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15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 7

Thank you to all the parents and carers of Year 11 students who helped support their daughter/s throughout the Mocks. Attendance and engagement in this significant practice exam season has been remarkable.

I had the pleasure of helping serve Christmas lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and the atmosphere was terrific in the dining room as staff and students sat down together to enjoy a fantastically prepared Christmas lunch for nearly 900 diners. I was moved off the Turkey stand because I was too slow and then was reprimanded by our Head Chef, Ms Pierwieciecka, for giving out too many roast potatoes, but we did get through it!

On Thursday we welcomed elderly members of our community to a special Christmas tea party. Our students prepared and served the food and entertained our guests with sing along carols, a quiz and more importantly taking time to sit and get to know them.

Highlights of the week

The excellently attended Reconciliation Service with visiting Fr Phillip de Freitas on Thursday provided a quiet reflective space for students across all year groups to participate in the Sacrament as part of the school Advent preparations.

Naomi, in Year 10, being selected to play for the borough of Merton in the London Youth Games (please see picture below.) Naomi showed perseverance and courage on top of her practice and skill to secure this competitive selection.

Focus areas for next week

Attendance in Year 9, 10 and 13 has dropped significantly behind that of other year groups. Year 7, 11 and 12 have excellent attendance and so the difference is concerning. Attendance to school is the single most significant factor in progress and attainment.

Some upcoming events & dates

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

19th December P1 and P2 Sixth Form Christmas fair selling to Year 7 students.

19th December Year 7 Athletics Indoor athletics trials 3:20 to 4:45. Year 8 on Thursday 21st.

20th December Accessories Day (separate communication emailed). Collecting for Save the Children charity.

22nd December Christmas Assemblies (all year groups). Early Closure 12:40pm.



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News and announcements

We are delighted to invite you to the joint Ursuline High and Wimbledon College annual Christmas Carol Service, taking place on Monday 18th December, 8pm at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, SW19 7LU. Invites were sent to all parents/carers on Tuesday 12th December.

Thank you to the UPA Parents' Association who are providing mince pies and mulled wine after the service on Monday at Wimbledon College.

Parent/Carer Resources

Letter to all parents/carers from Mark Sanna, Merton Youth Engagement Sergeant. Please click [here](#).

Safety

Our Safer Schools Police Officer, PC Gunn, would like to promote [STREETS SAFE](#), a new anonymous reporting tool, allowing the public to report safety concerns in public places without giving police your name. This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, broken equipment that pose a safety hazard, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you. Please note [STREETS SAFE](#) is not for reporting crimes or emergencies. If you witness a crime or emergency, please call the police on 101 or report a crime online.

Images from the week

Year 11 Mocks are coming to a close. Well done to Year 11 for all the hard work they have put in to preparing for these. Results will be released on Brown Envelope Day next term.





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Students enjoyed their Christmas Lunch this week. I was on hand to help with the serving!



Naomi in Year 10 (below, left) showing off her trophy from the London Youth Games. She has been selected to represent the borough in regional and national competitions.





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MFL students get set weekly independent homework on Duolingo and we want to celebrate an amazing achievement this half term from Florence D 8M (below), who has made it in to the top 3% in the Obsidian League of Duolingo's GLOBAL top leaderboard for German learning
Well done!



Year 9's final netball fixture of the term saw our A & B teams in action at St Cecilia's, with a 12-18 win and 14-19 loss. Players of the match: Kayli and Marcia!





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Our student leaders enjoyed hosting our annual Christmas Tea Party for our elderly community this week, with Mr Cunliffe and Mrs Harrison. I popped along to join in the Christmas cheer and sing a few songs.



Year 8 had a great time at their Christmas fair this morning!





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Quick Links

- [Arbor](#) - student records and reports
- [School Calendar](#)
- [CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#)
- [Catholic Life & Mission](#)
- [Curriculum Information](#)
- [Heads' Student Leadership Team Introduction Message](#)
- [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

