



Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Monday 24 October 2022

Dear Parents

The year is now well underway and it is wonderful to see how many pupils are engaged in the College's many extra-curricular activities both during and outside of the school day. As part of monitoring of pupils' engagement with extra-curricular activities we have sent out a short survey to all pupils in Years 7-11, via their Tutor Group Google Classrooms. Would you please ensure that your child completes this over the half term.

It has also been good to see so many parents in school again for our parent information evenings at the beginning of term and also at our two successful Open Evenings for pupils looking to join the College either in Year 7 or Year 12 next September. If you were not able to attend the parent briefings. Copies of the presentations are available on the Parent Briefings page of the College website [[Link](#)]. Also on the website is an updated virtual tour of the College. Please do take a few minutes to watch it [[Link](#)].

As you may be aware work continues on the retiling of a significant section of the College roof. The work is going well and is due to be completed, with all scaffolding removed, by the end of November. I must acknowledge how well pupils, and staff, have coped with the challenges that the building work has provided this term.

I wrote last year about our plans to install a 3G rugby standard all-weather pitch on the College site for this term. Due to delays in receiving final clearance from Thames Water and Merton Council we have pushed back the installation until next summer.

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-11 will be sent out electronically this week for the last half term. You will have noticed that they have been restyled and now include data from previous years within each Key Stage. If you have not received your child's grade card would you please email their Head of Line to let them know.



*A Jesuit school founded in 1892
for improvement in living and learning
to the greater glory of God and the common good*

Application deadlines for Year 7 and the Sixth Form

A reminder that online applications for pupils starting in Year 7 in September 2023 have to be submitted by 31 October 2022 and Supplementary Information Forms have to be sent to the College by this date. This year we have introduced an online process, which is available via the admissions page on the College website.

Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2023 have to be submitted, via Applicaa by Friday 25 November 2022. Boys in Syntax should have already started their applications. If they have not done so there is a link to Applicaa available on the College website.

[\[https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form+Admissions&pid=108\]](https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form+Admissions&pid=108)

PSHE and Careers education

The PSHE curriculum has been enhanced this year with the addition of external speakers who have provided insightful presentations to students at the College. We thank Transport For London for their talk on travel safety to our new Figures students and to 'Talk Consent' who gave a very informative talk to the Grammar and Rhetoric students. The Syntax and Poetry students were fortunate to hear from Lawrence Tijani from 'Just a Guy' Foundation about his experiences and how to keep a positive mindset in the face of adversity.

We continue to give career and educational guidance to all year groups across the College. We have been very fortunate to welcome alumni Jonathan Taylor K.C. to speak to Poetry students about his career in law, and to Theo Paphitis who spoke to the Syntax students about his career in business. A number of our Rhetoric boys have visited Portsmouth University and others attended the University & Apprenticeships Fair at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The Syntax students were able to see the wide variety of courses that are offered at Wimbledon College at the KS5 Curriculum Evening.

St Cecilia's Concert

We are pleased to announce that our St Cecilia's Concert will be held on Tuesday 22nd November at 7pm. The concert this year will feature the return of the House Music Competition as well as performances by the College Orchestra and the College Swing Band. The concert will take place in the main hall and admission is free.

I have been asked to inform you that the preliminary rounds of the House Music Competition will take place in the week after half term and that Mr Thomas will be emailing parents with the timings for the rounds.



It is pleasing that the re-establishment of the College Orchestra is progressing well, post Covid. Rehearsals take place during Monday lunchtime and pupils are encouraged to join. Pupils who are interested should speak to Mr Thomas

Instrumental Lessons

There are a record number of pupils now receiving musical instrument lessons. Some teachers still have space, especially for brass and woodwind. Please see your email from Mr Thomas regarding these lessons. Parents are requested to complete the form attached to the email if you are interested.

Rugby

Mr Hallett has written the following:

It has been an extremely busy and hectic start to the College's Sports programme, especially for this term's major sport, rugby, with 89 matches already played this season.

A huge congratulations to all of the Figures pupils who have represented the College during Friday or Saturday matches. It has been a baptism by fire and a steep learning curve for over 100 participants and a very impressive start to the season. We look forward to seeing them develop over the next half term and years to come.

Thank you also to all the other pupils across the College who have represented their year group/team in fixtures on Saturdays and who have committed to regular training after school. With the clocks going back at the end of the month our time after school will be limited, please make every effort to get to training and out of the changing rooms quickly so that we can maximise the time available.

A massive thank you also goes to the parents and supporters who have helped out on Saturday mornings with refreshments and match teas. Mrs Curtis is currently holding top spot in the #WCbakeoff22 with her amazing Victoria sponge and strawberry cake but is being pushed all the way by Mrs McKenna.

With the Senior Tour departing in February I am sure that the fundraising committee will begin to maximise their efforts offering a range of extra refreshments at Coombe lane on a Saturday. Please continue to support your son positively from the side lines and keep a look out for some delicious treats available on the soon to be cold November, December mornings.



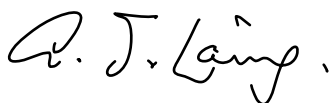
Swimming

Pupils have already competed in galas against other schools and there are more fixtures scheduled over the year. Mr Blowes is requesting help from parents to support the fixtures through the preparation of 'match teas'. This would involve buying food for the teas [costs are covered by the school] and to either pack or serve the food on the day of the gala. If you are interested and able to support the pupils in this way, please email Mr Blowes [gavin.blowes@wimbledoncollege.org.uk]

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 31 October for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 1 November [with the exception of Rhetoric students taking mock exams - their exam timetable is available on the Rhetoric page of the College website].

Yours sincerely,

God bless



Adrian Laing

Headteacher

