



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 9th February 2018

Dear Parents

This half term has flown by and as always it has been a busy one, finishing with our Syntax mock examinations and our Grammar Ski trip heading off to the slopes today. We wish all of them a safe and enjoyable trip.

As you know we received our letter from Ofsted at the end of January [following their visit in December] and I do hope that you were able to find the time to read it. The national league tables also came out at the end of January and it was pleasing to see that we come in the top 20% of schools nationally based on progress data. As is always the case we continue to move forward and I am very conscious that the Syntax boys' approach to their mocks was very positive, which bodes well for the summer. Our Rhetoric pupils have their mocks in the week after half term.

Report Card

Pupils in Years 7-10 and 13 [Poetry have just received their reports and we will send out Syntax grade cards with their mock results] 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.

Les Miserables

This year's musical production is the much-loved "*Les Miserables*", to be staged on **Wednesday March 21st, Thursday March 22nd and Friday March 23rd 2018** at 7.30 in the College Hall. Over sixty College and Ursuline pupils are involved in performance and back-stage work.

Tickets at £8 for adults and £5 for under-18s can be bought via the Wimbledon College website or on an order form available from your son's Line Office, from 26th February. The completed forms must be returned to Mrs Lawlor, the College Secretary.

Supporting GCSE, AS and A Level students

Boys in **Syntax**, having just completed their Mock exams will receive all of their results together after half term. 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 14th May 2018**. 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 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.

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 the second round of PPEs starting on Monday **19th 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.

Please note that BTEC and IT lessons continue as normal during the examination period. There will be a 'results morning', when all students will be issued with PPE results in the first week of March. Full reports will be issued for Rhetoric students at the end of term. After their PPEs the Sixth form team will be focusing on boys' folders, files and notes, focusing especially on their 'green pen' responses to feedback from staff. Please remind your son that they should have all of their folders available in school.

Poetry students on BTEC courses will have mock examinations in the week beginning **26th February**, in preparation for external examinations in the summer. Following on from the successful launch of our new online careers platform, Unifrog, with Year 12 we will also be continuing to look at universities, apprenticeships and careers and I remind you that boys may make appointments with our Careers Advisor via Mr Lonergan or Mrs Household. There will be visits to the UCAS HE fairs in either March or April for all boys in Year 12. We also intend to run a session for all Yr 12 parents about UCAS and apprenticeships on **20th March**.

One final reminder for parents of Poetry pupils is that their parent evening takes place on **15th March** at the College.

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. For boys in Lower Line it should be the College jacket and for boys in Higher Line it should be a plain black jacket without hood or logo. I must also point

out that this rule applies while your son is in uniform and therefore on the way to and from school.

Music

Mr Thomas has asked me to make you aware that 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. It is a great opportunity for boys to perform individually and in the process gain points for their houses.

Sports

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 it is pleasing to see that we have the First XI, the U13s and the U12s all through to the last eight of their respective Surrey Cups. The First XI are also in the last eight of the Catholic Cup.

Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season has already started with our Senior 7 participating in the Portsmouth Sevens last weekend and a number of teams travelling tomorrow to the Warwick Sevens. The season gets into full swing for all year groups after half term. Please look at the school sports website for the full list of fixtures, timings and locations. Training after half term will be on Thursdays for Seniors, U12s and U13s and on Friday for U14s, U15s and U16s.

Our own John Pieroni Sevens take place on **Sunday 18th March** at Coombe Lane. If you have never attended a sevens competition it is well worth coming to watch. Many of the best teams in the country at U15 level attend and the standard of sevens is always high.

In preparation for next year's fifteen a side fixtures there will be pre-season training in the last week of the summer holidays for all teams. Although it is not compulsory it is extremely beneficial for the teams and coaches. Can I ask that you put it in your diaries if your sons represent the school.

Athletics

This half term has been a very busy one for our athletes.

Five of our boys [Diego Lister, Tristan Chandler, James Given, Michael Curtis and Kavi Mautadin-Marin] were selected to represent Merton in the Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships however not all of them were able to participate. Those who did participate put in outstanding performances.

We fielded teams in both the Year 7 and Year 8 Merton schools Sportshall Athletics Championships. Our Year 7 team were placed third overall, while the Year 8 team lost out in the final event, coming second.

The final competition of the winter was the 'Simmonds Cup - Winter Championship'. 2018 is the first time Wimbledon College has been invited to field teams in this prestigious event. It took place at Lee Valley Athletics Centre, which is in Edmonton North London.

We sent 22 athletes to the event who competed in teams for their year group as well as in the overall team competition. We had 2 individual successes with Jaden Eguaiabor winning the Year 10 60m, and Diego Rodriguez the Year 8 400m. In total 13 schools competed in the event, and in their respective competitions our Year 7 team came 8th; our Year 8 team 6th; our Year 9 team 10th and the Year 10 team 8th. Overall we came 7th.

We look forward to further successes in the summer competitions.

Cricket

Mr Hulatt has asked me to remind you that the indoor cricket nets sessions start after half term. Boys are asked to check their sports noticeboard for further details.

Swimming

This half term has seen the College host the first event of the inaugural Quadrangle gala between ourselves, Emmanuel, Latymer Upper and Ibstock Place. The gala was a fantastic success with over 80 boys participating across the four schools. The College swim team swam fantastically with a number of personal bests registered and with convincing wins for both the Figures and Rudiment teams in their individual year groups. The College amazed an impressive total of 89 points which has left us just seven points off of first place moving into the next event being held by Latymer Upper school on Wed 28th February. The Figures and Rudiment teams will be looking to emulate their first performances to ensure the College have an opportunity of winning the overall gala at its final event on Wed 7th March.

Friends of Wimbledon College

The Friends of Wimbledon College invite you to their **Annual Quiz night on Saturday 10th 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!

There will be a suggested seating plan, so if you would like to share a table, please let us know by email (friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com) once you have bought your tickets. Teams will be in groups of 8 people and we are hoping for at least 10 teams. Not with a group? We will do our best to seat you with others from your son's year.

125 Anniversary Merchandise

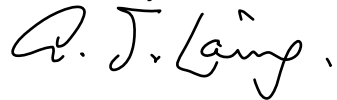
Copies of 'Wimbledon College, the First 125 Years' [a history of the College written by three former staff] and merchandise produced to mark the 125th Anniversary are still available to purchase from the school. We currently are offering a reduction on the price of the history [£20] and on the College umbrella [£15]. Further details are available on the College website.

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

Finally may I remind parents that Monday 19th February is a staff inset day and so boys return to school on **Tuesday 20th February**.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. J. Laing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Adrian Laing
Head Master