

A View FROM THE TOP



Friday 1st October 2021

The Principal's Update

Today marks the start of October and this month we are proud to celebrate Black History Month and remember the value of diversity at Howell's. This week, a statue of Betty Campbell was unveiled in Cardiff's Central Square, the first statue of a named, non-fictional woman in a public space in all of Wales. Mrs Campbell was the first black woman to become a headteacher in Wales. Under her leadership, Mount Stuart primary in Butetown became a model for best practice in equality and multicultural education throughout the UK, but growing up she had been told that a Black working-class woman could never reach the academic heights to which she aspired – but she had proved them wrong. This weekend I will take the time to visit the sculpture and pay tribute to a woman who was an educator, community leader and race relations campaigner who met Nelson Mandela – but always had time to call out the bingo numbers at a local event or sign a passport photo for a former pupil.



This morning the whole school, from Nursery to Co-Ed College, came together virtually for our Harvest Festival. I am extremely grateful to students, staff and parents for their generous offerings, which will be shared between Barnardo's, City Hospice and Reaching Out, a local foodbank. It was especially lovely to listen to some fabulous musical performances from the Senior Choir, the whole school orchestra and Prep School students live streamed into assembly for all to enjoy. Thank you to Mrs Morrey, Miss Jenkins and students and staff who made it such a special occasion.

Yesterday it was wonderful to welcome families, both from Howell's and local schools to our Co-Ed College Open Night and it was particularly special to welcome them to Howell's safely in person. Students had the opportunity to attend taster lessons, while their parents attended short information sessions during which they found out more about College life and the opportunities it brings. Thank you to Mrs Hall-Davis and all staff and students who made the event so successful.

As you receive this update, our GCSE musicians are showcasing their excellent musical talents in a delightful tea concert in the Great Hall in front of a small audience of parents and staff. Thank you to all the students who are taking part and to Ms Edwards and the Music department for making the end of the week so special.

Music Exam Success

Many congratulations to Elin B, Year 10, who passed her grade 4 flute exam and to Phoebe C, Year 8, who passed her grade 4 clarinet exam. Very well done to you both.

European Day of Languages

Last week we celebrated European Day of Languages with a week-long Languages Week. [Click here](#) for more information.

Are You Ready to Step Through the Looking Glass?

Welcome to Wonderland as you've never seen it before. It's almost time for the curtain to go up on Alice, starring students from Year 8 to Year 12. Laura Wade's contemporary adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic follows Alice, a young girl with a vivid imagination and a family life that's less than perfect as she escapes her chaotic home for a topsy-turvy world of rabbit holes, pocket watches and talking caterpillars. Alice will be performed in the Great Hall for four nights, Monday 18th to Thursday 21st October, at 6pm. This is a modern production, and is suitable for children from Year 5 and up.

All tickets are £10, and the price includes pre-show tea and cake at the Hatter's Tea Party at Howell's from 5.15pm.

Tickets will go on pre-sale to the cast on Saturday 2nd October, and will be on general sale from Tuesday 5th October. All ticket sales will be online, using Evolve, and a link to the box office will be emailed to parents once ticket sales are live. Tickets will be distributed the week before the show. Please contact the school directly if you have any special access requirements.

School Health Research Network Survey – Wednesday 13th October

Every two years, the school takes part in a National Student Health and Wellbeing Survey led by Cardiff University. The survey is completed online during school time and we will receive a student Health and Wellbeing Report next year which will give us data about a number of aspects regarding young people's health and wellbeing. This helps us to improve our School provision. Please follow the link by [clicking here](#) for a letter from the School Health Research Network which gives parents/carers the full information. Please note if you wish to withdraw your child from the survey, we must have this in writing.

Howell's Book Week

Howell's Book Week starts on Monday 4th October and the theme this year is '*Animal Tales*' so we'll be focusing on stories, poems and films that feature our furry, feathered and scaly friends. As well as our Book Week Creative Competitions that were launched this week – great for the artists, writers and poets in our School and College – we have lots of Book Week events lined up. We will be hunting for our Year 7 spelling champion with our Year 7 Spelling Bee at break on Monday, the bookiest brains will battle it out in our Big Book Week House Quiz at lunch on Tuesday and we have a We're Going on a Bear (Treasure) Hunt on Wednesday. We are especially looking forward to the Own Clothes Day on Friday, 8th October, where we invite the Senior School and College to come dressed with an 'animal theme' or own clothes for the day. We're hoping to see a menagerie wandering the corridors of Howell's! Details of all our competitions and events and how to take part are available on the Library Firefly pages by [clicking here](#).

National Poetry Competition

This Thursday will see the launch of this year's National Poetry Day competition. The theme is Choices, so it's time for students to start thinking about where that theme may guide their writing.

Whole School Open Day

Our whole school Open Day for prospective parents and students will take place on Saturday 16th October from 9.00am until 2.00pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to look around the school and talk to staff members over a coffee and a Welsh cake. To register, please email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2026 1832.

Year 7 Taster Day – Saturday 16th October

On Saturday 16th October, Year 6 students will have the opportunity to discover more about what our Senior School has to offer and experience life in Year 7 first-hand. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in attending. To register, please email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2026 1832.

Bringing Up Britain

On the evening of Wednesday 29th September, the GDST's Director of Innovation and Learning, Kevin

Stannard discussed the many benefits of single sex education on BBC Radio 4's Bringing Up Britain. [Click here](#) to listen to the programme.

Kings Camps

We are delighted to be hosting Kings Camps activity camps again this half-term. Kings will be returning this October following a fantastic summer and will be getting children active, having fun and learning together.

With Multi Active, Teen Active and Rookie Academy offering age-appropriate games and activities for 5-17 year olds, Kings Camps is the place to be to keep your child active this half-term.

With flexible cover between 8.15am-5.45pm, Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October, it's the perfect holiday cover.

[Click here](#) for further details or to book your places. or call Kings Camps Membership Team on 01142632160.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend.

Sally Davis, Principal