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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

25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer A, Week 1

Welcome back to the start of the Summer term which began with the sad news on the death of Pope Francis on Monday 21st April. Pope Francis was a leader who inspired the world with his unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and compassion for all, may his soul rest in peace. His teachings, align seamlessly with those of St Angela Merici and will continue to guide us as we strive to live out the values of faith, love, and service to others in our school community. We marked the significance of this event in school with a series of events including assemblies celebrating the life, and now legacy of Pope Francis. On Wednesday, we held a well-attended voluntary Low Mass for the repose of Pope Francis' Soul and also in gratitude for the life of St Francis. A book of condolences was opened in the school foyer, which is filled with heartfelt and personal reflections.

Thank you to parents and carers who attended the Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday. There is a great energy around Year 8 in the school at the moment, marked not only by excellent progress but by participation and Serviam in the Philanthropy project, which is in full flow ahead of the finals next week.

As a school community, we will continue to remember Pope Francis' in our prayers over these coming weeks and pray also for the Holy Spirit to inspire the conclave to elect Pope Francis's successor.

Highlights of the week

Getting the opportunity to speak with students who attended the School's Ski trip to the Dolomites in Italy over Easter. Despite an incredibly delayed return, the students all commented on how much they enjoyed the interaction with staff on this incredible trip exploring the glacier in the Passo Tonale.

I also spoke to students in the school HAF trip programme over Easter which included theatre trips and restaurant visits.

On Thursday, Year 8 students had the enriching opportunity to visit Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden, one of the largest mosques in Western Europe. The visit offered valuable insight into Islamic faith and practice, enhancing students' understanding of religious diversity and community life. The tour reinforced the idea of the mosque as both a spiritual and social hub within the Muslim community. Throughout the visit, students engaged with curiosity and respect, asking thoughtful and insightful questions. Topics of interest included comparisons between Islamic and Catholic beliefs and how Islamic faith influences the everyday lives of believers.

Congratulations to all our students who received their Bronze DofE medals at this week's Merton Award Ceremony. Photos to follow.

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Focus areas for next week

Please support the school's high standards of expectations and rules in relation to uniform. A large number of uniform confiscations and sanctions were necessary this week on return from the Easter holiday particularly with piercings. The school rules are very clear and set out in the planner on the website. Please ensure that your daughter is compliant leaving the house to attend school in the morning to ensure a smooth start to the day without the need for challenge on arrival to school or in requiring staff to contact home to explain, for example, why multiple earrings in one ear or nose piercings are not permissible in the lower school.

Upcoming events & dates

Good luck to the current DofE Bronze participants taking part in their practice expedition this weekend. Photos to follow.

Sunday 4th May at 12:00pm: Solemn Requiem Mass for Pope Francis at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson.

Parent and Carer Engagement

We look forward to welcoming you at the Year 9 Parents' Evening in the school hall on Wednesday 30th April. This will be an important opportunity to discuss preparation for the Summer exams and final decisions on GCSE and Key stage 4 options.

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 6 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 importance of nutrition as part of exam preparation and performance.

In the run up to the Year 11 & 13 GCSE and A Level Exams, the articles linked below discuss the importance of hydration and a healthy diet as part of exam preparation and performance, and in maintaining energy levels, concentration and memory retention. You will also find some slow-release carbohydrate and protein breakfast ideas and some healthy snack ideas to pack on exam days (remember, no nuts at school – however, they do make an excellent snack for home for those that can eat them).

Also, sleep is hugely important for learning as well as concentration and brain processing. Restricting sleep has been shown to impair athletic and cognitive performance and increase anxiety.

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We encourage you to explore these materials with your child and discuss ways to ensure good nutrition is incorporated into their daily routine. Thank you for your support - open communication and a supportive home environment can significantly alleviate exam-related stress.

[Can food improve your exam performance?](#)

[Exam Diet: Eating your way to good grades](#)

[Can food and drink affect your exam performance](#)

A selection of images from the week

“Let us light candles of
hope in the midst of
darkness”

— Pope Francis —

May his legacy guide us toward a more light
filled world. May he Rest in peace. Amen.



It is with deep sadness that we marked the passing of Pope Francis this week. Pope Francis was a leader who inspired the world with his unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and compassion for all. May He rest in peace.

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Some of our students had the amazing opportunity to attend the school Ski trip to the Dolomites in Italy over the Easter holidays. They had a wonderful experience and all returned safely!

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On Thursday 24th April, Year 9 took part in an Employer Taster Day. Employers from various career paths shared their career journeys with students and provided an insight into various professions. A huge thank you to our guests for inspiring our students.



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[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, School Cloud, Parent Guides & FAQs

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[Term Dates](#) 2024-2025 / [Term Dates](#) 2025-2026

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Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend and a good week ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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