



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Year Letter to Parents

Wednesday 15th July 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians

A very busy and successful year has been brought to a close with our Diocesan Inspection that took place last week. The inspectors spent two days looking at the Catholic character of the school and our Jesuit identity. The report will be received in September and I will share it with you as soon as I can. As you would expect the Inspectors were very impressed with the boys and both their openness and commitment to the school. This commitment has been evident throughout the year in everything that they have done. As always thank you for your support ensuring that your sons are able to make the most of their time with us.

Reports [Pupils in Years 7-10]

You should be receiving your son's full report for the end of the year. 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

Mrs Sharon Wheatley

We bid farewell and a happy retirement to Mrs Sharon Wheatley after 27 years at the College. In that time she has been a teacher and Head of History, Senior Tutor, Head of Line and Head of Chaplaincy.

In addition to her enthusiasm for her subject Mrs Wheatley will be remembered by many boys for her commitment to Project Manvi. This commenced in 2001 and in the following years, as well as coordinating significant fundraising to support the development of a school complex at Manvi, she also enabled many College boys and Ursuline girls to travel

to India to work and live with the Dalit community. They built very strong bonds between the two communities and for many of them individually it was a life changing experience.

I know that I speak on behalf of these pupils and the whole school community in thanking Mrs Wheatley for everything that she has done both within our community and the community in Manvi. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Other teaching staff who are leaving the College at the end of term are Mr Capaldi, Mr Shilling, Ms Askar, Ms De Stefano and Ms Mohanan. 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.

Merton Civic Awards 2015 - Teacher of the Year

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Mr Richard Ayidah on being Highly Commended/Runner-up in this year's awards. Mr Ayidah was nominated by one of our pupils and the recognition is thoroughly deserved.

Examination results days and Sixth Form Enrolment

Key dates:

- A/AS Level results are available from school on Thursday 13th August 10.00am in the Sixth Form Study Hall
- GCSE results are available from school on Thursday 20th August 10.00am in the main hall.
- Enrolment into Sixth Form at the College takes place on Tuesday 1st September for boys going into Poetry and Wednesday 2nd September for boys going into Rhetoric.

Details of arrangements are available on the College Website.

Uniform

I am very much aware that the vast majority of the boys come to school in perfect uniform and that this reminder is not necessary for them. I would like to thank parents who ensure that their sons do wear the College uniform correctly.

I am aware that many of you will be buying new shoes for your sons over the summer and I direct you to the uniform and suitable shoe pages on our website [The Policies and Procedures page of the Parents section] for the relevant information about what shoes are acceptable. I would like to emphasise that we insist on ***black, leather, plain, formal and polished shoes***. I must also point out that our list of unacceptable brands is not exhaustive. They are simply given as examples.

It is not acceptable for boys to come to school with incorrect uniform or unacceptable hair styles. The expectations relating to uniform and hair are clearly stated in the Uniform list and slight alterations that have been made are included below. If your son does come to school with incorrect uniform you will be asked to replace the incorrect items. To avoid

any unnecessary expense on your part I strongly advise that you read the Uniform list on the website

I would also like to remind parents of the new games shirt that has replaced the two layered maroon/gold shirt. Current pupils are allowed to continue to wear the old shirt but if you are buying a new shirt then please remember to buy the shirt from Serious Stuff [there is a link on our website, on the Policies and Procedures page of the Parents Section] We are also encouraging all boys who will be representing the school next season to have a new games shirt.

Parent Information Evenings – September 2015

I just wanted to make you aware of our Parent Information Evenings taking place in September. We have altered the timing of the meetings slightly and as you will see we are having two meetings on the same evening. The briefings are scheduled as follows:

Figures	Thursday 10 th September – 7.30pm
Rudiments	Monday 14 th September – 7.00pm
Lower Grammar	Tuesday 15 th September – 7.00pm
Grammar	Wednesday 16 th September – 7.30pm
Syntax	Monday 14 th September – 7.30pm
Poetry	Tuesday 15 th September – 7.30pm
Rhetoric	Wednesday 16 th September – 7.00pm

Royal Society

We continue our links with the Royal Society. A group of Year 11 pupils attended the Summer Science Exhibition where they were able to engage with cutting edge research and new and exciting practical applications of all areas of science. A group of Year 8 scientists formed a judging panel to help choose the winner of the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize for 2015. This involved them reading and discussing the short listed titles before deciding on their winner. This final decision process was videoed and entered into the Society's video competition.

Athletics

As always the term comes to a close with Sports day which I am sure will be successful following on from our athletics successes against other schools this year. We have outstanding individuals in every year and our Year 7 and 10 teams have been particularly strong. They both won their respective age groups in the South London Catholic Schools Cup which helped us to an overall victory. The Year 10 team also reached the South East of England Regional Finals alongside our Year 8 team. Years 7-9 were Borough Champions and Year 10 missed out by one point.

Cricket

Our cricket teams have also had a successful season with the majority of our teams progressing further in their respective county cup competitions than in recent years. The U12A team has reached the final of the Surrey Cup Plate Competition and our U14/15 team is in the Borough final against Rutlish. If they are successful we will have achieved a whitewash against Rutlish this season.

There have been tremendous individual achievements the highlights of these include Ciaran Smith and Felix Nelson taking hat-tricks while Pdraig Hipple-Walsh took four wickets in successive balls against Emanuel. With the bat Rory Flack scored three fifties while for the First XI Joe Bell, Callum Hearty and James Murphy and for Year 10 Will Donegan and Caolan Englefield all scored 50s.

As a result of such a successful season we are looking forward to a busier fixture card next year.

Rugby

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

Darren Agnew, Chair of the FoWC has sent the following message:

A brief update on Friends events coming up in the new college year. From the 3rd September, tickets will go on sale for Vino & Fromage, our annual wine tasting and quiz hosted by local sommelier and vintner Richard Household. This takes place on Friday 25th September at 7.30pm in the College hall. At £14 per person inclusive, it's not only excellent value, but also a great opportunity to meet and get to know other parents from your son's year. We will also have our Friends raffle with the usual brilliant prizes. So please save the date and be sure to book your tickets ASAP!

Our recent Friends Uniform Sale was our most successful yet, so thanks for all your donations and to those who assisted with the sale. Our next collection is scheduled for September, so if you have any items of uniform and PE or games kit that you wish to donate, please set them aside during the Summer and bring them to the College from Monday 14th - Friday 25th September. All donations cleaned and in a good state of repair, can be placed in the FoWC Uniform Sale collection bins in the college reception area.

Our next FoWC meeting will be held on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in the meeting room upstairs from the college reception. All parents are very welcome, so don't be shy, please do join us if you can!

That's it for this year. Many thanks to you all for your continued and generous support of the Friends of Wimbledon College. We wish you and your families a safe and happy Summer break and look forward to seeing you at our FoWC meetings and events in the year ahead.

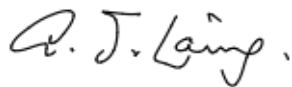
Darren Agnew

Next Year

School reopens on Monday 7 September, for boys in Figures and Poetry. Boys in Rudiments to Syntax and Rhetoric return on Tuesday 8 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. J. Laing".

Adrian Laing
Head Master