

Year 9 Update

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events!



Spring Term B 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Over the last five weeks, the Church has completed its Lenten observance in which Catholics are called to engage in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Throughout Lent, students at the Ursuline have been challenged on a weekly basis to engage in acts which coincide with these themes – for example: attending their Ash Wednesday service on 22nd February; the "digital detox" on 17th March; the donation of tinned vegetables to the Food Bank appeal; and the start of the Year 9 morning prayer in the Chapel, in which each tutor group has been asked to lead prayer for their Year 10 counterparts. Students in Year 9 have journeyed through Lent and can now look forward to the time of celebration that follows, with Easter just around the corner.

The past half-term has been an important one for Year 9 students, particularly in terms of making decisions regarding their GCSE option subjects. On Friday 3rd March, students attended the GCSE Taster Day – giving them insight and food-for-thought prior to submitting their options forms. I was pleased to hear that the Taster Day went well, thank all students for the enthusiasm that they displayed. If students, or indeed parents, have any further questions relating to GCSE options, subject teachers will be more than happy to assist. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at Year 9 Parents' Evening on 23rd February. Parents' Evenings, along with Academic Review Days, represent one of the best forms of dialogue between the school and parents regarding your child's progress, welfare, and behaviour, and for us are a real highlight each year. I look forward to seeing you again at future events.

There was theatre trip to see Six the Musical at the Vaudeville Theatre this half term, the tale of Henry VIII era- from the perspective of his six wives, which students really enjoyed. Continuing their excellent dedication to extra-curricular activities, Year 9 students have again busied themselves with a range of clubs and activities (including outside of school). I was especially pleased to see students in Year 9 participating in the St Cecilia Concert and running stalls / performing at Multicultural Evening – two standout events! It is always a pleasure to hear and see students putting their gifts and talents to good use, and developing their skills in leadership, teamwork, resilience, and more. Please do encourage and motivate your daughter to continue doing so, or to take up / try something new if they are not currently involved. As ever, if there is a club that they feel is missing, or which they would like to see offered, please do encourage them to get in touch.

As we move into the Summer Term, there is plenty for students in Year 9 to look forward to, including the 132nd anniversary of the school. On 25th April, several students will take part in the Year 9 Ursuline Conference, which we are hosting. This is an opportunity for students to meet and work with students from other Ursuline Secondary Schools, with a focus on the Ursuline Jubilee. Thank you to the students who have volunteered / agreed to help the school to host this event. Planning is now underway for UHS Fest Week at the end of the school year, and I look forward to being able to share more information regarding this with you shortly.

We ended with Spring B with our Easter Liturgy which was well received by students!

Wishing you and your families a restful and happy Easter holiday. I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 17th April.

Thank you as always for your continued support!

Yours faithfully,
Mr Roberts, Head of Year 9

Students' Achievements

1 - Most Rewards:

1. Hannah M (9M) – 100
2. Sofiia T (9C) – 98
3. Silvia G (9T) – 93

Congratulations to 9C - currently leading the way with 1861 Reward Points!

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently 11 students in Year 9 who have 100% attendance. Please do keep up the good work!

Congratulations to 9B and 9U who lead the way with 96% attendance!

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



St Cecilia Concert

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 B Highlights

- **Year 9 Taster Day** – Year 9 students enjoyed their opportunity to experience some of the subjects they will take for GCSEs
- **Multicultural Evening** – Students running stalls and performing at this remarkable event.



Taster Day



Multicultural Evening

Year 9 Update



Upcoming Events:

April

- 3rd – 14th April – Easter Holidays
- 17th April – Return to School: Start of Summer A Term
- Year 9 Trip to Kew Gardens
- 25th April – Year 9 Encounter Conference with St Ursula's Greenwich
- 21st – Earth Day
- 22nd – 132nd Anniversary of the School



May

- 1st May – Closed for May Day Bank Holiday
- 3rd May – Polish Constitutional Day
- 5th May – World Portuguese Language Day
- 8th May – Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
- 10th May – Mental Health Awareness Week
- 16th May – Year 9 Parents' Revision Evening for Internal Exams
- 18th May – Voluntary Mass for the Feast of the Ascension
- 19th May – Key Stage 3 Performance Showcase
- 24th May – Year 9 – 11 Merton Girls Cricket; Morley Park
- 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term

Looking Ahead

- 5th June – School Returns
- 5th June – World Environmental Day
- 14th June – Year 9 End-of-Year Exam Week
- 30th June – Sports Day
- 5th July – Year 9 Serviam Assembly; Hall
- 12th July – Year 9 Celebration; Hall
- 14th July – Sports Awards Dinner; Hall
- 17th July – Choir Trip to Valkenburg
- 17th- 21st July – UHS Fest Week
- 21st July – End of Term - Summer Holidays

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

Wellbeing

Parental Workshops

- 8th June: KS3 Relationships & Healthy Lifestyles Parental Workshop
- 19th June: Parent Workshop to support parents of SEND students

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](https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil%20Premium%20and%20Free%20School%20Meals%20application)

Additional Support



[Young Merton](#)
[Young Minds](#)
[Off The Record](#)
[Kooth](#)
[MindEd](#)
[e-wellbeing](#)

Year 9 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 find helpful

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

9 Angela – poppy.rushforth@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Bernadette – ian.chiswa@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Catherine – agnieszka.ciechanowska@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Francis – laura.grant@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk / john.lester@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Margaret – rachel.oneill@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Teresa – jason.ching@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

9 Ursula – serena.sidaway@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Head of Year (Mr Roberts) or Mrs McCourt (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.

james.roberts@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

sarah.maccourt@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Ms Young and Mrs McCourt – Attendance and punctuality/lateness (please report student absence before 9.30am).

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

Kindest regards,

Mr Roberts