



**URSULINE HIGH  
SCHOOL**

Welcome to  
**Year 8**  
Information  
Evening



# Welcome

Mr Kelly  
Headteacher

Mr Adam Deputy Head Teacher  
Mrs Alexander Deputy Head Teacher

Mr Barton  
Assistant Head Teacher for year 8

Ms Torode  
Head of Year





URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

THEME 2023-24

# “Pilgrims of faith”

Year 8 virtues:

Autumn term - Listening

Spring term - Compassionate

Summer term- Faith Filled



# Our aim





**Gracious God,  
Let us remain in harmony,  
United together;  
All of one heart and one will.  
Let us be bound to one another  
By the bond of love,  
Respecting each other,  
Helping each other,  
And bearing with each other  
In Jesus Christ.  
For if we try to be like this,  
Without doubt,  
You, Lord God,  
Will be in our midst.  
Amen**





# The Y8 Team

8 Angela	Miss Rachel Williams	<a href="mailto:rachel.williams@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">rachel.williams@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Bernadette	Mr Francois Pachins	<a href="mailto:francois.pachins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">francois.pachins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Catherine	Miss Rosamund Hawkins	<a href="mailto:rosamund.hawkins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">rosamund.hawkins@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Francis	Ms McHale & Miss McErlain (Tue)	<a href="mailto:laura.mchale@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">laura.mchale@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:tiffany.mcerlain@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">tiffany.mcerlain@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Margaret	Mr Ian Chiswa	<a href="mailto:ian.chiswa@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">ian.chiswa@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Teresa	Mrs Georgina Gibson	<a href="mailto:georgina.gibson@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">georgina.gibson@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>
8 Ursula	Miss Carys Surbey	<a href="mailto:carys.surbey@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk">carys.surbey@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</a>

# Parent Engagement & Communications

- The Ursuline High School is committed to ensuring parents are engaged in supporting their daughter's academic progress and personal development.
- Parents are given many opportunities over the year to meet with their daughters' teachers and tutors to discuss their progress, and in addition receive regular progress reports.
- We also provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughter's live in, through resource sharing, information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety and mental health.
- In addition, we are committed to effectively communicating with our parents and carers about school life and news and we use a range of mediums including our parent app (Weduc), email, website, information meetings, communications from the Head and other staff, our suite of newsletters and social media.
- We communicate with both primary and secondary parents/carers, however there are some exceptions including consent forms and parent meeting bookings as we need to avoid receiving two responses. In these cases, we email primary carers only.
- Please ensure that you let us know if your details change.
- In addition to Weduc, we use several other portals to support various elements of our students' learning journeys, including Arbor (which replaced Progresso last year for records and reports), Evolve (Consent forms and trips), and ParentPay (lunches).
- Lastly, if you're on Instagram or Twitter and you don't already follow us, please do - we have an active presence on both, where we share lots behind the scenes content. You can find us @uhswimbleton.



# Weduc

- As you will all know, Weduc is our communications tool and is accessible via app or web portal.
- We use Weduc to share form, year and school wide communications. In addition, parents can use Weduc to report an absence, view historical absence records, read our newsfeed and access quick lines to our website and other portals.
- The majority of our parents/carers are now using Weduc and enjoying the benefits.
- If you haven't already enrolled and would like to, email our IT Team who will send you an enrol code.
- To ensure you do not miss messages from us, many of which are urgent and important, we recommend Weduc app users enable notifications. Weduc web portal users cannot enable notifications and we therefore ask that you log in daily. To help ensure you don't miss any messages, web portal users will also receive duplicate messages to their email mailbox
- Parents who do not wish to enrol will receive communications to their email mailbox.
- Visit the [Parent Portals](#) page of our website to access our Weduc FAQs.
- Any technical queries regarding Weduc (or any of our other portals), should be directed to [ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)





# Y8 Pastoral Workshops for Parents

28<sup>th</sup> September – Webinar: How to support teenage mental health. 6-7pm

6<sup>th</sup> November – Parent workshop to support SEND students – Mrs Jefferies 6-6.30pm

8<sup>th</sup> February – Webinar: Social media 6-7pm

24<sup>th</sup> April – Webinar: Exam stress 6-7pm

6<sup>th</sup> June – KS3 Relationships and Healthy Lifestyles 6-7pm

19<sup>th</sup> June - Parent workshop to support SEND students – Mrs Jefferies 6-6.30pm

20<sup>th</sup> June – Webinar: Online image 6-7pm

# Attendance and Punctuality

- We want the students to be in school wherever possible.
- We must know if your daughter is not attending by 8.45am as this is a safeguarding duty - either by phone or email  
[Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) 02039083144
- The school's attendance target is 96%
- We monitor all students, and if your daughter has an attendance below 94% you will be sent a letter
- Students with excellent attendance have a much higher chance of succeeding socially and academically .
- Punctuality is monitored daily, and at the beginning of October, any student who is late will receive a 30 mins detention on that day, the student and the parent will be notified by email by 11am, failure to attend will result in a Friday detention for an hour.
- If your daughter needs to leave school early, or is coming in late after an appointment, please email  
[Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk) and ask her to bring the proof of the appointment.

# Travel To And From School

- Year 8 can use the buses to and from School
- Line up at the Arterberry road bus stop not the bottom of Crescent road
- Students must be considerate of our neighbours regarding noise and must never enter a resident's garden or sit on walls/railings
- No loitering in Wimbledon – no shops
- No more than 4 students together
- Travel carefully (e.g using crossings, avoiding use of airpods/headphones etc)

# Morley Park

- Year 8 travel for PE to Morley Park
- Students line up in Brescia quad, are registered and then escorted to the playing fields
- Students must remain with the group and following the instructions of the staff member at all times
- Students do not have access to the canteen at breaktime on the days they have PE so should bring a suitable snack
- Failure to follow these instructions is a major safeguarding breach and will result in withdrawal from PE at Morley Park



# A research informed curriculum and pedagogy.

**A research informed curriculum means that we use the latest research and evidence to ensure best teaching practice for Ursuline students.**

**This involves:**

- ❖ **The use of retrieval practice to embed knowledge in long term memory.**
- ❖ **Feedback in a variety of styles that deepens the learning. Students are expected to act on this.**
- ❖ **Modelling and scaffolding of work.**
- ❖ **Ambitious and challenging curricula designed by subject specialist leads. Expect your daughter to struggle at times and get things wrong. This is how we learn.**



# In essence.

- Students will:
  - » Learn
  - » Remember
  - » Apply.

## Staff will:

- Plan and deliver engaging lessons.
- Identify gaps in knowledge and understanding and close those gaps through targeted support.
- Know your daughter so they can deliver the right teaching practice to support her learning.





# Accessing This Information

- [www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](http://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)
- Click useful links on the right-hand side
- Enter username and password (distributed to you directly from Arbor on your school email). You will be asked to change your password termly.
- If you have more than one child, you will be able to access all details concerning all your daughters.
- Link to Yr8 Curriculum guide is here

[Year-8-Curriculum-Guide-2023-.pdf](#)  
[ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](http://ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)





# Social Media

Whilst 13 continues to be the legal age limit for now, there is enough evidence to suggest that social media should be delayed until much later. The US Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy, recently published his Advisory [which issues an urgent and extraordinary public warning](#) that social media poses “a profound risk of harm”.

To keep our children physically and emotionally safe, it is essential they are media literate, and have boundaries. Holding regular discussions within the household about online safety so children are clear on the challenges and dangers they will face, and how echo chambers and the algorithm work is key. We also hold regular discussions at school as part of our PHSEC curriculum.

For those of you with children not on social media we would ask you to follow the advice of experts and consider delaying.

If and when you allow your teens access to social media, then we would encourage parents to follow advice from the experts and agree family rules, including using parent controls, setting screen limits, removing phones from bedrooms especially during homework time and at night, password sharing, turning location settings off on certain apps, following your child’s accounts, and regularly mixing up the algorithms.

Further information together with a list of resources is on our website and includes but is not limited to: Lisa Damour (listen to Episode 54 of her ‘Ask Lisa’ podcast: How and when do I give my kid a phone, [National Online Safety](#), [Jessica Chalmers \(The Social Jess\)](#), [Protect Young Eyes](#), [Thinkuknow.co.uk](#), [The NSPCC](#) and [Wait Until the 8<sup>th</sup>](#). All these resources have value adding parent focused websites and social media accounts. We also strongly recommend watching The Social Network (Netflix) as a family – with interviews from industry experts it explores the dangerous human impact of social networks and the power of the algorithm. [The Social Media and Youth Mental Health Advisory Report](#) from the US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy is also a very valuable and insightful read.

Thank you for your support with managing the online safety and wellbeing of our children - the more we work together the better the outcome will be.



# What Can We Do?

- Recognise the risks - has an 12-13 year old got the emotional maturity to handle them?
- Limit the time spent on electronic devices and remove them in the evenings/night.
- Know what she is doing online – open space at home for access
- Know logins and passwords
- School monitoring of devices – even at home (e-forensics)

# Risky Behaviour

- Vaping is normalised on social media platforms and branding of these products is appealing to teenagers.
- There is a widespread perception among teenagers that nicotine suppresses appetite and therefore vaping can help with weight control/loss – this is addressed via PSHEC
- Pressure to attend gatherings (local parks, Wimbledon Common, unsupervised homes) increases from Y8 onwards. Do you know where your child is when not with you and who is supervising them?
- Set very clear boundaries about acceptable, safe behaviour outside school with friendship groups and maintain regular contact.

# Safeguarding Team

Leading  
with justice



**Ms Rachael Gilmore**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mental Health Lead

Faith-filled  
& hopeful



**Ms Kerry Connor**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Ethos and Behaviour  
Safeguarding Officer

geous &  
tient



**Ms Jo Wild**  
Wellbeing Co-Ordinator  
Safeguarding Officer



insitme  
toq.



**Ms Sarah McCourt**  
Year 8 & 9 Pastoral Assistant  
Safeguarding Officer



**Ms Danielle Boateng**  
Care Coordinator  
Safeguarding Officer

# Enrichment RH

- It is our expectation for all students to be involved in extracurricular activities.
- Tutors will monitor their extra-curricular to help students who may find it challenging to engage.
- A link to the enrichment programme can be found here.
- [Enrichment - Ursuline High School](#)
- Please go through with your daughter to identify enrichment she would like to engage in – there are lots to choose from.

# Where Can I Get Practical Advice?

- [Starting secondary school - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health/2014/08/140814_parents_guide_to_tech.shtml)
- [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>



# Further parental support

- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Commonsensemedia](#) provide independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents
- [Government advice](#) about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- [Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [London Grid for Learning](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Lucy Faithfull Foundation StopItNow](#) resource can be used by parents and carers who are concerned about someone's behaviour, including children who may be displaying concerning sexual behaviour (not just about online)
- [National Crime Agency/CEOP Thinkuknow](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Parentzone](#) provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online

**Ms Torode**

Head of Year 8

0203 908 31700

[Anne-lise.torode@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:Anne-lise.torode@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)



**Thank you for your time  
this evening!**

