

A View FROM THE TOP



Friday 19th March 2021

The Principal's Update

Welcome to my first "not virtual" *View From the Top* of 2021. It really has been wonderful to welcome students and staff safely back to Howell's this week and hear the hustle and bustle throughout the buildings which I have missed so much. I have really enjoyed seeing friendships rekindled as well as classroom teaching recommencing.

In the Senior School, we have welcomed Years 10 and 11 back fully, and as well as lessons they have undertaken wellbeing sessions including a coffee and a chat, and gratitude sessions with alumna Chloe Smith, which you can read more about later in this update. Year 7, 8 and 9 have each enjoyed two reconnect days and they have participated in wellbeing activities including: gratitude sessions, a chat and hot chocolate, Girls on Board friendship activities as well as face-to-face lessons and much more. I hope they have enjoyed being back as much as I have enjoyed seeing them and hearing the renewed energy in the corridors.

During assembly this morning I focussed on Comic Relief and how it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. We need the power of funny to turn laughs into lasting change.

Today, Year 8 have been dipping their toes into the world of work at their virtual Howell's Business Challenge Day. Many thanks to Mrs House and Mrs Thelwell for organising the day which I hope the girls enjoyed and found beneficial. Look out for a full write up next week.

Super Spring Bunting

Our new Head of Product Design, Mr Williams, thoroughly enjoyed delivering a reconnect session for Year 8 students on Wednesday 19th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

Leaves of Gratitude

It really has been wonderful to welcome back Senior School students this week and they have participated in "gratitude" sessions with alumna Chloe Smith. [Click here](#) for more information.

Poppy receives a handwritten letter from Sir David Attenborough

Year 7's Poppy M was excited and delighted to receive a response to her letter from her hero, Sir David Attenborough. [Click here](#) for more information.

Jasmine's Dance Squad Selection

We were delighted to hear that Jasmine W, Year 11, has been selected as part of the Strictly School of Dancing's Elite Squad. [Click here](#) for more information.



February Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Mia R in Year 8 for winning the raffle for the February Reading Challenge. [Click here](#) for more information.

Welsh Schools' Debating Competition

Frances and Ayesha, Year 13, were runners up in the Welsh Schools' Debate during which the Mace format was used. In the individual debating competition, Nayana K, Year 10, was crowned the winner. Well done girls!

Debating in Bristol

Over the weekend of Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th March, four novice teams took part in a Bristol debating competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

ESU Public Speaking Competition

Many congratulations to the Howell's team who competed in the recent ESU Public Speaking Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Young People's Advisory Panel

At the start of this year, Hannalise G, Year 10, was chosen to be a member of the Young People's Advisory Panel to work with Sally Holland, the Children's Commissioner for Wales over a two-year period. On Tuesday 15th March, she attended a panel meeting with the Commissioner, and she has been asked to join Sally at a meeting next week with the First Minister, where they will be discussing the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown on young people. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Alumna Eira Interviewed on Radio Wales

We were delighted to hear alumna Eira Culverwell interviewed on BBC Radio Wales on the evening of Tuesday 16th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

Letters of Kindness

The idea for this week's challenge is from Literature Wales and the Children's Laureate Wales: Eloise Williams. [Click here](#) for more information

GDST Talks

The next GDST Talks event will take place on Wednesday 24th March and will feature Dr Sinéad Devine-French talking about the psychology of sleep. This event will take place on 24th March at 6pm via Zoom and is suitable for parents with children in Years 3-13. To book your place, please click [here](#). If you would like to find out more about GDST Talks, there is information [here](#).

Second Hand Uniform Sale

There will be an appointment-only second-hand uniform sale held in the Hub on Wednesday 7th April, during the Easter holiday. Details of how to book an appointment will be available next week.

We would be very grateful for any donations of uniform; in particular Prep School dresses (winter and summer), or any Senior School PE kit. If you have uniform your daughter or son has outgrown, bagged donations can be brought into school and left in the bandstand in the main school car park. All donations will be quarantined before the sale.

Beauty and the Beast at the Wales Millennium Centre—Join us for Opening Night, Thursday 9th December

After the success of our evenings of theatre with *Les Misérables* and *Matilda* in previous years, we are delighted that once again, as part of our partnership with the Wales Millennium Centre, we will be returning to the Centre when the most enchanted musical of all time, *Beauty and the Beast*, comes to Cardiff in 2021.

Spectacularly reimagined using the latest theatrical innovations, this beloved 'tale as old as time' will be brought to life on stage like never before. Disney first debuted *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway 26 years ago, the original creative team have reunited on this new production that features all of the spellbinding music and lyrics of Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice.

We have an allocation of 150 tickets for the opening night of this fantastic production, which will be available to buy after Easter.

An Evening with Dr Alex George

EY Apprenticeships is hosting an online event on Monday 29 March 2021, from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. They will be joined by A&E television Doctor, Dr Alex George, who will be talking about the importance of looking after our mental health. Dr Alex has recently been appointed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson as Youth Mental Health Ambassador, so this is a topic he is truly passionate about. This session will be run as a Q&A and taking questions from the audience. [Click here](#) to apply.

InvestIN Summer Internships

InvestIN is hosting a live Q&A session on summer internships in 2021 for students and parents on Wednesday 24th March at 7.00pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to an enjoyable last week of the spring term starting on Monday.

Sally Davis, Principal