



Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA 020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 - Autumn A, Week 6

Highlights of the week

On Wednesday we had our early closure for the joint Sixth Form Open evening with Wimbledon College, hosted on the College site on Edge Hill. This evening was an incredible success surpassing last year's record numbers of visitors. The School Sports Hall had the feel of a vibrant conference centre and we were very oversubscribed for the three talks. We had presentations from Mr Laing and myself but more importantly students from current Year 13s and past students reflecting on what it is like to be part of this incredible Sixth Form.

Congratulations to our nine Jack Petchey Award winners who attended an Awards Evening on Monday 6th October to receive their prizes. They were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding leadership qualities, their approach to their learning and for their consistent living out of our motto Serviam. Each of the students was given £300.00 and they met with the teachers who had nominated them to choose how this money would be used in school for the benefit of others. See the pictures below.

Focus areas for next week

Please may I remind you to support your daughter in ensuring that her laptop is kept in its carry case at all times. The laptop doctors are currently experiencing the largest volume of damaged laptops we have ever had to manage. Misuse of the laptops or neglect leading to damage can result in the warranty for the laptop considered void by Dell. In order to avoid passing on the cost of repairs for damaged school property to parents and carers, we ask you to be vigilant in ensuring that your daughter protects her laptop at all times.

If your daughter has not signed up to participate in clubs or activities ahead of Academic Review Day, please follow the link; this will be reviewed at Academic Review Day. <u>Enrichment Programme</u>

Some upcoming Events & Dates (Refer to our <u>Calendar</u> for academic year events but here are some significant upcoming events for this half-term):

- Tuesday 14th October Year7 Music Showcase in Main Hall (4.30-5.30pm)
- Friday 17th October UPA Year 7 Film Night (7:00-9:00pm)
- Thurs 23rd October: Academic Review Day (from 1.35pm)
- Fri 24th October: Academic Review Day (from 12.50pm)
- Mon 27th Fri 31st October: Half-Term

News and Announcements

Anne A-J in Year 12 attended the award ceremony at the Nobel Peace Centre last week. It was a remarkable and special achievement. Please see below a picture of Anne receiving the *Dialogue Voice of the Month* diploma from the Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Centre. Anne achieved this reward for the participants of the Norwegian version of "School Swap." Here is a quote from the press release:

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"The Nobel Peace Prize laureates have taught us the value of listening and of embracing dialogue as a mindset. The students in 'School Swap' put these principles into practice in a wonderful way when they meet one another with respect and openness. We applaud their courage in confronting differences and prejudices,"

Kjersti Fløgstad, Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Centre

Students attended Wimbledon Bookfest this week. Congratulations to Celeste in 8 Angela who was awarded the prize for best KS3 short story in the Young Writers Competition and to Ana (Ursuline Alumnae) overall competition winner.

Information Evenings and Academic Review Day

Letters will be distributed next week for the upcoming Academic Review Day. Please do not miss out on this communication in securing your preferred appointment times.

PowerPoint slides from our series of Information Evenings have been shared with parents and carers and can be accessed on our <u>website</u>. 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.

Catholic Life of the school

Visit our school website to read more about what we currently do to embed our Catholic Ethos into school life.

Parent/carer Resources

Have you missed our <u>Curriculum Guides</u>? On the Curriculum section of our website, you'll find our suite of Guides for year groups 7-11. These Guides have all the information you and your daughter need to successfully navigate the year.

Although the following book series has never been available at the Ursuline, we wish to issue an important Safeguarding Notice about a book series called: *Children's "Spy" Books*.

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by **Andrew Cope, including the** *Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series*. Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

School Photography- Happy Days

We have received a few queries from parents and carers regarding the whereabouts of their Year 7, 10 or 12 photo orders. We can confirm these have been received by the school and will be distributed throughout tutor times next week.

























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Our Sixth Form Open
Evening this week at
Wimbledon College proved
successful,
with packed Headteacher
talks, and interested
students, parents and
carers checking out all that
our Sixth Forms have to
offer at our display stands.
Thank you our Ursuline and
Wimbledon College
community for their
support.









































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We were delighted to attend the Jack Petchey Awards evening hosted by Odeon Wimbledon this week. Congratulations to the below students who were nominated for awards by Ursuline staff: Chloe P-B (9M), June K (11F), Chisom C (11A), Sofia R (9T), Laura N (10M), Elizabeth W (7F), Jessica D (10F), Norissa I (10C), & Isabel B (10M).



We celebrated Black History Month this week with assemblies across all year groups and activities during tutor time.























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Our food bank volunteering has received a high response this half-term, with many students volunteering at Morrisons, Sainsburys, and Waitrose stands this week. Serviam!





Sports News: Above Left: Our Year 7s first netball fixture! Superb from all the students involved! Results: A's won 13-7, Player of the match: Lottie. B's losing 3-11, Player of the match: Aria. Above Right: Great training sessions with our Surrey Cricket Academy players this week in the nets.

























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Anne (12Ang) visited me today after attending an award ceremony at Nobel Peace Centre recently. Anne was presented with the *Dialogue Voice of the Month* diploma by Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Centre. Congratulations we are very proud of you Anne.



Students attended Wimbledon Bookfest this week. Congratulations to Celeste (Y8) who was awarded the prize for best KS3 short story in the Young Writers Competition and to Ana (Ursuline Alumnae) overall competition winner. (Both pictured on the left).























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Quick Links

Arbor - student records and reports

School Calendar

Catholic Life & Mission

Curriculum Information

Headteacher's Weekly Roundups

Newsletters – school-wide and year group

<u>ParentPay</u> - 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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