



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Half Term Letter to Parents

Friday 2 June 2023

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have been able to enjoy the half term and the good weather. I also hope that all of our pupils revising for their GCSEs and A Levels have been able to take some time to rest in preparation for the second batch of exams after half term. I would like to wish all pupils taking public exams over the next few weeks all the very best.

We are continuing to provide pupils with support sessions and with access to revision materials. Revision materials have been made available to pupils via Google Classroom.

Report Card

Pupils in Years 7 -10 and 12 received [electronically] their report cards before the half term break. Please do take the time to look over your child's card and if you, or your child, are concerned about their progress compared to their target grade please do not hesitate to speak to your child's Head of Line.

Installation of the 3G playing surface on the College field

I am very pleased to be able to say that we are now in the position to move ahead with the installation of the 3G pitch on the College field. There were a number of planning issues that needed to be resolved which meant that we had to delay the installation. These are now resolved and we intend to commence work on the field before the end of the summer term, with a completion date by October half term.

The all weather surface will be a real asset and will be of benefit to both curriculum PE and Games and to extra-curricular sport. The project involves levelling the playing surface as well as installing a complete drainage system. The latter will ensure that drainage will be far superior to what it has been up to now. We also have permission to install floodlighting, which will enable sporting activities to continue later in the winter months.

We are very grateful to the British Province of the Jesuits who have made a substantial contribution towards the cost of the project. This together with money we have within the School Fund means that the project is fully funded.

Vapes and vaping

As you are aware the issues around school pupils vaping has been in the news a great deal over the last few weeks. It is a serious concern due to unlicensed vapes being easily available and the

harm that they can cause to anyone using them. The following link is to a recent BBC article about illegal vapes. There is also an article linked to it that raises the concern that some such vapes may contain nicotine or cannabis based liquids <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65614078>.

Please do take the time to read the articles and to discuss the risks with your children. We have recently shared similar information with pupils about the risks of illegal vapes.

Vapes have become popular with teenagers and they are not necessarily aware of the risks to their health. I would like to point out that selling vaping products to anyone aged under 18 and buying vaping products for anyone under 18 are prohibited. The Government has also recently announced that it is taking steps to stop free samples being offered to children.

Vapes are identified as forbidden items in our Behaviour Policy and as such they will be confiscated [and not returned] if found. Pupils will also be sanctioned for being in possession of vapes, smoking vapes or buying and selling vapes when at school or in school uniform. Sanctions used will include suspension from school. I ask that you make your child aware of the College's rules regarding vaping.

Memorial Mass for Mr Michael Mahoney RIP - Monday 19 June, 6.00pm

In my last letter I informed you of the death of Mr Mahoney, who had been a member of staff at the College for 37 years and who in that time had served as a Deputy Head with oversight of the St Catherine's site when the College expanded to take pupils from Year 7. When he retired from teaching he took up a role as a College Governor which he undertook with his usual energy and enthusiasm.

I would like to inform you that there will be a Memorial Mass for Mr Mahoney on Monday 19 June at 6.00pm, in the College Chapel. Former staff, pupils and parents who knew Mr Mahoney are invited to attend to remember him and to celebrate his life.

I would be grateful if you would share the details of the Mass with friends and family members who would have been at the College during his time as a teacher and Governor.

Careers events

Over the last half term, we have been able to offer pupils access to a number of speakers and events that will hopefully help them consider a variety of academic and career pathways as well as supporting them in their decision making and what to consider when applying for university.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Greenwood and Ms Wehbe who came and spoke to our biology GCSE and A Level students about the importance of Clinical and Vascular Pharmacology development and members of the Portsmouth University team who spoke to pupils in Lower Grammar and Poetry. Finally, I would like to thank Wimbledon Bookfest and Roehampton University for the recent Introduction to University Day which was attended and enjoyed by the whole of Poetry.

Parents dropping off and collecting pupils by car

I would like to remind all parents who drop off their children at school or collect them from school of the importance of parking safely. As I am sure you are aware Edge Hill is extremely busy at these times.

It is also important that you are mindful of our neighbours and that you do not stop/park either in or across private entrances, driveways or roads.

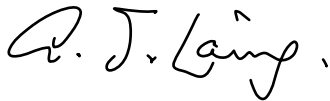
I would also like to remind all parents that they should not use the Sacred Heart Church car park for either dropping off or picking up your child. The car park is only for the use of parishioners visiting the church or by individuals who have been given permission to use it.

If at all possible please try to drop off/collect your son a short distance away from the school to avoid congestion.

School Uniform expectations

Thank you to all parents who have ensured that your children are wearing the correct school uniform, not only in school but on their way to and from school. There are however a number of pupils who are wearing incorrect uniform and shoes. I ask that you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. This includes formal black shoes. I would ask that you check the School Uniform List before buying any school uniform.

With best wishes
God bless.



Adrian Laing

Headteacher