



# 'Phenomenal Women' Conference



On Tuesday 9th March 2021, UHS Wimbledon hosted a **Sixth Form conference** on intersectional feminism, titled '**Phenomenal Women**', in honour of International Women's Day. The aims of the conference were to explore intersectional feminism and to gain a deeper understanding of how our own and other people's experience of our sex is impacted by other aspects of our identity. Several different female speakers were invited to share their stories to help us gain a better insight into how we can work together towards a more equitable world, starting here in our own community at the Ursuline High School..

Our first guest speaker, *Nazmeen Amin*; an Operational Assistant at the Commonwealth Secretariat and advocate for the sustainable development and economic empowerment of women graciously shared her time with us to discuss her own personal experience of navigating high-level conferences as a young Pakistani woman straddling different countries, cultures, and values and how this shaped her own identity.

*Jessica Ihejeto*; an arts and cultural project manager in London voiced why it is important to learn from different women and girls, listen to each other's stories (no matter how different to your own) and find joy in discovering women's experiences. Jessica commented that her own feminism is ever-evolving and is shaped by her own experiences as well as her British-Nigerian family, friends, and own desire to support girls in reaching their potential.

*Philippa Nesbitt*; held a multi-year career as a banker, most recently at Global Head of Trust for Citi Private Bank, who is now a Charity Trustee and Non-Executive Director. Philippa shared her story of success in a male-dominated industry, as well as the challenges she faced as a woman, how she has seen the industry change, and what issues she considers still need to be addressed.

*Emma Kafero*; an Emergency Department Specialist Caseworker with 15 years' experience working with young people of all faiths and backgrounds (who also holds a degree in Graphic Design). Emma's focus was on how our lived experiences can shape us and our identity as well as our own and other people's expectations.

*Lili Dunn*; a recent history graduate from Liverpool university now works for Save the Children as a Campaigner. Lili came along to raise awareness around her work and talk about the aspirations of young women in the current climate.

*Natalia-Nana Lester-Bush*, a specialist in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging. Natalia-Nana blends her EDI expertise with her lived experience as a bi-cultural, women of colour with (non-visible) disabilities, to advise and support organisations and individuals in their journeys of Decolonisation, Liberation, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our very own *Dr. Sr Elizabeth Mudzimu* (a new doctoral graduate from the University of Groningen) spoke on the transformative and sustainable strategies of navigating challenges that women and girls face at the backdrop of patriarchal structures. She is a Social Scientist, and her research interests focus on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Transformation and Sustainability.

The insightful words of the speakers as well as our own discussion reinforced our understanding of the school spirit; *Serviam*, to consider how we can put our talents and gifts to the service of other women and girls to help create a more equitable society in which all can thrive!





# headlines



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Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy Feast of St Ursula!

Three weeks ago, I attended our Diocese Conference **"No Place for Racism"**. Our Archbishop has responded by creating a new Diocese Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion chaired by Fr Victor Darlington. The 10 strong commissioning team were formally inaugurated on Friday 29th January. It's aims are to seek to identify, address and speak out against the evils of racism and explore ways to listen, validate and support victims of racism. We look forward to welcoming Fr Victor to the Ursuline to share the commissions plans moving forward, but to also learn what we can do to promote racial equality and justice here at the Ursuline.

May you and your families experience the hope and joy of the church.

Best wishes

Ms Waters



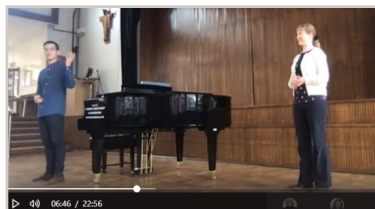
## St Cecilia Concert



On **Wednesday 17th March**, we hosted our Microsoft stream of our annual **St Cecilia Concert!** The student performances included renditions of; 'When I grow up' From Matilda, Chanson de Matin by *Edward Elgar*, Mia and Sebastian's Theme (from La La Land), by *Justin Hurwitz*, The Ballerina's Masquerade by *Chantal Badayos*, Colours of the Wind by *Alan Menken*, Jar of Hearts by *Christina Perri* and Stand Up by *Cynthia Erivo!* If you missed the event, it's available [here](#).

A big thank you to our main school, Year 12 and Year 13 Choirs for doing a fantastic job contributing to the production. Your talents are amazing and really captured the essence of the musical pieces, and of course to our Music Department for all of their time and effort in organising the event!

On **Friday 26th March**, the Music department also gave a short recital of some calm and reflective music in the hall at staff lunchtime which was also live streamed to staff to watch from their offices and bubbles. This really brought the week to an end on a calming note!



## A Reflective Year!



**Tuesday 23rd March**, marked exactly one year since the start of the 1st UK lockdown.

We held a minutes silence at 12 noon for all those who have lost their lives to COVID so far during the pandemic and took a further moment to say a special prayer!

You will not be forgotten!

## Committed Dedication!



In light of a very testing year for everyone, we were honoured to receive a **recognition award** from the **Mayor of Merton**, Councillor Sally Kenny on **Monday 22nd March!**

The award was in light of our committed dedication, professionalism and resilience in educating our students during this pandemic.

It is well known that our students already received tablets upon starting in Year 7, as digital literacy is a vital part of life, so it was less of a transition to get students used to using these in conjunction with Microsoft Teams during the vast periods of online learning.

Featured in [Daily Mail](#) back in May last year regarding our 'impressive provision', students have received the opportunity to enjoy a variety of online events, from Retreat Days to Mental Health Week and had an afternoon off timetable to take part in World Wildlife Day! With parents accessing information evenings and school events such as the St Cecilia concert online.

Parents have also commented *"Thank you to everyone at UHS for providing my three girls with this incredibly structured, organised and well co-ordinated new way of learning. At a time like this knowing they're busy, occupied and learning is a huge relief."*

Our pastoral support assistants, tutors and heads of year have been on hand throughout to provide both day to day and any extra assistance needed to students, and our learning support assistants have adapted to providing online support to students, which although not ideal- is a huge help. We expanded on our Health and Wellbeing area for parents, posting topical items of interest, alongside a vast range of support services available, if they or their child were struggling! Check out our Health and Wellbeing page [here!](#)

Upon receiving the award Ms Waters, Headteacher said;

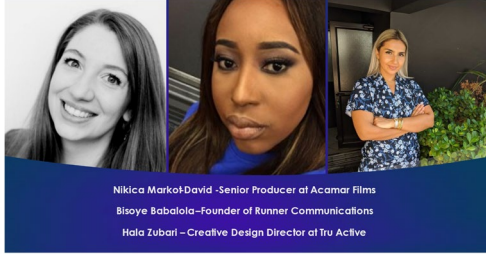
**"I am delighted to accept the award on behalf of all students & staff for their amazing resilience, hard work & commitment to one another while under Covid restrictions."**

Siobhain McDonagh MP commented; *"An extraordinary school with a brilliant record in online learning. Every pupil gets a tablet in Year 7 & throughout the lockdown all had 6 lessons a day! No digital divide!"*

We couldn't be prouder of this award- thank you Merton!



# National Careers Week 2021!



National Careers Week

## NCW

1<sup>ST</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

Nikica Markot-David - Senior Producer at Acamar Films  
Bisoye Babalola - Founder of Runner Communications  
Hala Zubari - Creative Design Director at Tru Active

## “Interesting and Interactive..” Student

On Monday 1st- Friday 6th March we celebrated **National Careers Week**. We had a great variety of speakers across a broad range of careers.

On Tuesday 23rd of March, we also held our **Career Arts Panel Talk** featuring; Acamar Films (Niki Markot-David), Bisoye Babalola (**Runner Communications**), Hala Zubari (**Tru Active**) and Ciara Donaghy (**Evolution Gaming**) (pictured above)! Students also received some great advice on Apprenticeships! All of this was supported by the students Year group E-Careers Library on Teams.

Year 11 GCSE Computer Science students also took part in the **Festival of Computing** with the **University of Plymouth**. The event was titled **‘Cryptography- Cracking the Code’**. One student commented *‘It was really cool learning a bit more about cyber security and the different courses that are available when going into further education.’* Take a look at some interesting courses involving cyber security [here](#).

More information on our careers offer this term can be found in our Careers Newsletter available after the Easter break!

## World Wildlife Day



“We tend to live life in London without really thinking about our deeper impact beyond simply recycling etc, it’s now vital this changes and we find ways to implement less damaging methods day to day.” **Student**

On Wednesday 3rd March we celebrated **World Wildlife Day!**

Between 200 and 350 million people live within or adjacent to forested areas around the world, relying on the various ecosystems provided by the forest and its species for their livelihoods and basic needs. With roughly 28% of the entire world’s land surface currently managed by indigenous peoples.

Students were given the afternoon off timetable to participate in the UN World Wildlife day activities. They were asked to research indigenous peoples and communities such as Alianza Ceibo in Ecuador and Vie Sauvage in D.R Congo and find out how their knowledge and experiences can enlighten conservation efforts for our forests and its species around the world using resource packs. They then created a range of creative outputs from, podcasts on videos to traditional collage and posters.

In the Pope’s Encyclical on the Environment, ‘Laudato Si’ it was said; *‘We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us.’*

Students also had the opportunity to explore the live panels and videos streamed by the UN World Wildlife Day.

[www.wildlifeday.org/](http://www.wildlifeday.org/)



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL  
& WIMBLEDON COLLEGE  
SIXTH FORM

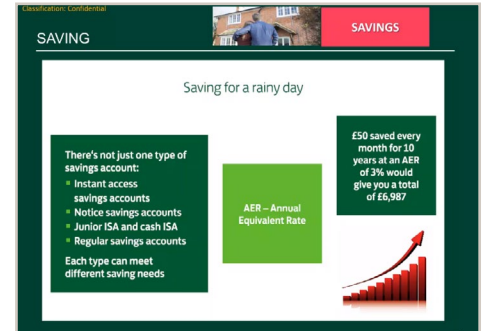
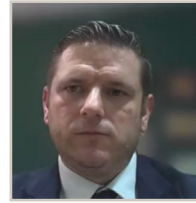


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## Financial Literacy!



Our Sixth Form students received some great financial advice on Tuesday 23rd March, when Senior Bank Manager, Mark French gave a talk to students on **‘Financial Literacy’**. Including the four areas of finance (current accounts, borrowing, savings and protecting). Students received lots of good tips including how to budget and saving for a rainy day and borrowing options available for short term loans.

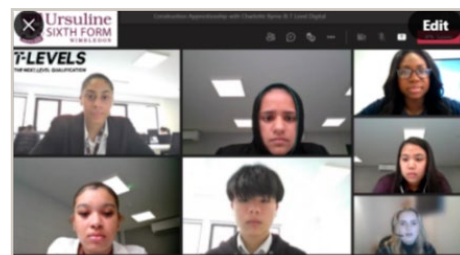
## Model United Nations!



The **London School of Economics** ran a **Model United Nations Conference** online on 26 -28 February- in which 20 of our Year 12s participated (we were the largest cohort at the conference!). The MUN gives students the chance to learn about the United Nations and to understand how different countries will see particular issues and how committee meetings work to allow countries to come to agreements about some of the key issues of our time.

Take a look at the full story on our website [here](#).

## Industry Talks!



In March our T Level Digital students had a fantastic talk from Charlotte Byrne who discussed her work as a Junior Quantity Surveyor at **Peloton** Exercise equipment company.

Interested in learning more about our T Levels courses? Click [here](#).

## Oxbridge Event



On Tuesday 16th March, we held our **Oxbridge Alumnae Evening** with the aim to encourage our Year 12s on the Oxbridge Programme to see Oxbridge as a real possibility for them and to understand more about it. Parents were also encouraged to attend to they could be advised as to how best support their preferred path! Take a look at some clips from the evening [here!](#)





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

## Fun at Morley Park..

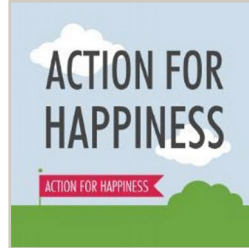


Students were really excited to get back to P.E this term and it was wonderful to see them enjoy sport together (such as Year 8 rugby above). We are looking forward to resuming our matches with other schools as soon as social distancing measures allow!

On Friday 19th March our Year 7's also took part in an exciting football festival at Morley Park playing fields! The festival will continue into the Summer Term.

"It was really good to get involved with physical sport at school again... especially with all my friends after being off for so long.. virtual P.E was great, but it's definitely not a replacement for the real thing.." **Student**

## Words of Wisdom



Some great words of wisdom from our P.E Dept, courtesy of [www.dayofhappiness.net](http://www.dayofhappiness.net), in light of the **International Day of Happiness** on **Saturday 20th March!**

## Interhouse Poetry

As part of **World Poetry Day** on **Sunday 21st March**- we thought what better way to kick off our Inter-House Poetry week, than with a Poetry Competition! This years theme was 'Community and Togetherness', the deadline for entries was **Wednesday 31st March** and we look forward to sharing the winners with you after the Easter Break!



**WORLD POETRY DAY 2021**

**Inter-House Poetry is BACK!**

The theme for this year's Inter-House Poetry Competition is **'Community' and 'Togetherness.'**

While the world works together to overcome some of the most challenging times, we can use poetry to reflect on how we have worked together, as families, friendship groups, our school community and our religious communities, to help support each other.

So get those creative brain cells working and share with us your poetry!

- 30 House Points for EVERY ENTRY (Make sure on your entry you state which House you are in!)
- 500 House Points for 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- 400 House Points for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- 300 House Points for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- BONUS 150 House Points for 'Highly Commended' entries!

Upload online YOUR Poetry Entry into the Inter-House Teams on MS Teams – Go to YOUR TEAM Channel (on the left hand side) and upload into FILES (at the top) where you will see a folder titled 'Inter-House Poetry March 2021.'

## New Books!



New books alert!

Our library is delighted to have its latest delivery of diverse reads. Although our library is currently closed to students. Students can reserve books via the school reading cloud [here](#) with a library prefect delivering the books to tutor time weekly!

## 2.6 Challenge



**Deadline For Entries: Friday 30th April 2021!**

In April 2020, the UK Launched the **2.6 Challenge** to encourage everyone at home to **get involved in something active and fun** to help raise money for a charity of their choice.

If you want to get involved **THIS APRIL**- all you have to do to get involved is do something fun and active, **26 times**, send us a photo or video of you taking part and you will earn your house 260 House Points!

Why not make it extra special and do something to raise a bit of money for a charity of your choice too.

You have the **WHOLE OF APRIL** to take part and need to submit your entry by **Friday 30th April**, to your **House Channel** on MS Teams.

Any questions or queries please email Mr Satterthwaite: [luke.satterthwaite@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:luke.satterthwaite@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

In need of a few ideas?? See pic above!  
[www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk](http://www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk)