

## Ursuline High School Parents' Comments

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- The process of settling into the High School was made much easier by the care & understanding of the PSA & HOY. This caring attitude was extended throughout the school, from the Student Services staff to the young ladies in the Sixth Form who mentored her. Truly the embodiment of the Catholic family ethos & way of life & one I am truly grateful for
- Since joining UHS my daughter has become far more aware of her religion & its importance in our society
- An excellent school with dedicated, professional staff who motivate & inspire
- My daughter started at UHS in September. In that short time we can see she is developing a strong sense of perspective, justice & fairness as a direct result of what she sees & learns in school. A recent situation was handled with a great deal of sensitivity & my daughter learnt to be tolerant towards others & to show kindness & understanding because this was how the school dealt with the situation. She is becoming open minded & learning well considered choices in moral issues & to consider a wider framework of thinking which is firmly based in Christian values. We feel our daughter is developing her understanding of the world in a well-rounded & educated way, & is developing a moral perspective which is underpinned by a Christian Catholic perspective. She has a positive attitude of her femininity & self-respect which is very much a reflection of the ethos of the School
- Top school for development, high academic standard in a healthy religious environment
- My child has had a wonderful start in her secondary school
- Our daughter settled very easily into Year 7 as a result of a very thorough & inclusive induction process. The pastoral support is excellent. The school has a very strong sense of community & our daughter is very proud to be part of it. She has thrown herself into a variety of activities, including leading Morning Prayer & the Student Leader programme. UHS is an excellent school
- Excellent participation in school/parish/community encouraged through Serviam Passport. Parents in Year 7 invited to participate in events eg commissioning service & Carol service. Year 7 focus on life of St Angela & St Ursula. Very good for securing their idea of service. A caring inclusive school with a strong Catholic ethos
- My daughter has settled into the School very quickly & it definitely feels as if she has been there longer than four months. We are particularly impressed with the pastoral care & the Serviam induction programme. My daughter enjoys the challenge of fundraising for local charities & has been encouraged to pursue this through regular events. I have also noted that my daughter's target grade in RE has already been set as 7a for the end of KS3. We have no doubt that the rigorous teaching & assessments throughout the next three years will help her to achieve this target
- Fantastic Catholic School with Serviam at its absolute heart – really wonderful

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- This is my first child to attend secondary school. I have been impressed by the openness of the school & the good communication with home. UHS is very caring & has made us, as a family, feel very welcome from the moment we received the acceptance letter. A real strength of the school is its relationships, with the staff all caring & concerned for my daughter's welfare as well as academic progress. RE lessons are stimulating & enjoyable if my daughter's results are to be believed. She looks forward to the subject as one of her favourite lessons of the week & discusses what she has learnt at home. As a Catholic parent I am delighted with UHS
- My daughter is already showing an increased knowledge and understanding of the Serviam ethos
- My child is in Year 7, so hard to judge. I hope my child will celebrate her faith rather than go along with what is expected as a Catholic child as they tend to tire by their teens
- The school's motto of Serviam is certainly at the centre of the School's ethos. The girls fully embrace this
- Our daughter has been at UHS for one-and-a-half years. We believe the School has provided her with an exceptional level of practical, emotional & spiritual support through a difficult time & that this capacity stems from the religious values of UHS & its interest in nurturing & developing not just in performance & league tables. When we were considering schools ... our judgement at the time was not only that UHS was the best for our daughter, but was also the best school. Our experience of the school since then has confirmed that view. The core of its excellence is its Catholic dimension and Ursuline values
- Am delighted with the progress my daughter has made since joining UHS
- I have been very impressed with the emphasis placed on the Serviam passport programme within the School. The focus is not just on the academic side of the girls' development but on the invitation & encouragement to get involved in the larger society. This is honoured & praised at UHS. It gives the School a dimension that other schools do not have. Overall I am very pleased with the Catholic life of the School & my girls' involvement in that. The teachers under Ms Waters do an excellent job
- Disappointed/shocked at the amount/level of social discussions on mobile phones at such a young age. Not blaming School but think it could let the girls know how inappropriate this is as well as offensive. My daughter has had to delete several contacts on BBM on my request!
- I am delighted with our daughter's progress. She will study RE at A level & I am confident of a high grade
- I am so pleased are given so many opportunities to serve the community & build a strong awareness of social problems others face both in their own community, in the wider society & globally

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- Good all round religious Catholic education for the children that is applied to their daily lives
- I am not sure that if my daughter was not part of a practising Catholic family that she would have the knowledge of and the commitment that she has. She says that the majority of her classmates do not attend Mass & are sadly ignorant of matters of faith. I believe that UHS is a good school but it does not teach the faith in the way I would have expected. My sons attend another school in another borough and their RE teaching is vastly superior.
- Despite my daughter questioning her faith during her teenage years, the RE teachers have been so supportive in allowing her to express her opinions whilst also keeping her open to the beliefs I would hope a Catholic school would instil in my daughter. I really appreciate the lack of judgement on their part & at the same time I appreciate the religious support
- It would be good to have some regular volunteering initiatives for those who want it! There must be some gaps we can plug – just some simple ideas. There is a good deal of pressure for girls to achieve target grades. This is very admirable but also important for girls to find staff approachable. 'Bottom up' communication generates ideas & innovation. The experience at UHS is that RE teaching is very informative & that teachers are approachable. In fact, this stands out. However, with GCSE exams the school needs to watch out that these are not taken at too young an age as important topics require maturity
- We are extremely happy with the pastoral care & personal attention the staff give to students. The calibre of academic tuition is good. Some teachers are exceptional
- I have had a lot of support from the teachers regarding problems my daughter faces with depression/eating disorder. I am very grateful for that. The RE teaching & debating at GCSE level was excellent. My daughter discussed it at home with lively interest. The school manages to strike a very difficult balance in being Catholic & committed to RC values, while preparing students for life in a very secular society outside school
- The School's very strong Catholic ethos was one of the reasons why we chose it for our daughter, even though we live in Thames Ditton (some distance), have excellent local schools & our choice has meant a daily train journey for our daughter. It is a choice we have never regretted – our daughter chose to become a Eucharistic Minister & is a young woman we are extremely proud of. A fact due, in no small degree, to the caring, strong Catholic ethos at the School & its teachers & leadership
- The School works very well with parents, students & parish. The students are encouraged regularly in 'Serviam' & have a sense of responsibility towards themselves & others

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- I've been very impressed with the School. It's very well organised & the girls are challenged both academically & personally to do their best. The School's ethos & mission are excellent. The girls are given wonderful opportunities to serve others & experience new things (such as trips abroad to Dallas, China etc.) The spiritual guidance the girls receive is also excellent and the Chaplain takes an interest in church activities outside the School, attending Masses, Catholic & religious events at local churches
  
- The level of 'Serviam' that both my daughters have been involved in & supported with is outstanding. My daughter in Y13 does a lot in school but has also been supported in:
  - Attending Lourdes as an HCPT Volunteer in the Easter holiday
  - Attending a special school as a voluntary supporter on a weekly bases on her free afternoon
  - Coaching netball weekly to Merton students from all schoolsMy daughter in Y11 is equally involved. The School has supported her endeavour to raise money to support a trip & work in Nepal in the summer holiday, where she will be working with deaf & mute students. She has been engaged in helping the elderly & a wide variety of 'Serviam' activities. The School has a strong Catholic ethos which is embedded – Student Services ringing home to check on vulnerable students, liaison between staff to help all students, Masses, PSHE days, some outstanding retreats
  
- UHS continues to be an outstanding school in its delivery of all aspects of education. In particular the development of 'Serviam' has been very successful; 'Serviam' is an integral aspect of daily school life. The girls have been taught the concept of 'Serviam' & are acknowledged in their attempts to put the concept into action