

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 224

Friday 15th November 2019

The Principal's Update

Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful time over the half term holiday, whether you headed off on holiday or enjoyed spending time at home. I was delighted to hear that the trips to Iceland and Seville were so successful and very much enjoyed seeing the photographs and videos that you can see by looking at our [Twitter](#) page. Many thanks to all the staff who supported these fantastic trips.

Kindness has been at the heart of everything at Howell's as we have participated in nationwide Anti-Bullying Week which I launched during assembly on Monday. On Tuesday, students and staff proudly donned odd socks on national Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality and what makes us all unique. It has been lovely to see many random acts of kindness taking place throughout the school and college, which I do not doubt will continue beyond this week.



On Monday morning, we held our Remembrance Service and two-minute silence, which took place in the Stone Hall from 10.50am. During the service our head students commemorated Hywelians who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and Tabitha H (Year 11) gave a beautiful performance of *The Last Post*. It was an extremely moving occasion.

Thank you very much to everyone who attended the Parent Pyramid drop in session in the Hub @ Howell's on Tuesday, during which all the exciting Christmas events were discussed. I am very grateful to everyone who so generously volunteers their time to help at events. It really does demonstrate what a special community we have here at Howell's.

Teachers from across South Wales and beyond gathered at Howell's on Tuesday afternoon for our third 'Teachmeet' event. The range of speakers included: Cerian Angharad from See Science, who explored some exciting upcoming STEM opportunities; Yusuf Ibrahim from Cardiff and Vale College, who posed questions of how we can use 'Nudge Theory' in the classroom and Jez Jowett from St Martin's in Caerphilly who spoke about developing oracy in the classroom.

Wednesday evening saw our first ParentED event aimed at parents with daughters in Years 7 - 9. Building on the success of our new Teachmeet events, where teaching and learning ideas are shared with colleagues from across the education sector, the event was a parent-focused education evening aiming to give parents a better understanding of the classroom and school experience by attending talks by staff. The subjects were: the GCSE Curriculum (Mrs Davis); the VESPA model for developing independent learners (Mr Allen); STEM provision at Howell's (Dr Ford); Internet Safety—how to help navigate the online world (Mrs Darnton); Supporting and challenging very able learners (Mrs Harrison-Hughes); and Additional Learning Needs (Mr Walters). The event was very well-attended and met with an enthusiastic response. We will be evaluating how the event went with a view to running similar sessions in the future.

Also on Wednesday evening, we welcomed Year 11 students, from Howell's and from local schools, to sit the Co-Ed College Scholarship Examination. Many thanks to everyone who supported this important evening.

On Thursday our talented actors in Year 11 sat their GCSE Drama practical examination. I am sure the many hours of rehearsal and hard work will be rewarded.

This morning, a group of alumni joined us for coffee, cake and conversation for the first *Hywelians in the Hub* event of the academic year. It was a lovely morning, during which our alumni enjoyed refreshments while finding out the latest news from Howell's and catching up with friends in a friendly and informal environment. Alumni relations is something we do well and our thriving events programme indicates that even after leaving everyone remains part of the Howell's family. We look forward to seeing them at many events throughout the year.

Today, students and staff raised over £1,500 for this year's Children in Need. Everyone looked splendid in their finest pyjamas and onesies. At lunchtime a fair selling a huge variety of goodies took place in the Sports Hall and there was a very special event involving teachers being sponged. As ever, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Howell's community, many thanks to everyone for supporting this very important cause. Do take a look at our [Twitter](#) feed to see some photographs from the day.

Sophie enters the green belt

Congratulations to Year 9's Sophie S, who has just been awarded her green belt in Combat Jujitsu. [Click here](#) for more information.

Rubicon Dance Workshop

On Thursday 14th November, Rubicon Dance Company visited Howell's School to deliver a bespoke workshop aimed at improving dance technique. [Click here](#) for more information.

Coding Club avoid Zombies with micro:bits.

Year 7 students who have been attending coding club finished off the half term by making an "escape a zombie" game using the micro:bits. [Click here](#) for more information.

Career Start

The Careers department was delighted to welcome Karen Kimura from the GDST to deliver Career Start sessions to Years 7-9 and 11 this week. [Click here](#) for more information.

Year 11 Work Experience

Year 11 and their parents have been informed about the school dates for Work Experience 2020.

Week 1: Monday June 29th 2020 - Friday July 3rd 2020

Week 2: Monday July 6th 2020 - Friday July 10th 2020

Please check the information that has been sent by school comms and respond with your acknowledgement and consent by Friday 29th November. Mrs House would be grateful if you could inform her of the proposed Employer as soon as is possible. Students in Year 11 may book an appointment with Mrs House through the LRC and a section assembly meeting is scheduled for any questions.

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. There are now only a few stalls available! 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.

Diary Dates

St Cecilia's Day Concert

On Wednesday 20th November, we will be celebrating St Cecilia's Day with a concert of performances from our music scholars. This is a free concert and you are warmly invited to attend. Drinks and canapés will be served at 6pm, and the concert will start at 6.30pm in the Great Hall. It would be marvellous if you are able to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening of music, celebrating the talented music students that we have in school.

Tea Concert

There will be an informal tea concert in the Great Hall given by students in Years 7-9 on Friday 22nd November 4pm. This is an open event and all parents/staff/friends are invited to come along and enjoy tea, biscuits and wonderful music. The doors will be open from 3.45pm when refreshments will be served.

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. There will be two services, one at 1.45pm and another at 6.30pm, which will include performances from the Year 5 and 6 Choir (afternoon only), Junior Competition Choir (evening only), Senior Choir, College Choir, Youth Choir, Wind Ensemble and Senior Orchestra. The services will also incorporate readings from students, staff and governors. There are no tickets required so we recommend arriving early in order to get a good seat.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday which marks the beginning of Maths Week.

Sally Davis, Principal