



Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's End of Year Letter to Parents

Monday 22 July 2024

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of another successful year it is fantastic to look back on how positive our pupils have been in their studies and in their engagement with all of the activities and events that have been made available to them through the hard work of our staff and external providers. This in many ways is encapsulated in the Rudiments First Give project that again ran so successfully this year. Supporting a charity, chosen by each group, pupils engaged in raising both awareness of and funds for their charity, which culminated in excellent presentations by all of the groups. They put into practice what is at the heart of our ethos, which is to develop their learning, skills and talents not just for themselves but for benefit of those less fortunate in society.

This time last year I included a photograph of the College playing field being prepared for our 3G pitch. As you know this was completed by the Autumn half term and it has made a huge difference to pupils during PE and Games as well as for training after school. It was also used to ensure that some of our rugby and football fixtures took place when our Coombe Lane pitches were out of action. The pitch has also been hired by outside clubs during the evenings and weekends. Without your support of the School Fund we would not have such a valuable asset and I am grateful to all of our parents who contribute to the fund.

Our year ended with two days of House activities and with our traditional Masses of St Ignatius. The masses were celebrated by Fr Paul Nicholson SJ and Fr Michael Barnes SJ, both of whom are former pupils of Wimbledon College and we are grateful to them for continuing to support the College in this way.

Staff leaving

We say farewell to a number of staff who are leaving us at the end of the year.

Mr Graham has for the last 22 years been an integral member of our Science Department and for many of these he has been Head of Science, taking responsibility for Chemistry. During his time the Science Department has been very successful and this is reflected in the number of pupils who regularly chose science subjects at A Level and on into university. Mr Graham's focus has always been the pupils, both academically and pastorally, and he has worked extremely hard to ensure



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that they have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. We wish him every success and happiness in the future.

Mrs Household is leaving the College after 18 years. For much of this time she has been a key member of the Sixth Form team supporting pupils, parents and teachers. She has always been a cheerful, calming presence and was willing to give her time to support pupils. Her role as Counsellor developed while at the school and we have been very lucky to have her working with individual pupils throughout the school over the last few years. She is moving on to develop her counselling work further, both with adults and as a Counsellor in a girls' school. We wish her every success in the next stage of her career.

Other staff leaving the College this summer are

Miss Szymanska, who has been an LSA supporting individual pupils at the College for the last 12 years, Mr Iwasko [Science teacher], Miss Newman [LSA], Mrs Reeve Tucker [Higher Line PSA] and Mr Rodrigues [TSA]

On behalf of the College community I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for everything that they have contributed to the College and wish them every success in the future.

Reports and Jesuit Pupil Profile Certificates for Years 7-10

Parents of pupils in Years 7-10 will have received their child's end of Gradecard, with attainment and effort grades, along with their JPP Report that includes their child's tutor report. If you have not received your child's Gradecard or report then please email your child's PSA.

Parent Information Evenings - September 2024

Looking forward to the start of the new year I wanted to give you the dates for our Parent Briefings so that you can add them to your diaries. They are as follows:

05/09/2024	Y11 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
05/09/2024	Y12 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]
09/09/2024	Y7 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
10/09/2024	Y8 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
10/09/2024	Y13 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]
11/09/2024	Y9 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
11/09/2024	Y10 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [online]

Examination results days

Key dates:

A Level and Sixth Form vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 15 August from 8.30am - 9.30am**, in the Sixth Form Study Hall. Staff will be available to support pupils during the morning.



GCSE and Syntax vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 22 August from 8.00am until 9.00am** in the main hall.

Pupils should collect their own results. Prior notice is required if another family member needs to pick up results for a pupil. If this is necessary then please email either Mr Murphy (philip.murphy@wimbledoncollege.org.uk) or the Examinations Officer (exams@wimbledoncollege.org.uk). The family member will also need to provide identification.

Sixth Form Enrolment

Once pupils have received their results on Thursday 22 August they will be able to complete their online enrolment form on the Applicaa platform. They will be able to do this in school, from 8.00am in the computer rooms.

I would like to remind you that pupils will require their passports and means to pay the appropriate fees.

Friends of Wimbledon College



Following on from the success of the event last year the School and the FoWC would again like to celebrate the diversity of our community with an **International Food Festival on October 18th 2024**.

This will be an opportunity for parents/guardians, school staff and pupils to come together to sample the cuisines from our various cultures, enjoy some music and other activities.



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The evening relies on parents making donations of cooked, prepared or purchased traditional food for us all to enjoy! Further details and information on how to purchase tickets will be sent nearer the time.

I hope that many of you will be able to support and enjoy this event. It is a fantastic way to get to know other parents while enjoying great food.

Punctuality and attendance

As part of the national drive to support pupil attendance at school, which in turn supports academic progress, we have reviewed our attendance policy.

Two changes that will impact pupils most directly are:

1. We are returning to the expectation that pupils should be in school by 8.25am.
Pupils arriving after that time will be recorded as late.

If pupils are late, without a valid reason they will receive sanctions in line with our Behaviour Policy. I must point out that 'heavy traffic' will not be accepted as a valid reason as pupils should allow sufficient time to arrive to school on time.

2. Pupils who arrive after 8.25am and before 9.00am will be recorded as late to school.
3. Pupils who arrive after 9.00am will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence from school for the morning session [this is following DfE guidance].

I hope that you will support your child[ren] and the College and ensure that your child[ren] arrive to school in good time.

Uniform

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for ensuring that your children come to school with the correct uniform and with an appropriate hair style.

If you are finding it difficult, for financial reasons, to purchase any item of school uniform for your child then please contact your child's PSA and we will do what we can to support you.

There are a number of reminders below regarding uniform. I am very conscious that the vast majority of pupils are proud of their uniform and wear it correctly. A small number of pupils have not been doing so.

Coats

Coats are not to be worn instead of the College blazer, both on the way to school and in school. This is not acceptable and pupils have been informed that if they do this their coat will be confiscated. If a coat is required then it is to be worn over their blazer.

Coats should also be plain black, with sleeves and without logos. Coats may have hoods.

Shoes

I am aware that many of you will be buying new shoes for your sons over the summer and I direct you to the uniform and suitable shoe pages on our website [the Transition to the College page of the Parents section] for the relevant information about what shoes are acceptable. I must



emphasise that we insist on *black, leather, plain, formal and polished shoes*. I must also point out that our list of unacceptable brands [to be found in our 'a Guide for New Parents' on the Transition to the College page of the College website] is not exhaustive. They are simply given as examples.

I must emphasise that trainers or shoes that have the appearance of trainers [even if bought at specialist shoe shops] are not acceptable and parents will be expected to change unacceptable shoes. I really do urge you to ensure that you buy the correct style of shoe to avoid any unnecessary expense, if you have to buy a second pair of shoes.

Correct footwear for use on the 3G pitch

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that all pupils must have football boots, with the correct studs [blades are not allowed], to use the school's 3G pitch.

Wearing uniform correctly

Pupils are expected to wear their uniform correctly at all times.

This includes having their top button done up, their tie at an appropriate length [a simple rule of thumb is that there are seven strips visible on the main part of the tie] and that their trousers are at the right height, held up by a plain black belt if necessary.

A number of pupils have been wearing their trousers much lower than they should which means that what they are wearing underneath is visible. This is not acceptable and pupils who persist in wearing their trousers in this manner will be sanctioned.

Please support the College and ensure that your child's uniform fits him properly and that he knows what the College's expectations are.

Careers

This half term the Careers department, have been busy ensuring that boys in Grammar and Poetry were ready for their respective weeks of work experience. The boys have worked extremely hard to secure some very interesting placements, such as working at Formula E, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital and The Savoy Hotel. The feedback we have had from employers has been exceptional, and we are very proud of the way that boys conducted themselves over the weeks.

We would like to thank OW Michael Tabirade for delivering a Sinnott Careers Talk to Rudiments and Lower Grammar about the 'seven steps to success'. Michael's role as a leadership coach helped him to give boys very tangible steps to ensure that they were making positive choices about their futures. Poetry were fortunate to listen to OW Justin Basini, CEO and founder of Clear Score, give a very honest and insightful talk about his career in business to date.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to making the delivery of Careers education a success this year. Please do take the time to look through our 'Careers Bulletin' [which has been sent out separately] as it gives a more comprehensive overview of the numerous opportunities that our pupils have had.



Drama

The First Stage Drama club, together with 12 Figures pupils from Art, produced an excellent exhibition piece for the Merton Arts Share 2024 project, entitled Fantastic Journeys. The exhibition, which features a 5-minute video, puppet silhouettes, 6 A2 mixed media illustrations and a radio play script, is on display at Canons House in Mitcham and will be up until August 23rd and open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00-12.00 and 2.00pm – 4.00pm each week. We would encourage you to visit the exhibition, and enjoy our pupils' work, over the holiday.

Rugby

Pre-season training

As we end the Summer and start to look forward to September can I please remind you all that once again, pre-season rugby sessions will take place in the final week of August after the Bank holiday (please see information below). These are not compulsory but will provide your new coach with a first impression and opportunity to assess their team prior to our first fixture on the 7th September.



The poster features a green background with a large white and green rugby ball on the left. The text 'WIMBLEDON COLLEGE Pre-season Rugby 2024 – 25 SEASON' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title is a table with a yellow header and grey body. To the left of the table, there is text stating 'ALL PUPILS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND' and 'Please arrive 15mins before the start of the session'. The bottom left corner shows another rugby ball. The background also features a faint crest with the letters 'IHS'.

ALL PUPILS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Please arrive 15mins before the start of the session

YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY VENUE	VENUE
8	27 th & 29 th August	9.30 – 10.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
9	28 th & 30 th August	10.00 – 11.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
10	27 th & 29 th August	10.00 – 11.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
11	28 th & 29 th August	9.30 – 11.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
12 & 13	28 th , 29 th & 30 th August	9.30 – 11.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane

With such an early return to matches, these sessions are an invaluable opportunity to organise our teams so that we give ourselves the best possible chance of competing in these early weeks. Please do make every effort to attend.

As I am sure you are aware mouthguards are compulsory for rugby for safety reasons. If your child already has a mouthguard please ensure that it still fits correctly. If it does not or your child does not currently have a mouthguard you have the opportunity to take advantage of a promotional offer from OPRO [the world's leading mouthguard manufacturer]. If you wish to




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obtain an OPRO custom fitted, personalised mouthguard then please see the letter that has been emailed out with my end of year letter.

Training


RUGBY TRAINING NIGHTS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER



ALL
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TO ATTEND

DAY	AGE GROUP	TIME	COACHES/STAFF	VENUE
MONDAY	U12s	3.30 – 5.00	Mr Simon, Mr O'Hare, Mr Potter, Mr Hallett	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
TUESDAY	U14s	3.30 – 5.00	Mr Stock, Mr Soalla-Bell, Mr Milloy	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
WEDNESDAY	SENIORS & U16s	3.15 – 5.00 3.15 – 4.00	Mr Hallett, Mr Hillhouse, Mr Doran, Mr West	COOMBE LANE
	U15s	3.15 – 5.00	Mr Bracken & TBC	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
THURSDAY	U13s	3.15 – 5.00	Mr O'Connor, Mr van der Hoeven, Mr Fitcher	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
FRIDAY	1 ST & 2 ND XV Captain's run	3.30 – 4.30	Mr Hallett, Mr Hillhouse, Mr Skinner & Mr Doran	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots



Above is the training schedule for next term. These dates are fixed and we are not able to change them. Training is an expectation for pupils who wish to be part of the College teams. If your child is unable to attend training then they must inform their coach to explain their absence. This may affect their selection for the following fixture.

Match day teas

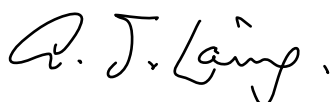
Mr Hallett is also looking for more parents to volunteer to help with match teas. We provide teas for players and staff following our home fixtures on Saturdays and the teas are greatly appreciated by visiting teams as well as our own. If you are able to give some time on a Saturday morning please do contact Mr Hallett [neil.hallett@wimbledoncollege.org.uk].

Start of Autumn Term

May I remind you that all pupils return to school on **Tuesday 3 September**. There is a staggered start to the day with **Years 7 and 12 start at 8.30am** and **the rest of the school starting at 11.00am**. School will finish for all pupils at **2.15pm on 3 September**.

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer.

God bless,



Adrian Laing
Headteacher



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