



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents

This half term has been short but extremely busy, with the highlight being our whole school Mass at Westminster Cathedral. If you have not looked at them already there are some photographs of the day on our website. In addition to this there is a lot of information on our website and I would ask that you check it regularly.

Our twitter accounts [the school's, Chaplaincy, Art, Sports, etc] are being used more and more with regular posts and I would encourage you to follow them to keep up with everything that is going on in school.

As always our Grammar Ski trip is heading off today and we wish all of them a safe and enjoyable trip.

### Report Card and Lower Line set changes

Your son[s] will have received their report cards in the normal way and I hope that they have given them to you. As you know the grades are colour coded so that you can see an overall impression of your son's achievement and progress in each subject. By this point in the year you should be seeing a shift from red through amber to green as you look across the report. If you, or your son, are concerned about his progress compared to his target grade please do not hesitate to speak to your son's Head of Line.

### 125 Anniversary Musical in partnership with the Ursuline High School - Evita

As part of our Anniversary celebrations Wimbledon College and the Ursuline High School are collaborating in a joint production of *Evita* - the award winning epic musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. It promises to be an excellent and enjoyable production. It will be fully orchestrated and choreographed with a large cast of pupils from both schools. The performances are at the Epsom Playhouse, Epsom at 7.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £7 for under-18s and are only available from Epsom Playhouse and will be available shortly on line, via their website or from their ticket office.

### Supporting GCSE, AS and A Level students

Boys in **Syntax** have just completed their Pre public exams and they will receive all of their results together after half term. Our intention is to give the boys their results between 8:00 to 8:30 on the morning of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. We hope that the boys will reflect on this experience and identify how they can make further progress in preparation for their actual exams in the summer. Over the next half term we will be updating the Syntax page on the College's website with guidance and materials to support the boys in this. We ask that you check the page regularly and talk to you

sons about their studies. Boys should also be developing their revision timetables to make the best use of their time in the build up to their examinations.

It is important to note that their first public examination is on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. I would also like to remind you that boys in Syntax will be expected to attend school as normal during the exam period. We will inform you of the exact arrangements at a later stage.

I would also like to make parents of Syntax boys aware that we have recently bought a very powerful online careers platform called Unifrog. It enables the boys to investigate different career options and pathways, looking at careers, apprenticeships and university courses. We will be launching the platform with Syntax boys on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Rhetoric and Poetry** pupils should have received their summer exam timetable from their tutors. If not would you please remind your son to pick it up after half term.

Immediately after half term, as part of their preparation for their public exams, Rhetoric pupils have PPEs starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February [Please note that although it is an INSET day there will be examinations taking place]. Timetables have been sent home already and further details have been posted on the College website. There are also PPEs for Yr 12 students on AS courses in Film Studies, Maths and Politics during this time, as well as for students re-sitting Maths and English GCSEs.

After their PPEs the Sixth form team will be focusing on boys' folders, files and notes to ensure that they are well organised for the build up to their summer exams. Please remind your son that they should have all of their folders available in school. Following on from the successful launch of our new online careers platform, Unifrog, we will also be starting to look at universities, apprenticeships and careers with Year 12 students and I remind you that boys may make appointments with our Careers Advisor via Mr Fitcher or Mrs Household.

One final reminder for parents of Rhetoric pupils is that their parent evening takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Ursuline High School.

### **Teenage mental health - conference for parents**

As part of our ongoing focus on developing awareness of mental health in young people, we are pleased to announce that, in association with local mental health Charity **stem4**, we are hosting the 'Healthy Minds' Parent Conference. The parent conference will take place in our hall on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7pm and conclude at approximately 9.30pm.**

The conference is all about equipping you with information, knowledge and confidence to help you support the young people in your life and the challenges they may face. Topics covered will also aim to help you take care of your own mental health and wellbeing. The event will include presentations from:

- *Dr Nihara Krause, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and founder of stem4*
- *Ian Maitland author of, 'Dear Michael, Love Dad' and his son Michael Maitland*
- *Rosie Day, British Actress*
- *Miriam George, Parent*

Tickets went on sale on Monday at a cost of £10 per ticket.

To purchase your ticket visit the 'stem4 Parent conference on Teenage Mental Health' event on the Eventbrite website. [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stem4-parent-conference-on-teenage-mental-health-tickets-30692012636?utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stem4-parent-conference-on-teenage-mental-health-tickets-30692012636?utm_term=eventurl_text).

## **Uniform**

Thank you for your ongoing support by ensuring that your son[s] are wearing their uniform correctly. I would just like to remind parents that if you are buying new school shoes for your son then please make sure that they fall within College uniform expectations. My previous letter outlining which shoes are acceptable is still available on the College website.

I would also like to remind parents that all boys, including Sixth form, are expected to be clean shaven and that there should be no extreme hair styles. This includes combinations of extremely short and long hair. [More detail can be found in the boy's Diaries]

One final point is that if coats are being worn, they are to be worn over the pupil's blazer/jacket and not instead of the blazer/jacket.

## **Music**

Mr Thomas has asked me to make you aware that he is expanding the College's orchestra and is keen to involve all boys who play an instrument. Boys who are Grad 3+ are welcome to join the orchestra and there is a training orchestra for boys who are not yet Grade 3 that rehearses during Friday lunchtime. If your son plays an instrument and is not yet a member of either orchestra I would be grateful if you would encourage him to join.

The House music competition gets underway after half term with Lower Line heats. Any boys who are interested in competing should see Mr Thomas for further details.

## **Football**

Mr Barnes has asked me to pass on his thanks to all parents who have been supporting the teams this season and especially those parents who have given up their time to provide hospitality at Coombe Lane on Saturday mornings. Fixtures continue after half term and hopefully the weather will be kinder.

## **Rugby Sevens**

The Sevens season has already started with our Year 7s featuring strongly at the St John's Beaumont Sevens and this weekend, weather permitting, see several teams participating in the Warwick Sevens. The season gets into full swing after half term. Please look at the school sports website for the full list of fixtures, timings and locations.

## **Friends of Wimbledon College**

The Friends of Wimbledon College invite you to their **St Patrick's Day Quiz night on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** in the College Hall. Tickets are £15 and available now from school gateway and include the quiz, a bowl of chilli & nachos (or vegetarian option available on request), and dessert. There will also be a raffle with some great prizes. Further details are available on the College website.

Please do try and come to this evening- it is really good fun whether you know any of the answers or not! It is an opportunity to meet other parents and support your school. Do book your tickets as soon as you can to avoid disappointment, our last event was sold out a week before the event! Any queries please do call Tracey Given on 07802299122.

## 125 Anniversary Merchandise

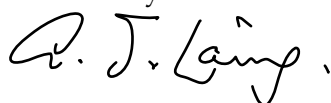
All of the merchandise produced to mark the College's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is still available to be purchased, along with the published history of the College - 'Wimbledon College; the first 125 years'. Further details are available on the College website at:

<http://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/125>

Finally may I remind parents that Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February is a staff inset day and so boys return to school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing

Head Master