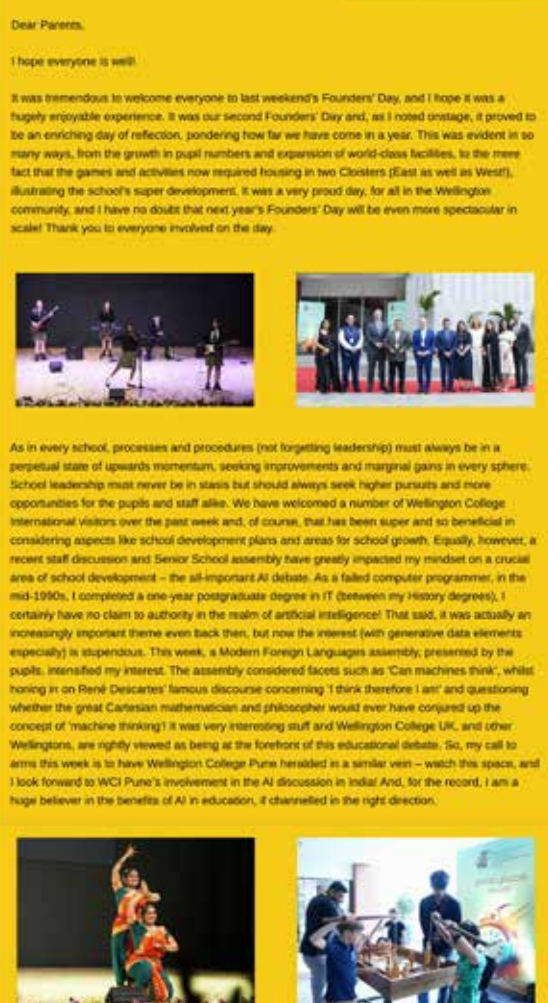




Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

# Wellington Weekly

News and Updates from the Wellington Community



## From Master's Desk



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is well!

It was tremendous to experience everyone to last weekend's Founders' Day, and I hope it proved to be a hugely enjoyable experience. It was our second Founders' Day and, as I noted earlier, it was a hugely enjoyable day of reflection, pondering how far we have come in a year. This was evident in so many ways, from the growth in pupil numbers and expansion of world-class facilities, to the mere fact that the games and activities now required housing in two Clusters (East as well as West), illustrating the school's super development. It was a very proud day for all in the Wellington community, and I have no doubt that next year's Founders' Day will be even more spectacular in scale! I thank you to everyone involved on the day.



As in every school, processes and procedures (not forgetting leadership) must always be in a perpetual state of upwards momentum, seeking improvements and marginal gains in every sphere. School leadership must never be in stasis but should always seek higher pursuits and more opportunities for the pupils and staff alike. We have welcomed a number of Wellington College International visitors over the past week and, of course, that has been super and so beneficial in considering aspects like school development plans and areas for school growth. Equally, however, a recent staff discussion and Senior School assembly have greatly impacted my mindset on a crucial area of school development – the all-important AI debate. As a failed computer programmer, in the mid-1990s, I completed a one-year postgraduate degree in IT (between my history degrees), I certainly have no claim to authority in the realm of artificial intelligence! That said, it was actually an increasingly important theme even back then, but now the interest (with generative data elements especially) is stupendous. This week, a Modern Foreign Languages assembly, presented by the pupils, instilled my interest. The assembly considered facets such as 'Can machines think', whilst honing in on René Descartes' famous discourse concerning 'I think therefore I am' and questioning whether the school's mathematics and philosophy would ever have considered up the values of the concept of 'machine thinking'. It was very interesting stuff and Wellington College UK, and other Wellingtons, are rightly revered in being at the forefront of this educational debate. So, my call to arms this week is to have Wellington College Pune heralded in a similar vein – watch this space, and I look forward to WCI Pune's involvement in the AI discussion in India! And, for the record, I am a huge believer in the benefits of AI in education, if channelled in the right direction.



A further positive note, since the last Wellington Weekly, has been the commencement of preparations for the school Garba event (to be held on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September). I glimpsed a parental discussion and it was rather impressive! So, I do hope that as many families as possible can attend the event (weather permitting, of course). Whilst on, please can all parents mark Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, in their diaries as a public holiday (for Ganesh Jayanti / Dussehra). The school is closed on that day. Furthermore, looking ahead, the school's Diwali break begins on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October and we reopen on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> October.



In advance of this, we have so many areas to look forward to, including sporting competitions and PTCs (and, my personal favourite, pupil assessments) to assist in evaluating current academic performance). 2025-2026 already promises to be a year of rich endeavour, and hopefully we are perpetually creating the evidence & stories for next year's Founders' Day!

I wish everyone a most pleasant weekend and thank you, as ever, for the support of Wellington Pune.

With very best wishes,  
Dr Murray Tod

## Primary School Community

Dear Primary Parents,

What a wonderful few weeks it has been in school, full of celebration, achievement, and opportunities for our pupils to shine.

We begin with our Founders' Day celebrations, and it was fantastic to see so many families joining us for this special occasion. The event provided a chance not only to reflect on the values at the heart of our school, but also to celebrate the talent and spirit of our pupils. Our primary children, in particular, demonstrated our school value of courage as they performed on stage. Whether dancing or playing music, they showed resilience and confidence—qualities that we hope they will carry with them throughout their learning journey.

Last week, we welcomed you into school for our Settling in Meetings. These meetings were an important opportunity for parents and teachers to connect early in the year, discuss how every child is adjusting to their new classes, and share ways to support them both academically and personally. We are grateful for the positive conversations and the strong sense of partnership that came through so clearly.



Alongside these events, our children have been embracing pupil leadership opportunities. Last week we held the elections for House Captains and Vice House Captains. The enthusiasm shown by those who put themselves forward, as well as the excitement from their peers, was inspiring. Standing for election and speaking to their Houses required real courage, and we are proud of every child who took part. The results were announced on Friday, and our new House Captains and Vice House Captains are already looking forward to their responsibilities—encouraging teamwork, supporting House events, and representing their peers with pride.

We are also pleased to share that the next leadership opportunity will be the election of School Council representatives in each class from Year 2 to Year 6. This important role allows pupils to be the voice of their peers, bring forward ideas, and contribute directly to school life. Once again, children will have the chance to demonstrate courage by standing for election and putting themselves forward as leaders.



We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team this Term.

• Mr. Abhishek Kaur joins us from the UK with a wealth of experience and a passion for nurturing young learners.

• Ms. Dushmanti Kaur also brings valuable expertise and enthusiasm, and we are excited for the fresh ideas and energy she will contribute to our school community.

We are looking forward to our Garba Celebration on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm. This will be a wonderful occasion for our whole community to come together and enjoy traditional music, dance, and festivities. Children, families, and staff are all welcome to take part—whether dancing, clapping along, or simply enjoying the lively atmosphere. We look forward to seeing many of you there as we celebrate this joyful event together.



These recent weeks have been a clear reminder of the strength of our school community—parents, staff, and pupils working together to create an environment where every child can grow, achieve, and flourish.

Thank you,  
Katherine Kelly

## Senior School Community

Dear Senior School Parents,

Our Year 7 students recently explored the fascinating world of plant and animal cells through a hands-on day modeling activity. Working in small groups, students used colorful clay to build 3D models of cells, carefully shaping and labeling each organelle.



This activity not only helped them visualize the microscopic structures they learn about in class, but also encouraged teamwork, creativity and communication. Each group assigned roles—designer, label writer, presenter, and organizer—to ensure equal participation and responsibility.

By turning a core science topic into an engaging, hands-on project, our students discovered that learning can be both fun and memorable.

The Student Council has recently been selected and is already off to a strong start. They have held their first meeting with Dr Tod, where they shared their enthusiasm for representing the Senior School student body. The council is eager to be a positive voice for their peers, working together to make meaningful changes and ensure that all students enjoy a supportive and enriching learning experience. Keep an eye out for student social events organised by the Student Council throughout the year.



The ArtSketch competition has brought an exciting burst of creativity to the school, with students (and teachers!) enthusiastically embracing each day's unique prompt. The art studio has been buzzing all lunchtimes, filled with pupils eager to contribute their imaginative entries and showcase their skills. It has been wonderful to see the house spirit shine through as students proudly create artwork that reflects their individuality while supporting their teams. The variety and originality of the drawings have been truly impressive, ranging from playful interpretations to thought-provoking pieces. We have been delighted by the energy and dedication on display, and the competition has quickly become a highlight of the Term – we can't wait to see what the rest of the month has in store!

As we reach the midpoint of the academic term, Senior School pupils will be engaging in Mid-Term Assessments within their regular lessons. These internal assessments are designed as valuable data points, providing insights into pupils' understanding of key concepts and helping teachers track progress across the curriculum.



Rather than high-stakes examinations, the Mid-Term Assessments function as a formative checkpoint. They enable teachers to identify strengths and areas for growth, ensuring that subsequent teaching and learning can be carefully tailored to support each pupil's academic journey.

Parents are encouraged to view these assessments as part of an ongoing process, where the emphasis is on reflection, feedback, and continuous improvement. We are confident that this approach will guide pupils towards steady progress as the year unfolds.

Best Wishes,  
Senior School Team

## What's New

### Mr. Mickael Samson

French and Spanish Teacher



Mr. Mickael Samson has joined WCI Pune as our new French and Spanish teacher for Senior School and is part of the Modern Foreign Languages department. With extensive experience teaching these languages across Modern Foreign Schools worldwide, he brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our community.

Mr. Samson prefers to stay on the sidelines of the classroom, observing and encouraging pupils to take the lead in their own learning. He believes that students should be at the centre of every lesson and follows a simple yet profound teaching philosophy: education doesn't always need to be competitive or confined to textbooks—it should connect meaningfully with real life. When asked about his proudest achievements, he smiled and said, "Becoming a teacher".

## Something Special

### Newly Certified: Ms. Rashmi Dixon



Ms. Rashmi Dixon, Assistant Head for EV, has recently earned Google's Generative AI for Educators Certificate.

The "Generative AI for Educators" is a course that helps teachers understand and responsibly use AI tools to support their teaching. It shows educators how to create engaging resources, personalise learning, in turn enabling them to focus more on teaching and pupil support. It offers a hands-on approach that combines the evolving technology and adaptive minds.

### The DoE Award Club in Action

Tuesday – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025



The Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award Club at WCI Pune is dedicated to creating a meaningful impact beyond the classroom. Here, the pupils engage in teaching underprivileged students from the local community.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, our Wellington pupils taught a lesson about recognising digital animals in alphabetical order. Not only did the children enjoy this session, but they also felt a sense of joy in giving back to society. This activity builds empathy, integrity and respect in our pupils and also gives the underprivileged children a sense of confidence, increasing their learning skills.

### Early Examinations Entry

Tuesday – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025



The magic of Mathematics. Here, you are witnessing a couple of pupils engrossed in their mathematics preparations. These Year 11 pupils will sit their early entry examinations in October for IGCSE Extended Mathematics. Their teacher, Ms. Kashiwan Kumanan, found them super engaged in solving this Additional Mathematics question during the lesson. It was a lovely moment that shows how hard our pupils work, staying true to their Wellington identity.

### Reception's Ice Cream Shop: Market Research!

Friday – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Our little entrepreneurs were thrilled to turn into buyers and sellers with a few ice cream shops. They were excited to roleplay and explore, diving into a world of imaginative play and hands-on learning. Taking on the roles of customers and sellers, children practised fun-taking and effective communication as they played and took orders, building important social skills in a fun and engaging setting.

This activity also provided a fantastic opportunity to strengthen fine motor skills, as pupils used scoops and tongs to serve up 'hot cream' with care and precision. As they handled pretend money, they developed early numeracy skills—counting notes, giving change, and recognising numbers in a real-world context.

Creativity flourished as children designed unique ice cream combinations, invented new flavours, and decorated cones and cups with imaginative toppings. Through this playful sequence, pupils not only had fun but also developed their understanding of everyday roles, problem-solving, and collaborative play.

This playful yet practical activity gave them a taste of how markets work, all while spreading smiles with every scoop.



### Second Founders' Day

Saturday – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Our second Founders' Day was a truly memorable celebration that brought together the entire WCI Pune community in the true Wellington spirit.

Mr. Anuj Agarwal, Co-Founder WCI India, Dr Murray Tod, Founding Master WCI Pune and Mr. Parash Thakur, MD WCI International, shared inspiring speeches that highlighted the strength and vision of the Wellington community.

Our esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Satish Pradhani, Advisor and Former HR to the Tata Group, shared insightful reflections on Wellington's rich heritage and values.

The event featured spectacular musical and dance performances by pupils. Following the formal programme, children enjoyed engaging activities, while parents had the opportunity to connect with our team and the Board of Governors present at the event. All enjoyed a sumptuous lunch to conclude proceedings!

We are already looking forward to next year's extravaganza!



Our Year 6 pupil, Aashar Kachhapali, stood first at the Khelabala Junior Squash Open. He has made the Wellington family proud with his achievements outside the school.

Aashar has achieved this fabulous feat by showing dedication and discipline, earning him recognition beyond the school campus. We wish him all the best for his future sports endeavours.

### Ms. Rachel Loaring Visit

Friday – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Ms. Rachel Loaring, International Academic Director at Wellington College International, visited our WCI Pune Campus on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September to share insights about the UK University Pathway Programme for 2026. She spoke with our Year 11 and Year 12 pupils about the exciting opportunity to spend 10 days at Wellington College UK, exploring and learning at some of the UK's top universities.

During the visit, Ms. Loaring toured our Pune campus, interacted with parents, and engaged with our pupils. We are delighted to gain a deeper understanding of how Wellington College UK can support and inspire our pupils on their higher education journeys.



### Senior School Physics Activities



V7 made a visual representation of the evolution of a star. Students showed the process of the formation and end of a high mass and low mass star. The skills developed were creative thinking, communication and collaboration.



V8 investigated the nature of convector box of thermal energy while cooling hot water. They plotted graphs and analysed the data recorded. The experimental skills developed were that of observation, analysis and inference.

Also, the students of year 10 participated in a class challenge to make the tallest standing structure which could hold the largest mass. Students used their understanding of pressure and centre of mass to create their structure. The skills developed were creative thinking, collaboration and time management.



### Garba Practice Sessions



The Garba day at WCI Pune is a highly anticipated event in the Wellington community. With the Garba day approaching, the parents and staff at Wellington have come together to add sparkle to the event. Here are a few glimpses of the Garba dance sessions with parents and staff members that took place this week. We definitely cannot wait for the fun finale on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and below are a couple of reminders of last year's treasured events.



## Behind the Scenes

### Staff Birthday Celebrations

We recently celebrated the birthdays of some staff members on campus – Ms. Deepika Hopf, Ms. Sandhya Dube and Ms. Trupti Datta. At Wellington College Pune, we look forward to cherishing many more such special milestones together as one community.



## Voices of Wellington

Ms. Vidhi Vyas, our IBDP Coordinator, shares her thoughts on this year's IBDP cohort.



[Click Here to Read](#)

## Forthcoming Events

|                             |                                          |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Garba and Dandiya Dance Day | Friday – 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 |
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| Trash and Show Art House Activities | Friday – 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025 |
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| Primary School Sports Day | Monday – 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 |
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| Senior School Sports Day | Tuesday – 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 |
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## Photos

### Second Founders' Day

Saturday – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

[Click Here](#)

## Video

### Second Founders' Day

Saturday – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

[Click Here](#)

