

Virtual View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 5

Friday 3rd July 2020

The Principal's Update

This week has been all about reconnecting, as we have welcomed the first groups of students back to Howell's for their ReConnect Week. It has been absolutely wonderful to see more students return, joining the key worker children. I have missed them all so very much and it feels like normality is slowly returning. In the Senior School it was Year 7's opportunity to return; upon arrival, students entered the Sports Hall (having washed their hands in our new outdoor hand washing stations) where they engaged in various lessons and pastoral activities. Lessons included: code breaking in Maths; composing body music; creating a socially distanced drama in Geography; yoga, athletics and dance in PE; and much more. The pastoral sessions included: one to one conversations with pastoral staff; Nordic walking with the PE department; Positive Wellbeing sessions with Mrs Chyba; Resolve



It classes with alumna Eira Culverwell; and IT Matters with Mrs Darnton. I am enormously grateful to all the students and staff who have helped to make the week so successful. Do take a look at our [Twitter](#) feed to see some photographs from the week. It has also been lovely to welcome a group of Year 10 students back yesterday and today to work on their Art portfolios. I hope they have found it beneficial.

Today marks the end of Diversity Fortnight which has been so well organised by Mrs Chyba. It has been lovely to see such an array of colourful clothes worn by students and staff who have embraced rainbow day with gusto. On Monday, Mrs Chyba led assembly during which she talked about the importance of diversity and supporting the LGBT+ students in the Howell's community. You can watch the assembly by [clicking here](#).

Virtual Tea Concert

I am delighted to share with you Howell's inaugural Virtual Tea Concert which is available to watch by [clicking here](#). It is wonderful to see that students have taken the opportunity to continue developing their musical skills during lockdown and this tea concert is testament to their enthusiasm and talent.

Les Haïkus de Year 9

Year 9 students have been working on the world of work in French. One of their activities was to write a haïku on the world of work or the benefits of language learning. [Click here](#) for more information.

Simone Commended in the Oxford German Olympiad

Many congratulations to Year 10's Simone I, who has been awarded a Commended Certificate in the recent Oxford German Olympiad. This is a tremendous achievement, very well done, Simone.

Careers News

This week's Guided Home Learning page for Careers opportunities in the Senior School offers a virtual exhibition from Medlink and other guidance for medical careers. There is an Innovation Competition by InvestIn and a virtual Summer Cyberfirst course. [Click here](#) for full details.

Big Bang Digital 2020

Big Bang Digital 2020 is a free, online event taking place on Tuesday 14th July that celebrates the amazing work of scientists and engineers in a pandemic. The event celebrates their achievements, hears about challenges, innovation and collaboration, and explores some upsides to lockdown. Aimed at students aged 11+ [#BigBangDigital](#) gives young people a front row view of the incredible contribution of people working in science and engineering.

Appointment-Only Second Hand Uniform Sale

On Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th July, there will be an appointment-only Second Hand Uniform Sale held in the Hub. Please email Rachel Eling r.elling@how.gdst.net for more details, and to arrange an appointment. Please note that all unnamed lost property will be donated to the Second Hand Uniform Sale, so please contact us by Monday if you are missing a vital item!

John Lewis and Uniform

John Lewis will be opening again on Monday 13th July but they will not be offering a fitting service and would encourage parents to order online. By the middle of July they hope to be offering a school shoe fitting service. If you decide to visit the shop, we have been told that uniform will be on display and all standard items will be available (including the shirts and trousers) so you can get a sense of size. The click and collect service is available at the Waitrose stores in Cowbridge, Pontprennau, Caldicot and Abergavenny. The John Lewis click and collect service will be open from 13th July. You are also able to return items at those stores. If you have any questions regarding uniform please email admissions@how.gdst.net in the first instance.

Virtual Open Day – Tuesday 14th July

Following the success of our first ever Virtual Open Day a few weeks ago, we will be holding another one on Tuesday 14th July. Visitors will be able to find out more about what a Howell's education has to offer and we can arrange a Zoom chat with me and other members of the Leadership Team. For more information and to book a place please email Admissions@how.gdst.net and please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in visiting Howell's.

Year 7 Welcome Day – Wednesday 15th July

Our Welcome Day for new Year 7 students will take place on Wednesday 15th July. For more information please email Admissions@how.gdst.net.

Maggie's cancer support charity

Maggie's cancer support charity has asked us to let you know about their latest challenge and are inviting you and your family to take part. Maggie's offer the best possible support, for free, to anyone with cancer but as a charity their income has been significantly affected due to the coronavirus and having to cancel many events. Your local centre in Cardiff needs vital support.

Maggie's has launched their [Miles for Maggie's challenge](#) - asking supporters/teams to do 12,000 steps a day to raise money to help them support people in our area with cancer. They're looking for people and teams to take on the challenge to get those miles in before the end of July and raise as much as possible so they can be there for everyone with cancer who needs them – particularly as they deal with the additional challenges of the coronavirus. This support will help them reach the thousands of people who have been newly diagnosed during this time, those who have had treatment delayed or cancelled, those who feel isolated and lonely and the families who are grieving the painful loss of loved ones. Maggie's helps people take back control when cancer turns life upside down, with professional support for anything from treatment side effects to money worries. If you are interested and would like to take part in this challenge, find out more and sign up to the challenge at <https://maggies.org/m4m>.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing Year 8 and some of Year 10 on Monday when their ReConnect Weeks will begin.

Sally Davis, Principal