

22nd July 2024

Dear Families,

As the academic year comes to a close it is a good time to reflect and acknowledge the good progress that has been made in standards across the school. The Year 11 culture and ethos of hard work and application developed throughout the academic year. Under the guidance of their Achievement Team Leader, Ms Savery, large numbers of pupils attended Year 11 intervention, Saturday mornings and school holiday sessions in high numbers. The Year 11 Prom was such a great celebration which showcased the great bond that Year 11 had with each other and staff. We are all looking forward to GCSE Results day in anticipation of a great set of results which staff and pupils have worked very hard for!

Under the guidance of Ms Humphrey, 6th form life has certainly been busy. Experiences ranging from Danson Park team building on the water, to a week of work experience for Year 12 and 13. Numerous planned opportunities to add knowledge and develop character such as Wise up financial education, two excellent international trips as well as study sessions and TKAT aspire days made up an excellent diet of academic and personal development to prepare all for post 18 choices. Year 13 led the way with their charity work contributing significant sums to Bexley and Greenwich Hospice. The colour run was such a good event, student led and showed the way for future events of this nature.

We are looking forward to Year 13 results day with destinations including some of the countries best universities, apprenticeships and the world of work secured. The Year 12 summer mock results are promising and it is clear the year group have the potential to achieve some excellent results in the summer of 2025.

Our 6th form football academy which is new for September 2024, in partnership with Advanced Player development, has already started their pre-season training. Their schedule includes 4 matches over the summer to prepare for the U19 Kent County League, APD inter school tournaments, U19 National Cup, showcase games against U18 Academy sides as well as an end of season international trip.

Year 10 have had a very busy end to the academic year. I was able to witness a very mature group of Year 10's being interviewed by employers as part of mock interview day. Some great responses were given to some fairly challenging interview questions! This experience alongside the recent week of work experience really accelerates pupils' readiness for their choices at Post 16. In the middle of this, Mr Young took pupils on a Year group residential trip which brought a fitting end to the Year group residential programme which has been offered to Year 7 - 10 this academic year. It is a key part of the 'Welling Pledges', that all pupils are offered the opportunity of attending a residential trip. As well as taking part and developing team building within outdoor adventurous activities, just being away from home builds resilience and independence. Not forgetting that Year 10 also completed their Bronze Mocks and then the subsequent results afternoon, which is all part of the journey towards the final exams at the end of Year 11.

Our Key stage 3 curriculum and streams are being developed with our core aim of meeting the needs of the pupils more discreetly and providing academic and personal development pathways for all. Mr Hemsley is leading on developing our new 'Express' stream which effectively provides greater opportunity and expands our grammar stream offer. Additionally, you will have noticed knowledge organisers for all subjects in Year 7,8,9 have been placed on the school's website. These have been developed by Lead Practitioners and subject staff to provide a source of guidance for current and future learning. Weekly homework tasks will be linked to these, available in advance for all to see. The school's key stage 3 curriculum development and progress is key to whole school standards improving. Let me assure you that a tremendous amount of work has taken place, over the summer term, within curriculum planning and organisational work which will add significant value to our Key stage 3 offer. The addition of Dance as a curriculum area will add to the richness of the school's curriculum. I'm sure it will be a real area of growth in terms of participation and eventually excellence.

Personal Development and engagement of the pupils has been at the heart of our progress as a school. Years 7 and 9 have recently experienced Resilience development days. Both days enabled pupils to have experiences and opportunities outside of their school curriculum. Sessions such as chess, self defense, public speaking and learning how to cook chicken chow mein were some examples! Experiences like these develop pupils into well rounded human beings, who are able to make a full contribution to society and enable pupils to develop life skills and awareness. The First Give event for Year 7 was another demonstration of the school's commitment to the development of pupils as public speakers and awareness of societal issues. All five groups gave excellent presentations and the winning charity, Lighthouse, has already been in touch with their thanks for the funding award which is made via the Jack Petchey Foundation. Alongside this all our extra clubs and activities, trips and visits bring a real richness to school life. Much, much more to come next academic year!

Our Performing and Visual Arts staff have really worked hard this year to provide numerous opportunities and experiences which develop young people. Events such as Welling's Got talent, 'One Night Only', provide lasting memories and numerous opportunities to develop excellence. Last week, I was lucky enough to attend our final school production of the year, 'Grease'. All who were part of the production process, which is over many months, were able to witness pupils excelling, working as a team and working incredibly hard. It goes without saying it was a wonderful show and a great way to bring another academic year to an end...well nearly the end! I know many of you will also have attended the Art exhibition which was, again, another demonstration of the incredible talent at Welling. All school events need school staff, from all areas, who are totally committed to providing additional opportunities and work incredibly hard for all pupils. None of this would be possible without them. My thanks to all.

Sports Days were very successful even if the weather was a challenge during the Year 7-8 day. Physical Education and Sport play a key role in the development of character and, alongside the Arts, will always be a key driver for our school in providing rich, diverse experiences for all pupils. The links between strong academic performance and a wide range of opportunities are well established and we will always aim to provide an outstanding set of opportunities and experiences during and after school. I must mention the inaugural Welling Golf team who competed in the Kent County competition. We competed well with excellent performances against tough, independent school competition.

Naturally, at the end of an academic year some staff are leaving. They leave with our sincere thanks for their work at Welling and we wish them the best for the future.

The School will be closing at the end of this week and will not be open to any students. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 pupils on Tuesday 3rd September for their respective induction days. Year 8 – 11 and Year 13 will start on Wednesday 4th September at the normal start time. Whilst the school will be closed over the summer break we will be open around results days in August and a letter confirming the arrangements for current Year 11 and Year 13 students will be sent out. If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like to contact the school over the summer break please contact the school on office@wellingschool-tkat.org. This email address will be monitored throughout the school holiday.

The school day changes at the start of summer term have been successful and will continue into next academic year.

To confirm the school day timings from September 2024 please see table below:

Breakfast and Arrival	8.00am - 8.30am
Movement bell	8.35am
Period 1	8.40am - 9.40am

Period 2	9.40am - 10.40am
Break	10.40am - 11.00am
Period 3	11.00am - 12.00pm
Period 4	12.00pm - 1.00pm
Lunch	1.00pm - 1.30pm
Period 5	1.30pm - 2.30pm
Period 6 Tutor	2.30pm - 3.00pm

In preparation for a successful start, please refer to the school uniform and equipment expectations. In particular, all pupils require a school bag for school books and equipment necessary for lessons. Ms Loughlin will also send out a reminder to all pupils on Monday 2nd September via google classroom and the school's twitter account regarding uniform expectations.

Finally on behalf of all the staff here at Welling School thank you for your ongoing support as we work hard to make sure our school goes from strength to strength. I would like to wish all families a safe and restful summer break.

With the very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Brian Griffen
Headteacher