



# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

Week Ending  
Friday 31 January 2020  
Issue Number 303



## Message from the Head Teacher

On Monday we celebrated the Feast of St Angela Merici by taking the entire school community to St George's Cathedral for a Mass.

The behaviour of pupils travelling on public transport, to and from the cathedral, was exemplary. Members of the public commented on the positive and considerable behaviour of the girls.

I am very pleased to say that we did not receive any complaints but only compliments so thank you to the girls!

**Mrs Hamilton**

**"You will accomplish  
more by kind words and a  
courteous manner than  
by anger or sharp  
rebuke."**

**St Angela Merici**



## School Calendar 2020

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Year 10 Trip to Lyon

Faith and Belief Forum (FBF)

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

KS3 French Cinema Trip

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Credit Suisse Trip

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Maths Challenge

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Year 11 PPEs begin (MFL Speaking Exams)

Dance Competition – Shooters Hill College

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Last day of half term



## Founders Day – St George's Cathedral

Enrichment Day - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The Feast Day of St Angela Merici was the ideal opportunity to bring the whole school together for Mass – something that has not been done for over 25 years.



It was very fitting to be together as a whole school with the launch of the Ursuline Education Community (UEC). This has been running in all 8 Ursuline schools in England since September 2019.

At the core of the UEC is the Ursuline Student Profile. The profile includes ten virtues and all schools started by working on the first - 'United in Harmony'. This term, St Ursula's moved to the second virtue – 'Grateful and Generous'.

Being together as a whole school was a huge celebration and a culmination of 'United in Harmony' and 'Grateful and Generous'. As a celebration of our multicultural community together, and our worldwide Ursuline family, 67 national flags were processed at the start of the Mass, and laid at the altar rail. During the Mass these served as a visual reminder of our links, and connections in prayer, with our Ursuline family worldwide.



Fr Kevin Robinson joined us and celebrated Mass together with Fr Louie from the Cathedral Parish. The Greenwich Ursuline community were also in attendance along with school governors and many parents, carers and grandparents.

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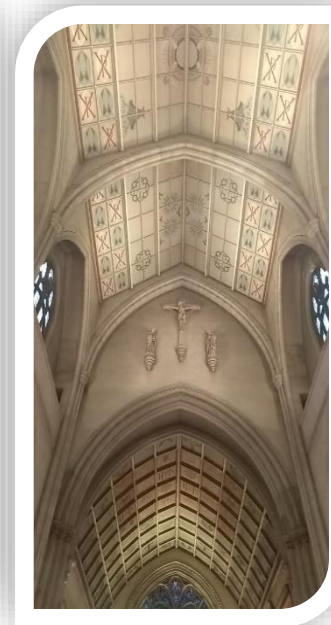
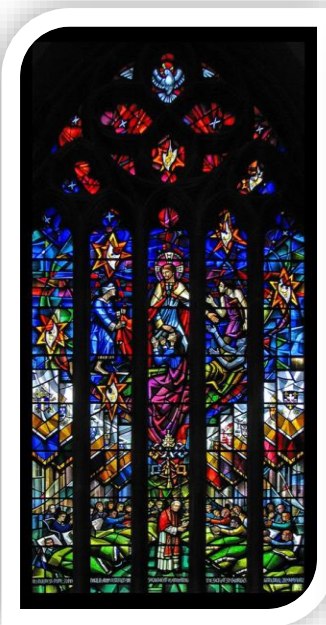


The Mass was a very moving experience; witnessing the response from the girls, their singing, and seeing the whole school process in silence to receive holy communion or a blessing, was incredibly humbling to watch. What an experience to see over 600 girls show such witness to their father and the sacrament, reflecting their commitment to the Ursuline pledge and how they value the vision of St Angela.



Feedback from the girls was incredibly positive. They valued the opportunity of mixing with other year groups, singing and praying together, at a whole school Mass. This is something that is not possible locally.

Many beautiful comments were received from members of the congregation, who were not connected with the school, but who joined in our celebration. The pupils' quality of singing to 'Oceans' was absolutely phenomenal and this did not go unrecognised by members of the public.



Fr Louie also commented on how lovely the Mass was and the impeccable behaviour of our girls.

Well done and thank you everyone!

*Mrs B Durrant*





## Year 11 visit to 'Hitler on Trial'

24<sup>th</sup> January 2020



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January fifty Year 11 students went to the Streatham Space Project Theatre for the annual 'Hitler on Trial' exam workshop and theatrical production. This included exam tips from examiners, and historian Josh Brooman, in which the students had to act as examiners and judge examples of work. They were also asked to be chief examiners and correct the marking of their peers.

GCSE student Rosalie B said, "It helped us to understand how questions are marked and gave us a chance to improve source question technique." Paris J added, "We realised you don't have to write six pages to get a good mark in the new history exams."

After the interval, actors played the parts of Hitler, Otto Strasser, Albert Speer and a propaganda photographer, amongst others, and

put Hitler on trial for causing World War II. This links with the AQA History Paper 1 that Year 11 will be sitting this summer, as both 'Nazi Germany' and 'International relations from 1919-39' were covered extensively throughout the afternoon.

The prosecuting and defence attorneys then presented their findings and cross examined witnesses. Scarlett M commented, "It made me think carefully about my preconceptions of the 1930's."

At the end, the students had to play the part of the jury and decide if Hitler was guilty or innocent. St Ursula's narrowly found him guilty, but were surprised by the twist at the end, when an actor assassinated Hitler! As Sarah P remarked, "It was an unexpected and dramatic turn of events!"

It was an enjoyable and useful day that will make those involved think in more detail about the events of 1919-1939 and benefit Year 11 with their revision.



*Mr Turpie*



## Year 11 House Basketball Tournament



The Year 11 House Basketball Tournament was held on Monday 27 January with the five houses facing off against each other in the sports hall.

The majority of the Year 11 GCSE PE students took part on Enrichment Day to showcase the skills they've acquired as part of their course. All the games were incredibly close and were played with hard work, dedication and good sportsmanship.

There was only a point between the top three teams, but Ursula came out deserved winners.



- First - Ursula
- Second - Elizabeth
- Third - Francis
- Forth - Angela
- Fifth - Catherine



## CODING CLUB

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 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!



## Pupils at St Ursula's make progress that is 'Well Above Average'

Each pupil has a different starting point and many factors can influence their attainment. At St Ursula's Convent School there is a celebration of pupils' achievements at all level of attainment. In 2019 12% of our pupils achieved an average of two GCSE grades better than expected across all of their GCSE subjects. We also celebrated the achievements of three pupils who gained three grades better than expected.

Our school was delighted to learn that out of the 500 girls in England, who achieved seven or more grade 9s in their GCSEs in 2018, four pupils were at St Ursula's.

The figures for 2019 have yet to be published but St Ursula's have continued in this tradition with 8% of all grades achieved being a 9. Three girls in 2019 also achieved seven or more Grade 9s.

**Isabel and Elena achieved 21 GCSE Grade 9s between them this summer!**



The Department for Education will be publishing their final performance tables on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and we are very excited to see the hard work by all staff and students reflected once again in these figures!



**Please can all Year 9  
parents/carers return their  
DTP/MEN immunisation forms.**

**The immunisation program is  
taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Thank you!**



## PRE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS (PPEs)

### start 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**PPEs for Year 11s will run from 11<sup>th</sup> February until 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

Starting with the MFL Speaking, Music and Drama exams before half term, the PPEs provide excellent preparation for the summer GCSEs and give students and teachers valuable information about current levels of performance, strengths and areas for improvement. We are hopeful that it will also help pupils to prioritise their revision more effectively.



**The PPE 2 Timetable is available on the school website.**

Pupils were issued with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Information for Candidates for Written Examinations last year and this information should be studied carefully again by all pupils, parents and carers to ensure that the rules and regulations of the PPEs are fully understood. **This is also available on the school website.**



### REMEMBER...

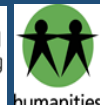
CHECK YOU HAVE ALL THE  
**EQUIPMENT**  
YOU NEED FOR YOUR EXAM

- You must not communicate with any pupil in the exam room. "Communication" is not just talking – you must not attract another pupil's attention, turn around in your seat or distract anyone in the exam room.
- Your pockets must be empty – no notes, tissues, purses, oyster cards, lip balms or mirrors. Your possessions will be locked up safely before your exam.

- If you are wearing a watch, you must remove this before your exam, and place it on your desk. Watches must not be 'smart', have connection to the internet or have alarms.
- Small water bottles must be clear, contain water only and have all labels removed.
- You must on time for your exams – check when you need to register and where you need to be if you are unsure.

**If these rules are not followed in your GCSEs you could be reported to the awarding body so ask now if you are unsure about anything before the summer exams!**



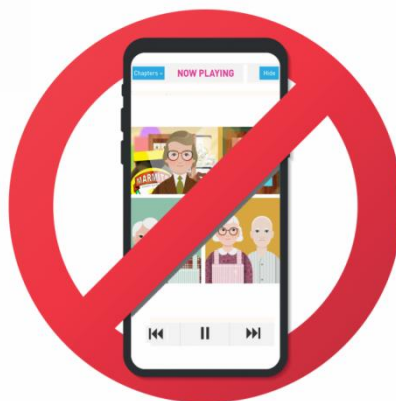


## TOP TIPS for EXAM SUCCESS!!

GET THERE  
**EARLY**



MAKE SURE  
YOU GET SOME  
**REST**



ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD  
**BREAKFAST OR LUNCH**  
BEFORE YOUR EXAM



HE'S REVISING.  
**ARE YOU?**



**DON'T REVISE JUST BEFORE BED**

You definitely don't want revision on your mind when you're trying to sleep. It can stress you out and mess with your sleep pattern.

Get it done earlier, and enjoy your rest!

TAKE THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR  
**ESSAY QUESTIONS**  
**STAY MOTIVATED**  
**GOOD LUCK!**







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On Monday we celebrated the feast day of our founder, St. Angela Merici, with a wonderful Mass at St. George's Cathedral. On that day we came together as an Ursuline community: students and staff, both current and past, parents and carers, governors and religious sisters— a community founded upon the vision of a woman who lived over 500 years ago in Renaissance Italy.



St. Angela knew the importance of good quality relationships. Noticing the needs of those around her, she responded with generosity and kindness. For her the most important relationship, that which underpinned all the others, was her relationship with Christ. St. Angela's gaze wasn't fixed on unnecessary things, it was fixed on Jesus. *"Happy are those whose hearts God has illumined with the light of truth and who hold on to this world of truth with all their might" (Prologue to the Rule).*

It is important that we also see with the light of truth, and not live in the darkness or hide in the shadows. Jesus tells us, "You are a light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven." (Matt.5:14-16)



Lord,

We know that you give us everything we need and so much more.

Help us first to recognise the gifts you have given to us, and to those around us, and be truly grateful for them. We pray that the Word of God may be the light of our lives, as it was for St. Angela, and that the Light of Christ will shine through all we do and say.

St. Angela, pray for us.

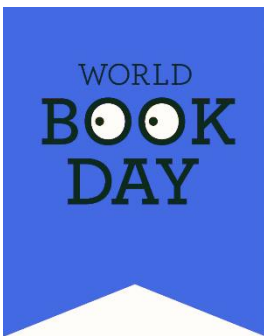
Amen.



## World Book Day Approaches!

### We celebrate on:

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020



World Book Day is fast approaching and we will be celebrating with a fundraising day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020. To raise money for new library books, pupils will be asked to donate £2 upon arrival to school for the privilege of wearing a book themed costume or their own clothes.

**Due to the year 11 mock exams only years 7-10 will participate in the costume and own clothes day.**

All pupils, regardless of year, will receive a free £1 World Book Day voucher that can be used to purchase one of the specially published World Book Day £1 books, or to take £1 off the price of a regular book at participating retailers.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

There will be other book-themed events throughout the week, more details to follow!





## '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 14<sup>th</sup> 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."*





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# POP UP

# KATSU



# LUNCHTIME

## THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

accent  
catering

**FO  
ST  
UR**

FRIENDS OF  
ST. URSULA'S



# Wine Tasting Evening

***Ticket £25  
Theatre of Wine***

Join us at Theatre of Wine, 75 Trafalgar Road SE10 9TS Greenwich, 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\*\*](mailto:fosturatse10@gmail.com) to reserve your space and pay for the ticket by making a payment to FOSTUR funds [\*\*virginmoneygiving.com/charities/stursulas\*\*](https://virginmoneygiving.com/charities/stursulas)

SATURDAY

**07**

MARCH  
7:30 PM

**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

#### 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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

**Closing Date:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

