



Wimbledon College

Head Master's End of Term Letter to Parents

Tuesday 10 April 2018

Dear Parents

I must apologise for the delay in sending out my letter to you all and I hope that you had a peaceful and enjoyable Easter. Many of our pupils are involved in school trips over the holidays. The ski trip to Austria has returned and by all accounts was a very enjoyable and successful trip. Our rugby tour to Canada is continuing as I write and if you wish you can follow it on the Wimbledon College Sports twitter page [@Wimb_Coll_Rugby]. At the end of the holiday a number of our Poetry pupils are participating in a Leadership Conference being hosted by Mount St Mary's College, as part of their 175th Anniversary celebrations.

Last term was a busy and successful one, during which we welcomed our new Provincial, Fr Damian Howard SJ for his first annual visitation. He spent a day at the College and met with various pupils, members of staff and governors. In the afternoon he celebrated Mass with Lower Line in the Sacred Heart Church. It was his first visit to the College and it gave him the opportunity to understand how well the College is progressing.

During Lent the boys, as I am sure you are aware, have been raising money for CAFOD. Each tutor group set its own target in the knowledge that the Government is match funding all money raised for CAFOD during their Lenten appeal. I would be grateful if you would ensure that your son has handed in all of the money that he has raised by the end of the first week back after the holidays. Thank you for your support over the Lenten period.

The boys also had the opportunity to participate in a reconciliation service and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The term ended with our traditional Tenebrae service where, led by our Chaplain, Mr Potter, we reflected on the suffering of Christ leading up to his crucifixion.

Merton Citizens Founding Assembly

Wimbledon College are proud to have helped to found "Merton Citizens" part of a national network of local Citizens groups which help bring community organisations together to work to bring about positive change in their communities. The official launching of Merton Citizens will be our "Founding Assembly", taking place on **Thursday 19th of April at St Mark's Academy, Mitcham, CR4 1SF, 7-8.30pm**, with Councillor Alambritis, as well as other local key decision makers. We would like to encourage as many Wimbledon College families as possible to come along and join in support of what should be a great evening and an important milestone for the future of our community. If you would like to see more about the amazing work other Citizens groups around the country have been doing see www.citizensuk.org

Expectations on appearance

I would 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. Recently I have had to speak to a number of boys who are not shaving regularly. They have been warned that they will be sent home to shave before returning to school. I would be grateful if you would ensure that your sons are clean shaven and that they appreciate that they need to shave regularly. Similarly a number of boys have been spoken to about their extreme haircuts.

I am grateful to all parents who support the school by ensuring that their son's appearance is in line with the school's expectations.

Supporting GCSE, Year 12 and A level students

I am sure that you have been supporting your sons in their revision over the Easter holidays. While I appreciate that there has been a lot of discussion in the press over the amount of time that pupils should spend revising during the holidays all I will say is that your son needs to have an established routine for revision, with suitable breaks for exercise. It is important to strike the correct balance and to make effective use of the time available. I hope that they have been making good use of the holidays. They should also be planning their time over the next few weeks in the build up to their examinations.

The examinations will be on them very soon, with Year 12 exams starting at the beginning of May, closely followed by the GCSEs and A Levels. All of the examination timetables are available on the College website. Please do take some time to look at these with your sons so that you know when their individual examinations are.

It is a demanding and stressful time for your sons, as I am sure that you are aware, and I encourage them to take advantage of all the support that they will be given by their teachers.

Les Miserables

The College's production of Les Miserables, took place over three nights from the 21st to the 22rd of March, and was both a sell out and an outstanding success. The very high standard of performances from all involved was a real credit to the pupils themselves and to the staff who had worked with them throughout rehearsals. In particular I must thank Mr Potter, Mr Thomas and Mr Reynolds.

There is no doubt that a tremendous amount of time and energy went into the production and the pupils' sense of enjoyment was evident throughout the performances. I must also thank Ms Waters for allowing so many girls from the Ursuline High School to take part in the performance.

Music

I would like to draw your attention to two forthcoming events. The first is the annual House Music Competition, which this year will be in two parts. The Lower Line Competition will take place on Thursday 26th April in the School Hall, from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. The House Music Competition Final, including Higher Line participants and the Lower Line winners will take place on Thursday 17th May from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the School Hall. Please encourage your sons to participate in these competitions. Further information is available from Mr Thomas.

The second event is the Summer Concert, which will feature performances from both soloists and various school ensembles. The concert will take place on Monday 9th July from 6-8pm and admission is free.

Rugby Sevens

Sadly Sevens fixtures were badly affected by the poor weather of the last few weeks resulting in over 75% of all of the proposed tournaments being cancelled, including our own John Pieroni 7s.

Where the tournaments did take place our teams performed well and the boys demonstrated the high level of quality and commitment that we are accustomed to seeing from College teams. Of the 87 games played we won 48 and drew 6. The most notable achievements were the Under 15 Team winning the John Fisher Founders Day 7s and the Under 13 team who won 11 out of 13 games.

I must thank all of the boys and staff for their commitment to the Sevens and also to rugby throughout the year. As I have already mentioned we currently have our Canada tour taking place.

Football

Unfortunately the poor weather has also affected our football season with many games cancelled as a consequence. Despite this the boys have remained positive and there have been excellent performances across all years. Our most successful teams have been the Year 7 team and the Year 8 team who have both reached the quarter finals of the Surrey Cup and the First XI who have gone one stage further reaching the semi-final of the Surrey Cup and the London Catholic Schools Cup. This fixture is due to be played in the first week back after Easter.

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.

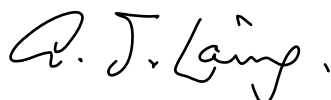
Basketball

It has been pleasing to see that our teams have made real progress this term, thanks to the clever guidance of our new coach, Roz Mason. The boys have shown fantastic enthusiasm and commitment over the year. Special mention must go to the Under 12 Basketball team who have won 8 out of their 10 matches, and who finished 3rd in Surrey after a close loss to the eventual winners in the Semi-Finals.

Summer Term

May I remind parents the Summer term starts on **Monday 16th April**.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master