



# Wimbledon College

## Headteacher's End of Term Letter to Parents

Friday 16 December 2022

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of term facing the cold snap and transport strikes I would like to thank you for your continued support of the College. The term has been a busy one and a very successful one. The pupils have, as always, engaged fully in their learning and all of the additional opportunities available to them. As you are aware, last week saw us welcome the Diocesan Inspectors who carried out our Denominational [Section 48] Inspection. The report from the inspection will be released towards the end of January. The inspectors were grateful for the responses received from parents. It is fair to say that from the inspection they were able to obtain a clear understanding of the College's vision and values and how they are lived out.

I am conscious that we have had many pupils and staff suffering from a variety of throat and chest infections over the last couple of weeks. This is reflected across the Borough and the Local Authority have asked me to share the following link with you [[Keeping you and your children safe and well](#)]. I hope that you are able to keep warm and remain in good health over the Christmas period.

### Y7-13 Grade cards

Grade cards will be sent out by the beginning of next week and will contain the following:

- A summary of the latest round of assessments carried out this half term
- Effort grades in each subject for standard of classwork, contribution to class and independent learning (homework)
- Jesuit pupil profile – a summary of the virtues displayed by your child this term

When comparing your child's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where he should be at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of the year, grades may be slightly below target grades but as the year progresses assessments should generally meet or exceed target grades. If you have any concerns about your child's target grades, or about their progress in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Head of Line. Departments will be also using this data to make changes to setting, pupils affected by these changes will receive a new timetable in January.

Poetry and Rhetoric Subject Targets will be sent out in time for Parents' Evening next term

## **Thank you for your Advent contributions**

A huge thank you to pupils, parents and staff who has contributed to our various fundraising efforts over Advent. The response to the collection of food for the Dons Local Action Group and the gift collection for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal was tremendous. The Section 48 Inspectors commented on the powerful symbolism of the donations being left at the feet of the statue of the Sacred Heart, as pupils arrived at school. It was also great to see so many Christmas jumpers brightening up the school last Friday. The day raised £1142.55 for the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund.

Finally thank you to all of you who contributed to the collection for the Passage Homeless Charity at the end of our joint Christmas Carol Service with the Ursuline High School. That collection has raised £1213.29.

We are extremely grateful for all of your support for these charities.

## **PSHE**

Over the term we have welcomed a variety of external speakers to the College to enhance our PSHE programme. We would like to thank all of them who have given of their time to support the pupils learning. These included CAFOD, Red Cross and the theatre company 'Loudmouth', who provided a production and workshops on the issue of sexual harassment in society to Lower Grammar students.

## **Careers**

Our careers programme continues to be very busy with many speakers and events across all age groups. If you did not have the opportunity to read the Careers bulletin that was sent out to parents last week, I urge you to look at it as it gives a flavour of the careers advice and guidance that pupils are receiving.

## **School Council**

Following the School Council caucus which took place during an extended tutor group time a representative from each tutor group met on Friday 9th December for the first Student Council meeting for the year. The focus of the meeting was environmental issues, working in their houses pupils produced a presentation which considered how looking after the environment fits in with the qualities of the Jesuit Pupil Profile and put forward recommendations for what we can do as a school to have a positive impact on the environment. These recommendations have been shared with the College's leadership team.

## **PE Department**

A General reminder to all pupils about having the correct kit for their Games lessons. All pupils must make sure they have the correct clothing for their Games lessons. You must

wear the school Games shirt for the Games lessons, house T shirts are not acceptable. Please also make sure you have white shorts as again other colours are not allowed to be worn.

### **Rugby - from Mr Hallett**

It certainly was not the way in which we wanted to end the season, losing our final games to the weather. A season that has had highs and lows, challenges and problems but overall, a huge number of successes.

Before we delve into the statistics of what has been achieved I would like to congratulate all of the Figures students. For some, this term has been their first involvement with rugby. Their first touch of a rugby ball or the first time trying to understand the offside rule and why you have got to let the ball go on the floor and when does it become a ruck? Their commitment and engagement have been tremendous and a credit to all staff and pupils who have helped represent Wimbledon College and allow the students to have this opportunity. A huge thank you to Mr Simon and the Games staff on Figures games who have worked with all of this year group.

The cancellation of our final block against Emanuel school was a disappointment but unfortunately, the only and correct decision for ensuring player welfare. It did however, take away the opportunity for our teams to try and end the season on a high. We must now continue to look forward and use the knowledge and skills developed this year and take them into our 7s season which starts after February half term.

On reflection it gives me great pride to see how many teams and fixtures we regularly put out on a Saturday. This is only possible due to the dedication, commitment and effort of all involved, especially the staff who without them, this extra-curricular provision would not be possible. A huge thank you to them, I sincerely hope your child has enjoyed the experience of playing and challenging themselves against some of the best schools in the south east of England. It is a tough fixture card but we hope that the overall experience is beneficial for your child in all areas of physical, mental and social health.

This season we have played 170 fixtures over 12 weeks. Fielding over 21 teams and improving our win percentage on the previous season. We are still below our overall percentage pre-covid but we will continue to build, get stronger and develop as we move forward.


As previously mentioned, our 7s season starts in late February. Training for this will commence on the w/b 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the details for training below.

# RUGBY 7s TRAINING JANUARY - MARCH



**ALL  
PUPILS ARE  
WELCOME  
TO ATTEND**

Not just the  
A team



DAY	AGE GROUP	TIME	COACHES/STAFF
THURSDAY	1 <sup>st</sup> VII, U16s & U12s	3.15 – 4.30	Mr Hallett, Mr Hillhouse, Mr Doran, Mr Shepperd Mr Blowes & Mr Skinner Mr Simon & PC Hayward
FRIDAY	U15, U14 & U13s	3.15 – 4.30	Mr Bracken & Mr Soalla-Bell Mr O'Connor, Mr Van Der Hoeven & Mr Woodhall Mr Stock & Mr Farrell




**TRAINING NIGHTS BEGIN THE W/C 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

Finally, a few special mentions;

Thank you to all those parents who donated their time & culinary skills to provide both the pupils and staff with our envied match teas. It gives me great pleasure to announce that after so many years of close but not close enough, Mrs Curtis has finally got her hands on the coveted #WCbakeOff2023 trophy. A hotly contested event with a number of stunning and delicious entry this year. A late entry by Mrs McKenna could not be considered due to the cancellation of games but a worthy 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Mrs Krol for not just one but two different cakes on the same weekend taking the last spot on the podium in 3<sup>rd</sup>. A huge thank you on behalf of all the staff from both Wimbledon College and our visiting opposition.

Another special mention has to go to our Rhetoric players. Some who have been representing the College since Figures in the U12Fs or those who have finally seen the light and got involved at a later stage of their time here. It has been a pleasure seeing you grow into the players you are today. A tough quarter final away at Monmouth was an absolute pleasure to be involved in and to see you challenge yourselves against new adversaries. The bus journey back did not seem like three hours and it was a privilege to have been able to spend that time with you.

To all those who have played. Thank you. Continue to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of the game and I look forward to seeing how we progress in our 7s season and in future years to come.

### **Uniform suppliers - ClothesLine**

I have to inform you that one of our long-standing uniform suppliers, ClothesLine [youruniform.co.uk] is closing. The owners, who have worked closely with the school for many years have taken the decision to retire and I would like to publicly thank them for

everything that they have done for the school and wish Canute and Delia D'Aguiar a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

We are pleased to announce that Village Sports, who are based in Raynes Park, will now be working with us and will be one of our uniform suppliers, taking over from ClothesLine. It is hoped that there will be a smooth transition at the start of next term. School Uniform Direct continue to supply Wimbledon College uniform.

Details of both suppliers will be available on the College website in the new year.

### **Support with the purchasing of College uniform**

I am aware that families may be finding it difficult to purchase items of school uniform at the current time due to financial reasons. We do have provision in place to support our families. I would ask, if you find yourself in a position where your child needs items of school uniform and you are unable to purchase them for financial reasons, that you contact your child's Head of Line in the first instance and we will do what we can to provide the appropriate support.

### **School Uniform expectations**

Thank you to all parents who have ensured that your children are wearing the correct school uniform, not only in school but on their way to and from school.

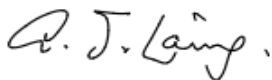
There are however a number of boys who are wearing incorrect shoes and coats. I ask that you ensure your child[ren] as [are] wearing the correct uniform when they return to College in January. This includes formal black shoes and appropriate overcoats. I would ask that you check the School Uniform List before buying any school uniform.

### **Return to school**

A reminder that school reopens for all pupils on Wednesday 4 January 2023.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

God bless,



Adrian Laing  
Headteacher