



*"We look forward to seeing you soon."*



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## BRENTWOOD URSULINE

CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

# INTRODUCTION FROM HEADTEACHER

The Sixth Form at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School is a proving ground on the way to independent adult life. The exam grades that you achieve, the opportunities you take to develop as a person, and the friendships that you make in Years 12 and 13 will set you on your way to the future. Brentwood Ursuline Sixth Form can help you achieve the highest grades, but we also give you the chance to develop your other talents. Whether you are a musician, actor, sportsperson, dancer or simply someone with a wide range of interests, we will encourage and support you to be your best.

Please read this prospectus thoroughly and consult all those who can advise you – parents, subject teachers and careers staff.

Once you have completed the Application Form you will be interviewed so that your plans can be discussed and a conditional offer can be made. We take great care in considering your application and to see that you are choosing the right courses for your future.

For more than 100 years, Brentwood Ursuline has provided an outstanding education for young people who want to make their mark on the world. I invite you to come and see how we can help you to do the same.

*R. Wilkin*

*Dr R Wilkin  
Headteacher*

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# INDEPENDENCE



*"The curriculum is aspirational. This includes in the sixth form."*

*Ofsted Report, 2023*

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*"With high quality lessons and a welcoming atmosphere, Sixth Formers can enjoy success here and learn to take their place in society with a strong sense of purpose and respect for themselves and for others."*

*My daughter thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Sixth Form at the Ursuline. She has made amazing friends and as a parent I appreciate the time spent with her by staff as she prepared for her final exams. It is with their encouragement and faith in her that she now looks forward to what comes next.*

*Parent of Sixth Form Student*

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*"Pupils develop strong levels of self-motivation in their learning. Consequently, they do exceptionally well."*

*Ofsted Report, 2023*

# WHERE AMBITION MEETS TRADITION

The mission of the School is to create a Christian environment in which each student can grow in personality, relationships, knowledge and skill towards a full realisation of their potential.



*"Our remarkable school has a rich heritage, but today it offers a modern and forward-thinking environment for Sixth Form Students to learn."*



## WELCOME FROM THE SIXTH FORM TEAM

**Welcome to the Sixth Form at Brentwood Ursuline, a school steeped in tradition, whose duty is to help each student achieve excellence in order to fulfil their goals in life.**

The school is proud of its long history, its ethos and its distinctive character. The teachings of St Angela Merici, the founder of the Ursuline order, permeate all that we do, and we encourage each student to 'persevere faithfully and joyfully in the work you have begun'. The perseverance and willingness to work hard is one of the core values of our Sixth Form.

At the heart of our school community is respect for each other. Students are provided with high quality lessons from experienced teachers, as well as multiple opportunities to develop their leadership skills and talents. They are taught to consider the wider community outside of the school and understand that we are all, in the words of St Angela, 'united together'. Activities such as taking part in charity fundraising events, assisting pupils in local primary schools, completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award and even taking part in projects with other Ursuline schools around the world, are all opportunities enthusiastically seized by our Sixth Form students.

In our recent Ofsted Report from 2023, the quality of education was recognised as outstanding throughout the school, including in the Sixth Form. Our excellent teaching helps our young people excel and we are proud of our outstanding academic record. Our students achieve excellent results in a range of qualifications, including the popular STEM subjects. Ursuline students progress to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and we also support students into both degree apprenticeships and employment after their studies. Encouraging students to consider all of their options after success in the Sixth Form is of paramount importance to our team.

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*We welcome you to our Sixth Form and hope you thoroughly enjoy your time with us.*





# SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

**Our aim is to live our Mission Statement and let it permeate all aspects of school life. As a Catholic school, founded by Sisters of the Ursuline Order over 100 years ago, we have a rich heritage on which to draw.**

The most important emphasis is on developing the school as a community based on Gospel values and the person of Jesus Christ. All our students are introduced to the life and work of St Angela Merici, the founder of the Ursuline Order, and they study the values and spirituality that give us our essentially Ursuline ethos.

Every day begins with prayer, either at a year assembly, a house assembly or the student's form group. The chapel, built by the sisters when they lived in the school, remains at the heart of the school and is in daily use for prayer, Masses, assemblies and other liturgical celebrations.

Students are given opportunities to explore their faith more deeply in informal settings. There is a retreat programme which runs across the whole school. Year 12 and 13 students are trained to lead the retreat days for the younger students as they have an innate understanding of what it is like to be young people in the 21st century, and can, therefore, help guide and focus the direction of the retreats. We have an active liturgical culture in which all students are invited to participate.

We are an inclusive Eucharistic community and Mass is celebrated in school regularly. As a community we celebrate together the major feasts of the Church and the Ursuline Order. Students are given the opportunity to express their belief and understanding through music, school productions, dance, display work and sport.

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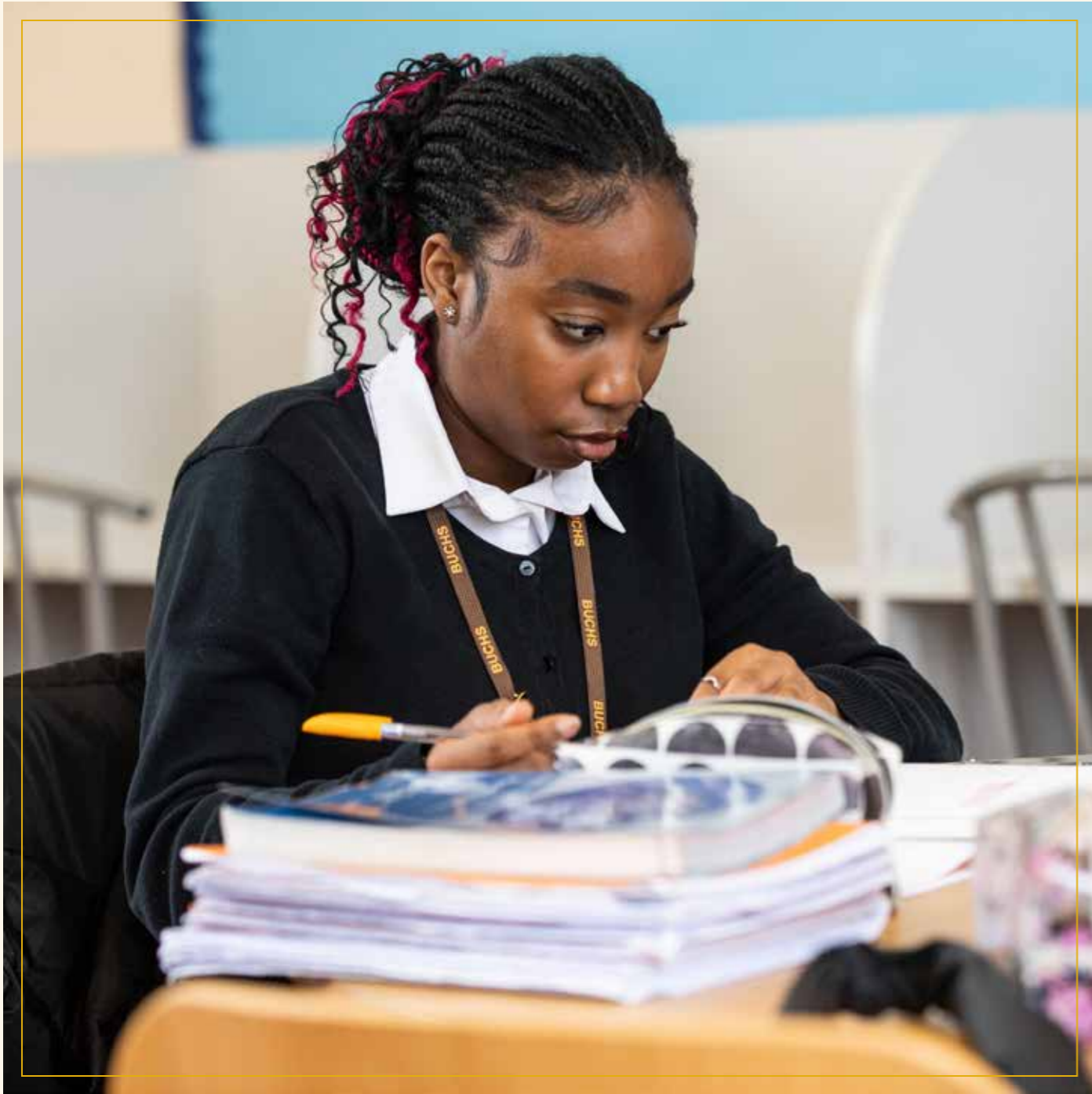
*“Behaviour is very positive. Pupils are excited about, and focused on, learning.”*

*Ofsted Report, 2023*

## SECTION 48 REPORT

Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School is an inclusive Catholic community in which every member of the school is valued. The school is successful in establishing a strong Catholic education for all pupils who affirmed they are treated with dignity and respect in a culture of mutual trust. Governors and School Leaders have a single-minded focus on realising the Ursuline calling to serve young people. They have a strong awareness of their mission based on the charisma of St. Angela Merici. The impact of their commitment to shaping the minds, hearts and souls of its pupils is abundantly manifest. The Headteacher and his leadership team constitute an empowering presence in the promotion of the Catholic and Ursuline identity of the school. Pupils identify strongly with their school and its Catholic values. Pastoral care is significantly effective in providing a secure, spiritual learning environment. The school is totally inclusive of pupils with different strengths and challenges. The care pupils receive is a consistent thread running through and a powerful witness to pupils.

*Relationships across the school demonstrate the impact of the mission of the school, to build a community ‘on the vision of Christ’, in which pupils learn, grow and serve in the knowledge, love and experience of God.*



## A LEVELS

All pupils in our Sixth Form undertake A Level study; the majority of them take the traditional route of studying three A Levels. A Levels are academically challenging but, with the high expectations and help and support from their teachers, our students have the opportunity to excel in their subjects. We are proud of the academic excellence consistently achieved by our pupils.

Our A Level teachers are subject specialists who have a genuine passion for learning within their area. They have designed their curriculum at Key Stage Five to nurture a sense of interest and engagement from all students. They will look for opportunities to develop a student's creative thinking skills, encourage them to be independent learners and resilient in their approach to problem solving or demanding course content. Their lessons are driven by their outstanding subject knowledge, engaging content, rigorous assessment and opportunities to concentrate, communicate and co-operate.

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# STEM A LEVELS – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

STEM is at the heart of our Sixth Form curriculum. Our aim is to develop young women and men who will go on to study subjects such as maths, the sciences, healthcare and engineering at university, progressing eventually to jobs in this expanding and vital field of work; we are proud of the increasing diversity of STEM courses chosen by our students for further study. STEM subjects are academically demanding and our expectations are high: becoming a great mathematician, scientist or engineer requires hard work and dedication. Our subject specialist teachers have the expertise and experience to help students achieve the highest grades, as our past students can testify.

Here is a selection of where our ex-students are studying STEM subjects at university: Chemistry at Oxford University, Civil Engineering at City University; Mathematics at Durham; Zoology at Leeds; Animal Therapy at Writtle University College; Biochemistry at Kings College London; Biomedical Sciences at Anglia Ruskin; Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cardiff; Paramedic Science at University of East Anglia and Pharmacology at Portsmouth University.

Students extend their knowledge and understanding of their A level STEM subjects in our Sixth Form through participation in a range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, such as the, CREST Awards, MedSoc, EPQ and assisting younger students in STEM Club and Eco Club. Students do this in order to enhance their resilience, independent learning and problem-solving skills.

CONCENTRATION







## CHOOSING A BTEC

The BTEC Performing Arts course is designed for those that are serious about going into the performing industry and the lessons are adapted for each person's development. We work on strengthening our weaknesses and building upon our strengths, to help us become a well-rounded performer known as a triple threat (something that is very desirable in the industry). I have been pushed out of my comfort zone, but supported by the teachers and students that are with me, making me feel excited for each lesson.

I know that everything done is with the intent of improving my skills and helping me grow into the best performer I can be. We have explored not only the skills needed to progress, but also the steps that we can take after our time at the Ursuline. I am so pleased that I made the decision to stay, because I know that I wouldn't be getting the support, making the progress, or enjoying it as much as I am.

*Robyn Doyle*

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# BTEC



I am really enjoying the BTEC Business course and the thing I like the most is that you are given time to focus on your own coursework, which allows you to work independently. The course is varied and develops both organisation and motivation. BTEC Business has helped me improve my time management and planning skills, because it is vital that work is handed in before the deadlines. I chose the course because it explores a broad range of business sectors and ideas that will help me progress to a university course in Fashion Buying and Merchandising.

*Angel Adeniran*

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# WHERE CAN A BTEC TAKE YOU?

## MIA ANDRE

**Reading Physiotherapy at Nottingham University,  
Studied BTEC Performing Arts and A Levels in Biology and Chemistry.**

The school is very understanding of our ambitions and will assist us on that pathway. My options of two A-Levels and a BTEC were made possible because of the staff who took time to consider my timetable and workload. They recognised that studying two science subjects and Performing Arts may come with challenges and because of this, many teachers offered their advice to make the journey as smooth as possible. Choosing this diverse set of subjects allowed me to fulfil my creative as well as my academic interests. The BTEC allowed a practical way to learn which differed from my two A-Levels, ensuring a balanced approach to my studies.

Deciding a path post Sixth Form is always tough but we are exposed to many resources to aid our decisions. Careers advice from subject specific teachers, post A-Level talks and UCAS events have given us the opportunity to discover our options and find something that matches our passions. The Ursuline wants us to make an informed decision so that we can thrive.

Sixth formers are given more responsibility over our own education to prepare us for life beyond A-Levels. Being treated as young adults allows us to decide what our future could hold. We are also encouraged to take leadership roles both inside and outside of BUCHS; this encouragement allows us to develop a range of new skills and find undiscovered talents. I was honoured with the role of Head Student, which greatly developed my public speaking and decision-making skills. These roles acknowledge dedication, duty and hard work which are attributes important to the school.

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# WHERE CAN A BTEC TAKE YOU?

## JOY SHOKUNBI

Reading Social Work at Nottingham Trent University,  
Studied BTEC Business and A Level Psychology.

One of the greatest experiences I ever had was attending Ursuline. I had the opportunity to study BTEC Business and A-level Psychology which was difficult yet highly worthwhile. Useful real-world abilities that can be used for future employment were taught in the BTEC, while my study of Psychology helped provide valuable insight into the minds of individuals and their behaviours. I was able to leave the Ursuline as prepared as possible for my future endeavours by studying both subjects. I genuinely feel that being here was a tremendous privilege and an enriching experience.

I also had the opportunity to take on a leadership position as a House Prefect in Sixth Form. This role helped develop my confidence, as I had to frequently prepare and deliver house assemblies. I have no doubt that the abilities I've acquired will help me achieve my academic goals. For me, growing at Brentwood Ursuline has been a truly fulfilling journey. Because of the incredible support I received from my teachers and the Sixth Form team, I felt quite at ease. My ability to attend Nottingham Trent University would not have been possible if the Ursuline had not inspired me to follow my dreams. Throughout my seven years here, the school has continuously upheld a high standard of education and a strong feeling of community. Even though I may not now be a student here, I will always cherish this school.

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# PROGRESSION

## AISLING MCMAHON

**Reading Veterinary Medicine at Royal Veterinary College,  
Studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and EPQ.**

As an external Sixth Form entrant, I reflect on my time at the Ursuline very fondly. It is a remarkable school distinguished by the kindness and generosity of its teachers, who continuously go above and beyond for their students, demonstrating a genuine care for both the academic and personal growth of each individual.

Passionate about their subjects, my teachers nurtured a mature, supportive, and enthusiastic learning environment where I grew in confidence, not just academically, but through the various opportunities made available to me which aided my development of the professional skills and attributes necessary to fulfil my lifelong ambition of studying Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

Navigating three academically challenging A-Level Subjects alongside an EPQ, university interviews, and the writing of countless application essays and my personal statement was undeniably demanding. However, I was incredibly fortunate to benefit from the unwavering encouragement and guidance of my teachers and peers, whose support instilled in me the confidence and skills necessary for success in my application. Opportunities such as becoming a prefect and mentoring others enhanced my personal development, enabling me to progress from Sixth Form with the confidence that I could cope with the various demands of my degree – in which I have just completed my second year.

The strong sense of community within the school further enhanced my experience here, fostering lasting relationships and a supportive network of peers and mentors - I am very proud to be a part of the Ursuline community.

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# HIGHER EDUCATION

**Our Sixth Formers always strive for academic excellence and we encourage them to explore progression to higher education. Ursuline students progress to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, to read a diverse range of subjects.**

We also encourage them to consider which courses are right for them, with recommendations on wider reading and super curricular activities. The Sixth Form team and teachers are committed to helping all our young people achieve their goals and will offer support and honest advice with the UCAS application process and interviews for competitive courses and institutions. Below are some comments from recent successful Oxbridge candidates who attended Brentwood Ursuline.

## ELLA QURREY-RUANE

**Reading History and Politics at Liverpool University,  
Studied A Levels in English Language & English Literature, History and Politics.**

I have really loved developing my passion for my subjects during my studies, especially history and politics, which I am hoping to go on to study at university.

I have been so supported in my subjects and my university application by my dedicated teachers. They have gone over and above to help and guide me and ensure that I have been able to reach my potential - I know that the guidance I have been given and the lessons learned at Brentwood Ursuline will help me go on and smash those glass ceilings. I have received so much support with personal statements and interview preparations that have opened many doors to my future. Being part of the BUCHS community has enabled me to develop my leadership skills as I was able to serve as Deputy Head Girl. I feel so lucky to have had all the opportunities I have had at BUCHS - the school has supported me with everything I've done in and out of school, from visiting Auschwitz with the Lessons from Auschwitz programme to speaking in the House of Commons with the UK Youth Parliament. My time at the Ursuline has been absolutely incredible and I'm so glad I've been a part of this wonderful community.

## KATY DERBY

**Reading History at University of Cambridge,  
Studied A Levels in Biology, English Literature, History and EPQ.**

After leaving Ursuline, I completed a scholarship programme that allowed me to spend a year studying and travelling in the United States before going on to my undergraduate studies at Cambridge. I do not believe that any of this would have been possible without the incredible support of Ursuline.

My sixth form teachers helped me immensely. They provided me with the encouragement I needed to apply for a place at Cambridge, something I did not believe I was capable of, and aided me through every step of the application process. They reassured whenever the pressure of A-Levels became too much, created lessons and resources that assisted with studying for my exams, and were always ready to answer any questions I had. This tireless work of the teaching staff at Ursuline is certainly responsible for me achieving the A-Level results that I did.

Moreover, the most important thing that Ursuline gave me was confidence. The opportunities I was provided through leadership roles and extra-curriculars (including being the History Prefect, taking part in the Lessons from Auschwitz

programme, and belonging a variety of music ensembles) enabled me to feel assured in my own abilities as I temporarily moved to a new country and entered higher education.

Ursuline was not only essential to my academic success, but also provided me with many joyful memories, a great sense of community, and some of my closest friends.

## OLIVIA NEWBERY

**Reading History at University of Cambridge,  
Studied A Levels in English Language & Literature, History and Politics.**

My time at the Ursuline was invaluable. Brentwood Ursuline provides a unique opportunity for academic progress, experiences and friendship. Whilst part of the Sixth Form my teachers encouraged both extra and super-curricular activities to supplement work completed in class. Becoming a Student Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust allowed me to develop historical skills such as source analysis. Visits to the UK Parliament made A-Levels feel more connected to the real-world and ensured that learning went beyond the textbook.

Within the Sixth Form students are encouraged to take on positions of leadership and adopt new responsibilities. As Head Student, I chaired Council meetings, led assemblies and showed younger students what it means to be an Ursuline. Being part of groups like Serviam enabled my peers and I to fulfill the Ursuline 'duty' and take social action. We were also presented with external opportunities, such as participation in the Ivy House Future Leaders Competition.

My teachers played an imperative role in my UCAS application, providing both practical help with my personal statement and long-term academic support. In being constantly challenged and pushed to question existing ideas and theories, my critical thinking skills developed, which was key for success in my Cambridge application. I will forever be grateful for the network of support that I had in achieving my university goals. The Ursuline taught me to believe in myself and it is the confidence that students leave with that makes the difference.



*Katy Derby*



*Ella Qurrey-Ruane*

# APPRENTICESHIPS

Some of our Sixth Formers progress from their studies at Brentwood Ursuline to apprenticeships in the workplace. An apprenticeship is a combined package of work and study, with various levels available to students including degree level apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are actually designed by employers, meaning people on them are developing the right skills and knowledge to be a success in a particular industry. Here are two of our alumni who have successfully progressed to apprenticeships.

## REBECCA CROSS

**Brightstart Higher Apprenticeship at Deloitte, a professional services firm  
Studied A Levels in Business, Dance and English Literature.**

I always look back very fondly to my time at the Ursuline Sixth Form, whether that was inside the classroom studying or spending my time leading the performing arts extra-curricular activities. From joining the school as a Music Scholar, to being nominated as Dance Prefect, the school encouraged me to always strive to achieve my best.

Whilst studying my A Levels, the Sixth Form provided me with incredible support and confidence that enabled me to achieve great results that will stay with me forever. The community network at the Ursuline is one not to be rivalled and I always knew that 'once I was an Ursuline, I would always be an Ursuline.'

The Sixth Form gave me opportunities to develop many critical skills such as leadership, professionalism and discipline that have helped me on my journey. Initially, I applied for different universities; however, I decided to embark on a Higher Degree Apprenticeship route. This allows me to study for a BSc degree in Digital and Technology Solutions, whilst also working full time for Deloitte, an extremely reputable professional services firm. It is a decision that I have not regretted, and without the Ursuline foundations, the teachers and friendship support around me, this is something I could have only dreamed of achieving.



## DARCEY CUNNINGHAM

**Degree Apprenticeship at CMS, an international law firm  
Studied A Levels in English Language, History, Religious Studies and Spanish.**

My time at the Ursuline has significantly crafted me into the person I am today. I was supported to show courage, determination, and fulfil my duty, not only towards those around me, but those who may be harder to reach. The support network and compassion that all of the staff showed was truly outstanding, guiding me towards my end goal.

I am currently undertaking a solicitor apprenticeship with an international law firm in London, which would have been daunting had I not been encouraged to pursue my dreams at my dear convent home. Although I may not be a student anymore, I still hold this special place close to my heart each day.

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# ENRICHMENT



## Religious Education

The General RE course is a non-assessed, two-year programme designed for all Sixth Form students to participate in, and is inclusive of personal religious beliefs, backgrounds and values. Central to the programme are broad areas of study, including Christian theology, morality and ethics, and all students are invited to engage with prayer, meditation and reconciliation sessions throughout the year, in addition to listening to the experiences of visiting speakers who support the programme. In Year 13, students further explore these issues through the study of other world religions and worldviews, including non-religious viewpoints such as humanism and veganism. Students may notice connections between General RE and their chosen areas of studies, with natural links to Religious Studies, Business, Politics, Literature and History. The course is designed to challenge and stimulate students and to help them reflect on their own beliefs, and the beliefs of others. The course roots itself firmly in the school's Ursuline ethos and invites all students to participate in the spirit of 'Insieme!'

## The Extended Project (EPQ)

The Extended Project is a freestanding Level 3 qualification and may be offered to Sixth Formers. The EPQ encourages students to engage in independent research by exploring and developing their knowledge on a topic of their choice relating to one of their A Level subjects. The outcome is also determined by the learner, and can range from a mini dissertation of 5,000 words, to a piece of artwork, film or sculpture. Learners can achieve additional UCAS points on completion of this qualification.

## Fitness

As part of our commitment to ensure that Sixth Formers develop their co-operation, communication and resilience, we include sessions with the PE teachers on their timetable. This allows students to work together as a team in activities and also enhances their wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

## Enrichment

We also provide our Sixth Form with other enrichment opportunities outside their lessons. From LAMDA, to Duke of Edinburgh, we ensure that they are stretched and challenged and can also nurture their natural gifts. These skills and co-curricular activities provide great content for both CVs and university application, whilst also ensuring that Sixth Form students meet new friends, mix well and settle in quickly.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In an increasingly competitive market for jobs and university placements, Brentwood Ursuline is dedicated to fostering well-rounded achievement alongside academic excellence. For the past decade, the school has been committed to offering all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

As an established DofE centre, Brentwood Ursuline has facilitated hundreds of students in successfully completing the expedition section of the Award at all levels. Typically, Sixth Form students focus on attaining the Silver and Gold Awards.

Earning the Award demonstrates a student's persistence, resilience, commitment, and personal development over time. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement programme, widely recognised by employers and universities. By highlighting the activities undertaken as part of the DofE programme on UCAS or employment application forms, students signal to institutions that they possess an ambitious and positive attitude, coupled with a broad range of interests

I believe that the Duke of Edinburgh is a wonderful experience for everyone. It is amazing because it gets everyone involved and you will have a good time, even if you don't like camping!

I started my Bronze award at the start of 2023. I had three sections to complete independently: volunteering, physical and skills. I chose my options so that I could help the community, gain good exercise and learn a new skill. In June 2023, I had my expedition and, fortunately, it was lovely weather! I was in a group of seven and our team all worked hard to complete the journey. We organised who would bring what and who would carry the tent and food for dinner. We even made s'mores in the evening!

It was a fun experience for us all, as we helped each other have a good time. Now I have started doing my Silver award and I am really excited for the expedition. I am currently doing the three sections, which are the same as bronze, but just for a longer period of time.

I hope to do the Gold Award during my time in Sixth Form. I believe that the Duke of Edinburgh journey makes friendships stronger and gives me important life skills that can be used.

*Fiona Lee*







## FRANCHESCA DALIVA

**Reading Chemistry for Drug Discovery at Bath University,  
Studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Geography.**

My experience at the Ursuline has shaped me into a well-rounded individual, which has prepared me for university and the professional environment. The Sixth Form has provided me with countless opportunities, such as becoming Chemistry Prefect and allowing me to tutor and engage with students in younger years through STEM clubs and events. This has helped develop my confidence, leadership and teamwork – key transferable skills which have aided my personal development.

Despite the academic challenges and deciding on my post A-Level path, the support network at the Ursuline have always been keen and eager to provide me with the advice and guidance I need to be a successful university applicant. The Sixth Form team keep us informed of any super-curricular opportunities, such as summer schools and university programmes, which enhance our applications and give us an insight into university. The passion of my teachers also encouraged me to explore further into my A-Level subjects, before deciding the course that matches my own ambition and future aspirations.

I am truly grateful for the encouragement and support I have received from my teachers and peers throughout my time at the Ursuline.



## HANNAH ZYSS

**Reading Medicine at Birmingham University,  
Studied A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and History.**

The sense of community that the Ursuline is able to cultivate is an entirely unique one. From the day you join you become a part of a long line of students striving for excellence. This sense of community, not only with other students but also with teachers, is what makes the Ursuline truly special. It means that teachers are always able to provide academic or pastoral support, and students celebrate in each others' accomplishments.

Teachers took an active role in my understanding, challenged my knowledge and opinions in my studies, and encouraged me to 'look beyond the syllabus' to see how I could take what I have learnt and put it into everyday life. This development of my thinking has given me the confidence that I am able to actively engage with mature academic conversation in higher education.

Throughout the Sixth Form, there have been numerous opportunities to engage with. Taking part in MedSoc gave me the support to prepare for my university interviews and to write my personal statement. Being able to coordinate Justice and Peace week helped to build my confidence and implement the Ursuline ethos of 'leading for justice' in my day-to-day life.

My time at the Ursuline has been an entirely fruitful one. From coming in on the first day in September in year 7 to leaving in year 13 after my final exam, the Ursuline has helped me to develop into the confident young woman I am today.



## RONAN TUCKER

**Planning to progress to study for a pilot's licence,  
Studied A Levels in Geography, Politics and Psychology.**

Leaving the familiarity of my previous school was daunting but the welcoming and friendly Ursuline community made me feel that I belonged from my first day. I have enjoyed a different way of learning throughout my time at Brentwood Ursuline. The high academic expectations and the drive for continuous personal development have helped shaped my aspiration to become a commercial pilot. After sixth form, I intend to begin flight training in the UK and Europe with the ultimate goal of joining one of the major airlines once qualified. Such ambition has been fostered by my teachers and peers and represents a cornerstone of my Ursuline experience. As I leave, I feel well equipped to tackle the notoriously difficult first six months of flight school, during which there are 26 theoretical exams to pass. Teachers are extremely dedicated, genuinely want the best for all students and actively promote a collegiate environment of hard work and progression. Whilst I expressed a desire to pursue a different route following sixth form, I have been fully supported and encouraged to work towards achieving my aim. During my time in the sixth form, I was fortunate enough to train for my private pilot license. This required hard work and sacrifices but the constant encouragement from inside and outside of the classroom, has allowed me to thrive. Moreover, the companionship between students has enabled me to flourish socially, resulting in a memorable two years. I feel fortunate for the time I have spent at the Ursuline.



## ALAINA SHERMAN

**Reading Politics at London School of Economics & Political Science,  
Studied A Levels in History, Politics and Religious Studies.**

My sixth form years provided the nurturing and stable environment that I was very much in need of, allowing me a place to start over and challenge myself. The relationships that you develop with the staff and other students in sixth form differs massively to secondary school, it is so special and necessary as A-levels are a very demanding and stressful time – the Ursuline produces a support system which we all contribute to by encouraging one another, and this provides a great comfort that no student can ever forget. The teachers are so passionate about their subjects, making every lesson engaging and enjoyable by promoting debate, asking questions and setting group projects. Outside of lessons the sixth form has an environment that fosters growth, maturity and confidence through the range of volunteering opportunities that every student is encouraged to get involved in. As a member of the student senior leadership team, I delivered assemblies, welcomed guests to the school, provided a bridge of communication between the students and staff, and helped to organise charity events. There are many other roles available in the sixth form along with a Serviam group which allow the students to be active members of the school community and develop their skillset beyond the classroom.

I joined the Ursuline with small aspirations, and I left with the confidence of knowing that my career has an upward trajectory and that I will achieve my goals. Being an Ursuline means we stand out from other candidates due to not only our skillset but our Christian inspired morals of encouraging others and treating everyone with kindness.



## CREATIVE SUBJECTS

Through studying Music, we have been able to learn more about cultures in many different countries and their music. We have learnt lots about composition and writing our own music, as well as taking an active role in leading and performing in ensembles. We have also helped with the diverse extra-curricular opportunities that Music brings to the school community.

*George Carter-Melton and Alice Collier-Smith*

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CREATIVITY



*"Pupils are well prepared  
for adult life"*

*Ofsted Report, 2023*

## LEADERSHIP

One of the key skills that we nurture in our Sixth Form is that every one of our young people is a leader- they lead the rest of the school by setting the standard on attitude and Ursuline values. We also encourage our students to apply for formal leadership positions here- this could be in the role of a Senior Student, a House Team, a Subject Prefect, a Sixth Form Ambassador or a Wellbeing Prefect. We also provide students with the chance to fundraise for CAFOD, an international aid agency working to alleviate poverty and suffering in developing countries.

Beyond the school, we also want to create leaders who make their way in the world and contribute positively to society. Work with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS), conferences with other Ursuline schools and extra opportunities connected to the Catholic faith, such as fundraising for key groups, are encouraged and supported by the Sixth Form team here.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

As a school we recognise the benefits of our students spending time with employers. We strongly encourage all students to engage in extensive and relevant work experience. This not only enhances their university, apprenticeship, and employment applications but also provides a realistic understanding of careers in their chosen sectors.

To facilitate this, a dedicated week for work experience is held near the end of Year 12. We encourage students in securing appropriate placements and we assist with the application process. Additionally, we support students in undertaking further work experience throughout the year, provided it does not interfere with their academic responsibilities. Many online work experience programs are available, which we also encourage students to utilize.

During their time in the Sixth Form, Year 12 students have participated in work experience across various sectors, including education, healthcare, investment banking computer science, and insurance. This experience offered students valuable insights into the professional world, the opportunity to develop communication skills, and the chance to establish connections within the local and broader community.



## STUDENT SUPPORT

### **Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance.**

Careers guidance is considered a priority in the Sixth Form with help available on an individual and/or group basis. Careers education is delivered throughout the two years and time is set aside each week with the form tutor for individual consultation. In addition, our well-established Careers Department provides students with the information and support needed to make the right decisions about their future. Our independent careers advisor operates from the Careers area in the Library and online consultations are available.

Our Library has a dedicated Careers section with a comprehensive range of university guides and computer facilities for online research. A range of university prospectuses are available in the Sixth Form Study Areas too. Advice is available from form tutors and the Sixth Form leadership to help choose universities and courses in an informed way. Sixth Formers can also request one-on-one careers interviews during Year 12 to discuss their Post-18 options. Support continues throughout the Sixth Form years with the opportunity of mock interviews available in Year 13.

The Sixth Form Leadership team are also available for the decision-making process on results days. During their time in the Sixth Form, students will be offered a Post-18 Choices Workshop. These are designed to introduce them to both the world of work and higher education. Employers visit our school offering advice, work experience opportunities and internships. Many of these are ex-students, eager to share their knowledge. Support and advice is also provided to parents on topics such as the UCAS application process, student finance and apprenticeship places.

For those aspiring to Oxbridge, meetings are held where speakers from Oxford and Cambridge are in attendance to provide specific guidance for applications to their institutions. Individual Post-18 interviews with members of the school's Senior Leadership Team and the Sixth Form Leadership Team are also offered during the autumn term of Year 13, as well as specific advice and mentoring within subjects from teachers.

### Administrative Team

Our team in the school administrative office work very closely with Sixth Form students and the leadership team. They are often a first point of contact for parents when raising concerns regarding their child. The administrators also help with all aspects of the Sixth Form, including attendance matters, university visits, the 16-19 Bursary Scheme and timetables.

### Financial Support

Students in the Sixth Form can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Scheme, as long as the Education Funding Agency continues to fund these bursaries. We are aware of the financial difficulties faced by some families, and as a Catholic community we will do everything we can to support those students in pursuing their studies at our school. The Sixth Form and administrative teams will handle any requests for information or application evidence sensitively.

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Ursuline Links

Ursuline Links UK was started by an Ursuline sister from Forest Gate. She has created links between the Ursuline communities in the UK and overseas. The projects have been running since 2011. The aim is to give students the opportunity to take part in different service projects in the UK and USA. The students have relished these experiences, and it is a great way to live out St Angela's direction of service to others. This is a joint initiative with the other Ursuline schools.

Our Year 12 students are given the opportunity to join the volunteer team of Ursuline Links to support summer projects, enabling children in East London to have days out, or a short 'holiday' when they can't otherwise afford it. Before the project, our Year 12 students take part in a retreat day and attend regular meetings which are all rooted in scripture.

### Kairos Retreat

In year 12, students have an opportunity to attend a two-night retreat exploring faith, testimony and sharing time away together in the beautiful setting of Worth Abbey. In year 13, those same students are invited back to lead the new intake of year 12s. The word 'Kairos' means 'moment' and for many years students who have participated in the retreat consider it to be an important 'moment' on their sixth form journey. Students who assist in the leadership of the retreat are also invited to take part in an afternoon of leadership training and formation focused on Jesus' perfect example of servant leadership.





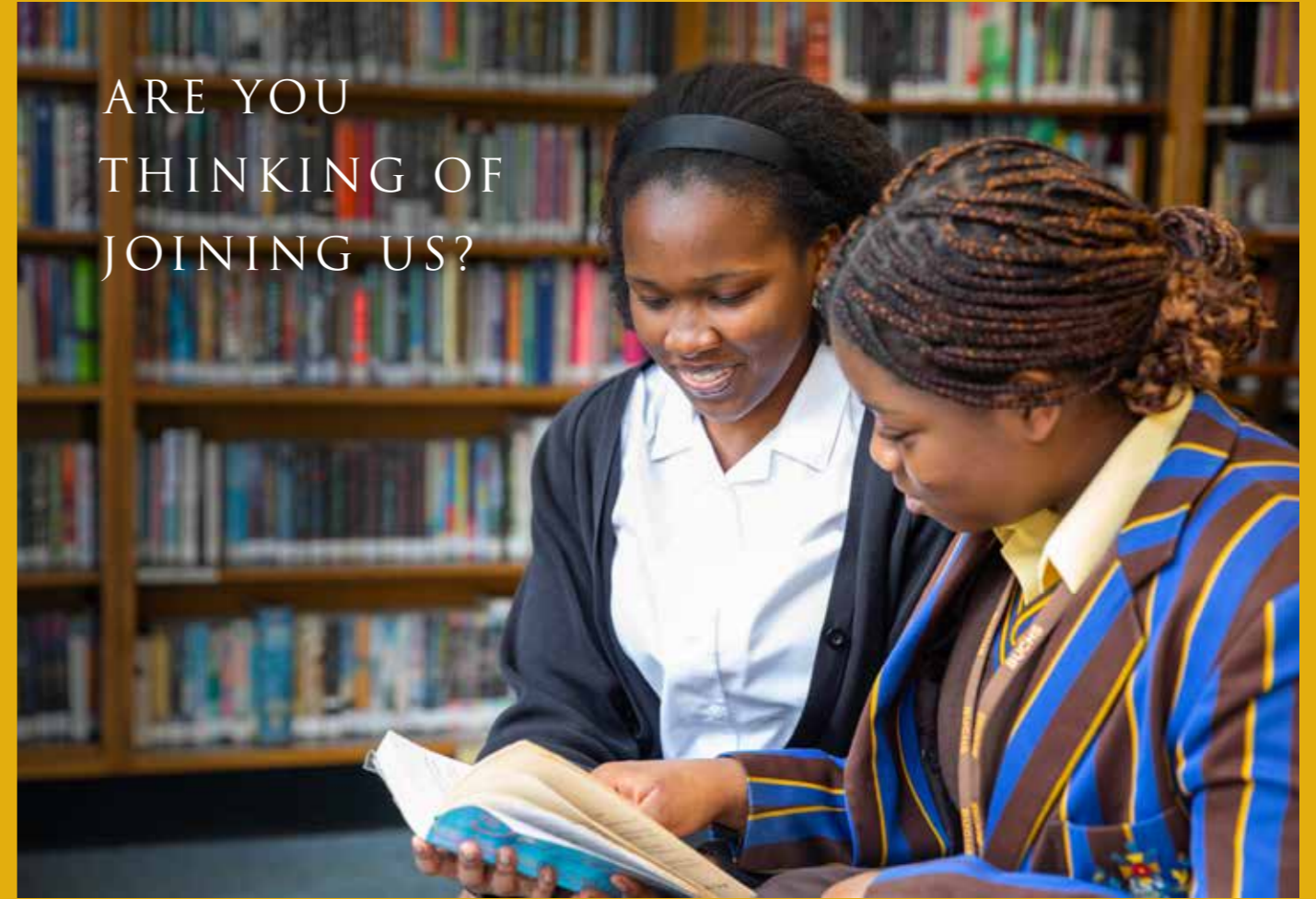


I chose to stay at the Ursuline, as I have formed great relationships and received continual support from my teachers. I believe I will be most comfortable working in an environment I know and trust for Sixth Form. I feel part of the Ursuline community and this continues to inspire me.

*Hollie*

I am excited to remain at the Ursuline for the Sixth Form because I have every confidence that the high standard of teaching and the companionship of fellow students will support me as I undertake the challenge of A Levels.

*Neve*



ARE YOU  
THINKING OF  
JOINING US?

"The Ursuline Sixth Form prepared me for the challenges of degree level study as it taught me the importance of hard work, independent study, organisation and time management. Whilst in The Ursuline Sixth Form I received wonderful teaching and a huge amount of help and support which encouraged me to pursue my ambitions."

*Sophie Pether Former Head Student*



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