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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

28th June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer B Week 4

What an incredible Friday to finish of a remarkable week. Sports Day was a fantastic occasion; despite having to relocate to Wimbledon Park, the full programme of events was delivered to a background crescendo of noise from supporting students. House winners St Francis took away the big prize this year as overall victors.

Unfortunately, I did not win the staff race, but I'm still aggrieved that the PE department have not introduced a handicap system to give older 'athletes!' like me a head start! I did manage to come forth and will not be slandered by allegations of a false start! Well done to all the students who prepared diligently and competed with passion and commitment representing their Forms and Houses. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended and to our staff body who worked together to deliver this professionally organised event.

More pictures available at [Sports Day](#)

On Thursday evening we hosted the A' Level and GCSE Art Exhibition. I cannot share pictures of this with you as a condition of the examination regulations, but I can assure you that the work can best be described as exceptional. Themes of equality and identity were presented in a range of mixed media with incredible technique on display.

Highlights of the Week

On Wednesday 45 of our students represented the Ursuline High School at the now annual Merton and Sutton Deanery Schools Mass celebrated in our mother church of Southwark Cathedral. Children and students from 14 schools celebrated the 'Year 6 Going forth' Mass marking the end of Primary and transition into secondary school. Fr Gerard Bradley, the Episcopal Vicar for the Archdiocese of Southwark, thanked all our communities for the 'extraordinary work' being done in our schools in preparing our young people for a life of faith. Representatives from Year 7 through to Sixth Form students participated and so inspired and reassured the Primary students about to embark in this move.

Focus areas for next week

The school policy on mobile phones and smart phones is really clear, they must not be used anywhere inside the school grounds. If students do have them, they must be turned off and placed securely in lockers. They will be confiscated if students violate this rule, and we ask parents and carers not to challenge the school when this happens as the rules will be consistently applied to all. Parents and carers may have noted that secondary schools in Southwark have collectively joined forces to ban all smartphones for students in Year 7 to 9. We have not agreed this course of action, but smart phone usage is not permitted in the main school for Years 7 to 11 in the school day and this rule will be rigorously applied to all. I refer parents and carers to the resource below Johnathan Haidt 'The anxious generation' exploring the link between anxiety and smartphone/social media

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technology. Parents and carers being the first educators of your children will find this interesting. Parents and carers need to be educated on this so that we can work together to understand the risks in unregulated access to smart technology. Also please be aware Smart phones will no longer be permitted in school for students in Years 7 to 11 as they compromise assessments, enable access to apps we cannot control or monitor in school and are banned by JCQ the exams regulatory authority

Some upcoming events & dates

Monday 1st July - Y12 attending the Eton Summer University Preparation Courses/ T Level Health students' placements at St Helier/ Epsom Hospitals until Friday 12th July/ Summer Concert in Lampton Arts Centre in Raynes Park
Tuesday 2nd July – Year 8 trip to Wisley/British Museum & National Gallery Trip for Outstanding Attainers
Thursday 4th July – Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 5th July – Sports Awards Dinner (6-10pm)

News and announcements

Wimbledon Bookfest Young Writers Poetry competition news. We had a winner in the Key stage 5 category, a runner up in Key stage 2 Poetry, seven highly commended writers and six commended writers. An incredible haul of accolades. Winners and runners up will be invited to the prize giving events in the Autumn term. Well done to all the students involved and English teachers will be letting students know the good news.

Newsletters

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

Parent resources

Jonathan Haidt. Interesting book on the impact of smart phone technology and social media on our children. The first chapter was about the impact of social media on children who were the “canaries in the coal mine,” revealing early signs that something was going wrong. When adolescents' social lives moved onto smartphones and social media platforms, anxiety and depression surged among them. Link below.

[The Anxious Generation | Jonathan Haidt](#)

Catholic Life of the School

Visit our school [website](#) to read more about what we currently do to embed our Catholic ethos into school life.

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Induction Day took place on Tuesday this week for external students with our internal Year 11 students joining for the main Sixth Form Induction Day on Thursday. A great opportunity for students to prepare for Sixth Form life and the start of Year 12 in September!



It was a pleasure to be part of the Year 6 'Going Forth Mass' at St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 26th June involving students from all Key Stages.



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Nurses from St Helier Hospital were on site this week preparing our Sixth Form T Level Nursing students for their upcoming hospital placements.



A huge thank you to our Art department who hosted our annual Arts Exhibition showcasing the work of our very talented GCSE and A Level students on Thursday.



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We ended the week with Sports Day in the sunshine at Wimbledon Park Athletics track. Well done everyone for making it such an exciting day. Check out our Instagram early next week where more sports day photos will be available.

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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 and ParentPay – 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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