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15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 2

A busy, full week of school has helped all students back into their routines. Despite the anticyclonic gloom reported in the weather, students continue to display great energy and enthusiasm, positively engaging in school life. Assessment cycles are in full swing as Year 13 completed their Mocks, Year 11s have completed their Mock Language orals for the December series so more flash cards are appearing everywhere! The formal public GCSE November re-sit series in English and Maths have been tackled by some Sixth Formers seeking to improve outcomes from the summer.

School production rehearsals continue at a pace, and you can see the details below on how to secure tickets for Shrek on 28th and 29th November.

On Thursday, we welcomed Mr Williams, Merton School Partner, to the school; his visit supported and affirmed the work we are doing to maintain standards. Mr Williams is a long serving partner, and we were proud to show the impact of our work on attendance and progress of students to date.

Highlights of the week

Having just sent 36 UCAS applications already this year and an incredible 31 students have already having received early entry decisions on one more of these applications. Top 10 universities are included in this list, Durham, Warwick, Loughborough alongside other notable applications to Exeter, Liverpool, Nottingham, York, Cardiff and Lancaster. One student Liv in Year 13 has already received an early entry invitation to interview at Cambridge. We look forward to reporting updates on the offers as they come in.

Focus areas for next week

Students need to reflect on the standards of presentation in their exercise books to make sure that it is consistent across all subjects. Targets and current grades must all be recorded on their tracker.
Year 9 and 10 test/assessment week focusing on Oracy skills across the range of curriculum subjects.

School Performance – Save the date!

As you'll be aware rehearsals for the school production 'Shrek' are well underway. It's great to see so many students involved. Production dates are Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November, 6.30-9.00pm in the school hall. Tickets are on sale now from the Finance Office (via 'The Downs' entrance).

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Some upcoming Events & Dates

Production Rehearsals

Monday 18th November : Garden Museum Trip - KS3 8:55am – 3pm

Tuesday 19th November: Year 12 & Year 13 Head Girl / Boy Hustings; D Adam & B Ryan in Hall

Parents News and announcements

The national news this week continues to cover the issue of absences from school. Statistics released from the summer indicated that just 1 in 20 students with poor attendance (below 90%) attained at least 5 good GCSEs. Attendance is now automatically reported to central government daily. Schools are now being prevented from offering study leave to students for the purposes of mock examinations and separate communications on this will be sent to parents/carers and students impacted by this government decision.

Our UPA are always on the lookout for a helping hand and are seeking more willing volunteers so please get in contact with Mrs Potts if you are interested in supporting. We also need prizes and items for raffles etc. If you, or your company, are able to donate any gift, vouchers or tickets, please contact Mrs Potts via email

UPA@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Autumn A Newsletters

If you missed our Newsletters last half-term please do take the time to look through Autumn A [Inform Newsletter](#). The newsletter captures highlights, celebrations, and photos from the Autumn A half-term.

Our Year Group Updates can be found on the [website](#).

Join our growing social community on Instagram

Do give us a follow to access our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities the Main school and Sixth Form students are engaging in. You will find us [@uhswimbledon](#) and [@uhssixthform](#)

Parent Resource

Resources to help girls engage in constructive communication: the latest "[On Educating Girls](#)" podcast short, "Empowering Girls to Disagree with Confidence and Civility," dives into strategies for navigating disagreements with poise and respect.

This episode explores ways to help young women build respectful dialogue skills and navigate disagreements with confidence. [Tune in](#) for insights, practical strategies, and powerful insights that can reshape your conversations at home.

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Year 10 Computer Science students and Year 12 Digital T-Level students competed in the BIMA Digital Day 2024 this week. Students worked with 4 tech professionals from EPAM (a global company supporting tech innovations around the world) and Microsoft.



Sixth Form students enjoyed spending the day with students from local primary schools supporting them with coming up with an innovative tech idea to pitch, with the aim to be sold at Covent Garden market.





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A great performance by our Year 8 A&B Squad Netballers at the Merton Schools Competition on 12th November. Well done to our A team with their 1st Place win after a very close 4-3 final Vs Harris Academy Merton and to our B team for finishing 6th place overall.



Congratulations to our joint winners of our Black History Month logo competition on the theme of 'Black and Proud!'

Joint 1st prize – Prinita (11U) and Olivia R (11A), 2nd prize – Lilianna H-P (7T) and 3rd prize – Sophie D (7C). Over 50 students entered and there were a number of

outstanding entries. Chisom (11A), received an award for her 'outstanding contribution and serviam' during BHM, as she helped Ms Beale (Head of History) plan the activities that month. Well done everyone!





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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

