

Year 8 Update

Autumn Term B 2025

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events.



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, I am delighted to be able to say that the Year 8 students have continued their amazing start to the year. As ever, they have been challenged to strive to be the very best, and as ever they have not disappointed. As a cohort, Year 8 boasts a whopping total of 4,984 rewards to its name – reflecting the hard work, effort and dedication to the Ursuline Ethos shown by all students. In addition, we have the highest proportion of students with 100% attendance apart from Year 7. 63 students with 100% attendance is a massive achievement, many of the students with the highest awards indeed also have 100% attendance.

On Friday 28th November, Year 8 students hosted their Christmas Fair – selling to Year 7 students. This is always an amazing occasion, and I was especially delighted to see the effort students in the year group had gone to in order to prepare their stalls / activities. This included many students preparing home-baked goods, or assembling goody-bags filled with sweet-treats or even making jewellery items to sell. This event was testament to the enthusiasm and generosity of the students and gave an outstanding example to the students in Year 7 of how a fair should be. In total, the Year 8 fair raised £1314.81 for charity – with the proceeds going to support those struggling from the recent hurricane in Jamaica. Thank you!

The school production of Hairspray was simply outstanding and showcased the gifts and talents of students across the school, including many in Year 8. As a theatre fan (and critic) myself, I can honestly say that I have seen many shows in the West End that did not match the level of performance on show in the school production, and again this is the result of the students' hard work and dedication, alongside that of the Arts Faculty. If 'Serviam' is about using one's gifts and talents for the good of others, it is safe to say that the show had Serviam in abundance. Bravo to all involved, and thank you, too, to all Year 8s who have taken part in other enrichment activities this term.

The Joint Christmas Carol Service with Wimbledon College at Sacred Heart church is always one of the highlights of the school calendar, and this year's event was no different. Thank you to all students in Year 8 who were involved. Thank you as well to Merene, Clara, Sloane and Lila-May for their involvement in the Tea party for the elderly last week. This event was attended by Sr Dorothy, an Ursuline Sister from Sacred Heart Parish, and members of the local community (some of whom are former Ursuline, Wimbledon students from some time ago), all of whom send their sincere thanks for the welcome and fellowship they received.

In the Spring Term, Year 8 will participate in the First Give 'Philanthropy Project' during their PSHEC and RE lessons. This presents an opportunity for students to raise awareness and money in support of local charities who work in relation to key social issues, and I look forward to witnessing their efforts on this. School returns on Monday 5th January.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Miss Smith,
Head of Year 8

Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 4984

1 - Most Rewards in each Form:

• 8A – Stephanie Chukwu	37
• 8B – Hope De Haas	46
• 8C – Sarah Gomes	32
• 8F – Taleah-Jasmine Brennand	26
• 8M – Precious Rapu	34
• 8T – Clodagh Itri	35
• 8U – Maeve Kearney	45
• Overall highest – Reem Hyat	49

Congratulations to **8B** who currently lead the way with **1,015** Reward Points!

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **63** students in Year 8 who have **100%** attendance.

Congratulations to **8M** who lead the way with **96.45%**!

Please do let us know of any external successes ahead of our next newsletter. We would love to be able to celebrate them!



Christmas Carol Service

Autumn B Highlights:

- Year 8 Christmas Fair;
- Tea party for the elderly;
- Hairspray the Musical;
- Year 8 Advent Services during RE Lessons



Year 8 Christmas Fair



Christmas Tea Party

There have also been some other great achievements this half term, you can find these on our [P.E Dept Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Year 8 Update



Virtues: Spring Term: Compassionate, **Summer Term:** Faith-filled

January

5th – Start of Spring A Term
5th – Form Retreat 8A
6th – Form Retreat 8B
6th – Mass in Chapel –
Feast Of The Epiphany
7th – Form Retreat 8C
8th – Form Retreat 8F
9th – Form Retreat 8M
12th – Form Retreat 8T
13th – Launch of Philanthropy project
19th – Hispanic Heritage Week
28th – St Angela Mass - Sacred Heart Church (11.00-12.50)



School Production: Hairspray

February

LGBTQ+ History Month Assemblies
12th – Academic Review Day (P5 & 6)
13th – Academic Review Day (P5 & 6)
13th – Last Day of Spring A Term
16th-22nd – Half-Term
23rd – INSET Day
24th – Start of Spring B Term



**7-10 Progress Celebration
Breakfast**

Looking Ahead

March - Launch of Lent programme
11th March – St. Cecilia Day Concert, 6.00-8.00pm
18th March – Multicultural Evening, 6.00-8.30pm

**Please note this is not a complete event list and is intended to provide a snapshot only.*



Christmas Inter-Form Netball



**Congratulations to our Year
8 Indoor Athletics GOLD
Medalists**

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/to book:

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

Education Wellbeing Service
Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents
Spring/Summer Term 2025
Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

Date	Topic
4TH OR 6TH FEB	Social Media & Gaming: What Parents Need To Know
24TH FEB	Managing Exam & Assignment Stress For Parents Of Young People In Years 11-13
26TH OR 27TH MAR	Exam And Assignment Stress Management For Parents Of Young People In Years 7-10
24TH OR 30TH APR	Parenting Teenagers: Conflict And Communication
7TH OR 9TH MAY	Supporting Your Teenager With Emotional Difficulties And Self-Harm

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](#)

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

Laptop / Social media

Just a polite reminder that school laptops are for school related work only. Please remind your daughters that they are not for accessing social media, gaming or web browsing non-school-related content.

Age restrictions on WhatsApp in the UK is 13 years old. Snapchat's age requirement is 13 years old. Please support us with this, we are dealing with a lot of issues.

Year 8 Update



Health and Well-being Services Directory and Resource Library

Health and Wellbeing

The teenage years can bring about many well-being and mental health challenges for teens and their families. At the Ursuline High School, we fulfil our school values through our outstanding pastoral care. We understand that young women need to have the best view of themselves and the world around them to succeed.

We really do care for each one of our students and we ensure that their individual needs are known and met. Students have a variety of support available that they can access in school to support them, with any worries or anxieties students may have about school or outside of school.

Our focus on well-being is further supported by being part of the South-west London Mental Health Trailblazer. This partnership provides mental health support teams that work with students and their parents with the aim of ensuring they are well equipped to have healthy and honest conversations about emotional well-being – as well as connecting them to local services. This has enabled us to develop the services we have on offer at the Ursuline including a clinical psychologist, nurse and educational well-being practitioners.

If you or your daughter have a concern, then in the first instance please speak with your daughter's form tutor or pastoral support assistant. See the Year 8 list [here](#).

Safeguarding

At the Ursuline High School, the well-being and the safety of young people in our care is paramount. We recognize our duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. If you have a concern regarding a student please [contact the Safeguarding team](#). Our webpage has details of who to contact during school and out of school hours.

Parent/Carer Support Services Directory

Explore our [Directory](#) for a list of charities and other parenting experts sharing practical strategies, and powerful insights that can help to inform your conversations at home.

Online Safety, Smart Devices and Social Media

Our [extensive online safety library](#) hosts our Smart Devices & Social Media Statement and other recommended resources related specifically to online safety. From social media and gaming to online challenges and conversation starters, our library is expansive.

Girls' only Education

The [On educating Girls': Creating a World of Possibilities' podcast](#) produced by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) is a robust global conversation among experts who are passionate about the education and healthy development of girls. Tune in for practical strategies, and powerful insights that can reshape your conversations at home.