



St Ursula's Convent School

The Weekly

Week Beginning
Monday 27 January 2020
Issue Number 302



Message from the Head Teacher

“Strive to be faithful
to that which God has
called you.”

St Angela Merici

We are holding our whole school mass today at St George's Cathedral to celebrate the feast of St Angela Merici. This is the first time the school has been able to come together to celebrate mass so it is an extremely important occasion for us all.

We will share lots of photographs with you in the next edition of The Weekly.

Year 11 are continuing their preparation for the GCSE exams which are only a few months away. Miss Johnson has organised a number of Saturday and holiday revision and masterclass sessions and has sent a list of these to all Year 11 parents. These are in addition to the masterclasses running each day after school. Year 11 girls should now be doing substantial amounts of revision in order to be fully prepared for the exams.

Mrs Hamilton



School Calendar 2020

Tuesday 28th January – Tuesday 4th February 2020 – Year 8 Student Reviews

Wednesday 29th January 2020
5-7pm Year 9 Options Information Evening

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February 2020
Trip to Lyon

Wednesday 5th February 2020
KS3 French Cinema Trip

Thursday 6th February 2020
Maths Challenge



CODING CLUB

On Tuesday 28th January 2020 we are getting professional coders from Morgan Stanley to deliver Coding Club.



This will run every Tuesday after school from 3.10pm to 4.15pm with different professionals every week. If your daughter is interested in computer science or coding, make sure they give it a go!



SUMMER GCSE 2020 EXAM TIMETABLE is now available on the school website

Pupils taking GCSE examinations this summer must remain available until Wednesday 24th June 2020 even if their last exam is before this date. This is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations.

Important GCSE Information

As we approach the Summer GCSE examinations pupils and parents must ensure that they are familiar with all the exam information on the [school website](#). Pupils will be provided with a Candidate Exam Handbook before the Easter Break but in the meantime parents can refer to the school website for more information on the strict exam rules and regulations. St Ursula's runs all internal examinations, such as the Year 11 PPEs, in accordance with these rules. In particular pupils should have read and be aware of [JCQ Written Exams](#), [JCQ NEAs](#), [JCQ Social Media](#) and [JCQ Privacy Notice](#).



Chaplaincy Corner

Pope Francis has declared this Sunday to be **Sunday of the Word of God**, a time specifically focused upon the celebration, study and spreading of the Word of God. It comes at a time when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people (Holocaust Memorial Day) and to pray for Christian unity, and reminds us of our shared foundations in faith. May we give time to read the Scriptures this week and be open what the Lord is saying to us.

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." (St. Jerome)



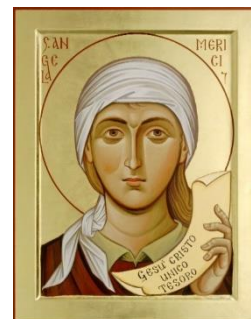
"The Lord speaks to us through the Scriptures and in our prayer. Let us learn to keep silence before him, as we meditate upon the Gospel."

Monday 27th January – Feast of St. Angela Merici

We hope that many of you will be able to join us at our Feast Day Mass at 1.45pm Southwark Cathedral.

Inspired by St. Angela's example, we pray that we will act, believe, hope, love and serve others.

St. Angela Merici – pray for us.





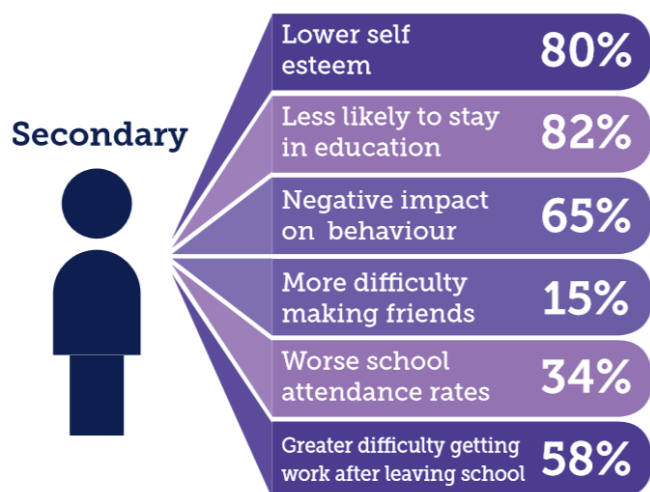
Reading improves academic achievement and mental health.

Encouraging your daughter to read for pleasure will both bolster her academic achievement and her mental health.

The Oxford Language Report (a research survey of over 1,000 teachers of both primary and secondary age groups about literacy across the nation) has made some significant findings in regards to the effect of the 'word gap' – a lack of vocabulary due to poor reading skills – on both academic achievement and mental health.

In addition to the academic benefits of reading, primary and secondary school teachers found that:

'Self esteem, behaviour and a child's ability to make friends were all felt to be negatively affected by low levels of vocabulary. The diagram below illustrates the proportion of teachers surveyed who believe the word gap is impacting on pupils in the following ways' (Oxford Language Report, p. 7 [OUP: 2019])



If you are interested in more of the report's findings you can read the whole document here:
<http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/Oxford-Language-Report.PDF?region=uk>



The report goes on to cite that:

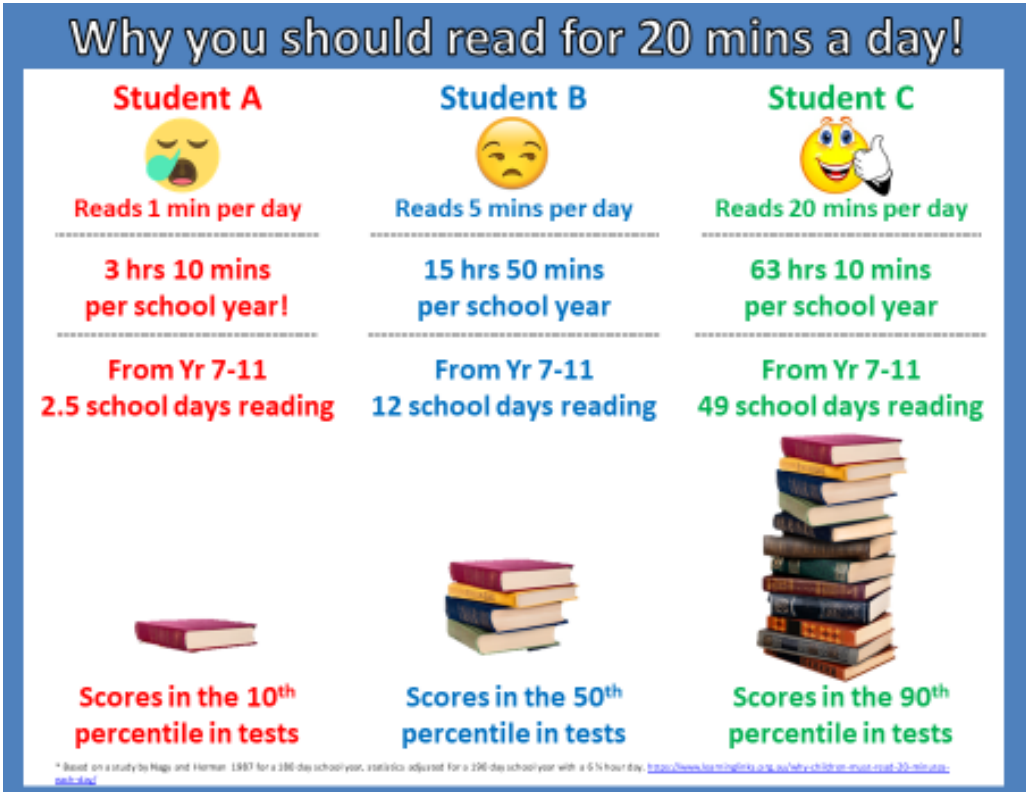
'Vocabulary skills at age 13 strongly predict both Maths and English Literature GCSE results more strongly than socio-economic background'*

*Spencer, S., Clegg, J., Stackhouse, J. and Robert Rush, R. (2017) Contribution of spoken language and socio-economic background to adolescents' educational achievement at age 16 years. Cited from Oxford Language Report, p. 12, [OUP: 2019]).

How often your daughter is reading, and in fact *what* she is reading can have more of an effect on her performance than her background.

Miss Deegan (the School Librarian) currently has year 7 and 8 writing Reading Logs in Library lessons to keep track of the books they read, the genre, and their difficulty. She recommends that 1 out of every 3 books pupils read should be challenging to build their vocabulary and academic resilience.

She has created reading lists with age recommendations and blurbs by genre and a KS4 reading list, these are all available on the Library's Google Drive.





'Rose' Descriptive Writing Competition

Miss Deegan and Ms Cahalane have a new writing competition! We would like you to try and write a descriptive piece in no more than 500 words using the word 'ROSE' as your prompt. You can be inspired by this literally, as in the flower rose, or figuratively, as in you 'rose above', 'rose to the occasion', 'rose to heaven' etc. Either way, your piece must be inspired by and include the word 'ROSE' – be creative!

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Structure your writing in paragraphs
- Maximum of 500 words!
- Use all your literary devices to help you (i.e. imagery, repetition, alliteration, assonance, sibilance etc.)
- **DEADLINE:** Friday 14th February 2020 via SMHW or in hardcopy to either Miss Deegan or Ms Cahalane.

FLOWERS IN LITERATURE:

In the famous novel 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier, the author uses the bushes of rhododendron surrounding the house Manderly to symbolise the dominant personality of Rebecca, the previous wife of the man the protagonist has married. The imagery is violent and atmospheric, foreshadowing events to come:

Suddenly I saw a clearing in the dark drive ahead, and a patch of sky, and in a moment the dark trees had thinned, the nameless shrubs had disappeared, and on either side of us was a wall of colour, blood-red, reaching far above our heads. We were amongst the rhododendrons. There was something bewildering, even shocking, about the suddenness of their discovery. The woods had not prepared me for them. They startled me with their crimson faces, massed one upon the other in incredible profusion, showing no leaf, no twig, nothing but the slaughterous red, luscious and fantastic, unlike any rhododendron plant I had seen before. I glanced at Maxim. He was smiling. 'Like them?' he said. I told him 'Yes,' a little breathlessly, uncertain whether I was speaking the truth or not, for to me a rhododendron was a homely, domestic thing, strictly conventional, mauve or pink in colour, standing one beside the other in a neat round bed. And these were monsters, rearing to the sky, massed like a battalion, too beautiful I thought, too powerful; they were not plants at all."



Cognitive Load Theory

Information for parents and carers



Did you know?



Cognitive load theory is a handy model to understand challenge and how to learn information which isn't too hard, or too easy, but just right. (Sweller 1998) Cognitive load is the amount of information our working memory can hold at any one time. The capacity of our working load is limited and therefore students can maximise their working memory by practising a range of strategies.

Research shows that strategies for reducing cognitive load can assist the human brain to learn and store knowledge, boost confidence and improve memory retention.

Further research has identified that reducing the cognitive load can reduce stress and anxiety and the feeling of being overwhelmed with tasks.

What can you do?



Support your child to try out strategies to reduce the cognitive load. Examples include:

- Breaking down problems into smaller parts. This reduces the problem space and lightens the cognitive load, making learning more effective.
- Helping them to understand worked examples in order to work out how to complete tasks.
- Encouraging them to take advantage of auditory and visual channels in their working memory and supporting them to create stories to help remember information in accessible chunks.
- Working with them to simplify information and build on it. Students should avoid overloading their brain with too much information at any one time.

The learning environment is crucial to reducing cognitive load. Help your child to create a calming environment to work in with as few distractions as possible. Encourage them to turn off their phone, music or the TV whilst revising or doing homework. Distractions only add to our working memory.

Help and encourage your child to review information from their lessons as they go along because this will help improve their retention, adding knowledge to their long-term memory. Help them get into a routine which works for them.

**FO
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FRIENDS OF
ST. URSULA'S



Wine Tasting Evening

*Ticket £25
Theatre of Wine*

Join us for a lovely evening, great wines and company, get the chance to chat with other parents and help us to raise funds for St. Ursula's Convent School.

Email fosturatse10@gmail.com to reserve your space and pay for the ticket by making a payment to FOSTUR funds virginmoneygiving.com/charities/stursulas

FRIDAY
07
MARCH

THEATRE OF WINE.

What we have already achieved so far

We are a registered charity and eligible for gift aid. In our first 3 years we have held many events including the popular quiz night, bingo for the girls, support for the production of Annie including licencing, lighting and scripts, a FOSTUR sponsored run by parents, girls and staff, raffles and our annual summer fair.

We have raised over £19,000 so far, and have already paid for many items, including towards the sun shelter, 13 iPads, benches, music equipment and various educational items for our girls.

Many thanks for your future support - with your help we can build on this success.

£19,000
Raised

13
I pads donated

1
Sun shelter

1
Electric drum kit



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Vacancies



St Ursula's Convent School A Humanities College and Teaching School

Teacher of Textiles required September 2020 (MPS)

The Governors of St Ursula's Convent School invite applications from highly motivated, inspirational and outstanding teachers for the post of Teacher of Textiles (2 days per week) from September 2020. The post is for one year in the first instance.

The successful candidate will be responsible for assisting the Head of Department in strategically leading and delivering the curriculum, and will have shared responsibility for the overall effectiveness in providing the highest quality of Textiles education for all our students in our outstanding school.

We are looking for an inspirational teacher with a proven track record who:

- Has commitment to and understanding of education
- Has experience in raising standards
- Has excellent communication, organisational and interpersonal skills
- Is an outstanding teacher

The successful candidate will:

- Join a forward-looking, high achieving school
- Contribute to the wider improvement of the School.
- Be a driven and professional character that is committed to your students as well as your colleagues.
- Be joining a supportive department, who like to work on the same wavelength.

What we can offer you:

- Constant feedback outlines that the school is welcoming, friendly and supportive.
- A culture of distributed leadership.
- Opportunities and encouragement to develop both personally and professionally.
- You can ensure that your well-being is a high priority.

St Ursula's Convent School is an outstanding school where:

- It is a pleasure to teach
- Students are ambitious and aspire to be the very best
- All staff have exceptionally high standards and expectations
- Senior Leaders and all teachers are passionate about making a difference
- Governors are strongly supportive of the school.

St Ursula's is an outstanding, highly oversubscribed Catholic girl's school with a reputation for excellence. (Ofsted 2015, 2010 & 2007). As a Teaching School, we are strongly committed to the ongoing professional development of all staff.

St Ursula's Convent School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the wellbeing of children and young people and expects all staff to share their commitment. An enhanced DBS is required for all successful applicants.

Details can be found on the school website

If you wish to book a pre-tour of the school, please contact Louise Shackel ext. 127

Closing date: Monday 27 January 2020

Interview date: TBC





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Vacancies



St Ursula's Convent School A Humanities College and Teaching School

Exam Invigilators required Scale 1 / Point 2 / £11.21 per hour

We are looking to recruit Exam Invigilators to work on a *supply/bank* basis during the school's examination periods, which mainly take place in May and June. Exam Invigilators must be available w/c 27th April 2020 to attend a half day training session.

Previous experience is not necessary as full training will be given.
This role offers flexible working arrangements.

Main Activities: To uphold the integrity and security of the examination/assessment process.
Provide support to the examinations process in accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) rule and regulations.
Prepare the examination rooms prior to each exam session.
Distribute papers, exam materials and stationery correctly.
Ensure no communication or malpractice takes place.
Report any disruption/incidents.
Collect and collate exam papers ready to be posted.

Dress Code: Smart

Special Conditions: There is a confidentiality component to this role and the post holder needs to undertake the duties of this role in a strictly professional manner.

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An application form can be found on the school website www.stursulas.com or for further details please contact Louise Shackel (Head's PA lshackel@stursulas.com)

Closing Date: Friday 7th February 2020

Interview Date: TBC (applicants may be offered an interview before the closing date)

