



Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's End of Year Letter to Parents

Friday 18 July 2025

Dear Parents

The term has come to an end with a flurry of activity involving pupils across all years. Poetry students have been engaged with their work experience this week, while pupils in Years 7-10 ended their year with a day of house activities, sports day and our end of year Masses of St Ignatius.

The masses were celebrated by Fr Michael Barnes SJ and I am grateful to him for his ongoing support of the College. He provided wonderful reflections for the pupils. Our choir as always sang at the Mass, having just returned from a successful tour to Tuscany where they sang at a number of Masses including at San Frediano, the Jesuit university church of Pisa and at the Duomo in Arezzo.

Our Rudiments pupils saw the culmination of their First Give Project on Tuesday, where pupils from each RE class gave a presentation to their year, and a panel of judges, about their chosen charity. They had over previous weeks engaged with their chosen charity and raised the profile of it within the school. The judges included local Councillors who were extremely complimentary of the presentations.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the College and for ensuring that your children attend school and make the most of the opportunities that are available to them both in lessons and in the extra-curricular activities that we offer.

I would also like to thank those parents who attended the Parent Forum last week. It was the best attended in my time as Head and I am grateful that those parents shared their views on a number of issues. We focused on three main areas – learning at home and AI; communication with the school and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Our Senior Leadership team will reflect on the comments that were made and look to further improve school practice where appropriate.

Staff leaving

We say farewell to a number of staff who are leaving us at the end of the year. Four staff are retiring who deserve special mention.



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The first is our Grounds manager, Mr Woods, who has been responsible for the maintenance of our grounds at Coombe Lane and at the College for the last 36 years. He has done a great job in maintaining the pitches and surrounding area over that time despite the challenges that the weather has continued to throw at him. He is now retiring from the role and we wish him an enjoyable and long retirement. Our good wishes also go to his wife and family who have lived at Coombe Lane.

Mr Zammit has been a teacher in the Science department since 2002, both at the St Catherine's site, on Grand Drive [when the College initially changed to an 11-18 school] and here at the College. Mr Zammit has held a variety of posts in his time here including Head of Chemistry and Head of Science. Teaching has always been his passion and his commitment to the pupils and to the College's Jesuit ethos has always shone through. He is also a keen badminton player which he is looking forward to having more time for in his retirement. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

Mr Farrell has been a well-respected member of the Geography department and Humanities Faculty since 2012, having taught previously in St Paul's Sunbury. As well as teaching many pupils to A Level, he has been a valuable member of the rugby coaching staff and participant in numerous school trips building positive relationships with both colleagues and pupils. We wish him every happiness and safe travels in his retirement.

Finally, Mr Bracken is also retiring from the Humanities Faculty. He has been at the College for the last eight years teaching both History and Politics to A Level. He also has been a valuable member of the rugby coaching staff, guiding the Under 15 teams to significant successes over the years. He will be missed by colleagues and also by pupils both in and out of the classroom. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

Other staff leaving the College this summer are

Mr La Porta [Teaching Support Assistant], Mr Trigila [Site Team] and Mr West [PE teacher].

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 year Gradecard, with attainment and effort grades. If you have not received your child's Gradecard then please email your child's PSA.

Examination results days

Key dates:

A Level and Sixth Form vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 14 August from 8.30am – 9.30am**, in the Sixth Form Study Hall. Staff will be available to support pupils during the morning.



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GCSE and Syntax vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 21 August from 8.30am 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 21 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 8.45am in the computer rooms.

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

Parent Information Evenings - September 5

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:

08/09/2025	Y7 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
09/09/2024	Y12 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
09/09/2024	Y13 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]
10/09/2024	Y9 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
10/09/2024	Y10 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [online]
11/09/2024	Y8 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
11/09/2024	Y11 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]

Friends of Wimbledon College

Following on from the success of the previous events the School and the FoWC would again like to celebrate the diversity of our community with an **International Food Festival on September 26 2025**.

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.

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 and I encourage parents of our new Year 7 pupils to go to the evening.

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 and from 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 uniform 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 and beneficial placements. 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 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 this term.

Drama

The Drama Department has already begun work on several exciting projects that will continue into the next academic year. Our First Stage Drama Club is currently involved in the *Merton Arts Project: Stories of Our Streets*, working in collaboration with the Green Arts Centre in Mitcham. Further workshops and events for this project will take place from September onwards.

We're also pleased to announce that the *Kings College Community Performance* will return next year, beginning in September and culminating in a performance in March 2026. Boys in Years 7-9 are warmly invited to take part in either or both of these projects. For more details, they can speak to Miss O'Brien or Miss Moore.

Looking ahead to next term, this year's *Wimbledon College Production* will be *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. **Auditions will take place in September**, and the production will be performed on **Thursday 11th December** and **Friday 12th December**. This is open to all year groups, and audition materials and further information are available via the production Google Classroom. Students can join using the code **dbqss02r**.

We strongly encourage all students to get involved in drama at the College. Productions are always of a high standard and offer pupils a great opportunity to have fun, build confidence, and make lasting memories.

More able enrichment programme

As the school turns its focus to **oracy and communication skills**, it has been great to see KS3 pupils in particular performing so well in recent speaking and listening activities. Two teams attended



the Tiffin Girls' Debate where we came away with a silver medal, and two other teams took part in the Bingham Debate at South Hampstead school, doing really well. Elsewhere, 25 Rudiments pupils participated in the Culturally Speaking programme, which involved an excellent interactive trip to the Artists and War Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, followed by a whole-day public-speaking workshop. Some superb speeches were planned, practised and given. Many thanks to Mr Coleman for his continued work with Debate Club, and to Ms Yeung for her help in leading the Bingham trip.

Model UN has now become a twice-yearly event which is always hugely enjoyed by the 15 or so boys from Lower Grammar up to Poetry who take part in each iteration. The Conference is held at Mulberry School for Girls, and this year we sent delegates representing countries as diverse as the Philippines, Uganda, Somalia and Sri Lanka. Several boys received certificates for position papers, contribution in conference, and general conduct within the committees.

The **Oxbridge Programme** continued this term, with boys benefiting from the insight and experience of Old Wimbledonians, Michael Ventom and Ryan Rodrigues. The honesty and insight of both speakers really re-enforced our stance that while we will give pupils all the support they need, and drive them on in their Oxbridge ambitions, we are also aware that it is not the be-all-and-end-all, and that the work we do will assist them in successful applications to a range of universities, as well as developing their skills more broadly. Pupils visited both Oxford and Cambridge Open Days, both of which proved very motivational. They have also completed Oxbridge-exam preparation work and first drafts of their personal statements. Many thanks to all teachers involved.

Rugby



WIMBLEDON COLLEGE

Pre-season Rugby

2025 – 26 SEASON



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 & 28 th August	9.00 – 10.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
9	27 th & 28 th August	9.00 – 10.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
10	28 th & 29 th August	10.30 – 12.00	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
11	28 th & 29 th August	10.00 – 12.00	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
12 & 13	27 th , 28 th & 29 th August	10.00 – 12.00	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane




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With rugby being the major sport of the term, pre-season training will, once again, take place during the final week of the holidays. With a number of changes to the coaching set up, this is a perfect opportunity for your child(ren) to introduce themselves and impress a new set of eyes before the season starts.

Saturday fixtures start on the 6th September.

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 and willing to give some time on a Saturday morning please do contact Mr Hallett [neil.hallett@wimbledoncollege.org.uk]. He will then be able to put you in touch with your year group organiser.

Training sessions

Information for training nights for rugby is also currently being put together and will be distributed during pre-season, if not before. Students should be training every week if they intend to be playing in the A or B teams on a regular basis.

Rugby Tours

Next academic year will see a very ambitious touring programme with not 1 but 3 rugby tours taking place throughout the year for 4 of our year groups. These are a reward and incentive for all those who take part in our extra-curricular programme and I hope for those not involved next year, you will continue to impress and commit so that you too can enjoy these amazing opportunities.

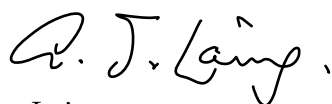
The information letter, itinerary and google forms have all been dispatch to those relevant year groups. Please read the letter carefully and ensure, if interested, that you complete the sign-up form before the closing date to avoid disappointment.

Start of Autumn Term

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

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

God bless,



Adrian Laing
Headteacher

