



## The Hills Are Alive....



“A brilliant opening night congratulations to everyone involved in this amazing performance... well done everyone.”

**Parent**



The hills were certainly alive on *Thursday 28th* and *Friday 29th* November in our annual school production; **The Sound of Music**. Loosely based on the memoir of Maria von Trapp, **The Story of the Trapp Family Singers** (and fondly remembered adapted film musical starring Julie Andrews). Set in Austria in 1938 on the eve of the Anschluss, the musical tells the story of Maria, who takes a job as governess to a large family while she decides whether to become a nun. She falls in love with the children, and eventually their widowed father, Captain von Trapp. The Captain is ordered to accept a commission in the German navy, but he opposes the Nazis. He and Maria decide on a plan to flee Austria with the children, but will they make it? *Jessica* (Thursday) and *Daisy* (Friday) played kind and joyful governess Maira Rainer

perfectly, with *Mili* acing the role of strict but well-meaning father Captain Von Trapp and *Charlotte* was well cast the Captains cold and jealous fiancé; Baroness Schrader. *Trinity* proved a wise Mother Abbess, who pushes Maria to ‘climb ev’ry mountain’, while *Ellaria* was an excellent choice as pushy theatre agent Max Detweiler-the family friend/ talent agent who is intent on the children performing at the Salzburg concert. Love sick teenager *Liesel* (*Natasha*), tough Friedrich (*Jennifer*), rebellious Louisa (*Isabella*), mischievous Kurt (*Jessica*), booksmart Brigitta (*Erin*), gentle Marta (*Tegan*), and sweet Gretl (*Matilda*) were all perfectly appointed to win over the hearts of both Maria and the audience as ‘the children’, with youngest child Gretl getting more than a few ‘awwws’ in the

lovely rendition of ‘So Long, Farewell’. The production featured many well-known songs produced by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein; such as the touching ‘Edelweiss’, ‘My Favourite Things’, ‘Climb Ev’ry Mountain’, ‘Do-Re-Mi’, and the title song ‘The Sound of Music’.

**ManyThanksTo**;ouramazingDrama,Music and Art departments, cast/crew for all their hard work in bringing the Sound of Music to fruition! Special thanks to: *Mr Wootton*- Director, *Mr Williams*- Musical Director, *Isabella*- Assistant Director, *Ms Lees*- Assistant Musical Director, *Alisha*- Assistant Musical Director, *Mr Howe*- Stage Manager, *Ms Williams*- Costume Designer and the school band!



# headlines

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you for your support this term in continuing to improve what we do. Your feedback from The Sound of Music was really appreciated. We enjoyed an inspiring performance. As we journey through advent students are preparing for Christmas by thinking of others; preparing gift boxes and hampers, raising money for our Ursuline Charity; a new school in Cambodia and environmental charities. Students are also taking time to reflect and receive the sacrament of reconciliation. We are very grateful for the support of all our clergy who give of their time so generously.

At the beginning of the church's year we are introducing the theme 'The God Who Speaks' and encouraging the whole community to reflect daily on the word of God. One website families may like to use is [Christianart.today](http://Christianart.today).

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.

Best wishes

*Julia Waters*

Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA  
Headteacher



## Votes at the ready.....



“Its so important to engage our young people in democracy.. 16-24 year olds-being one of the most under registered groups.. increasing their knowledge and understanding at school can only help in raising their confidence in exercising their democratic right when the opportunity arises in real life..”

### Government and Politics Teacher

Ahead of the General Election in early December all students were given a talk by the **UK Parliament Service** on how important it is to vote. We then held our own **mock election** on *Thursday 12th December* (the day of the general election).

In contrast to the real election, at UHS Labour won with 39% of the vote- thanks to the Year 11 postal voters (with Liberal Democrats receiving 37%, Conservatives 14% and green Green party 10% of votes. A particular well done to 8Margaret who acted as electoral officers counting up the votes!

## Armistice Day



On *Monday 11th November* Year 10 history students had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Ursuline High School at the **Merton Armistice Day** service in Mitcham. This service was attended by the *Mayor of Merton*, members of the armed forces and a number of Merton schools. The students were great ambassadors for our school and said it was an honour to be chosen..

## Baking Fun....



Students spent the afternoon baking in Food Technology on *Monday 16th December* in preparation for the annual **Christmas Tea Party for the Retired**. Lots of victoria sponges and yummy looking mince pices! A big thank you to Ms Hoyles for her baking wisdom in the creation of our goodies! A fun experience!

## Boot Claw to the Rescue



“Before my Sports Direct deal I originally contacted JD Sports who told me my product wouldn't sell with them as their customers wouldn't dream of wearing muddy shoes..” **Cary**

Year 9 and Year 13 students had the opportunity to hear from entrepreneur/manufacturing engineer (and UHS Alumnae) **Cary Marsh**; owner of **Punch Front Innovation** ([punchfront.com](http://punchfront.com)) most recently created the handy tool 'boot claw' to rid the dreaded mud from football/ rugby boots, which she now sells to **Sports Direct** and **Amazon**. Cary first spotted the gap in the market when she googled in desperation one day after her son's rugby match and realised their wasn't anything in existence! She estimates it took about 9 months to create- from idea to production and used the manufacturer of **Tangle Teaser** brush to create her innovative product mould!

# Year 7 Commissioning!

# Feeling Festive..



A fantastic 'official welcoming' into the Ursuline community last night at the **Year 7 Commissioning Service**. After a successful transition from their primary schools, our Year 7 students were presented with their eagerly anticipated *Serviam* badges by **Ms Waters** and **Mr Adam**, with a special service hosted by **Mrs Jefferies**; Head of Year 7. During the evening, several students confidently recalled the highlights of the Liddington Trip they enjoyed last half term, reflected on settling into their lessons and being the youngest students in the school! Our Head Girl; **Lillie** spoke to the students on 'What makes an Ursuline student' and her fond memories of joining in Year 7. A big thank you to all careers and parents who attended- your support is greatly appreciated!



There has been lots of festive joy and celebrations this half term with a joint **Carol Service** with Wimbledon College at Sacred Heart Church, **Christmas gift appeal**, **Christmas tree service**, **Christmas tea party for the retired**, Christmas assemblies and advent activities.



# Why School Matters!



Year 7 had an interesting lesson exploring their year Careers theme *Can I be?* Hearing from a staff member and their career journey into teaching and the skills they have applied from school to learning about jobs past, present and the future and what types of jobs are in London. They looked at any gender assumptions they may make about roles and discussed what jobs belong in different industry sectors. Finally by exploring the skills they have and how they can use and develop them more, they understood the need to try new things and the actions that would help them grow their skills further!



Students also enjoyed the annual **Christmas fairs**, raising an impressive amount of money for charity (see chaplaincy newsletter for totals). Particularly popular was the Year 9 homemade Christmas Decorations stall with help from the D&T die cut machine which produced some lovely designs! Well done girls!

# Salesian Charism...



The Avila Partnership welcomed twenty Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools to the 'What Makes Great Catholic Schools' second seminar on **Thursday 14th November**. One of the speakers **Fr David O'Malley** from the *Salesians School's* based in Battersea introduced the idea of Charism to the delegates. Fr David explained the origins of Charisms and where they may be headed in their future life cycle. Delegates later had the chance to discuss any wider reading they may have done and in particular revisit 'Christus Vivit' Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation to young people.

For further information about the this session or the **Catholic Formation Programme**, please email: [Rebecca.Paterson@avila.education](mailto:Rebecca.Paterson@avila.education)

# Bookfest Winners



"I feel honored to have received a commendation from the **Wimbledon Bookfest competition**. It was definitely inspired me to **continue writing.**" **Student**

Super excited students received certificates for their **Commended & Highly Commended** short stories/poems in the **Young Writers Competition** in partnership with **Wimbledon Bookfest!**

Students entered the competition earlier on this year with support from the English department, writing on the theme 'The Island'.

Along with their certificates they received free copies of the published anthology their work is featured in! Well done all!



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

## Natural Talent! Fearless Fencing!



Congratulations to our players who played in our VERY FIRST ever Ursuline rugby match at **Old Rutlishians!**  
 U15 won 9-4- Fantastic result ladies!

All smiles after a great term of **Fencing Club** will return in Spring Term. Speak to the P.E Department for more details on how to sign up and collect a flier.

## Football For Freedom!



UHS students had a fantastic day playing football with Palestinian students at the **Football 4 Freedom** event hosted at our Morley Park playing fields. A girls' football club was started in Abu Dis, Palestine roughly three years ago in an exciting new initiative for girls in the town- where life is

tough for everyone and girls have even fewer chances. Through crowdfunding the girls had the opportunity to visit the UK, share in some friendly competition and tell each other about their lives. An unforgettable experience for all!

## Netball Win at Merton School Sports!



Well done to our Year 8 Netballers who came 1st and 5th in the **Merton School Sports Partnership Borough Netball**. Thank You to **Ricards Lodge** for hosting us!

# notepad

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon 6th Jan	<b>SCHOOL RETURNS</b>		
Tues 7th Jan	Year 10 Retreat (POP B), SH Church	(8.35-9.35am)	SH Church
	First Give Philanthropy Launch, Hall	(9.40-10.30am)	Hall
	Year 8 Drug Awareness Conference	(12.40-1.20pm)	Lunch for Elizabeth House
	Year 7 Borough Athletics; UHS	(3.30-5.00pm)	UHS
Weds 8th Jan	Year 13 BTEC Exams Begin	(AM)	UHS
	(Until Tues 21st Jan)		
Fri 10th Jan	Year 8 Retreat (POP A), SH Church	(All Day)	SH Church
Mon 13th Jan	Year 7 Learning Conference, Hall	(10.55-11.45am)	Hall
Tues 14th Jan	Ski Trip Parent Information Evening	(6.30-7.30pm)	Hall
	'Train to Teach', Wimbledon Library	(4.00-7.00pm)	Wimbledon Library
Thurs 16th Jan	Year 8 Borough Athletics; UHS	(3.30-5.45pm)	UHS
	'Train to Teach', Wimbledon Library	(4.00-7.00pm)	Wimbledon Library
Fri 17th Jan	Year 8 Retreat (POP B), SH Church	(All Day)	SH Church
Mon 20th Jan	Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week		UHS
	Year 9 & 10 Assessment Week		UHS
	Year 8 Drug Awareness Conference	(8.45-9.45am)	Hall
	Year 8 Learning Conference, Hall	(10.55-11.45am)	Hall
	Year 11-13 Post 18 Careers Fair, Sports Hall & USFC	(7.00-8.00pm)	Sports Hall & USFC
Weds 22nd Jan	Yr9 Asparations Trip, Kings College	(7.00-8.00pm)	Kings College
	Year 8 Parents Pathways Presentation, Hall		Hall
Thurs 23rd Jan	Year 10 & 13 Feast of St Angela Mass	(10.55-11.45am)	Hall
	Year 11 Parents' Evening, Hall	(4.00-6.30pm)	Hall
Fri 24th Jan	Year 11 & 12 Feast of St Angela Mass	(10.55-11.45am)	Hall
	Ski Practise, Hemel Hempstead		Hemel Hempstead
Mon 27th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day		UHS
	Year 12 Cumulative Exams		UHS
	Year 8 & 10 Therapy Challenge Week		UHS
	Year 8 & 9 Feast of St Angela Mass	(9.40-10.30am)	Hall
	Lunch for St Angela's House	(12.40-1.20pm)	Hall
Tues 28th Jan	Jack Petchey Challenge, Hall	(All Day)	Hall
	Year 7 Ethos Day		Hall
	Year 7 Feast of St Angela Mass; Hall	(2.20-3.10pm)	Hall
Tues 29th Jan	Lunch n' Learn Careers Talk: Law	(12.40-1.20pm)	Hall
Fri 31st Jan	Year 10 Retreat (POP A), SH Church	(8.35am-1.35pm)	SH Church
Mon 3rd Feb	Year 9 Curriculum Project Day 3	(All Day)	UHS
Tues 4th Feb	Year 10 Maths Fest	(All Day)	UHS
	Year 9 Speed Networking	(8.45-12.40pm)	UHS
	Year 11 Parent Pastoral Workshop	(6.30-7.30pm)	UHS
Weds 5th Feb	Year 12 BTEC Travel & Tourism Component 2 Exam	(AM)	UHS
Thurs 6th Feb	Year 9 & 10 Maths Challenge		UHS
Fri 7th Feb	Year 10 Retreat (POP B), SH Church	(8.35am-1.35pm)	SH Church
	Year 11 BTEC Health & Social Care Tech Award Exam	(AM)	UHS
	School Council Meeting; SFSC	(2.00pm)	UHS
Tues 11th Feb	Safer Internet Day		UHS
	Year 7 Borough Basketball; Harris	(3.30-6.00pm)	Harris
Weds 12th Feb	Lunch n' Learn Careers Talk: Arts	(12.40-1.20pm)	Hall
Thurs 13th Feb	Ski Trip, Italy	(Until 21st Feb)	UHS
Fri 14th Feb	INSET DAY		UHS
	School closes for Half Term		UHS
Sat 15th Feb	Year 11 & 12 Beijing Trip	(Until 22nd Feb)	UHS
Mon 17th- Fri 21st Feb	<b>HALF TERM</b>		UHS
Mon 24th Feb	<b>SCHOOL RETURNS</b>		UHS