



# Wimbledon College

## **Head Master's Letter to Parents**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of what has been busy and successful year I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you all for your ongoing support. I know that without it the College would not be the school that it is. I would also like to wish you an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and I hope that the coming year is a rewarding one for you.

I would like to thank you for providing your current contact details so that we can establish an electronic means of communication with all parents. We are currently deciding on which service will meet our needs and so hopefully in the New Year we will be in a position where we will be able to send all letters and messages electronically.

I have highlighted a number of issues and events below and I hope that this will be useful to you. There is a full calendar of events on the College website and I would encourage you to check this on a regular basis.

### **Report Card and set changes**

Your son's report card should be with this letter. 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. 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 the 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.

We have made a number of set changes across a number of subject areas that will come into effect after Christmas and boys affected will be informed of them at the beginning of next term.

### **Advent fundraising**

I would like to thank all parents who have supported this year's Advent appeals. So far we have raised £1908 for CAFOD's Ebola Appeal. We have also collected contributed a lot of goods for the Foodbank appeal and three of our Sixth Formers along with Mr Potter volunteered an afternoon of their time to both deliver the goods and to help out at the Foodbank. Your generosity is much appreciated and I am sure will be very gratefully received.

This year we are reflecting on the virtue of gratitude, and it has been a particular focus for us during this season of Advent. Gratitude encourages us to stop, to be more mindful, to recognise that ultimately all the good things, great and small, in our lives are gifts. The virtue of gratitude then

further encourages us to find ways to genuinely express this heartfelt appreciation. We hope that seeing things through this lens of gratitude may help to enrich your celebrations this Christmas. Daily videos on our online Advent calendar will be continuing up until Christmas Eve, to help you reflect.

### **House points and competitions**

The House points system rewarding positive attitudes to work, positive behaviour and contributions to the life of the school both in terms of House events and representing the school (e.g. sport) is now well established and as you can see boys are responding very positively.

*The end of term the House totals are as follows:*

<b>House</b>	<b>Points</b>
Fisher	8548
Owen	8518
Loyola	7832
Hurtado	7828
Campion	7712
More	7711
Southwell	7699
Xavier	7295

### ***Other key results are:***

Tutor Group with the most points:                      Figures Owen - 2439 points  
Tutor Group with the best attendance:              Grammar Southwell - 97.2%  
Tutor Group with the best punctuality:              Lower Grammar Owen

### **Parent Governor Election result**

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Sara Flynn and Mr Gareth Rees have both accepted their positions as Parent Governors, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. They will hold these positions until the Board of Governors is reconstituted for September 2015, in line with all state schools nationally.

### **Rugby**

Over the course of the term the College has participated in 184 fixtures, with 105 victories. Our Under 12B and Under 13C teams have remained undefeated throughout the season and both our First XV and the Under 15 A teams made it to the fifth round of their respective Nat West Cup Competitions. As well as our regular fixtures we also hosted a touring party from Riverview, a Jesuit school in Sydney, and we were victorious in our First XV game against them. Our First XV Captain, Alex Kane had been selected to attend trials for the London and South East Division immediately after Christmas.

Congratulations to all of the boys and staff who have been involved in rugby this season and thank you to all of our parents who have supported it by providing such excellent refreshments all season.

## Football

Our Saturday Football fixtures start after Christmas and we would be very grateful if any parents of boys involved would be willing to help out with hospitality on Saturday mornings. If anyone is interested would you please contact Mr Barnes [barry.barnes@wimbledoncollege.org.uk]. We are hoping that the weather will be kinder to us this season and that we will be able to complete all of our fixtures.

We have already been busy competing in Surrey Cup competitions with the Figures, Rudiments and Lower Grammar teams all still in their respective competitions. The First XI are also in the Quarter Final of the London Catholic Schools Cup. A number of boys have also achieved Surrey representative honours and these include Mason Croker-Townsend [Syntax] and Jamie Collins, Thomas Kearley, Ryan Powell, Eoin Fraser, George Baiden and Charlie Marus [all Seniors].

## Uniform and haircuts

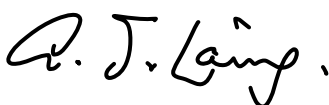
It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of boys are wearing their uniform correctly however I would like to remind you of the school's clear expectations on uniform requirements and on outer clothing that boys will be wearing as the temperature drops over the coming months. These requirements are listed on page 14&15 of the boys' Homework Diary. Boys in Lower Line should only wear the College reversible coat. Boys in Higher Line are allowed to wear the College coat or a plain black coat, with sleeves, that does not have a logo or a hood. Any **other items of clothing** (hats, gloves, scarves) are to plain [i.e. no pattern, with the exception of the school scarf] and to conform in colour (dark green, dark maroon, grey, dark blue or black) and style so as to be compatible with and not detract from the school uniform. Prominent logos or wording are not permitted. Hats must not have a peak.

I would also like to remind you that boys' hairstyles should be in keeping with the formality of school life. Extreme styles as listed in the Homework Diary are not acceptable. There has been a number of incidents this year where boys have had lines cut into their hair. This is not an acceptable style at the College.

Finally shoes should be in line with College expectations which can be found in the boys' diaries and which are available on the College website.

**Next term starts on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January** and I would like to point out that boys will be dismissed from school at the end of period 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January to facilitate staff training that is taking place.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing

Head Master

