



Issue No 1.

Friday 5th June 2020

The Principal's Update

A very warm welcome to the first edition of my *Virtual College Comms* 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 and sons for us to share to hannah.roberts@how.gdst.net.



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 college.

Virtual Open Day

As you know, Howell's is currently open for "Business As Unusual". From 9.30am on Thursday 11th 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 and please do pass on the information to anyone you think might be interested in visiting Howell's.

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.



HOWELL'S CO-ED COLLEGE
Llandaff

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.

Lily Joins Stephen Fry for a Virtual Evensong

Lily P, Year 13, took part in a virtual evensong featuring Alexander Armstrong, Simon Russell Beale and Stephen Fry, which was broadcast on Classic FM last month. This was a fantastic experience for Lily, an experienced and talented choral singer who is currently applying to conservatoires and universities to read Music. The full service can be watched by [clicking here](#).

Head Student and House Captain Team

Following a rigorous application procedure which included video talks, 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.

Hay Festival 2020

Amongst the many interesting speakers and experts at this year's Hay Festival was Professor Mererid Hopkins who posed the question 'What's Wales in Welsh?'. [Click here](#) for more information.

Year 12 French students speak to author Delphine de Vigan

As part of their French study, Year 12 had the great pleasure of speaking to the French author Delphine de Vigan who enlightened them on so many aspects of the novel *No et Moi*. [Click here](#) for more information.

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) 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 17th 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! Also on the page you will find ten challenges for sports day. 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 13th 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!

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 11th June at 11am.

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.

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 10th June.**

Teachers will send out the 90 minute written paper by email on Wednesday 24th 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 receive an invitation to a residential camp at the University of Cambridge at the end of August.

Falmouth University Creative Competitions

Falmouth University has launched ten diverse creative competitions that give students an opportunity to gain recognition for their creative work, enhance their future university applications, as well as be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes. [Click here](#) for more information.

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

Mrs Sally Davis, Principal