



# Year 7

## Information

## Evening

Ursuline High School



# Welcome!

Mr Kelly - Headteacher

Ms Connor - Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour, Ethos and line manages year 7

Mr Nichols - Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning

Ms Hoyles - Head of Year 7

Ms Eloff - Pastoral Support Assistant



# 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 Purpose

Our school theme for 2026-2027 is 'Growing Together in Faith'

## Our Year 7 virtues are:

- ▶ Autumn term - Insieme
- ▶ Spring term - Loving
- ▶ Summer term- Joyful



# Our aim

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

The transition from primary to secondary can be challenging for parents as well as young people.

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



My commitment  
to you



# 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 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 **Device Scheme** where our students have the use of an iPad/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.



Ms Hoyles - Head of Year 7



# Tonight, we will cover:

- ▶ Who's who in the Y7 tutor team
- ▶ How and when to contact the school
- ▶ How we will communicate with you
- ▶ Essential guide to learning at UHS
- ▶ Measuring progress in learning
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Enrichment



# The Year 7 team

|              |                                                         |                                                              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Angela     | Ms Thomas (DT) (Tues-Fri)<br>Ms McHale (English) Monday | <a href="#">paula.Thomas</a><br><a href="#">Laura.McHale</a> |
| 7 Bernadette | MsTaylor (HSC)                                          | <a href="#">geraldine.taylor</a>                             |
| 7 Catherine  | Ms Grandin (English)                                    | <a href="#">katharine.grandin</a>                            |
| 7 Francis    | Ms Kearney (Maths)                                      | <a href="#">seoighe.kearney</a>                              |
| 7 Margaret   | Ms Gregory (Art)                                        | <a href="#">gabriela.gregory</a>                             |
| 7 Teresa     | Ms Gordon (Science)                                     | <a href="#">marlyn.gordon</a>                                |
| 7 Ursula     | Dr Kosminder (Maths)                                    | <a href="#">rowena.kosminder</a>                             |



# Contacting us

Please use email to contact us

- ▶ **Form tutors** - general enquires, friendship issues, organisation, homework, clubs/enrichment, uniform, equipment, travelling to/from school, punctuality, trips/calendar events.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Ms Gonzalez** - Attendance and punctuality/lateness. All absences and lates must be reported via email or phone no later than 8.45am. 0203 908 3144  
[Magdalena.Gonzalez@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Magdalena.Gonzalez@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)
- ▶ **Subject teachers** - for any subject specific enquiries ([link below](#))
- ▶ **Our IT Helpdesk** - [ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) for help with any parent portal like Arbor, IT devices, and other IT queries.
- ▶ [Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) - Head of Year
- ▶ [Karlin.eloff@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Karlin.eloff@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) pastoral support 0203 908 3105 (non-teaching)
- ▶ For a complete staff list including the Y7 team refer to [Curriculum Guide](#) or our [Staff Directory](#).



# Key dates for your diary

Each end of half term you will receive a Newsletter from me which will have other upcoming dates.

## September

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> - LSD coffee morning (by invitation)

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> - early close 12.50 (due to Open Evening)

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> - late start 9.30

## October

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> - UPA year 7 social evening

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> - music showcase 4.30-5.30pm

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> - year 7 film night UPA 7-9.15pm

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> - Academic Review Day (ARD) (early finish)

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> - ARD (early finish) Half term

## November

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - INSET

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> - Commissioning Service 7-8pm

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> & Fri 27<sup>th</sup> - Grease



# Common start of Year 7 worries

- Over half of our new Y7 students are the only student transitioning from their primary school - we support all students to form friendships
- It is common to have issues around friendship changes - we will give advice to students about dealing these situations both generally through our PSHE programme and more specifically when issues arise
- We will ask all parents and students to support our message of **kindness and respect**
- We must work together to help them navigate these tricky times
- Reassurance from parents that their worries are normal, often enough to calm students' nerves

Let us know if you feel your daughter's worries are beyond the norm



# Transitions Tips

- ▶ Our [Transition Resources Link](#) is **your one stop shop** - from FAQs, to Top Tips and Resources there is so much valuable insight to prepare your daughter and put your minds at ease. **We recommend you go through all the** resources together, if you haven't already.
- ▶ **Key considerations:**
- ▶ **Acknowledge any worries** or concerns as these are a normal response to change.
- ▶ Manage your own anxieties about this change and try not to pass them on!
- ▶ Keep sharing your own positive experiences of the transition from primary to secondary school.
- ▶ Gradually increase opportunities for independence and responsibility.
- ▶ Ensure your child is confident with their route to school / home.
- ▶ Continue to have regular scenario-based conversations with your child, e.g. what to do with cancelled trains, alternative journeys, other concerns.
- ▶ If you haven't already, create a document with key information (routes to school, alternative options, important trusted telephone numbers etc). for your child which they can keep in their blazer pocket.
- ▶ Agree morning and after school schedules.
- ▶ Regularly discuss safety and family expectations.
- ▶ Ensure your daughter is very clear on our non-smart phones and Social Media policy.



# Transitions Hub

- ▶ Our **TRANSITIONS HUB** is especially created to help parents/carers and their children as they start on this exciting new journey with us.
- ▶ In addition to our Headteacher and Head of Year welcomes, you'll find lots of valuable transitions materials including:
  - ❑ **Transitions Booklet** – for events/dates and other key information.
  - ❑ Comprehensive list of **Frequented Asked Questions (FAQs)**
  - ❑ **Resources and Top Tips** - general transition, travel and road safety, & online safety tips.
  - ❑ **Transition FAQs - Ursuline High School**
  - ❑ **School Life - Ursuline High School**
- ▶ We recommend you and your child spend time visiting The Hub if you haven't already, the resources will really help support your child for this transition.

## School Life

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Catering Provision                 |   |
| Examinations Information           |   |
| International                      |   |
| Library                            | + |
| News                               |   |
| Parent Engagement & Communications | + |
| Parent Portals                     |   |
| Pastoral Care                      |   |
| Pupil Premium                      |   |
| The School Day                     |   |
| Student Leadership                 |   |
| Term Dates 2026-27                 |   |
| Tutor Groups                       | + |
| School Uniform                     |   |
| Ursuline Parents' Association      |   |
| Parent School Calendar 2025-2026   |   |



# Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

At UHS we deliver the majority of the RSHE element of PSHE in the Spring Term using a programme called **Life to the Full** which has been approved by our diocese.

**Life to the Full** uses **Ten:Ten Resources** which ensure we meet our statutory RSHE curriculum requirements.

The programme is designed not only to support students' spiritual, moral and emotional development, but also to help children and young people recognise unsafe situations, understand healthy relationships and navigate online life safely.

We will update you at the end of the Autumn term about the themes that will be covered in Spring term.



Ms Connor - Assistant Headteacher



# Phones and Smart Devices at School

**Smartphones and social media are huge safeguarding concerns** which you will be aware of due to ongoing research, campaigning and media attention. The [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) Parent Pact has over 100,000 signatures.

We have a clear policy in place regarding the use of phones and smart devices at school.

**Year 7 students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school for travel purposes, but it must be a traditional 'non-smart' phone only.** A non-smart phone has no access to external apps or the Internet.

## [Smartphone Alternatives for Kids](#)

Students can bring internet-enabled **tracker devices** to school, e.g. Apple/Amazon tags, should parents wish to track their child's journey to and from school in real time.

**All phones are to be turned off prior to entering the school site and stored in their padlocked locker for the day.**

Any phone/watch seen or heard around the school site, outside of lockers will be confiscated.

Any year 7 student carrying a smartphone will be in breach of our Policy and the Agreement of Expectations signed by parent/carer.

If there is a medical need for a smart device, please talk to us.

**Please note that smart watches are NOT permitted on school premises.** Please ensure they are left at home.



# Social Media

- ▶ **Year 7 students are prohibited from using any form of social media** in accordance with the Ursuline school policy & Agreement of Expectations and in line minimum age restrictions (13 currently, rising to 16+ in Spring 2027). These include; BeReal, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, and WhatsApp.
- ▶ Be aware that if any of your children have social media accounts, they will have faked their date of birth to set up an account, and the algorithm will be feeding them content that is not age appropriate.
- ▶ If your child does have social media, we ask that you have these accounts deleted until they reach the minimum age (13 currently, rising to 16+ in Spring 2027).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Normalise difficult conversations and hold open and ongoing discussions around **online safety, challenges and dangers, fake news, algorithm bubbles and how to change them, echo chambers etc.**
- ▶ Should you allow your daughter(s) to have a smartphone/digital devices at home, we recommend **following expert advice:**
  - ▶ **research apps** to understand the **dangers and risks** before they are allowed but be aware that a child's **algorithm** is usually more dangerous and toxic.
  - ▶ agree family rules including **family digital contracts**.
  - ▶ set up **parental controls, screen time, app limits and content & privacy restrictions and enabling Ask to Buy**.
  - ▶ Always using their **accurate date of birth**.
  - ▶ Know what she is doing online - open space at home for access - **removing screens from bedrooms** especially during homework and overnight. This should be a non-negotiable.
  - ▶ **Logins/password sharing** and regularly **checking your child's devices**.
  - ▶ **Delaying social media until 16+** and then limiting use.
  - ▶ **School monitoring of devices** - even at home (Smoothwall)



# 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 Childhood 2.0, Inside the Manosphere, 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.
- ▶ If you suspect risky behaviour, then reach out for help.
- ▶ 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.



# Safeguarding Team at UHS



Mrs Rachael Gilmore  
Assistant Headteacher; Inclusion,  
Designated Safeguarding Lead,  
Mental Health Lead



Mrs Sarah McCourt  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead,  
Wellbeing Lead



Mrs Michelle Alexander  
Deputy Headteacher; Standards,  
Safeguarding Officer



Ms Kerry Connor  
Assistant Headteacher;  
Ethos and Behaviour,  
Safeguarding Officer



Mrs Victoria Jefferies  
SENCO,  
Safeguarding Officer



Ms Katarina Zatkovicova  
SEMH Lead,  
Safeguarding Officer



# Supporting young people to stay safe

- ▶ Selling items in school is not allowed!
- ▶ Unsupervised time in parks after school is not safe
- ▶ Check the arrangements of after school visits to friends' homes or sleepovers with the parents
- ▶ The more you know about what's going in school, who your daughter is friends with, what she is accessing online - the safer she'll be.
- ▶ Let us know if you have any concerns



# 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/](http://www.girlsonboard.co.uk/parents/)
- ▶ Consider purchasing the accompanying book [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk) : when girls fall out book



# Travel to and from school

- ▶ Year 7 can use the buses to and from school however buses towards Wimbledon at the end of the school day are extremely busy. The walk to Wimbledon takes 12 minutes
- ▶ Line up at the Arterberry road bus stop not the bottom of Crescent Road
- ▶ Students must be considerate of our neighbours regarding noise and must never enter a resident's garden or sit on walls/railings
- ▶ No loitering in Wimbledon - no shops
- ▶ No more than 4 students together
- ▶ Travel carefully (e.g using crossings, avoiding use of airpods/headphones etc)
- ▶ Travel safety afternoon (TFL) will be happening soon
- ▶ If you are collecting your daughter, please wait on the pavement on the opposite side of the Crescent Road entrance.
- ▶ For more valuable travel tips and advice please visit the Resources document in our Transitions Hub.



# Parent/Carer Services & Resources

- ▶ Access our [Directory](#) of charities and teen experts sharing practical strategies, and powerful insights to help inform your conversations at home. From parent webinars to guidance on hot topics including wellbeing, road safety, healthy eating & sleeping, friendships and risky behaviour, our library is expansive.
- ▶ Visit our expansive [online safety library](#) for our Smart Devices & Social Media Guidance document and other valuable online safety resources.



# 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.
- ▶ [Ursuline Enrichment](#) (will be live on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September)
- ▶ Please go through with your daughter to identify enrichment she would like to engage in - there are lots to choose from.



# Attendance & Punctuality

- ▶ We want the students to be in school wherever possible.
- ▶ We must know if your daughter is not attending by 8.45am as this is a safeguarding duty - either by phone or email [Magdalena.Gonzalez@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Magdalena.Gonzalez@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
- ▶ Students with excellent attendance have a much higher chance of succeeding socially and academically
- ▶ Punctuality is monitored daily, and at the beginning of October, any student who is late will receive a 30 mins detention on that day, the student and the parent will be notified by email by 11am, failure to attend will result in a Friday detention for an hour.
- ▶ If your daughter needs to leave school early, or is coming in late after an appointment, please email [Magdalena.Gonzalez@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Magdalena.Gonzalez@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) and ask her to bring the proof of the appointment.



# Parent Engagement & Communication

- ▶ We are committed to ensuring parents/carers are engaged in supporting their daughter's academic progress and personal development.
- ▶ Parents are given many opportunities over the year to meet with their daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress and receive regular progress reports.
- ▶ We provide opportunities for parents/carers to learn more about the world their daughters live in, through resource sharing, information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety and mental health. We have an expansive [library of resources](#) for parents of adolescents including our [online safety specific resource library](#).
- ▶ We are committed to effectively communicating with our parents and carers about school life and we use a range of mediums incl. Arbor, email, website, information meetings, communications from the Head and other staff, our suite of newsletters and social media.
- ▶ We communicate with all primary guardians via email. There can be more than 1 primary guardian per student. Exceptions include consent forms for trips - here we communicate with 1 guardian only. This is to avoid receiving two responses.



# Parent Engagement & Communication

We communicate with the email addresses on record. Do let us know if your details do change.

Emails will come from Ursuline High School or a staff member. We recommend notifications are enabled, that you add us to your safe senders list.

Please check for emails from the school daily, to ensure you are up to date on news from the school.

Remember to check your junk/spam to ensure nothing important/urgent is missed.

We use a suite of portals to support various elements of our students' learning journeys, including Arbor (payments, records & reports) and Evolve (consent forms/trips). Further information & login details for Arbor have been issued to parents. Any issues please contact our IT Helpdesk.

If you're on Instagram and you don't already follow us, please do. You can find us @uhswimbleton. This is not compulsory - important communications will be shared directly.

Visit the website to read more about our [Parent Communication](#) and [Parent Portals](#).



# Arbor

- ▶ Arbor is Ursuline High's Management Information System (MIS).
- ▶ Parents use Arbor to manage payments for lunches, trips and equipment. In addition, Arbor hosts student records, timetables, reports, behaviour, and detentions.
- ▶ We strongly encourage all parents to access Arbor regularly - via App and/or desktop.
- ▶ You will have your own login details (username and password).
- ▶ By now you will have received an invite to set up your account. Any issues contact IT Helpdesk as a priority.
- ▶ Your login will give you access to all your daughters at the school.
- ▶ If you already have a daughter at the school already, then your Y7 child should automatically appear.
- ▶ For more information including FAQs re. Arbor and our other portals visit the Portals page of our website.



# Mr Nichols - Teaching & Learning



# 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.



# A research-informed curriculum & pedagogy

A research informed curriculum means that we use the latest research and evidence to ensure best teaching practice for Ursuline students.

This involves:

- ❖ The use of retrieval practice to embed knowledge in long term memory.
- ❖ Feedback in a variety of styles that deepens the learning. Students are expected to act on this.
- ❖ Modelling and scaffolding of work.
- ❖ Ambitious and challenging curricula designed by subject specialist leads. Expect your daughter to struggle at times and get things wrong. This is how we learn.



# 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. These can be found online.



Check the homework is being completed and to a good standard



Planner- always check and sign



Time and space to study



# What is ARE?



- ▶ Age-related expectation is the average standard of work expected at a given age or development in education. (This Changes over Time)
- ▶ At the end of KS2 Y6, ARE would have been 100 (scaled score)
- ▶ Each Year some students are below, on, above or significantly above this average when joining UHS.
- ▶ We have devised a system called the UHS Standards to target; track and support students progress through from KS2.



## UHS Standards

Upon their entry in the school, students will be given a Standard Target at which they will be expected to meet or exceed in their work. There are four possible targets: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

The Bronze Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 below ARE. Students attaining Bronze standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 3 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 below 96)

The Silver Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 at ARE. Students attaining Silver standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 4 to 6 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 with 97-105)

The Gold Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 above ARE. Students attaining Gold standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 7 or 8 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 with Levels 106-114)

The Platinum Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 significantly above ARE 115+ (the old 5a). Students attaining Platinum standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a achieve Grade 8-9 at GCSE.

**Targets are not Limiting students are expected to match their standard but can move up.**



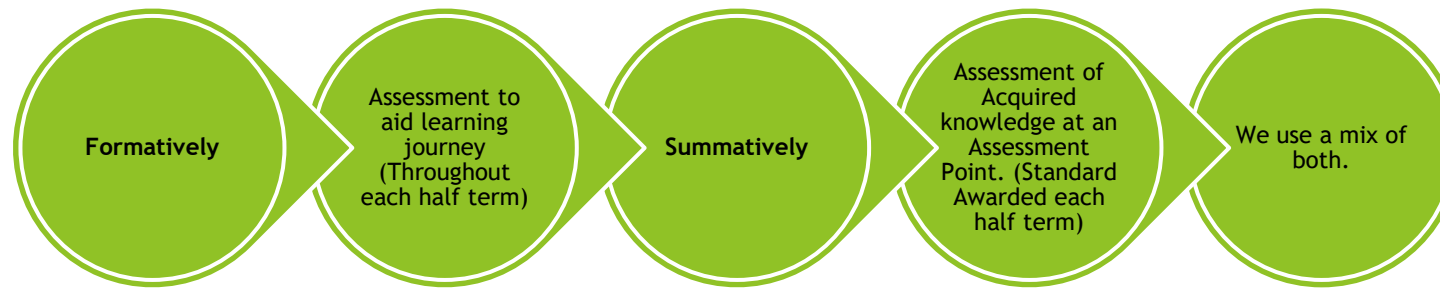


# Progress is built into the standards

- ▶ In line with the Assessment calendar, all subjects have designed sets of standards:
  - ▶ Standards for Year 7 Autumn A to Spring A
  - ▶ Standards for Year 7 Spring B to Summer B
  - ▶ Standards for Year 8 Autumn A to Spring A
  - ▶ Standards for Year 8 Spring B to Summer B
  - ▶ This is repeated in Year 9.
- 
- ▶ The standards get progressively more challenging in line with increasing ARE



# How we grade your daughter's work



## Further Information / Resources

To access additional key stage 3 curriculum resources including our Standards Framework Overview (what we have explained above in a standalone document) and year group Curriculum Guides please visit the Curriculum/Teaching & Learning section of our [website](#).



# Homework



- ▶ Students are set one homework per week for most subjects
- ▶ For English, Maths, Science they have two
- ▶ All homework is set on MS Teams in Assignments
- ▶ However, until Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, we will only give homework in Maths, English, Science, RE and PSHEC student get used to this change.
- ▶ Students have, in general, a week to complete each homework



# Use of AI



Research shows that using AI without a critical approach reduces student learning significantly.



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 AI 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.



# Reading

- ▶ *“Our kids are less cognitively capable than we were at their age, every generation has outperformed their parents...but Gen Z is the first generation to underperform us in every cognitive measure we have, from basic attention to memory to literacy to numeracy to executive functioning to even general IQ.” Dr Jared Cooney Horvath.*
- ▶ Research on more than 2.2 million students shows that 15 minutes of daily reading is the threshold at which children start making above-average gains in reading ability. A child who averages 30 or more minutes of daily reading between reception and Year 13 will encounter roughly 13.7 million words over their school career. A child reading fewer than 15 minutes a day will meet just 1.5 million. Those two children arrive at the end of secondary school with vastly different word banks: around 13,700 new terms for the avid reader, against just 1,500 for the child who barely picks up a book.





**Ms Hoyles**  
Head of Year 7  
0203 908 3102

[Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)



# Useful links to key resources

- ▶ [Term Dates](#)
- ▶ [Important Notices and Useful links](#)
- ▶ [Serviam/Character Development/Enrichment - Ursuline High School](#)
- ▶ [Transitions Hub / Resources](#)
- ▶ [Keeping Safe Online](#)
- ▶ [Parenting Support Services & Resources](#)
- ▶ [Year 7 Curriculum Document](#)
- ▶ [Key Stage 3 Standards](#)
- ▶ [Staff Directory](#)
- ▶ [Parent Portals](#)
- ▶ [Communications including Newsletters](#)

