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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

24 April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup 2025-2026 – Summer A, Week 2

Despite the challenges posed through Tube strikes this week, almost all Year 8 parents/carers and students attended school for the annual subject Parents' Evening. The feedback from parents/carers was excellent and affirms the fact that parental support is crucial in supporting progress at school. Thank you for taking time to stop and speak to me about the successes and challenges. The exam season has begun with Year 11 Oral Speaking examinations, Art GCSE and with our Year 13 T Level students sitting the first part of their final examinations. Well done for all the students involved in their diligent preparation and resilience in confidently tackling these assessment formats. The rest of the school community have been mindful and respectful of this in being quiet and considerate around school at break time.

Today a group of Year 10 students visited Kings College Hospital and we look forward to hearing their reflections on this trip to view the careers and opportunities in Medicine.

Highlights of the week

I had some great conversations this week with students enjoying the success of their commitment and hard work in developing and sharing their gifts and talents, modelling the school ethos for Serviam. Zada 9T, Silvia 9B and Atinuke in 9M joined me in my office to share that they had been selected by the National Youth Theatre. For context I learned that there were more than 600 applicants: the fact that three of our girls have been successful is remarkable and they should be proud of their achievement. Separately, I met with Stephanie 10A and Emily 10U whose performance at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Merton finals generated an email from a Director of a local acting school (Boss Acting School) to say she was so impressed by the competence and delivery of our two students that the company has offered free acting workshops for our Drama department.

Our Year 12 Digital T Level students have begun their Industry placements this week with Amazon. We wish them well and know they will represent the school very well in this important component of their course.

Focus areas for next week

Several students in Year 9 and Year 10 have been challenged this week about not bringing their school bag to and from school. Reports of "I've done my homework" and "I don't have homework" have been looked into and found to be untrue. If your daughter arrives home without her books or laptop and reports a similar issue, please challenge them because it is untrue and is generating sanctions. Follow this up by making direct contact with your daughter's Tutor or Head of Year to discuss. We can place students into Year homework clubs when they are not managing their homework as set out in the school expectations.





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Important Notices

Year 9 Parents/Carers meeting – Wednesday 29th April 3.50pm-6.30pm.

Bookings opened on Tuesday 21st April. If you haven't already booked your slots, please do so. We look forward to seeing all Year 9 parents/carers and your daughter in attendance. For further information, please refer to recent communications from Mr Glavina.

The importance of nutrition, sleep and healthy screen time as part of exam preparation and performance. In the run up to the Year 11 & 13 GCSE and A Level Exams (and indeed other year group end of year exams), it is essential to keep front of mind the importance of hydration, sleep, a healthy diet and screen time as part of exam preparation and performance, brain processing and in maintaining energy levels, concentration and memory retention.

Visit our [website](#) to read more and access slow-release carbohydrate and protein breakfast and healthy snack ideas to pack on exam days (remember, no nuts at school – however, they do make an excellent snack for home for those that can eat them). We encourage you to explore these materials with your child and discuss ways to ensure good nutrition is incorporated into their daily routine. Thank you for your support - open communication and a supportive home environment can significantly alleviate exam-related stress.

Diocesan notice of the upcoming Pilgrimage

Archdiocese of Southwark Day Pilgrimage to the National Catholic Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, Norfolk. Saturday 27th June 2026. Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help: The cost is £50 and to book please email Fr James Clark jamesclark@rcaos.org.uk 020 8857 5006

Newsletters

Missed any of the school wide Newsletters and updates at the end of Spring Term - they are available to read [here](#).

You can also find our latest editions of the [Spring Term Catholic Life Newsletter](#) and [Spring Term Sixth Form Newsletter](#).

Term dates

Academic year 2026-2027

Please see [here](#).

Summer A

Refer to our [Calendar](#) for academic year events and below for significant upcoming dates for this half-term:

28th April – Y7 Catch 22 vaping workshop

29th April – Y9 Parents' Evening in the Hall, 3.50-6.30pm

30th April – Mary of the Roses Service

4th May – Bank Holiday

5th May – Sixth Form Applications open on Applicaa for Y10





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- 5th May – Y11 GCSE exams begin
- 7th -15th May – Y10 Internal End of Year Exams
- 7th May – Y13 Thanksgiving Mass and Celebration
- 11th May – A-Level exams begin
- 12th May – Y7 Revision Evening Parent Meeting
- 12th May – Y12 UCAS information evening
- 14th May – Feast of The Ascension
- 18th May – Y9 End of Year exams begin
- 19th May – Y8 Mosque Visit
- 21st May – World Day for Cultural Diversity
- 25-29th May – Half-Term
- 1st June - Return to school for summer B
- 1st June - Y8 End of Year exams begin
- 8th June - Y7 End of Year exams begin

News



Congratulations to Emily C 10U and Stephanie V 10A for their standout performances at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Merton final.





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Congratulations also go to Atinuke 9M, Zada 9T, and Silvia 9B who were all selected for the National Youth Theatre despite 600 students applying. Impressive!



Recently, some of our students took part in a community Production! *Silas Marner* which was performed in the Collyer Hall Theatre at King's College School. Ursuline performed 5 scenes of the play with Alannah N playing the protagonist, Silas.

Well done to all students involved Hannah B, Alannah N, Eve W Selena C-S, Anita D & Anna P.





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Recently, the music department took 45 of our Y8-Y11 students to see Hadestown in the West End! This trip was a reward for their fantastic commitment to music clubs this year so far - from choir to orchestra, rehearsals to performances. It was brilliant to see students experiencing live theatre of such a high standard, especially as musical theatre is a part of our GCSE Music course.



Congratulations to 8 Angela who won this year's First Give Philanthropy final! 8 Angela have won an additional £1000 for their chosen charity MIND- Kingston. Well done to them and to the whole of Year 8 for their hard work supporting their tutor groups charities and taking part in social action with such enthusiasm.

A big shout out also goes to Maya in Year 12 who supported the event on the judging panel! Mays was part of the winning team herself back when she was in Year 8. A full circle moment for her!





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Quick Links

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Wishing you and your family a restful and happy weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

