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Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

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

24th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer A Week 2

We still wait for the weather to warm up a little and feel like we are actually in the summer term but despite this the school was a flurry of activity and endeavour as usual this week. Year 7 and 8 students had their final assessment week in advance of the end of year tests and students have clearly been focusing hard in their lessons and at home. We welcomed the parents and carers of Year 8 students to the school on Thursday evening and I, once again, had the chance to share many of the successes and achievements in the year group.

On Monday 22nd April a large number of Year 11 students attended a production of Macbeth in the evening, staff from the English faculty organised and led this trip which I hear was not just a fantastic performance but also a really useful revision opportunity ahead of the GCSE Literature paper this summer.

Congratulations to Kyra, a Year 12 student studying Digital T Level. Kyra has been successful at securing a globally competitive placement on a Summer programme at Harvard University, USA. We look forward to hearing from Kyra on her return. Congratulations also to Ellaria in Year 13 who has been working very hard outside of School to encourage 18-year-olds to register to vote in the upcoming elections on Thursday 2nd May. She has worked with a charity organisation involved in electoral services in Hammersmith and Fulham and also delivered assemblies to all Year 13s expressing the importance of having your voice heard via the polling booth. We understand she is going to be filmed at the polling station as she registers her own vote.

Highlights of the Week

The Year 8 Philanthropy project culminated with a big presentation in the hall today, Friday 26th April. The presentations and leadership qualities of Year 8 students today were stunning. More details to follow next week on the results of the project but so far, the project has succeeded in generating £8424 funding for all the charities involved. This is a staggering and truly remarkable figure, smashing all previous records and is testament to the passion and energy of all the Year 8s involved.

The Ursuline High School in conjunction with St Philomena's High School, Carshalton and the Archdiocese of Southwark have co-constructed and run an RCIA programme for the purposes of welcoming into the Church adult members of staff working in our Catholic schools. Congratulations to Mr Nichols and Mr Barton who have both completed the programme, formally engaged in the sacramental journey and welcomed into the faith by Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East. Families and staff took part in these services culminating last week with a Mass in the Church of St Philomena's school. This special and unique programme began 2 years ago and provides an important avenue for committed staff in our Catholic schools to journey in their personal faith journey alongside their commitment to Catholic education.

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Focus areas for next week

We ask parents and carers not to contest or challenge the school when mobile phones are confiscated when students fail to conform with this most basic expectation. Doing so wastes time and effort of staff in managing these communications. The rules are clear, mobile phones must be turned off and secured in lockers and cannot be used on site. Student Services will support with any communication to or from your daughter about important messages in the school day. If a mobile phone is confiscated and parents and carers wish to remain in contact with their daughter on the way home, we will provide a standard school mobile phone for this on request during the period of confiscation.

Some upcoming events & dates

Y12 A Level internal exams (UHS Only) continue in the USFC until 2nd May
Monday 29th April - Year 8 Teresa Form Retreat P1-2 in Chapel
Tuesday 30th April – Year 8 Ursula Form Retreat P1-2 in Chapel/Year 7 Parents' Revision Evening for Internal Exams in the Hall (6:00pm)
Wednesday 1st May – Year 8 Francis Form Retreat P1-2 in Chapel/Play Your Way to Wimbledon Tennis Competition 9am-1pm at UHS
Thursday 2nd May - A-Level Art Exam/Year 8 Catherine Form Retreat P1-2 in Chapel/
French Exchange Parents' Information Evening (6pm)
Friday 3rd May – Year 12 Back in Lessons/A Level Art Exam/Chaplaincy Retreat: Westminster Cathedral & Victoria Gardens (9.30-2.30)/School Council (2pm)

News and announcements

An important letter was distributed to all parents and carers on Wednesday morning at 8:15am which outlines the school's response to an allegation about a staff member. I refer you once again to this letter and if you have not received this directly to your mailbox, please contact the school and this will be shared with you. There are no further updates at this time, and we thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

We must remain on message about the school rules and expectations apply students travel to and from school and in uniform. Any behaviour which brings the school into disrepute in the community will be dealt with in application of our school policies and expectations.





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Year 10 students were provided with a taste of what it is like to be a stock trader at their Stocks and Shares Challenge this week! Calculations have never been so crucial!



A huge congratulations to our six Ursuline students who represented a joint Wimbledon Rugby FC and Old Ruts Rugby U16 XV in their Surrey Rugby Cup final at Harlequins Stoop in Twickenham on 24th April. Although the WUTS led the way for a good portion of the game, they unfortunately lost 40-24.



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We thank Grace Feltoe of Gloria Dei:
The Musica Sacra Project for providing
students with a Sacred Music Workshop
in our Chapel on Thursday 25th April.



Congratulations to 8 Catherine who won this year's [First Give](#) Philanthropy Final and gained
an extra £1000 for their charity [Lives Not Knives](#).

Year 8 have absolutely smashed all previous year's philanthropy fundraising as a year group,
raising a grand total of £8424 so far. Amazing work everyone - well done!



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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

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