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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

14 November 2025

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 – Autumn B, Week 2

Dear Parents/Carers

A busy, full week of school, has helped all students back into their routines. Despite the change to more unsettled weather, our students continue to display great energy and enthusiasm, positively engaging in lessons. Assessment cycles are in full swing as Year 13s completed their Mocks and Year 11s are sitting their Mock Language orals for the December series so flash cards are appearing everywhere! T Level Science and Year 11 Health and Social Care have also been going through a gruelling week of assessment.

On Tuesday, we formally recognised the end of the transition period for our new Year 7 students at our annual Commissioning Service. They promised to uphold the values of the school, to support each other and to live out Serviam and were presented with their school badges. A very proud moment for parents, carers and staff. On Wednesday, the Head Girl (& Boy) Team Hustings took place in the main hall with 12 students making it through to that phase. Voting has been completed and the results of those making it through to the final selection stage, the interview, will be released next week. Congratulations to all the students running in this tightly contested role.

Highlights of the week

We welcomed back our students returning from the PGL Football and Netball residential weekend of competitions. Remarkably, two of our teams made it through to the grand final of the netball competition sweeping aside all other schools. So, it was a final consisting of a Year 11 UHS Team and a Year 10 UHS team: the stakes were high! Year 10 walked away as winners after a tightly contested final; they get all the bragging rights and house points!

Focus areas for next week

The school is looking very closely at sporadic, occasional absence patterns. The Year 7 attendance is back over 97% this half term with just 8 students reporting absent with illness. We also had exceptionally low absences in Year 13 and also in Year 11. It is therefore significant that 21 students in Year 8, 30 in Year 9, 31 in Year 10, and 19 in Year 12 were absent for at least one day this half term. These absence rates are unacceptable and out of step with Year 7, 11 and 13. Sporadic absence has a significant impact on progress. Parents and carers must work with the school to ensure full attendance and avoid unnecessary absence through minor ailment. Heads of Year will be following up with each of these students.

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Important Notices

Hairspray School Production, 27th – 28th November



Tickets - limited at 2 per student - are now on sale from the Finance office, but you will need to be quick as they always sell out fast. To buy in person, please arrive via 'The Downs' entrance, or students can purchase them directly with cash. The performance will start at 7pm sharp on both nights and doors will be open from 6.30pm. There will be drinks and snacks available for sale by our UPA.

Autumn B events & key dates

(Refer to our [Calendar](#) for academic year events but here are some significant upcoming events for this half-term):

November:

- **24th November:** Christmas Gift Appeal begins
- **27th & 28th November:** Hairspray School Production
- **28th November:** Christmas Fair; Y8 selling to Y7
- **1st December:** Advent begins
- **5th December:** Christmas Fair; Y9 selling to Y8
- **9th and 11th December:** Christmas Dinner
- **12th December:** Christmas Tree Service
- **12th December:** Christmas Fair; Y7 selling to Y9
- **15th December:** Christmas Carol Service (8.00-9.00pm); Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill.
- **16th December:** Christmas Fair; Y12 & Y13
- **19th December:** Christmas Assembly and Last Day of Term (School Day ends: 12.50pm)

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Parent/carer Resources

What Parents Need to Know about AI Virtual Friends

Artificial Intelligence is probably 'the hot topic' in technology circles right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of the human race. In the short term, however – definitely as far as its impact on young people is concerned – the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered 'virtual friends' which are springing up all over the internet. This online safety guide looks at 'virtual friends' – AI-powered companions that are proving popular with young people – and highlights what trusted adults need to be aware of.

Our extensive online safety library hosts our Smart Devices & Social Media Statement and other recommended resources related specifically to online safety. From social media and gaming to online challenges and conversation starters, our library is expansive.

News



Recently our Year 10 GCSE Art and Art Textiles students went on a trip to the Tate Modern. The purpose of the trip was to experience Art outside of the classroom, alongside inspiring their own projects.



PGL Netball Champions!

Final Netball Results from the PGL Tour 2025!

Year 9: 3rd in 8/9 competition

Year 10: 1st in 10/11 competition

Year 11: 2nd in 10/11 competition

The netballers have worked incredibly hard and showed resilience and teamwork throughout - resulting in the excellent results! The games played were not easy and challenged each team to have to play their very best!

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Congratulations to the below students who achieved Merit or Commended in the Young Writers competition. Entries awarded Winner or Distinction are published in the 2025 anthology which students received copies of. Fantastic work - well done everyone!

Commended

KS3: Maeve G: Cobain – Story

KS4: Liliana G: Myths and Legends – Story

Merit

KS3: Catarina B: The Legend Path – Poem

KS4: Cara H: The curse of the Midas Touch – Poem,

Jessica D: Looming and glooming – Story

KS5: Julia K (Year 13, 2024-25) Pandora – Poem, Tanara M- D-S: A siren's call – Poem, Alexis D: The Curse of the Pharaoh's Tomb - Story

Distinction

KS3: Madeleine S: I'm not her- Poem, Cara McH: Cassandra – Story,

KS4: Emilia P: Pandora's Box – Poem, Ericka A: Mt. Mayon – Poem,

Elena H-T: My name is Gerald Grey – Story

KS5: Emilia L: Holding hands with a Painting – Poem

KS3 Stories (OVERALL WINNER)

Celeste S-A: A Witch's Tale

KS5 Poem (OVERALL WINNER)

Ana G (Year 13, 2024-25) Soldier Proletariat





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Our T Level Digital students Ella and Alex are currently completing a work placement with Amazon UK! This week certainly started off with a challenge. They had to work with numerous other schools to create a full Occupational Specialism project with a front and back-end system! Mrs Bhayat, Head of Computing attended their presentations - held at Amazon's Head Office. Their work was outstanding, with our students showcasing Distinction work and learning new skills with other students. Well done.



We held our Commissioning Service this week, where Year 7 made their school pledge and received their Serviam badges in front of parents/carers and staff. It was a lovely evening.



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Our Head Team Hustings were held this week, presented by our current Head team. Sixth Form and Year 11 students heard excellent speeches from our Year 12 applicants: Maia H-M, Bolu E, Sophie T, Emma S, Lucia S, Catherine B, Evangeline H-J, Catherine C, Beila E, Orla D, Dani W, and Emma C. Our candidates all made convincing speeches on why they should be selected and the proposed changes they would implement. Well-done everyone, public speaking isn't easy. We will update you on the next stage soon.



Quick Links

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[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases
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Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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