



**Wimbledon
College**

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Headteacher's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 24 October 2025

Dear Parents

I am writing, as we come to the end of a very busy half term packed with a wide variety of activities including our two open evenings for entry into Year 7 and into our Sixth Form in September 2025. Both evenings were extremely busy and provided pupils and parents with a tremendous opportunity to learn more about all of the fantastic things that go on in the College. The deadline for submitting the Year 7 application form is 31 October 2025. There are details further in the letter about applications to Sixth Form.

We have already had notable successes on the sports field this year. Mr Hallett has written about the rugby successes in this letter and I would like to draw your attention to our cross-country achievements this half term. Our pupils came first and second in both the Year 7 and Year 8 Merton Championships. They followed this up with an impressive win in the Surrey round of the English Schools AA Cross Country Cup, with three pupils placed in the first 10. We wish them well as they compete in the South East Regional Round on Wednesday 5th November.

As you are aware our pupils' outcomes in the 2025 examinations were excellent and we once again feature amongst the top maintained state schools in the country. Our Sixth Form results saw continued improvement on previous years both in A Level and vocational subjects. The strength of individual results has enabled the vast majority of last year's Rhetoric students to gain places on university courses. 63% of them have taken up places in high achieving Sutton Trust Universities.

We are already well into the process of preparing for next year's exams with Syntax and Rhetoric students sitting mock exams next half term.

Our extra-curricular offer is also in full swing and I strongly urge you to encourage your children to take advantage of the wide range of activities available to them. Many have been highlighted via our Instagram and LinkedIn pages. Please do sign up to follow these accounts as they give a positive snapshot of College life.



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Grade Cards

Grade cards will be made available this afternoon on the **Arbor Parent Portal**. Further information regarding how we assess pupils and report to parents and how to access the portal is available here: <https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/curriculum/assessment-and-reporting>

If your child's grade card is not available, would you please email their Head of Line to let them know.

Application deadlines for the Sixth Form

Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2026 have to be submitted, via Applicaa by Friday 28 November 2025. Boys in Syntax should be starting to complete 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>]

Careers

This half term, our pupils have benefitted greatly from the expertise and real-world insights shared by our alumni during the Sinnott Careers Talks. We are grateful to the many alumni who give of their time to come back to school and share their personal experiences and career journeys.

In addition, the visit to the Festival of Apprenticeships, alongside our ongoing engagement with university representatives, has provided sixth form pupils with valuable guidance on higher education pathways and career choices. Syntax pupils have also begun their one-to-one careers guidance meetings, receiving impartial and tailored advice to help them explore their post-16 options and make informed decisions about their future pathways.

We are now preparing for our Future Options Fair on Friday 6th March 2026, and we warmly invite any parents who would like to volunteer or represent their profession to get involved. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Mrs. Parrish at careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Drama Production - A Nightmare Before Christmas!

Our Christmas production this year is *A Nightmare Before Christmas!* Tickets will be available via Arbor after half-term for the performances on **11th and 12th December**. As always, it promises to be a spectacular event, featuring a talented cast from every year group and an imaginative set design that will truly bring the story to life. Please ensure that you buy your tickets in good time as we are expecting them to sell out!

School Magazine 2025

The Wimbledonian 2025 school magazine arrived from the printers this Wednesday. Once again, it showcases the range of opportunities within the College, and the sheer number of



pupils engaged in different clubs, activities and trips across last academic year. Some pupils will already have received their copies, whilst others will do so in Year Assemblies after the break. Many thanks to all contributors and to Mr Simpson who has undertaken the significant role of editor.

Oxbridge Applications

It has been pleasing to see eight Rhetoric students complete their Oxbridge applications. Like so many of our sixth formers, these boys have worked very hard to build their curricular knowledge and super-curricular engagement. Subjects applied for range from Law to Physics to Materials Science and the like. We now move on to the practice interview stage, and await the results of these applications. (If any parent feels they might be in a position to help us with mock-interviews, please do contact the school.)

We are proud of the efforts of these boys, and indeed all Rhetoric students who in the process of completing the UCAS application process. We are also grateful to the sixth form and tutor teams who continue to support all the students.

Black History Month

This October, as a school, we have been celebrating Black History Month, the theme for this year is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. Pupils have had numerous opportunities to engage thoughtfully over the course of the month. We started the month by celebrating Nigerian Independence Day and Black History Month has been the focus of our morning prayer, assemblies and the Examen. In addition, there have been displays 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 will be posted so pupils can check how much they have learned throughout the month. Finally, departments have planned a wide range of activities across the school to commemorate the month in their subject area.

International Food Festival

We held our third International Food Festival on Friday 26th September which was organised by Year 13 Business BTEC pupils as part of their course and 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.

Testimony 360 Project

A group of Poetry pupils were very fortunate to take part in the Testimony 360 Project on Wednesday 22nd October. This was an event organised by the Holocaust Memorial Trust



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where, through the use of VR technology, the students were able to engage with survivors' testimonies as well as exploring holocaust sites. It proved to be a poignant and thought-provoking day for all involved.

Joint Carol Service 2025

Our joint carol service with the Ursuline will be held on Monday 15th 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.

Rugby

Mr Hallett has sent the following message:

Huge congratulations to all those pupils who have made a very successful and encouraging start to the rugby season, especially those in Figures who have made the transition from Tag and non-contact to full tackling in game situations. It is an absolute pleasure to see so many pupils engaged and committed to our extracurricular programme.

This half term has seen a number of notable performances with the under 14, 15, 16 and the 1st XV, participating in national competitions. All of the teams have progressed through the early rounds with noticeable successes for the under 15s who have made it to round 3 and the 1st XV who are now in round 5, of 8, in the National School Vase.

So far this year we have seen 19 teams play across the school age groups, with over 90 fixtures played and a win ratio of over 30%.

A massive thank you to all those who participated whether it's as a student taking the field, staff giving up their time after school and at the weekends, or parents who have generously volunteered their time to once again make Wimbledon College's hospitality the best experience that we can provide to all who visit Coombe Lane.

As we draw closer to Christmas, may I bring to your attention the opportunity to help with fundraising for the RUGBY programme, future tours & our choose charity - Maggie's Royal Marsden. We will have our annual sale of Christmas trees at the end of November. This is a fantastic way to help contribute to the school community and to raise much-needed funds for all those involved. More information will follow but please, whether you're directly associated with the College or friends who might want to get involved, please feel free to distribute the information and encourage people throughout your network.

Lastly from me, a huge thank you to all for this half term. I wish you a relaxing break where you can recharge and recover ready to go again in the final six weeks of our rugby term.



Uniform

I would like to draw all parents' attention to the College's uniform expectations now that we are once again 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 however these are to be down when in school.

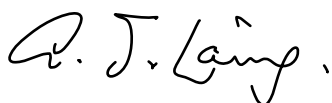
Pupils are expected to wear their blazers to and from school and while they are in school. Coats are only to be worn over blazers and not instead of blazers. Please ensure that your child[ren] has a suitable coat that can be worn over their blazer. If pupils continue to wear a coat instead of their blazer the coat will be confiscated. Pupils are aware of this already.

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.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 3 November for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 4 November [with the exception of Rhetoric students, who will be taking mock exams on Monday 3 November].

Yours sincerely,

God bless



Adrian Laing

Headteacher

