

A View FROM THE TOP



Thursday 8th July 2021

The Principal's Update

I really cannot believe we have reached the end of the Summer Term at Howell's; what a year it has been! A very big thank you to all our students and staff who have been absolutely wonderful and have adapted so well in rapidly changing circumstances throughout the academic year. I am extremely grateful to them for their resilience and flexibility, and proud of them for all their achievements. Thank you also to our parents for their tremendous support throughout the year; we are so lucky to have such a supportive community.



Howell's was full of colour on Monday, when students from Nursery through to College took part in our Colour Run, part of our "All the Fun of the Fair" celebration day. I hope everyone enjoyed this action packed and fun day as much as I did. You can see some fabulous photographs from the day on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

On Wednesday, it was wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 students to Howell's for their welcome day. Students enjoyed a busy day during which they had the chance to experience lessons including Drama, Science, Languages, Maths, Music, ICT and Art as well as make new friends before they start life in our Senior School in September. I hope they had a great day and are looking forward to starting in Year 7.

The end of term is always tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to staff members who are leaving Howell's. Today we said thank you and goodbye to Sasha Kingston (Art teacher), Katie Roberts (School Nurse), Amanda Drew (Happiness Champion) and Janet Maurice (Examinations Officer). We wish them very best wishes for the future.

Virtual Summer Concert

Our Virtual Summer Concert is available to watch on our YouTube channel and you can watch it by [clicking here](#). I am sure you will agree that it is a wonderful concert featuring magnificent music making from staff and students. Many congratulations to everyone involved.

Thank You!

I wanted to say a very big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Martha Bursary Award over the past two weeks. I have been completely overwhelmed by your extraordinary generosity which demonstrates what a very special community we have here at Howell's. I am absolutely delighted that together a terrific £8,400 has been raised. Thank you so much! If you missed the deadline to make a donation but would like to do so, please email Hannah Roberts at hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net.

TAP Talk

On the evening of Monday 5th July, we were delighted to welcome gymnast [Grace Harrison](#) to give our fifth TAP (Talented Athletes Programme) Talk on Microsoft Teams, in partnership with the Mintridge Foundation. [Click here](#) for more information.

CareerStart

Years 7 and 10 were fortunate to meet Karen Kimura, Skills and Development manager at the GDST, who was excited to deliver her first live workshops in many months. [Click here](#) for more information.

Year 8 Learn about Paris

Following the Summer Assessments, our Year 8 French students have been researching Paris, using sources in both French and English. [Click here](#) for more information.

Senior School Celebration Teas

On Wednesday 6th July, Mrs Davis was delighted to host Celebration Teas for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. [Click here](#) for more information.

Alumna Barbara wins Welsh National Opera Design Award

We were delighted to hear that Barbara G, who left Howell's in 2020 to study Design at Cardiff and Vale College, has recently won the Welsh National Opera Design Competition. [Click here](#) for more information.

Inspirational Alumnae

It was wonderful to read a fabulous article in We are the City about Howell's alumnae and sisters Isabella: "Inspirational Women: Isabella Howell & Gabriella Howell | Owners, The Great House Antigua". [Click here](#) to read the article.

Alumna Katie thrives at the Juilliard School

We are absolutely delighted to hear that talented composer, musician and Howell's alumna Katie Jenkins from the Howell's Class of 2018 is doing fantastically well at the Juilliard School. [Click here](#) for more information.

Summer Success Journal

As the summer term draws to a close, InvestIn has contacted us to let us know about their '[Summer Success Journal](#)', a bespoke resource curated by InvestIn aimed at students. [Click here](#) for more information.

Get Into Medical School Workshop

This is a free event hosted by Long Road 6th form, to give key tips and advice to school students who are interested in applying to study medicine at university. [Click here](#) for more information.

Bright Network - On Demand Virtual Work Experience

Work experience has been very hard to come by during the pandemic, but Bright Network have put together an amazing opportunity for students in Year 11 to take part in a virtual opportunity which involves employer led sessions and 12-15 hours of project work to be done over three weeks. [Click here](#) for more information.

NACE Challenge Award Reaccreditation Report

An independent charity founded almost 40 years ago, the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) works with member schools, education leaders and practitioners to improve provision for more able learners, driving whole-school improvement and raising achievement for all. NACE believe that providing for more able learners is not about labelling, but about creating a curriculum and learning opportunities which allow all children to flourish. This is reflected in Howell's ethos of recognising that all our learners have unique talents and commitment to providing a diverse range of opportunities that allow learners to develop their

existing talents or discover new ones.

In 2017 Howell's applied to have its provision for more able learners accredited and successfully achieved the NACE Challenge Award in recognition of its excellence in this area. That accreditation became due for renewal in June 2021, and despite the challenges of remote learning, we were delighted to be reaccredited, becoming one of very few schools in Wales to have achieved this status.

We were thrilled to be told at the end of the day that the school had succeeded in becoming reaccredited but had a few days to wait to receive the full report. Full of praise, reading the report was a fantastic way end to the year, recognising our "outstanding practice", the "tangible and positive ethos", "innovative pedagogical approaches", and "rich learning experiences and well-structured differentiation [which] stimulate, motivate, challenge and engage more able pupils."

I hope you all have a fantastic break over the summer, and I really look forward to seeing everyone for the first day of term on Monday 6th September.

Sally Davis, Principal