FAREWELL FROM PRINCIPAL PETER T. HOWE

What will he miss? How does our celebrated history inform 2021? What's he learned? Campus in 30 years' time?
Dear friends and family,

It is not long since students and staff embarked on a well-deserved summer break and, I hope, the recently published International Baccalaureate Diploma results will have provided a very welcome boost!

The results here at UWC Atlantic are the best they have been in 10 years. It is heartening to end the year on such a positive note. Along with the rest of the world, we’ve endured unprecedented challenges and overcome many obstacles and this achievement is testament to resilience, adaptability, hard work and goodwill.

Last term brought many farewells including our principal Peter T. Howe, who reflects here on his time at the college. Meanwhile, we are preparing to welcome his successor Naheed Bardai and his family, who will touch down in Wales in a few weeks' time. Naheed begins his tenure on August 1st and you will of course be hearing from him very soon.

So as we reflect on all this year has brought, this newsletter is an opportunity to look back and celebrate some of the many recent positives - a high energy highlights film of the Leavers' Ceremony, a thought-provoking movie students made in collaboration with industry professionals on the issue of 'Consent', the achievements of our Lighthouse initiative, updates on the Changemaker Curriculum and Spring Programme and a chance to check out the highly successful student-led artwork auction entitled 'The Art of Giving'.

With very best wishes,

Kate Vincze
Deputy Head/Vice Principal Education
WELCOME!

- Goodbye from Peter T. Howe
- Leavers' Ceremony video
- Campus film on 'Consent'
- Lighthouse highlights
- Spring Programme update
- Curriculum update
- Proof the sun shines in Wales
- The Art of Giving auction
- New head of communications
As he leaves Wales for Bermuda, Principal Peter T. Howe reflects on the last four years and the future for UWC Atlantic...

What will you miss about UWC Atlantic?

Its potential. A strong foundation has been laid over the last four years and it’s only going to get better. UWC Atlantic is the most exceptional campus and it could be the greatest school in the world. But it must not, it cannot, rest on its laurels; it has to keep pushing.

This is a magical place. You feel that as soon as you walk on to campus. I’ve been to every UWC campus, save two, and nowhere else has the combination of seafront, woodlands, the valley and the castle. There’s absolutely nothing you can think of that you couldn’t do here.

As a laboratory for learning it’s exceptional. Our brains burn 20% of calories we consume so it’s constantly trying to push us into auto-pilot. For that reason we have to work hard at remaining in the moment - this is where the learning takes place and this is precisely what our experiential educational programme must do.

The secret to a phenomenal 21st Century education is the power of this place to keep students ‘on’ more than ‘off’ and that we constantly motivate them to remain present!

UWC Atlantic has a famous history. How does it fit with the 2021 campus?

When I think about the rescue services and how the alumni talk about them, of course, I am in admiration for the level of training and willingness to serve. That training kept students awake and feeling alive. If you’re training to do something, you can’t be on autopilot. Sea rescue stimulated senses, engaged brains and that carried over into other areas of college life.

"Sea rescue stimulated senses, engaged brains and that carried over into other areas of college life."
The beauty of that experience was experiential learning. The brilliance of rescue services was you had a perfect vehicle. But you have to unpack and ask ‘what exactly is the learning that’s taking place?’

And so for the alumni, there was the fact that they were rescuing people but there was also the learning that took place in the process.

In the early days of the college the rescue services were needed, and the RIB was invented to serve that compelling need. The Atlantic Pacific charity continues that tradition, designing the next generation of rescue boats and training crew to serve around the world.

But once rescue services were professionalised on the Bristol Channel, the college’s focus needed to shift to other compelling needs. The thing about experiential learning is you have to be deliberate about it, and it has to have purpose.

Today there’s a huge opportunity with sustainability and the environment. The seafront remains integral to the future of the college and remains a brilliant learning opportunity.

What the world needs is a deeper understanding of the ocean. You need boats that can carry out research. That’s why the Ocean Systems and Coastal Management unit of the Changemaker Curriculum is so exciting.

I’d love for us to be designing a research RIB that the students could take out to fulfil that important part of the new curriculum. That’s experiential learning that’s addressing a compelling need of the 21st Century.

"What the world needs is a deeper understanding of the ocean. You need boats that can carry out research."
So yes, the seafront is a vital classroom as it was in the days of rescue services. The ocean needs attention and understanding. We know less about it than we know about space. So let’s get on with it!

**What has UWC Atlantic taught you over the past four years?**

There was some heavy lifting to do here when I arrived from UWC Maastricht. Atlantic seemed outside the UWC movement to me. It was doing its own thing and the need for change was apparent. I underestimated how challenging that would prove to be.

The college had lost its way in my view and I wanted to set it on a new direction at the heart of the UWC movement and as its flagship. But change is never easy and the opposition I faced was fierce. But the bandage needed to be ripped off if we were to treat the wound. And doing that was really tough!

Change is a fundamental part of the UWC education. My time here has vividly and, at times, unpleasantly reminded me that making tough decisions takes courage, requires resilience and a willingness to fail.

You’re rarely going to be popular leading change but I’ve come to learn that I’ve had an outlier perspective, so I embrace that. I shook things up because I felt it was needed and somebody had to do it, so why not me?

As my family and I leave Wales, I’m happy that the initiatives being celebrated at UWC Atlantic today were introduced under my tenure and will, hopefully, continue to evolve.

"You’re rarely going to be popular leading change... I shook things up because I felt it was needed."
These include the timetable, the calendar, the student conferences, the Changemaker Curriculum, the Head of Tutors and Student Affairs position, the Head of Wellbeing and Safeguarding position, increased staff diversity, the communications role, external relations committee, The Learning Centre (TLC), the vision of world-class philanthropy and all the many successful teams I’ve helped build.

**How would you like to imagine UWC Atlantic in 30 years?**

That it would be taking full advantage of its environment, which students are completely immersed in and the outdoors is where the real learning takes place.

I’d like to imagine that there’s been a massive shift from traditional teaching, that the single subject expertise is a thing of the past and has been replaced with mentorship providing unconditional support for students, which is so critical for the emotional and intellectual development of teenagers, versus peer support which is always conditional.

I know that the trust, belief and authentic responsibility bestowed on students today, the restoration of their voice on campus and the improved relationship with staff will sow the seeds for how UWC Atlantic will look in 30 years’ time.

In 2021 UWC Atlantic can rightly claim to be the flagship of the UWC movement once again.

And I’m so proud of what we have achieved in my time in this magical part of South Wales – where even the dramatic weather weaves magic - to restore the focus to the people who matter the most – the students.
Leavers’ Ceremony

Saturday 22nd May: Leavers’ Ceremony UWC Atlantic Class of 2021

Watch the highlights below....

A playback of the entire livestream is on YouTube here.

Thanks to Pippi Reader and Ewan Meredith for organising the ceremony.
Project Week: Students collaborated with a film company to make a short movie shot on campus.

Twelve students contributed to the writing, filming, directing and acting. The film will be accessible to current and incoming students and shared via the UWC Educators Network.

The project is a culmination of work on creating a consent culture at UWC Atlantic.

Thank you to our generous donors Gudula and Konrad Werhahn.
Proof the sun does shine in Wales. Occasionally.

Photo: Nacho Garcia Anaya
Update: Changemaker Curriculum

This year was a big year for the development of UWC Atlantic's Changemaker Curriculum. Within the framework of our co-curricular programme, over 100 students got involved in joining various prototypes for future courses and worked together with their teachers in diverse areas such as communication and mediation, ocean and coastal monitoring, data analysis and public speaking.

Four of these units also completed very successful Project Weeks, creating a pop-up museum, documentary films, Big Data projects and college-wide sessions on respectful community, gender norms and mental health.

There are more exciting developments for next year. We will continue to build on our seven prototype units with students and are in the process of establishing a common framework across the UWC movement. We also hope that with an improving Covid situation, we can have more opportunities for community outreach.
Recently four students, Nathan, Maria, Finn and David decided that they wanted to hold a series of discussions about UWC values. Everyone who applies to be a student at UWC does so because they believe strongly in the UWC values. It has been a tricky year for students to act on those values as they have been limited in the activities they could do as they stayed on campus.

To help refresh everyone on the UWC values and their importance, the above students organised a series of talks which all students attended. It was a fantastic chance for them all to candidly discuss the values, why they are important and how they can act on them. Such was the success of these talks, that they were replicated for the tutors at the college.
SPRING PROGRAMME

In the last newsletter, we told you about the exciting Spring Programme that our IB2 students were engaged in since their classes finished.

The programme continued with the same enthusiasm with more exciting activities.

Students combined creativity and sustainability by transforming old wetsuits into other products such as pencil cases and have been taught how to cook dishes by the chefs of our famous ‘Hot to Go’ restaurant.
One highlight was the expedition!

Students were taught a range of camping skills - erecting a tent and cooking on a stove.

They then went on two hikes over two days, the first from Ogmore Castle back to the college and the second, a seven-mile trek to Aberthaw.

The Spring Programme had the aim of helping our students enjoy their final five weeks of their time at the college while also helping them acquire new knowledge and skills. Thanks to the hard work of a lot of people, that was achieved!
Lighthouse highlights 2020-21

The academic year saw the continued growth of Lighthouse - an on-campus centre for meaningful changemaking.

Designed as a hub to inspire and support student-initiated impact projects, Lighthouse unites students around a shared mission and values to enact positive change in the world and their communities.

Connecting students with appropriate resources to ensure success, Lighthouse offers 1:1s, training, personal coaching, space, events, mentors and student access to alumni support in the development of student projects.

Over the past academic year, two dedicated Lighthouse Coordinator Interns - Ula Adamska (MUWCI ’16) and Lochlann Atack (UWCM ’16) - worked to ensure continued development of Lighthouse and its further integration within UWC Atlantic.

The Lighthouse Space now consists of a working area for students, a meeting room, office space for coordinators, the Creativity Lab (used for informal gatherings), the foyer, and the classroom.

The Lighthouse mural, created by two 2nd year students, welcomes anyone entering via the side door and features the original RIB boat built at UWC Atlantic.
Selected examples of Lighthouse events and workshops included:

- “Dimensions of Meaningful Changemaking” series of events - lectures, workshops, Q&As with experts
- Social business entrepreneurship event featuring Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Professor Muhammad Yunus
- Dedicated session with a Forbes “30 under 30” honouree
- “From Social Activism to Social Change - the Social Response Cycle”
- Project management for “Narratives for Social Change” Changemaker Unit
- Design Thinking workshop
- Weekly Lighthouse sessions as well as drop-in sessions

The weekend of April 24-25 saw the ‘InLightenment Festival’. Nine alumni and friends of the college supported as mentors.

The year rolled out the Lighthouse Project Grant to support student-led innovation with eight projects benefitting.

The Lighthouse Prize was launched to incentivise and support initiatives with up to £10,000 awarded to the projects showing entrepreneurial promise and lasting positive impact by contributing to sustainable development.

Applications were evaluated by the Advisory Panel - three UWC Atlantic alumni and a member of the senior leadership team. Six projects applied, four secured funding.
As a result of these wide-ranging efforts, the number of projects working with Lighthouse increased from 3 in October 2020 to 18 in May 2021. All of the projects engage with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the year, all Lighthouse projects could request an expert mentor to support their projects by helping to monitor progress and providing feedback.

There are currently 13 mentors assigned to Lighthouse projects. It is estimated that each project benefited from at least two mentorship sessions per month.

We have received positive feedback from Lighthouse project leaders and we hope more alumni will be interested in supporting the initiative by sharing their expertise.

If you’d like to find out more about getting involved with Lighthouse, please email Magda Joshi at joinin@uwcatlantic.org.
The Art of Giving - UWC Atlantic auction success!

Thank you to everyone who supported by bidding and sharing the news of the student-led art auction. Winners will be announced very shortly.

A total of £2,195 was raised towards scholarships for 2021 entry students from Syria, Argentina, Russia and Bulgaria.

The impact of your support enriches the campus with a diversity of students, enhancing their academic and cultural experiences whilst with us.

Thank you and we hope you had fun!
New Head of Communications and Engagement

How can I help improve communication with you?

Being the 'new face' at the college is a novel experience for me having spent much of my adult life with only one previous employer. Before my nearly 24 years at the BBC - reporting, news desk management, and more recently podcasting and documentary film - I was a feature writer on Fleet Street.

I’m something of a local, Cardiff-born but have called Llantwit Major my home for many years which is how I first became aware of UWC Atlantic.

The UWC mission combined with the extraordinary beauty and history of the castle is a magical combination. And at the heart of all that is our students.

An important part of my role is to ensure that communication with you about students' lives and education here at the college is the best it can be.

If you could find time, I'd love to hear from you about ways in which you think we could improve and what you would like to hear more about and how regularly.

I look forward to hearing from you, Ceri

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With your support, Rahma will be joining UWC Atlantic this September. Others like her who merit a place still need your help.

Thanks to our generous donors, 51% of students received a scholarship for the 2019 and 2020 entry. Our ambition is to reach 60% by 2023.

Thanks to two alumni ambassadors, we have been gifted £30k towards our scholarship fund as long as we raise £30k before July 31st.

If we reach our goal we would have enough to support students from Syria, Latvia, Russia and Bulgaria to join us this September.

https://www.atlanticappeal.org/changelives
Without philanthropy, UWC Atlantic would not be able to do the important work we do.

Everyone knows about scholarship provision or our Seafront Development but, at times, our philanthropy takes less obvious forms.

A specialist sink for the art department was kindly paid for by The Mousetrap Settlement Trust.

This new facility has enabled students to participate in screen printing, the process of putting designs on fabric... the freedom of expression.
To keep up to date, be sure to regularly check the News section on the UWC Atlantic website: www.atlanticcollege.org/media