



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's Letter to Parents

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents

As a very busy term draws to a close I can reflect of some of the boys many successes so far this year. It has been pleasing to see boys throughout the school engaging with all of the varied activities and opportunities that are on offer beyond the classroom.

If you were fortunate enough to see it I am sure that you will agree that the Lower Line production of Bugsy Malone was outstanding. It was wonderful to see new faces performing, in the band and supporting the performance back stage. It was a sell out and we are looking forward to the next production. Photos from the production are on the school website. I would like to thank Miss O'Brien, Mr England and Mr Thomas for all of the work that they put into the production.

There have been significant successes on the sports fields also with the First XV rugby team reaching the last sixteen of the national cup and the Under 16A and Under 13A teams remaining unbeaten all season. Thanks go to all of our coaches this season and to Mr Hallett who has done a tremendous job of coaching the Firsts and coordinating the whole fixture list.

The boys have responded positively to their House charity collections throughout Advent with each House collecting for its chosen charity. The most raised so far by one tutor group is £236 and I am conscious that the boys are continuing to bring money in. Last week saw the Final of the Lower Grammar 'Just Give' project where boys learnt about a variety of charities and then pitched for £1000 which is presented to their charity. Feedback from the Judges was hugely positive and the class supporting the Merton Faith in Action group, who support the homeless in Merton.

As you will see later in my letter the boys individual achievements in and out of the classroom are reflected in the high number of house points that have been awarded this year. I look forward to seeing record breaking totals in the summer.

## Farewell to Mr Boyse

We wish Mr Boyse a very happy and long retirement as he leaves Wimbledon College after 18 years as Head of Sixth and as Assistant Head.

As I wrote in my previous letter Mr Boyse was appointed as Head of Sixth Form in September 2000 and throughout his time here he has worked tirelessly in support of the

boys in Sixth Form. Over that time the Sixth has grown in size and stature with high percentages of our boys progressing successfully to university or into the field of work. He also saw the move of the Sixth Form, in 2002, to its current buildings. The success of the Sixth Form is reflected in the high percentage of boys choosing to move into the Sixth Form from Syntax.

Mr Boyse has also undertaken whole school roles as Assistant Head as well as having positive working relationships with the Ursuline Sixth Form team and indeed with other local Sixth Forms over the years. This includes providing guidance and support to Raynes Park High School when they were opening their Sixth Form.

He will be sorely missed by staff and pupils and I join with all of the boys who have passed through his care and the staff to thank him his commitment, enthusiasm and the example that he has set as a man for other. We wish Mr Boyse all the very best in his new ventures.

### **Report Card and set changes**

Your son's report card is being sent home with him today. When comparing your son'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 son's target grades, or about his progress in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Head of Line. Any missing work is clearly shown on the report card and your support is appreciated in following up missed work with your son.

We have made a number of set changes across a number of subject areas that will come into effect after Christmas and boys affected will be informed of them at the beginning of next term.

### **House points and competitions**

The House points system rewarding positive attitudes to work, positive behaviour and contributions to the life of the school both in terms of House events and representing the school (e.g. sport) continues to thrive and as you can see below the race for top spot is as tight as always. Well done to all of the boys for their efforts and to Southwell House who top the list at Christmas. The number of points awarded is significantly higher this year.

*The end of term the House totals are as follows:*

Southwell	16700
Fisher	16417
Owen	16109
Campion	16054
Hurtado	15939

More	15876
Xavier	15756
Loyola	14863

### *Top tutor group totals*

Rudiments Southwell	4606
Rudiments Owen	4424
Rudiments Fisher	4324
Figures Campion	4240
Rudiments More	4114
Lower Grammar Southwell	3992

### *Top tutor groups for attendance*

Group	% Attendance
Figures Campion	98.5
Syntax More	98.3
Figures Fisher	97.4
Figures Owen	97.4
Syntax Xavier	97.3
Syntax Fisher	97.1
Rudiments More	97.1
Rudiments Southwell	97.1
Grammar More	97.0
Figures Southwell	97.0

### **Forthcoming concerts and drama production**

Next term sees two concerts. The first will be held in the school hall at 7pm on Thursday 24 January. The concert will feature various ensembles including the orchestra and our new string quartet. This event is free and we hope to see many of you there. Then on the 2 April at 7pm there will be a Choral Concert in the College Chapel when the choir will be performing a range of Easter motets and Faure's Requiem.

Our Easter drama production this year is 'Crazy for You'. Performances will be Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 & Friday 29 March 2019 and tickets will be on sale in February (£9 and £6 for concessions). 'Crazy for You' is the story of Bobby Child, a well-to-do 1930s playboy whose dream in life is to dance. Despite the serious efforts of his mother and soon-to-be ex-fiancée, Bobby achieves his dream! It is a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music including many well-known tunes include *I Can't Be Bothered Now*, *Bidin' My Time*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*.

Our Strings Project will be commencing in January for boys in Year 7. Application forms will be sent out today. Please return these to Mr Thomas by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Rugby**

Our fifteen a side season has now come to a close and it has witnessed significant successes. Our First XV recorded their most successful season in the last 7 seasons with ten wins, one draw and only three losses. On the way they both KCS Wimbledon and John Fisher School twice! A first in the College's history. Two of these victories happened within their outstanding National school's cup run to the last 16, unfortunately losing to a very good Seaford College team.

Overall the school competed in 178 fixtures with 103 wins, 11 draws and 64 losses. This equates to a win percentage of 57% up on last year's figures. Our other Cup competition team the U15As had two extremely tough fixtures against Dulwich College and Trinity School and acquitted themselves well.

Thank you to all of the boys who have trained and played throughout the season and who have represented the College so positively. Thank you also to the staff and to all of the parents who have supported the teams this year.

Mr Hallett has asked that I make special mention to the parents who achieved podium places in Wimbledon College Rugby Bake off 2018. They are Mrs Humphries (1st) Mrs Curtis (2nd) and Mr Banks (3rd).

Our 7s programme will commence on the 2nd week back in the new term. Training nights are Thursday for Seniors, U16s and U12s, Fridays for U13, U14 & U15s.

## **Football**

While the season of Saturday fixtures commence after Christmas our teams have already been involved in cup competitions. January will see our Year 10 team in the last 16 of the Surrey Cup while the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, also in the last 16 of Surrey Cup, has reached the last 8 of the Catholic Cup with a victory over Richard Challoner School.

Mr Barnes has asked that if there are parents, who are able to help with the provision of our hospitality to players after the fixtures, would they please contact him before the season starts.

## **Uniform and haircuts**

It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of boys are wearing their uniform correctly however I would like to remind you of the school's clear expectations on uniform requirements and on outer clothing that boys will be wearing as the temperature drops over the coming months. I would ask that you ensure that your son has the correct uniform for the new term and that he is wearing it every day. We do sanction boys for incorrect uniform. This can be easily avoided by the boys being properly attired at all times both on the way to and from school as well as when they are in school.

The requirements are listed in the uniform section of the boys' handbooks. Boys in Lower Line must only wear the College reversible coat. Boys in Higher Line are allowed to wear

the College coat or a plain black coat, with sleeves, that does not have a logo or a hood [including hoods that roll up into the coat]. Any **other items of clothing** (hats, gloves, scarves) are to plain [i.e. no pattern, with the exception of the school 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.

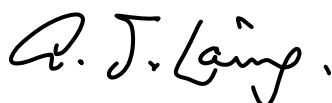
I would also like to remind you that boys' hairstyles should be in keeping with the formality of school life. Extreme styles as listed in the Homework Diary are not acceptable.

Finally shoes should be in line with College expectations which can be found in the boys' diaries and which are available on the College website.

**Next term starts on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

On behalf of all of the staff at Wimbledon College I would like to wish you an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing

Head Master

### **Wimbledon College Twitter accounts**

The College has a number of twitter accounts that are regularly updated sharing news about what is happening at the College. Please do follow us and also if you are happy to do so please retweet messages. The accounts are:

**@Wimb\_Coll**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Rugby**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Music**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Chap** (Chaplaincy)

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Art**