

Year 8 Update

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events!



Autumn Term A 2024

Make sure to check out our Autumn Term >>> Enrichment programme! <<<

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to the first newsletter of Year 8!

The students have had a fantastic start to the year, building on from the excellent start they had to life at UHS in Year 7. As their new head of year, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Year 8 this half-term and I am incredibly impressed by and proud of the students' maturity and engagement in all facets of school life. I have challenged the year group to strive to be the best at all times, and I am pleased to report that at the time of writing, Year 8 is currently leading against the other year groups in terms of rewards received (over 3,300 to date), and has maintained an outstanding attendance rate of above 96%. Outstanding attendance and positive engagement in school life breeds outstanding success, and so I thank you for your support in these areas and look forward to further successes as the year progresses.

Students in Year 8 have demonstrated Serviam in Autumn A in a variety of ways – notably through their willingness to volunteer to help at Open Evening, either as tour guides or subject ambassadors. We had over 100 students in the year group helping on the night, and the feedback received from both staff and visitors has been excellent. We are very grateful to the students who helped, and to all parents who allowed them to volunteer. Thank you. Furthermore, all Year 8 tutor groups have had the opportunity to lead Form Prayer services for their Year 7 counterparts – again showing Serviam, and creating a wonderful encounter with our school's ethos for the new students.

Participation in extra-curricular activities, clubs, student leadership programmes, school council, school production, etc. is an important facet of life at the Ursuline – and it has been inspiring to see so many Year 8s involved. It is always great to see students leaving school after 4pm and hearing about what they have been doing. If your daughter(s) has not yet got involved in an extra-curricular / enrichment activity, please encourage her to do so in Autumn B. We recommend that all students try at least one per half-term.

In the last week, we have celebrated Mass for St Ursula's feast day – a highlight of the Autumn A Term. Students have also shared their PSHC work for Black History Month, in which they explored areas of Ugandan history and culture, and Ugandan achievements and contributions in the fields of film/tv, music, arts and sports; and many students in Year 8 have entered pieces of artwork into our Black History Month logo competition (results tbc). The level of this work was exemplary, showing the students' commitment to celebrating diversity, equality and inclusion. Thank you to all.

We have a lot to look forward to in Autumn B (please see page 2), and I look forward to sharing more highlights with you then. School returns for students on Tuesday 5 November.

Wishing you a wonderful Half-Term!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Roberts, Head of Year 8

There have also been some fantastic sports achievements this half term, you can find these on our [school twitter!](#)

Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 3387

1 - Most Rewards:

- 1st – Niamh M (8T): 37
- 2nd – Manali S (8T): 36
- 2nd – Ange T (8T): 36
- 3rd – Annsly A (8T): 35
- 3rd – Angel M (8T): 35

Congratulations to **8T** who currently lead the way with **836** Reward Points!

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **97** students in Year 8 who have **100%** attendance.

Congratulations to **8M** who lead the way with **98.01%**!

3 – External Success:

- Congratulations to Molly W and Talulah A-C (8A) for achieving Distinction in their LAMDA Duologue.
- Congratulations to Ava W (8C) for your national Hockey call-ups in the Summer!

If your daughter participates in sport or other activities outside of school, do encourage her to let us know.

If there is an activity your daughter would be interested in that is not currently offered by the school, please let us know.

Autumn A Highlights:

- Open evening;
- 8 Francis and 8 Ursula Student-Led assemblies;
- Black History Month;
- Year 8 Form Prayer (leading for Year 7s)

Feast of St Ursula Mass



Shrek Rehearsals



Year 8 Update



Upcoming Events

- 28th October- 1st November: Half Term
- 4th November: Inset Day
- 5th November: Start of Autumn B Term
- 11th November: Remembrance Day
- 22nd November: Year 8 Christmas Fair (selling to Y7)
- 25th November- Christmas Gift Appeal begins
- 28th – 29th November: School Production - 'Shrek!' the Musical; School Hall - Ticketed Event

December

- W/C 2nd December: Year 8 Advent Services (RE Lessons)
- 6th December: 8 Inter-House Netball Festival
- 6th December: Christmas Tree Service; Chapel
- 16th December: Christmas Carol Service; Sacred Heart Church
- 20th December: Christmas Assembly: Peace on Earth and Last Day of Term (School Day ends: 12.50pm)

Looking Ahead:

- 6th January: Start of Spring A Term
- 6th February: Mid-Year Serviam Assembly; Online.

**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.*

First Student Council Meeting



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 and to book:

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

Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents
Autumn Term 2024
Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

- 17TH OR 19TH SEPT: Mental Health During The Teenage Years: An Introduction And Overview
- 24TH OR 26TH SEPT: Getting Into School - Common Challenges & Supporting School Avoidance
- 14TH OR 18TH OCT: "I Wish I Looked Like Them" - Helping Teens Navigate Body Image Issues
- 5TH OR 6TH NOV: Understanding and Supporting Teen Sleep & Self-Care
- 11TH NOV: Parenting A Teenager With Autism

We also provide free 1:1 early support programmes for young people to support with their 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](#)

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

Laptop / Social Media

Just a polite reminder that the school laptop is for school related work only, please remind your daughters that it is not for downloading or playing games on.

Age restrictions on WhatsApp in the UK is 13 years old. Snapchat's age requirement is 13 years old. Please support us with this.