

Virtual View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 3

Friday 19th June 2020

The Principal's Update

Mental health and wellbeing have been at the forefront of everything we have done at Howell's this week. On Monday, it was a pleasure to launch our Heads Up at Howell's Week during my virtual assembly, which you can see by [clicking here](#). The focus of the week has been on positive wellbeing: the importance of connecting with others; engaging in creative and sporting activities; being thoughtful about our relationship with our devices; and knowing how to manage our minds in difficult times. Do take a look at our [Twitter](#) feed to see some of the activities that have taken place throughout the week. Many thanks to Mrs Chyba for all she has done to make the week such a success.



I am delighted that Howell's will open for three weeks from Monday 29th June in order to reconnect with students, who I have missed so much over the past three months. I realise that our term should finish on Thursday 9th July but staff have agreed to work until Friday 17th July to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend Howell's before the end of term. The purpose of the reconnect days is to for students check in with us and each other. It will be an opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with a new way of working, as at present I anticipate we will not be physically fully open in September. You will have received a specific message regarding your daughter's year group and the days when they will be able to return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all.

This week's treat for our key worker students revolved around the Virtual Sports Day, which you can read more about later in this update. Everyone enjoyed participating in the warm ups and all the challenges that took place throughout the day. They thoroughly enjoyed tucking in to delicious strawberries and cream during one of the breaks.

New Senior Leader and Prefect Team

Many congratulations to our new Senior Leader and Prefect Team which you can see by [clicking here](#). We were so impressed with their video applications and know they will relish and make a success of their new roles.

Virtual Sports Day

On Wednesday 17th June, Howell's held its first Virtual Sports Day. [Click here](#) for find out more about the day.

Debating Virtually

On Saturday 13th June, two excellent teams from the Senior School debated in a virtual GDST competition for students in Years 7-9 and a group of students from the College had the opportunity to judge the competition. [Click here](#) to read Frances D-T's (Year 13) report of the day.

Leigha writes song about the importance of the rain forest

We have been so impressed by the way students have embraced Guided Home Learning and have demonstrated amazing creativity in their work. Leigha S, Year 9, wrote a fantastic song about the importance of the rainforest as part of her Geography studies on ecosystems. [Click here](#) to see the video and listen to the song. Wonderful work, Leigha!

Get Caught House Photography Competition

We were absolutely delighted that so many students and staff entered this year's Get Caught (Reading, Baking, Exercising, Gardening, With your Pet) House Photography Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Making Our Voices Heard

Himani K, Year 10, has created the most fantastic Black Lives Matter display which has been put up in the Senior School. This week our Young Leaders Team has also put together an assembly for students to watch. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

Wales Wellbeing Survey

There is still time to participate in the Wales Wellbeing Survey, which you and your daughters and sons are welcome to complete. Swansea University and Cardiff University are supporting a national survey aiming to understand how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people across Wales. To access the survey, or gain more information about it, please [click here](#).

Year 11 Online Biomedical Engineering

In August, there will be an online biomedical engineering course taking place for Year 11 students. The course will include content delivered by the University of Southampton. [Click here](#) for full details.

International Women in Engineering Day

International Women in Engineering Day takes place on Tuesday 23 June and to celebrate they have launched a poster competition for students aged between 11 and 18 and a Soapbox Race Car competition for under 11s. [Click here](#) for more information. What will you do to celebrate INWED 2020? Find some STEM activities to do at home by [clicking here](#), including some Dyson Challenges and take a selfie holding a INWED selfie to send to us.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Virtual Classroom

PwC has launched its new Virtual Classroom, which is a programme open to all students in Years 10 to 13. The programme combines both live and pre-recorded sessions which will provide an insight into PwC and an opportunity to develop employability skills. [Click here](#) for more information.

World After COVID-19 Competition

UCL's openDemocracy has launched its World After COVID-19 Competition for school and university students aged 14 and over. [Click here](#) for more information.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to Diversity Fortnight, which begins on Monday.

Sally Davis, Principal