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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

23rd January 2026

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 – Spring A, Week 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 12s have been undergoing key assessments this week as well as Year 7 and 8 Students who have been focusing on their Cumulative Assessments across all their subjects. This marks the half-way point in the year when students are tested on all the content studied thus far. We look forward to sharing in the successes and discussing next steps when the results are published for Academic Review Day appointments at the end of this half-term.

On Wednesday we hosted the Year 11 Parents' Evening, reviewing the December mocks. Attendance to Parents' Evening (96%) was excellent and the conversations were clearly focused on proactive next steps in the preparation for the GCSEs which are just 101 days away to the first Public GCSE exam. Thank you to all the parents/carers for your engagement and support and also for recognising the considerable efforts of our staff in offering extra support and guidance.

Highlights of the week

On Thursday I met with Emilia and Eleanor who came to share with me the news that they have been successful in securing offers at Oxford University to study Medicine at St John's College and Chemistry at Brasenose College respectively. Amazing achievement, well done!

Mrs Harrison directed 60 year 10 Students taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge in school on Tuesday. Visiting speakers from the 'Speakers Trust' came in to assist in the techniques of captivating and delivering to large audiences. The quality and competence of the students' delivery was absolutely incredible. Well done to all those students involved and good luck in the competition stages going forward.

Anastasia in Year 8 came to share with me the progress she is making and the pride she is taking in the quality of her exercise books. Her commitment and hard work were very clear to see and celebrate.

Focus areas for next week

We continue our focus on improving the pride in books at Key Stage 3, in Years 7, 8 and 9. We ask parents/carers to support by asking your daughters to show you the standards of presentation at home. These relate to basic standards.

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Important Notices

Feast of St Angela Masses begin next week to mark her Feast Day on 27th January, this begins with the Year 11 and Year 12 Mass at the Sacred Heart parish church on Tuesday 27th January. We look forward to celebrating this and the other masses which are very special dates in the school year with reverence and participation.

Smart Devices and Social Media - reminders

Given the recent upsurge in interest on proposed bans on social media up to age 16 we remind parents of our policy, currently in place.

Ursuline students are allowed to have a mobile phone (no smart watches) for travel purposes only. Phones are not permitted for use on any school premises and so must be turned off prior to entering the school site and stored in their locked locker for the duration of the school day. Any phone/watch seen or heard around the school site, outside of lockers will be confiscated. 6th Form have additional privileges of use outside of lessons in designated spaces.

Can I please remind parents that Year 7 and many Year 8 students should not be using any form of social media in accordance with the Ursuline school policy and in line minimum age restrictions (13 currently).

Spring A key dates

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

27th January – Feast of St. Angela with Masses throughout the week

27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day

28th January – LAMDA Acting & Public Speaking Showcase at Lantern Arts, Raynes Park

February - LGBTQ+ History Month Assemblies

2nd February – Children's Mental Health Week

6th February – Year 9 Options Taster Day

12th February – Academic Review Day Years 7-10 – students dismissed at 12.50

13th February - Academic Review Day Years 7-10 – students dismissed at 12.50

13th February – Year 11 GCSE English Language Day

Term dates 2025-2026

Some parents and carers have contacted the school for more detail on the term dates for the next academic year.

Please see link here: [Term Dates 2026-27 - Ursuline High School](#)

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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](#).

Visit the '[Keeping Safe Online](#)' page of our website to read our [Smart Devices and Social Media Statement](#) and access our expansive library of recommended online safety resources.

Academic Review Day

At the end of this term, we host the Spring ARD meetings on 12th and 13th February. ARD appointments will be held on those dates for all Years 7-10. You should have received communication from Mr Glavina last week. Students will be expected to be in school on both days but will leave in the afternoon to make appointments.

News



The Year 10 Drama and Music students had a great day on Tuesday at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge where they enjoyed learning how to become better public speakers. The day was facilitated by Gloria and AC from the Speakers' Trust. Six students were selected to go forward to the Assembly Final where two students will be chosen for the Regional Final in April.

Well done to all of the Year 10s involved and special mention to the highly commended students- Amira, Olivia, Francesca and Saffiyah, and to the six winners- Sinit, Emily, Roisin, Elisa, Clementine and Stephanie.

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We were delighted to welcome Guest Speaker- Lizzie Glithero - Chief Executive of The Heritage Alliance to our Year 13 Economics lesson on Thursday. Where students received talk on the importance and impact of maintaining our heritage sites in the UK.



Year 7 were learning new skills at their Trampolining Club this week!

Thank you and well done to Anastacia in Year 8 for sharing with me the progress she is making.

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Congratulations to Emilia and Eleanor who were successful in securing offers at Oxford University to study Medicine at St John's College and Chemistry at Brasenose College respectively.

And finally, another thank you to everyone who took part in our sixth form conference last week; Brexit Britain, 10 Years on. A great conference providing much insight to our sixth formers. As promised in last week's update, please see the conference booklet for further details [here](#).



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[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Parent Guides & FAQs

[Safeguarding, health & wellbeing](#)

[Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](#)

[Online Safety](#)

[Term Dates](#) 2025-2026

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Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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