

Welcome ...

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the first edition of our new **Ursuline Sixth Form Newsletter**.

A community where you can truly belong and succeed

What a busy half-term it has been! As the Head's Student Leadership Team, we oversaw several exciting events - the first of which was the Open Evening. We spoke to parents about all the opportunities that being a student at the Ursuline provides - we loved meeting prospective students and parents and are looking forward to seeing many of them joining us within the next year or two. It was so lovely to see our fellow students promoting A Level and T-Level subjects at the various stalls set up in the sports hall, and once again, speaking with prospective students and parents was such a rewarding experience. We know this is a special sixth form where students truly can feel a sense of belonging and it is a place where they will succeed.

As for us, all our fellow Year 13 students have been busy studying for our mocks and finalising UCAS applications – we are very appreciative of all the support the school has offered us. Meanwhile, the Year 12 students have been busy settling into sixth form life and we have enjoyed speaking to them about the importance embracing all the opportunities available to them in the sixth form – both academic and in relation to their personal growth.

We hope you enjoy reading about our successes and on a personal note, we will be passing on the baton to a new student leadership team at the end of this half term. We have loved representing the school and we wish the new team every success in the future.

Head's Student Leadership Team

Hannah, Tianna, Aleeyah and Lucía



A message from the Sixth Form Team

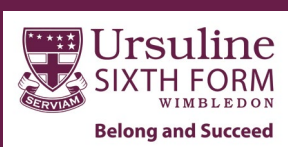
In the Ursuline Sixth Form, we take great pride in the quality of our curriculum and co-curricular provision. We are passionate about ensuring you feel inspired by your educational experience. We are all members of a community committed to learning and working collaboratively to achieve academic excellence. Furthermore, as a Catholic community characterised by respect, trust and joy, we promote excellence in every aspect of life. You will, therefore, be provided with opportunities to join leadership programmes, student societies, and a range of enrichment activities. In the Ursuline Sixth Form, you will learn life skills, leaving you feeling empowered and ready to succeed as you go on to higher education, apprenticeships, and successful careers.

As an oversubscribed sixth form, the demand for places is very high, and our senior leadership team interviewed more than 100 external students in December. Still, we will be holding a second round of interviews for external students in January 2023 to enable us to manage the number of applications we receive.

For students applying to start in September 2023, please click [HERE](#) to be taken to our online application form.



Mr B Ryan
Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form





Some reasons to choose us:

Our Ethos - we are a Catholic community that embraces and welcomes all faiths. The ethos of the Sixth Form promotes inclusivity, tolerance, and respect for others within a supportive, caring community which values diversity. We aim to develop leaders and active members of the school and the local community.

Outstanding Teaching and Learning - Students make substantial progress through engaging lessons and a challenging curriculum. Our sixth form has specialist subject teachers, A-level examiners, and dedicated study areas.

State-of-the-Art Facilities - we have two dedicated sixth-form centres with wireless access, brand-new purpose-built T-Level buildings, and a learning resource centre (LRC) with printer access and over 12,000 reference and fiction books.

Enrichment Opportunities – We know that any prospective employer, apprenticeship or university is looking for more than just academic achievement. As such, we seek to empower our students to gain additional depth to their studies and develop themselves as well-rounded individuals through a timetabled enrichment programme every Wednesday afternoon.

T Levels - T Levels are a new qualification designed to give you a head start towards the future you want. Students spend 80% of their time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement with an employer to give them the skills and knowledge companies look for. T Levels are a post-16 qualification and are equivalent to 3 A Levels.

Meet Our Students



ROSE
Geography,
Religious Studies,
and Politics

I am so happy I enjoy all my subjects at A Level, but I also appreciate the opportunities we have to balance our studies with meaningful enrichment and leadership opportunities.

As part of my enrichment programme, I volunteer to help at Perseid School (a school for students with learning difficulties). I have just started my role as a well-being prefect, and I have already had the chance to work with Ms Pinto (our wonderful Head of Year 7) and speak to the whole year group at an assembly.

I appreciate the opportunities the school has given me to help our younger students, as I am passionate about giving back to others. I absolutely love it! Working with the students has been an absolute pleasure.

After Christmas, I have several trips I am looking forward to going on. We are preparing for a residential trip to Juniper Hall in geography, and I know our whole class is really looking forward to it. Also, I can't wait to go to Barcelona on our Year 12 cultural trip. Será muy divertido!



LAYLA
English Language,
Sociology, and
Health and Social
Care

Hi, I'm Layla. I have had a great first term in the Ursuline Sixth Form!

In my studies, I have been busy comparing the way we speak in different contexts, exploring sociologists' theories about educational differences, and delving into the reasons behind different healthcare options. My independent learning lessons have enabled me to contextualise my learning and practise applying my new knowledge – this is obviously different to the lower school where I was used to being in lessons six periods a day.

Outside of academics, I have also had so much fun! I attended a criminology talk in Royal Holloway University with some of my classmates – somewhere I hope to attend myself when I am finished my A Levels, and every Wednesday afternoon I go to Sacred Heart Primary School and help the Year 3 students with reading. I am even helping my little sister who attends the primary school! Next term, I can't wait to begin my role as a marketing prefect and showcase all the sixth form has to offer. Also, I can't wait for our Year 12 trip to Barcelona in February.

Meet Our Students



CRISTIANA
Psychology,
Religious Studies,
and Geography

It pleases me to say that I am happy with all my subject choices.

In Religious Studies, I find the philosophy topics the most interesting and enjoy reflecting on the meaning of our existence – even if it is a little scary! While in psychology, I find looking at why groups of people conform fascinating, and we got to speak to Philip Zimbardo (the psychologist behind the Stanford Prison Experiment) – he was truly inspiring.

One of my highlights in the autumn term was definitely our social sciences trip to see *Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical*. It opened my eyes to Bob Marley's extraordinary life as he battled to take his positive message of love, unity and peace around the world.

I am also grateful that I can continue my passion for reading fiction in my English Literature Club – I didn't choose English as an A Level, so I am delighted to have still a chance to pursue this passion.



MANAHIL
Biology,
Chemistry and
Psychology

Hello everyone – I am Manahil.

Where do I start? Last year, I was in an international school in Islamabad, so I didn't know anybody when I started in the Ursuline Sixth Form this year. However, I was immediately accepted by the year group, and my abiding memory of the first term will be the kindness shown towards me. I feel settled, happy, and at home here.

I am studying biology, chemistry, and psychology. I hope to become a surgeon one day and it is my intention to attend King's University when I finish Year 13. The teachers have been incredibly encouraging, and I enjoy all the careers support we get in the sixth form. I feel like the school cares about and invests in my future.

Spotlight On T Levels

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



**CRYSTAL: T LEVEL
in HEALTH**

I chose to study T Level Health as I aspire to become a midwife, and the course enables me to learn about topics specific to the healthcare sector, such as person-centred care, well-being, human anatomy and physiology, infection prevention, and diseases. The opening of our brand-new healthcare ward has been incredible! We even have a specialist room set up like an emergency ward, so we can experience being the nurse and the patient.

Our class has become a tight-knit community, and I am happy to have formed close connections with people. I came here as an external student, and the school could not have been more welcoming. Everyone has been so kind and generous to me – I do really feel at home here already.



**MATT: T LEVEL in
DIGITAL
PRODUCTION**

I chose to study a T Level in Digital production because I like the structure of the course. I also like how I can use this T Level at the end of Year 13 to do a related higher-level apprenticeship or degree course. I like how the course is split into three main topics: computer science, digital, and business. This makes it feel like I constantly learn new information, and the course stays fresh and exciting. It's a practical course, which works well for me.

I enjoy learning about the digital world because we all know it is where future jobs will be as we become more and more immersed in a digitalised age. I also like how the smaller class sizes mean I get very specific and regular support from my teacher, and I enjoy having our own building with state-of-the-art technology to use for the course.

Spotlight On T Levels

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



**RHEA: T LEVEL in
BUSINESS**

The fact 20% of our course is spent with an employer to give us the skills and knowledge companies look for was a real selling point for me. Also, my T Level is specifically focussed on business and is the equivalent to 3 A Levels and awarded the same UCAS points, so I can apply to universities to do traditional degrees or degree apprenticeships.

The new buildings just for T Levels were a big reason I joined the school. I find working in this environment really motivating, and I have the best resources I could get in the sixth form. I am gaining so many new skills and experiences, and I have made so many new friends. I am delighted to have chosen the course and am excited to see what the rest of the year brings for me.

T Level Facilities

We are delighted to have opened a brand-new T Level block – St Ann's Block. The rooms were purpose built to host our new T Level Health and T Level Business students. The health students even have their own mock A&E ward. We are proud our students will be learning in the best facilities available, and we know they will benefit from such a modern learning environment.



Life At Ursuline Sixth Form



Open Evening

Staff and students ensured our open evening was a tremendous success. It was great to have so many sixth formers contributing to the event. They are our best ambassadors.



Women of the World Event

Year 12 students went to the international day of the girl held by the WOW (Women of the World) foundation on the south bank. They went on the London Eye and speed networked with women who are leaders in their professions. They then went to the county hall and heard the keynote speaker Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu – she was fantastic and inspiring!



Celebrating Diversity Through Student Led Societies

Inspired by the conference led by our Afro-Caribbean society last year, our wonderful Year 12 students have set up their own Black and Great Society. Great to see them building on the work of the previous year and enjoying @renecgerm's book.



Conferences (Politics and Inequality)

We welcomed students from our sixth form and 7 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 issues such as global inequality through the lens of immigration, the politics of poverty in the UK, and historical injustice and its implications for politics today.

Life At Ursuline Sixth Form



BIMA Digital Day

Our Year 12 Digital T-Level students competed in the BIMA Digital Day 2022. It's a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge that was hosted by Silvia Martin, who runs a local digital marketing company.



Theatre Trips

Our sociology students had a brilliant time at the Olivier award-winning Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical in central London.



Careers Fair

Our sixth formers enjoyed the careers fair and the opportunity to speak to representatives from leading universities



Guest Author Visits

Year 12 and Year 13 loved the talk they received from Katherine Hamilton about her novel 'Rising Warrior'. An inspirational and engaging talk. We hope to see her back again in the future. And our Afro-Caribbean society organised an inspirational talk from Rene Germain for our Year 11 students. Rene's inspiring talk about thriving as a young black person in the world today sparked so many thought-provoking conversations.

Life At Ursuline Sixth Form



Hustings for the new Student Leadership Team

All of the 11 applicants for the new Head Student Leadership Team impressed us with their presenting skills, their passionate ideas for the sixth form, their level of maturity and ability to speak so eloquently in front of their peers and teachers.



November Mock Exams

Our Year 13 students prepare diligently for their exams, and we know all their hard work will be worth it when they receive their results in August next year.



Covent Garden Business Challenge

Our 6th Form students loved working with Year 5 students from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Teresa's Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, and St John Fisher on the Covent Garden Business challenge.



New Friendships

Many friendships have been strengthened and new ones formed as Year 12 started their journey in the sixth form.



A community where you can truly belong and succeed