

Year 9 Update

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events & page 3 for contacts!



Spring Term A 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of Spring A – the midpoint of the academic year – I am delighted to report that Year 9 have continued to demonstrate excellent commitment to their studies and to the school's core values, embodying Serviam in all areas of school life. This was particularly evident during Mass for the feast of St Angela Merici, which students attended at the Sacred Heart church on 24 January – a beautiful and uplifting occasion.

Continuing their excellent dedication to extra-curricular activities, Year 9 students have again busied themselves with a range of clubs and activities (including outside of school). It is always a pleasure to hear and see students putting their gifts and talents to good use, and to developing their skills in leadership, teamwork, resilience, and more. Please do encourage and motivate your daughter to continue doing so, or to take up / try something new if they are not currently involved. As ever, if there is a club that they feel is missing, or which they would like to see offered, please do encourage them to get in touch. Many of the girls are very committed to their local football clubs. It has been a great experience being able to watch some girls from the year group play football for their teams.

On 16th January, Year 9 attended a learning conference with Mr Nichols where he explained the KS4 Pathway (GCSE) Options. Students were very attentive to the presentation and have now begun a time of discernment before submitting their options in March. They then had a taster day for their GCSE options on 2nd February. This gave the students an opportunity to see what a normal lesson would be like for subjects they have never studied before. The aim of the day was to help them in their decision making. The year had a brilliant time. Please do encourage your daughter to think carefully about their options and support them in making the decisions which are correct for them – as we know you will. Thank you to the many parents/carers who attended our parent/carer Options meeting. Year 9 must submit their choices by the 8th of March.

As ever, there is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks as we move into Spring B, in addition to our Lent programme, we have our St Cecilia's concert, our much-loved Multicultural Evening, and a fantastic KS3 art exhibition in St Angela's. Year 9 are currently receiving a series of careers talks as part of their PSHEC curriculum – giving them an opportunity to think about their future career prospects. Year 9 Parents Evening will be taking place on 21st February in the school hall. This is an important diary date for all parents/carers and your opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress, and GCSE Options with her subject teachers.

Wishing you and your families a restful and happy half-term and a joyous start to Lent. I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 19th February at normal time. Thank you as always for your continued support!

Yours faithfully,
Miss Smith and Miss Guiheen
Heads of Year 9

Students' Achievements

1 - Most Rewards:

1. Giorgia M (9B) - 57
2. Juliana T (9B) - 57
3. Pola M (9M) - 56

Congratulations to **9 Bernadette** - currently leading the way with **1265 Reward Points!**

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **25** students in Year 9 who have **100%** attendance. Please do keep up the good work!

Congratulations to **9 Margaret** who lead the way with **96.18%** attendance!

If your daughter participates in sport or other activities outside of school, please do encourage her to let us know.

There have also been some other great achievements this half term, you can find these on our [Twitter P.E Dept Twitter](#)

Spring A Highlights

- **23rd January – Mass for the Feast of St Angela** – Year 9 joined together with Year 10 to celebrate our school's Feast Day. A beautiful occasion.
- **2nd February – GCSE Options Taster Day** – Year 9 enjoyed a fun-filled day experiencing subjects they would like to do for GCSE.



Feast of St Angela Mass



GCSE Options Taster Day

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Upcoming Events

February

- 13th February – Shrove Tuesday
- 14th February - 28th March – Lent
- 14th February – Ash Wednesday
- 19th February – Return to school for Spring B
- 20th February – Lenten reflection for parents, Chapel, 6.00-7.00pm
- 21st February – Year 9 Parents Evening



March

- 1st March – St David's Day
- 6th March – Year 9 Employer Taster Day
- 8th March – Deadline for Y9 Options
- 8th March – International Women's Day
- 10th March – Mother's Day
- 11th March – Science Week
- 13th March – St Cecilia's Concert, 7.30-9.00pm
- 17th March – St Patrick's Day
- 20th March – Multicultural Evening, 6.00-8.30pm
- 21st March – Cultural Day
- 24th March – Feast of St Oscar Romero
- 26th March – Feast of St Margaret Clitherow
- 26th March – Year 9 Passion Service
- 27th/28th March – Academic Review Day
- 29th March – Good Friday
- 31st March – Easter Sunday
- 29th March – 12th April – Easter Holidays

Looking Ahead

- 6th – 13th April – Ski Trip
- 15th April: Return to School: Start of Summer A Term

**Please note this is not a complete event list and is intended to provide a snapshot only. Events may be subject to change.*

Year 9 Virtues

Spring Term: Discerning

Summer Term: United in Harmony

Wellbeing

Parental Workshops

- 6th June: KS3 Relationships & Healthy Lifestyles Parental Workshop
- 19th June: Parent Workshop to support parents of SEND students

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS trust are running a number of free wellbeing workshops for parents / carers of secondary school aged children. Click here for more information and to book: [Secondary Parents - NHS Wellbeing Workshops | Eventbrite](#)

Education Wellbeing Service
Upcoming Events For Parents & Carers
Spring/Summer Term 2024
Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

- 15TH OR 24TH JAN: Understanding & Supporting Your Teen With Autism Spectrum Condition. For all secondary & college parents/ carers.
- 6TH OR 7TH FEB: Social Media & Gaming - What Parents Need To Know. For all secondary & college parents/ carers.
- 26TH OR 27TH FEB: Managing Exam & Assignment Stress. For parents/ carers of Young People in Years 11-13 & college.
- 11TH OR 13TH MAR: Parenting Teenagers With Characteristics of ADHD. For all secondary & college parents/ carers.
- 24TH OR 25TH APRIL: Managing Exam & Assignment Stress. For parents/ carers of Young People in Years 7-10.
- 14TH OR 16TH MAY: Supporting Your Teenager With Emotional Difficulties & Self Harm. For all secondary & college parents/ carers.

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection. [Click here](#)

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

Cost of living crisis: please use the link to check if you qualify for the governments Free School Meals scheme: <https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil Premium and Free School Meals application>

Additional Support

[Young Merton](#), [Young Minds](#), [Off The Record](#), [Kooth](#), [MindEd](#), [e-wellbeing](#)

Year 9 Update



Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

Parent Communications:

At the Ursuline parental communication is really important to us. We have listed below a reminder of the correct person you should contact for a particular enquiry:

Form tutors – general enquires about the Ursuline, friendship issues, organisation, homework, clubs/enrichment, uniform, equipment, travelling to/from school, trips/calendar events.

9 Angela	Ms Thomas	paula.thomas@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Bernadette	Ms Taylor	geraldine.taylor@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Catherine	Ms Kearney	seoighe.kearney@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Francis	Ms McNichol	georgia.mcnichol@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Margaret	Mr Tyler	jacob.tyler@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Teresa	Mr Preastuin	ronan.preastuin@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
9 Ursula	Ms McColgan	caroline.mccolgan@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Heads of Year (Miss Guiheen / Miss Smith) or Mrs Eloff (Pastoral support assistant) –

Mental health, bullying, safeguarding, online safety, absence request forms, request for your daughter to receive school counselling/educational well-being practitioner, financial support.

paige.smith@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

erin.guiheen@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

karlin.eloff@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Ms Young – Attendance and punctuality/lateness. All absences and lates must be reported via email or Weduc, or phone no later than 8.45am. Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk 0203908 3144

IT Issues

ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk – for IT/Weduc/progresso/laptop related enquires.

Subject specific enquiry – please contact the subject teacher, all staff contact details can be found on our Ursuline directory below.

[Staff Contact Details - Ursuline High School](#)

Kindest regards,

Miss Guiheen and Miss Smith