



The Ursuline Post

St Ursula's Convent School

20th September 2024



Headteacher's Weekly Message

Dear Parent/ Carer

It is hard to believe that 3 weeks have already passed since the start of the academic year. Whilst we had a shorter week due to Open Day, I would like to put on record my thanks to all staff and students for helping out on Saturday. We had over 150 students from all year groups come in to support the school – that is a fantastic effort, and we are very grateful for that.

This week's edition will give you that flavour of the school year starting as many more clubs come online. Last week I spoke about the PE department's contribution to extracurricular life at St Ursula's, this week it is our English department taking centre stage. Ms Dias has already been to see me today for approval for even more trips and clubs, but it is not my place to steal that announcement.

I'm also delighted to see our first contribution from our Senior Prefect Team so well done to Tanitoluwa for putting the piece together – I look forward to seeing how that develops over the next few months.

Of course, we have Year 11 Information Evening next week so I shall see many of you there. Additionally, we have Open Mornings imminently so please spread the word.

God bless,

Mr O'Shaughnessy

CHAPLAIN'S PAGE

Gospel:

MARK 9:30-37

The Greatest in the Kingdom

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise."

But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"

But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Reflection:

The Gospel this week is an important one for all of us at St Ursula's. We are reminded that true greatness comes from being last and serving all, using a child as an example. At St Ursula's our motto is SERVIAM. Meaning 'I will serve'. This is what guides us all here – staff and students alike. In a world where many struggle with well-being, we can find fulfilment in serving others and acts of kindness and compassion. We task all in our community to serve others, today, tomorrow and always.

CHAPLAIN'S PAGE

Closing Prayer:

Lord, draw our hearts away from selfishness,
- **turn our lives to loving service.**

Lord, may we bring the bread of hope to the poor,
- **teach us to serve you in those who suffer.**

Lord, may we come to know the abundance of your
love,

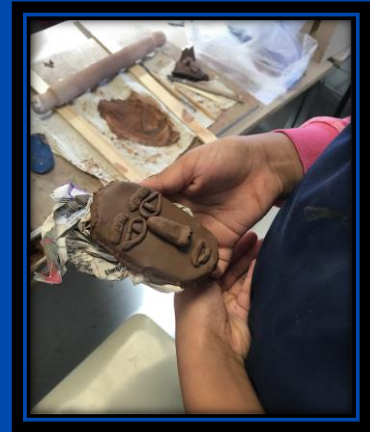
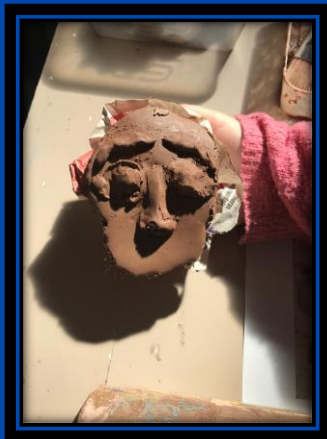
- **give us compassionate hearts. Amen**



Open morning – Saturday 16th Sept

Visitors were invited to create an expressive clay portrait whilst Elyse (Y9F) worked on a parabolic line art project to show some focus of the Year 9 curriculum - Maths Art

Ms Simon
Art and Design



English Department News



Poet Laureate Post

Fresh Beginnings-themed poem.

TOMORROW – Saturday - is the deadline to send a poem to Ms Dias (or your English teacher), on Google Classroom.

This prestigious role will look wonderful on any college application, and the selected student will have full support from the English Department, so don't hesitate, apply now! The Fresh Beginnings theme may be inspired by the school and its history, of course, but could also be an exploration of your life experience or an imagined event. Be creative.

Tradition has it that a Poet Laureate receives gifts from his Majesty, and at St Ursula's all students who send in a poem application will receive House Points and feedback on their work.

National Poetry Day



National Poetry Day, on Thursday 3rd October, will be the biggest mass celebration of poetry in the UK. We will all have a chance to share in the pleasure of poetry, where we are able to express our feelings and be creative.

1.5 million people will be participating on the day - including pupils at St Ursula's!

In the run to National Poetry Day, Year 7 pupils will be involved in a Poetry Workshop on Friday 27th September. The workshop will be run by author and poet, Gita Raleigh. The theme this year is 'Counting'!

Counting? Yes, because everyone's voice counts.

Gita will also be introducing an exciting writing competition to pupils.

On National Poetry Day, there will be an opportunity for a small group of pupils to attend a workshop at Woolwich Library with poet, Paul Cree.

On offer too, is a Poetry Pilgrimage on Friday 4th October led by a Poetry Guide who begins the tour at London Bridge and finishes with a flourish in the City of London, capturing and retaining knowledge of Poetic Form!

And of course, the English Department is eager to appoint our very own Poet Laureate - a pupil who will be asked to write a poem for special occasions across the year - who will no doubt follow in the footsteps of Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Andrew Motion, Ted Hughes and St John Betjeman!

St Ursula's Literacy Newsletter

St Ursula's Literacy Newsletter

Week commencing 16th September 2024



Word of the Week:

Aspirational [adjective] Having a strong desire and drive for achievement.

At St Ursula's we have high expectations from our [students](#) and we expect them to have high expectations of themselves and to be **aspirational**. If they don't fully succeed in that lesson, always remind them that tomorrow is another day.

Please use this word during your lessons when the opportunity arises. Encourage students to use this word and reward them with praise and house points when they do.

Display this word of the week on your laminated poster.

Whole School Literacy Focus:

The three pillars of literacy are reading, writing, and speaking and listening. Therefore, each term will have a specific focus on one of these.

- Autumn Term – Speaking and Listening
- Spring Term – Reading
- Summer Term – Writing

We all teach and incorporate each of these every day in our lessons, but we need to make **speaking and listening** a specific priority this term.

Autumn Term – Speaking and Listening:

Last week's newsletter featured three strategies to develop **speaking and listening** in our classrooms. This newsletter features two more:

- ✓ **'Question Bouncing'** - to encourage more students to verbalise their ideas, ask a question, take an answer from a student and then 'bounce' it to another student. "Thank [you Kimora](#), Precious - could you add anything to that [answer](#) or do you perhaps have a different answer?"
- ✓ **Active Listening** - when students read their work aloud, ask the rest of the class to actively listen and to note down (possibly on their mini whiteboards) any important points they hear the student making.

Form time:

Remind your form that a reading book is an essential part of their daily equipment. Use your allocated [Literacy day](#) for DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) until I have provided you with the book that you will read together as a form. I am in the process of locating these books. **If you find a set of reading books in your classroom then please send two responsible students to bring them to MS.**

Newsletter Competition:

To encourage us all to read this newsletter, every week a small, subtle literary reference will be hidden within it. If you spot it – please email me at howen@stursulas.com. The first person to email with the correct answer will be rewarded with chocolate in their pigeonhole and the glory of being mentioned in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to **Albert Edwards** who spotted the subtle reference to *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen in last week's newsletter.

Wider Reading:

[How we can teach speaking and listening in the classroom](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any specific assistance in developing literacy in your classroom.

Thank you for your support.

Holly Owen (Literacy Coordinator)

Film Club



**Lunchtime Film Club every Friday in M8 starting 27/9/24
1.30 to 2pm**

We will be showing a range of films, fiction and documentaries, which mark special events, e.g. Black History Month and those linked to current world topics.

If interested, please see Mrs Ferreira before 27/9/24 for more details.

All pupils are welcome to join - there will be an opportunity for you to share your viewpoints and discuss themes highlighted in our range of films.

All KS3 students are welcome – Maximum 30 students



Debate Club

"St Ursula's Debate Club for Key Stage 4 will offer students an exciting opportunity to develop essential skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and persuasive argumentation. Through engaging debates on current issues and relevant topics, students will learn how to construct strong arguments, confidently present their ideas, and respectfully challenge opposing views. The club encourages teamwork, enhances communication abilities, and helps build confidence, preparing students for future academic and career success. Regular practise sessions, mock debates, and potential competitions will make this a fun and enriching experience for all involved.

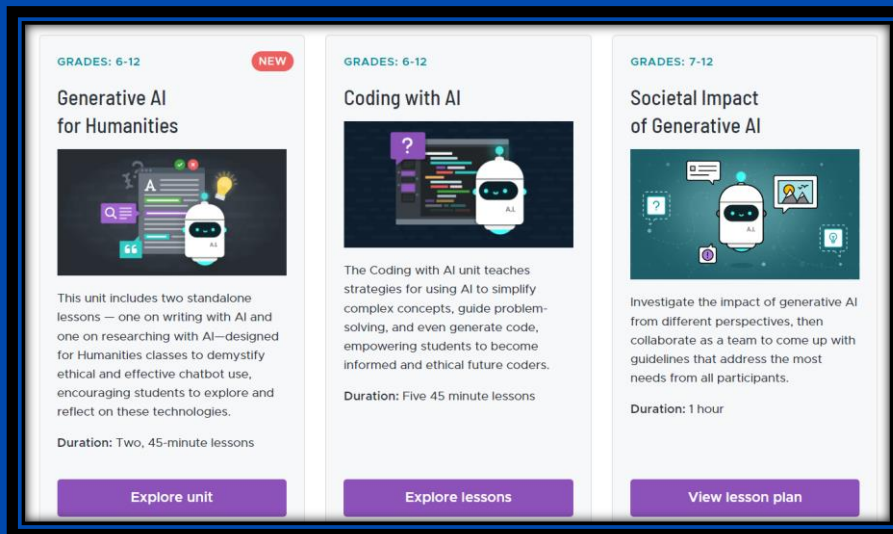
If students are interested in being a part of such a club, then they should speak to Mr Sweeney or their English teacher to confirm numbers for attendance. Students may also offer ideas for topics of discussion."

Mr Sweeney
English Teacher



Computer Science - National Coding Week

This week is National Coding Week and this year the focus is on Artificial Intelligence and how it can improve our lives. Pupils have been completing lots of fun activities using Code.org to develop their understanding of Artificial Intelligence.

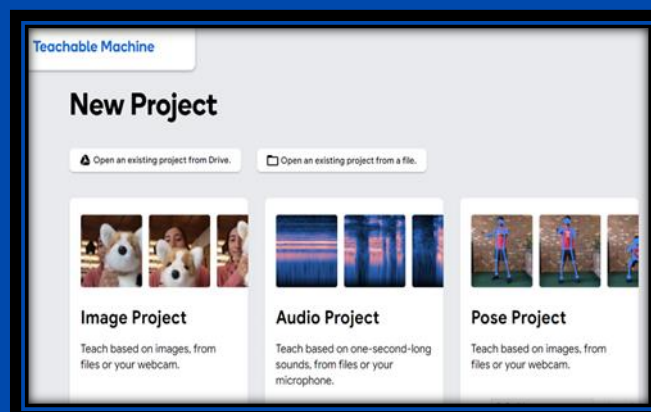


The screenshot displays three lesson plan cards from Code.org's AI curriculum. Each card includes a grade level, a title, a description, a duration, and a button to explore the unit or lessons.

- Generative AI for Humanities** (GRADES: 6-12, NEW)
This unit includes two standalone lessons — one on writing with AI and one on researching with AI—designed for Humanities classes to demystify ethical and effective chatbot use, encouraging students to explore and reflect on these technologies.
Duration: Two, 45-minute lessons
Button: Explore unit
- Coding with AI** (GRADES: 6-12)
The Coding with AI unit teaches strategies for using AI to simplify complex concepts, guide problem-solving, and even generate code, empowering students to become informed and ethical future coders.
Duration: Five 45 minute lessons
Button: Explore lessons
- Societal Impact of Generative AI** (GRADES: 7-12)
Investigate the impact of generative AI from different perspectives, then collaborate as a team to come up with guidelines that address the most needs from all participants.
Duration: 1 hour
Button: View lesson plan



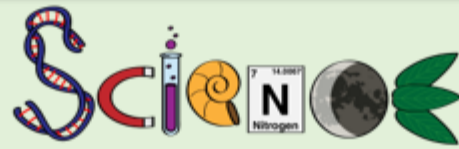
In year 9 pupils have been using Google Teachable machine which is a fast and easy way to create machine learning models for sites, apps, and more.



The screenshot shows the 'New Project' screen of the Teachable Machine web application. It offers three project types: Image Project, Audio Project, and Pose Project, each with a brief description of how they are trained.

- Image Project**: Teach based on images, from files or your webcam.
- Audio Project**: Teach based on one-second-long sounds, from files or your microphone.
- Pose Project**: Teach based on images, from files or your webcam.

Science Student of The Week



Science student of the week:

Rihannat A. – Year 7

Kene Odumodu – Year 8

Eva Eletu-Odibo – Year 9

Josephine Leng – Year 10

Muna O. – Year 11

Educake leader of the week:

Anna-Belle Amiame

Science fact of the week:

The majority of the Earth's oxygen is produced by oceans



Student Voice



STUDENT NEWLETTER

**INCLUDING:
BIBLE VERSE OF
THE WEEK
UPDATED VIEWS OF
THE WEEK
IMPORTANT NEWS**

BY TANITOLUWA
OLANIYAN



BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him"(Psalm 28:7, NIV).

STUDENT VOICE

If there are any queries and suggestions or questions please speak to a member of the Junior Leadership Team . We will try our best to make sure everyone knows that their voices are heard and valued



FOSTUR

Fostur stands for Friends of St. Ursula's (Fostur) and is a Parent Teacher Association that provides tremendous support to St. Ursula's. Many people, including parents, may not be aware of how amazing Fostur is. Fostur greatly relies on parental, community, volunteers involvement to assist with the school's foundation and development. Please get in touch if you are interested. admin@stursulas.com

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP PLANS

St Ursula's students have been fortunate to be given the opportunity to get their voices heard: We have various ideas such as prom funding raising, clubs and much much more!

THIS WEEK ACTIVITIES

Year 11 had the opportunity to visit Woolwich Works to explore various Sixth Forms, Apprenticeships, and Universities. The day served as an introduction to different Post-Secondary options and helped the students gain insights into their future paths. They were appreciative of the information and guidance provided to help them take the next important steps in their lives.

Community News

ST WILLIAM OF YORK, FOREST HILL CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025 - MEETING SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024 6PM

If your child is in Year 10 or above and they would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be an information meeting for Candidates & Parents in St William of York church, 4 Brockley Park, Forest Hill, SE23 1PS **on Sunday 20th October 2024 at 6pm.**

The preparation sessions will commence in January 2025.

All Welcome.

With every best wish
Fr Habte Ukbay
Parish Priest /St. William of York RC Church /
4 Brockley Park / Forest Hill / SE23 1PS

Tel: 020 8690 4549

www.swoy.org.uk

Safeguarding Support and Information

All The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Primarily delivered by National Crime Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *Hell Divers 2* has become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2019 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *Hell Divers 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fictional enemies (or their pugilist boss), their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, but it also includes dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Hell Divers 2 uses free-to-play mechanics to buy in-game currency with which they can unlock additional content. However, at the time of writing, all the in-game items can be unlocked without spending as much as a penny – but this does give you the incentive to keep up with their demands, and it's not the experience for parents who recognise in-game purchases. After all, it's not always obvious that in-game currency can be bought.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING



Hell Divers 2 is designed to be played with others, and often uses voice chat in its game. It's a cooperative strategy as well as a puzzle. It's also worth noting that while the game is designed for friends, it's not a game that can be played with strangers. Unfortunately, this does mean a lot of the time, as the game can't restrict those who want other people, however, you can easily report other players who behave badly via the game's social tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The threat of enemy scoping through a window is included in the game's design. In *Hell Divers 2*'s approach to progression, this being a top-down shooter, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are very skilled. However, it's also worth noting that the game includes a 'frustration trigger' in the form of enemy scoping through a window. This is a common trigger for frustration in many games, and it's not always obvious that it's a frustration trigger.

LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC, PS4, and PS5, but not on Xbox. It's also not available on Switch. While it's not a game that can be played on Xbox, it's not a game that can be played on Switch. It's also worth noting that the game is not available on Xbox. It's also worth noting that the game is not available on Switch.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Hell Divers 2 is a third-person shooter with incredible, humorous elements, but much of its comedy is based on jokes which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – adults. Having fun and robots level destructively. It's a good idea to play the game first yourself – adults. Having fun and robots level destructively. It's a good idea to play the game first yourself – adults.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, *Hell Divers 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and addictive game if a player gets into it and goes up shortly after releasing the game. If a young person finds it irresistible, it's worth considering whether *Hell Divers 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where *Hell Divers 2* isn't available – consider something like *The Matrix Online* or *Overwatch* as an alternative. While *Hell Divers 2* is a top-down shooter, *Overwatch* is a first-person shooter. *Overwatch* is a first-person shooter. *Overwatch* is a first-person shooter. *Overwatch* is a first-person shooter.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many free-to-play games offer in-game purchases, but *Hell Divers 2* is comparatively cheap. It's worth noting that the game is not available on Xbox. It's also worth noting that the game is not available on Switch.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Books to go in-game 'thing' within *Hell Divers 2* is a good idea. It's worth noting that the game is not available on Xbox. It's also worth noting that the game is not available on Switch.

Meet Our Expert

Dave Coleman is the Editor in Chief at *IGN*, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an adult, he's also a parent and has two children. He's also a parent and has two children. He's also a parent and has two children.

