



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year.

I hope that 2021 will be a better year for all our families.



We start this term back in lockdown with our movements and freedoms very restricted, but we know that this is in the best interest for everyone not just our own community.

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to Sister Elizabeth, a former Headteacher of St Ursula's, who sadly passed away on New Year's Day. We have included below some words given to us about Sister Elizabeth from the Ursuline Sisters.

Wednesday 6th January was the Feast of the Epiphany – a holy day of obligation. We took nine students from year 7, who were in school, to the 9.30am Mass at Our Ladye Star of the Sea. It was wonderful for all of us involved to be able to attend Mass again, in church, with Fr. Kevin.

We are at the end of our first week of remote learning and some staff are delivering 'live' elements of their lessons. This 'live' style teaching will become more of a feature of our remote offer as time goes on. We hope that it helps our pupils to feel more connected to school during this lockdown period

Have a restful weekend
Mrs Hamilton
Headteacher



With all the preparations for Christmas, some of us may have missed the news that Pope Francis has declared this Church year to be a 'Year of Saint Joseph', running from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Living as we are, in lockdown once again, we may feel that we too are living in the shadows - separated from those we love, from friends and from work colleagues. St Joseph can help us to accept the difficulties we face. Pope Francis encourages us all to pray the following prayer:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



Our UEC virtue for this term is
DISCERNING & JOYFUL



St. Angela Merici was a person who instilled joy in her followers. Let us ask for her prayers today, that we will meet the challenges of today's world with the confidence which comes from knowing that the Lord is guiding us every step of the way.

"I shall be in your midst, helping your prayers." (St. Angela Merici, Counsel 20)



Sr. Elizabeth Campbell

Sr. Elizabeth Campbell became a pupil at St Ursula's in 1940. She was an able student and great at Games, particularly netball – she was so tall!

As an Ursuline Sister she taught History at St Angela's Forest Gate; she was appointed as the Headteacher there in 1962. She returned to St Ursula's as Headteacher in 1977; she retired in 1994 aged 65.

In 1982 the school changed from a 2-form entry girls grammar school to 3-form entry girls comprehensive. It was still part of the ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) so attracted some good funding. It has always been a particularly happy and homely school.

Once the school became comprehensive Sr. Elizabeth set out to make it "a leading comprehensive" It was to be as good or even better than any prestigious private schools. As St Ursula's became more and more over-subscribed places in Year 7, as it is today.

Teachers were known and trusted, consulted, and listened to. Opportunities of all kinds were there for pupils and staff. Strengths were known and encouraged in all kinds of initiatives: music, art, gifted and talented pupils, docklands development, charities week, school journeys arranged to countries such as USSR when still under communism, Israel, East and West Germany before unification (where staff and students helped take pieces off "the Wall"), Tunisia, Egypt and the Sahara.

Sr Elizabeth navigated the school through the closure of the Inner London Education Authority in 1990 when the responsibility for education moved to Greenwich. At that time the school became part of a Sixth Form Centre, on the site of a closed school in Charlton, sharing teachers and Year 12+ students with Catholic and Church of England local schools. Sadly, this arrangement was not to last; soon a Catholic Sixth Form College was opened. At this point St Ursula's was asked to expand and so became four-form entry.

Sr. Elizabeth pioneered many great things at St Ursula's. It was in her time that the Sports' Hall was erected after a massive fund-raising drive. She retained her interest and loyalty to the school until her dying day.

May she rest in peace.





St Ursula's Convent School

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**FO
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**FRIENDS OF
ST URSULA'S**

Donations

Thank you to everyone who is so generously supporting the school, via FOSTUR, at this challenging time.



If you wish to make a cash donation you can do this via Virgin Money Giving. Please remember that, as a registered charity, we are eligible to receive gift aid which means that for every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer we receive an additional 25p.

The link to our donation page is

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1016685>

If anyone wishes to make a large one off donation we ask that you make payment direct to the FOSTUR bank account, which means we can still reclaim Gift Aid but avoid payment charges. For more information please contact us via email fosturatse10@gmail.com

Once again many thanks for everything you do to support your children and the wider school community

