



Ursuline Academy Ilford

Weekly News – 2024/2025 Issue 2
13th September 2024



Upcoming Events

Year 12 Welcome Assembly

Thursday 19 September
2.30 – 3.20p.m.

Year 7 Badge Commissioning Service

Thursday 19 September
5.00 – 6.00p.m.

Open Evening

Thursday 3 October
5.00 – 7.00p.m.

Late Start after Open Evening

Friday 4 October
All Students to be registered at
10.40a.m.

Curriculum Enrichment Day

Tuesday 8 October

Year 7 Parents' Meeting with Form Tutors

Monday 4 November
4.00 – 5.30p.m.



Headteacher's Headlines

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we begin this new academic year, I am excited to share our key themes: **Belonging, Believing, and Becoming**. At Ursuline Academy, we are committed to fostering a sense of belonging for every student, believing in their potential, and supporting them as they grow into the individuals they are destined to become. These themes will guide us through our work, our learning, and our community life, shaping a year of growth and achievement for all.

At Ursuline Academy, our commitment to Catholic social teaching is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to nurture a community grounded in the values of justice, compassion, and service to others. Through our curriculum, extracurricular activities, and prayer life, we encourage students to put their faith into action, promoting the dignity of every person and the common good. This holistic approach empowers our students to be thoughtful, compassionate leaders in both their local and global communities.

I am very excited that this year we are introducing many new extra-curricular clubs to the school calendar. Please check out the schedule of clubs listed at the end of this newsletter. Every student should try to attend at least one club per week to support their extra-curricular development!

SERVIAM
Fiona Stone



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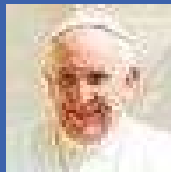
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Chaplaincy News

Pope Francis@Pontifex – 12 September 2024

If good things exist and endure in this world, it is only because so many times love had prevailed over hate, solidarity over indifference, generosity over selfishness. Nothing that lasts can exist or grow without love. #ApostolicJourney

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

September: Live

13th September: Comfort them, so that they may go forward willingly.

14th September: They should want to be united.

15th September: Be happy, and always full of charity and faith and hope in God.

16th September: If you see one timid and inclined to despondency, promise her the blessing of the mercy of God.

17th September: We will cross through this momentary life with consolation.

18th September: God will never fail to provide for their needs, so long as nothing is lacking on your part.

19th September: Let them hold this as most certain: that they will never be abandoned in their needs.





Chaplaincy News

This week saw the first chapel Mass of the academic year. All our Year 7 Catherine students attended with enthusiasm and reverence.

A third of the class played leading roles. We wish them all a warm Ursuline welcome. We also elected our students chaplaincy team consisting of forty students, able and willing to courageously lead in shining forth our Ursuline 'Serviam' virtues.

Ms Adomako, Chaplain



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on Sunday 27th April 2025. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th September and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, BCCS would invite you to join them and run to support children's mental health. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds to support a local charity and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.



Ursuline Student Profile

USP- Courageous and resilient

This half term we will have assemblies and look at how the virtue of courage and resilience can be lived out in our daily lives.

"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"
(Deuteronomy 31:6)

Jesus told us that we would endure tough times and it is through these tough times we learn more about ourselves and mould our future. As Christians, we know that God is always with us.

In our everyday life we face hardships and rocky paths. We lose faith, question ourselves and those who love us and at times we feel nothing but despair. What is at the heart of all our relationships is trust. Trust in better times, trust in a better future. We observe personal resilience every day. When we refuse to give up on ourselves and others we are strengthened and transformed.

When a situation seems out of our control or does not appear to be heading in the right direction, we often question ourselves and sometimes give up. In the Proverbs we are reminded to "trust in the Lord... acknowledge him and he will direct your paths" (3:1-5).

To be resilient requires great courage as it tests every ounce of our faith and self-belief. For many people throughout the centuries, including in our modern world, being obedient has meant that they were faced with possibility of loss, torture or even death. Courage is the decision to choose faith over fear. Quite often this is the deal-breaker as it is never easy to trust our faith in God, ourselves or others. Fear overcomes.

Jesus promised that to spread the Gospel message, resilience is key. Within our society we need courage now more than ever. "Savage wolves will come among you" (Acts 20). There is harsh discrimination, racism, gender inequalities, poverty, homelessness and bullying but to name a few. Our challenge is to stay resilient and to instil resilience within others. We must trust others to make the change, or, be the change in ourselves.

With Gods protection and guidance, we have nothing to fear and can conquer anything!

**Mr F McGhee. Associate Assistant Head
and Head of Religious Education.**

"ROCK BOTTOM
BECAME THE SOLID
FOUNDATION
ON WHICH I
REBUILT MY LIFE."
-J.K. ROWLING

I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
Christ
WHO
Strengthens
ME
PHILIPPIANS 4:13



Careers News

Careers News: Workshops and One-to-One Appointments

This week, the much-anticipated Careers Workshops took place under the Careers News banner, giving Year 11 students a valuable opportunity to start planning their future academic and career pathways. Held in the school library on Wednesday, the workshops marked the beginning of an important journey for students as they consider what and where they want to study next year. Thank you to Ms Finlay for organising this for the whole year group.

The sessions ran throughout the day, with each form group attending in scheduled slots.

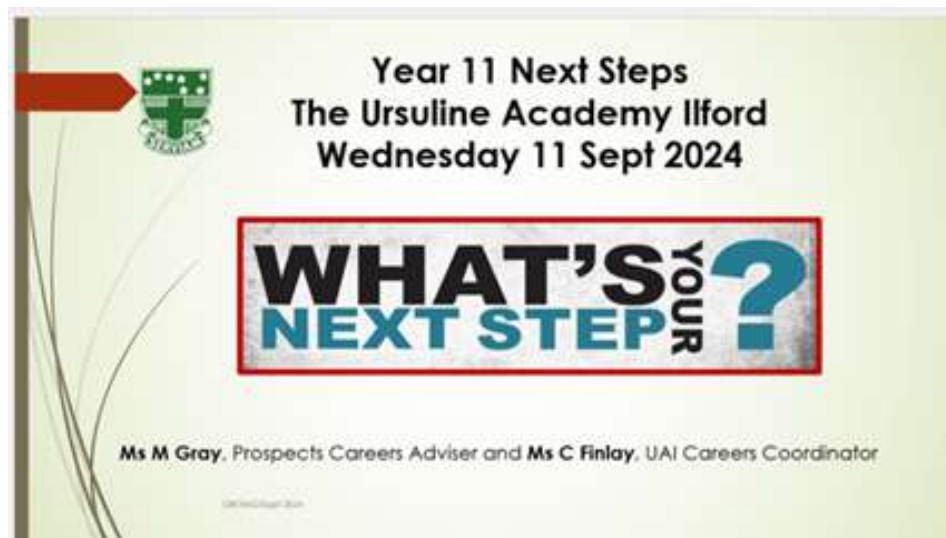
These workshops were designed to help students explore a range of post-16 study options, from A-levels to vocational courses, with key advice on how to make informed choices.

In addition to the workshops, Melrose, our career adviser, has started offering one-to-one appointments with the students every Thursday, starting from the 19th of September. Meeting 10 students per day in the interview room located in the foyer, Melrose's one-on-one sessions provide a personalised approach to career planning, helping each student tailor their future aspirations to their individual strengths and interests.

It is crucial for students to attend these appointments, as each session is a valuable and costly resource, priced at £30. Any student unable to attend their scheduled slot is urged to inform Ms Finlay in advance so that the time can be allocated to another student. With these sessions offering bespoke guidance, students have the opportunity to gain personalised insights and plan their next steps with confidence.

More updates and resources will follow as we continue to guide our students through their career journey. Stay tuned for further events and activities as we build towards a successful future for all Year 11 students

Miss H. Tallat, Careers leader





**An Unforgettable Summer School Experience!
Zeiss Summer School at Imperial College London**

At The Ursuline Academy Ilford (UAI), we are proud to support activities that enhance our students' learning and prepare them for future careers. One such initiative has been the introduction of summer school experiences with top universities and industries. This year, the Global, run by Imperial College London's Department of Materials and fully funded by Zeiss, received over 6,000 applications worldwide. Out of the seven (7) Ursuline students who applied, Jemima Ali and Shalome Sutharsan both in Year 11, were among the 24 students selected globally.

The 5-day residential programme offered participants a chance to experience life as Imperial College undergraduates, learning from top academics and connecting with peers from around the world. This opportunity aligns with our mission to develop our students to become well-rounded individuals who are equipped to excel academically and make a positive impact on society.

We are thankful for the continued support and opportunities offered by Imperial College London as we strive to nurture and support our young people into their amazing future learning and careers - **DT Team**

Read all about our students' experiences in their own words

This summer, Jemima & I were one of 24 students chosen out of the many hundred applicants from around the world to attend a summer school at Imperial College London, hosted by Zeiss. With so many people applying, I had pretty much zero hope of getting in – but somehow, I did! (Still can't believe it!). I'll admit, I went in nervous, convinced I'd spend five days in a room full of strangers with no friends and a boring schedule. Turns out, I was completely wrong. It ended up being one of the best experiences I've ever had! I made so many new friends – from all over the UK (London, Newcastle, etc.) and even across the globe. Seriously, we had students from the USA, China, South Korea, Mexico, Germany, Belgium, Romania – you name it.



Beyond the academics, we had the chance to explore London, enjoy a river cruise, visit the London Eye, and tour the Zeiss factory in Cambourne, where we tried out VR headsets used to simulate electron microscopes. We even visited Cambridge, had dinner, and enjoyed a karaoke-filled coach ride back!

By the end of the week, we worked in groups to create and present posters on our favourite topics. And to top it all off, we had a fancy dinner and went to the infamous Harrods that evening – easily the best meal I've ever had. This entire experience was incredible. From making friends across the world to late-night laughs and new experiences, I'll never forget it. If there's one thing I learned, it's to push yourself and go for every opportunity – even when you think you won't make it. You might just end up having the time of your life! – **Shalome Sutharsan II Josephine**

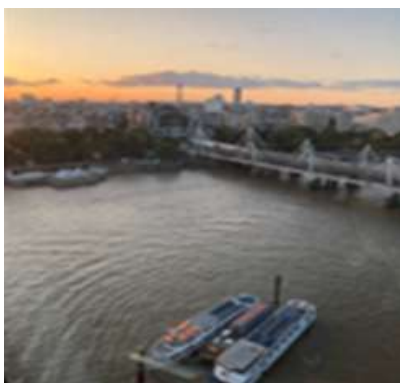


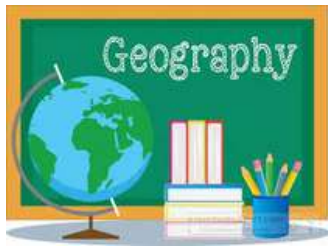
This summer, I had the privilege of attending Imperial College London's prestigious summer school, selected as one of only 24 students globally. The five-day programme was a truly transformative experience, offering me a personal look into life at a world-class university. Alongside other young people, including one of my peers from Ursuline Academy, I gained a real sense of the academic and social aspects of university life through immersive and engaging activities.

The programme was both stimulating and fun. Each day was designed to challenge us, expanding my knowledge beyond the standard school curriculum in a way that made learning very exciting. The hands-on lab work and interactive lessons enriched my academic understanding, while the lively learning environment kept me fully engaged.

Beyond the classroom, the day and evening activities were equally rewarding. We received invaluable tips and advice from university staff and mentors, which boosted my confidence and will better prepare me for the future. From exploring new ideas to building friendships, the experience was an eye-opener, giving me a deeper insight into university life and the opportunities that lie ahead. It was an unforgettable experience that will leave a lasting impact on my educational journey, both academically and personally. Thank you to the organisers and my teacher for introducing us to it.

– **Jemima Ali – II Rose**





Geography News

Biodiversity competition with LAE

- Open to Y10 and Y11
- Submit a nature related artwork, poetry or photograph
- You can either submit this to Ms Colder on satchel or show her in G3
- Miss Colder will then choose the top 10 winners who will be invited to the biodiversity exhibition at London Academy of Excellence
- This is a brilliant opportunity to visit a top 6th form which is normally invitation only for visits!
- You will also be able to network with students currently studying at LAE and ask them questions about what it is like to study there!

Deadline: 20th September

Biodiversity Exhibition

Join us for guest speakers, live music and an afternoon of refreshments.

We would love for you to join us at the end of September for our exhibition to learn more about biodiversity in London! Send us your best nature related artworks, poetry and photographs to display on the day, these must be focused around biodiversity in urban areas.

Email your submissions to:
Exhibition@lae.ac.uk

322 High St, London E15 1AJ

September 27th 2-4pm





Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor?

As a Governor, you are a member of the governing body, which is a corporate team. The governing body works with the Headteacher to set high expectations and drive school improvement with a focus on:

- preserving and developing the Catholic character of the school on behalf of Bishop
- setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- holding the headteacher and leadership team to account
- overseeing the financial performance of the school

Being a governor provides an opportunity for personal development, building your skills and experience in areas such as project management, budgeting, and working as part of a leadership team. Most importantly you will gain an insight into the operation of the school, influence decisions on how the school operates, provide constructive challenge and play a vital role in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

The Ursuline's Governing Body consists of Parent Governors, Foundation Governors, Co-Opted Governors, Staff Governors and the school's Senior Leadership Team.

If you would like to make a difference and join the Governing Board, we currently have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.

Who can be a Foundation Governor?

You must be over 18 and a practising Catholic.

You must not be related to any staff or governors at the school.

Expertise or life experience which will contribute to the success of the school is ideal, but the most important attributes are a passion for school improvement to enable every child to reach their potential, and a commitment to playing an active part whilst working as part of a team.

Foundation Governors in the Diocese of Brentwood are appointed by Bishop Alan to represent his education policy in his school. They preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school.

What are the time commitments?

The average Governor role will take up to 10 hours a term including attending one governing body meeting per term and typically, serving on one committee. You will need to be able to attend meetings regularly and have time to read the paperwork and get to know the school well.

You are also expected to demonstrate commitment to fulfilling your role responsibly through your ongoing training and development. A range of governor training, including Induction and online learning, are available through the Diocese.

Year 7

Year 7 News

Please see link below for a guide on how to get your parent code for Satchel One. <https://help.satchelone.com/en/articles/2912165-logging-in-as-a-parent>

Your daughter has also been given a parent code for you that she will be bringing home tonight (Friday), please ask her for it if she doesn't give it to you!



We can see that all Year 7s have logged on to Satchel but if your daughter is having difficulty accessing the system, please ask her to attend IT Club, which is on everyday between 12.40 - 1.10p.m. in F6, where our IT Technician will be happy to assist her!



Please see this year's Lunch Rota below...

Canteen Rota – packed lunch line up with their year group but will be called in when the opportunity arises					
Approximate start time	12:40	12:50	13:00	13:10	13:20
Monday	11	10	9	8	7
Tuesday	10	9	8	7	11
Wednesday	9	8	7	11	10
Thursday	8	7	11	10	9
Friday	7	11	10	9	8





Word of the Week!

UAI Word of the Week

This year we are reintroducing our school 'Word of the Week', which will be published each week in our school Newsletter, as well as shared by form tutors during morning registration. Students are encouraged to aim to use each 'Word of the Week' as much as they can throughout the week, both verbally and in written work, in order to be rewarded by staff with merits while also developing their own wider academic vocabulary!

This week's 'Word of the Week' is:

WEEK 2

Reward students for using this word in lessons and around school!

subsequent
- adj. following, later, coming after

Music: The key change has an impact on all the subsequent chords.
History: The Holocaust had an enormous impact on subsequent generations.
Self Reflection: I became angry and my subsequent choices were not optimal.

subsequent
subsequence
subsequently
subsequential

sub-sequent

Latin: sub (closely, up to) Latin: sequi (follow)

Who might use this word? historian, journalist, biological researcher

Sp Adobe Spark



Ms Cooper, Head of English

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.





Important Dates 2024 2025



The Ursuline Academy Ilford

Important Dates 2024/2025 for your diary...

PROGRESS MEETINGS

Year 7	Monday 10 February 2025	4.00 – 6.30p.m.
Year 8	Monday 28 April 2025	4.00 – 6.30p.m.
Year 9 + Options Fayre	Monday 24 March 2025	4.00 – 7.00p.m.
Year 10	Monday 27 January 2025	4.00 – 6.30p.m.
Year 11	Monday 25 November 2024	4.00 – 6.30p.m.
Year 12 & 13	Monday 9 December 2024	4.00 – 7.00p.m.
OTHER CALENDAR DATES:		
Year 12 Welcome Assembly	Thursday 19 September 2024	2.30p.m.
Year 7 Badge Commissioning Service	Thursday 19 September 2024	5.00p.m.
Open Evening	Thursday 3 October 2024	5.00 – 7.00p.m.
Late Start after Open Evening	Friday 4 October 2024	
Curriculum Enrichment Day	Tuesday 8 October 2024	
Year 7 Parents' Meeting with Form Tutors	Monday 4 November 2024	4.00 – 5.30p.m.
Carol Service	Tuesday 17 December 2024	5.30 – 7.30p.m.
6 th Form Open Evening	Thursday 23 January 2025	5.00 – 7.00p.m.
St Angela's Day	Friday 24 January 2025	School closes at 12. 40p.m.
Curriculum Enrichment Day	Thursday 27 February 2025	
Year 6 Friendship Afternoon	Wednesday 12 March 2025	4.00 – 5.00p.m.
Iftar Event	Thursday 20 March 2025	5.00 – 7.00p.m.
Curriculum Enrichment Day	Thursday 3 April 2025	
Arts Festival: Art, Music & Drama	Thursday 26 June 2024	4.30 – 6.30p.m.
Year 6/7 New Entrants' Meeting	Monday 30 June 2025	5.00 – 6.00p.m.
Year 6 into 7 Transfer Day	Thursday 3 July 2025	
6 th Form Transfer Day	Tuesday 8 July 2025	
Year 11 Prom	Thursday 10 July 2025	7.00 – 11.00p.m.
End of Year Trips	Tuesday 15 July 2025	
Annual Prizegiving	Thursday 17 July 2025	5.00 – 6.00p.m.
Sports Day	Friday 18 July 2025	

Extra-Curricular Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Room	Year
MONDAY				
LUNCHTIME	Basketball: KKE/LWH	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Gym	Years 9/10
	I T Club: RGO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F6	All Years
	Library Lunch Club: CFI	12.40 – 1.35p.m.	Library	All Years
	Maths Club: SDN/SVI	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F13	All Years
	Movie & Chaplaincy Club: GAD	12.45 – 1.15p.m.	Chapel	All Years
	Science Homework Club: SAK	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	G9	Years 7/8
Fortnightly	Chemistry Club: JOS	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	G8	Years 9 - 13
AFTER SCHOOL	Homework Club: CFI	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Library	All Years
TUESDAY				
LUNCHTIME	Dance: GCSE PE Students	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Dance Studio	Years 10/11
	KS3 Drama Club: IMI	1.10 – 1.40p.m.	Drama Studio	Years 7/8/9
	Gymnastics: KKE	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Gym	Years 7/8
	History Catch Up: KBE	12.45 – 1.15p.m.	F20	Year 11
	I T Club: RGO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F6	All Years
	Library Lunch Club: CFI	12.40 – 1.35p.m.	Library	All Years
	Maths Club: SDN/TKA	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F13	All Years
	STEM Club (Visualise): AKO	1.00 – 1.30p.m.	G12	All Years
AFTER SCHOOL	Homework Club: CFI	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Library	All Years
	Open Netball Session: LWH	3.20 – 4.20p.m.	Playground/Dance Studio	Years 9/10/11
WEDNESDAY				
LUNCHTIME	Eco Club: HCO/JMC	1.00 – 1.30p.m.	G3	All Years
	Indoor Athletics: JMA	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Gym	Years 7/8
	Islamic Society: AAH	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F8	All Years
	I T Club: RGO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F6	All Years
	Library Lunch Club: CFI	12.40 – 1.35p.m.	Library	All Years
	SEN Science Club: MUD	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	G11	Years 7/8
AFTER SCHOOL	DT Catch-Up Club: AKO	3.20 – 4.20p.m.	G12	Year 11
	Football: LBU/DOK/LWH	3.20 – 4.20p.m.	Gym	Years 7/8/9
	Homework Club: CFI	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Library	All Years
	Open Netball Session: JMA	3.20 – 4.20p.m.	Playground/Dance Studio	Years 7/8
THURSDAY				
LUNCHTIME	Art Club: RBU	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	S2	All Years
	Badminton: DEA	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Gym	Years 9/10/11
	Debate Club: EDO	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	F19	Years 12/13
	I T Club: RGO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F6	All Years
	Library Lunch Club: CFI	12.40 – 1.35p.m.	Library	All Years
	STEM Club (Visualise): AKO	1.00 – 1.30p.m.	G12	All Years
Fortnightly	African Caribbean Society: SAK/DOK	12.45 – 1.15p.m.	G9	All Years
AFTER SCHOOL	Homework Club: CFI	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Library	All Years
FRIDAY				
LUNCHTIME	Art Club: RBU	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	S2	GCSE/A Level Art Students
	Dance: KKE	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Dance Studio	Years 7/8
	Gardening Club: DEA	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	Chapel	Years 7/8
	I T Club: RGO	12.40 – 1.10p.m.	F6	All Years
	Library Lunch Club: CFI	12.40 – 1.35p.m.	Library	All Years
	Movie & Chaplaincy Club: GAD	12.45 – 1.15p.m.	Chapel	All Years
	Sporty Friday: JGA	12.40 – 1.40p.m.	Gym	Years 7/8/9/10/11
AFTER SCHOOL	Homework Club: CFI	3.30 – 4.30p.m.	Library	All Years

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>

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