

# A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 144

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## The Principal's Update

The first full week of term has been hugely productive and has included many activities to help settle students in to life at Howell's. On Wednesday, Year 10 attended a lunch during which the First 30 wellbeing programme was launched, to ensure a good transition to their GCSE studies.

Today Year 7 and Year 12 students have enjoyed their team building days, during which new friendships have been made and much fun has been had. Year 7 put their climbing skills to the test in Boulders before tucking in to a delicious meal in TGI Fridays. Cardiff Bay was the venue for Year 12 students who took to the seas on speedboats and participated in some exciting bowling games. They then dined in style in the Bayside Brasserie. Look out for more information in my update next week.



Critical thinking was at the heart of last night's Extended Project Qualification presentation evening for Year 13. Students presented their outstanding and wide ranging projects to an audience of parents, students, governors and staff. Look out for a full write up next week. Entrepreneurship has been the focus for Year 11 who participated in their Enterprise Day. They 'Traded Trainers' and learned about running an enterprise in a developing country. More information on the day will be included in next week's update.

I know you will agree that the internet has transformed life as we know it. [Click here](#) for more information on how we can protect our young people online.

### Traffic Cones

I would be very grateful if you could refrain from moving traffic cones on the school grounds. They are there to ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors, which I am sure you will agree is of paramount importance.

### HeadsUp@Howell's Week Monday 18 —Friday 22nd September

Next week is HeadsUp@Howell's Week, a five day programme of activities to launch our new initiative, which will create a school culture where everyone can learn techniques to improve their mental wellbeing and access support if they are having a difficult time. HeadsUp@Howell's aims to see everyone at Howell's with their noses out of their devices, heads held high, taking the lead in nurturing their own mental wellbeing. Mrs Davis will launch HeadsUp@Howell's Week in Assembly on Monday, and all week there are activities to promote mental wellbeing. Graeme, the Counsellor, will be available on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes, the library will be screening TED talks and films during the week, and Mrs Davis and Disney will be taking bookings for wellbeing walks. Keep an eye on [Twitter](#) all week for daily updates from HeadsUp@Howell's Week, and for details of more events going on in school, [click here](#).

## WOOF!

Disney the golden retriever puppy arrived at Howell's at the beginning of the holidays. [Click here](#) for more information about Disney's adventures this week.

## Building For The Future

On Monday 11th September, we welcomed a team from the construction company Willmott Dixon for a workshop with students from Year 10. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Lecture Programme Launch

On Tuesday 12th September, we launched the 2017-18 Howell's Lecture Programme with our first event - a debating showcase. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Cross Country League

Tuesday 12th September saw the first of three cross country league races this term, this one hosted by Bryn Hafren School. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Fiona's Triathlon Success

Congratulations to Fiona B, Year 9, who represented Wales in the under-15 TS3 age group at the triathlon Interregional Championships held at Mallory Park in Leicestershire on 28th August 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Celebration Tea

Mr Walters, ably accompanied by the school dog Disney, was delighted to host a Celebration Tea for Senior School and College students on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Open Doors

On Thursday 14th September Howell's was again delighted to take part in the nation-wide Open Doors programme. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Music Matters

The latest edition of our Music Department newsletter is available to read by [clicking here](#).

## Futurewise Profiles

New Year 12 students logged on to complete their Futurewise profile yesterday. They will be receiving their reports following submission of all the units. Interviews will be held with Mrs Jane Johns throughout next week to support our students in managing their future career decisions.

## Photographs

Colorfoto will be in school next Wednesday (20th September) taking formal photographs in Years 7-12, please ensure that you remind your daughter/son of this.

## Big Breakfast

Year 7 will have their Big Breakfast during form time on Friday 22nd September, which is a lovely opportunity for the girls to have breakfast with their new friends and raise money for charity at the same time. This year we are supporting Latch and ask for a donation of at least £1.

## Parent Blog

This week's instalment of our Parent Blog is available to read by [clicking here](#).

## Diary Dates

### Open Afternoon and College Fair

Our next Open Afternoon for prospective students and parents will take place on Thursday 28th September from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, followed by our College Fair from 4pm until 6pm. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in visiting Howell's. For further information please email [admissions@how.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@how.gdst.net) or telephone 02920 261832.

## Diary Dates

### Parent Pyramid

Our next [Parent Pyramid](#) drop in sessions will take place on the following days in the Hub @ Howell's:

Wednesday 11 October at 8.45am

Thursday 23rd November at 2.30pm

The Parent Pyramid gives parents the opportunity to become more involved in life at Howell's and the events that take place in school and further afield. Whether parents want to lead on an event, help with the arrangements on the day or simply turn up to support the event, there is a place for everyone on the Parent Pyramid. The sessions are friendly and informal and we make fantastic coffee! There is absolutely no pressure to sign up for every event or come every time.

### Whole School Open Day and Year 7 and Year 12 Taster Days

Our next whole school Open Day for prospective parents and students will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00am until 2.00pm. Visitors will register in the Hub @ Howell's before being taken on tours by our current students. Following the tour, visitors will have the opportunity to talk to staff members over a coffee and a Welsh cake. No booking is required for the Open Day, and tours will be running all day.

During the Open Day, we will be running our popular taster days for Year 7 and Year 12. Current Year 5 and Year 6 students can join us for Hogwarts at Howell's, a chance to experience the magic of a Howell's education, punctuated with explosions from the potions labs.

For current Year 11 students keen to have a taste of life in our co-ed college, our College Taster day offers young people the chance to take part in lessons in their favourite subject, meet with the subject teachers and spend time getting to know everyone at Howell's.

For more information or to book a place for either taster day please contact Chrissie Hall-Davis on 02920 261832 or by email at [Chrissie.Hall-Davis@how.gdst.net](mailto:Chrissie.Hall-Davis@how.gdst.net).

Please do pass on the details to anyone who may be interested.

### Hogwarts @ Howell's Ball in aid of Marie Curie

Marie Curie Cancer Care will be holding a Hogwarts @ Howell's Ball in the Great Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets for this black tie evening cost £60 and include a sparkling reception, dinner, auction, raffle, entertainment and dancing. Profit from the evening will go towards the Penarth Hospice. For more information or if you would like to reserve tickets please email [amanda@aapr.co.uk](mailto:amanda@aapr.co.uk).

### Annie

We are very excited to be presenting a whole school production of the classic *Annie* for three nights from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, young Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage but her luck changes when she is chosen to spend a Christmas with famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. With lots of memorable songs including *It's The Hard-Knock Life*, *Easy Street* and *Tomorrow* it really will be a production not to be missed. Tickets will go on general sale on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### Christmas Fair

The festivities will begin in style with our Christmas Fair on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and will be a lovely afternoon for all the family. Look out for further information after the half term holiday.

### The Great Hall Crystal Ball

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Howell's will be holding The Great Hall Crystal Ball, organised by the Parent Pyramid, in the magnificent surroundings of the newly restored Great Hall. Tickets will be available in the coming weeks.

### Carol Services

Llandaff Cathedral will once again provide the perfect setting for this year's Carol Services which will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. More detailed information will be available after the half term break.

---

I hope you have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing students and staff on Monday.

**Mrs Sally Davis, Principal**

*Advance Note: End of Term*

On the last day of the Autumn Term, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Howell's will close at 2pm. This will also be the case on the last day of the Easter Term on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the Summer Term, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July. There will not be any after school care available on these days.