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Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA
020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

21st June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer B Week 3

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a wonderful evening of celebration in the school marking the completion of Key Stage 4 by the Year 11 students. The sun was out and the students with their families enjoyed the reception and then formal prize giving marking this momentous occasion at the end of the GCSE exam season. The atmosphere was joyful and was skilfully hosted by our Student Leadership team, a student-led event by and for students. The highlight of the evening was a most inspirational speech by one of our alumni and ex-Head Girl Ohemaa. Ohemaa (currently Year 4 Medic student at King's College) spoke directly to the students to encourage them to follow their passions and in the process "to 'lift' others with you as you go". Many parents and carers have asked for a transcript of this speech, which we will share when Ohemaa gets a copy to us. Thank you to all the staff who worked hard behind the scenes and stayed late into the day to make this such a fantastic evening.

In other news we received a letter of gratitude from the Catholic Children's Society for our recent donation on £612.14. The letter set out specifically where this support was targeted and we received a message from the recipient stating, "Thank you so much for your help, it has meant everything to me and my children". Thank you to everyone in our community who continue to be so generous in response to appeals and fundraising events in school.

Highlights of the Week

On Monday 17th June, the deserving majority of Year 8 students enjoyed an afternoon reward with a picnic and games at Morley Park. Anyone witnessing the event would have been struck by the fun and full participation young people can have without the need of smartphones. This new reward opportunity will help continue to build community as the students progress through the school.

On Tuesday, the History Department welcomed David Wirth to speak to our Year 12 A Level History students about the Holocaust. David's parents, Eva and Istvan Wirth, survived the Holocaust. Through a mixture of his mother's personal testimony and historical artefacts, David told the students about their experiences and the impact of the Holocaust on their lives. The talk complimented their A-Level unit, Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1918-1963, as well as enriching their understanding of the Holocaust and historical concepts such as personal testimony.

"I found your parents' story hugely inspirational, and it has made me reflect deeply on the Holocaust and the horrors of the individual experience". Erin (Year 12)

We were delighted to share that Ursuline High had the highest number of participants for Duke of Edinburgh with 65 students enrolled on to the Bronze award, 6 Students enrolled on to the Bronze award and 4 students enrolled on to the Gold award.

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Focus areas for next week

Students must not alter their uniform as they leave the school gates to embark on their journey home. Uniform standards required in school must be replicated on the journey to and from school.

Some upcoming events & dates

- Monday 24th June – Early Closure (12:45pm) for students
- Tuesday 25th June - Iceland Trip Parent Meeting (5.30pm)
- Wednesday 26th June - Y12 Sociology Trip to Mosque in Morden (1-3.30pm)/
Madrid Fest Week 2024 Parent/Carer Meeting (5-6pm)
- Thursday 27th June - Year 11 all students Induction to the Sixth Form
- Friday 28th June - Ursuline Whole School SPORTS DAY; Sports Track at Wimbledon Park.

News and announcements

Did you know about the National Thank a Teacher Day on 19th June?

Take a look at the National Thank a Teacher Day. There’s more information about this initiative [here](#) and if you want to tweet you can see some examples on the campaign’s X [account](#) and use the hashtag #ThankATeacher.

Newsletters

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

Parent resources

Fostering Gratitude. Getting a tween or teen to say thank you can sometimes feel like an uphill task, but it’s not always about saying the exact words. In the longer term it is about cultivating a sense of gratitude in children and learning to decipher the different ways they might choose to show their appreciation.

Puberty and adolescent educators, Dr Cara Natterson and Vanessa Cole Bennett discuss this topic on their [‘this is so awkward’](#) podcast (Nov 2023). The topic is very much aligned to our Ursuline ethos and values and is a great listen.

Catholic Life of the School

Visit our school [website](#) to read more about what we currently do to embed our Catholic ethos into school life.



For the first time in its history Army Cadets were invited to be involved in Trooping the Colour this year. Of the cadets chosen there were 2 girls and Ursuline student Larissa, Cpl Moore of the Princess of Wales Regiment, was chosen. She finished her GCSEs on Friday and headed straight to barracks at Whipps Cross on the Friday night with a 3.30am start on the Saturday morning, having done the Colonel’s Review on the same Parade Ground a week earlier. Well done, Larissa.

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Year 8 enjoyed a fun team-building afternoon at Morley Park Playing Fields on Tuesday 18th June.



U13 Cricket (above, left)

Our U13 Cricketers were out in force on 20th June as well in a triangular fixture at Ricards Lodge High School. Some great work with bat and ball and we returned with 2nd and 3rd place medals. Players of the Match: Miriam, PE Dept Voted Player of the day: Connie. Well done!



U15 Tennis (above, right)

A solid performance from our U15 Tennis Team in the Surrey School's Quarter Finals at St Catherine's Bramley this week. Some fantastic rallies and close games but we left with an 8-4 knockout. Still a brilliant afternoon playing in the sun.





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We closed Year 11's secondary school chapter in style, with a fantastic celebration evening this Wednesday 19th June. We were pleased to welcome back Ursuline Alumnae Ohemaa Asare as our guest speaker, who gave students a heartwarming and motivational speech.





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Year 7-9 LAMDA students took part in a fabulous acting showcase in St Angela's this week.



Our Ursuline Sixth Form A Level Business and Economics students had an incredible day at Thorpe Park this week.





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Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

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

[Headteacher’s Weekly Roundups](#)

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

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

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

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

[Sancta Familia Consultation](#)

[Term Dates 2023/2024](#)

[Term Dates 2024/2025](#)

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

