



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Summer Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 27th May 2016

Dear Parents

I write to inform you of a number of items, which I hope will be of interest to you.

Report Card [Pupils in Years 7-10]

This Friday parents of boys in Years 7-10 should receive their son's grade card, copies will also be sent to parents by email. As with previous grade cards you will see your son's target grade on it and by this point in the year you should be seeing him achieving grades close to his targets. 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.

Sixth Form Exams and arrangements after half term

As parents of Poetry and Rhetoric boys know the exam season is underway. There will continue to be support sessions taking place in school after half term and the boys have already received details of these.

After Half term Poetry pupils have two faith development days on Monday the 13th and Tuesday the 14th of June. On Monday the boys are visiting places of worship and on Tuesday they will be attending a number of sessions on theology and ethics at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill. Further information will be sent to the boys.

Poetry boys will have an academic Review Day on the 15th of July and the following week is their Work Experience/Careers week.

Year 11 - GCSE Examinations

After half term Syntax pupils will only be required to attend school for their actual examinations and for the exam preparation sessions that take place prior to the exam. A timetable of sessions and examinations is available on the Syntax page of the College website. The boys' approach to their studies and examinations has so far been exemplary. Please continue to support your sons with their exam preparation and revision during the remainder of their examinations.

End of Year exams [Years 7-9]

Details of the Lower Line exams [including dates, timetables and revision guides] can be found on the website. It is important that the boys get into good habits preparing for exams and this includes revising well in advance of the exams. By the time that they get to exam week they should really only be going over their revision notes. Please talk to your sons about this and encourage them to plan a revision timetable in the build up to their exam week.

Junior Maths Challenge

Once again our boys have done exceptionally well in the Junior Maths Challenge and I hope that you have already seen a summary of our results on our website. 16 boys achieved a gold certificate, 27 silver and 45 bronze. Of the 16 golds [double the number from last year] the following boys have been selected to participate in the next stage of the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge: Harry Humphries, Krystian Straczek (Rudiments), Ryan Ward and Jack Garland (Figures). Of these special mention goes to Ryan Ward who achieved the school's best result.

The other gold certificate winners are Jakub Zareba, Anthony Owusu, Iwan Baggridge, Jacopo Bonetti, Jakub Wiak, Neo Sibal, Christopher Graham-Ozanne, Japhet Daniel, Vinishan Edmond Camilus, Connor Larkin (Rudiments), Nathaniel Gibbons and Thomas Farina (Figures).

I would like to congratulate all of the boys who participated in the Challenge and wish the four boys the best of luck in the Kangaroo Paper on the 14th of June.

Music

This half term has seen two very successful Music evenings. The first was the final of the House Music Competition which attracted a high number of entrants and the finalists performances were of an excellent standard. Congratulations go Loyola House as the winning house and to the following individual winners:

Overall and 6th Form Winner: Rhys Rodrigues (RHM) - Voice

Figures Winner & Hirons Award for the most promising young musician:
Ryan Ward (FS) - Cello

Rudiments Winner: Jakub Wiak (RL) - Guitar

Lower Grammar Winner: Thomas Morais (LGH) - Piano

Higher Line Winner: Eduardo Morais (SH) - Voice

The second event was the Spring Concert which saw a large number of boys performing in a range of ensembles providing a diverse repertoire for the evening. For many of the boys it was their first performance in front of an audience. I hope that it will be the first of many.

Arts Festival Week

The Arts Faculty are pleased to invite you to a number of events during the Arts Festival week in order to share with you the wonderful work of the boys. The festival involves the creativity of over 250 students and it is quite likely that your son will be either taking part in the music and drama performances, or have his film, art or DT work exhibited on display.

The play, *Hysterical Histories and Funny Fables*, is composed of short plays about moments in the history of the British Isles, with comic retellings of stories such as Robert The Bruce and the Spider, King Canute and the Waves, and other familiar tales. The talented cast present these to you with their usual flair and polish as you sit and enjoy refreshments.

Monday
27th June

Film Festival 6.00pm - a screening of Poetry and Rhetoric Film Studies films, with popcorn and cold drinks. Please apply to Mr Michael for your free ticket:
peter.michael@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Tuesday 28 th June	Summer Concert: A Festival of Song 7.00pm - 8.30pm The Music Department presents a diverse evening music. The focus, although not exclusively, is on singing. This event is free.
Wednesday 29 th June	<i>Hysterical Histories and Funny Fables</i> Dress Rehearsal 3.00pm. The Dress Rehearsal of the Arts Festival play, open to boys from the Lower Line to come and watch and support.
Thursday 30 th June	Art Exhibition and Performance of <i>Hysterical Histories and Funny Fables</i> 6.00pm [ticketed event *]
Friday 1 st July	Art Exhibition and Performance of <i>Hysterical Histories and Funny Fables</i> 6.00pm [ticketed event *]

***Tickets for the Art Exhibition and Arts Festival Play Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July £3.50**

Tickets are available via School Comms for all with access.

All other tickets should be applied for via the College Secretary. Please complete the *Arts Exhibition and Play 2016 booking form* available on the website and enclose the money as cheque or cash and send it in or leave it in Reception marked:

FAO: Mrs Lawlor, College Secretary, Wimbledon College, Edge Hill, SW19 4NS.

Subject to availability, tickets can also be bought on the door at the start of the event each evening.

There will also be a range of activities and events for boys to take part in during lunchtimes over the course of the week.

Rugby Honours

Caolan Englefield is to be congratulated on being selected for England at U16 level. He played at scrum half in the recent match against Wales. Caolan continues to play for Harlequins as well as for the College.

Three Grammar pupils; Alejandro Dearsley, Jacob Whelan and Charlie Julian have also gained representative honours for Surrey at U15 level this season. Alejandro also represented Harlequins at U15 level in the academies tournament at Harrow School

Football

This half term has seen the completion of another successful season for football at the College. Pride of place goes to our U15 team who after losing out at the semi-final stage of the Surrey Cup for the last three years, made it to the final where an outstanding team display saw them beat Coombe Boys 2-1 to become Surrey champions. Congratulations to all of the team.

Our First X1 also featured strongly in two competitions, losing in the final of the Surrey Cup to Richard Challoner. They also reached the semi-finals of the Catholic Cup.

Athletics

The Year 8's continue to demonstrate their sporting talent, dominating all athletics competitions they have entered, including the Merton Borough Championships [we were victorious at all levels in the Borough Championships] and the Catholic Cup. They also won their competition in the first round of the England Schools Athletics National Cup, with a score of 458 points, which is the fourth highest in the country. The regional final takes place on Tuesday June 21st in Mile End, with the National Final on Saturday July 2nd in Bedford, if they qualify.

Cricket

Our cricket teams have continued their success from last year and indeed the U13s have eventually played their Surrey Cup Vase final from 2015. They were victorious defeating Wallington in a nail biting final played at Coombe lane. A superb bowling and fielding display from the team secured victory while having to defend a slender total of 84 runs.

The U15s are still in the NatWest Cup, with their next game against Trinity on Tuesday 7th June. They have also progressed to the South London Yr 9/10 regional final, having won the Merton borough final. This match takes place on the 23rd June at Old Rutlishian's CC.

Training for all teams will continue to be held on the same day after half term as we still have two more block fixtures against Emanuel and Dulwich.

Boxing

Saturday 21st of May marked a key moment for boxing at the College when Danny Given, a Grammar pupil, represented Wimbledon College Boxing Club in his first and the Club's first ABA competitive bout. Unfortunately he was defeated on points however he has gained some competitive experience which will stand him in good stead. It is hoped that this will be the first of many competitive matches for members of the club.

School Uniform

As you know we expect very high standards of the boys uniform and I am very much aware that the vast majority of our boys are always smart and a credit to both the school and yourselves. However, as we have approached half term, a number of boys have allowed their standards to slip. The boys are to wear their blazers at all times unless otherwise directed by a member of staff. Similarly top buttons should be done up and ties should be worn so that seven gold stripes are visible below the knot of the tie.

Shoes

A number of boys have also been coming to school in unacceptable footwear because their school shoes have either broken or are now too small. They have all stated that they will be buying new shoes over the half term. I also appreciate that many of you will be buying new shoes during the next half term or for September. May I remind you that boys' shoes must comply with the school rules, which can be found in your son's diary and on the College website. Trainers, casual shoes and trainer shoes are not allowed.

I would like to emphasise that if your son comes to school with incorrect shoes you will be asked to replace them immediately.

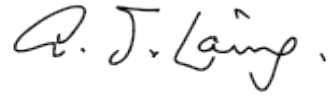
Hair

We have had to deal with a growing number of boys who have had extreme hairstyles, including having parts of their head shaved and lines shaved into their hair. This is not acceptable. I continue to be amazed by the number of boys who seem to sit down in front of the barber and not instruct them as to how they want their hair styled and allow the barber to do what they want!

I am sure that you will cooperate with us in these matters and that you will ensure that your son comes to school in correct uniform at all times.

Finally may I wish you a restful and safe half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. J. Laing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Adrian Laing
Head Master