



Showcase & Cadogan Hall



On Tuesday 14th October, 35 of our **Year 7** students took to the stage to share their musical talents in our first **music showcase** of this academic year.

Parents/carers had the privilege of enjoying solo and group performances including voice, piano, violin, and saxophone!

From pop hits to classical favourites, every act showed confidence, creativity, and a real love of music. The evening was joyous, and the student performers really did themselves and Mr Ching, our esteemed Music teacher, proud.

To see students so young, who have only been in the school for 2 months, stand up and deliver confident performances to a crowd really did not go unnoticed. Our school community is really proud of them.

A huge congratulations to all our performers; what a wonderful way to celebrate your first half-term of music-making at Ursuline!

To continue on our music theme, we are also delighted to share that our GCSE Music students enjoyed an inspiring evening at Cadogan Hall, watching the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform recently. Under the direction of Emilia Hoving, the concert featured works by Sibelius, Pejačević, Ravel, and Stravinsky, with the brilliant pianist Alexandra Dariescu as soloist. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience world-class live music and especially exciting to see a young female conductor and soloist leading such a powerful performance.





headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Thank you for your commitment to our school community this first half-term. We have all thoroughly enjoyed the start of the academic year and it is reflected in the excellent attendance of 95.6%. 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 celebrating 44% of all grades at 7+. Well done to Year 11 (2024/25) whose results place us as 12th best nonselective secondary school in the country.

We also celebrated 93% of our departing Year 13s departing to University, 92% having secured a place in their first choice or firm offer; we wish them well in their continuing educational and employment journey. We are proud to celebrate nearly half of our students went to a Russell Group University, including 42% of SEND students, with Exeter, UCL, Surrey, Royal Holloway and Warwick amongst the most popular destinations. 100% of our T Level students secured a destination at University (with their main courses in Psychology, Law, Midwifery, Computer Science and Business Management), or have successfully applied for apprenticeships or employment.

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



BHM - Power and Pride



We launched **Black History Month 2025** this October with student led assemblies. This year's theme was **'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'**. Student-led assemblies were planned and delivered to all year groups. Ms Hoyle did a live cooking demonstration for KS3 pupils and made jerk chicken with rice & peas. All students who attended had a bowl to taste and agreed it was delicious - if a little spicy due to those Scotch Bonnet chillies! Some students also took part in 'Wear Red Day', which is an initiative run by Show Racism The Red Card. Over £200 was raised and will be sending this to the charity to support their important anti-racism work. Throughout October we have also had competitions running for BHM & the winners will be announced after half-term.

B:M2025
DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Education Start of the Year Mass

The **Year 9 Chaplaincy team** were a great representation of our school at **St George's Cathedral** for the annual **Education Start of the Year Mass** on **Wednesday 24th September**.



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 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'



Students attended **Wimbledon Bookfest** this half-term. Congratulations to **Celeste (Y8)** who was awarded the prize for best **KS3 short story** in the **Young Writers Competition** and to **Ana (Ursuline Alumnae)** **overall competition winner**.

Coffee Morning



We held our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** in the staff room to raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**, which concluded a very busy week! We are pleased to announce we raised a total of: **£300**.

Admissions

It was fantastic to welcome over 1,500 visitors through our doors during our main school **open events** over the past few weeks, with our open evening on **24th September**, followed by 8 days of open mornings. This is an incredible increased demand from eager Year 6 and 6 primary school parents/carers.

We are thrilled to report that the school looked and felt incredible. The energy was tangible all over the school and all our staff and students demonstrated our ethos and value. Thank you to our Ursuline parents/carers for enabling the students to volunteer in such huge numbers - which is crucial for welcoming and guiding the visitors to our school.



We look forward to receiving their [applications](#).

"I was thoroughly impressed at every stage. From the warm welcome at the gate to the engaging classroom displays, the professionalism with which teachers responded to some challenging questions, and the confidence and eloquence of my student guides, the evening was a real showcase of the school's strengths."
Prospective Parent

CSI - Outstanding School



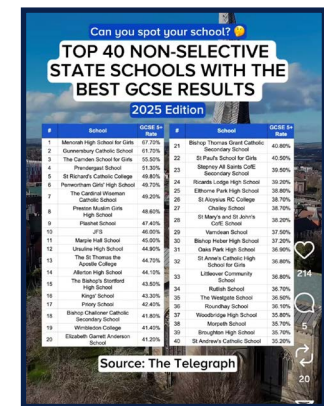
We are proud to share our published **Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) Report**, following our inspection earlier this month. We are over the moon to report that Ursuline High School has been awarded **Outstanding** across all areas.

The overall judgment of **Outstanding (Grade 1)** was awarded and we secured Outstanding (Grade 1) in each of the following categories:

Overall effectiveness, Catholic life and mission, Religious education, and Collective worship.

The [report](#) reflects the outstanding work of the school, the dedication of all the staff and our students hard work and effort. A big thanks to our school community for your continued support - staff, students and parents/carers.

Top 40 - GCSE Results



We are exceptionally proud to have been featured the *The Telegraph's* **Top 40 Non Selective State Schools** list for GCSE results, coming in at an impressive **number 12** recently.

This accolade is testament to the diligence and hard work of our staff and students - a wonderful achievement to showcase our efforts this past academic year.

Hairspray



Rehearsals are well underway for our school production of **Hairspray** next half-term! Performance dates are scheduled for **Thursday 27th and Friday 28th November 2025, 7.00 start** - in the school hall. Exciting times!

Tickets will go on sale from **Monday 10th November** and can be purchased from the Finance Office (accessed via 'The Downs' entrance). Tickets are limited at 2 tickets per student in the first instance.

Jack Petchey Awards



Congratulations to our nine **Jack Petchey Award winners** who attended an Awards Evening on **Monday 6th October** at **Wimbledon Odeon** to receive their prizes. They were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding leadership qualities, their approach to their learning and for their consistent living out of our motto **Serviam**.

Each of the students were awarded **£300.00** and they met with the teachers who had nominated them to choose how this money would be used in school for the benefit of others. Fantastic - well done!

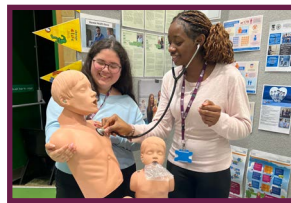
Kew Gardens

60 Year 9 Geography students went to **Kew Gardens** this half-term. They took part in a workshop looking at how crime investigators use plants to help solve clues for criminal cases. Students also explored the site and made links to the current topic of the 'Living World'.



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Open Evening Success



WOW! Such a great turnout for our joint **Sixth Form Open Evening** with **Wimbledon College** on **Wednesday 8th October**. A huge thank you to everyone that attended! Our great results, knowledgeable staff specialists, impressive destinations (including apprenticeships), 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](#)!

Year 13 Global Scholars



We are very proud of our **Year 13** students who recently completed the **Ursuline Global Scholars Programme**. This is the first year we have run the programme, following the model set up by the **UEN** at Ursuline schools in the United States. Find out more [here](#).

Voice of the Month



Anne (12A) visited me this half-term after attending an award ceremony at **Nobel Peace Centre** recently. Anne was presented with the **Dialogue Voice of the Month** diploma by Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Centre. Congratulations we are very proud of you Anne.



Ursuline Links

We were delighted to welcome the **Ursuline Links Director, James Ryan**, in to launch the **Ursuline Links programme** for our **Year 12s** this half-term! Read more [here](#).

Black History Month

Our **Year 12** students delivered an amazing assembly for **Black History Month**.



Helping Hands



Our primary school enrichments kicked off this half-term. Pictured above are **Year 12** students on their first visit to **Sacred Heart Primary, New Malden**.

Food Bank



Our **food bank volunteering** has received a high response this half-term, with many students volunteering at **Morrisons, Sainsburys, and Waitrose** stands. **Serviam!**



netballtennisfootballathletics
rockclimbingcrosscountry
trampoliningbasketballhockey
dancedukeofedinburghaward
wimbledonballgirlscycling

Wimbledon Ball Girls



Student fitness, concentration and determination was put to the test in the Sports Hall - as **Wimbledon Ball Girl Trials** leaped into action this half-term. Trials included practising the correct posture and taking part in a 12 minute running test.

Leadership Skills



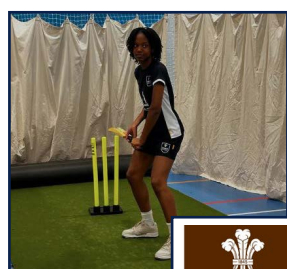
Thank you to our **Sports Leaders** from **Years 8-11** for their contribution and commitment to welcoming the Year 6s and their families to our PE department!

Tag Rugby

Some of our **Year 7 and 8s** enjoyed the day with **Merton Sports Partnership** for a **Tag Rugby Workshop** this half-term!



Cricket Academy



Great training sessions with our **Surrey Cricket Academy** players in the nets this half-term!

Calling all cricket and general sport enthusiasts in **Year 10 and 11**!

Check out the information regarding **Surrey Cricket Academy** here and see how we can get you involved in cricket if you continue your **Sixth Form** experience with us!



Netball, Netball & More Netball



It's been a great half-term for **netball** - with our **Year 7s** first netball fixture (above, left)! Superb play from all the students involved! Results: **A Team**: won 13-7, Player of the match: *Lottie*. **B Team**: losing 3-1, Player of the match: *Aria*.

We also hosted the **Year 9 Borough Netball** this half-term (above, right)! With excellent netball on display from all schools involved! Results: **UHS A Team** came **2nd** with the final placing being decided on goals scored! **UHS B Team** came **5th** with all girls working incredibly hard throughout! Well done.

Cross Country



A huge well done to our cross country runners after competing in the **Merton Borough Cross Country** this half-term. Conditions were wet and undesirable but the girls showed grit and resilience throughout! Results:- *Annabel* placing **1st** and *Serene* placing **3rd** in their respective categories, 4 students finishing in the top 10 to move on to the next race!

DanceBites Club



Our **Dancebites** after school enrichment has been proving popular this half-term.