



Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Saturday 2 November 2024

Dear Parents

The half term has been an extremely busy one with a variety of events including our parent briefings, Prize Giving and two extremely well attended Open Evenings for prospective pupils. For the first time in many years we had rain during our Year Seven Open Evening however it did not dampen spirits and as always, our pupils, alongside our staff, were excellent ambassadors for the school as they showed visitors around the College. Our Year 12 Open Evening was a great success and was held jointly with the Ursuline High School. It was pleasing to see so many of our own Syntax pupils there alongside a high number of external pupils.

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](#)].

Also on the website is the summary of 2024 examination results, including our predicted Progress 8 score, at GCSE. There has been a delay with the DfE release of school data] however I am very pleased to say that our predicted Progress 8 score is 0.85, which is the highest that the College has ever achieved. Our Sixth Form results [A Level and Vocational] are also the best that the College has achieved in recent years. The summary can be found here [[Link](#)].

Grade Cards

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 have been sent out electronically this week for the last 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 is now on Instagram



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To help even more of our parents and the wider community keep in touch with what is happening at the College we have launched a Wimbledon College Instagram account.

It is @wimbledoncollegeofficial

If you are on Instagram please do follow us. We will continue to post as @wimb_coll on X (formally Twitter), and you can also connect via our school profile on LinkedIn. Content may vary between platforms.

Application deadlines for the Sixth Form

Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2025 have to be submitted, via Applicaa by Friday 22 November 2024. 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

This October as a school we have been celebrating Black History Month, the theme for this year is 'Reclaiming Narratives.' Black History Month has been the focus of our morning prayer and Examen during the month, there have been displays put up around the school and on the screens, which have included information on inspirational black figures from different subject areas as well as a timeline of Black British History.

Daily profiles of 'Great Black Britons' and other resources have been shared on Google Classroom and a quiz was posted so pupils could check how much they have learned throughout the month. The theme for assemblies over the course of the month has also been black history and departments have also planned a wide range of activities across the school to commemorate the month in their subject area.

Drama Production - Clue The Musical

The Wimbledon College Christmas Production this year will be *Clue The Musical* by Peter DePietro. It is an amazing musical based on the family favourite board game Cluedo, and we invite the audience to literally try to solve the mystery each night as our fantastic cast act sing and run their way round the board game (the stage) to the game's conclusion! You will be able to buy your tickets shortly after half term by visiting the College website, where there will be details of price and how to pay using Arbor. Like *The Addams Family* last year, this will be an unmissable production, so please get your tickets before they sell out!



International Food Festival



We held our second 'International Food Festival' on Friday 18th October which was organised by Year 13 Business BTEC pupils, as part of their course, alongside 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.

Joint Carol Service 2024

Our joint carol service with the Ursuline will be held on Monday 16th December at 8pm in the Sacred Heart Church and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the College Hall. You are invited to be part of our preparation for Christmas. Please come and support one of the musical highlights of the term.

College Orchestra

We are cooperating with the Ursuline High School in the creation of a joint orchestra this year. The Orchestra will be performing at the following concerts:

Wednesday 12th March - Ursuline St Cecilia's Concert, 7pm

Monday 17th March - Wimbledon College Spring Concert, 7pm

The first meeting for orchestra members will be at lunchtime on Tuesday 5th November, at 1pm in MU2. If your child is in the orchestra please remind them of this date.



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Music Festival 2025

Our Music Festival continues to grow and this year will take place during the Spring Term. We will have a number of different events which you are invited to attend. The schedule of performances is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Friday 24th January | Piano Recital (Sacred Heart Church), 4pm (TBC) |
| Thursday 13th February | House Music Competition Final (Hall), 7pm |
| Wednesday 5th March | GCSE and A Level Recital (Hall), 7pm |
| Monday 17th March | Jazz Band, Orchestra and special guests (Hall), 7pm |
| Monday 31st March | Mass and Choral Concert (Sacred Heart Church), 6.30pm |

We are also hoping to hold a 'Battle of the Bands' competition but have yet to finalise a date. Once finalised the date will be shared with pupil.

All concerts will be free and further information sent out nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you at them, during the Festival.

House Music Competition 2025

As you may have noted above, 2025 will see the return of the House Music Competition. All students are welcome and indeed encouraged to participate.

Please see Mr Thomas to register your interest. Preliminary rounds take place in January.

Rugby

Mr Hallett has sent the following message:

It's been a tough but very enjoyable start to the rugby season and especially a steep learning curve for the students in Figures who have engaged and excelled across a number of teams and fixtures. So far there have been over 400 pupils participating in 83 fixtures to date.

A huge thank you to all students, parents and staff for their continued contributions to this extra-curricular provision.

Last weekend saw the inaugural U18 State school festival held at John Fisher School, Purley. Despite the weather the festival was a huge success and highlighted, once again, the quality & strength in depth of rugby within the state sector. This will hopefully be the start of a very long and successful competition and one we hope to be involved with for many years to come.

We continue with Saturday rugby fixtures and games afternoons after half term and look forward to seeing many more positive memories being made.



Finally, for all those still standing on the side lines, the door is never closed and if willing, you are all more than welcome to get involved at whatever level suits your interest and ability.

Have a great half term and rest up all of the bumps, bruises and tired bodies and minds.

Uniform

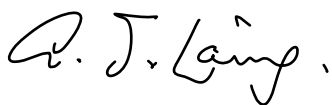
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who have ensured that their children are coming to school wearing the correct uniform and with all of the correct equipment for their lessons.

I would like to draw all parents' attention to the College's uniform expectations now that we are moving into the colder months. The full uniform list and expectations on school shoes can be found on the College website [[link](#)]. Pupils in Years 7-11 are expected to wear plain black coats over their blazers. Hoods are permitted. We have seen a number of pupils who have been wearing their coat instead of their blazer both on their way to and from school and while they are in school. This is not permitted. Please ensure that your child[ren] has a suitable coat that can be worn over their blazer.

I appreciate that this letter is being sent out rather later than usual, however I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 4 November for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 5 November [with the exception of Rhetoric students taking mock exams].

Yours sincerely,

God bless



Adrian Laing

Headteacher

