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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

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 3

Well done to all the Year 13 who have been receiving their feedback from their mocks and using this learning to make the necessary adjustments to their work. The progress is really reflected in the remarkable outcomes emerging.

The feedback from the observations of the oracy assessments taking place this term in Years 7 to 10 has indicated excellence in preparation and delivery. This value of investing time in the development and mastering of this critical 'soft' skill will no doubt leave a lasting impact on the students.

On Tuesday, we held the Hustings for Head Girls. This was a shortlist of applicants making speeches to the assembled Sixth Form and a selection of Year 11 students, constituting an audience of over 400 people. Brilliant speeches and delivery captivated the audience; voting was exceptionally tight in the race to make the next round. The highest votes enter the final round of interviews for the positions in the next couple of weeks. I was watching MasterChef one evening this week and I was struck by how difficult it must be to make the decision about who doesn't go through. We will now have the same challenge this week in selecting from this significant field. Well done to all applicants and best of luck for the next round in the process.

Highlights of the week

This week we found out the fantastic news that at least three of our students and members of school choir have been accepted into the National Youth Choir. Amabel - 7C Shreya - 11T Emily - 11F. That brings the total number of our students in the NYC to eight, which is an amazing achievement for any school.

I was observing a Food technology lesson on Thursday and was amazed by the competence and focus of the Year 9 students. I even had a visit from six of them straight after the lesson asking me to taste their final offerings. I struggled! But did manage to chose Amirah and Roisin's from the quality offering.

Focus areas for next week

Students need to have a black or navy blue scarf as per the school rule as set out in the planner and on the school website Uniform Policy. This week we have had an eclectic presentation with the onset of cold weather so please assist in ensuring conformity with this rule. A second issue relates to inconsiderate bathroom behaviour. Staff on duty and Premises Managers as well as some students have reported that toilets have been left messy at the end of break. The expectation is that students can be responsible in their allocated toilet areas, but this trust must be met with consideration of those who come along after.

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School Performance – Save the date!

School production dress rehearsals take place next Monday for 'Shrek'. We look forward to watching all the hard work come to fruition next week. Production dates are Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November, 6.30-9.00pm Very limited remaining tickets are on sale now from the Finance Office (via 'The Downs' entrance).

Some upcoming Events & Dates

School Production Rehearsals
Christmas Gift Appeal begins
School Production: Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November 6.30-9.30pm

Parents News and announcements

This week, [Brake UK](http://brakeuk.org), the road safety charity, launches its annual road safety campaign. There are lots of resources and fundraising ideas on their website. In addition, [THINK!](http://thinkuk.org) is the government's designated road safety campaign with a huge number of resources for children between the ages of 3-16 years. Do take a look at these resources and discuss this with your children about road safety, a hugely important topic now more than ever given the use of mobile phones, headphones and electric (silent) cars.

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

[Failosophy for Teens by Elizabeth Day](#): A teen edition of the bestseller *Failosophy: A Handbook For When Things Go Wrong*. This new illustrated book for children aged 12+ focuses on turning failure into success, a topic that is so vital in today's world where resilience is key to success. One for the Christmas list!

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Students assisted in getting our Shrek set up and ready in the school hall today, ahead of the productions' full-dress cast rehearsal on Monday!



I enjoyed sampling Food Technology students Georgia, Andi, Amira, Isabelle, Ava & Roisin's (9C) kind offerings they made earlier this week.





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On Wednesday 20th November, Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Edge Hill, Wimbledon, hosted a joint 'Saints' Day Celebration' for local schools. The event was organised as team effort by all the chaplains of the schools, including Mr Cunliffe.



A great all-round performance from our Year 10/11 A & B Netballers at the Merton School Sports Partnership Competition on 20th November, with our As team finishing 1st and Bs, 4th. Thank you to Harris Wimbledon, Harris Merton, and Raynes Park High School for joining us!

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On Tuesday 19th November, our Head Leadership Team Hustings took place in our school hall, with 15 candidates presenting convincing speeches on why they should be Head Girl.

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

