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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring A Week 4

St Bridget's Feast Day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (traditionally the first day of Spring in Ireland) had the school bathed in warmer sunlight. The students are once again appearing outside in large numbers at break and lunch which is great to see. Your daughters (sons in Sixth Form) may have noticed that we have welcomed lots of visitors to the school this week including Ursuline Governors and Local Authority School Improvement Partners who support the work we do in reviewing and consistently delivering outstanding standards in all areas of the school. We thank them for their continued professional and voluntary commitment to the ethos and education provision of the school. Year 9 students have been engaged in really thoughtful conversations with staff about their options for GCSEs during our subject taster lessons and we are confident that this will result in as many more questions as it has offered answers. These will continue to be addressed and supported in the coming weeks.

### Highlights of the week

Congratulations to Sophia (10U) and Toni (10T) for making it through to the regional finals of the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge this week. Sophia spoke on the topic of School Absenteeism, while Toni spoke on the Representation of Africa by Media.

On Wednesday, Judge Nicola Williams came into the school to present to Sixth Form students including those studying A' Level Politics and Sociology. Nicola Williams is a Crown Court Judge, both in law and as a writer. Unusually, for a modern British Judge she has defended people issued with the Death Penalty (she was a Commonwealth Judge and so worked on Death Penalty cases in other countries). Her fantastic life story and the significant impact of her life's work is a Serviam example for anyone. She, herself, is also an Ursuline student having attended school in Guyana.

### Focus areas for next week.

When friendships become fraught and stressed, it is important to seek the support of staff in school. Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Assistants are on hand as are all members of teaching and non-teaching staff should problems emerge. It's better to act to prevent difficult situations than repair the damage after making rushed poor decisions. Social Media is never the space to express frustrations or problems between friends.

Rest - students need to be mindful of getting sufficient rest and sleep. Although this term is short, students are getting tired ahead of the half-term, being well rested ensures a better day at school. It is recommended to have at least 8 hours sleep per night without interruption from any mobile device.

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Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Teresa Form Retreat in the Chapel – Period 1-2
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Ursula Form Retreat in the Chapel – Period 1-2
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Mid-Year Celebration (online)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parental Webinar (Social Media) (online)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Chinese/Mandarin lessons at King’s College

**News and announcements**

Parents and carers will note that there has been an agreed change to the term dates for 2024-2025. A separate communication will confirm this, and it can be checked on the school website. Originally the school was scheduled to officially open on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> but the term dates now begin on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.

**Parent Resources**

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

**Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge Regional Finalists**



Congratulations to Sophia (10U) and Toni (10T) for making it through to the regional finals of the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge this week. Sophia spoke on the topic of School Absenteeism, while Toni spoke on the Representation of Africa by media.





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### Year 9 Taster Day

Year 9 students experiencing their Taster Day lessons today. GCSE Art and Business Studies pictured above.



### U16 Basketballers

Brilliant effort from our U16 Basketballers in a friendly fixture at Harris Wimbledon on 31<sup>st</sup> January. An unlucky 22-12 loss but plenty to work on and excellent practice.





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### A Level Politics and Sociology Careers Talk

Judge Nicola Williams posing with students after her inspirational talk.



KS5 students Madison and Alison went to Whitgift School in Croydon for a French Debating Competition





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### Quick Links

- [Arbor](#) - student records and reports
- [School Calendar](#)
- [CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal](#)
- [Catholic Life & Mission](#)
- [Curriculum Information](#)
- [Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group
- [Heads' Student Leadership Team Introduction Message](#)
- [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](#)
- [Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

**Eoin Kelly**  
Acting Headteacher

