



Ursuline
SIXTH FORM
WIMBLEDON
Belong and Succeed

Newsletter

Issue 2: Spring Term 2023

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Welcome ...

to our **Ursuline Sixth Form Newsletter**.

A community where you can truly belong and succeed



Welcome to our Spring edition of the Ursuline Sixth Form Newsletter. We hope everyone had a lovely Easter holiday!

Reflecting on Spring Term - it was non-stop! It started with a bang as Year 12 and four staff members went on the 3-night trip to Barcelona. This included visiting famous monasteries, a historic football stadium and an array of incredible cultural dinners (you can read more about their trip on page 5). After their aesthetic endeavours, they were thrown back into action at school. From the International Women's Day Conference (page 5), where guest speakers reflected upon equity and its impact on their lives to better prepare and benefit us, to the St. Cecilia concert, where both the Merici Singers and students within the school Orchestra represented the sixth form and the vast talent it holds.

On a personal level, in our newly appointed roles as Head Leadership team, we also embarked on an exciting journey this term! Firstly, by being officially commissioned at a lovely service at Sacred Heart Church (see image above, right), we are honoured to address everyone for the first time as the new joint head girls - Layla and Eirinn. Additionally, by collaborating with Years 12, 10 and 7 to kick start our community project: The Big Sister Scheme. We are so happy to say it was a huge success, and we look forward to continued and growing engagement and friendship over the years. As well as this, the Year 10s are making critical steps to their post-GCSE choices, with many looking to stay with us for sixth form, especially at the filled hall for Year 10 Transition Evening!

Year 12 have been gearing up for their big end-of-year exams. Although there are tangible nerves, there are also bursts of energy ready to go. We wish them all the luck and know they will do themselves proud. We also wish Year 13 and Year 11 the best in the run-up to their exams, and hope the Easter holiday presented the chance to rest and focus on the hurdle ahead. Who's ready for a successful Summer Term!

Head's Student Leadership Team

Eirinn and Layla



A message from the Sixth Form Team

This term has marked some decisive moments in our students' educational journey. Our Year 12 students continued to broaden their academic and cultural education through trips, enrichment programmes, and high-quality lessons. While our February mock exams were a harbinger of what is to come in the summer, and our Year 13 students used them as a yardstick to measure their progress. We know their commendable commitment will lead to success in their A Level exams this summer.

As a sixth form, we have reflected on seeing the best in people and situations. We dismissed the notion that such a perspective is naïve; it is both strategic and necessary and conducive to a successful environment. We also explored how to study and the relationship between knowledge and skills. Developing and improving study skills is a gradual and long-term process. It is also an individual process. We hope our students found our support and guidance helpful and continue to feel empowered to achieve their goals.

We continue to be inundated by requests from external students to join our sixth form, and we take pride in our status as a popular destination for students post-GCSE.

If you are interested in studying one of our fantastic T Level courses, we are still considering applications. You can apply [HERE](#).



Mr B Ryan
Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form



Getting to know...

Dr S Odhiambo EdD,
Head of Religious Education

Year 12 Marketing Prefect Layla interviewing
Dr Odhiambo



Find out more about Dr Sulumentry Odhiambo
here: <https://hopeoneworld.org.uk/trustees/>

Dr Sulumentry Odhiambo is an educator with 15 years of experience in UK secondary schools. In addition, he has worked in Kenya, Uganda, Bangkok, and Pakistan and participated in supporting and caring for refugees in slum areas and at the Bangkok Refugee Centre (BRC).

Where did you study your subject?

- Philosophy with Psychology BA, Urbaniana Pontifical University Rome
- Theology BA, Middlesex University
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Liverpool Hope University
- Post Graduate Diploma in Social Science Research Methods (PGDip SSRM), UCL
- Education, Gender and International Development MA, UCL
- Education MPhil/EdD, UCL

Why should students study your subject?

We live in a world that is becoming more globalised, and we should not create boundaries. My subject gives students tools that will enable them to relate with their neighbours in the globalised world.

What do you most like about your job?

Students. I meet students from different backgrounds and see each grow in knowledge from a young age. It allows me to work with good people and notice that each day is different and unique.

What do you like about the Ursuline Sixth Form?

Opportunities. Ms Waters, our headteacher, is full of vision, someone who is passionate about our school and is always on the lookout to allow students to be the best they can be. We were one of the first schools in the country's south to have T-Levels. There are also aspirational enrichment and Oxbridge that enable us to give our students the best opportunities possible.

Three interesting facts about you?

- 1) I tend to learn languages quickly – I had to learn the basics of Thai in a week to progress my project at the BRC, and I had three months to learn Urdu to work effectively in Islamabad (Pakistan).
- 2) I don't feel restricted; I feel like I can fit anywhere without being limited by geographical or class structures.
- 3) I spent time at the Royal Free Hospital in London, and working with terminally ill people shaped my perspectives on life.

Greatest achievements?

My sister sadly passed away a few years after her husband, and they had four orphans. It was important to me that I was responsible for their education; they are all succeeding now in their jobs and finishing their education.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I enjoy travelling, watching football, and spending time with friends.

Focus on T Levels

Grand Opening of Our World Class Facilities

On February 10th, we officially opened our innovative T Level Health and T Level Business rooms in our brand new St Anne's block. With an eye to the future and a nod to the past, we named the building after Sister Anne Benyon, Headteacher at Ursuline High School, Wimbledon, from 1975 - 1983. Sr Anne was a staunch supporter of progressive education, and she dedicated her life to broadening girls' education, so we know she will look down on us with pride and approval.

Our stunning facilities in the Katherine Johnson Centre already house our T Level Digital and T Level Science students. Now, our T Level Health and T Level Business students have world-class facilities they can call their own.

The event included a tour, a blessing of the building, and a meet and greet with our T Level students.

It was a great morning, and our T Level students enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate the superb new additions to our sixth form provision, alongside their passion for their subjects to our guests- including MP Stephen Hammond.



Sixth Form Highlights

International Women's Day Conference



On March 7, we held our International Women's Day Conference.

The theme of the event was 'Embrace Equity', and our perspicacious speakers explored this theme through the lens of leadership.

Our students left contemplating what more equitable leadership would look like, and they were inspired to embrace all aspects of their identity to become the leaders of the future.

Our Inspirational Speakers



Sonya Barlow

Sonya Barlow is the award-winning founder of the Like Minded Females network inclusion and careers consultancy, Radio host of the BBC Asian Network's The Everyday Hustle and best selling author of "Unprepared to Entrepreneur". She won an award at the prestigious Asian Women of Achievement for Young Achiever 2022



Dona Reddiar

Dona Reddiar works for Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) managing their PhD and internship schemes (Black Internship Programme and Biomedical Vacation Scholarships). A scientist by training, she completed her degree with St George's, University of London and then studied infectious diseases at Leicester before studying for her PhD in Nottingham on the connection between bacteria and stomach cancer.



Lucy Kane

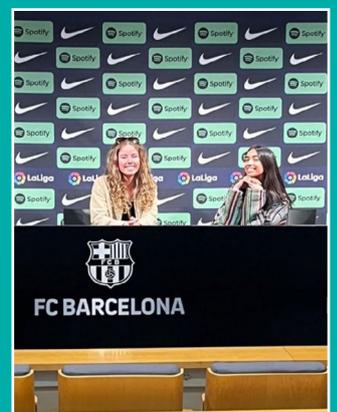
Lucy Kane is the owner and publisher of Time & Leisure magazine, the largest lifestyle magazine for SW London and Surrey. Her entrepreneurial career began creating the magazine brand and has launched 10 regional titles, websites, digital newsletters and events. She also runs a Creative Design agency working for top chefs and businesses launching and marketing their businesses.

Barcelona Trip



This term, our Year 12 students had an unforgettable trip to Barcelona. The trip included sightseeing all the sights of central Barcelona, including Sagrada Familia, Las Ramblas, Barrio Gotica, and a tour of the Nou Camp Stadium.

The trip was incredible!



Day 1 – after checking in on arrival, we quickly went to The Nou Camp for a magnificent tour of FC Barcelona's mythical stadium. Some of our braver students even managed to sneak under the ropes and enter the press box!

Sixth Form Highlights

International Women's Day Conference - continued

Barcelona Trip - continued



Day 2 – we took a long ride up the mountain (1,236 metres above the valley floor!) and spent the day at Montserrat Monastery. We saw the Virgin of Montserrat and listened to the Boys' Choir (one of the oldest in Europe), surrounded by breathtaking views



It was a fantastic event!

Some reflections on our event..

"Everything was amazing, I enjoyed the student interaction and the pace of the talks were good. Thank you so much for this conference I really enjoyed it." **Student**

"I really liked how approachable the speakers were after their presentations- they were very easy to talk to and gave good advice." **Student**

"It was great to see the engagement and the vivacity of the girls". **Speaker**



Day 3 – in the morning, we hopped on the open-top city tour at the closest Bus Turístic Barcelona and took in the sights before getting off at Las Ramblas and shopping until we dropped!

Spotlight On Science at Ursuline Sixth Form



**LOIS: A LEVEL
BIOLOGY**

I decided to study A Level Biology because it opens many doors and potential future career pathways. I intend to study medicine when I leave the sixth form, and I feel supported by my teachers (Mr Nichols and Mr Breese). I came here as an external student, but it already feels like home. The teachers are exceptionally caring, and the students are mature and ambitious. We are pushed to become our best, and I value this immensely



**FRANCHESCA:
A LEVEL CHEMISTRY**

I have always enjoyed problem-solving and completing practicals, so my Chemistry A Level lessons have been delightful. The small class size ensures communication with peers and teachers is central to learning. We are encouraged to be inquisitive, and I have found a wonderfully supportive community within and outside of my lessons. My favourite aspect of the course is organic chemistry, and I love that this A Level ensures I have a wide variety of career choices available when I leave the sixth form.

Spotlight On Science at Ursuline Sixth Form



**KATE: A LEVEL
PHYSICS**

I chose physics because I enjoyed it at GCSE, and it complemented my other subjects: maths and geography. I appreciate how the maths in our physics course applies to real-life scenarios. I am enjoying how interactive the lessons are in the sixth form, and the small class sizes enable me to be fully immersed in all conversations – even the ones about other dimensions! I was impressed by our supportive transition, and I hope, in my own small way, I can be a trailblazer and break the perception of physics being a male-dominated subject – a perception that firmly belongs in the past.

Why study science in the Sixth Form



Science is a subject, yes, but it's also a way of thinking: science graduates have been trained to think critically, research properly and be guided by the evidence. These are critical workplace skills and employers value the creativity and problem-solving skills of science graduates.

Science never stays still, and jobs that were unimaginable 20 years ago are now thriving, with so many opportunities available to work in areas as diverse as biotechnology, data analysis, drones, nanotechnology, smart devices and so much more.



Life At Ursuline Sixth Form



Barcelona Trip

Our Year 12 foreign trip to Barcelona was a tremendous success – Faiza and Ivie are determined to end up in the dugout of the Nou Camp for real one day!



Creative Changemakers

Our Year 12 leaders loved the 'Creative Changemakers for Challenging Times' conference at Mulberry School for Girls. An inspiring panel of speakers and thoroughly engaging workshops. Thank you for the opportunity!



International Women's Day

Year 12 and Year 13 loved the talk they received from Katherine Hamilton about her novel 'Rising Warrior'. An inspirational and engaging talk. We hope to see her back again in the future. And our Afro-Caribbean society organised an inspirational talk from Rene Germain for our Year 11 students. Rene's inspiring talk about thriving as a young black person in the world today sparked so many thought-provoking conversations.



T Level Digital Trip

Our T Level Digital students spent time this week with the amazing engineering, construction, and interior design company Peldon Rose- based just down the road in Wimbledon .They loved the experience!

Life At Ursuline Sixth Form



Sylvia- Theatre Trip

Year 12 and 13 students went to the Old Vic Theatre this week and loved the production of Sylvia.

This revolutionary story celebrates the life of Sylvia Pankhurst – feminist, activist, pacifist, socialist, rebel – the lesser-known Pankhurst at the heart of the Suffragette movement, who changed the lives of working women and men across the world.



St Cecilia's Concert

Our Year 12 Merici Choir gave a phenomenal performance in our St Cecilia's concert. Well done to all involved!



Multicultural Evening

Some of our amazing Year 12 students who performed an afro-fusion dance at Multicultural Evening this term. They brought the house down!



Everyday Sexism!

Some of our Year 12 students travelled to Marymount International School London to hear Laura Bates talk about everyday sexism, men who hate women, and why we all need to speak out against misogyny. Very engaging, thought provoking and empowering.



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