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Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA
020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

28 November 2025

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 - Autumn B, Week 4

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported their daughters in their extra commitment as part of the cast and crew of the school production Hairspray. I had the pleasure of enjoying the show on Thursday night, which was sensational, and I am really looking forward to the final performance tonight.

Well done to Julia S in 7Angela, this year's Christmas card competition winner. We were inundated with entries, but Julia's really stood out and was unanimously selected by the judging panel for depicting the nativity scene. We also found out this week that two more of our students (in addition to the eight last year) have been successful in securing a place on the national Youth Choirs under the 9-15 and 15-18 age categories. Eleana T in 7A and Eugenia K in 11U came to see me this week to tell me about the experience. Being selected for the national choir is an exceptional achievement so thank you also to Mr Ching for promoting this opportunity.

As the Church celebrates its Jubilee Year in 2025, the Ursulines also mark a significant milestone: the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Roman Union. We celebrated with sweet treats for the school community and a book mark for each student.

Highlights of the week

On Wednesday we welcomed a party of significant visitors to the school. Alan Parnum, Regional Director for Education at the DfE, Angela Cox, Director of Education Archdiocese of Southwark, Matthew Crew, DfE, Michea Feely, CEO and other staff from the central team of Sancta Familia all came to our school on Tuesday to meet and have a tour to see the school in action. The meeting went exceptionally well, and they were naturally extremely impressed by our remarkable students.

The Mock Oxbridge Interviews got underway this week, and the students have been working hard to prepare themselves for this academic challenge. Outside of Sixth Form, Years 7 to 10 continue to present in their Oracy assessments - lesson observations and feedback from students indicate that this opportunity is really helping our students develop their public speaking confidence and delivery.

Focus areas for next week

The continued focus on improved attendance remains until the final day of this term. In addition, we are asking students to engage in our Advent Serviam Appeals. Students are being asked to support, contribute, and participate in the Christmas gift appeal from the Catholic Children's Society and in the Food bank donations to the Dons local Action group. Details on small gift donations and Foodbank contributions have been shared in tutor groups and assemblies, but they require physical donations to be dropped off at points in the school.

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Catholic Children's Society

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

We would be so grateful if you can donate new:

			
Clothes, socks, hats, gloves, hot water bottles	Tea sets, dolls, dressing up costumes	Art sets, crafts, stationery, science sets, magic sets, books	Sports sets (particularly footballs)
			
Lego, building sets, Play-Doh, train sets	Cuddly toys, baby dolls, blankets	Toiletries, jewellery, headphones, board games	Gift cards e.g. One4All, Love2Shop, Amazon, Argos, supermarkets

Christmas Gift Appeal

Thousands of local children and families are facing a Christmas without presents, food or essentials. We kindly request that those of our Ursuline Community who can contribute to our Christmas Gift Appeal for the [Catholic Children's Society](http://www.catholicchildrensociety.org.uk).

Please bring in gift offerings (examples above)

- In a gift bag or box (not wrapped)
- Brand new please (by the charities request)
- Clearly labelled with if it is for a...Boy or Girl / Baby or Toddler / Young child or Teen

Where to leave

Leave under the Christmas Tree in the foyer.

Deadline: 16th December.

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Christmas Jumper Day 2025

As part of our usual festivities, we will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day 2025 on **Thursday 11th December**. Come to school wearing your most Christmassy jumper and help to raise money for a worthy cause.

Don't forget to bring your £1 donation.
All proceeds will go towards the Save the Children charity.

Important Notices

Liturgical season of Advent

Whilst our outstanding Catholic ethos and values are embedded in all aspects of school life throughout the year, [as commended in our recent Catholic School Inspection], they further explored in the build up to Christmas in our RE curriculum, daily prayer, weekly assemblies, and liturgies when our students will participate in the Liturgical season of Advent. Our programme is designed to ensure students of all faiths feel valued and enriched in their growing understanding of the importance of Christmas for Catholics and students can fully embrace these opportunities to reflectively prepare for the Nativity. For further information please refer to the communication from our Chaplain Mr Cunliffe.

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Change to Library Opening Times - Trial

Mon: 8.00am-4.20pm

Tues: 8.00am-4.20pm

Weds: 8.00am-4.00pm

Thurs: 8.00am-4.20pm

Fri: 8.00am-3.00pm

Term dates reminders;

Please note that school finishes for Christmas on **Friday 19th December**, reopening for Spring A on **Monday 5th January**.

Autumn B events & key dates (Refer to our [Calendar](#) for academic year events but here are some significant upcoming events):

- **1st December:** Advent begins. See communication from Mr Cunliffe for details of our Programme.
- **1st December:** Christmas Gift Appeal for the Catholic Children's Society and Dons Local Action.
- **4th December:** Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **4th & 5th December:** GCSE Art & PE Mock Exams
- **5th December:** Christmas Fair; Y9 selling to Y8
- **8th December:** until 19th Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams
- **5th December:** Christmas Tree Service
- **9th and 11th December:** Christmas Dinner
- **9th December:** Senior citizens Christmas party
- **11th December:** Christmas Jumper Day. Bring £1 for Save the Children
- **12th December:** Christmas Fair; Y7 selling to Y9
- **15th December:** Christmas Carol Service (8.00-9.00pm); Sacred Heart Church
- **16th December:** Christmas Fair; Y12 & Y13
- **19th December:** Christmas Assembly and Last Day of Term (School Day ends: 12.50pm)

Parent/carers Resources

Join our growing social community on Instagram

Do follow us on Social Media to access our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities the Main school and Sixth Form students are engaging in. You will find us [@uhswimbledon](#) and [@uhssixthform](#)

The importance of nutrition as part of exam preparation and performance.

Year 11 Mock Exams, these articles from [The BBC](#) and [The London School of Economics and Political Science \(LSE\)](#) discuss the importance of hydration and a healthy diet as part of exam preparation and performance and in maintaining energy levels, concentration, memory retention. We encourage you to explore these materials with your child and discuss ways to ensure good nutrition is incorporated into their daily routine.

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News



Congratulations to Goldie who won a Silver medal in mixed doubles in a u19 Badminton England bronze tournament in Oxfordshire. Goldie is hoping to qualify U19 national championship on December 13 in Milton Keynes.

Fantastic hard work from our Year 7s at Borough Sports Hall Athletics recently - with the students placing first overall. Well done!



Eleana T in 7A and Eugenia K in 11U have been successful in securing a place on the national Youth Choirs under the 9-15 and 15-18 age categories.

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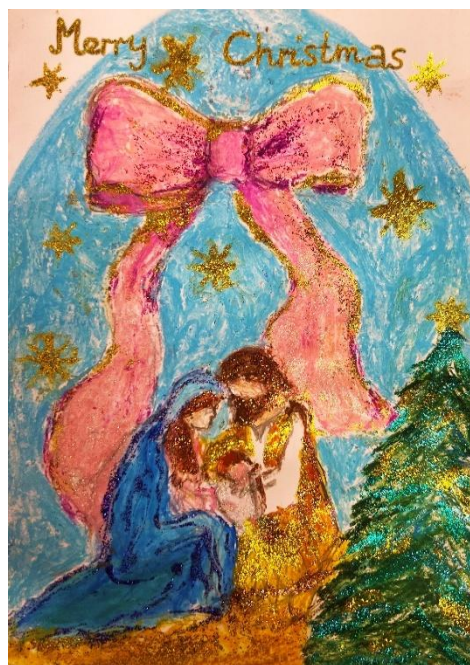
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We have been excited to perform our school production of Hairspray this week kicking off with our Year 9 and primary school performances during the school day and our first evening performance last night. A guest commented that at one point she forgot she was in a school and thought she was in the west end such was the quality of the performances and vocal ability. Thank you for your support of the students and The Arts!



Congratulations to our Christmas Card competition winner Julia S (7A). Whose beautiful design will be used on our schools' Christmas cards sent out to our Ursuline community.



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We celebrated 125 Years of Ursulines of the Roman Union with cakes and special bookmarks in our staff room.



The Year 8 Christmas Fair brought the week to a festive close - selling to Year 7's.

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[Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group
[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases
[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)
[Parent Portals](#) – Parent Guides & FAQs
[Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](#)
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Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at this evening's performance.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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