

A View FROM THE TOP



Friday 22nd October 2021

The Principal's Update

The first half term of this academic year really has gone by in the blink of an eye. It has been an incredibly busy six weeks and I am enormously grateful to all students and staff who have worked so hard in what continue to be uncertain and unpredictable times.

The half term has ended on such a high with the tremendous production of *Alice* which has delighted audiences throughout the week. It is always an enjoyable challenge to stage such a production in just a few short weeks, but never more so than during the times we are currently living through, and I am so very grateful to everyone involved who have made it possible. You can read more about it later in this update.



Today, Howell's has been a sea of green in support of Go Green Day. Students and staff have been decorated in all shades of green and have made generous donations to the Cardiff based environmental charity Size of Wales, which helps protect and sustain an area of tropical rainforest now equivalent to double the size of Wales. Thank you to all students and staff who supported the day, raising funds for this vital organisation. [Click here](#) for more information.

Traffic Safety Measures

I have recently been contacted by a Llandaff resident regarding traffic safety measures in this area. I have offered my support to a petition asking Cardiff Council to implement effective traffic calming and speed control measures to ensure students and our community are as safe as possible when walking and travelling to and from school. [Click here](#) to view the petition.

Fairtrade Stall

On Thursday 21st October we held Fairtrade stall at break in the Day Room. Congratulations to Sophie in Year 11 and Dora in Year 7 who won the raffle for entering the Fairtrade Chocolate Quiz. [Click here](#) for more information. Many thanks to all the staff and students who made it such a success.

Black History Month in the History Department

During October, the History Department has invited students to take part in sessions to learn more about black history as part of Black History Month. [Click here](#) for more information.

A Wonderful Wonderland

This week has seen the transformation of the Great Hall into a wonderland for our first school production in two years, a sold-out run of Laura Wade's contemporary adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic Alice in Wonderland. [Click here](#) for more information.

Qui est l'homme de couleur?

To celebrate Black History Month in the French department, students have completed a listening activity on the very thought-provoking and relevant poem *Cher frère blanc* by Léopold Sédar Senghor. [Click here](#) for more information.

HeadsUp@Howell's - French Department

As part of HeadsUp@Howell's Week, students were asked to think about things that made them happy and increased their well-being. [Click here](#) for more information.

Amelie takes part in Dance Festival Wales

On Sunday 17th October, Year 8's Amelie S competed in Dance Festival Wales at the Cardiff City Stadium. [Click here](#) for more information.

Howell's Eco Team – Transform Our World Youth Summit

We are delighted to announce that Lydia P in Year 11, a dedicated and loyal member of the Eco Team has recently become a Youth Ambassador for the Transform Our World Youth Summit. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebration Tea – Monday 18th October 2021

On Monday 18th October, Mrs Davis was delighted to host a Celebration Tea in the Board Room for students in the Senior School and College. [Click here](#) for more information.

Impossible Choices

The theme of National Poetry Day 2021 was choices, yet choosing a winner was a challenge as always. [Click here](#) for more information.

Digital Earth's Climate System Event for students in Years 7 to 9

If students in Years 7-9 are interested in creating their own digital story about the earth's climate system they might want to join this event which takes place on November 16th between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

Charity at Howell's 2021-2022

Supporting charities is important to us here at Howell's and in these challenging times, in particular, we still want to support some of the charities that mean so much to members of our school community.

Upcoming events

On Friday 19th November (note the change of date) we will be fundraising for Children in Need. As an own-clothes day the theme will be pyjamas and we would like to encourage all students and staff to dress in this way. Thank you to everybody who has already donated to our own-clothes day charities but please see below if you have still not contributed. During our Children in Need day there will be events for each year group: Years 7 and 8 will be holding various stalls with a 'games' theme, Years 9, 10 and 11 will have a Just Dance event and there will be an opportunity to contribute to some silver coin art! We will also be selling cookies on the day at breaktime with the profit going to Children in Need. Please do ensure that your child has coins to donate to the various events taking place.

Own-clothes days

We have set-up JustGiving pages for all the Own Clothes Days and are asking you to make your donations by House (please give name and first letter of surname as well as form group when you make the donation). The donations will then be sent to the different charities:

- **Trotter** – [click here to donate](#)
- **Kendall** – [click here to donate](#)
- **Baldwin** – [click here to donate](#)
- **Lewis** – [click here to donate](#)

The Size of Wales
Children in Need
City Hospice
Velindre

The ToyBox Project

This Christmas we are supporting the [Toy Box Project](#) which is a charity that collects unwanted toys via its network of community drop off points, where they then work with partners to gift quality toys to families and organisations in need within Cardiff, Caerphilly and surrounding areas. Since launching in March 2021, they have provided toys for use by over 900 children in the Cardiff and surrounding areas. Their approach has also kept the weight of 4 baby whales worth of toys out of landfill.

In the week of the 29th November we are asking that you bring in any unwanted used or new toys – this might include dolls, games, books and puzzles. The Toy Box Project can work with partners to repair broken toys and add missing pieces so please do use this opportunity to donate all unwanted toys. All donations are welcome.

We thank you for all your support!

Raise her up

The murder of George Floyd in May 2020 brought about a cultural shift in the way many of us now speak about racism and discrimination. Moved on by a groundswell of people across the globe demanding change, we have revisited how we perceive and address these issues. In the workplace, this might have involved more focused Unconscious Bias training, learning to be more culturally sensitive and taking a more open and curious approach to our community and colleagues. What about at home, and at school?

In episode 5 of Raise Her Up, journalist and communication consultant Genelle Aldred offers suggestions and guidance to help us be better listeners, readers, watchers and talkers. If we want to make a positive difference, we have to know how to recognise our own biases and blind spots – only then can we understand how to be part of the solution and start having meaningful conversations. [Click here](#) to listen to the podcast.

Medical Mavericks

Our partners at Medical Mavericks have a host of short video clips about a whole range of careers for medical and allied health care professions. [Click here](#) for more information.

I really hope everyone manages to have some rest over the half term and I look forward to welcoming students and staff back on Monday 8th November.

Sally Davis, Principal