



Year 9

Information Evening

Welcome

Ursuline High School



Welcome!

Mr Roberts
Head of Year 9

Mr Glavina
Assistant Headteacher;
SLT Line Manager for Y9



Our school prayer



Gracious God,
Let us remain in harmony,
United together;
All of one heart and one will.
Let us be bound to one another
By the bond of love,
Respecting each other,
Helping each other,
And bearing with each other
In Jesus Christ.
For if we try to be like this,
Without doubt,
You, Lord God,
Will be in our midst.
Amen



Our Theme

Our school theme for 2024-25 is 'Pilgrims of Love' to reflect the Church year theme chosen by Pope Francis and continued by Pope Leo.

Our Year 9 virtues are:

- ▶ **Autumn Term – Integrity**
- ▶ **Spring Term – Discerning**
- ▶ **Summer Term – United in Harmony**



Our aim

Our aim is for your daughter to be happy and flourish here at the Ursuline.

A clear partnership between the school and home is one of the best ways you can support your daughter throughout her time here.



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 to enable and enhance the education experience to our students.
- ▶ All additional funding secured makes a significant impact on our school's offering and the programmes we provide for our students.
- ▶ Your support goes directly towards **enriching 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 the refurbishment of student services, construction of the accommodation of T Level Nursing, our Katherine Johnson T Level Digital Building, Business and T Level Science, the new roof at St Angela's, new doors, floors and heating upgrades/repair, renovation of our main kitchen /dining room, tennis court upgrade, and LED lighting and CCTV throughout the Main School.
- ▶ Additionally, Governors contribute to the **School's Chaplaincy programmes** to sustain and develop the school's charism and ethos, and our **Laptop Scheme** where our students have the use of a laptop throughout your child's education at the Ursuline.



Governors Development Fund

We ask all parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution of **£30 per month** to the school, for the duration of their child's education at Ursuline High School. An **annual payment of £360** can be made if preferred.

Monthly donations will be collected by Direct Debit. We ask parents / carers to make the first donation on the date of their daughter's interview. Further donations will be collected by Direct Debit from September onwards.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim back the tax you have already paid, from the Inland Revenue. For every pound you donate, the school receives an additional 25 pence, at no extra cost to you.

For those facing financial constraints, the **school supports families who are unable to afford the full donation**. If this is the case, please let us know. Also, your ongoing support through involvement in school activities, volunteering, and fostering a sense of community is equally invaluable.

To discuss the Fund, and/or your donation please contact our [finance department](#).

Thank you and all our families for your continued support. It is appreciated and defines the schools' overall success.



Mr Roberts- Head of Year 9



Tonight we'll cover

- ▶ Who's who in the Y9 tutor team
- ▶ How and when to contact the school
- ▶ How we will communicate with you
- ▶ Essential guide to learning at UHS
- ▶ Pastoral care
- ▶ Enrichment



The Year 9 team

9 Angela	Ms Cooke	serena.cooke
9 Bernadette	Ms Gil Valera	mercedes.gil
9 Catherine	Ms Williams (Mon, Wed, Fri) Ms Adewale (Tue & Thu)	niamh.williams ; summer.adewale
9 Francis	Ms McAlister	leah.mcallister
9 Margaret	Mr Agotre	alex.agotre
9 Teresa	Mrs Nichols/ Mrs Harriott	jenny.harriott emma.nichols
9 Ursula	Ms McGrath	anna.mcgrath



Contacting us

We strive to at least provide a holding reply within 1 working day, and further follow up as appropriate.

Please use email to contact us

- ▶ **Form tutors** - general enquires about the Ursuline, friendship issues, organisation, homework, clubs/enrichment, uniform, equipment, travelling to/from school, punctuality, trips/calendar events. (email address on previous slides)
- ▶ **Head of Year or Pastoral Support Assistant** - Mental health, bullying, safeguarding, online safety, absence request forms, request for your daughter to receive school counselling/educational well-being practitioner, financial support/free school meals.
- ▶ James.roberts@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk / 0203 908 3173 (Head of Year)
- ▶ Magdalena.sawicka@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk / 0203 908 3101 (Pastoral Support Assistant)
- ▶ **Ms Young** - Attendance and punctuality/lateness. All absences and lates must be reported via email or phone no later than 8.45am.
Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk 0203908 3144
- ▶ **Subject teachers** must be contacted for any subject specific enquiries.
- ▶ **Our IT Helpdesk** is available to help with any parent portal, laptops, and other IT queries. laptop.doctor@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ All staff contact details can be found on the [Ursuline directory](#) on our website.



Common Themes in Year 9:

- Friendship issues / changes to friendship groups
- Worry of increased homework and tougher sanctions
- New teachers and classes
- Problems arising from social media misuse
- Options



The 'Girls on Board' approach

- ▶ **Girls on Board is an approach which helps girls, their parents and their teachers to understand the complexities and dynamics of girl friendships.** The language, methods and ideas empower girls to solve their own friendship problems and recognises that they are usually the only ones who can.
- ▶ **The Girls on Board approach will not prevent girls from falling out, but it will help them sort out their own friendship problems and minimise the distress they might experience.** It provides a vital vocabulary to make communication more open, honest and effective and creates a robust framework for parents so they feel reassured that issues are being dealt with effectively.
- ▶ For further info see www.girlsonboard.co.uk/parents/
- ▶ Consider purchasing the accompanying book Amazon.co.uk : [when girls fall out book](#)



Parental Engagement & Communication

- ▶ Meetings throughout the year: parental workshops, Academic Review Day (ARD), parents' evening, trip meetings, etc.
- ▶ Sharing resources on key issues such as mental health, safeguarding concerns, social media and online safety.
- ▶ Sharing news and information about school life via media such as Arbor, email, the school's website and social media accounts, newsletters and headteacher's updates.
- ▶ **Instagram:** @UHSwimbledon
- ▶ **X (formerly twitter):** @UHSWimbledon



Key dates for your diary

- ▶ **Open Evening** – Wednesday 25th September (early closure at 12.50; 9.30am start next day)
- ▶ **Sixth Form Open Evening** – Wednesday 25th September (early closure at 12.50)
- ▶ **Autumn Academic Review Day** – Thursday 24th October PM & Friday 25th October PM (early closure at 12.50)
- ▶ **Year 9 Christmas Fair** – Friday 5th December
- ▶ **Spring Academic Review Day** – Thursday 12th February PM & Friday 15th February PM (early closure at 12.50)
- ▶ **Year 9 Options Information Evening** – Tuesday 13th January
- ▶ **Year 9 Options Taster Day** – Friday 6th February
- ▶ **Year 9 Options Deadline** – Friday 6th March
- ▶ **Year 9 Parents' Evening** – Wednesday 29th April
- ▶ **Year 9 End of Year Exams** – W/C Monday 18th May (before Half-Term)
- ▶ **UHS Fest Week** – W/C Monday 13th July 2025



Travel to and from school

- ▶ Students to use 57 or 131 buses from Wimbledon and Raynes Park, but we strongly encourage walking.
- ▶ Assigned bus stop for Y9 = Arterberry Road.
- ▶ Students must be considerate of our neighbours regarding noise and must never enter a resident's garden or sit on walls/railings.
- ▶ Full uniform to be worn when travelling to/from school.
 - ▶ Remember - students must represent the school positively at all times.
- ▶ No loitering in Wimbledon - no shops.
- ▶ No more than 4 students together.
- ▶ Travel carefully (e.g using crossings, avoiding use of airpods/headphones etc).



Mr Glavina - Teaching & Learning & Standards



What does 90% mean?



Week 1 Dates: _____

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Week 2 Dates: _____

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Nationally :18% (1 in 5) students were persistently absent in 2024/25



Attendance & Punctuality

- ▶ Good attendance and punctuality are linked to progress - both socially and academically.
- ▶ We must know if your daughter is not attending by 8.45am as this is a safeguarding duty - either by phone or email Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk 02039083144
- ▶ The school's attendance target is 96%.
- ▶ We monitor all students, and if your daughter has an attendance below 94% you will be sent a letter via email.
- ▶ Same day detentions (30mins) for unauthorised late marks - emails sent to student and parents by 11am to confirm. Non-attendance at detention will result in 1hr Friday detention.
- ▶ If your daughter needs to leave school early, or is coming in late after an appointment, please email Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk and ensure you provide evidence of the appointment.



Uniform and Standards:

- ▶ Jewellery
- ▶ Skirts
- ▶ Shoes

Sanctions will be issued and items will be confiscated and returned at the end of term

Please help us by getting students ready for learning at home



Our approach to Teaching & Learning

We have an ambitious curriculum with high academic rigour that ensures our students develop a lifelong passion for learning.

Our curriculum is content rich, where students are taught the skills to retain their knowledge with fluency and are able to apply this knowledge creatively and with purpose

Year 9 Curriculum Guide

[Year-9-Curriculum-Guide-2025-2026.pdf](#)



A summary of Checking & Challenge

Checking	Challenge
Retrieval practice	Using knowledge to apply, synthesise and make their own conclusions and theories, applying knowledge to unfamiliar scenarios.
Consolidation	
Checking the learning	Activating prior knowledge and building schema so students know more to learn more.
Clearing up misconceptions	
Identifying and closing gaps	Sequencing and building a challenging curriculum for all students with a high level of expectation.
Feedback that enables progress.	



Homework

- ▶ Students are set one homework per week for most subjects. 45 minutes per homework in Year 9
- ▶ For English, Maths and Science they have two.
- ▶ Students have, in general, a week to complete each homework.
- ▶ All homework is now set on Assignments (MS Teams) - not in planners.
- ▶ We are working to add Homework assignments to Arbor (updates to follow)



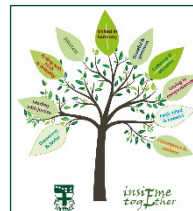
How we grade your daughter's work

Formatively

- ▶ Assessment to aid learning journey (Throughout each half term)
 - ▶ Class tests - 2 grades per half term, shown in trackers in books

Summatively

- ▶ Assessment of acquired knowledge at an Assessment Point. (Standard Awarded each half term)
 - ▶ Report on Arbor once per term



Teaching & Learning - how you can help

- ▶ Check that your daughter is acting on feedback
- ▶ Talk about her learning and discuss her work with her
- ▶ Use the Curriculum guide for information on courses (see previous link)
- ▶ Check the homework is being completed and to a good standard
- ▶ Planner- always check and sign
- ▶ Time and space to study



Use of AI

- ▶ Research shows that using AI without a critical approach reduces student learning significantly.
- ▶ No AI is allowed to be used by anyone below 13. Very few AI tools can be used after 13 without explicit parental consent.
- ▶ Using AI poses significant safeguarding risks.
- ▶ Our aim is to empower students to use it safely, with purpose and critically.



Use of AI - Exam board / JCQ stance.

- ▶ Students using AI to complete any assessed work are at risk of severe sanctions from exam boards.
- ▶ All NEAs at UHSW are run through Turn It In Originality - the same software exam boards use.
- ▶ Any unacknowledged use of AI can result in the student being barred for all exams for that exam board.
- ▶ Acknowledged use of will result in that section only being discredited.
- ▶ Students should not be using AI for homework. AI gives you the end result without the learning journey.



AI in Education

- ▶ Currently, UHSW will not use AI as a decision-making tool.
- ▶ No personal data will be entered into closed or open AI systems.
- ▶ Any use of AI will be to enhance T&L and support staff workload.
- ▶ We will be transparent with any use of AI.
- ▶ Staff have been trained in AI compliance - statutory regulations, KCSIE etc - and safe use. Our AI policy will be updated regularly.



The “home school social contract”

- ▶ It is a partnership
- ▶ You and we are all doing our best for the students here
- ▶ Communication and support is key
- ▶ We need to see you, in person/online, at ARDs and Parents Evenings



Smart Devices at School

- ▶ **Smartphones are a huge safeguarding concern** which you will all be aware of due to ongoing research, campaigning and media attention.
- ▶ In addition, academic research is clear that **mobile phone use in school is a distraction, negatively impact behaviour, progress and attainment, compromise the integrity of assessments**, enable access to apps we cannot control or monitor in school **and are banned by JCQ**, the exams regulatory authority.
- ▶ We are proud to say we have a clear policy in place regarding the use of phones and smart watches at school.
- ▶ **Phones are allowed for travel purposes only.** However, to help keep everyone safe while commuting and at school, we recommend that expensive mobile phones are not brought into school. However, this is at parents' discretion.
- ▶ **Smart Watches of any kind are not allowed on school premises at all.** Please keep them at home.
- ▶ **Regardless of phone make/model**, and in accordance with research, Government guidance and our [Digital Learning & Safety Policy](#), if you choose to send your daughter to school with a mobile phone, it must be switched off, placed in their padlocked locker at the start of the day and remain there until the end of the day. Any phones seen or heard in school will be confiscated. There are **exceptions for medical reasons**, please speak to us.
- ▶ If a phone (or other device) is confiscated, a letter will be sent home to inform parents and request that they collect it from Student Services. Confiscated devices will not be returned on the same day. Students who are concerned about being contactable on the way home will be offered one of our school's 'emergency' phones and they can text the number to a parent, returning the phone to Student Services the next day.



Social Media

BeReal, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, X(Twitter) and WhatsApp etc

Social media is a huge safeguarding concern. Whilst social media does not negatively impact everyone, every child who uses these platforms is exposed to dangerous algorithms that care nothing about their wellbeing.

Whilst some apps do bring a level of socialisation and connectivity, there are huge risks including harmful content, online grooming & sextortion, bullying, dangerous viral challenges, negative and dangerous impact on self-esteem, unreliable news source and so on.

Many experts and parent groups believe social media is not suitable for tweens and young teens and there is widespread campaigning to raise the minimum age beyond the current age of 13.

Be aware that if your child was younger than 13 when they set up their account then they would have had to fake their date of birth. This means that the algorithm thinks they are older than they are and will be feeding them content that is not age appropriate.

In accordance with our [Digital Learning & Safety Policy](#) if students do use social media, this will be taken into consideration when dealing with issues raised.



Online Safety - Recommendations

- ▶ To keep our children safe, it is essential they are media literate, can think critically and have boundaries. Normalising difficult conversations and holding open and ongoing discussions within the household around **online safety, challenges and dangers, fake news, algorithm bubbles and how to change them, echo chambers** and so on is key.
- ▶ Should you allow your daughter(s) to have a smartphone/digital device and/or access to social media, we recommend **following expert advice**:
 - ▶ **researching apps** to understand the **dangers and risks** before they are allowed,
 - ▶ agreeing family rules including **family digital contracts**
 - ▶ setting up **parental controls, screen time, app limits and content & privacy restrictions**
 - ▶ enabling **Ask to Buy**
 - ▶ **removing screens from bedrooms** especially during homework and overnight
 - ▶ **password sharing, regularly checking your child's devices and delaying, avoiding or limiting social media and web browsing.**
- ▶ It is essential that parents get to know the common platforms and how your children engage with them, understand more about online cultures and terminology, and talk to your kids about what they are engaging with and how it makes them feel.
- ▶ Finally, if you suspect risky behaviour then reach out for help.



Online Safety - Resources

- ▶ There are many valuable online safety resources available to parents including [Common Sense Media](#), [Devorah Heitner](#), [Dr Jean Twenge](#), [Jessica Chalmers \(Social Jess\)](#), [Jonathan Haidt](#), [National Online Safety](#), [NSPCC](#), [Titania Jordan](#), [Thinkuknow.co.uk](#), and [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).
- ▶ The Netflix drama [Adolescence](#), and documentaries [Swiped](#), [Childhood 2.0](#) and [The Social Dilemma](#) are recommended. Also, Jonathan Haidt's [The Anxious Generation](#) and Dr Vivek Murthy's [The Social Media and Youth Mental Health Advisory](#) are very insightful reads and finally, The UK campaigns [@smartphonefreechildhood](#), [@delaysmartphones](#) and [Safescreens.org](#) are ones to follow.
- ▶ Please visit the [Keeping Safe Online](#) page of our website to access our extensive online safety resource library. In addition, you can access our Directory of additional parenting resources [here](#).
- ▶ 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.



Use of Social Media for Education

- ▶ There is a vast number of tutors and exam gurus sharing their expertise and insight via social media (in particular; Instagram, TikTok and YouTube).
- ▶ There are lots of great teachers and subject experts out there but there are just as many poor ones. There are also many students claiming to know how to get a grade 9!
- ▶ In the same way parents do their due diligence before employing a tutor, students should do their research before deciding to follow and listen to an 'expert' via social media. It is essential students make informed decisions on who they are taking advice from, to ensure they are getting relevant and accurate advice/insight relevant to their courses.
- ▶ Please seek guidance from UHS teachers in the first instance who will guide you in the direction of tried and tested resources.



What can you do?

- ▶ Recognise the risks - has a 12/13 year old got the emotional maturity to handle them?
- ▶ Limit the time spent on electronic devices and remove them in the evenings/night.
- ▶ Know what she is doing online - open space at home for access
- ▶ Know logins and passwords
- ▶ School monitoring of devices - even at home (Smoothwall)



Safeguarding Team



Ms Rachael Gilmore
Assistant Headteacher
Inclusion
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mental Health Lead



Ms Michelle Alexander
Deputy Headteacher
Standards



Ms Kerry Connor
Assistant Headteacher
Ethos and Behaviour
Safeguarding Officer



Ms Sarah McCourt
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
and Wellbeing Lead



Ms Danielle Boateng
Care Co-ordinator
Safeguarding Officer

*inspire
together*

Faith-filled
& hope

Courageous
resilient

Justice

Being
joyful

Enrichment

- ▶ It is our expectation for all students to be involved in extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Tutors will monitor their extra-curricular to help students who may find it challenging to engage.
- ▶ A link to the enrichment programme can be found here.
- ▶ [Enrichment - Ursuline High School](#)
- ▶ Please go through with your daughter to identify enrichment she would like to engage in - there are lots to choose from.



Where can I get practical advice?

- ▶ [Starting secondary school - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)
- ▶ [www.childnet.com](#)
- ▶ [www.saferinternet.org.uk](#)
- ▶ [https://www.internetmatters.org/](#)



- ▶ [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- ▶ [Commonsensemedia](#) provide independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents
- ▶ [Government advice](#) about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- ▶ [Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- ▶ [London Grid for Learning](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- ▶ [Lucy Faithfull Foundation StopItNow](#) resource can be used by parents and carers who are concerned about someone's behaviour, including children who may be displaying concerning sexual behaviour (not just about online)
- ▶ [National Crime Agency/CEOP Thinkuknow](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- ▶ [Parentzone](#) provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online
- ▶ [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online



Mr Roberts
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0203 908 3173

James.roberts@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk



**Thank you for your time
this evening!**

