

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No. 161

Friday 9th February 2018

The Principal's Update

Music has pervaded every nook and cranny of Howell's this week, as it has been a privilege to host the Helen Fraser GDST Young Musician of the Year Competition on Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesday, thirty-nine exceptionally talented musicians from nearly all the GDST schools travelled from far and wide to participate in this prestigious competition, alongside our very own Katie J (violin) and Rebecca P (voice). Following lunch, the vocal heats took place in the Great Hall throughout Wednesday afternoon while the instrumentalists enjoyed a fascinating tour of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Yesterday, it was the turn of instrumentalists to compete in their heats while the vocalists took tours of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Last night, the six finalists (three singers and three instrumentalists) took to the stage for an electric final. The standard was exceptionally high, so the adjudicators Rosenna East and Anna Lapwood had a very difficult job on their hands. Congratulations to everyone who took part, particularly the winners, recorder player Miriam (from Blackheath High School) and mezzo-soprano Charlotte (from Croydon High School). The evening culminated with a gala dinner for students, staff (from both Howell's and the GDST) parents and VIP guests. Look out for more information in my update next week but you can see some photographs by visiting our [Twitter](#) page.



The musical theme continued as rehearsals for the House Choir Competition began in earnest on Wednesday lunchtime. The song for this year's competition, Abba's hit *Thank You For The Music*, could not be more appropriate this week!

Our series of Big Breakfasts in aid of the teenage cancer charity, LATCH, continued for Year 11 on Tuesday morning and the students' generosity was overwhelming. Thank you to them all.

On Tuesday, our Board of Governors were delighted to meet the Senior School Council before this term's Governors Meeting took place in The Hub. I am enormously grateful to our governors for the hard work and support they give to me and Howell's.

Rotary Youth Speaks

The girls have done it again! Aleezah K, Merna M and Ritija B are now through to the third stage of the Rotary Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition after competing against strong teams from Ysgol Bro Edeyrn and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg on Monday evening. [Click here](#) for more information.

GDST Chrystal Prize Public Speaking Competition

On Tuesday 30th January, Morwenna B (Year 11) accompanied by Mr Walters made the lengthy journey to Northampton High School for the GDST Chrystal Prize Public Speaking Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February marked Safer Internet Day and Mrs Darnton reminded students in Years 7 to 11 of the importance of making 'everyday' a safer internet day. [Click here](#) for more information.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Many congratulations to the following Year 10 students for completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Lucy C, Jessica J, Danielle K, Lily R, Sophie S, Isabelle W

Parent Blog

This week's Parent Blog is available to read by clicking here [clicking here](#).

Careers Corner

The Careers Department shares information regarding events and opportunities by email and Twitter. Please encourage your daughter or son to check their emails regularly as deadlines to apply for places can be very short and often the onus is on students to apply directly for opportunities. We would be delighted if you would follow our [Twitter](#) account, @HowellsSchool, careers information and world of work opportunities are shared via the #HSLCareers hashtag.

Cambridge University Masterclasses

For more information on Year 12 Cambridge University Masterclasses [click here](#).

Diary Dates

Whole School Open Afternoon and College Scholarship Examination

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. Following the Open Afternoon, at 4pm there will be an opportunity for any Year 11 student, who was unable to sit the College Scholarship Examination in the Autumn Term, to have a chance to do so. If they would like to sit this examination please contact Helen Flynn by email at 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.

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.

Diary Dates

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.

An Evening with Mike Phillips in aid of Breast Cancer Care

Do you have any questions for Mike Phillips? Now is your chance to ask! Breast Cancer Care will be hosting an evening with this rugby legend in Howell's on Monday 19th March. For more information please email rachael.power@breastcancercare.co.uk.

Matilda Tickets

Over half the tickets have already been reserved for the production of Matilda which will take place in the Wales Millennium Centre 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 I look forward to another productive week starting on Monday.

Mrs Sally Davis, Principal