

A View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 235

Friday 14th February 2020

The Principal's Update

Following on from Children's Mental Health Week last week, wellbeing continues to be at heart of everything we do at Howell's. Kindness has been the buzzword this week as we have celebrated Kindness Week. I have been delighted to see so many random acts of kindness taking place throughout Howell's. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Hub @ Howell's was a hive of activity on Wednesday morning. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this week's Parent Pyramid, I am extremely grateful to everyone who so generously volunteers their time to help and support us. It really does demonstrate what a special community we have at Howell's. A group of alumni then joined us for us for coffee, cake and conversation for the Hywelians in the Hub coffee morning. It was a lovely occasion, 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. It was a particularly special morning as we celebrated one of our alumni's birthday.



Yesterday evening, the Year 11 Parents' Meeting took place and it was great to hear about the progress students are making as they approach their GCSE examinations.

Love has been in the air throughout Howell's today in celebration of Valentine's Day. Our Rotary Interact Committee has been selling roses to raise funds for Bushenyi Water Harvest Project, as well as slate hearts and love spoons this week in aid of the Velindre Cancer Centre.

Kindness Champions Cake Sale for UNICEF

Our Year 12 Kindness Champions recently decided to support UNICEF's aid work in respect of the Yemen crisis. [Click here](#) for more information.

Language Discovery Day

Last Friday, 7th February, 12 students from Year 8 participated in a Language Discovery Day at Cardiff University. [Click here](#) for more information.

Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu visits Howell's

On Friday 7th February, it was a privilege to welcome high profile lawyer, founder of the Women in Leadership publication and political and women's rights activist, Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu to Howell's. [Click here](#) for more information.

Youth Speaks

Enormous congratulations to our Year 8 Youth Speaks Public Speaking team who participated in the District Final of the competition on Saturday at Islwyn High School. [Click here](#) for more information.

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Bach to The Beatles

Our Friday afternoon Tea Concerts have become a firm favourite in the musical life at Howell's and on Friday 7th February our A Level Music students and Music scholars treated the audience to a wonderful hour of magnificent music making ranging from Bach to The Beatles. [Click here](#) for more information.

Music students delight patients at City Hospice

On Thursday 13th February, our Year 10 Music students travelled to City Hospice in Whitchurch where they delighted patients with a short concert. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tennis Wales Awards Win For Elizabeth

Congratulations to Year 7's Elizabeth E, whose team won Team of the Year at the Tennis Wales Awards on Saturday 8th February. Elizabeth and the rest of the team represented Wales at the Home Nations last September and they were victorious against Scotland, England and Ireland. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tilly Keeps Dancing

Congratulations to Tilly T, Year 10, who braved the storms to travel north and dance at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom last weekend. [Click here](#) for more information.

GHCQ consider what makes a 'good' summer holiday.

On Tuesday 11th February, our lunchtime GCHQ group considered what makes a 'good' summer holiday with the GDST's Compliance and Training Manager Mary Sansom. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebration Tea

On Wednesday I was delighted to welcome a group of College, Senior School and Prep School students to my office for a Celebration Tea. [Click here](#) to find out what we celebrated.

Take Your Daughter To Work Day Posters

This week, Mrs House has had the pleasure of looking at the Year 8 posters produced in their ICT lessons for Take Your Daughter To Work Day. The posters are of an excellent standard and very informative about the range of careers they explored, along with the skills and qualities required to be successful. For the first time, two students produced a lively video summarizing their day. Prizes have been awarded for exceptional work to Lois B, Greta C, Keziah E, Maryam M-L, Samira Q and Emily T, which the students can collect after half term.

Duke's Essay Prize

The Duke's Essay Prize is open to all students in Years 11 and 12. It is inspired by the famous entrance test for All Souls College, Oxford, where students write an essay in response to a single word, from the perspective of a specific academic subject. Entering competitions like these is a great addition to university applications, especially for competitive courses where students are expected to show engagement with their subject beyond the curriculum – plus students can win up to £500. We encourage any student considering applying for a competitive university course to enter. More details can be found on the [Essay Prize page](#) or on the Academic Development area on Firefly.

Unravelling the universe at Howell's – an opportunity for Year 11 students

We will be delighted to welcome three PhD students from Cardiff University to Howell's on Tuesday 25th February for an exciting addition to our lecture series at 3.45-4.45pm in the Dining Room. They will be talking around the theme of "Unravelling the Universe: Our Journey" and their presentations will be a mix of cosmology and galaxy evolution, exoplanets, an overview of condensed matter physics and what life as a theorist and astronomer is like. The talk is open to all Year 11 students, and we would particularly encourage students considering taking science subjects at A-Level to attend.

World Scholars Cup Preparation Update

The first three weeks of our preparation for the World Scholar's Cup have focussed on editing a planet, succession in history and beyond, and how we deal with mistakes. We will be continuing to release World

Scholar's Cup curriculum materials on Firefly over the next three weeks before selecting teams early in March. It is not too late for anyone interested in taking part in the World Scholar's Cup, to start preparing. The materials are on Firefly and can be found on the World Scholar's Cup website. Half term is a perfect time to catch up.

Eco School Bag-2-School Collection

There will be a charity Bag-2-School clothing and textiles collection at Howell's on Wednesday 4th March. For Senior School and College, bags are available from form tutors. Donations of all sizes are warmly welcomed. We hope you find time over this coming half term break to have an early spring clean clothing sort out. The bag drop-off point is at the bandstand in the main car park.

Climate Week

The first week after half term, commencing on Monday 24th February, is Climate Week. [Click here](#) for more information.

Diary Dates

Whole School Open Morning

We will hold our next Open Morning for our Nursery, Prep School, Senior School and College on Tuesday 25th February from 9am-11am, so why not come and see for yourself what goes on during a morning at Howell's? Call in on the day, or for further information email admissions@how.gdst.net or telephone 029 2026 1832. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think may be interested in finding out more.

Second Hand Uniform Sale – Tuesday 3rd March

The next second hand uniform sale will take place on Tuesday 3rd March in the Hub from 8-9am and 3-5pm. Prices will be between £1 and £5, cash only, no cheques. All funds raised go to the Bursary Fund.

Donations of current uniform are very welcome, and can be left with Mrs Hatcher in the Prep School or brought to the main reception in the Senior School.

Spring Concert

This year's Spring Concert takes place on Thursday 26th March at 6pm. It promises to be a very special musical evening, culminating in a performance of Faure's beautiful *Requiem*. The following groups will be taking part: all Year 7 students, Senior Orchestra, Senior Choir, College Choir, Flute Group, Senior Jazz and the Performing Arts Group. Tickets (£10 for adults and free for under 18s) will be on sale from Senior School reception from Monday 24th February and include a drink in the interval. Please note that on this occasion the seating is unreserved.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Howell's on Monday 24th February.

Sally Davis, Principal