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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

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 - Autumn A, Week 5

Thank you to all parents and carers who took time to submit their responses to the Catholic School Inspection team at the end of last week. The Lead Inspector said that they were shocked, not only by the sheer quantity of responses, but also the unusually high number of written detailed comments. We await the outcome of the report which will be sent to the school within 15 days for publication. More details to follow.

This week we welcomed 560 visitors from primary schools with their parents and carers to tour our school and meet our students. The Ursuline students were passionate and proud to show off their work and speaking about what it is like being part of this community. It has been great welcoming so many Years 5 & 6 Primary school students visiting the school this week for their Open Morning Tours with parents and carers. They have been very complementary of what our school has to offer.

A big thank you to the UPA (Ursuline Parents Association) for organising the Year 7 Parents' Social event, I was delighted to hear how popular this event was with many parents and carers making new connections. Thank you to the UPA for organising and running this enjoyable and successful evening welcoming new parents and carers into our community.

As always, this has been a busy week including a suite of Black History Month events, school production/orchestra rehearsals and lots of sports fixtures including netball, badminton and football. The lovely early autumnal weather has encouraged lots of students to flock to our after-school clubs.

Form prayers are in full swing with Year 8s leading Year 7s, utilising the Virtues programme in a call to reflect and act in our daily lives. We are discussing and learning about the importance of a Values-based education in the Black History Month assemblies and in the PSHEC curriculum throughout the Autumn term.

Highlights of the week

First round of formal assessments in Year 7 and Year 8 occurred across all subjects. Students were prepared and supported in setting the routine for the year.

Focus areas for next week

Enrichment opportunities and wider curriculum participation are central to the school's ethos of 'Developing our gifts and talents for the benefit of others'. If your daughter has not signed up to participate in clubs or activities, please follow the link and this will be reviewed at Academic Review Day. [Enrichment Programme](#)

Some upcoming Events & Dates

- Black History Month Week 2 events. All week in assembly, form time, PSHEC and specific lessons
- **Monday 6th October** from 7:30pm: Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony, Polka Theatre
- **Wed 8th October** 4:30-7.00pm: Sixth Form Open Evening (held at Wimbledon College). Early school closure at 12.50pm.
- **Friday 17th October** 7:00-9:00pm UPA Year 7 Film Night
- **Thursday 23rd October:** Academic Review Day (from 1.35pm)
- **Friday 24th October:** Academic Review Day (from 12.50pm)
- **Monday 27th - Fri 31st October:** Half-Term

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News and Announcements

Catholic Life of the School

In the month of October in which the church celebrates 'Our Lady Of The Rosary', Ursuline High School hosted a 'Rosary Prayer Experience' in the chapel during lunchtime. The session was open to both staff and students and involved student leaders leading the mystery reflections and the Hail Mary prayers, as well as members of the Chaplaincy Team choir singing solos and helping everyone to sing the chorus of the hymn 'Ave Maria' together.

Visit our school [website](#) to read more about what we currently do to embed our Catholic Ethos into school life.

Some of our Year 7 students recently experienced their first Form retreat, a key part of their Transitions programme. Guided by our Chaplain, Mr Cunliffe, and with their Autumn term Virtue 'Insieme' in mind, the year group shared how they can seek and find all the ways to let their light shine in their school, homes and communities, and how they might grow their little light to be a light on a hill for themselves, each other and Ursuline High School over their coming 7 years.

Black History Month launched this week with student-led assemblies on the theme 'Black and Proud.' The students reflected on what it means to be a young, black woman today, and also discussed how important their culture and identity is to them. The assemblies were centred around the scripture and ended with a prayer for equality.

Our school is working towards achieving the Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award from UNICEF. We strongly believe that every child has the right to feel safe, respected, and valued; these rights mirror our personal school ethos which extend onto the students throughout their Ursuline journey. Through embedding children's rights into our everyday school life, we are helping pupils to understand not just their own rights but the rights of others in addition. These rights encourage students to be kind, respectful and mindful as well as assisting them to feel more comfortable within school. Through this, we aim to make a positive difference in the school for everyone. This is an exciting step for our school community, and we look forward to working together with both staff and pupils on this journey.

- Zada Okai and The Rights Respecting Team

Information Evenings

PowerPoint slides from our series of Information Evenings have been shared with parents and carers and can be accessed on our [website](#). If you missed your year group meeting or would like to revisit the topics covered, please read the slides. If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's Head of Year.

Parent/carer Resources

[Alastair Campbell Talks Politics](#)

Writer, podcaster and strategist, Alistair Campbell makes politics fun and engaging in his brilliant recently published book, the latest instalment in the 'Talks' series, especially written for the teen audience. Alastair shares his incredible knowledge and passion to empower young people and give them the skills and confidence they need to understand how the country is run, how they can get involved, encourage them to have a view, or take a stand, give them tips about how to debate, and so much more! The book is an empowering introduction to politics that every young person should be encouraged to read.

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Students had a great time performing at Cadogan Hall this week.



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We are very proud of our Year 13 students who recently completed the Ursuline Global Scholars Programme. This is the first year we have run the programme, following the model set up by the UEN at Ursuline schools in the United States. To complete the Programme, the students completed a 5000-word coursework essay, took part in school leadership, community work, and qualified in cultural literacy, before presenting before a panel of judges including the Director of the Ursuline Education Network, Peggy McCormick-Platz, and Ursuline High Wimbledon Senior Leaders, Mr Adam, and Mr Glavina.



It was a close match this week for the Year 9 netball teams up against St Cecilia's. Excellent efforts from both teams! Purple's losing 4-7, Player of the match: Isla. Blue's losing 4-6, Player of the match: Helen.

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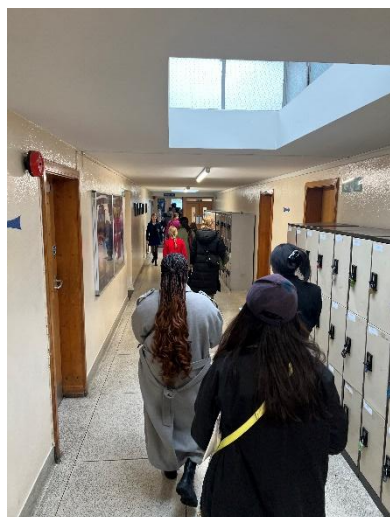


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And finally, it has been lovely to welcome so many Year 5 & 6 children and their parents/carers to our Open Morning talk/tours this week. We hope they enjoyed their visits and look forward to many applications to the school.

Quick Links

[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](#) – Parent Guides & FAQs
[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)
[Online Safety](#)
[Term Dates 2025-2026](#)
[Ursuline Directory](#)

Have a restful weekend and enjoy the return of some settled weather.

Yours faithfully,

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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