

A View FROM THE TOP



No 203

Friday 29th March 2019

The Principal's Update

The glorious sunshine has certainly put a spring in the step of students and staff in the penultimate week of term. On Monday, Year 10, Year 11 and Co-Ed College students and parents joined us in the Great Hall for this year's Higher Education and Oxbridge Evening. Following refreshments, the session included an introduction to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, an overview of the application process, advice on making an application and how to make the most of the support offered at Howell's. It was fantastic to be joined by recent applicants who shared their experiences of Oxbridge applications and interviews. Many thanks to Mrs Harrison-Hughes and everyone who made the evening so successful.



On Wednesday, governors Mrs Sue Thomas (Chair) and Mrs Anne Hayward, along with Mrs Sadler and Mr Allen, undertook the important task of interviewing our Year 12 applicants for the 2019 – 2020 Young Leader positions. All students did extremely well at interview and you can find out more about the new Young Leaders' Team by [clicking here](#).

Yesterday, there was a queue outside the Hub @ Howell's from 7.45am and again at 2.45pm as parents flocked to this term's Second Hand Uniform Sale. The sale was a tremendous success and I am extremely grateful to everyone who donated uniform and supported the sale, which raised over £550 for the Bursary Fund. Many thanks to Mrs Eling and the Parent Pyramid volunteers for working so hard to make the sale such a success.

Examinations have been taking place for some of Year 11 this week. Students studying Welsh have been immersed in their GCSE oral examinations, which started on Wednesday, while today the GCSE Art examination began, and will continue next week. The girls have all been well prepared by their teachers, and they deserve to complete their exams feeling quietly confident.

By 9.30am today, the Hub at Howell's had received more than one hundred visitors to our Mothers' Day Breakfast. It really was special to see so many students with their mums, grandmas and female carers from many year groups chatting over coffee and croissants, demonstrating what a special community we have at Howell's. Many thanks to our unbeatable catering team for providing such a delicious start to the day.

Today, there has been a distinctly nautical feeling in Howell's at our own clothes day to raise funds for the charity Atlantic Pacific. Students and staff have been clad in nautical themed or blue clothing and made generous donations, which will go towards our target of raising £1,000 to help provide a lifeboat in a box Mozambique, a country that is vulnerable to flooding or natural disasters. Over £340 has been raised to date, which is a fantastic achievement. Do take a look at our [Twitter](#) feed to see some photographs from the day.

 **HOWELL'S SENIOR SCHOOL**
Llandaff

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

www.howells-cardiff.gdst.net

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Payments to Howell's

Parents will be aware that we currently use SIMS Agora as our online payment system. We have experienced a number of problems with SIMS Agora over the last 12 months and are conscious that this has caused frustration at times for parents. We have therefore been trialling another system called Evolve, which appears to be far superior and will accommodate all payments and consents for school trips, bus transport, after school care and any other group payments that are required. All trips can then be viewed, consent provided and paid for from a single visit to Evolve.

All parents will receive a log in after the Easter holiday and we will send more information at that time. We will also transition across current trips and payments. The system also allows parental consent and payment via an email link, which will be much more user-friendly. I am grateful for your cooperation and look forward to launching the new payment system after the Easter holiday.

Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses

Congratulations the Year 10 students who were presented with a certificate at an Awards Ceremony on Saturday 23rd March for their participation in the Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses at the University of South Wales during the Spring Term. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Scottish Play

Year 10 and Year 11 students preparing *Macbeth* for their GCSE examinations went to Wales Millennium Centre on Tuesday 19th March to watch the National Theatre's latest version of Shakespeare's classic play. [Click here](#) for more information.

India Dance Wales

On Tuesday 26th March, Year 8 took part in a session run by India Dance Wales. They learnt about Hindu Dance and stories surrounding Hindu Gods supporting their Religious Studies lessons. [Click here](#) for more information.

Celebration Tea

Mrs Davis hosted a lovely Celebration Tea for Senior School students at break on Monday 25th March. [Click here](#) for more information.

Keep Wales Tidy

The eco team signed up to and participated in the Keep Wales Tidy Big Spring Clean Cymru, a litter picking initiative. [Click here](#) for more information.

Bag2School Collection Wednesday 3rd April

The eco team has been very busy out in the local community dropping Bag-2-School bags in preparation for our re-use charity clothes collection next Wednesday 3rd April. This weekend do have a look at home for any clothes you feel would be suitable for donation. Pop them in a bag and label it with your child's year and tutor initials. The group with the largest donation will receive a prize. The Eco Team would like to thank you all, as all donations no matter how small are warmly welcomed.

Parent Blog

This week's Parent Blog is available to read by [clicking here](#).

Year 10 Careers News

The GDST's Learning and Development Manager, Karen Kimura, provided Year 10 with a workshop on *Writing Your CV*, and she advised all the girls on how to create their own CV. Several students have already brought copies along to Mrs House or Mrs Thelwell and we are now asking that everyone produces one by Monday 29th April 2019. Please ask your daughter to hand it in on the first morning after the Easter holiday to her form tutor. This will be the last chance for any advice prior to the Employers' Day when your daughter will have an individual interview in the second half of the summer term. Samples and guidelines can be found on by [clicking here](#).

Your daughter may already be thinking ahead to what she will wear for the Employers' Day. All students are welcome to wear school uniform but many prefer the whole experience of an interview day and guidance can be found by [clicking here](#).

Easter Egg Appeal

We are delighted to be supporting Llamau this year in their Easter Egg 2019 Appeal. The last time Howell's supported this appeal we were bowled over by the support of students, staff and friends and family of Howell's with their generous contributions to brightening a child's day.

Students may donate an egg (or two!) by dropping it off in the Library from Monday 1st April to Friday 5th April by 2.00pm. The Easter treats will be donated to Llamau for them to distribute to children across Cardiff and the local areas who may not otherwise receive such a treat that many of us might take for granted at this time of year.

If you would rather donate funds directly to Llamau, they will make sure everyone they support gets the chance to celebrate Easter. If they raise more money than they need to provide everyone with an Easter Egg, your donation will be used to fund their vital services preventing homelessness, providing safe accommodation and supporting people to leave homelessness behind for good. [Click here](#) for more information.

School Notices

We are delighted to announce that we are now a Member School with School Notices, the free online marketplace for independent school parents where users can buy and sell musical instruments, sports equipment and so on, rent holiday properties, advertise job vacancies and promote their businesses, interacting with thousands of parents in the independent education sector. There are also exclusive offers for members.

If you have a business that you would like to promote to the network of over 100,000 independent school parents, business advertising is chargeable and 25% of any advertising that comes through a Howell's School affiliated parent, alumni or local business comes back to us to put towards our internal and charitable initiatives. To find out more, and to place a listing on the site, [click here](#).

Diary Dates

Spring Concert

Tickets for the Spring Concert on Wednesday 3rd April at 6pm, which will include performances from students in the Senior School and Co-Ed College, are selling extremely well. They cost £10 (free for children) and are available from Mrs Thomas in the main office so do buy them soon to avoid disappointment.

Reserve your tickets for *Les Misérables*, at the WMC

Thank you to everyone who has already reserved tickets for the production of *Les Misérables* on **Tuesday 10th December 2019** at the Wales Millennium Centre. There are still tickets available for the Howell's community to buy at a discounted price of £55, so do reserve them soon to avoid disappointment as after the Easter holiday we will be offering them to Howell's alumni. Tickets are available to the Howell's community only on a first come first served basis; to reserve seats and arrange payment please email Hannah Roberts in the Marketing Office, hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net. The Wales Millennium Centre recommends that the production is suitable for anyone over the age of 8.

I hope the sun continues to shine over the weekend and I look forward to a productive and enjoyable last week of term starting on Monday.

Sally Davis Principal

Reminder: On the last day of term, Friday 5th April, there will be no after school provision in the Library and Howell's will close at the earlier time of 2.00pm. The school buses will be leaving at 2.15pm at the latest.