

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 160

Friday 2nd February 2018

The Principal's Update

As I walked through the front door this morning I was greeted by a sea of red, as students and staff embraced Wear Red For Wales and Velindre day to raise funds for the Velindre Cancer Centre. It is wonderful to support this vitally important charity which provides specialist cancer services to over 1.5 million people in South East Wales and beyond and has touched so many of our community.

I am sure many of you will have noticed the two new additions to the Howell's family. Before Christmas, we supported the children's hospice Tŷ Hafan by purchasing two Snow Dogs that had been on display as part of the spectacular public art trail across Cardiff. *Starry Night* can be seen on the roof above the outer Dining Room and *Me Is Who I Am* is on a plinth in front of the visitor car park. I introduced these Snow Dogs to the school in the final assembly last term, explaining that we had chosen them because they fit in with our ethics: You can be whatever you want to be at Howell's but you need to reach for the stars.



On Monday morning I was delighted to lead a special assembly for the Senior School and College, during which I unveiled the new GDST brand. For more information and to see the brand launch video, which features Year 8's Erin W, you can visit the GDST's Twitter page by [clicking here](#). The assembly also marked the launch of this year's Eisteddfod on Friday 2nd March, which is definitely one of the highlights of the school year. On Wednesday Mrs Phillips announced that this year's House song will be the Abba classic, *Thank You for the Music*. I really cannot wait to see the varied interpretations our House captains produce.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for Monday morning's Parent Pyramid drop in session during which we celebrated raising over £5000 since September 2018 for the Bursary Fund, which is an amazing achievement. It was also lovely to share details of events coming up over the rest of the school year.

There was a real buzz in the College on Wednesday evening as we hosted the second College Fair of the academic year, as well as the College Careers Countdown for Year 11. At the College Fair prospective sixth form students met with subject heads, current students and took tours of our Co-Ed College. Our current Year 11 had the opportunity to network with industry professionals at the Careers Countdown and were joined by external students following the College Fair. Many thanks to all the staff and students who made the evening such a success. Look out for more information in my update next week.

Over the last two days it has been a pleasure for us to host this year's GDST Senior Leaders' Conference for over seventy staff from the twenty-five GDST schools. The conference explored trends in independent education and the implications these have on our schools and students. Mrs Chyba, Miss Hughes and Mrs

Yilmaz all led inspirational sessions on mindfulness, the educational organisation NACE and branding respectively. Thank you to all the staff involved who worked tirelessly to make the conference such a triumph.

Yesterday evening it was a pleasure to welcome Year 8 parents and students to their Parents' Meeting. I really do enjoy sharing our students' progress.

Poetry Chill

Last Thursday, for our first 'Poetry Chill', girls took the opportunity to sit back, read poetry and relax with some chocolate as an added reward. [Click here](#) for more information.

English News

Many congratulations to these students whose essays have been chosen to represent Howell's in the 2018 GDST Creative Writing Competition:

Year 9 Ellora M.

Year 11 Ellie M.

Year 12 Tom W.

Pascha Dons A Hardhat

Pascha T, Year 10, was lucky enough to spend some time with construction services company ISG at Two Central Square, which will be the new home to Hugh James Solicitors and Cardiff University's School of Journalism when it's completed next September. [Click here](#) for more information.

Rotary Youth Speaks

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th January, we hosted the Rotary Youth Speaks Competitions in the Great Hall here at Howell's School. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sport Website

Today we are delighted to launch our new sport website which includes all the latest sports news as well as the up-to-date fixture list. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to navigate the new site and [click here](#) to access the new site.

Netball and Hockey News

It has been a busy time for our netball and hockey players. [Click here](#) for more information.

U13 Gymnastics – Milano Trio Competition

Sophie, Cari and Hannah competed in the Milano Trio Gymnastics Competition in Sophia Gardens on Friday 26th January. [Click here](#) for more information.

First Place For Fiona at the Cardiff and Vale Cross County Championships

Congratulations to Fiona B, Year 9, who performed brilliantly at the Cardiff and Vale Cross County Championships at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry on Sunday 28th January. [Click here](#) for more information.

Team Selection for Ffion

We were delighted to hear that Ffion H has been selected to play hockey for Whitchurch Saints in the European Indoor Club Championship II in Slovenia in February. [Click here](#) for more information.

Super Skiing Sisters

Sisters Lucy and Jess M (Year 7 and Year 5) spent last week hitting the slopes in Les Crosets, Switzerland. [Click here](#) for more information.

Success for Howell's at the Welsh Girls Chess Championships

Last weekend a good number of Howell's students took part in the Welsh Girls' Championships held in Caerphilly, with considerable success. [Click here](#) for more information.

Great News For Louise

Congratulations to Louise S, Year 12, who heard this week that she has been selected to represent Wales in fencing at the Commonwealth Championships in July for both Cadets U17 and Juniors U20 in women's épée.

Parent Blog

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

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 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. Please email Vanessa.yilmaz@how.gdst.net for more information and to book a place. [Click here](#) for more information.

Bicester Village Shopping Trip—Saturday 3rd March

On Saturday 3rd March, the Parent Pyramid are running a trip to Bicester Village, the shopping outlet in Oxfordshire. With more than 160 discount stores, including Mulberry, Anya Hindmarch, The White Company, Jack Wills and Superdry, and several restaurants and cafes, it's a shopper's delight.

The bus will set off from Howell's at 8.00am sharp, and leave Bicester at 5.00pm, arriving back to school by 8.00pm. Places on the bus are priced at £25 each, which will include refreshments served each way.

Parents, friends, family and students are all welcome to join us.

To reserve a place on the trip and arrange payment, please email Rachel Eling in the Marketing Office, r.eling@how.gdst.net.

Parent Pyramid

The next Parent Pyramid session will take place 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.

Matilda Tickets

As part of our new initiative with the Wales Millennium Centre which will start from September 2018 – August 2019. Howell's has reserved 150 tickets, at a discounted price, for the production of *Matilda* on Wednesday 5th December. 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.

Have a wonderful weekend and let's hope for a Wales win.

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.