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Ursuline
High School
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls

Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA
020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

24th January 2025

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring A Week 3

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 7 and 8 students have been really focused on their Cumulative Assessments across all their subjects this week marking the half-way point in the year when they are tested on all the content studied so far at KS3. We look forward to sharing in the successes and discussing next steps when the results are published at Academic Review appointments at the end of this term. Further details below.

On Wednesday we hosted the Year 11 Parents' Evening with reviews of the December mocks and publishing of the full target report used as the basis of the teacher meetings. Attendance at 96% was excellent and the conversations were clearly focused on proactive next steps in the preparation for the GCSEs which are 12 teaching weeks away. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your engagement and support and also for the gratitude shared with the staff for the interventions and extra support being provided.

On Thursday, Lauren Wilmott, an alumnae who was a competitor on 'MasterChef the Professionals' visited the school's Food Technology department. She carried out a series of demonstrations and took part in a very lively and engaging Q&A session with the students. The students really enjoyed the experience, and we are really proud of and grateful for Lauren's achievements and support in giving back to her school.

Highlights of the Week

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Milne directed 60 Year 10 students taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge in school on Tuesday this week. Visiting speakers from the 'Speakers Trust' came in to assist in the techniques of captivating and delivering to large audiences. The quality and competence of the students' delivery was absolutely incredible. Well done to all those students involved and good luck in the competition stages going forward.

Year 10 Assembly this week was excellently delivered by Jaselle, Martha and Lucy, three Year 13 students having completed the Holocaust project. The students gave accounts of their experiences visiting two concentration camps in Auschwitz. The Year 10s were captivated and very receptive to the powerful messages of never forgetting and hope in the future.

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Focus Areas for Next Week

Continued focus on the pride in books at Key Stage 3, Year 7, 8 and 9. Basic standards: clear plastic covers on books, titled and dated work, underlined neatly, sectioned off work, glued-in sheets, personal trackers for grades and targets filled in and attached to the inside cover of the books, and finally general appearance and pride.

Secondly keeping the area around lockers tidy and not discarding items on the tops of lockers for others to clear away.

Nick Osborne, Sport Development Officer, contacted me today to share some superb news. On Thursday this week our Year 7 students took part in the **Merton Schools Year 7 Sportshall Athletics Competition** at Raynes Park High School. Eight teams of 51 athletes across Merton schools took part in track and field events. Scores are tallied by Eveque Sportshall Event Centre. All Sportshall Athletics resources can be found via <https://www.sportshall.org/> - but suffice to know UHS Year 7s won the Borough girls team event and now go on to represent Merton schools on February 7th at the London Youth Regional Games. Well done we are very proud of you all.

Some Upcoming Events & Dates

Monday 27 th January	Feast of St Angela
Tuesday 28 th January	Years 7 & 8 Merton Borough Competition at Ricards Lodge (3-5pm)
Wednesday 29 th January	U14 Surrey Cup Football V Beacon at Morley Park 2pm-4pm
Friday 31 st January	Y11 Mocks: Physics mock 1.30-3.30pm)
	Year 11 Enrichment with King's College – Strengths and Aspirations (11am-5pm)
	Chinese Club Sessions; Kings College (2-3pm)

Parents News and Announcements:

The Governors of the school remain on track for the school to convert on 1st February 2025 into the Catholic Academy Trust **Sancta Familia**. For more information on this exciting new opportunity for the future direction of the school and securing the future of Catholic education in this area of the diocese please look up.

[Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](http://www.sanctafamilia.org.uk)

Parent/Carer Communications:

Term dates 2025-2026

Some parents and carers have contacted the school for more detail on the term dates for the next academic year. We are currently finalising these and once governors have approved, we will communicate them.

Academic Review Day. At the end of this term, we host the Spring ARD meetings on 13th and 14th February. ARD appointments will be held on those dates for all Years 7-10 and Year 12. You should have received communication from Mr Glavina last week. In a change from previous years, students will be expected to be in school on both days but will leave in the afternoon to make appointments.

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Health & Fitness apps

Over time, more and more fitness apps have been finding their way into circulation. Usually free to download, at least initially, these apps claim to offer helpful advice and assistance in routine management to those looking to lead a healthier lifestyle. While these platforms can be useful, they do present several safety concerns. These issues become more significant when we consider that children and young people can use these apps to stay active – whether out of concern for their own health or for reasons of body image.

The free guide below breaks down the risks of health and fitness apps and offers expert advice on how to address these concerns to safeguard our children. [Health and Fitness Apps](#)

[Online Safety Resources](#)

I am delighted to say that we have updated our suite of online safety parent guides. [Our library](#), which will be regularly updated, is expansive covers many topics from social media, and gaming, to online challenges and conversation starters.

Additional Resources

Our fantastic Pavilion at Morley Park has some availability for hiring. Anyone in our parent and carer or wider community interested in securing this facility for an excellent rate please look at the flyer below. The opportunity has become available due to one of our lettings moving out of the area. Look and book now to avoid disappointment. The venue is perfect for running evening classes.

[Morley Park Playing Fields Pavilion Lettings](#)

[Morley Park Playing Fields Lettings](#)

Autumn B Newsletters

You can find the links to our latest Inform newsletter and Head of Year Updates [here](#).



Well done to Year 10 students who put themselves forward for the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge this week!

The challenge is designed to help students learn public speaking skills and to develop their confidence.

The day ended with students giving a 2-minute speech on a topic they were passionate about.

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Recently, some of our students took part in Cross Country, attending a Surrey Schools' Athletics event in Reigate. A huge congratulations to Elena (10th), Serene-Rose (9th) & Annabel (14th) who qualify for English Schools later this season.

Well done everyone!



We were delighted to welcome back Ursuline Alumnae Lauren Wilmott, who reached the semi-finals of MasterChef: The Professionals in 2023! Lauren gave a food demo and participated in a Q&A session with some of our GCSE Food and Nutrition students. When Lauren attended Ursuline Sixth Form, she studied Food as one of her A Levels (taught by Mrs Hoyles)- before attending catering college. Lauren has gone on to enjoy success working as a chef in several restaurants and now enjoys working as a freelance chef. Thank you for inspiring our students, Lauren!

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Year 7 students took part in the Merton Schools Sportshall Athletics Competition at Raynes Park High School recently. Our Year 7's won the Borough girls team event!
Students pictured; Elena MP (7F), Serene-Rose JS (8M), and Annabel W (10B)



Thank you to our incredible Sixth Formers who shared their wisdom and advice with future students and parents during Year 11 Parents' Evening this week!

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Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[Parent School Calendar 2024-25](#)

[Term Dates 2024-25.](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases

[Parent Engagement & Communications](#)

[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

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