

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 159

Friday 26th January 2018

The Principal's Update

I have had an extremely interesting week which began in London, where I attended the GDST Heads' Conference. One of the things we excel in at Howell's is alumni relations; keeping in touch with our former students is such an important and rewarding part of what we do here, and I was thrilled to be able to share some of our wealth of experience with my fellow school heads.

Back at school, the week started with a six period PSE day for the whole school. It would be easy for us all at school to enclose ourselves in a nice, safe bubble, but it is important that we all address the myriad of topics that are relevant to all young people today. We were very lucky to have the support of representatives from South Wales Police, Switched On, Oxfam and Stonewall, who all led sessions which have kept the students talking and thinking all week.

Tuesday morning was the turn of Year 13 to raise funds for the teenage cancer charity, LATCH, and as ever I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our students.

The girls from Years 8 and 9 have been looking to the future this week. Yesterday was an important day for Year 9, who were introduced to their GCSE option choices. They now have up to two weeks to think about their plans for Year 10, and the teachers are all available to answer any questions they may have. [Click here](#) to see the GCSE Options Booklet. Today, Year 8 students have been dipping their toes into the world of work on *Take Your Daughter To Work Day*. I hope that they have all found it both enjoyable and informative.

Today, it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 6 girls, both from our own Junior School and from other local schools, to spend the day with us at Howell's and sit the Year 7 Entrance Examination. Many thanks to all the staff for making the day such a success. We are also very grateful to the girls from Year 7 who were superb tour guides for parents at the end of the day.

Terrific Tudors

A group of Year 12 Historians presented a workshop on the Terrific Tudors to some of Year 5 on Tuesday. [Click here](#) for more information.

Two Debating Competitions in Two Days

The Oxford Schools' Debating Competition was held on Friday, 19th January. Mansi V (Year 13) joined Ffion M, Natasha S, Anoushka N, Dagmawi Y and Restam E-A (Year 12) in the Cardiff round of this national competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Caitlin W Becomes Medic Mentor Ambassador

Many congratulations to Year 11's Caitlin W whose application to be a Medic Mentor Ambassador has been successful. She will be attending the national conference tomorrow in London. I was delighted to support her application and I look forward finding out from her what a Medic Mentor can offer those students who are interested in medicine, dentistry or veterinary careers.



Will's Welsh Hockey Success

Will R, Year 12, has recently returned from Cyprus representing Wales at Indoor Hockey. [Click here](#) for more information.

Skating to Success

We were delighted to hear that Year 11's Charlotte H recently became a Senior Synchronised Ice Skating British Champion as part of her skate team. [Click here](#) for more information.

Badminton at the Cardiff Games

Four students in Years 9 and 10 competed in the Cardiff Games County Badminton competition. Howell's had a smooth ride into the semi-finals, beating Llanishen High School and Sir Richard Gwyn School 5-0 and 5-0. [Click here](#) for more information.

Bowls and Bubbly

There was a record turnout for our third evening of Bowls and Bubbly for Hywelians in the luxurious Lansdowne Club in the heart of Mayfair, London. [Click here](#) for more information.

Emily Takes to the Road on National Tour

Hywelian Emily Howell (Class of 2011) is taking her play, *Looking for Mummy: Nazanin's Story*, on the road for a national tour. [Click here](#) for more information.

Parent Blog

The first Parent Blog of the year is available to read by clicking here [clicking here](#).

Eco School – RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Count

Why not join in on the national 2018 Big Garden Birdwatch event this weekend, 27th – 29th January? The RSPB website has a resource pack available to download. [Click here](#) to register. At the end are also some tasty bird food recipes which will help you to entice birds into your garden. Have fun counting birds in your garden this weekend.

Speech and Drama

All parents and friends are invited to support students in the Speech and Drama Competition which will take place on Saturday 27th January our Junior School Hall from 10am-till 3.30 pm. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Vivienne Redford, an experienced adjudicator and LAMDA examiner to judge the competition.

Congratulations to all the girls who sat LAMDA examinations in December and for their excellent results. Everyone achieved a distinction, scoring a record number of high marks.

Introduction to Oxbridge Event

It was great to see so many of our Year 12 students and their parents at the "Introduction to Oxbridge" talk on Tuesday 23rd January. [Click here](#) for more information.

Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference 2018 – Places now available

The annual Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference returns to Swansea on Monday 19th March. Further details have been emailed to students who have already expressed an interest in attending and can also be found by [clicking here](#).

Fantastic Opportunity for Female Scientists in Year 12

The University of Oxford is running a 'Women in Sciences' taster day on Friday 23rd February. The day runs from 10:30am-3:30pm and it will be a day crammed full of science lectures and seminars, led by top academics aiming to encourage more young women into STEM degrees. Any Year 12 student currently studying science A-levels is welcome to sign-up to this event. [Click here](#) for more information.

Important Date for Students Taking Pre-Interview University Admissions Tests

The admissions testing service has confirmed that the pre-interview university admissions tests that are

required for 2019 entry to some medical courses (BMAT only), the majority of courses at Oxford and Cambridge and certain courses at some other universities (e.g. Mathematics courses at Imperial) will be held on 31st October 2018 (during the October half term holiday). [Click here](#) for more information.

Blue Sky Thinking for the Highly Able

Academy Conferences have put together an exciting programme of lectures aimed to stretch and challenge the most able of students in Years 11 and 12, and we are pleased to be able to take a small number of students to their Oxford event on 2nd March. Full details of the speakers and topics can be found by [clicking here](#) and an information letter can be found by [clicking here](#). We are asking students to express their interest in attending via the accompanying reply slip by Monday 5th February.

Diary Dates

Parent Pyramid

There will be drop-in Parent Pyramid sessions on Tuesday 30th January from 8.45am to 9.45am, and on Thursday 8 March between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. The sessions will be hosted by Vanessa Yilmaz, Director of External Relations, together with the Marketing and Development team. Dates and details of forthcoming events will be available, as well as refreshments.

College Careers Countdown and College Fair

Year 11 students are invited to a speed-networking event at Howell's on Wednesday 31st January from 4pm-6pm. The event will begin at 4.00pm with a welcome mocktail in the Day Room before the main event takes place in the Great Hall. Students will be joined by a group of professional guests to find out more about the world of work, consider the range of careers available and hone their networking skills. If students would like to attend this evening please email hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2061825. On the same day as the College Careers Countdown, we are holding another College Fair for anyone interested in joining our 6th Form College at 4pm. Prospective students will have the chance to tour the College and meet subject teachers, they will then have the opportunity to join the careers event at 5pm. If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact our Admissions Officer, Helen Flynn, at admissions@how.gdst.net.

Wear Red for Velindre and Wales

Howell's staff and students are delighted to be participating in #WearRedforWalesAndVelindre on Friday 2nd February in aid of the Velindre Cancer Centre.

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 Tuesday 13th February 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.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

The next second hand uniform sale will be on Thursday 15th February, from 8-9am, and 3-5pm.

Your Future in Your Hands

During the February half term break, we will be running Your Future In Your Hands, an insight experience for students in Years 10 to 13. Students interested in a career in Medicine, Law, Business or Innovation will take part in seminars and workshops, getting face-to-face with the top people in their field and making a site visit to their chosen industry. The week will close with a networking lunch, with students able to meet with key professionals from all the different sectors. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

Mrs Sally Davis, Principal

Reminder: On the last day of term, Friday 23rd March, Howell's will close at the earlier time of 2.00pm. No after school care provision is being provided.