

11th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carer,

It has been a very busy term at Welling School and there is much to celebrate across all year groups. I must start by highlighting how proud we are as a community of the progress we have made, as a school, which was demonstrated in our recent Ofsted judgement. It is a testament to the hard work of all staff at Welling and the desire of pupils to be part of a school that is constantly improving. My thanks also go to parents who offer support and encouragement which also enables the school to make continual improvements. I am really clear that we are focused on improving the quality of education standards, so that students experience high quality education throughout each and every school day at Welling.

Over the Autumn term, our Year 7 intake have made an excellent start to their secondary school career; building new friendships, involving themselves in new experiences and clubs, developing new skills and settling into life as secondary school students. Year 7 students have also contributed well to our wider school community throughout this term, taking part in a range of academy extra-curricular clubs, ranging from Sports, Chess, Arts, Science, Music and Drama.

We have been encouraged with the way in which the Year 7,8,9 students have progressed academically and they have subsequently won numerous awards, such as golden tickets and certificates of achievement, in recognition of their success and achievements both in and out of lessons throughout this term. Students have shown great dedication for their learning, which will be formally recognised in this week's termly achievement assemblies. The assemblies will acknowledge progress and achievement across subjects areas as well as wider school life.

Year 8 and 9 students have had numerous opportunities in their curriculum to develop new skills and knowledge in preparation for Key Stage 4 study. This stage is very much about creating curiosity and a thirst to learn more about a whole range of subjects and how they connect to the world we live in. Asking the 'why' and 'how' questions are so important in the creation of independent learners.

Year 10 are now a full term into their GCSE courses and have been showing great maturity and resilience as they start to complete their end of topic and CAF assessments. The students have also started to prepare for their post 16 choices by exploring options available to them during tutor and assembly time. On Thursday 14th December, the inaugural 'Careers and Futures Evening', will provide all of Year 9 - 13 students with workshops across a range of employers, educational organisations and apprenticeship providers which provides support for Year 9 options, post 16 and 18 choices.

Year 11 students have had a very busy term. They have completed a successful set of 'silver' exams during which time the students' conduct and attitude towards these exams was excellent. Year 11 students have also been supplementing their revision by attending additional classes after school for Maths, English and Science. The focus of these sessions will change in the new term so that the students receive coverage of all their subjects. Intervention has also been provided during October half term and on Saturday mornings for selected pupils and subjects. There have also been intensive 'drop down' lessons which have provided extended periods of study.

Year 11 have also been applying for post 16 courses and destinations. Welling School held its 6th form open evening which was very well attended. We do hope many of our Year 11 pupils choose to stay with us in our Ofsted judged 'good' 6th form. Our new 6th form football academy, partnered with Sutton Athletic FC, is an

---

**Headteacher**

Mr B Griffen B.Ed (Hons)

**Executive Headteacher**

Mr D Hatley B.Ed (Hons), NPQH

---

Welling School, Elsa Road,  
Welling, Kent, DA16 1LB  
**Tel 020 8304 8531 Fax 020 8301 6414**

---

**wellingschool-tkat.org**  
office@wellingschool-tkat.org  
**twitter @welling\_school**

**Building Successful Futures**

exciting development and provides 6th form students the opportunity to play in the Youth Conference League and FA Youth Cup. The squad will also play as the school team in local, regional and national cup competitions. Trials for the football academy and interviews for our 6th form will be advertised in the New Year. We are also developing the International Baccalaureate Careers Pathway with a suite of subjects offered including Business, Sport and Psychology which provides the equivalent of 3 A levels.

Year 12 and 13 have also had a busy term with a range of examinations both internal and externally sat, as well as numerous personal development opportunities. The 6th form charity work for Greenwich and Bexley Hospice has been particularly impressive. A total of £1200 has been raised and presented to the Hospice at a recent 6th form assembly. This was raised through a very successful 'colour run' with some inspiring words both before and after by The Mayor and Mayoress of Bexley. Alongside this 6th form had received 'Wize Up' financial education, Elevate study skills, careers talks, post 18 destinations as well as a range of trips and visits to support courses / develop post 18 choices.

Trips and visits have been a constant feature of Autumn term at Welling. I am passionate about pupils being given a variety of opportunities to experience learning outside of the classroom and connect theory to the wider world. It is also important as part of our rewards programme for pupils to have memorable experiences at school that recognise achievement. Examples include residential trips for Year 7 and 8, attendance reward trips, West End theatre shows, as well as experiences that enrich curriculum such as Year 10 GCSE Art groups visiting the Tate Gallery or 6th form Sports Studies students testing fitness at Greenwich University. In 2024, there are planned international trips to Berlin and Seville as well as year group residential trips for Year 9 and 10. Enrichment within lessons is just as important. This has ranged from poetry workshops, Shakespeare performances on site and visiting speakers from the world of business, education and many more.

This term there have been numerous examples of the school working with a range of Primary schools through our Year 8 Anti Bullying Ambassadors. Year 5 Primary transition work has been very successful with projects in Art, Dance and Sport offered to Year 5 pupils. This work provides leadership opportunities for our students and also allows the school to make a positive contribution within the local community.

Finally, I am really looking forward to the school's production of Cinderella. The staff and pupils have been working so hard to produce a wonderful show. The dedication, teamwork and quality always show the very best of Welling School. At the time of writing both performances are sold out. This year, we have invited our local Primary schools to watch the performance.

Autumn term will end on Wednesday 20th December at 12.10pm and school will reopen at 8.00am on Thursday 4th January 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is time to spend with family and loved ones as well as recharge and refresh ready for the Spring term 2024.

Yours faithfully



**Brian Griffen**  
**Headteacher**