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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

29th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Autumn B Week 4

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported their daughters in the extra commitment needed as part of the cast and crew of the school production, Shrek. The show on Thursday was sensational and I am really looking forward to the final performance tonight. I look forward to seeing the joy and pride of everyone there. The last night is always destined to be the best but the standard seen so far will be hard to beat.

Congratulations to the successful winners of the Wimbledon Bookfest Young Writers' competition. Their winning entries have been published in the Wimbledon Bookfest 2024 Anthology of Stories and Poems! Grab your copy. We received the anthologies in school this week along with the certificates for all the competition winners.

Commended:

Anna Lambert - Year 8, Alicja Gray - Year 10, Halili Waikwa - Year 10, Edeline Noble Guachamin - Year 11
Simran Sharma - Year 11, Sophie Ezech - Year 11

Highly Commended:

Katie Skerritt - Year 10, Oliwia Golabek - Year 10, Eva Fletcher - Year 11, Sophia Brique - Year 11
Anjardie Drummond - Year 11, Lara Ellis - Year 13, Luiza Thompson Bezerra - Year 13

Runner up (KS3 Poetry):

Eliza Godfrey - Year 10 - attended Awards Ceremony at Wimbledon Theatre

Winner (KS5 Poetry):

Jessica Reeves - Now studying English at university

Highlights of the week

Well done to all the students in Years 7 to 10 who have been preparing and delivering excellent oracy assessments in their subjects. Lesson observations and feedback from students indicate that this opportunity is really helping our students develop their public speaking confidence and delivery. Parents and carers will be able to view the grading of these assessments in the Autumn B report at the end of the term and in your daughters trackers (books).

Focus areas for next week

For next week's behaviour focus we are reminding our community of the importance of kindness. As the pressures of the academic year mount friendships can feel the strain and is easy for young people to lose sight of the feelings of others. In

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our school prayer, guided by the words of St Angela, we pray for God's help to respect each other, help each other and bear with each other to create a community 'all of one heart and one will.' That idea of bearing with each other is an important one and reminds us all to think about what burdens others may be carrying without our knowledge. We will be reminding our young people that if we treat each other with kindness we will never be unknowingly adding to the burdens of others. As Mother Teresa said 'Smiles are infectious, spread them wherever you go!'

Some upcoming Events & Dates

Year 11 Mock Exams begin this week until 18th December

Head Girl interviews this week

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th December Y11 GCSE PE Mocks

Friday 6th December Christmas Tree Service: Let There Be Light

Christmas
Gift
Appeal



Christmas Gift Appeal

Instructions for Gathering & Leaving Of Gifts

Brand new items

Example of gifts

In a gift bag or box (not wrapped)

Clearly labelled with if it is for a Boy or Girl /

Baby or Toddler / Young child or Teen

Football and sports related toys,

arts and crafts sets, barbies and dolls,

Lego sets, Marvel heroes (Spiderman figures etc),

dressing up costumes, board games, make up,

books, magic sets, musical and sensory toys,

headphones, Linx sets, hoodies/general clothes,

gift vouchers.

Where to leave

Leave under the Christmas Tree in foyer

Parents News and announcements

The new Lectionary comes into use at the start of advent this year. We are fully prepared for this change. The Lectionary is the new book containing the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments; it is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting. Please follow this link for more detail

www.newlectionary.org

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The school is on schedule and is completing final arrangements in converting from Local Authority control into the new Catholic Academy Trust, Sancta Familia. A new Interim Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CEO) Gerard Fitzpatrick has been appointed by the Directors of Sancta Familia and we are welcoming Mr Fitzpatrick into the school on Wednesday 4th December. Please follow the link below on the Sancta Familia website for more information on this conversion process. We are scheduled to convert to this Multi Academy trust on January 1st 2025.

Our UPA are always on the lookout for a helping hand and are seeking more willing volunteers so please get in contact with Mrs Potts if you are interested in supporting. We also need prizes and items for raffles etc. If you, or your company, are able to donate any gift, vouchers or tickets, please contact Mrs Potts via email UPA@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Join our growing social community on Instagram

Do give us a follow to access our visual window into the enriching experiences, accomplishments, and opportunities the Main school and Sixth Form students are engaging in. You will find us [@uhs Wimbledon](https://www.instagram.com/uhs Wimbledon) and [@uhs sixth form](https://www.instagram.com/uhs sixth form)

Parent Resource

The importance of nutrition as part of exam preparation and performance.

In the run up to the Year 11 Mock Exams, these articles from The BBC and The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) discuss the importance of hydration and a healthy diet as part of exam preparation and performance and in maintaining energy levels, concentration, memory retention. You will also find some slow-release carbohydrate and protein breakfast ideas and some healthy snack ideas to pack on exam days (remember, no nuts at school however they do make an excellent snack for home for those that can eat them). We encourage you to explore these materials with your child and discuss ways to ensure good nutrition is incorporated into their daily routine. Thank you for your support - open communication and a supportive home environment can significantly alleviate exam-related stress.

[Can food improve your exam performance? - BBC](#)

[Exam Diet: Eating your way to good grades - LSE](#)



Congratulations to our Wimbledon Young Writers competition winners, some of which are pictured above. Students' poems are now featured in the Young Writers anthology.



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Our Year 8 students, local primary schools, and of course our ticket holders all enjoyed the much-anticipated production of Shrek: The Musical throughout this week. The set, stellar performances, and sound were all outstanding. Well done to the Arts team for another great production.



Year 12 students attended an entrepreneurship event at King's College School in Wimbledon this week. A new initiative designed to introduce and foster entrepreneurship.

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Georgiana 8M: Georgiana swam in the Sutton Borough Championships at the weekend and received 2 silver medals for 100m breaststroke and 50m breaststroke, a bronze medal for 200m freestyle, plus a further silver medal for the girls 6x50m freestyle relay where she was the final swimmer in her team and brought them up from third to second place.



Year 7 enjoyed their Christmas fair to round off the week!

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Quick Links

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[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases
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[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay & FAQs
[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)
[Sancta Familia - Sancta Familia Website](#)
[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your families a relaxing weekend and thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully



Eoin Kelly
Headteacher