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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

6 February 2026

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

Dear Parents/Carers

This busy week culminated with the Year 9 Options Taster Day today. Students in all classes in Year 9 had the opportunity to select and attend KS4 subjects to find out more about the content and structure of the courses ahead of making their choices. Students grasped the opportunity to ask all sorts of questions to the teachers delivering and the experience today will help make informed decisions about GCSE.

This week, I had a chance to take a look into some of the extensive enrichment opportunities outside of the timetabled curriculum. I have been impressed by the testimony of the Sixth Form students involved in outreach work at Perseid School Morden, Merton Interfaith group, local primary schools, local supermarkets, and Homeless enrichment. The 13 Year 9 and Year 10 students studying at the Chinese club at King's School are making outstanding progress. The students involved are really contributing to the work of these organisations as well as personally benefitting from these opportunities to 'Serve.'

Highlights of the week

On Monday, the Ursuline High School was selected to represent the diocesan schools at the Ordination of Bishop Gerald Bradley Episcopal at St Georges Cathedral. Maya, Angel and Celeste along with Mr Cunliffe and myself had the privilege of being part of this historic event in the life of our diocese. The students were captured by the ceremony and were shocked to discover how much time had passed when we needed to rush back for the end of school!

Miss Morand accompanied Martha and June both in Year 12 to compete in the Sixth form French debate at Whitgift School in Croydon. We didn't win the debate, but they did us all proud with their superb confident delivery.

Year 7/8 students walked away from the Merton Borough Football Tournament runners up at Harris Academy Wimbledon, thus continuing the pipeline of excellent football talent through the school. Well done!

Focus areas for next week

Attendance and punctuality remain a priority up to and including the final day of the half term Friday 13th February. Students need to consider the key targets for improvement and further progress in the second half of the academic year. We look forward to productive conversations during the ARD afternoon appointments with your daughter's tutor.

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Important Notices

Academic Review Days (ARDs)

The next round of ARDs for **Years 7-10** take place during Period 5 & 6 next **Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February**. Please **ensure you have booked a slot** - you will have received a communication from Mr Glavina on Monday 2nd February with further information and booking instructions. Bookings opened on Tuesday 3rd February. Students will be expected to be in school on both days but will leave in the afternoon to make it home in time for their appointments.

Payments moving from ParentPay to Arbor

As part of our Portals Consolidation Project, the school is migrating payments from ParentPay to Arbor. From **Monday 23rd February**, parents/carers will use Arbor to manage all school-related payments including catering, equipment and trips. For further information, please refer to the email from Mr Glavina sent on Wednesday 4th February. I trust this is good news for our parent/carer community, who want to access important information relating to their child's learning journey in one place.

Term dates academic year 2026-2027

Please see dates [here](#).

Spring A key dates

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

LGBT+ History month 2026: We comply with our statutory obligations when acknowledging LGBT+ History month over the next few weeks to consider the LGBT+ community and its history through Catholic Social Teaching. The theme this year is Science and Innovation. The aim is for students to have:

- a greater awareness of the issues that LGBT+ individuals have gone through to have a more inclusive society
- an understanding of how historic and current LGBT+ figures in society are role models and the journey they have gone on to bring about equality and change
- To know how to respond to bullying around issues of LGBT+
- 9th & 10th February - Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition NEA2 Practical
- 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
- 16th - 20th February – Half term
- 23rd February - INSET day (Year 13 Mock exams start)
- 24th February - All year groups return to school for Spring B

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Parent/carers Resources

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

Teach Wimbledon have launched Internship applications for direct teacher training on funded apprenticeship

Do you know a university student studying Chemistry, Physics, Maths, DT, Computing or Foreign Languages?

When: **June 22nd 10th July**

How much?: **£455 per week**

Who: **Undergraduates (2nd, 3rd or final year), and Masters students**

How: [Apply for a Teaching Internship in Summer 2026 – Fill in form](#)

News



Recently we had 4 bands (from Y8 to Y12) taking part in the Battle of the Bands event, hosted by Wimbledon College. The other schools involved were Wimbledon College, Harris Wimbledon, Rutlish and Ricards.



Angel A (8A), Celeste A (8A), and Maia H-M (12C) attended the Ordination of Bishop- Gerald Bredley Episcopal at St Georges Cathedral with Mr Cunliffe on Monday.

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From 1st January to 30th June across all year groups

2026 Reading Challenge



This challenge is about encouraging you to read, not the amount you read.

Reading doesn't just mean books, for this challenge we will also be accepting Audio books and articles. All we ask is that you write a quick review (a couple of sentences) and be prepared to answer a few questions from the librarian team.

Everyone's reading journey will be different so the Top Readers will be selected based on a number of different factors not just the number of books read.

Pop along to the library and collect a tracking sheet .



On Tuesday, Year 11 received a Post 16-18 Options Talk with speakers from South Thames College Group, AIM Apprenticeships, and Royal Holloway University.

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Ms Harrison, Ms Surbey and Ms Lewis held the next round of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge this week- to select our regional finalists. The following students spoke very passionately on the below topics; *Sinit* - "Discrimination and expectations of black students", *Emily* - "Private schools vs public schools", *Roisin* - "Private schools and do they separate rich and poor?", *Elisa* - "Overconsumption", *Clementine* - "Modern slavery in the UAE", and *Stephanie* - "Does originality exist anymore?". We'll update you with our regional finalists next week.



On Wednesday, students Bolu, Nisha, Naomi, and Miechrist attended the Merton Sixth-Form Inter-Faith meeting at Dons Local Action, which included a tour of the AFC stadium.

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Also on Wednesday Year 9 had a Careers Employer Taster Day (above) and ended the week today with their KS4 Options Taster Day (below)- ahead of choosing their GCSE subjects.





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And finally, we have a new member of the Ursuline Community we would like to introduce to you. Welcoming Milo our therapy dog!

Milo will be working in Mrs Jefferies office over in the SEND department 4 days a week. Milo has been allocated various responsibilities and will no doubt have a very busy schedule – he will be seeing people on a first-come first-served basis.

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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](#)

[Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust](#)

[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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