



Amazing Sporting Awardees!



On Friday 7th July, our P.E department were delighted to host our **Sports Awards Dinner and Presentation Evening!** This is a greatly anticipated event in our school calendar, which provides the chance for students to be further commended for their sporting prowess and achievements which have occurred throughout the academic year.

Awards during the evening included; Most Improved Netballers, Footballers, Basketballers and Athletes, Most Improved Cricketers, Rounders Players, Cross Country Runners and Tennis Players. Incredible hard work, participation, and progress was recognised with our Most Improved, Cheer/Dance, Gymnastics, Tag Rugby and Volleyball Awardees and our Passion for PE medallists.

A big round of applause was due for our Netball, Football, Basketball and Athletes of the Year, and our Cricket, Cross Country, Rounders and Tennis Performers of the Year. Awards were also presented for Performers of the Year in Cheer/Dance, Gymnastics, Tag Rugby, Volleyball, Hockey, Swimming, Karate, Triathlon and our Junior Sports Leaders Awards.

Year 7 Little Enthusiast went to *Rialle*, **Resilience Award:** *Isabella*, **Merici Award:** *Zoe* and our **Serviam in Sport Award** went to *Rochelle*. This year we have had some incredible support from our **Sixth Form Sports Leaders** who volunteered their time to help. Congratulations, *Siân*, *Rochelle*, *AnnaMaria* and *Grace* for their **Ursuline Community Sports Leadership Awards 2023**.

Well done to the below students who were unable to attend on the night; *Grace* (Year 12) for her **Community Leadership Medal**, *Emma* (**Gymnast Award**), *Charlotte* (**Athlete Award**), *Faye* (Football), *Tallulah* (**Hockey**) & *Clarice* (**Basketball**). Incredible achievements from everyone this year. A full list of our awardees can be found on our website.



Athletes Of The Year 2023

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Thank you to students, staff, parents, governors, the Ursuline community and our many parishes for the support, encouragement and belief you have placed in me over the last 19 years.

Teaching and educational leadership has been my life and I am truly privileged to have been a member of a unique catholic community dedicated to the progressive education and advancement of all young women.

I am delighted to 'sign off' by sharing that last week we were awarded Centre of Excellence for Inclusive Education. In a school where the global community is truly represented this is an accolade to the values we all hold. Well done!

May St Angela continue to watch over you and God continue to shower the Ursuline Community with her blessings.

Best wishes.

Ms Waters
BSc (Hons) MA Headteacher



Communications

We are committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers. To read more about our Communications Strategy visit the [Parent Communications](#) page of our website.

Are your details correct? To ensure you are receiving relevant communications from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details;
bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Building Bridges



Students took part in a special **Chaplaincy Retreat** with **Ursuline Prep school** this half term, on the theme of 'Building Bridges'. We presented the Prep with a lovely poster where students had written ways in which bridges can be built to one another, and our community. For more Chaplaincy news please take a look at the latest edition of our Chaplaincy newsletter on our [website](#).

Open Events



Our **main school Open Evening** will be held at UHS on **Thursday 27th September**. This will be an exciting time for prospective parents (and any current parents with Year 5 or 6 children) to view the school and get a taste of Ursuline Education. Tickets are available to book now, until **18th September**, further information can be found on our website [here](#).

End of An Era



Thank you and goodbye!

Staff and students bid a fond farewell to **Ms Julia Waters**, Headteacher, who retires at the end of August after 23 years' service.

It is difficult to do justice to the transformative changes introduced and embedded by Ms Waters over the past two decades. They cover every aspect of the school – from physical improvements and the creation of new spaces, to developing the enriching extra-curricular and extended learning opportunities for our students, to the development of Serviam as the Ursuline's distinct charm - whilst all the time driving outstanding progress and achievement for all our students.

Ms Waters' dedicated, outstanding and inspiring leadership led to a generation of students and their families, benefiting from a pre-eminent Catholic education.

We will forever be grateful that the school was blessed with her leadership for so long. We are sure you will join us in wishing Ms Waters a long, fulfilling, and exciting retirement.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Kelly to the role of Acting Headteacher commencing in September 2023. Mr Kelly has been the school's Associate Headteacher since September 2018 and has been with the school for 20+ years in total. Mr Kelly has a deep understanding and appreciation of the Ursuline's ethos and has the experience, skills, and vision to lead the school, sustaining and building upon Ms Waters' legacy.

We are sure that you will all lend Mr Kelly your full support and join us in congratulating him on his success which is so very well-deserved.



Dedicated Service



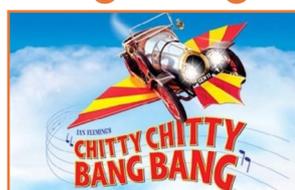
After a total of 17 years at the Ursuline and dedicating a total of 50 years to education our **MFL teacher Ms Kenny** (top, left) has retired this year. We are also very sad to say goodbye to **Ms Lasocka** (top, right) our ESOL teacher, who has also retired this year, after many years. We know you will join us in wishing Mrs Kenny and Mrs Lasocka a long and happy retirement! We thank them for their long service to our school!

Bookfest



Congratulations to the below students who have been successful in this year's **Wimbledon Bookfest Competition** with their short story/poem entries. These will be published into a book in due course! **Esme E & Evie T** (Year 7), **Honor & Lottie AL** (Year 8), **Simran & Jada T** (Year 9), **Isabella E, Laura J, Lizzie F, Lydia D, Sinead OC, Sylvana E-C** (Year 10).

Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang!



We are very excited about our upcoming winter school production of **Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang!**

This looks set to be another memorable display of creative talent from the Arts department. Rehearsals will be underway in the Autumn Term when we will also release details regarding ticket purchasing.

Arts Evening

We were pleased to host our **Art Exhibition** in the **St Angela's Centre** this half term. It was a great celebration of some amazing work produced throughout GCSE and A Level art courses. We look forward to showing you more images in September (once the work has been moderated!)




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Mode!

Students took part in a fashion show in **German** towards the end of term! Students took to the catwalk while their outfits were read out in German a fun way for students to expand their vocabulary! Did you know the German word for fashion is mode?

Taiwanese Visitors



We welcomed 32 **Taiwanese students** and 2 teachers from *Monday 3rd - Friday 14th July*. Students really enjoyed making friends with their assigned buddies and finding out first hand more about student life and school in the UK. The trip ended with a lovely farewell celebration where our visiting students gave heart-warming speeches of their experience, allowing them to practise their English. Lots of tears were shed by all at the end!



Teach Wimbledon



On *Thursday 13th July*, our **Teach Wimbledon** trainees congregated at **University of Roehampton** for their highly deserved **Graduation Day** upon completing their teacher training programme! It was a lovely evening and we wish all of our graduates the very best of luck as they start teaching in an official capacity in their new schools in September!

Year 11 Celebrate



With GCSE exams coming to an end on *Wednesday 28th June*, **Year 11** had their chance to really celebrate at their **Celebration Evening** on *Tuesday 27th June*. Students gathered for refreshments with parent/carers as staff in the quad before the awards celebration in the school hall. It was a lovely evening. **Year 11** then enjoyed their **Work Experience** placements from *3rd-14th July*.

Dallas



In June we were delighted to welcome a delegation of 8 students and 4 staff from the **Ursuline Academy Dallas**. The Dallas students stayed with Year 10 girls and became part of the family! The Dallas students spent time at UHS, going to lessons with students and having their own bespoke cooking class where they made a traditional Afternoon Tea which they then served to older members of the community.

Year 6 Transitions

On *Wednesday 5th July*, we welcomed our **Year 6 students** our school to take part in a special **Transitions Day** to help them become familiar with our school ahead of starting in Year 7 in September! Exciting times ahead! We have also been delighted to have other Merton primary school students on site this half term, with **Year 4** students taking part in a **Girls Stem Day** on *Friday 7th July* and many school attending our **Primary School Multi-Skills Sports Day** (featured on the back page).



Year 12 Cultural Day



Year 12 students took part in their cultural day this half term, where they dressed in cultural clothing and put together a variety of food stalls.

Placements



Year 12 continued with their placements this half term. Year 12 were all smiles at their pre placement at **Epsom Hospital**.

Sixth Form Taster Day



On *3rd July* **Year 11** took part in the Sixth Form Taster Day where they had the chance to experience the course they will be starting come September. Year 11 also had their sixth form interviews on *4th/6th July*.

Open Evening



Considering Sixth Forms? We are pleased to announce that our **Sixth Form Open Evening** will be held at UHS on *Thursday 12th October*. **Ursuline Sixth Form** offers an excellent pathway to your chosen university, further education institution, degree apprenticeship or training programme. We provide a variety of **A Level** subjects and also offer an increasing range of **T Levels** housed in our purpose built St Anne's and Katherine Johnson buildings. Further details on how to sign up will be available on our website in September.

Tate Rosetti Exhibition



Year 12 Literature students really enjoyed their trip to the **Tate** to see the **Rosetti exhibition** this half term! A great exhibition exploring art, love and lifestyle through an immersive show- highly recommend!

Societies Conference



Tuesday 4th July, **Year 12** lead a **Societies Conference** in the school hall. The theme was social justice. Students hear from speakers such as **David Neeta** who spoke on the standards of beauty and the damage to society.

Churchill College



On *Thursday 6th July*, **Year 12** students attended a residential trip to **Churchill College, Cambridge** to attend the **University Open Day**. Students visited many lectures, heard from the staff and students, and fell in love with Cambridge as a city. "A fantastic experience, really helped me on deciding my college choice." Year 12 student



netball tennis football athletics
 rock climbing cross country
 trampolining basketball hockey
 dance duke of edinburgh award
 wimbledon ball girls cycling

Wimbledon Ball Girls!



Wimbledon was here in a flash this year and we had an exciting few weeks, trying to spot our students on those Tennis courts! 7 of our students were selected to be **ball girls** - a great achievement! A particular highlight was **13th July**, when ball girl **Larissa** (Year 10) was selected to meet **The Queen** (bottom, left), as she made an appearance at Wimbledon.



Well done to the following students for being amazing representatives of the school throughout Wimbledon tennis.
Marina M, Ellen W, Larissa M, Gabriella K, Lana A (Year 10). Ines B & Elena G-R (Year 11). We also spotted UHS alumnae **Ciara L** court covering!

Rounders Champions



Fantastic performances from our **Year 7/8 Rounders Team** who were crowned **Champions of Merton Borough** on **13th June**, after a great competition!
 A close 1/2 Rounder triumph in the final Vs Ricards Lodge. A very well done to you all! A massive achievement!

Tag Rugby



Our **Year 7/8s** were in action on **20th June**, at the **Tag-Rugby Girls Festival** hosted by **OldWimRFC & Merton School Sports Partnership**. Some great coaching and fun, the students really enjoyed themselves - thank you!

Multi-Skills Sports Day



On **14th June** we held our **Year 4 Primary School Multi-Skills Sports Day**. A really fun event and everyone enjoyed themselves!
 With our **Year 8 Sports Leaders** doing a fantastic job leading on **Athletics, Basketball, Lacrosse, Hockey, Tennis, Volleyball & Football**, all featured throughout the day! Well done everyone!

Merton Netball



Huge congratulations to **Naomi** in **Y9** who competed with the **Merton London Youth Games Netball Team** in the finals at the **Copper Box Arena** at the **Olympic Park** at the beginning of July. An unfortunate loss to **Hammersmith & Fulham**, but an incredible achievement - **Silver medallist!** A great **London Youth Games**. Well Done!

Sports Day



It was that time again.. **SPORTS DAY**. On **Friday 30th June** we held our annual **Sports Day** over at **Weir-Arches Athletics & Fitness Centre, Kingston!**
 A great display of sportsmanship, teamwork and student support throughout the day. Well done to our winning houses listed below.
Year 7: Margaret Year 9: Francis
Year 8: Ursula Year 10: Catherine

DofE



Students have really been enjoying the challenges and experiences gained on the **DofE** programme this year.
 Recently **DofE Bronze** group took part in their qualifying expeditions to **Box Hill** with **Ricards Lodge** (pictured left), where they camped and cooked some food for their groups!



Cricket



Well done to our **Year 7/8 Cricket** team who got second place in the **Merton Borough** cricket competition on **15th June**.
 Thanks to **Raynes Park** and **Ricards Lodge PE** departments for the games, some fantastic play from all teams!

Borough Tennis



It was all go on **6th June** at the **Merton Borough Tennis Festival**, held at **Wimbledon AELTC** community sports grounds. Our **Year 7** team were representing **UHS** (pictured, left).

They did a fantastic job!