



Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang!



On Thursday 30th November and Friday 1st December, we held our annual school production. This year we were proud to present the much-loved family favourite **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**, loosely based on the timeless children's novel Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car (1964) by Ian Fleming, which was later made into a 1968 film. The story introduces us to widowed inventor Caractacus, who restores a broken down racing car with the assistance of his two delightful children Jemima and Jeremy, along the way they discover the cars' magical powers and end up on an adventure to far off lands in the process.

Our cast put on an impressive performance of the hilariously heart-warming story of a flying car, while our amazing choir and dancers superbly brought to life memorable songs such as; Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain, Truly Scrumptious and the Academy Award-nominated title song, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. It certainly made for a truly entertaining show.

Many thanks to our Arts faculty including Ms Surbey, Ms Melliush, Mr Ching and Mr Williams for such a fantastic production and to Mr Hardman for all of his fantastic handmade props - astounding!

Additionally, thank you to all our crew who helped out behind the scenes, on the night(s), and finally, to our audience! See you next year! Chitty Chitty Bang Bang we love you!

MainCast: Truly Scrumptious: Eva T & Vanessa C, Caractacus Potts: Anna O'S, Jeremy Potts: Tara E & Gabriella K, Jemima Potts: Sofia R & Olivia C, Grandpa Potts: Betsy B & Margaret L, Boris: Isabella T & Helena D, Goran: Eva F & Catherine B, Baron: Erin H & Berta K, Baroness: Silvia G & Nicola G, Childcatcher: Emma T & Laura J, Toy Maker: Georgia H & Emma H, Mr Coggins: Alice R & Eliza G, Junkman: Honor & Emily C, Miss Phillips: Agathe L, Lord Scrumptious: Toni A & Sabia O'D

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

As the term draws to a close, we reflect on the remarkable things achieved within our community. I want to thank parents and carers for the unwavering support shown to us this term, even when having challenging conversations around the importance of full attendance.

The messages you sent to staff after the fantastic school production and the Joint Christmas Carol service provides a source of inspiration to us all.

I want also to pay tribute to the outstanding work of colleagues at school this term. Their commitment and willingness to go above and beyond expectations enables the school to enjoy a provision that is exceptional. They have been remarkable and I am privileged to lead a team of highly dedicated and professional staff.

Finally, I hope you have a happy and Holy Christmas and get the opportunity to spend time together with loved ones.

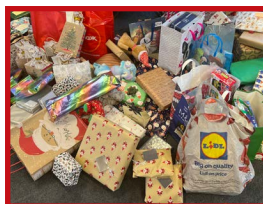
Eoin Kelly
Acting Headteacher

Christmas Festivities



Festivity mode was firmly switched on this half-term as we had a range of Christmas events; including our **Christmas Gift Appeal**, **Christmas Fair** and Christmas lunch. On 1st December we started Advent with our **Christmas Tree Service** in the Chapel. On 18th December we held our **Christmas Carol Service** at Sacred Heart Church. We especially thank everyone in our community for the incredible charitable donations totalling **£5219.89** from the following events.

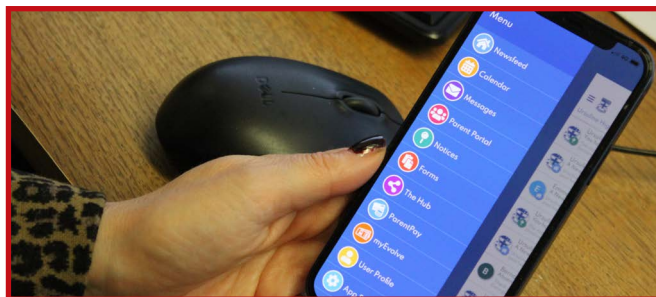
Year 7 Christmas Fair, **£897.36**, Year 8 Christmas Fair, **£648.40**, Year 9 Christmas Fair, **£864.52**, Sixth Form Christmas Fair: Year 12 **£213.77** & Year 13 **£225.65**, Non Uniform Day for CAFOD Gaza and Southern Israel War Relief Fund, **£1146.72**, Joint Carol Service, **£987.49** (for our **Christmas Charity Appeal: The Passage**), and **£235.98** for our Christmas Accessories Day, **£235.98** collected by student leaders.



Commissioning



On **Wednesday 8th November**, we hosted the **Year 7 Commissioning Service**. It was great to welcome our **Year 7s** into the Ursuline community, officially completing their transition from primary school. During the evening they received their **Serviam** badges and made their Ursuline pledge. See our [Instagram](#) for further details.



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

CAFOD Fundraiser



We raised a fantastic **£1146.72** in our mufti day fund-raiser for the **CAFOD** Palestinian/Israeli Crisis Appeal!
Thank you to everyone for your contributions. A great effort.

Garden Museum Trip



This half-term, our **Eco Committee** team attended **The Garden Museum** in Lambeth for a eco-wellbeing retreat. They participated in a 'Moss Safari', spent time at the centres' wormery and concluded the day with a visit to the Old Paradise Gardens, and the Garden Museum Cafe!
A wonderful day!

Year 11 Bath University



Year 11 students had a productive, yet enjoyable time on their trip to **Bath University** earlier this half-term! During this trip students attended a talk in **Chemical Engineering; "Coffee isn't a rocket science, or is it?"**, followed by a campus tour. During a university tour students had an opportunity to talk to current undergraduate students and ask questions.

Day of the Dead!



This half-term **Year 8** participated in **The Day of the Dead** celebrations in their Spanish lessons (left).



Congratulations goes to **Florence D** in **Year 8** who is in the highest level on **Duolingo language app** and in the best 3% internationally of ALL Duolingo users (right)! Well done! Find out more on our website [here!](#)

Gardening Club

The **Year 7 and 8s Gardening Club**, supported by the **Year 12s**, have enjoyed working every week in the old Convent garden with our wonderful volunteers **Margo Walker** and **Luciana Teuma**. They have planted onions and garlic, raked up leaves and started a leaf mould composter. Well done to all our gardeners and a big thank you to Margo and Luciana for giving their time so generously! We look forward to seeing the garden next term in the Spring!



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Wimbledon Bookfest



A selection of students have been successful at the **Wimbledon Bookfest Young Writers' competition**. Their winning entries on the topic of what 'Home' means to them have been published in the **Wimbledon Bookfest 2023 Anthology of Stories and Poems!**

Congratulations to **Esme 8F, Evie 8A, Lottie 9U, Honor 9U, Simran 10U, Jada 10A, Isabella 11C, Laura 11M, Lizzie 11F, Lydia 11C, Sinead 11T, Sylvana 11C, Jessica 13T, Katie 13T, and Julia 13U!**

Christmas Tea Party

On 14th December we hosted our annual **Christmas Tea Party** for our local elderly community lead by our **Chaplaincy team**. Afternoon tea was served and entertaining with a variety of Christmas games. Our choir also performed a selection of Christmas songs! It was a lovely afternoon!



Leading The Way



On the week of **4th November** we celebrated **Hour of Code** with a week of guest talks on the technology field for **Year 9**. The aim of the week was to broaden students horizons in the types of careers available in the tech industry. Speakers included **Ria Pandit** (Cyber Security Engineer at DWS Group) and **Tapashya Murali** (Head of Engineering at Acumen) (pictured).

National Youth Choir



A huge congratulations to the below students who secured places in the **National Youth Choir**. Well done to **Eva 8M, Bella 9F, Gabriella 8M, Elena 9B** and **Aleksandra 10C**. Truly incredible!

Ursuline Dallas



Students visited **Ursuline Academy Dallas** over the October half-term! Staff and students were made to feel very welcome by host families, everyone had an amazing time, and students made some great friends. Students experienced American school life, and did some sightseeing, including a tour of downtown Dallas and Cowgirl Museum in Fort Worth!!

Politics Conference



We had a wonderful **sixth form conference** on **8th November** on **'How to Bring About Political Change'**. Our speakers all did an amazing job of giving sixth formers some valuable food for thought on this topic. The speakers really emphasized the value in voting and getting involved in politics, be it through a political party, or just advocating for a cause close to their hearts. Great to have students from **Mulberry School for Girls, Raynes Park, Wimbledon College, Ricards Lodge, Rutlish, and St Philomena's** involved.

Covent Garden Challenge



After making it through the **Covent Garden Business Challenge Final**, sixth formers had a great day out in Covent Garden with some local Year 5 students who made it through to the Covent Garden Business Challenge Final. A special well done to the competition winners: **Sacred Heart Primary School** with their idea of fidget book cover (pictured, left) to help children with ADHD to concentrate on their reading.

Digital Careers



Our **Year 12 Digital T-Level** students gained hands on experience of what user testing entails on Tuesday 5th December! With a workshop provided by **Adesua Sylvester**; Quality Assurance Engineer at EquiLend, and **Sarah Erinoso**; Senior Associate, also at EquiLend, who spoke to students regarding next steps, and provided a mini session on the importance of Linked In when networking.



Our **Year 12 Digital T-Level** students also competed in the **BIMA Digital Day** this half term. Students focused on how they could use technology to incentivise more young people to go to the cinema. See full story on our website [here](#).

Head's Student Leadership Team



Congratulations to our new **Heads' Student Leadership Team!** Listen to their introduction message to the Ursuline Community [here!](#)
Heads: Akua 12C and Clara 12A
Deputy Heads: Lara 12C and Joshua 12M

Guardian Young Reporter



As part of our enrichment programme, students can take part in **The Guardian's Young Reporter Scheme**. **Liv**, one of our amazing Year 12 students, interviewed **Sadiq Khan** at a festival celebrating Diwali and wrote a [wonderful piece](#) about it. A future journalist in the making!



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

Sports Leaders



Our **Sports Leaders** enjoyed their trip to **The Golf Groove** in Wimbledon on 10th November. New experiences are always awesome and this is a great facility to make use of!

Wimbledon



Brilliant efforts have been shown by some of our prospective **Year 9/10 Wimbledon Ball Girls** at the **AELTC** on 8th November. Lots of rolling, receiving, court play and general ball handling practice demonstrated. Well done!

KS3 Assessments



Assessments were in full swing this half term in P.E as **KS3** completed their **Oracy assessments**.

Year 7s were discussing their Dance performances & giving feedback based on 4 key elements of their assessment criteria (left). Well done everyone!

London Youth Games



This half term the **London Youth Games** ceremony was held, and we celebrated Merton being the most improved borough! The **Merton netball team** won **'The Team of the Year'**, which featured our own **Naomi 10B**. Well done to Naomi (pictured, left) & everyone on the team!



Winning Streak!



Its been a few years since we won a basketball medal, so a huge congratulations to our **Year 10/11 squad** who brought home the winning trophy at the **Merton School Sports Partnership** championships this half-term!



Congratulations to our **Year 9/10 7-a-side team** who finished **2nd place** at the **Merton School Sports Partnership** football championships held at **Harris Academy Merton** on 16th November!



Congratulations to our **Year 7 netballers** who won silver and bronze at the **Merton School Sports Partnership** netball championships, hosted by Ricards Lodge on 7th November!