



# Wimbledon College

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Wimbledon College was founded in 1892 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) to provide education and preparation for university entrance at a time when Catholic children were barred from such opportunities.

Today, the College is a voluntary aided comprehensive secondary school for boys ages 11 to 18. The school is in the London Borough of Merton and remains in the trusteeship of the Society of Jesus. The Head Master is a Jesuit priest and there a full-time Jesuit Chaplain.

The school is accommodated in striking Grade II listed buildings on Edge Hill, above the parish church of the Sacred Heart, on a spacious green site in a conservation area.

The College currently has 1200 boys on roll including 200 in the Sixth Form. There are seven teaching groups in each year (known as *lines* in Jesuit schools).

The school operates a Sixth Form consortium with the neighbouring Ursuline High School and also with Richard Challoner and Holy Cross schools. Classes in the Sixth Form are co-educational.

Wimbledon College has a strong system of pastoral care and discipline, rated outstanding by OfSTED in its most recent inspection report (May 2007). All teachers are form tutors and work with Heads of Line in ensuring every boy is supported, cared for and challenged to progress academically and become involved in the wider life of the school. The school's intake is truly comprehensive academically, socially and economically and ethnically. It draws from across southwest London and from Surrey and north of the Thames also. We have over 100 feeder primary schools. Places in Y7 are oversubscribed by 4:1.

The Jesuits have a distinctive approach to education. This approach is summed up by St Ignatius Loyola's vision for Jesuit schools as being "for improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good." There are some 3,400 Jesuit schools, universities and educational institutions worldwide educating 2.5 million students in 68 countries.

Private and public funds have facilitated a substantial development of the facilities of the College. A new sports hall, learning resources centre and computer centre were opened in May 2002. A new dining room, sixth form centre, entrance hall, drama studio and classrooms were opened in May 2003. An appeal launched amongst parents, former pupils and friends of the school has been successful in raising funds for the refurbishment of the swimming pool and the building of a new Music School which opened in May 2005. Extensive renovations of the historic parts of the school have seen significant upgrading to classrooms. There is now IT provision in every classroom.

Examination results are excellent and well above national averages. In 2008, the College performed in the top 10% of schools and colleges nationally for value-added A-Level results. Full details of examination results are available on our website and included with this information pack.

The school has a strong tradition of drama and music. There is a well equipped auditorium with raked retractable seating, a stage with revolve, and full lighting and sound rigs. Recent productions have included *Galileo*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Mysteries*, *The Mikado*, *Les Misérables*, *Black Comedy* and *West Side Story*. The English and Drama Departments organise frequent visits to plays and invite theatre companies into the school. The *Strings Project* is an innovative collaboration with the London Mozart Players which each year challenges forty Y7 boys to learn a string instrument and perform in two teatime concerts. Many go on to join the orchestras, bands and ensembles.

Wimbledon College became a specialist science and mathematics school in September 2008 building upon a science faculty which was judged outstanding by OfSTED in a subject inspection in February 2006. Specialist status has already brought new resources to the school and it is planned to emulate the success of the sciences across the curriculum. A first step in this is an innovative curriculum development for Y7 boys called *Figure It Out!* Led by science staff, boys take a double period each week to follow a cross-curricular theme demanding teamwork, thinking and problem solving skills, and a very different way of learning, accompanied by their teachers rather than led by them.

Innovation balanced by a thoroughly traditional approach to school life and learning is the hallmark of success at Wimbledon College.

Please see our website for further information:

[wimbledoncollege.org.uk](http://wimbledoncollege.org.uk)