

Virtual View **FROM THE TOP**

Issue No 2



Friday 12th June 2020

The Principal's Update

The arrival of the rain has done nothing to dampen spirits in Howell's this week. During my virtual assembly on Monday morning I congratulated students and staff on all they have learnt during the Guided Home Learning period and challenged everybody to try something new. I very much enjoyed seeing staff members attempt to juggle and was hugely impressed by their efforts.

On Thursday, everyone at school did something they had never done before as we held our first ever Virtual Open Day. Our visitors had the opportunity to explore Howell's virtually and meet members of staff on Zoom. Do take a look at our special Open Day web page by [clicking here](#). Many thanks to all the staff and students who made the day such a success and watch this space for our next Virtual Open Day.



At lunchtime yesterday, I thoroughly enjoyed hosting a Bollywood themed party for the students whose parents are key workers. Students brought their own lunch and enjoyed a very special screening of the Howell's 'Dance Fusion' show which had taken place in January this year which was accompanied by popcorn and ice cream,

Many students will be sad and angry about the racial injustices and events that took place in America recently, and I'm sure they are asking questions at home. As we process our own thoughts and feelings, it can be difficult to know what to say, or how much to say to our children and teens. Please [click here](#) to read an article you may find of interest by Karen Young at Hey Sigmund. As a school, we are looking for ways to ensure all our community feels heard. If you wish to contact me with any thoughts on this, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Next week is HeadsUp@Howell's. Students will be used to us talking about the importance of looking after your wellbeing, which is particularly important at the moment. During the week we will be focussing on positive wellbeing in all its forms: connecting with others; engaging in creative and sporting activities; being thoughtful about our relationship with our devices; and knowing how to manage our mind in difficult times. [Click here](#) to access our calendar of wellbeing challenges. [Click here](#) to view our HeadsUp poster. Many thanks to Mrs Chyba for leading this important week and putting together such an engaging programme of events.

Rotary Interact Committee 2020-21

We are very pleased to announce the new Rotary Interact Committee for 2020-21. [Click here](#) for more information.

TikTok

Please [click here](#) to see a TikTok poster from for parents and carers, which has recently been published by the Welsh Government.

Keeping Safe Online

The Welsh Government digital resilience team has published the latest Keeping Safe Online news roundup which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Linguascope Pancake Challenge

Mme Lewis and Mme Jourdren recently sent out information to French students about the Linguascope Pancake Challenge. Linguascope has created a recipe sheet in French to challenge students of all ages to make crêpes at home. Students are encouraged to tweet pictures of their crêpes with the #DefiCrepes hashtag or they can email their photographs to hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net who will share on the Howell's Twitter page. The challenge will be open throughout the whole of June and three winners will be selected and announced in early July. The winners will win Linguascope gift vouchers for their school. Bonne chance tout le monde!

Virtual Summer Concert

Plans are underway for an exciting Virtual Summer Concert, which will take place at the end of term. This will be another fantastic opportunity for Prep, Senior and College students to come together as a Howell's community and end the academic year on a high. In order to be involved, students should participate in the weekly virtual choir and orchestra rehearsals, which are available on the relevant Firefly and Teams pages. Please contact Ms Edwards (A.Edwards@how.gdst.net) if you require any further information; further details of how to view the concert will be provided nearer the time.

Virtual Sports Day

This year on Wednesday 17th June we will be hosting our first ever virtual sports day. The house captains have been busy filming motivational videos for all the students so please go to our [firefly](#) page to hear from them! Also on the page you will find twne challenges for sports day. Students can practise them in preparation for sports day, then all scores will need to be submitted via 'teams' on the day. We will be giving live updates via the Howell's YouTube channel. It's going to be a great day!

Careers News

Please be reminded that the Senior School Careers Department has a [Guided Home Learning](#) page which is updated each week with information that reaches us from external providers. This week some businesses have started to provide some virtual work experience which may be particularly helpful to Year 11. [Click here](#) to see the page.

Allied Health Professionals are providing a series of webinars with dates to choose from upon registration.

- Webinar 3 is aimed at Years 10 - 11
- Webinar 4 is aimed at Years 7 - 9
- Webinar 5 is aimed at Parents and Carers

The Smallpiece Trust is offering two virtual engineering events:

- Year 11: A Crash Course in Railway Crashworthiness on 20th - 23rd July
- Year 9: Engineering Experience on 10th -13th August

[Click here](#) for full details of these events.

Wales Wellbeing Survey

I am pleased to be able to promote a Wales Wellbeing Survey. Please do fill this in if you can. Swansea University and Cardiff University are supporting a national survey aiming to understand how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the mental health and emotional well-being of people across Wales. To access the survey, or gain more information about it, please [click here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend.

Sally Davis, Principal