

Year 8 Update

See page 2 for
a snapshot
of upcoming
events!



Autumn Term A 2025

Make sure to check out our Autumn Term
>>> **Enrichment programme!** <<<

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to the first newsletter of Year 8!

The students have had a fantastic start to the year, building on from the excellent start they had to life at UHS in Year 7. As their new head of year, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Year 8 this half-term and I am incredibly impressed by and proud of the students' maturity and engagement in all facets of school life. I have challenged the year group to strive to be the best at all times, and I am pleased to report that at the time of writing, Year 8 is currently second against the other year groups in terms of rewards received (over 3,300 to date), and has maintained an outstanding attendance rate of above 96%. Outstanding attendance and positive engagement in school life breeds outstanding success, and so I thank you for your support in these areas and look forward to further successes as the year progresses.

Students in Year 8 have demonstrated Serviam in Autumn A in a variety of ways – notably through their willingness to volunteer to help at Open Evening, either as tour guides or subject ambassadors. We had over 100 students in the year group helping on the night, and the feedback received from both staff and visitors has been excellent. We are very grateful to the students who helped, and to all parents who allowed them to volunteer. Thank you. Furthermore, all Year 8 tutor groups have had the opportunity to lead Form Prayer services for their Year 7 counterparts – again showing Serviam and creating a wonderful encounter with our school's ethos for the new students.

Participation in extra-curricular activities, clubs, student leadership programmes, school council, school production, etc. is an important facet of life at the Ursuline – and it has been inspiring to see so many Year 8s involved. It is always great to see students leaving school after 4pm and hearing about what they have been doing. If your daughter(s) has not yet got involved in an extra-curricular / enrichment activity, please encourage her to do so in Autumn B. We recommend that all students try at least one per half-term.

In the last week, we have celebrated Mass for St Ursula's feast day – a highlight of the Autumn A Term. Students have also been celebrating BHM in all of their lessons. The theme for this year is celebrating successes. The year group explored the multitude of contributions that black people have given to a multitude of areas.

We have a lot to look forward to in Autumn B (please see page 2), and I look forward to sharing more highlights with you then. School returns for students on Tuesday 4th November.

Wishing you a wonderful
Half-Term!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Smith,
Head of Year 8

**Awarded
'Outstanding'
in our
Catholic Schools
Inspectorate
(CSI) Report**



Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 3079

1 - Most Rewards:

- Year Group – Maeve K
- 8A – Isabella P
- 8B – Hope D-H
- 8C – Isabella Q
- 8F – Lily-Rose B
- 8M – Precious R
- 8T – Clodagh I
- 8U – Emma C

Congratulations to **8B** who currently lead the way with **579** Reward Points!

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **110** students in Year 8 who have **100%** attendance.

Congratulations to **8M** who lead the way with **97.34%**!

3 – External Success:

- Congratulations to Clara D-R 8T who participated in the 5K RBC Race for the Kids and raised £300!
- Congratulations to Celeste A 8A who won the prize for best Key Stage 3 short story in the Young Writers Competition!
If your daughter participates in sport or other activities outside of school, do encourage her to let us know.

There have also been some other great achievements this half-term, you can find these here: [UHS X UHS Instagram](#) [UHS PE Instagram](#)

Autumn A Highlights:

- Open evening;
- 8 Francis and 8 Ursula Student-Led assemblies;
- Black History Month;
- Year 8 Form Prayer (leading for Year 7s)

**Congratulations to
Celeste for winning
the KS3 Stories
Category in the Young
Writers Competition
recently!**



**Hairspray
rehearsals
are going
well!**



Year 8 Update



Upcoming Events

28th -31st October: Half Term

November

- **3rd November:** Inset Day
- **4th November:** Start of Autumn B Term
- **11th November:** Remembrance Day
- **28th November:** Year 8 Christmas Fair (selling to Y7)
- **24th November-** Christmas Gift Appeal begins
- **27th – 28th November:** Hairspray School Production -
- 7.00pm start. (Tickets available from finance from Monday 10th November. Tickets will be limited at 2 per student)

*Year 8 enjoying
a Tag Rugby
workshop with
Year 7!*



December

- **1st December–** Advent begins
- **12th December:** Christmas Tree Service; Chapel
- **15th December:** Christmas Carol Service (8.00-9.00pm); Sacred Heart Church
- **19th December:** Christmas Assembly: Peace on Earth and Last Day of Term (School Day ends: 12.50pm)



Wear Red Day!

Looking Ahead:

- **5th January:** Start of Spring A Term

**Please note this is not a complete event list and is intended to provide a snapshot only. Events may be subject to change.*

Congratulations to our Cross Country Team for great efforts and Annabel placing 1st in her category!



**Jack Petchey Award Winners:
Congratulations Elizabeth W!**

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 below for more information and to book:

Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Autumn Term 2025
Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

Date	Time	Topic
3RD NOV 25	6 PM-7.30 PM	Healthy habits in teenagers with Autism
4TH FEB 26	12.30 PM-2 PM	Understanding and supporting teen sleep
11TH NOV 25	1 PM-2 PM	Understanding and supporting teen sleep
11TH NOV 25	7 PM-8 PM	Understanding and supporting teen sleep

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](#)

South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Secondary/College Parents - Wellbeing Workshops | Eventbrite

Laptop / Social Media

Just a polite reminder that the school laptop is for school related work only, please remind your daughters that it is not for downloading or playing games on.

Age restrictions on WhatsApp in the UK is 13 years old. Snapchat's age requirement is 13 years old. Please support us

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.