

Year 8 Update

Autumn Term B 2024

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events.



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, I am delighted to be able to say that the Year 8 students have continued their amazing start to the year. As ever, they have been challenged to strive to be the very best, and as ever they have not disappointed. As a cohort, Year 8 boasts a whopping total of 5,508 rewards to its name – reflecting the hard work, effort and dedication to the Ursuline Ethos shown by all students. In addition, the students have maintained an excellent record of attendance, with the overall attendance % for the year group sitting at an impressive 96%. Thank you for your support in this – it makes a huge difference!

On Friday 22 November, Year 8 students hosted their Christmas Fair – selling to Year 7 students. This is always an amazing occasion, and I was especially delighted to see the effort students in the year group had gone to in order to prepare their stalls / activities. This included many students preparing home-baked goods, or assembling goody-bags filled with sweet-treats, or even making jewellery items to sell. This event was testament to the enthusiasm and generosity of the students, and gave an outstanding example to the students in Year 7 of how a fair should be. In total, the Year 8 fair raised a total of £1245 for charity – with the proceeds going to the Wimbledon Guild. Thank you! Congratulations to Anna L (8T) who recently won in the Young Writers Wimbledon Bookfest competition, and now have their short story/poem published in the Wimbledon BookFest's Anthology of Stories and Poems – a great achievement- well done!

The school production of Shrek the Musical was simply outstanding and showcased the gifts and talents of students across the school, including many in Year 8. A theatre fan (and critic) myself, I can honestly say that I have seen many shows in the West End that did not match the level of performance on show in the school production, and again this is the result of the students' hard work and dedication, alongside that of the Arts Faculty. If 'Serviam' is about using one's gifts and talents for the good of others, it is safe to say that the show had Serviam in abundance. Bravo to all involved, and thank you, too, to all Year 8s who have taken part in other enrichment activities this term.

The carol service at Sacred Heart church is always one of the highlights of the school calendar, and this year's was no different – thank you to all students in Year 8 who were involved. Thank you as well to Cara, Anna, Annshly, and Helen for their involvement in the tea party for the elderly last week. This event was attended by Sr Dorothy, an Ursuline sister from Sacred Heart Parish, and members of the local community (some of whom are former Ursuline Wimbledon students years ago), all of whom send their sincere thanks for the welcome and fellowship they received.

In the Spring Term, Year 8 will participate in the First Give 'Philanthropy Project' during their PSHEC and RE lessons. This presents an opportunity for students to raise awareness and money in support of local charities who work in relation to key social issues, and I look forward to witnessing their efforts on this. School returns on Monday 6th January.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mr Roberts, Head of Year 8

Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 3387

1 - Most Rewards in each Form:

• 8A – Elizabeth F	28
• 8B – Evie M	37
• 8C – Ava W	35
• 8F – Lena B	35
• 8M – Leonie K	39
• 8T – Matilda M	60
• 8U – Laura A	33

Congratulations to **8T** who currently lead the way with **1,251** Reward Points!

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **63** students in Year 8 who have **100%** attendance.

Congratulations to **8M** who lead the way with **97.57%**!

3 – External Success:

- Congratulations to Molly W for achieving 'Merit' in her recent Grade 1 drums exam.
- Congratulations to Georgiana D for winning 4 medals in the recent Sutton Borough Swimming Championships.

Please do let us know of any external successes ahead of our next newsletter. We would love to be able to celebrate them!

Autumn B Highlights:

- Year 8 Christmas Fair;
- Tea party for the elderly;
- Shrek the Musical;
- Year 8 Advent Services during RE Lessons



Yr 8 Christmas Fair



Christmas Tea Party

There have also been some fantastic sports achievements this half term, you can find these on our

Year 8 Update



Virtues: Spring Term: Compassionate, Summer Term: Faith-filled

January

- 6th – Start of Spring A Term
- 6th – Mass in Chapel – Feast Of The Epiphany
- 10th – UPA Doughnut Day
- 16th – Merton Indoor Athletics Competition
- 24th – School Council Meeting
- 29th – Year 8 Mass of St. Angela (11:15am - 12:15pm), Sacred Heart Church

February

- 3rd – LGBT History Month
- 5th - 19.00-19.30 Webinar – Social Media & Gaming
- 6th – Merton Borough Basketball Competition
- 7th – Chaplaincy Team Retreat
- 7th - UPA Doughnut Day
- 7th – Inter House Cross Country
- 11th – Women in Science Day
- 13th – Academic Review Day (P5 & 6)
- 14th – Academic Review Day (All Day)
- 14th – Last Day of Spring A Term
- 17th-21st – Half-Term
- 24th – INSET Day
- 25th – Start of Spring B Term

Looking Ahead

- 12th March – St. Cecilia Day Concert 7.30-9.30pm
- 19th March – Multicultural Evening, 6.00-8.30pm

**Please note this is not a complete event list and is intended to provide a snapshot only. Events may be subject to change. on our school website.*



School Production: Shrek



Christmas Jumper Day

Wellbeing

Free Parental Workshops

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS trust are running a number of free wellbeing workshops for parents / carers of secondary school aged children.

Click here for more information/to book:

[Secondary/College Parents - Wellbeing Workshops | Eventbrite](#)

Education Wellbeing Service

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Education Wellbeing Service

Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring/Summer Terms 2025 Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

- 4TH OR 6TH FEB Social Media & Gaming: What Parents Need To Know
- 24TH FEB Managing Exam & Assignment Stress For Parents Of Young People In Years 11-13
- 26TH OR 27TH MAR Exam And Assignment Stress Management For Parents Of Young People In Years 7-10
- 24TH OR 30TH APR Parenting Teenagers: Conflict And Communication
- 7TH OR 9TH MAY Supporting Your Teenager With Emotional Difficulties And Self-Harm

We also provide free to use help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection. [Click here](#)

Laptop / Social media

Just a polite reminder that school laptops are for school related work only. Please remind your daughters that they are not for accessing social media, gaming or web browsing non-school-related content.

Age restrictions on WhatsApp in the UK is 13 years old. Snapchat's age requirement is 13 years old. Please support us with this, we are dealing with a lot of issues.