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Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls  
Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA  
020 8255 2688 / [www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](http://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer A Week 3**

We welcomed the month of May this week, traditionally the month Catholics devote to celebrating and honouring 'Our Lady, Mary the Mother of Jesus.' We don't know for definite why May is associated with Mary but it has been a tradition for centuries and we are celebrating and recognising this in our Liturgies and Collective Worship this month. The School Chaplaincy team attended a Retreat today at Westminster Cathedral and we look forward to finding out how these students engaged and enjoyed the Retreat.

GCSEs and A Levels have begun with Speaking exams in Languages and Art timed exams this week. Full formal written exams in GCSE begin next week and A Levels the week after. As a school, we have been gearing up to this season of exams and we are prepared and ready to go. Year 13s and Year 11s have completed their evaluations of their chosen subjects which we will reflect on and respond to. There have also been many final events taking place.

### **Highlights of the Week**

Year 11 marked the end of KS4 Curriculum lessons and Form Groups this week in a series of events celebrating this milestone in their formal education. On Wednesday, a Reflection Service of Celebration was held which students co-constructed and delivered. Today, being the last timetabled lessons of the year, was an opportunity to wish our Year 11 good luck for the exams. There was shirt signing, video messages and a community parade through the school as other students cheered as our Year 11s went on their way to begin independent study for the exam period.

### **Focus areas for next week**

With the start of exam season next week, we ask all students to understand the importance of thinking about others. Students will need to be encouraging and supportive of our students in Year 11 and Year 13 as they sit important Public Examinations. Students not taking exams are being encouraged to be self-aware and regulate their voices and behaviour throughout the school as exams are being hosted in the Main hall and in other rooms throughout the school. This is most significant in and around lesson times especially lesson change over, break times and after school. Exam timetables do not follow school schedules.

### **Some upcoming events & dates**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May Y12 Level 2 Leavers' Service

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May Year 13 Leavers' Mass at Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May Merton Borough Athletics Competition Part 1 at David Weir Leisure Centre, Carshalton 4-6pm.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 9-3.30pm Merton Borough Athletics Competition Part 2 at David Weir Leisure Centre

-1-





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### News and announcements

Parents are encouraged to keep a look out on the school website if they are interested in administrative or teaching jobs in our wonderful school. Currently we have vacancies, so please consider or spread the word to others who might be interested in coming to join our community.

### Newsletters

[Catholic Life newsletter](#) which captures highlights and celebrations of our Catholic ethos throughout Spring Term. Our Sixth Form Newsletter can be found [here](#).

### Parent and Carers Resources

The National Crime Agency alerted schools this week to the significant rise in cases of Sextortion.

We have put together some resources below which will help you to educate yourself further on this topic and start a conversation with your child.

<https://noescaperoom.org/>: a must watch interactive experience that plunges parents and caregivers into the reality of financial sextortion launched recently by the US National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children. Read more about the [video](#) here.

[‘It can happen to any child’: parents of sextortion victim send out warning | Children | The Guardian](#)

[We need to talk about... Sextortion - by Emilie Silverwood \(substack.com\)](#)

-2-





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Year 11 received a thanksgiving and gratitude leavers service on Wednesday, their last official school day today was brought to a (tearful) close with shirt signing, watching staff video messages, and a joyous clap out from Year 7 and 10. Wishing Year 11 all the best in their GCSE exams starting next week.



Ahead of their final day on 8<sup>th</sup> May, we rounded up Year 13 for a last group photo to mark the end of a fantastic two years in the sixth form. They have been such fantastic ambassadors for lower school.

-3-







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**Our U15 Basketballers were in action at Ricards Lodge on 1st May winning 21-38. Fantastic teamwork all round from everyone. Well done. Player of the Match: Stephanie.**



**A smashing start for our Y9/10 Tennis Team with a solid 4-8 win away at Tiffin Girls School in the London Tennis Association's Surrey Schools Div2D this week.**

-4-





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### Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Newsletters](#) – school-wide, year group, and Catholic Life

[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)

[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, and Weduc – Parent Guides & FAQs

[Safeguarding, Health & Well-being](#) (please note that this section is currently undergoing an overhaul).

[Sancta Familia Consultation](#)

[Term Dates 2023/2024](#)

[Term Dates 2024/2025](#)

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

**Eoin Kelly**  
**Headteacher**

-5-

