



Options, Options, Options!



“The Year 9 Taster Day is an exciting opportunity to speak with teachers about their courses, learn about new subjects and help students make informed decisions on their options for Key Stage Four. Students are often surprised by how much their thinking changes!”

Assistant Headteacher

On Friday 2nd February, Year 9 took part in their Taster Day. Students were provided with the opportunity to experience a snapshot of GCSE lessons ahead of making their GCSE choices.

From familiar lessons such as Maths, English, and Science, to a variety of new subjects studied at KS4, including Computer Science, Sociology, and Business Studies. Students were able to get a sense of what these subjects would be like to study at GCSE, and what the courses would cover in order to find the best pathway for them.

From a lesson on Migration in History, looking at form by painting an arrangement of objects in Art, style and composition by performing a Frank Sinatra track in Music, and the excitement of realising there are trips to physical businesses in Business Studies to provide students with a real world understanding of how businesses work, students had an eye-opening day into what the world of GCSEs entails.

The Taster Day was off the back of the Year 9 Learning Conference on 16th January where different pathways and options were introduced to students in preparation. Additionally, Year 9 Options Evening was held on 16th January, where parents were introduced to the various option pathways open to their child to study at GCSE, as well as future options at Sixth Form and beyond, in order for them to be able to fully support this process with the bigger picture in mind.

The deadline for Year 9 Option choices is 8th March and we look forward to accommodating as many student choices as possible.

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Thank you and well done to all the students across the school for their hard work and commitment to this hectic and short term.

We have passed the halfway point in the year and Spring A is a crucial Assessment point in the year with a point of reflection on progress from last year and towards targets. This is most significant in Year 13 and Year 11 as they move towards the public examinations in May but it is also very important for all students to reflect on their own progress and make adjustments in the next spring term.

We wish our Sixth Form students all the very best for a safe and enjoyable trip to Barcelona and we look forward to hearing back on their experiences.

Next week, the half-term Activities Club have a very exciting programme of events including a trip to Wicked in the West End, rock climbing and virtual golf, I'm sure they will have a fantastic and enriching experience.

Full details of the Lenten programme can be found on the forwarding email.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement this term and I am wishing you and your families an enjoyable and restful half-term.

Eoin Kelly

Acting Headteacher



Hispanic Heritage



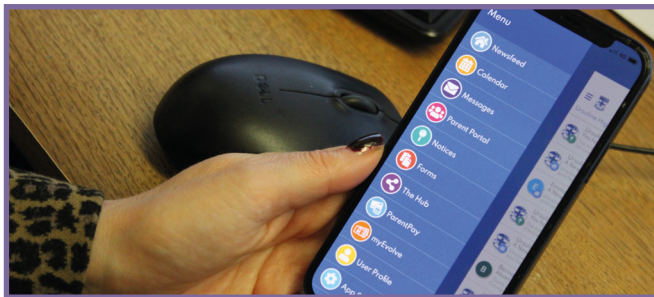
Students really enjoyed Hispanic Heritage Week this half-term. Activities have included analysing Elizabeth Acevedo's poem and Carlos Ruiz Zafon's novel in English, cooking Hispanic food, learning about historic events, as well as the importance of Latin American countries in subjects such as History and Geography. Above they are in French speaking about the dress code at a Quinceañera (a celebration of a girl's 15th birthday). It has cultural roots in Mexico and is widely celebrated throughout Latin America.

Feast of St Angela



We were very proud to celebrate our founder St Angela Merici recently! We held special St Angela Masses, in celebration of St Angela's Feast Day, which falls on 27th January. It was a great way for our school community to come together in celebration, reflection, and prayer at Sacred Heart Church. There are many ways in which St Angela had a lasting effect on The Ursulines and the church. Like St Paul she made herself all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel to bring all people to Christ. In her writings there is a great emphasis on prayer and all through her life St Angela was known as a woman of prayer.

She also made a clear stand against the luxury of the world around her. She emphasised true poverty of spirit and trust in God alone. St Angela was also an educator in the widest sense of the word and in particular in the Christian context of leading people to find Christ in the circumstances of their lives. A wonderful legacy.



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

Food Tech Skills



Year 8 were learning about aeration and coagulation this half-term, and applying these in recipes. Just look at the yummy swiss roll a student made.



Year 10 have been learning about the sources and functions of fibre and have made a dish that contains at least 10g of fibre per serving. Some of our student makes included; homemade wraps, pasta, naan – all examples of complex makes. Well done Year 10.

Brown Envelope Day



It was a Friday full of suspense, excitement, and nerves, as Year 11 received their mock results at Brown Envelope Day on Friday 12th January. Students are now working hard to ensure they are well prepared for their GCSE exams this summer. You can do it Year 11- we have faith in you!

The Snow Queen



Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to see The Snow Queen at the Polka Theatre on 18th January. They all loved the show and the behaviour was outstanding. Well done!

Taiwanese Visitors



We were delighted to host 23 Taiwanese students and 2 teachers for 2 weeks in school, from Monday 29th January to Friday 9th February from the Taipei Huaxing High School, Taiwan. The students were paired with buddies, who gave them a warm Ursuline welcome, took them to lessons, and looked after them during the school day. On their final day, there was farewell for Taiwanese students and buddies in Main Hall - many tears occurred during the goodbyes, and we are sure many of these students will be staying in touch.

“Speak Out”



Congratulations to Toni (10T) and Sophia (10U) (pictured top, left) for making it through to the regional finals of the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge this half-term. Sophia spoke on the topic of School Absenteeism, while Toni spoke on the Representation of Africa by media.

Notable mentions go to the below students, who also gave powerful speeches.

Jada (10A): Embarrassment is an illusion

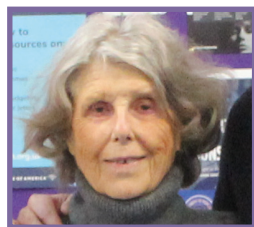
Maia (10F): Problems of being mixed-race

Aitana (10): Power of Habits

Silvia: (10): Success

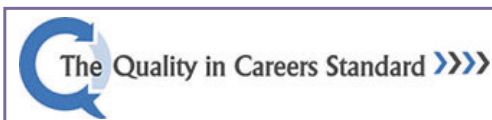
The regional finals will be held in March.

Shirley Ward - RIP



On Tuesday 23rd of January at 11:30am the Funeral Mass of our recently retired dear colleague Shirley Ward took place at Sacred Heart Church. Shirley's family were very grateful for the presence of current and past colleagues who attended in large numbers. The School Choir performed beautifully, and the congregation hymn 'Lord of the Dance' was very moving at the end of the service. May she rest in peace.

Quality in Careers



The Careers department is delighted to announce beginning of the certification process for Quality in Careers Standard.

Quality in Careers Standard is a national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG). Which recognises excellence. We look forward to updating you on our progress with this.



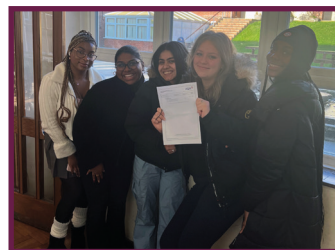
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Speakers For Schools



Judge Nicola Williams came into the school to present to Sixth Form students including those studying A Level Politics and Sociology. Nicola Williams is a Crown Court Judge, both in law and as a writer (she has written two books, Without Prejudice written 25 years ago, and Until Proven Innocent more recently in 2020- after being inspired to return to writing). Unusually, for a modern British Judge she has defended people issued with the Death Penalty (she was a Commonwealth Judge and so worked on Death Penalty cases in other countries). Her fantastic life story and the significant impact of her life's work is a Serviam example for anyone. The best news is, she, herself, is also an Ursuline student- having attended an Ursuline school in Guyana. Thank you so Nicola for your inspirational talk- the students really enjoyed it.

Level 2 Sixth Form Results



Congratulations to our Level 2 Ursuline Sixth Form students who received their GCSE exam results for English and Maths on 11th January. Wishing them lots of luck in their future studies/ next steps.

Congratulations to Madison F. and Alison S. in Year 12, who put themselves forward to take part in a regional competition for French debating. They were up against Year 13 from other top schools and did really well. We did not win on this occasion, but both mentioned how much they looked forward to returning next year and facing the challenge once more. That's the (Ursuline) spirit (of resilience and excellence)! Well done for the courage and great quality of French used spontaneously!

Merci pour les Joutes Oratoires



Crochet Club

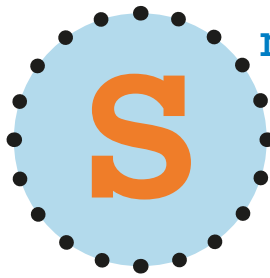


Rowena Kosmider has been teaching Year 12s crochet as part of the Year 12 Enrichment programme. The students had really enjoyed taking part in the enrichment and were begging to be allowed to continue the enrichment when Dr Kosmider comes back to the school after her next teaching placement. High praise indeed!

Barcelona Trip



Exciting times as some of our sixth formers headed off to Barcelona on Thursday 8th February. They arrive back on 11th February. Wishing them a safe and enjoyable time. More about their trip in the next edition of the newsletter!



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

Merton Indoor Athletics



Spring approaching means the start of the athletics season! Students were excited to take part in the Merton Indoor Athletics in January.

Basketball



Brilliant effort from our U16 Basketballers in a friendly fixture at Harris Wimbledon on 31st January. An unlucky 22-12 loss but plenty to work on and excellent practice.

Merton School Sports Partnership



It was a double whammy of wins for our sports hall Athletics teams in January, with Y7 & Y8 teams victorious at the Merton School Sports Partnership competitions. Everyone onto the next round representing Merton London Youth Games later this term! Well done all and THANK YOU to our incredible sports leaders



Little Giants

Volleyball Partnership



This spring term we have built some excellent new partnerships! We are proud to introduce our new Volleyball Academy in Partnership with Little Giants Volleyball and with Kingston Lions Basketball club to help deliver some of our MultiSports Programmes to wider numbers of students.

As you can see, we have lots of them getting involved!

Surrey Schools Cross Country Competition



Ursuline had excellent representation at the Surrey Schools Cross Country Competition lead by Merton Sports Partnership this half-term at Reigate Priory Park. Amazing efforts from all the team: Beatriz, Sophia, Halili, Annabel, Isabel, Stephanie & Zoe. Two of our Year 7s, Beatriz and Sophia were lucky enough to meet Sir Mo Farah who was there to support the event. WOW!

