



# St Ursula's Convent School

# The Weekly

Week Ending  
19th July 2021  
Issue Number 038



Dear Parents and Carers

It is with sadness that I write my last newsletter today. As you are aware from the Governors letter, I am leaving St Ursula's at the end of the term.

I have had six very happy years at the school and although the last few years have brought many challenges, due to Covid, I have really enjoyed my time here and could think of nowhere better to finish my teaching career. I have worked in a number of Catholic schools and have and am grateful for all the wonderful help and support I have received from so many amazing colleagues over those years.

I want to thank in particular the amazing students we have at St Ursula's, they are happy, respectful and caring young people who want the very best for themselves and their peers. They are not afraid to speak their mind and also make a stand for others who are in need or less fortunate.

I want to thank you, the parents, for the support you have shown to me and our school over many years. St Ursula's is very fortunate to have parents who are totally committed to the education and wellbeing of their children.

It is a shame that parental visits to the school have had to be curtailed due to the pandemic – it is always so brilliant to see parents in person.

I want wish you and your families the very best for the future. I hope you all stay safe and well and manage to enjoy the summer holiday ahead.

We also say goodbye to Ms Shackel, Dr Woodward, Miss Durrant, Ms Elba, Mrs Norbury and Mr Kilroy, we wish them well for the future.

Please remember that students finish early tomorrow and will be dismissed at 12 mid-day.

Catrina Hamilton  
Headteacher





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We pray for Pope Francis, now recovering back in the Vatican, after his colon surgery. We ask God to strengthen him and restore him to full health. We pray also for all those who are suffering with illness at this time and for those who care for them.

Leading for  
justice



This week our Y10 students were invited to share their thoughts and experiences of faith in our world today. Their contributions will be given to Sr. Beatrice OSU who will represent the Archdiocese of Southwark at the Churches Together in England Conference in the autumn. The students were pleased to be able to have the opportunity to have their voices heard in a wider sphere. Thank you Sr. Beatrice!



On Friday, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the senior leadership team was delighted to be able to come together for the celebration of Mass in thanksgiving for Mrs. Hamilton's dedicated service at St. Ursula's Convent School.

Sr. Kathleen spoke warmly about the contribution Mrs. Hamilton has made to the school community after which she presented her with a Papal Blessing.





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TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE  
OF MUSIC & DANCE



## Classical Deconstructed

*A free, pioneering, and inclusive Trinity Laban play day. Classical music transformed with fun beats, samples, and improvisation.*

**Monday 2 August | 09:30 - 16:00**

**Greenwich Campus, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**

Curious about classical music? Teenagers from all musical backgrounds and genres are invited to Trinity Laban's Greenwich Campus to deconstruct famous classical themes this summer. You'll have the opportunity to mix loops, samples, beats and other influences to create cool classical. This is your chance to subvert the age old genre of classical and bring it into the modern day.

On the day, you will be working with an expert team from Trinity Laban, each tutor is there to help you use the tools of your choice to change up the classics and find your sound:

**Emmanuel Vass:** Trinity Laban Lecturer, ClassicFM "Young Classical Star" and #1-selling pianist.

**Rebekah Reid:** Violinist and loop pedals/ microphones/ effects specialist.

**Diljeet Bhachu:** Improvising and experimental flautist, ambient sounds, electronics and spoken word musician.

The day will end in a big group performance, there will also be Q&As with the team to discuss life as a diverse-background musician.

[Find out more on our website.](#)

[Register now:](#)



## Year 9 Enrichment Day- 12th

### July

I enjoyed hearing Georgia's experiences with her work. The tips and information I took from the session was that **first impressions** do really matter, but you also shouldn't judge people solely by the appearance, in terms of your colleagues. Also, that you should persevere and make your best efforts.

I think **Georgia** had a lot of important points about careers and first impressions and how they contribute to a range of different things. I liked how she talked about personal relationships in her job which demonstrates that there are always two sides and not everything is the same. I think what I'll take from the session is the concept of my **name** being my **Identity**, **brand** and my **power**.



I think that **Ayo** presented her workshop in a way that was not intimidating but comfortable and easy-going which allowed people to become more relaxed and attentive. I think what I'll take from this workshop is the acronym **S.W.A.G** (focus on your STRENGTHS, speak WORDS that are full of life and power(with the help of music), take ACTION, and practice GRATITUDE).

My favourite task was the ***school council's workplace situations*** because they were realistic and helped to educate people who weren't familiar with the experiences





## Year 10 Enrichment Day- 15th July

Our enrichment day started off with an engaging workshop about the basis of careers and 6th form opportunities. **Leila** was our leader and she helped involve everyone, even the quieter students. We were informed about the workplace and how to prepare fully for interviews. We were asked to pitch our best speech in 30 seconds in the '*elevator pitch*' and we even had a chance to present it to the groups. We even won some chocolates for participation. In the afternoon we had a zoom call with employees from **CITibank**. We had the opportunity to hear about their career journey and we had a practice interview with the panel.

The enrichment was a great experience. I feel confident in applying for 6th form now and am excited about my future. Year 10 would like to thank **Urban Synergy** for their guidance throughout the day and we look forward to welcoming them back to St Ursula's in the future. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of **CITibank** for sponsoring our prizes throughout the day.

(Veronika)



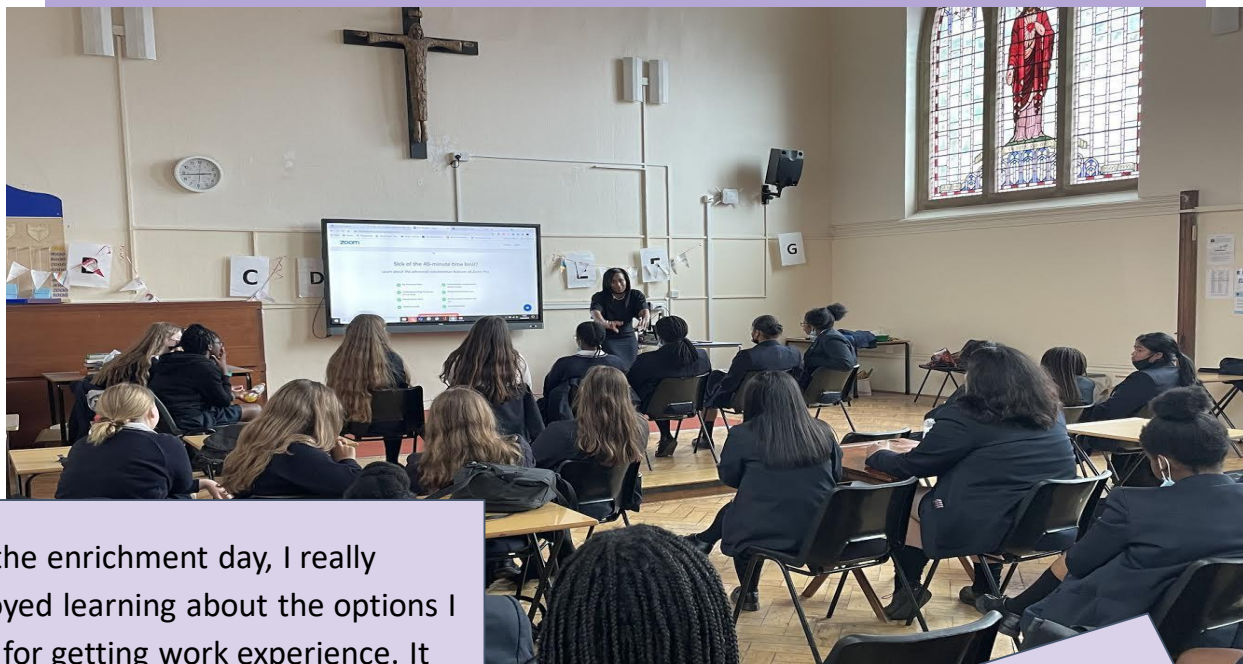
The enrichment day was very informative as it taught me about CV writing and how to conduct myself in interviews. My favorite part was when we met with the **CITI role models**. I really loved how there was a diverse panel of individuals from all fields of work. Thank you to **Urban Synergy** and **CITI bank** for the enrichment experience. (Nicole)

I really enjoyed having **Jacqueline** as a group leader as she was talkative and she made everyone feel comfortable and engaged. I am really excited about the **E-Mentoring programme** by **Urban Synergy** that I will sign up to in September. Ese





## Year 10 Enrichment Day



On the enrichment day, I really enjoyed learning about the options I had for getting work experience. It showed me that there are a range of different routes available for me to get to where I want to be in the future. It also gave me opportunities to meet **role models** that will help me get to where I would like to be.  
(Victoria)

The enrichment day taught me different jobs available to me in my future. I really enjoyed the '**elevator pitch**' as it got me thinking about how to sell myself in 30 seconds to future employers. This really boosted my confidence and my communication skills. I am really excited about the **E-Mentoring programme by Urban Synergy** that I will sign up to in September. (Naomi)

Today, I learnt how to present myself in future interviews. As well as taking advice for making CV's. I shared my dreams and goals with the group I was in. I felt very confident and happy. It gave me a lot of options and inspired me to reach higher to the job I wanted



## Notices

### ***Remember to Keep up regular Covid-19 testing this summer!***

*Secondary school and college students should continue testing and reporting twice a week over the summer holidays – don't forget to report your results whether it's negative, positive or void.*

### **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.

### **Attendance Reminder**

Please ensure that holidays are not booked during term time.

Attendance Officer





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*The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up to inspire and motivate young people and recognise them for their achievements.*



*The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE to inspire and celebrate young people. Since 1999, over £133 million has been invested in programmes to benefit young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex.*

**Winner : Derin**

**Age : 12**

**Reason for award :**

Derin has joined St Ursula's and immediately became an active member of her form group, supporting her peers with friendship worries, students who struggle in lessons. Derin is living out our school motto of Serviam.



Well done Derin. St Ursula's school community is extremely proud of you!

**Winner :Melat**

**Age : 12**

**Reason for award :** Melat goes above and beyond in lessons and outside of lessons to help and volunteer to help staff out. She has grown into a mature, kind and respectful student who looks out for her peers.



Well done Melat. Everyone at St Ursula's is so proud of you!!

**Winner : Amelia**

**Age : 13**

**Reason for award :** Amelia is considerate of her class and her peers. She has become an instrumental member of the student council and is also her class rep. She is respected by her peers and is always willing to stand up for what she believes in.



Well done Amelia. St Ursula's school community is extremely proud of you!





## Holiday Activities & Food Programme

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you are well and that your child/ren is enjoying the summer term and the warm weather!



Ahead of the summer holidays, we wanted to let you know about the brilliant new Holiday Activities and Food programme which is operating in your local area. We are helping to launch a new film to promote the programme so parents know that their children can get involved in a local holiday club when the school term ends this July.

We know that the holidays can be a really difficult time for families who are struggling to make ends meet or who are juggling work and childcare. The holidays should be a time for every child to enjoy themselves rather than worrying about having enough to eat or how they can spend their free time.

That's why we're really excited about the summer holiday programmes that are being funded by the Government and will take place across the whole of England. This was recommended by the National Food Strategy when it was published last year. A petition supporting the recommendation was signed by over 1 million people.

Places on the holiday schemes are available for free to children who receive free school meals, but children and young people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to attend. Each local programme will provide delicious, healthy meals, allow kids to get active, help them learn new things, make friends and have fun. And that is what the holidays are all about!

You can find out more by watching this new film that we've made: <https://youtu.be/KDgm8KpXAXE>

The holiday programmes are open to children of any age and are free for children eligible for free school meals. They will:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment for children
- Be led by experienced local coordinators teaming up with a range of different partners in their communities
- Serve children tasty and nutritious food and opportunities to learn about food and nutrition
- Organise lots of activities so every child can find something they enjoy - from Kung Fu and cooking to bushcraft.
- Keep children and young people happy, healthy and active
- Offer a flexible childcare option for busy parents

You can find out exactly what's available in your local area either by visiting your council's website or by searching online for HAF (that stands for Holiday Activity and Food).

We hope you and your family have a great summer with the Holiday Activities and Food programme!

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Rashford MBE

Henry Dimpleby MBE (Founder of Leon, Independent Lead of the National Food Strategy)



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## Do we still need to learn about other languages and cultures in the age of Google Translate?



You may remember that a few months ago, Year 11 pupils Isabel Medina-King and Rachel Foster (11 Francis) submitted an entry for the University of Lancaster's Languages and Cultures department for their annual Modern Languages in Schools Essay Prize. The competition was open to pupils in years 10 and 11 and needed to be submitted as a 3 minute video in English or in Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Spanish or Italian.

We have just received the following feedback for the St Ursula's entry:

*The markers commented: "This is a great presentation. Your argument really comes through and your visuals are brilliant (the word variations in Spanish were very entertaining!). Well done! Your entry made our shortlist, but unfortunately did not win."*

The quality of the other entries from all over the country was also excellent so it was a tough competition. We are extremely proud of the St Ursula's video and well done to Rachel and Isabel for their creativity, technical expertise and commitment to the project. You can enjoy it for yourselves by clicking [here](#). It is highly recommended viewing for all pupils who are tempted to turn to online translators in their language learning.



## MFL Stephen Spender Translation competition.



Well done to all the students who submitted an entry.

We had entries from students in **Y7, 8 and 9.**

I have submitted all the entries to the Stephen Spender Trust.

The results will come through some time in the summer but I will inform you as soon as I hear.

**Entries were made for poems in French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Yoruba and Japanese, showcasing a huge passion for a range of different languages in our school.**

**Every entry was a pleasure to read and all were winners if it were up to the MFL department to decide!**

If you were unable to take part this year, don't worry, we will take part again next year!

