



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Half Term Letter to Parents

Friday 24th October 2014

Dear Parents /Guardians

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of what has been both a very busy and successful first half term. Our Figures boys have impressed from day one and with Mr Doran I would like to congratulate them on the way that they have settled into school life. They have a very positive approach to all aspects of the College and are now well established.

This is also reflected by the boys who joined Poetry this year. Last weekend saw the Sixth Form sleep out raising awareness amongst the boys of the difficulties that the homeless face. Almost 50 Poetry boys took part in the overnight event and Mr Potter, our Chaplain, has been extremely complementary about the boys approach. They are still raising money for the Merton Faith in Action Homelessness Project and the Cardinal Hume Centre. Money can be donated on either of the following just giving pages. <https://www.justgiving.com/CollegeSleepout2014CH> or <https://www.justgiving.com/CollegeSleepOut2014MFIA>

Our **Sixth Form open evening** is later this year and takes place on Wednesday 12th November from 5.00pm until 7.00pm. It is a joint evening with the Ursuline High School and this year it is being held at the High School. I would encourage all Syntax boys and their parents to attend the evening as it will provide invaluable information about the College Sixth Form.

There is a full calendar of forthcoming events on the College website and I would encourage you to check this on a regular basis. I would also ask that you regularly check the Year specific pages that will contain current information relevant to your son.

Report Card

Your son's report card should be with this letter (except for boys in Poetry who receive their card during their Review Days). When comparing your son's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where he should be at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of the year, grades may be slightly below target grades but as the year progresses assessments should generally meet or exceed target grades. You will notice that the grades are no longer colour coded but can still be easily compared to your son's target grades. If you have any concerns about your son's target grades, or about his progress in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch with his Head of Line. Any missing work is clearly shown on the report card and your support is appreciated in following up missed work with your son.

Parent Governor Vacancy on the College's Governing Body

Accompanying my letter is an additional letter and information relating to vacancies that we currently have for parent governors on the College's Governing Body. I have been asked to invite you to consider standing for election as a parent governor or to nominate another parent to do so. Please take the time to read the information about the role. Together with the me, the governing

body has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governors are involved in deciding school policies, allocating the school's budget and appointing senior staff. The most important thing for Governors is to have a keen interest in the school and to be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work and the mission of the College.

I would ask you to seriously consider putting yourself forward for this role. The deadline for nominations is the end of the school day on Friday 14th November.

School Fund Annual Report

This also accompanies my letter and gives a brief overview of how we have been able to use the money to support the wider life of the school. Without your generosity we would not be able to offer such a breadth of opportunity for all the boys. Thank you once again for your very practical support.

I would encourage those parents who have not yet contributed to the School Fund to do so if they are able to. I do realise that there will be some parents who are not in a position to contribute at this time.

Parent Pay and the Refectory

I would like to remind you that it is expected that boys in Lower Line pay for their food in the refectory via Parent Pay only. They should not be using cash as it causes delays at the tills, which has led to boys not being able to buy food in time. Boys in Lower Line are not allowed to use money to 'top up' their daily limit with cash so I would encourage you to check with your sons that their daily limit is set at an appropriate level. Boys in Higher Line and Sixth form may use cash however I would encourage you to continue to use Parent Pay as it helps to speed up the process of going through the refectory.

Contact information

Thank you to all parents who have returned the data collection sheets with current mobile numbers and email addresses. We will be following up with those parents who have not yet returned the forms. We are in the process of transferring this data so that we can then begin to contact you all electronically. It is hoped that my letter and other regular communications can be emailed out to you thus supporting our drive to use less paper and be more eco-friendly.

Show My Homework

Immediately after half term we are introducing an online homework recording system. Teachers will be recording the homework set on Show My Homework, which will then be accessible both by the boys and you via the College's website. Boys will be given access details immediately after half term. Boys will still be expected to record homework set in their journals for the time being and this will be reviewed at Christmas.

Remembrance Day Mass

This year as we mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War One, our remembrance of Old Boys of the College who died in the two world wars takes on a greater significance. As well as the Mass for Higher Line and Sixth Form pupils on the 11th of November we will also be holding Remembrance Services for boys in Lower Line. We will also be remembering the sacrifice made by

all of those men who served and died in the First World War in the week leading up to 11th November. The Roll of Honour of Old Boys of the College who died in the two World Wars is available on the College website.

You may not be aware but the first episode of the BBC's 'Our World War' - 'The First Day' features Lieutenant Maurice Dease who is an old boy of the College and who was the first man to be decorated with the Victoria Cross in the War. If you have not seen it, the programme is still available on iplayer.

Friends of Wimbledon College

Mr Darren Agnew, Chair of FOWC has sent the following report:

Back in September, we held our wine and cheese evening. It was a great event and well supported. Thanks to all the parents who came along. We managed to raise another £280 towards our goal of purchasing a trampoline for Brackenbury.

This term has also seen another second hand uniform sale. Thanks to all the parents who donated clothing and to the Friends who managed the stall on the day. We will continue to hold these sales each term. Please keep an eye on the College website and the FoWC webpage for details of the next sale in early 2015.

On the 8th of November we have the Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School Fireworks. This event is the highlight of the Friends calendar and we welcome all families from both schools to join us for what will be our biggest and best fireworks display ever! Get your tickets now on ParentPay. Gates open at 5.30pm. For further information please see the College website.

A request for help - The Friends need volunteers to help serve refreshments for the geography lecture taking place on the afternoon of the 17th of November. We require your help from 3-6pm (allowing for set up and tidy up). If you can help, please email on the email below.

We are also asking for volunteers to help serve refreshments at the annual Christmas carol service on Monday evening the 15th of December. Again, if you can assist us, please email us at - friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com.

Music School

The new academic year has seen even more music making at the College. Our 'pop-up music' events included two spontaneous performances from Bass Dynamics, which certainly brightened up the autumn mornings for staff and pupils as they turned up for school. The Strings Project has made a very promising start to the school year and the legacy of last year's cohort is clear from their use of string instruments in their curriculum lessons. Our weekly concert series, Gig Night, has seen some new performers take to the stage and they have proved to be a real hit; you can hear some of the highlights on our SoundCloud page and boys are more than welcome to attend on the first Friday of the new half-term.

Art & Design

The beginning of this academic year has been an extremely productive time in the Art and Design Department. The school website has now grown to include the 'Art & Design at Wimbledon College' page, which provides information and guidance for pupils as well as copious amounts of

beautiful galleries of our pupils' work. Please do take a look and see the daily examples of amazing work being created in our lessons.

Drama

The Drama Department has inducted a fresh new cohort of actors who took to the stage in the eighth annual GCSE showcase of 'Baxter Manor' and rehearsals are under way for the A-Level contributions to this year's Christmas play which promises to be a marvellously entertaining end to 2014. Our Christmas production takes place on 11th & 12th of December it is entitled:

"Whiskers and Whistles" - Three Tales of Trickery and Terror.

The evening consists of two versions of "Puss In Boots" written by the A2 Drama pupils and an adaptation of an M R James Christmas ghost story: "Whistle and I'll come for you".

Ticket booking forms will be available from the PSAs offices after half-term and tickets [£5] will be available from the College Secretary, Mrs Lawlor. She can be contacted by phone or email [please see the College website for contact details].

Representative Honours

I would like to congratulate the following boys who have been selected to represent their county in either football or rugby:

Surrey U18 Rugby - Alex Kane, Joshua O'Rourke, Carl Robert and Finlay Robjohn

Surrey U17 football - Ryan Powell, George Baiden, Jamie Collins, Eoin Fraser, Charlie Marus and Thomas Kearley.

In addition to this Bradley Ugodulunwa is a member of the Harlequins U18 Rugby team

Rugby

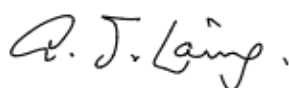
We have had a very successful half term on the rugby field, with 46 wins and 4 draws from 91 matches played. Our new boys have made an excellent start to their school careers and both the U12A's & U12B's remain unbeaten. Congratulations to all of the boys who have represented the school this year. As I write our U15s are playing their Third Round tie in the National Nat West competition against Gunnersbury and our First XV face Kings College again, in their next round of the Senior competition, after half term.

Carol Service

Our annual joint carol service with the Ursuline High School takes place this year on Monday 15th December at 8.00pm in Sacred Heart Church. The event is well attended and provides us with a spiritual dimension to our preparation for and celebration of Christmas. May I take this opportunity to invite you and your family to the service.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing,
Head Master

