

# Virtual View FROM THE TOP



Issue No 1.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## The Principal's Update

A very warm welcome to the first edition of my *Virtual View from the Top* which I hope you like reading. In spite of our physical doors being closed we are very much open for "Business as Unusual" and you will see it is an incredibly busy time at Howell's.

I hope you are keeping well in these unusual times, and were able to take advantage of the glorious weather over half term. The past few months have been the strangest I have experienced during my entire teaching career. I have been enormously proud of all our students and staff who have adapted so quickly to our new Guided Home Learning programme and Virtual School. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and feedback during this extraordinary time. It is wonderful to receive news from students and staff, much of which has been shared on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages so do continue to follow us on social media. Please also continue to send news of your daughters for us to share to [hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net](mailto:hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net).



I am delighted to be continuing to come into school and see the children of our key worker parents, who have adapted well to a new way of spending their school days. Each week I host a special event for them and today we had a fabulous Teddy Bears' Picnic. Students brought in their own picnic, their favourite teddy bear or soft toy and a blanket and enjoyed a cupcake before returning to their lessons. It was a lovely occasion, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all the staff who are coming in to Howell's to support the students who need to be in school.

In our Senior School assembly this week, I reminded everyone that 'it is the challenges we experience that shape us', illustrated by the stories of Oprah Winfrey, Derek Redmond and a baby bear that became famous. [Click here](#) to see the assembly on Firefly.

### **Announcement from Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education**

I have listened carefully to the announcement from Kirsty Williams on Wednesday 3rd June regarding educational provision in Wales. We will be reviewing the guidance that is due to be published and I will contact you next week about our plans to return to school.

### **Virtual Open Day**

As you know, Howell's is currently open for "Business As Unusual". From 9.30am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June we will be holding our first ever Virtual Open Day during which people will be able to find out more about what a Howell's education has to offer. For more information and to book a place please email [Admissions@how.gdst.net](mailto:Admissions@how.gdst.net) and please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in visiting Howell's.

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 **HOWELL'S SENIOR SCHOOL**  
Llandaff

**GDST**  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

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## Managing your Mind by Positive

We have been working with the GDST and a group called Positive to provide information, tools and strategies for teachers and parents to help us cope with how our minds may react to the changes and challenges we are experiencing. We are currently sending links each week to the course and would encourage you to check out these useful and clear sessions if you think this would be helpful to you.

### Module overview.

Module 1 | Introduction: Taking control in unprecedented uncertainty  
Module 2 | Awareness: Emotional literacy as an antidote to uncertainty  
Module 3 | Focus: Deciding to decide where to place your attention  
Module 4 | Connection: The importance of social support  
Module 5 | Mindset: Cultivating a positive, protective mindset

The complete course is accessible in the parent Firefly area. Please follow [this link](#) to the parent Firefly area if you would like to access or continue this course.

## Pastoral Provision

We thought it would be helpful to remind you of the pastoral provision in place for your child alongside their academic lessons.

Each week a **newsletter** is sent to your child and placed in their year group Firefly area. Called **CONNECT**, the newsletter contains information, competitions, inspiring images, achievements and birthdays so that we are still sharing good news.

All students have a **form time** with their usual **form tutor** while Year 11 now have **transition tutors** to help support the move up to College.

**Section assemblies** are either recorded or live and go out on the usual assembly day. There is also a **whole school recorded assembly** sent out at the beginning of each week by Mrs Davis focussing on a key idea or national theme.

**Heads of Year** are in regular touch with students and individual support can be provided where a student is struggling with academic work or personal or social engagement.

Our **school counsellor** is still working and available to students via online tools. Katie and Amanda, however, are currently taking a short break as Katie has been called to the NHS frontline so she is now training to support the healthcare provision.

Please be aware **registers** are still being kept on your child. Do let us know if for any reason your child is unable to work or unwell so that we can record this accurately.

I am always available to answer questions or queries along with the rest of the Pastoral Team so please do get in touch if we can be of any help to you.

*Mrs Chyba - Deputy Principal*

## The Storm

In recent weeks, Year 8 students have studied D.H Lawrence's poem 'The Storm'. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Zoe stars in CBBC drama, *Jamie Johnson*

Talented actor Zoe H, Year 11, is currently starring as Ruby in the CBBC drama, *Jamie Johnson*, which was filmed in Port Talbot and Porthcawl last summer. [Click here](#) for more information

## GDST Song Contest

Well done to all the students who took part in the Howell's Virtual Choir production of True Colours before half term. [Click here](#) for more information.

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### **Year 7 WOW Day**

Year 7 have enjoyed a WOW day with the Careers department introducing them to The World of Work. They have watched live presentations, answering questions with Mrs Davis and being aspirational with Mrs Chyba. Other members of the wider school community provided information about their jobs, even Disney our school dog. As their work progressed we have been able to tweet some of their activities. Watch out for more as Year 7 conclude their activities.

### **Annie's Eisteddfod Win**

Congratulations to Year 10's Annie S who, along with her younger brother Ethan, won the duet class of the Eisteddfod T 2020 playing an amazing arrangement of 'The Bagpipes' by Bartok. [Click here](#) to see their winning performance.

### **British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge 2020**

Well done to all of Year 10, who took part in the British Physics Olympiad Junior Challenge 2020. The girls did extremely well overall and two students will be receiving prestigious Gold Awards – we will let you know who next week! All participants should receive their certificates very soon. Huge thanks to Mrs Morrey for setting up the online challenge for the Physics department.

### **Head Student and House Captain Team**

Following a rigorous application procedure which included video talks from applicants, we are delighted to announce our new Head Student and House Captain Team for 2020-2021. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Rotary Interact @ Howell's 2019-20**

Our 2019-20 Rotary Interact Team's experience has been unique, challenging and extremely rewarding. [Click here](#) to find out more about their year.

### **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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. You will also find ten challenges for sports day on the Firefly page. Students have two weeks to 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!

### **GDST Debating Competition**

We are participating in the first Virtual GDST debate organised by Putney High School on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. We have two teams from Year 9 debating in a competition for the very first time. They are Connie C and Nayana K, Amy D and Sophie S. We also have five members of College taking part as judges: Ayesha A, Frances D-T, Chris L, Angona S and Ella W-C. Good luck everyone!

### **International Women in Engineering Day (#INWED20)**

International Women in Engineering Day (#INWED20) takes place on 23 June and to celebrate they have launched a poster competition for ages 11 to 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](#) and take a selfie holding a INWED selfie card (also found [here](#)) to send to us.

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## House Competition

Ahead of our Virtual Sports Day we are launching a photograph competition for all students and staff to take part. Each student and staff member may submit one photograph only and each entry will be awarded a house point. The three top entries from each house will be entered into a final for each category and additional house points will be awarded

### What entrants need to do?

1. Wear House colours
2. Decide which category to enter:
  - Get caught reading
  - Get caught baking
  - Get caught exercising
  - Get caught with your pet
  - Get caught gardening
3. Have a photograph taken/take a selfie
4. Upload the photograph in your House site in Teams.

Only entries submitted in this way will be judged. The deadline is Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.

## Oxford Union Podcasts

The Oxford Union has put together a series of podcasts which include leading politicians, journalists, activists and actors. The podcasts also include debate style roundtable discussions on issues ranging from Afghanistan, Russia and the future of the Democratic Party, to the Refugee Crisis. [Click here](#) for more information.

## The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in chemistry, and will provide an excellent experience for anyone considering taking their studies further. Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it is designed to be accessible but will take students significantly beyond the syllabus and encourage them to think about science in the way they would at university. Past papers will provide a valuable resource for preparation to sit the challenge and these can be accessed by [clicking here](#). This competition is open to students up to Year 12. **Students need to register their interest with their Chemistry teacher by the 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

Teachers will send out the 90 minute written paper by email on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at an agreed time and a scan or photos of the answers should be back with the teacher within two hours of sending the paper out. Students who do well in the competition will be sent certificates of achievement, and those who perform best in the past will received an invitation to a residential camp at the University of Cambridge at the end of August.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to another productive week starting on Monday.

**Sally Davis, Principal**