



## Celebration of Culture!



“The hard work, ideas, passion, drive, and most significantly, leadership of staff and students on the expansion of this key cultural event, have had a huge impact on the school community. Our Ursuline Community is an inclusive one, which celebrates and lifts up one another, guided by the teachings of St Angela Merici.”

**Mr Kelly, Headteacher**

Student-led events are warmly welcomed at Ursuline and there was much joy around the school this week as we held our **Multicultural Evening** followed by our newly introduced **Culture Day**. On **Wednesday 20th March** we held our much anticipated annual **Multicultural Evening**. A fantastic evening for foodies, where students, parents, and staff in our Ursuline Community explored an array of delicious dishes, with their taste buds travelling from the Caribbean, Philippines, and Ghana, to Poland, Spain, and Portugal- just to name a few! This was followed by a student showcase - hosted by our sixth formers with some spectacular entertainment on display celebrating global culture, featuring a vast array of cultural dances, singing, and even some poetry. You were all amazing!

As if this wasn't enough, in an effort to further involve the whole school in cultural celebration, we followed through with our first ever **Cultural Day** on **Thursday 21st March**. Staff and students were invited to attend school in their cultural dress and accessories.

They most certainly did not disappoint (as you can see in the photos), it was lovely to see our community proudly representing and celebrating cultural heritage- with flags galore. The grand finale was a lunchtime cultural fashion show, run by some of our Year 10 student leaders. As you can imagine, this was particularly well supported by our student audience with murmurs of *“I hope we can do this again next year”* a reoccurring theme upon exit!

Events like these aren't anything without the people behind the scenes - a big thank you to our student leaders Naomi, Anjardie, Julia and Chisom who were supported by Ms Gilmore and Mr Williams and not forgetting our awesome sixth form presenters! Your hard work, ideas, passion, drive, and most significantly, leadership, have had a huge impact on the school community and event success. If you're reading this online, further photos can be found on our Instagram here!





# headlines



Click here for further thoughts in my Easter Message

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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The term is ending and we complete our preparations for Easter. As usual, it has been a busy and very successful term, with the Year 11 and Year 13 students preparing and working hard for their upcoming public exams. I have been so impressed by their commitment and fortitude, I hope they manage to feel the support of the whole school as we keep them in our prayers, thoughts, and actions in the next few weeks. Next term is once again packed with a calendar of events and enrichment opportunities. Please note the key dates in the Updates from Heads of Year and encourage your daughter (son in 6th Form) to get involved and avail of this incredible provision, which supports the outstanding learning and progress in lessons.

Throughout Lent our young people have been preparing for Easter in our liturgies and collective worship. They have taken part in the school [Lenten programme](#) which involved reflection, prayers and charity.

This Lenten journey has now reached its climax in Holy Week and the start of the Easter season. Cardinal Basil Hume once said, 'The great gift of Easter is Hope'. We take this hope into next term and continue to teach the importance of love for each other, of being kind and taking the time to truly listen to one another. Our young people are praying and working for a better and compassionate world.

As we finish for the break, the sense of Spring in the air brings with it hope and comfort. May you all embrace these feelings over the holiday and enjoy the time together with your families and friends. Take care and thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Mr Eoin Kelly



## Congratulations Mr Kelly!



*"We are confident that Mr Kelly will lead the school with commitment to the teaching of St. Angela and the Ursuline charism and deliver, for all our students, an enriching and outstanding education that will enable them to move into the future with skills, strength, and courage. Equally important for governors is our confidence that Mr Kelly will lead a school in which our staff feel trusted and respected and professionally fulfilled. We are sure that you will join us in offering Mr Kelly congratulations on his success."*

Claire Thorogood & Beau Fadahunsi, Co-Chairs of Governors

We are absolutely delighted to share that our governing body have appointed Mr Kelly as our permanent Headteacher.

We are sure you will join us in extending your good wishes to Mr Kelly on his exciting new journey with our Ursuline community.

Congratulations Sir, let the new chapter begin!

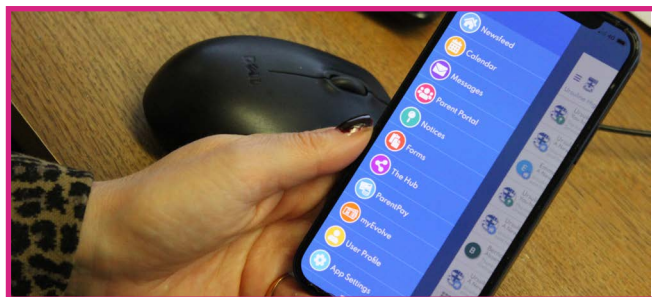
## Lenten Season

Our **Lenten programme** was run in School over a period of six weeks. Each week had a theme, a focus and an opportunity to be involved in either an act of collective worship, sacramental experience or faith in action. You can view further details of this year's Lenten programme on our website [here](#).



## Amazing Art

GCSE students got the chance to visit the **Tate Modern** and **Tate Britain** this half-term! The **Year 10** class travelled to Tate Modern to see a variety of different artists that can inspire their personal investigation for GCSE. Whilst Year 12s were given the chance to explore both the Tate Modern and Tate Britain in order to expand and inspire the themes of their projects.



## 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](mailto:bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

## World Book Day



**World Book Day 2024** was celebrated on *Thursday 7th March* with a range of activities in English lessons, supported by library events.

## Raising Aspirations



On 27th February, **Year 10** students on the **Raising Aspirations Programme** visited **King's College University** in Central London! See website for further details.

## Service Recognition



We were delighted to hear **Isabella T (10A)** 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!

## Philanthropy!

We are so proud of **Year 8** for having put their heart and soul into their fundraising for their chosen charities in the **Philanthropy project**. As a year group they have raised over **£8,200** which is the most any year group has ever raised.



Pictured left: Students presenting an assembly on their charity at **St John Fisher Primary School**.

## Employer Taster Day



On **Wednesday 6th March**, **Year 9** enjoyed a **Employer Taster Day**. A wide range of professions were represented including neonatal nursing, engineering, and mental health fields.



# Shree Ghanapathy Temple



**Year 7** students really enjoyed their trip to a Hindu Temple this week. Students visited the **Shree Ghanapathy Temple** in Wimbledon, which has been operating as a Hindu place of worship for over 35 years. See school [website](#) for further details



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## Who Am I?

**Year 9** were asked to create a series of collages which represent and show different aspects of their personality and identity, as part of their work on their studied novel **'Piecing Me Together'**. We think they did a great job!

## Science Week

We celebrated **Science Week** on **11th-14th March** with a range of activities on offer at lunch and after school.

Our Engineering club were enjoying using the 3D printer.



## Ursuline Brentwood

**Year 9 and 10 Student Leaders** were delighted to take part in a special day run by **Ursuline Brentwood** recently. Students discussed ideas about how to share the Ursuline ethos of the school, and took part in a day of activities! They were particularly impressed by the Ursuline Brentwood site- (they had a lake!).



## Inspiring Inclusion



On **Tuesday 5th March**, we celebrated **International Women's Day**. This year, IWD focused on **#inspireinclusion**. With the thought that, when we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment.

## Offer Day

**Year 6 students** received their secondary school offers for September 2024 on 1st March. We are sure our current Year 7 parents remember this day all too well! Looking forward to welcoming our parents at our **New Intake Parents' Information Evening** on **Wednesday 17th April 2024**.

A reminder that a variety of helpful transitions information is available on our [Transitions Hub](#) on our website.



Welcome to  
**Ursuline High School**

## Barcelona!



Over February half-term, some **Year 12** students visited **Barcelona!** They had an amazing time. See the Sixth Form Instagram for further details!

## Friendship!



*Shyla, Olivia and Sophie* (Charity prefects), enjoyed their visit to the **Sacred Heart Parish friendship group**. They gave a presentation about the school and then enjoyed tea and bingo. Some of the old girls of the school were very interested to hear about how the school has changed over the years.

## Young Reporter



Four **Year 12's** have taken part in **Guardian Young Reporters' programme** this year. They have committed to writing an article every month (with strict journalistic deadlines) looking at a range of topics! Lots of luck for the **Young Reporters' Award** ceremony this Summer!



## Wimbledon Theatre & BFI



**Year 12 and Year 11** students had the incredible opportunity to attend **Robert Icke's** new rendition of **Henry IV parts I and II** at **Wimbledon Theatre**. While Year 12 Film Studies had the honour of engaging in a captivating Q&A session with the legendary Academy Award, BAFTA, and Grammy-winning director **Asif Kapadia**. Find out more on our [Instagram](#).

## Welcome Back!



Welcoming back the incredible **Fernanda**, who graced our halls once again with her inspiring journey from **T Levels** to a degree apprenticeship with **IBM!**

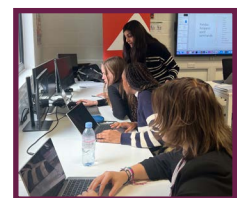
## Sixth Form Transitions



My Experience as a Student in the Ursuline Sixth Form

We held our **Sixth Form Transitions Evening** for **Year 10** this half term. The event provided students with clear insight into the process of applying to our Sixth Form, and why they should do so!

## Software Development



On **Monday 26th February**, **T Level Digital** students were provided workshops run by employees of **City Fibre**, in preparation for our Digital students' Occupational Specialism and Employer State project exams. Students were taught the basics to advance of how to use the computer programming language **Python**, and the code editor **Visual Studio Code**, in order to gain insight into how to develop a front and back-end system.

## St Cecilia Concert



It was a wonderful musical extravaganza on **Wednesday 13th March 2024**, as we held our annual **St Cecilia's Concert**.

An eclectic mix of songs were performed by our soloists, choirs, Merici singers, and orchestra. See school [website](#) for further details.





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

## GCSE Moderation



Excellent rock-climbing prep and final practice/training for moderation with our **Year 11 GCSE PE** climbers on **19th March** at **White Spider Climbing Centre**.



We spied some **Year 11s** completing some more of their **GCSE PE moderation** on **Tuesday 26th March!**

## Netball



Great work from our **Y10/11 Netballers** at **St Cecilia's** on **Thursday 14th March**. Excellent practice especially for our **GCSE PE** students as prep for moderation in a few weeks. Players of the match, voted as *Veronica* and *Zoe*. Onwards and upwards!

## Multi-sports Enrichment



We have had busy Fridays' this half term, with our **Skateboarding** and **Trampolining** multi-sports groups busy in action!

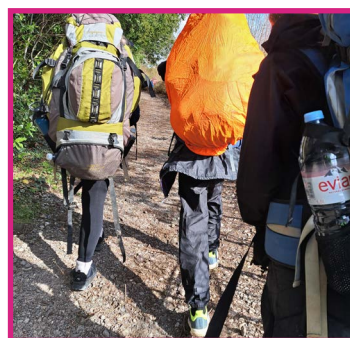


## Rugby!



We hosted **Old Wimbledonians RFC** this **International Women's Day**, celebrating the strength of our students in hosting for the start of our Rugby Taster sessions. Ball handling skills aplenty and lots of fun was had in the sunshine!

## DofE Award



A big shout out to our **Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award** students – I am proud to say we have 63 students spending this year learning and developing new skills, culminating in the qualifying expedition in June. Find out more on our website.