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Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

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

9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer A Week 3

Habemus papam! We have a Pope. This marks a momentous occasion which we are recognising and celebrating in assemblies and tutor times in the coming week.

https://youtu.be/jvtbngvKfeU?si=0rrirZL_6o4pPJrG

We are still advertising for applications to become a parent governor of the school.

You can find out more in our [Parent Governor Letter 2025](#) and submit your nominations via the [Nomination Form](#).

We invite all parents and carers to look and consider an application to become involved in the governance and future direction of our wonderful school. If you would like to discuss this with me directly ahead of considering or applying, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me directly.

We are pleased to announce that exams are underway! The GCSE written papers started this week, and I have been incredibly impressed with the confident demeanour of Year 11 who appear primed and focused. There is a tangible resilience and courage in these young people which bodes well.

In a change to previous years we now host the Year 10 exams earlier in the year to provide an opportunity to respond to the data in the remaining weeks of Year 10 rather than wait for return in September of Year 11.

Highlights of the week

This week the school and staff received lots of messages from Year 13 students (and for Year 12 Level 2 Programme students who also celebrated their last day in school today, Friday 9th May), and their parents and carers, as they finished formal scheduled lessons and enter the season of exams. These messages have a very significant and lasting impact on the staff and the school in what can be, at times, a challenging job. The messages are affirming of the impact in committing to a vocational career, so thank you to parents and carers. At the end of the Celebration Mass at Sacred Heart Parish Church on Thursday evening I spoke to parents and carers when I said, 'thank you for trusting your most precious children to us over the last seven years (or 2 years), thank you for your patience and accompaniment when we didn't get it right and for your gratitude when we did.'

Canon David's sermon was very powerful and impactful when he reminded the students of the power of faith as they transition into the next phase of their life and also on how important attending Mass can be during exam season.

Focus areas for next week

With the start of exam season next week, we ask all students to understand the importance of thinking about others. Students will need to be encouraging and supportive of our students in Year 11 and Year 13 as they sit important Public Examinations. Students not taking exams are being encouraged to be self-aware and regulate their voices and behaviour

-1-





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throughout the school as exams are being hosted in the Main Hall and in other rooms throughout the school. This is most significant in and around lesson times especially lesson change over, break times and after school. Exam timetables do not follow school schedules.

Upcoming events & dates

Year 10 End of Year Exams until Friday 16th May
Tuesday 13th May Year 12 UCAS Parents Evening Online at 6pm
Year 7 Revision Evening in USFC at 6pm

Parent and Carer Engagement

Laura Tuck from the Merton Library service contacted the school seeking;
"We are looking for teenagers aged 14+ to help out across our libraries during the summer, helping with the Summer Reading Challenge – a challenge encouraging primary school children to read six books across the summer to be in for the chance to win big prizes". See the Poster attached [Summer Reading Challenge 2025](#)

Newsletters

Missed any of the school wide Newsletters and updates at the end of Spring? Read them [here](#).
You can now read our newly-released Spring Term Chaplaincy Newsletter [here](#)..

Parenting Resources

The Netflix series Adolescence continues to ignite important conversations on young people's experience of the digital world and its impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

To support parents and carers as we all continue to navigate these complex topics and trends, Smoothwall, part of Qoria, a digital technology company dedicated to children's online safety, has created this excellent [resource](#). The resource has been expertly crafted - for each of the six episodes, it provides a synopsis, key take aways and specific resources for parents/carers. It is excellent and I highly recommend you take time to review it and use it to support your ongoing conversations at home. As always, valuable parent/carers resources can be found on our [website](#).

Parent/carers resources

See our Parenting Resource section below for a list of valuable resources to support your ongoing conversations at home. These can also be found on our [website](#).

-2





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A selection of images from the week



On Wednesday, ten Community Student Leaders went to Merton Civic Centre to take part in a consultation exercise with the Merton Youth Engagement team. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers and the students gave feedback on a range of issues affecting young people in Merton.

Habemus Papam! WE HAVE A POPE!



Pope Leo XIV

Habemus Papam! We Have a Pope!

Following the recent announcement, we join the Church around the world in welcoming Pope Leo XIV, the newly elected successor of St Peter. Stepping onto the balcony of St Peter's Basilica for his first address to the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square Pope Leo offered a message of hope and unity:

"God loves us, all of us. Evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace."

-3





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On Thursday, we said a heartfelt goodbye to Year 13 with a final celebration assembly. Later that day, a beautiful school Mass was held at Sacred Heart, followed by a celebration back at school. Year 13 have been an amazing year group, and we wish them lots of luck with their upcoming exams and all of their future endeavours. They'll be missed!



We ended the school week celebrating our Year 12 Level 2 students with a Leavers Service in our school Chapel. Congratulations everyone! Some students are pictured here.

-4-





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[Arbor](#) - student records and reports
[School Calendar](#)
[Catholic Life & Mission](#)
[Curriculum Information](#)
[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)
[Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group
[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases
[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)
[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, School Cloud, Parent Guides & FAQs
[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)
[Keeping Safe Online](#)
[Term Dates](#) 2024-2025 / [Term Dates](#) 2025-2026
[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable weekend!

Yours faithfully,

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

-5-

