

Department Results, 2025-2026

Key Stage 3 - English

	Year 7 At or above expected target	Year 8 At or above expected target	Year 9 At or above expected target
Ursuline	74%	87%	72%

Key Stage 4 – GCSE English Language

	9-7	9-5	9-4
Ursuline	47%	80%	94%

Key Stage 4 – GCSE English Literature

	9-7	9-5	9-4
Ursuline	48%	86%	95%

Key Stage 5 – A-Level English Language

	A*-A	A* - B	A* - C
Ursuline	6%	25%	50%

Key Stage 5 – A-Level English Literature

	A*-A	A* - B	A* - C
Ursuline	17%	67%	100%

URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

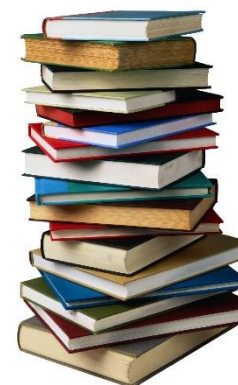
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Open Evening 2026



ENGLISH

Head of Department

Ms L McHale

English is the most important tool you'll ever need, no matter what career you choose.

Benjamin Zephaniah

A good book, studied with a good English teacher, takes you on a journey in search of answers to the crucial questions in life you didn't even know you wanted (or needed) to ask.

Professor L. Jardine, Queen Mary & Westfield, ULU

Our Aims at Ursuline High School

- To set challenging targets with high expectations for all students.
- To offer a variety of approaches to teaching and learning
- To engage and motivate students and demand their active participation.
- To smooth the transition for students between Key Stages and ensure progression in teaching and learning throughout their time at school.
- To enhance students' enjoyment of English and prepare them for university study (should they choose the subject)

Teaching and Learning

Our curriculum is designed not only to develop core literacy skills but also to enrich students' cultural capital through a broad and engaging range of texts. Across Key Stages 3 and 4, students encounter literature that challenges their thinking, deepens their understanding of the world, and encourages them to appreciate how writers use language to shape meaning, influence readers and express ideas.

Teachers provide regular, high-quality feedback and monitor progress closely. This ensures that learning is responsive, targeted and aligned with departmental expectations for strong academic progress. Above all, we aim to instil a lasting love of reading and literature, nurturing confidence, thoughtful and articulate learners who can interpret, question and enjoy the texts they encounter.

Homework is set once a week and consists of:

- Revision of key terms, spellings and grammar
- Analysing a variety of non-fiction and fiction texts
- Extended pieces of writing (essays, letters, diary entries, speeches, short stories, descriptions)
- Preparing presentations/role plays

How can I help my daughter if she gets stuck with homework?

- Homework will be based on work done in class, and your daughter will have notes in her Class Notebook to assist her.
- Encourage your daughter to make time before the deadline to seek help from her teacher.
- Avoid 'doing the homework' for her, as it will not help her make progress.
- Encourage your daughter to use her green pen to proof-read and compile a word bank of key spellings.
- Read regularly together – each year group is given a recommended reading list each term.

What will Year 7 study in English?

All students will study modern novels, classical literature, poetry, short stories, a Shakespearean play, and read a variety of non-fiction texts.

The end of year exam will assess reading and writing, and resources can be accessed via the Year 7 Student Team.

Extra-curricular activities include a weekly reading club, writer events and competitions with Wimbledon Book Festival and Young Writers.

Our school library offers a variety of fiction and non-fiction books for students.