

# A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 164

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## The Principal's Update

I have been delighted that normal service has resumed in Howell's following last week's unusual snow fall. The curtailed week has meant that this week has been incredibly busy with the postponed Eisteddfod taking place yesterday, as well as activities that were already in the diary. These events included our Mothers' Day Breakfast and visit from the Penylan branch of the Women's Institute in support of International Women's Day, as well as a Parent Pyramid session. Yesterday also saw a team of Year 12 students deliver informative and interactive "Whizz Bang Science" lessons for Year 5 students in Herbert Thompson Primary School. The Drama department also had a busy Thursday as A Level drama students sat their practical examinations.



The Senior School and College Eisteddfod is always one of my favourite days of the school year, showcasing the many and varied talents of our students, and this year they did not disappoint. Following a morning of competitions, the day culminated in the ceremony to chair the junior and senior bards followed by the eagerly anticipated House Choir Competition. I loved hearing the different renditions of the ABBA classic *Thank You for the Music*, which was particularly appropriate as it was Mrs Phillip's last Eisteddfod at Howell's before she retires this summer. The winner of the House Choir Competition was Trotter who also took home the trophy as the overall Eisteddfod and the winner of the entire Eisteddfod. An enormous thank you to Mrs Reed, Mrs Prys-Davies, the House Captains and all students and staff who worked so hard to make the day such a triumph.

Mellifluous music could be heard coming from the practice rooms this week as students were warming up for their GCSE Music practical and ABRSM examinations that took place on Wednesday and today respectively.

Today was the turn of Year 8 to enjoy their Big Breakfast to raise funds for the teenage cancer charity, LATCH, while Years 10 and 11 wore bold for International Women's Day in support of Llamau Cymru whose mission it is to end homelessness for young people and women.

Alexia Joins National Youth Orchestra of Wales & the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales  
Congratulations to clarinettist Alexia V (Year 9), who has been accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Success at the Oxford Debating Union

Siani K, Izzy T-H, Dani K and Angona S went to the Oxford Debating Union on Saturday, February 24th for the regional round of the International Competition for Young Debaters. [Click here](#) for more information.

### St David's Day Rotary Breakfast

Our stalwart Howell's College Rotary representatives were the only students to brave the weather conditions and support the St David's Day breakfast meeting on 1st March. [Click here](#) for more information

## International Women's Day 2018

Howell's was a hive of activity on Thursday 8th March, with the postponed Eisteddfod taking over the Senior School for the whole day, and celebrations for International Women's Day 2018 continuing in the Hub. [Click here](#) for more information.

## English-Speaking Union Public Speaking Workshop

How much noise do 80 10-year-olds make? Rather a lot, if you get them all in the Great Hall and teach them how to use their voices to full effect. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Junior Quiz Challenge

On Wednesday 7th March, Mia S, Meg C, Himani K, Judy A, Michelle M, Aarona S, Connie C and Meher D travelled to Hereford Cathedral School to compete in the Junior Quiz Challenge. [Click here](#) for more information.

## The Write Stuff

Before Christmas, students from Year 1 to Year 13 were encouraged to enter the GDST Creative Writing Prize. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Metaphor Monday with Sophie McKeand

On Monday 5th March, Poetry Club welcomed award winning poet and Young People's Laureate for Wales, Sophie McKeand for a special poetry, performance and pizza lunch in which she chatted about life as a writer. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Hywelian Hanan Visits Poetry Club

On Monday 26th March, Poetry Club was very pleased to welcome Hywelian Hanan I to talk to them about life as a poet. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Welsh Hockey Team News

Congratulations to a number of individuals who have been selected to play Hockey for Wales in the upcoming Scottish Test Series. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Welsh Schools Cross Country Champ

Fiona B, Year 9, had a very successful day at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships in Brecon on Wednesday 7th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Chess Success For Susanna

Not content with winning the Welsh Girls U14 Championship in January, Year 8's Susanna F has added to her collection of silverware and has become overall Welsh U14 Champion. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Parent Blog

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

## Walk To School Day

Thank you to all the students and staff who participated in our Senior School and College Climate Week Drop-off Walk / Cycle to School event held on Thursday 8th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Age Restrictions on Social Media

Many parents will be aware that Social Media profiles require users to be at least 13 years old when registering. Whilst parents might support their children in using a different date of birth to their own it is important to remember that an 8 year old signing up as 13 will appear to be 18 once they are officially 13. This is a scary thought and one to be aware of. Please ensure you support your children when creating profiles and encourage them to access social media at the appropriate age. Please check privacy settings on personal details such as their date of birth and the school they attend. Should you have any questions at all please contact Mrs Darnton at school.

### Subject Specific Open Days at Churchill College Cambridge

Churchill College Cambridge are holding three subject specific open days in the coming months (all either over the Easter holiday or at a weekend). We have close links with Churchill College Cambridge and we would encourage all Year 12 students considering applying for a place at Cambridge to attend. [Click here](#) for more information.

### GDST Oxbridge Conference Booking Forms Now Available

The 2018 GDST Oxbridge Conference is taking place on the weekend of 7th and 8th July at Clare College, University of Cambridge. Booking forms are now available from our Oxbridge Coordinator, Miss Hughes, as well as from the Library and the form can also be found by [clicking here](#). For further information about the conference [click here](#).

### Careers Corner

This week has been National Careers week combined with National Apprenticeship week. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Diary Dates

### Mrs Scott Steps Out

Children learn through discovery, and thoughtfully structured play provides endless opportunities for them to find out about the world around them. Join the team from Howell's Nursery for a free stay and play event, where your little one can explore a world of adventure and imagination, and you can relax with refreshments and good company. All the events take place from 10am-12pm in the following days at the venues listed below:

Dinas Powys Community Hall (Lee Hall) – Tuesday 13th March  
Andrew's Church, Penylan – Tuesday 20th March

Please do pass on the information to anyone you think might like to come along. For more information please telephone 029 2026 1832 or by email at [admissions@how.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@how.gdst.net).

### Story Time in the Nursery

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Howell's is holding a Story 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](mailto:hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net) or telephoning 029 2026 1825.

### Spring Concert

Tickets for the Spring Concert on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.30pm, which will include performances from students in Years 10 to 13, will be on sale from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. They cost £6 and are available by asking for a member of the Marketing Team at the main office. Alternatively students can purchase them from the Marketing Suite at break, lunchtime or before/after the school day. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Matilda Tickets

There are now only 24 tickets left for the performance of *Matilda*, which will take place in the Wales Millennium Centre on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Tickets include hospitality before the performance, during the interval and after the show when we are hoping to be joined by members of the cast. Tickets are available to the Howell's community on a first come first served basis so if you would like to reserve seats and arrange payment please email Hannah Roberts in the Marketing Office, [hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net](mailto:hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net).

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to Monday when Science Week will commence.

**Sally Davis, Principal**