



Employability Skills In Action!



“I enjoyed the skills workshop, it’s definitely improved my confidence for dealing with future interviews..” Student

On Tuesday 7th February Year 11-13 drama students took part in **Take The Lead** programme in collaboration with **The Old Vic Theatre**. The workshop explored five key employability skills using drama techniques and discussion with the aim of allowing students a fun and creative way to develop important soft skills of communication, self management, teamwork self-belief and problem solving.

During the workshop students completed a variety of tasks including; vocal exercises, physical warm ups to relax the body, worked on their improvisation and devising skills by acting out mini scenes with starter scripts where there was a potential problem to be solved in the scene. The workshop also looked at ways to show confidence such as maintaining eye contact, body language, and conversation skills using the “Yes, and” game, where students had to build on the previous sentence their partner had spoken- with

Students comfort levels visibly improved throughout the workshop, as they succeeded at the tasks put in place and they really did gain a great deal of value from the experience.

Miss Surbey, Drama teacher commented “Programmes like this are important as it allows students to work with peers in new environments and collaborate with students in other year groups whilst improving their skills for opportunities after Year 11. It helps students prepare for employability in the future and will result in students taken part in a mock interview at the Royal Bank of Canada, allowing them to put all of the skills they have learnt throughout this programme to the test. This is the second year working with The Old Vic Theatre on this programme and we hope it will be another successful one”

We can’t wait for The Old Vic to return for the next instalment in the Take The Lead programme soon!

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As I write, we are finalising our Lenten Programme with our theme **"You will be my witness"**. This year our new chaplain Mr Cunliffe is leading a time of reflection for Parents on Tuesday 26th February at 6pm. Do take time out of your busy schedules and join him.

On 10th February we officially opened our new 2 million pound T level facilities; Katherine Johnson Centre and our refurbished St Anne's. They will enable students to develop their gifts and talents in a new way to secure futures in STEM subjects (Science Technology engineering and Maths), as well as Business.

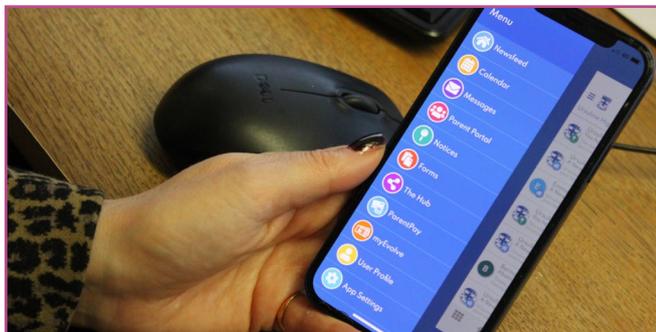
I would like to thank the Parents Association (pic below) for their hard work and generous donation of £7,000, of which some will go towards the latest equipment for our T level in Nursing.

There is so much happening across the school with students studying assiduously in preparation for their A levels and GCSEs, as well as trips, visiting speakers and conferences it definitely feels like normality has returned!

Best wishes.

Ms Waters
BSc (Hons) MA Headteacher

Photo of PTA from quiz night to add here.



The Ursuline High School is committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers and has a communications strategy that includes a wide range of mediums.

We communicate with our primary and secondary parents/carers where we have a valid email on records, and the parent/carer has parental responsibility. To ensure you are receiving communication from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details.

Weduc

If you're not already enrolled on our app/web portal and would like to, please email: ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

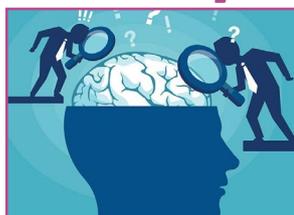
For more information re. our Communications Strategy and Weduc, please see the Parent Communications page of our website.

BBC Young Reporter



We launched the BBC Young Reporter competition to Year 9 this half term. Ideas need to be submitted via the BBC website by Friday 31st March. More info on the BBC website, or [click here](#) if you're reading this online.

Pathways Presentation



Merton Mental Health Support Team hosted a Parent Workshop on Understanding the Teenage Brain - Common Challenges to Health & Well-being for KS3 parents this half term. We hope it provided them with some much needed extra support in this area.

We Will Serve!



On **Tuesday 31st January** we were pleased to finally hold our **Year 7 Commissioning Service** after delays due to COVID worries last year. It was fantastic to officially welcome our Year 7s into the Ursuline Community and they were particularly eager to receive their Serviam badges and make their school pledge. It was lovely to see!

On **6th-10th February**, students took part in their mid-year serviam assemblies. These were a great way for students to celebrate all the ways in which they help each other and their local community in the spirit of our patron saint - **St Angela Merici**. Well done everyone!

Year 8 have also been working hard starting their **Philanthropy** projects this half term- further updates in the next edition!

New Chaplain!



Our new **Chaplain Mr Cunliffe** was pleased to get started this half term- and he's had a busy one with **Year 8 and 10 Retreats**, **Year 7 Ethos Day** and assisting and preparing for the **Feast of St Angela Masses**.

We are pleased Mr Cunliffe is settling in so well!



Busy, Busy, Busy!



Year 11 had their **Brown Envelope Day** this half term (left), where they received their mock results from the exams sat prior to Christmas. There was an air of anticipation, some screams of delight, and a few tears, but students now have a renewed focus of what is expected in those **GCSE exams** in the summer. This proved a key discussion on **Year 11 Parents' Evening** held on **Thursday 19th January**!



Year 11 Food and Nutrition students have been busy- with their practical NEA's- cooking up a storm of delicious treats- yummy! Some students have participated in the University **Wimbledon Partnership Workshop** run by **Future Foundations** at **King's College School**. Year 11 also received a presentation in maths by civil engineer speaker **Catherine Anthony** this half term, while **Year 11 PE** had fun with some parachute games working on communication and teamwork skills (left).

Rewards Review



We hosted a joint **Year 9 Student Conference** with *St Philomena's, Carshalton* on *Friday 3rd February* as part of our **Avila Partnership**. The conference was focused on reviewing the rewards policy in both schools. Each school carried out a



presentation to share what the rewards policy looks like in both schools, and what they would like to improve. They worked in groups and discussed what joint changes both schools could try out, before feeding back to the group.

Hispanic Heritage



In celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Week**. (23rd-27th January) students took part in a variety of activities in lessons such as in ICT where students learnt about Hispanic inventions and looked at inspiring Tech Leaders, in English students learnt about the contributions of Hispanic writers to the genre of Magical Realism, Maths looked at Hispanic astronauts and engineers, while Business looked at Hispanic entrepreneurs! There was also a delicious array of Hispanic food in the canteen in honor of the occasion.

A particular favourite moment for KS3 students was the opportunity to watch Encanto!

Mosque Visit



On *Monday 6th February* **Year 8** visited the **Baitul Futuh Mosque** in Morden. Students spent time learning more about the Islamic faith taking part in an Q&A session with the faith leaders there.

Free To Be



February was **LGBT+ Month!** Students took part in Free to Be sessions with *Lianne O'Donnell* during this half term. The session focused on students emotional development exploring who they are, who they would like to be and becoming their best selves.

The library also held a quiz session at lunchtime on *Wednesday 8th February*.

"Speak Out" and STEM Skills



On *Wednesday 25th January* **Year 10** students in **Pop B** participated in the **Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge**. Where they participated in sessions with a workshop coach and then each created a speech on a topic they felt passionate about- which they then presented to their peers.



Pop A participated in the **Capture The Flag** digital cyber security challenge. Where students had to utilise their research skills to answers questions in order to "win" the flags on a map. This **STEM** challenge was provided with the aim to show students how 'flags' are purposefully vulnerable programmes or websites.



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Young Reporter



Congratulations to *Erin A* and *Cristina FP* **Year 12** who have been published several times as a young reporter for **This Local London**. Erin has reviewed [Philharmonic Chamber Players at the SouthBank Centre](#), [Narnia in London](#), and [The Hidden Gem in Tooting](#), [Dogs Don't Dig Fireworks](#).

If you are reading this online, click on the above links to check them out.

Head Girl Team Commissioning



Our new **Head Leadership team** were proudly commissioned at **Scared Heart Church** this half term. Erinn and Layla have settled into their roles nicely and we cant wait to see the changes they will implement during their time in the roles- they seem super excited to action these!

Sociology Conference



On *Tuesday 7th February* **Year 13 Sociology** students received a conference on exam preparation lead by senior examiner and AQA textbook author *Keith Trobe*, who shared valuable insights with students- we hope this leaves them feeling more prepared for their upcoming exams!

Action Breaks Silence



Year 13 students received a talk from **Action Breaks Silence** speaker *Alex Worth* this half term. Alex spoke on strategies that could be implemented to empower students tackle sexual harassment and violence to women and girls in schools their surrounding communities!

Science T Level



T Level Lab Science students completed a heart dissection practical as part of their syllabus this half term. Students were exploring the function of a heart by looking at the structure and function, then drawing and labeling their own diagrams.





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

Cheerleading Club



Our **Cheerleading Club** is appearing to be very popular this half term, supported by our fab **Year 9 sports leaders**. Students are very keen to take turns to be the 'flyer' where possible and are particularly competitive with the amount of time they can stay in the air!

We are particularly loving their warm up routine (top, left)- its so important to be properly warmed up and give those muscles a good stretch!



Bench Ball



We snapped some **PE students** having as particularly successful game of **bench ball** this half term!

Surrey Schools



A hard fought match on 24th January at the **Surrey Schools FA** away at **George Abbot School**. Unfortunately our fantastic U14s will not progress onto the next round. Superb team effort though!

Player of the match: Maia

Goals: Karla

London Youth Games



Our **Year 7 Indoor Athletics Team** were in action at **Merton School Sports Partnership** Round of the London Youth Games at **Wimbledon College** on 12th January.

We spied our Sports Prefects there too, well done Siân, Rochelle and Grace for leading events!

Inter-House Cross Country



Absolutely fantastic end to the week on 3rd February with our Inter-House Cross Country competition up at Cannizaro Park

Individual Results:

1st: Halili Year 8

2nd: Annabel Year 8

3rd: Zoe Year 10

Overall Winners:

Team Angela

Well done everyone who took part!

Basketball



Students have been enjoying **basketball club** with **Mr Dunne** this half term!