



**Ursuline**  
**SIXTH FORM**  
WIMBLEDON  
**Belong and Succeed**

# Newsletter

Issue 3: Autumn Term 2023

Instagram: [@uhssixthform](#) Twitter: [@SixthFormUHSWC](#)

## Welcome ...

to our **Ursuline Sixth Form Newsletter**.

*A community where you can truly belong and succeed*



Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Ursuline Sixth Form Newsletter!

This term, as always, has been filled to the brim with excitement. Our Sixth Form Open evening was a huge success, and it was lovely to meet so many prospective students. Years 12 and 13 were excellent ambassadors, especially the PE students who wowed us on the rowing machine! We were happy to see how quickly Year 12 has settled in, with their enrichment programmes already in full swing and cumulative assessments complete. Seeing how quickly they learned to balance academic and personal achievements was wonderful. We were particularly amazed by the student leadership applicants who eloquently spoke at the hustings and made the decision incredibly difficult for the voters.

Year 13 has also been busy with UCAS deadlines, mocks, and helping the Year 12s find their feet. We wish the best to everyone waiting to hear back from universities and those with pending interviews; huge congratulations to everyone who has already been offered a place at a university of their choice. We hope this Christmas is a nice break as we begin to look at the rapidly approaching exam season.

As this term ends, there is excitement for Christmas festivities and the well-deserved break. For us, however, there is a strong bitter-sweet feeling as we look to step down as joint head girls. Thank you for our unique opportunities and experiences over the last year. It was an honour to represent you and to collaborate with so many to help shape our community. Although it's sad to say goodbye, we look forward to you all meeting our new Student Leadership Team and cannot wait to see their impact. Don't worry about us; we have plenty of revision to fill our time ... Have a restful and peaceful Christmas everyone!

### Head's Student Leadership Team

Eirinn and Layla



## *A message from the Sixth Form Team*

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and growth we've witnessed within our sixth form community. Our students have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their studies, actively engaged in a myriad of extracurricular activities, and exhibited commendable leadership skills. It has been a pleasure to witness their intellectual curiosity, resilience, and passion for learning.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of this term, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the parents and guardians who have played a pivotal role in supporting Year 12 in their transition to the sixth form and Year 13 in their preparation for exams. Your involvement and encouragement have undoubtedly contributed to their success.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on providing a supportive and enriching environment for our sixth formers. We are committed to nurturing not only academic excellence but also personal development, ensuring that our students are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

To keep you informed about upcoming events, academic updates, and important dates, we encourage you to stay connected through our newsletter and social media channels. We hope they capture a snapshot of the wonderful achievements of our sixth form students. For students applying to start in September 2024, please click [HERE](#) to be taken to our online application form.

Best regards,



**Mr B Ryan**  
**Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form**



## Rising Stars: Year 12 Unveiled!



**ABBY**

**SUBJECTS:** ENGLISH LANGUAGE, POLITICS AND PSYCHOLOGY

Being a student here at the Ursuline since Year 7 has been a fantastic experience. Deciding to stay for the Sixth Form was undoubtedly an easy decision.

I had always known the school to have excellent facilities, subject choices, teachers, and extracurricular activities for higher education. It's honestly been quite the experience, especially with the transition from Year 11, but the Ursuline has done an excellent job at easing us into Year 12.

I've also kept myself busy outside of academics by representing the school in open evenings, university visits and enrichment. So far, I have visited Royal Holloway University in Egham and attended all the talks on their Law courses as I am interested in pursuing Law in the future.

I am also the leader of the Criminal Law and History Society, alongside my friends, who all share an interest in studying crime, which would start running in the spring term.



**Nicole**

**SUBJECTS:** MUSIC, SOCIOLOGY, FRENCH

My first term here at Ursuline has been amazing. Honestly, moving to another school for Sixth Form was challenging.

Despite being an external student, I was able to get used to my new school environment and make new friends. I feel grateful to be welcomed and supported by my form and the year group. I hope my learnings here will flourish and I can make good memories in Sixth Form.

I'm thrilled with the subjects I chose for my A Levels. I am glad that music is offered as a subject at Wimbledon College since music has always been my passion from a young age. I play the piano, and I'm working towards my ABRSM Grade 8 Piano exam. I was honoured to showcase music as a subject during the Sixth Form Open Evening and hope to encourage more students to take A-Level Music in the next academic year.



**Giulia**

**SUBJECTS:** ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY, SPANISH

I've had a fantastic first term in sixth form!

Having been a student here for the past five years, I've enjoyed getting to know new people in my year and learning more skills in a relaxed and fun way, where I feel I am treated increasingly like a young adult. I couldn't be happier with my subject choices; I know they will be perfect for my future.

Regarding extracurriculars, I have been privileged to participate in leadership initiatives that have significantly influenced my personal and intellectual growth. For example, the Young Guardian enrichment program has provided me with invaluable insights into time management and organisation.

Additionally, I recently decided to aim for the Head Girl role. While I did not achieve this, it significantly boosted my already-established confidence in public speaking and allowed me to get to know the needs of my year group. Now, my role as a prefect for Year 11 students will enable me to contribute meaningfully to the school. I am very grateful for the myriad of leadership opportunities Ursuline and Wimbledon College provides, and I can't wait to see what exciting changes will come after the Christmas holidays!

## Focus on Oxbridge

### Our Oxbridge Stars Shine

Thank you to Ms Harrison, who runs our specialist Oxbridge programme, for all her hard work with the current Year 13 cohort. Below is a sample of just a few of our students heading for interviews

#### Diana

Throughout the preparation for our Oxbridge applications, I gained a lot of experience in approaching questions in new ways and applying my knowledge in unfamiliar contents to break down and digest. What I really enjoyed was giving myself enough time to think and learn in depth of the topics of my interest. I have an upcoming **interview at Oxford for biochemistry**, and I'm really looking forward to it!

#### Sinead

The Oxbridge programme guided me through my application process, with Ms Harrison and previous alumni answering any questions I had. The visits to Balliol College at Oxford, and an overnight stay at Cambridge in particular, helped me understand what life at Oxbridge entails. I am looking forward to wherever Psychology takes me, no matter what destination that may be. I await my **interview with Magdalene College at Cambridge for Psychological and Behavioural Sciences**.

#### Julia

I'm very glad to have been offered an **interview at Newnham College, Cambridge to study English**. Regardless of the outcome, the process has been really personally rewarding as I've been able to improve my analytical skills and push myself by discussing challenging ideas.

#### Natalia

I really enjoyed the Oxbridge programme. I got loads of help with my personal statement and interview prep, spoke with many academics, and considered courses I didn't know existed before. I am looking forward to my **interview for Land Economy at Magdalene College**.

## Oxbridge



## Head Team Hustings

Our Head Boy and Girl Hustings unfolded this term, transforming the school's main hall into an arena charged with anticipation...



The stage, adorned with the sixth form motto: belong and succeed, stood as a symbolic platform where aspiring leaders would articulate their visions and aspirations. The candidates, poised and resolute, approached the podium with a blend of confidence and humility, each exuding a unique aura of potential leadership.

The hustings became a tapestry of diversity, as each candidate brought forth a distinct blend of academic prowess, social empathy, and a profound understanding of the responsibilities inherent in the role of Head Boy or Girl.

The hustings served not only as a platform for individual aspirations but as a crucible for collective ideals. It was a moment where the spirit of unity and progress was palpable, where the contours of future leadership were sketched against the backdrop of shared values and aspirations.

Well done to all participants and pour newly elected team: Akua, Clara, Joshua, and Lara. You can hear their introduction message on our instagram [here](#).

We also take the opportunity to thank our retiring Head Leadership Team: Layla and Erinn!

They leave behind a wonderful legacy - thank you for your hard work and dedication!



## Sixth Form Highlights

### The Power Agenda: Charting Political Influence *Impacting Politics Conference*



We were very fortunate to be joined by an array of excellent speakers. Our first session focused on three local politicians representing the three main political parties – Stephen Hammond MP, Siobhain McDonagh MP, and Munira Wilson MP. As the day progressed, our next guest was Mike Bankole from the podcast Politics JaM, who spoke superbly about race, representation, and politics.

In November, in conjunction with Team Global, we had a sixth-form conference entitled *Impacting Politics: How to Bring About Political Change*.

In session three, we heard from an alumna of our school – Sheri Ann Bhim and Hina Bokhari (Merton Councillors and London Assembly members). They gave the students a broader perspective and enabled them to see the meaningful political change made outside of the House of Commons. Our final speaker was Dr Kristian Niemietz, the Head of Political Economy at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), whose insightful talk focused on housing and the political challenges around equality.

Students and staff from seven different sixth forms attended: City of London Academy, Mulberry School for Girls, Wimbledon College, Ricards and Rutlish, Raynes Park High School, and St Philomena's. Age is now the most significant factor in voting patterns; it far exceeds social class, which has been the dominant factor for decades. With a significantly higher proportion of older people than younger people voting and so disproportionately setting the political agenda, engaging young people in political discussion is essential.

Finally, we enjoyed a lively debate between Clark McGinn and Daniele Scanio on the voting age.

## Multilingual Marvels: Thriving with MFL at KS5

### Why study MFL in the Sixth Form

We are so proud of our outstanding MFL provision at KS5. Studying foreign languages at Key Stage 5 offers a myriad of benefits that extend beyond the classroom and into the realm of personal and professional development. Here are just a few compelling reasons why you should study a foreign language in the sixth form:

#### Global Citizenship:

Learning a foreign language fosters a deeper understanding of different cultures, and it promotes an appreciation for diversity and broadens perspectives.

#### Career Opportunities:

In an increasingly interconnected world, businesses value employees who can communicate across cultures.

#### Academic Achievement:

Research suggests that students who study foreign languages tend to perform better in other academic areas.

#### Cultural Appreciation:

Learning a foreign language enables students to engage with literature, films, and art from different cultures in their original form.

#### Enhanced Travel Experience:

Knowing the language of a foreign country enhances travel experiences by allowing students to connect more deeply with the local community.



## An Autumn Tale - A little Journey Through Life in The Sixth Form



Year 12 started their sixth form journey wonderfully and embraced the independent learning that is so important to succeed in the sixth form.



Our avuncular Year 13 students were ready with some sage advice for the Year 12 students at assemblies.



Year 12 had an inspirational morning with [@adenike music](#). Two brave students even joined her on stage.



Our amazing sixth formers showcased the school at the open evening for potential Year 7 newcomers. They are such wonderful role models.



During Black History Month, we had some excellent student assemblies about black glory, black dignity, and history. Truly inspiring. We are so lucky to have our most senior students share the purpose of BHM with their peers.



One of our fantastic Year 13 students made an inspirational display to celebrate the achievement and successes of black women for black history month.

It is proudly on display in the Year 13 study area.



It was great to have Rose Fernandes from [@beyond\\_equality](https://www.beyondequality.com/) return to her old workplace and speak to Year 13 about her inspiring equalities work and its links to Black History Month.



The atmosphere at the sixth form open evening was electric. A massive thank you to all our staff and sixth formers who passed on their knowledge to prospective Year 12 students.



Year 12s students got outside taking part in a gardening project



Our T Level Digital students loved their BIMA day. The BIMA Digital Day gave them an insight into a world of digital careers, and they had the chance to meet and work with digital experts.



We had the most wonderful candidates speak at our hustings for the Head Team. We are blessed to have such wonderful leaders in the sixth form.



As part of our enrichment programme, students can take part in The Guardian's Young Reporter Scheme. Liv, one of our amazing Year 12 students, interviewed [@sadiq](#) at a festival celebrating Diwali and wrote a wonderful piece about it. A future journalist in the making!



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



We welcomed students from our local primary schools, and our wonderful sixth formers helped them take part in the Covent Garden Business Challenge. We are so lucky to have such great role models in the sixth form.



Our sixth formers involved with the winning teams in the Covent Garden Business challenge had a great day out in Covent Garden. A special well done to the competition winners: Sacred Heart Primary School. But all of the students were great!



A number of our amazing Year 13 students on our Oxbridge programme this year are getting ready for interviews at Oxford and Cambridge. We are very proud of them, and we wish them the best of luck.



We had some fantastic contributions from our sixth formers in the school production of #chittychittybangbang this year. Well done to everyone who was involved. It was an exceptional production.



Year 12 student leaders assisted in running a Christmas Tea party for elderly members of the local community and enjoyed running a Christmas quiz!



Sixth form enjoyed feeling festive at their Christmas Fair!



And we can confirm that Santa did arrive. Merry Christmas everyone!



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