



## The Principal's Update

There is definitely magic in the air at Howell's this week, with Christmas trees and decorations appearing around the building. I have loved hearing seasonal music coming from the Great Hall as filming for our virtual Christmas Celebration has begun in earnest, with jingle bells, tinselled antlers and shimmering stars all making an appearance as the performers walked past my office on their way to record their time in the spotlight. I have been privy to a small preview, and we are all in for the most marvellous treat. [Click here](#) to see some festive photographs from inside the Great Hall.



The week started with students and staff proudly pulling up mismatched socks on national Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality, what makes us all unique and to raise awareness of bullying as part of Anti-Bullying Week. Thank you to everyone who participated in this important day.

On Monday evening, we welcomed Year 11 students, both from Howell's and from local schools, to sit the Co-Ed College Scholarship Examination in a safe, socially distant setting. Many thanks to Mrs Hall-Davis and everyone involved who made the evening run so smoothly.

### **Maths Week**

This week, Mrs King led an assembly to launch Maths Week, which starts on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Musical Success**

Many congratulations to Ziraili U, Year 13, who gained distinction in her Grade 5 piano examination.

### **Children In Need**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November we held our annual Pyjama Day in the Senior School and Co-Ed College, which raised a fantastic £664 for Children in Need. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Birmingham Schools Debating Competition**

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Birmingham Schools Debating Competition on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Success in UKMT Senior Individual Maths Challenge**

Congratulations to the following College students who were successful in achieving the following certificates in the UKMT Senior Individual Maths Challenge:

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Gold Certificate: Angela N, Bernard L

Silver Certificates: Alexia V, Linus L

Bronze Certificates: Ellora M, Sri O, Eleanor J, Maite K-M, Ayaat A, Georgia G, Alana K, Emily W, Lily B, Grace E, Ella E, Abigail L

Many congratulations to these students and to Angela and Bernard who have achieved an exceptionally high score, qualifying them for the Senior Kangaroo Challenge. We wish them every success in this next round.

### **GDST Undivided Charter for Action**

In the summer, the GDST announced its **Undivided** commitment to diversity, inclusion and real change across the family of schools, in response to feedback from the GDST community of alumni, staff, parents and students and the challenge set by the Black Lives Matter movement.

Since then, the GDST Undivided steering group has prepared a Charter for Action; this sets out specific commitments, focusing on what the GDST (as an organisation) will deliver.

The GDST promised to consult on these proposals before they were finalised, which is why we are seeking your views. The Charter for Action is available on the GDST website [here](#). Please do read it and share any comments you may have for the steering group to consider at this stage.

We are also consulting with staff, alumni and students.

The Charter for Action will be firmed up early next year. [The GDST has already started with important work in this area](#), including training, student and staff surveys, and data collection to help establish baselines and set stretching and challenging targets.

The student survey will be sent to pupils in Year 5 upwards from 1<sup>st</sup> December. It will ask a range of questions to establish the extent to which students feel every child, regardless of their background, is included and well-supported by their classmates and their school. If you have any questions about this, please contact Martin Pilkington at [undividedsteeringgroup@wes.gdst.net](mailto:undividedsteeringgroup@wes.gdst.net).

Thank you for your help and support in making the GDST an even more inclusive organisation.

### **Winter/Christmas Poetry Competition**

After such a superb response to the National Poetry Day Competition, we have decided to run a Winter/Christmas Poetry Competition. Entries must take one minute or less to read aloud and the two winning poets will be professionally recorded by Mr Ralph and included in the Virtual Christmas Concert. All poems must be emailed to Mrs Persson ([s.persson@how.gdst.net](mailto:s.persson@how.gdst.net)) by Thursday 26th November at 2.00pm.

### **South Hampstead Speaker Series: Katya Adler**

GDST students are invited to join the latest in the South Hampstead Speaker Series of talks with the BBC's Katya Adler. On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, the award-winning BBC Europe Editor will be sharing her expert insight on Brexit and the EU, her thoughts on the highs and lows of 2020, and some reflections on her career path. Tickets are free but limited, so please sign up to register and receive your link to join by [clicking here](#).

### **STEM Webinar with GSK**

Pharmaceutical company GSK is offering a webinar on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November for students looking to get into a STEM related career. [Click here](#) to register.

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### **PwC's Virtual Classroom**

We are thrilled to bring you the latest instalment of PwC's Virtual Classroom - a programme open to students between Years 10 and 13\* focusing on racial equality, social mobility and gender equality. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Study In Wales**

In light of the success of the last Study in Wales event – there is a terrific opportunity for students to get to know the higher education institutions in Wales. The event will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 12pm and 6pm. Students, teachers and parents can sign up to the event by [clicking here](#).

It would be a great chance for all to get to know the offerings available in Wales – so please do pass on the information.

### **GDST Talks**

The GDST Talks series continues with two presentations taking place in December, and we would be delighted if you were able attend. [Click here](#) for more information.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday when Maths Week will begin.

**Sally Davis, Principal**