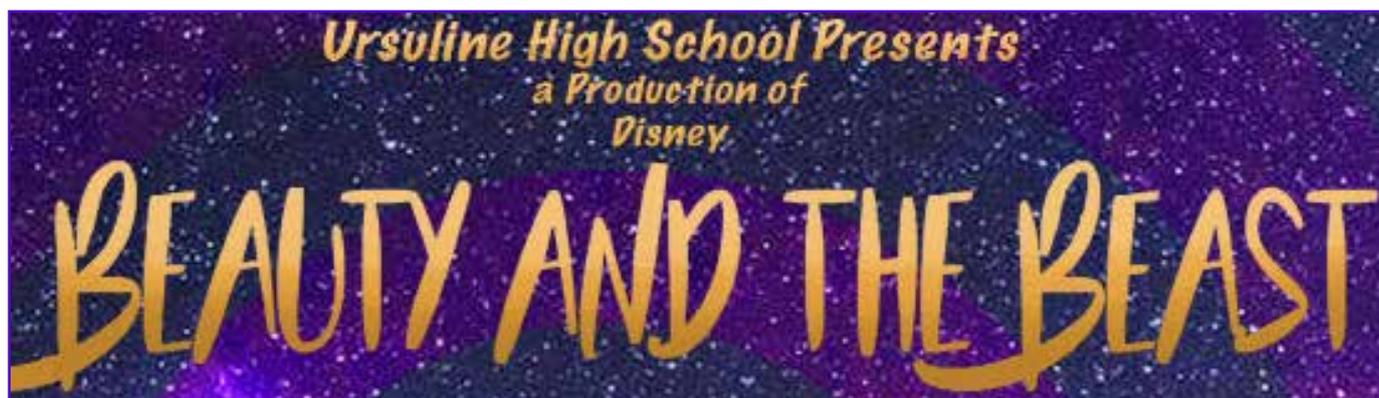




Be Our Guest, Be Our Guest!



From the 6th-9th December, we were very excited to stage the musical **Beauty and the Beast** in our school Hall. The production was much anticipated by staff and students alike, and is one that we have wanted to perform for many years.

The musical was performed by students from Year 7 to 13, deriving from the much-loved animated 1991 **Disney** film of the same name, with a live acted remake starring **Emma Watson** released just this year. **Beauty and the Beast** has captured the hearts of generations, and was always destined to be a sell-out! The show featured some of the most well-known Disney songs including 'Tale as Old as Time', 'Be Our Guest' and 'Gaston' composed by **Alan Menken** and **Howard Ashmen**.

The classic tale recounts the story of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman, who is taken prisoner by a beast in its castle, despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the beast's hideous exterior thus allowing her to recognise the kind heart and soul of the true prince that hides on the inside. The students had the opportunity to produce the whole musical, being the cast crew and members of the orchestra.

Young, book-loving Belle was played by **Elena (Year 10)**, Beast/ dashing Prince Adam: **Kate (Year 12)**, Arrogant Gaston: **Hope (Year 12)**, Motherly Head housekeeper Ms Potts: **Portia (Year 9)**, sweet boy-turned cup Chip: **Fancesca (Year**

7), Butler-turned Candelabra Lumiere: **Bella (Year 9)**, Head of staff- turned clock Cogsworth: **Leah (Year 9)** and Opera singer Madame de Garderobe: **Georgia (Year 11)**. The cast put in a tremendous amount of hours into the rehearsals, which alongside the amazing set, costumes, sound and lighting all added up to an extraordinary production. Students performed to not one but three sell out audiences!

Many thanks to our **Perfuming Arts Department** for yet another fantastic production, and another thank you to our audiences for 'being our guests'!



headlines



Dear Parents and Friends

2017 has been an extraordinary year of celebrations for our school community. This term staff met to reflect on our values as Ursuline teachers and staff were inspired by a key note talk from the Provincial Sr Kathleen Colmer. Sr Kathleen presented staff with an international booklet of what it means to work in an Ursuline School (see pic above).

We are ending the term on a high note. Our performance of Beauty and the Beast reminded us that love changes how we see the world. We are trying we reach out more than ever to those in need. Students are raising more money through the Christmas markets sending out more presents via Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. They have also inviting retired residents from our local community for afternoon Christmas tea and are visiting a local home to sing Christmas Carols and meet retired residents. We hope this will begin a long tradition.

Thank you for all your support, kindness and generosity during 2017.

Happy Christmas

Julia Waters

Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA
Headteacher



Head Girls!



We are very proud to introduce our new Head Girl Team. Hannah, Maddie and Niamh! Congratulations on your new roles, we can't wait for you to officially 'start' in January!

"We are very happy with our choices and confident that they will do a fantastic job!"

Mr Barton,
Joint Head of Sixth Form

Careers Talk



On Wednesday 6th November students received a talk by **Marco Rafael**, a **Social Services Ambassador** in the UFSC. Who outlined different career pathways within social services and provided insight into 'typical days' and the skills and qualifications needed to consider a career in this field.

Year 7 Commissioning

"I really enjoyed being Commissioned, as it really makes you feel welcomed into the school." **Year 7 Student**



The **Year 7 Commissioning Service**, which took place on Tuesday 7th November, was a lovely celebration, marking the formal end of the transition from primary school to secondary school. Attended by parents and carers, the event saw each student make a vow to support the school ethos and receive their Serviam badge in recognition of these promises. Musical performances and speeches from the Head Girls and from Year 7 students detailing their experiences thus far, made for a very enjoyable occasion.

Covent Garden Challenge

“.... this was a great confidence-building experience and I would recommend participating in this project to anyone.” **Year 12 Student**



Year 12 students travelled to 10 primary schools in *Merton* and *Covent Garden* to challenge teams of Year 5 students to come up with a new product for Covent Garden Apple Market in the exciting **2017 Covent Garden Enterprise Challenge**.

At a fiercely competitive semi-final here at the Ursuline, judges **Bean Hobday** previously Marketing Director at **Mars** and **Tudor Jones**, Governor and previously at **HSBC** had an extremely difficult time choosing 3 winners. This year's winning teams from **Wimbledon Chase**, **St Teresa's** and **John Fisher** won the chance to visit the stall holders in the Apple Market in Covent



Garden to present their brilliant product ideas to the Directors of **CAPCO Covent Garden** who generously sponsor this challenge. The challenge is designed to enable Year 12 students to develop their leadership skills and the Year 5 students to develop an understanding of business and improve their enterprise skills; creativity, teamwork, innovation, a can do attitude, risk taking and making your ideas happen and never giving up. The Year 5 students said they learned all these skills and more.



St Teresa's Primary School (top, left) are the **2017 Covent Garden Primary School Champions** with their product The Food Scanner - 'never let food go out of date again'. They were chosen by **Mr Andy Hicks**, Director of Estates and other Directors at **CAPCO** at the final in Covent Garden.

Achievement Evening!



On Thursday 30th November the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Kelly, and selected students attended the **Merton Secondary Headteachers Celebration Evening** at **Raynes Park High School** to receive achievement awards- for striving to be the best students they can be and making 'outstanding' progress. These awards were presented by the Mayor of Merton!

Christmas Carols!



On Monday 18th December we held our annual **Christmas Carol Service** at **Sacred Heart Church** with **Wimbledon College**. It was a lovely event for staff, students and parents to come together and enjoy the festive spirit of Christmas, after such a busy term for all! We are delighted to announce that we raised a staggering **£852.72** for our joint charity **'The Passage'**.

TEACH WIMBLEDON EVENTS

Are you interested in training to be a teacher?

Monday 15th January - Monday 22nd January 2018

Open Day at **Ursuline High School**

Thursday 18th January 2018

Wimbledon Library (4 - 7pm)



Contact:

Collette.Farley@UrsulineHigh.merton.sch.uk

Claudine.Hughes@UrsulineHigh.merton.sch.uk

Coding Crazy

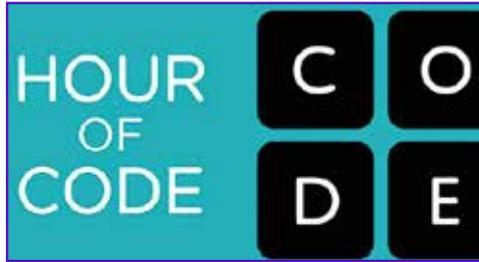
“Enriching girls in the field of technology, in order for them to seriously consider coding as a career”

Ms Bhayat, Head of ICT



Interfaith Twitter Event

On 9th November selected Year 7 and 8 students took part in a Interfaith Cody Event at Twitter Headquarters in central London. The day was designed to bring together young women from diverse faiths (Jewish, Muslim and Catholic). Twitter introduced the concept of coding with HTML and CSS. These were the building blocks of a website or 'web application'. The session was very hands-on, with the end result being a website that the students had created together. Teamwork!



Hour of Code

4th-8th December we celebrated hour of code with a week long coding sessions in ICT lessons. Students took part in a variety of coding activities on the Hour of Code website and created games through coding-creating items such as the Google symbol.

www.hourofcode.com/uk/beyond

“Usually in ICT lessons we code normally.. but with Hour of Code we played games and coded at the same time.. it was really good because you could enjoy the game you created after.”

Ms Bhayat, Head of ICT



KS3 Coding and Gadget Club

Every Wednesday lunch Sixth form students and Mrs Bhayat have been running a new KS3 club where pupils are able to engage in set tasks relating to coding and gadgets. Students have also had the opportunity to play with Lego/Hot wires and Binary card games. This has allowed students to develop computational skills as well as work in teams and build their creativity skills. Students have started to think about how the skills in there club can be transferred to GCSE Computing and are having lots of fun. Computing girls here they come!

Career Panel! *“...it was great to hear about the different industries” Student*



On Tuesday 12th December Year 8 students participated in a **Careers Panel** session designed to help students choose their options and motivate them by helping them to understand the relevance of what they learn at school, the skills valued in the workplace and the opportunities available beyond school- if they work hard!



Students heard from the following speakers at this event;
Francesca Ludwinski, Post-doctoral Scientist at **King's College London, British Heart Foundation Centre of Research** (UHS Alumnae)
Rachel Valentine Head of **SeanHanna NVQ Academy**,
Ellen Harrison, Engineer and acoustic consultant at **WSP** (UHS Alumnae)
Alison Lobo, Production Co-ordinator with **BBC International**. (UHS Alumnae)



Students then had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the panel!

“The BBC gives so many experiences and opportunities that I didn't know existed”

Student

Afternoon Tea



On Tuesday 12th December we held our first annual **Christmas Tea Party** for elderly members of the community. It was a very festive atmosphere, with our school choir singing Christmas songs such as 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer' and 'Silent Night'. There was also plenty of tea and cake- which the Year 7 students very kindly baked and served themselves!

As some of our guests are **Ursuline Alumnae**, it was also a time for swapping stories of school 'in the good old days', and many a black and white photo was shared around- with countless stories of youth recounted by all. The afternoon was rounded off nicely by a good old fashioned game of 'bingo'- the Christmas version- obviously! A fantastic example of 'Christmas spirit' and serviam at work!

Helping Hands!

"....serviam is at the heart of all we do, we must always strive to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It's good for the girls to build upon their skills and give back to the community."

Ms Murphy, Chaplain



Homeless Shelter Helpers

At **Faith in Action Homeless Drop In**, located in *South Wimbledon*, students visit weekly to talk to users and assist in a variety of tasks including serving tea and coffee, washing up after lunch and playing games with service users.

"This enrichment is very rewarding as I get to help others and see how grateful we ought to be for everything we have in life"

Year 12 Student



Perseid School Helpers

Year 12 students volunteer weekly at **Perseid School**, at a special school in *Morden*. Students work as directed to support students and staff to help the learning of Perseid students between the ages of 3 and 19, who all have a range of complex learning difficulties and needs.

"Perseid has helped me develop my skills in many things, especially communication. It has made me more determined to persevere a career in nursery work and has given me an insight into other complex disabilities."

Year 12 Student

Community Champion!



"I am thrilled to have been given this community award".

Ms Waters

Our Headteacher **Ms Waters** has been presented with a **2017 Excellence Award** for her **Contribution to Merton's Community**.

Ms Waters has been honoured for her exceptional work as Headteacher of *Ursuline School*. Achieving an *'Outstanding'* **Ofsted** rating has not stopped Julia striving for continued improvements at her school, ensuring both the school and the pupils are the best they can be. Julia also finds time to work with a number of *Merton* schools, in partnership with **Merton's School Improvement Team**, sharing her knowledge and supporting them on their improvement journey, most recently as **Executive Headteacher** of **Sacred Heart Primary School**.

Women's Education!



Last week I was fortunate enough to attend the London Reception of the **Women's Education Partnership (WEP)** at the **House of Lords**. Set up in 1996, the **WEP** seeks to give *"power to the powerless through education"*, focusing on improving the lives of women and girls in *Sudan* and *South Sudan*.

According to the **One Campaign**, *South Sudan* is statistically the toughest place for women to get an education; 73% of girls do not even go to Primary School. For the past 15 years the **Women's Education Partnership** have been working to address this shocking deficit. In the words of *Voluntary Director Peter Hullah*, the charity's aim is *"to come alongside some of the most disadvantaged women in the world, listen to what they need most [and] try to provide what we hear is required"*. Yet there is more to education than simply gaining knowledge – Peter explains that, according to the women of *Sudan* and *South Sudan*, *"education is the key which will help them to begin to move out of poverty and create a better life for themselves and their families."*

Currently, there are over 110 sponsored undergraduates studying in *Khartoum* and *Juba* thanks to the **WEP**, and the charity also funds 15 adult literacy circles which have helped more than 2,500 women over the past 15 years. After graduating from University many of the students return to help others in their communities, continuing the charity's legacy of improvement and empowerment, whilst others – including **Lucia Omar Albino**, from *Torit, South Sudan* – are working as doctors and teachers. Such success, Peter concludes, *"is something that, without WEP's assistance, these students could never have achieved."*

Jenessa Johnson, another Year 12 Student from **Ursuline High School** who attended the event, explained that it showed her that *"whilst some of us just take education for granted, women in South Sudan really value the opportunity to be educated."*

Learning about the successes of the **Women's Education Partnership** was truly inspirational, and the charity should serve as an example of all of us of just how much can – and still needs to – be achieved through perseverance and dedication.

(Article by UHS Sixth Form student: *Gemma Craig Sharples*)

GCSE Science Live



"Really interesting day, where you were made to see science in a way that you wouldn't normally studying at a desk."

Year 11 Student

Year 11 students attended GCSE Science Live at the Apollo Victoria Theatre on Friday 1st December. The theatre was absolutely packed and it introduced science to the students in a way that was very dynamic and exciting! Scientists appearing on the day included; **Professor Robert Winston**, a medical doctor and distinguished scientist in the area of human fertility, **Professor Andrea Sella**, a chemistry lecturer, **Professor Jim Al-Khalili**, Physics specialist at University of Surrey with a chair in the Public Engagement of Science, **Professor Alice Roberts**, Clinical Anatomist and specialist in the Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham and Dr Helen Czerski, a Physicist, oceanographer and broadcaster, based at University College London and BBC Presenter!

"It explained how science works in everything we do."

Year 11 Student

Merton Life Savers!



Year 8 students learnt some new life skills Merton **Youth Life Savers Event** at the **Chaucer Centre** in Merton, alongside other schools in the borough. The short course was in partnership with the St Johns Ambulance service. It was a very well planned and informative event with lots of student/trainer interaction. Skills learnt included assessing a casualty, CPR, as well as how to deal with open wounds, allergic reactions and asthma.

Networking!

This term we invited to take Year 12 Economics students to the **Women of the Future Ambassadors Reception** at **Lloyds Banking Group**. Students heard from speakers such as **Bryony Day**, from **Arcadis** and **Benedetta Lacey** from the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** and participated in a great Q&A session. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about different careers!



'Youth Got Power' Conference

"An empowering event that gave you an insight into current political issues... I really enjoyed it."

Year 12 Student



Giles Kenningham MBE
Giles Kenningham served as the head of strategy for David Cameron from June 2010 to 2015. He is a partner in the consultancy firm Trafalgar Strategy in partnership with Lee Davis at a charity called 'The Inner City Project' which provides work with inner city students on developing work experience opportunities.

Mr Anthony Anaxagorou
Anthony Anaxagorou is a British born poet to win the Mayor of London's...

"...great opportunity to hear different views... very emotive poem from British born poet and writer Anthony Anaxagorou."

Year 12 Student

On Tuesday 12th December students attended the **'Youth Got Power'** Conference at **Mulberry School, Whitechapel**. Speakers at the event included **Jon Bercow** and **Professor Tim Bale**, Professor of Politics at **Queen Mary's University** and **Guardian** Columnist and poet and writer **Anthony Anaxagorou**.

Behind Closed Doors!



Year 9 watched a powerful performance of the production 'Behind Closed Doors' by **Theatre ADAD**. The production deals with issues surrounding domestic violence and abuse relationships, it aims to examine the audiences perception and expectations of 'healthy relationships' and explore the notion that no-one 'or should be 'expected' to be abused. For More Information: www.theatreadad.co.uk

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas



We are very pleased to announce that we have sent off a grand total of 238 shoeboxes full of Christmas presents for children living in poverty in Africa- in collaboration with **Operation Christmas Child** and **Samaritan's Purse**. A wonderful effort by staff, students and parents alike! A BIG thank you to everyone for your generous donations. Additionally we have held our annual Christmas Tree Service, Christmas Fairs raising money for the various charities including the **Women's Education Partnership (WEP)** (see website for further details). We took part in Christmas Jumper Day **ForJimmy** which raised **£534.68**, held our Advent services and a enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch.

Remembrance ; Parliament Trip!



Year 9 & 10 Design & Technology students have been investigating the properties of plastics this term. They have used CAD/CAM to design and make unique Remembrance Poppies. These were on display in our foyer last week. We think they're fantastic!

We also marked **Remembrance Day** with a touching service in the Chapel on Friday afternoon. Our Remembrance book will be in the foyer for the rest of the month, for anyone wanting to write messages and prayers to loved ones no longer with us.



On Friday 1st December Yr12 Politics students visited the **Houses of Parliament** for a private tour and workshop.

Most of the students had never visited Parliament before and were impressed by the size of it - one of the roof spaces alone holds the equivalent of 6 miles of records! Their tour guide showed them around both the **House of Commons** and **House of Lords** - students were surprised at how small the House of Commons is and impressed by how much gold there is in the Lords. The highlight of the trip was sitting in the public gallery and watching a debate in the House of Commons, although students were disappointed that no 'famous' politicians were taking part. Our day ended with a quick tour of the **Supreme Court**, which is opposite Parliament - any member of the public is able to visit and the Yr12's recommend it, as they got sit in the actual court rooms and seats used by the judges!

Year 11 Retreat Day

On 9th November, Year 11 attended a **Retreat Day** at **Sacred Heart Church** on ' Giving them the opportunity to think about their futures and how they could live out their faith through the choices they make.

The day started off with a dramatised morning prayer, we then had three speakers join us to talk about their personal vocations, **Sr. Dorothy Perrott**, **Giovanni Prandini** Seminarian (training to be a Priest) and **Hannah Wood** from **Ursuline Links**. They spoke about the three main vocations; Priesthood, religious life and single life. In the afternoon, the girls learnt about inspirational people and how they had lived out there vocations, such as **Anne Frank**, **Rosa Parks** and **Malala**. The girls were then put in groups and given an inspirational person to learn about and create a presentation about, they then fed these back to the whole group.





netball tennis football athletics
 rock climbing cross country
 trampolining basketball hockey
 dance duke of edinburgh award
 wimbledon ball girls cycling

AFC Wimbledon Netball Girls Cup Success!



We were proud to be part of the 430 girls who took part in the **AFC Wimbledon Foundation's EFL Trust Girls Cup** on 17th November at **Tooting and Mitcham FC**. Our girls put in a great deal of effort but didn't make it to the final this time around. Congratulations to **Greenshaw School, Sutton!**



Congratulations to our Year 8 netball team for coming 2nd place in the borough competition. Great effort, skill and team spirit girls. Keep it up!

Rock Climbing



Year 10 students enjoyed rock climbing in **GCSE PE** this term. Great for fitness and tactic building!
 Scale that wall girls!

Ball Girls!



Ball girl trials begin in January at **Wimbledon Tennis**. The selection process for the Year 9's and 10's is now complete.
 More details on their progress in the next edition of Inform!

Netball Festival Fitness and Fundraising!



On Friday 15th December, PE held their **Christmas Netball Festival**. 12 teams of 6 girls, played an afternoon of netball against a backdrop of Christmas Music! Fantastic skill shown by all- well done!



Students enjoyed skipping in aid of the **British Heart Foundation** as part of their **All Star Games Event**.

housepoints

MARGARET	1st	1211
URSULA	2nd	1175
CATHERINE	3rd	1152
BERNADETTE	4th	1133
ANGELA	5th	1049
TERESA	6th	1023
FRANCIS	7th	1005

notepad

Mon 8th Jan	SCHOOL RETURNS
Thurs 11th Jan (3.20-4.15pm)	Yr 12 Eucharistic Ministers Day of Reflection
(7.00-8.00pm)	Oxbridge KS4 Lecture Parents' Launch Evening
Fri 12th Jan (3.00-4.00pm)	Year 8 Retreat Day Year 11 Brown Envelope Day
Sun 14th Jan	Peace Sunday
Mon 15th Jan (10.00-11.00am)	Official UCAS Deadline For Applications
(10.55-12.40pm)	Parenting Course, Pastoral Centre
Thurs 18th Jan (8.45-10.30am)	Year 7 Learning Conference, Hall
(8.45-10.30am)	Christan Unity Week
(4.00-6.00pm)	Yr10 PSHEC (Well Woman Pt1)
(4.00-6.30pm)	Yr11 PSHEC (Financial Literacy Pt1)
Fri 19th Jan (2.00-3.00pm)	Yr7 Borough Indoor Athletics
Mon 22nd Jan (10.00-11.00am)	Yr13 Parents' Evening, UHS
(10.55-12.40pm)	Year 12 Sixth Form Training
Tues 23rd Jan (8.35-3.10am)	Parenting Course, Pastoral Centre
(9.40-10.30am)	Year 8 Learning Conference, Hall
Weds 24th Jan (10.55-11.45am)	Yr9 School Leavers Booster & Meningitis Vaccination
Thurs 25th Jan (10.55-11.45am)	Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge
(1.25-3.10pm)	Yr12 & 13 Feast of St Angela
(1.25-3.10pm)	Merici Mass (Parents Welcome)
(4.00-7.00pm)	Yr8 & 9 Feast of St Angela
Sat 27th Jan	Merici Mass (Parents Welcome)
Mon 29th Jan (10.00-11.00am)	Pathways Presentation to Year 8 Parents
Tues 30th Jan (8.45-9.35am)	Yr10 & 11 Feast of St Angela
Thurs 1st Feb	Merici Mass (Parents Welcome)
Fri 2nd Feb	Yr10 PSHEC (Well Woman Pt2)
Mon 5th Feb (10.00-11.10am)	Yr11 PSHEC (Financial Literacy Pt2)
Tues 6th Feb (8.35-12.40pm)	Yr11 Parents Evening
(10.55-12.40pm)	Feast of St Angela Merici
(7.30-9.30pm)	Digital Learning Week
Thurs 7th Feb	Parenting Course, Pastoral Centre
Thurs 8th Feb (1.25-3.10pm)	Yr7 Feast of St Angela
(1.25-3.10pm)	Merici Mass (Parents Welcome)
(6.00-9.00pm)	Year 7 Ethos Day, Hall, Gym and Classrooms
Fri 9th Feb	LGBTQI History Month
Sun 11th Feb	Generations Together Forum, UFSC
Mon 12th - Fri 16th Feb	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Mon 12th - Sat 17th Feb	School Council Meeting, SFSC
Mon 19th Feb	Parenting Course, Pastoral Centre
	Year 12 & 13 Physics A Level Science Live
	Year 9 Networking Event, Hall
	Yr10 Learning Conference
	GCSE Music Performance Evening
	AS & A2 Physics Trip to Culham Centre for Fusion Energy
	Yr10 PSHEC (Well Woman Pt3)
	Yr11 PSHEC (Financial Literacy Pt2)
	GCSE Drama Performance
	Year 10 & 11 Theatre Trip to the Rose Theatre; Kingston
	School closes for Half Term
	Racial Justice Sunday
	HALF TERM
	Beijing China Trip
	SCHOOL RETURNS