



St Ursula's Convent School

The Weekly

Week Ending
28th¹ May 2021
Issue Number 032



Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

In place of my usual contribution to the newsletter I have emailed a letter to the parents and carers of all y7, 8, 9 and 10 students.

My best wishes as always, have a lovely half term break

Catrina Hamilton
Headteacher

Attendance Reminder

Please ensure that holidays are not booked during term time.

Attendance Officer

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If at any point in the future your child tests positive for Covid, it is essential that you inform the school as soon as possible, even if it is after school hours or at the weekend. In the event that your child does test positive, please email:

covid@stursulas.com

This email will be checked regularly and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact you as soon as the email is picked up. We will have to gather information from your child about who they have been in contact with. This information is required by Public Health England, they will then advise us on the next steps.



PENTECOST



Sunday's great Feast of Pentecost marked the end of Eastertide. We pray for an openness to the gifts of the Spirit in our lives so that we, through the grace of God, may share the fruits of that same Spirit with others.

**The Feast of Mary,
Mother of the Church**
Monday 24th May



Prayer to Mary by Pope Francis

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears;
grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus
among the thousands of words of this world;
grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live,
to every person we encounter,
especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

Mary, woman of decision,
illuminate our mind and our heart,
so that we may obey, unhesitatingly,
the word of your Son Jesus;
give us the courage to decide,
not to let ourselves be dragged along,
letting others direct our life.

Mary, woman of action,
obtain that our hands and feet move "with haste" toward
others,
to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus,
to bring the light of the Gospel to the world,
as you did.
Amen.



WELLBEING AND SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Dear parent/carer

As we're all too aware the pandemic has not been without its trials and tribulations and has had a significant impact on us all. For many of us, finding ourselves experiencing situations we may have never had to face before.

As part of a new Government initiative St Ursula's has been privileged to receive funding from the DfE to support with the impact lockdown has had on those experiencing period poverty.

Provisions have been made to support all our students who may find themselves experiencing new and unprecedented challenges with the purchase of menstrual products.

As stated in our recent letter, any student in need of support with the provision of sanitary products can call upon the SWO department, in confidence, whereby they will be provided with the necessary sanitary products.

Sadly many of our students may feel embarrassed to approach us for such support, therefore please don't hesitate to let us know if our support in this matter is needed, we will gladly address the situation with your daughter.

Kind regards

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing weekend

St Ursula's Wellbeing & Safeguarding team



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Using Flashcards

Information for parents and carers

PiXL
partners in excellence



Did you know?



Using flashcards is a repetition strategy. They are a simple 'cue' on the front and an 'answer' on the back. Flashcards engage students in "active recall", which means they are creating connections with their memory.

Research shows that using flashcards can enhance long-term learning and help students to memorise facts quickly. Flashcards are not an effective method for last-minute cramming!

Studies have found that it's more effective to review a whole stack of cards in one sitting rather than to carry them around and have students glance at them every so often.

What can you do?

Encourage your child to make flashcards as part of their revision strategy. The key is to have a question or key term on one side and the answer or definition on the other. Suggest using different colours for topics to help categorise information and to keep them neat. Flashcards containing just notes are not effective.

Try testing your child using the flashcards and give them time to digest the question before answering. If they get the answer right, don't discard the card – they need to keep repeating it again and over time.

When using the flashcards, help your child review their cards using a system. With your child, read

through this article which explains how to use flashcards effectively using a system approach:
<https://www.parent24.com/Learn/School-exams/watch-how-to-study-using-flashcards-20160825>





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PAYING FOR LOST OR DAMAGED LIBRARY BOOKS

A new 'Library Fee' section has been added to ParentPay to make paying for lost or damaged library books easier for parents and pupils. This will show as "£1-£75" on your ParentPay account, this is not a charge, but simply a facility for you to enter your own amount should you be contacted by email or letter about outstanding library fees. You do not need to pay anything until you are contacted with an itemisation of the books and what is owed.

Miss Deegan is recalling all library books that are overdue. Some books have been overdue for more than one year. There are currently over 1,000 overdue books and this is hampering the running of the library. Miss Deegan will be conducting an audit of library stock over the summer holidays and if a book is overdue by more than 6 months it will be marked as lost and a charge will be issued for a replacement. Please remind and encourage your daughters to check their Oliver library loan section and return any overdue books to the designated library boxes at school.

If pupils have lost their login details they need to contact Miss Deegan on Google Classroom.



Year 11

Library Book Returns 2021

The summer is fast approaching, please see details of [library book return deadlines](#) below!

ALL library **FICTION** books and **REVISION AND TEXT BOOKS** must be returned by:

Friday 18th June 2021

Lost books must be refunded or replaced.

You can do this by:

- Paying for a replacement on ParentPay
- Buying a copy of the same book to replace it
- Donating a different book or revision guide

Pupils can check their current loans by logging into their Oliver library account.

Donate your revision guides and school uniform!

Last year the library received **178** guides and set texts from year 11! This amounted to around **£1,352** of revision material that has been of great benefit to our current year 10 and 11! We also received many sets of clean uniform in good condition!

Pay it forward and donate!



Read eBooks online!

While pupils are at home or on the move they can still access hundreds of eBooks online with our ePlatform! They can search them easily through our Oliver Library System and then be redirected to ePlatform to login and read!

Oliver Library System

<https://stursulas.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>



ePlatform Ebooks

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/>



An instruction manual on how pupils can access the eBooks through Oliver, or just login to the ePlatform directly is in their Library Google Classroom. Pupils can obtain lost login details by messaging Miss Deegan in Google Classroom. There are over 1,000 eBooks to choose from!

All the links needed are here!:

<https://padlet.com/stulibrary/klnusczmsjdv3qta>

DOWNLOAD THE EPLATFORM APP FOR MOBILE READING!

In addition to the ePlatform website, pupils can download the ePlatform eBook reader as an app to their device and read on a tablet, smartphone or mobile computer! There are even options to download and read offline!

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/help/apps/eplatform-app>



Improving Literacy at Home

Is your child a reluctant reader? Do they avoid sitting down with a book? Do you struggle to get them off streaming services? Make this work for you!

Did you know that a recent scientific study has shown that turning the subtitles on when children watch videos doubles their chance of being a good reader? Many children have taken a step backward in their literacy during lockdown and using subtitles could improve their reading without them even realising! Luckily, TV services and streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney+ all come with subtitle options!

Learn more below...

The science of turning on the subtitles:

<https://youtu.be/DK51uVm91vk>

Learn more with Stephen Fry!

<https://youtu.be/l-zISnJ-oao>

And the official website:

www.turnonthesubtitles.org





MFL HELPFUL LINKS TO GAIN CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS FOR THE SUMMER EXAMS.

Home learning during the lockdown has made us all feel a little bit less confident in certain subjects. It has however also made us realise how many online tools we can use to help us with revision and to improve our skills.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been advising students to use numerous different websites to help them gain some confidence in languages. The feedback has been really positive so we wanted to make sure everyone had links to try them out.

Language learning APP's.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

<https://www.busuu.com/en>

<https://uk.babbel.com/>

<https://www.lingq.com/en/>

Translation APP's

<https://readlang.com/>

Reading APP's

<https://www.clozemaster.com/>

Culture learning websites

<https://newsinfrench.org/>

<https://polyglotclub.com/>

Music APP's

<https://lyricstraining.com/es>

Phonics assistance

<https://forvo.com/>

All these websites are free to use.



World Cinema Club!

The world cinema club has now been running for **Y7s** after a successful term with Y9s.

So far we have watched -

Spirited Away: A Japanese animation about a 10-year-old girl and her parents who stumble upon a seemingly abandoned amusement park. After her mother and father are turned into giant pigs, Chihiro meets the mysterious Haku who explains that the park is a resort for supernatural beings who need a break from their time spent in the earthly realm, and that she must work there to free herself and her parents.

Gippi: A Bollywood movie about teenager Gippi who struggles to handle the physical and social changes that come with her age. Soon, she learns to let go of her insecurities and love herself for exactly who she is.

Pahuna: The little visitors : Three Nepalese children rely on each other for survival after they become separated from their parents while entering India.

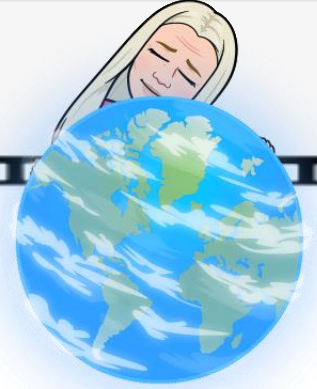
Once we have finished **Pahuna** we will watch '**Bienvenue a Marly-Gomont**': A recent medical graduate of Congolese descent arrives in France for a new job and struggles to integrate in a rural village, but winds up one of the most respected doctors in the region.



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Students are encouraged to also give suggestions and a google classroom has been set up for students to discuss the movies and put forward their suggestions.

World cinema club is currently being held during lunchtime in **G7**.

Week 1 - Friday

Week 2 - Monday

(Students can eat their lunch/snacks etc. whilst watching the movie)

I hope to keep on seeing so many students attend this club and look forward to hearing more of their opinions on the movies we watch. 😊



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The MFL department has been running a catch up program for KS3 in order to ensure that students have had the opportunity to revise and catch up with key grammar points in both Spanish and French.

This was run as a competition between forms . A form was picked from each year group for either French and Spanish as winners depending on their collective efforts and how well they had worked.

Y9 -

Form 9 Angela - **Spanish**

Form 9 Francis - **French**

Y8 -

Form 8 Catherine - **Spanish**

Form 8 Ursula - **French**

Y7 -

Form 7 Elizabeth - **Spanish**

Form 7 Catherine - **French**

Winning forms received a certificate to display in their form as well as house points and some sweet treats.



One last message from the MFL department...

Year 9s spent the spring term working on a module called 'Shelter Box' for their Spanish class. We learned a lot about Latin American countries in regards to their own **slang, geography, fashion, food, politics, history and music**. A big focus was also on the natural disasters that unfortunately, many South American countries suffer from.

Students were asked to make a visual presentation in groups of 3-4 outlining what they would send in a shelter box to help a South American country following one of these natural disasters.

We had some wonderful presentations submitted and it was clear that many students really spent time on this.

The winning submission was made by Sophia, Sophie, Jessica and Arabella in 9A. Please take a look at their submission.
WELL DONE GIRLS!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F2uThgulQFF2sdGJyummogXHdlAleqLj/view?usp=sharing>