



*Heroum filii*

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2005

# newsletter

## THE FUTURE IS CO-EDUCATION

THE GOVERNORS ANNOUNCED IN JUNE 2005 THAT WELLINGTON WOULD BECOME A FULLY CO-EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT. Shortly afterwards, the start date of September 2006 was confirmed. It is the most significant change to take place since the school was founded and confirms the desire to be forward looking and modern in every educational sense. Girls were first welcomed to Wellington in 1975 and their presence in the Upper School has undoubtedly added a great deal to school life in the years that have followed. Full co-education will ensure that Wellington becomes an environment that reflects society and fosters the development of very natural relationships.

Preparations for the new structure are well advanced. The Orange is to become a girls' house and has moved to a new site near The Picton. In the next phase,



The Hardinge and Combermere will become one girls' house. The Apsley will welcome girls in every year group.

There are already eight female Heads of Department and two other significant appointments have been made. Miss Lucy Pearson joins as Deputy Head in January 2006. Lucy is a recent member of the England cricket team and currently Head of VIth Form at

Solihull School. Her role is to manage the academic performance of the VIth Form, to co-ordinate and manage the sports and arts, and she will have a central role in the management of the move to full co-education. In September 2006, Mrs Liz Worthington will become Senior Mistress. She has been a housemistress at both Oundle and Uppingham and will utilise her immense experience of full co-education, specialising in pastoral care and the management of girls' games.

The decision to become fully co-educational was taken in order to modernise and maximise Wellington's traditional all-round view of education and the intention is that the school's existing strengths in sport and the arts will be broadened by this move. The younger girls will build upon the long standing success of Apsley by bringing greater richness and vitality to the life of the school.

# THE THIRTEENTH MASTER



THE governors have announced that Dr Anthony Seldon is to become the 13th Master of Wellington. He takes up the post on 1st January 2006.

Anthony Seldon has been Headmaster of Brighton College (which has 1215 boys and girls) since 1997, and thus it was a natural decision for the governors to move to Wellington becoming fully co-educational from September 2006. Before Brighton College, he was Deputy Headmaster of St Dunstan's College (1993–1997), Head of History and General Studies at Tonbridge (1989–1993) and Head of Politics and the Sixth Form (pastoral) at Whitgift School (1983–1989). He was educated at Tonbridge School, Worcester College Oxford and at the London School of Economics, where he took his PhD and was also a Research Fellow and Tutor. He has written a number of

books, including *Major, A Political Life*, the official biography of John Major, *The Blair Effect*, which is the standard academic work on the first Blair government and, most recently *The Blair Effect 2001–5*. He founded, with Peter Hennessy, The Institute of Contemporary British History and has been a historical consultant to Prime Ministers and others in the Cabinet. He is also a frequent political and educational commentator on both television and radio and writes regular articles for the national press.

Anthony's wife, Joanna, intends to take an active part in the life of the College. She gained a D.Phil at St Hugh's College, Oxford, where she was the Moberley Senior Scholar, is herself the author of numerous articles and has just completed her first novel. Currently she teaches English at Brighton College, having previously

taught at Old Palace and James Allen's Girls' School. They have two daughters and a son.

Anthony Seldon will bring with him passionate views about education, inspirational leadership, a commitment to unparalleled success in every area of school life and the aim to make life at Wellington a truly exceptional co-educational experience. Wellington is fortunate to have such a figure to follow such distinguished predecessors.



# RECORD RESULTS

The best ever results were achieved at Wellington College by the boys completing their GCSEs this year. Almost 63% A\* and A grades were achieved, more than 6% better than ever before, and from a year block that is no more able than any prior one. Over 28% of the results were graded A\* compared to the previous best measure of 21.6% A\*s in 2002. Clearly this is the result of a significant improvement in both the teaching and the work done by the boys. Twenty-nine pupils achieved at least ten A\* and A grades, and sixteen of these got more than ten. In addition all 132 candidates achieved the Government's key statistic of at least 5 A\* to C grades; only three pupils achieved less than eight such grades.

At A-level the results were also a substantial improvement on those of last year with A/B grades rising from 63% to almost 70%, the second best on record. The top 80% of our pupils achieved 86.1%

OUR AIM IS TO SEE  
WELLINGTON COLLEGE  
BACK IN  
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IN THE LEAGUE TABLE  
BEFORE VERY LONG

A and B grades. This would put the school into the top 50 Independent Schools in the Daily Telegraph League Table if we did not have the policy of a broader intake than most of our competitor schools. It is this

breadth of ability that reduces our League Table position, which does not take the ability of the intake into account. Thirty-one (20%) of our A-level candidates got exclusively A grades and the top 30 boys got 100% A grades only between them. The top twenty girls achieved 90.3% A & B grades. This data shows that Wellington College can get the very best from its pupils and can hold its academic head high.

Measures introduced during the last academic year and this to improve many of the major factors influencing teaching and learning will only ensure that the move up the League Tables seen in 2005 will accelerate. Our aim is to see Wellington College back in the first division of the League Table before very long.

Visitors to the Newsome Sports Hall will notice a new addition on the site of the former Fives Courts. The *Cherry Court Café* was opened in April 2005 to replace the bar and social area now occupied by the Rackets Court gallery. The Café takes its name from the very first use to which the space was put. It was, originally, a miniature rackets court in which both rackets and balls were scaled down accord-

Cherry  
Court  
Café

ingly. The miniature rackets ball was known as a 'cherry' and the

court was one of a number in existence at the time to be known as a 'cherry court'. The name is now preserved and will be the subject of quiz questions for future generations.

Other work in the Sports Centre has resulted in improved changing facilities for users of the Fisher Pool, a steam room and sauna alongside the pool and a new dance studio in the new space created above the *Cherry Court Café*.

# The New Beresford...

# & Orange



The new Beresford has been designed as a spacious,

well-appointed and prestigious building in character with others on the estate. It occupies the site of the Old Talbot, nestling among mature woodland and landscaped water features. It has an environment which is secure, comfortable, and conducive to study and in which social contact is natural and easy. As well as the elegant oak-panelled Dining Room, in which boys take all their meals, the facilities in the house include a library, a large Common Room with tv, Pool and Table Football, a separate room for the Sixth Form, which contains a full size snooker table and also two traditional Brews Rooms. There is a fully equipped IT room, housing

up to the minute power-desking, powerful computers and printing facilities, whilst the Housekeeper's well-appointed room on the first floor has washing and drying machines which ensure a speedy turn round of boys' laundry. Outside the building there is a floodlit play area.

In their first year boys share a room with two or three others: in their second year they share with one other and in their GCSE year they have their own room. All rooms have wireless access to the college network, and a particular feature is the generous amount of desk and cupboard space in each room. Each year group is housed in their own separate wing, and

each wing has its own bathroom with individual walk-in showers and baths. In the upper school each room is supplied with a hand basin and the Head of House and Deputy Head of House enjoy full en-suite facilities.

The Housemaster, Tim Head lives on site with his young family, as does the Assistant Housemaster, Mr Tom Newman, so the boys never lack for tutorial supervision. The Beresford truly offers a modern boarding experience for the discerning leaders of tomorrow's generation.



be a large, well equipped kitchen area leading to a spacious and comfortable common room. The Sixth Form will have their own common room area on the first floor.

Pastoral support in the New Orange will be very strong with a live-in assistant Housemistress

and a live-in full time matron.

It is intended that some of the honour boards from the old house will be kept and displayed in the new Orange. It will be important to retain a sense of the history.

Linda Raabe-Marjot (modern languages department) will be the Housemistress of the Orange. She is greatly looking forward to the unique challenge of welcoming the first ever intake of younger girls to the school. Her husband John is also a teacher—currently Assistant Vice Principal at Collingwood College in Camberley. Oliver (14) is already in the Stanley and Alistair (12) will be joining him there in Sept 2006.

Construction of the new Orange is progressing apace with completion scheduled for June 2006, ready to welcome the first ever girls at 13+ in Wellington's 150 year history. The new house is located on the south side of the Picton, its front overlooking the Hardinge-Combermere block, which will become the third girls' house in 2007.

The accommodation for the girls will be modern and stylish. The House is designed to house fifty girls, with ten in each year, but initially we are hoping to welcome in the region of 25–30 new Block 3 (year 9) girls in September 2006, so that the whole process

of co-education can start with a bang. The new girls will feel part of a solid cohesive group, quickly feeling at home and confident at Wellington.

Some of the current Lower Sixth (Year 12) from the Apsley will come across to the Orange in the Sixth Form and their presence and leadership as maturer girls will be invaluable and reassuring for the new, younger girls.

All girls will have study bedrooms. Ten rooms (designed for the youngest girls) are shared rooms, but for all other year groups, rooms are singles. Prefects in the Sixth Form will have en-suite accommodation.

At the heart of the Orange will

# THE FROZEN DEEP



The Royal Mile at Festival time is the very hub of the Edinburgh Fringe. To walk along it and to witness the maelstrom of fire-juggling, unicyclists, costumed tableaux, improvised skits, bagpipes, percussive dustbins and leaflets, encapsulates the atmosphere that makes up the five-week experience. It is intense, diverse, exhausting, rapid, ever-so-slightly ludicrous and utterly compelling.

The touring theatre production company of Wellington College was at the Edinburgh Festival for

the fourth time in 2005. They performed *The Frozen Deep*, taken from a short story by Wilkie Collins, and especially adapted for Ironduke's unique physical theatre style of storytelling. The play focuses on two men, in love with the same woman, marooned on the same ice-floe as part of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition to find the North-West Passage.

The cast had already endured an intense three weeks of preparation before arriving in Edinburgh. Once they were actually there, daily performances, in different

venues, to a variety of critical audiences took place. It is a gruelling schedule but one in which there is much reward.

Samuel Sedgman (O.W., T), a member of Ironduke summed up the experience: "Edinburgh 2005 was every bit as exciting as the year before. It is unrelenting and tiring and anything short of professional standard is pounced upon by the next hungry critic. Once past that, however, the feeling of taking a curtain call in one of the world's most prestigious festivals is little short of euphoric". ❄️



## FRONT QUAD TO RED SQUARE

Thirty-two pupils and five adults made their way to Russia for an eight day educational visit to St Petersburg and Moscow. It was a visual feast and everyone delighted in seeing some of the most spectacular sights of a country which is steeped in a fascinating and complicated past.

St Petersburg was first and its nickname as the Venice of the North certainly rings true. It is a city that is divided by rivers and offers spectacular views at almost every point. The Peter and Paul Fortress, which includes the Cathedral where the Romanovs are buried, gave everyone an insight into the nature of Tsarism and indeed their final resting place. The Winter Palace provided a true reflection of the opulence

of Tsarism and the distaste with which it was so obviously viewed in the years leading up to the Revolution. The Hermitage Museum is perhaps one of the finest Art Galleries in the world; the sheer depth of works from some of the most famous artists of all time was a truly enlightening experience. The group also visited the Yusupov Palace where Rasputin was murdered and the Cruiser Aurora which started the October Revolution of 1917.

After the adventure of the overnight train to Moscow, everyone was eagerly awaiting the delights of the capital city. It certainly did not disappoint. The hotel Ukraine was one of seven buildings commissioned by Stalin and completed after his death. It was a magnificent sight and a pleasure

to stay in a gothic style Hotel so directly associated with the glorification of the Communist regime. There was an eerie silence amongst the group after seeing the body of Lenin, still preserved in the mausoleum on Red Square. St Basil's Cathedral provides a striking backdrop to Red Square and it is difficult to remove the image of the many military parades which have taken place there.

The pupils were a credit to the College at all times and were also fun to be with. It will have advanced their understanding of Russian culture, and their ideologies and characteristics which have shaped the course of its history. The constant presence of the Mafia was a reminder to all that the future course of Russian History will not always be a pleasant one. ■



# An Australian Serenade

THE ORCHESTRA TOUR TO AUSTRALIA JULY-AUGUST 2005



Having spent three days rehearsing at Wellington and over 24 hours in transit, the Wellington College Orchestra arrived in Sydney in time for the first concert at St Andrew's Cathedral. In a pattern that became familiar, a number of Sydney based Old Wellingtonians were in the audience. A rewarding concert in splendid surroundings prepared the way for what was to follow.

After two more concerts at Trinity Grammar School and, after a scenic coach trip, Blue Mountains Grammar School, our next venue was at Melbourne Grammar School. Many will remember their spectacular visit to Wellington in

December 2004 and the orchestra was undoubtedly keyed-up at the thought of producing something similar. A spellbinding performance of (the Rossini aria), sung by Tom Humphreys (*Christ Church Cathedral School, S*) and supported by sound of the highest quality from the orchestra, ensured that the concert given by Wellington was every bit as memorable to our Antipodean friends.

Via a lunchtime concert at Geelong College, we moved to Ballarat for a joint concert with Ballarat Grammar School at Her Majesty's Theatre. This was our biggest venue and it was very gratifying to be received so warmly by a large and appreciative audience.

From there we journeyed to St Peter's College in Adelaide. Many of the orchestra were delighted to be there to witness the outcome of the second Ashes Test at Edgbaston. It certainly added piquancy to our conversations!

This was our last concert and was once again shared with our host orchestra, with a Latin American theme. The 1000-seat St Peter's Concert Hall was full for the occasion. The exceptional quality of this last concert was testimony to what can be achieved with hard work, enthusiasm, willingness, cheerfulness and expertise, things Wellington has in abundance. A CD of this concert is available, recorded as it was by Radio Adelaide.



# Merlin's Tale



It was the most exciting and ambitious project ever to be undertaken by the Music Department. Under the expert direction of Rebecca Applin, Composer in Residence (who also wrote all of the show's lyrics), the plan was to write and stage a home grown musical. Work began in September, when Rebecca led a group of GCSE and AS Music composers in a series of workshops on composing for musicals. After completing some technical exercises, each composer was given a set of lyrics for a song, and given until just before half-term to complete the music. Then followed

the lengthy task of orchestrating each song (arranging the music for all the various instruments of the orchestra), but with this came the first exciting glimpse of the music's potential. Auditions were held and the show was cast during the week before half-term. At the first read through of the script, CDs with the backing tracks for each song were handed out, and the new cast then faced the challenge of learning all their lines and music over half-term. This left just three weeks after half term to rehearse and stage the show. The technical design (lighting and sound) was very complex, but

the stage crew excelled themselves in the week leading up to the performance. Amongst the cast there were many who had never performed, let alone sung, on stage before. All this added to the special nature of the project. With an orchestra made up entirely of Wellington staff and students, the buzz created in the Theatre on each night was tangible. Of all the glowing reports the cast and crew have received since the show went down, it is the one that exclaims, 'Wellington Theatre was transported to the West End' that sums up the success of the project and the achievement of the pupils.

# Refurbished Rackets

Work to refurbish the Rackets Court began on the first day of the Easter Holidays and was completed in time for the start of the Michaelmas term. Front and side walls were repaired and repainted, while the floor was completely replaced. The gallery was restored to its original size, and all honours boards dating back to Wellington's first representatives at Prince's Club in 1871 are now on display. The court was officially reopened on Saturday 15th October by Sir David Scholey and two exhibition matches were played. In the first the College Pair (James Fuller (Bn, *The Dragon*) and Rod Shephard (Bn, *St Aubyn's Rottingdean*)) played the Old Wellingtonians (George Tysoe (O.W., L), Foster Cup winner 2002 and James Coyne (O.W., O), currently u24 Old Boys' Champions). Tysoe



Above: Peter Mallinson (O.W., Pn) with Sir David Scholey  
Below: Tim Cockroft (O.W., A)



and Coyne, recently returning from the prestigious Knox-Stevens Tour of all North American clubs beat the boys in convincing

style: 15-1, 15-4, 15-10, 15-7. After the game Sir David officially opened the court, revealing two new honours boards. The first lists all the professionals who have coached the game at Wellington. In his speech he made particular reference to Jim Dear (1950 to 1969), and Walter and Ronnie Hawes, father and son, who between them covered 51 years between 1902 and 1953. The second new board lists the names of the donors who contributed towards the refurbishment.

The second exhibition match was a replay of the World Championship Challenge which had been held in Chicago and at Queen's Club in March earlier this year. World Champions Guy Barker and Alister Robinson again beat Tim Cockroft (O.W., A) and Guy Smith-Bingham 3-2, but coming from 1-2 down to do so.

## FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Three current Wellingtonians, watched by millions on television, took part in the *Festival of Remembrance* at The Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 12th November. Head of College, Oliver Tilney (Bn, *Woodcote House*), College Prefect, Edwina Hayward (Ap, *Cheltenham Ladies College*) and Hugh Hemsley (Bd, *Wells Cathedral School*) all read at the occasion, which was attended, as usual,



Photograph: Clare Patterson (Wokingham Times)

by Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal Family. Their poise, confidence and impressive presentation were commented upon favourably by many of those present. Organising the Festival was W.J.H.Clark O.W., the Director of Administration at the Royal British Legion. All three readers felt extremely honoured to take part and thrilled that Wellington was represented in this way.



# HOT ICE

## & wondrous rocks



If your idea of walking 25 km in the hot sun in the rarefied atmosphere of the mountains is fun, then you would have loved being a Wellington Geography student this summer. For the tenth year running the geography department took a group of students on a week long visit to the southern French Alps. Staying in Serre Chevalier, the week was spent walking through breathtaking mountain scenery to trace evidence of ancient glacial activity and to witness current glaciers in the Ecrins region.

To the uninitiated, a pile of rocks can just seem like a pile of

rocks. Our Lower Sixth geographers found out these rocks are often clues to the action of glaciers of the past. Through studying size, roundness and angle of orientation of glacial debris, it is possible to deduce much about the origins of the landscape. Other days were spent looking at the Glacier Blanc, significantly reduced in size since our first visit there in 1995, and the Col d'Arsine, complete with its spectacular and icy cold moraine dammed lake. On each trip, the scale of the work of ice was brought home to students and staff alike. Every evening we

enjoyed a fantastic supper back at base camp hotel (cooked by the resident Swedish chef) before some work was done to ensure that the work of the day was applied and understood. The trip brought out the best in both girls and boys and relationships between staff and student were cemented. We are looking forward to returning in 2006.

As in previous trips, the group was expertly led by Murray Fowler, assisted by Brynn Bayman and Will Williams, each trying to outdo each other with large words, florid explanations and ridiculous items of clothing.

ST PAUL'S  
CHURCH

COVENT GARDEN  
[THE ACTORS' CHURCH]  
BEDFORD STREET,  
LONDON WC2E 9ED

WELLINGTON COLLEGE  
ORCHESTRA  
CHAPEL CHOIR  
& ENSEMBLES

THURSDAY  
9TH MARCH 2006  
7.30 P.M.

For further information please contact  
the Music School office  
01 344 444 201  
rmfd@wellingtoncollege.org.uk

A TASTE OF BOARDING

Each June, we offer day boys  
from preparatory schools  
an opportunity to experience  
boarding life at College.

For full details, please contact:  
The College Secretary  
01344 444018

TERM DATES

Lent 2006

Saturday 8th January  
to Friday 24th March

Exeat: Saturday 11th February  
to Sunday 19th February

Summer 2006

Tuesday 18th April to Friday 30th June

Exeat: Saturday 27th May  
to Sunday 4th June

Michaelmas 2006

Tuesday 5th September  
to Friday 15th December

(New Pupils arrive Monday 4th Sept.)

Exeat: Friday 20th October  
to Tuesday 31st October

OPEN  
DAYS

for  
BOY & GIRL  
APPLICANTS  
& their Parents

Saturday 21st January  
&  
Saturday 25th February  
2006  
2.15 p.m.

If you are interested in attending  
please contact:  
The Registrar, Wellington College,  
Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7PU  
Telephone: 01344 444012  
e-mail:  
registrar@wellingtoncollege.org.uk

Prospective Parents

Please inform us if you change the year  
of entry, or change your address:

The Registrar: 01344 444012

THE CORUS HOTEL

Duke's Ride, Crowthorne  
FORMERLY THE WATERLOO

Special B&B Rates

The Corus Hotel has a special rate  
for members of College  
& their families, parents  
& O.W.s

Monday to Thursday  
£92.00 per person B&B  
subject to availability

Friday to Sunday  
£30.00 per person B&B  
subject to availability

At the time of booking, to receive this  
rate, all guests must state  
'Wellington College'

Telephone: 0870 6096111  
e-mail: reservations.bracknell@corushotels.com

HOUSEMASTERS  
2006

Anglesey	Mr C.J. Hutchinson	444120
Apsley	Mrs M.C.F. Fielder	444124
Benson	Mr I.M. Henderson	444129
Beresford	Mr T.J. Head	444133
Blucher	Mr M.T. Boobyer	444137
Combermere	Mr M.G. Fowler	444140
Hardinge	Mr C.M. Oliphant-Callum	444145
Hill	Mr S.W. Lockyer	444149
Hopetoun	Mr G. Waugh	444152
Lynedoch	Mr M.J. Sayer	444156
Murray	Mr J.C. Rawlinson	444160
Orange	Mrs L. Raabe-Marjot	466667
Picton	Mr A.R. Dewes	444168
Stanley	Mr N.C. Lunnon	444172
Talbot	Dr P.G.S. Boscher	444263

\*STD Code 01344

OW SOCIETY  
GAUDY

Saturday 6th May 2006

for all those who entered College

in or before

Summer Term 1955

For further information contact;  
O.W. Society

Telephone: 01344 444069  
e.mail:

owsoc@wellingtoncollege.org.uk

COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Foundation Endowment Fund  
was originally established to help  
educate the children of Army officers  
who were killed in action, or died in  
service or on a full pension. Today,  
the Foundation still supports, by way  
of reduced fees, the education of  
children (boys or girls) of deceased  
officers from any of the Services. The  
Bursar would be happy to talk to any  
prospective parent whose child might  
qualify for Foundationer status.

The *Wellington Newsletter* is intended to give  
an impression of life in College through a  
selection of brief reports on some recent  
events and activities, mainly for the benefit  
of prospective and current parents.

Editor: Mr Jim Dewes

Design: Jules Akel 01 528 522 322  
www.akel.co.uk