

Year 8 Update

See page 2 for a snapshot of upcoming events!



Spring Term A 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a very successful start to the Spring A term. All students are looking forward to demonstrating their gifts and talents in our philanthropy project. Year 8 have just started researching for local charities close to their hearts and charities that will best support our local community. They look forward to studying march songs in music to help them raise money for their chosen charities. In RE they will be learning about the commitment we all have as Catholics to supporting our communities and how to live in God's image.

Year 8 are also currently leading the way with rewards. This reflects their commitment to the school, Serviam and all other school values, inside and outside the classroom. On 6th February Year 8 enjoyed an insightful visit to the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden. Students spent time learning more about the Islamic faith with the faith leaders there.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate some of their cultures during Hispanic Heritage week. The canteen had a special menu that the students (and teachers) were very excited about. The MFL department hosted a cinema at lunch time and the students watched Encanto. The whole year group were humming the songs! Hispanic culture was celebrated throughout the whole curriculum, from Spanish prayers in chaplaincy to studying contributions to engineering and mathematics from the Hispanic community in maths. It was a very fun week had by all.

Year 8 had a brilliant time in their form retreat days. They had the opportunity to reflect on everything they were grateful for and pray for those less fortunate. This unique time as a form class allowed the students to consolidate their relationships and learn more deeply about each other.

Year 8 attended the St Angela's Mass at Sacred Heart church on 27th Jan. The Mass was joint with Year 7 and celebrated our patron saints' feast day, this was a great reminder for Year 8 to continue live out our school ethos of Serviam in the spirit of St Angela Merici.

All students have also been engaging with at least one extra-curricular activity, student leadership or enrichment programme offered by the school – including sports clubs, school council, and homework club. Our homework club is more popular than ever! For those yet to join, it really is a great opportunity to receive support in completing homework, with staff and sixth-form students on hand. This club will run throughout this term, until 4pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your daughter would like to attend, please encourage her to email us.

We have lots to look forward to in the Spring B half-term, in addition to our Lent Programme, we have St Cecilia concert, our much-loved Multicultural Evening, and a fantastic KS3 art exhibition in St Angela's. Spring B Academic Review Day will also take place, providing you with the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers. Wishing you and your families a restful and happy half-term and a joyous start to Lent. I look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday February 21st.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Guiheen and Miss Smith, Heads of Year 8

Students' Achievements

Year 8 Total Rewards: 11841

1 - Most Rewards:

1. Halili W: 83
2. Letizia M: 82
3. Amaia PG: 81

Congratulations to **8B** who are currently leading the way with **2281** Reward Points

2 – Highest Attendance:

There are currently **18** students in Year 8 who have **100%** attendance. Please do keep up the good work!

Congratulations to **8B** who lead the way with **96.14%** attendance.

3 – External Success:

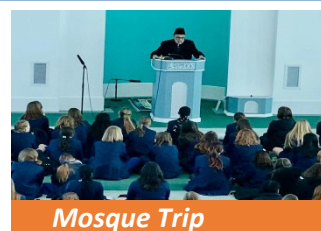
Congratulations to **Isabella G** who was recently accepted into the **Chelsea Football Foundation!** A massive well done from all of us and we cannot be prouder of your achievement.

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 on our [Twitter](#) [P.E Dept Twitter](#) and [Instagram!](#)

Spring A Highlights

- Mosque trip
- Form Retreat Days
- Start of Philanthropy Project
- School Council
- St Angela Masses
- Hispanic Heritage Week
- Mental-Health Week
- LGBTQI+ month



Mosque Trip



Year 8 Retreat

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Upcoming Events

February

- 20th – INSET Day
- 21st – Safer Internet Day
- 21st – Shrove Tuesday
- 21st – Start of Spring B Term
- 22nd Feb – 6th April: Lent
- 22nd – Ash Wednesday Service
- 28th – National Caribbean Day

March

- 2nd – KS3 Art Exhibition, St Angela's
- 7th – Reconciliation Service
- 8th – International Women's Day
- 14th – Reconciliation Service
- 16th – Royal Observatory Trip
- 17th – St Patrick's Day
- 21st – Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day and World Poetry day
- 23rd – Multicultural Evening
- 29th – Passion Service
- 30th / 31st – Academic Review Day

Looking Ahead

- 1st April – Ski Trip to Austria
- 3rd – 14th April – Easter Holidays
- 17th April – Return to School: Start of Summer A Term
- 15th June – Chaplaincy Retreat to Desenzano House
- 17th July – Year 8 Residential / Choir Trip to Valkenburg

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



Wellbeing

Parental Workshops

- 13th March: Supporting and managing exam and assignment stress
- 8th June: KS3 Relationships & Healthy Lifestyles Parental Workshop
- 19th June: Parent Workshop to support parents of SEND students

Cost of living crisis: please use the link to check if you qualify for the governments Free School Meals scheme:

[https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil Premium and Free School Meals application](https://self.merton.gov.uk/service/Pupil%20Premium%20and%20Free%20School%20Meals%20application)

Additional Support



[Young Merton](#)
[Young Minds](#)
[Off The Record](#)
[Kooth](#)
[MindEd](#)
[e-wellbeing](#)

Year 8 Update



Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

Parent Communications:

At the Ursuline parental communication is really important to us. I have listed below a reminder of the correct person you should contact for a particular enquiry which I hope you find helpful

Form tutors – general enquires about the Ursuline, friendship issues, organisation, homework, clubs/enrichment, uniform, equipment, travelling to/from school, trips/calendar events.

- 8 Angela – paula.thomas@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Bernadette – geraldine.taylor@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Catherine – gareth.davies@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Francis – georgia.mcnichol@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Margaret – jacob.tyler@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Teresa – ronan.preastuin@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- 8 Ursula – caroline.mccolgan@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Heads of Year (Miss Guiheen / Miss Smith) or Mrs McCourt (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.

- paige.smith@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- erin.guiheen@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- sarah.maccourt@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Ms Young and Mrs McCourt – Attendance and punctuality/lateness (please report student absence before 9.30am).

ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk – for IT/Weduc/progresso/laptop related enquires.

Subject specific enquiry – please contact the subject teacher, all staff contact details can be found on our Ursuline directory below.

[Staff Contact Details - Ursuline High School](#)

Kindest regards,

Miss Guiheen / Miss Smith