

A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR GIRLS



THE URSULINE
ACADEMY ILFORD

Prospectus



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



“I am immensely proud to serve as the headteacher of the Ursuline Academy, nurturing and guiding all our students to reach their fullest potential”

- HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to be the headteacher of this academically successful school which offers a warm and loving environment for all the young people in our care. The Ursuline Academy Ilford is a 4-form entry Catholic comprehensive school for girls aged 11-19. Students who come here join a community that is committed to success. Supported by their families, an Ursuline student is committed to our core value of Serviam. We are developing students to be people of action who can make a difference in the school and beyond, who are kind, forgiving, generous of spirit and persevering.

The school was founded by the Ursuline Order in 1903 and has been providing high quality education and pastoral care ever since. The school has a strong sense of community underpinned by Gospel values. Visitors regularly remark on the purposeful working atmosphere in which all are expected to do their best. We have an inclusive, progressive and community-focused ethos of which we are very proud. Our pupils are welcoming, engaging and articulate. They are ambitious for the school and for their own life beyond it.

Your child will be part of a national and worldwide network of Ursuline schools. We share common goals delivering a global education focused on; academic excellence, service in the spirit of St. Angela Merici, outstanding pastoral care and a focus on developing young people as leaders.

Each year the school reserves 90 places for students from practising Catholic families and 30 for students from other faith backgrounds who are supportive of and fully committed to the Catholic ethos of the school. Each form class is mixed ability. Further details can be found on the Admissions page of our website.

Our sixth form provides an excellent education and great progression routes for all students. We are a place where students thrive academically and socially. We welcome visits to the school please contact enquiries@uai.org.uk.

**Fiona Stone BSc (Hons) MA NPQH
Headteacher**

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Ursuline Academy Ilford provides a learning environment that is both challenging and supportive, inspired by Gospel values. The intention of our curriculum is to create an aspirational and high achieving culture which considers the individual needs and ability of our students.

We offer a curriculum that is designed to encourage all students to challenge themselves throughout their seven years with us, so that they discover their true potential. Students will be taught a broad range of subjects; guided to make ambitious and logical choices; gain many experiences through trips, visits and collaborative learning; and have time to develop their understanding of their place in society, both locally and globally.

Our intent is to develop the skills and teach the knowledge that will allow our students, regardless of their prior learning and background, to work hard to experience success and leave the Ursuline excellently equipped for advanced study or the world of work. When they leave us at the end of their seven years they will be well rounded and resilient young people who are well equipped for the world beyond UAI.

OUR MISSION

We are a Catholic community of faith, love and service rooted in the Ursuline tradition. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the light of the Gospels, we strive to provide an environment where our diverse community of young women can reach their full potential in all that they do: inspired by the witness of St Angela, our vibrant community of faith, whose motto 'SERVIAM' - I will serve, will empower them to play their 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 the talents and needs of every student
- Ensuring that equality for all
- Providing opportunities to enable all students to develop and grow intellectually and in their knowledge, experience and love of God.
- 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.



“The Ursuline Academy Ilford is a melting pot of different cultures, religions and races, this environment creates a unique and stimulating learning experience. This school has instilled in me the core values and qualities needed to flourish both academically and socially”

- HEAD GIRL

OUR ETHOS AND BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES

Our school motto, Serviam meaning I will serve, encapsulates the core principle upon which our school ethos is built. As a community and individually our aim is to serve God through the way that we serve others. This principle guides all our daily practices in school and the high standards that we all expect of ourselves and others.

All students have the right to feel happy and safe at school and so all have a responsibility to behave in a way that ensures this right for all. Students treat each other, their teachers and the school environment with respect and consideration. All people are made in the image and likeness of God and must be treated with equity and enjoy an environment free from all forms of discrimination.

In line with our commitment to serve God, each other and our wider communities, students are expected to strive for excellence at all times. This is manifest in how they are punctual and fully prepared for their learning, how they are attentive and hard working in school and how they complete independent learning to the best of their ability.

We recognise the uniqueness of each individual and, whilst the same high standards of effort and commitment are expected of everyone, we embrace difference and aim to enable all students to flourish and reach their full potential.

Where students' behaviour or commitment falls below these high expectations our response is clear, transparent and restorative. Forgiveness and moving forward together with positivity are crucial elements of our school systems.

**“Do something, get moving.
Be confident, risk new things,
stick with it and then be ready
for big surprises”**


- ST ANGELA





“We are very pleased and grateful for the care that our daughter receives in school. She has grown in confidence and enjoys being at Ursuline”

- PARENT

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black dress and a necklace, is sitting at a table in a classroom. She is smiling and gesturing with her hands as if in conversation. In the background, other students are visible, some wearing blue school uniforms. There are posters and a portrait on the wall behind her.

**“We really appreciate the time,
care and effort that school
staff have directed to our
daughter’s education”**

- PARENT

**“We are encouraged to be
confident and be ourselves”**

- YEAR 8 PUPIL

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The rewards system at the Ursuline Academy Ilford is designed to recognise achievement, initiative, effort and service of all kinds. We want everyone to achieve their full potential. Students are rewarded for excellent effort, progress and a commitment to Serviam in the school community and beyond. This means all students can demonstrate and be recognised for their achievements in all aspects of school life. Merits are used to commend students and certificates are given termly. At the end-of-term assemblies a range of special awards are presented for achievement and progress in academic subjects as well as for demonstrating aspects of the Ursuline Student Profile. All aspects of school life are recognised in our rewards system with the aim of motivating our students to even further success from their first merit in Year 7 through to their A-Level and BTEC results at the end of Year 13. Our rewards are a key way of giving students the recognition they deserve on their journey of becoming a life-long learner at the Ursuline Academy Ilford.

ENRICHMENT

Students are encouraged to pursue opportunities that extend their learning outside of the classroom but also support and extend the knowledge they acquire within the classroom. The school provides students at all key stages with programmes that enable them to both discover and develop a wide range of interests and skills. Students' participation in our wider extra curriculum support our curriculum intention. The happiness and well-rounded support of students is vital to our ethos and as such the school offers a wide range of sporting, academic and artistic extra-curricular opportunities. These opportunities are highly valued across all key stages and help to nurture our students' talents preparing them for the future in all aspects of life beyond school. Our success in STEM is very much recognised and we have won many national competitions.



INDIVIDUAL LEARNING NEEDS

The SEND department offers in-class support across the curriculum to help students achieve their potential. Support is offered for a wide variety of reasons:

- Learning needs
- Language and communication issues
- Behaviour and/or emotional needs
- Medical/physical issues

The work of the SEND department fully reflects all statutory requirements including the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, the Disability Discrimination Act and the Equality Act. The school actively works to identify students who may be experiencing difficulty in accessing the curriculum and works closely with parents and students in the planning and implementation of any support that may be required. Additional provision is made available for those students who have a greater need – including a Reading Programme, Literacy Programme and Social skills group. The school SEND Information Report and SEND Policy are subject to regular review and set out how the above is implemented. A full copy of both documents is available from the school on request and can be accessed on the school website.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Ursuline Academy Ilford provides a learning environment that is both challenging and supportive. Exam results are consistently excellent, and students of all abilities make outstanding progress. This is achieved not only through the energy and drive of our committed staff but also through the implementation of well-researched pedagogical theory. The curriculum has been designed to carefully meet the needs of the students in our care and is constantly under review.





FAITH

Faith is very important to our school; it stands at the centre of everything we do and are striving to achieve. The chaplaincy team, working alongside the RE department, has an excellent programme of retreats, events and clubs designed to encourage student to develop their spirituality and deepen their relationship with God as well as developing their leadership skills. Everything we do stems from our Catholic faith. All the adults in the school support the pupils in their spiritual growth. We welcome pupils and staff of all faiths into our community, recognising the contribution of all and how our community is enriched by diversity.

At the heart of our faith community is our commitment to our Ursuline values. The Ursuline student profile outlines, alongside the two guiding principles of United in Harmony and Serviam, eight pairs of virtues, that sum up what a pupil in an Ursuline school is growing to be. St Angela practised Serviam all her life. She was both active and contemplative, and lived her life to serve God and her fellow human beings.

PASTORAL CARE

Here we place the utmost importance on ensuring students are supported and challenged to be the best possible versions of themselves. All students are supported by their form tutor who they have daily contact with and is a first point of contact for communication, information sharing and providing support to students if they have any problems or concerns. Students also engage with an extensive, relevant and age appropriate PSHE curriculum within their form group that covers a range of topics that empower students to remain safe and lead healthy, happy and fulfilling lives in modern society.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who has responsibility for the pastoral care and wellbeing of their year group. In addition to being available for students and families who may need help and support, the Head of Year monitors the year group attendance, academic performance and rewards & behaviour data to enable a proactive approach to pastoral care.

We employ a trained counsellor two days per week who works with students who require this extra level of intervention, and we also work with external agencies to ensure all students are fully supported.

“Pupils are very positive about their learning. Teachers have high expectations in all subjects. Pupils feel well supported by teachers and appreciate the help that they are given in class”

- OFSTED 2021

CATERING SERVICES

The Dining Hall provides just the right setting for staff and students to enjoy a variety of popular dishes in a relaxed atmosphere. This communal dining is regarded as a very important part of the school day and all students are encouraged to have school lunch. At least two vegetarian and halal options are available daily in addition to the other main courses, salads, fresh fruit, hot and cold baguettes, and sandwiches.

The school is compliant with all government guidelines and directives on the preparation, quality and content of all food which is served in the school. A two-course meal is provided daily for those students entitled to free school meals. Students may also purchase additional items, including soft drinks, at a competitive price. Charges are reviewed annually by governors, their aim is to provide a ‘value for money’, nutritious meal which exceeds the national standards.

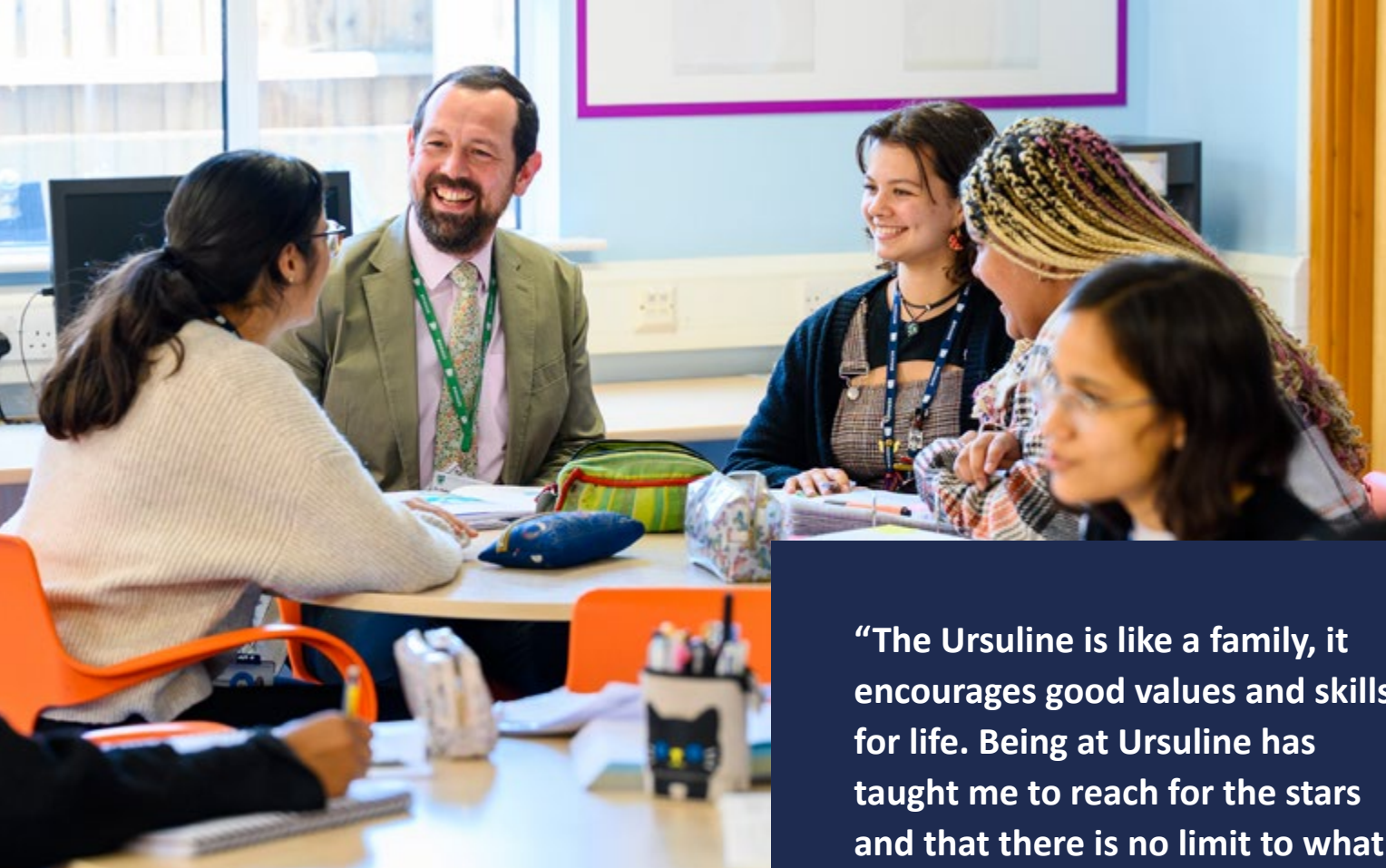
We use a biometric system for all purchases in the Dining Hall including service at breakfast and morning break. Student accounts can be topped up by parents/guardians on-line through the Parent Pay system using credit or debit cards.





“Ursuline is very welcoming and the teachers treat everybody equally. Everyone pushes you to do your best and aim high for the future”

- YEAR 8 PUPIL



“The Ursuline is like a family, it encourages good values and skills for life. Being at Ursuline has taught me to reach for the stars and that there is no limit to what I can achieve”

- YEAR 11 PUPIL

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

We need the co-operation and support of parents/carers in all matters concerning their children if we are to be able to meet the high standards that we set for ourselves and for our students. We believe students learn best when there are clear expectations from home and the academy.

At UAI there are number of ways in which we engage parents in supporting their daughters to develop into successful young women. Parents are kept in touch with what is going on in the academy through the weekly newsletter, our website, email, Satchel:One for weekly homework tasks and MyEd parental communication app. MyEd app allows you to access details about your child within the academy. This includes your daughter’s attendance, attainment, behaviour information, reports and letters.

Termly progress reports are sent home and parents are kept informed by formal contact with the academy on a regular basis. Progress evenings take place during the year, in some instances with the form tutor with a focus upon pastoral care and some with individual subject teachers with a focus upon learning in that subject. We also provide opportunities for parents to learn more about the world their daughters live in through information evenings, for examples, to hear about options choices for GCSE or Sixth Form and public performances.

We also have an active Parents and Students’ Association that organise fundraising events and we encourage parents to support the academy in donating, volunteering and in other ways such as providing work-related experience for our students.

SIXTH FORM

Our sixth form offers students the opportunity to study towards A levels and level 3 applied qualifications in the same supportive and nurturing environment as the rest of the school whilst also developing an independent approach to their studies.

We are immensely proud of our sixth form students and their outstanding academic and personal achievements. Many of our past students have progressed to university study at prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge as well as students going on to successfully study highly demanding courses such as medicine and engineering. We are equally proud of the personal virtues our students demonstrate as they move on from the school to make a positive difference.

Sixth formers can gain leadership experience through serving on the Head Girl Team or through contributing to the wider life of the school by serving as a mentor or supporting younger students in other ways. We encourage such service and are proud to see how our students grow in confidence and maturity as a result.

We are a comprehensive sixth form and offer a range of courses to meet the needs of students with different academic starting points. We also have a scholarship programme to encourage and support students who have achieved high grades in their GCSE courses.





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