

# Virtual View FROM THE TOP



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## The Principal's Update

We have reached the end of another extraordinary term at Howell's. I can't tell you how much I have missed the buzz in the corridors since our physical doors have been closed for the majority of students since the beginning of the Spring Term. I do hope it's not long before we can reopen fully and I get to see the smiling faces of students and staff once again. As ever, I have been enormously impressed by the way both students and staff have adapted to online learning showing tremendous adaptability and resilience.



A light has shone on debating this week and I was so pleased to hear about the success of our debating teams in both the Oxford and GDST Mace Debating Competitions. Congratulations to all our debaters, particularly to Ayesha A and Frances D T who won the GDST competition and are through to the next round of the Oxford Competition. Details can be found later in this update.

On Wednesday, our House Captains launched our Herio@Howell's Eisteddfod challenge. Creativity is at the heart of Herio@Howell's with students able to take part in 15 challenges from cooking to dancing, from decorating pebbles to designing Welsh themed emojis and much more. I look forward to seeing the entries in the coming weeks.

It was lovely to see a sea of red during assembly this morning, as students and staff participated in Wear Red for Wales and Velindre. Many thanks to everyone who supported the day, raising £756 for the Velindre Cancer Centre, a specialist facility based in Whitchurch, which cares for cancer patients. My "This is the Way" assembly this morning continued the theme of the importance of expressing yourself. Mrs Cockburn interviewed Year 11's Grace M who has reached the national final of the Chrystall Carter Public Speaking Competition. During the regional round, Grace discussed LGBTQ+ representation in film and television and she goes on to compete in the national final in March. Well done and good luck, Grace!

### **Amelie qualifies to represent Wales in the Dance World Cup 2021**

Many congratulations to Year 7's Amelie S who has qualified to represent Wales in the Dance World Cup 2021. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Creative Crunch and February Love Reading Challenge**

Last week's Creative Crunch challenge was on the theme of 'Unwritten Books' and yet again, we had a number of brilliant responses. [Click here](#) for more information on this and our February Love Reading Challenge.

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## Belonging

If you would like to enjoy some more short stories from our fabulous creative writers on the theme of 'Belonging', [click here](#).

## Eisteddfod Bards

To find out more about this year's Eisteddfod Senior and Junior Bard Competitions, [click here](#).

## GDST Mace Debating Success

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, Frances D-T and Ayesha A in Year 13 took part and came first in the GDST Mace Debating competition against sixth formers from Northampton, Shrewsbury, and Bath. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Oxford Schools Debating Competition

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> four teams from Howell's took part in the south Wales regional rounds of the Oxford Schools Debating Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

## University Offers Incoming

With offers flying in from universities across the UK we are very proud to see our students engaging with their Guided Home Learning in preparation for their progression to university this Autumn. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Academic Scholars' Puzzle Selection

The College Academic Scholars have put together a selection of their favourite types of puzzles with something for all ages from 'Where's Wally' to advanced maths. We hope you enjoy them. [Click here](#) to download the puzzle book.

## GDST Oxbridge – Laying the Track

On Tuesday evening Mrs Harrison-Hughes and Mr Walters hosted the third of this term's 'GDST Oxbridge Laying the Track' Zoom sessions for students in Years 10-12 from across the GDST. With a focus on the applications process to study at Oxford and Cambridge, we were joined by current Year 13 students Rookmini M and Lucy H, who both have offers to study at Cambridge, as well as GDST alumni at various stages in their undergraduate studies. We were pleased to see so many Howell's students join us. The 'Laying the Track' programme continues after half term. Keep an eye on your emails for Zoom meeting links.

## Senior School Virtual Open Event

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we will be holding a Virtual Open Event for prospective Senior School students and parents. Mrs Davis will be hosting Zoom call for parents and students at 4pm and all our current Year 5 parents will be invited to attend. During the call, families will find out more about the academic offer as well as the extracurricular opportunities available. For further information about the event please email [admissions@how.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@how.gdst.net). Please do pass the information on to anyone you think might be interested in attending.

## GDST Talks

The speaker for the next GDST Talks event on 18th March at 6pm on Zoom is Emma Gleadhill, who will be talking about Getting Your Daughter Through Puberty. Emma Gleadhill is an educator and specialist in child and adolescent development. With over twenty years of experience in education, including 6 years as a Deputy Head, Emma's work centres on relationships, mental health, wellbeing and the emotional aspects of parenting. She brings research-based insights into what drives human behaviour and family dynamics, and how small tweaks can make a big impact in our relationships with ourselves and with others. She will be sharing her experience and advice on how the different types of modern family can support their children through puberty with family relationships and wellbeing intact. This event is suitable for parents with children in Years 6-13. To book your place, click [here](#).

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### **Deloitte work experience Years 11-12**

Immerse yourself in Deloitte's friendly, diverse and welcoming community for two or three action-packed days. [Click here](#) to apply.

### **Engineering Degree Apprenticeship at The Dyson Institute**

A BEng (Hons) Engineering degree apprenticeship at The Dyson Institute is different. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **DE&S Apprenticeship & Graduate Schemes**

The Ministry of Defence is offering apprenticeship and graduate opportunities. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Guide to Career Options 2021**

The brand new Guide to Career Options 2021 has gone digital, and you can view it by [clicking here](#).

### **Online Babysitting Course**

Develop your skills in employability by becoming a trusted babysitter with this online course from [Norland College](#). Remember that parents are trusting you with their children. If you are **between the ages of 14 and 17** your legal guardian can apply for jobs for you. Only when you are **18 years old** you can have your own account and apply for jobs yourself.

I hope everyone enjoys the well-deserved half term break, and I will look forward to being back in Howell's on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, when virtual Spring Assessments will begin for students in Year 11.

**Sally Davis, Principal**