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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

12 December 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

The Year 11 students have completed a full week of their written Mock GCSEs. The first day nerves quickly settled as they bravely took on the challenge and opportunity to practise through these exams. See the picture below of the students all sitting their RE paper 1 Mock under formal exam conditions.

I had the pleasure of introducing staff to the new Sixth Form Leadership team of the school today. The Leadership team comprises this year of Joint Head Girls and one Deputy Head Girl position alongside four Senior Prefects. Catherine and Maia have been appointed Joint Head Girls; Emma has been appointed Deputy Head Girl. You can listen to their introduction message to the Ursuline Community [here](#). This year's selection process was very competitive and four students (Orla, Emma, Nathania, and Lucia) who came very close in the contest are being prepared for Senior Prefect responsibilities in the school. Well done again for everyone who had the courage to put themselves forward and this will lead to new opportunities for them.

We had a very brave student in Year 7, Megan, who was unfortunately involved in an accident this week when she was struck by a car. Despite her ordeal and being treated by paramedics, she showed incredible bravery and thankfully, nursing no more than bruising, she returned to school the next day determined to keep on going.

Highlights of the week

Christmas Dinners went down a storm this week. Students across the school signed up in huge numbers to enjoy the locally sourced and skilfully prepared lunch by our in-house catering staff. I had the privilege of helping out myself, but was repeatedly told off by Ms Pierwieniecka for my poor portion control. I was very impressed with the Year 7s who unlike Sixth Formers were asking for extra sprouts and gravy.

On Tuesday, Student Leaders from across the school lead by the Chaplaincy team hosted a Christmas Party for retired members of our Sacred Heart parish and wider community. The food was produced by students in Food Technology; the entertainment and singing were lead and managed by students. The carol singing and festivities were excellent, and one 'reveller' noted "we all enjoyed the food, carol singing from the students and bingo. Unfortunately, no one from us won the bingo. But we are ALL WINNERS of a very enjoyable Tea Party hosted by Ursuline. We ALL went home very happy!"

Focus areas for next week

This week, we focused once again about road safety and taking care when travelling to and from school. Students have been reminded of the importance of avoiding distraction and being vigilant when stepping out and crossing roads. Please discuss with them the importance of crossing safely and the dangers of earphones cancelling out surrounding noise.

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Important Notices

A reminder to all parents and carers on the importance of full school attendance including the last day of term. Information on attendance expectations can be found on the school website and if you need to discuss this with school, please contact the Attendance Officer, Mrs Young via email: bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk. Further information and support on attendance can be found on the government link below. Resources for families Children's Commissioner for England.

Christmas Gift Appeal for the Catholic Children's Society and Dons Local Action.

Please consider buying a small gift for a child in need this Christmas. Please do not wrap your gift; simply place it in a gift bag and label the bag accordingly - it can be for a young child, tween or teen, boy or girl. Labelled gifts can be left under our Christmas Tree in the Crescent Road foyer and the last day we are accepting donations is Wednesday 17th December.

Liturgical season of Advent

Whilst our outstanding Catholic ethos and values are embedded in all aspects of school life throughout the year, the final week of term begins with our Joint Carol service with Wimbledon College on Monday evening at Sacred Heart Parish Church beginning at 8pm. Students in school will get to participate in Christmas Advent services and assemblies throughout next week.

Upcoming Autumn B key dates

Refer to our Calendar for academic year events but here are some significant upcoming dates for this half-term: Please note that school finishes for Christmas on Friday 19th December, reopening for Spring A on Monday 5th January.

- December: Advent. See communication from Mr Cunliffe for details of our Programme.
- Running until 19th December: GCSE Mocks Exams
- 15th December: Christmas Carol Service (8.00-9.00pm); Sacred Heart Church
- 16th December: Christmas Fair; Y12 & Y13
- 17th December: Last day for the Christmas Gift Appeal
- 19th December: Christmas Assembly and Last Day of Term (School Day ends: 12.50pm)

Parent/carers Resources

Top Tips for a Tech-Free Christmas for Children

With Christmas right around the corner, millions of families are excitedly anticipating the chance to spend some quality time with each other over the festive season. When everyone's engrossed in their phones or glued to their games' consoles, however, genuinely meaningful moments with loved ones can often be difficult to orchestrate. This Christmas #WakeUpWednesday guide will lend a hand: providing some advice on helping young people to set aside their devices for a while and live in the moment. Even if going full tech cold turkey feels unrealistic, implementing just a few of these tips could still decrease the amount of screen time in your home this festive season – enabling everyone to make the most of it.

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News



Year 11 have been progressing well with their mocks.



Some of our Sixth Form students visited Merton College - Oxford on Monday. During their visit they received a tour, enjoyed STEM and Humanities taster lectures and received a glimpse of Oxbridge life. Fantastic!

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Students have been enjoying their Christmas lunches this week



We enjoyed hosting a Christmas Tea Party for the elderly community on Tuesday. There were plenty of carols, (competitive) bingo, tea and cake.

A joyous event! Thank you to staff and students for their participation and our community members for attending.

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It was looking festive around the school for Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday- raising money for Save the Children Charity.



Congratulations to our new Heads' Student Leadership Team!

Joint Head Girls:
Catherine and Maia

Deputy Head Girl:
Emma

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We ended the week with our Year 7 Christmas fair – selling to Year 9.

Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports
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[Catholic Life & Mission](#)
[Curriculum Information](#)
[Headteacher welcome & promotional video](#)
[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
[Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](#)
[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)
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[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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