



# Wimbledon College

## **Head Master's End of Term Letter to Parents**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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**

This Friday parents of boys in Years 7-10 should receive their son's grade card, while parents of Syntax and Poetry boys should be receiving their son's report. The Poetry reports are being posted to parents. You will see your son's target grade on their grade card or report and by this point in the year you should be seeing him achieving grades close to his targets. 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.

### **New College website**

We are pleased to announce that the College will be launching its new website next term. Mr Cargill has been working closely with our web designers to produce what we are sure you will find to be a more engaging, informative and easier to use website. The web address will remain the same and so you will not have to make any changes if you have the College website bookmarked. Once the website is launched we would be grateful for feedback so that we can ensure it is as useful as possible for all of its users.

### **Lark Rise**

This year's musical, *Lark Rise*, was an extremely successful production with very competent performances from the pupils from the College and the Ursuline High School. It is even more remarkable when it is realised that the whole production was prepared and rehearsed in only seven weeks. As always there was a mix of experienced and new talent in the performance and they moulded together well. It was the final school performance for Robert Pierce, who has been a mainstay of College productions over the years. I am sure that he will continue to participate in drama productions beyond the College and we wish him the very best for the future. As always the stage crew and technical teams fulfilled invaluable roles.

I would like to thank all of the boys and the staff who worked so hard to create a very enjoyable performance. In particular mention must be given to the leadership of Mr Potter, Mr Rathbone and Miss Gilmartin.

## **Wimbledon College Arts Festival 2015**

This year's Arts Festival will be held from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. There will be a range of performances and activities to celebrate the hard work and commitment put in by the pupils this year in the Arts. Amongst the treats on offer will be the Lower Line play which is open to all boys in the Lower Line. The 2015 production will be "It's All Greek To Me" - the retelling of lots of different Greek myths in comic style. There will be plenty of great parts available and boys will be able to come to auditions on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**. Please encourage your son to get involved.

## **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.

I would also like to point out to parents of boys in Syntax and the Sixth Form that the examination timetable is available on the College website. Please be aware that the exams get underway at the beginning of May and that the vast majority of GCSE and AS 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.

## **For the Greater Glory of God**

My assemblies this week have focused on the Passion of Jesus, which will be remembered during the liturgies of Holy Week, and our response to Christ's Passion. I have reminded the boys of one of the central teachings of St Ignatius and that is that no matter how small or inconsequential we might think our actions are we should always do everything for the greater glory of God [Ad Majoriam Dei Gloriam]. As you are well aware the boys put the initials AMDG at the beginning of every piece of work, but it does not stop there. As a Jesuit school we strive to develop in the boys this principle that everything that they do can and should be for the greater glory of God. Over the coming term we will be reflecting on this with the boys and looking again at how all aspects of school life, their involvement in it and their concern for others should be in response to God's love for us.

## **Jesuit Missions**

We have been raising money throughout Lent for Jesuit Missions and their Education for Justice Zimbabwe Campaign. I am aware that various fund raising projects are still ongoing I will inform you of our total after Easter. I am very grateful for the effort that the boys have made and for your support. If you would like to find out more about the campaign or indeed about other aspects of the work of the College Chaplaincy, led by Mr Potter, please have a look at our Chaplaincy page on the College website. As in the past we have set up an online giving page. If you would like to contribute to our campaign please do so through this link:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=CollegeLent2015Fundraising>

## **The London Marathon**

This year one of our Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Kennedy is running in the London Marathon to raise funds for Jesuit Missions. She would be very grateful of your support for her fund raising efforts. She has a just giving page and its address is as follows:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=AnneMarieKennedy>

## **PC Dan Hayward – Our Safer Schools Officer**

PC Hayward has been working closely with staff and pupils to ensure that they are keeping themselves safe on the way to and from school. The following is a reminder from him:

*Please can I remind parents and pupils that they can report concerns about encounters with suspicious persons directly to the police using the 999 system or if the incident has passed then a call to 101. This will ensure a timely response for such incidents which can then be investigated fully.*

*I would also like to remind boys to continue to be considerate to members of the public on their way to and from school, especially on the buses and when in Wimbledon or Raynes Park town centres. This is in line with My Travel Plan on page 27 of their diary.*

Many thanks, PC 133 VW Dan HAYWARD

## **Debating and Jack Petchey Speak out**

This year we have had boys competing in the ESU Mace Debate competition where Matteo Baccaglini [Grammar] and Liam Giuffrida [Grammar] overcame teams from the Ursuline High School and King's College in the first round. They went out to Wimbledon High School in the second round. It must be noted that many of their opponents were Sixth Formers.

We are looking forward to the finals of our own House Debate Competition after Easter.

Matteo, Oliver Lockett [Grammar] and Thomas Murphy [Grammar] all took part in this year's regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak out. While doing well they failed to make the top three, which this year was an all girl podium. Karl Obayi [Syntax and runner up in last year's regional final] was invited back to be part of the judging panel.

## **Football**

I would like to pass on Mr Barnes thanks to all parents for their support for all of the teams this season and particularly those parents who have provided refreshments at all home fixtures. All of the teams have played with real spirit and I know that Mr Barnes has instilled the importance of fair play into all of the boys. We have had some very impressive victories against strong opposition and two of our teams continue their cup runs after Easter.

Our Year 7 team have a Quarter Final tie against Ashdown School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April [4.00pm at Coombe Lane] and our Year 9 team play their Semi-Final on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April against Oasis Academy, Shirley [4.30pm at Coombe Lane]. We wish them well.

## **Rugby Sevens**

Last Sunday saw our own John Pieroni Sevens Tournament take place. It was an excellent day and thanks to the organisation of Mr Baker it all flowed very smoothly. The competition has become a very well respected one at Under 15 level and many independent schools from the south of England participate. The day was made even more enjoyable as our own team progressed through to the final

of the main competition having played some excellent sevens along the way. Unfortunately they came up against, and lost to, a very strong St John Fisher side in the final. It is worth noting that three of the four semi-finalists were state Catholic schools.

I must take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who supported the event and particularly the parents who provided all of the outstanding catering for the day; something commented on by coaches from the other schools.

Our Under 15 team had other successes during the Sevens season and were winners of the Plate Competitions at both the Warwick and John Fisher Sevens Tournaments. This success was matched by our Under 12 team who were losing semi-finalists in both the Warwick and Surrey Sevens Tournaments and Plate winners at the Tiffin Tens

### **Swimming**

I would like to congratulate Joseph Clark [Rhetoric] who has qualified to compete in the British Swimming Championships 2015 taking place in April. This is the highest level of competition that he has qualified for and he will obviously be swimming against the very best swimmers in the country. He is competing in the 100m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly events. The finals are taking place at the London Aquatics Centre. Prior to this he will be competing in the Welsh National Championships over the Easter holidays. We wish him well in his events.

Our teams have had a successful term. A combined team of boys from Years 7-10 achieved a win over Emanuel and in our first home gala against Kings College our Year 7&8 team were also victorious. It has been very pleasing to see such enthusiasm amongst the boys and we have regularly has strong representation from all year groups.

After Easter we will commence our annual lifesaving course which will be taking place after school on Wednesdays.

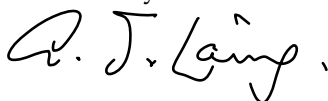
### **Cricket**

Nets have already started and the season will commence in the first week back after Easter with training and fixtures for all teams. Please remind your sons to bring in the correct kit.

Finally may I remind parents the Summer term starts on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**.

I wish you a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing  
Head Master