



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Term Letter to Parents

Friday 31st March 2017

Dear Parents

It is rather unusual to end the Spring term two weeks before Easter however we have managed to fit a lot into the term, including successes on the stage and the rugby field, both of which I will come back to later in my letter. We also had our annual visit from Fr Dermot Preston SJ, our Provincial, which went very well. He met with governors, staff and pupils and celebrated Mass with Figures in the school chapel.

During Lent, as well as having the opportunity to participate in a reconciliation service and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the boys have been raising money to support Mary's Meals who run school feeding projects in countries where poverty and hunger prevent children from getting an education. The focus has been for boys to raise £13.90 [or multiples of] as this provides one meal a day for one school child for a year. I would like to thank you for the support that you have given your sons with this.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support by ensuring that your sons are wearing their uniform correctly. I am conscious that a number of boys have not been wearing correct shoes over the last week or so and when asked they have stated that they are being replaced over Easter. Would all parents please ensure that boys are wearing shoes that fall within College uniform expectations when they return to school after Easter. My previous letter outlining which shoes are acceptable is still available on the College website. Please check this as I will ask parents to replace shoes that are not acceptable.

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. [I have attached the College's Uniform and Appearance Rules as an appendix to this letter].

Punctuality

I have been concerned that a significant number of boys in recent weeks have not been getting to school on time. Often they have spent time in Wimbledon or Raynes Park before coming to school. It is not a good start to their day if they arrive late to registration, or indeed to period one. Boys are expected to be in school for the first bell at 8.25am and then as registration/assembly for 8.30am.

To enforce this, from the start of next term, any boy [including Sixth Form] arriving late to school will have a 30 minute detention after school on the same day.

There will not be an exception to this apart from boys who have a medical appointment. This means that boys will have to ensure that they leave home in good time and that they do not loiter in Wimbledon or elsewhere before coming to school. They will need to take account of traffic and I

would suggest that walking to school from Wimbledon is quicker than taking the bus most mornings. If your son has a detention and is offsite for Games he will be expected to return to school for the detention.

I trust that you will support the school in this matter, so that your son[s] arrives punctually, so that they can start the school day calmly.

Evita

The 23rd and 24th March saw the joint production of Evita, with the Ursuline High School, take place at The Epsom Playhouse. Both evenings were sell outs and the performances were outstanding. It certainly was a fitting way to mark our 125th Anniversaries.

As well as some excellent individual performances it was very pleasing to see so many pupils, including all of the new faces, involved both on stage and behind the scenes. The opportunity for staff and pupils from both schools to work together was a real success and the staff, in particular Mr Williams, Mr Lord and Miss Greene from the Ursuline along with Mr Potter, Mr Thomas and Mr Rathbone from the College are to be congratulated and thanked. The time and energy that they committed to the production, along with that of the pupils, undoubtedly reaped their reward.

Wimbledon College Arts Festival 2017

The Wimbledon College Arts Festival 2017 will be held between Monday 10th July and Friday 15th July. During the week, as well as the Art & Design Exhibition, there will be evening events and performances from Film, Music and Drama. We will begin rehearsing the Drama production from next term, and would like as many boys to be involved as possible. The play is "Our Story - 125 years" to be created by the boys using memories and events from the history of Wimbledon College, including such highlights as "A Day in the Life of a Tennis Ball", and "Discipline through the Ages" ... There will be plenty of great parts available and boys will be able come to auditions on **Wednesday 26^h and Thursday 27st April**. Please encourage your son to get involved.

Music

I would like to draw your attention to two forthcoming events. The first is the annual House Music Competition. Boys are welcome to represent their house and enter the competition. They are expected to perform one piece. If they want to compete then they must attend auditions that will be taking place during Monday lunchtimes. Further details can be obtained from Mr Thomas. Finalists will be announced before May half-term and the final will take place on Monday 10th July as part of the Arts Festival.

The second event is the Spring Concert, which will feature performances from both soloists and various school ensembles. The concert will take place on Tuesday 23rd May and admission is free.

Supporting GCSE, AS and A level students

I would encourage parents to ensure that your son has the necessary resources available to him to support his revision and exam preparation over the Easter holidays. It is important that the boys use the time effectively over the Easter holidays revising for their exams. Please encourage them to have an established pattern of work but also to build in time for exercise, as this is also important.

I would also like to point out to parents of boys in Syntax and the Sixth Form that the examination timetable is available on the College website. Please be aware that the exams get underway on the

15th of May and that many of the GCSE examinations will have taken place by half term. This really does put even more importance on the boys using the Easter holidays effectively in preparation for their exams.

Rugby Sevens

We have recently completed an excellent season of Sevens with teams from all years achieving success in a wide variety of competitions.

Our Senior Seven reached the Semi-Finals of their Surrey 7s competition, while the Under 15 Seven reached the same stage of three competitions – the Warwick Sevens, the Surrey Sevens and our own John Pieroni Sevens, losing out by the smallest of margins in two of these. Our Under 16 Seven did extremely well to reach the last Sixteen of the Rosslyn Park National Sevens Competition.

In the new format waterfall festivals our Under 13 Seven only lost one game in all competitions and our Under 12 Seven were second in the main top group at Reigate and third at QE Barnet.

Our most successful team was our Under 14 team who won the Reigate and Surrey competitions and were runners up at QE Barnet. They completed their season at the Rosslyn Park National Sevens [a unique occasion as the competition moved up an age group from last year]. The team were winners of the 2016 U13 RPNS Competition and from a total of 110 teams in this year's tournament they came up against Glantaf School [the same opposition that they had faced in the 2013 Final] in the Final. The boys were victorious 26:10, thanks to an outstanding team performance.

Our own John Pieroni 7s was once again an amazing event, with excellent rugby played by the top rugby schools in the south of England. The day was such a success thanks to the staff, led by Mr Hallett. The parents who provided all of the superb catering for the day deserve special mention. The support we receive from parents is commented on by other schools and I am always grateful for the time and effort you put in to support the school. Without it we would not be as successful as we are.

Rugby

We have also had a number of individual fixtures this term. The biggest of which was our 125th Anniversary Game against St George's Weybridge. The fixture was played at Rosslyn Park and was extremely well supported by boys, parents and Old Wimbledonians who represented the First XV over the years. Over £200 was raised for the Wooden Spoon Charity on the night.

We have also recently hosted St George's School, Vancouver and played two fixtures against them and after Easter we will be welcoming a touring party from Fordham High School, NYC.

Football

We are holding a 125th Anniversary Football Match, against King's College, at 7.00pm on Friday 5th May at Corinthian Casuals FC. It would be fantastic to see as many parents and Old Wimbledonians at the game. Further details will be posted on the College website.

I would also like to pass on Mr Barnes thanks to all parents for their support for all of the teams this season and particularly those parents who have provided refreshments at all home fixtures.

125 Anniversary

'*Wimbledon College, the first 125 years*', the published history of the College is still available to purchase from the College. It is an interesting and informative account of the development of the school from its simple beginnings to the successful school it is today.

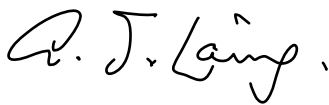
Details of how to purchase the book, along with all of our Anniversary merchandise [umbrella, tie, cufflinks, etc] are available on the College website. [<http://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/125>].

Summer Term

May I remind parents the Summer term starts on **Tuesday 18th April [Easter Tuesday]**.

Finally I would like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master

Appendix [next page] – Wimbledon College Uniform and Appearance Rules



Wimbledon College

Uniform and Appearance Rules

The school expects high standards of uniform and appearance. Boys are expected to wear the school uniform properly. This includes the journey to and from school or school events, while in school or on school trips, fixtures or activities.

1. **Blazers** are to be worn travelling to and from school, at assembly, in church, and when moving from class to class. The school badge is to be worn on the blazer.
2. **Shirts** are to be plain white and worn tucked in with the collar done up. Shirts may be long or short sleeve. Any t-shirt worn under the shirt must not be visible through the shirt.
3. **Ties** are to be done up and worn with **at least seven gold stripes showing**. [For the anniversary tie there should be one full stripe visible between the crest and the knot of the tie]
4. If a jumper is worn, it is to be the College **maroon jumper** with badge.
5. **Socks** are to be plain grey or black.
6. **Trousers** are to be formal black school trousers. **Belts** are to be plain black leather with a simple formal buckle
7. **Shoes** are to be black leather, plain, formal and polished. Laces and stitching are to be black. Boots, black trainers, suede, canvas or casual shoes are not permitted. Boys are not permitted to wear trainers in the playground at break times. Casual shoes [e.g. Converse, Fred Perry, Lonsdale, Vans, etc.] and trainers [e.g. Adidas, Nike, Puma, Reebok, etc.] are not allowed.
8. If an outdoor coat is worn, pupils in Lower Line must wear the College **reversible fleece-coat** with the school badge. Pupils in Higher Line are to wear a plain black coat – hoods, logos and sleeveless jackets are not allowed. Outdoor coats are to be worn over the boy's blazer and not instead of the blazer.
9. Any other item of clothing (hats, gloves, scarves) is to be plain [i.e. no pattern, with the exception of the College scarf] and to conform in colour (dark green, dark maroon, grey, dark blue or black) and style so as to be compatible with and not detract from the school uniform. Prominent logos or wording are not permitted. Hats must not have a peak [hats such as baseball caps are not allowed].
10. **School bags** are to be large and rigid enough to carry school books without damaging them (small draw-string bags are not acceptable). Boys are to have a separate bag for PE and Games kit.
11. **Jewellery** is not to be worn.

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.