



URSULINE SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS 2023

Ursuline Sixth Form is about developing you as a confident, aspirational young woman willing and able to seize new opportunities. You will join a community who are committed to learning and who work collaboratively with teachers to attain their best. The sixth form is characterised by its friendliness and diversity as well as respect and kindness.

Beginning the Sixth Form is an exciting time when you will be making important decisions about the next step in your education. We offer a rich and excellent pathway to your chosen university, further education, apprenticeship or first job. We prepare you for the independent learning needed for lectures and seminars. Our expert Careers Team offers support and one to one advice and guidance on university, apprenticeships and career choices, as well as work shadowing places in Year 12. We also offer students specialist support from our Oxbridge Coordinator and seminars for students applying to the Russell group of Universities. We want you to have the freedom to make the right choices to develop into being your very best.

As a student at the Ursuline you will have access to courses at Wimbledon College as part of our partnership arrangements. This facilitates a greater choice of subjects as well as different combinations.

Every Sixth Form student is invited to take full part in the life of the school through enrichment programmes, student societies, the prefect system, leadership training and community service programmes. Our enrichment programme adds breadth and depth to learning, give every student the opportunity to find their passion and develop themselves.

We have flourishing music, drama and PE departments, with many opportunities to participate in performance and sport. There are school visits including field work and cultural trips. Past visits have included New Orleans, New York, Dallas and China.

We are confident that you will find the Sixth Form challenging and rewarding and an excellent preparation for either university, further education or the world of work.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form in September.



**Ms Julia Waters BSc (Hons) MA
Headteacher**



FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Ursuline Sixth Form Centre





OUR ETHOS

Serviam

We are a Catholic community who embraces and welcomes all faiths. Our school is approaching our 130th anniversary next year. We are part of a worldwide network of Ursuline schools and follow the teaching of St Angela Merici, in order to develop young women as leaders and active members of the school and local community. The ethos of the Sixth Form promotes inclusivity, tolerance and respect for others within a supportive, caring community which values diversity. We believe everyone has a crucial role to play in bringing about equity and have a robust Anti-Racist policy, which is embedded in all areas of school life. As a school we are focused on challenging gender stereotypes, sexist language and sexual harassment. Students are supported along their individual paths to be the best versions of themselves. We have an active LGBTQ group who meet regularly to discuss issues and concerns within a safe space.

Chaplaincy encourages students to support a number of community projects:

- Volunteering with local charities: Catholic Childrens Society Christmas Gift Appeal, Wimbledon Foodbank, Merton Faith in Action Homelessness
- The Eucharistic Minister Programme
- Catholic Youth Ministry Federation, Faith in Action Award
- Helping to support younger students at school events
- Perseid School – working with students with severe learning difficulties



"Our school motto, Serviam – I will serve, is at the heart of school life and encourages us to develop our gifts and talents for the benefit of others."

In addition, all students continue to develop and grow spiritually through a programme that enables them to reflect critically and engage in discussion about religious belief and explore and respect different faiths within society.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Inspire

2022 RESULTS

(A Level or equivalent)

A* - A – 34%

A* - B – 63%

A* - C – 85%

These results reflect the outstanding teaching delivered by staff and commitment to studies shown by students.

We provide students with;

QUALIFIED
A LEVEL
EXAMINERS

SPECIALIST
SUBJECT
SIXTH FORM
TEACHERS

DEDICATED
STUDY
CENTRES

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Each and every student matters to us. Through engaging lessons and a challenging curriculum, students make sustained and substantial progress. At the Ursuline the teaching and learning is a journey that is explored by both students and the teachers to enable all students to achieve their ambitions. Teachers are experts in their field and motivate students to independently research topical issues. Students are encouraged to feedback research through class discussion which makes the learning environment more stimulating. Several staff are also examiners and have first-hand experience of how the marks are awarded which in turn ensures our students are better prepared to achieve outstanding results.

"The teachers have strong subject knowledge and give me regular feedback to enable me to make the progress I am capable of."



We are conscious that a student needs more than just good examination results to be successful in adult life. This is more important than ever in our modern global world. Teachers focus on deepening students' knowledge, enabling them to access challenging concepts.

In all lessons, we aim to develop the students' skills with particular focus on:

- Questioning
- Challenge
- Critical evaluation
- Examination Technique

To support this, Learning Conferences are organised with specific focus on:

- Higher order revision skills
- Developing resilience
- Mind-set
- Learning habits

"The sixth form really encourages us to become strong and independent learners."

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

Opportunities

We have two dedicated Sixth Form Centres that provide students with purpose built areas to learn and work independently. Each centre has free wireless internet access and pupils are encouraged to bring in their personal laptops which can be configured to be compatible with the school system.

There is a dedicated Learning Resource Centre (LRC) designed to further support students' independent study. The LRC has free wireless internet access, printer access and over 12,000 reference and fiction books. In addition the LRC and Study Centres are regularly updated with copies of both International and National newspapers and magazines to enable the students to keep abreast of current affairs.

Not only do the facilities cater for academic needs but there is also a gym for use by students and the Sixth Form have additional catering facilities.

FREE
WIRELESS
INTERNET

GYM FOR
USE BY
STUDENTS

12,000
BOOKS



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Widen Horizons

We are aware that any prospective employer, apprenticeship or university is looking for more than just academic achievement and as such we seek to empower our students to gain additional depth to their studies and develop themselves as well rounded individuals.

We are delighted to be able to offer our Year 12 students a unique choice of non-examined timetabled activities across a wide range of subjects and interests. Some of the courses may lead to an external accreditation. With the reform of the A Level syllabi, depth of knowledge and transferable skills such as independent research, self-reflection and effective communication have become paramount.

Enrichment courses include:

- Storytelling project with King's
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Guardian Young Writers' Scheme
- English Literature
- Science Crest
- St John Fisher Primary maths project
- St Teresa's primary bike project
- Covent Garden Challenge
- Sports Leadership
- Maths and English, Nursing and Midwifery for Year 13 applicants
- Choir
- Art





Working With Local Primary Schools

Duke of Edinburgh

Students achieve their Duke of Edinburgh qualification by completing volunteering work alongside developing their Physical skills and Resilience in an outdoor setting. Students complete a number of overnight expeditions where they are expected to be self-sufficient in the organisation of their equipment and supplies and refine their navigational skills.

Covent Garden Challenge

Teams of Year 12 Ursuline students travel to 9 local primary schools to run this enterprise challenge with Year 5 pupils. Developing their own leadership skills, the 6th form students work with younger pupils to help them come up with an innovative product to sell in Covent Garden Apple Market.

Guardian Young Writers' Scheme

Year 12 students take part in the local Guardian young journalist scheme working as a journalist on the online paper. Students write articles which are reviewed by staff and the paper's editor and are then published. Previous participants have been awarded highly commended at the Young Reporter Awards Ceremony run by Newsquest. Our most recent winner Aisling was high commended in the 'Sports Category', for her article on 'The Surprising Joys of Open Water Swimming'.

T LEVELS

Develop Your SkillSet

Each and every student matters to us. T Levels are a brand new qualification designed to give you a head start towards the future you want. T Levels are a post 16 qualification and are equivalent to 3 A Levels.

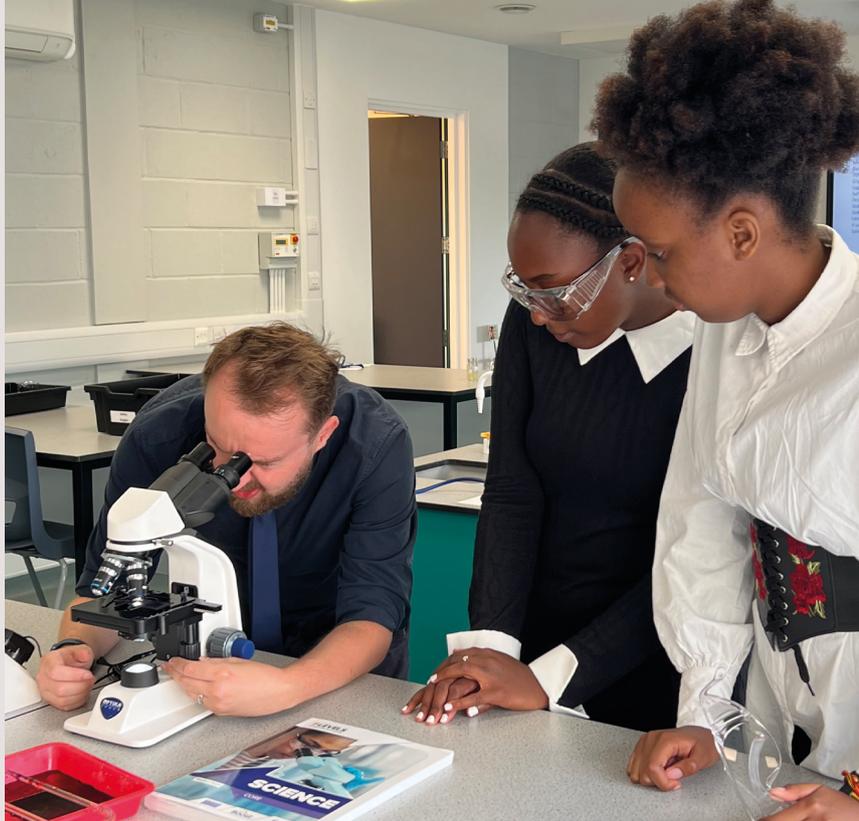
HOW YOU WILL STUDY

You'll spend;

80% of time in the classroom
20% on a work placement

This will equip you with the knowledge and skills companies are looking for.

The 2 year programme combines classroom learning together with a work placement, on a course designed in collaboration with the best employers and businesses.



T Level Courses Available

- **Digital** (Digital Production, Design and Development): Learn the core knowledge that underpins most jobs in the digital industry and develop occupationally-specific skills
- **Laboratory Science**: Develop an advanced knowledge and skillset of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and learn about the fundamental practices in place in the Science industry
- **Health** (Adult Nursing): **NEW FOR SEPT 22** Develop an advanced knowledge and skill-set of human biology, infectious diseases and the principles of delivering outstanding care in various health care environments.
- **Management and Administration** (Business Support) **NEW FOR SEPT 22** The qualification will help you gain an understanding of the Management and Administration sector and you will cover topics such as: Business Context, People, Quality Compliance, Project, and Change Management.



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



What sets the T Levels apart from all other courses is the opportunity to gain real life experience of the working world.

The T Level industry placement are a critical part of a T Level course as this is a change from traditional work experience usually only lasting a couple of weeks, to a longer and more substantial period of up to 9 weeks in the workplace.

The industry placement is our biggest opportunity to make sure that students leave education better prepared to be successful and thrive in the workplace. They also give employers the chance to ensure that young people are developing the skills and experience that are required to excel in a working environment.

To find out more information or to register for September 2022 please contact;

Head of T Levels

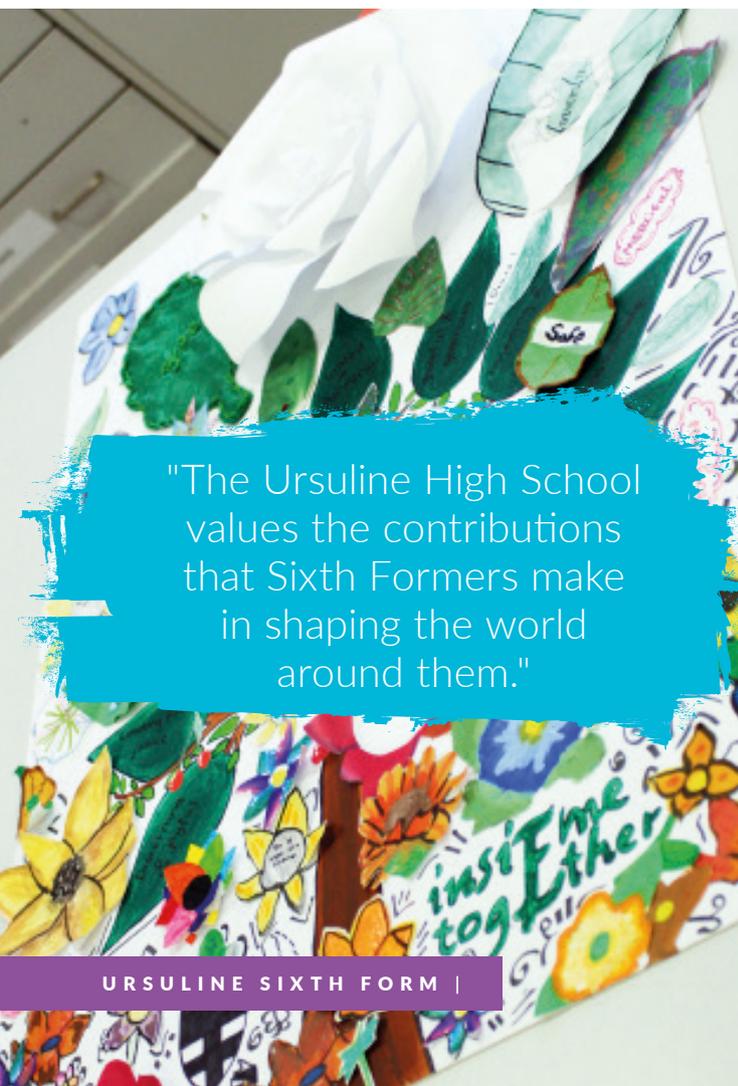
Ben Barton: Ben.Barton@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

You can also visit the 'T Levels' section of our sixth form website.

"I am so pleased I chose Digital T Level, my work experience was really fun and i am learning so much on the course!"

STUDENT SOCIETIES

Networking



"The Ursuline High School values the contributions that Sixth Formers make in shaping the world around them."

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Fashion Design Society



Sixth Form students at the Ursuline have the invaluable opportunity to set up, run and get involved with societies. These societies are led and organised by students for students.

These societies seek to enrich student experiences and promote academic rigour whilst developing key relationships with younger students. Additionally they allow students to develop leadership skills beyond the curriculum.

Each society organises events such as debates, lectures and guest speakers. In addition they look for opportunities to attend trips and events that would engage and enrich their learning beyond the curriculum.

Current societies include:

- Mental Health Society
- Social Issues Society
- English Society
- Medics Society
- Global Foods Society
- Politics Society

"With all of the stresses of completing your A Levels and generally coping with the demands of everyday life, we thought it was important to create a society that focuses on the importance of mental health, it's actually been really helpful tool for us.."

INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND EXPERIENCES

Explore

Ursuline Sixth Form provides students with further opportunities to gain experiences beyond the curriculum through international links with Ursuline schools all around the world.

Sixth Formers have an opportunity to participate in international trips to Dallas, New York and China. Students value the opportunity to experience different cultures and gain a greater understanding of communities across the world. Languages students are provided with the chance to partake in international work experience in USA, France and Poland to gain the invaluable experience of living and working in a foreign country.

Several trips and visits are available for Sixth Form students including: Debating, Mock Bar competitions, visits to universities to hear subject specialist speakers and academic enrichment trips to places such as CERN to see the Hadron Collider.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Understanding

The Personal Development Programme is delivered through the assemblies which are led by the Head of Year, other key speakers and Ursuline staff.

The programme covers:

- Mental Health
- Personal Safety
- Online Safety
- Sexual Health, Sexual Violence
- FGM
- CSE
- Radicalisation
- Student Finance
- The UCAS Process and Apprenticeships
- Interview Techniques

In addition to the overall Personal Development Programme, students have dedicated tutors who they meet with daily to support them with their academic and personal needs. Furthermore, at the Ursuline we have outside agency support through the School Nurse and a dedicated Student Counsellor.

Ursuline Sixth Form is committed to ensuring that all students leave with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful and ambitious futures. This is carried out by having high standards of attendance and punctuality and a dress code resembling that of a working environment.



"The personalised support I receive from sixth form staff helps me to cope with the challenges of academic success."

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Encourage

Personalised Support

At the Ursuline we aim to cater for the individual learning needs of all students. Personal Development Programmes are designed to support students with social and emotional health care as well as sensory and/or physical needs. There is a dedicated learning support centre led by the SENCO with support from teaching assistants who work in partnership with subject teachers across the curriculum.

Bursary

The Bursary Fund provides financial support for students from low income families. Students can apply for the Bursary fund which is assessed on household income. Finance is provided to eligible students (subject to attendance) for financial support with books, materials, trips and sixth form social events. Free school meals, served in the main school dining hall, are also available for eligible students.



"As a student who joined the Sixth form from another school, I have never felt like an outsider. Everyone is so welcoming and supportive and the school has a great atmosphere."

PATHWAYS BEYOND SIXTH FORM

Development

We understand it is never too early to begin planning for life after Sixth Form. An established support network is available to consider all post-18 options such as apprenticeships, higher education and employment. The Careers programme also incorporates a range of guest speakers, including former students who deliver careers insight talks.

"We've received great support and guidance, all the way through sixth form, from how to write the best personal statement to which career path would suit us the best."

Our dedicated Sixth Form Careers Adviser co-ordinates a range of appropriate resources for:

- University and College prospectus
- Studying abroad
- Student finance at university
- Apprenticeship and school leaver programme opportunities
- Information on gap year activities; working, volunteering and travelling

In recent years, a number of sixth form students have been selected to take part in a number of national programmes including:

- The K+ mentoring programme offered by King's College London where students are paired with an undergraduate mentor, as well as having the opportunity to take part in summer school and master class activities
- The residential Sutton Trust Summer School programme offered by a number of Russell Group Universities
- The Sutton Trust American Summers School scheme
- In2Science UK Summer Programme

Through personalised support and guidance, students from the Ursuline have gained experience on many highly competitive schemes such as:

- Nuffield Research Placements (previously Nuffield Science Bursaries)
- St George's Hospital Healthcare Shadowing Scheme
- Queen Mary (University of London) Physics Academy
- Step into STEM

Many of our Year 12 students successfully negotiate a range of interesting work shadowing every summer along with summer school placements at Universities such as LSE, East Anglia and Keele. All students are encouraged to participate in placements close to their chosen professions and the following are some examples:

- BAE Systems
- United Nations Refugee Agency
- House of Commons
- Berkeley Homes



UCAS UNIVERSITY APPLICATION

Independence

Our Oxbridge co-ordinator as well as our Medics co-ordinator run specific programmes from January in Year 12 to December in Year 13 to support the preparation of those applying to study Medicine or at Oxbridge. The programme includes workshops, master classes and skills sessions. During the summer holiday at the end of Year 12, those students who are interested in a career in medicine or the health sciences have the opportunity to apply for a two week work experience placement with St George's University.



All students attend one of the local UCAS fairs where they have the opportunity to speak to University admissions teams, Apprenticeship organisations and to attend workshops and seminars. Students describe this as very helpful and insightful into gaining a full appreciation of the range of post-18 options available to them.

In the summer term of Year 12, the formal process of university application through UCAS begins with a formal 'Career Pathways' day where students make further use of the software programme 'Unifrog'; a secure online portal which allows them to explore university and course choices in more depth. They also attend a workshop on writing personal statements, delivered by a prestigious University. This year's presenter was from Birmingham University.

We have expanded our annual careers day to a careers fair across the whole school, with many speakers attending from a wide variety of career fields to provide parents and students with helpful advice on those vital next steps.

University open days are advertised in the Sixth Form Study Centre, Careers Room and Careers Bulletin. Students are encouraged to visit universities they are seriously considering applying to, and are allowed up to three days leave from school to attend Open Days, master classes or Taster days.

**WHAT CAN I DO
NOW TO START PREPARING
MYSELF FOR THE FUTURE
I WANT?!**



DESTINATIONS

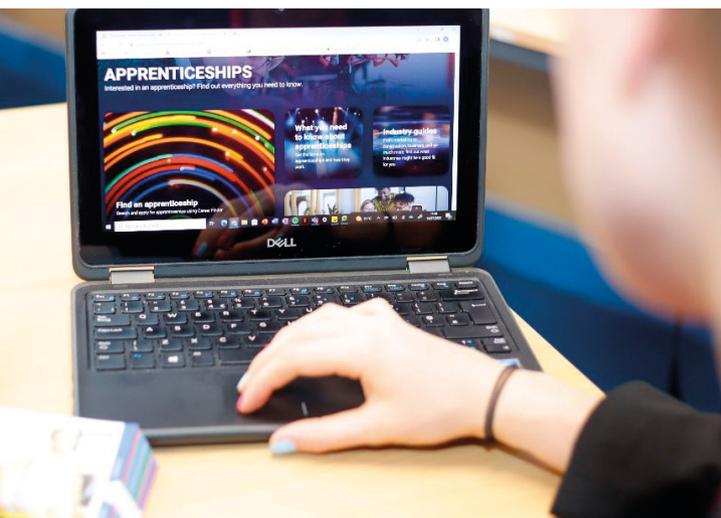
Aspire

We are proud of our results with an impressive number of Ursuline Sixth Form students proceeding to higher education on completion of their course. In 2022 38% of our students progressed on to a range of prestigious Russell Group or Sutton Trust Universities. This is well matched with leavers following apprenticeship routes, who regularly secure impressive higher level placements.

Students considering a vocational route when leaving Sixth Form, are provided with support from the Sixth Form Careers Advisor who is able to link students with National Corporations and Businesses in pursuit of apprentices.

Both A level and BTEC students successfully transition to a range of interesting university and career placements. Many of our BTEC students gain places at the prestigious Russell Group Universities, as well as the Sutton Trust list of 'Top 30 Universities'.

Students that completed in 2021 are looking forward to embarking on a range of degree courses, including traditional subjects like English, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Neuroscience, Law and Pharmacy, but also Architecture, Software Engineering, Criminology, and Biomedical Science. Child and Adult Nursing, Primary Teaching and Business Management continue to be popular courses amongst students.







FORMER STUDENTS

Alumnae

Name: Ellen

Where is she now: Mia is studying Biomedical Science at Oxford University

Name: Ohemaa

Where is she now: Ohemaa is studying Medicine at King's College London

Name: Mollie

Where she is now: Mollie is studying Politics at the University of Leeds

Name: Alisha

Where is she now: Alisha is studying Physics with Astrophysics at Queen Mary

Name: Truly

Where is she now: Truly is studying Electronics and Electrical Engineering at Edinburgh University

Name: Niamh

Where is she now: Niamh is studying Liberal Arts and Sciences at Birmingham University

Name: Kaitlyn

Where is she now: Kaitlyn is studying Film and TV at the University of Nottingham

Name: Anna

Where is she now: Anna is studying Physiotherapy at Birmingham University

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Aspire

Sixth Form students take a key role in Leadership across the school. Not only have they led on conferences with several distinguished guests but they are also involved in the school leadership through mentoring, chaplaincy work and the student buddy systems. A Head and Deputy Head Girl team lead a team of senior prefects who are elected in Year 12. Leadership responsibilities include subject prefects and prefects for the community.



"I believe it is essential that older year groups integrate with the lower year groups in order to really unite our school."

Year 12 Student

Conferences

Empowering student-led conferences motivate students by enabling them to connect what they learn at school to their future success as well widening their career knowledge and developing their skills.

Conference Highlights

In the Summer, the Year 12s led their own conference entitled "Our World, Our Voice: The Ursuline Year 12 student lead conference". Each of the year 12 societies organised their own section of the conference which included everything from student public speaking to cooking competitions. There were 9 sections and 8 external speakers, these included a doctor who lead on COVID vaccinations, a psychiatric nurse, a poet and a writer. The students led the day amazingly and the response to the event was fantastic.

Conference topics of previous years have included; a politics conference on "Will Biden top Trump", Climate Change; Time To Act, where students examined their individual response to climate change, researching and debating together and coming to their own conclusions about how 'we' can make a change. A conference on intersectional feminism and a joint conference with Mulberry school on the Digital Age. In November this year we are writing a conference on the state of the British Union.

Additional Leadership

There are many activities that allow students to work with successful business women such as Wimbledon Bookfest and the Women of the Future Ambassadors Programme. These opportunities allow students to develop and discuss topical issues that face young women today.

Further leadership activities include; the Team (Global) Day at the House of Lords, Sixth Form Debating, networking at Lloyds Bank, the American Embassy, Twitter and AWA Asian Women of the Future Award ceremony. Choir performances at prestigious venues; Oxbridge Networking evening, Teach Wimbledon Open Day and participation in sporting competitions.

HOW TO APPLY

Next steps

Staying On

For many of you, joining the Sixth Form continues your education at the High School:

- With the opportunity to stay with your friends as well as make new ones.
- Where you are known already and where you will be treated as an individual with particular needs and talents.
- With opportunities to develop as all-rounded people through participation in numerous activities.
- And all the time you will rightly enjoy more freedom and more responsibility which we will help you to use well.

External Applicants

Each year a substantial number of students from a wide range of schools have joined the Ursuline. These students are inducted into the school through:

- A link with an internal student in the first days of joining.
- Inclusion in a two day induction programme with internal students.
- A welcoming environment where all are treated as individuals and where staff are supportive yet always challenging you to be the best you can be.

Admissions Criteria

There are 180 places in the Sixth Form. If a course is oversubscribed, priority for places will be given in the following order:

1. Current Ursuline High School students who meet the entry requirements.
2. External applicants who meet the entry requirements.
3. Current Ursuline High School students who do not meet the entry requirements but for whom a workable programme of studies can be arranged.
4. External applicants who do not meet the entry requirements but for whom a workable programme of studies can be arranged.

If you do not meet the entry requirements for some courses, you may still be offered a place depending on varying circumstances.

Entitlement To Free Education

The Government is enforcing strict checks on entitlement to free education after the age of 16. You are only entitled to a free place in the Sixth Form if you are an EU Citizen or have a Visa which the Immigration Service has stamped allowing you to access state support in the UK. If your visa is marked: 'no recourse to public funds' we cannot offer you a place in the Sixth Form. Passport checks will be carried out on all Sixth Form applicants as part of the application process.

STUDENT ART GALLERY



"We are so proud of our St Angela Arts Centre, our students creative pieces are really outstanding and we enjoy showcasing these in our art gallery all year round."

Teacher



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL
& WIMBLEDON COLLEGE
SIXTH FORM

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