



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Half Term Letter to Parents

Saturday 20th October 2018

Dear Parents

The final week of the half term has been a fair reflection of the year so far in that it has been a very busy and highly successful one. Alongside the learning taking place in the classrooms we have also had our Figures Parent and Tutor Evening, our Poetry Academic Review Day and our Rhetoric Faith Day. The latter was a combined event with the Ursuline High School where the pupils had the opportunity to engage with a number of speakers including a representative from Catholic Voices and one from Jesuit Missions. The start of the week saw pupils returning from a trip to Poland, including a visit to Auschwitz and a meeting with a Holocaust survivor and at the end of the week the College hosted the annual Old Wimbledonians Mass and Dinner attended by over 100 past pupils and staff. The guest speaker was Steven Reynolds, Deputy District Judge and OW [1974].

As well as holding our main school opening evening at the end of September we also held our combined Sixth Form Open Evening at the Ursuline High School before half term. Both were extremely busy and successful evenings where prospective parents and pupils had the opportunity to meet teachers and pupils.

Figures pupils have made an excellent start to their College career and have involved themselves fully in the life of the school. They are exhibiting all of the values that we expect of Wimbledon College pupils. It has also been pleasing to see so many of last year's Syntax pupils [over 80%] commence their studies in our Sixth Form and over 80% of our Rhetoric pupils taking up university places, with others commencing apprenticeships. I am sure that they will all go from strength to strength.

Grade Card

Your son's report card is being given to him today (for years 7 -13). On it you will see the grade for each of his subjects for this half term. 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. Individual grades are available to you on the *Schoolgateway*.

All assessments use the College 1 to 9 grade scale for years 7-11.

A number of set changes in a variety of subjects will come into effect after the half term break and boys affected will be informed of them on their return. 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 his Head of Line.

College Twitter accounts

Thank you to all of our parents who are following the many aspects of school life by signing up to one or more of our various twitter accounts. We are closing in on our 1000th follower!

The Twitter accounts are an excellent way of keeping in touch with what is going on in school and they are updated regularly. If you have not done so already please consider following us on one or more of these accounts. The accounts we have are as follows:

@Wimb_Coll (main school account)

@Wimb_Coll_Rugby

@Wimb_Coll_Music

@Wimb_Coll_Chap (Chaplaincy)

@Wimb_Coll_Art

All essential information will still be communicated to you via SchoolGateway and the school website.

Friends of Wimbledon College

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of FOWC, not just for their time and commitment to the College but also, for their fundraising efforts. I am extremely grateful for the donation of £8000 towards the College Fund. This money along with money raised at the Old Wimbledonian Dinner is being put towards a new specially adapted school minibus. This will mean that all of our minibuses will be able to facilitate wheelchair users.

As a school we are very grateful for the support that we receive from the Friends – parents who are willing to give time to support school activities and coordinate fundraising events. I am conscious that FOWC can only function effectively if there are enough parents who are willing to give their time and energy to such events.

I ask that you consider whether you can spare some time to support both FOWC and the College. The next whole school events where they are looking for support will be our Lower Line production of Bugsy Malone, 12th -14th December and our annual Christmas carol service on Monday evening the 17th of December. If you can assist us, please email FOWC - friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com.

Unacceptable hair cuts

There have been a number of boys who have come to school this term with haircuts where they have had their heads shaved at the back and sides and then left the hair on the top of their heads extremely long. This style is not acceptable.

Similarly we have the expectation that boys in all years are clean shaven when at school. We have had to speak to a number of boys who have not been clean shaven.

I would be very grateful if you would support the school in these matters and talk to your sons about the College's expectations [all pupils and parents have received this previously]. The paragraph relating to haircuts and shaving is as follows:

Hair should be clean, tidy and in a style which is in keeping with the formality of school life. Shaved heads, long hair below the collar or in the eyes, dyed hair, tramlines, stepped and ridged haircuts, patterns, shaved sides and shaved eyebrows are not acceptable. Boys are to be clean-shaven.

Bugsy Malone - December 12-14th

The Drama and Music departments are enjoying rehearsing with the boys for their Christmas production of Bugsy Malone, which will take place on the 12th, 13th and 14th of December. It's going to be an amazing production, entirely acted by boys from the Lower Line, and with home grown musical talent, so get your tickets quickly when they go on sale after half-term.

There will also be auditions for boys from Figures (Year 7) on Thursday 1st November at 3.10 for parts as members of the Press Corps. More information will be given at assembly.

Rugby

We continue to field a fantastic number of teams every Saturday and this commitment from boys and staff has seen us compete in 90 fixtures already this season with 52 wins and 7 draws; a much stronger position than this time last year.

Congratulations must go to the Year 7 pupils who have engaged positively from the very first training session and who have successfully represented the College in their Friday and Saturday fixtures. Long may it continue. The First XV have given them something to aspire to with a number of wins including well-deserved victories over both John Fisher School and Kings College. They take on John Fisher again on the 31st of October in the next round of the National Schools Cup, while our U15 team face London Oratory in November in the National Schools Plate Competition.

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents of the Return2Play system that the school is now working with. The scheme is there to ensure that boys receive the correct support in their return to play following a concussion injury. The system monitors the boy's status and provides them with access to doctors who can sign them off as fit to play. The cost is £30 a year and parents can still register their son. However I must point out that there is a significant increase in cost if your son is registered following a concussion injury. If you wish to sign up please follow the link below:

<https://www.return2play.org.uk/wimbledoncollege/>

Mr Hallett would like to remind parents that there are still a number mouth guards to be collected from the PE Office.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who continue to support our boys and the College by providing such brilliant hospitality and support to all those involved on a Saturday. Your reputation continues to grow!

Athletics news [from Mr Soalla Bell]

Our first competition of the year was the 'Merton Schools Cross Country Championship' held at Morden Park. We entered runners in the Year 7, 8, and 9 competitions and I am pleased to announce that Wimbledon College pupils took first and second places in both the Year 7 and Year 8 competitions. As a consequence of their performances at the Championships 6 boys

have been selected to represent Merton at the 'London Youth Games Cross Country Championships' in November at Parliament Hill Fields, North London. We wish them all well.

As a result of our fantastic season last summer, Surrey County Athletics Association invited the school to take part in their Sportshall Athletics Championships. This event is held over three competitions, one in October, one in November, and then one in January. They are all held at the Guildford Spectrum, and all take place on Sundays. As a school it is a great privilege to be invited to compete in this prestigious event, as it is primarily targeted at club teams and their athletes.

Five College teams participated in the October competition, four Under 13 (Years 7& 8) and one Under 15 (Years 9 & 10) involving 30 athletes in total and one of our U13 teams ended the day in 4th position overall. Congratulations to all of the boys who participated. Those who perform consistently well in this competition, may be selected to represent Surrey at the 'South East Counties Sportshall Athletics Championships', and then hopefully in the National Sportshall Athletics final.

Football - Spring Term

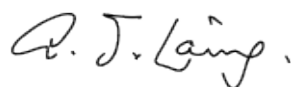
Mr Barnes has forwarded a request for any parents who would be interested in supporting their son's teams, once the regular fixtures commence after Christmas, by assisting with Saturday morning refreshments to contact him. If you are interested would you please email him on his school email - barry.barnes@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Carol Service

Our annual joint carol service with the Ursuline High School takes place this year on Monday 17th December at 8.00pm in Sacred Heart Church. The event is well attended and provides us with a spiritual dimension to our preparation for and celebration of Christmas. May I take this opportunity to invite you and your family to the service.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing,
Head Master