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Voluntary Aided 11-18 Roman Catholic School for Girls
Headteacher: Mr Eoin Kelly

Crescent Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8HA
020 8255 2688 / www.ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

5th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Headteacher's Weekly Roundup Summer B Week 5

As some schools are winding down to the end of term it feels that we, at the Ursuline, are ramping up with a full programme of lessons, enrichment, celebrations and events. Final details for Fest Week beginning Monday 15th July will be shared with students and parents/carers next week, including any final updates ahead of the numerous residential. The packed programme this year is remarkable, and it promises to be a fantastic week for learning and fun.

On Monday we ran the School Summer concert at the Lantern Arts Centre in Raynes Park, proud parents/carers and teachers were entertained by a showcase of individual and choir performances. The eclectic roster included pieces from Gershwin through to Bill Withers and Olivia Rodrigues which produced the loudest applause I've heard at any event this year. Well done to all the staff and students involved.

Lastly, an appeal! If families have any old mobile phone handsets/devises at home that they are willing to donate to school for us to use on Festweek we would welcome any donations. We can use pay-only-Sim phones, provided to our staff for FEST week to aid communication. If you have any old mobile phones can you please reset to factory settings and contact student services to make the donation. Many thanks. Or contact enquiries@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Highlights of the Week

Congratulations to the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award students. I am proud to say that 63 of our Year 10 students have spent this year volunteering, developing new skills and taking part in a practice expedition. This all culminated in the qualifying expedition in High Weald last weekend. All teams worked exceptionally well, walking for over six hours on both days whilst carrying a 65L rucksack, orienteering using just a map and a compass, setting up camp and cooking their own meals with a Trangia stove. They were challenged at each stage showing resilience, determination, commitment, and teamwork: they persevered despite the heat and occasional rain. I am thrilled to report everyone successfully completed their qualifying expedition and have therefore achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which they will receive later next term. Our Ursuline students had the highest number of participants in Merton secondary schools, completing in total a remarkable 684 hours of volunteering, 1026 hours of physical activity, 912 hours of learning new skills and they walked 3192km!

Well done to all these students and I hope to see many of them take on the Silver Challenge! Thanks to all the staff at Ben Bullen Adventures, Mr Rushforth, our DofE Coordinator, staff volunteer helpers and of course all our DofE families for their on-going support. The students couldn't do it without you.

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Focus areas for next week

Full attendance up to and including the last day of term is an expectation.

We continue to notice how many main school students have Smart watches. I noted this last week in my update, so please see this as a reminder. *Next academic year please be aware Smart Watches will no longer be permitted in school for students in Years 7 to 11 as they compromise assessments, enable access to apps we cannot control or monitor in school and are banned by JCQ the exams regulatory authority.*

Some upcoming events & dates

Monday 8th July

8:50-10:30 Year 8 Debates in the Hall.

6.30-8.30pm Commissioning Service for Mr Kelly

Tuesday 9th July

The Model United Nations Conference at Mulberry School

8:35-10:35am Year 12 Celebration

1.25-3:10pm Year 8 Celebration

6:00pm PGL Liddington Trip Meeting

Wednesday 10th July

8:55-10:30 Year 10 Debates in the Hall

10:55-12:45pm Year 9 Celebration in the Hall

3:50-6:30pm Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th July

8:55-10:30am Year 7 Debates in the Hall

1.25-3:10pm Year 10 Celebration in the Hall

6:00-7:00pm Students Leaders Celebration in the Hall

Friday 12th July

10:30-10:50 Doughnut Day (Portico)

12:45pm Early Closure for students (letter to follow)

News and announcements

We are looking forward to the Ursuline High School Sports Award Dinner this evening, where we welcome students and their families to share in celebrating the achievements by teams and individuals this year.

Newsletters

[Newsletters](#) – school-wide, year group, and Catholic Life.

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Parent/carer resources

Further to last week's Roundup which reinforced our Smartphones and Smart Watches policy, please remember social media has a minimum age of 13. However, many experts, educators and parents/carers believe social media is not suitable for young teens. In 2023, the Online Safety Bill was introduced and the US Surgeon General, Dr Vivek Murthy published his [Advisory](#) that social media poses "a profound risk of harm" and in 2024 CEOs of Discord, Meta, Snapchat, TikTok, and X were questioned before US Congress over alleged harms to young users on their platforms. There is widespread campaigning for the minimum age to be raised to 16+. We'd therefore recommend parents/carers do their research to help make an informed decision about whether to give your children access once they reach 13.

In accordance with our [Digital Learning & Safety Policy](#) (and the current minimum age of 13), social media will not be tolerated at school, and there will be consequences for failing to comply with this policy. It is important for parents/carers to support the school in this to ensure our staff are able to focus on teaching and learning and not being detracted by conflicts resulting from unregulated/unsupervised social media interactions outside school and at home.

Catholic Life of the School

Visit our school [website](#) to read more about what we currently do to embed our Catholic ethos into school life.



We held our Summer Concert at Lampton Arts Centre on Monday 5th June.
Well done to all the students who performed- you were amazing!

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It was the final Merton Borough Competition of the year this week and our Y7/8 Rounders team finished Gold Medallists!!
Top quality batting and fielding all round! POTM: Ivy. (Top, left)
Also, Bronze medallists for our U15 Rounders Players at Boroughs on 2nd June. (Top, right)



We welcomed Year 6 students for their Transitions Day on Wednesday. We are looking forward to seeing them in September as our New Year 7s.

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We held our Year 10 Sixth Form interviews on Wednesday. It was great speaking to the students and getting a feel for the subjects they would be interested in studying at Ursuline Sixth Form.



On Thursday we held a special End of Year service and lunch for our Chaplaincy team to thank them for all their hard work this year



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Quick Links

[Arbor](#) - student records and reports

[School Calendar](#)

[Catholic Life & Mission](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Newsletters](#) – school-wide, year group, and Catholic Life

[Headteacher's Weekly Roundups](#)

[ParentPay](#) - lunch card top ups and other purchases

[Parent Engagement & Communications overview](#)

[Parent Portals](#) – Arbor and ParentPay – Parent Guides & FAQs

[Safeguarding, Health & Well-being](#) (please note that this section is currently undergoing an overhaul).

[Sancta Familia Consultation](#)

[Term Dates 2023/2024](#)

[Term Dates 2024/2025](#)

[Ursuline Directory](#)

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Eoin Kelly
Headteacher

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