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8th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring B Week

Thank you to all the parents and carers who contacted me this week, I have been overwhelmed with congratulations and best wishes for my appointment as Headteacher. This kindness and generosity shown reflects the cohesiveness and depth of our remarkable Christian Community. The students, however, don't seem to have noticed which is either reassuring or worrying, I'm not sure!

We welcomed Year 10 parents and carers into the school on Tuesday night to begin the process of transitioning into the Sixth Form. The main hall was packed with parents and carers as staff and students presented the programme and timeline along with things to consider during transitioning into our outstanding Key Stage 5 provision for all students. The theme of the evening was in support of our Sixth Form motto, 'Belong and Succeed.'

A whole suite of enrichment activities and trips took place including a Year 10 Geography trip on Monday to the rivers of Surrey, on Tuesday evening a Year 10 trip went to see Player Kings at the New Wimbledon theatre and there was also a Year 9 Maths museum Trip, on Wednesday there was a Year 9 Employer Taster Day in school with a whole host of speakers including several Ursuline Alumni, on Thursday we had World Book Day events for Key Stage 3 in the LRC and on Friday International Women's Day Year 7 Literature event. Thank you to our incredible staff who plan and run these events on top of their busy schedule in school to enrich the curriculum and lived experience of our students.

Highlights of the Week

On Tuesday 5th March we hosted the International Women's Day conference, entitled 'The Power of Memory; A Celebration and Reflection on the Female Story'. At this conference we welcomed five inspirational speakers presenting on the theme 'Inspire Inclusion'. The conference was led and managed by our fantastic Sixth Form leaders: Akua and Clara (Joint Headgirl hosts) supported by four other Year 12 leaders: Lara, Josh, Abby, Georgina, Erin and Isabella. Please follow the link to the programme below to see the diverse and inspirational women leaders inspiring our girls and boys to action.

[International Women's Day Booklet](#)

[International Women's Day Instagram](#)

Focus areas for next week

Litter is being left behind after breaks. Students will be encouraged in the context of the school virtues programme to be considerate of others. Students sitting in groups too often this week stand up on the bell and leave without looking over their shoulder to ensure nothing is left behind. Students are encouraged (and at times directed) to pick up the litter or mess left behind where they sit as a group, regardless of whether this is their own. This week I was impressed by **Tiarna in Year 8 Bern** who without prompting collected rubbish her friends left under the table and did so in consideration of others and our environment - *Serviam* in action.





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Some upcoming events & dates

Science Week with Activities in Lessons for KS3 - week beginning 11th March

Tuesday 12th March first cake sale of the Year 8 Philanthropy project which will run daily at breaktime until Wednesday 20th March/ Y7 Hindu Temple Trip/ KS4 Culture & Heritage Club (3:15-4pm)

Wednesday 13th March Year 10 Field Trip to Battersea Power Station/Globe theatre trip to watch

Romeo and Juliet/St Cecilia Concert in School Hall (7.30-9pm)

Thursday 14th March Year 10 Field Trip to Battersea Power Station/International Day of Mathematics (LRC Maths event in the LRC with Maths related games) for Year 7 and Year 8/ Y7 Hindu Temple trip/ King's GCSE Reinforcement sessions

Friday 15th March Year 10 Tate Modern Museum trip/Year 11 Mocks; **Maths/Chinese / Mandarin** lessons at Kings College

News and announcements

St Cecilia's Concert Wednesday 13 March. Don't miss it. Remaining tickets can be secured via the Finance office over in the Dorothy Kazel block.

Parent Resources

Smoking and Vaping

Further to our recent communications from the school, this is a reminder that the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) has always been prohibited on our school premises. Smoking/vaping is prohibited at all public transport stops and stations and on transport to and from school. Anyone found to be in possession of vapes or vaping in school uniform both in and out of school will be at risk of suspension. See resources below to assist parents and carers talk about this with their children:

[Response to Youth Vaping report: The report by The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza draws together findings from her recent nationally representative survey of children aged 8-17 and their parents, as well as qualitative findings from The Big Ask, the largest ever survey of children in England.](#)

[BBC Panorama – Teenage Vaping: What's the harm?](#)

[Ask Lisa Podcast: Episode 103 'How do I talk my teen out of vaping'](#). In this podcast Dr Lisa Damour discusses peer pressure, how the industry is manipulating our young people, strategies that can keep kids from experimenting, or help them stop once they've started.

[Better Health - One You Merton Quit Vaping](#) has advice and webinars for teens to help them stop.





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020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk



International Women’s Day 2024 Conference: ‘The Power of memory; A celebration and reflection on the female story’ was held on Tuesday 5th March, to #InspireInclusion.

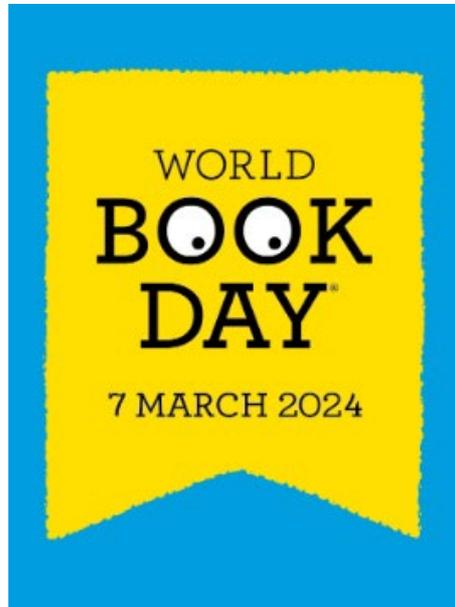




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World Book Day 2024 was celebrated on Thursday 7th March with a range of activities in English lessons, supported by library events.



Year 9 received an Employment Taster Day on Wednesday 6th March. A wide range of professions were represented including neonatal nursing, engineering, and mental health fields.





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K&A
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Do you want to be part of a winning team on and off the pitch?

Do you want a great choice of sixth form education?

Do you want to work within the fast-paced environment of a professional sports club?

If any of your answers are "YES" and you are currently in Year 11 at school then please follow the link below to find out more about the opportunities open to you as a Surrey County Cricket Club Sixth Form Scholar.

Surrey CCC Sixth Form Cricket and Education Programme Expression of Interest



Calling all Year 10 students interested in cricket! The Surrey County Cricket Club Sixth Form State School programme launches at Ursuline in September 2025. For further information scan the QR code to your left or speak to the P.E department.





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Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group

[Heads' Student Leadership Team Introduction Message](#)

[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)

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

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, and Weduc – Parent Guides & FAQs

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

[Sancta Familia Consultation](#)

[Term Dates 2023/2024](#)

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly

Acting Headteacher

