



Dear all,

Welcome to our second edition of the Ursuline News.

The beginning of term has been busy, purposeful and very special since we have all been together in lessons, Masses and assemblies. We were extremely fortunate to have Father Kevin, Sister Kathleen, Sister Catherine and Sister Jayne mark the beginning of the academic year with us in such a prayerful way. It has been a fitting start to our year together.

The beginning of term has also been productive as I have met with many students, families and local residents. Your voice has played a significant role in shaping the future direction of our school. For more in-depth feedback, do refer to the 'you asked / our response' documents that feature later in this edition. Working in close partnership with all is very important to us.

I am conscious that many parents are former students. You will know yourselves that referring to you as ex-Ursulines is simply not correct because once you are an Ursuline, you are always an Ursuline! It would be wonderful to see many of you join our alumni (see page 2). To do so, simply email [guogassociation@gmail.com](mailto:guogassociation@gmail.com) and please spread the word



amongst ex-classmates! Do also follow us on Twitter and I would encourage you to join FOSTUR (friends of St Ursula's – see pages 16 & 17). This is a wonderful opportunity to be an active part of our community; support the school and put Serviam into action. It is also a fantastic opportunity for Year 7 parents to immerse into our special community and connect with other parents.

I am delighted that we will be offering Year 9 and 10 the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh. Ms Painvin has been promoting this through assemblies this week while Ms Franklin has been busy promoting opportunities for our students to take an active role in safeguarding their own mental health and the

promotion of strategies and support for the mental health of others.

We have also embarked on an exciting project with the RACE Charter Mark community. Our students, staff and governors will be working together on this. I have no doubt there are some very exciting projects in the pipeline!

Mr Mandalos is in the process of introducing Laudato Si prefects to look after our environment. To support them as they further enhance our environment we would really appreciate donations of plants / plant pots / cushions / paint..... We are keen to create a homely feel for all our students, so anything you have would be gratefully received.

*(continued overleaf)*



We have more good news!  
We recently received The PTI Subject Leadership Mark in Modern Foreign Languages and Science for increasing challenge in the curriculum; enthusing pupils with activities beyond the curriculum; developing staff's own specialist subject knowledge and developing subject-based links outside school.

Finally, we have reminded students of the importance being ambassadors of the school in all that they do and all that they say. This does apply on the way to and from school. I would welcome your support in reiterating this important message at home too.

God bless,

**Kathleen Faherty**  
Headteacher



Have you seen our Twitter account?  
Follow us **St Ursula's Convent School** at  
[@stursulas\\_sch](https://twitter.com/stursulas_sch)

### GREENWICH URSULINE ALUMNI

Send your email address to  
[guogassociation@gmail.com](mailto:guogassociation@gmail.com) to be added to the contact list and to find out about the GUA Picnic Reunion 2021 (Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 3pm in Greenwich Park).



We also have a new Instagram account:  
[stursulasschool](https://www.instagram.com/stursulasschool).  
Look out for new content!

### FOSTUR (FRIENDS OF ST URSULA'S)

FOSTUR was created to foster links between school and home. All parents and carers of girls at the school are automatic members of FOSTUR.

The AGM this year will be held at school on the **13th of October at 6PM**. We encourage everyone to get involved.

Contact [fosturatse10@gmail.com](mailto:fosturatse10@gmail.com)



## World Day of Migrants and Refugees

*Laudato Si' Dialogue on climate migrants from Trastevere*



**Sunday 26th  
September**

[f LIVE](#) @LaudatoSiMovement  
[YouTube LIVE](#) Laudato Si' Movement

08:00 Minneapolis  
09:00 New York  
15:00 Rome  
16:00 Nairobi  
21:00 Manila  
01:00 Auckland NZ



## Pope Francis: 'Towards an ever wider 'we''

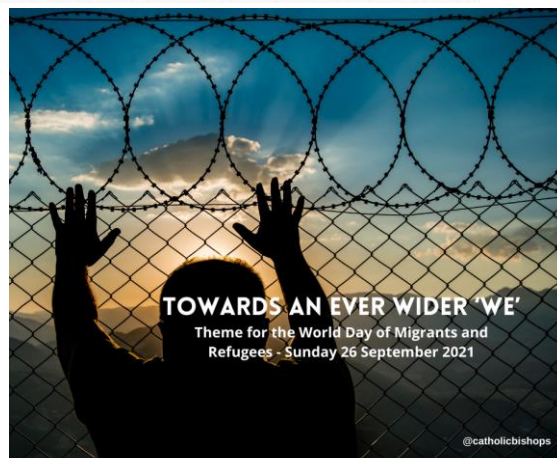
Live from Rome on Sunday, the '**World Day of Migrants and Refugees**', climate migrants will share their moving stories and highlight the relationship between the worsening climate crisis and migration. This Laudato Si' Dialogue also will feature ways you can help climate migrants in your day-to-day life.

### WHO

Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, Under-secretary of the Vatican's Migrants and Refugees Section  
Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor

Tomás Insua, Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement

Three climate migrants



### WHEN

Sunday 26 September

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFLfviiAFMA>

## Young people lead the way

In The Pope Video for September, Pope Francis asked all of us to learn from young people who are leading environmental and social projects. On Thursday, get inspired by a Laudato Si' Dialogue featuring young people creating change around the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnQxcFLH7Y8>





## Gospel reading - Sunday 26th September

Mark 9:38-43

*'John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.'*

*'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched'*

### Reflection

This Sunday, Jesus teaches us about tolerance. Tolerance is often associated with being permissive. In the gospel, Jesus asks his disciples and us to be tolerant of others. Something to think about this weekend:

1. The Spirit of God works in mysterious ways. No one really knows how He works among individuals or groups even to those outside the institutional church. Let us be open to new or creative ways of practicing our faith or doing our mission.
2. Jealousy and disunity are not the work of God. They have no place in the ministry of the Church.
3. Causing others to sin is a serious offense and it does have serious consequences.
4. Our small acts of kindness will be rewarded.



## Parent voice, September 2021

You asked...	Our response....
Can parents be told what textbooks / revision materials they can purchase so that students have materials to work from at home.	Ms Johnson will write to all families (KS3 and KS4 letter) sharing this key information. Ms Johnson will re-launch GCSE pod so that all students have this platform at home. Ms Johnson will explore Hegarty with the Maths department.
Can students and families be informed of revision lists well in advance of examinations?	Yes - Ms Johnson will coordinate this.
Can students not have back to back examinations?	Unfortunately, due to logistics that many schools face - we are not currently in a position to review this.
Can students be tested on a regular basis in lessons so that they are in the habit of learning (low stakes quizzes / rote learning).	Yes - this is currently one of the strategies that colleagues at St Ursula's use (retrieval).
Can all families receive a copy of the Ursuline News?	Yes - this will be sent to all on the mailing list.
Can information re clubs be shared with families?	Yes and this will also be placed on the website.
Can the communication system be reviewed? Can communication with parents improve?	Yes - this is the focus of the new workload working party and we are currently working on certain protocols to improve communication with all stakeholders.
Can homework club run?	Yes - information will go out with the clubs.
Can students receive intervention if struggling? This is also for KS3 students.	Yes and there will be 1-2-1 meetings for those falling behind. Students reading below their reading age will be supported to catch up.
Can the Google Classroom link be reviewed - currently not working.	IT have resolved this. If there are any further issues, do not hesitate to request support.
Can SEN reviews be scheduled in advance by staff?	Yes, this will be possible since we are out of lockdown.
Are the students settled? If so, how does it work?	Information re this will be sent out to all families.
Can we ensure that parents can see staff at parents evening - not all had the opportunity due to appointments filling up quickly.	We will review this system and try to ensure there is contact with key staff.
Can students have fun?	Students will be very much involved in planning events which are both educational and fun.
Can the newsletter be more detailed?	Yes, Ms Faherty does plan on communicating in detail with all stakeholders.
Do students know there is a school council?	Yes - this has been shared in assemblies and there is a prominent display of all the members.
Can students have more physical activity, for example, clubs / competitions / walk a mile a day / competitive sport...	Ms Faherty has spoken to the PE department about this and they are putting a plan together.



### Year 11 student voice, September 2021

You asked...	Our response...
Can we eat outside?	No, because we do not want to attract rodents into the environment.
Can bag searches stop	They will only occur when absolutely necessary - when we fear there is a health and safety breach.
Can the timing of lunch be reviewed?	We are currently looking at this to allow you to eat lunch a little later in the day.
Can we not receive a late detention if there was an issue with public transport (eg DLR suspended for a while...)?	Absolutely! If TfL report an incident on your journey to / from school - you will not have a detention.
Can the rule on mobile phones be reviewed?	Students will be permitted to bring phones to and from school. Phones will not be permitted in school. If a phone is seen in school, it will be confiscated. School will not be liable for lost / misplaced or damaged phones.
Can there be mirrors in the toilets?	Yes, FOSTUR will be meeting with the school council on 27th September to move this forward.
Can we have lip gloss and scented hand cream?	Lip gloss is classed as make up so is not permitted. Scented hand creams are not permitted because of allergies.
Can we have some fun trips / experiences?	Ms Faherty would like to allow all to wear birthday badges / balloons / decorations when celebrating a birthday. The educational trips will continue but very happy to listen to proposals re other activities.
Can the rule on wearing PE kit to and from school be revised?	Ms Faherty has invited the PE department and the Student Council to review the PE kit so that it is smart. When this is done, students may wear the smart PE kit to and from school.  In the meantime, Year 10 and 11 core PE are permitted to wear kit to and from school.
Can sanitary products be provided?	Yes, FOSTUR will be focussing on improvements in the toilet facilities and products will be available there.
Can there be a balanced sex education programme?	The programme is currently under review.



### Year 11 student voice, September 2021 (continued)

Can Year 11 have privileges?	Yes - Year 11 can use the wooden stairs, the Black & White corridor and be first to lunch.
Can there be work experience opportunities?	Yes, these are currently being worked on and will be shared with students.
Can the length of phone sanctions be reviewed?	Yes - if a phone is confiscated a parent / guardian may collect it at the end of the school day from reception after one week.
Can Year 11 not be labelled as difficult?	No year group will be labelled. We are all made in the image and likeness of God and all will be treated equally.
Can there be restorative conversations following incidents?	Yes
Can the group of 6 rule be reviewed?	Yes - there will be no ruling on numbers in groups.
Can the rule on multiple piercings be reviewed?	This is a rule that we will keep in place for now.
Can we have some 'own clothes' days?	This can be trialled on Friday 22nd October.
Can we have a culture whereby students can identify in any way they want without feeling shy / worried about doing so amongst their peers?	Yes and Ms Faherty will lead assemblies on the theme of respect for all (immediately after the half term break).
Can we use fidget toys?	Yes - students who have identified needs will be issued with these from the R&R room.
Can students who identify as male wear a tie?	We will work on creating a school tie for this purpose.
Can the rule on earrings be reviewed?	Due to health and safety, the rule will remain the same for now.
Can we have different coloured hair bands?	Natural coloured elastics will be permitted.
Can we have more information re 6th form?	Yes - an event is currently being planned.
Can we have lunch sessions in Music / PE / DT / Art.....so we can work during this time. Can we also have homework club?	Ms Johnson has consulted with these departments and the offer has been extended.
Can we have dance and trampolining in GCSE PE?	Currently, we do not have provision for this. However, we will explore this for the future.



### Year 11 student voice, September 2021 (continued)

Can we continue work on diversity?	Absolutely! Ms Greer will be leading work on a Race Charter that students will be involved in. There will be other opportunities in the curriculum too.
Can we continue with the Serviam award?	Yes and this will extend to Year 11 this year.
Can we have cultural awareness days / events?	Yes - first one planned for 22nd October.
Can we know who is responsible for safeguarding?	Posters have been created and this information will be shared in form time next week. It will also be sent to families.
Can staff be approachable and friendly? Can we have relationships with staff?	Following COVID and all the challenges of last year, we did have a focus on relationships in our staff inset day. All are working hard to build bridges following the events of 2020-21.
Can the curriculum reflect diversity?	Yes, this is currently a key area of focus for St Ursula's.
Can the food be improved?	This is an area that is currently under review.





# St Ursula's Convent School

## The Ursuline News

Week Ending  
24 September 2021  
Issue Number 02



**I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch our recruitment for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).**

### **Why do DofE?**

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

It's also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

### **How it works:**

There are three levels of DofE Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve the awards, your child will need to complete four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition.

Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside, and again we'll make sure that our young people are fully prepared for it.

### **Next steps**

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is £23 per person. [If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange financial support.]

**We have planned an information event for students on 5<sup>th</sup> October at 1510 for about 45 mins – 1 Hr.** If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me. The DofE website – [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) - has a lot of useful information too.

I'm the DofE Leader for St Ursula's, so if you think you might be interested or have any questions, do get in touch. It would be great to get a big group of students together to make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your child to feel ready for anything.

Miss Painvin



## Working to improve mental health and wellbeing *Claire Franklin*



We are living through a moment in time when global events are impacting each of us to some extent.

Covid-19 has had a massive impact on our lives, and while the signs are that we have emerged from the worst of the pandemic, what remains is the uncertainty, isolation and many fears about physical and mental safety.

Young people have endured the opening and closure of schools, virtual classrooms and class bubbles, home learning, the cancellation of public exams and the need to self-isolate. All this will have an impact on their wellbeing.

Some young people and staff in your school may have experienced bereavements and the heartache of not being able to visit dying loved

ones, say goodbye, or go to a normal funeral.

Others of course have missed out on exams, endings, and the hugely important developmental experience of connecting with peers. These will all have left a mark which will have consequences for the foreseeable future.

In addition to this, the unlawful killing of George Floyd, captured on video, and Breonna Taylor among too many others to name, reignited discussions on race and identity not seen in many years. Racial trauma is also part of the landscape our students are navigating.

At St Ursula's, we are taking this challenge seriously. This requires a whole school approach that uses every avenue the school has to help our young people.

CPHSE will focus on the delivery of information about the need for good mental health: understanding; recognising and addressing the issue.

I will be managing assemblies on areas of mental health including: changing of seasons (SAD); Children's Mental Health Week; and fundraising.

We will be providing extra activities for students to be able to express themselves in different settings across the school from sporting activities, to games clubs, to trips outside school. Music will be key with young people being involved in the therapeutic healing power of music.



Downloading a new app or game is so quick and straightforward that, whenever a young person uses a smartphone (either their own or a parent's) there's always the possibility that they could expose themselves to inappropriate content (such as games with violent scenes or apps with adult themes) simply by sheer accident or, more likely, through youthful curiosity.

Fortunately, the parental controls you'll find on most smartphones are an excellent way of minimising this possibility. They don't completely remove the element of risk – but they do limit it considerably. Our #WakeUpWednesday guides this week steer you through the process of setting up this useful protection on iPhone and Android smartphones.

[Download your guides](#)



## St Ursula's Curriculum Model

### Key Stage 3

#### **Year 7**

Students begin their time at St Ursula's within five mixed ability form classes. The classes are called 7 Angela (7A), 7 Catherine (7C), 7 Elizabeth (7E), 7 Francis (7F) and 7 Ursula (7U), the name of their form group corresponds with the House they belong to. This year allows us to get to know our students whilst supporting them with their transition into secondary school.

#### **Year 8 and 9**

In years 8 and 9 the curriculum model is designed to tailor the learning to the needs of all students and broaden students' social experience in school. The more detailed grouping enables us to tailor lessons to the individual needs of both our students and the subject. In Year 8 and 9 students are grouped into two bands, and within the bands subjects work together in clusters. Band A includes two classes of Upper Ability students, and Band B includes three classes of Upper Ability and Middle Ability students. Departments within each cluster work together to ensure that classes meet the needs of our students - whether that be as mixed ability groups, within bands A and B, or classes based on ability.

Our subject clusters are:

- English and RE - mixed ability (within band A and B)
- Maths, Science and PE - classes determined by ability
- Modern Foreign Languages, Music and Art - classes determined by ability in MFL
- Geography, History and Computer Science - classes determined by ability in Humanities
- All students also study subjects on a Carousel, swapping the subject each term:
  - Year 8 Carousel - Product Design, Food Technology and Drama
  - Year 9 Carousel - Textiles, Product Design and Food Technology (Drama joins the English and RE cluster)

### Key Stage 4

#### **Year 10 and 11**

Our students take a broad range of core subjects at GCSE and opt for three more option subjects of their own choice. Classes for core subjects are decided as follows:

- Religious Education - mixed ability (within band A and B)
- English (Language and Literature) - mixed ability (within band A and B)
- Mathematics - classes determined by ability
- Science - classes determined by ability
- Physical Education (non examination) - mixed ability

Classes for Modern Foreign Languages, and all option subjects, are also mixed ability.



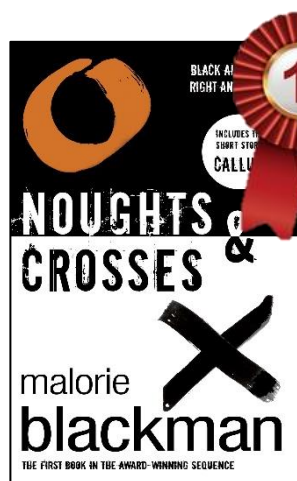


## St Ursula's Library Statistics Sept. 2020 – July 2021

Last academic year STU pupils loaned over **3,600** books

Of these loans, **525** were from our new eBook system

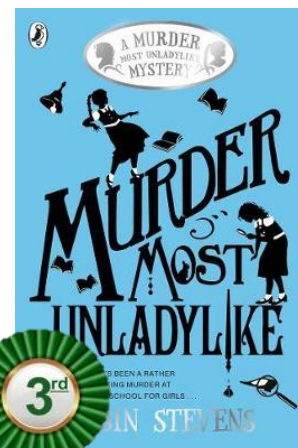
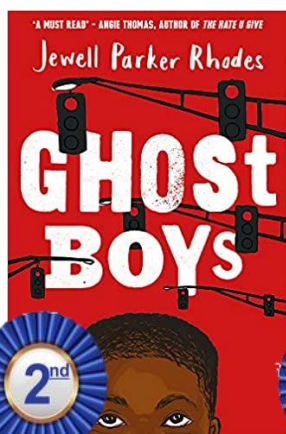
Some books were so popular they tied for the top 3!



**Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman**

**Age: 12+ Genre: Science Fiction, Dystopian**

Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger...





## STU Online Library

Every student at St Ursula's has access to our wonderful online library system and eBook platform. Students can search online for books to pick up in person or reserve, and also to read online. There are thousands of books to choose from and curated reading lists to assist book choice!

### Oliver Library System

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



### ePlatform Ebooks

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



An instruction manual on how students can access all online content is available (along with all other library links) on the library padlet page:

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

Students should also join the Library Google Classroom Bulletin Board to receive service updates and ask questions. They must use their School Google Account to join: **n4wa3ii**

## DOWNLOAD THE EPLATFORM APP FOR MOBILE READING!

In addition to the ePlatform website, students can download the ePlatform eBook reader as an app to their home device and read on a tablet, smartphone or mobile computer, and they can also download content to read offline!

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



## How can you help STU library?



Paying to replace books that have been lost or damaged by pupils is an immense help to the library. A 'Library Fee' section is available in ParentPay for this purpose, it 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 a fee. No action is required until you are contacted. You can also use this facility to donate towards the library for book-buying.



Did you know that Scholastic has a wonderful range of books and box sets perfect for your child to read at brilliant prices? Sometimes cheaper than market competitors like Amazon? If you join Scholastic and enter St Ursula's Convent School you can also earn the school points for free books! It's a win-win situation! We will also be receiving a discounted Book Fair in early December, so watch this space!



St Ursula's Convent School

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/>



# Summer 2021 Update

## Fundraising news

FOSTUR would like to welcome all new parents and carers to the school and hope we can get to know many of you over the next few years. Hopefully new parents will have received our welcome letter. Our AGM is on 13th October and we warmly welcome everyone in our school community to attend.

FOSTUR were very pleased to meet Ms Faherty in the first few weeks of school and we hope to continue our close bond with the school in the future. We have planned to meet the school council next week to ask the students what they want to see our funds used for – watch this space!

### **Fundraising this year**

Despite being unable to run any events last year we managed to raise over £15,000 which was absolutely brilliant. Thank you to all our regular and one-off donors and those who use Amazon Smile or Easyfundraising, it all comes together to make a large pot. We were able to buy Chromebooks, Visualisers and replacement science goggles plus treat everyone to Easter gifts and a doughnut day!

### **There are several ways to donate this year:**

- 1) Sign up to one of our shopping commission websites, detailed on the next page
- 2) One off donations can be made to our bank account, if you need this option get in touch on our email address over on the next page.
- 3) Regular or one-off donations through our Virgin page. Virgin is set up to automatically pass on gift aid, which means we get 25% additionally for each donation.

**[virginmoneygiving.com/charities/stursulas](https://virginmoneygiving.com/charities/stursulas)**

## **FOSTUR AGM**

**Wednesday 13 October at 6pm**

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Venue: At the school (come to main office)

Please come along to hear our annual report and plans for the future. We need many more people to be involved and help us to help the school. All welcome.





# Summer 2021 Update

## Fundraising news

### 2021/22 planned events

FOSTUR have plans for this next academic year, covid permitting, to return to those events we so much enjoyed in previous years which we hope include:

- **Carol concert** – mulled wine, mince pies and a raffle
- Possibly a return of the **FOSTUR quiz night**
- **Summer fair**

Also, we have had several sponsored events in the past – park runs and a 'toughmudder'. If you are interested in taking part in one of these events you can set up a fundraising page on Virgin – link on previous page.

Please do get in touch on [fosturatse10@gmail.com](mailto:fosturatse10@gmail.com) if you have any ideas or want to be more actively involved.



We have now raised over £1,000 through easyfundraising and Amazon smile since we began! If you do online shopping, please think to click on the links first – all the small amounts add up in no time!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstursulas/>



If you have an Amazon account, head over to [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) to register your charity as 'Friends of St Ursula's' and we will receive 0.5% for every time you shop!

***We are looking for  
ideas for covid-  
safe, remote  
fundraising.***



Please get in touch on  
[fosturatse10@gmail.com](mailto:fosturatse10@gmail.com)