



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Wednesday 15 February 2023

Dear Parents

This letter is being sent at the end of the half term break rather than the beginning and I hope that you have had a safe and enjoyable week.

It was good to see two school trips depart at the end of the half term with the Year 10 ski trip heading to Italy and the Senior Rugby squad playing two fixtures in a short tour to Portugal. On an individual basis Conor Kelly [Syntax] competed in the England Under 17 National Indoor Championships at both 60m and 200m at Sheffield. This is the result of achieving a personal best in the 60m and winning the 200m in the South of England Indoor Championships.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate two of our Rhetoric pupils, Charlie Kenway who has received an offer to study English at Pembroke College, Oxford and Oliver Xavier Creak who has received an offer to study English at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. In addition, 111 Rhetoric pupils have completed their UCAS applications and 14 have submitted apprenticeship applications. We wish all of the pupils well as they wait for the responses from the universities and companies.

On Friday 10th February the College hosted the centenary celebrations for the College's Lourdes Hospitalite Group. This is a group of former pupils who travel annually to Lourdes to support pilgrims to the Shrine of Our Lady. The group started in 1923 taking senior pupils from the College to Lourdes and it is hoped that members of our current Sixth Form will join the group in their working pilgrimage to Lourdes.

As I am sure you are aware Lent commences on Wednesday 22 February and part of our Lenten focus will be raising funds for the Syria/Turkey Earthquake disaster. Further information will follow and I would ask that you support your children in their fundraising activities. Please also remember all of the victims of the disaster in your prayers.

Grade Cards

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 have been sent out to you electronically for the last half term. If you have not received your child's grade card would you please email their Head of Line to let them know.

When comparing your child's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where they 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 when they return to school.

Careers and work experience

Last half term has seen the launch of our work experience week that Grammar and Poetry students will undertake in July. Pupils are currently busy looking for placements. If you are able to support at all with this and offer a work placement, it would be great to hear from you. Please email careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk with your details.

We have also celebrated National Apprenticeship week with subject and tutor activities as well as welcoming Ask Apprenticeship, LDN Apprenticeship and The Metropolitan Police to discuss apprenticeships on offer.

Finally, a selection of Rudiments boys have started their work with the Prince's Trust, whose mentors are helping them to improve their employability skills for the future.

College Sports

We have a lot of fixtures taking place throughout the coming half term and I would like to remind all parents that they can access our fixture lists via the College website.

<http://www.wimbledoncollegesport.org.uk/Default.asp?Id=562>

The success of our teams at all levels depends on the commitment of the boys and the support from you as parents. While I appreciate that many boys also play regularly for teams outside of school I would ask that you prioritise school fixtures as we do expect boys to represent the College if selected to play.

Athletics

Our winter Athletics programme, which included Cross Country, Road Running, Sports hall Athletics and Indoor Athletics has now officially ended. Over the course of the season teams and/or individuals represented in the College in thirteen different competitions. These included; The London Youth Games Cross Country Championship, The TCS

London Mini Marathon, The Surrey County Sports hall Athletics Series and The Simmonds Cup Winter Championship.

Our Year 7 Sports hall Athletics Team came 3rd in the Merton Borough Sports hall Athletics Championship. They also competed in the Surrey Sports hall Athletics Series, from which three pupils attended County trials and one, Hamish Gilroy [Rudiments], has been selected for the Surrey team that is competing next weekend.

Preparation for the summer season commences after half term.

Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season commenced on the last Sunday of half term with the Senior VII competing in the Portsmouth Grammar School Sevens. All year groups will be competing in a variety of competitions after half term.

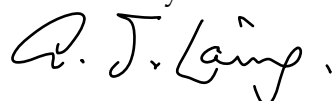
Our own John Pieroni Sevens will take place on **Sunday 19th March** at Coombe Lane. If you have never attended a sevens competition it is well worth coming to watch. Many of the best teams in the country at U15 level attend and the standard of sevens is always high.

Monday 20 February 2023

I remind parents that Monday 20 February is a staff inset day. However, Rhetoric mock examinations will be taking place on Monday. I ask that all students in Rhetoric check their exam timetable.

God bless.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Headteacher