



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Year Letter to Parents

Thursday 20th July 2017

Dear Parents

It is hard to work out where our 125th Anniversary year has gone. It has been a very busy year and also a very successful one with a number of key events marking the anniversary. None of these would have been the success that they have been without the commitment and support of all of our school community; the pupils, staff and yourselves. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has given so much this year.

For me the highlight of the year was the Anniversary itself and the celebration of our Founders' Day Mass at Westminster Cathedral with our Provincial, Fr Dermot Preston SJ. To see the whole school gathered together was a sight that I will always treasure and I know that it had a significant impact on the pupils. Other highlights of the year include: our Concert at St John's Smiths Square and the production of Evita, both joint events with the Ursuline High School; the publication of 'Wimbledon College, the first 125 Years [still available to purchase via our website]; our Anniversary rugby and football matches with the former bringing many generations of Old Wimbledonians together; our choir tour and pilgrimage to Rome; the Advent '125' fundraising activities; the staff 125km cycle ride and most recently our Annual Arts Festival with the Lower Line play based on events from the College's history.

A key development this term has been the use of College twitter accounts. We now have a College account [@Wimb_Coll] along with one for the Chaplaincy [@Wimb_Coll_Chap], Sport [@Wimb_Coll_Rugby] and Arts [@Wimb_Coll_Art]. Please do follow them as they are a great way to keep up with the many things going on in the College.

All of this has been achieved alongside the ongoing mission of the College, which is to enable our pupils to achieve their potential in all areas. It has been fantastic to see the achievements of individual pupils and teams throughout the year, both in the classroom and in the wider life of the school. 29 pupils were awarded with their Gold Merit Award with each having achieved over 500 house points. Mention must be made of Adam Lasrado [RS] who achieved an outstanding 824 points. Last week also saw 20 of our pupils acting as ball boys at Wimbledon, three of whom were selected for the Men's Final. Such recognition is only achieved through a lot of hard work and commitment on behalf of the boys.

It is clear to me that striving for excellence in all things alongside being men and women for others remains central to the life of the College. We have so much to thank God for.

House Championship

As you will see below the contribution of all boys to the House Championship has been very impressive. Congratulations go to Southwell House who have pipped long time leaders Xavier to take the Championship and end Fisher's 3 year reign.

A great parting gift for Mr Jones, as Head of Southwell House!

Southwell	28068
Xavier	27970
Owen	26648
More	26427
Hurtado	26353
Fisher	25689
Loyola	24803
Campion	24618

Reports [Pupils in Years 7-10]

You should have received 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.

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. A key aspect of this is that from September we are moving from seven to eight teaching groups in Mathematics in all year groups. This has necessitated a renaming of teaching groups, which we will explain fully at the Parents' Information Evenings in September.

Parent Information Evenings – September 2017

The briefings are scheduled as follows:

Figures	Monday 11 th September –	7.00pm
Rudiments	Tuesday 12 th September –	7.00pm
Lower Grammar	Thursday 14 th September –	7.00pm
Grammar	Wednesday 13 th September –	7.00pm
Syntax	Monday 11 th September –	7.30pm
Poetry	Tuesday 12 th September –	7.30pm
Rhetoric	Wednesday 13 th September –	7.30pm

Staff leaving

Mrs Maggie Hayes

Mrs Hayes, who for the last fourteen years has been an indispensable member of the Art & DT Department, as our Art Technician, is retiring after 30 years at the College. Prior to this Mrs Hayes fulfilled a variety of roles. She is always a positive cheerful presence and has gone well beyond what has been expected of her in her support of pupils, staff and the school as a whole. Her support of school drama productions has been invaluable and while she is happiest working behind the scenes her contribution to the College and its ethos has been invaluable. I know that I speak on behalf of pupils and staff in thanking her for everything that she has done and in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Other staff

We also say goodbye to a number of other staff at the end of term. Mrs Barnbrooke, Mr Corr, Mrs Crosby, Mr James, Mr Jones, Mr Rayner and Mr Rathbone. All with the exception of Mr Rathbone are going on to new positions. Mr Rathbone, after many years at the school, recently in a part time role is now retiring. 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 17th August from 9.00am until 10.00am in the Sixth Form Study Hall
- GCSE results are available from school on Thursday 24th August from 9.00am until 10.00am in the main hall.
- Enrolment into Sixth Form at the College takes place on Tuesday 29th August for boys going into Poetry and Wednesday 30th August for boys going into Rhetoric.

Details of arrangements are available on the College Website.

Behaviour Policy

We have recently updated our Behaviour Policy to include the new rule on mobile phones. In September we will be once again reminding your sons of the policy and our expectations of them as pupils at Wimbledon College. I would ask that you take time to look through the policy [it is available on our website] over the summer.

Central to the policy is a focus on positive behaviour where pupils are expected to be prepared for and focused on achieving their very best. They all know that they have a responsibility not just to themselves but to everyone else to ensure that this happens. This extends beyond the school gates as they are representatives of the

College when in uniform and it is always pleasing to receive the many positive comments we receive from members of the public about our pupils.

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.

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.

College Sports

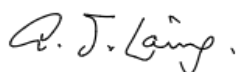
Mr Rayner will be sending out his sports newsletter, which will be full of both pupil achievements and preparations for next year. Please do take the time to read it and follow the Department's Twitter account.

Next Year

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