



# Wellington Weekly

## 29th November 2024

### Master's Voice



Dear Parents and Wellington Community,

Welcome to this edition of the Wellington Weekly! It seems like a very long time ago that we were proclaiming all the virtues of Diwali and anticipating the mid-term break; schools are always in a repetitive cycle though and we are now all eagerly awaiting the arrival of the festive period! And thank you to all pupils and parents for this week's Christmas decoration.

The school has been a very busy place indeed over the last few weeks, with pupil assessments and report writing gathering pace, and House Fitness Challenges to the fore. Academic prizes have been launched and choir practice is loud and vocal! It has all been rather exciting and, as noted in my recent parental missive, I am really looking forward to all the forthcoming events (such as House competitions and musical performances) – as WCI Pune is in the second year of operation, these must now be viewed as traditional end of Term 1 highlights.



Of course, we hope to allow as many opportunities for outdoor events (and indeed outdoor play) for our pupils, but the recent air quality in Pune has restricted us somewhat. I would like to reassure all parents that we take the matter of AQI extremely seriously, indoor and outdoors, and will continually seek to enhance our quality of care in this regard. We monitor matters closely and follow our policy structure on AQI levels. This is clearly a wider issue beyond WCI Pune – however, all those at the school will aim to hit the right note on the prioritisation of student (and staff) safety. We will strive to keep parents as fully informed as possible.

On parental matters, I extend my gratitude to the Friends of Wellington parents for recent meetings and communications. Further details will be circulated imminently to the whole parental body, concerning vacant positions in the FoW organisation and also upcoming proposed events. In addition, we plan to hold another Coffee Morning for parents in the next fortnight or so, to allow parents to engage informally with myself and bounce a few ideas around also. I look forward to this and we will highlight the date / venue shortly.

However, prior to all this, we welcome the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) to WCI Pune next week. As explained in my earlier letter, COBIS offer compliancy inspections to overseas

schools that follow the British educational system (values and ethos). In a sense, it is a quality assurance visit that will focus on aspects such as school safeguarding, recruitment, facilities, governance and overarching ethos. Please note the COBIS visit will not specifically grade learning and teaching matters, nor that of leadership, but will restrict itself to compliancy on the areas highlighted. We are very much looking forward to hosting the COBIS members between 2nd - 4th December and I'm extremely grateful to any parents who may be meeting the inspectors, and also to all pupils and colleagues likewise. Sincere thanks to you all and it will certainly be a great forum to benchmark where we are and to identify the areas that we can add more immediate value in. Following the visit, the COBIS team will submit a report to their governing body and then we will keep all parents informed in due course. I hope this information helps and provides a clear illustration of Wellington's desire to keep striving for further progression in our performance levels.

Please do enjoy this Wellington Weekly and very best wishes for the weekend ahead!

Dr Murray Tod

Master



# Early Years Coordinator

Dear Early Years Families,

It was heartwarming to see the children return from the break, brimming with excitement to share their Diwali stories. They recounted special moments spent with family and friends, from festive celebrations to adventures both near and far. This enthusiasm has set a wonderful tone for the rest of the term, reminding us of the value of friendships and the simple joy of being together.

As we're halfway through this busy term with demanding school days, it's important to highlight the vital role sleep plays in your child's development. Research shows that children aged 3–6 need 10–12 hours of sleep each night, while those aged 6–12 require 9–12 hours. Sleep is essential for memory consolidation, emotional regulation, and physical growth, which directly impact learning and behaviour at school. Establishing consistent bedtime routines can make a significant difference—simple habits like reading before bed, reducing screen time, and creating a calm sleep environment can help set the stage for success.



The last few weeks of this term will be packed with learning and excitement. Our focus extends beyond academics as we aim to nurture a mindset of service and kindness in the children. In the spirit of the holiday season, we will continue our tradition of collecting donations for the underprivileged. Details about how you can contribute to this meaningful initiative will be shared soon.

Teachers will also be conducting assessments in the coming weeks as we prepare for end-of-term reports and parent-teacher meetings. Please keep an eye out for communication regarding key dates and events—there's so much to look forward to as we approach the end of the term together.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this half term one to remember!

Best wishes,  
Rashmi Dixon

# Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

The festive frenzy has begun in Junior School! We are so excited for the upcoming choir performances, Winter Show and House competitions. Some reminders of key information are below.

It was great to talk to parents this week about our reading programme. Good reading skills are crucial to accessing all learning and as we discussed it's so important for a happy life! For this reason, developing readers is central to our curriculum. Children in both the mainstream and MLL lessons follow the same high quality text approach. Children are supported to access a challenging whole class novel, develop their vocabulary and learn from adults modelling how great readers think.



We are very lucky to have families that support reading and we have been working together successfully, as parents and school, to build children's love of reading. Next term we hope to welcome you to some events to raise the profile of reading even further.

## **December events in Junior School:**

Monday 9th December, 3:00 – 3:45pm:

- Year 1 – 6 Winter Show (Please meet in Block B parent Lounge)

Wednesday 11th December, 3:30 – 4:00pm:

- Parent Information Session: What to expect from your child's report (Please meet in Block B parent Lounge)

Friday 13th December:

- Term 1 Progress Reports shared with parents. Hard copies will be sent with children at the end of the school day
- The term will wrap up with two festive competitions, these are just for fun and just for pupils

Monday 16th December:

- Santa Dash: Children should wear PE kit and trainers
- Christmas Lunch: Please wear or bring festive headwear (a hat, hairband or hairstyle!)

Tuesday 17th December:

- House Singing Competition: Children should wear House Shirts
- End of term at 12:00pm

A lot of planning goes into these events so please do let us know as soon as possible if your child will not be attending school towards the end of term.

Thank you

Katie Byrne

# Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that this email finds you well. In Monday's assembly, our Deputy Head (Academic), Julia Sutcliffe, launched the Wellington College International MALIM prize for 2024-25 - a key rite of passage for all Wellingtonians. Please find below an overview of what this entails.

All Year 9 pupils at The Wellington College, UK (TWC) enter the MALIM and have one chance to win. Whereas a win is unlikely for any individual, the completion of MALIM is worthwhile for what one learns along the way and it is an intellectual endeavour. All pupils in Wellington College International Pune Year 9 & 10 are invited to enter. Pupils with exceptional proposals in Years 7 & 8 may also enter.



The MALIM was launched on the 18th November and runs until St Valentine's day. All submissions must be received by 14th February 2025.

There is no set topic for MALIM. Pupils choose any topic they wish. Before any work is done in earnest, the Deputy Head (Academic) must 'sign off' on each pupil's choice. Originality, ambition, and interest, should be the pupil's guiding principles.

Pupil submissions are not 'marked' against standard criteria. Schools will provide brief feedback on each submission, then choose their school's best two prize submissions to be submitted to a



panel of judges by 24th February 2025. From this, the best three from all Wellington College International schools will be decided, including an overall winner. Prizes to be confirmed.

Each pupil makes a submission from one of the following five categories:

1. **Fragments** – pupils choose one of the 32 ‘fragments’ offered [parts of poems, stories, quotations etc]. Pick your favourite and then either research it to discover its author, original meaning and context; or use your chosen ‘fragment’ in isolation, to stimulate a piece of creative writing that contains the ‘fragment’ at its heart. Word guide: between 500 and 750.

2. **Creation** – this may be a musical composition, or a work of art in any medium, including performance. It must be original work. It should be accompanied by 100 words explaining your creation and the thought behind it.

3. **Curation** – compilation of between six and twelve images to create an exhibition with a clear theme. 50 words on each image and 100 words to introduce the curation, explaining why you chose these images for the exhibition.

4. **Speech/monologue** – between five and ten minutes, deliver a persuasive and compelling rhetoric, which can be pre-recorded, or performed ‘live’ to a group of students. It can be delivered with or without notes.

5. **Manifesto** – write in booklet or poster form a political, artistic (or other) manifesto outlining your views on a movement you would like to establish: what it seeks to achieve and how.

We are very much looking forward to receiving pupils submissions and I have no doubt that the students will engage really well with this project.

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Iain Sutcliffe

# Events Gallery

## Early Years Parent Information Session – 21st November 2024



Thank you everyone who joined our Parent Information Session: Empowering Communities, Nurturing Futures on Thursday 21st November 2024.

The session guided the parents through the fascinating journey of growth and brain development, examining the common images of the child and their manifestation through the eye of the adult. Using research, real life situations and examples of practice, Ms Adina discussed the importance of fostering independence in young children, a key element of their development. The session concluded with sharing insights, thoughts and ideas on how we, as parents and caregivers, can support this critical period of early childhood development.

"The child's development follows a path of different stages of independence." -  
Maria Montessori, renowned Italian educator

## Harmonic Horizons: An interdisciplinary Voyage - 21st November 2024



KS3 pupils embarked on a captivating journey of discovery, exploring how science, maths, arts, music, literature, history, technology, and sports intertwine to shape our understanding of the world. This week, they showcased their insights from the first phase of this learning voyage through engaging presentations, hands-on activities, and thought-provoking discussions. The event highlighted the interconnectedness of knowledge, demonstrating how creativity and collaboration drive innovation. Pupils competed within their year groups, showcasing their mastery of knowledge integration, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication—essential 21st-century skills. Their enthusiasm and creativity brought the convergence of diverse disciplines to life!



## Year 4 Parent Workshop – Reading – 26th November 2024



Ms Byrne and Ms Faulkner recently led a parent information session on the Junior School's reading programme. They began by outlining the school's vision for reading, emphasising how it aligns with the latest research on effective teaching of reading. They discussed strategies to ensure that children not only develop strong reading skills but also enjoy the process. Ms. Byrne highlighted the specific reading skills taught explicitly in class, while Ms Faulkner guided parents through a live reading lesson. This hands-on experience gave parents an opportunity to understand the teaching methods firsthand and see how reading is fostered in the classroom.





## House Fitness Challenge



The Fitness House Challenge wrapped up today, leaving behind an unforgettable week of friendly competition, teamwork, and house spirit! Our school community came together to embrace the core values of Courage, Respect, Integrity, Kindness, and Responsibility through a series of exciting fitness activities. The enthusiasm and energy from all houses were incredible, with everyone giving their best effort to make the challenge a success. Thank you for your participation and teamwork—this year's challenge truly showcased the strength of our community spirit!





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