



Arts and Homelessness!



Year 8 is always a special year for students, they get to take part in their **Philanthropy** project in association with charity **First Give**. Students start working on this special project in spring term. Each Year 8 form voted to select a charity they are passionate about, they then spent a significant amount of time researching and getting to know the charities to find out their aims and pain points, before setting about creating a plan to attempt to raise money for them, and create further awareness of their cause. All with the aim to potentially win their charity £1000 in the **First Give Grand Final!**

This year the charities selected were **Angela: Lives not Knives**, **Bernadette: Thrive**, **Catherine: STEM 4**, **Francis: Arts and Homelessness International**, **Margaret: Care Support Merton**, **Teresa: SVP (New Malden)**, and **Ursula: The Royal Marsden**. Students spent a considerable amount of time fundraising, ranging from bake sales to extra chores and sponsored runs.

The eagerly anticipated **Grand Final** was held this half term in our school hall. A panel of judges (including the **Mayor of Merton: Councillor Joan Henry**) were treated to some fantastically persuasive presentations regarding the 7 form groups fundraising work over the past few months. The students spoke on why their chosen charity would benefit from the sum of money and how they would use it to make a difference, there were even catchy charity raps for extra oomph! It was a close call, however after much deliberation from the judges **8 Francis** were deemed winners, and their charity **Arts and Homelessness International** awarded the £1000 prize. There are no losers however, as Year 8 raised a total of over £8000 for their charities overall, a truly wonderful achievement! We were also delighted to here that the charities really touched students hearts and they want to continue to spread awareness regarding their charities in the future! Great to hear!

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Service and Gratitude

This week we have celebrated Mrs Ward's 50 years of service as a teacher and a member of the Careers team at the Ursuline.

Next half term we will be celebrating Mrs Kenny's 50 years service to Catholic education as a French teacher, 36 years at Ursuline High and 14 years at Holy Cross.

Mrs Ward and Madame Kenny have been truly inspirational in their dedication and commitment to young people. On behalf of us all I wish them a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

We also give thanks for the life and work of Patsy Preece who worked as both a Senior Leader and as English / Drama teacher all of her life. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues and students alike.

RE Dept

Students returned from Easter delighted with the makeover in the RE dept. This will be completed in the summer holidays with new wall art. The Convent garden is also enjoying a makeover with ex staff working hard to transform the area for use by students for class reflection.

If any parents are interested in getting involved please email Mrs Torch.

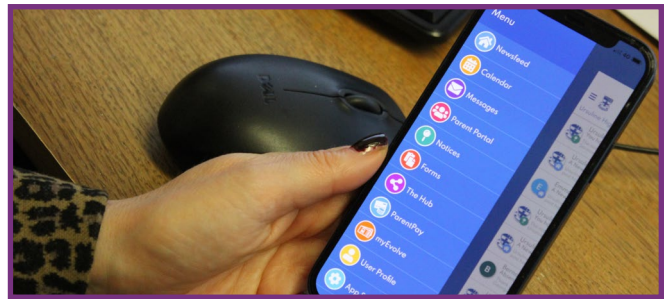
Handover

Mr Kelly and I are enjoying our handover meetings this term ensuring everything is in place for a smooth year ahead. Governors are delighted to appoint Mrs Alexander as permanent Deputy. Mrs Alexander will take on Mr Kelly's role and lead on standards at KS3/KS4.

Finally, Public Examinations are fully underway and internal examinations have begun. Thank you to Parents for their continued support in helping students prepare.

Have an enjoyable half term

Best wishes.
Ms Waters
BSc (Hons) MA Headteacher



Communications

We are committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers. To read more about our Communications Strategy visit the [Parent Communications](#) page of our website.

Are your details correct? To ensure you are receiving relevant communications from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details;

bernadette.young@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Sherlock Holmes Day



Year 7 had a fun time this half term taking part in a 'Whodunit?' burglary mystery in the library on in celebration of **Sherlock Holmes Day**. They really had to put their investigative skills to the test! Potential suspects included their tutors and Head of Year Ms Pinto! Eek!



Patsy Preece

It is a great sadness that we share with you the death of **Patsy Preece**, English Teacher at Ursuline High School.

Ms Preece was an inspirational teacher who shared her passion for English and Drama with students. Ms Preece was a wonderful artist and poet and will be dearly missed by her colleagues and students. May she rest in peace.



Good Luck Year 11

We sent our **Year 11** students off in style on their last official classroom day this half term, with a Mass, shirt signing session and special clap out by Year 7 and 10 all part of the fun. Wishing Year 11 the very best in those **GCSE exams**, we are confident they will see the results from all of the hard work they have put in! Looking forward to seeing them on Results Day and many familiar faces in Sixth Form come September!

Continue to be kind, and respectful, try hard, learn from your mistakes, be proud of your successes, and keep Serviam at the heart of all you do!

WeSee Year 7



Year 7 students have taken part in some very productive **wellbeing workshops** this half term with **WeSee**. There has been lots of positive feedback from students, which is excellent to hear!

Oxford & Westminster



On **Monday 15th May Year 10** took part in an **Outstanding Attainers Trip to Merton College Oxford** (right)- which is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford! They were given a college tour and then attended a workshop at the **Ashmolean Museum!** Students also enjoyed a visit to the **House of Commons** (above) to watch a talk on immigration!



Young Reporters



A huge congratulations to **Julia, Katie and Natalia**, who won a prize in the **Guardian Young Reporters best journalists competition** this half term! As there were only 29 winners out of 1,100 students they did particularly well to stand out. Their reward was an invite to a journalism event at **Kingston Uni** where they got to put their journalistic skills to the test analysing articles!

Beyond Equality



On **Wednesday 10th May** students took part in a **Beyond Equality** conference with **St Philomenas, Carshalton**. The conference looked at gender identity and gender norms in society, alongside discrimination. Students at both schools will be following up with an assembly to their fellow Year 10s.

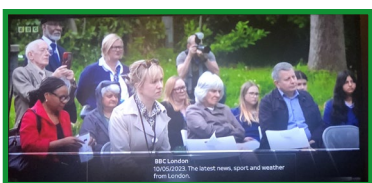


Ski Trip

Over the **Easter Holidays** students took part in the annual **Ski Trip to Austria**. Students had an amazing few days. The groups were of mixed ski ability and all students came away from the trip with a greater level of knowledge, and skills, after a challenging few days on the slopes!

Simran, Julia and Eugenia in Year 8 were accompanied by **Ms Waters** and **Ms Connor** as they attended the opening of the **Daffodil walk** and blue bench in **Colliers Wood** this half term. This is both a memorial and a source of support for those struggling with their emotional well-being. The bench contains a waterproof box with leaflets and a QR code to access support online.

Daffodil Walk



Polish Constitution Day



On **Wednesday 3rd May** we celebrated **Polish Constitution Day!** Our Polish community treated staff to a delicious array of baked goods! Including the ultimate crowd please- **Szarlotka** (Polish Apple Pie) and **Sernik** (a type of cheesecake). Delicious- thank you!

Feast of Ascension



On **Thursday 18th May** - 40 days after Easter we marked the **Feast of the Ascension** with voluntary Mass in the school Chapel. Student representatives from **Year 7-10** were in attendance as we celebrated Jesus' ascent to heaven with prayer and reverence.

50 Years Service!



Mrs Shirley Ward who currently works on our Careers team is celebrating her **50th Year** at the Ursuline this year! Mrs Ward initially started with us as a Home Economics teacher back in the 1970s. Mrs Ward enjoyed a special celebration on **Thursday 24th May** with a Liturgy, student presentations from each decade she has been with us, and of course an afternoon tea!

Hola!

On **Monday 15th May** we were delighted to receive a visit from 41 Spanish students and 5 teachers from **Colegio Santa Gema Galgani** school in Madrid. Our guests received a school tour, visited some Year 9 and 10 lessons and spent time shadowing students. Lovely- we hope they enjoyed it!



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Logischool



Year 13 students **Gwyn and Lyndsey** are currently on a work experience placement at **Logischool, Wimbledon**. A small business running coding clubs for children after school. They are currently working on App for the business which will link with their website. Awesome!

Uni Trips



Year 12 visited **Kingston University** and **Balliol College Oxford** (above) this half term! During the Oxford visit students received a talk with the outreach officer and enjoyed lunch in **Balliol hall!**

Year 13 Celebrate!



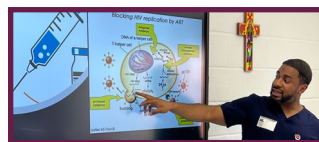
Time has flown by and our **Year 13s** are leaving us for pastures new! They were given a great send off with their **Celebration Evening** and a special **Awards Ceremony** on **Friday 12th May** to send them off on their last day at **Sixth Form**. Lots of exams luck and looking forward to seeing you on **Results Day!**



Surgical Skills



On **Thursday 18th May** **Year 12** students interested in the medical and nursing fields took part in a **Surgical Skills workshop** in our Katherine Johnson building! It was great to them all in their scrubs- they really looked the part!



Thank You Head Team!

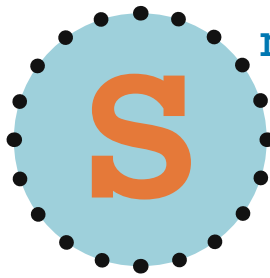


A huge final thank you to our **Year 13** students **Aleeyah, Lucia, Tianna** and **Hannah** who provided excellent leadership and insight on the **Head Team** last year. A huge thank you to them for all for the dedication to their roles- a true example of Serviam! They'll be missed.

Year 12 Leavers



On **Thursday 11th May** we said goodbye to our **Level 2 Year 12** students with a **leavers service** in the Chapel followed by cake in the library. Students are going on to complete degrees Level 3 courses at a variety of colleges. We cant wait to hear how you get on! Keep in touch!



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

Athletics Season!



Thank you to **Orleans Park** for inviting us to their Track competition on *Wednesday 3rd May*. Great opportunity for our students to prepare for the Borough competitions and Sports Day! Great start to the summer season!



Amazing work from our **Athletics Teams** on *Friday 12th May*.

Congratulations to our incredible Intermediate **Y10/11 Girls' Team** on their overall victory at **Merton School Sports Partnership!**

Cricket



Year 9/10 Cricketers put in a great effort taking part in the **Starburst Surrey Cricket Federation** competition at **St Philomena's, Carshalton** on *Tuesday 9th May!*



Well done to our **Y9/10 Cricket Team** who beat **Ricards Lodge** 297-1 to 267-7 in the straight final at the **Merton School Sports Partnership Cricket Competition** at **Morley Park** on *Wednesday 24th May*. Amazing efforts and teamwork from all.

Tennis

Year 9 and Year 10 students enjoyed taking part in **London Tennis Association (LTA)** school tennis match at **Kingston Grammar School** on *Thursday 4th May!* Our **Year 9/10 Tennis** players also triumphed 12-0 away at **Teddington School** this half term! Great teamwork everyone!



Skateboarding



It was great to see our **Skateboarding Club** students have progressed to the outdoors this half term. We spotted them outside the sports hall- working on their speed control and turns. It turns out that the speed students have been used to in the spots hall is not quite the speed they need to navigate obstacles and corners outside!

Dance Bites

Dance Bites club students have been hard at work learning yet another routine this half term. We are glad to see they are warming up those muscles properly first though! Well done!



Mini Marathon

Well done to all of our students and the **Merton Team** for their efforts and representation at the **London Marathon Mini Marathon** on *Saturday 22nd April!*



5-a-side Football



Well done to the **Year 7/8's** who took part in our **Interhouse Football** competition on *Friday 5th May*. It finished 4-2 to the yellow team.

DofE Success

Duke of Edinburgh Gold students had a wonderful day celebrating their **Gold Award Certificate of Achievement** at **Buckingham Palace** on *Friday 19th May*. 34 young people from across Merton attended the service! Congratulations to all awarded- including UHS alumnae **Cydney F** and **Anna L** (top-right)! Students have also had a great time on their **DofE Bronze** expeditions in the **North Downs** this half term - pictured as they were pitching up at a campsite. (**Year 10** students; **Eliza F, Laila S, Amelie L-D** and **Isabella M-F** pictured- right)!

