



It's Christmas Carol, Bah Humbug



“An amazing production, perfect for the run up to Christmas...” Staff Member

On Thursday 24th and Friday 25th November, we held our annual school production, this year it was a variation of the Dicken's classic **A Christmas Carol**, based on the well-known story of miserable old man Ebenezer Scrooge who despises Christmas, and everyone that takes joy from it, but is led to change his ways after he is visited by a series of ghosts one Christmas Eve.

We had an altered set layout this year, in response to the needs of the show, with a walkway from the main stage, separating the two audiences either side, leading to Scrooge's business quarters. This gave a more intimate feel to certain aspects of the performance, and a sense of pace and dynamism to the show.

The performances certainly packed a punch, with *Bianca* definitely channelling her inner 'Bah Humbug', as she put on a simply astounding performance as a mean-spirited, uncharitable Scrooge! *Belinda* played a kind and dedicated Bob Cratchit; Scrooge's clerk,

while *Amelie A* excelled as Cratchit's sweet young disabled son, *Tiny Tim*. *Berta K* was excellent as Scrooge's former greedy work partner, turned condemned ghost, *Jacob Marley*, and much audience sympathy was with *Laura* as Scrooge's charming, long-suffering nephew, Christmas-loving *Fred*.

Matilda H as old fashioned Mr Fezziwig, *Jemima A's* heart warming performances as Mrs Fezziwig, and *Lucile* and *Emelia* as Miss Fezziwig respectively. *Poppy P* provided an illuminating Ghost of Christmas Past, *Obehimeye* a jolly and enthusiastic look into the true spirit of Christmas, as Ghost of Christmas Present, while *Olachi M* gave a eery performance depicting Scrooge's doomful future, as a phantom clad Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Many thanks to our Arts faculty for such a fantastic production (as usual), as well as all who helped out behind the scenes and on the night(s)! See you next year!

headlines



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Gratitude

We give thanks to Mrs Alexa Beale who steps down as a long-standing Governor of the school and Mr David Hennessy Head of St Peter and Paul Primary for his long service and support of the Ursuline High School.

Mrs Beale has been Chair of Governors, Vice Chair and Chair of Personnel Committee. Her contributions have been significant.

Thank you to Aleyah, Tianna, Hannah and Lucia - as they step down from the Head Girl Team. They have been excellent ambassadors of the school.

Reflection

Advent encourages us to reflect on how we live out our core value of Serviam i.e., how we are using our gifts and talents for the benefit of others.

We know we do not always get this right. Dialogue, listening forgiveness and understanding enable us to grow as a community.

St Angela asks of us to remain in harmony, respecting each other, helping each other, and bearing with each other. So, during advent students and staff are involved in fundraising, liturgies of reconciliation and welcoming Senior Citizens to the school. We pray our school community grows stronger in witness this Christmas.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

Ms Waters
BSc (Hons) MA Headteacher



Theme of the Year: "You will be my witnesses". Acts 1:8

Yum!



On Friday 2nd December we held our first staff bake-off in the Food room, congratulations to Mr Rushforth and Mr Breeze for triumphing with their yummy chocolate orange cake!

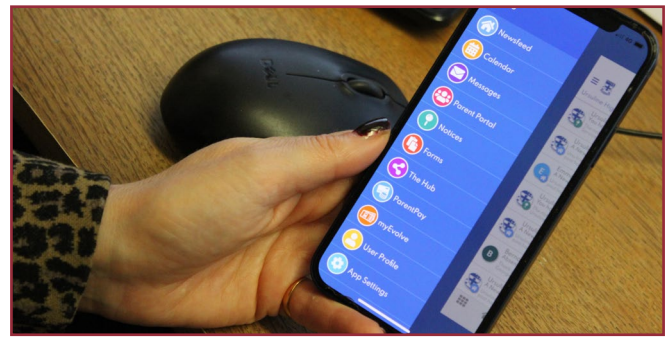
Additionally, in **Food Preparation and Nutrition** Year 9 have been making fruity oat cookies, looking at the skills of weighing and moulding. While Year 10 have been busy making making homemade pasta this half term. Some made it into tortellini!



Engineering

Year 10 students participated in the **National Grid Energy Challenge** this half term they learned about National Grid's London Power Tunnel project, their commitment to net zero, to achieving a 50:50 workforce, and the enormous STEM employment opportunities opening up in the near future.

Year 7 also took part in the **STEM Energy Quest Event** workshop, funded by Shell, students had to put themselves in the shoes of engineers to design and test a solution to power a mobile phone. They were challenged to save the day and to explore their own skill sets as they learned to use the engineering design process.



The Ursuline High School is committed to effectively communicating with our parents/carers and has a communications strategy that includes a wide range of mediums.

We communicate with our primary and secondary parents/carers where we have a valid email on records, and the parent/carer has parental responsibility. To ensure you are receiving communication from us, please ensure you notify us of any changes to contact details.

Weduc

If you're not already enrolled on our app/web portal and would like to, please email: ITHelpdesk@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

For more information re. our Communications Strategy and Weduc, please see the Parent Communications page of our website.

PGL

Year 7 enjoyed their **PGL residential** his half term. Students spent a 3 day adventure experiencing a wide variety of outdoor activities designed to promote teambuilding skills and challenge. Memorable moments included the zip swing and the campfire where students enjoyed toasting marshmallows!

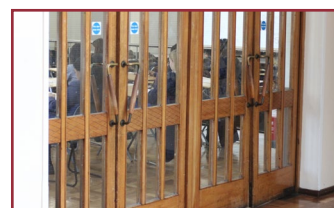


Ursuline Dallas!



On Thursday 13th- Saturday 22nd October selected Year 9 and 10 students took part in a cultural exchange trip to **Ursuline Academy in Dallas, USA**- which is part of our global network of schools. It was a great experience, with students learning together and living with a Texan family. To be considered students had to write an application including what they would bring to the exchange to benefit others, and a description of their Serviam commitment. During the trip students

Year 11 Mocks



Year 11 have been busy preparing for and sitting their **mocks** this half term-over a period of 2 weeks! We wish them the very best of luck for Brown Envelope Day!

Back to School



Year 7 parents really enjoyed going back to school this half term. They spent 2 periods taking part in their child's lessons and met their tutor. All parents seemed very happy with their experience!

Shaping Our World



Year 8 enjoyed a maths trip to the **Science Museum** this half term, they attended the The Winton Gallery to explore **'How has mathematics shaped our world?'** designed by Zaha Hadid Architects. Students explored stories about the work of mathematicians spanning 400 years, from aircraft engineers to garden designers reminding them how important maths actually is. It was a very thought provoking trip!

Helping Hand



Parents are informed that the Sacred Heart Wimbledon Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul exists to help local families in need.

Help can be in the form of advice or small grants to cover immediate essential living costs. You can contact the society directly by email at; PresidentA190704@svp.org.uk or by contacting the parish office by phone 020 8946 0305. All enquiries are dealt with in strict confidence.

Christmas



There has been a great deal of activity this half term, as we prepare students for Christmas and celebrate the Advent season. These have included; our **Christmas Gift Appeal, Christmas Tree Service, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Carol Service**, Senior Citizens Christmas party and Christmas Staff and Students' Lunch. Students have also raised a fantastic amount of money for charities at their Christmas fundraising fairs, more information on this can be found in the Heads of Year newsletters.

Model United Nations



On 29th-30th November sixth-formers and Year 10s attended the Model United Nations hosted by **Mulberry School for Girls**. The conference focused on refugees and each committee looked at a different issue on which the students, representing different countries, had to come to an agreement (these included countering toxic narratives, the position of LGBTQ refugees, and the safeguarding of women and children).

Careers Champions



Students from each year group were asked to volunteer to be **careers champions** for their year group and two students were chosen from each year. The first lunchtime careers champion meeting was held on **Thursday 17th November**. The group discussed the careers calendar and what they liked or would like to see next term. This group was set up to ensure the students have a voice in the creation of the careers programme and to support the careers team at key events. The next meeting will be held in Jan.



Belong and Succeed



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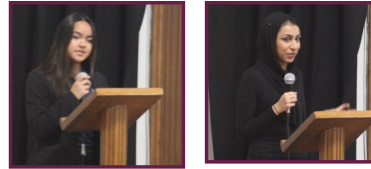
Want more Sixth Form news? Check out our **NEW sixth form newsletter!**

Politics and Equality!



On **Thursday 6th October** our Sixth Form hosted a conference on **Politics and Inequality; the true picture and what we can do about it**. We welcomed students from our sixth form and surrounding schools to come together and look at inequality from three different viewpoints – global, domestic, and historical. We were fortunate to be joined by some excellent speakers who brought with them a range of perspectives to the issue. Thank you to **TEAM Global** for their support!

Head Girl Hustings



Head Girl Hustings were held this half term. Candidates gave persuasive speeches on what changes they would implement if voted as part of the leadership team. Best of luck to all students and we look forward to announcing our new Head team soon!

Digital Day



Our **Year 12 Digital T-Level** students competed in the **BIMA Digital Day 2022** on **Wednesday 9th November**. Students were presented with two branded companies Royal Mail and Primark and they had to create Apps that can help secure and encourage customers but thinking about how the companies can create sustainability and help the effects to the environment.

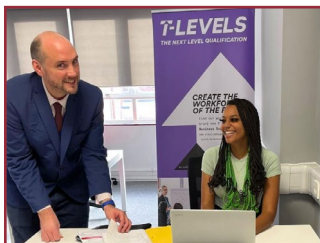
Covent Garden



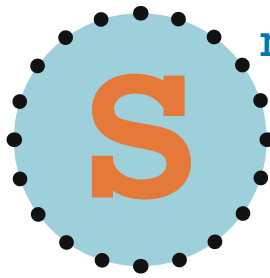
This half term we held the **Covent Garden Primary School Challenge**, a business enterprise competition sponsored by **Covent Garden Capco**, in partnership with local Merton primary schools. Year 12s support the Year 5s to design, produce and present their idea to the judges, in the hope of winning a place at the Final, which is hosted by our Sponsors, CapCo, in Covent Garden. This year, the overall winner was St John Fisher school with their sentimental blanket (complete with a range of different smells to help ease various ailments) Capco kindly gave gift vouchers to all the finalists and a cup for the winning team. Our congratulations to St John Fisher! **"I learnt how to be patient and organized with children and I learnt that it is important to contribute in any way you can."**

Year 12 student

Sixth Form Interviews



Sixth Form external interviews were held this half term! With over 150+ students eager to be part of our Sixth Form. We wonder if our new T Level courses have added to the interest, such as our T Level Business and Administration course (left). A balance of classroom learning and work placements- what could be better?



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

Cross Country



A massive well done to all our Cross Country Club students who took part every Friday, no matter the weather.

Cross-country club will return in the new year!

Wimbledon



Lots of great work from some of our Y9/10s who are at were at BG Taster Sessions this November!

Football Wins!



A busy half term for these Year 7s, PGL and the Year 7 football interhouse competition. Some brilliant football on display. Also, there was fantastic work on the football pitch at Morley Park on *Thursday 1st December* from our Year 7 Team with a 4-1 win against Hinchley Wood School. Goals from Leia & Tallulah, with Evie nominated for player of the match.

Additionally, Year 7/8 Footballers took part in the Merton School Sports Partnership Football at Morley Park on *Friday 9th December*, taking the Bronze Medals! Thank you Raynes Park High School & Ricards Lodge for joining us.

Netball Gold



Well done to the Year 7/8 students who took part in the annual Interhouse Netball Christmas competition this half term. A very festive and fun afternoon with some excellent displays of netball!

Huge congratulations to our Y10/11 Netball teams who took Gold and Silver at the Merton SSP Borough Netball today on 22nd November!



Basketball



Another big well done to our Y10/11 Basketball team for their 32-37 win away at Harris Academy Wimbledon. Absolute team effort! Well done all!

Bronze Medalists



Congratulations to our Year 8 netballers who took part in the Merton Borough Netball competition which we hosted. We had 6 schools attend with Ricards and Harris Merton both finishing in Joint 1st place. We secured Bronze behind Harris Wimbledon in 2nd.