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Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Acting Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA
020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

29th September 2023

Headteacher's Weekly Friday Roundup 29.09.23

Dear Parents/Carers

This week the school looked and felt incredible for our Open Evening. Thank you to parents/carers for enabling students to volunteer in such huge numbers for welcoming and guiding visitors to our school. The feedback has been amazing with over 1000 visitors being guided by over 390 students. The best thing about the school is clearly our students. Let me quote one email I received on Thursday morning;

"Every person we encountered, whether it was the teachers, the helpers, or the students conducting the tours, exuded warmth and enthusiasm for the school; they were so so positive and it was really infectious. We also wanted to highlight the exceptional tour guides, and from Year 9. They were exceptionally articulate, passionate, knowledgeable, and outstanding ambassadors for the school. If we decide on Ursuline, and I can't see why we wouldn't, I would be overjoyed if our daughter took after either of those girls."

In assemblies this week we launched our programme of activities running throughout October for Black History Month. Our fantastic visiting Speaker, Adenike (Ex Ursuline student), sparked even more joy and celebration into the school. Staff and students were singing along in assembly at 9am!

On Friday our Year 11s had their first taste of the Mock Examination cycle, sitting a Chemistry Paper at the end of the day. We could see all the Flash cards in hand being used all week in the windows of time between lessons. The nerves quickly evaporated as they entered the Hall and got underway. Practice makes perfect as the old saying goes with these low stakes assessments.

Have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Acting Headteacher

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Highlights of the week

First wave of formal assessments underway in the lower school and we look forward to the impact of that on our students learning.

Open Evening Wednesday 27th September as students demonstrated pride in their school community.

Black History Launch activities received with energy and enthusiasm.

Focus areas for next week

Being mindful of other members of our community on the way to and from school. Being self-aware about noise and making way for members of the public on footpaths.

There are still places on the Student Leadership groups for students in Years 9 and 10. Your daughters don't want to miss out on this fundamental skill development.

Parents/Carers News and announcements

- Parents/Carers should expect a communication next week on the upcoming Academic Review Day in October. You will need to respond to the instructions on fixing the appointments.
- Reminder that all students need to proceed directly home in uniform following the agreed route. Students must not congregate or visit shops or retail outlets.
- Year 7 Parents/Carers Social event Thursday 5th October 7pm in the Ursuline Sixth Form Centre, organised by the Ursuline Parents Association.
- Year 11 Information Evening Tuesday 4th October at 6pm.

UHS Launches Black History Month



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Mr Cunliffe, the School Chaplain, gets in on the selfie shot with visiting Speaker Adeniki





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The school looked amazing on Open Evening with our fantastic students leading the Tours



Resources

Ursuline's mission to go beyond the classroom and develop the individual does not start and end in school. The resources provided on this page are intended to help you navigate today's world with a teenage girl. As always, we thank you for your support.

KS3 and KS4 Enrichment Link on Website

[Serviam/Character Development/Enrichment - Ursuline High School](#)

Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)





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[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases.

[Parent Engagement & Communications](#)

[Parent Portals](#) - Arbor, Evolve, ParentPay, and Weduc FAQs.

[Safeguarding, Health & Well-being](#) (please note that this section is currently undergoing an overhaul).

[Term Dates](#) 2023/2024

[Ursuline](#) Directory

A reminder that all **absences and lates** must be reported via telephone or Weduc no later than 08:45. If students are late more than 5 times to school, you will be notified, and they will receive a one-hour detention which is held on Friday afternoons after school.

[Lisa Damour](#)

Dr Damour is the author of three New York Times best-selling education, child development and parenting books, specifically teens. In addition to her books, she co-hosts the Ask Lisa podcast, works in collaboration with UNICEF and speaks internationally.

Vaping

I wanted to flag the [Panorama documentary](#) which aired last week and is available on BBC iPlayer. We all know that vaping is a concerning topic for anyone with a child or teenager in their life: they're highly addictive and the health, wellbeing and learning impact is very, very unknown. I strongly recommend parents/carers and teens watch this incredibly insightful documentary.

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