

# A View FROM THE TOP



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

## The Principal's Update

As Howell's enjoyed warm sunshine this week, it was wonderful to see students and staff making good use of our outside areas to enjoy lunch, study alfresco or take part in an impromptu game of rounders.

At the end of last term, Year 12 were invited to apply for roles as Young Leaders in Year 13, and I am delighted to announce our new Young Leaders' Team and House Captains for 2021-2022.

Many congratulations to all the students who have secured a role on the team; the field this year was very strong with some outstanding applications. [Click here](#) for full details.



On Tuesday and Thursday this week, Year 10 Parents' Meetings took place online. Teaching staff were delighted to talk to parents about the progress the girls are making as they approach their Summer Assessments.

Year 7 and Year 11 were looking particularly smart on Wednesday when we were joined by Colorfoto for their friendship photographs. I am sure they are all looking forward to seeing the photographs when they are returned to us in the coming weeks.

I am delighted—though not surprised—that Howell's has been awarded a food hygiene rating of 5. This is an amazing achievement and is testament to the hard work and dedication of our outstanding catering team led by Suzanne Price. Very well done all.

In assembly on Zoom this morning, I talked about the importance of friendship and what it means to be a good friend. As Winnie the Pooh said "A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside."

### **Timings of the School Day from September 2021**

From September 2021 the timing of the school day will change, and Senior School and College students will be expected to be on site from 8.15am, ready for an 8.25am start, and the day will finish at 3.30pm. There will be no loss to teaching time and it will also provide students with more time in forms and tutor groups. Students who use school transport will be contacted about any change to their pick up/drop off time

### **GDST Students Equality School Council**

Next Wednesday is the GDST Students Equality School Council meeting. In this first meeting, they will hear from Cheryl Giovannoni, Chief Executive of the GDST. They will look at the Undivided Charter for Action, review the Student Survey results, set the agenda/rules of engagement for future meetings, and most

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importantly have the chance to share stories of what is happening in schools as part of the Undivided commitment. In the future, the group will collaborate to develop strategy and resource to build awareness and change behaviour in this area.

### **Year 10 Chemistry Practical Fortnight**

Year 10 have enjoyed a 'Practical Fortnight' in their Chemistry lessons since returning for the Summer Term. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Creativity Continues**

The creativity continues at Howell's with Eloise and Megan in 7S continuing with their own creative writing. They produced an excellent short story and a delightful poem. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Welsh National Debating Developmental Squad**

Many congratulations to Nayana K and Aarona S, both Year 10, and Claudia C, Year 12, who have all been invited to join the Welsh National Debating Developmental Squad. There are only five places on the squad, and Howell's students have secured three of them, a wonderful achievement and opportunity for the girls, very well done.

### **Team GB Softball**

Many congratulations to Ella H and Rhianne H who have been selected to compete for Great Britain in softball. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Howell's Library**

The Senior School and College Library might be closed for a little longer, so we are excited to introduce a new Library service that allows students to borrow library books – *Click & Deliver*. Students can now access, browse and reserve items in the Senior School and College Library using the catalogue and have the items delivered to their Form or Tutor Rooms by the next school day. Our librarians, Mrs Wilks and Mrs Norman, can't wait for the books to go flying off the Library shelves, where they have sat for the past 12 months, and see them being read and loved by our students in School and College again.

### **Cambridge Success for Heidi**

Heidi H, Class of 2020, has been awarded a prestigious Choral Scholarship at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge following a rigorous interview and audition process. Heidi was a dedicated member of Senior Choir and College Choir during her time at Howell's and performed in our production of *Wizard of Oz*. Huge congratulations to Heidi, who starts her Medicine course at the University of Cambridge in the autumn.

### **World Book Night**

World Book Night is tonight! Why not join the Reading Hour and read your book from 7-8pm. Please do send in any pictures of you enjoying reading. More information can be found on the World Book Night website: [World Book Night](#)

### **Howell's Summer Puzzler Competition**

It's the second week of the Summer Puzzler Competition. Every Friday throughout this half term we will be releasing a set of thinking skills puzzles on Firefly. Submit your answers through the link at the bottom of the page. Use this link to access this week's puzzles: [Week 2 - 23rd April — Howells School \(fireflycloud.net\)](#).

### **Accountancy Insight Events**

BDO is running virtual insight events for students in Years 10-13 who are interested in accountancy, which may be useful on personal statements as work experience. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **South Hampstead Speaker Series: David Baddiel**

South Hampstead High School GDST's Head, Vicky Bingham, has invited us to attend the next event in their 'South Hampstead Speaker Series'. On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, comedian and author, David Baddiel, discussing his latest book. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome to register. Tickets are free but limited; please [register online here](#).

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### **GDST Alumna of the Year**

This year's voting for the GDST Alumna of the Year is now open. Although there is not a Howell's alumna in the running, there is an outstanding shortlist of finalists vying for this year's crown. [Click here](#) for more information and to vote.

### **Beauty and the Beast at the Wales Millennium Centre, Thursday 9th December**

Our allocation of tickets to the opening night of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Wales Millennium Centre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December is selling quickly. If you would like to book tickets (£75 each) please email Hannah Roberts in the Marketing Office on [hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net](mailto:hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net).

Have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

**Sally Davis, Principal**