



# Wimbledon College

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

Friday 16 February 2024

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your family have had a safe and enjoyable half term week.

The last half term although short was a busy one and as always it is pleasing to see our pupils engaged in so many activities outside of the classroom. Some will be mentioned in this letter however there are many more that take place on a daily basis. I would urge your child to consider participating in one or two of our clubs if they are not currently doing so.

One such activity is the Bebras Computing Challenge [created by Oxford University to introduce computational thinking to pupils] for pupils in Years 7 and 8 worldwide. This year 117 467 pupils in the UK, including our own pupils, took part and it is great to share with you that Jay Han [Rudiments] has got through to the final of the competition. The final takes place on 5 March. We wish him well in the final.

As I am sure you are aware Lent started on Wednesday and as always, we will have a Lenten focus for the pupils over the next half term as we move towards Easter. Further information will be shared with pupils and yourselves and I would ask that you support your children to engage fully in this important season of the Church's year.

Last term also saw the completion of the work to replace the swimming pool roof and I am pleased to say that the pool is now back in full use and that we are once again free of scaffolding.

### Head of Line - Rudiments

Mr Cole will be away from school for the remainder of the academic year for personal reasons and I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Kitchenham as Head of Rudiments for the period of Mr Cole's absence. Miss Kitchenham is a well-established member of our Art Department and has the good fortune of having taught all of the pupils in Year 8. She is looking forward to taking on the role.

Parents will be able to contact Miss Kitchenham in the usual way, either through Mrs Matthews, our Lower Line PSA, or via the Rudiments Head of Line email:

[rudiments@wimbledoncollege.org.uk](mailto:rudiments@wimbledoncollege.org.uk) .

## **Grade Cards**

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 have been sent out electronically this week for the last half term. Higher Line and Sixth Form gradecards include the latest, graded, assessments for this half term (HT3). Lower Line gradecards contain the subject progress judgement for this half term.

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.

## **Wimbledon College Hospitalité**

Last year was the Centenary of the College's first working party to Lourdes to help sick and disabled pilgrims. To celebrate this important milestone, the Wimbledon College Hospitalité organised a pilgrimage to coincide with the 2023 working party. Another pilgrimage is planned for this year, which will run from Friday 23 August to Tuesday 27 August, alongside this year's working party. As last year, it will be led by Fr. Michael Holman SJ, a former Headmaster of the College. The pilgrimage is open to anyone one with a connection to the College, and of course parents and families of boys at the College are especially welcome. An email with further details will follow shortly.

If your son is in Rhetoric, he will be eligible to join this year's working party, 23 to 30 August.

## **Literacy**

We have arranged trips to Wimbledon Library for all of our Figures pupils over the past few weeks. They had a great time and were given a tour of the library and received their Merton library cards to be used in any library across the borough. We have also piloted our first 'rolling read' day where pupils in Lower Line listened to the short story 'Lamb to the Slaughter', by Roald Dahl. A section of the story was read to pupils via pre-recorded voiceovers from our staff and perfects. It was a success and pupils enjoyed the story, as did staff! Our paired reading scheme between Rudiments pupils and Poetry students continues to be a success and it has been fantastic to see pupils in the same houses across the College enjoying reading together.

## **PSHE**

Lower Grammar pupils have engaged in two powerful PSHE sessions in the past few weeks delivered by external speakers. The first was delivered by Wizard Theatre who delivered a performance called 'I promise I won't die mum', re-enacting the very sad story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who died from a drug overdose. This was an excellent performance which highlighted the dangers of risk-taking behaviour and drugs in particular. They also had a talk from Jacob from St Giles' Trust who spoke of his life struggles and warned of the dangers of knife crime and gave very clear messages of ensuring we are all safe in the community.

Rhetoric welcomed political pollster and founder of Deltapoll, Joe Twyman. Joe gave a very informative talk about the importance of voting and some insight into democracy in Britain.

## **Careers**

We were delighted to welcome Ed Heaver to Wimbledon College to explain how he set up his company Serve Legal and the challenges and successes he has had along this journey. Our Poetry students were very grateful for his insight. We would like to thank Ms Guinea and St George's Hospital for organising the 'Explore Medicine' talk held in January, it was well attended by many in the Sixth Form and it was great to see younger boys there too.

A gentle reminder, if you feel you could give some time to support our Careers Fair on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, please email [careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk](mailto:careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk).

## **College 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/Default.asp?Id=562>

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.

## **Athletics**

Athletics continues to thrive here at Wimbledon College. So far, this academic year we have had representation in 12 competitions these include: Cross Country Running, Sportshall Athletics, and Indoor Athletics.

Our greatest success came last weekend when the Under 13 Sportshall Athletics team competed at The Westcroft Leisure Centre (Carshalton), in the '2024 London Sportshall Athletics Regional Final', and won.

This is a new competition, and the organisers, having heard about our teams, asked Mr Soalla-Bell (Head of Athletics) to enter a team from the College. As with the Surrey County Sportshall Athletics matches, that we attend, this event is a club-based competition, and we were the only school team to attend. The purpose of this competition was to find the best Sportshall Athletics athletes in London. These individuals will then compete for London at the National Final in Stoke on Saturday 6th April 2024.

The final team for the National Final will be a 'composite team' (a selection of the best athletes from the day), and will include a number of boys from our team. In addition to this Tami George [Rudiments] has been selected for the Surrey Sportshall Athletics team.

Preparation for the summer season commences after half term.

## Football

Fixtures continue after half term and we hope to see the engagement of so many boys at their training sessions continue. The excellent numbers attending training since the opening of our all-weather pitch has been encouraging. Our teams have been involved in cup competitions and it is pleasing to see that both our 1<sup>st</sup> XI and our U14 teams have progressed to their respective quarter finals of the Surrey Cup Competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI face Epsom College in the next round and the U14's face Hampton School. We wish them well.

## Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season commenced before half term and will get into full swing, for all year groups, once we return to school after half term.

Our own John Pieroni Sevens will take place on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Sacred Heart Church Car Park – New parking restrictions.

Although we ask that parents do not use the Sacred Heart Car Park when waiting for your children I do need to make you aware that the parish are introducing parking controls in the car park, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024. There will be a grace period of 15 minutes however if you park for longer than this a PCN will be issued.

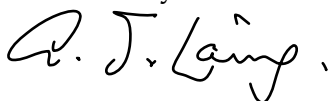
I have attached as an appendix the announcement that was in the parish newsletter on Sunday 11 February 2024. Please do take the time to read this.

## Monday 19 February 2024

I remind parents that Monday 19 February is a staff inset day. However, Rhetoric mock examinations will be taking place on Monday. I ask that all students in Rhetoric check their exam timetable.

God bless.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing  
Headteacher

### CHURCH CAR PARK

Following some serious problems with unauthorised parking in the car park - which have prevented parishioners from attending Mass, which threaten the continuation of groups such as the Wednesday dementia group, and which in one case prevented a priest getting his car out to go to the cemetery for a funeral - it has been decided to implement a parking scheme. This will commence on 1st March 2024 and this is how the scheme will work:

- There will be cameras recording entry to and exit from the car park.
  - If you park in order to attend Mass, Adoration etc in Church, to visit the Presbytery, or to attend a function in one of the halls, you MUST register your car registration number on one of the tablets. There will be four tablets, in the Church, the Presbytery Reception, the Upper Hall and the Lower Hall.
  - If you park and register, and then leave and return later in the day you must register again.
  - You do not need to register as soon as you arrive as long as you do it before you leave, but it is good practice to get into the habit of registering on arrival.
  - There is a grace period, so if you are dropping someone or something off you don't need to register; deliveries similarly will be unaffected.
  - Vehicles which are parked without registration or authorisation will receive a Parking Charge Notice through the post.
  - The system will not be operational on Sundays, so you won't need to register your car then.
  - Vehicles entering the College vehicular entrance and then exiting through the car park will also be unaffected.
- Please ask if you are uncertain but remember from 1st March you must register your car if parked in the car park, to avoid a Parking Charge Notice. There will be very clear signs reminding you of the scheme.