



## Progression of Pathways



On Wednesday 18th October, we held our annual **Careers Day** at UHS! Students across Years 10, 11 and 13 attended talks from professional and university partners, which offered them key advice on their next steps. Year 10 and 11 students listened to a talk from Civil Engineer ambassador **Carys O'Shea**, who spoke to students regarding opportunities in the field of Engineering. Carys completed a Civil Engineering degree and is currently a site manager for **J. Murphy and Sons Ltd** working on a project for the **National Grid**. After impressing on a work placement back in summer 2018, Carys gained a spot on **J. Murphy and Sons Ltd** graduate scheme, benefitting from training/practical experience which were key in progressing to her current site manager role. Carys commented on the versatility of an engineering degree, stating that even if you decide not to go into the field, employers seek the transferable skills that you learn along the way; such as an analytical mind-set and problem solving. Carys informed students that friends on her degree have

progressed onto a variety of different careers including; teaching, STEM ambassador to schools, and even working on AI and visual effects for a popular teen show (**Stranger Things**).

Ambassadors from **Kent University, Exeter** and **Royal Holloway, University of London**, spoke to Year 13 about University life, facilities, courses and opportunities available, such as work placements abroad and the benefits of joint honours. **Reuben Quaye** from **Ask Apprenticeships** explained the perks of an apprenticeship route over university, such as; lack of debt, mixture of a paid professional role - while gaining a professional qualification, with similar opportunities to live in shared accommodation. This was followed by **Enoch Baffour; Civil Service**, who talked about his experience of working as an apprentice in the Civil Service, (**HMRC**). All speakers were engaging and insightful in responding to the student Q&A session which followed their talks.

# headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Thank you for your welcome and support this term as I have navigated my first half-term in charge of this wonderful school community.

We have all thoroughly enjoyed the start of the academic year and it is reflected in the excellent attendance of 96.8%.

The busy half-term has been packed with events and I hope you have enjoyed reading the weekly Friday Roundup providing an insight into the life of the school.

We have analysed and shared the outstanding outcomes received this year by our students in the public exams. This is exemplified in the school performance data, particularly in the Progress 8 data for Key Stage 4 predicted to be +0.8 and 43% of all grades at 7+. Well done to Year 11 2022/23 whose results place us in the top 5% of schools in the country for outcomes. We also celebrated 93% of our departing Year 13s going off to University, 89% having secured a place in their first choice or firm offer, we wish them well in their continuing educational and employment journey.

As a school community we welcomed some new arrivals with new staff babies. Congratulations to Mr Cunliffe our school Chaplain who had a new baby girl and Mrs Donohue with a new baby boy. We look forward to meeting them in the weeks ahead.

The students once again came together this term to celebrate the Feast of St Ursula where we gave thanks for the gifts and talents of our students and reflected on how these can be channelled into being a force for change in the world.

In the final week this term we had full attendance at ARD, reflected in the fantastic engagement of our parents/carers, working together to support the academic and pastoral development of the students in our care.

Wishing the entire community of the Ursuline High School a safe and relaxing half-term break.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Best wishes.

Mr Kelly

Headteacher



## Communications

We are committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers. To read more about our Communications Strategy visit the [Parent Communications](#) page of our website.

Are your details correct? To ensure you are receiving relevant communications from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details;

[bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

## Sociology!



Year 9 have been enjoying taking part in **Sociology Club** this half-term. The club is run by Year 11 students who teach topics from their GCSE course – Families, Education, Research Methods, in order to promote the course to the Year 9s in preparation for their GCSE options application. Students enjoy learning new topics and the sessions involve lots of discussion.

## Mass of St Ursula



On 16th/17th October we celebrated the **feast day of St Ursula** who was the inspiration and role model for our founder **St Angela Merici**. We welcomed two members of the clergy from our parish church **Sacred Heart, Fr Jackson** and **Fr Matthew** and we thank them for helping us to celebrate this important event in the life of the school.

## Black History Month



This September we celebrated **Black History Month** with a variety of activities in subject lessons. The main highlight of the month however, was singer Adenike who opened our celebration. Adenike was accompanied by our Year 12 Choir during her session with the students, and students **Maia (10Francis)** and **Jemima A (11Angela)** who joined her on stage to sing.

## Coffee Morning



On Friday 29th September staff took part in the annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning**. We are pleased to announce we raised a grand total of **£297.20!**

## Welcome Year 7



**Year 7** have successfully settled into school life, having completed their first half-term with us. During Autumn A, highlights have included their safer travel afternoon (left) and introduction to the library within English lessons (far, left).

## Open Events



On Thursday 27th September we hosted our school **Open Evening**. Students in Year 5 and Year 6 joined their parents in enjoying a tour of the school, a Headteacher talk from Mr Kelly and presentations from students about all the wonderful reasons to join our Ursuline Community!

Over 1000+ people were welcomed throughout the course of the evening and the open morning events that followed.





## Centre of Excellence

In July, we were delighted to be awarded the centre of excellence for Inclusive Quality Mark (IQM) and we have since received our logo and plaque for us to display. We now join a IQM Cluster Group to which we will work with a network of Schools to support and guide other schools on their equalities work.

Further information regarding this can be found on our website [here](#).



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## Small Steps, Bigger Change



We were delighted to introduce the new recruits to our **Student Leaders programme** this half-term. The programme run by Mr Williams provides students a platform to put forward ideas for change within the school. On reasons for becoming a student leader, one student commented; "I wanted to join the student council so that I could help others and offer them an opportunity to discuss their thoughts."

## Gardening Club



**Year 12s** have been getting outside taking part in a gardening project at school this half-term. The project involves volunteers, including past teacher Margo Walker.

## Sixth Form Open Evening



On **Thursday 12th October**, we hosted our **Ursuline Sixth Form Open Evening**. This year, we welcomed more Year 11 students than ever. Students left feeling informed and excited about Ursuline Sixth Form, after receiving a talk from Mr Kelly and the Head Leadership Team. They heard about Ursuline Alumni successes and chatted with staff specialists on our subject stands. Parents and students alike were impressed with our purpose built T Level facilities and new T Level subjects in Business and Nursing. Want to apply? Find out more on our sixth form [website](#).



## Science Club



In **Science Club** this half-term, the girls have been performing a range of exciting experiments, including creating their own water-powered motor, mixing chemicals to make an explosion of foam, and making a rainbow out of fizzing acids and alkalis.

Last week, they trialled a range of invisible inks to find the best one using everyday materials such as milk, lemon juice, onion juice and honey, writing with cotton wool buds. They learned that when the materials oxidise they will change colour, revealing their writing. Here they are pictured using the heat of the Bunsen burner to speed up the oxidation process and read the hidden messages.



## Maths Helpers at St John Fisher



Our **Year 12s** are helping as part of their enrichment with Maths for Year 6s. They are very excited and former student **Neave** was very pleased to be back at her old primary school- **St John Fisher!**

## Cadogan Hall



On **Wednesday 18th October** **Year 10 and 11 GCSE music** students were treated to a trip to **Cadogan Hall**. Students attended an orchestra performance as part of their course programme.

## Black History Month



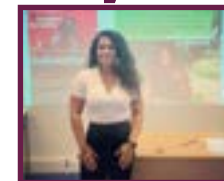
Sixth Form celebrated **Black History Month** in various ways, including two assemblies; a thought provoking assembly delivered by **Year 12** students on contributions of black people throughout history and **Year 13** assembly delivered to Year 12 on the topics of black glory, black dignity and the history of Ghana and Sierra Leone. Truly inspiring.

## Production Rehearsals



Rehearsals are in full swing for the school production of **Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang**. More information about how tickets can be purchased for what is bound to be a sell-out show will be available after half-term.

## Beyond Equality



It was fantastic to welcome previous colleague **Rose Fernandes** this half-term, to speak to Year 13 about her inspiring **equalities** work and its links to Black History Month.

## World Poetry Day

In celebration of **National Poetry Day** on **5th October** an inter-house poetry competition was launched to students! The theme of the competition was 'Refuge' and what that means to them. All entries will receive 10 house points, runners-up will receive 50 house points, and the winner will receive 100 house points.

Entries Deadline: **1st November 2023**



## Student Support



**Year 13** students gave great advice about '**succeeding in the sixth form**' to Year 12 during assembly on **25th September**.

Great to see students supporting other students in our sixth form!





netball tennis football athletics  
 rock climbing cross country  
 trampolining basketball hockey  
 dance duke of edinburgh award  
 wimbledon ball girls cycling

## Netball Joy



**Netball Club** has been very popular as part of our sports enrichment offer this half-term, we snapped some students playing after school on *17th October*.



Strong play from our **Year 8 Netballers** (above) who played at **Wimbledon High School** on **2nd October**. Excellent fun and amazing teamwork shown by everyone.

Players of the match were awarded to **Evie, Lara** and **Lucy**.



A huge congratulations to our **9 Netball teams** (above) who won the **Merton Borough Championships**, beating **Ricards Lodge** in the Final this half-term. A great achievement, well done!

## Sports Leaders



A big thank you from the PE dept to all the **sports leaders** who helped out at our open evenings and those who assisted with sports events this half-term. Much appreciated!

## Football Club



We've been getting back into the swing of things with enrichment clubs this half term and have been really impressed with a strong turn out for **Football Club**.

Welcome to all of our new **Year 7s** who were seen showing their Football skills at after-school practice!

Keep up the good work everyone!

## Surrey Schools Cross Country



Congratulations to our **Cross Country Team** who attended the Borough round of the **Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships** this half term.

8 students meet the qualifying times for **Surrey Schools** to take part in January. **Zoe** in Year 11 recorded the highest ranking within the team. Excellent work everyone!

## Golf Opportunities



PE teachers had a fantastic morning meeting staff at Wimbledon's newest hotspot- **The Golf Groove** on **21st September**- UK's largest tech indoor golf experience.

They have been busy planning some exciting opportunities for students to get involved in Golf! Stay tuned for more information about how to get signed up - coming soon!