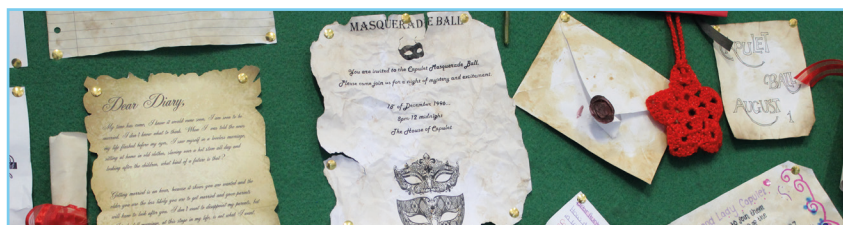




English Excels in Excellent Borough!



“We are very proud of our students. Their exceptional results reflect their great work ethic & diligent exam preparation. Their success is a testament to the hard work of all staff and students.”

Mr Ryan,
Head of English

Ursuline High School are celebrating the outstanding results achieved by their students in their English GCSE examinations. On Thursday, government publications placed Ursuline High School in the top 0.2% of schools nationally for progress in English. Furthermore, disadvantaged students made excellent progress too and were placed in the top 1% of schools nationally for English progress.

We are proud to be a Merton school, and are also delighted to hear the news that Merton borough is ranked third in the country for the progress young people make at Merton's secondary schools- a fantastic achievement! Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for School and Adult Education said; “These results are a testament to the dedicated work at our (Merton) schools.

One of the key reasons our borough is such a great place for families is for to the work of our teaching staff, and the difference they make to pupils lives.”- a lovely endorsement!

In further achievements, we were astounded to see so many of our students chosen to be published as part of the **Young Writers Award** (above, bottom). We are delighted to announce that over 100 mini sagas written by students from Ursuline High School have been chosen for publication in **Hunted - Adventures From the UK**. One Year 8 student commented “I am thrilled to be one of the winners.. this has given me lots of confidence in my writing for the future.”

Many congratulations to a Year 8 and 10 student (top, right), who were recently short listed for a **Richmond Arts Festival**

Young Writers award! Their work will be presented by professional actors at The Exchange on *Sunday 15th March*. To see the full list of finalists and to find out more about Arts Richmond please visit: www.artsrichmond.org.uk

Year 9 have also been having a great time expressing themselves artistically and creatively in English - producing a fantastic array of creative work in response to their study of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (middle, left) including some splendid keepsake boxes!

A wonderful set of achievements on which to end the half term- well done to all!



headlines



Dear Parents and Friends

This week students and staff alike have celebrated the impact of the high aspirations and expectations we have for all our students. The DfE have published our value added for GCSE results and students made exceptional progress. We were delighted that students from different ethnic minorities achieved outstanding progress as did disadvantaged students. While black students nationally achieve minus value added -0.46 black students at UHS achieve +0.7. Disadvantaged students.

We would like students to take the opportunity this half term to reflect with their parents on how they can best use their gifts and talents for others and how they can show gratitude during Lent 2020.

Have a good half term

Best wishes

Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA
Headteacher



Apprenticeships



National Apprenticeships Week (3rd-9th February)
here's how we took part in highlighting apprenticeship opportunities..

- At our **Lunch and Learns** – *Wednesday 5th February* - speaker (above, left) informing students about opportunities at the University of Law & the new Police Degree. *Wednesday 13th February* – Alumni from the Dow Jones attended to speak about school leavers opportunities in the media and creative arts sector and in particular working in journalism and finance.
- Our **internal careers bulletin** for sixth formers was a bumper issue with an apprenticeships focus (and featured lots of apprenticeship vacancies)!
- **Pathways CTM** ran a workshop for our gap year students on researching and applying for apprenticeships!
- We also highlighted Apprenticeships in assemblies and gave out badges to every year group (above, right)!

For more information on Apprenticeships please visit;

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Find Your Brave!



Children's Mental Health Week (3rd-9th February) aimed to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. The theme of this year was 'Find your Brave'. We have been raising awareness of this through a variety of short activities spread across the week including assemblies, meditations, self-reflection and inviting the girls to wear an item of their school uniform 'Inside Out' on *Thursday 6th February* to remind everyone to always be kind and think of others as no one knows how another person may be feeling. For more information on Children's Mental Health Week please visit; www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



Beep Beep!



We are delighted at the arrival of our new mini bus kindly funded by the **UPA**. Many thanks to the UPA for their efforts! We look forward to shuttling students around to sports fixtures in our new bus after half term!

Mock Results



Mixed emotions as students received their mock GCSE results this half term on our annual '**Brown Envelope Day**'. Students are now continuing to hard to ensure that they can put their very best efforts into the 'real' GCSE exams in the summer. Wishing you all the best of luck!

Jack Petchey



“It eased me into getting over my public speaking anxiety- Thumbs Up!”.

“It gave me insight into how to present persuasively... and my confidence has certainly got stronger..”

Year 10 Students

On Tuesday 28th January, 120 year 10s participated in the “Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge” run by the *Speakers’ Trust*. The aim of the day was to help students grow in their confidence as public speakers by teaching them the key elements of good public speaking and giving them the space to practice these skills.

The students enjoyed the various exercises they had to do and they embraced the challenge at the end of the day of giving a minute’s speech to their class. The Speakers’ Trust facilitators commented on how great the students were to work with and how they all love coming to the Ursuline for this day. Well done Year 10 for being excellent ambassadors for the school!

Eight winners were selected to compete for one of two places at the Regional Final in March. They are now busy working on their speeches, all of which are to carry a positive message and encourage the audience to engage with the issue they have chosen. Well done to the eight students who were selected: *Natasha, Priscilla, Sophia, Chinomnso, Mili, Gwyn, Paulina and Hannah!*

Foodie Alert



The **Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition** students are busy making a range of complex dishes including patties, bread, aranchini, choux pastry, meeting the nutritional needs of an active adult, focussing on carbohydrate starch. This is for their NEA2, worth 35% of their final GCSE. They have to make three dishes in a three hour period, making sure they cover all 12 skills set by the exam board.

Are You Ready to Take Your Future to the Next Level?

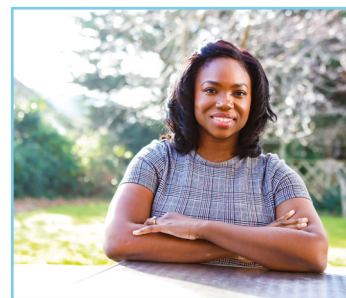


Ursuline Sixth Form are excited to be pioneers of the new **T Levels** and are pleased to be introducing our **Digital Design, Production and Development** course in **September 2020**. The course will combine classroom-based learning with the opportunity for a 45-day work placement with a prestigious employee, in order to provide students with the experience needed to gain employment, move onto university or higher apprenticeships.

We would like to invite all interested parents/carers and students to a **T Levels Information Evening** on **Tuesday 24th March, 6.30-7.30pm**.

This event will provide an opportunity to not only hear from *Ms Waters* and *Mr Barton* (Joint Head of Sixth Form), but from selected keynote speakers in the digital industry on what benefits T Levels will provide young people in the 21st century.

Free tickets now available via EventBrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/digital-t-level-information-evening-at-ursuline-high-school-wimbledon-tickets-93942292927



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

We look forward to welcoming *Ms Hanson* as our new **Head of Digital Production T Level** who will be starting after Easter.

Eco-logy!



The **Eco Committee** were very keen to raise money for the Australian bushfires! Between the cake sale (above) and a Year 7 Ethos Day Mufti we have raised over **£300** for the cause. Well done ladies!



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

Football & Futsal Progress



A great end to **Schools Football Week** on *Friday 7th February* with our Football Friday Surrey Schools U12s fixture vs **Surbiton High!** A tough match, with a disappointing 6-0 loss but so much fun had and lots learnt!



Our Year 9 Futsal Indoor Football Team put in their best efforts at the **AFC Wimbledon Foundation Tournament** on *Friday 24th January*. Thank you to **Kingston Grammar School** and **Ark Putney Academy** for challenging us!

Cross Country



Students have been enjoying their cross country sessions at **Morley Park** this half term. We are really pleased with the personal goals students are setting and the increased levels of fitness this brings!

And They're Off...



Our **Ski trip** departed on *Thursday 13th February*. Stay safe out there on the slopes. Look out for photos in the next edition of the newsletter!

Hoops and Hoops of Fun



Our **Spartan basketball enrichment** has proved popular receiving a high turnout this half term. Students have been learning/ refining their skills including dribbling (above).

Youth Games



A huge congratulations to our **Year 8 indoors athletics teams** who won the borough competition on *Thursday 16th January*. Our Year 8 Indoor Athletics team also competed in the **Regional Rounds at Westcroft Leisure Centre** on *Wednesday 12th February!* We will update on how they did in the next edition of the newsletter!

Bike Safety Is A Must!



Year 10 have been making great strides with their **Cycle Skills** and have progressed in essential skills including 'Giving Way To The Right' at a Junction. Providing good preparation for Cycling on the open road safely. Girls have also received lots of practice at judging speeds and stopping/slowing their bikes when necessary. Well done girls!

notepad

Date	Event
Mon 24th Feb	SCHOOL RETURNS INSET DAY at Wimbledon College
(Until Fri 28th Feb)	Yr12 Mock Exams; Gym
(Until Tues 3rd March)	Yr13 Mock Exams; Gym
(All Day)	Yr13 Higher Education Fair
Tues 25th Feb (10.30-10.55am)	Yr12 Chaplaincy Team Pancake Sale
Weds 26th Feb (4.00-6.30pm)	Ash Wednesday Yr9 Parents Evening; Hall
Thurs 28th Feb (All Day)	Yr7 Trip to Mandir Year 8 Bank of England Pound and Pence
Mon 2nd March (All Day)	Yr11 Germany A Level Trip
(All Day)	Yr9 I'm An Engineer Trip
Weds 4th March (All Day)	BTEC Travel and Tourism Thorpe Park Trip Yr9 Business Trip to Coca Cola Factory
(12.40-1.20pm)	Lunch n' Learn Careers Talk: Psychology
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day
Fri 6th Mar (All Day)	International Women's Day WOW Event Yr8 Digigirlz Event
(1.00-3.00pm)	Yr11 Maths Mock; Hall
(1.35-8.00pm)	Ski Practise; Hemel Hempstead British Science Week
Mon 9th Mar (6.30-7.30pm)	Yr13 Cumulative Exams (UHS & WC); USFC Yr10 Spring Pastoral Workshop
Tues 10th Mar (6.30-7.30pm)	Yr10 Sixth Form Transitions Parents' Evening; Hall Alumni Evening for Year 12 Oxbridge Students; USFC
Weds 11th Mar (7.30-9.30pm)	St Cecilia Concert Reconciliation Services (See Chaplaincy for timings)
Thurs 12th Mar (6.30-7.30pm)	Yr7 Spring Pastoral Workshop
Fri 13th Mar	Yr9 Trip to the Synagogue
Mon 16th Mar (6.30-7.30pm)	Yr8 Spring Pastoral Workshop
Tues 17th Mar	St Patrick's Day
Weds 18th Mar (7.00-9.00pm)	National Child Exploitation Day Multicultural Evening: Hall
Fri 20th Mar (6.30-9.00pm)	UPA Movie Night: Hall
Mon 23rd Mar	Yr10 Social Sciences Trip
Tues 24th Mar (8.35-9.40am)	Year 8 Careers Speakers
(All Day)	World Book Day
Mon 25th Mar (10.55-11.45am)	Yr9 Learning Conference
Fri 27th Mar (All Day)	Bank of England Keeping an Even Keel Trip Yr11 Maths Mock; Hall
(2.00pm)	School Council Meeting; SFSC
Weds 1st Apr (1.25-3.10pm)	Academic Review Day for Yr7-10
(4.00-6.30pm)	Yr12 UHS and WC Parents' Evening; WC
Tues 2nd Apr (All Day)	Academic Review Day for Yr7-10 Yr12 Faith Development Day Yr13 Faith Development Day UPA 'Nearly New' Uniform Sale; Foyer
Fri 3rd Apr	END OF TERM Passion Services (See Chaplaincy for timings)
Mon 6th- Fri 17th Apr	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Thurs 9th Apr	Maundy Thursday
Fri 10th Apr	Good Friday
Sun 12th Apr	Easter Sunday
Mon 13th Apr	Easter Monday
Mon 20th Apr	INSET DAY (Yr12 Lessons at WC)
Tues 21st Apr	SCHOOL RETURNS