



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Half Term Letter to Parents

Friday 21st October 2016

Dear Parents

What is always a very busy term has been that little bit more so this year with time given over to photographs to mark the College's 125th Anniversary. As I hope you are aware we have had tutor group photographs, a Sixth Form photograph and a whole school photograph taken. You will be receiving proof copies and order forms for these pictures. Can I ask that you take note of the deadline for ordering that is contained in the packs.

Overall the half term has been very successful and it is pleasing to see that the Figures boys are now settled into College life. It is a tiring time for them and I know that they are ready for the half term break. The same is true I am sure for boys that have joined us in other years, not least in Poetry and I hope that all of the boys have a good break over half term and come back with the same positive attitude and determination in November.

Boys return to school on Tuesday 1st November, as Monday 31st of October is a staff training day. On Tuesday, as it is the Feast of All Saints, there will be Mass for the boys [please check the College website for times].

Our **Sixth Form open evening** takes place on Wednesday 2nd November from 5.00pm until 8.00pm, with talks at 5.30pm, 6.30pm and 7.30pm. It is a joint evening with the Ursuline High School and this year it is being held at Wimbledon College. I would encourage all Syntax boys and their parents to attend the evening as it will provide invaluable information about the College Sixth Form. To ensure that boys have the opportunity to speak to staff we will be asking boys to attend at specific times during the evening.

Grade Card

Your son's report card is being given to him today (for years 7 -11). On it you will see the average grade for each of his subjects for this half term. We are continuing to use the College 1 to 9 grade scale for boys at KS3 [a detailed explanation of this is contained in the Parent Briefing available on the College website]. The College 1 to 9 grade scale is also used for subjects in Grammar apart from boys studying Business Studies and Resistant Materials who will be assessed using A*-G grades. Boys in Syntax are assessed using the College 1 to 9 grade scale for English and Mathematics only, all other subjects are assessed using A*-G grades. Individual grades are available to you on the *Schoolgateway*.

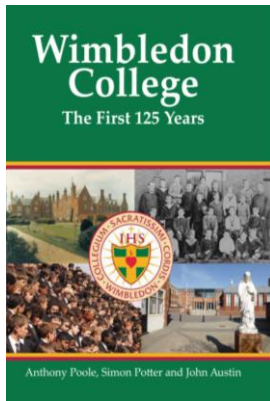
When comparing your son's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where he should be at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of the year, grades may be slightly below target grades but as the year progresses assessments should generally meet or exceed target grades. 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 his Head of Line.

125th Anniversary

Combined concert, with the Ursuline High School,

This is taking place at St John's Smith Square on 28th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are only available through St John's and I would urge you to book as soon as possible. It promises to be a very entertaining evening with the combined choirs and orchestras performing iconic pieces of music from the last 125 years.

Wimbledon College - The First 125 Years



The new history of the College is being published next half term. The book written by three former members of staff gives an excellent account of the College's origins and growth and contains a wide variety of interesting information about the events, people and indeed the buildings that make the College what it is today.

You can order copies of the book via SchoolGateway and is available for a pre-publication price of £20. The price post publication will be £25. We will distribute ordered copies via the boys as soon as the book is published.

Anniversary Merchandise



Over the next half term we intend to produce a number of items for families to buy that are linked to the Anniversary. The first that we have available is the College umbrella, which can be purchased via SchoolGateway. The cost of the umbrella is £25.

College Twitter account

We are constantly looking at ways in which we can keep you informed of all of the positive things that are happening in the College and the wider school community.

In addition to the College website and our communication to all parents through SchoolGateway we are launching, after half term our official school twitter account - **@Wimb_Coll**

In addition to the main College account a number of specific departments will also be tweeting, and if you have a particular interest in one or other of these areas of school life please do follow whichever of those accounts interest you too. The main @Wimb_Coll account will be retweeting the significant highlights from all these accounts as well as its own content.

@Wimb_Coll_Rugby

@Wimb_Coll_Music

@Wimb_Coll_Chap (Chaplaincy)

@Wimb_Coll_Art

I would like to emphasise that all essential information will still be communicated to you via SchoolGateway and the school website. I do hope that, while there is no expectation for you to have to follow us on twitter, you will choose to do so.

Lower Line Lunch payments

I would like to remind you that it is expected that boys in Lower Line pay for their food in the refectory via their lunch account only. They will not be allowed to use cash as it causes delays at the tills, which has led to boys not being able to buy food in time. Boys in Lower Line are not allowed to use money to 'top up' their daily limit with cash so I would encourage you to check with your sons that their daily limit is set at an appropriate level. Boys in Higher Line and Sixth form may use cash however I would encourage you to continue to use *Schoolgateway* as it helps to speed up the process of going through the refectory.

Friends of Wimbledon College

As a school we are very grateful for the support that we receive from the Friends – parents who are willing to give time to support school activities and coordinate fundraising events. I am conscious that FOWC can only function effectively if there are enough parents who are willing to give their time and energy to such events.

The Cheese and Wine evening held this half term was a tremendous success, with a large number of parents socialising together, while raising money for the College. Without FOWC it would not have taken place.

I ask that you reconsider whether you can spare some time to support both FOWC and the College. The next whole school event where they are looking for support is to help serve refreshments at the annual Christmas carol service on Monday evening the 19th of December. Again, if you can assist us, please email FOWC - friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com.

Unacceptable hair cuts

There have been a number of boys who have come to school this term with haircuts where they have had their heads shaved at the back and sides and then left the hair on the top of their heads extremely long. This style is not acceptable.

Similarly we have the expectation that boys are clean shaven when at school. We have had to speak to a number of boys who have not been clean shaven.

I would be very grateful if you would support the school in these matters and talk to your sons about the College's expectations [all pupils and parents have received this previously].

The paragraph relating to haircuts and shaving is as follows:

***Hair** should be clean, tidy and in a style which is in keeping with the formality of school life. Shaved heads, long hair below the collar or in the eyes, dyed hair, tramlines, stepped and ridged*

haircuts, patterns, shaved sides and shaved eyebrows are not acceptable. Boys are to be clean-shaven.

Rugby

We have had a very successful half term on the rugby field, with 56 wins and 3 draws from 91 matches played. This equates to a 62% win rate. All of the boys who have represented the College and committed themselves both to training sessions and Saturday fixtures are to be congratulated.

The U14A team remain undefeated and the U15As have progressed to the last 64 in the National Cup competition with a fantastic win over UCS 44-7. Even though the U15s scored 44 more points than the 1st XV they too beat UCS in the 1st round of the National Plate competition and progress to the 2nd round where they're opponents are Tiffin. A side that they recorded their first win of the season over last Saturday.

The first week back after half term will see our House Rugby competitions taking place. Due to our Inset day the Yr 9 competition will take place on Monday 7th November. Our Saturday fixtures also continue.

Ball boys

After last year's success with 15 boys representing the College as Wimbledon Ball Boys it has been very pleasing to see the number of boys who have participated in the first stage of the selection process. They are to be commended on how they have conducted themselves and on the effort that they have put into the process, not least the early morning runs that they have undertaken. The standard was incredibly high and there were some very tough decisions that had to be made in selecting boys to continue to the next stage of the process. We wish those boys good luck as they move forward.

Football - Spring Term

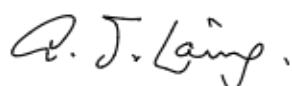
Mr Barnes is in the process of finalising fixtures and arrangements for our football teams in the New Year. He is making a request for any parents who would be interested in supporting their son's teams by assisting with Saturday morning refreshments to contact him. If you are interested would you please email him on his school email - barry.barnes@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Carol Service

Our annual joint carol service with the Ursuline High School takes place this year on Monday 19th December at 8.00pm in Sacred Heart Church. The event is well attended and provides us with a spiritual dimension to our preparation for and celebration of Christmas. May I take this opportunity to invite you and your family to the service.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing,
Head Master