

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 246

Friday 13th November 2020

The Principal's Update

November seems to be going incredibly quickly, and I can hardly believe we have reached the end of another busy week at Howell's. It has been wonderful to welcome back all students and staff this week following the firebreak lockdown. I am sorry that Year 8 are having to isolate, they have showed tremendous adaptability once again, I look forward to seeing them all again next Friday.

This week we learned that the Welsh government have cancelled GCSE, AS and A level examinations. At Howell's we offer a mixture of Welsh and English qualifications at both GCSE and A Level, with our Heads of Departments each choosing the exam board that they feel offers the best syllabus for their subject, and until we see exactly what the Education Minister is proposing in terms of the assessments, it is very much business as usual at Howell's. We are carrying on with the planned mock exams and with our tracking process. I am enormously proud of our students and know that they will respond to the changes with resilience and maturity.



On Tuesday, I thoroughly enjoyed hosting our Virtual Senior School Open Morning on Zoom and was delighted that so many Year 6 parents, both from Howell's and from local schools, were able to join us. During the call, parents found out about how we settle students into the Senior School and Ms Edwards and Mrs Crawford talked about our Music and Sport provision. The event culminated with Mrs Darnton, our Head of Digital Learning talking about how we are leveraging information technology for teaching and communicating with students during this unprecedented time. Many thanks to Mrs Hall-Davis for coordinating things so well, and to everyone who made the morning such a success.

Students and staff have been raising funds for BBC Children in Need today. Everyone looked splendid in their finest pyjamas and onesies. 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. A terrific £564 has been raised to date.

Today is tinged with sadness as we say thank you and goodbye to our Director of Finance and Operations, Stephen Thomas. In his year with us he has made a huge impact and has been invaluable in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. We will miss him but wish him the very best of luck in his new role at Atlantic College.

Christmas at Howell's

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Howell's! Plans are afoot for a different festive period this year with a virtual Christmas concert being shared and celebrations within bubbles taking place. My office has undergone a makeover and is looking extremely festive which you can see by [clicking here](#). **On the last day of term Howell's will close for Senior School and College students at 12.45pm and there will be no after school provision.**

National Poetry Day Competitions

What an impossible yet wonderful task the English Department had over half term. They read some of the most beautifully crafted, precise, and imaginative poetry that we have ever seen from any of our annual *National Poetry Day* competitions. [Click here](#) for more information.

CyberFirst Girls Development Virtual Course

We were delighted that two of our Year 9 students applied to participate in this two-day course during their half-term holiday. [Click here](#) for more information.

Future Aspirations Day

On Thursday 12th November, Year 11 took part in a fantastic Future Aspirations Day in the Great Hall. [Click here](#) for more information.

We Will Remember Them

On Armistice Day, Wednesday 11th November, Mr Walters led an extremely moving ceremony in the Stone Hall. [Click here](#) for more information.

Bristol University Schools Debating Competition

Best of Howell's luck to our three teams competing on Sunday in the Bristol University Schools Debating Competition, a British Parliamentary competition for school age students. Frances, Ayesha, Connie, Nayana, Amy and Himani will face a long day of debating their way through the different rounds, and we look forward to hearing how they all get on.

GDST Talks Online Event

We would like to invite you to *'Helping your child understand Covid-19: how to support their mental health and development in a world post Covid'*, a free online presentation, which will take place via Zoom on Thursday 26th November at 6pm.

This is the first **GDST Talks** event, bringing you a series of online presentations from distinguished experts who will share their experience and advice on the pressing issues of the day. By hosting the talks online, the GDST is excited to reach more parents and alumni than ever, and we are very proud to be presenting some truly impressive and accomplished speakers.

This event is suitable for parents with children in Years 7 to 13.

If you would like to attend, please click [here](#) to book your tickets to the event. We do hope you will be able to join us. Please note that although there are a limited number of tickets for this event, it will be recorded and made available to GDST parents afterwards.

For further information about this, and forthcoming events in the GDST Talks series, please click [here](#).

Co-ed College Scholarship Examination

Our Co-Ed College academic scholarship examination for students in Year 11 will take place on Monday 16th November from 4pm to 6pm. Please contact Chrissie Hall-Davis for further details on 029 2026 1832 or by email at admissions@how.gdst.net. If you know of anyone interested in applying for a scholarship do pass on the details.

Have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday when Anti-Bullying Week will begin.

Sally Davis, Principal