

Year 8 Update

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



Spring Term A 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

This Spring half term has been a very busy one!

I want to start by thanking you for your continued support this half term with students' behaviour, attitude, and ethos. The response to my letter sent on 2nd February was very positive and well received, encouraging you to speak to your daughters about our core values and virtues which we try to live out in our school community every day. We wish all students to feel happy and safe in school with their well-being, education, and faith at the forefront.

Year 8 and their tutors have continued to work hard on looking after each other and improving attendance to ensure students are in school learning and be supported as needed. We have continued to encourage students to be active in the wider school community, with a variety of enrichment activities and extra-curricular clubs which students have been recording on their Serviam passport. One great achievement is the Year 8 indoor athletics team who won the borough competition and is going to the London youth games regional finals!

An assembly and weekly PSHEC lessons have been the launch pad for the very exciting yr8 Philanthropy project which has so far seen students research and engage with local charities that which to support, and some competitive, presentations saw each for vote for their desired charity. They will now continue to work in music and RE, planning their social action and fundraising whilst learning about the commitment we all have as Catholics to supporting our communities and how-to live-in God's image.

This half term we also went to Sacred Heart Church for Mass to celebrate our patron saint St. Angela Merici's feast day, this was a great reminder for Year 8 to continue live out our school ethos of Serviam in the spirit of St Angela Merici and was wonderful to see so many singing so beautifully in the Choir. Students also thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate some of their cultures during Hispanic Heritage week. The canteen had a special menu that the students (and teachers) were very excited about.

We have lots to look forward to in the Spring B half-term, in addition to our Lent Programme, we have our St Cecilia concert and our very popular Multicultural Evening. Spring B will also host Academic Review Day, providing you with the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their 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 February 19th.

Yours faithfully,
Ms Torode
Head of Year 8

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

Spring A Highlights

- Start of Philanthropy Project
- School Council
- LGBTQI+ month
- Feast of St Angela Mass
- Hispanic Heritage Week
- Childrens Mental-Health Week



Feast of St Angela Mass

Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 5,960

1 - Most Rewards:

1. Sophie R-V
2. Amelia Z

Congratulations to **8T** who are still currently leading the way with **1280** Reward Points

2 – Highest Attendance:

Congratulations to **8A** who continue to lead the way with **97%** attendance.

3 – External Success:

Well done to Evie M 8C for competing in the regional Surrey Schools cross county race at Reigate Park.

Congratulations to **Olivia M** with her continued Charity work, this time raising money for **The Great Orchestra Of Christmas Charity**, the biggest Charity in Poland raising money for medical supplies.



The following students in Year 8 have had their work chosen to be published in this year's Young Writer's publication. They have all received a certificate and the school is in with a chance of winning £100 vouchers for the library. The book with their work will be published in April and they will each get a copy.

Raihana A, Lucy B, Kiyomi B, Emily C, Elizabeth C, Trizan F, Alayna G, Gabriella G, Maeve G, Olivia H, Hayat I, Emmi J, Lena K, Laura SL, Chukwukaima M, Joanna P, Carolina P-F, Lara P, Chloe P-B, Isabella R, Sophii S

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

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Upcoming Events

February

- 13th February – Shrove Tuesday
- 14th February - 28th March – Lent
- 14th February - Ash Wednesday
- 19th February – Start of Spring B Term
- 20th February – Lenten reflection for parents, Chapel, 6.00-7.00pm



March

- 1st March– St David's Day
- 7th March– World Book Day
- 8th March – International Women's Day
 - School Council
- 11th March – Science Week
- 13th March – St. Cecilia Concert, 7.30-9.00pm
- 14th March – International Day of Mathematics
- 20th March – Multicultural Evening,, 6.00-8.30pm
- 21st March: Cultural Day
- 21st March - LRC World Poetry Day event
- 26th March - Feast of St Margaret Clitherow
 - Y8 Trip to London Central Mosque
 - Passion Service
- 28th / 29th March – Academic Review Day

Looking Ahead

April:

- Earth Day
- LAMDA Showcase
- Parental Webinar; Exam stress
- Form retreats
- Feast of St Catherine of Siena
- World Autism Awareness Day.
- African World Heritage Day

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

Year 8 Virtues

Spring Term: Compassionate

Summer Term: Faith-Filled

Wellbeing

Free Parental Workshops

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 8 Update



Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

Parent Communications:

At the Ursuline, parental communication is really important to us. I have listed below a reminder of the correct person you should contact for a particular enquiry, which I hope you will find useful.

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

8 Angela	Ms Williams	rachel.williams@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Bernadette	Mr Panchins	francois.pachins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Catherine	Ms Hawkins	rosamund.hawkins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Francis	Ms Laura McHale	laura.mchale@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Margaret	Mr Chiswa	ian.chiswa@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Teresa	Mr Gibson	georgina.gibson@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
8 Ursula	Ms Surbey	carys.surbey@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, or 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/free school meals.

Anne-Lise.Torode@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk Head of Year

Karlin.Eloff@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk Pastoral Support Assistant

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 0203 908 3144

IT Issues

ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk – for IT/Weduc/Arbor/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](#)

Yours sincerely,

Ms Torode