



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Letter to Parents

Wednesday 9 April 2025

Dear Parents

As we are enjoying the warm weather in the first week of the Easter holidays it gives me the opportunity to reflect on the extremely busy and successful term that has just finished. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils engaging in such a variety of activities over the course of the term and representing the College so positively, be it on the sports field, the stage or in subject based competitions. In addition, they have been able to take advantage of school trips, some for only a day, others for longer including our Lower Grammar French Exchange, our Sixth Form Business and Economics trip to New York and our Rudiments Ski trip to Austria.

I am grateful to our staff for enabling all of these activities and to you, who, as parents, support and encourage your children.

Term ended today with our Tenebrae services where we reflected on the forthcoming events of the Triduum and the sacrifice and death of Christ. There are a number of clips from the service on our Instagram page, along with images from many of last term's activities. Please do consider following the page - <https://www.instagram.com/wimbledoncollegeofficial/> .

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Easter.

Consultation on proposal to convert Wimbledon College from a voluntary Aided school to an academy, as part of the Sancta Familia Trust

I would like to remind all parents that the Governors are currently consulting with all interested parties regarding their proposal to convert Wimbledon College to academy status.

Governors are asking parents for their comments and also if they have any questions regarding the process. Parents can respond to the consultation using the link that can be found on the following page of the College's website. The page also has further information regarding the proposal.

I would ask that parents take the time to read this information and to respond to the consultation.

The link to the information page is:

<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/parents/academisation-consultation-about-conversion>

This consultation concludes on Friday 9 May 2025.

Lenten Fundraising and pilgrimage

Thank you so much for all your support with our Big Lent Walk, in support of CAFOD. We have now surpassed our target of walking 36,232kms (the equivalent of every tutor group walking the 647kms of St Ignatius' Pilgrimage from Loyola to Manresa across northern Spain). We have raised a fantastic amount already, just online alone we have raised £3537 (with Gift Aid included). In addition, we have received lots of cash donations which we have not finished counting yet.

We have been encouraging students to share our JustGiving link with friends and family to help us raise as much as possible for this great cause. Any contributions you can make or people you are able to share this link with would be much appreciated.
<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/wimbledon-college-big-lent-walk>

Study Hub

As public and internal exams are approaching, a reminder to parents that we operate 'Study Hub' on Monday to Thursday between 3.20pm-4.20pm in our IT rooms. It is a quiet space for pupils to complete their homework or work on their revision. It is supervised by staff who can help pupils with their organisational skills or other elements of their studies.

Drama

The Drama Department were once again extremely pleased to be part of the King's College Community Production. The First Stage Drama club gave a fantastic performance in the King's College Community Performance Project *Beowulf* and had an amazing time. Our next project with Merton Arts Share takes place in the summer term – pupils who would like to take part should see Miss O'Brien or Miss Moore for more details.

Music Concert and instrumental lessons

The last Tuesday of term was the date for the College's fantastic music concert. It was a well-supported event and involved the St Cecilia Sinfonia [players from both Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College] and the College choir performing Faure's Requiem as well as performances from numerous pupil bands and the Wimbledon College Swing Band. This was the second time that pupils from both schools have performed together this year and we are looking forward to further joint concerts in the future.

If any students wish to start musical instrument lessons please could their parents email Mr Thomas at for.thomas@wimbledoncollege.org.uk. We currently offer tuition in the piano, guitar and drums as well as most orchestral instruments.

Reminder - Use of mobile phones in school and the ban on smart watches in school

Our policy regarding mobile phones in school is clear and laid out in our Behaviour Policy. Pupils are allowed to bring mobile phones to school however they must be switched off when the pupils are on Edge Hill and while at school, unless they are given permission by a teacher to use their phones in support of a lesson. Phones must then be switched off again once the task has been completed.

If we find that a pupil has their phone switched on [and this includes on silent or 'air plane' mode] then their phone will be confiscated for five days.

The exception to this is Sixth Form students who are allowed to use their phones in the Sixth Form area. They are not allowed to use them around the school.

Smart watches, that either link to mobile phones or which function as mobile phones independently, are not allowed in school. If a pupil is found to have a smart watch with them in school it will be confiscated for five days.

Pupils can of course use normal watches that have no capacity to connect to mobile phones, laptops, etc or to access the internet.

Nut free school

I must remind all parents that we are a nut free school. The reason for this is that we have a number of pupils who have severe allergic reactions to nuts.

Would you therefore ensure that you do not send your children to school with nuts [either separately or as an ingredient in other food products] as part of their packed lunch. I would also ask that you discuss nut allergies with your children so that they know not to buy nuts on the way to school and then bring them into school.

School Uniform Code

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents of our expectations regarding our School Uniform Code. This includes the uniform itself as well as wearing proper school shoes and adhering to expectations regarding hair styles. Main school pupils should also be clean shaven.

All pupils are expected to be in correct uniform both in school and on the way to and from school. Pupils are not to wear a coat instead of their blazer. If pupils do so then their coat will be confiscated.

I ask that all parents support the College in this matter and that over the Easter holidays you ensure that your child has the correct uniform and that their appearance is in line with the College's Appearance Rules.

The Uniform and Appearance Rules along with the Uniform List can be found on the College website. I have included a link to the page here -

<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/parents/uniform-equipment>

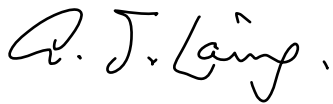
Report Card

Pupils in years 7-10 and Sixth Form have received their gradecards. Pupils in Syntax will receive theirs at the start of next term. For pupils in Rhetoric the Half Term 4 grade is their March examination grade.

If you, or your child, are concerned about their progress compared to their target grade please do not hesitate to speak to their Head of Line.

Finally, just a reminder that **next term starts on Tuesday 22 April 2025**

God bless.



Adrian Laing
Headteacher