

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 221

Friday 11th October 2019

The Principal's Update

The mental and emotional health and wellbeing of students and staff has been at the heart of our activities in this academic year's first HeadsUp@Howell's week. There has been an array of events and activities taking place encouraging our school community to make time for wellbeing and self-care. [Click here](#) for more information about Heads Up week.

We have also been celebrating all things literary in our extremely popular "Twisted Fairytale" themed Book Week. As well as celebrating the timeless fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm we have enjoyed books that re-imagine these tales such as A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas, The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani and The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter. The week included activities and events with opportunities for students from all year groups and staff to get involved. Highlights have included: a Spelling Bee; quizzes; cupcake masterclasses; a themed own clothes day; a visit from best-selling author, Sophie Anderson and much more.



On Monday morning, the transformation of the Sports Hall into a theatre for our forthcoming production of The Wizard of Oz began in earnest and has continued throughout the week. The production begins on Monday 21st October and I look forward to seeing many of you in the audience. More information about how you can buy tickets can be found in the Diary Dates section of this update.

This Monday, Howell's was visited by two researchers from NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education) who are undertaking a research project into how schools can successfully challenge all their students to reach their full potential. They were welcomed in to lessons in a range of subjects from Languages to Sciences and Mathematics from KS2 up to KS5, as well as talking to staff about how we sustain a well-balanced culture of academic challenge whilst focussing on student wellbeing. They went away with lots to think about and share.

This morning, it was Year 7's turn to raise funds towards our target of £1,000 for Atlantic Pacific, to help provide a lifeboat in a box for Mozambique at their Big Breakfast. Many thanks to our catering team who provided a delicious and nutritious start to the day. A total of £70.31 was raised.

Howzat! Cricket Academy

On Tuesday 8th October, in partnership with Cardiff and the Vale College and Glamorgan Cricket Club, we held our first Howzat! Cricket Academy at the SWALEC Stadium to engage girls from across Cardiff to play cricket. [Click here](#) for more information.

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Tea Concert

On Friday 4th October our talented GCSE Music students treated an audience of friends, family, governors and staff at a lovely concert in the Great Hall. [Click here](#) for more information.

Skills Cymru Exhibition

Year 10 spent an exciting interactive morning on Wednesday 9th October at the Skills Cymru exhibition held in Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena. [Click here](#) for more information.

Irish Open Artificial Ski Slope Championships

Jess M, Year 7, had a productive two days of racing in the Irish Open Artificial Ski Slope Championships in Dublin on the 5th and 6th October. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebration Tea

Yesterday, I was delighted to host a Celebration Tea for Senior School students. [Click here](#) to find out what we celebrated.

Visit of students from Germany

Last Friday, Howell's Co-Ed College was visited by ten sixth form students and their teachers from the Pina Bausch School in Wuppertal, Germany. [Click here](#) for more information.

Howell's Co-ed College Lecture Programme

On Tuesday, we were fortunate to be joined by Karen Kimura from the GDST for the next event in the Howell's Lecture Programme. [Click here](#) for more information.

Can you help?

On Thursday 31st October our Year 13 Oxbridge applicants will be spending a day dedicated to preparing for their upcoming academic interviews. If you would be prepared to give up a few hours on the day to help out with mock interviews, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Oxbridge Coordinator Mrs Harrison-Hughes on Hannah.hughes@how.gdst.net.

Diary Dates

The Year 7 Experience – Wednesday 16th October

On Wednesday 16th October, girls in Year 5 are going to take "One Giant Leap" into the Senior School to experience life in Year 7. This is also open to girls in Year 6 who have not yet attended a taster day. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in attending. For details please email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2026 1832.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Monday 21st – Thursday 24th October

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Would you like to join Dorothy and friends for their journey along the Yellow Brick Road? I am delighted that so many of our community are joining us for our forthcoming production of The Wizard of Oz, which will take place from Monday 21st until Thursday 24th October at 6pm, and there are still tickets available if you would like to take a trip to the Land of Oz.

Today the Prep School was treated to a spellbinding visit from the Jitterbugs and lead characters including Dorothy in her sparkly red shoes. Tuesday is "meet the cast night", if you haven't booked your tickets please do so as soon as possible.

Tickets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday cost £12 (£10 children) and for the gala performance all tickets cost £15 and are available from the main reception in the Senior School.

Diary Dates

Christmas Fair

This year, the Howell's Christmas Fair is on Friday 29th November from 2-5.30pm in our Sports Hall, and we are now taking bookings for stall-holders. It will be a wonderful, very busy shopping event, with around 40 individual stalls and Father Christmas on hand to take present requests. If you, or someone you know, would like to take a stall at our Christmas Fair, please contact Margaret Leigh in the Marketing Office on m.leigh@how.gdst.net.

Les Misérables - Limited tickets available!

We are delighted that so many of our community are joining us for the special Howell's event at the performance of *Les Misérables* at the Wales Millennium Centre on Tuesday 10th December. A limited number of tickets have become available from our allocation for the Howell's Community to buy. Tickets include access to a private room before the performance where you can buy drinks and food before as well as order your interval refreshments. We will also have a private room during the interval. These tickets are available to the Howell's community on a first come first served basis; to reserve seats and arrange payment please email Hannah Roberts in the Marketing Office, hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net.

Carol Services

Llandaff Cathedral will once again provide the perfect setting for this year's Carol Services which will take place on Wednesday 11th December. More detailed information will be available after the half term break.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to sampling sweet delights on offer during next week's Bake Off Week.

Sally Davis, Principal