



# SHARING GOOD NEWS

The Youth SVP group was set up by Paula in November 2022, with the support of the SVP Youth team, and has now grown to 60 students and 6 staff members. The core motto of the Youth SVP is Turning Concern into Action which also complements the Ursuline College motto of Serviam whilst also being inspired by St. Angela Merici 'Do something. Get Moving. Risk new things. Stick with it.' In the weeks towards Christmas the students got busy straight away.

They organised a visit from the Salvation Army with Major Richard Oliver who educated the students on the levels of homeless and sofa surfing within their local area. As a result, the students donated 8 sleeping bags to the Salvation Army. The Youth SVP worked with the local adult conference of the SVP to arrange the delivery of a big school food drive over Christmas.



The students also created 70 handmade Christmas Cards with personalised messages for the residences of St Michael's Care home in Westgate-on-Sea (just 6min walk from the school). In January, the students were then invited back to make regular visits to the residents who do not often receive visitors. Also in January, the local adult conference of the SVP held a celebration Mass, welcoming all the student members of the Youth SVP and other guests, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Other projects they have completed include creating affirmations for students who may be having a bad day for each of the house offices of St Augustine, St Bernadette, St Francis and St Teresa. The students painted each box in the house colours. They then created affirmations for teachers who sometimes need to hear kind words from a student. These are in the staff room.

More ideas from our Youth SVP include creating Reading Spaces for lunchtimes in the school community and organising fundraising events such as 'Pay £1 to miss a lesson and watch a movie' to help raise funds for the other projects. The Easter drive was working with Community Kindness – Thanet to gather as many Easter Eggs as possible from our school community for children who live on or under the poverty line in Thanet. There are currently 9000 children who fall under this line in our local area, some of whom attend our school. With the countdown to Easter Sunday, it is a great way to focus on giving and supporting those in need. A total of 350 eggs were donated by the school.



They have launched a TikTok account to encourage our school community to join the youth SVP and support any of the fundraising or good causes around the school. Some videos have reached over 7000 views even in the early stages. If you want to keep tabs on what we are up to, follow us [@ursulinecollegeyouthsvp](https://www.tiktok.com/@ursulinecollegeyouthsvp)



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The Youth SVP had an opportunity to give a presentation to Thanet Earth. Thanet Earth is Britain's leading glasshouse complex, sitting proudly within the landscape of East Kent. These enormous glasshouses are estimated to produce around 400 million tomatoes, 30 million cucumbers and 24 million peppers each year. Innovation, environmental concern, and a focus on quality combine with cutting-edge technology, international expertise, and the best growing conditions in the UK to produce unrivalled taste on a commercial scale.

The students presented to Thanet Earth Senior Leadership Team about the Ursuline's Serviam, the Youth SVP and St. Angela Merici. They spoke about all the community work they have been doing and the work they want to do. They asked Thanet Earth if they could donate their produce for a food market. The aim of the food market was to engage with the local community, give people access to locally produced food below supermarket prices and to raise money for the Youth SVP for their projects.

## **Below is the press release from Thanet Earth**

Community Champion JUNE 2023 – Ursuline College, Westgate

Congratulations to Ursuline College who have been chosen as our Community Champions for June. What started as a simple email request for a donation of produce has quickly grown into what we believe is going to be an impactful collaboration which we hope will reach across our local community. Following a presentation by the Youth SVP, we had the chance to sit down with Ursuline's Head Teacher, Danielle Lancefield and some of her team to discuss the issues the school is facing not only in the current economic climate but also being located in an area which sits in the top 5 areas of the UK for child poverty.

### About the SVP Youth Committee

In an innovative and forward thinking move the college has encouraged a group of Year 10 students to set up the Youth SVP Committee to drive all fund-raising events. The committee meet every Friday to discuss new ideas and how to best distribute any funds. They are supported by approx. sixty of their fellow pupils.

### Our commitment to Ursuline College

- Thanet Earth has committed to donating produce regularly to the college
- Educational support where appropriate
- Supporting the college in their efforts in the local community
- A substantial financial contribution towards their fundraising targets across the year

Thanet Earth MD, Chris Butler said, "We are delighted to be able to collaborate with Ursuline College, their innovative approach to fund raising is impressive and I believe that their ethos around helping those that need it most align perfectly with our Community Champions programme".

Danii Lancefield, Headteacher of the Ursuline College, Westgate-on-Sea said, "I am immensely proud of our Youth SVP and their leader, Miss Paula Gaffney. Their forward-thinking approach and focus on the 'Serviam' values our school is built on, makes them outstanding ambassadors for our school and the local community. We are incredibly proud to have forged a partnership with Thanet Earth and are so grateful for their support, generosity and faith in supporting us with our endeavours."

**ABOUT THANET EARTH'S COMMUNITY CHAMPION SCHEME** In April 2022 the Thanet Earth Community Engagement Team (TECET) was established with the aim of promoting and enhancing the position of the company within the wider community by supporting local charity initiatives and good causes through sponsorship and donations. The scheme plans 12 months ahead and nominates a different local cause for each month. The Thanet Earth Community Engagement Team continue to build on this momentum and look forward to working with more good causes in our local community. The Food Market took place on the 8th of July and was a success. The Youth SVP raised over £600 with the food donated by Thanet Earth and it really lifted the spirits of the whole school.

Thanet Earth will be working with the school again for more food markets in the future and they will also be supporting the educational side of our school.

Paula Gaffney

Youth SVP Coordinator