

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 126

Friday 10th March 2017

The Principal's Update

Today Howell's has been a sea of red in support of Velindre Cancer Centre's *Wear Red for Velindre* campaign. I have been hugely impressed with the creativity demonstrated by staff and students in their outfits of choice. This week Howell's has been participating in National Careers Week so our Careers Department has been particularly busy. There have been many interesting events and activities taking place, to find out more about what has been happening please take a look at our [Twitter](#) feed by [clicking here](#) and following the hashtag #HSLCareers. There have been practical examinations for GCSE Music and AS Drama students this week and I am sure these talented groups performed extremely well.



[Awareness of dangers in newly established Teenage Social Media Sites](#)

As you will be aware, teenage social media sites are emerging all of the time and we have recently been informed about 2 such sites – MyLol and Yellow. MyLOL bills itself as the '#1 teen dating site in the US, Australia, UK and Canada' and claims to have more than 300,000 members around the world. It invites users to meet 'thousands of teenagers like you' and then goes on to describe how users can 'chat with members or privately with someone.' Teenagers are encouraged to update a profile and share pictures. Yellow in particular has been called 'Tinder for teens', and like the adult dating site, Yellow allows its users to swipe right and left to either 'like' or 'pass' another user, and if there's a match, they can begin chatting. Yellow also enables adults to view children's profiles. Unsurprisingly these sites are being used by adults who create fake profiles to target children, engaging them in conversation and encouraging them to exchange images. Please be aware of such sites and discuss with your daughter/son. If you have any concerns about Social Media please contact Mrs Darnton on darnc1@how.gdst.net.

[College News](#)

It has been a busy time in the College this week with many events and activities taking place. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Nia Interviews Lord Torfaen](#)

After the excitement of the Senior Eisteddfod on Friday 3rd March, Howell's once again hosted the Rotary Young Interviewer Competition in the evening, with students from schools across South Wales interviewing Lord Murphy of Torfaen on the topic of peace-making. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Debating Success](#)

Four Howell's teams competed in the Cardiff Schools Debating Competition held in the Students' Union on Saturday 4th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

[Sport Stories](#)

It has been a busy week for sport in Howell's. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Search for the Bard 2017

Many congratulations to all students who entered the 2017 competition. The poems were entertaining and atmospheric. [Click here](#) for more information.

National Careers Week

This week has seen the Careers Department sending out tweets and mail about a whole range of careers related information in support of National Careers Week. [Click here](#) for more information.

Year 8 Career Investigations

Earlier this term, Year 8 all took part in *Take Your Daughter To Work Day*, visiting work places with their mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents and family friends. [Click here](#) for more information.

Natalie awarded a GDST Travel Scholarship

Many congratulations to Year 13's Natalie S who has been awarded a travel scholarship from the GDST towards the trip to Africa she is undertaking during her gap year. We hope she has a wonderful time.

Juliette G wins local European Piano Teachers Association Competition

Congratulations to Year 12's Juliette G who has won the local European Piano Teachers Association competition in the advanced 1 category with a distinction. [Click here](#) for more information.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to Year 10 students Amalie B, Esme B, Chloe C, Olivia C, Amani K, Jessica R and Chloe T, who have all completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Well done, girls.

International Women's Day

The Hub @ Howell's was a hive of activity on Wednesday 8th March as Howell's celebrated International Women's Day with a series of events throughout the day to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care. [Click here](#) for more information.

100 local Primary School Children attend ESU Primary Schools Public Speaking Workshop

This year Howell's once again is joining forces with the English-Speaking Union to host the annual Primary School Public Speaking Competition for children from local primary schools which will take place on Monday 13th March. In order to prepare the children for the competition 10 students from each school attended a public speaking workshop on Tuesday 7th March, led by Mr Walters and Mrs Yilmaz. [Click here](#) for more information.

Connell Essay Prize 2017

I am delighted to announce that two of our Year 12 students, Sasha N and Molly R, have decided to participate in the prestigious Connell Essay Prize 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

Llamau's Easter Egg Appeal

The Library is supporting Llamau's Easter Egg Appeal this month – if you would like to help make a difference to the lives of homeless young people and vulnerable women in Wales this Easter, Llamau are asking you to donate an Easter Egg to their appeal so that they can share them with vulnerable children across the city and Wales. You can drop your egg off to the collection point in the Library – big or small, all Easter Eggs are welcome but we need them by Friday 31st March to ensure they reach Llamau in good time for distribution. You can learn more about the appeal and the valuable work that Llamau undertake in Wales by [clicking here](#).

Work Experience With HSBC - Apply This Weekend!

A work experience opportunity with HSBC targeted at young people aged 14 – 19 years is available for applications this weekend only. [Click here](#) for more information.

The latest instalment of our Parent Blog is available to read by [clicking here](#).

Diary Dates

A Celebration of Languages – Tuesday 14th March

Following the Eisteddfod, parents will have the opportunity to see the winning Year 7-9 stage competitions in Spanish, French, German, Welsh, Latin and English in our annual Celebration of Languages Evening. These will be accompanied by a range of musical items and a European themed buffet.

Parent Pyramid

The next Parent Pyramid Drop In session will take place in the hub@howells on Wednesday 29th March at 7pm.

2nd Hand Uniform Sale

There will be a 2nd hand uniform sale in the hub@howells on Thursday 6th April, from 8.30am-9.30pm and then from 3pm-5pm. Cash only, prices start from £1.

Spring Concert

Tickets are now on sale for this year's Spring Concert on Saturday 1st April at 7pm in the magnificent setting of Llandaff Cathedral. This year we will be treated to a concert of choral and instrumental music from our Junior Competition Choir, Youth Choir, Senior Choir, College Choir and Senior Orchestra culminating with a performance of Mozart's beautiful Requiem. Tickets, costing £12 (central nave) and £10 (side), can be purchased by asking for a member of the Development and Marketing Department. They will also be on sale in the Day Room at break and lunchtimes. [Click here](#) for more information.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing students on Monday when Science Week will begin.

Sally Davis, Principal