



Year 7

Information Evening

Ursuline High School



Welcome!

Mr Kelly
Headteacher

Ms Connor
Assistant Headteacher – Ethos, Behaviour and Y7
transition

Mr Nichols
Assistant Headteacher – Teaching and Learning

Ms Hoyles
Head of Year 7



Our school prayer



Gracious God,
Let us remain in harmony,
United together;
All of one heart and one will.
Let us be bound to one another
By the bond of love,
Respecting each other,
Helping each other,
And bearing with each other
In Jesus Christ.
For if we try to be like this,
Without doubt,
You, Lord God,
Will be in our midst.
Amen



Our Purpose

Our school theme for 2024-25 is 'Pilgrims of Hope' to reflect the Church year theme chosen by Pope Francis

Our Year 7 virtues are:

- ▶ Autumn term - Insieme
- ▶ Spring term - Loving
- ▶ Summer term- Joyful



Our aim

Our aim is for your daughter to be happy and flourish here at the Ursuline.

The transition from primary to secondary can be challenging for parents as well as young people.

A clear partnership between the school and home is one of the best ways you can support your daughter throughout her time here.



My commitment to you



Governors' Fund

As a Voluntary Aided School this means that all **Capital Works** undertaken around the school are **10% funded by the parents**.

These works could not be undertaken without the Voluntary donation of parents to the school.

In recent years these works have included:

- T Levels - Refurbishment to accommodate T Level Nursing.
- Katherine Johnson Building - This houses T Level Digital, Business and T Level Science.
- New Roof at St Angela's.
- New Doors, Floors and Boilers in the St Georges Block.
- Complete renovation of our main kitchen /dining room.
- LED lighting throughout the Main School.

Additionally, The Fund contribute to the School's **Chaplaincy programmes** to sustain and develop the School's charism and ethos, and our **Laptop Scheme** which ensures all students have a laptop



This funding enables us to provide the high standards of our environment which is conducive to outstanding education and outcomes.

This donation amount takes into consideration the cost of **Capital Works**, our **Chaplaincy programmes**, and the **Laptop Scheme**. The donation also covers insurance and protection software to ensure that students are kept safe and not accessing inappropriate sites and content.

Without your donations we won't be able to supply all children with a new laptop.

We suggest a donation of £30 a month, for the duration of the student's education at the Ursuline, and an initial deposit of £30 for the registration of all students.

For families that can afford it, donations of higher values are welcome.

If your daughter qualifies for Free School Meals or if you have any financial difficulties, please contact the finance department to discuss.

We have received completed forms from many families, thank you. For anyone wishing to sign up please

complete the forms this week. If you have any questions or need help with the forms, contact our Finance Team at Donations@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk



Ms Hoyles - Head of Year 7



Tonight we'll cover

- ▶ Who's who in the Y7 tutor team
- ▶ How and when to contact the school
- ▶ How we will communicate with you
- ▶ Essential guide to learning at UHS
- ▶ Measuring progress in learning
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Enrichment



The Year 7 team

7 Angela	Paula Lee Thomas (DT)	<u>paula.thomas</u>
7 Bernadette	Geraldine Taylor (HSC)	<u>geraldine.taylor</u>
7 Catherine	Katharine Grandin (English)	<u>katharine.grandin</u>
7 Francis	Seoighe Kearney (Maths)	<u>seoighe.kearney</u>
7 Margaret	Gabriela Gregory (Art)	<u>gabriela.gregory</u>
7 Teresa	Marlyn Gordon (Science)	<u>marlyn.gordon</u>
7 Ursula	Rowena Kosminder (Maths)	<u>rowena.kosminder</u>



Contacting us

Please use email to contact us

- ▶ **Form tutors** - general enquires about the Ursuline, friendship issues, organisation, homework, clubs/enrichment, uniform, equipment, travelling to/from school, punctuality, trips/calendar events. (email address on previous slides)
- ▶ **Head of Year or Pastoral Support Assistant** - Mental health, bullying, safeguarding, online safety, absence request forms, request for your daughter to receive school counselling/educational well-being practitioner, financial support/free school meals.
- ▶ Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk Head of Year
- ▶ Karlin.eloff@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk pastoral support 0203 908 3105 (non teaching)
- ▶ **Ms Young** - Attendance and punctuality/lateness. All absences and lates must be reported via email or phone no later than 8.45am.
Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk 0203908 3144
- ▶ **Subject teachers** must be contacted for any subject specific enquiries.
- ▶ **Our IT Helpdesk** is available to help with any parent portal, laptops, and other IT queries. laptop.doctor@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ All staff contact details can be found on the [Ursuline directory](#) on our website.



Common start of Year 7 worries

- Over half of our new Y7 students are the only student transitioning from their primary school - we support all students to form friendships
- It is common to have issues around friendship changes - we will give advice to students about dealing these situations both generally through our PSHE programme and specifically when issues arise
- We will ask all parents and students to support our message of **kindness** and **respect**
- We must work together to help them navigate these tricky times
- Reassurance from parents that their worries are normal but unlikely to be born out is often enough to calm students' nerves

Let us know if you feel your daughter's worries are beyond the norm



The 'Girls on Board' approach

- ▶ Girls on Board is an approach which helps girls, their parents and their teachers to understand the complexities and dynamics of girl friendships. The language, methods and ideas empower girls to solve their own friendship problems and recognises that they are usually the only ones who can.
- ▶ The Girls on Board approach will not prevent girls from falling out, but it will help them sort out their own friendship problems and minimise the distress they might experience. It provides a vital vocabulary to make communication more open, honest and effective and creates a robust framework for parents so they feel reassured that issues are being dealt with effectively.
- ▶ For further info see www.girlsonboard.co.uk/parents/
- ▶ Consider purchasing the accompanying book Amazon.co.uk : [when girls fall out book](#)



Parental Engagement & Communication

- ▶ The Ursuline High School is committed to ensuring parents are engaged in supporting their daughter's academic progress and personal development. There will be meetings throughout the year.
- ▶ We also provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughter's live in, through resource sharing, information evenings, and specialist sessions on issues such as online safety and mental health. (dates on the next slide)
- ▶ In addition, we are committed to effectively communicating with our parents and carers about school life and news and we use a range of mediums including Arbor (login details have been emailed) through emails, website, information meetings, communications from the Head and other staff, our suite of newsletters and social media.
- ▶ Lastly, if you're on Instagram or Twitter and you don't already follow us, please do - we have an active presence on both, where we share lots behind the scenes content. You can find us @uhswimbledon.



Key dates for your diary

- ▶ 17th September Year 7 SEND coffee morning
- ▶ 25th September 12.45 early close for Open Evening
- ▶ 26th September 9.25 start
- ▶ 2nd October - Welcome to Yr7 parents UPA social 6-7pm
- ▶ 4th October - year 7 film night 6-8pm
- ▶ 9th October - 12.50 early close for 6th form Open Evening
- ▶ 10th October - KS3 Parental workshop, Online, media and safety (gaming, social media) 6-7pm
- ▶ 22nd October Yr7 Showcase Concert 7-8pm
- ▶ 24th October - Early close for Academic Review Day
- ▶ 25th October - Academic Review Day
- ▶ 25th October - Half term
- ▶ 4th November - INSET day
- ▶ 5th November - Autumn B starts



Attendance & Punctuality

- ▶ We want the students to be in school wherever possible.
- ▶ We must know if your daughter is not attending by 8.45am as this is a safeguarding duty - either by phone or email Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk 02039083144
- ▶ The school's attendance target is 96%
- ▶ We monitor all students, and if your daughter has an attendance below 94% you will be sent a letter
- ▶ Students with excellent attendance have a much higher chance of succeeding socially and academically
- ▶ Punctuality is monitored daily, and at the beginning of October, any student who is late will receive a 30 mins detention on that day, the student and the parent will be notified by email by 11am, failure to attend will result in a Friday detention for an hour.
- ▶ If your daughter needs to leave school early, or is coming in late after an appointment, please email Bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk and ask her to bring the proof of the appointment.



Travel to and from school

- ▶ Year 7 can use the buses to and from school however buses towards Wimbledon at the end of the school day are extremely busy. The walk to Wimbledon takes 12 minutes
- ▶ Line up at the Arterberry road bus stop not the bottom of Crescent Road
- ▶ Students must be considerate of our neighbours regarding noise and must never enter a resident's garden or sit on walls/railings
- ▶ No loitering in Wimbledon - no shops
- ▶ No more than 4 students together
- ▶ Travel carefully (e.g using crossings, avoiding use of airpods/headphones etc)
- ▶ Travel safety afternoon (TFL) will be happening soon
- ▶ If you are collecting your daughter please wait on the pavement on the opposite side of the Crescent Road entrance



Homework

- ▶ Students are set one homework per week for most subjects
- ▶ For English, Maths and Science they have two
- ▶ However for the 1st half term we will only issue Maths, English, RE, PSHE and Computer Science homework as student acclimatise.
- ▶ Students have, in general, a week to complete each homework
- ▶ All students have a planner and this is a very important source of information for parents
- ▶ Please review the planner weekly and sign



Mr Nichols - Teaching & Learning



Our approach to Teaching & Learning

We have an ambitious curriculum with high academic rigour that ensures our students develop a lifelong passion for learning.

Our curriculum is content rich, where students are taught the skills to retain their knowledge with fluency and are able to apply this knowledge creatively and with purpose.



A research-informed curriculum & pedagogy

A research informed curriculum means that we use the latest research and evidence to ensure best teaching practice for Ursuline students.

This involves:

- ❖ The use of retrieval practice to embed knowledge in long term memory.
- ❖ Feedback in a variety of styles that deepens the learning. Students are expected to act on this.
- ❖ Modelling and scaffolding of work.
- ❖ Ambitious and challenging curricula designed by subject specialist leads. Expect your daughter to struggle at times and get things wrong. This is how we learn.



Teaching & Learning - how you can help

- ▶ Check that your daughter is acting on feedback
- ▶ Talk about her learning and discuss her work with her
- ▶ Use the Curriculum guide for information on courses. These can be found online.
- ▶ Check the homework is being completed and to a good standard
- ▶ Planner- always check and sign
- ▶ Time and space to study



What is ARE?



- ▶ Age-related expectation is the average standard of work expected at a given age or development in education. (This Changes over Time)
- ▶ At the end of KS2 Y6, ARE would have been 100 (scaled score)
- ▶ Each Year some students are below, on, above or significantly above this average when joining UHS.
- ▶ We have devised a system called the UHS Standards to target, track and support students progress through from KS2.



UHS Standards

Upon their entry in the school, students will be given a Standard Target at which they will be expected to meet or exceed in their work. There are four possible targets: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

The Bronze Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 below ARE. Students attaining Bronze standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 3 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 below 96)

The Silver Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 at ARE. Students attaining Silver standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 4 to 6 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 with 97-105)

The Gold Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 above ARE. Students attaining Gold standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a Grade 7 or 8 at GCSE. (Currently those students from KS2 with Levels 106-114)

The Platinum Standard Target will be allocated to students arriving in Year 7 significantly above ARE 115+ (the old 5a). Students attaining Platinum standard by the end of Y8 will be targeted a achieve Grade 8-9 at GCSE.

Targets are not Limiting students are expected to match their standard but can move up.



Progress is built into the standards

- ▶ In line with the Assessment calendar, all subjects have designed sets of standards:
 - ▶ Standards for Year 7 Autumn A to Spring A
 - ▶ Standards for Year 7 Spring B to Summer B
 - ▶ Standards for Year 8 Autumn A to Spring A
 - ▶ Standards for Year 8 Spring B to Summer B
 - ▶ This is repeated in Year 9.
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- ▶ The standards get progressively more challenging in line with increasing ARE



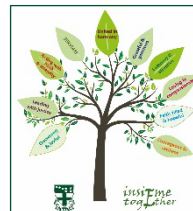
How we grade your daughter's work

Formatively

- ▶ Assessment to aid learning journey (Throughout each half term)

Summatively

- ▶ Assessment of Acquired knowledge at an Assessment Point. (Standard Awarded each half term)
- ▶ We use a mix of both



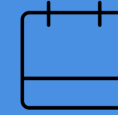
Assessment for Learning

- ▶ Know target grades in all subjects
- ▶ Understand what is required to improve
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Respond and act on teachers' feedback
- ▶ Assess own work and work of others



Assessment for Learning

We gather evidence of understanding on a daily basis while the students are in the process of learning. To do this we must know our students : where they are, what they understand, and how they learn. This information guides our decisions about what we will do next in order to fill in gaps, clarify misconceptions and provide the kind of feedback that will help students move forward.



Part of
everyday
teaching
practices.



Used to
inform and
adapt
teaching
practices.

Assesment
for
Learning
is...

A quick way
to gather
information
about
student
learning.



Done in
conjunction
with students
to engage
them in their
own learning.



Arbor

- ▶ We have a system called Arbor where you can access information on your daughter's attendance, punctuality, behaviour alongside any reports on progress, attainment or exams produced during her time at the school.
- ▶ We strongly encourage all parents to access Arbor regularly



Accessing this information

- ▶ www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk
- ▶ Click useful links on the right-hand side
- ▶ Enter username and password (distributed to you directly from Arbor on your school email). You will be asked to change your password termly.
- ▶ If you have more than one child, you will be able to access all details concerning all your daughters.



Ms Connor - Pastoral



Smart Devices

Academic research is clear that **mobile phone** and **smart watch** use in school are a distraction, negatively impact behaviour, progress and attainment, compromise the integrity of assessments, enable access to apps we cannot monitor in school and are banned by JCQ, the exams regulatory authority.

To help keep everyone safe while commuting and at school, we recommend that expensive mobile phones and smart watches are not brought into school. However, this is at parents' discretion.

Regardless of phone/watch make/model, and in accordance with research, Government guidance and our [Digital Learning & Safety Policy](#), if you choose to send your daughter to school with a mobile phone or smart watch, it must be switched off, placed in their padlocked locker at the start of the day and remain there until the end of the day. Any phones or watches seen or heard in school will be confiscated.

If your child needs access to a medical app, please speak to us about this.



More broadly, there is growing evidence of the negative impact of smartphones: they are highly addictive, correlate to mental health problems, negatively impact sleep and social skills, expose children to harmful content, reduce attention spans, and rob children of their childhood. There is widespread campaigning for the fully loaded smartphone to be delayed.

Should you decide to allow your daughter(s) to have a smartphone/watch, we recommend following advice from adolescent and online safety experts:

- ▶ Setting up parental controls and Enabling Ask to Buy.
- ▶ Setting up screen downtime, app limits, and content & privacy restrictions.
- ▶ Removing phones from bedrooms, during homework/revision and overnight.
- ▶ Password sharing, regularly checking your child's phones and having those important conversations.
- ▶ Having a family phone agreement.
- ▶ Delaying or even better avoiding social media (the minimum legal age is 13 and we ask you to respect this).



Social Media in Year 7

Social media including BeReal, Discord, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X(Twitter) and WhatsApp, currently have a minimum age of 13+.

Social media is a huge safeguarding concern. Whilst some apps do bring a level of socialisation and connectivity, there are huge risks including harmful content, online grooming & sextortion, bullying, dangerous viral challenges, negative and dangerous impact on self-esteem, unreliable news source and so on.

Many experts and parent groups believe social media is not suitable for tweens and young teens and there is widespread campaigning to raise the minimum age.

Please be aware that if a child younger than 13 is faking their date of birth to set up an account, that the algorithm will feed them content that is not age appropriate and this will become even more serious the older they get.

In accordance with our [Digital Learning & Safety Policy](#) and the current minimum age of 13, all **social media is prohibited for year 7** students, and we ask you to support us. If your child does have social media, we ask that the accounts are deleted.



Online safety - resources for parent

To safeguard the safety, health and wellbeing of our children, it is essential they are media literate and have boundaries.

Holding regular discussions about online safety is key - children must be clear on the challenges and dangers, and how echo chambers and algorithms work.

We hold regular discussions at school as part of our PSHEC curriculum and ask parents and carers to do the same.

Recommended resources:

- ▶ [Common Sense Media](#), [Dr Lisa Damour's](#) books and podcasts (Episodes 54 and 152 of her 'Ask Lisa' podcast focus specifically on phones and social media), [Dr Jean Twenge](#), [Jessica Chalmers \(Social Jess\)](#), [Jonathan Haidt](#), [National Online Safety](#), [NSPCC](#), [Titania Jordan](#), [Thinkuknow.co.uk](#), and [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).
- ▶ The UK campaigns [@smartphonefreechildhood](#), [@delaysmartphones](#) and [Safescreens.org](#)
- ▶ Jonathan Haidt's book '[The Anxious Generation](#)' is an informative read, as is [The Social Media and Youth Mental Health Advisory Report](#) from the US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy.
- ▶ We also recommend watching the documentaries Childhood 2.0 and The Social Network.
- ▶ [PhoneSmart](#), is a free digital course giving your child the knowledge needed to be safe and kind online, and the skills to be phone ready.

Thank you for your support with managing the online safety and wellbeing of our children.



What can we do?

- ▶ Recognise the risks - has an 11 year old got the emotional maturity to handle them?
- ▶ Limit the time spent on electronic devices and remove them in the evenings/night.
- ▶ Know what she is doing online - open space at home for access
- ▶ Know logins and passwords
- ▶ School monitoring of devices - even at home (Smoothwall)



Safeguarding Team



Ms Rachael Gilmore
Assistant Headteacher
Inclusion
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mental Health Lead



Ms Michelle Alexander
Deputy Headteacher
Standards



Ms Kerry Connor
Assistant Headteacher
Ethos and Behaviour
Safeguarding Officer

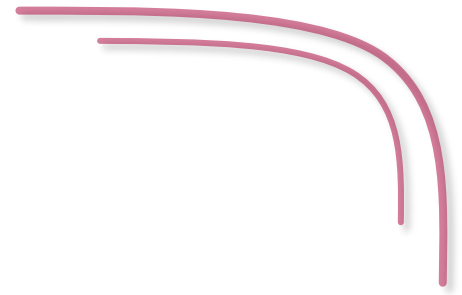


Ms Sarah McCourt
Deputy Designated Safeguarding
and Wellbeing Lead



Ms Danielle Boateng
Care Co-ordinator
Safeguarding Officer

*inspire
together*



Enrichment

- ▶ It is our expectation for all students to be involved in extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Tutors will monitor their extra-curricular to help students who may find it challenging to engage.
- ▶ A link to the enrichment programme can be found here.
- ▶ [Enrichment - Ursuline High School](#)
- ▶ Please go through with your daughter to identify enrichment she would like to engage in - there are lots to choose from.



Where can I get practical advice?

- ▶ [Starting secondary school - BBC Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)
- ▶ [www.childnet.com](#)
- ▶ [www.saferinternet.org.uk](#)
- ▶ [https://www.internetmatters.org/](#)



- ▶ [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- ▶ [Commonsensemedia](#) provide independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents
- ▶ [Government advice](#) about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying
- ▶ [Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- ▶ [London Grid for Learning](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- ▶ [Lucy Faithfull Foundation StopItNow](#) resource can be used by parents and carers who are concerned about someone's behaviour, including children who may be displaying concerning sexual behaviour (not just about online)
- ▶ [National Crime Agency/CEOP Thinkuknow](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- ▶ [Parentzone](#) provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online
- ▶ [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online



Ms Hoyles

Head of Year 7

0203 908 3102

Rachel.hoyles@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk



**Thank you for your time
this evening!**

