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Welly Times



Welly Times

Christmas 2025

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Editor in Chief
Rishi Parandhaman

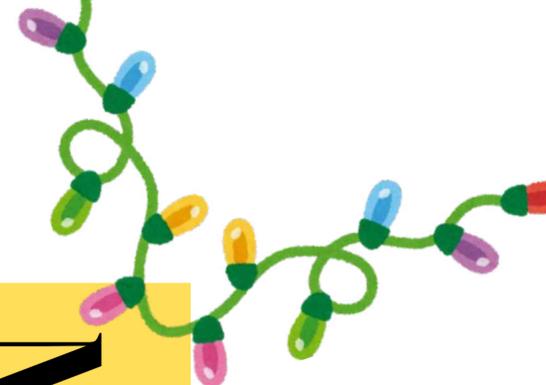


EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone and welcome to our last edition of Welly Times for 2025! Just in time for Christmas! Once again, the team has worked hard to make this edition the best it can be. This is also the perfect opportunity to join the newsletter, so come on in! It has been a joy working on our newsletter in term 1.

Merry Christmas Everyone!





Meet the Team



Juha
Reporter



Finlay
Layout designer



Rudraansh
Reporter



Fabian
Reporter



Abhay
Reporter



Laura
Reporter



Doi
Reporter



Kei
Reporter



Shay
Reporter

Our Teachers



Ms. Hopf



Dr. Khoda



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Diwali

written by Rudraansh Chavan, Yr 8

Hello everyone! We hope you had a wonderful term, because in Welly Newsletter we are introducing a section on key festivals/events at school.

Today, we'll be exploring the festival of Diwali. For newcomers who may not be from India, you might be wondering: How do people celebrate this festival? Let's take a closer look.

To celebrate Diwali in India, families engage in meaningful rituals such as performing Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth) Puja, decorating their homes with diyas (oil lamps), and creating colourful rangoli designs. Many also enjoy delicious festive savouries and sweets like chakli and karanji.

In modern celebrations—especially in Pune—people also visit historical sites such as Shaniwar Wada (ask the Senior School students who visited last year for their experiences!). Shopping for gifts and décor at bustling markets like Laxmi Road is a common tradition too. Community fairs, special dining events, and vibrant street decorations add to the festive spirit.

You can also visit beautifully illuminated landmarks like the Aga Khan Palace or the Dagdusheth Halwai Ganapati Temple for a spiritual and visually stunning experience.

The Story of Diwali

The festival of Diwali is rooted in the ancient story of Lord Rama of Ayodhya. After being sent into exile for 14 years along with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana, Rama faced a great challenge: the demon king Ravana kidnapped Sita. To rescue her, Rama joined forces with the monkey god Hanuman and his army. After a fierce battle, they defeated Ravana and brought Sita home. The people of Ayodhya celebrated their triumphant return by lighting rows of lamps to guide them back, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.



The Five Days of Diwali

Diwali is not just a single day festival- it spans over five days, each with its own meaning and traditions.

1. Dhanteras

A day dedicated to wealth (health, money and other forms of wealth) and prosperity. Symbolically, many families buy gold, silver, or new utensils as a sign of good fortune.

2. Naraka Chaturdashi / Choti Diwali

This day commemorates Lord Krishna's victory over the demon Narakasura. People often take an early oil bath and decorate their homes with rangoli.

3. Diwali / Lakshmi Puja (Main Day)

The most important day of the festival. Families worship Goddess Lakshmi, decorate their homes with diyas, exchange sweets, and enjoy feasts and fireworks.

4. Govardhan Puja

This day marks Lord Krishna (as a child) lifting the Govardhan mountain (in Uttar Pradesh) to protect villagers from a storm. Some communities also treat this day as their New Year and prepare a grand food offering called Annakut.

5. Bhai Dooj

A day celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters. Sisters apply a tilak (vermillion) to their brothers' foreheads and exchange gifts, symbolizing love and protection.

To conclude, Diwali brings people together in celebration, reflection, and joy. Through traditions, stories, and community gatherings, the festival reminds us of hope, kindness, and the power of light to overcome darkness. No matter how it's celebrated, Diwali encourages unity and positivity.

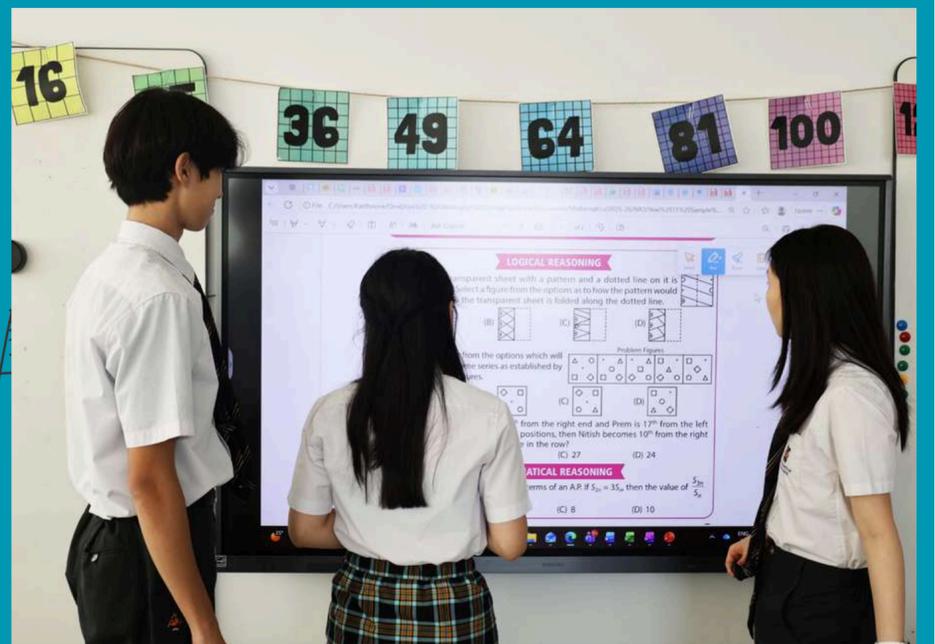
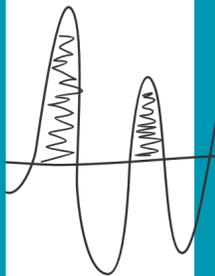


IGCSE Maths Board Exam

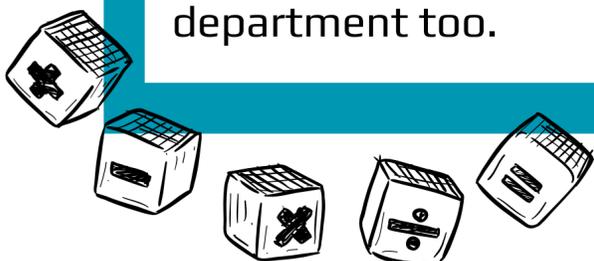
Written by Juha & Rishi, Yr11

Some time back in this term- October 13th and 14th, the Additional Mathematics batch of our IGCSE students took the IGCSE Extended Maths exam. This was the first external board exam at WCI Pune.

The IGCSE Mathematics (Extended) is part of the internationally recognized Cambridge IGCSE Programme that offers students a clear pathway through different levels of mathematical understanding. The course is available in two tiers: Core, which covers essential skills, and Extended, which includes all Core content plus additional topics for learners who are ready for a deeper challenge. The Extended level explores a wider range of algebra, geometry, statistics, and trigonometry, encouraging students to think more critically and apply mathematical methods with confidence. This tier is designed to prepare students for advanced courses such as AS and A Level Maths, as well as the rigorous IBDP curriculum.



The examination was arranged for a semester before other students would be giving their IGCSE exams because as part of the Additional Maths Syllabus, the Extended Maths syllabus had to be completed within the first year. However, unlike the students who only took Extended Maths, these students managed to finish their syllabus early and thus took the Extended Maths exam early. They must still sit the Additional Maths exam in 2026, along with their other IGCSE board exams. We at WCI Pune are very proud of them as they took on this challenging task. It is particularly important as this was the first ever batch, which was quite exciting! This early exam will set the standard for the other Maths students and the Maths department too.



Assessments

written by Shay, Yr 7

Assessments are universal at every school, and we are no exception. We had the Mid-Term Checkpoints and End of Term assessments recently this term. Both these assessments are crucial for both, pupils as well as teachers.

Checkpoints do not affect our report cards, they help us understand where we are and help teachers learn about what the class needs and help us get better accordingly. However, the End of Term assessments are crucial, and they are reflected in our report cards, so we all should study well.

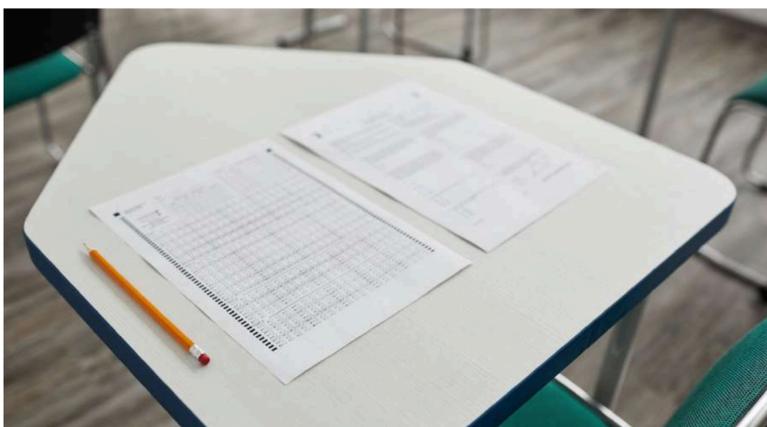
Mid-Term Checkpoints

The mid-terms took place over the course of a week in the middle of September. These checkpoints are the first set of assessments we have in the year/term. As previously mentioned, we use these checkpoints to learn about our standings, and learn what we need to work on, they let the teachers understand their students and help them with their lows.

Checkpoint assessments aren't problems only for students, teachers also take them seriously. We interviewed a few teachers on how their experience was on making the mid-term papers and their style for making them and here are their responses (slightly paraphrased but hold the same meaning):

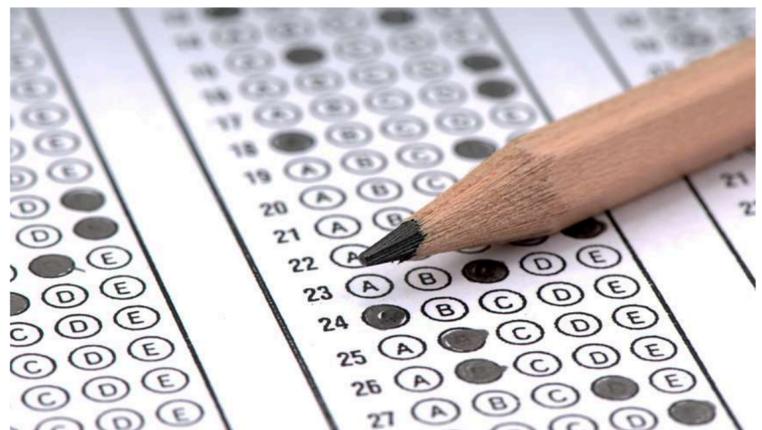
Mr. Samson: It was quite easy making the tests, I had high expectations from students.

Ms. Udhalikar: The making of the tests was pretty easy and I too had high expectations from students.



End of Term assessments

The End of Term assessments took place during the last week of November, from the 24- 29 November. The assessments are the final tests of the term, assessing every skill we have learned in our classes over the course of the term. Teachers share assessment rubrics and pupils study according to them.



Here are a few responses from teachers we interviewed, asking about their experiences making the tests:

Mr. Hasija: I found it of medium difficulty to make the papers, because I had to change the difficulty level of the papers. I started with making them very hard and then had to tone them down. I increased the level of difficulty as the paper progressed. I had different expectations for the different pupils and wanted to make it slightly above the level of the teaching, as I expected students to do their absolute best for the papers.

Dr. Khoda: I found the assessments were easy to make, as they depend upon the plans that we made for teaching. I wanted to make them slightly more challenging than the mid-term checkpoints, as I was expecting students to perform better. Students were informed to use feedback from the mid-term to improve their writing.

Mr. Samson: It was easy. I have been teaching for 7 years, I knew some students would do well and some students would not do well. I made different parts slightly easy and other parts a little more difficult.



Halloween Art House Competition

written by Doi, Yr 7

Halloween is an event that happens on the 31st of October every year. It marks the eve of All Hallows' Day. Many children around the world dress in scary costumes and go to people's houses for a trick-or-treat. They do not protest or seek revenge if they do not get a treat. Instead, they just move on to the next house. People also like decorating their houses with red paint, spiders, etc.

On the 29th of October, WCI Pune organised a House Art Competition for Halloween. All teams were to make a decorative artwork to be put up on the Art room doors. Every House joined in, and they all did a great job. Some Houses made it decorative, and some Houses made it very scary. Anglesey had a very creative idea. They made a door-like poster, so that people could open it and see what was inside. Apsley made a skeleton out of paper plates and paper straws. After that, they stuck each part of the skeleton on the poster. Benson had a very nice drawing of a castle on their poster. They also made 3D pumpkins, which were very interesting. Raglan's idea was interesting too. They drew a big pumpkin at the bottom and drew candies so that it looked like the candies were coming out from the pumpkin.





The House spirit was as high as Mount Everest! Every student worked very hard, and their final works were very impressive. Sadly, there can be only one winner. In the end, the winning team was...Anglesey!





written by Laura, Yr 7

All about Baby Seals

Harp seals when they are a pup have fluffy, snow-white fur. They are the 1st cutest baby seal breed.



Baby Seals are born with a thick, fluffy layer of fur to keep them warm in the cold. You can usually find them in snowy places, or beaches.



Ringed Seals when they are puppies look the exact same as a Harp Seal and a Baikal seal. Sometimes newborn Ringed Seals have spiky-looking fur, like Tsuki. It is the 2nd cutest baby seal.



Baikal Seals look like a Harp Seal pup, but its eyebrows are bigger and closer to each other. It is the 3rd cutest baby seal.

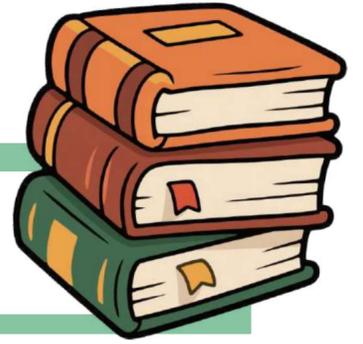


Harbor Seals when they are little look just the same as an adult Harbor seal, grey fur with darker grey spots.



Weddel Seals look like a Harbor Seal but with fluffier, darker grey fur. Just like its adult form.





Verse Vault- Our Poetry Corner

Poetry is something that we need in life. By looking at different poems, we can understand how different people feel at different times. There are numerous types of poetry, such as free verse, epic, and rap poetry. As a part of the Senior School enrichment programme, the English department organized a poetry competition in October 2025. In this section, you will get a chance to read some wonderful poems written by students from our school.

The White Eyes
By Doi Kim - Year 7

It watches
From the middle of nowhere
It watches
As it fades away.

The soft white cotton,
Sees everything.
Every single bird,
Flying high up in the sky.

It delicately moves
Around the azure sky,
Hoping it is invincible
And immortal.

But when the sky gets dark,
All it can do,
Is to turn into darkness
And nothingness.

A Poor Man's World – Shay Mehta

**Every day I live on,
With torn clothes,
By the roads,
Feeling the cold.**

**A poor man's life
Is nothing to behold,
Without a dime,
Life is as a crime.**

**By the roadside,
I watch as the lucky go by,
With nice clothes, and fancy phones
Life wouldn't be but not a worry.**

**I hold on, with hope,
Day after day,
Waiting for the time
I worry not and can play.**

Animal's Gaze

What strange creatures they are.
So full of life, yet somehow hollowed by it.
They move through the world wearing themselves
like a mask they can't quite remove.
I do not wish to be anything else.
I am what I am
no less, no more.

My place isn't in greatness, only in existence.
My purpose doesn't reach beyond survival.
How strange their world must feel
to live each day without the ever-growing shadow of
death
always following close behind.
What spaces in the mind that must open
spaces they fill with trifles and ornaments
as if trying to decorate the walls of a burning house

Or maybe I'm the one who doesn't see.
My eyes sharpened for the kill,
but dulled to the infinite.
Maybe they really do see more,
dream further,

live freer
but even they are still bound,
shackled by love, by desire
and by the fragile glass of mortality.

I'm sure there are others out there,
creatures untouched even by these ties.
But in the end, we're all the same
leaves scattered into the great, indifferent
storm.
We drift, aimless yet certain,
caught in a limbo of a cacophony of sound
and silence,
teetering the edge between enlightenment
and instinct.

But as I am what I am,
so they are what they are,
and my thoughts, circling like hawks above,
keep returning, again and again,
to the shape of my own fate.

Working Place- Kei Kang

**The people shout, they sometimes be quiet and
They work, leave.**

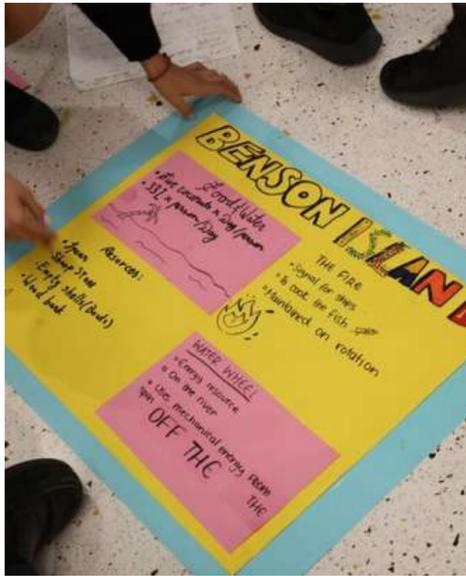
The workers sometimes are mean to me.

**I may feel like giving up, exhausted or
Unwell and I also feel stressed 'cause of them.
I'm sometimes amazed, impressed.**

**Then one day a man came to me and said
"Hi, are you tired of us? Let me clean you."
He was helpful. I got cleaned. I felt finer.
And I may not be angry anymore,
And I may not be angry anymore.**

KS3 Interdisciplinary day

written by Doi, Yr 7



The KS3 students participated in Harmonic Horizons: An Interdisciplinary Voyage-Season 2 on Friday, 21st November. This event highlighted the creativity, teamwork, and cross-curricular thinking of the KS3 students. It also helped us connect many subjects while experiencing real world challenges that we need everywhere in life. The challenge required a lot of problem-solving and communication.

The event began in the afternoon, and everyone was gathered at the auditorium. The KS3 Coordinator introduced the rules and students started working on their projects. Every House had different topics, and they had to make a poster/model of it. When the time was over each House had to present their project on the stage, one by one. The time limit was 50 minutes and when the time started, everyone rushed to the art room to start their projects.

Every House tried their best to prepare for the presentation. There were two judges going into each room to see how each house was doing. After 50 minutes, everyone gathered in the auditorium, ready with their projects. Each House went on the stage and presented everything they had been working on during the 50 minutes. Every project was presented very nicely, and the judges were ready to announce the winner of the event. At the end, the overall winner of the Interdisciplinary Event-Season 2 was...Anglesey! Their project was commended for its strong clarity of the concept and excellent imagination.

Congratulations to all KS3 pupils for participating in and putting effort into the Interdisciplinary Event!

It's Christmas

written by Kei & Laura Yr 7

Another year, another Christmas! Here are the events that have happened in this December 🧑🏻🎅:

1: Ritz-Carlton Tree Lighting in December (feat. Senior Choir) 🍷🎄🎵

Tree Lighting in the fancy Ritz-Carlton. How exciting! On December 6th, students and families were invited to this 'once-a-year' school experience. The Senior Choir sang and presented an amazing performance.

2: Battle of the Bands 🎸🥁🎹

On December 12th (Friday), Houses competed against each other by creating their own versions of Christmas songs. All Houses performed phenomenally well! However, the winner was none other than- Anglesey House - 2nd time winner!!

3: Friends of Wellington Carnival, on 13th December 👥🎪🎈

For the first time ever, a family event jam-packed with loads of fun was hosted by the Friends of Wellington! Perfect for fun-loving parents and bored siblings. There were many games and food stalls. Overall it was a truly enjoyable event!





CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

B	S	A	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	F
E	L	F	B	D	E	C	F	O	G	M	I
L	E	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	H	I	R
L	I	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	I	S	E
J	G	M	Q	S	R	H	J	A	K	T	P
K	H	T	N	U	Z	O	N	M	P	L	L
F	G	V	Y	O	X	L	S	E	R	E	A
H	E	U	Z	A	P	L	Q	N	U	T	C
D	I	C	A	N	D	Y	Z	T	V	O	E
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	W	B	E	C

BELL
 CANDY
 PRESENT
 FIREPLACE

ELF
 WREATH
 STOCKING
 MISTLETOE

HOLLY
 SLEIGH
 SNOWMAN
 ORNAMENT

