

A View FROM THE TOP

Issue No 249



Friday 4th December 2020

The Principal's Update

As we entered the season of Advent this week, my spirits were lifted when I had a preview of the Senior and Youth Choirs' performance of *Carol of the Bells*. It really sounds wonderful and the atmosphere that has been created is magical. [Click here](#) to see the trailer. The full concert will be available to watch on our YouTube channel from 5pm on Thursday 17th December. I suggest warming a mince pie, pulling on a Christmas hat and settling down with your family to view it when it goes live. Many thanks to the Music, Drama, Dance and Marketing departments who are putting this concert together and I know it will be very special memory for the archives and a highlight of this challenging academic year.

I have so enjoyed holding revision sessions with small groups of Year 11 students this week. I hope they have found them useful and are feeling positive about their studies.

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

Examination Update

The latest information on next summer's GCSE and A level examinations for the subjects which are examined by English boards is available by clicking [here](#). I think it is very reassuring and will mean that students will all be able to do their best and show just how great they are. We currently have no more information from the WJEC but as soon as we do, we will let you know.

Modular Dodecahedron Challenge

As part of last week's Maths Week, Year 7 were challenged to make a Modular Dodecahedron and the results were very impressive. [Click here](#) for more information.

Winter and Christmas Poetry Competition 2020

Thank you so much to everyone who submitted a poem for the Winter and Christmas Poetry Competition 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.

Howell's ranked 107th best independent school in England and Wales

I was delighted to hear that the Sunday Times has ranked Howell's as the 107th best independent school in England and Wales, moving up 26 places since last year.

Christmas Charity Donations

We are trying to share some festive cheer again this year by collecting Christmas presents for Barnardo's (Years 7 to 9) and the Huggard Centre for the Homeless (Years 10 to 13). You can bring in your donations any time between now and Thursday 10th December and leave them under the Christmas tree in Stone Hall. They will then be taken to the two charities on Friday 11th December ready for them to hand out by Christmas.



Years 7 to 9

Barnardo's is supporting young families with children up to the age of 5. They would love to have cuddly toys, story books, toys, etc as Christmas presents for the children. They would also appreciate some presents for the young mums (such as toiletries).

Years 10 to 13

The Huggard Centre looks after homeless people in Cardiff. They need toiletries and have asked for the following in particular: shampoo, shower gel, nail care items, deodorant, toothbrushes. Items such as hair bobbles, hairbrushes and combs are very much appreciated too. They cannot accept sanitary products, bath products or anything that has been opened. They would also love some Christmas decorations so they can decorate their intervention centre and hostel to make them look more cheerful at this time of year or art supplies which can be used in their art therapy sessions.

As always, thank you so much for your support and kind donations!

Special Virtual Networking Event

Women of the Future are hosting a special virtual networking event for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 on Monday 7th December at 6.30pm-7.30pm. Students will have the opportunity to meet and connect with multiple ambassadors from across many different sectors. Please note that places are limited and are on a first come first serve basis. [Click here](#) to register for the event.

Females in Tech

Young Professionals are offering female students in Years 11, 12 and 13 the opportunity to attend a *Females in Tech* online event on Tuesday 15th December at 5pm-7pm. The event will include

- An evening with Capgemini, PwC, CGI & BP
- Female senior leaders joining for keynote presentations
- An insight to what a technology career could look like and routes in
- An opportunity to find out about work experience, apprenticeships & graduate placements
- Parents are welcome to join

[Click here](#) to apply.

Follow in their Footsteps

Follow in their Footsteps are offering an opportunity for students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to discover more about EY. [Click here](#) for more information.

Young Professionals Application Support Drop In Sessions

Young Professionals are holding two application support sessions for Year 11 students on Tuesday 15th December, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Students can pick which sessions they would like to attend that fit around their school timetable. The sessions are as follows:

Morning

- 10am - 11am (application process, psychometric testing, digital interviews, assessment centres)
- 11am - 12pm (LinkedIn masterclass and professional networking)

Afternoon

- 1pm - 2pm (application process, psychometric testing, digital interviews, assessment centres)
- 2pm - 3pm (LinkedIn masterclass and professional networking)

[Click here](#) to secure a place.

Reporting in a pandemic: Cardiff University in conversation with... Babita Sharma Tuesday 15th December at 12.30pm

Babita Sharma, BBC News Presenter, joins Karin Wahl-Jorgensen, Professor at the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Culture, to discuss her experiences of reporting in a pandemic. Babita graduated from

Cardiff University with an undergraduate degree in Journalism, Film and Broadcasting, and now presents across BBC News including BBC Breakfast and BBC World News. Details of how to register can be found by [clicking here](#).

GDST Talks Programme

We recently launched the GDST Talks programme with a presentation from Consultant Psychologist Dr Deborah Woodman of Evelina Children's Hospital on how to help your child through COVID-19. You may be interested to watch a recording of the talk, which you can find [here](#). This will be available until Monday 4th January. Please also [click here](#) to read some useful information and links which Dr Woodman shared during the talk. You can find out more about upcoming GDST Talks events [here](#). For further information, please contact hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net.

Sleeping Beauty

The Original Online Panto Company, in partnership with Polka Dot Pantomimes and Ticketmaster Universe, are streaming a beautifully filmed version of Sleeping Beauty with an all-star cast full of spectacular sets, wonderful costumes, song, dance and fun that will run from Monday 14th Dec – Sunday 3rd Jan.

Tickets cost £14.99 plus a 50p processing charge per family, and for every ticket sold Howell's will receive up to £4, which will go to our Bursary Fund. When you buy your ticket, you will be sent a streaming code, and once you activate it you can watch Sleeping Beauty as many times as you like over a 4 day period on a smart TV, tablet or phone. You can also upgrade with your very own individual Christmas video message from Father Christmas.

For more information including a trailer and a link to buy a ticket, visit www.universe.com/howell

I was so sorry that we had to cancel the Sports Awards Dinner in March this year but I am looking forward to hosting the celebration virtually this evening on Zoom; I'm so pleased to have something to get dressed up for! I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to welcoming back Year 12 on Monday 7th December and Years 10 and 13 on Thursday 10th December.

Sally Davis, Principal

Reminder: 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. Buses will be running and will be leaving as soon as possible after the Senior School finishes at 12.45pm.