

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 229

Thursday 19th December

The Principal's Update

I cannot believe we have reached the end of the autumn term; it really does feel like yesterday that we were welcoming students back after the summer holiday. This final week has seen us fully immersed in all things festive. On Monday, I loved welcoming back Hywelians, spanning nine decades of school days at Howell's, for our now well-established Cocktails at Christmas evening in the Great Hall and you can read more about the event later in this update.

Yesterday, I led an entertaining assembly, during which we were joined by the whole school from Nursery through to the Co-Ed College. It really is very special for the entire community to come together for a final celebration before everyone enjoys a well-earned break. This jam-packed occasion included fantastic festive performances from students in the Nursery, Prep School, Senior School and Co-Ed College. One of the many highlights had to be the uplifting performance from the staff band who gave us rousing renditions of the Stereophonics' hit *Dakota* and *Merry Christmas Everyone*, with an amazing dance routine from our Year 11 dancers and Catering Team.



Today has been one of my favourite days of the school year, Christmas Jumper and Pantomime Day. As always, I was hugely impressed by our students' creativity, which resulted in very varied and entertaining interpretations of *Aladdin*. It was wonderful to spot so many staff taking extremely memorable cameo roles; the students are always delighted to see them take part. Congratulations to everyone involved, particularly to the winning House, Baldwin. If you would like to see some photographs from the day please do visit our [Twitter](#) page.

I am delighted that we have reached our target and raised £1000 to provide a lifeboat in box for international boat rescue project, Atlantic Pacific. This is a fantastic achievement and representatives from Atlantic Pacific will be joining us in January.

Message from the Catering Team

Thank you to all the parents who have supported the Hub @ Howell's this year. Best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

Music Newsletter

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

Auf Wiedersehen, Frau Feige

This week we are sadly saying goodbye to Jacqui Feige, who has been working at Howell's as part of the Erasmus programme this term. [Click here](#) for more information. We are also saying goodbye to Ms Richards who has been working in the Product Design department.

Winter Poetry in the Library

Year 7 have been writing winter themed haiku in their Library Lessons with Mrs Wilks this past fortnight and have produced some wonderfully effective poems. [Click here](#) for more information.

Poetry Live!

Year 11 enjoyed a fantastic trip to *Poetry Live!* at The Forum in Bath at the end of November. [Click here](#) for more information.

Debating News

What an amazing term it has been for our debaters. [Click here](#) for more information.

Christmas Charity Giving

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of students in donating gifts to our chosen charities this Christmas. [Click here](#) for more information.

Eco Team Wish You a Merry Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching, so the Eco Team have been spreading the word on how to have a more ethical Christmas. [Click here](#) for more information. You can also [click here](#) to see the Eco Team's interview with Eco Santa.

Cocktails @ Christmas

On Monday 16th December, The Great Hall was once again transformed into a sophisticated cocktail lounge for our seventh Cocktails at Christmas event for Hywelians. [Click here](#) for more information.

GDST Creative Writing Competition

Get creative over Christmas and write your entry for the 2020 GDST writing Competition with the theme of: 'New Rules for the Future World.'

Stories should be a maximum of 1000 words, with the exception of the title, so enjoy exploring this exciting theme. You could even win a £100 Amazon voucher.

Email your proofread and perfected entries to Mrs Persson by Monday 13th January. We will then select one entry to put forward the Year 7-9 category, Year 10-11 category and the Year 12-13 category.

Your entries should be written on a Word document and include:

- The student's name, school and year
- The title
- Number of words used
- Confirmation that we have permission to publicise the piece and in particular post it onto the GDST website together with the student name – yes / no

We cannot wait to read them!

Diary Dates

Co-Ed College Taster Evening

Our second Co-Ed College Open Evening of the academic year will take place on Thursday 23rd January from 4pm until 6.30pm. It will be an action packed evening providing prospective students the opportunity to attend taster lessons. Parents can attend information sessions, during which they can find out more about College life and the opportunities it brings. To book a place and for more information please email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 02920 261832. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in coming along.

Diary Dates

Year 7 Entrance Examination

Our Year 7 Entrance Examination will take place on Friday 24th January. For more information or to register please contact our Admissions Officer, Chrissie Hall-Davis, at Chrissie.Hall-Davis@how.gdst.net. If you know of anyone who may be interested in sitting the examination, please do pass on the information.

Whole School Open Morning

We will be holding our next Open Morning for our Nursery, Prep School and Senior School on Tuesday 25th February from 9am-11am, so why not come and see for yourself what goes on during a morning at Howell's? Call in on the day, or for further information email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2026 1832. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think may be interested in finding out more.

Fusion Dance Show - Save the Date

On Thursday 30th January at 6-8pm, Howell's will present its first dance show, *Dance Fusion*, in The Warehouse venue off Penarth Road. Involving over 60 Senior School students, the evening will showcase a wide variety of dance styles. Tickets will be available to buy when we come back to school in January.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday and a happy and healthy 2020. Howell's reopens on Monday 6th January for Year 11 and Year 13 mocks and for the rest of the school on Wednesday 8th January. Have a very merry Christmas.

Mrs Sally Davis, Principal