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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

28th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Spring B, Week 1

On Monday, we had a very successful staff training day as we set out the school priorities for the term ahead. The extra day's rest extending the half-term holiday appears to have been very well received by all our students except the Year 13 who were in for their final round of Mocks ahead of the public examinations in the summer. Well done to all the Year 13 students for their diligent preparation and hard work, which we know will pay off in the summer and will provide them with valuable information on what steps need to be taken to ensure success. Mocks conclude on 5th March.

In our assemblies and acts of collective worship this week, as Pilgrims of Hope, we reflected on the theme *"Through the desert, God leads us to freedom"* as we prepare for the Holy season of Lent. This quote is from Pope Francis, and we took the opportunity to collectively pray together for the pontiff's full recovery from illness.

Highlights of the week

Congratulations to our Year 9 and Year 10 basketball students who were crowned borough champions this week. See pictures below.

Dr Tishtrya Mehta, a recent Ursuline High school alumna, visited the school on Tuesday to present a series of science talks to students across all Key Stages. Dr Mehta is an Astrophysicist and Data Scientist and has an infectious energy, which she used to deliver a series of fascinating talks on the Sun. For more information click here: [Tishtrya Mehta](#). As a passionate advocate for widening participation in STEM, she delivered expertly on the topic but the students also loved seeing pictures of her first day of high school at the Ursuline, in her long uniform, and unfortunately she also talked about having me as her Geography teacher! Her presence in school this week will have, without doubt, seeded the thoughts in many of our students about the fascinating careers in STEM.

Focus areas for next week

Punctuality to lessons. Teachers have reported this week that some students have been slow in transition to be on time to their lessons. Staff have been asked to follow up and sanction students for this unnecessary disruption to the start of lessons through lateness.

-1-





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Upcoming events & dates

Tuesday 4th March, 6.30pm: Year 10 Sixth Form Transition Evening for parents and carers

Wednesday 5th March: Ash Wednesday services in school for all students throughout the day

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day; students and staff are invited to come dressed up as their favourite literary character. Be imaginative and don't forget to bring a £1 Donation for CAFOD.

French Exchange parents and carers meeting (hosting) 17:00 to 18:00 Ursuline High School.

Wednesday 12th March: St Cecilia's Concert. Tickets are now available from the Finance Office, £7 each.

Wednesday 19th March, 6.30-8.30pm: Multicultural evening. Tickets are £3 each. An email with full details of the evening was sent out earlier today.

Thursday 20th March: Cultural Day. Once again, come dressed in proud celebration of cultural clothing or flag colours.

News and announcements



Lenten Programme – Love Your Neighbour Appeal:

Wimbledon Food Bank Collections.

We are collecting, UHT milk, tinned fish and tinned meat, toiletries, toothpaste, shower gel and shampoo, and long-life food.

Please drop off all donations to the box in the Crescent Road entrance foyer.

Parent and Carer Engagement

We ask parents and carers to support the Lenten appeal for the foodbank above. We know we cannot do this without your generous support. Students, parents/carers and staff working together can make a significant difference in this appeal.

Newsletters

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

-2-





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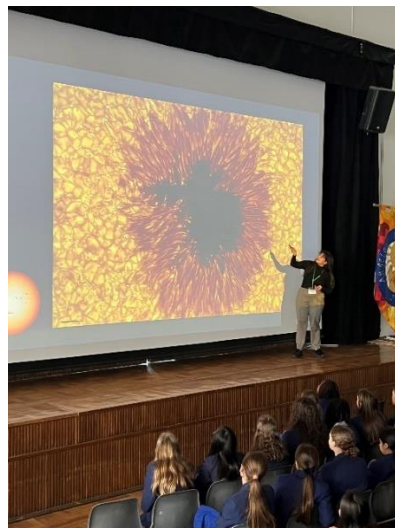
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Parenting Resources

The Power in Knowing You Matter

From the earliest days of childhood, a sense of mattering -knowing you are valued for who you are, not just what you achieve- can be a powerful force. In the latest episode of the [ICGS Podcast \(International Coalition of Girls Schools\)](#), 'The Power in Knowing You Matter', author Jennifer Wallace explores how cultivating this belief in students can serve as a buoy, lifting them through setbacks and reinforcing their worth beyond grades and accomplishments. This conversation is a must-listen for anyone invested in the well-being of young people. Tune in and join the conversation on how we can all shape environments where every girl knows they matter.

A selection of images from the week



Year 7-13 students enjoyed a physics talk all about the sun by Ursuline Alumna Tishtrya Mehta this week. It was particularly interesting to realise discoveries regarding what lies below the surface of the sun are made using sound.

-3-





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At the end of last half-term, Sixth Form students Kiran, Marcelina, Lydia, Katrina, Paulina B, and Anna A attended the Quiz Bowl competition at the American School in London (above, left). Some fortunate sixth formers spent the first part of half-term in Barcelona and had a wonderful time (above, right)!



A huge congratulations to our Year 9/10 Merton Borough basketball champions!

-4-





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[Arbor](#) - student records and reports
[School Calendar](#)
[Catholic Life & Mission](#)
[Curriculum Information](#)
[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)
[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
[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend and a good week ahead. I look forward to meeting Year 10 parents and carers at next week's Sixth Form Transition meeting on Tuesday 4th March.

Yours faithfully,

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

-5-

