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**Ursuline**  
High School  
WIMBLEDON

Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls

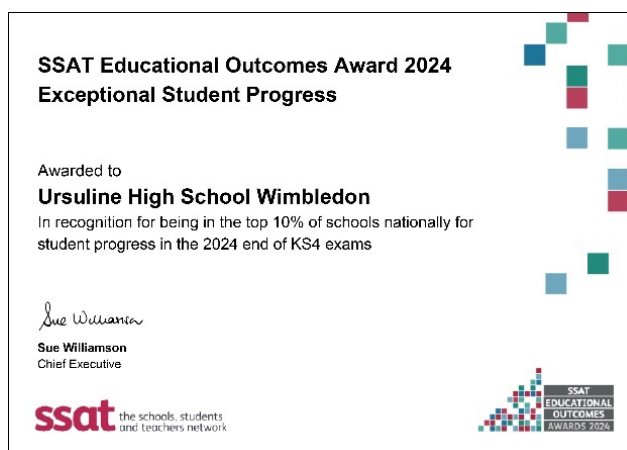
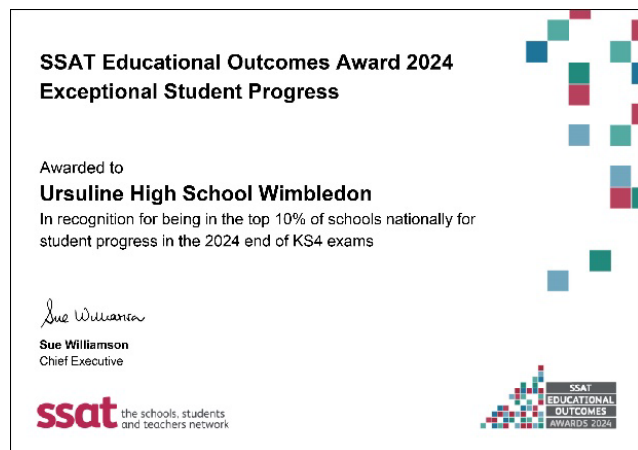
Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA  
020 8255 2688 / [www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk](http://www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring B, Week 5



The school received notification this week that we have won two national SSAT Educational Outcomes awards for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for GCSE in both progress and attainment categories. The SSAT team said 'Congratulations to you, your team and your students'. They seem to have neglected to include you, our parents, who are instrumental in supporting the school programmes to achieve these goals. Find out more on our website [here](#).

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, we welcomed parents and carers to the joint Year 12 Parents' Evening hosted at Wimbledon College. The evening was exceptionally well attended, and I really enjoyed hearing directly from parents/carers and students on their progress and next steps. Meanwhile, back in lessons, the early euphoria of the arrival of our Ursuline Largenté French exchange students was followed by them settling into the school routine of lessons. I was delighted to hear one of the students asking not to go on the day trips to London so they could attend more classes. I think we need to market that!

We have had too many trips out this week to mention but they will feature in the year group Updates this month; still, standing out was the year 7 RE visits to the Shree Ganapathy Hindu Temple. Feedback is that the Temple have never had so many questions asked by the inquisitive Ursuline students! Two other significant excursions this week involved a contingent of year 11 visiting the Tate Modern on Monday and our Year 10 Drama GCSE students went to Wimbledon Theatre to see 'Dear Evan Hansen' on Wednesday. Well done to everyone involved in all the trips this week.





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## Highlights of the week

Week 5 of the Lent programme was based around an examine on mercy and forgiveness. Part of this week's events provided an opportunity for our Catholic students to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. This was fully booked out and several other students who are not catholic also availed of the opportunity to book out slots to have some reflective time in speaking with the visiting priests.

We heard this week that we had another star performer at the Flame Concert at Wembley! Annabel in Year 7 had auditioned for the choir last summer, attended rehearsals all year and performed at a concert of approximately 6,000 students. I very much enjoyed hearing about her experience this week.

## Focus areas for next week

Tutors have been tasked with clamping down on the standards of school uniform particularly rolling of skirts and inappropriate earrings. Please support the school by ensuring your daughter is complying with the highest of school standards when leaving home and don't be surprised if confiscations are imposed for non-compliance.

## Upcoming events & dates

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Year 10 Revision Evening in USFC, 6.00-7.00pm  
Concert at Wimbledon College, 6.30-8.30pm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: RE Theatre Trip - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wimbledon Theatre, 2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: RE Theatre Trip - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wimbledon Theatre, 2.30-4.30pm

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Ski Trip departs (until 12th April), Passo Tonale, Italy

## Parent and Carer Engagement

£1,147 was raised at multicultural evening and £692 at Culture Day. This incredible effort will make a significant contribution to our Lenten charity CAFOD World Gifts. [CAFOD World Gifts](#)

Thank you also to the students, parents/carers and staff working together throughout lent with our foodbank donation appeal.

## Newsletters

Missed our Spring A school wide and year group newsletters? Read them [here](#).

## Parenting Resources

Since the airing of Adolescence, parenting and digital experts have been sharing many valuable online safety resources for parents/carers and educators. As always, all valuable resources are added to our extensive '[Keeping Safe Online](#)' library. I invite you to take time out to digest the available resources, and hope they will help you better understand the adolescent landscape and inform conversations around the dinner table.





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In summary, to keep our children safe, it is essential that they are media literate, can think critically and have boundaries. Normalising difficult conversations and holding open and ongoing discussions within the household around **online safety, challenges and dangers, fake news, algorithm bubbles and how to change them, echo chambers** and so on is key.

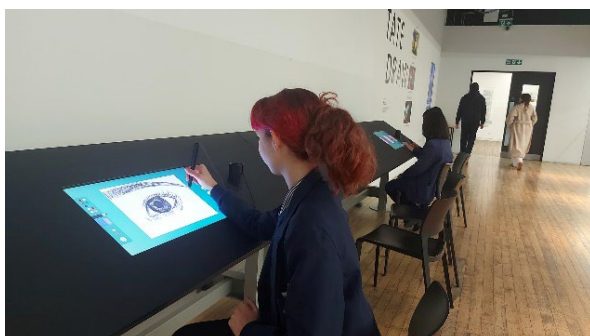
Should you allow your daughter(s)/son to have a smartphone and/or access to social media, we recommend **following expert advice** and **researching apps** to understand the **dangers and risks** before they are allowed, agreeing family rules including **family digital contracts**, setting up **parental controls, screen time, app limits** and **content & privacy restrictions**, enabling **Ask to Buy**, **removing screens from bedrooms** especially during homework and overnight, **password sharing**, regularly **checking your child's devices** and **delaying, avoiding or limiting social media and web browsing**.

It is essential that parents get to know the common platforms and how children engage with them, understand more about online cultures and terminology, and talk to your children about what they are engaging with and how it makes them feel. Finally, if you suspect risky behaviour, then contact the school.

### The Richard Dimbleby Lecture 2025

Former England football manager Sir Gareth Southgate has delivered the 2025 Richard Dimbleby Lecture. In the lecture, he reflects on his personal journey, what he has lived through and what he has learned as a leader. He explores the concept of belief, examines the power of unity and highlights the importance of resilience, especially for young people (his speech focuses on young men in particular) in a fast-changing and challenging world. His powerful speech focuses also on the importance of real-life role models over spending time searching for direction online. You can watch it on BBC iPlayer. Highly recommended.

### A selection of images from the week



Some of our Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed their visit to the Tate Modern on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March.







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We welcomed French exchange students from our partner school of Largenté, in Bayonne, France, this week. They had a great week! We hope they enjoyed themselves!

We recently celebrated #ShoutoutforGerman!  
A week dedicated to raising the profile of German across the UK. Find out more on our website [here](#).



On Thursday, students attended the Oscar Romero Mass at St George's Cathedral with our Chaplain, Mr Cunliffe. Find out more [here](#).





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On Wednesday, Year 7 students had the enriching opportunity to visit the Shree Ganapathy Hindu Temple in Wimbledon as part of their Religious Education curriculum. Find out more [here](#).



Mrs Alexander and me having a chat with Annabel H (Year 7) about Flame!







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Year 10/11 Basketballers with a win at Ricards Lodge (above, left).

Year 11s took the winning trophy in the Merton qualifiers for the new NBA 3v3 league. We progress to London Regionals in June (above, right).



The Year 12 Netball team have been out competing in the Merton & Kingston Senior Tournament at St Cecilia's school.





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### Quick Links

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[Newsletters](#) – school-wide and year group  
[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases  
[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)  
[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor, ParentPay, School Cloud, Parent Guides & FAQs  
[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)  
[Keeping Safe Online](#)  
[Term Dates](#) 2024-2025 / [Term Dates](#) 2025-2026  
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Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend and a good week ahead.

Yours faithfully,

**Eoin Kelly**  
Headteacher

