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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

29th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust - Update

I am writing with an update regarding the establishment of Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust. As many of you may recall from previous communications, for many years our school has worked alongside schools in the Merton, Sutton and Croydon Deaneries to share best practice and strengthen networks for the Catholic Education we offer for all students and families.

Following consultation with the school community, which concluded in the Autumn term 2023, the Governing Body were provided with a report that included all feedback received in relation to our school, as well as questions asked by our own school community and those of other local Catholic schools consulting simultaneously. Having considered the report, governors made the decision to progress with the proposal to form and join a Catholic Academy Trust.

The Department for Education approved the application to establish Sancta Familia Academy Trust. We submitted our own individual application to convert, which means an Academy Order was granted in respect of our school. Due diligence was undertaken to ensure that all the necessary checks and information was exchanged to move forwards confidently with the proposal.

I am pleased to say that, following these lengthy processes the Ursuline High School Wimbledon are poised to convert to academy status and join Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust on 1st February 2025.

We are the first Secondary School joining in establishing this trust alongside the following primary schools, St John Fisher Roman Catholic Primary School (West Wimbledon), Federation of St. Elphege's Infants and Juniors and Regina Coeli Schools (Sutton and Croydon). The following Catholic schools across Merton and Sutton are poised to join in the coming months and years:

St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls, Sutton
St Mary's RC Infants School, Sutton





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St Mary's RC Junior School, Sutton
St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, Sutton
Wimbledon College, Merton
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Merton
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Merton
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Merton
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, Merton
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Merton

We are proud that all the hard preparatory work over the last few years has resulted in the Ursuline High School being approved as the first secondary school in the newly formed trust. This continues a long successful 133-year tradition of innovation at the Ursuline High School. St Angela Merici herself said in her final legacy, "If according to the times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules and do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. Always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ." In this venture, and even more significantly in the Jubilee Year 2025 designated as 'Pilgrims of Hope' we continue to respect the Mission, charism and ethos of our proud school.

This is an exciting time for the Ursuline High School, working alongside our fellow Catholic schools to build and strengthen the future of Catholic education in this geographical area.

Below you will find a link to Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust website, which will be further developed as all of the founding and associate schools join the Trust in the coming months and years.
<https://sanctafamilia.co.uk/>

I look forward to our continued work with all in fulfilling our shared vision of excellence in Catholic Education for all our students.

Yours faithfully

Mr Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

