



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2019-20



FROM THE HEADTEACHER

"We believe that by providing the best possible care, guidance and support for our students' academic and pastoral needs, every girl is enabled to be her best."



Dear Parents and Carers,

Here at the Ursuline we are very proud of our achievements and our strong sense of community and identity based on the charism of St Angela Merici.

We aim to develop confident and aspirational young women who are willing and able to seize new opportunities. An Ursuline student is: committed to her faith. She is kind, forgiving, generous of spirit and perseveres. She is enterprising, respectful of others, committed to developing her leadership skills and is an active member of her school and local community.

There has been an Ursuline School here in Wimbledon for 127 years and we are part of a worldwide network of Ursuline schools. As such we are proud to be providers of a modern global education focused on; academic excellence, service in the spirit of St Angela Merici, addressing individual needs and developing young women as leaders.

We have an engaging faith development programme led by our Chaplain. Excellent teaching is in place with outstanding opportunities for students to develop their skills. We offer a wide-ranging enrichment programme in Arts, Sports, Languages and Culture. We have a comprehensive student leadership programme with outstanding links with schools across the world.

Our parents and alumnae are fundamental to the success of all our students. Our strong partnership with parents ensures the highest standards of achievement and personal development.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Open Evening and Open Mornings.

Yours Sincerely,



Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA Headteacher



### **Grenfell 2nd Anniversary Service**



### **Multicultural Evening**



### **Hindu Temple Visit**



### Philanthropy



## **OUR ETHOS**

Serviam



#### **MISSION**

Inspired by the life and work of Saint Angela Merici, our Ursuline school commits itself to education for tomorrow's world within the dynamic tradition of Catholic belief and practice.

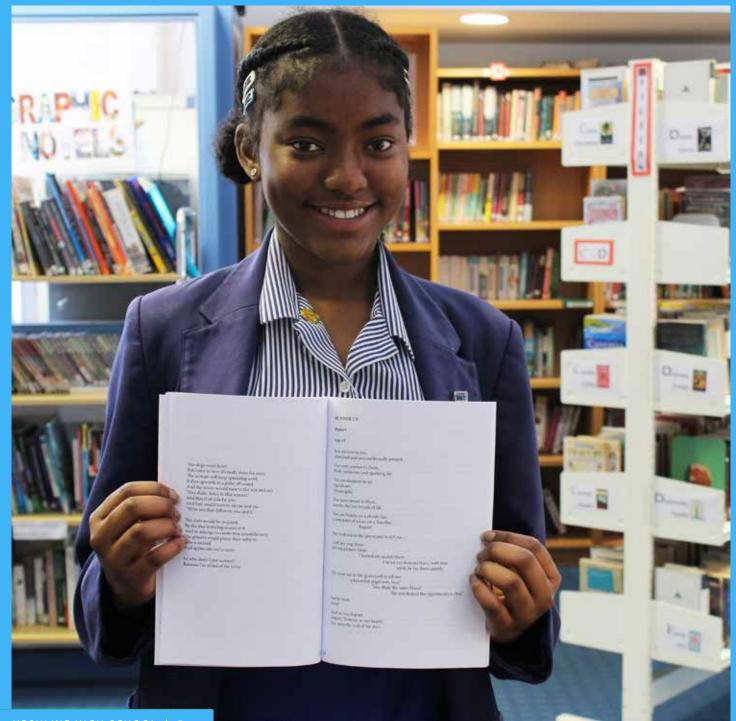
As a Christian community, characterised by a spirit of respect, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life, thereby fully developing each individual.

"Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart for without doubt you will see marvellous things."

St Angela, Prologue, Counsel 16-18

### **AIMS**

- Set standards of excellence in teaching and learning and to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum
- Develop personal qualities of understanding of self and others, self-discipline and motivation, responsibility, maturity, creative freedom and integrity
- Foster an attitude of respect for all regardless of age, race, colour, creed or gender
- Build peace, to promote justice, social concern and, through the celebration of difference, the equality of all people
- Widen horizons, to encourage a sense of commitment and service to the wider world, and to enable each one to go on learning and changing all through life



## **CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

**Achieve** 



Ursuline High School loves to reward success, we have celebration events for every year group where students are commended individually.

Ursuline High School is in the top 10% of schools nationally awarded for student progress and attainment. In 2018, 84.5% of students achieved five 9-4's including English and Maths (at Grade 4) in their Examination Results.

At the Ursuline, we celebrate every student's individual achievements. We also acknowledge and reward excellence in all areas of school life: academic standards, sport, music, drama and service in the spirit of Serviam.

Every year, a student in each year group is awarded the Student of the Year Award for academic excellence and there are prizes in every subject. Our most prestigious award is the Serviam Award, which is presented to the student who has best used her gifts and talents for the benefit of others.

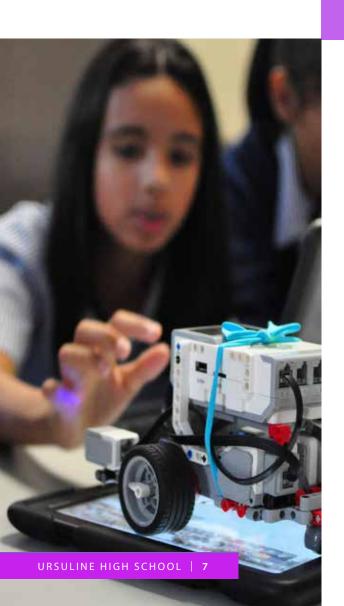
Due to our fantastic academic progress for all, we have been invited to join the Mayor of London's 'Schools for Success' programme as a shining beacon of inspiration to other schools.



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Inspire

We achieve outstanding results at
Ursuline High School through
challenging, engaging and consistently
memorable learning experiences.



Our highly skilled and diverse teaching staff are equipped with the latest pedagogical studies to support their exemplary subject knowledge. We have a clear, research informed policy on the best teaching methods to engage and enthuse our students with a love of learning. We are passionate about our craft and share this with our students.

In all lessons, we aim to develop the students' skills with particular focus on challenge and assessment for learning. Student feedback is really important to us. To support this, Learning Conferences are organised throughout the year for all year groups, according to their needs. This year conferences have primarily focused on developing study skills, revision techniques, memory and preparing for examinations.

In a world that is rapidly changing, our outward looking approach and continuous innovation in teaching enables us to deliver a modern, global education which prepares our students to take their place as successful young women.

"My teachers at the Ursuline are great. They really support me and help me to achieve fantastic grades. The school helps me develop lots of useful life skills that will help me with my career choices."

Student



"Our curriculum provision is designed with our Mission Statement and Leaver's profile at the heart of it. As well as enabling our students to achieve outstanding results, we support our students in becoming lifelong learners and successful women leaders in the twenty first century." Teacher

Every student is set a minimum target. This grade is based on prior attainment at the start of each Key Stage. Termly reports to parents monitor achievement, progress and effort. Parents can access their daughter's progress report on the school Progresso system using their own password.

Students are grouped according to prior attainment in English, French and Mathematics. In Science, this occurs in Year 8 onwards. The Foundation subjects students are taught in mixed ability groups. Teachers identify groups of individuals who need additional or different activities to challenge and aid learning.



## INDIVIDUAL LEARNING NEEDS

Support

"Providing a personalised approach to each student is key in ensuring they receive the type of support that is right for them, this gives them the confidence needed to truly shine.."

**SENDCO** 

#### LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The school has a designated teacher for children who are in the care of their Local Authority. They work in partnership with the child's social worker to produce a Personal Education Plan (PEP) to ensure that educational and social needs are met.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

At the Ursuline we aim to cater for the individual learning needs of all students in line with the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 Years. The students identified with additional needs are placed on the Learning Support Register at one of two levels: Educational Health Care Plan or Student with Additional Needs

There are four broad areas of need in which reasonable adjustments are made to support the young person;

- 1. Communication and interaction
- 2. Cognition and learning
- 3. Social, mental and emotional health
- 4. Sensory and/or physical

Students who have an EHCP receive extra support and guidance in some of their lessons from Teaching Assistants who work in partnership with the subject teacher to help students to access the curriculum. Where appropriate, students may also be withdrawn from some lessons for one to one or small group support on, for example, reading and writing skills, organisational skills and raising self-esteem. All students on the register have an SEND profile to inform subject teachers of the specific learning challenges so that they can differentiate their work accordingly. Extra support is given to students as deemed necessary and the progress of these students is co-ordinated and monitored by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO).

Students on the Special Educational Needs register may also need assessment and support from other professionals including the Educational Psychologist, the Learning and Behaviour team and the Social Inclusion Manager. Once again, these referrals are managed by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS**

At the end of Year 6, students on the SEND Register in their primary schools may be asked to complete a diagnostic test, this is to enable us to provide targeted support upon their arrival in Year 7.

This support may include reading intervention to raise their reading age, enabling them to access National Curriculum tests, and support with numeracy to embed basic numeracy skills.

## **CURRICULUM**

Wisdom

*Inspired by the life and work* of Saint Angela Merici, our Ursuline school commits itself to education for tomorrow's world within the dynamic tradition of Catholic belief and practice.



As a Christian community, characterised by a spirit of respect, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life, thereby fully developing each individual. The curriculum at Ursuline High School is more than just the subjects we teach.

Our curriculum is everything we do that develops our students into strong women leaders of the 21st Century. This is our mission. From our Chaplaincy work to our deep and enriching extra curricular programme, we take great care and pride in the personal development of our students to ready them for the next stage in their lives.

### **OUR CURRICULUM;**

- Supports and promotes our distinctive Catholic school ethos.
- Motivates & engages learners, helping them to succeed.
- Ensures that our students gain the knowledge and skills of literacy, numeracy, oracy & ICT they need for education, employment and life.
- Ensures that our students gain the personal skills such as teamwork, communication, and resilience they need for excelling outside of the school community.
- Enriches the students' learning through a wide array of memorable learning experiences.
- Encourages students to become lifelong learners.
- Enables students to make informed choices about the next stage in their education and life.
- Supports students in developing the characteristics and skills required to transition to the next stage of their education.
- Contributes positively to the students' physical, mental and personal well-being and safety.
- Enriches the students with a strong focus on deepening their cultural capital.

Our outstanding results, coupled with our strong values gives us a unique curriculum offer that will not be found anywhere else.



## WELCOME TO THE MEXT LEVEL



## WELCOME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

WELCOME TO THE NEXT LEVEL The gold standard.

T Levels are a brand new qualification designed to give you a head start towards the future you want.

They follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A Levels.

The 2-year qualification brings classroom and work placement together, on a course designed in collaboration with the best employers.

World class education.



# 80% CLASSROOM

200/0

## WORKPLACE

Work placement at a prestigious Digital Consultancy firm in central London.

You'll spend 80% of the time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement to equip you with the knowledge and skills companies are looking for.

Your T Level will help you to step straight into your chosen career, an apprenticeship or a degree.

Wherever your future is heading, take it to the next level.

We will be offering a T Level in Digital Production, Design and Development, from September 2020.

For more information, visit: gov.uk/dfe/t-levels



## **HOUSE SYSTEM**

Competition

St Angela Red

**St Bernadette** *Purple* 

St Catherine Green

**St Francis** *Orange* 

**St Margaret** *Pink* 

St Teresa Yellow

St Ursula Blue



There are 7 houses, each with a house colour which appears on the logo of the PE Kit shirt and on the House Captain's badge. Each form in Key Stage 3 nominates two House Captains who have roles and responsibilities for promoting and organising inter-form events with staff. House Captains receive the help and guidance of Sixth Form House Prefects and the School's House System Director.

Two Inter-House events will run every half term, one selected Inter-House Sport at lunchtimes and one other event within a different area of the curriculum. Students can earn points for their house in a variety of events. Events such as; sports, art competitions and Serviam activities. Inter-House debating competitions are held at the end of the year. The House with the highest total of points at the end of the year will be crowned House Champions at the Inter-House finale which is on Sports Day. The House information boards have information on events and an up to date score for House points.

## OUR FACILITIES

**Opportunity** 

We are very proud of all the outstanding array of facilities offered here and particularly overjoyed about our Morley Park playing fields which provide a much welcomed extension to our sports offer.

Governor



From specialist rooms for Food Technology lessons to ICT rooms for Computing and tranquil quad area (with outdoor seating) for chatting with friends at break-time, we have a campus which facilitates the optimum environment for learning.

We have a school supported tablet programme, to assist students with learning at school and at home. There is also a dedicated Learning Resource Centre (LRC) designed to further support students. It is well stocked- with over 12,000 books to choose from. Our recently refurbished St Angela's Centre houses all of our drama, art and music rooms, with an impressive gallery.

## URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS at Morley Park

The brand new playing fields and pavilion at Morley Park are just a short walk from the school grounds and are available to students (for use during P.E. lessons and other sporting activities). The facilities include football pitches, changing rooms and an indoor space for wet weather conditions. We are pleased to have expanded our sport offering to include activities such as cricket and rounders. They are a wonderful addition to the school facilities.



### **ENRICHMENT**

Widen Horizons

We publish our annual programme on our website and update this termly. Some of the enrichment activities at KS3 and KS4 include:

- Choir and Orchestra
- Science Club
- School productions such as Little Shop of Horrors and upcoming The Sound of Music
- Programming and Logistics Club
- Spartans Basketball Club
- A range of residential trips (such as Rome and the Ireland Surf Trip)
- Wimbledon Ball Girls
- History Club
- Writers' Circle (Creative Writing)
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Debating



Joining in the enrichment activities is part of the ethos of the Ursuline. The more your daughter participates and gives of herself, the happier and more successful she will be at school. Whatever your daughter's interests, she will find the opportunity to develop her talents and confidence through our Ursuline Enrichment programme.

Additionally, being involved in these activities will contribute to the schools house system and earn points towards the house cup. We believe that residential trips truly add to a students life. Our expectation is that all students will take part in an activity outside of the classroom. These experiences will enrich their lives, develop their skills and help them to enjoy school life to the full.



### DofE



### Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge



### Choir



### **Art Club**





## PASTORAL CARE

**Understanding** 

### **SUPPORTING STUDENTS**

Every young woman receives the highest possible standards of care, guidance and support as she moves through the school.

Tutors, Heads of Year and our Pastoral Support Assistants are foremost in supporting the personal development of your daughter. Our aim is for each student to achieve her full potential in school.

We also provide access to specialist staff and facilities to support students in need. Students have access to a counsellor, school nurse and well-being mentors who are trained in bereavement, health concerns, dealing with friendship issues and much more.

We also run a series of Parenting Support workshops focusing on raising girls, personal relationships, emotional health and managing stress at examination time.

"With extra pressures on young people today, supporting students well-being can be challenging... It's fantastic to be part of a Mental Health trailblazer.. investigating the best methods to achieve this including having Mental Health First Aiders in school in addition to the Pastoral teams."

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

**Aspire** 



"I love being a student leader because helping others to succeed makes me feel proud. The Ursuline encourages you to use you skills and talents to help others where you can."

Year 9 Student



### STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

We trust and listen to our students, as well as implementing their ideas. Students can impact on our school by applying to become Student Leaders and / or Members of the School Council.

The School Council has representatives from every Tutor Group who meet regularly throughout each school year. Each representative presents their ideas to their peers at the start of the academic year and elections are then held. In recent years, School Council have made improvements to many areas of the school. We have an increased focus on equality for all and challenging all aspects of discrimination. The school council has also campaigned successfully to help improve the environment within our school, the local community and globally.

Our Student Leadership Programme consists of students from years 7-10 working in teams on a number of projects across the school- linked to the priorities in the school improvement plan. In 2018 / 2019,196 students completed the Student Leadership Programme. The groups are facilitated by staff members, but run by the students. Year 10 Student Leaders are assigned to each group and undertake a Leadership Training Programme at the start of the year. They then take responsibility for coordinating the groups, leading meetings and liaising with the staff facilitator.

Student implemented projects include; Chaplaincy, Teaching and Learning, Digital Learning, Community, Public Speaking, Learning Resource Centre, Sports, Arts and Equalities. In the Sixth Form, the Head Girl team act as ambassadors speaking at a range of events. They also lead prefects and support students across the school in their own personally devised project.

## **COMMUNITY**

Invite and Welcome



#### **OUR LINKS**

We are continuously forging and embedding links in the local, national and international communities

- We have an established joint Sixth Form with Wimbledon College
- We have a special relationship with St Philomena's called the Avila Partnership
- We co-lead *Teach Wimbledon* in partnership with *Roehampton University* in training teachers
- We work collaboratively with our Merton Catholic Schools on transition issues and the curriculum
- We have links with a number of community organisations and schools including the Polish Saturday School and Mulberry School
- Our parish; The Sacred Heart

Our motto, Serviam - *I will serve*, is at the heart of our school ethos and we are strongly committed to promoting a culturally inclusive school environment through our ethos, curriculum, school visits and relationships with parents and links with partners in the local and global community. All groups of students are expected to participate. Robust systems are in place to ensure that the needs of the students from all backgrounds are met.

Performances and events such as the school production, the St Cecilia Concert, Art Exhibitions and Multicultural Evening provide opportunities for parents and students to celebrate both the arts and our diverse community.



## **EXTENDED LEARNING**

Beyond the Classroom



#### **CONFERENCES**

- International Women's Day #PressForPorgress
- Climate Crisis; Time to Act
- Education, Equality and Social Mobility (With Wimbledon College) in partnership with TEAM (GLOBAL)
- Transforming our Church and our World in partnership with Catherine of Siena College
- Our Future's Career Conference

## CORPORATE VISITS AND EXTENDED PROJECTS

- Lloyds Bank
- Young Journalist Scheme Local Guardian
- Accenture
- BHP Global Communities

Extended learning enables all our students to understand the relevance of what they learn in their lessons to their future and gives them the knowledge, skills and motivation to succeed. Our aim is that students leave the Ursuline as young women who have the confidence, skills, attitude and knowledge for success. Learning from female role models, including our amazing alumnae and professionals from all walks of life, develops students' skills for employment and raises their aspirations.

Extended Learning is achieved by providing opportunities and enrichment across the curriculum and year groups through a range of strategies from conferences in school and elsewhere, corporate visits, speakers in school and our SERVIAM and careers programmes. Students also hugely benefit from the Ursuline's extensive partnerships with organisations such as the Women of Achievement Ambassadors Programme, Covent Garden London, Wimbledon Bookfest and TEAM (Global).

Across this programme, students engage with professionals from diverse organisations; lawyers, doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, scientists, women from business and banking, engineers, journalists from TV and print media and many more.



### **FAITH**

### All of One Heart

Our Chaplain supports students in developing their faith. Each student is encouraged to use their talent, whether it is in music, drama, dance or ICT, to help others reflect and pray. Celebratory Masses and Advent Services are held as well as special services for Christmas, Holy Week and Ash Wednesday.

There are also opportunities for students to attend national events and conferences, and to participate in faith forming activities together with students from other Ursuline schools. Each year group takes part in a retreat day, in which different themes are developed in relation to personal development and faith. Speakers are invited to share their experiences.

Students across the school are actively involved in supporting charities. Both by raising money and by being active in the local community. Year 7 run a community Christmas tea party. Year 8 students participate in a Youth Philanthropy Project and the winning group secures £1,500 for a local charity. Year 9 participate in the Ursuline Links group, which supports social justice charities. Whilst Year 10 have the opportunity to join Youth SVP who provide support to local care homes.

Last year students raised money for charities. Local charities included; *Homestart Merton* and Children's Cancer. Internationally we have supported three schools; The Ursuline Tildonk School in the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Girls Technical School in Nigeria and *The Women's Education Partnership* in the Sudan. Students are encouraged to appreciate diversity and to build on the Gospel values of love, care, justice, peace, solidarity and respect.



## **PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT**

Collaboration

"We appreciate that every effort is made to celebrate successes, as a keen footballer our daughter loves the yearly Sports Awards Evening."

**Parent** 



"The Ursuline make you feel very included in your child's progression at school, staff are always on hand to promptly deal with any queries..."

#### **Parent**

At the Ursuline High School there are a number of ways in which we engage parents in supporting their daughters to develop into successful young women. Parents are given many opportunities over the year to meet with their daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress. We also provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughters live in through information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety and mental health. Our active Parents' Association supports the school in raising additional funds, supporting events and building community.

## INTERNATIONAL

The Wider World

"Our international links are interwoven in our school ethos and are vastly beneficial in enabling students to learn from others and develop an understanding of the wider world."

Teacher



## RESIDENTIAL TRIPS AND EXCHANGE VISITS

Year 7: Normandy Year 8: Rome

Year 9: Ypres, Belgium, Ireland

Year 9 & 10: Rome, Bayonne exchange, Berlin, Dallas and Valkenburg, Holland

New York and China Trips for KS4 & KS5

Opportunities to take a work placement abroad at KS5 if students choose to continue with French, German or Spanish at A Level.

We celebrate our rich and diverse community through a range of events throughout the year and are proud to continue to be awarded International School status by the British Council.

Over the past few years we have further strengthened our links with the global community and our students have taken part in cultural exchanges around the world. We currently have links with schools in the USA, Poland (partaking in our yearly exchange programme), France, and *The German School* in Richmond. Students also enhance their language learning by building friendships with pen pals from Germany, France and Spain.

A variety of international visits support students in specific curriculum areas, making a crucial link between the classroom and the outside world.

## **STUDENT VOICE**

### Listening

"It's so important that as young women we have a platform to speak out on issues that are important to us, such as the current anti-plastic campaign." Student

Students need to be empowered to propose and develop enterprising ideas to support the learning of all. As advocates for their own and others' needs, students can increase their confidence and motivation and develop their leadership skills.

Our elected School Council plays an extremely active part in school life. It is the responsibility of the Council to initiate ideas to support students' well-being and learning, respond to proposals from the Senior Leadership Team and raise issues and concerns. School Councillors also interview teaching candidates and represent the school at different events. Two members are elected as representative for the Merton Youth Parliament.

Current School Council projects include an equality action group, a road safety campaign in partnership with *Transport For London* and a 'one use' plastic campaign.



## **SIXTH FORM**

**Maturity** 

Students actively contribute to the school community and are invited to participate in leadership training in school council, chaplaincy programmes and community service. Our programme of enrichment includes: Science Gold Crest Awards, Cannon of English, *Duke of Edinburgh*, Art Portfolio, Student Societies and World Religions. There are multiple opportunities for travel through cultural enrichment trips and language exchange programmes, including New Orleans, New York, Beijing and Dallas.

"Ursuline Sixth Form is an exciting, rewarding and vibrant environment that enriches the lives of all our students and leads them to become aspirational young women with a solid understanding of what matters in life."

**Assistant Headteacher** 



### **WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

Our students take part in a range of interesting work shadowing and summer school placements which support their studies and aid their selection of appropriate career and higher education choices such as:

Cabinet Office; *Barclays*; St George's Hospital; BAE Systems; University of London; *Telegraph Media Group* as well as law firms, pharmacies, hospitals and schools

Ursuline Sixth Form prepares students for University, Apprenticeships and for long term career progression. We foster and support independent learning skills, and provide specialist support in order to gain places on students' chosen pathways.

The Sixth Form offers a programme for those students applying for *Russell Group* Universities including *Oxford* and *Cambridge*. We have outstanding careers provision including dedicated Oxbridge Co-ordinators and a Medical Co-ordinator, who support the students through the application and interview process. Students choose a wide range of courses, including Medicine, Biological and Physical Sciences, Business, Social Science, the Humanities and Computing.

## **CAREERS**

Education, Information, Advice and Guidance



**EMPLOYERS**It is imperative that all students have

encounters with employers, employees and experience the workplace. We are committed to prepare every student with knowledge and understanding of employability skills and their importance. We build on students' teamwork, communication, investigative and adaptability skills and help prepare them for the world of work.

"Through our independent support and guidance, we want our students to follow their passions, realise and make the most of their talents and have fulfilling and rewarding careers.."

### **Careers Lead**

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) at the Ursuline aims to help develop a young person's knowledge, understanding, confidence and skills that they need to make well informed, thought through choices and plans. We help all our students to plan and manage their careers effectively, ensuring progression which is ambitious and aspirational.

We provide person-centred, impartial and confidential careers information. It is integrated into students' experience of the whole curriculum and is based on a partnership with students and their parents or carers. We promote equality of opportunity, celebrate diversity and challenge stereotypes. (Our policy is guided by the Gatsby benchmarks identifying the elements of good practice in career guidance).





"The career talks are great, we get to hear from lots of different speakers, the sessions are never boring.. I've been introduced to so many careers I never even knew existed!"

Student

### **EVENTS**

The Ursuline arranges a variety of events and activities from Year 7 through to Year 13 where students can meet representatives from businesses, education, voluntary organisations and former students for inspiration and guidance in a wide range of career areas.

Regular events involve external participants including lunchtime careers talks, STEM ambassadors, networking events, conferences, workshops and careers panels with employers and Alumnae. All our events aim to motivate our students by opening their eyes to the opportunities available to them after school and by enabling them to understand the connection between what they learn at school and success in their futures.

### **OUR CAREERS PROGRAMME**

The Careers Lead and advisors are available in the well-resourced careers library to advise and support any student. Students in any year group are able to ask for information and advice and can make an individual appointment. There is an extensive Careers programme in place from Year 7- 13 where students explore the world of work and develop their understanding of employability skills, hear from speakers and interview employers. In Year 10 preparation is made to create a formative pathway for Sixth From, college or apprenticeships. In Year 11, every student has a careers interview and completes work experience to enable them to apply the skills they have learnt in school in a real work environment.

We strongly encourage students to consider STEM pathways through extra-curricular clubs and student conferences. We also have opportunities from universities including Oxford and Cambridge University and work with medical schools.. All students have information and advice on the many Post 18 opportunities from school leaver programmes, apprenticeship and Degree Apprenticeships. We host key external speakers in all fields and are continually developing and expanding our business relationships and encourage parents to get involved and support.





## 'I Will Serve'

Ursuline High School Crescent Rd Wimbledon London SW20 8HA

020 8255 2688

**F** 020 8255 2687

**W** ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk