



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's End of Year Letter to Parents

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents

As this year draws to a close we are already looking forward to 2016/17 when we will be celebrating the school's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The actual date of the anniversary is the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. On that date in 1892, as I am sure many of you are aware, the College opened with one pupil and has never looked back. We are planning a variety of events and activities for the current boys and their families and also for former pupils. You may be aware that the Ursuline High School also celebrates their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary slightly later in 2017 and there will be a number of joint events. Please do keep an eye on the College website for news of events and we will circulate information via SchoolGateway.

One important occasion will be the launch of a new history of the College. The book entitled 'Wimbledon College, the first 125 years' and written by Tony Poole, Simon Potter and John Austin [all former members of staff and two of them former pupils] is due to be published in early December.

I cannot however allow this year to come to an end without reflecting on the achievements of individuals and groups of pupils throughout the year, many of which I have mentioned in my previous letters. The boys' commitment to all aspects of school life is reflected in our attendance figures for the year. They are the highest in recent years and it is to be noted that the tutor group with the highest attendance was a Syntax tutor group.

The participation in their respective sports days and the tremendous number of House points accumulated over the year has also been exceptional. With almost 205,000 house points awarded it was fascinating to see a tie for second place between More and Xavier Houses with 26,277 points apiece and only 1340 points ahead of them was this year's House Competition winners - Fisher House. During the year we had found the old House Trophy that was first awarded in 1921 and it was a pleasure to see this presented to Fisher representatives at our Mass of St Ignatius marking the end of the year.

This success and engagement with school life would not be possible without the support that they receive from you and I am very grateful for that.

## **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**

### *Mr Alan Clement*

Today sees Mr Clement's last day after 36 years at the College. Throughout his career he has maintained a real enthusiasm for all aspects of PE and extra-curricular sport and a desire to provide our pupils with opportunities to participate in a variety of sports both at home and abroad. Rugby features strongly in this and his efforts were recognised by the English Rugby Football Schools Union, earlier this month, when they presented Mr Clement with their Service to Schools Award. This is only awarded to a handful of people every year. Mr Clement has also been instrumental in developing school athletics in the Borough of Merton. He leaves a legacy of sporting participation by our boys which is second to none amongst state schools and I know that I speak on behalf of pupils, staff and parents in thanking Mr Clement for everything that he has done for the school and in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

### *Other staff*

We also say goodbye to a number of other staff, some of whom have been with us for many years. Mrs Mann who is currently our Inclusion Manager has been at the College for 22 years and over that time she has supported many boys in a variety of roles. She too is retiring and we wish her a happy retirement. Mr Baker is also leaving the PE Department after 15 years in which time he has built successfully on Mr Clements work, creating an outstanding rugby framework within the school that enables the College to compete against and beat the top rugby schools in the country. He has also ensured that the breadth of extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils is the envy of many schools. Other teaching staff who are leaving the College at the end of term are Mr Hartland, Mr McManus, Mr Ayidah, Mr Galgey, Ms Gilmartin, Mr Holmes and Ms Kornejeva. 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.

## Examination results days and Sixth Form Enrolment

Key dates:

- A/AS Level results are available from school on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August from 8.30am until 10.00am in the Sixth Form Study Hall
- GCSE results are available from school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August from 9.00am until 10.00am in the main hall.
- Enrolment into Sixth Form at the College takes place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August for boys going into Poetry and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August for boys going into Rhetoric.

Details of arrangements are available on the College Website.

## Uniform

As always I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for ensuring that your sons come to school with the correct uniform and with an appropriate hair style. This term we introduced a revised behaviour policy, where boys who are not wearing their uniform correctly receive a referral and four such referrals result in a detention. It has been very pleasing to see that they boys have responded so positively to this. We will be rolling out the same procedures to Higher Line after the summer holidays.

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. I must emphasise that shoes that have the appearance of trainers are not acceptable.

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

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tie

To mark the College's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a special tie has been produced for pupils. All of Figures boys will be expected to wear the tie. Boys in Years 8-11 may also wear the tie if they wish to do so. If your son would like to wear the anniversary tie, it will be available from school from the start of next term. I ask that you buy the ties directly from school as our two uniform suppliers will only be holding stock for our Figures boys. The tie will cost £7.00 and you will be able to pay for it via SchoolGateway.

## Parent Information Evenings – September 2016

I just wanted to make you aware of our Parent Information Evenings taking place in September. The briefings are scheduled as follows:

Figures	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm
Rudiments	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.00pm
Lower Grammar	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.00pm
Grammar	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm
Syntax	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm
Poetry	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm
Rhetoric	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> 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 once again able to engage with cutting edge research and new and exciting practical applications of all areas of science. It is also pleasing that we have again been asked to have a judging panel of Rudiments pupils to help choose the winner of the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize for 2016.

### **Sports**

For up-to-date reminders, events and information relating to school sport and PE at Wimbledon College please follow the PE Department twitter account [@wimb\\_coll\\_rugby](https://twitter.com/wimb_coll_rugby).

### **Rugby**

A date for the diary early in September is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September when OPRO will be in school taking impressions for gum shields. If you wish your son to have an appointment with OPRO would you please book one through their own website, [www.opro.com](http://www.opro.com), before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. If you have any queries relating to the process please contact OPRO directly.

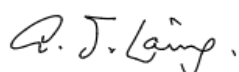
Looking forward to September, pre-season training will be taking place during the last week of the summer holidays and Mr Hallet will be writing separately with specific details. The sessions start on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and culminate with the U12s on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The U15s will also be participating in the Eltham College festival. First fixtures of the season are on the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Next Year**

School reopens on Monday 5 September, for boys in Figures and Poetry. Boys in Rudiments to Syntax and Rhetoric return on Tuesday 6 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



Adrian Laing