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

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

1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher’s Weekly Round Up Spring B Week 2

You will no doubt have received the communication from the Co-Chairs of Governors announcing the news of my appointment as the permanent Headteacher of the Ursuline High School. I am deeply humbled by the faith entrusted in me to continue leading this school community forward in our mission inspired by the life and work of St Angela Merici. I will endeavour to fulfil what St Angela tasked in her 9th Counsel, *“Put your whole self into the enterprise you have undertaken.”* Thank you also for the kind messages of congratulations.

This has been another packed week seeing out the final round of Year 13 Mocks ahead of Public Examinations in the summer. Well done to all Year 13 students. Our Year 12 English students attended the George Orwell lecture at Thames Christian School. We look forward to a busy week next week which includes the celebration of International Women’s Day - on Tuesday 5th March we are hosting the International Women’s Day conference for visiting schools entitled ‘The Power of Memory; A Celebration and Reflection on the Female Story’. At this conference we welcome five inspirational speakers presenting on the theme ‘Inspire Inclusion.’

Highlights of the week

Post interview, being asked by Isabella in Year 9 to join in her Keepy-Uppy Challenge. Isabella messaged me to let me know of her efforts in this month-long challenge to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund (link below.) I blamed my shoes for being the reason for my poor effort, but Isabella could have kept it going all day! Good luck Isabella.



Focus areas for next week.

Jewellery continues to be a focus area but specifically earrings. Please check that your daughter is leaving home in the morning wearing one pair of earrings only (studs with one stone or small hoop.) The various attempts at interpretation of what small hoop means is admirable, but this really means small enough not to get your small finger through.

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Coats/Umbrellas. During the inclement weather this week it was striking the number of students who only had their blazer on as they ventured home in the heavy rain. There is a small pouch in the school bag ideal for stowing a small umbrella.

Some upcoming events & dates

Year 12 Assessment at WC

Year 7 & 8 Test Assessment Week

Year 9 & 10 Therapy Challenge Week

Monday 4th March Year 10 Trip to Juniper Hall

Tuesday 5th March Year 10 Sixth Form Transition Parents' Evening

Wednesday 6th March Year 9 Taster Day at St George's Hospital and Year 12 students attending Law Careers Fair

Thursday 7th March World Book Day

Friday 8th March International Women's Day Conference and Chinese/Mandarin lessons at Kings College

News and announcements

French Exchange - hosting of teachers - Help needed!

Once again an appeal for help if any parents and carers of students **not** already taking part in the exchange are willing to and able to help with hosting **any** of the French teachers (3 female teachers- dates: 23rd to 29th March 2024) please can you contact Mme Guillet as soon as possible on melanie.guillet@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk.

Parents and Carers reminder of the change of term dates for 2024-2025. Please see the new dates on the website via this link: [Term Dates 2024-25 - Ursuline High School](#)

Parent Resources

Growth Mindset: The Power of Believing You Can Improve.

We all know that students who have a certain mindset, or attitude to learning, are more successful in school and are happier in their learning. Leading Psychologist, Speaker and Author Carol Dweck summarises it as follows: *"In a Growth Mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work— brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities. In a Fixed Mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success — without effort. They're wrong."*

Carol's [TedTalk](#) is insightful and valuable and whilst it was recorded 10 years ago it is still 100% relevant to this day. I'd encourage you to watch it.





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How can parents and carers support? Understanding Growth Mindset and then making small, yet significant, changes in the way we talk to young people can have a lasting impact. Praise that emphasises efforts, actions, and strategies yield greater persistence and better performance over the long term. Praise that focuses on intelligence or talent promotes significantly less persistence and performance.



It was lovely spotting some of our Chaplaincy team taking part in the Lent Chapel Decoration.



Year 10 enjoyed a Trip to King's College University on 27th February, as part of the Raising Aspirations Programme.





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As part of our Year 12 Enrichment Programme over 50 students have been attending local Primary schools or Food Banks to help since September. Headgirl, Akua, has been helping Perseid school in Morden. Akua and the other students have been working across Art, Drama and in other lessons, to support students 1-1 within the class settings.

Students were spotted enjoying their Basketball Enrichment this week.



We were delighted to hear Isabella in Year 10 has received a Service Recognition Award from the [Ursuline Education Network](#). Congratulations to Isabella for living out our school ethos to the full - very well done!





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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
Headteacher

