



# Wimbledon College

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## Headteacher's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Monday 23 October 2023

Dear Parents

As the half term comes to a close it is fantastic to see our new all-weather playing surface close to completion. The picture below was taken at the end of last week and as you can see the playing surface is now in place. There is still some work to be done with the floodlighting and final testing and it is hoped that the project will be handed over to the school after half term.



I wrote earlier this half term to all parents about pupils having the proper footwear for use on the surface and I will resend that letter with this one. It is important that pupils do have the correct footwear for their own safety. I would also like to repeat my appeal for old boots that your children have grown out of to be donated to the school for those families who cannot afford new boots. Please only donate boots that meet the stud criteria as detailed in my earlier letter.



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The half term has been an extremely busy one with amongst other events our parent briefings, Prize Giving and two extremely well attended Open Evenings for prospective Year Seven and Year Twelve pupils. Alongside our staff, our current pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school as they showed visitors around the different departments.

If parents were not able to attend our Parent Briefings the PowerPoints from the evenings are available on the year group Notices pages within the Calendar and News section of the College website [[Link](#)].

As well as the work to the playing field the replacement of the swimming pool roof has continued this term and I am grateful to all pupils and staff who have faced the ongoing disruption in terms of reduced space [not least the PE and Games Department] but also the noise levels involved. This work will continue after half term and we are hopeful that it will be completed before Christmas.

### **Grade Cards**

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 have been sent out electronically this week for the last half term. These are in a new format as a result of the school moving to our new data management system Arbor. Further information regarding how we assess pupils and report to parents is available here:

<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/curriculum/assessment-and-reporting>

If you have not received your child's grade card would you please email their Head of Line to let them know.

### **Application deadlines for Year 7 and the Sixth Form**

A reminder that online applications for pupils starting in Year 7 in September 2024 have to be submitted by 31 October 2023 and Supplementary Information Forms have to be submitted to the College by this date, via the Applicaa link on the College website.

Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2024 have to be submitted, via Applicaa by Friday 24 November 2023. Boys in Syntax should have already started their applications. If they have not done so there is a link to Applicaa available on the College website.

[<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form+Admissions&pid=108>]

### **Black History Month**

As a school we have, during October, been celebrating Black History Month, the theme for this year has been 'Celebrating our Sisters.' To mark the month, we have looked at black history within the Bible during our morning prayers and it has also been the focus of our Examen in the afternoon. There have been displays around the school and daily profiles of 'Great Black Britons' and other resources shared on Google Classroom. The theme for



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assemblies over the course of the month has also been black history and departments have planned a wide range of activities across the school to commemorate the month in their subject area.

Five boys had their work chosen to be exhibited as part of the Merton 'Faces and Places' competition, they were invited to a launch event in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre and got to meet the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Gill Manly.

We also held an 'International Food Festival' on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October which was organised by Year 13 Business BTEC pupils, as part of their course, along with the Friends of Wimbledon College. It was a fantastic evening which was very well attended with lots of delicious food and the opportunity to learn more about different cultures. A big thank you to all of those who prepared dishes for the evening.

### **Drama Production - The Addams Family The Musical**

The Drama and Music department are currently rehearsing *The Addams Family The Musical* ready for performance on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

Tickets will be on sale after half term, and we cannot wait to entertain you in the spookiest way possible, so please buy a ticket and treat yourself to a really fun night out!

### **House Music Competition**

Our annual House Music Competition will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm in the College Hall. Last year's winners were from Rudiments and Lower Grammar so we encourage entries from all year groups. Mr Thomas will also be emailing parents of pupils who receive instrumental lessons, with details of the competition.

### **Joint Carol Service 2023**

Our joint carol service with the Ursuline will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the Sacred Heart Church and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the College Hall. Please come and support one of the musical highlights of the term - the College choir will be singing works by Handel, Victoria and Vaughan Williams.

### **College Orchestra**

The College orchestra will commence rehearsals after half term on Tuesday lunchtimes in MU2. We encourage any pupils who play an orchestral instrument to join. We also are hoping to re-establish a joint orchestra with the Ursuline for future concerts.

### **Instrumental Lessons**

A number of our instrumental teachers still have space for pupils. Please email Mr Thomas if your child would like to learn a musical instrument. We especially encourage players of



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brass and woodwind instruments and have some instruments that pupils can borrow initially.

### **Latin Club**

Latin club starts after half term on Wednesday lunchtimes in MU2. If your son is interested in learning about the Latin language and in beginning to read, write and speak Classical Latin then this club is for them. Spaces are limited so please email Mr Thomas to confirm a place. [ifor.thomas@wimbledoncollege.org.uk](mailto:ifor.thomas@wimbledoncollege.org.uk)

### **PSHE and Careers education**

We would like to thank all of the external speakers who have been in to speak with the pupils about a variety of issues. They include, Talk Consent (Grammar & Rhetoric), Kothi (Figures), Just a Guy Foundation (Syntax) and to Mr Andrews for his talk to Grammar about the importance of the Equality Act.

Our career programme continues to grow from strength and pupils have been extremely fortunate to hear from two alumni of the College. KC Jonathan Taylor spoke to Poetry about his career as a sports lawyer and Andrew Harding spoke to our Business students about how to create a successful brand. We would also like to thank Ask Apprenticeship for the interview an assessment centre workshops that they ran with the Rhetoric students.

### **Sinnott Society**

A long-standing event on the school calendar has been the meetings of the Sinnott Society. It has been organised by Old Wimbledonians, Colonel Ken Peacock [Retd] and Mr John Simmonds and has centred on talks by other former pupils on their lives and careers since leaving the College. The talks were open to former pupils and current Sixth Formers.

The decision has been taken to end the talks in their current format, however the name will live on as we will hold Sinnott Careers Talks, which will be career talks by Old Wimbledonians and former pupils will be invited to attend any Sinnott Careers Talk given to our Sixth Form.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both of the organisers of the Sinnott Society for all that they have done over the past years for the Society and the College.

I would also like to extend an invitation to any Old Wimbledonians who would be interested in talking to our pupils about their careers, or topics relating to their areas of expertise, to contact Mr Skinner, at the College, to discuss possible opportunities to speak to our pupils.



## Rugby

Rugby training after Games sessions has been a huge success and well supported by the pupils with their attendance. It is imperative that we maintain this momentum and build on the success and improve across all areas.

This will continue next half term however, upon the completion of the 3G pitch at school we will also add additional training sessions and maximise the opportunity to improve our standard of rugby.

### Training schedule

**[Please note that training at school will only commence once the all-weather pitch is completed]:**

U12s/Figures (yr 7) Monday at school & Friday after Games at Coombe Lane.

U13/Ruds Thursday at school & Tuesday after Games at Coombe Lane.

U14/Lower Grammar Thursday at school & Monday after Games at Coombe Lane.

U15/Grammar Wednesday at school & Thursday after Games at Coombe Lane.

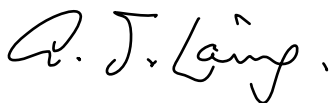
Seniors & U16/Syntax Tuesday at school & Wednesday after Games at Coombe Lane.

Seniors Friday at Coombe lane.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 30 October for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 31 October [with the exception of Rhetoric students taking mock exams – their exam timetable is available on the Rhetoric page of the College website].

Yours sincerely,

God bless



Adrian Laing

Headteacher

