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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](http://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

## **Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring A Week 4**

Dear Parents and Carers

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January marked a special day in the school calendar as we celebrated the Feast of St Angela Merici. St Angela first formed the Company of St Ursula in Dezenzano, Italy, in 1553. St Angela inspired a movement and a community which is alive and flourishing today across the world and especially for us in this part of South-West London. All students celebrated Mass during the school week in our Local Parish Church of Sacred Heart. Thank you to all the staff and students who made this a special celebration.

At this point in the year, we return to our core ethos and mission and consider what is truly distinctive about an Ursuline catholic education. Students were reminded of their pledge at the Commissioning Service, we recall the Mission Statement of the school: *'Inspired by the life and work of St Angela, our Ursuline School commits itself to education for tomorrow's world within the dynamic tradition of catholic belief and practice. As a Christian community, characterised by a spirit of respect, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life, thereby fully developing each individual.'*

I have written to all parents and carers on Wednesday this week to give an update on the school's progress towards joining the Sancta Familia Catholic Academy trust. If you have missed this communication then you can access it via this link: [Sancta Familia Catholic Trust Update](#)

We are officially converting on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Unfortunately, the simultaneously scheduled conversion of St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls on this same date has been delayed. It is envisaged that this will be resolved quickly, and St Philomena's will be joining the Trust in the near future.

## **Highlights of the Week**

Thank you to all Student Leaders, Choir and Servers who prepared and participated in the Year Group Masses this week.

On Thursday morning I attended Merton Secondary Headteachers Meeting and was stopped by Keith Shipman (Inclusion Lead) to tell me how impressed he was by one of our students Isabella in Year 11, Co-chair of the London Youth Parliament. He was referring to an event held at Merton City Hall on Wednesday marking Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Keith told me this event involved moving testimony and presentations from a range of different speakers. Despite the chamber being filled with adults, Isabella was one of the students who stood up to speak. I quote Keith when he said "she read so eloquently. It was a profound and moving evening. You would have been very proud to have seen her." Indeed, we are – and thank you Isabella for exemplifying the school's ethos and virtues.

Congratulations to Angie in Year 13 who has been offered a place at Cambridge to read Psychological and Behavioural Sciences at Fitzwilliam College.

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### Focus Areas for Next Week

Next week, we continue to prioritise the pride in books in Years 7 to 10. 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.

Year 7 and year 8 students have been reminded in assembly this week of the legal age for accessing social media apps including Snapchat and WhatsApp. Unregulated communication on these platforms outside of school is creating difficulties in friendships which is not the school's responsibility to manage. Parents and carers are directed to previous resources in my updates on the risks of social media for children.

### Some Upcoming Events & Dates

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Webinar--Social Media and Gaming – What Parents Need to Know (7pm)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Sixth Form theatre Trip; Antigone (1-6pm)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Doughnut Day (break-time in Portico/Year 11 Maths Mock (1.30-3.10))

### Parents News and Announcements:

Tomorrow 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, the school will convert into the new Catholic Academy Trust **Sancta Familia**. For more information on the Catholic Academy Trust **Sancta Familia**, please click [Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](#)

### Parent/Carer Communications:

#### Term dates 2025-2026

Please see dates [here](#).

**Academic Review Day.** At the end of this term, we host the Spring ARD meetings on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February. ARD appointments were open for entry on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. You should have received communication from Mr Glavina last week. Any problems or concerns please contact your daughter's Head of Year.

### Parent/Carer resources

Education Well-being Service – webinars for parents/carers: the Education Well-being Service has announced their series of parent/carers events for the Spring term. The next webinar focuses on social media & gaming and takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm and is repeated on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. To find out more and sign up, please refer to the email sent on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January by Ms McCourt.

We are delighted to share that we have updated our Parent/Carer Support Services & Resources Directory. Our Directory, which will be regularly reviewed and updated, is expansive and can be found [here](#). Thank you in advance for your support.

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### Surrey Cricket SACS Programme 2026 - Current Year 10 Students

The SACS application process for September 2026 is now open for current Year 10 students to join the Cricket Academy. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already completed this form. If you would like your daughter to sign here is the link: SACS Application form 2026: <https://forms.office.com/e/mfMMUBNhyZ>. For further information please contact Rachel Corrigan, Director of Sports [rachel.corrigan@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](mailto:rachel.corrigan@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

### SACS Online Presentation 2026

There is also an online presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm to outline the programme as a whole and the trial and training process that will take place later this year. To attend this presentation please complete the invite by using the link following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/RfWQ4F53Xb>

### Additional Resources

Our fantastic Pavilion at Morley Park has some availability for hiring. Anyone in our parent/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](#)



A fantastic all-round performance from our U14s with a great 8-0 win in the Surrey Cup Vs The Beacon School this week. Goals from Leia (2), Ronnie, Alyssa, Robyn (2), Lola & Tallulah.

Player of the match voted as: Alyssa

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Congratulations to our Year 10 Jack Petchey Finalists who will be competing in the regional finals on 1<sup>st</sup> April. They were selected based on their below speeches. Wishing them all the best of luck!

Sabia O'D (Single parenting, multiple mindsets)

Ellie H (Dyslexia and the stereotypes that so commonly come with a diagnosis)

Agathe L ("This and That" - the struggles of being a young mixed-race person in a society)



Keen swimmers Georgiana D (8M) and Poppy A (7U), competed in the county 'Surrey' swimming gala recently. Well done!

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It was wonderful to come together as a community to celebrate the Feast Day of our patron at the St Angela Masses and within our school assemblies this week. Our Student Leadership team were also commissioned at their Year 12 Mass, we are excited for you to get to work on your plans for the school.



Congratulations to Maryam Iqbal (Year 12) and Lilian Quayle (Year 8) who were presented this week with the prestigious "Spirit of St Angela" service award- for outstanding service and living out of Serviam. Great role models demonstrating our ethos and values, well done.

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Students who signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award, had their training day to end the week. In preparing for their upcoming expedition - you can see tent making skills are essential!

#### Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports  
[School Calendar](#)  
[Parent School Calendar 2024-25](#)  
[Term Dates 2024-25](#)  
[Term Dates 2025-26](#)  
[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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