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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

9th January 2026

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 – Spring A, Week 1

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to 2026 Ursuline High School. I had an unwelcome surprise on Monday morning discovering I couldn't open the door of my office caused by a flood under the floor! Despite the cold snap and disruption to the water supply the staff and students have been buoyant and energetic at the start of term. Students have returned with excellent uniform, are organised and the lessons observed have shown excellent engagement. Thank you to everyone involved in mitigating and managing the disruption and freezing pipes this week, especially to the students for adjusting at short notice to the need for emergency toilet provision.

Well done to the Year 12s and 13s who re-sat GCSEs in English and Maths last November. We received really outstanding results this week on 8th January. A wonderful achievement! Well done to all those who have improved their grade and got over the line with the core subjects.

Highlights of the week

The highlight of this week for me has to be the resilience and positive attitude of staff and students to accommodate the disruption caused by the significant cold spell. 'Keep smiling and carry on!'

On Tuesday, we welcomed Fr Ben from St Cecilia's to celebrate the Epiphany Mass for staff and students

The Year 12 launch of Oxbridge & Societies took place this week.

This week, our Year 12 Film Studies students attended a study day at BFI Southbank focused on Asif Kapadia's documentary *Amy* (2015). The visit supported preparation for their A Level exam and upcoming Spring term study of the film. Students explored the blurred lines between documentary and fiction, watched the film on the big screen, and enjoyed a rare opportunity to question a filmmaker about the filmmaking process.

Focus areas for next week

We have noticed a considerable drop in the number of students needing to leave lessons this week to visit the toilet. I'm sure it isn't coincidental that having to use the festival style external closets has perhaps helped students manage this better. Leaving lessons to visit the toilet of course needs to remain an option but more as an exception, and self-regulation is important in minimising disruption to learning. Attendance in Year 9 and 10 was unacceptable in the final two days of

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the term. Unavoidable illness could not account for the unusual drop in attendance, and this will be followed up with by Assistant Headteachers and Heads of Year. Attendance at the start and end of terms are monitored and followed up with in every case.

A number of students in the lower school are not using their lockers correctly. Many have been identified without a padlock. Please talk to your daughter about this to ensure that she is securing any valuables safely in her locker.

Spring Mid-year Assessments take place across all subjects in Years 7-10 this half term. Reports will be sent home at the end of this half term. We wish all students well for this important milestone in their academic journey this year.

Important Notices

Enrichment

Our Spring Term club schedule has launched, do please read through the options available with your daughter (lunch time and after school options). We want to see each student signed up to at least one club. Clubs are an excellent way of building new skills, making friends and getting involved in school life outside the classroom.

Uniform

We have recently noticed an increasing number of students wearing false nails to school. This is a breach of our uniform policy, which clearly states that false nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

False nails can pose health and safety risks, particularly during practical lessons and physical activities, and they do not align with the standards we expect for our students' appearance.

Please ensure that your child removes any false nails before attending school on Monday to avoid consequences for breaching the uniform policy. In addition, students wearing jewellery not permitted by the uniform policy such as nose studs, bracelets, multiple pairs of earrings etc, will have these items confiscated. If you have any questions regarding the uniform policy, please refer to the school website or contact your daughter's Head of Year directly. We appreciate your support in maintaining our high standards and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students.

Spring A key dates

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

13th January: Year 8 Launch of Philanthropy project

13th January: GCSE Options meeting for Year 9 students during school hours

13th January: Year 9 GCSE Options meeting for parents, 6pm in the Main Hall

14th January: 4.00-6.30pm Year 13 Joint UHS/WC Parents' Evening, Main Hall. Please be aware of the notification from London Borough of Merton roadworks: *A238 Worple Road multi-way lights in place at the junction of Lower Downs Road to allow for a water connection. Lights will be manually controlled 7am to 7pm each day.*

Expected timeframe: 14 January 2026 to 16 January 2026. Please allow extra time for travelling.

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15th January: Year 11 Brown Envelope Day

15th January: Sixth Form Politics Conference

21st January: 3.50-6.30pm Year 11 Parents' Evening

Parent/carer Resources

Education Wellbeing Service Parent Webinars: During the Spring Term, the Education Wellbeing Service is hosting a series of parent/carer webinars on a variety of topics including exam stress, and screen time. For information regarding topics and dates please refer to the email from Ms McCourt sent to all parents on 5th January. Details can also be found on our [website](#).

Schoolwear Inc our School uniform supplier is running a January offer. As they seek to reduce excess stock, they are offering **25% off all blouses and jumpers**, including:

- Long-sleeve blouses
- Short-sleeve blouses
- Jumpers

Please follow this link: [Ursuline High School | Schoolwear Inc](#)

News



My office due to the flooding on Monday.

A big thank you to the site team for actioning the Portaloo's and ensuring they were in place so speedily for students to use.

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First week of our Spring Term Enrichment Programme - Dancebites, Cross Country, and Cricket Club were popular today. An active end to the week.

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Well done to the Year 12s and 13s who re-sat GCSEs in English and Maths last November. We received really outstanding results this week – well above national averages.

Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#) 2025-2026

[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

[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)

[Online Safety](#)

[Term Dates](#) 2025-2026

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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