



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's Summer Half-Term Letter to Parents

Thursday 23 May 2019

Dear Parents

### Report Card [Pupils in Years 7-10 & 12]

If your son is in Years 7-10 or 12 you should have received your son's grade card on Friday. As with previous grade cards you will see your son's target grade on it and by this point in the year you should be seeing him achieving grades close to his targets. If you, or your son, feel his target grades are too low or too high please speak to your son's Head of Line. May I remind you that if you wish to receive an up to date grade card at any point during the term please contact your son's Head of Line.

### A Level Examinations and arrangements after half term

After half term Rhetoric pupils are only expected in school for support sessions arranged by teachers and for the A Level examinations themselves. The boys already have their examination timetables and the overall timetable will be available on the College website after half-term. We wish all of the boys well in their forthcoming examinations and they are in our prayers.

### Year 11 - GCSE Examinations

After half term Syntax pupils will only be required to attend school for their actual examinations and for any exam preparation sessions that are taking place prior to the exam. As you are well aware the boys have already completed two busy weeks of exams. Their approach so far has been outstanding and I hope that over half term they manage to take a small break while also preparing for the examinations to come. I am sure that you will continue to support your sons with their exam preparation and revision during the remainder of their examinations. We continue to wish all of the boys sitting their GCSEs well and they are also in our prayers.

## **End of Year exams [Years 7-10]**

Details of the exams [including dates, timetables and revision guides] can be found on the relevant year pages of the school website. It is important that the boys get into good habits preparing for exams and this includes revising well in advance of the exams. They should be using this week to start their revision and by the time that they get to exam week they should really only be going over their revision notes. Please talk to your sons about this and encourage them to plan a revision timetable in the build up to their exam week.

*Grammar pupils have their examinations in the week 17 - 21 June.*

*Lower Line pupils have their examinations from 24 June - 5 July.*

## **Mr Fitcher**

I must apologise to you, and indeed to Mr Fitcher, for failing to include in my last letter that Mr Fitcher was leaving the College at Easter. He had been a member of staff here since 2006 and as well as being an excellent classroom teacher he made a huge impact as Head of Line in the Sixth Form. As a keen cricketer he also involved himself in the wider life of the school and will be greatly missed by both staff and pupils. It is a pleasure to say that he has left the College to take up a promotion as Head of Sixth Form at Raynes Park High School. It does mean that you may still bump into him in and around Raynes Park/ Wimbledon. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him all the very best in the next stage of his career.

## **Head of Sixth Form**

I am pleased to inform you that we welcome our new Head of Sixth Form, Ms Jessica Town, to the College after the half term break. She is joining us from Saint Francis Xavier Sixth Form College, where she has experience of leading both subject areas and pastoral teams.

## **The Examen**

As you are aware the Examen has been undertaken on a weekly basis by all of the boys and staff. They have been very positive it and the opportunity to reflect on and pray about what they have been doing. We have decided to undertake the Examen on daily basis from after half term. It will take place after lunch. Boys will go to their normal period 5 lesson where they will complete the Examen. Their period 5 lesson will then follow. The timetable for the afternoon has been rearranged slightly however the school day will still finish at 3.10pm. Groups on Games will not have the Examen that day.

## **Handing in Homework on time**

The vast majority of boys hand their Homework in to teachers on time and completed to a high standard. However there are boys who have failed to do this. Our current sanction is to give the boy a 'Failed to hand in Homework' Behaviour Referral. The boys have then had to hand their work in the following day. If they fail to do that then they receive a detention.

We do not believe that this process has been successful in developing the boys' sense of responsibility around handing in homework.

We have decided to remove the 'Failed to hand in Homework' referral with effect from the start of next half term. This means that if your son fails to hand in his homework on the given day he will receive a 30 minute detention, which he will be expected to do that day [the exception being any detention given in p6 - boys will then sit the detention the following school day].

### **Mental Health Awareness training for staff - Early Finish 21 June 2019**

As part of our engagement with a joint Mental Health project for schools and healthcare professionals all of our staff will be undertaking a training session on Friday 21 June 2019. To facilitate this, the school will be closing at 12.40pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Joint Music Concert with Ursuline High School**

As I mentioned in my previous letter we are building up to our second joint choral and orchestral concert with the Ursuline High School that will take place at St John's Smith Square.

The concert is at 7pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and promises to be an excellent evening, with a variety of music including well known pieces by Bach, Handel, Grieg and Sibelius. I hope that you will be able to join us for the evening.

Tickets are available from the St John's Smith Square box office and cost £12 and £8 for concessions.

### **Wimbledon College Annual Art and Design Exhibition and the Summer Play**

Included with this letter [in your email] is an invitation to the College's Arts Evening on Thursday 4 July 2019. We are combining our annual Art and Design Exhibition with a production of Shakespeare's The Tempest by our Grammar Drama students and KS4 musicians.

### **Friends of Wimbledon College - Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of Wimbledon College (FOWC) will take place on Tuesday 2 July at 7.30pm in the College. The FOWC plays a vital part in the school community and all parents and staff are invited to attend the AGM. This is your chance to hear how the funds you have helped to raise have been used. The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the chair, treasurer and secretary of the FOWC. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand for office, including existing office holders willing to stand for re-election. Nominations will also be accepted at the AGM.

The FOWC committee wrote to you earlier this term to explain that a number of members will be leaving as their sons have come to the end of their time at the College and they are looking for you, as parents, to join them so that the work of FOWC can continue.

I would like to encourage you to take an active part in FOWC. The College benefits greatly from the support that we receive from the Friends throughout the year. They are present at many of our whole school events helping on a practical level to provide refreshments but more importantly to strengthen the College's welcome to parents, friends and visitors; they manage our second hand uniform sales and raise money for the College through a number of social events. Given the size of the College the number of parents involved is very small and FOWC need your support. You may not be able to make a regular commitment but if you can give your time once or twice a year at our events then that would help them and the College. Please do consider how you are able to support the Friends and if possible attend their AGM on the 2 July.

## **Sport**

### **Rugby**

Pre- season training for current Poetry and Syntax pupils will start on the Wednesday after the final GCSE examination. Training will be from 1.30pm – 3.00pm and all are welcome to attend.

Summer training for all years will take place in the last week of August, especially those hoping to play for the A and B teams. Mr Hallett will be sending our further details next half term.

### **Syntax team photos**

All Syntax team photos will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Boys are reminded to bring their kit for the photos.

## **School Uniform**

As you know we expect very high standards of the boys uniform and I am very much aware that the vast majority of our boys are always smart and a credit to both the school and yourselves. May I ask you to remind your son[s] of our expectations, particularly with the arrival of warmer weather. The boys are to wear their blazers at all times unless otherwise directed by a member of staff. Similarly top buttons should be done up and ties should be worn so that seven gold stripes are visible below the knot of the tie [for pupils with the Anniversary tie, one full stripe must be visible between the crest and the tie knot].

## **Shoes**

As is always the case at this time of year a number of boys have been coming to school in unacceptable footwear because their school shoes have either broken or are now too small. They have all stated that they will be buying new shoes over the half term. I also appreciate that many of you will be buying new shoes during the next half term or for September. May I remind you that boys' shoes must comply with the school rules, which can be found on the College website. Trainers, casual shoes and trainer shoes are not allowed.

I would like to emphasise that if your son comes to school with incorrect shoes you will be asked to replace them immediately.

## **Hair**

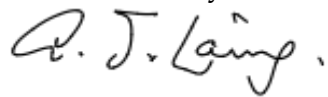
We continue to deal with a number of boys who have had extreme hairstyles that go against the College's uniform expectations, including having parts of their head shaved and lines shaved into their hair. The most recent style that is not in line with our expectations is a skin fade, where the boys have the sides and back of their heads completely shaved. This style is not acceptable.

## **Facial hair**

Boys in all year groups are expected to come to school clean shaven. I would be grateful to you as parents if you would ensure that your son is clean shaven and that he shaves regularly [as needed]. It is not acceptable for them to come to school in need of a shave stating that they had a shave last week. Boys in Poetry are aware that they will be sent home to shave if necessary.

I am sure that you will cooperate with us in these matters and that you will ensure that your son comes to school in correct uniform at all times.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing  
Head Master