



SANCTA FAMILIA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



*insiEME
together*

Welcome to Year 7!



Ursuline High School





Key Members of the Team

▶ Mr Eoin Kelly - Headteacher



▶ Ms Kerry Connor – Assistant Headteacher, Transitions, Behaviour & Ethos



▶ Ms Rachel Hoyles - Head of Year 7





Headteacher's Welcome



New Entrance and Reception



DK



PE and Courts



Quad refurbishment





Governors Development Fund

- ▶ **The Governors Development Fund is the schools' parental contribution scheme.**
- ▶ As a Catholic Academy Trust school, we rely on good financial management of school funds and the fantastic generosity of our whole school community.
- ▶ Your support goes directly towards **enabling and enhancing the educational opportunities** for our students and **maintaining the exceptional environment** in which the students learn. In recent years, your contributions have supported many works including:
 - Refurbishment of student services
 - Construction of the accommodation of T Level Nursing
 - Katherine Johnson T Level Digital Building
 - Business and T Level Science
 - New roof at St Angela's
 - New doors, floors and heating upgrades/repair
 - Renovation of our main kitchen /dining room and Tennis courts
 - LED lighting and CCTV throughout the Main School.
- ▶ Additionally, The Fund contributes to the School's Chaplaincy programmes to sustain and develop the School's charism and ethos, and our Laptop Scheme which ensures all students have a laptop from Year 7 through to Year 13.





Governors Development Fund

- ▶ **The Governors Development Fund** also supports our **Laptop Scheme** which ensures all students have a laptop
- ▶ We suggest a donation of **£30 a month**, for the duration of the student's education at the Ursuline, and an initial deposit of £30 for the registration of all students. An **annual payment of £360** can be made if preferred.
- ▶ If your daughter qualifies for **Free School Meals** or if you are facing **financial constraints**, the school can offer support.
- ▶ Your ongoing support through involvement in school activities, volunteering, and fostering a sense of community is equally invaluable.
- ▶ Laptops are bought in bulk at the beginning of the summer term so that they are here for the year 7 start in September. **We therefore need all forms back from parents no later than Friday 23rd May.**
- ▶ We would like to thank our parent community for their generous contributions to the school.





Transitions Process

- Comprehensive process for parents/carers and their daughters.
- Runs in two parts.
- Phase 1 runs from Offers Day until students start with us in September, and includes this evening's meeting, assessment day, tutor meetings, induction day and a series of communications.
 - ❑ Get to know each other.
 - ❑ Identify strengths, interests, areas for development and specific, personal needs.
 - ❑ Put you and your child at ease as they prepare for secondary school life at The Ursuline.
- Once the academic year starts, our phase 2 of our Transitions process continues until the end of the Autumn Term. We'll share more about that shortly.





Transitions Activities - Summer Term

- ▶ Parents' Welcome Evening (this evening).
- ▶ Student assessment in English and Maths (Saturday 17th May, 9am-12pm)
- ▶ Additional support meetings for SEND students by invitation (Wednesday 11th June & 18th June)
- ▶ 1:1 in person meetings between the tutor, parents and student (23rd-25th June 4-7pm)
- ▶ Transition day (Weds 2nd July)
- ▶ Data Collection via Applicaa
- ▶ Complete Governors Development Fund forms.



Assessments

Saturday 17th May, 9am-12pm

- ▶ Arrive at Crescent Road entrance at 9am
- ▶ Wear current school uniform
- ▶ Bring 2 pens, 1 pencil, 1 rubber and 1 ruler
- ▶ Bring a snack and a bottle of water (Please be aware we are a nut free school) and a reading book in case of early finish.
- ▶ Phones must be turned off and placed in bags. Smart watches are not allowed on school premises, please leave these at home.
- ▶ Please respect our residents and do not block their driveways.
- ▶ Please park on The Downs, not on Crescent Road (which is a 'school street' with restricted access).
- ▶ **Further information will be emailed to you nearer to the time.**



Assessments

Saturday 17th May, 9am-12pm.

- ▶ Reading: 30 mins; Writing: 25 mins
- ▶ Maths: 60 mins
- ▶ The Reading and the Maths assessments are used for grouping students.
- ▶ They inform our teaching in September as teachers know the students' strengths and weaknesses and any skills gaps **before** they start school.
- ▶ Students' assessments will be used as the baseline piece of work to show individual progress over the Autumn term.





Assessments for students with SEND

Saturday 17th May, 9am-12:30pm.

- ▶ Provision will be made during UHS Transition Assessments for students who need assessment access arrangements, including:
 - ❑ Extra time / reading assistance / laptop
 - ❑ Medical needs

Notify Ms Jefferies after this evening's meeting by email:

Victoria.Jefferies@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Please provide relevant paperwork: EP, School, Medical note.





Form Tutor Meeting

Meetings will take place on one of the following dates: 23rd, 24th and 25th June between 4-7pm.

- ▶ Your daughter's Form tutor will be the key contacts in school for all her wellbeing and academic needs. Our 7 Form Tutors/senior leadership team will get to know our new Year 7s very well.
- ▶ You and your daughter will have the opportunity to meet your form tutor in June. The session is an opportunity to:
 - ❑ Get to know your daughter and vice versa,
 - ❑ Alleviate any concerns and/or anxiety your daughter may have.
 - ❑ Discuss any medical needs.
 - ❑ Ask questions prior to joining the Ursuline in September.
- ▶ In advance of the meeting, we recommend you/your daughter reads our Transitions [FAQs, Top Tips and Resources](#) as they may answer some of your questions and/or inform others.
- ▶ SEND meetings in June if applicable –more information from Ms Jefferies, SENDCo.
- ▶ **Further information will be emailed to you nearer to the time including confirmation of your daughter's form, form, tutor and meeting date/time.**



Transitions Day

Wednesday 2nd July, 9:30am –2:50pm

- ▶ This will be an enjoyable opportunity for new students to experience a taste of life at Ursuline High School!
- ▶ Your child should arrive at the school at 9.30am and will be ready to leave at 2.50pm (please use Crescent Road entrance). **Students will be dismissed to parents by primary school group. Please inform us if your daughter will be travelling home alone/without a parent**
- ▶ Students are expected to wear the uniform of their present school and must bring a suitable packed lunch and drink.
- ▶ Phones must be turned off and placed in bags. Smart watches are not allowed on school premises, please leave these at home.
- ▶ **Further information will be emailed to you nearer to the time.**



Learning Support



- ▶ **How do we know?**
- ▶ **Parent/Carer** - The information provided on the online data form regarding your child's additional needs is a key part of identification and will inform our individual communication with you in June and July. If your child has an assessment report that you can share with us, please provide details.
- ▶ **Medical reports and information from other agencies** - If your child has an assessment report that you can share with us, please provide details.
- ▶ **Primary Schools** - We will receive primary school files and information from primary SENDCo. The UHS SENDCo will attend any Year 6 annual reviews for students with an EHCP this term. The SENDCo will attend the Merton Transition event with primary schools in June 2025.





- ▶ The **SEND department** will invite some students in for additional screening based on:
 - ❑ Primary school information shared
 - ❑ Parental information shared on data sheet
 - ❑ Based on results from the Transition assessments

- ▶ We will arrange for parents and students with an EHCP to visit us in the summer term.

- ▶ We will write to and invite parents of students with additional needs to meet the SEND team at our SEND Coffee Morning at the start of **Autumn term 2025**. Date and further information to follow.





Groupings and Streamings

- ▶ 7 tutor groups of approximately 30 students:
 - ❑ **Population A:** St Angela, St Bernadette, St Catherine, St Francis
 - ❑ **Population B:** St Margaret, St Teresa and St Ursula
- ▶ Students in Year 7 are taught in their tutor groups for all subjects apart from Maths and English.
- ▶ Maths and English classes are determined by transitions assessment data to allow students to progress at a pace that is comfortable but challenging – **all students cover the same topics.**





Planners

- ▶ All students are issued with a school planner. As a parent this is a vital method of supporting your daughter's progress at school.
- ▶ You will be able to see:
 - ❑ **Lesson timetable** – helpful for supporting packing school bag the night before
 - ❑ **Names of your daughter's teachers for each subject**
 - ❑ **Homework timetable and weekly record of homework**
 - ❑ **Important information about the school**
 - ❑ **School rules/expectations and uniform standard**
- ▶ Weekly monitoring of the planner by parents/carers is expected.





Your daughter's 1st Day

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

- ▶ Arrive at the Crescent Road entrance by 8.20am.
- ▶ The first day will start with an assembly and will be spent getting to know the way around school; collecting books; meeting form tutors and other students and preparing for the start of lessons.
- ▶ Students must be in full school uniform with their bag and required equipment (see Transition booklet). No PE kit required on this day. Remember to pack a water bottle and snack (no nuts please)!
- ▶ We ask that all students have school lunches for the first term to encourage familiarity with the canteen service, to ensure students are eating adequately to fuel their day and to encourage students to sit together in conversation over a meal.
- ▶ Students will finish by 3.20pm and will come out via The Crescent Road gates. We ask that if you are attending school to collect your daughter that you wait on the other side of the road to allow in excess of 400 students to exit safely.
- ▶ Note: Ursuline High School is a part of the School Streets initiative to help tackle air pollution, due to this Crescent Road is not accessible via car Monday-Friday 8.00-9.00am and 2:45- 4:00pm (exemptions apply). We recommend parking in adjacent roads, which are Controlled Parking Zones or using public transport. Please do not park outside residents' driveways.
- ▶ **Further information will be sent to you later in the summer term.**



Transitions Support



- ▶ Acknowledge any worries or concerns as these are a normal response to change.
- ▶ Manage your own anxieties about this change and try not to pass them on!
- ▶ Share your own positive experiences of the transition from primary to secondary school.
- ▶ Gradually increase opportunities for independence and responsibility.
- ▶ Plan routes to school and practice these over the summer.
- ▶ Agree morning and after school schedules.
- ▶ Discuss safety and family expectations.
- ▶ **Read through our [Transitions Hub](#) with your daughter:** from FAQs, to Top Tips and Resources there is so much valuable insight to prepare your daughter and put your minds at ease.





Transitions Hub

- ▶ Our [Transitions Hub](#) is especially created to help parents/carers and their children as they start on this exciting new journey with us.

- ▶ In addition to our Headteacher, Head of Year and Head Team welcomes, you'll find lots of valuable transitions materials including:
 - ❑ [Transitions Booklet](#) – for events/dates and other key information.
 - ❑ Comprehensive list of [Frequented Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
 - ❑ [Resources and Top Tips](#) - general transition, travel and road safety, & online safety tips.

- ▶ We recommend you and your child spend time visiting The Hub prior to joining the school.



Common Worries

- ▶ Making new friends
- ▶ Not fitting in
- ▶ Coming from a small primary school
- ▶ Class groupings
- ▶ Will I be challenged enough?
- ▶ Finding work hard
- ▶ Lots of teachers
- ▶ Getting lost
- ▶ Carrying lots of books!
- ▶ Bullying
- ▶ Homework

You'll find answers to these common questions and more in our [Transitions FAQ doc](#) - visit [our Hub!](#)





Look forward to

- ▶ New start
- ▶ Making new friends
- ▶ Learning new subjects
- ▶ Earning rewards and certificates
- ▶ Getting involved in school life and extra curricular activities
- ▶ Gaining some independence and responsibility .



The Year 7 Experience

“I have really appreciated all the help and support my teachers have given me so far this year. It was scary joining a big new school but there are so many clubs and opportunities that help you to make so many new friends!”

“My form tutor always makes sure everyone is ok and happy and offers to listen if something is wrong...”

“You have made the best choice coming to Ursuline High. Here, you’ll have so much fun, and our school productions are really good..”



“I have really enjoyed all the Christmas festivities, and it was really nice to enjoy Christmas dinner with my friends...”

“The sports competitions are amazing and lots of fun, especially the tournament where we played lots of other schools at basketball and won!...”





Parent Engagement & Communications

- ▶ We are committed to ensuring parents are engaged in supporting their daughter's academic progress and personal development.
- ▶ Parents are given many opportunities over the year to meet with their daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress, and in addition receive regular progress reports.
- ▶ We provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughters live in, through resource sharing, information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety, well-being and mental health. We have an expansive [library of resources](#), all relevant for parents of adolescents. In addition, online safety specific resources can be found [here](#).
- ▶ In addition, we are committed to effectively communicating with our parents and carers about school life and news. We use a range of mediums including email, website, information meetings, communications from the Head and other staff, our suite of newsletters and social media.
- ▶ We use several [portals](#) to support our students' learning journeys including Arbor (student records, attendance, timetables, and behaviour data), Parent Pay (to pay for lunches and other items) and SchoolCloud (for parent meetings). **Further information including relevant login details, will be shared in September.**





Smart Devices

- ▶ **Smartphones and social media are huge safeguarding concerns** which you will be aware of due to ongoing research, campaigning and media attention. Indeed, many of you may have even signed the Parent Pact which has over 100,000 signatures. If you haven't you can find out more at [Smartphone Free Childhood](#).
- ▶ We are proud to say we have a clear policy in place regarding the use of phones and smart watches at school.
- ▶ Ursuline students **are allowed to have a mobile phone for travel purposes**. We recommend that parents consider delaying smart phones and we do suggest that expensive mobile phones are not brought into school. However, this is at parents' discretion.
- ▶ **Please note that smart watches are NOT permitted on school premises.** Please ensure they are kept at home.
- ▶





Social Media



- ▶ Academic research is clear that mobile phone use in school is a distraction and negatively impacts on test scores and overall progress. Therefore, regardless of the make/model, **phones are to be turned off prior to entering the school site and stored in their locked locker for the duration of the school day. Any phone/watch seen or heard around the school site, outside of lockers will be confiscated.**
- ▶ **Year 7 students are prohibited from using any form of social media in accordance with the Ursuline school policy and in line minimum age restrictions (13 currently).** These include; BeReal, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, and WhatsApp.

Additional Information and Resources

- ▶ Visit the [‘Keeping Safe Online’](#) page of our website to read our **Smart Devices and Social Media Statement** and access our **expansive library of recommended online safety resources.**
- ▶ Thank you in advance for your support. We need to work together to support our young people, and we are stronger when we all do the same managing online safety.





Key Transitions Contacts

- ▶ Transitions Administrator – Transition process between now & September.
Maria.Dancisinova@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ SENDCo – Support for learning needs.
Victoria.Jefferies@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ Head of Year - Requesting a planned absence, informing the school of a change in family circumstances, requests for wellbeing support.
Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ [Finance Department](#) – Governors Development Fund
- ▶ Transitions Hub - <https://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk/>
- ▶ Form Tutor details will be shared prior to the Tutor meetings in June, and any additional key Year 7 contacts will be shared in September.





Thank you

- ▶ A copy of these slides will be uploaded to our [Transitions Hub](#) tomorrow, should you wish to access them or share them with your daughter or their other parent/carer.
- ▶ Remember to check out our [Transitions Hub](#) with your daughter.
- ▶ We look forward to seeing your daughter at our Assessment Day on Saturday 17th May and will send more information nearer the time.
- ▶ We will continue to communicate with you by email via Applicaa throughout the Transitions period.
- ▶ Lastly, for those of you on social media, we have an active presence on **Instagram** ([@uhswimbleton](#)), do give us a follow to access our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities that our students are embracing.

