



## The Next Level In Education!



The extended course provision now available to our students is exciting, particularly with the addition of the Lab Science T Level starting in Sept 2021.. a great time to explore STEM!

**Mr Barton**  
Assistant Headteacher



Our BRAND NEW T Level Building which students have named Katherine Johnson, after the famous American mathematician; whose calculations were crucial to NASA's crewed spaceflights.



Young people are often leaving college and university with a severe lack of work experience relating to their intended career aspirations, this often leaves them disheartened and ill-equipped to be successful in gaining that crucial 'foot in the door' in the modern day workplace.

In September 2020, Ursuline Sixth Form was one of 50 UK colleges and sixth forms to try and address this very problem, by introducing a T Levels qualification option- with our first T Level offer in **Digital, Production, Design and Development**. T Levels are a new Government backed 2 year qualification, with a 45 day (minimum) industry placement. T Levels are worth the same number of UCAS points as A Levels, they are endorsed by business and designed to give you a brand new choice after GCSE's. "Digital skills in particular are no longer the separate entity some people may believe them to be, skills learnt on the course such as coding, data protection laws will continue to be beneficial in whatever career path young people may choose moving forwards." says **Ms Hanson, Head of Digital T Level**.

The student feedback from our first Digital cohort has been great; "T-level is a great opportunity for me as it will help me with my future career.. I am interested in software engineering degree. So far, the aspect of the course I have enjoyed the most is coding using Python. This is because I have more understanding of how to work out the problems after I tried to solve them multiples of times" says **Amama, Student**

"..the work placement part gives you practice in the work field to see what it's like and have the experience with it.. this will be beneficial.. as it shows you the type of skills you need such as team work, communication, confidence, creativity etc. you would need in the workplace." **Jada, Student**

### Work Placements For T Level Students- Can You Help?

Our first cohort of Digital T Level students are due to start their first placement in July 2021 and they could really use YOUR help! Do you work in an industry that; **Has a community focus? Likes to collaborate on new initiatives? Is keen to develop the next generation digital talent?** If this is you, or your company and could offer a placement to a T Level student please contact: [mariam.hanson@uhsw.co.uk](mailto:mariam.hanson@uhsw.co.uk) by 31st January 2021

### NEW COURSE: Laboratory Science- LAUNCHING SEPT 2021

In December 2020, Ursuline High School's application to increase its T Level offer for 2021 entry was accepted, and as such, Ursuline Sixth Form is now extending its STEM offer to include **Laboratory Science** alongside the existing **Digital T Level** from **Sept 2021**. Both these subjects will take place in the BRAND NEW purpose built T Level building (pictured above) which has received special funding for expansion to include a science floor! Stay tuned for further information on our T Level offer in January!



# headlines



Dear Parents and Friends,

This Sunday was Gaudete Sunday, when we lit the pink candle on the advent wreath and rejoiced. This year we had a great reason to rejoice; the discovery of the vaccine and the work scientists had done in developing it. It was also good to remember the work of other scientists like Marie Curie who discovered radioactivity. To make a difference Scientists have had to give up some aspects of their lives to focus on what really matters at the moment. One of scientists working on the vaccine told us on TV he hadn't been able to see his mum since last Christmas because of his commitment. John the Baptist reminds us in so many words that for us to grow as followers of Christ we have to let go of things; letting go of things we don't need to be more for others.

Abundance and generosity however were a signature of Jesus's life. We have been blessed during the Pandemic to realise we don't need as many things and we can take pleasure in helping and supporting others and finding our identity and happiness in the abundance of love in our relationships as Jesus modelled for us.

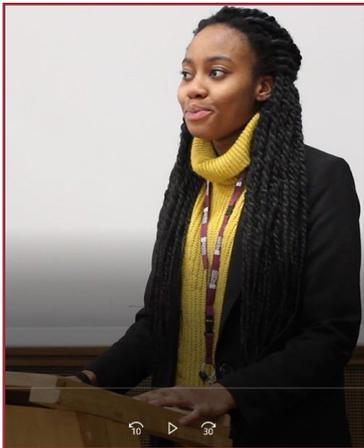
Wishing you a happy and safe Christmas

Best wishes

Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA  
Headteacher



## Serviam!



“After a unusual transition for our new Year 7's we were so pleased to provide them with their special commissioning service as planned, they were so excited to receive their badges!”

**Mrs Jefferies, Head of Year 7**

Our new Year 7's had their Commissioning Service in November, where they received their much anticipated Serviam badges and become official members of the Ursuline community. During the ceremony we heard from students who spoke on their experience of transitioning from primary school. Our Head Girl, Ohemaa provided an inspiring speech, sharing her memories of Year 7 and some words of wisdom for the students moving forwards. Musical pieces were by

A video of the highlights was created and shared with parents on teams shortly after the event!

## Oxbridge!



This year we have had 25 students participating in our Sixth Form Oxbridge Programme, of whom 13 applied to Oxbridge and 7 have been invited to interview; *Tara, Elisa, Ohemaa, Mia, Madeleine, Zara, Ellen.* (3 to Cambridge and 4 to Oxford). They find out the outcome of their applications in January! The best of luck to you all!

See [here](#) for further details!

## 'Tis The Season..



We have tried our best to create a sense of Christmas spirit during the last few weeks of term with our Christmas Tree Service taking part in student bubbles, this year we have a grand total of 7 Christmas trees in school- to ensure each student bubble enjoys the seasonal traditions! Our food fundraiser replaced our shoebox appeal this year (see Chaplaincy newsletter for more details), Year 7-10 enjoyed their Christmas Lunches towards the end of term, with the Year 7-10 Christmas Film Fund-raiser, [Christmas Carol Service](#) ending the term on a musical (and film) note!

## Computer Science!



On Wednesday 4th November, students took part in the **Computer Science In Action Virtual Trip**. During the session students heard from a variety of speakers providing them with key insights into the importance of computer science.

Among the speakers; *Amanda Prorok* spoke on effective robot collaboration and how it solves problems in transport and logistics industries, *Alexandra Cristea* spoke on Women in STEM with her talk on 'Not For Girls?', where she shared a story of how a team from Durham collaborated with universities and industries to support 100 women from diverse backgrounds into technology related fields!

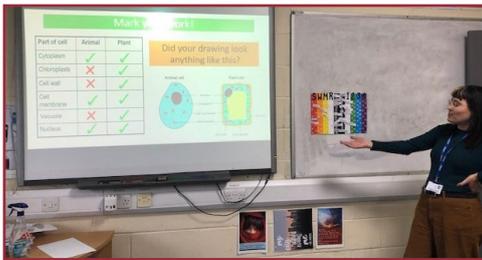
# Head Team Update



Our Head Girl/Boy Hustings took place this term as usual, through in a slightly different format this year! Our applicants pre-recorded speeches detailing their vision as Head Girl/Boy. Many students focused on making further strides with key issues within equality- particularly in regards to racism and sexism and ways in which to support students mental health was also a prominent feature in the passionate speeches.

We look forward to announcing our new Head team in the new year!

# A Year Like No Other



“Teach Wimbledon and all the teachers involved have gone above and beyond to support us, and provide many enriching CPD opportunities. I especially enjoyed the employment seminar!” **Trainee**

Our **Teach Wimbledon** trainees, like us all, have had a very unusual year! We caught up with them to find out how they have coped with their first term of training and how they built a their initial teacher-student relationships in such different circumstances to what they were no doubt expecting. Ms Farley, said *“We are very impressed with how our trainees have developed this term in such testing circumstances, they have come on leaps and bounds and really gone the extra mile to ensure students felt supported and engaged in their learning during very confusing times- this is a testament to their dedication!”*

Read the full story [here!](#)

# Joseph Update



Our school production of ‘Joseph and Her Technicolor Dreamcoat’ has advanced impressively over the past month. Production week, as scheduled, was exactly that, as we worked hard over that vital time in late November to bring each scene and song to fruition. Observing all the rules relating to song and social distancing, we got there. The show is entirely staged. Not a bad achievement- in the heart of lockdown! The next step is fine-tuning, confidence and the addition of costume and projected images. After school rehearsals are now resuming and we aim to continue with them into January and February, by which point all of it should be recorded and ready to show. Continue to watch this space!

# A Business Challenge Anyone?



“I enjoyed working in a team and being creative! I really liked working on different bits- but together I loved inventing something new!”

**Year 5 Student**

Each year we host a the Covent Garden Business Challenge for Year 5 primary school students in all the Merton Catholic primaries. This year we ran the challenge online with our Year 12s preparing films and powerpoints for the year 5 teachers to use in school to explain what the year 5s needed to do. Each school then sent us films of their top two presentations and the year 12s voted at a popcorn screening, their vote was added to that of our three judges to decide the top four which went through to the Final.

This year our sponsors CapCo chose St Mary's as the winners for their innovative idea of an eco-friendly disco ball. Well done to St Mary's and to all the Year 12s and Year 5s who worked so hard on this- Well done St Mary's (pictured above)! Thank you to all our Merton schools; *St Mary's, St John Fisher, Ss Peter and Paul, St Teresa's, St Thomas', Sacred Heart* (New Malden) and our UHS Sixth Formers for taking part; *Katelyn, Andrea, Lily, Olivia, Daisymona, Kafia, Abigail, Sayen, Amama-Tul, Ilaria, Olivia, Emilia, Kristen, Kristina, Isabella, Alexandra, Louisa, Anna, Elena, Seliena-Emelie, Ellie, Roksana, Racheal, Ekram, Sarah, Kaia, Monica, Jada and Niamh!*

# Writing For Wellbeing



“I wrote about my time alone during lockdown and how it impacted me, I tried to look on the positive side..”

**Lucy, Year 9**

In what has been a year like no other, 59 of our students submitted entries regarding their feelings about the years events to the [BUPA Foundation Beyond Words- Writing for Wellbeing project](#) and we are pleased to announce we have received a recognition award and won a £250 book token for the quality of our students fantastic submissions! Each entry resulted in BUPA donating £3 to Mental Health charities for young people!

**BUPA** emphasised that their were 8 submissions in particular that stood out, these students (3 of which are pictured above) will be featured in a digital anthology and receive a copy of ‘The Book of Hopes’ as a thank you gift for their stand out work!

A fantastic achievement, well done to everyone involved!



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

# Rainbow Laces!



Did you know that 43% of LGBT people think public sporting events aren't a welcoming space for LGBT people?  
**Rainbow Laces Day** was held on *Wednesday 9th December* in association with **Stonewall** and were excited to receive 200 packs of rainbow laces this term to show our support for inclusivity in sport!  
 Football is for everyone!

## Year 7 Football



We thought you might like to see some photos of our lovely **Year 7 football team**, posing for a few photos after an **AWESOME** term of football- lots of new skills learnt already!

They have transitioned into secondary school life amazingly well!

A huge well done to them!



## Remembrance!



Our Year 10s above at Morley Park taking time to reflect on our **Remembrance Day online service** and 2 minutes silence. Lest We Forget!

## Wimbledon!



On *Wednesday 4th November* students took part in the **Wimbledon Ball Girl/Boys Taster session** at the **Wimbledon AELTC Community Training Ground** in Raynes Park. Lots of excellent rolling and feeding skills learnt and practiced tonight! Lots of excellent progress all round- well done!

## A Big Thank You!!!



Students wanted to thank teachers for all of their hard work and efforts during what has been a particularly unusual year. Hear what they had to say in the video [here!](#)