



## “Speak Out” Challenge



“The Jack Petchey Challenge day helped me with how to talk in public, no matter what the issue or situation is...”

Student



On Tuesday 25th January Year 10 POP B took part in the Jack Petchey “Speak Out” Challenge. The yearly event sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation enables students to become confident and articulate speakers, where they are provided with tools and opportunity to “speak out” on topics they are passionate about. Students participate in a full day public speaking workshop with a *Speaker’s Trust* trainer, where they gain insight into the most effective ways to convey their views and express themselves to an audience, through participating in a range of tasks and exercises during the day. Students then pick a topic they are passionate about to create a short speech which is presented to the class at the end of the day. Topics students chose to speak on included; stereotyping, colourism, role models, mental health and social media, sexism, climate change, acceptance of who you are.

Congratulations to winners: Giulia C, Ojorumi O and Janae B 10M, Sophia M and Claudia RB 10T and Tess F and Liliana F 10U. Students will now be selected to participate in the **Regional Final** taking place on Thursday 24th March where they will present a 3minute speech alongside other schools winning candidates. Students really seemed engaged in the day and gave some positive feedback about what they enjoyed most about the experience...  
*The end speeches because we got to learn about our classmates.*  
*“Loved the impromptu games...”*  
*“The trainers enthusiastic teaching...”*  
*“Learning to be confident under a lot of pressure...”*  
*“Confidence build up - great mentor...”*

# headlines



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Dear Parents Carers and Friends,

At the Headteacher Conference last term Archbishop John Wilson reminded us of the importance of the dignity of every student.

The Archbishop invited schools, students and parents to join in a Mass for Racial Justice Sunday on 13th February at St George's Cathedral.

At school we are celebrating LGBTQ History Month: Politics in Art and the contribution and achievements of LGBTQ artists. Equity, diversity and inclusion must be at the heart of our community if we are to live out teachings of Catholic Social Justice. The principal of dignity reminds us we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and infinitely loved by God.

Ms Waters  
BSc (Hons) MA  
Headteacher

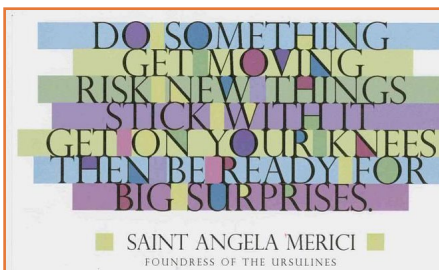


## Practical Skills



Year 8 were putting their technical skills to the test attempting to make Cauliflower cheese in **Food Technology** this half term. Mrs Hoyles gave a demonstration in the lesson prior and students had to try and make it from memory. They realised the trick of the roux sauce was not to let that butter burn prior to adding the milk and flour and lots of mixing to avoid a lumpy sauce. Well done all!

## Feast of St Angela



Thursday 27th January was a very special day for our school, as it was our patron **St Angela's Feast Day!** Read why St Angela is so important to our school values in our Chaplaincy Newsletter [here](#).

## Brown Envelope Day



Friday 7th January was **Brown Envelope Day!** Year 11 students nervously anticipated receiving their **GCSE Results**. There were a mixture of happy and disappointed faces behind those masks, while some received an unexpected surprise! We are very proud of all their efforts so far- well done!

## Decision Making!

### Core Subjects for all students

1. GCSE English Language
2. GCSE English Literature
3. GCSE Maths
4. GCSE Science (two possible routes)
5. GCSE RE
6. Core PE (2 lessons)
7. PSHE & Citizenship (1 lesson a week)
8. Computer science: delivered through all subjects and special curriculum days.

There has been lots of guidance and support for Year 9 in particular this half term, as they approach the tricky time where they need to decide their GCSE options. On **Tuesday 25th January** we held our **Year 9 Pathways Evening** for parents in order to provide key information parents could use to help guide their child in these decisions. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Alongside this, a **Year 9 Pathways Taster Day** was held on **Friday 4th February**, to give students some insight as to what different subjects would be like to study at GCSE. This was further underpinned by a variety of **Career Talks**, from the Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Kew Gardens to the Head of Operational Services at Brooks Macdonald Investment Management, who alongside speaking about their job roles, also spoke on the GCSE's and A Level's they chose on their path to their current careers.

## Keep Updated!



Our new **Ursuline High School app!**

We are delighted to see so many parents using our app and continuing to share so much positive feedback with us.

**Not used it yet? Download and enrol today!** to enjoy the many benefits the app brings following the steps and use the enrolment code shared with you via email on **Monday 13th December**. You can find out more about our app [here](#).

## Uni Life!



Year 11 students enjoyed a trip to **Royal Holloway University of London** on Monday 17th January as part of the **Wimbledon Partnership Aspirations Programme**. Students enjoyed a tour of the campus and some university advice from current students.

# A Helping Hand



Spring Term saw the launch of our annual **Year 8 philanthropy project** in partnership with social action charity **First Give**, in which Year 8 students pick a charity to plan a campaign of support, attempting to win them a £1000 prize. Students excited to be taking part and particularly looking forward to choosing their charities!

## First Give

# Learning Mandarin



Our Year 9 students have been enjoying taking part in **Mandarin Club** at **Kings College**. The club runs every Friday after school!

One student said *"I love Mandarin Club as it's something different to learn"*.

# Diverse Reads



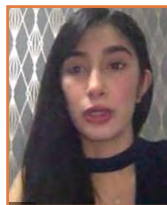
Fantastic display in our Library of our ever growing range of **diverse reads**! There's far more than could possibly fit- Mrs Toop our Librarian picked the most popular reads!

# STEAM Opportunities!



**STEAM Academy** students were presented with a unique design challenge this half term- **Design Future London**. *The Mayor of London* and **MOBIE** to present the brief of designing an affordable, sustainable and beautiful area to live, work and visit in the Royal Docks in East London. Check out our Instagram for more details on this!

STEAM Academy also had the opportunity to hear from *Ria*, a Biomedical Science student at **St George's Hospital, Tooting** with a passion for advocating for more women in STEM. Ria shared information about the key roles 'hidden' women have played in STEM past and present. Students were particularly interested to know about Ria's path, what A Levels she studied (Maths Biology, Chemistry and English Lit) and why she chose to study Biomedical Science over Medicine (Biomedical Science opens the doors to a lot more areas at the moment- particularly if you are unsure). It was great to hear from you Ria!



# Ski Trip



We are really excited to be planning our first **ski trip** to **Austria** after such a long period without any trips abroad.

All being well, students should attend the trip in the Easter Holidays this year!



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SIXTH FORM



# The Joy of Reading

Students have spent time at **St Teresa's Primary School** in **Morden** to read with students as part of the **Sixth Form Enrichment Programme!**

# Leaders!

A huge congratulations to our newly elected **Head Girl Team!**

**Joint Head Girls:** Aleeyah and Hannah

**Deputy Head Girls:** Tianna and Lucia



*"I look forward to encouraging and motivating all Ursuline students; I aim to strengthen the Ursuline community and show constant positivity and perseverance."* Aleeyah

*"I am so excited to be encouraging young women to live a life of community, love and faith through my role as Head Girl."* Hannah

# Oxbridge



Congratulations to **Viviana** who has gained a place at **Cambridge** to study. Viviana was part of our **Oxbridge Programme** of students.

Viviana said; *"I am hoping to study English at Cambridge because I find there is nothing more gratifying than picking apart a text! Mrs Harrison helped greatly with my application by going through my personal statement, being a fountain of information- I cannot thank her enough."*

# Keep Your Options Open!



On **Thursday 20th January**, students were provided with a informative talk on the pros of **Apprenticeships** and **GAP** years by our Sixth Form Careers Advisor; Mrs Ryan.

This allows students to have the full range of options open to them in regards to pathways after Sixth Form!

# BFI Trip!

Year 12 Spanish students enjoyed a trip to the **BFI's KS5 Spanish Day** on January.

They immersed themselves in the work of Spanish film director **Pedro Almodóvar**, which was unsurprisingly conducted mainly in Spanish!



# Maths Enrichment John Fisher



Students have been giving Year 6 students at **St John Fisher** a helping hand with some extra curricular maths work this half term as part of their **Sixth Form Enrichment**.

Great example of Serviam!



netball tennis football athletics  
 rock climbing cross country  
 trampolining basketball hockey  
 dance duke of edinburgh award  
 wimbledon ball girls cycling

With sporting fixtures still a bit thin on the ground we thought we would highlight some of our fantastic sports enrichment students have been enjoying this half term.

## Basketball



There has been plenty of opportunity to take part in basketball this half term., With **Spartans basketball club** running on Wednesday and Year 7 Basketball Club run by Miss Torode and Miss Howley on Tuesday. Both clubs run weekly after school.

## BenchBall



Students in **Benchball Club** enjoyed a friendly competition with Ricards Lodge on Wednesday 26th January. It ended with a Ricards win, but we are looking forward to a rematch soon!

## Irish Dancing



**Irish Dancing Club** has been a popular choice this half term run by Geography teacher; Ms Guiheen. Ms Guiheen started the enrichment to raise the profile of the traditional dance style. **Did you know...** Irish Dancing is not always accompanied by bagpipe- like music. You can dance to modern songs as well. Unlike Scottish dancing, Irish dancing involves minimal arm movement, this is because historically there would have been limited space to perform in the 18th and 19th centuries; small rural pubs or barn dances crowded with locals

## DofE- Box Hill



The **DofE Gold Award** were busy completing an excursion to **Box Hill** this half term with other students from Merton. We look forward to hearing more about their exploits later in the term.

## Fun Fitness!



**Year 7** have been enjoying taking part in **Trampolining and Recreation Club** this half term. Its a great group activity, everyone's confidence is really growing as they get to grips with increasingly harder techniques! **Did you know...** Trampolining can reduce restlessness and alleviate stress?