

Prep School

ROUND UP



Friday 20th November 2020

The Head's Update

Christmas has started early in the Prep School; the trees are up, recordings for the Virtual Christmas Concert are taking place and preparations to make the girls' final week of the term magical are well on the way! I know it may be a little early, but the girls deserve a little excitement after such a different term. [Click here](#) to see some photographs of the Christmas filming.



Staff News

Miss Aimee Hawkins will be leaving us next Friday. She has been covering Miss Robyn Taylor's maternity leave since March. She has been a real asset to our wonderful TA team, and I would like to thank her for everything she has done for the girls over the past 8 months.

Miss Taylor returns to work on Monday 30th November and we are looking forward to welcoming her back after the birth of her beautiful baby girl, Quinn.

Mrs Scott, Head of Nursery, had a routine operation last weekend. She is recovering well, but she will not return to school until January. Mrs Tummon and Mrs Maitland-Evans will continue to teach the Nursery girls until Mrs Scott returns.

National Poetry Day Competition

Year 6 girls took part in Mrs Persson's National Poetry Day competition and she was hugely impressed by all the entries. [Click here](#) for more information.

Swimming

Next week, the S classes will swim.

Mrs Davis' Christmas Countdown

"There is definitely magic in the air at Howell's this week, with Christmas trees and decorations appearing around the building. I have loved hearing seasonal music coming from the Great Hall as filming for our virtual Christmas Celebration has begun in earnest, with jingle bells, tinselled antlers and shimmering stars all making an appearance as the performers walked past my office on their way to record their time in the spotlight. I have been privy to a small preview, and we are all in for the most marvellous treat." [Click here](#) to see some festive photographs of inside the Great Hall.

Year 6 join Joe Wicks' 24 hour PE challenge in aid of Children In Need

On Friday 13th January, Year 6 girls had a fabulous time when they joined in with the final leg of Joe Wicks' mammoth 24 hour PE challenge in aid of Children in Need. [Click here](#) for more information.

Walking Bus

To book a place on the Walking Bus to/from Pencisely Road next week, please [click here](#).

Online Learning

Online learning, where the girls can join a class via a device, may be offered to girls who are well but in quarantine. Girls who are unwell should stay at home and concentrate on getting better, online learning will not be offered for a few days' absence due to illness.

GDST Undivided Charter for Action

In the summer, the GDST announced its **Undivided** commitment to diversity, inclusion and real change across the GDST family of schools, in response to feedback from the GDST community of alumni, staff, parents and students and the challenge set by the Black Lives Matter movement.

Since then, the GDST Undivided steering group has prepared a Charter for Action; this sets out specific commitments, focusing on what the GDST (as an organisation) will deliver.

The GDST promised to consult on these proposals before they were finalised, which is why we're seeking your views. The Charter for Action is available on the GDST website [here](#). Please do read it and share any comments you may have for the steering group to consider at this stage.

We are also consulting with staff, alumni and senior school students.

The Charter for Action will be firmed up early next year. [The GDST has already started with important work in this area](#), including training, student and staff surveys, and data collection to help establish baselines and set stretching and challenging targets.

The student survey will be sent to pupils in Year 5 upwards from 1st December. It will ask a range of questions to establish the extent to which students feel every child, regardless of their background, is included and well-supported by their classmates and their school. If you have any questions about this, please contact Martin Pilkington at undividedsteeringgroup@wes.gdst.net.

Thank you for your help and support in making the GDST an even more inclusive organisation.

GDST Talks

The GDST Talks series continues with two presentations taking place in December. [Click here](#) for more information.

Last Day of Term

On the last day of term Howell's will close for Prep School students at 12.30pm and there will be no after school provision. Buses will be running and will be leaving as soon as possible after the Senior School finishes at 12.45pm.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

Judith Ashill, Deputy Principal, Head of Prep School