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1st December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 5

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported their daughters in the extra commitment needed as part of the cast and crew of the school production Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. I had the pleasure of enjoying the show on Thursday night and am really looking forward to the final performance tonight. I look forward to seeing the joy and pride of everyone there tonight. 'Break a leg' as they say.

The season of Advent got underway this week in school with the first of our Christmas Fairs. Year 9 presenting to our Year 7s with music, games, beauty treatments, home bakes and far too many sweets to sustain full concentration in lessons after! I tried some excellent homemade brownies; I won a cucumber face treatment and bizarrely enough was invited to try hair gel!! Fantastic effort by everyone in raising money for the Year 9 nominated charity, 'The Down's Syndrome Association'. The school day then finished with our traditional Christmas Tree Service in the School Chapel with singing and preparation for the season of Advent.

Highlights of the week

Isabella, a Student Council Representative in Year 9, being elected as the Chair of the Merton Youth Parliament, and she is also a proud member of both the London Youth Assembly and the National Youth Combined Authority. Isabella has been to the Houses of Parliament already and is looking forward to interviewing the combined Authority Mayors in England including Andy Burnham and Sadiq Khan next week.

Government data indicating that all subjects contributing to our Outstanding Progress 8 scores places the school in the top 10% of all schools nationally and most in the top 5%. Modern Foreign Languages in the top 2% of schools and English top 1%. Fantastic outcomes by our students.

Focus areas for next week

Good luck to all the Year 11 students as they begin their Full Mock schedule, we know you will give it your best.

Some upcoming Events & Dates

4th December - Year 9 Theatre Workshop at the Old Vic and performance on 7th December.

4th December - Sixth Form Science trip to the Faraday Museum

7th December - LAMDA showcase 6pm

8th December - Careers Workshops in Computing and Digital Technology

18th December (8pm) – Joint Carol Service at Sacred Heart.

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Acting Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

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Christmas Gift Appeal

We have recently launched our Christmas Gift Appeal in support of the [Catholic Childrens Society](http://www.catholicchildrensociety.org.uk). We would be grateful for your support in donating the below gifts by **Wednesday 6th December** please. *Please wrap or use a gift bag.* Please label if gift is for:

- Boy or girl
- A baby, toddler, young child, or teen



Gifts needed: Footballs and sports related toys, arts and crafts sets, barbies and dolls, Lego sets, Marvel heroes (Spiderman figures etc), dressing up costumes, board games, make-up, books, magic sets, musical and sensory toys, headphones, Linx sets, hoodies/general clothes, gift vouchers.

News and Announcements

The Non-Uniform Day today raised over £1000 for CAFODS emergency relief efforts in Gaza and Southern Israel. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in this effort.

The Governors of the school are sharing the consultation report findings on the school's application to form and join the Catholic Academy Trust 'Sancta Familia'. Please follow the link below to view this document.

To view the details of the Catholic Academy Trust please have a look at this website.

[Sancta Familia CAT Consultation](#)

Parent Resources

Missed our Autumn A school wide and year group **newsletters**? Read them [here](#).





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Images from the week

The work continues at a pace in the Mary Garden, as our volunteers help revive this spiritual and contemplative space in our school.



Congratulations to Isabella T (Year 10) who has been elected Chair of the Merton Youth Council! Isabella has had a busy week! On Wednesday she was at City Hall and on Thursday the Houses of Parliament! We are so proud of you using your voice for change!





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We held our Christmas Tree Service with some of our Ursuline community this afternoon!



Fantastic performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang last night, we are looking forward to the final performance this evening! Well done to the Arts department, cast, and crew for putting together such an outstanding production.





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Year 9 had a great time at their Christmas Fair this week, selling to Year 7, I got myself a few goodies as well!



A huge well done to our Year 10/11 basketball squad who brought home the winning trophy at the Merton School Sports Partnership championships this week!





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Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)

[Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group

[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, and Weduc – Parent Guides & FAQs

[Safeguarding, health & well-being](#) (please note that this section is currently undergoing an overhaul).

[Sancta Familia Consultation](#)

[Term Dates 2023/2024](#)

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly

Acting Headteacher

