



## A Shrektacular Production!



On *Thursday 28th & Friday 29th November*, we held our annual school production. This year, we presented the shrektacular **Shrek: The Musical**.

Our cast blew us all away with an impressive performance of musical comedy *Shrek*, based on the 2001 animation film of the same name. The hilarious fairytale follows grumpy ogre Shrek, who reluctantly leaves his peaceful swamp to go on a daring quest to rescue the feisty Princess Fiona - for Lord Farquaad, ruler of Duloc, in order to rid his once quiet swamp- now overrun with magical creatures. With an irritatingly talkative sidekick - donkey he encounters a whole host of problems and fairytale creatures along the way. The talent shone through on the stage with renditions of 'Big, Bright Beautiful World', 'I know it's today', and firm favourite - 'I'm a believer'.

Many thanks to our Arts faculty including Ms Surbey, Ms Melluish, Mr Ching, and Mr Melluish for such a fantastic production, Mr Hardman, for all of his fantastic handmade costumes and of course, to our fabulous array of talented actors.

Additionally, thank you to all our backstage crew who helped out behind the scenes, on the night(s), and finally, to our audience!

See you next year.

Main Cast: **Shrek:** Nicola G & Bella P, **Princess Fiona:** Lottie A-L & Lara P, **Donkey:** Eva T & Olivia C, **Lord Farquaad:** Isabella R & Chloe P-B, **Dragon:** Genevieve L-T, **Pinocchio:** Berta K & Sofia R, & **Gingy:** Jay G.



# headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As the term draws to a close, its a time to reflect on the remarkable things achieved within our community, of which there are many. Please click on the image below to hear my Christmas Message, joined by Mrs Alexander, and Mr Adam. (If you are reading a physical copy of our newsletter, the Christmas Message can be found on our website.)



Wishing our Ursuline community a very blessed, happy, and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you back for an equally productive Spring Term in 2025!

Eoin Kelly  
Headteacher



# Arbor

## Communications

We are committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers. To read more about our Communications Strategy visit the [Parent Communications](#) page of our website.

Are your details correct? To ensure you are receiving relevant communications from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details;  
[bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

## The Season of Giving



There have been a range of Christmas festivities and events throughout Advent; including our **Christmas Gift Appeal, Christmas Fairs, Christmas Tree Service,** and Christmas lunch! On **6th December** and our **Christmas Carol Service** at **Sacred Heart Church** on **16th December**.



We thank everyone in our community for the incredible charitable donations raised this advent! Including **Christmas Fairs, Year 7: £1157.05** for **Great Ormond Street & The Down's Syndrome Association, Year 8: £1245** for **Wimbledon Guild, Year 9: £497.91** for various charities. Our **Joint Carol Service** raised **£618.43** (for our Christmas Charity: **The Passage**), and **£315.44** was raised from our **Christmas Jumper Day** for **Save The Children**, which took place on **12th December**.



## Ursuline Dallas



During October half-term, some of our students visited our fellow Ursuline school in Dallas, USA. They had a great time experiencing all that Dallas has to offer and experiencing school life in Dallas.

## BHM Logo Competition

Over 50 students entered our **Black History Month** logo competition that we launched back in October, on the theme of **'Black and Proud'**!

There were a number of outstanding entries to choose from! Congratulations goes to;

Joint 1st prize – Prinita (11U) and Olivia R (11A)

2nd prize – Lilianna H-P, (7T)

3rd prize – Sophie D (7C)

Chisom C (11A), also received an award for her 'Outstanding Contribution and Serviam' during BHM, as she helped Ms Beale (Head of History) plan the activities that month.



## Christmas Tea Party



On **10th December** we hosted our annual **Christmas Tea Party** for our local elderly community with **Mrs Harrison, Mr Cunliffe,** and our **Year 8 and Sixth Form Helpers**. The afternoon was full of Christmas games, alongside afternoon tea and a selection of memorable songs performed by our very own choir. Successfully spreading the Christmas cheer!

## Holy Souls

This November, we recall with the Church all the Holy Souls who have died and mark their remembrance.

We marked this in a social way with our own **Memorial Mass Of The Dead** with Fr Matthew of Sacred Heart Church, at which we asked the saints who have gone before us to pray for us here on earth and for the faithful departed and names in our Ursuline Memorial Book.



# Young Writers



Congratulations to our **Wimbledon Young Writers** competition winners, some of which are pictured here. The students' poems are now featured in a **Young Writers** anthology.

Well done everyone!

# Science Behind Food



**Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition** have been learning about the science behind 'shortening'. This is when you cover flour with a layer of fat so liquid cannot get to the gluten, keeping the gluten strands 'short'. Examples are shortbread and shortcrust pastry, both of which we made, here are some great photos of our shortcrust pastry pasties.

# BIMA Day

Our **Year 10 Computer Science students** and **Year 12 Digital T-Level students** competed in the **BIMA Digital Day 2024** on **13th November**. Students were very lucky to spend the day working with 4 tech professionals from EPAM (a global company supporting tech innovations around the world) and Microsoft. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and the chance to speak to people with well-established careers in the tech field.



They produced excellent ideas for their challenges of using technology to use Microsoft AI more positively for secondary school students, promoting Burberry clothing to younger people or helping the RSPCA get more people to understand the need for higher welfare farming.

# Serviam - I Will Serve

On **Wednesday 6th November**, we celebrated the transition of our **Year 7** students from primary to secondary school with our **Commissioning Service**. Some of our **Year 7s** braved our audience of parents/carers to speak on how **St Angela** and **St Ursula** influence our education, their transition experiences, and some of our school virtues; **Insieme**, kindness, respect, and **Serviam**. While **UHS Sixth Form student Sarena**, delivered some poignant thoughts on 'What makes an Ursuline student?' We also had some lovely student performances.



# National Youth Choir



We are excited to announce that over 8 Ursuline students have now been accepted into the **National Youth Choir!** Currently, making us most successful state school to date! What a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations goes to: **Amabel W (7C)**, **Eva T- 9M**, **Gabriella G- 9M**, **Bella P(10F)**, **Elena H-T(10B)**, **Aleksandra G (11C)**, **Emily MacD(11F)**, & **Shreya F(11T)**.

Read full story [here](#).



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# Covent Garden Challenge



Congratulations to **Sacred Heart primary school** who won the **Covent Garden Business Challenge Final** with their great idea of an anxiety calendar, which would give users gifts to help calm them down. Our **Year 12s** supported the Year 5s who designed and presented their proposed product to the judges! Well done!

# Ursuline Links



We were thrilled to have **Sr Kathleen** speak to our eager **Year 12** students about the amazing **Ursuline Links Programme!** This initiative is all about community service, social justice, and personal development.

# T-Level Student of the Year



A huge congratulations to our Ursuline alumnae **Fernanda Vargas Mendez**. Who is the **WINNER** of the **National T-Level Student of the Year Award 2024!** Fernanda credits the excellent teaching she received with us as key to her success. Read full story [here](#).

# Student Leadership Team



On **Tuesday 19th November**, our **Head Leadership Team Hustings** took place. **15 Year 12** students spoke passionately about why they would be the best suited candidate for **Head Girl**. Congratulations the below students who have been awarded places on **Mr Kelly's Student Leadership Team**. **Head Girls: Sarena S & Gabriella K**, **Deputy Head Girls: Ines P- H & Berta K**. Hear from our new student leaders [here](#).



# Bank of England

Huge thanks to Mr MacSweeney for organising a fantastic trip to the **Bank of England** for our **Year 12 Economics** students. Students had the chance to attend an **Economics Conference**, where they saw how economic understanding can tackle society's biggest challenges.

# Spirit of Charity



We wanted to take a moment to celebrate our incredible **Year 12** student, **Natacha**, who is currently raising money to support victims of Portugal's devastating wildfires. Almost **£600** raised so far! **Natacha** truly embodies what makes our Sixth Form exceptional – virtuous and moral individuals who not only talk about values but act on them.

# Christmas Fair



**Yr 12/ 13 Sociology** students enjoyed a trip to the **Royal Courts of Justice** this half-term!

# Theatre Trip



**Yr 12/ 13 Sociology** students went to see a performance of **Hamilton** at **Victoria Palace Theatre** on **Wednesday 13th November**.



netball tennis football athletics  
 rock climbing cross country  
 trampolining basketball hockey  
 dance duke of edinburgh award  
 wimbledon ball girls cycling

Year 9/10 Sports Leaders have also been having a great time on their **Wimbledon Trailblazers Programme**.

Find out more [here](#).



## Netball Updates



Our **Inter-House Christmas Festival** was held this half-term. A brilliant atmosphere filled with fun, friendly fixtures & smiles all round. Well done to everyone who earned house points for their participation & the joint Francis-Ursula Team who took home the top spot!



A huge well done to our **Year 7 Netball A&B Teams** who came joint second at the Merton Schools Competition at **Ricards Lodge** this half-term.



A great all round performance from our **Year 10/11 A & B Netballers** at the **Merton School Sports Partnership Competition** this half-term, with our As finishing 1st, and Bs, 4th.



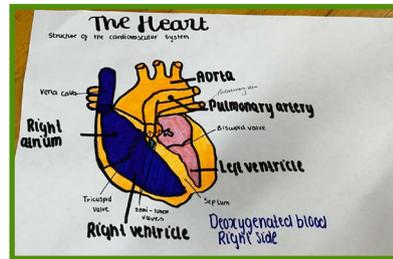
It was a draw for our Year 8 Netball teams, both matches 9-9 and 11-11 Vs St Cecilia's School this half-term.

## Utilita Football Cup



Congratulations to our Year 7/8 Footballers reaching the Quarter Finals of the **Utilita Schools National Football 7a-side Cup** with **AFC Wimbledon** at the **Bank of England Club, Roehampton**.

## Circulatory System



This term, PE has taken a good look at developing our oracy & verbal communication skills in all year groups. Well done to our **Y11 GCSE** class, who have been discussing the journey of blood through the heart & discussing training adaptations, getting creative with the colouring pencils!

## Swimming Success

We're celebrating success in the Pool this half-term. Well done to **Georgiana Y8** who swam in the **Sutton Borough Championships** at recently, winning 2 silver medals in breaststroke, a bronze medal in freestyle & silver in the girls 6x50m freestyle relay!



## U12 & Senior Basketball



A brilliant maiden performance from our **Year 7 Basketballers (above)** who were narrowly beaten 18-11 in the straight final of the **Merton School Sports Partnership Girls U12 Schools' Tournament** on **19th November**. Thank you to **Raynes Park High School** for hosting us.



A great performance for our **Senior Basketball Team** winning away at **Harris Academy Wimbledon!**