

# WELLINGTON COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS 2026

We Learn Together.



Wellington  
College  
Belfast





# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



**David Castles**  
Principal

**At Wellington College we live out the motto *Una Discamus* – We Learn Together. In our school your child will be well known, well educated, and well prepared for the next stages of life and learning. It is our mission to ensure that academically able young people, regardless of background, have a rewarding and enriching educational experience.**

Through strong pastoral care we know and understand each student as an individual. We encourage them to be the best they can be, to aim high, and to work hard. Through our core academic curriculum we focus on the subjects your child will need to access routes to competitive university courses and graduate routes to employment. We build not only their subject knowledge, but also encourage them to develop as critical and creative thinkers, with agile and analytical minds. Through the wider life of the school we provide opportunities for our students to be competitive, ambitious and develop skills of communication and teamwork which will support them at each stage of their lives.

Wellington is a school built on strong ethos and values, where wellbeing and respect for all is a cornerstone

of life. In this strong and caring community your son or daughter will be encouraged to become a confident young adult, ambitious for themselves but able to show compassion to others. Students leave the College ready to make their mark on society for the better.

Through our distinctive uniform, house system and ethos we seek to instil worth and value, and build the confidence of every child. Our aim is to not only engage them with a first-class education, but also to build the connections which will empower them to take confident steps into life beyond school.

***We look forward to welcoming you to Wellington College, and meeting with you and your child, as we commence a journey where we ASPIRE for excellence, together.***

*Students are courteous, polite and well-disposed to learning. They contribute well to the life of the school and the wider community. Their behaviour both in and out of the classroom is exemplary.*

ETI Inspection Report, June 2022



# 4 VISION & VALUES

We **ASPIRE** to deliver academic excellence, in a values-rich environment, where students and staff learn, grow and achieve, together.

A

## Achievement

We always aspire to be the best we can be

S

## Self-belief

We work to build confidence, and instil worth and value

P

## Pride

We represent ourselves and our College with pride

I

## Integrity

We live out our values with kindness, compassion and truth

R

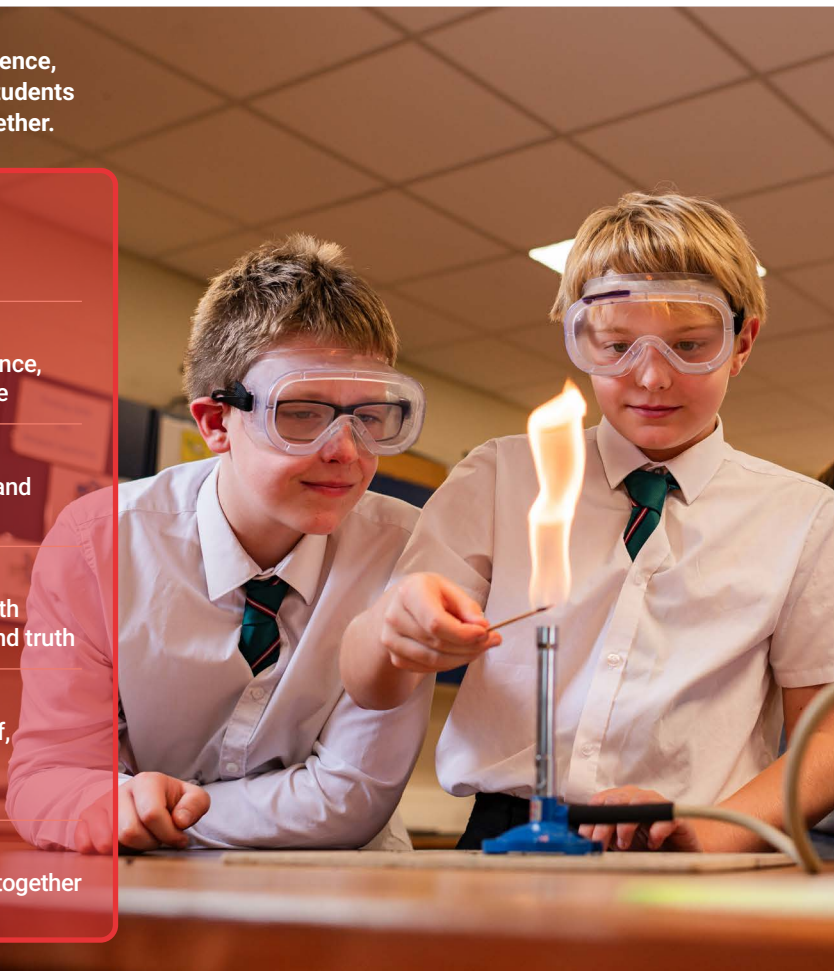
## Respect

We show respect, for self, for school and all in our College community

E

## Excellence

We strive for excellence, together



# 5 ETHOS & AIMS

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The College motto is *Una Discamus* – we learn together. Learning is at the core of our school.

As a co-educational school we believe that boys and girls learn best together. This prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of life.

As a controlled school we share non-denominational Christian values which are open to children of all faiths and none. We are a naturally integrated school. We encourage our students to understand and live out our ASPIRE values.

As a grammar school we seek to provide a supportive and aspirational learning environment which delivers excellent outcomes and pathways for all, regardless of culture, creed or class.

## A HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE:

Wellington College was founded in 1989 after the merger of Annadale Boys and Carolan Girls Grammar schools. The school is named after Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington.

The College is established on a belief in opportunity for all and meeting the needs of young people in Belfast and beyond. The heritage of Wellington College, built on a tradition of selective education which enables social mobility, remains true to our mission today.



“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”  
Helen Keller



# 6 WELL KNOWN

## JOINING THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

The transition between Primary and Grammar School is a major stepping stone in a child's life. At Wellington we pride ourselves on making the move as smooth and successful as possible.

Our personalised induction programme at Wellington will prepare all students for the many challenges and opportunities ahead.

Prior to starting at Wellington, your child will be visited in their Primary School by a member of staff from Wellington. We have a dedicated Pastoral team in Year 8, made up of an experienced Head of Year, and committed Form Tutors. The team are available to provide as much support as is necessary. All parents are encouraged to engage fully with induction events to help the process run as effectively as possible.

We want all students to be prepared for the opportunities and challenges that await them, to share our values, and commit fully to College life. We have four form classes in Year 8, which are also House groups, creating a close sense of identity. Our Sixth Form Senior Prefects mentor each Year 8 Tutor Group, ensuring each individual is known and supported to make a great start on their Wellington College journey.

*We see the first year at Wellington as the start of a journey that will last for the next seven years, until our students enter University or employment.*

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Amazing  
Year Eights

41

Feeder  
Primary Schools

4

Fantastic  
House Groups

1

Friendly  
School Site







*'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;  
together we can do great things'*

Mother Teresa

# A FAMILY WITHIN THE SCHOOL

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## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

There are four Houses in the College, named after famous Northern Irish men and women whose talents and achievements draw praise from all sections of our society:



### FERGUSON

Named after the engineer and entrepreneur **Harry Fergusson**



### LEWIS

Named after writer and philosopher **CS Lewis**



### HEANEY

Named after poet and Nobel Laureate **Seamus Heaney**



### PETERS

Named after Olympic Gold medal winning athlete **Mary Peters**

All students are allocated to a House and wear a badge of their House colour, each member of staff is also allocated to a House, ensuring this ethos runs throughout the school. Staff tug of war is a keenly anticipated climax to our annual Sports Day!

House Competitions allow all students, whatever their age and talent, to contribute to the success of their house, these include traditional events and sports, and some which require vision and teamwork including Photography; Spelling Bee; Design and Enterprise.

## The aims of the House System are:

- To encourage and develop team spirit and House identity
- To provide a system of rewards through the awarding of House points
- To encourage students to become involved in extra-curricular activities
- To give leadership opportunities to senior students as House Captains
- To give students opportunities to work with students in other year groups.

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WELL  
EDUCATED

At Wellington we aim for all students to achieve the highest academic standards. Our curriculum offers the necessary support and challenge to ensure all students are enabled to be the best they can be.

Learning and teaching at Wellington develops confident, independent, aspirational, creative and resilient individuals who are prepared to face whatever challenges await them in the future.

Our aspirations are high and all students are monitored regularly to make sure they are working towards

the highest levels of achievement. Parents will be regularly informed of progress and will be expected to attend all relevant parent meetings aimed at supporting academic progress and success.

The College reviews the Key Stage 4 and 5 curriculum offer annually, to meet the needs of university courses and employers. The courses delivered are dependent on student choice and staffing. We collaborate with other schools through the South Belfast Area Learning Community to open the widest choice of appropriate pathways to our students.



‘Lessons observed were effective in promoting successful learning, which resulted in high levels of pupil engagement, learning and enjoyment’.  
*ETI Inspection Report, June 2022*

KEY STAGE 3

Years 8, 9 & 10

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Art and Design             |
| Biology (Year 10)          |
| Chemistry (Year 10)        |
| English                    |
| Food & Nutrition           |
| French                     |
| Games                      |
| Geography                  |
| History                    |
| ICT                        |
| Learning for Life and Work |
| Mathematics                |
| Music                      |
| Physical Education         |
| Physics (Year 10)          |
| Religious Education        |
| Science (Years 8 & 9)      |
| Spanish                    |
| Technology and Design      |

KEY STAGE 4

Years 11 & 12

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Art                              |
| BTEC Sport                       |
| Biology                          |
| Business & Communication Systems |
| Business Studies                 |
| Chemistry                        |
| Digital Technology               |
| Double Award Science             |
| English Language                 |
| English Literature               |
| Food & Nutrition                 |
| French                           |
| Further Mathematics              |
| Geography                        |
| History                          |
| Mathematics                      |
| Moving Image Arts                |
| Music                            |
| Physical Education               |
| Physics                          |
| Religious Education              |
| Single Award Science             |
| Spanish                          |
| Technology and Design            |
| Travel and Tourism               |

KEY STAGE 5

Years 13 & 14

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Art & Design               |
| Biology                    |
| Business Studies           |
| Chemistry                  |
| Computer Science           |
| BTEC Engineering           |
| English Literature         |
| French                     |
| Further Mathematics        |
| Geography                  |
| Government and Politics    |
| Health and Social Care     |
| History                    |
| BTEC ICT                   |
| Mathematics                |
| Music                      |
| Nutrition and Food Science |
| Performing Arts            |
| Physics                    |
| Psychology                 |
| Religious Studies          |
| Sociology                  |
| Spanish                    |
| BTEC Sport                 |
| Technology and Design      |
| BTEC Travel and Tourism    |



# 12 WELL CONNECTED

## TRIPS & VISITS

At Wellington our staff 'go the extra mile' to prepare students for life in a globally connected world.

Trips and tours provide opportunities to develop mutual understanding, build skills and confidence, and form friendships which will last a lifetime. From Geography fieldtrips to Iceland, to French language trips to Paris, to Ski trips to Italy, and international partnerships with schools in Japan, Mexico and Switzerland, the opportunities are unbounded.

## JAPAN

In October 2023 twelve students and four staff travelled to Osaka, Japan. The study tour was funded by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, to whom we are very grateful. The group were based in Osaka where they lived with families to experience Japanese culture first hand. Students took in the sights and smells of Kyoto, the serenity of Miyajima island and the work towards peace in Hiroshima. This life changing trip will never be forgotten.

## MEXICO

In April 2025, the College embarked on our second Turing Scheme funded visit to Mexico to visit our partner school Colegio St John's in La Paz. We first visited Mexico City to take in the sights and sounds of Mexican culture. We took a ride on a traditional trajinera canal boat, walked downtown and walked through the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan.



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We then flew to La Paz on the West Coast to experience school life in St John's; taking part in art, language and sport lessons. Finally, we visited the UNESCO World Natural Heritage island of Espiritu Santo for some relaxation!

Our friends from St John's in turn visited Belfast in May. They took part in lessons with H.E., languages, Science and P.E. Students from WCB accompanied the St John's students on visits to Queen's University Belfast and the North Antrim Coast with many friendships made by the end of their visit.

The collaboration between the two schools will continue with online project work in the Spanish department and developing links for Career opportunities. We look forward to a further visit from our Mexican partners in May 2026!

## SWITZERLAND

The College has been establishing a new partnership with a leading school in Geneva, Switzerland. Our staff in Maths have already begun sharing successful teaching techniques with their Swiss counterparts.

This spring, our senior students will visit CERN and the partner school for a collaborative project, tackling high-level mathematical challenges together. This exchange is designed to push our students' problem-solving abilities and broaden their academic horizons.



# 14 SPORTS & MUSIC

Wellington has a vibrant approach to Musical productions and shows, giving students the opportunity to find their voice and tread the boards. Recent shows include the fabulous High School Musical, where our cast, stage and production crews, and technical team showed what it means to be **'all in this together'**!

Our Chamber Choir were finalists in the BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year Competition in 2017, performing at the Ulster Hall. The College Concert Band perform at the highest levels, including the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Ceremony in 2018.



We encourage all students to get involved in Music and Sport, engaging fully with the life of the College.

**The College offers a wide variety of sporting opportunities, encouraging each student to engage, and build skills of teamwork and participation.**

We have a busy programme of after-school and Saturday sport. Sports teams compete with schools in Belfast and across the province. Teams take parts in sports from Athletics, Football, Hockey and Netball, to Rugby, Cricket, Golf and Equestrian Events. Many College students gain representative honours.





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EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES

Some of the extra curricular opportunities available:

|                |                                   |   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Art Club       | Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme  | Music Theory  |
| Badminton Club | Football - Junior and Senior Boys | Netball - Junior and Senior   |
| Baking Club    | Girls Hockey (all ages)           | Photography Club  |
| Brass Group    | Girls Rugby                       | Public Speaking   |
| Bridge Club    | Golf                              | Rugby (all ages)  |
| Chess Club     | Hockey - Boys (Junior)            | Scripture Union - Junior and Senior   |
| Chamber Choir  | ICT Club                          | Science Club  |
| Junior Choir   | Instrumental Group                | Warhammer Club  |
| Code Club      | Lego Club                         | Wide Range of Academic Support<br>Classes within Departments                  |
| Concert Band   | Musical Production and Drama      | Wide and Full Range of<br>Saturday Morning Sports<br>Fixtures (Home and Away) |

Honours are awarded to students who excel in areas of academic or extra-curricular life, or who make a significant contribution to the community through volunteering. The distinctive tie and blazer which are awarded mark these students out as people who have fully embraced the ethos of the College, to aspire for excellence.





# 18 WELL BEING

We recognise the need for all young people to make space to address the issues and problems which life presents, and hold an annual Take 5 for Mental Health week.

We are an accredited Take 5 School, we have both Junior and Senior Ambassadors who support Wellbeing across the College. Through this we promote the need for people of all ages to Give; Be active; Take notice; Keep learning and Connect to boost our own wellbeing and positively impact those around us.

Form Tutors and Heads of Year are key staff who support our students daily, monitoring their

appearance, attendance and attitude to school life. They may also signpost to support available in school. Our wider pastoral and social support for students includes the following groups and activities:

- Our Homework Club, Wellington Extra
- Headspace, our in-house support group
- Mentoring, through Dreamscheme NI
- Counselling, through Action Mental Health



# PASTORAL CARE

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Our pastoral structure is one which we know supports our students as they journey through College life.

We have great expectations for our students and seek to promote these expectations through fostering a sense of pride in the uniform and a desire to develop positive personal attributes. Close contact with parents is a feature of our approach at Wellington, we expect parents to support fully the aims of the College as we work together to support your son or daughter.

Our **pastoral care structure** for Year 8 and beyond aims to provide daily care and support, challenge all students to be the best they can be, and maintain our great expectations for every child.



**Senior Leader – Standards, Welfare & Achievement:**

Oversight of pastoral care and induction procedures across Key Stage 3.

**Head of Year:**

Our Heads of Year operate in specialist teams for each Key Stage and are a key point of contact for parents.

**Form Tutors:**

A dedicated Year 8 tutor team guides the induction process.

**SENCO:**

Senior Leader for SEN, responsible for Classroom Assistants and links with support services

**Designated Teacher:**

Senior Leader for Child Protection, responsible for Safeguarding Team and liaison with external agencies

While our Form Tutors are the key daily point of contact for students, our support structure ensures that issues of concern are dealt with quickly, and referred to Heads of Year or the relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team rapidly.

‘Parents commented positively on the work of the school, communication between home and school, and the excellent pastoral care system’.

*ETI Inspection Report, June 2022*



# SIXTH FORM - LIFE & LEADERSHIP

## Libby – Head Girl

Orangefield Primary School

**Studying: Maths, Spanish and Sport at A Level**

I have loved my time at Wellington. I have been given many amazing opportunities, like my Spanish trip to Mexico last year. I have played hockey in school since Year 8 and I'm a member of the 1st XI team. I have also been a member of Scripture Union since Year 11. I've also completed my Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

My plan is to study Sport and Exercise Science at Ulster University next year, with the intention to specialise in Sports Analytics after. I have always loved sport and would like to include it in my future career. I would also like to continue learning Spanish - I intend to visit South America and get more experience of the culture and perfect my Spanish.

## Aimee – Deputy Head Girl

Orangefield Primary School

**Studying: Biology, Chemistry and French**

My time at Wellington has allowed me to discover and enjoy many new hobbies and clubs. I have represented Wellington in hockey, netball and athletics. I've especially enjoyed the hockey trips and team dinners at the Grand Central Hotel. My role as hockey captain allowed me to obtain Full School Honours. I also achieved full Honours for achieving 8A\*'s in my GCSE's. Completing my silver Duke of Edinburgh was also a highlight. Looking ahead, once I finish my A-levels I plan to study either French or Chemistry at Queen's University, with the hope of becoming a teacher in one of these subjects when I graduate. I would love to provide students with the same opportunities that I've had at Wellington! Beyond my education, I'd love to take a gap year before entering full-time work, to travel through different countries in Europe and, hopefully, explore Australia as well.

## Calum – Head Boy

Spa Primary School

**Studying: Geography, Health & Social Care and Sport**

I have really enjoyed my time at Wellington. I have played, coached and umpired Hockey and Rugby. I have represented the College in Golf at a range of tournaments. I have been very lucky to go on the Geography trip to Iceland in November 2025 and it was a great experience. The key to enjoying school is to get involved in as many clubs as possible! After A-Levels, I plan to take some time out and live in New Zealand or Australia for six months. I would love to finish my travels by visiting South-East Asia to teach English. My long-term goal is to study Geography or Sport in Scotland and become a teacher. I have had many great teachers and would love the opportunity to impact students lives.

## Christian – Deputy Head boy

Knockbrea Primary School

**Studying: History, Politics and Psychology**

My favourite thing I've done at Wellington is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Being able to camp into the Mournes with your friends, with no teachers, felt really independent and was great fun. Another highlight was my Politics trip to Stormont to meet and question local politicians on their policy which was insightful.

After A-Levels, I would like to study Law at University. I hope to have a career as a Barrister or an International Lawyer, working with organisations like the United Nations. I would like to travel to Asia, to experience the different culture and way of life there. I have always been keen to visit Vietnam and surrounding countries to discover the impact and legacy of war.



Deputy Head Boy:  
Christian McFarlane

Deputy Head Girl:  
Aimee Elliot

Head Girl:  
Libby Graham

Head Boy:  
Calum Carson



# 22 WELL PREPARED

## SIXTH FORM – CURRICULUM & CAREERS

Sixth Form at Wellington embraces learning, life and leadership. Our curriculum is designed to provide pathways to success which inspire learners, and our enrichment offer allows each individual to engage with College life, while working towards excellent outcomes in exams.

Each year we welcome new students, from a range of local schools. At Wellington we find that each individual quickly becomes part of our school family, and through our leadership and community service programmes are able to build their profile and form firm friendships. We are proud that new students often represent the College in sports, music and community events, and have the opportunity to become prefects in recognition of their success.

Wellington College Sixth Form is an excellent environment in which to engage, grow and excel in the final years of your school life. You will be supported to succeed and develop both as a learner and a leader while preparing for the next steps in life. Our students go on to study at top universities in the UK and internationally, gain higher apprenticeships with leading companies such as Deloitte, Kainos and PWC, and excel in leadership and enterprise opportunities.

To support this we work closely with local community groups and companies including the Ormeau Business Park to provide scholarship opportunities, and with access programmes including the Queen’s University Pathway Opportunities Programme, the Cambridge University HE+ programme, and the Oxford University UNIQ programme.

## WELLINGTON PLUS

All Sixth Form students can access our Wellington Plus enrichment programme, designed to develop their leadership skills and understanding, while giving back through community service. Our community partners for this programme include YMCA and Exodus SOAR.

College Captains for Arts, Community, Sports and Wellbeing provide student leadership and voice across these key areas of school life.

Our students not only benefit from community partnerships but learn the value of giving back by engaging in fundraising and charitable giving for local and international organisations, including:

- Action Cancer NI
- Aware for Mental Health
- Dreamscheme NI
- Exceed Worldwide
- Habitat for Humanity
- Movember
- NI Cancer Fund for Children
- Storehouse
- Save the Children
- Young Minds NI

‘The pupils talked very positively about their experiences including their participation in a range of sporting activities and leadership opportunities’.

ETI Inspection Report, June 2022

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

### Universities:

- University of Glasgow
- Stirling University
- Strathclyde University
- Queen’s University Belfast
- Ulster University
- Stranmillis University College
- Union Theological College
- University of Cambridge
- Birmingham University
- Kings College London
- University of Liverpool
- Northumbria University
- Oxford University
- University of York
- Durham University
- Exeter University

### Higher Level Apprenticeships and Employer partnerships:





# Aspiring for excellence, together



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