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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)

10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

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

Well the exams are underway! The GCSE written papers got underway this week with Religious Education on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. I was incredibly impressed with the confident demeanour of the Year 11 who appeared primed and focused. There is a tangible resilience and courage in these young people which bodes really well for the future for all of us. Also on Wednesday this week the Year 7s had a whole day conference together when they participated in the National Careers Challenge. I had to pinch myself to remind myself I wasn't in the EXCEL centre or the NEC when I witnessed the level of enthusiasm and participation. I was even more delighted later in the day when Cliodhna and her group of friends in 7B, Ariella, Maddison, Bella, Claudia and Cara wrote to me to tell me that I needed to plan their follow up trip to Yorkshire to complete in the National finals! They advised me in how I could use their future accomplishments to promote the school as a place where winners are made, the confidence and leadership is impossible to ignore in our young leaders.

### **Highlights of the Week**

This week the school and staff received lots of messages from Year 13 students, and also their parents/carers, as they finished formal scheduled lessons and enter the season of exams. These messages have a much more significant and lasting impact on the staff and the school in what can be at times a challenging job. The messages are affirming of the impact in committing to a vocational career, so thank you to parents. I spoke to the parents at the end of the Celebration Mass at Sacred heart parish Church on Wednesday evening, when I said, 'thank you for trusting your most precious children to us over the last 7 years, thank you for your patience and accompaniment when we didn't get it right and for your gratitude when we did'. Sister Dorothy sat with me on Wednesday and she was full of praise of those gathered together in the church when she said, "this is the future of our Church and it is amazing"

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

Please check the Jewellery students are setting off to school wearing. We have had to confiscate significant earrings this week which student's have been taking off at the gates then putting in again later in the day. This is an unnecessary waste of time and accumulation of sanctions for a really basic expectation. Please check your daughter's planner for the Uniform code.

We continue to insist on the need for silence in and around the exam Halls in consideration of the students sitting public exams. The first day compliance was exceptional but at the end of the week some students had already forgotten the expectations.

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### Some upcoming events & dates

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm Year 12 Level 2 Leavers' Service

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 5pm Year 13 Leavers' Mass at Sacred Heart Church

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

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

### News and announcements

The joint Ursuline and St Philomen's RCIA catechesis programme appeared in the Tablet this week. Please take a look <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/18713/catechesis-programme-in-schools-inspires-teacher-conversions>

well done to Tara in year 13 who was successfully nominated to receive an award from Merton Council a the Civic Pride Volunteer awards in June 2024. This is in recognition of her role as a volunteer at Wimbledon Library where she runs a board game club every Saturday. Serviam in the community, well done Tara.

### 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

You will no doubt be aware of the increasing national discussion on the role on a impact of smartphones on Childhood and young people. We do not allow the use of mobile phones in years 7 to 11 anywhere on school and the rules are clear on this. Any phone not switched off and placed securely in a locker will be confiscated if seen. We ask all parents to support the school in not challenging this rule. In addition we share with you below some topical references for you to view to enable you to have your own conversations at home on the impact of smartphones.

Please take a look at the '[smartphone free childhood](#)' campaign.

Also Jonathan Haidt's book and campaign '[The Anxious Generation](#)', recognises that this is a current topic of conversation amongst parents', educators, and media, we all need to remain updated and engaged with the conversation.

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**GCSE's have started this week and Year 11 have benefited from a smooth and focused start to their exams, we pray this continues. Wishing them all the best of luck!**



**Year 13 enjoyed an emotional last day on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May with their last official assembly, in which they heard from myself, Ms Hollis, my previous Head Leadership Team: Layla and Eirinn, and were presented with various awards and accolades. Congratulations to Donita who was presented with the very special Serviam Award. A special thank you to Layla and Eirinn who were a joy to work with.**





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The Year 13's last day was brought to a close with a poignant Year 13 Leavers Mass and celebration at Sacred Heart Church with our Ursuline Community which was greatly enjoyed by all.



Year 7 took part in National Careers Challenge lead by The Inspirational Learning Group on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The challenge looked at how local businesses could operate in a more eco-friendly way to benefit our environment.



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**We held our Feast of the Ascension Mass on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, I was very impressed by the reverence and attentiveness of our students.**

### 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**

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