



23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring B Week 1

We returned to school in the Holy season of Lent and our assemblies this week reflected on Ash Wednesday and set out the programme for the five weeks of this term. Students have been called to put their faith in action and have been directed to the Living Lent, 'Little by little Calendar' which your daughter (Sixth Form son) can share with you from their form group MS Teams link. Please take time to look at this link and discuss it at home. On Wednesday, we welcomed parents and carers into the school for Year 9 Parents' Evening to discuss progress at the half-way point in the academic year, set targets, and discuss option pathways for GCSE. Thank you for your contributions and feedback at this meeting.

This week and next week, we have the final round of Year 13 Mocks ahead of the Public Examinations in the summer. Well done to all Year 13 students for their diligent preparation and hard work, which we know will pay off for them in the summer and provide some valuable information on what steps need to be taken to ensure success. Mocks conclude on the 28th February.

Highlights of the week

Congratulations to Isabella in Year 10 who won international recognition from the Ursuline Education Network (UEN) when she was awarded with the Board of Trustees UEN Service Award Recognition. The Director of the UEN, Peggy McCormick-Platz commented in a letter to Isabella that her essay "illustrated the impact of your service experience and shows a deep understanding of fulfilment which comes from serving others". You can read Isabella's winning essay, as it is posted on the website throughout February on the link below.





Welcome - Ursuline Education Network (ursuline-education.com)

Year 11 Mock Modern Foreign Language orals got underway this week. Students really value the fact that they get three full Mock practices in this discipline which really helps deliver the outstanding results for our students. The Ursuline is in the top 2% of schools nationally for its Language results and it is down to the collective effort of our staff and students that this is achieved and sustained. Well done.



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Focus areas for next week.

Jewellery and skirt length correction have been feature issues this week. Students have been corrected for this, but sanctions will follow next week.

Books

The presentation of exercise books/files reflects a great deal about the quality of the work and attitude to learning. Poor presentation standards are not acceptable at the Ursuline and students will be set detentions to bring any poor practice up to the required standard. We ask that parents and carers look carefully at exercise books to help in this focus area.

Some upcoming events & dates

Monday 26th February Year 9 Immunisations Y13 A Level Mocks until Wednesday 28th February Year 9 & Year 10 PiXL Test Assessment Week Wednesday 28th February GCSE Drama Trip to see Everybody's talking about Jamie at Peacock Theatre Friday 1st March: Year 11 Maths Mock 5 & Mandarin lessons at King's College School

News and announcements

French exchange - hosting of teachers - Help needed!

We are excited to relaunch our long-standing exchange with the Catholic school of Largenté in Bayonne. We are grateful to the students and their families who are hosting the French students; if any parents and carers of students <u>not</u> already taking part in the exchange are willing to and able to help with hosting **any** of the French teachers (3 female teachers - dates: 23rd to 29th March 2024) please can you contact Mme Guillet as soon as possible on <u>melanie.guillet@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk</u>.

Parents and carers reminder of the change of term dates for 2024-2025. Please see the new dates on the website via this link: <u>Term Dates 2024-25 - Ursuline High School</u>

Parent and Carer Resources

In case you missed the newsletters at the end of term please see: <u>Newsletters</u> – school-wide and year group.

Portals Consolidation Update

I am delighted to inform you that we continue to migrate more of our process of communications onto Arbor to simplify the points of information. Starting this half term, all late detentions will be logged against the students Arbor record. As with behaviour incidents, primary guardians will be notified by email of all late detentions issued. Parents and carers can log into Arbor to get more information. Please see further email sent from your daughter's (Sixth Form son) Head of Year for more information.

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I trust this is good news for our parents and carers who want to access important information relating to their daughter's (Sixth Form son) learning journey, in one place. The intention is for there to be more Arbor integrations during this academic year, including moving our Communications from Weduc, and we will email you with updates as they arise.



Barcelona- Some of our Sixth Form students visited Barcelona over the February half-term. They had a great time seeing the sights and attractions of Spain's well-known city including: the Sagrada Familia Basilica, a day trip to the fabulous mountain range of Montserrat, and a FC Barcelona Tour!





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Lent Assemblies -The Lent launch activities programme was presented by the Head Leadership Team in assemblies this week.

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,

Jeb

Eoin Kelly Acting Headteacher



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