed for World Book Day!"



FELIX FEATHERSTONE AUTHOR VISIT

As part of our wider curriculum, Wellacre students have the opportunity to experience author visits to inspire reading for pleasure and to develop storytelling and writing skills.

In January, students in Year 7 and 8 were visited by children's author Robert Goodale, who brought his characters and story to life by reading extracts from his children's novel 'Felix Featherstone and the Way of the Wolverstaffes', a fictional adventure book.

In the book, Felix learns he is a Sagacitor, someone who has lived on this planet many times before. He is invited to Hollow Island with lots of adventures along the way!

Robert invited students to discuss the characters, imagery and themes within his book. He also talked about how a story is developed and how he began writing under the pseudonym Daniel Turnpike when he moved from adult fiction to children's.

Year 8 Brady asked Robert: *"How does it end? I really want to know!"*

Mr Magdzinski, Teacher of English, said:

"The students invited to take part in the session with Robert enjoyed hearing and discussing the adventures of Felix Featherstone and were intrigued to learn more. They really loved the map that Robert brought to take them on a tour of Hollow Island where the story unfolds."

Several students purchased signed copies of the Felix Featherstone book and Robert also gifted some copies for the library.

TEACHING &

At Wellacre we believe that quality first teaching and a challenging curriculum are central to helping our students thrive.

HISTORY & RWE: HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Liberation & Freedom Art Project



Year 9 and 10 student artwork will be displayed at the Bridgewater Hall in May, as part of a Holocaust Education Project entitled Liberation and Freedom.

Caroline Slifkin, from the Northern Holocaust Education Group, led the art-based project to further students' understanding of the impact of the Holocaust through testimonies of survivors and their families.

Caroline said: *"We were so impressed with all the Wellacre students' participation and their sensitive and thoughtful creative responses."*

UCL Holocaust Project



Students in Years 7 to 10 are taking part in the UCL project 'The Holocaust, Their Family, Me and Us' as part of the P6 Programme.

The project explores the story of Noemie Lopian's family and their survival during the Holocaust.

Mr Harris, Leader of History/RWE, said: *"We are astounded by the level of curiosity, ideas and creativity that our students have exhibited throughout the project so far."*

Holocaust Memorial Day



We were grateful to Year 10 students Ben M, Matthew, Ben C and Yoda for representing Wellacre at the Holocaust Memorial service in Sale.

They found the reflections on this year's theme 'Fragility of Freedom' including prayers, performances and artwork, both eye-opening and very moving.

At school, students commemorated the day in Tutor time reflections and discussion.

MFL: EXPLORING PARIS

A team of MFL staff and students, from Years 8 to 10, enjoyed a 3-day tour of Paris in the Autumn term. It was an opportunity to explore France's famous landmarks including Sacré Coeur Basilica, Château de Versailles and the Louvre Museum.

Students were able to fully immerse themselves in French culture. At Wellacre, students study a unit all about Paris in Year 7 and this excursion allowed them to see the city and its culture first-hand. They also jumped at the chance to practise their French-speaking skills!



LEARNING

We are proud of our curriculum which is ambitious for all, thoughtfully designed and skilfully implemented by committed teaching staff.

DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY, CREATIVE ARTS & FOOD

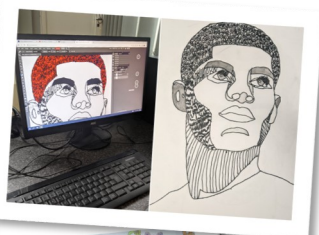


Well done in **DESIGN TECHNOLOGY** to Year 9s who worked hard on their headphone and mobile stands with a night light.

Year 7 completed their junkyard robots and enjoyed learning new skills using a range of hand tools. We celebrated Tom, who turned his robot into a phone stand!

Year 8 have been focusing on Architecture and completed some outstanding 3D models of homes for their 'clients'.

The **FOOD** room has been extremely busy! GCSE Food, Cookery and Nutrition students are proudly modelling their new uniform of Chef Whites in all practical lessons now and both Years 10 and 11 practised the high level skill of making their own puff pastry for breakfast dishes, including hot dog breakfast wraps with hot honey and blueberry breakfast pie.



Recognition in **ART** includes Year 9 students who studied the work of Graphic Artist and Illustrator Luke Dixon before creating some incredible responses of celebrities in his style. In Year 8, students have embarked on a book illustration project and began by creating a title page using monster typography!



AN INSIGHT INTO CONSTRUCTION



Year 10 and 11 Constructing the Built Environment visited a real time construction project at Altrincham Leisure Centre, hosted by the Kier Group.

The Corporate Social Responsibility Manager and Project Manager, welcomed students and discussed the renovation plans, opportunities for careers in Construction and the pathways into the sector.

Mrs Bentley, Leader of Design Technology, Art and Food, said: *"Students were able to connect their learning in the classroom with this experience. The authentic learning environment allowed them to link their knowledge within the construction sector."*

LIVE THEATRE EXPERIENCE



The Fuel Theatre Company treated Year 9 students to live theatre; a one man show performed by actor Zach.

He then delivered a drama workshop for some students who took full advantage of the opportunity to explore Zach's career journey and experience. They also worked together to write short scripts for movement-based, dramatic pieces based on the themes from the show including Identity, Equality and Acceptance; many of which are covered in Wellacre's RESPECT curriculum.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

HOUSEPOINTS TOTAL!

SPRING 1



17,040



15,460



13,550



Wellacre students rise to every challenge in all of our House competitions, with Autumn and Spring highlights including Pancake Flipping, Basketball, Welly Wanging, and Spelling Bee!



We saw some fantastic flipping at the House Pancake Competition with some novices, some professionals, some super high flips and plenty on the floor! The top 3 individuals were George (Yr 9), Asa (Yr 7), and Ryan (Yr 9). Well done to

all the House flippers and the winners - **Pankhurst!**

In House Basketball, it was **Lowry** who scooped the win. Students competed to shoot as many hoops as possible in 1 minute. The top scoring students in each year group were: Yr 7 Max, Yr 8 Solomon, Yr 9 Alfie, Yr 10 Adam and Yr 11 Mason.

We are pleased to spell out the House Spelling Bee winners for you - **L-O-W-R-Y** and to congratulate all the students who represented their House in Table Tennis; great sportsmanship from all.

Students loved competing in House Welly Wanging last week. Congratulations to Turing who were crowned the champions! The top three individual throws were Harry (Yr 9), Jayden (Yr 11) and Mr Caslake.

LATEST RESULTS

PANCAKE FLIPPING

1st	2nd	3rd

BASKETBALL

1st	2nd	3rd

TABLE TENNIS

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11
1st					

SPELLING BEE

1st	2nd	3rd

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1st	2nd	3rd



A-la-la-la-laddin

Wellacre's largest cast and crew to date whisked everyone off to Arabia for a magical performance of 'A-la-la-la-laddin' in February!

The preparations began in November to bring the adaptation of the timeless fable of Aladdin to life.

Mrs Tickle, Teacher of Performing Arts, Miss Quigley, Teacher of Music, and Mrs O'Neill, Assistant Principal, led the production from rehearsals right through to show week and invited students, staff and community members to show their support.

The run of shows began when we welcomed local primary school pupils from Acre Hall, Flixton and St. Monica's followed by two evening performances.

The story follows the adventure of Aladdin (Alfie, Yr 9) when he is promised riches beyond his dreams in exchange for a dusty old lamp. We also meet Princess Zahra (Isaac, Yr 8), Sultan (Kian, Yr 11), Grand Vizier (Billy, Yr 10), Musharraf (Jack, Yr 11) and the Genie (LJ Coe, Yr 10)) alongside Aladdin's friends and family, the royal household and merchants.

The Wellacre community heaped praise on the cast following the performances. On Facebook, comments included:

"It was brilliant! All those months of practice were well worth it!"

"We really enjoyed the show and could see all the effort put in from everybody involved - well done all."

"It was a fabulous play, the cast were brilliant. Well done to everyone."

The Wellacre production was supported by the whole school and wider community. We would like to extend our thanks to backstage and sound/lighting technicians Sonny (Yr 8), Oliver, Owen, Jud, Toby and Callumn (Yr 10).

The band included Thomas, Jasper, Mrs Cheung and Mr Sharrock and the Year 7 choir was headed up by lead vocalists Dylan, Jake, Arthur, Oscar, Ryan and Alfie.

Mrs Ashburn, Teacher of Food, baked some amazing cakes with Year 10 which were sold by Issac (Yr 7), Cody, Ryan and Max (Yr 9.) Art and Technology also helped in making props for the show and decorating the foyer to welcome our audience.

Finally thanks to Wellacre staff and students for their support with make-up, front of house and refreshments, and to all those donated prizes for the raffle - it was a huge team collaboration to bring this production to life!

Principal Mrs Sharrock, said:

"Fabulous, fearless and funny; I am so proud of all those involved in the production. It is important that young people are given the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience and our friends and families were wholly supportive."



COMMUNITY REVERSE ADVENT

For the third year in a row, Wellacre came together to support Cyril Flint Befrienders with a school Reverse Advent campaign.



With the support of the whole school community we collected enough donations to make 136 gift bags to make a huge difference once more!

Wellacre students attended the Cyril Flint Christmas party at the Life Centre in Sale to hand out the gift bags, and 10 were taken for friends made by students during the P6 De Brook Lodge care home weekly visits.

Befriendee George contacted Wellacre to say: *“A big thank you to all pupils and staff for the lovely goody bag I was given during the Christmas Dinner. The hug from me to you is now a magnet on my fridge, a forever momento. Thanking Shaan for his card.”*



ECO CENTRE UPDATE

We have ambitious plans for the continued development of the Ecology Centre. With student support in P6 groups more wildflower seed has been sown and fruit trees have

been cut back for winter. Peas, beans, potatoes and onions have been planted in the raised beds; some of this produce will be cooked up in the canteen!

Celine, Dolly, Betty, Mary and Doris, our chickens, continue to thrive. Staff donate funds for their daily fresh eggs. The boys and staff tend to them gladly.

We are looking for contributions to support student projects and there is now a voluntary contribution option in Arbor payments. We would be really grateful if you were able to contribute. Monies will be used for wooden framing for plants, seeds, canes, nets, plant pots, chicken feed, spades, trowels, compost, bulbs and plugs.

TRANSITION Great Science Share



Wellacre is an active participant in the Great Science Share, a national campaign which inspires students to take the lead in investigating and sharing scientific questions with new audiences.

The first stage of the Great Science Share for schools is to deliver a science event and invite guests so that students can share their science knowledge and answer questions.

During November, Wellacre invited Year 4 and 5 children from local primary schools, including Acre Hall, St. Michael's and St. Monica's, for an exciting Crime Scene Investigation challenge.

Wellacre's Science Ambassadors from Year 7 to 11 were on hand to use science to 'work the clues' and uncover the thief who has stolen Wellacre's House trophy! They were extraordinary in engaging the young scientists, delivering the experiments and explaining the science behind them.

Well done to Maxwell C, Yr 7, Joshua L, Yr 8, Oliver H, Cale M and Jack A, Yr 9, Jacob B and Elliot J, Yr 10, and Jack H, Yr 11.

The next stage of the Great Science Share will see Wellacre students visiting local primary schools to run the next activity with Year 3 children, introducing gravity through literacy and making gliders!