

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 167

Friday 20th April 2018

The Principal's Update

Welcome back! I hope the Easter break gave you all a chance to spend time with family and friends.

The new term has got off to a flying start, and with the very welcome appearance of some sunshine we have been taking advantage of the warm weather, with students enjoying outside lessons where possible, spending time on the field at break and making use of the quad at lunchtime. The summer term always sees a flurry of "Silence Please" signs going up around school, and the examination period has well and truly started this week, with GCSE, A and AS level language orals taking place as well as the mock ICT examination for Year 9 students.



Yesterday I was delighted to welcome creative agency VCCP to Howell's; they have been employed by the GDST and we were one of the schools selected for them to visit. They saw all areas of the school, meeting with groups of staff, students and parents to get a flavour of what makes Howell's special and their time spent with us will help shape the work they do for the GDST.

Two teams of budding Year 12 engineers slipped on their sunglasses and travelled to the Parc Y Scarlets in Llanelli on Thursday to participate in the Big Bang Fair. They were one of over eighty teams from across South Wales and they displayed the work they completed for the Engineering Education Scheme Wales Sixth Form Project in 2017–2018. They did extremely well with both teams receiving three nominations. Team 1 won the Best Working Model or Prototype category and they were joint winners for the South Wales area, going on to represent the area in the Big Bang final next year. Many congratulations to both teams.

Internet Safety

As we know, the internet is an exciting and ever changing place to be but it is always helpful to know about the apps your child may be accessing. [Click here](#) to see an image which represents apps that you might not be familiar with and that in some cases have a worrying element to them. Heads of Year have been alerted to these apps and will be talking to students in school. A conversation can be the best way of finding out the apps your children are using while ensuring they are kept safe.

UKMT Junior Maths Team Challenge Competition

Congratulations to Aparna C and Sri O (Year 9) and Susanna F and Nandini P (Year 8) who came 3rd in the Regional Final of the UKMT Junior Maths Team Challenge Competition which took place during the Easter Holidays. [Click here](#) for more information.

Howell's Success at Cardiff Games 2018 Inter Schools' Dance Competition

Over the Easter holiday, the Howell's team, Tara G (Year 7), Michelle M (Year 7), Aarona S (Year 7) and Angona S (Year 10) had a hugely successful time at the Cardiff Games Inter Schools' Dance Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tennis Team Selection

Congratulations to Becky D, Year 8, who has been selected for this year's 14U South Wales Tennis County Cup team this year. The competition is played over the May Day weekend and we look forward to hearing how she gets on.

Hidden History

On Wednesday 18th April, Dr Norman La Porte of the University of South Wales came to Howell's to deliver a lecture entitled 'Hitler, War and the Holocaust - how did the unspeakable happen?' to the College History students. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebration Tea

The first Celebration Tea for Senior School students of the summer term took place at break on Wednesday 18th April and it was a pleasure to find out about their outstanding achievements. [Click here](#) for more information.

Parent Blog

This week's Parent Blog, *Back to Work*, is available for you to enjoy reading by [clicking here](#).

Hywelian Update: Maham K

Maham K, who left Howell's in 2017, is studying English at the University of the West of England and recently was awarded Poem of the Month by the Department of Arts and Cultural Industries for her poem, *One Day*. [Click here](#) for more information.

Aerospace Residential programme for Year 10s

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for students in Year 10 to take part in a week-long residential programme at RAF Cosford in July this year. The STAAR (Summer Time Advanced Aerospace Residency) Programme is designed for Year 10 students who demonstrate an interest or aptitude for one or more STEM subjects. It is a fully-funded, immersive, hands-on residential camp. STAAR Recruits will learn about advanced aerospace systems and concepts and will address how the need for solutions to achieve an air mission shapes the way engineers and scientists design aerospace systems. Any students interested in applying for the STAAR programme need to speak to Mrs Thelwell, who will write them a reference. [Click here](#) for more information.

Spring Watch

This week Dr Langford presented a Spring Watch assembly with the key aim of reporting upon the results of the UK's Big Bird Watch 2018 survey along with the things we can do to encourage birds to our gardens. RSPB video clips were used to illustrate how students could make a simple birdbath, which enables birds to bathe and drink throughout the year and a clip on how to make bird cake snacks. [Click here](#) for more information.

Earth Day - Sunday 22nd April

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and it is estimated that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world. It is a day of political action and civic participation. With more than eight million tonnes of plastic going into the oceans every year, it is estimated there will be more plastic than fish by 2050 and 99 per cent of all the seabirds on the planet will have consumed some. It is thought the sea now contains some 51 trillion micro-plastic particles – 500 times more than stars in our galaxy. So why don't you make your voice heard against this world crisis.

Cardiff University 2018 Medicine Taster Days

If your daughter or son is considering Medicine as a career, Cardiff University's Medicine Taster Days are now open for booking. Even if they do not necessarily want to study at Cardiff, this is a really useful day to find out what a Medicine course at a very good university looks like and could be useful in making your course and University choices. Students should aim to attend the Saturday event where possible to avoid missing lessons – this is not a college run event so you will need to book your own ticket and arrange travel to/from the event. Tickets for this popular event are free but do need to be booked. The taster days will be held on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd June. [Click here](#) for more information.

Diary Dates

Whole School Open Afternoon

Keen to know what goes on behind the doors at Howell's? Our next Open Afternoon for Nursery to Year 13 on Thursday 10th May from 1.30-3.30pm, so why not come and see for yourself? Just pop 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 might be interested in coming along.

Rhyme Time in the Nursery Open Morning

On Thursday 14th June, Howell's is holding a Rhyme Time themed Open Morning in the Nursery from 10.00am – 11.15am. The Open Morning will provide an excellent opportunity for little girls to explore the creative, stimulating and nurturing environment of the Howell's Nursery, where we plant the seeds of curiosity, nourish them with experience and care and watch as our girls grow in confidence, compassion and knowledge.

If you know of anyone who would like to join us, you can reserve a place by emailing Hannah Roberts at hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net or telephoning 029 2026 1825.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to another productive week starting on Monday.

Sally Davis, Principal