



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Letter to Parents

Thursday 6 April 2023

Dear Parents

As a very busy term comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Easter. Our term ended with our Tenebrae services where we reflected on the forthcoming events of Holy Week and the sacrifice and death of Christ and we will start the Summer term with celebrations of Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. Both services enable us all to consider the importance of these events in our own lives.

As you are aware we had our Ofsted Inspection just before the end of term and I would like to thank all parents who supported the College by completing the Ofsted Questionnaire on Parent View. The response both in terms of number of responses and written comments was very high and as you are able to see, via the link below, the responses were very positive [<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/2031/13>]. The final report will be published around the middle of May and as soon as it is available I will be sharing it with all parents.

At the end of term, we said farewell to Mr Woodhall, who has left us, to take up a new role and promotion in another school. We wish him well and thank him for everything that he has done for our pupils, in and out of the classroom, during his time at the College.

Mr Michael Mahoney RIP

Sadly, I have to inform you of the death of a former Deputy Headmaster and Governor, Mr Michael Mahoney.

Mr Mahoney was a valued and highly respected member of staff who served the College as a member of staff for 37 years. During his time at Deputy he had oversight of the St Catherine's site, when the College expanded to take pupils from Year 7. He gave a tremendous amount of his time and energy to the College and always found time to support both pupils and staff. A former colleague has recounted that he used to say of the pupils, 'catch them being good... it is important to remember to praise them'. In many ways this captures his passion and concern for the wellbeing of the pupils under his care.

When he retired from teaching, Michael took up the role of Governor, which he undertook with the same energy and enthusiasm and it was in this capacity that I got to know him and benefitted from his knowledge and love of the College.

He will be greatly missed and I ask that you remember Mr Mahoney, his wife and family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Refectory Price increases

Due to significant increases in both food and staffing costs I have to inform you that we have had to take the decision to increase the prices on all items available in the Refectory with immediate effect. The new price list is available on the College website. Below is a link to the menu page. <https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/parents/refectory-menu>

We do have the capacity for parents to set a daily limit on your child's spending in the Refectory. The default amount is £7.00 however some boys find the daily limit too low if they need to buy food at breakfast, break and lunch. Parents can set their own limit and if you do wish to change your child's daily limit at any time, please do so by emailing the main office at mail@wimbledoncollege.org.uk.

Report Card

Pupils in years 7-10 and Sixth Form have received their gradecards. Pupils in Syntax will receive theirs at the start of next term. For pupils in Rhetoric the Half Term 4 grade is their March examination grade.

If you, or your child, are concerned about their progress compared to their target grade please do not hesitate to speak to their Head of Line.

Year 8 Activities Day

Pupils in Year 8 enjoyed a very successful House Activity Day where they worked together and competed in a range of activities in order to gain as many points as possible for their Houses. Activities ranged from code breaking, bridge building and House Football. Well done to all who took part and achieved vital points for their Houses.

Enrichment opportunities

Over the course of the term a variety of enrichment activities have been taking place in addition to all of our regular clubs and activities. Our Lower Line *Poetry by Heart* poetry performance winners were Nathan Babb, Philip Sawicki and Paul Zogbessou. Congratulations to them and we wish them well as their entries have been uploaded to the National Finals.

Paul was also successful in our Pi recital competition [which took place on 14 March - I will leave you to work out why], where pupils were challenged to recite the decimal version of Pi to as many decimal places as possible. Paul achieved a new school record recalling Pi to 107 decimal places.

Our two Jack Petchey Speak Out winners, Evan Rushforth and Charlie Wilson, both in Year 10, went on to compete in the Merton regional finals where they performed very well.

The Year 9 'Senior Aspirations' group enjoyed a specially-adapted performance of *The Tempest* at The Globe while our Year 10 group had a great time at the riotous historical musical, *Six*. We have also had two successful A Level trips to *Hamlet* and *Titus Andronicus*.

The Drama Department were once again extremely pleased to be part of the King's College Community Production, where the Rime of the Ancient Mariner involved a number of local schools performing different scenes. Our pupils worked closely with students from King's College to develop their piece. This resulted in an excellent imaginative, witty and clever performance. It was clear from the performance that the pupils had enjoyed the experience and that they have benefitted from working with pupils from other schools. A special thank you to Miss Moore and all of the staff who supported the pupils.

Cricket

The cricket season is set to begin after Easter with training sessions and matches. Sessions will run from 3.15 - 4.45. Pupils should wear House kit or cricket whites with trainers (not spikes).

All boys are welcome whether first timers or experienced cricketers. All equipment is provided but if boys have their own, they are welcome to bring it for the training sessions.

Training will commence in the first week back after Easter

The training schedule is as follows:

	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Monday	U12	Mr Austin, Mr Potter
	U15	Mr Fitcher
Tuesday	U14s	Mr Blowes
Thursday	U13	Mr Hulatt

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Hulatt at Nicholas.hulatt@wimbledoncollege.org.uk.

Rugby

I include the following message from Mr Hallett:

Once again, the infamous British weather played havoc with the Rugby 7s season as a number of tournaments fell foul of the unpredictable and barmy climate that we have now come accustomed to in February and March. A big disappointment to all those involved, especially knowing how much effort and hard work so many pupils and staff had put into preparing for the season. Nevertheless, a number of tournaments did avoid cancellation and once again our teams demonstrated and showed the talent and quality that we have within.

A huge thank you to all those who attended training, gave up their Saturday in Warwick or Sunday for the John Pieroni and showed glimpses of brilliance against some very tough competition. 7s is unforgiving, both physically and on the score board. One mistake is often punished and it is a great learning experience for our pupils to test themselves under pressure in a very challenging environment. What is pleasing is the positivity and perseverance that all that were involved, demonstrated throughout these experiences.

Our own U15 John Pieroni tournament, in memory of a former College alumni, Head pupil & 1st XV Captain who tragically died whilst undergoing an eye operation, held on the 19th March was once again a fiercely competitive and high-quality event. A blend of some of the biggest, most prestigious & famous schools in the SE of England. I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank Mr Bracken and all the College staff who helped me with the running and organisation of this event. It was another major success and the positive feedback from those in attendance was a true reflection of what we can offer the rugby community and a reason so many schools want to be part of this event.

Further to my thanks, without the parents from the U15 team we really couldn't have catered for all in such a way that makes others envious of what we have. A huge thank you to Mrs Austin for coordinating the parental help and to all those that took up the call to assist and volunteered your time. We are truly blessed to be able to offer such hospitality and without your help, and those that have helped throughout Saturday fixtures, the experience we offer would be a lot worse off.

Now that rugby has concluded for the year, can I ask you to remind your child that this is the best time to prepare for next season. We (and I include myself) can always improve our fitness levels but the hard work must start now and not in September.

As always, Pre-season training for Rugby will take place during the last week of the summer holidays. Please make every effort to attend as we won't have much time to prepare once we are all back in school.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter holiday.

Swimming Club

Swimming club has had a successful start to the season- competing and hosting galas against 12 other schools. We have proudly entered teams from Year 7 right through to Sixth form with our most successful team, the U14s nearly winning every race they competed in.

An exciting addition to the aquatics programme is the introduction of Water Polo for all ages. The school welcomes pupils from year 7 through to sixth form to training every Wednesday, and looks forward to putting a strong junior and senior team together to compete against other schools in our area during the summer term.

School Uniform Code

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents of our expectations regarding our School Uniform Code. This includes the uniform itself as well as wearing proper school shoes

and adhering to expectations regarding hair styles. Main school pupils should also be clean shaven.

All pupils are expected to be in correct uniform. I ask that all parents support the College in this matter and that over the Easter holidays you ensure that your child has the correct uniform and that their appearance is in line with the College's Appearance Rules.

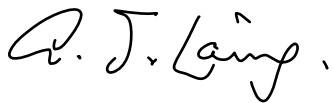
The Uniform and Appearance Rules along with the Uniform List can be found on the College website. I have included a link to the page here -

<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1245&type=pdf>

Finally, just a reminder that **next term starts on Monday 17 April 2023**

I wish you all an enjoyable and peaceful Easter.

God bless.



Adrian Laing

Headteacher