



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
PROSPECTUS 2024-25



## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### TRANSITIONS

We understand that moving up to secondary school is a significant period for all children and their families. It is a priority for us to help make this time as smooth and positive as possible for our families. We are proud of our Transitions Programme including our dedicated Transitions Hub, especially created to help parents and their children as they start on this exciting new journey with us.

### APPLICATIONS

Ursuline High School, Wimbledon is a 7-form entry, voluntary-aided, comprehensive high school for Roman Catholic girls from 11-18, under the Trusteeship of the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark. Applications must be in accordance with the School Admissions Code, you can read more about this in our determined [Admissions Policy 2025](#). **Non-Catholic students are welcomed and secure places.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Ursuline High School Prospectus. I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of this wonderful school with a proud tradition of delivering an outstanding all-girls Catholic education to our community for 132 years.

An Ursuline student is committed to her faith and our core value of Serviam, 'I Will Serve'.

Students will be part of a national and global network of Ursuline schools sharing the common goals of delivering academic excellence, service in the spirit of St Angela Merici and outstanding pastoral care in developing young women as leaders. Students explore their faith by becoming young women of action who use their gifts and talents to benefit others. Through this formation, our students can make a difference in the school and wider society and are kind, forgiving, generous of spirit and persevering.

The Ursuline enjoys a reputation for high standards of academic achievement based on a consistent record of excellent examination results. We are proud of all students' exceptional progress, and we are committed to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning throughout the curriculum. The magnificent progress and results recorded each year speak for themselves and keep the Ursuline High School as one of the highest performing comprehensive schools in the country.

Our students work hard, are proud of their uniform, and show respect and courtesy for others. To support these high standards, we nurture our students in an inclusive and progressive environment to feel safe and secure in their learning. We offer a wide-ranging sports, arts, languages, and cultural enrichment programme. Our offer includes extensive careers and Student Leadership programmes, preparing the students for the opportunities of life beyond school. Our staff go above and beyond in providing the best possible pastoral care, guidance, and support for all our students to ensure all achieve success. The continuing success of the Ursuline High School is based on strong partnerships, most significantly in our shared values with our parents and the wider community. Together, we ensure the highest standards of achievement and personal development.

We know that choosing a secondary school for your daughter is an important and challenging decision. Should you entrust us, we look forward to welcoming her and will do everything we can to ensure she is happy, thriving and reaching her potential at the Ursuline. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly, Headteacher



# GIRLS ONLY EDUCATION

*Empowerment*



Shree Ghanapathy Temple Visit



Little Giants Volleyball Partnership

With an all girls education students are more likely to take risks, for example putting their hand up in class, trying out for sports and performing arts.

## WHY CONSIDER GIRLS ONLY EDUCATION?

There is vast evidence\* that girls do better in exams at all-girls schools than mixed. Also, an all-girls' school environment adds opportunities for girls and all-girls' educated students are more likely to:

- Gain confidence in public speaking.
- Take on leadership roles.
- Pursue every subject area.
- Perform better academically.
- Become involved in environmental and community social action programmes.
- Be frequently active in volunteer work.
- Help promote racial understanding.
- Value improving their understanding of other countries and cultures.
- Count their desire to understand others with different beliefs as a strength.
- View their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people as a strength.
- Value keeping up with political affairs and influencing political structures.
- Publicly communicate their opinion about a cause.

To explore more, the FFT DataLab report from May 2024 and related article published in The Guardian, focusing on exam results within girls' only schools are insightful reads. Also, we recommend the 'On educating Girls': Creating a World of Possibilities' podcast produced by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS). The podcast is a robust global conversation among experts who are passionate about the education and healthy development of girls. \*FFT Education Datalab, International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS)

# OUR ETHOS

*Serviam*

## MISSION

Inspired by the life and work of Saint Angela Merici, our Ursuline school commits itself to education for tomorrow's world within the dynamic tradition of Catholic belief and practice.

As a Christian community, characterised by a spirit of respect, kindness, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life, thereby fully developing each individual.



*“Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart for without doubt you will see marvellous things.”*

St Angela, Prologue, Counsel 16-18

## AIMS

- Set standards of excellence in teaching and learning and to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- Develop personal qualities of understanding of self and others, self-discipline and motivation, responsibility, maturity, creative freedom and integrity.
- Foster an attitude of respect and kindness for all regardless of age, race, colour, creed, gender or sexuality.
- Build peace, to promote justice, social concern and, through the celebration of difference, the equality of all people.
- Widen horizons, to encourage a sense of commitment and service to the wider world, and to enable each one to go on learning and changing all through life.

# EDUCATION FOR ALL

*Equity*

*"The student voice is the most important thing, it's what drives us to make decisions.. it's really at the heart of all we do.."*

**Senior Leader**

## GENDER EQUALITY

We believe everyone has a crucial role to play in bringing about equality. At Ursuline we are focused on challenging gender stereotypes, sexist language and sexual harassment.

We support students to directly drive change within school and their wider faith community.



## HOMOPHOBIA

As a Catholic school we believe all children are children of God and we celebrate our differences. Students are encouraged and supported along their individual paths to be the very best versions of themselves.

We have an active LGBTQ equalities group who meet regularly to discuss any issues and concerns within a safe space.

## RACIAL JUSTICE

We are an Anti-Racist school and have a robust policy reflective of this embedded in all areas of school life.

Our curriculum and staff professional development reflects the cultural and racial identities of our students so they feel valued. As a school, we also actively promote cultural celebratory events that reflect students' cultures such as; Black History Month, India Week and Hispanic Heritage Week.

Our students are confident to call out any instances of racism knowing it will be resolved in a sensitive and just manner. Our Task Force of students, parents, governors and staff is instrumental in supporting our work.

# CATHOLIC LIFE

## *All of One Heart*

At Ursuline High School, students experience first-hand the positive effects of giving selflessly in service for the Common Good, and see the impact of helping someone in need. We have a [comprehensive virtues programme](#) to help students develop the personal qualities needed to be the best versions of themselves.

Our Chaplain supports students in their faith journey. Each student is encouraged to use their talents, whether it is in music, drama, dance or ICT, to help others reflect and pray. Celebratory masses are held as well as special services throughout the whole year. Students support charities, both by raising money and being active in the local community. Year 7 run a community Christmas tea party. Year 8 students participate in a Youth Philanthropy Project, in which the winning group secures £1,500 for a local charity. Whilst Year 12 have the opportunity to join Youth SVP who provide support to our local homeless shelter.

Students have raised money for local charities including; Catholic Children's Society, The Poppy Appeal, Breast Cancer Now, Born Too Soon, Merton Dementia Action Alliance, The Royal Marsden Hospital and also collected food for Wimbledon Food Bank. Examples of our support internationally includes; Disasters Emergency Committee, CAFOD, and the Ursuline Sisters in Ukraine. Students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, and to build on the Gospel values of love, care, justice, peace, solidarity and respect.

There are opportunities for students to attend national events and conferences, and to participate in faith forming activities together with students from other schools. Each year group takes part in a retreat day, in which different themes are developed in relation to personal development and faith.



**First Give Philanthropy Winners: 8 Catherine**



**Year 7 Commissioning Service**



**Christmas Carol Service**

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

*Achieve*

In 2023, 88% of students achieved five 9-4's including English and Maths (at Grade 4) in their Examination Results. 42% of all grades were 7+ and 192 grade 9s were achieved.

Ursuline High School is proud of its successes, we are in the top 10% of schools nationally awarded for student progress and attainment at GCSE.

We prioritise celebrating every student's individual achievements. We also acknowledge and reward excellence in all areas of school life: academic standards, sport, music, drama and service in the spirit of Serviam.

Every year, a student in each year group is awarded the Student of the Year Award for academic excellence and there are prizes in every subject. Our most prestigious award is the Serviam Award, presented to the student who has best used her gifts and talents for the benefit of others. Our personal development, behaviour and attitudes, and our Sixth Form provision has been graded Outstanding by OFSTED, we are very proud of this achievement.



Ursuline High School loves to reward success, we have celebration events for every year group where students are commended individually for their achievements!.

## Borough Athletics Winners



# CURRICULUM

*Wisdom*

*Inspired by the life and work of Saint Angela Merici, our Ursuline school commits itself to education for tomorrow's world within the dynamic tradition of Catholic belief and practice.*



*“Our provision is designed with our Mission Statement and Leaver’s profile at the heart of it, providing an inclusive and diverse curriculum offer.”*

As a Christian community, characterised by a spirit of respect, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life, thereby fully developing each individual. The curriculum at Ursuline High School is more than just the subjects we teach.

Our curriculum is everything we do that develops our students into strong women leaders of the 21st Century. This is our mission. From our Chaplaincy work to our deep and enriching extra curricular programme, we take great care and pride in the personal development of our students, to prepare them for the next stage in their lives.

Our goal is an anti-racist curriculum that challenges all students to better understand the society they live in, how it came to be, and how better to use their gifts and talents to positively contribute to the common good.

We want all of our students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, so that they feel valued and that their contributions matter.

## OUR CURRICULUM;

- Has student voice at the heart of everything we do.
- Is academically challenging to empower our students to achieve their ambitious goals.
- Is forward thinking and innovative, especially in how we use digital technology to ensure our students are future ready for the changing world of work.
- Supports and promotes our distinctive Catholic school ethos.
- Motivates & engages learners, helping them to succeed.
- Ensures that our students gain the knowledge and skills of literacy, numeracy, oracy and ICT they need for education, employment and life.
- Ensures that our students gain the personal skills such as teamwork, communication, and resilience they need for excelling outside of the school community.
- Enriches the students' learning through a wide array of memorable learning experiences.
- Encourages students to become lifelong learners.
- Enables students to make informed choices about the next stage in their education and life.
- Supports students in developing the characteristics and skills required to transition to the next stage of their education.
- Contributes positively to the students' physical, mental and personal well-being and safety.
- Enriches students with a breadth of cultural experiences.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

*Inspire*

We achieve outstanding results at Ursuline High School through challenging, engaging and consistently memorable learning experiences.



Our goal is to inspire our students to use their knowledge and skills to empower themselves to succeed academically and in the wider context of the world we live in through our broad and balanced curriculum. Our world class teaching and learning provision ensures that our students take pride in their achievements, engage with the learning, and succeed in their ambitions.

Our highly skilled and diverse teaching staff are equipped with the latest pedagogical studies to support their exemplary subject knowledge. We have a clear, research informed policy on the best teaching methods to engage and enthuse our students with a love of learning. We are passionate about our craft and share this with our students.



In all lessons, we aim to develop our students' skills, with particular focus on challenge and deepening the learning through targeted feedback, consolidation and retrieval practice. Student voice is really important to us, and we use this to improve our teaching and learning and to build our curriculum. Additionally, we have an exceptional offer in STEM subjects.

In a world that is rapidly changing, our outward looking approach and continuous innovation in teaching enables us to deliver a modern, global education, which prepares our students to take their place as successful young women.

Geography Field Trip



*“As well as enabling our students to achieve outstanding results, we support our students in becoming lifelong learners and successful women leaders in the twenty first century.”* Teacher

Every student is set a minimum target. This grade is based on prior attainment at the start of each Key Stage. Termly reports to parents monitor achievement, progress and effort. Parents can access their daughter's progress report on Arbor, the school's Management Information System. Login details are shared with parents when their child starts with us.

Students are grouped according to prior attainment in English and Mathematics. In Science, this occurs in Year 8 onwards. With the Foundation subjects, students are taught in mixed ability groups. Teachers identify groups of individuals who need additional or different activities to challenge and aid learning.

# DIGITAL LEARNING

*The Digital Age*

We creatively use MS Teams for our Virtual Learning Environment to provide more resources, revision materials and further support for our students.

Our vision at Ursuline High School is to enable our students to be future ready, proficient in the general and specialist skills for learning, life, and work, with exceptional fluency in the language of a globally connected society.

Through the development of key ICT skills, we ensure that students can utilise their ICT skills at any stage of their education and beyond. We take cyber resilience (safety) very seriously and ensure that our students are able to use ICT with a purpose. We use ICT innovatively, to ensure that we are able to enrich and enhance our students' learning.

Through our voluntary donation scheme we enable all students to have a laptop to support their learning in and out of the classroom. Each subject uses ICT to further develop students' learning and ensures that they make outstanding progress through a wider range of learning opportunities.

*"Amazing teachers who have provided top class teaching. Friends have even commented that Ursuline is doing a better job than independent schools!"*

Parent



*It's great that we get to use our laptops regularly in class to access different online learning environments and for research.*

Student

# INDIVIDUAL LEARNING NEEDS

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*Support*

*“Providing a personalised approach to each student is key in ensuring they receive the type of support that is right for them, this gives them the confidence needed to truly shine..”*

SENDCO

## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The school has a designated teacher for children who are in the care of their Local Authority. They work in partnership with the child's social worker to produce a Personal Education Plan (PEP) to ensure that educational and social needs are met.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At the Ursuline we aim to cater for the individual learning needs of all students, this is in line with the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 Years. The students identified with additional needs are placed on the Special Educational Needs Register at one of two levels: Educational Health Care Plan or Student with Additional Needs.

There are four broad areas of need in which reasonable adjustments are made to support the young person;

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, mental and emotional health
4. Sensory and/or physical

Students who have an EHCP receive extra support and guidance in some of their lessons from Teaching Assistants, who work in partnership with the subject teacher to help students to access the curriculum. Where appropriate, students may also be withdrawn from some lessons for one to one or small group support on, for example, reading and writing skills, organisational skills and raising self-esteem. All students on the register have a provision map to inform subject teachers of the specific learning challenges, so that they can differentiate their work accordingly. Extra support is given to students as deemed necessary and the progress of these students is co-ordinated and monitored by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO).

Students on the Special Educational Needs register may also need assessment and support from other professionals. These include the Educational Psychologist, the Learning and Behaviour team and the Social Inclusion Manager. Once again, these referrals are managed by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS

At the end of Year 6, students on the SEND Register in their primary schools may be asked to complete additional assessments, this is to enable us to provide targeted support upon their arrival in Year 7.

This support may include reading intervention to raise their reading age, enabling them to access National Curriculum tests, and support with numeracy to embed basic numeracy skills.

# WELL-BEING

*Caring*



*"Its great to know you have a supportive set of people around you to help, if you need it."*

**Student**

At the Ursuline High school we fulfil our school values through our outstanding pastoral care. We understand that young women need to have the best view of themselves and the world around them to succeed.

We really do care for each and every one of our students and ensure that their individual needs are known and met. When you start at the Ursuline, you will have a team that you can access to support you with any worries or anxieties you may have, either inside, or outside of school. Our pastoral care starts with your tutor that you see daily and discuss tasks around mindfulness, well-being, and respect. Further support is provided by your pastoral support assistant, who works alongside your Head of year to give guidance and can help find out the right support for you, from organisation skills to friendship concerns. Beyond that, our focus on health and well-being is at the forefront of our curriculum, and PSHEC with your tutor is an excellent way to express and develop your knowledge on physical and mental well-being, as well as how to have successful relationships.

To support the well-being of our students, we offer referrals to the following: a school counsellor, our care coordinator, a school nurse, our school police officer, our school social worker and a team of well-being practitioners. External support includes organisations such as Kooth, Off The Record, Catch 22, and St Giles.

## MENTAL HEALTH SCHOOL TEAM

Our focus on well-being is further supported by being part of the South-West London Mental Health Teams in Schools (MHTS). This partnership provides mental health support teams that work with students and their parents, with the aim of ensuring they are well equipped to have healthy and honest conversations about emotional well-being, as well as connecting them to local services. This has enabled us to develop the services we have on offer at the Ursuline, such as a clinical psychologist, and education well-being practitioners- who focus on sleep, hygiene, low mood and anxiety issues.



## PHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Students are allowed to have a mobile phone for travel purposes. However, mobile phones are to be turned off prior to entering the school site and stored in their locked locker for the duration of the school day. Any phone seen or heard around the school site, outside of lockers will be confiscated. In accordance with our Behaviour Policy (and the current minimum age of 13), social media will not be tolerated, and there will be consequences for anyone found to be engaging in it 'for bad' regardless of whether they are of the legal age. We thank you for your support with managing their online safety.

## PSHEC

PSHEC aims to prepare students to make informed and safe decisions in an ever-changing and unpredictable world. The whole school participates in a dynamic and responsive spiral curriculum, which focuses on relationships, health and well-being and living in the wider world.

We believe in developing the whole person, with students encouraged to use their gifts and talents to serve others working for social justice and human dignity. We aim to empower our students to understand potential risks around them and to safeguard themselves, and each other.



**Student Counsellor**

# STUDENT VOICE

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## Listening

*"I really enjoy putting forward my opinions and speaking out on things I am passionate about, it's important our thoughts are taken seriously."*

### Student

Students need to be empowered to propose and develop enterprising ideas to support the learning of all. As advocates for their own and others' needs, students can increase their confidence, motivation and develop their leadership skills.

Our elected School Council plays an extremely active part in school life. It is the responsibility of the Council to initiate ideas to support students' well-being and learning, respond to proposals from the Senior Leadership Team and raise issues and concerns. Two members of the school council are elected as representative for the Merton Youth Parliament.

We have implemented student voice groups to consult students on their ideas and plans for moving our school forward. Changes brought about have included the introduction of trousers within our uniform policy, implementing a more ethnically diverse food range in the canteen, and addressing concerns around micro-aggressions, through staff CPD training and student assemblies.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

*Aspire*



**Heads' Leadership Team**



**Mary Garden Volunteers**

*“Leadership is part of our everyday routine; it creates confidence in every student so we can excel in all areas of life beyond the classroom.”*

**Year 8 Student**

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

We trust and listen to our students, as well as implementing their ideas. Students can impact on our school by applying to become Student Leaders and/or Members of the School Council. The School Council has two representatives from every Tutor Group who meet regularly throughout each school year. Each representative presents their ideas to their peers at the start of the academic year and elections are then held. In recent years, School Council have made improvements to many areas of the school.

We have an increased focus on equity for all and challenging all aspects of discrimination. The school council has also campaigned successfully to help improve the environment within our school, the local community, and globally.

We are also passionate about our Student Leadership Programme, which involves students from years 7-13. Students work in teams on several projects across the school- linked to the priorities in the school improvement plan. The groups are facilitated by staff members but run by the students. Year 10 -12 Student Leaders are assigned to each group and undertake a Leadership Training Programme at the start of the year. They then take responsibility for coordinating the groups, leading meetings, and liaising with the staff facilitator. Students who play a significant role are awarded the SSAT Student Leader Accreditation. Student-implemented projects range across Chaplaincy, Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, Community, Public Speaking, the school Library, Sports, Arts and Equalities. In the Sixth Form, the Head Girl team act as ambassadors, speaking at a range of events. They also lead prefects and support students across the school in their own personally devised project.

# OUR FACILITIES

*Opportunity*

*"A huge thank you to parents for their donations during the financial year, these have allowed us to update our Kitchen / Dining Hall, our school Wifi system and also to purchase a brand new minibus."*

Governor



School Library

We have a campus that facilitates the optimum learning environment, from specialist rooms for Food Technology lessons to our library and tranquil quad area, which contains outdoor seating for chatting with friends during break time. We have a school supported laptop programme to assist students with learning at school and home. Our library is well stocked – with over 12,000 books for the students, and our refurbished St Angela's Centre houses our drama, art, and music rooms, with an impressive gallery. We also have two dining halls and two dedicated areas for sixth form.

We have recently refurbished part of the main block to house our new T Level Nursing facility. With your continued support, we can keep improving facilities throughout the school.

## URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS *at Morley Park*

Our lovely playing fields and pavilion at Morley Park are just a short walk from the school grounds and are available to students (for use during P.E. lessons and other sporting activities). The facilities include football pitches, changing rooms and an indoor space for wet weather conditions. We are pleased to have expanded our sport offering to include activities such as cricket and rounders. They are a wonderful addition to the school facilities.



St Angela's Arts Centre



Sports Hall Climbing Wall

# ENRICHMENT

## *Widen Horizons*

Joining in the enrichment activities is part of the ethos of the Ursuline and a key part of character development. The more your daughter participates and gives of herself, the happier and more successful she will be at school.

Whatever your daughter's interests, she will find the opportunity to develop her talents and confidence through our Enrichment programme. Being involved in these activities will contribute to the school's house system and earn points towards the house cup. Our expectation is that all students will take part in a range of activities outside of the classroom. Students contributions to Serviam and our key virtues are recorded digitally in their [Serviam Passport](#) and celebrated at the end of each academic year.

## MEMERABLE EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Students are also provided with a range of additional enriching activities such as subject trips and visits, connections with organisations such as Wimbledon Bookfest, and our popular end of term Fest Week, where students enjoy a week off of their usual school timetable taking part in fun, structured activities.

These varied experiences will enrich students' lives, develop their skills, and help them to enjoy school life to the full. We publish our annual programme on our website and update this termly. Some of the enrichment activities at KS3 and KS4 include:

- **Choir and Orchestra**
- **Science Club**
- **School productions such as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and upcoming Shrek**
- **Programming and Logistics Club**
- **Spartans Basketball Club**
- **A range of residential trips (such as Rome and the Ireland Surf Trip)**
- **Wimbledon Ball Girls**
- **History Club**
- **Writers' Circle (Creative Writing)**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award**
- **Debating**



**Play Your Way To Wimbledon**



**DofE Award**



**School Production: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**



**St Cecilia Concert**



**Skateboarding Club**

# COMMUNITY

*Invite and Welcome*



Taipei Huaxing High School Visit

We are continuously forging and embedding links in the local, national, and international communities.

- Avila Partnership with *St Philomena's* school
- Collaborative working with Merton Catholic Schools
- Working in partnership with *Ricards Lodge High School* in collaboration with Teach Wimbledon
- We have links with a number of schools including the Polish Saturday School and *Mulberry School*
- Our Parish; *Sacred Heart*
- Church of England and Catholic Education Service
- Ursuline Education Network, USA
- Wandle Teaching Hub
- Ursuline Links UK

We are continuously forging and embedding links in the local, national and international communities, through our wide ranging partnerships and alliances.

Our motto, *Serviam - I will serve*, is at the heart of our school ethos and we are strongly committed to promoting a culturally inclusive school environment, through our ethos, curriculum, school visits, relationships with parents, and links with partners in the local and global community. Our commitment to equality is at the heart of our ethos. Our strategy and action plan impacts all aspects of school life to ensure we continue to address inequalities.

Performances and events such as the annual school production, *St Cecilia Concert*, Art Exhibitions and Multicultural Evening provide opportunities for parents and students to celebrate both the arts and our diverse community. We have been a Lead School for the Government's Mental Health Trailblazer for the past few years. We support both students and the NHS in delivering expert support.

## AVILA PARTNERSHIP

Our Avila Partnership with *St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls* is a commitment to sustaining outstanding Catholic Girls' education through shared practice, and leadership and development. Recently providing a Catholic Formation Programme for Catholic primary and secondary schools in the Southwark Diocese, with the hope that shared good practice will improve the academic and spiritual life of our students. The Partnership is working with the Church of England and Catholic Education Service to deliver NPO's (National Professional Qualifications) across London South.

## TEACH WIMBLEDON

Teach Wimbledon delivers a school based PGCE teacher training programme for Primary and Secondary teaching in the London Borough of Merton. Lead by Ursuline High School and Ricards Lodge in partnership with University of Roehampton, St Mary's and UCL, working with 10 primary and 6 secondary schools in Merton. Teach Wimbledon has trained over 120 teachers in the last few years! If you are interested in a career in teaching, please visit; [www.teachwimbledon.com](http://www.teachwimbledon.com).

# INTERNATIONAL

*The Wider World*

At the Ursuline, our international links are key in enabling students to take on new challenges, learn from others and develop a broader understanding of the wider world around them.



We are extremely proud of our International School status. Over the past few years, we have further strengthened our links with the global community and our students have taken part in cultural exchanges around the world. We hope to reconnect our links with schools in the USA, France, and Poland (partaking in our yearly exchange programme).

Students also enhance their language learning by building friendships with pen pals from Germany, France, and Spain.

A variety of international visits support students in specific curriculum areas, making a crucial link between the classroom and the outside world.

## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS AND EXCHANGE VISITS

Students have the opportunity to participate in trips abroad as they progress through the school. In previous years these have included exciting destinations such as;

Rome, Ypres, Belgium, France, Ireland, Dallas, New York and China!

*Opportunities to take a work placement abroad at KS5 if students choose to continue with French, German or Spanish at A Level.*

*“Our international links are interwoven in our school ethos and are vastly beneficial in enabling students to learn from others and develop an understanding of the wider world.”*

*Teacher*

# HOUSE SYSTEM

## *Competition*

**St Angela Red**

**St Bernadette Purple**

**St Catherine Green**

**St Francis Orange**

**St Margaret Pink**

**St Teresa Yellow**

**St Ursula Blue**



Every pupil in the school is placed in one of seven houses. Each house has pupils from every year group and are named after Saints: St Angela, St Bernadette, St Catherine, St Francis, St Margaret, St Teresa and St Ursula. Each house has its own colour, and these are displayed on the logo on the PE Kit shirt.

Inter House events run regularly throughout the school year with at least one Inter-house sports event each term and the Inter House debates competition during the summer term. Throughout the year, students are awarded house points through a variety of events from music and art competitions to library quizzes and Serviam activities. Through these events, students develop a sense of loyalty and commitment to their house

The House with the highest total of points at the end of the year will be crowned House Champions at the Inter-House finale, which is on Sports Day. The House information boards have information on events and an up-to-date score for House points.

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

## *Collaboration*

The Ursuline High School is committed to ensuring parents are engaged in supporting their daughter's academic progress and personal development. Parents are given many opportunities over the year to meet with their daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress, and in addition receive regular progress reports. We also provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughter's live in, through resource sharing, information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety and mental health.

In addition, we are committed to effectively communicating with our parents and carers about school life and news – via email, website, information meetings, communications from the Head, and our suite of newsletters.

We also have an active presence on Instagram (@uhswimbledon), our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities that our students are embracing. Do follow us!

## **THE URSULINE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (UPA)**

Our active Parents' Association supports the school in raising additional funds, supporting events, and building community: after all it's harder to meet other parents at secondary school, but by coming along to UPA events you'll get to know other people and feel more involved.

We help raise much needed funds for the school by supporting and helping at events such as: Quiz Nights, Race Nights, School Performances, the Carol Service, Doughnut Day, and Nearly New Uniform Sales, among others. These events have helped support the school by providing funds to purchase the minibus, sound system, curtains, desks, outdoor seating areas and more.

We need to collect items which can be used to generate money by way of raffle tickets. If you, or your company, can donate any form of gift, voucher, or ticket of entry in to places of interest/ events, or you are interested in joining our team, please contact us: [UPA@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:UPA@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)



**Year 7 Parents: Back to School Event**



# CAREERS

Education, Information,  
Advice and Guidance

*“Through our tailored support and guidance, we want our students to realise their potential, follow their passions and have fulfilling and rewarding careers.”*

## Careers Lead



At Ursuline High School we strive to understand each individual's potential through one-to-one careers sessions and linking the curriculum to the labour market. We ensure all aspects of a student's school life are taken into consideration when supporting them onto higher education, training, or employment. Students are encouraged to see the bigger picture and keep their options open through the sixth form, to give them choices when selecting the appropriate career path.

We provide person-centred, impartial, and confidential careers information. It is integrated into students' experience of the whole curriculum and is based on a partnership with students and their parents or carers. We promote equality of opportunity, celebrate diversity and challenge stereotypes. (Our policy is guided by the Gatsby benchmarks identifying the elements of good practice in career guidance).

## EMPLOYERS

It is imperative that all students have encounters with employers, employees and experience the workplace. We are committed to preparing every student with the employability skills needed for a global economy. We build on students' teamwork, communication, investigative and adaptability skills, to help prepare them for the world of work.



Careers Day



## EVENTS

The Ursuline arranges a variety of events and activities from Year 7 through to Year 13. At these events, students can meet representatives from businesses, education, voluntary organisations, and former students, for inspiration and guidance in a wide range of career areas.

Regular events involve external participants including lunchtime careers talks, STEM ambassadors, networking events, conferences, workshops, and careers panels, with both employers and Alumnae. All our events aim to motivate our students, by opening their eyes to the opportunities available to them after school, and by enabling them to understand the connection between what they learn at school and success in their futures.

## OUR CAREERS PROGRAMME

The Careers Lead and advisors are available in the well-resourced careers library to advise and support every student. Students can ask for information and advice or can make an individual appointment. There is an extensive Careers programme in place from Year 7-13, where students explore the world of work and develop their understanding of employability skills, hear from speakers and interview employers. In Year 10, preparation is made to create a formative pathway for Sixth Form, college or apprenticeships. In Year 11, every student has a careers interview, completes work experience to enable them to apply the skills they have learnt in school into a real work environment. Year 11 are provided with the opportunities to explore higher education options, with university trips including Bath, Exeter and Surrey. In the Sixth Form, students are supported in applications to university, Degree Apprenticeships, College applications and work placements. Group workshops include personal statement clinics and decoding the UCAS application process.

We strongly encourage students to consider STEM, digital, and green pathways, through extra-curricular clubs and student conferences. We also have opportunities from universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and work with medical schools. All students have information and advice on the many Post-18 opportunities, from university, school leaver programmes, apprenticeship and degree apprenticeships, and are supported in achieving their desired pathway. We host key external speakers in all fields, and are continually developing and expanding our business relationships, we warmly encourage parents to get involved and support.

# EXTENDED LEARNING

*Beyond the Classroom*



**Wimbledon Bookfest Winners**

Extended learning enables all our students to understand the relevance of what they learn in their lessons to their future and gives them the knowledge and skills to use both now and in their future learning and employment.



**International Women's Day**

## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Our aim is that students leave the Ursuline as young women who have the confidence, skills, attitude, and knowledge for success. Learning from female role models, including our amazing alumnae and professionals from all walks of life, develops students' skills for employment and raises their aspirations. Our recent conferences have included: "Impacting Politics: how to bring about political change", and "The Power of Memory: A celebration and reflection on the female story" to celebrate International Women's Day.

Extended learning enables all our students to understand the relevance of what they learn in their lessons to their future and gives them the knowledge and skills to use both now and in their future learning and employment. Year 12s have the opportunity to present at conferences (the main two being the Politics conference we host here which over 250 Politics students from 8 different schools attend, and the International Women's Day conference to which we invite a panel of inspiring women to speak with our students). We partner with many different organisations and educational establishments to give our students the best opportunities possible. These include: Wimbledon Bookfest, The Philosophy Foundation, Shaftesbury Capital, TEAM (Global), Balliol College Oxford, Churchill College Cambridge, Mulberry School for Girls in Whitechapel, King's College School Wimbledon and the Guardian Newspaper.

Across this programme, students engage with professionals from diverse organisations including lawyers, doctors, nurses, scientists, business leaders, engineers, and journalists. Extended Learning is achieved by providing opportunities and enrichment across the curriculum and year groups through a range of strategies, from conferences in school, corporate visits, speakers and our SERVIAM and careers programmes."

# SIXTH FORM

*Maturity*



*“Ursuline Sixth Form is an exciting, rewarding and vibrant environment that enriches the lives of all our students and leads them to become aspirational young women with a solid understanding of what matters in life.”*

**Assistant Headteacher**

## WHY URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM?

- A **Catholic community** who welcomes all faiths.
- Our **ethos promotes inclusivity, tolerance, and respect for others** within a supportive caring community which values diversity.
- A variety of **pathways** to suit each individual including **A-Levels, T Levels** and **BTECs** so students are prepared for their next step whether that be university, further education, apprenticeship, or training.
- **Outstanding results** reflecting the outstanding teaching delivered by staff and commitment to studies shown by students.
- **Impressive destinations:** In 2022/2023 40% of students progressed on to a range of prestigious Russell Group or Sutton Trust Universities.
- Our **partnership with Wimbledon College** gives students from both schools' access to more courses and provides an opportunity for the students to build friendships and understanding with each other.
- A **curriculum that goes beyond results:** teachers focus on deepening students' knowledge, enabling them to access challenging concepts.



Young Reporter Scheme



Sacred Heart Friendship Group



## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

With the support of a dedicated Careers Programme and our Careers Advisor, Ursuline Sixth Form prepares students for University, Apprenticeships and for long term career progression. We foster and support independent learning skills and provide one to one specialist support to gain places on students' chosen pathways.

- **State of the Art Facilities** including two dedicated sixth form centres proving students with purpose-built areas to learn, collaborate and work independently. Most recently we opened our Katherine Johnson building built specifically for our T Level students.
- **Personal development** opportunities beyond the classroom including societies, prefect system, leadership training and community service programmes.
- **Enrichment opportunities** that empower our students, develop themselves as well rounded individuals and enrich their studies including Duke of Edinburgh, Covent Garden Challenge and Guardian Young Writer's Scheme.
- A dedicated **Careers Programme** supporting students with long-term career development.
- An engaging age relevant **PSHEC curriculum** which prepares students for life in modern Britain and beyond.
- **Increased independence and facilities** including a dedicated common room and two cafés.
- It is our intention that every student leaves us feeling **empowered and ready to succeed as they go to higher education and successful careers of their choice.**



**T Level Nursing Students**

## OXBRIDGE & MEDICS PROGRAMMES

The Sixth Form offers tailored support for those students applying to university, including specific support for Russell Group and a dedicated Oxbridge Programme, with events, speakers, trips, weekly classes, and mock interviews. We usually have about 15 students who apply to Oxbridge each year, choosing a wide range of subjects, from Natural Sciences at Cambridge to History and Politics at Oxford. Our Medics Programme supports our aspiring Medics through the demanding application process and are successful in many students being made offers in this highly competitive field.

## WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Our students take part in a range of interesting work shadowing and summer school placements, these support their studies and aid their selection of appropriate career and higher education choices such as: Cabinet Office; Barclays; St George's Hospital; BAE Systems; University of London; Telegraph Media Group, as well as law firms, pharmacies, hospitals, and schools.

## COMMUNITY

Students actively contribute to the school community and are invited to participate in leadership training in school council, chaplaincy programmes and community service. Our programme of enrichment includes Science Gold Crest Award, Guardian Young Reporters Scheme, Covent Garden Business Challenge, Duke of Edinburgh, Sport, Art, and Music projects with other schools, as well as many opportunities for volunteering. There are (ordinarily) opportunities for travel through cultural enrichment trips and language exchange programmes, including New Orleans, New York, Beijing, and Dallas.

## FIND OUT MORE

Visit our Sixth Form website to explore our prospectus, pathways, courses and find out more about what the school has to offer our students and families.

For further information please contact our Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Didier Adam.

We have an active presence on Instagram (@uhssixthform) our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities that our students are embracing. Do follow us!



**Barcelona 2024**





## Planning Your Journey

Ursuline High School, Wimbledon, is located in the borough of Merton. Use this helpful map to find your way to us.

### By Tube

We are an approx. 20-minute walk or a bus journey from Wimbledon underground station.

### By Train

We are an approx. 10-minute walk from Wimbledon Chase and Raynes Park overground stations.

### By Bus

57 or 131 to Crescent Road (Lower Downs Road stop).



### Follow us!

Join our growing social community!

Instagram: @UHSWimbledon

Twitter: @UHSWimbledon



*'I Will Serve'*

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