



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Year Letter to Parents

Wednesday 16th July 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over what has been a very busy and successful year. It started with outstanding results and a successful visit from OFSTED and has continued in this vein. The boys have been a real credit to you and the College and have excelled in many ways, both individually and in team/group activities. I am fully aware that this would not be the case without your support and encouragement. Thank you also for the direct support that you have given the College in terms of your attendance at meetings and events throughout the year.

Reports [Pupils in Years 7-10]

With this letter you should receive your son's full report. If there are issues arising from the report that you wish to discuss, please contact your son's Head of Line in September – this is a good time to raise issues when there can be new resolutions and a focussed effort at the start of a new school year. Your son will be asked for the reply slip on the first day of term – please make sure this is returned as it is the only way we have of knowing the report reached home.

Set changes

We will be undertaking a review of present setting based on boys' examination results and their progress throughout the year. Any changes will be implemented in September.

Staff leaving

Mr Larry Linehan

This year we bid farewell and a happy retirement to Mr Larry Linehan after thirty seven years here at the College. He is our longest serving member of the teaching staff and over the years he has held a variety of posts within the College. His latest being Head of Line [Syntax 2013-14] and Head of Sport Studies, where he has shown the high level of dedication and commitment to the boys that has been present throughout his career. We look forward to good results from them this summer and to see record numbers of them return to Sixth Form. Mr Linehan will also be missed on the College sports fields where he had been a constant presence successfully coaching many hundreds of boys in the finer skills of rugby. He is at this very moment supporting our Seniors as they commence their tour in Australia.

I am sure that I speak for the many boys, who have benefitted from coming into contact with Mr Linehan as teacher, Head of Line or coach, their parents and all of the College's staff past and present in thanking Mr Linehan for everything that he has done for the whole Wimbledon College community and to wish him a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

Other teaching staff who are leaving the College at the end of term are Ms T. Landsberg, Mr. P. Hodgkinson, Mr R. Stranks and Mrs R. Gilchrist. A number of support staff are also leaving the College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their commitment and hard work in supporting your sons over the time that they have been part of the College community and to wish them all well in the future.

Mayor of London Schools' Gold Club

On the basis of our outstanding GCSE results last year, the College has been invited to join the Mayor of London Schools Gold Club. It is an annual scheme which celebrates and shares exceptional practice in London's primary and secondary schools. Gold Club members are schools that have succeeded in improving pupils' aspirations and achievements.

Only six percent of all London schools are invited to join and we are only the third school in Merton. It is fantastic that the hard work of the boys, staff and you as parents has been recognised in this way and I believe that it is well deserved. As part of the membership we are asked to share our good practice with other London schools.

Silver Eco- School Award

Over the last two years the school has been increasing its commitment to ecology. New gardening and recycling initiatives have been started, as well as a student led eco-committee to plan and drive forward our ecological work. This is an important aspect of our life as a Jesuit school putting our faith into action, and being more responsible stewards of our planet for the benefit of others. We have now received the official Silver Eco-Schools award in recognition of the work that has been undertaken. The pupils' Eco-committee guided by Mr Potter is now working towards the prestigious "Green-Flag" award.

Fair Trade recognition

This year we have, as a school, increased our commitment to Fairtrade. This included electing a student led Fairtrade committee who then organised a variety of awareness raising events during Fairtrade fortnight. Students (and staff) could be seen dressed up in a banana suit or posing for a photo with a large inflatable banana, to raise awareness of the injustices in the banana trade. The committee has worked on a number of objectives, including arranging for all bananas used or sold at school to be Fairtrade bananas. Their hard work has enabled us to gain the "FairActive School Award". Next year they will be working to broaden and deepen our school Fairtrade work next year.

Examination results days and Sixth Form Enrolment

Key dates:

- A/AS Level and PreU results are available from school on Thursday 14th August 10.00am in the Sixth Form Study Hall
- GCSE results are available from school on Thursday 21st August, in the main hall.
 - 10.00am for Syntax boys
 - 11.00am for Grammar boys who studied Statistics.
- Enrolment into Sixth Form at the College takes place on Tuesday 26th August for boys going into Poetry and Wednesday 27th August for boys going into Rhetoric.

Details of arrangements and times are available on the College Website.

Uniform

Wearing uniform correctly is part of taking pride in the College and I would like to thank all parents who work with us and ensure that your sons do wear the correct uniform. Many people do comment on how smart the boys look and the vast majority of our boys do take great pride in their uniform.

Many of you will be buying new shoes for your sons over the summer and to avoid the issues that we had last September over which shoes are acceptable I include below the extract from our uniform expectations. I have also included the page of examples of suitable formal shoes. This will also be available on the College website.

“Shoes are to be black leather, plain, formal and polished. Laces and stitching are to be black. Boots, black trainers, suede, canvas or casual shoes are not permitted. Boys are not permitted to wear trainers in the playground at break times. Trainers [e.g. Adidas, Nike, Puma, Reebok, etc] and casual shoes [e.g. Converse, Fred Perry, Lonsdale, Vans, etc] are not allowed.

I am aware that many reputable shoe shops sell casual shoes and shoes that look like trainers as school shoes. These are not acceptable at Wimbledon College, as they are not formal shoes.

I would also like to remind you of our expectations on hair styles. These will be strictly adhered to from September, including that all hair should be above the collar. The full expectations are available on the College website [Information for new parents].

Sport

Five boys from the College were ball boys at this year’s Wimbledon Championships and we have received an excellent report back from the training team. All of them excelled and worked hard for the two weeks of the Championship. Two of the boys were part of the Guard of Honour for the Men’s and Ladies Finals and one was chosen to captain his team.

The year ends with Sports day which I am sure will be successful despite the heat. Our Senior rugby team are currently on tour to Australia and are due to play their first match tomorrow [Thursday]. We wish them a safe and successful tour.

Looking forward to September, pre-season training has already started for many of the rugby squads and I encourage you to check the College website for the dates of training sessions at the start of next term.

Friends of Wimbledon College

Uniform Sales

The Friends of Wimbledon College [FOWC] would like to pass on their thanks to parents who donated items of uniform and kit this term which was then made available to parents in the uniform sale that took place on July 9th. All proceeds from the uniform sales go to the the FOWC fundraising goals.

The next collection dates for uniform donations will be from Monday 8th until Wednesday 17th of September inclusive, with collection bins located in the College reception area. If you are planning to donate items of unwanted uniform would you please ensure that they are washed and in a good state of repair.

The next uniform sale will take place on Thursday 2nd October from 3-5pm in the College hall.

FOWC would like to ask any parents that can provide assistance with the collection and sale to contact them via their email: FriendsofWimbledonCollege@gmail.com

Social events for your diary

'Vino and Fromage' - Friday 26th September at 8pm in the College hall. The annual wine tasting evening is hosted by local wine connoisseur and vintner, Richard Household and will give parents and friends the opportunity to taste a variety of quality wines. The evening will include a quiz and raffle. Proceeds will go to support the FOWC Brackenburg Trampoline Appeal. Tickets will be £12 per person and will go on sale via Parent Pay from Wednesday 3rd September. This is a great opportunity for parents, particularly those new to the College, to meet and socialise in a relaxed atmosphere.

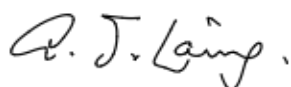
Wimbledon College fireworks - Saturday 8th November. It is a great night and tickets go quickly. Please put this in your diary and details will be available early next term.

Next Year

School reopens on Tuesday 2nd September, for boys in Figures and Poetry. Boys in Rudiments to Syntax and Rhetoric return on Wednesday 3rd September

Finally may I wish you an enjoyable summer holiday and I hope that the boys have a good rest so that they are ready to come back in September fully refreshed.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master



Wimbledon College

Examples of formal shoes that comply with Wimbledon College's Uniform Rules

