



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Monday 18 February 2019

Dear Parents

College life continues to be busy and successful. We welcomed Father Damian Howard SJ, our Provincial, in January for his annual visit to the school. He had the opportunity to meet with members of staff and pupils and celebrated Mass with Lower Line to commemorate our Founders' Day. Towards the end of the half term I was pleased to attend our Cadet unit's parade when our pupils marked the completion of their initial training. Last Wednesday, along with the Ursuline High School, we welcomed Bishop Hendricks to commission our Year 12 pupils as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. These are only a few of the many that have taken place and as always it is pleasing to see the boys' commitment to the wide range of ongoing activities. Indeed as I write our Grammar Ski trip is underway.

It has also been a busy half term for our exam classes with Syntax pupils taking their mock exams and receiving their results last week, while Rhetoric preparing for their mocks that take place immediately after the half term break.

Report Card

Pupils in Years 8-10, 12 and 13 will have received their report cards in the normal way and I hope that they have given them to you. As you know the grades are colour coded so that you can see an overall impression of your son's achievement and progress in each subject. By this point in the year you should be seeing a shift from red through amber to green as you look across the report. If you, or your son, are concerned about his progress compared to his target grade please do not hesitate to speak to your son's Head of Line. Year 7 pupils will be given their subject reports next week, before Parents' Evening, and we would ask that parents bring these reports to discuss with subject teachers.

FOWC - Second hand uniform sale

Friends of Wimbledon College will be holding their annual second-hand uniform sale on Saturday 15 June. To support this can I ask all parents for donations of clean, good-condition, second-hand school uniform and sports kit for the sale. Donations can be brought to school at any time and can be dropped off at reception. Please ensure that they are clearly marked 'For the attention of Friends of Wimbledon College'. Thank you.

'Crazy for You'

This year's senior production will be *Crazy for You*, 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! Memorable Gershwin tunes include I Got Rhythm, They

Can't Take That Away from Me, Embraceable You and Someone to Watch Over Me. It's a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music.

The performance dates are Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 March and tickets will be on sale after half term February (£9 and £6 for under 18s) via the College website or on an order form available from your son's Line Office, from 26th February. The completed forms must be returned to Mrs Lawlor, the College Secretary.

Choir Concert

There will be a free choral concert on Tuesday 2nd April at 7pm in the Wimbledon College Chapel. The choir will be performing a range of Easter motets including settings of O Vos Omnes and Miserere as well as Faure's Requiem.

House Music Competition

There are two parts to the competition. The first is the Lower Line Final which takes place at 3.30pm on Tuesday 2nd April. Boys wishing to take part should register their interest with Mr Thomas by the end of February.

The second part is the overall House Music Competition Final which will be held on Thursday 25th April at 7pm in the School Hall. Winners of the Lower Line competition as well as musicians from the Higher Line and 6th Form will be invited to participate in this competition.

College Mystery Plays

Miss O'Brien is directing the performance of the Mystery Plays in Easter Week [the first week of the Summer Term] and rehearsals will be taking place during Thursday lunchtime and also after school. All boys interested in taking part in the plays should see Miss O'Brien as soon as possible after half term.

Summer Concert - Keep the date, Monday 8 July

Our summer concert this year will be a joint event with the Ursuline High School and involve both orchestra and choir. It is something to look forward to and I hope that you will be able to attend. As for our previous joint concert in 2017 we are holding the concert at St John's, Smith Square on Monday 8th July. Tickets are available **from the St John's, Smith Square box office**.

Supporting GCSE, A Level, Vocational students

Boys in **Syntax**, having completed their Mock exams received all of their results together just before half term. We hope that the boys will reflect on this experience and identify how they can make further progress in preparation for their actual exams in the summer. Over the next half term we will be updating the Syntax page on the College's website with guidance and materials to support the boys in this. We ask that you check the page regularly and talk to you sons about their studies. Boys should also be developing their revision timetables to make the best use of their time in the build up to their examinations.

It is important to note that their first public examination is on Monday 13th May 2019. All Y11 boys will receive an interview on their choices for next year shortly after half term. This will

include option choices for courses in the Sixth Form at the College or opportunities at another educational provider.

I would also like to make parents of Syntax boys aware that we have bought a very powerful online careers platform called Unifrog. It enables the boys to investigate different career options and pathways, looking at careers, apprenticeships and university courses.

Rhetoric pupils should have received their summer exam timetable from their tutors. If not would you please remind your son to pick it up after half term.

Immediately after half term, as part of their preparation for their public exams, Rhetoric pupils have the second round of PPEs starting on Monday 25th **February** [Please note that although it is an INSET day there will be examinations taking place]. Timetables have been sent home already and further details have been posted on the College website.

Please note that BTEC and IT lessons continue as normal during the examination period. Full reports will be issued for Rhetoric students at the end of term. After their PPEs the Sixth form team will be focusing on boys' folders, files and notes, focusing especially on their 'green pen' responses to feedback from staff. Please remind your son that they should have all of their folders available in school.

Poetry students on BTEC courses will have mock examinations in the week beginning **25th February**, in preparation for external examinations in the summer. Following on from the successful launch of our new online careers platform, Unifrog, with Year 12 we will also be continuing to look at universities, apprenticeships and careers and I remind you that boys may make appointments with our Careers Advisor via Mr Fitcher or Mrs Household. There will be a visit to Surrey University in Guildford on Tuesday 26th February for all boys in Year 12 on level 3 courses.

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/Fixtures_Teams.asp?Id=562&S=20182019&SID=24

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.

Basketball

Both Year 8 and Year 9 Basketball teams reached the semi-finals of the Surrey cup where unfortunately they lost to teams from St Andrews Catholic School. The boys performed well with the Year 9s showing great courage and determination to come back to within 4 points at the end. The Year 8s have also made a very successful start to their Junior NBA campaign representing the Atlanta Hawks. They won all of their pool games and have now qualified for the play-off rounds after half term. Training will continue on Monday after school after half term. I would like to thank our coach Roz Mason for all her hard work with the boys this season.

Football

Mr Barnes has asked me to pass on his thanks to all parents who have been supporting the teams this season and especially those parents who have given up their time to provide hospitality at Coombe Lane on Saturday mornings. Fixtures continue after half term and we hope that the good weather will continue so that they can be completed.

Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season starts on the first Saturday after half term with a number of teams travelling to the Warwick Sevens. Please look at the school sports website for the full list of fixtures, timings and locations. Training after half term will be on Thursdays for Seniors, U16s and U12s and on Friday for U13s, U14s and U15s.

Our own John Pieroni Sevens take place on **Sunday 17th 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.

Cricket

Mr Hulatt has asked to inform all parents that Winter Nets begin on the 2nd week back after half term. Sessions will run from 3.15-4.45pm on the following days:

Figures	Tuesdays – 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th of March & 2 nd April
Rudiments	Thursdays – 7 th , 14 th , 28 th of March & 4 th of April
Lower Grammar	Thursdays – 7 th , 14 th , 28 th of March & 4 th of April
Grammar	Wednesdays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th of March
Syntax and Seniors	Wednesdays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th of March

Boys may bring their own protective kit if they desire, otherwise, kit is provided. If boys do bring their own kit, they may store it on the shelves outside the PE office during the day.

Boys must wear House kit or cricket whites and trainers for the nets sessions.

Jesuit Missions Speaker Event

Jesuit Missions is delighted to welcome Fr Xavier Jeyaraj SJ to the UK to deliver a lecture tour which will take him to Jesuit schools and parishes including Donhead on the 27th February at 7.30pm.

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat in the Society of Jesus curia in Rome. As Director, Fr Xavier assists Fr. General in developing the mission of the Society of Jesus, especially in promoting justice and reconciliation with creation

He will speak on Ignatian responses to 'Care of Creation' and the importance of leadership and how we can take action on being 'men and women for others'.

All are welcome, doors open at 7pm. Please do feel free to share the information with others who you think may be interested in attending.

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support by ensuring that your son[s] are wearing their uniform correctly. I would just like to remind parents that if you are buying new school shoes for your son then please make sure that they fall within College uniform expectations. My previous letter outlining which shoes are acceptable is still available on the College website.

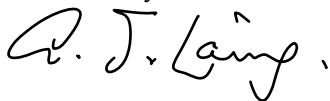
I would also like to remind parents that all boys, including Sixth form, are expected to be clean shaven and that there should be no extreme hair styles. This includes combinations of extremely short and long hair. [More detail can be found in the boy's Diaries]

One final point is that if coats are being worn, they are to be worn over the pupil's blazer/jacket and not instead of the blazer/jacket. For boys in Lower Line it should be the College jacket and for boys in Higher Line it should be a plain black jacket without hood or logo. I must also point out that this rule applies while your son is in uniform and therefore on the way to and from school.

Finally may I remind parents that Monday 25 February is a staff inset day and so boys return to school on **Tuesday 26th February**. [Please note that Rhetoric Mock exams are taking place on the 25 February]

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master