



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Term Letter to Parents

Thursday 3rd April 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write concerning a number of items that I hope you will find both useful and of interest to you.

Report Card and Lower Line set changes

Parents of boys in Years 7-10 should receive their son's grade card with this letter, while parents of Syntax boys should receive their son's report with this letter. As you know the grades are colour coded so that you can see an overall impression of your son's achievement and progress in each subject. By this point in the year you should be seeing a shift from red to green as you look across the report. If you, or your son, feel his target grades are too low or too high please speak to your son's Head of Line. May I remind you that if you wish to receive an up to date grade card at any point during the term please contact your son's Head of Line.

We are in the process of making set changes in Lower Line. Boys affected will be informed of the changes on their return to school after the Easter holiday.

Oklahoma!

This year's musical, Oklahoma, was a great success with some outstanding performances from the pupils from the College and the Ursuline High School. It was pleasing to see new faces among the cast and more boys performing in the orchestra. As always the stage crew and technical teams fulfilled invaluable roles. Together with all of our staff, who worked so hard preparing the actors both in the weeks leading up to the performances and on the nights themselves, they created a wonderful show. Particular mention must be given to the leadership of Mr Potter, Mr Kelleher, Mr Rathbone and Miss Gilmartin. A very big thank you to all involved.

Music school

After Easter the Music school is relaunching three music clubs. Orchestra and Samba Band return from their hiatus while the musical was underway and the record label that we trialled earlier in the year is now ready for its official debut. Any boys who want to be involved in these groups should see Mr Kelleher for more information.

Supporting GCSE, AS and A level students

I would encourage parents to ensure that your son has the necessary resources available to him to support his revision and exam preparation over the Easter holidays. It is important that the boys use the time effectively over the Easter holidays revising for their exams. Please encourage them to have an established pattern of work but also to build in time for exercise, as this is also important.

There are a number of revision classes running over the holidays and these are advertised on our website.

I would also like to point out to parents of boys in Syntax that the examination timetable is available on the College website. Please be aware that the exams get underway on the 8th of May and that the vast majority of examinations will have taken place by half term. This really does put even more importance on the boys using the Easter holidays effectively in preparation for their exams.

Positive Behaviour Policy

After Easter we will be focusing as a school on our positive behaviour policy. The policy is in place to ensure that the focus of lessons and homework is on learning and that the boys make the progress that they are capable of. As part of this, and following consultation with staff and reviewing current behaviour patterns, I have taken the decision to restore the sanction of a Saturday detention for boys who are sent out of a lesson for poor behaviour. It is important that low level misbehaviour does not prevent any boy from achieving their potential. Our policy does focus on recognising and praising the positive and I know that our boys respond to this. Ofsted recognised that “students’ behaviour is of a very high standard and they feel happy and safe at school”. We are working to ensure that we build on this as part of our drive to becoming outstanding.

Cancer Research UK

We have been raising money throughout Lent for Cancer Research UK and at the time of writing we have collected over £2000. I am very grateful for the effort that the boys have made and for your support. I am also conscious that the fundraising activities are ongoing and I hope to see a significant increase in our collection total. As with the collection for the Philippines Mr Potter has created a Just Giving page where you can donate directly and, if you are a tax payer, sign up for Gift Aid.

The link for the page is: <http://www.justgiving.com/WimbledonCollegeLent2014>

Friends of Wimbledon College

The Friends of Wimbledon College will be holding a second hand uniform sale in July and have asked for contributions from families whose sons have grown out of items of uniform that are still in good condition. FOWC will have collection boxes in the College reception area from Tuesday 22nd April to Monday 28th April inclusive for such items of clothing. Please do check through old uniform and if there are items that are suitable then send them to school with your son. I am grateful for the FOWC for organising this and for providing a valuable service for parents.

The Friends would also like to thank all of our parents who attended their Quiz night last Friday. £520 was raised to support projects in the school. Please keep an eye open for future events.

Monsignor Hudson

You may already be aware that Monsignor Hudson [Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart parish] has been appointed this week as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Westminster Archdiocese. Monsignor Hudson is an old boy of the College [1972 -1977] and I would ask that you remember him in your prayers as he prepares to take on this new role. He is to be ordained Bishop on the 4th of June.

Jack Petchey Speakout

Two Grammar pupils participated in the Merton finals of the cross London ‘Speakout’ competition this week and both spoke exceptionally well. Congratulations to Tareeq Jalloh and Karl Oayi and particularly to Karl who came second in the event. I hope that this success encourages Tareeq and Karl as well as other boys to enter further public speaking competitions.

Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 7 team who have qualified for the Semi - Final Playoffs of the Surrey Schools League. We wish them well in their match on 29th April against Carshalton Boys School.

Football

I would like to pass on Mr Barnes thanks for the support that has been given to football in its first term with Saturday fixtures. It is unfortunate that the weather prevented some of the early fixtures taking place however it has been pleasing to see several teams competing in each year group against strong opposition.

Rugby

Our sevens teams have had a successful season holding their own against the top rugby schools in the country. Our most successful team this year was our Under 13 squad who won the Surrey Sevens and lost in the quarter finals of the Junior National Schools competition.

We have also welcomed two Canadian touring parties this term and our own Junior tour has departed this week for America. We wish them well in their fixtures against Jesuit schools and in the Jesuit Rugby Classic taking place in Washington.

Swimming

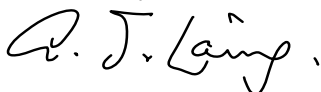
The Swimming squad has continued to build on recent Gala weeks and ended the term with a victory over London Nautical School. Earlier in the term we had participated in the Trinity Trust Gala, where our Rudiments and Lower Grammar squads came third in their respective tournaments. Importantly in terms of the future strength of the swimming squad there have been in excess of 30 personal best times set this term.

After Easter we will be running a Life Saving/personal survival course after school starting on 23rd April. This is open to all boys who are able to meet the basic requirement of being able to swim 2 lengths comfortably. Any boys who are interested in taking advantage of this course should speak to Mr N. Hallett for further details.

Finally may I remind parents the Summer term starts on **Tuesday 22nd April**.

I wish you a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master