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6th October 2023

Headteacher's Friday Roundup Week 5

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we welcomed nearly 400 visitors from primary schools to tour our school and meet our students. The Ursuline students were passionate and proud to show off their work and speak about what it is like being part of this community.

We have had lots of events going on in this busy week from the International Literacy Day, a suite of Black History Month events, school production rehearsals and lots of sports fixtures including netball and Gaelic football. This was all rounded off with Doughnut Day today at break, thank you to the UPA (Ursuline Parents Association) for organising, although I'm not sure the teachers Period 4 and 5 today will be as grateful for the accompanying sugar rush.

Our Form Retreats are now in full swing, this Wednesday it was the turn of Year 10 Catherine reflecting on the theme of 'Life' finding meaning in the little things. Across the school this week we remembered in our prayers the senseless and incomprehensible death of 15-year-old Eliane Andam. A life described by her family as 'very comedic with a bright future'. We are discussing and learning about the importance of making decisions to keep safe in our Assemblies and in the PHSEC curriculum throughout the Autumn term.

Highlights of the week

Assessment Week for Year 7 and 8 students had the students all preparing diligently and we look forward to the success stories from this week.

Accompanied by Mr Williams, 8 students received their medals at the Jack Petchey Awards Evening at the Polka Theatre on Monday 2nd October. All awards were Serviam related achievements. Well done to all those winners.

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Acting Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

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Focus areas for next week

Recording homework diligently in Planners. We ask parents/carers to support by checking at home. Students need to be reminded of the Mobile Phone policy. Locked and out of sight in locker. If seen or used in school mobile phones will be confiscated as per the policy.

Parents/Carers News and announcements

Parents/carers should respond to the communication on Academic Review Day with the instructions on fixing the appointments. Any problems, please contact your daughter/son's Head of Year. Reminder of early closure next Thursday 12th October at 12:45pm for Sixth Form Open Evening. Wednesday 11th October there is a Parental Workshop (Online Media and Safety) 6:30pm in the Main Hall.

International Literacy Day Year 7 students in the LRC at lunch-time





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One of our Year 7 winners with her copy of Artichoke Hearts by Sita Brahmachari.



Doughnut Day. Sugar Explosion!





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Jack Petchey Award Winners 2023 with Martin Whelton, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Brenda Fraser.

Polka Theatre Monday 2nd October



Resources

An excellent signposted resource for parents/carers. Have a look. [iGen](#) by Dr. Jean Twenge is an incredibly insightful book documenting the cultural changes shaping today's teens and young adults, and exploring how their changed world has impacted their attitudes, worldviews, and mental health. The book draws from surveys of 11 million young people as well as in-depth interviews. Dr. Twenge is a Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University and the author of more than 180 scientific publications and books. Dr. Twenge was also recently interviewed by Ezra Klein as part of his 2023 Mental Health Podcast Series.

Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

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[Curriculum Information](#)

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

[Parent Engagement & Communications](#)

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

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

[Term Dates](#) 2023/2024

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Enjoy, what could be, the last of the summer weather this weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Acting Headteacher

