



SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

School Worship and Assemblies

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Surbiton High School Ethos and Aims

Surbiton High School aims to **inspire, encourage and empower** our young people to discover and embrace their individuality in an intellectually rigorous academic environment. Balanced with outstanding pastoral care, our students become compassionate, respectful, courageous, and inquisitive members of the community, living out the School's motto: *Amor nos semper ducat* (May love always lead us).

Our Values

We are compassionate:

We are kind and we care, in both thought and action. We consider those less fortunate and strive to support and offer aid. We are mindful of the gentle power of positive actions. We support and encourage those around us.

We are respectful:

We respect all people equally. We respect ourselves, our learning, our community, our environment, and the planet we all share. We strive to act with respect and integrity in all things. When we disagree, we do so respectfully.

We are courageous:

When challenged by our fears we are determined, not deterred. We call on resilience for strength when in the heat of the struggle. We bravely chase our dreams and fight for what we believe. When we fall, we pick ourselves up and forge forward.

We are inquisitive:

We understand that a thoughtful question is the key to unlock understanding. We believe where answers provide ends, questions pose exciting beginnings. We are eager to explore, we question to discover, we are curious to learn more of the world at large.

We are a community:

We are united - with a common focus. We value belonging to a wider community: our school community, our local community, our global community. We are inclusive of all, no matter our differences. We value and nurture the connections we form.

We achieve these aims through our *Charter for Happiness and Well-being*. Our pupils:

- **are inspired to deploy their highest strengths to tackle all situations**, developing a growth mind-set and a can-do attitude, equipped with the tools to maximise their positive emotions
- **are encouraged to find their niche**, to be fully engaged in educational activities and to meet the highest challenges that come their way



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- **are coached and encouraged to develop strong relationships**, to be empathetic and responsive to the needs of themselves and others
- **are empowered to lead a meaningful life**, to be able to understand what their goals are and to know what they are striving for
- **are empowered to draw strength from celebrating their accomplishments**, in order to tackle new challenges

We achieve these aims through our inculcation of *Learning Habits*. Our children:

- **are inspired in their thinking**, to ask questions, to make connections, to imagine possibilities, to reason methodically and to capitalise on their resources
- **are encouraged to be emotionally invested in their learning**, persevering in the face of difficulties, noticing subtle differences and patterns, managing their distractions, and becoming absorbed in their learning
- **are empowered to be fully involved in their learning**, growing in interdependence, collaborating effectively, listening empathetically to others, and imitating their learning habits
- **are inspired, encouraged, and empowered to be productive**, planning their learning in advance, revising and reviewing their progress, distilling important information, and developing their own meta-learning

United Learning and the United Church Schools' Trust

Surbiton High School is part of *United Learning* and the *United Church Schools' Trust*. The School has an Anglican foundation, valuing its Christian heritage whilst welcoming staff and children from all faiths and none. We share with United Learning its core mission statement "to bring out the best in everyone". We are committed to the aims of United Learning, including its *Framework for Excellence*, which can be found at: www.unitedlearning.org.uk

Policy Statement

At Surbiton High School, our assemblies serve as a vibrant expression of our ethos, bringing together our community to inspire, encourage, and empower every individual. Rooted in our core values of compassion, respect, courage, inquisitiveness, and community, the aim of our assemblies is to create a platform where students and staff alike can:

- celebrate achievements and recognise accomplishments of our community, fostering a sense of pride and belonging
- develop Leadership and oracy skills by providing opportunities for pupils and staff to cultivate presentation skills, articulating their thoughts confidently
- engage with current and cultural topics through reflection on contemporary issues and celebrating significant cultural moments, promoting awareness and understanding
- strengthen our community bonds by creating a space where every member feels valued, respected, and connected, embodying our motto: *Amor nos semper ducat*
- bring a sense of joy to the beginning of the School day.



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SLT Assembly Rotation in the Senior School

Pupils attend SLT-led assemblies in the main SAR hall on rotation as follows:

Monday: Year 7 & 8

Tuesday: Year 9

Wednesday: Year 10 & 11

Thursday: Year 12 & 13

Year Group Assembly Rotation in the Senior School

In addition to attending a weekly SLT assembly, each year group has its own year group assembly, led by the Head of Year.

Monday				
Tuesday	Year 10	Upper Hall	Year 11	MBH Ground Floor
Wednesday	Year 7	Small Hall	Year 9	Upper Hall
Thursday	Year 8	Upper Hall		
Friday				

House Assemblies

We want the houses to be able to come together as one community. House assemblies should be a celebration and allow pupils the opportunity to look forward to future events. As a result, all year groups will attend their House assembly. All other assemblies will be cancelled on that day. All staff affiliated with a House are expected to attend their House assembly, unless it falls on a day when they are not at work.

House Assemblies will take place before major House events and will be led by the Pupil House Leaders.

These take place in different locations across the School and there is a member of SLT attached to each house, who attends the assembly.

Austen	Curie	Franklin	Nightingale	Pankhurst	Parks
Small Hall	MBH	Upper Hall	Main Hall	Gym	SFCR
KP	RF	OA	CED	JO	MC
	CE	LB			
		SS			



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The Friday Reflection is a self-running PowerPoint presentation composed by a member of the School community, which pupils watch in their form rooms.

There are special “off timetable” beginning-of-term and end-of-term assemblies, and for Remembrance Day.

Thought for the week

This will be delivered by members of the SLT and wider School community, and we welcome ideas and a willingness to participate. Assemblies should encourage the School’s ethos, values and culture but there is no prescription on the theme. Matthew Close, Senior Vice Principal, is responsible for the Assembly Calendar. This is finalised in the Summer Term before the new academic year.

Music

At the start of every assembly, we endeavour to have pupils performing. The aim to celebrate our amazing musicians and to give them the opportunity to perform in public. This is organised by the Music Department.

Sports and House Notices

The Student Leadership Team will read out any notices and celebrate significant team achievement. This will include the which House is responsible for Fab Friday and any other special events that are taking place the week ahead. Each week, the same student will deliver this at each assembly. This is organised by the Student Leadership Team.

Attendance

All tutors and Deputy tutors are expected to attend assembly with their tutees, assuming they are working on that day.

It is hoped that ESS staff will attend at least one assembly during the week.

SLT and HOY/AHOY attendance and duties

For whole-school assemblies, staff duties are as follows:

- a. MS in Main Hall
- b. MC in Main Hall
- c. SLT 1 Midway upstairs – quietening down
- d. SLT 2 Bottom Doors to the Main Hall
- e. HOY – Main Hall
- f. AHOY – Entrance to SAR



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Year Group assemblies should be attended by the Tutor and Deputy Tutor, assuming they are working on that day.

SLT Rota

	Whole School	Year Group	Year Group
Monday	MS, MC, KP, CED		
Tuesday	MS, MC, OA, SS	Year 10 – RF – Upper Hall	Year 11 – KP MBH
Wednesday	MS, MC, RF, CE	Year 7 – CED Small Hall	Year 9 – OA Upper Hall
Thursday	MS, MC, JO, LB	Year 8 – RF Upper Hall	

Assemblies/ Collective worship at Surbiton High Girls' Preparatory School

Assemblies at the Girls' Prep provide an opportunity for the pupils and staff to come together as a community and think, reflect, worship, and celebrate. The School's values are explored, and there are opportunities to learn more about other religions from amongst our school community. The girls are encouraged to share experiences of their own faith and have done so within the context of a whole-school assembly. Core events such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Diwali, Holi, and Eid for example will be explored during assembly time and PSHE lessons. This time is also used to develop the pupils' social, emotional, and personal understanding of the world around them. Themes such as friendship, acceptance, forgiveness, and kindness are explored, as are the School's vision, values, and ethos. These assemblies are usually planned and delivered by the Senior Leaders; however, all staff are welcome to lead on themes which they are passionate about. Guest speakers are also invited in to speak to address the girls. These may be figures representing a certain faith or the School's chosen charities.

Singing assemblies are held where pupils rehearse songs for performances. These sessions are led by the Head of Music.

Parents are invited in to watch their children share their learning on a topic during Year Assemblies. These often end in a prayer, read by the pupils themselves.



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Celebration assemblies are held every Monday, where all members of our community come together to celebrate individual, group and House successes. The Head Teacher leads these assemblies.

Assemblies/Collective worship at Surbiton High Boys' Preparatory School

Assemblies at the Boys' Prep provide an opportunity for the pupils and staff to come together as a community: to think, reflect and celebrate. The School's values are explored, and there are opportunities to learn about the different religions that make up our School, from our pupils and parents, during this time. The boys are encouraged to share experiences of their own faith and will present their ideas in the whole school assembly. This time is also used to develop the pupils' social, emotional, and personal understanding of the world around them. Themes such as: kindness, empathy, perseverance, and honesty are explored, as well as the 5 values: compassion, respect, inquisitiveness, courage and community. National/ international events and topics of interest are an additional focal point during assembly time as well as charity endeavours and House assemblies. These assemblies are planned and delivered by all the staff, on a rotational basis, with guidance from the Deputy Head of Wellbeing and Pupil Development.

Celebration assemblies are held every Friday, where all members of our community come together to celebrate individual, group and House successes. The Head Teacher leads these assemblies.

The Boys' Prep School and Girls' Prep School come together throughout the term to celebrate Harvest Festival and Remembrance. Both assemblies are an important time when the girls and boys reflect, participate, and speak side-by-side.

Where possible the School invites visitors in to contribute or lead Assemblies, and Acts of Collective Worship.



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