



Ursuline Academy Ilford

Weekly News – 2023/2024 Issue 19
2nd February 2024



Upcoming Events

Year 11 Progress Evening

Wednesday 7 February
4.30 – 7.00p.m.

Half Term

Monday 12 February –
Friday 16 February

INSET DAY

Monday 19 February 2024
(School closed to students)

Year 7 Progress Meeting

Wednesday 28 February
4.30 – 7.00p.m.

Year 9 Progress Meeting + Options Information

Thursday 7 March
4.30 – 7.00p.m.

Year 8 Progress Meeting

Monday 22 April
4.30 – 7.00p.m.

Parent Coffee Morning 3

Wednesday 22 May 2024
9.00 – 10.00a.m.



Headteacher's Headlines

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's been a busy week at the academy, with various wonderful activities. As we near the end of this short half term, I commend our hardworking students, especially in years 11, 12, and 13, for responding to mock exam feedback and setting and acting upon improvement targets. Thanks to parents and guardians for supporting them through exam pressures and ensuring they keep working hard. Year 11s, check below for details on the March mini-series of mocks in English & Mathematics.

Year 11 students have been meeting with senior leaders during these final two weeks to guide their choices for 6th form and GCSE preparations. Check the pages below for our Spotlight on 6th form this week, highlighting the recent successful Open evening on 25th January and the high academic standards and enrichment opportunities which we provide at the Academy 6th form.

I'd like to thank you for your support in ensuring your daughters are dressed correctly for school, the standards of uniform and dress code in the 6th form are very high at the academy and we are intent in keeping it that way.

Parents please note that students are not permitted to take photos onsite with any electronic device, use of mobile phones will of course lead to confiscation but also cameras and polaroid cameras must not be used. We must ensure we safeguard our students at all times

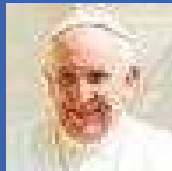
Thank you for your continued support!
Fiona Stone headteacher@uai.org.uk



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Chaplaincy News

Pope Francis@Pontifex – 31st January 2024

Wrath is a widespread and destructive vice in human relationships. Therefore, Saint Paul advises, 'Let not the sun go down on your anger' (Eph 4:26). If some misunderstandings arise during the day, the night should not be handed over to the devil. #GeneralAudience

Forward in Joy – 366 days with Angela Merici – Daily words of wisdom from our patron saint

February: Esteem

2nd February: These little ones, poor as they are, will find consolation and comfort.

3rd February: Be willing to recognise what a new dignity this is.

4th February: Take care especially that they are united and one in will.

5th February: They are all creatures of God. And you do not know what he wants to make of them.

6th February: As far as possible, you yourselves provide.

7th February: And always let your principal recourse be at the feet of Jesus Christ.

8th February: God has given free will to everyone, and wants to force no one, but only proposes, invites and counsels.



NEW! Ursuline Mission Statement

For the past 16 months as a school community, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our Mission Statement. We have had many discussions as staff to examine and re-examine our mission and values as we seek to maintain our strong Ursuline tradition but also recognise the new, contemporary challenges that we face as a Catholic school. All staff have been involved in this process, as well as pupils, Governors and Diocesan advisers. Below is a copy of the mission statement, please read it carefully and we would greatly appreciate any comments you wish to make. Could you email these to me, Mr McGhee, using the email address here enquiries@uai.org.uk. Many thanks.

Mr F McGhee. Head of Religious Education

Ursuline Academy Ilford - Mission Statement

'Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart, for without doubt you will see marvellous things...' St Angela Merici

The Ursuline Academy Ilford is a Catholic community of faith, love, kindness and service. Guided by Gospel values and the Holy Spirit, we strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone in our diverse community can reach their full potential in all their endeavours.

Our young women are inspired by the witness of St Angela and the vibrant school community, whose motto 'SERVIAM' - I will serve, empowers us all to play our full part in society.



To help bring this about, Governors, leaders, teaching and support staff commit themselves to:

- Recognising the value and God-given uniqueness of every student we teach and responding sensitively to their needs and talents;
- Ensuring equity in all we do and that equality of opportunity is available to all;
- Providing opportunities to enable all students to develop and grow intellectually and spiritually;
- Building a community based on justice, trust, cooperation and courtesy;
- Inviting parents and carers to play an active role in their daughter's development, academically, socially, spiritually and morally.

Our values are drawn from the Ursuline charism, informed through our rich traditions, inspired by the spirit of St Angela Merici and challenged by the needs of our time.

Students in an Ursuline school are growing to be individuals who are:

- United in harmony
- Grateful and generous
- Listening and attentive
- Loving and compassionate
- Faith-filled and hopeful
- Courageous and resilient
- Discerning and joyful
- Leading for justice
- Acting with truth and integrity



Art News

Art of the Month Alina Prynkevych -Year 11

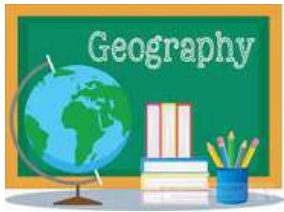
Alina is studying 'Identity' as part of her GCSE coursework and has produced some amazing self-portraits. The drawing has great tonal values and was used to create some dry point etching prints. For her painting she has looked at the style of Fauvism; the palette colours and the broad-brush strokes reflect the style of Andre Derain.

Alina says that she enjoys using gouache paint as her first choice "I find it easier to manage and it has more muted look"

Well done, Alina!

Mr Butler, Head of Art

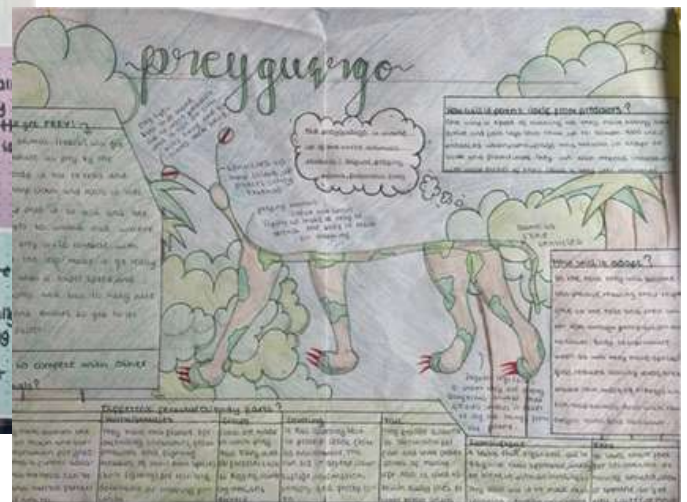
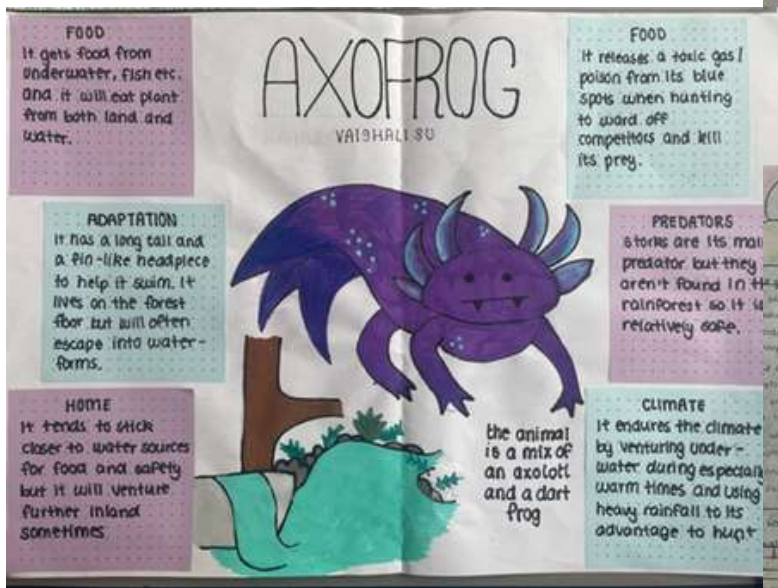
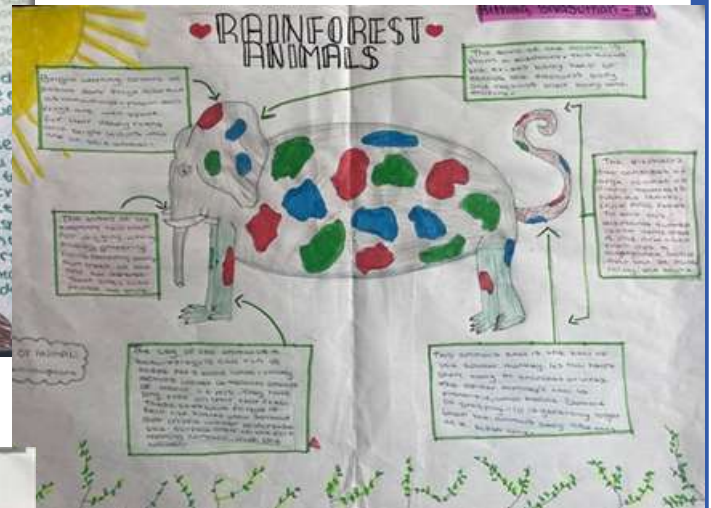




Geography News

This term in Geography Year 8 students have been learning about 'Brilliant Brazil' and how animals and plants adapt to the extreme conditions of the Amazon rainforest. After learning about a range of inventive ways animals adapt to rainforest life, such as camouflage, warning away prey and surviving in the layers of the canopy, the students were tasked with creating their own rainforest animal as a homework project. Students in 8.U created some weird and wonderful animals with a range of thoughtful and original adaptations. Below are the winning animal designs.

Well done to: **Saeeda, Rithika, Vaishali** and **Zarrah M**



Ms Colder, Head of Humanities



Islamic Society News

Over the past month The Ursuline Islamic Society has embarked on a topic highlighting the significance of modesty inspired by powerful Muslim women.

This endeavour seeks to honour the rich history of influential women in Islam and promote a sense of modesty. Drawing inspiration from the exemplary lives of historical Muslim figures, particularly the wives of Prophet Mohammed, we aimed to understand the strength and dignity associated with modesty.

These women, known for their resilience, wisdom, and compassion, have served as beacons of empowerment within the Islamic community.

As a team we decided to create our own modest wear we created features a diverse range of modest wear, carefully curated to reflect the values of humility and strength embodied by these remarkable women. From traditional abayas to contemporary adaptations, the collection celebrates the intersection of faith and fashion, emphasizing that modesty is not always on the outside but also on the inside! We also linked in world Hijab day on February 1st!

Shout out to the Year 12s who delivered sessions and have taken leader roles.



Ms Ahmed, Techer of Business



LGBTQ+ History Month

February is LGBTQ+ History month and to celebrate this the History department and the Equality Club have created an LGBTQ+ history display in Hume House. The purpose of LGBTQ+ History Month is to celebrate and remember the many contributions that LGBTQ+ people have made to society over the years, contributions that may not have been recognised at the time due to prejudice and discrimination. So please come and see the display to learn about the contributions of some well known LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as a timeline of significant events in LGBTQ+ history in the UK.



Ms Mackie & Mr Donovan



Library News

Congratulations to **Nadine Asbali** who joined our English department in September 2023, and who has just published her first book. It is a very personal and insightful account of her experience and views on what it's like to be a visibly Muslim woman in Britain today.

"From being bombarded by racist stereotypes to being subjected to structural inequalities on every level, Nadine asks why Muslim women are forced to contend with the twin oppressions of state-sanctioned Islamophobia and the unrelenting misogyny that fuels our world, all whilst being told by white feminists that they need saving".

'Veiled Threat' is available on Amazon, W H Smiths, Waterstones and other reputable bookstores.



Ms Finlay, Librarian



Mission Trip

I'll be going back to Kigali, Rwanda for my annual mission trip (with my family) during the February half term with Precious Sight Foundation, (a charity who provides free basic eye care & screening for the less privilege people in Africa, www.precioussightfoundation.org).

Rwanda 2023 Update

The team was made up of 35 volunteers from all walks of life, Aged from 12 to 50+ In four days, we saw over 1500 people, issued 300 pairs of prescription glasses, 700 pairs of reading glasses and over 1000 bottles of eyedrops. Referrals were made to hospitals for surgery and further treatment, some of which were paid for by the charity.

Fund raising events planned:

'Non-uniform day' and 'Raffle draw' planned for Friday 9th February 2024. Donations of £1 will be required to wear non-uniform (this can be brought in before the day). Raffle tickets will go on sale from Monday at a cost of 50p per ticket or £2 for a strip of 5 tickets.

You can donate via this link <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/25067> or by scanning the QR code below.



Thanks in advance for all your support 😊

Please see pictures below from last years' trip!

Ms Kayode

JOIN OUR SIGHT-SAVING MISSION TO RWANDA 2024 WITH PSF!

Precious Sight FOUNDATION

MAKE A DONATION TODAY

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW!

Help us impact 3,000 lives and fight avoidable blindness in the most remote parts of Kigali by raising £5,000 for glasses, eyedrops and eyecare.

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/25067>

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE AND FIND OUT MORE

The Kayode's Mission 2024





Music News

St Angela's Mass – Friday 26th January

Well done to all students in Choir and the Worship Band who led the music in our masses for St. Angela's Day last Friday. Everyone put in a lot of effort and hard work into the performance and you all sounded wonderful together. Keep up the practice! Serviam!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC CLUB TIMETABLE					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breaktime	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@10.40am</u> (S5)	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@10.40am</u> (S5)	UKULELE GROUP <u>@10.40am</u> S5	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@10.40am</u> (S5)	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@10.40am</u> (S5)
Lunchtime	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@12.40pm</u> (S5)	COMPOSITION CLUB <u>@ 12.40pm</u> S5	Music Practice (Invitation only) <u>@12.40pm</u> (S5)	WORSHIP BAND <u>@ 12.40pm</u> S5	UAI BAND <u>@ 12.40PM</u> S5
	GUITAR ENSEMBLE <u>@ 1.10pm</u> S5	VIOLIN ENSEMBLE <u>@ 1.10pm</u> S5	UAI CHOIR (All years) <u>@ 1pm</u> S5	WOODWIND ENSEMBLE <u>@1.10pm</u> S5	GLEE CLUB <u>@ 1.10PM</u> S5



Ms Deller, Subject Lead Music



Parent Coffee Morning 2

On Thursday of this week parents were invited to one of our termly coffee mornings. The focus of this meeting was to discuss where the school is moving towards with regards to assessment and the curriculum. During the last academic year, we overhauled our key stage 3 assessment procedures and introduced a new grading system; the parents who attended seemed extremely interested in the rationale for the change and could really see the benefits of the school's new approach. They seemed particularly interested in the information contained on our new website regarding this and were very impressed with the fact that every key stage 3 department now has an area on the website dedicated to outlining their particular grade descriptors. This information can be found in the curriculum section of the website using the link below:

<https://www.uai.org.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=7>

A number of the parents were then escorted around the school by members of our sixth form to see what the school feels like during a normally functioning day.

Next Parent Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 22 May, watch this space for further details!

Mr Robertson, Assistant Headteacher



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education News

On Tuesday, 30 January our Year 13 students were privileged to listen to a presentation given by Deacon Richard Cerson about the St Vincent de Paul Society, as part of their General Religious Education programme. He gave an overview of the history and the work of the Society: It was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris who, inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul, served the poor of the city. In 1844 the first British group was started in London. The Society provides for people in need from any background in very practical ways, ranging from food banks and day centres with access to doctors and vets to providing furniture and decorating homes. A short film about the work of the Society in Southend emphasised how person-centred its work is and how gratefully it is received.

Deacon Richard ended with an encouragement to our girls to get involved in charitable work, be it the SVP or other volunteering organisations, when they embark on the next stage in their lives.

Mrs Lobo, Teacher of RE



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action



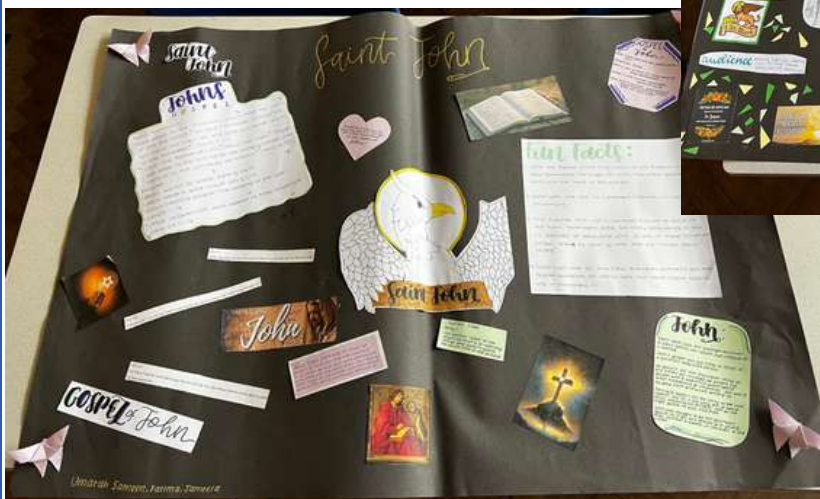
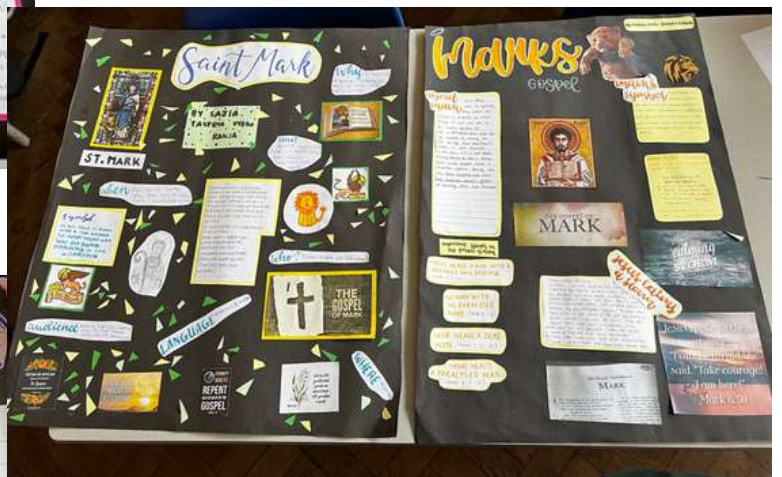
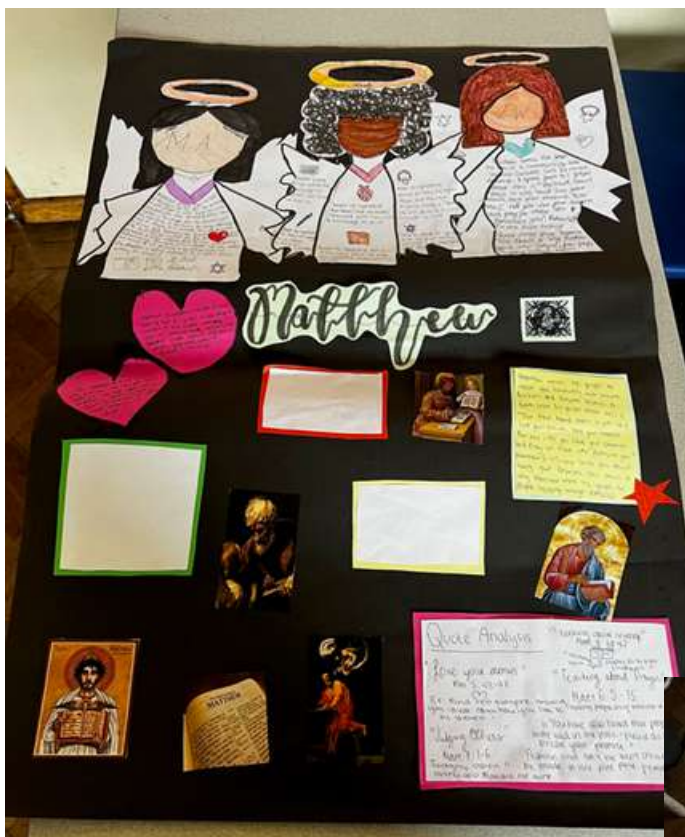
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

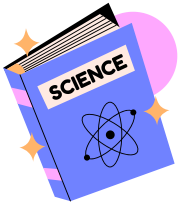
Religious Education News Continued...

With my Year 9s (9C and 9J) after we entered our new topic called Gospels we created posters about the Gospel writers – Mark, Matthew, John and Luke and their gospels. Girls were very interested in researching and creating wonderful artworks about the gospels writers and their work.

So following the gospel writers' example, we are spreading the good news to you!

Ms. Posnakidou





Science News

Sweet treat!

We made a sugary treat this week in the form of Sherbet. We mixed some bicarbonate of Soda and Citric Acid together in a cup. Then added lots of icing sugar to it and stirred the mixture until it was all mixed together.

The science behind the fizz comes from the reaction between the ingredients and your saliva. The saliva allows the citric acid and bicarbonate of soda to do a neutralisation reaction and create the carbon dioxide gas, giving the fizz in your mouth.

Mr Uddin and Ms Agudelo



SIXTH FORM Spotlight on the 6th Form

We hosted our 6th Form Preview Evening last week.

We welcomed many of our own students as well as quite a lot of external girls. We had a prize draw on the night, and **Cameron Dixon** (11T) was awarded a £50 Amazon Voucher!

The application window for entry into Year 12 in September 2024 is now open and will close on **Friday 15th March 2024**

The Ursuline Academy Ilford – Prospectus
(uai.org.uk)





Year 11 Mock Exams Timetable

Please see below a copy of a letter that was sent to all Year 11 Parents this morning...

THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD

A Catholic Academy for Girls aged 11 – 19 in the Diocese of Brentwood

Headteacher: Ms Fiona A Stone BSc (Hons) MA NPQH



2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you already know, our year 11 students are working hard with their teachers and independently in preparation for their GCSE exams in the summer. To assist with this preparation, we will be holding Maths and English mock exams as outlined in the table below. We believe that this will provide students with a focus for their current revision and will allow invaluable information to teachers as they plan for and embark upon final preparations. These exams will take place in the main hall to allow students to increase their familiarity with the exam process and calm some of the inevitable nerves for the actual exams. Other subjects will not have mocks in the hall but will continue to complete similar activities within normal class time.

Please discuss these exams with your daughter and encourage her to thoroughly revise and prepare to gain the maximum benefit from this practice.

Yours faithfully,

T Kayode

Ms T Kayode

Head of Year 11

Year 11 Mock Timetable

DATE	START TIME	SUBJECT	LENGTH	PLACE
Monday 18 th March	9:00	English Language	1 hour 45 mins	Hall
	9:00	English Language	1 hour 45 mins	F16
	13:40	Mathematics Paper 1	1 hour 30 mins	Hall
	13:40	Mathematics Paper 1	1 hour 30 mins	F16
Tuesday 19 th March	13:40	Mathematics Paper 2	1 hour 30 mins	Hall
	13:40	Mathematics Paper 2	1 hour 30 mins	F16
Wednesday 20 th March	11:00	Mathematics Paper 3	1 hour 30 mins	Hall
	11:00	Mathematics Paper 3	1 hour 30 mins	F16



success in learning for all

Company No: 07737159

Registered Address: Morland Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 4JU

Tel: 020 8554 1995

Email: enquiries@uai.org.uk

Website: www.uai.org.uk

Did you know...just registering your daughter for Free School Meals means that our school gets extra money!!

You can register your daughter for Free School Meals if you receive any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
 - Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you want your daughter to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – she will get a free meal (saving you more than £400 per year!). There is NO stigma attached and no one will know because we operate a cashless payment system in our Dining Hall.

If you qualify but don't want your daughter to have Free School Meals, please still register as the school will get additional funding. Your daughter can still continue to have her packed lunch as normal!

To apply please complete the on-line Free School Meals application on the Redbridge.gov.uk website. You can apply regardless of which borough you live in because your daughter attends a school in Redbridge. It is a simple 1-page form, so don't delay, apply today!!

It is important to note that:

- Taking the meal is recommended but not compulsory
- Your daughter may receive additional help as a result of being registered, for example, help with the cost of music lessons or school trips
- No one will know and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming
- Registering your daughter for Free School Meals will bring in more money to our school. Thank you for your co-operation.





Careers

This page provides a summary of detailed postings on Satchel.

Information for Parents/Carers

National Apprenticeship Week from 5 - 11 February

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/naw/>

Apprenticeships Guide 2024 for parents & carers It's designed to make sure parents or carers are properly informed, so they can support in the decision whether apprenticeships could be part of the career journey. [Guide to apprenticeships - coming next week \(mailchi.mp\)](#)



JANUARY PARENTS & CARERS PACK is now available to download [here](#). The pack explores plans for National Apprenticeship Week 2024, a 10-step plan for apprenticeships, the new Medical Doctor degree apprenticeship, T Levels in Agriculture, HTQs and much more.

Talking Futures has a range of resources to help **parents** to further research and develop careers conversations. <https://www.talkingfutures.org.uk/>

Year 11 Open Events

City and Islington College

Wednesday 21st February – 4.30-7pm

- Sixth Form College, Angel, Centre for Applied Sciences, Angel, [Book Here](#)

Wednesday 6th March – 4.30-7pm

- Centre for Business Arts and Technology, Camden Road, [Book Here](#)

Westminster Kingsway College

- **Monday 5th February – 4.30-7pm**, Victoria Centre, [Book Here](#)
- **Wednesday 7th February – 4.30-7pm**, Kings Cross Centre, [Book Here](#)

College of Haringey, Enfield and Northeast London (CONEL)

Drop-In Every Monday 4-6pm, Tottenham Centre, Enfield Centre, [More Information here](#)

Apprenticeships

Download The January edition of the Higher & Degree vacancy listing [Higher & Degree Listing - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Jaguar, Range Rover, Defender and Discovery. [Early Careers - JLR Careers \(jaguarlandrovercareers.com\)](#)

Apprenticeships with Amazon Register here - [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Careers Session with IBM and Kaplan: Digital Apprenticeships, Thursday 8 February 2024, 9.30am – 10.30am [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Career in Property – Year 12 : [APPLY NOW](#)

Other

Womens Engineering Society Free Mentee Places for WES Member: [Find out More](#)

Annual Free Virtual Medical Conference 17th-18th February [Find out more or book your students' free place now](#)



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-Curricular Activities

Day	Activity	Time	R0om	Year
EVERY DAY	Rise & Shine Biology Time!: LMB	7.45 - 8.30a.m.	G7	Year 11
MONDAY				
BREAKTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	10.40 – 11.00am	S5	Years 7-11
LUNCHTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	12.40 – 1.10pm	S5	Years 7-11
	Guitar Ensemble: SDE	1.10 – 1.40pm	S5	Years 7-11
	Indoor Rowing: JMA/CHB	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	Gym	All Years
AFTER SCHOOL	Library Club: CFI	3.20 – 4.30pm	Library	Years 7-13
	Netball Club: JMA	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Playground/Gym	Years 7-8
TUESDAY				
BREAKTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	10.40 – 11.00am	S5	Years 7-11
LUNCHTIME	Music Composition Club: SDE	12.40 – 1.10pm	S5	Years 9 - 10
	Violin Ensemble: SDE	1.10 – 1.40pm	S5	Years 7-11
	STEM Club: AKO	1.00 – 1.30pm	G12	Years 7-11
	Debating Team: EDO	12.40 – 1.10pm	F19	Years 12-13
	Maths Club: TKA	12.40 – 1.40pm	S6	Years 7-11
	Chemistry Club: JOS	12.40 – 1.10pm	G8	Years 10-13
	GCSE PE Intervention: SFR	12.40 – 1.30p.m.	G18	Years 10-11
	Newspaper Club: NAS	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F9	Years 7-11
AFTER SCHOOL	Subject Champions: RBA	3.30 – 4.30pm	G15	Years 12-13
	Library Club: CFI	3.20 – 4.30pm	Library	Years 7-13
	Netball Club: SFR	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Playground/Gym	Years 9 - 13
	Humanities Revision Club: EDO/HMA/HCO	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	G3	Year 11
WEDNESDAY				
BREAKTIME	Ukulele Group: DEA	10.40 – 11.00a.m.	S5	Years 7-8
LUNCHTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	12.40 – 1.00p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	UAI Choir: SDE	1.00 – 1.40p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	Mindfulness and Wellbeing: NKA	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	G9	Years 12-13
	Indoor Athletics: JMA	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	Gym	Years 7-8
	LGBT Club: HMA/EDO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F19	All Years
	French Pop Club: LGR	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	G6	All Years
	Spanish Speaking Club: SCL	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	G5	Year 11
	SEN Science Club: MUD	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	G11	Year 8
	Islamic Society: AAH	1.05 – 1.30p.m.	F8	All Years
AFTER SCHOOL	DT Catch Up: AKO	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	G12	Year 11
	Football Club: LBU/DOK	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Playground/Gym	All Years
	Peer Mentor: NKA/RBA/HCO/SFR	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	G15	Years 7-13
	Library Club: CFI	3.20 – 4.30p.m.	Library	Years 7-13
THURSDAY				
BREAKTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	10.40 – 11.00a.m.	S5	Years 7-11
LUNCHTIME	Worship Band: SDE	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	Woodwind Ensemble: SDE	1.10 – 1.40p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	Art Club: RBU	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	S2	Years 7-13
	Knitting Club: HMA & Mrs Mackie	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F18	Years 7-11
	Charity and Enterprise: LBU	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F10	Years 12-13
	Sports Ambassadors: SFR	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	Dance Studio	Years 12-13
Fortnightly	African Caribbean Society: TKA/SFR/NKA	1.10 – 1.40p.m.	S6	All Years
Fortnightly	ECO Club: HCO/JMC	12.40 – 1.00p.m.	G3	Years 7-8
AFTER SCHOOL	Library Club: CFI	3.20 – 4.30p.m.	Library	Years 7-13
FRIDAY				
BREAKTIME	Music Practice (Invitation only): SDE	10.40 – 11.00a.m.	S5	Years 7-11
LUNCHTIME	UAI Band: SDE	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	Glee Club: SDE	1.10 – 1.40p.m.	S5	Years 7-11
	Art Club: RBU	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	S2	Years 10-13
	Chess Club: BFA	1.00 – 1.30p.m.	F13	All Years
AFTER SCHOOL	Library Club: CFI	3.20 – 4.30p.m.	Library	Years 7-13
	Running Club: JMA	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Playground/Gym	All Years

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTED
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Are you caring for a child who is not yours?

Private fostering is when someone who is not a close relative cares for another person's child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) for 28 days or more.

A close relative is considered to be an aunt, uncle, grandparent, step parent or siblings. Friends of the family and other family members such as cousins or great aunts are not classed as close relatives for the purposes of Private Fostering, neither are families hosting overseas students who are being educated in the UK.

You need to legally notify us of any private fostering arrangements in Redbridge to ensure the child is safe.

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services on 020 8708 3885 or by email CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering>



Are you looking after a child who is not your own?

- **Is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?**
- **Are you NOT the child's step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students**
- **Do you plan to have the child with you for more than 28 days?**
- **This is called "private fostering" and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe.**

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services:

020 8708 3885

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or visit: www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering for more information

<p>Aveti în grijă un copil care nu este al vostru?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copilul are mai puțin de 16 ani (sau 18 ani dacă are un handicap)? • NU sunteți părintele viitor, fratele/sora, mătușă, creșteră sau bunici/bunice, copilul este în grija și responsabilitate părinților săi străduțici • Intenționați să găsiți și creșteră la domiciliu mai mult de 28 de zile? • Același lucru să nu se numească "privat fostering" (plasament privat) și trebuie să fim anunțați în scris, în prealabil, la serviciile de protecția copilului. <p>Vă rugăm să contactați Redbridge Children's Services Serviciile pentru copii din Redbridge:</p> <p>020 8708 3885 CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk sau vizitând: www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering pentru mai multe informații</p>	<p>آپ کو یہ جاننے کی ضرورت ہے کہ کیا آپ کو ایک ایسا بچہ دیکھنا ہے جو آپ کا اپنا نہیں ہے؟</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • بچہ 16 سال یا اس سے کم عمر ہے؟ • کیا آپ بچہ کو اپنی ماں، باپ، بھائی، بہن، چچا، ماما، نانا یا دادا رکھ رہے ہیں؟ • کیا آپ بچہ کو اپنی بہن، چچا، ماما، نانا یا دادا رکھ رہے ہیں؟ • کیا آپ بچہ کو اپنی بہن، چچا، ماما، نانا یا دادا رکھ رہے ہیں؟ • کیا آپ بچہ کو اپنی بہن، چچا، ماما، نانا یا دادا رکھ رہے ہیں؟ <p>یہ سب "پرائیویٹ فاسٹرینگ" کہلاتے ہیں اور ہمیں اس کے بارے میں مطلع دینا ضروری ہے تاکہ بچہ محفوظ رہے۔</p> <p>020 8708 3885 CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering پر مزید معلومات کے لیے</p>
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