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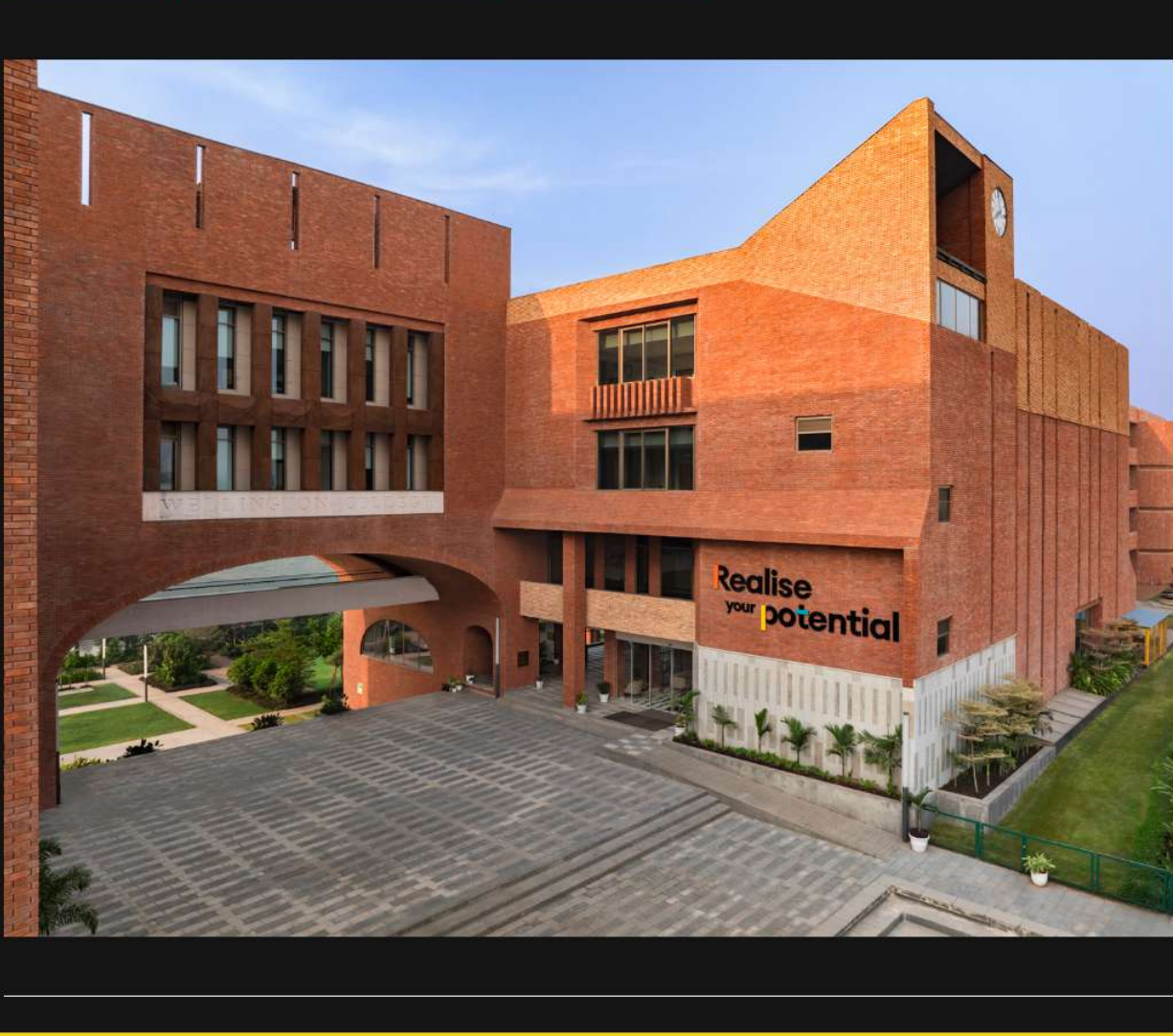
WELLINGTON
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
PUNE

Friday, 5th September, 2025

Wellington Weekly

News and Updates from the Wellington Community



From Master's Desk

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds everyone well!

My musings this week must commence with an observation – frankly, a Headmaster's life can be utterly bemusing and odd at times! At one point this week I found myself moving from detailed discussions with Heads of Department on aspects of learning & teaching, to shortly thereafter bouncing around in front of a Year 7 Wellbeing class, trying to illustrate my points on emotional intelligence through my love of haribo sweets (long story!). It is certainly never a dull life as a Head and I never tire of the expressions on pupils' faces when a connection has been made, a learning spark ignited, and the feeling that you've had a positive influence in some manner. At heart, no matter what, I am a teacher – admittedly not as often as previously and certainly not as convincingly as earlier in my career! Nevertheless, the pure joy of striving to enrich pupils' lives in some way, no matter how small that part is, will never leave me and it should be an inherent feature of every Headmaster's DNA. To this end, we were delighted to welcome Dr Disale to the school today (Friday 5th September) to offer a hugely engaging and entertaining presentation to celebrate Teachers' Day. It was inspirational and insightful in equal measure, and I hope it made a profound impact on the student body.

Another highpoint in the previous fortnight, for me certainly, involved witnessing the Primary and Senior School House activities in the MPH on Wednesday afternoon. It was fascinating to behold the spread of ages, all bedecked in one of the four House shirts, playing together in our new MPH and interacting so harmoniously. For example, watching the Senior groups, from Years 7 to 12 was really super and I pondered (a) how we are soon going to require 5, not 4, Houses (excellent!) and (b) how challenging it can be to establish that culture of unity (across such a swathe of ages) in other countries I've lived in. So, well done to all involved in introducing that new House afternoon on Wednesdays, which incidentally also frees up most teaching colleagues for professional development matters (benefitting learning and teaching as a direct consequence).

I have often commented on how fortunate we are, at Wellington College Pune, to have such involved and passionate partners in Wellington College UK / International. Mr David Wilson's visit last week was another example of this partnership and quality of commitment, and I am very grateful to him for presenting to pupils and parents from Years 7, 8 & 9 on the summer school programme in the UK. It is clearly an amazing, and enriching, opportunity for our pupils in KS3 and I hope Mr Wilson's excellent presentations may garner some interest. Furthermore, we look forward to welcoming senior colleagues from Wellington College International for next week's Founders' Day events and I thank all families who have responded to say they can attend. It should be an excellent event.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy our highlights in this edition of the Wellington Weekly.

With very best wishes,
Dr Murray Tod

Primary School Community

Dear Primary Parents,

We are now four weeks into this academic year, and it has been wonderful to see how the children continue to settle into school life. Our classrooms are full of energy, curiosity, and a love of learning.

Children have been engaging enthusiastically with their new themes, and teachers have been impressed by their effort and resilience. We are beginning to see great progress, and children are already building strong foundations for the year ahead.

We are delighted to welcome our new children and families who have recently joined the Primary School, adding to our growing community.

One of the highlights of our week together is our Friday Celebration Assembly, where children can share their learning with the whole school community. These assemblies are such a joyful moment, not only for those presenting but also for those listening and celebrating the successes of their peers.

This week, we were treated to a wide variety of learning being showcased. Year 6 created a performance piece about the importance of punctuation, Year 2 shared their handwashing posters and Year 3 shared their achievements beyond the school gates. Children demonstrated their enthusiasm, confidence, and pride in what they have achieved.

Celebration Assembly is more than just a chance to showcase work; it also builds confidence, strengthens our sense of community, and reminds us that learning is something to be shared and valued together. We look forward to many more assemblies this term where children continue to inspire us with their learning.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Phonics Workshop and the Primary Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see so many of you join us, and we hope you found the sessions informative and a valuable opportunity to connect with staff and one another. Your involvement plays such an important role in supporting children's learning. Ms Dixon would also like to say a big thank you to all parents who attended the recent Phonics Parent Information Session- we hope you found it informative and supportive in understanding how we teach early reading.

This term, our focus is our relentless routines:

- Wonderful Walking
- Kind Words, Kind Hands, Kind Feet
- Terrific Transitions

These routines help create a calm, respectful, and purposeful atmosphere across the school. This week we have placed particular focus on our terrific transitions in the dining hall, and I am delighted to say that the children have truly risen to my challenge. They have not only moved calmly and considerately but have also been respectful of their environment, ensuring that they leave it as they would wish to find it. Their positive approach has made break and lunchtimes more enjoyable for everyone.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our Parent Teacher Meetings next week. The focus will be on "settling in"— an opportunity to reflect on how your child has adjusted to their new class and routines, and to discuss how we can continue working together to support their learning and wellbeing. Teachers will also share your child's next steps so that you have a clear understanding of how we can work in partnership to help them make continued progress both academically and socially.

Next week, the Art Department will launch a 'Daily Art Prompts' challenge, running for three weeks. Each day, a new word will be displayed on the Art Room window in A Block to spark creativity. Children are invited to respond by producing a drawing inspired by the prompt and placing it in their House box. Every entry will earn house points, with a daily winner earning additional points for their House. The second initiative connects with International Dot Day on 15th September, inspired by *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. In the coming week, children will create dot inspired artwork during their Art lessons. These pieces will be showcased on Founders' Day.

Our teachers have been busy completing baseline assessments, which will help us tailor learning experiences to meet the needs of every child as they begin their journey this year.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for the positive start you have helped to create this year. Your encouragement and partnership make a real difference to the children's success.

Thank you,

Katherine Kelly

Senior School Community

Dear Senior School Parents,

Our Key Stage 3 pupils and parents recently had the privilege of meeting Mr. David Wilson, International Academic Director of Wellington College International (WCI). During his visit, Mr. Wilson introduced the prestigious Summer School programme held annually at Wellington College, UK, a tradition running successfully since 2019.

The two-week programme is designed to provide pupils with a rich blend of academic, creative, and cultural experiences. It offers an engaging schedule filled with team-building activities, leadership development through the Global Social Leaders initiative, sustainability projects, the arts, sports, and subject-specific lessons. Beyond the classroom, pupils gain a truly international outlook by exploring iconic landmarks such as the London Eye, Oxford University, the Harry Potter Studios, and Buckingham Palace.

This programme represents a unique opportunity for our pupils to broaden their horizons, develop leadership and collaboration skills, and experience the academic and cultural vibrancy of one of the UK's most renowned schools.

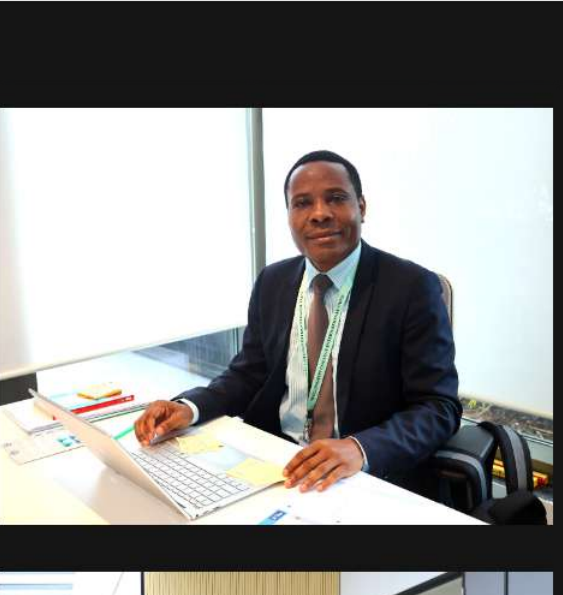
As part of the Service strand of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, our Year 10 and 11 pupils have been partnering with Adhaar Sanstha NGO. Each Tuesday, children from the NGO visit our school to take part in sessions led by our pupils, covering the core subjects- English, Mathematics, Science, as well as interactive activities such as chess and games.

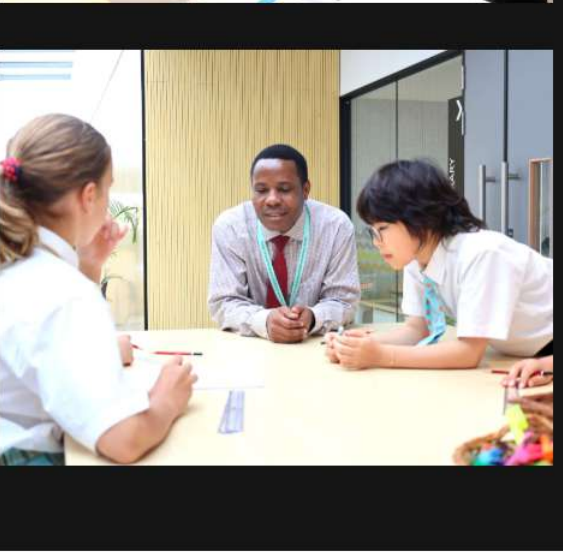
This initiative not only boosts the learning and confidence of the visiting pupils but also helps our students develop responsibility, empathy, and leadership. It is a joy to see the spirit of collaboration and community service shine through in these weekly interactions.

Best Wishes,

Senior School Team

What's New





Mr. Eric Ndiu

Primary School Class Teacher

Mr. Ndiu joined the Wellington Pune family this Academic Year, bringing with him over a decade of experience. He believes learning goes beyond "all study and no play" and strongly advocates for free and empowered minds.

His teaching philosophy focuses on understanding pupils, allowing them to take the lead in the learning process, and fostering long-lasting retention through innovative methods.

Ms. Sai Zende

Marketing Executive

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Zende as our new Marketing Executive. With a strong background in content writing, she brings creativity and expertise to her role.

She will be closely coordinating with the team while focusing on expanding and strengthening our school's presence.

Something Special

Maths Lesson Under the Sky

Wednesday - 13th August 2025

Our Year 4 pupils recently took their Mathematics lessons outdoors. This allowed them to enjoy numbers, have fun and explore sums more than usual.

In Wellington College learning goes beyond the classroom, making it imperative for teachers to think out of the walls. This exercise not only made the lessons more engaging but also sparked curiosity and joy among the pupils.

Talk about Life Cycle

Tuesday - 28th August 2025

On 28th August, our Year 2 pupils had the exciting opportunity to learn from an expert parent visitor, Ms. Medhavi Agnihotri. She spoke about the needs of a baby as part of our science unit on life cycles and basic needs for survival, and even shared ultrasound images to show what the baby looks like as it develops inside the womb. Having recently studied the life cycle of a chicken, the children were able to make comparisons and connections, particularly in understanding how a foetus develops before birth. They asked thoughtful questions about gestation, birth, diet, and nutrition, which supported the development of key scientific skills such as questioning, observing, and linking new information to prior knowledge. Inviting expert speakers into the classroom enriches inquiry-based learning, offering pupils real-life insights that deepen curiosity, accuracy, and understanding.

Mr. David Wilson's Visit

Thursday and Friday - 28th and 29th August 2025

Mr. David Wilson, International Academic Director at Wellington College, visited us last week to speak about the Summer School programme for Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 pupils. He shared how students from across the Wellington family of schools come together for two weeks of learning, training, fun activities, and sightseeing, leaving them with an enriching experience that also nurtures independence.

The details of this programme will be circulated by the respective key stage heads.

Phonics Workshop

Monday - 1st September 2025

We hosted a parent information session on how phonics is taught in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, led by our Assistant Head - Ms.Rashmi Dixon. The session introduced families to our use of the Read Write Inc programme, which provides pupils with a structured and engaging approach to learning sounds, blending, and segmenting words. Parents learned how systematic phonics helps children develop the vital skills needed for early reading, spelling, and overall confidence in literacy. The session also highlighted the long-term benefits of phonics in building fluency and comprehension, supporting pupils to become enthusiastic and independent readers.

School House Activity

Wednesday - 3rd September 2025

Our Head of Sports and CCA, Mr. Amid, has been leading a series of exciting house activities for both Primary and Senior School pupils. From the thrill of a blindfold group race to the intensity of a fast-paced basketball match, the atmosphere was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm.

The Primary House activities focused on fostering teamwork and trust through fun challenges, while the Senior House activities aimed at strengthening resilience and vigour with spirited basketball games and competitions.

Coffee Morning

Friday - 5th September 2025

We hosted our first Primary School Coffee Morning with parents, where they engaged in open discussions about pupils and plans for the term. Our teachers addressed their questions and shared valuable insights, making it a meaningful and collaborative session.

Teachers' Day

Friday - 5th September 2025

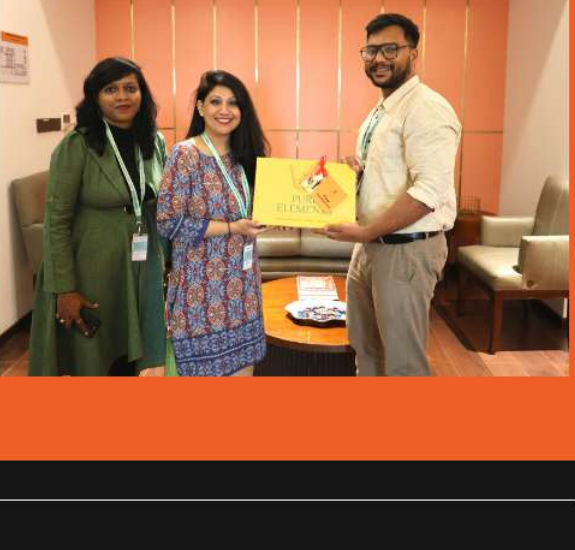
Today, we celebrated Teachers' Day with the theme '#Nurture the Nurturers' — a heartfelt tribute to those who dedicate their lives to guiding, inspiring, and shaping young minds. As a gesture of appreciation, each staff member at Wellington College International Pune received a self-care hamper, reminding us all of the importance of looking after ourselves while we care for others.

The occasion was made even more special by the presence of our esteemed guest speaker, Dr. Ranjitsinh Disale — the only Indian recipient of the $1 million Global Teacher Prize, recognised as the World's Best Teacher.

Dr. Disale shared his remarkable journey, from pioneering QR-coded textbooks that have impacted over 2 million children, to championing girls' education and promoting peace through his "Let's Cross the Borders" initiative. His words reminded us that every act of teaching carries the power to protect dreams and transform futures.

As the day concluded, we expressed our gratitude to our teachers for their unwavering commitment and carried forward a renewed sense of purpose — inspired by Dr. Disale's message that true leadership in education lies in empowering others to succeed.

Teaching strategy

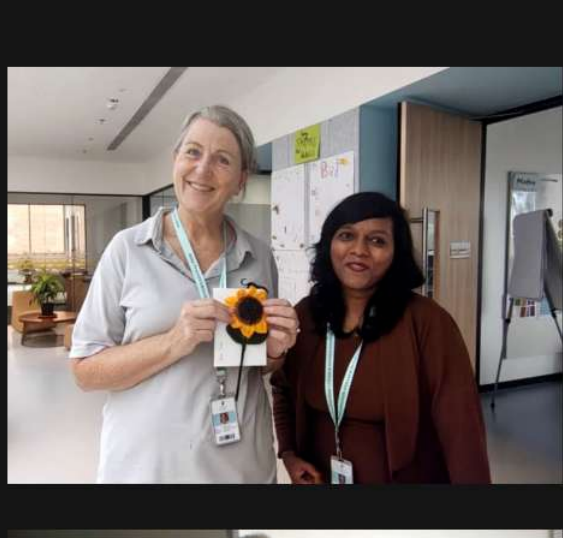


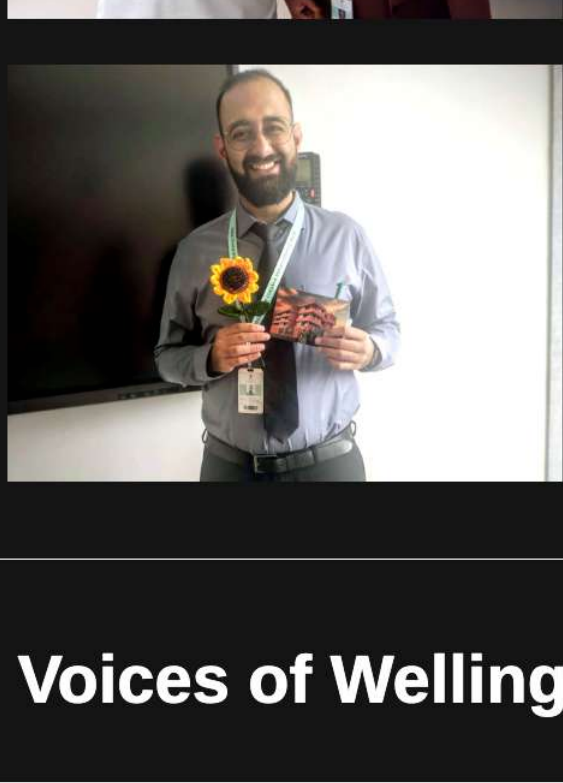
Behind the Scenes

Traditional Day

Tuesday - 26th August 2025

The staff and pupils of WCI Pune came together to celebrate Traditional Day on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. Dressed in vibrant traditional attire, the school radiated colour and joy, filled with respect for traditions and enthusiasm for cultural expression.





Staff Birthday Celebrations

We recently celebrated the birthdays of our staff members on campus — Ms. Tessa Horn, Mr. Chirag Hasija, Ms. Rashmi Patankar, Ms. Meghana Andurkar, Colonel Ravi Rao (our Bursar) and Mr. Shitalkumar Kamble. At Wellington College Pune, we look forward to cherishing many more such special milestones together as one community.

Voices of Wellington

Ms. Rashmi Dixon, our Assistant Head of Early Years, shares how the Curiosity Approach shapes young minds at WCI Pune, nurturing children's natural sense of wonder, inquiry, and imagination.

Curiosity Approach in the Early Years

36 (23.5%)

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Forthcoming Events

PS Settling in Meetings	Monday – 8th September 2025
KS3 Science Enrichment	Friday – 12th September 2025
Founders' Day	Saturday – 13th September 2025
SS - Year 7 PTC	Monday – 15th September 2025
Tasters' Day	Wednesday – 17th September 2025
KS4 Science Enrichment	Friday – 19th September 2025

Video

First Day at WCI Pune

Monday - 11th August 2025

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