



Fourth Industrial Revolution



On **Thursday 10th October**, we were delighted to host the **Ursuline Education Network (UEN)** international digital conference on **AI: The Fourth Industrial Revolution**. Our first ever UEN conference in England exploring the complex topic of AI and the challenges and opportunities created from its ever-increasing reach. Ursuline schools are a global network and students from our Ursuline High School, Wimbledon, were virtually joined by students and staff from eight other Ursuline schools from the United States; **St Ursula Academy-Toledo, Ohio, Ursuline Academy-Cincinnati, Ohio, Sacred Heart Academy - Louisville, Kentucky, Ursuline Academy - St Louis, Missouri, Ursuline Academy - New Orleans, Louisiana, The Ursuline School - New Rochelle, New York, Ursuline Academy Wilmington - Delaware, and Saint Ursula Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio.**

The conference aimed to help students understand how they can engage with the power of AI, while ensuring that it is regulated and channelled in order to support Catholic social teaching, remaining firm in our virtues of leading for justice, and acting with truth and integrity. We welcomed a superb panel of speakers to present and receive questions from our assembled conference delegates, all of which shared a range of insightful perspectives. Please see our

conference [programme](#), which will give you a sense of the significance of this event, clearly profiling the students at the Ursuline. One American teacher commented, *"I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to you and your entire school community for your putting on the event. It was incredibly meaningful and worthwhile, and my students and I thoroughly enjoyed it! The speakers were impactful, things were well organized, and it was wonderful to see the other schools come together and connect over such an important and timely topic."*

Well done to all the students and staff involved, and many thanks to our speakers for their invaluable contributions; **Dr. Susie Allegre** - Keynote speaker, an eminent human rights lawyer and award-winning author on AI. **Dr. Stephen Collins** - Digital policy and regulatory expert. **Sheena Creed** - Gen AI expert at **Thomson Reuters**. **JB Tanqueray** - Asset allocation and fund management expert. **Professor Laurence Lovat** - UCL professional developing AI tools for patient diagnosis and treatment.

With special thanks to the **Ursuline Education Network**; in particular to **Peggy McCormick-Platz** (Director of UEN) and **Julia Waters** (school UEN representative and previous Headteacher of Ursuline High School, Wimbledon).



headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Thank you for your commitment to our school community this first term. We have all thoroughly enjoyed the start of the academic year and it is reflected in the excellent attendance of 95.5%. Attendance is significantly higher at the Ursuline and this is a key component of the higher rates of success of our students.

The busy half-term has been packed with events and I hope you have enjoyed reading the weekly Friday Roundup - providing an insight into school life.

We have analysed and shared the outstanding outcomes received this year by our students in the public exams. This is exemplified in the school performance data, particularly in the Progress 8 data for Key Stage 4 predicted to be +0.9 and 44% of all grades at 7+. Well done to Year 11 (2023/24) whose results place us in the top 5% of schools in the country for outcomes. We also celebrated 94% of our departing Year 13s going off to University, 93% having secured a place in their first choice or firm offer, we wish them well in their continuing educational and employment journey. A particular celebration this year was the 4 students securing places at Oxford and Cambridge, 2 undergraduate, and 2 post graduate degree courses.

As a school community, we welcomed a number of new staff, all of whom have immediately adopted the Ursuline ethos and have added to the very high standards of teaching and learning in the school. We wish them every success in the years ahead and thank them for their commitment and professionalism.

The students, once again, came together this term to celebrate the Feast of St Ursula, where we gave thanks for the gifts and talents of our students and reflected on how these can be channelled into being a force for change in the world.

In the final week this term, we had full attendance at ARD, reflected in the fantastic engagement of our parents/carers, working together to support the academic and pastoral development of the students in our care.



Wishing the entire community of the Ursuline High School a safe and relaxing half-term break. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Best wishes. Mr Kelly, Headteacher

Year 7 First Half-Term Experience



Year 7's have been settling in very well this half-term. You can find out more about some of our Year 7 experiences [here](#). In the spirit of 'Insieme' (our Year 7 virtue focus for Autumn term), on Friday 11th October as we welcomed Year 7 back to school in the evening for a **film night** where they watched 'Inside Out 2' - which they loved. Find out more on our [website](#).

Some of our Year 7 students recently experienced their first **Form Retreat**, a key part in their Transitions programme. Guided by our Chaplain, Mr Cunliffe, the year group shared how they can seek and find all the ways to let their light shine in their school, homes and communities, over their coming 7 years.

On Tuesday 22nd October, some Year 7 students also took part in a concert showcasing their musical talents which was a huge success. Well done on a great first half-term Year 7!

Prayer Experience

October marks the month the church celebrates 'Our Lady Of The Rosary' and on 10th October Ursuline hosted a **Rosary Prayer Experience** in the chapel during lunchtime. The session was open to both staff and students, it involved student leaders leading the mystery reflections and the Hail Mary prayers as well as members of the school choir helping everyone sing the chorus of the hymn 'Ave Maria' ('Immaculate Mary'). Find out what our students thought of the experience [here](#).



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

Raising Aspirations

Year 11 Students attended a **Raising Aspirations trip at Royal Holloway University** on Monday 16th September aimed at first generation university scholars.

The day included an explanation of the degree courses available at universities, a campus tour, a taster lecture focusing on History, and a Q & A with current university students. All students agreed that the visit was very useful in understanding more about university life.



Bookfest Prizewinners'

Year 9s had a great time at the Bookfest trip to the **Prizewinners' Event at Wimbledon theatre**, hearing **Samira Ahmed** talk about her book "This book won't burn" and its themes of book-banning and the importance of speaking up for what you believe in. We were very proud to watch **Eliza** in Year 10 collect her prize for her amazing poem which won an award in the **Young Writers' Competition**. Well done Eliza!



Warhammer Club

September marked the launch of our very first **Warhammer Club**. Warhammer allows our students to dive into epic sci-fi and fantasy worlds and helps them improve their engineering, arts, and math skills. Students are busy building all the miniatures with the aim of getting them painted and ready for game play.



Black & Proud!

We launched **Black History Month 2024** with student led assemblies. **Chisom, Naomi, Stephanie, Anjardie, Toni, and Silvia** in Year 11 planned and delivered assemblies to all year groups on the theme '**Black and Proud**'. The students reflected on what it means to be a young, black woman today, and also discussed how important their culture and identity is to them. The assemblies were centred around the scripture and ended with a prayer for equality.

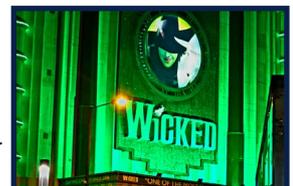


B:M2024

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Wicked!

On Tuesday 15th October, Year 11 **GCSE music** students enjoyed a trip to see '**Wicked**' at the **Apollo Victoria Theatre** in preparation for one of their set works, the show-stopping Act 1 finale 'Defying Gravity'!



Shrek!



Rehearsals are well underway for our school production of **Shrek** next half-term!

While students are busy rehearsing with *Ms Surbey* and *Ms Melliush*, a lot certainly goes on behind the scenes! Our talented art technician *Mr Hardman* has been busy creating a vast array of amazing costumes from scratch - which we have no doubt will bring the production to life! We are particularly in love with the Shrek ears and Donkey mask. *Mr Ching* has also been busy making sure the student vocals are up to scratch, while Art have been perfecting the stage backdrops!

Performance dates are scheduled for **Thursday 28th & Friday 29th November**, 6.30-9.00pm in the school hall. Exciting times!

Tickets will go on sale from **Friday 8th November** in the Finance Office (via 'The Downs' entrance).



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Open Evening Success



WOW! Such a great turnout for our joint **Sixth Form Open Evening** with **Wimbledon College** on **Wednesday 9th October**.

A huge thank you to everyone that attended! Our great results, knowledgeable staff specialists, impressive destinations (including Oxbridge), and focus on well-being, showcasing that at Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College Sixth Forms you can truly be the best version of yourself.

We look forward to receiving your [applications!](#)

Education Mass

Students joined **Mr Cunliffe** (school Chaplain) and **Mr Kelly** at the **Southwark Cathedral Education Mass** on **26th September**. Led by **Archbishop John Wilson**, this event brought together headteachers, governors, chaplains, and young people from across the **Archdiocese of Southwark** to celebrate the start of the new academic year and renew their commitment to the Catholic life and mission of their schools and colleges.



Living Out Serviam



We are so proud to see so many **Year 12** students taking part in our **primary school enrichments** at our local schools, **Sacred Heart** and **St Mary's**.

From mentoring to fun activities, the positive impact they're making is heart-warming. We're so proud of their dedication and spirit!



School Council

This half-term were the first meetings of the **main school council** and **senior school council**. They have lots of great plans ahead for the new school year. You can read more about this on our [website](#).

Year 11 Mocks

This term kicked off our series of **Friday Mocks** which will run until the start of the **GCSE exams** in **May**. This is a valuable exercise that gives our **Year 11** students as close to real expectations around sitting external exams, supports teaching staff to identify gaps and close these to support progress. Each week focuses on a different subject - so far exams have included Physics, Algebra, Chemistry, and English Literature!



Sports Superstar Alert



We're incredibly proud of **Emma**, one of our amazing **Year 12** students! As part of the senior **GB development squad** for gymnastics, she travelled to **Leverkusen, Germany** last week and competed for England, Emma and her team clinched the **GOLD** medal!

Day of the Girl



We are incredibly proud of our **Year 12** students who attended the **Day of the Girl Conference** at the prestigious **Queen Elizabeth II Conference Hall** in Westminster, in collaboration with the Mulberry School this half term. See our [Instagram](#) for more details.

Open Events

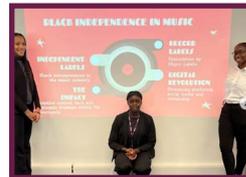


We have welcomed over 1,500 visitors through our doors during our main school **open events** over the past few weeks, with our open evening on **25th September**, followed by a weeks worth of open mornings. Its delightful to see the continued interest and demand for places at our school - our ethos and values clearly shine through.

During their visits, Year 5 and 6 students, parents/carers, received a talk from **Mr Kelly** and a tour of our school. Parents were impressed with our spacious school site, our facilities, and the passion for learning displayed by our students. We look forward to receiving their [applications](#).



Significant Contributions



Our **Year 13** students delivered an amazing assembly for **Black History Month** highlighting black entrepreneurs and their significant contributions to the music industry across various genres. It was both celebratory and informative, showcasing the remarkable impact of black innovators in music.

Imagineering



This half-term, our **Year 12** students had an amazing induction, diving into the **King's College Wimbledon Imagineering enrichment programme** alongside their peers at **KCS Wimbledon**. See our [Instagram](#) for more details.

Food Bank



Some of our **Year 12** students have been helping out with the **Foodbank** outside **Morrisons** in **Wimbledon** this half-term



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](#).



Ball Girl Trials/Taster Session : Cross Country



Student fitness, concentration and determination was put to the test in the Sports Hall - as **Wimbledon Ball Girl Trials** started on *13th September*. Trials included practising the correct posture and taking part in a 12 minute running test.



A selection of Year 9/10 students then attended the **Wimbledon Ball Girls taster session** at **AELTC** on *10th October* where they gained some good feedback and ideas to work on as training continues!



Cross Country team out at the **Merton** trials for **Surrey Schools** on *Monday, 7th October*. Brilliant performances from our Cross Country runners and a few medals brought home too! Well done everyone!

Netball Champions



Congratulations goes to our **Year 9 Netball Team** who are **Merton Borough Netball Champions for 2024** after winning the final held at **Ricards Lodge** this October. There has been some quality play from you this half-term and it has certainly paid off. Well done all.

Football Frenzy

Congratulations to our **U14 Footballers** winning 4-3 at **Harris Academy Wimbledon** on *19th September* at our first fixture of the term. With goals from **Clara** (2) and **Lola** (2) (Top, right).



Our **U14s** then wrapped the week up with a 9-0 win away at **Harroddian School**, Barnes on *11th October*. Goals from **Leia** (4), **Lola**, **Clara**, **Ronnie**, **Tallulah** & **Micaela**. Player of the match: **Lola**. (Middle, left).



An incredible shift from our **U16 Footballers** out in force away **Ashcombe School**, Dorking, on *16th October*, winning 0-10 in the **Surrey Schools FA Cup**. Goals from: **Adriana** (4), **Karla** (3), **Izzy** (2) and **Daisy**. Player of the match voted as **Adriana**. (Bottom, left). Well done everyone!



Tennis Courts Upgrade



7 Francis - the first class to have a lesson on the new courts this half-term. We thank **Ursuline Prep School** for their significant contribution towards the cost of our courts, which was matched by governors and public funds.

Much appreciated!

Sports Leaders



A huge thank you to all of our **Y9-12 Sports Leaders** for volunteering your time to demonstrate some of the exciting activities we have to offer here at Ursuline High School, Wimbledon.

DofE Silver Expeditioners



After a very cold night on *4th October* our **Silver DofE** expeditioners were up and underway for a very long day of walking in the Ashdown Forest after breakfast & route planning.