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

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

6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher’s Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 5

Yesterday, the National GCSE results were published, and I am absolutely delighted to report that the Ursuline Progress Results place the school in the top 4% of schools nationally.

We have the best results in Merton and Merton Local Authority are the 3rd best in the country! Not only that but students of all attainment levels are making incredible progress, which recognises the high level of challenge and inclusion.

These results are thoroughly outstanding and testament to all the hard work of the students, staff, parents and governors and we are proud to celebrate this achievement together. You can access the Performance Tables [here](#).

Thank you to everyone in the community who supported the fantastic school production Shrek; students involved have now settled back into the routines of school.

The Year 11 students are underway with their Full Mock GCSEs. Students involved in the Arts, PE and languages have completed their practical and timed components, and the students are primed ready to go for Monday 9th when the Mocks begin with English Language Paper 1. The students are well rehearsed in the routines and are raring to go!

The season of Advent got underway this week in school with assemblies and the lighting of the first candle each morning on the theme of “let there be light”. We have also already had three full Christmas fairs. Year 9 presented Year 10 with games, beauty treatments, home bakes and far too many sweets to sustain full concentration in lessons after! Fantastic effort by everyone in raising money for the Year 9 nominated charity, *The Down 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

I had the pleasure of being part of the Head Girl interview process following the 6th Form Hustings in November. The standard of public speaking and engagement of students in the Husting process resulted in 10 incredible students making it through to the interview stage. The interviews were led by the outgoing leadership team comprising of Clara, Akua, Lara and Josh along with staff members Mr Ryan , Mrs Alexander and myself. We are finalising the process and once the students have made their final deliberations the selected team will be announced. This is going to be an exceptionally difficult decision as we were so impressed by how each of the students articulated in their own way why they felt the Ursuline mattered to them. The ethos of Serviam, commitment to virtues, a sense of belonging and opportunity was a consistent thread in the interviews and all the students getting to this stage should rightfully feel proud.

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National Youth Choir I am delighted to share that three of our students - Amabel W (7C), Shreya F (11T) and Emily MacD (11F) - have been accepted as members of the National Youth Choir, bringing the total number of Ursuline students in the NYC to eight! Members of the NYC receive the best choral training possible including unbeatable opportunities to develop skills in music, performance, recording, leadership and teamwork, and to grow in confidence and aspiration. We are so proud of these students, who have worked so hard to achieve this and deserve all the success. A big thank you to you, their parents/carers, for supporting them in their endeavours and, last but no means least, a huge thanks to Mr Ching, Head of Music for giving our students this wonderful opportunity, and the confidence and competence to secure this. No one likes to compare or boast (well, not all the time!) but just for context on the significance of this achievement, these are the numbers of students making it though from some well-known schools: St Paul's 1, Caterham School 2, Royal Bedford 2, Royal Hospital School 6.

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. Good luck to our Oxbridge interview candidates next week. We know you are ready to show off your incredible talents and the product of your hard work in this process.

Some upcoming Events & Dates

- 9th December: Year 11 GCSE Mocks Written papers
- 10th and 11th December: Christmas lunch in School.
- 10th December External Speakers visiting the school for careers talks including Mr Kennedy Climate Journalist.
- 10th December: Tea Party for retired members of the parish and local community (in school)
- 12th December Christmas Jumper day.
- 13th December Chaplaincy Team Christmas Celebration 13:00 in school
- 16th December at 8pm: Joint Carol Service at Sacred Heart Church.

Christmas Gift Appeal

Our annual Christmas gift appeal for the Catholic Children's Society is in its final push. The charity supports disadvantaged families from all backgrounds across London and the Home Counties and every year your kind donations spread joy to those who otherwise might not have a very happy Christmas. Any final donations can be dropped off underneath the foyer Christmas tree on Monday. Please label your gift whether it is suitable for a boy/girl and general age group. Thank you for your generosity.

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Parents News and announcements

The Governors of the school have made the final arrangements for the transference of Land and legal arrangements ahead of conversion on the 1st of January 2025 into the Catholic Academy Trust Sancta Familia. On Wednesday 4th December, the Interim CEO of this new organisation, Mr Gerrard (Ged) Fitzpatrick visited the school during which he had the opportunity to meet with senior leaders and student leaders. Ged emailed me afterwards to say, "I really enjoyed my visit and meeting your team, governors and the girls. All very impressive. A great privilege." [Sancta Familia - Sancta Familia Website](#)

Advent services have begun in the school this week for Years 7 and 8. Please talk to your daughters about this special seasonal event in preparation for the feast of Christmas.

Parent/Carer communications: Access to Weduc terminating 29/12/2024 - Notice for parents/carers of Y8+

A reminder that as part of our portal's consolidations project, all parent/carers communications from the school migrated from Weduc to parents' email mailboxes in April 2024 (academic year 2023-2024). To support parents/carers during the transition period and to provide access to historical communications, parents/carers were given access to their Weduc account until 29/12/2024. As we approach this cut-off date, this is your reminder to please log into your Weduc account before 29/12/24 in the unlikely event that you wish to access any past communications. Thanks for all the positive feedback received regarding our portal's consolidations project, there are no other parent/carers communications changes scheduled, you will continue to receive all communications to your mailbox, as you have been since April 2024. Thanks again for your continued support.

Parents need to be aware that the Metropolitan Police today have informed schools across South London of concerns relating to a spike in youth crime in the Kingston area. This spike relates to extortion and robbery. There is intelligence on the organised and significant extent of this activity. Parents, please discuss this with your children to ensure they are safe and can make informed choices to avoid harm.

Parent Resource

Educating children on spending and saving.

Managing money can be a difficult skill to master, even for adults. As such, it is incredibly important for children and young people to learn all they can before they reach an age at which they will be responsible for their own finances. Teaching strategies for saving and responsible spending early on can be a huge help to youngsters, in a way that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The 'spending and saving' guide (attached) and [article](#) provide expert advice on how to educate children and young people on both spending and saving their cash.

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We hope you all enjoyed our school production of *Shrek: The Musical* as we held our final shows on Thursday and Friday last week!



We are excited to announce over 8 Ursuline students have now been accepted into the National Youth Choir! Currently, making us one of the most successful schools to do so! A fantastic achievement! Congratulations goes to: *Amabel W* (7C), *Eva T* - 9M, *Gabriella G*- 9M, *Bella P*(10F), *Elena H*- T(10B), *Aleksandra G* (11C), *Emily MacD*(11F), & *Shreya F*(11T).





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We are extremely proud to announce that one of our Ursuline Sixth Form Alumnae Fernanda V (graduate 2023) was recently awarded the T Level Student of the Year Award at the National Skills Awards 2024! Full story on website here.



Thank you to Ricards Lodge PE department for joining us for some mid-week Netball fixtures on 3rd December. Final scores: Year 8 UHS 15-18 RIC Year 9 UHS 33-4 RIC Players of the match voted as Ava (Y8) & Emma (Y9) Great efforts everyone!





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The Year 9 Christmas Fair took place earlier today!

It also was lovely to end the week with our Christmas Tree Service in the Chapel.

Quick Links

- [Arbor](#) - student records and reports
- [School Calendar](#)
- [Parent School Calendar 2024-25](#)
- [Term Dates 2024-25.](#)
- [Catholic Life & Mission](#)
- [Curriculum Information](#)
- [ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases
- [Parent Engagement & Communications](#)
- [Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay & FAQs
- [Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)
- [Sancta Familia - Sancta Familia Website](#)
- [Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your families a relaxing weekend and thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

