



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's End of Term Letter to Parents

Friday 19 December 2025

Dear Parents

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

We mark the end of term with our carol services and they are a great way to focus once again on the Christmas story and its real meaning for Christians throughout the world. At a time when sadly there is so much violence and suffering being reported in the news, I pray that we can in some small way experience Jesus' love, both over the Christmas period and in the year ahead, and that we can share it with those around us.

I have attached below a link to the Archbishop of Southwark's Christmas message. Please do take the time to listen to it. [<https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/christmas-means-god-in-christ-jesus-loves-you/>].

The autumn term has been a long and busy one and it is a credit to the pupils that they have been so successfully involved in so many things outside of the classroom. A taste of all those activities is reflected in this letter, below, and on our Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. Please do sign up to them if you have not already done so.

Y7-13 Grade cards

Grade cards were sent out at the end of term and contain the following:

- A summary of the latest round of assessments carried out last half term
- Effort grades in each subject for standard of classwork, contribution to class and independent learning (homework)

Rhetoric Target Reports will be sent out in time for Parents' Evening next term.

When comparing your child's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where he should be at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of the year, grades may be slightly below target grades but as the year progresses assessments should generally meet or exceed target grades. If you have any concerns about your child's target grades, or about their progress in general, please do not hesitate to get in

touch with the Head of Line. Departments will also be using this data to make changes to setting, pupils affected by these changes will receive a new timetable in January.

Advent Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Advent Fundraising appeal for Jesuit Missions, supporting the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service in South Sudan. So far you have helped us to raise £2,693! Thank you so much.

We have had a very successful "Re-love our stuff" sale, and the Sixth Form students are organising some sporting competitions for after Christmas which will further add to this appeal. Thank you to everyone who made donations for this sale, or to our collection for Merton's Jamaica Appeal which was very gratefully received.

In addition, we raised £1,320.63 through our Carol Service for the work of The Passage homeless charity.

Please do keep in your prayers the people of South Sudan, and all these charities and the fantastic work they do.

Drama

The Christmas Production of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* was enormous fun to put on and greatly enjoyed by our audiences. We were able to show it to all of Figures and Rudiments and also provide them with a Q and A session afterwards with all the team involved in the production.

For the Drama Department, we are now looking forward to our collaboration with King's College School and other local schools on *Silas Marner* in March, and our continued work on *Stories of Our Streets* with Merton Arts Share and Andy Green at the Green Arts Centre in Mitcham. Pupils are very welcome to join us for the *Stories of our Streets* project.

Meanwhile, our GCSE and Vocational students in KS4 and 5 will be working hard to rehearse and perform exam project pieces over the next three months, and we wish them a lot of luck with it all.

School Council

As a school community we have celebrated Polish Independence Day on 11th November as well as Human Rights Day on 10th December which commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN in 1948. It serves as a global call to action to promote dignity, equality, and justice, highlighting universal principles of liberty and security that form the basis of international human rights law.

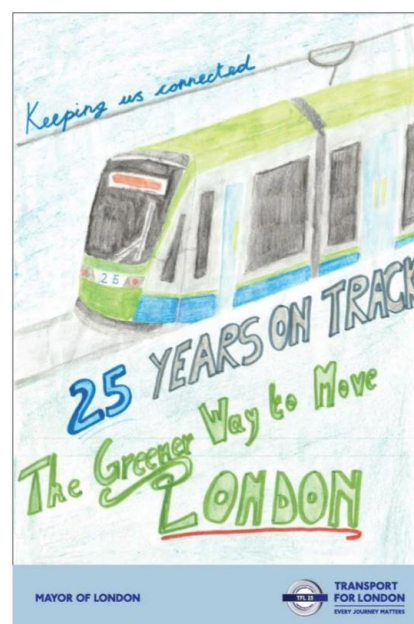
We have also held our first student council caucus and student council meeting of the academic year where pupils across the school were able to share their views on the

current PSHE curriculum as well as suggesting the areas they would like to learn more about in future.

TfL 25 Poster Competition Winner

I am delighted to share that Francesco Malerba (Rudiments Loyola) has achieved an outstanding accomplishment in the TfL 25 Poster Competition. Francesco was awarded first place for the theme “Choose active travel” and had the wonderful opportunity to present his artwork at a prize-giving ceremony at Battersea Power Station.

Francesco was able to speak about his piece, which was praised by the judges and attendees for its sense of motion and the clarity of its message. The competition received an exceptional number of creative and thoughtful submissions, making Francesco’s achievement all the more remarkable.



We are extremely proud of Francesco’s success and the way he has represented our school with such talent and confidence, turning his ideas into a powerful message that has captivated everyone who has seen his poster. Well done, Francesco!

ESU MACE Debate

It has been a good term for our Debate Club, culminating in successful qualification from Round One of the ESU MACE debate competition. Our Motion in Round One was in support of the banning of short-haul flights for commercial travel, and the three-person team of Neal Chumroo, MACE-veteran Colm Casey, and Max Rodgers did a sterling job. As well as hosting Round One in the Main Hall, we also ended up providing two additional teams of three to ensure that the event ran smoothly. Yusif Daoud, Carlos Ku, Jat Atmosfera, Jakub Maczuga, Zephan Aitchison and Leo Farag did a superb job in these two teams, while the two Bens: Hardy-Garcia and Nestor hosted the evening as affable MCs. Shayne Chumroo and Zaki McAnaney also performed the vital role of timekeepers, equipped as they were with a fine old gavel that the Headteacher had found in the school archives store, dating back to Wimbledon College Debate Clubs of yore. Great credit to Mr Coleman for his continued work in leading a thriving Debate Club on Thursday lunch-times (All welcome!), and giving his time to prepare and support the pupils.

Model UN:

Continuing the oracy theme, we sent a group of 18 delegates to the Model UN Conference held at Mulberry School for Girls in December. Representing countries of

great diversity: Kenya, China, Norway, Saudi Arabia, to name but a few, the pupils put in considerable work researching their countries, drawing up Position Papers of diplomatic position, and then debating and seeking consensus on the day. This effort was rewarded with very positive feedback for all delegates, and certificates for five of them: Bruno Aslanian, Oliver Chudzik, Yusif Daoud, Neal Chumroo and Lorcan Cartmell. Model UN has become a twice-yearly event in our calendar, and is hugely enjoyed by pupils. Thanks to Mr Schoen and Mr Coleman for leading the pupils on the two days of the Conference.

Oxbridge

To re-phrase T S Eliot, in our endings were our beginnings when it came to Oxbridge applications: Four of our Year 13 cohort of applicants had their interviews in early December, and await decisions in January, while just this week our Year 12s received an excellent introductory talk from Merton College's Liaison Officer. All of our Year 13 applicants have worked incredibly hard across the year-long process, and should hold their heads high regardless of final outcomes in January. The skills and interview practices boys have honed across the process will stand them in good stead wherever they end up, and we have every confidence they will find success wherever they go next. Thanks go to the many OWs who assisted with the mock interviews in particular: Zac Brech, Bobak Kamaei, James Hatt, Jonathan Taylor, Ben Fenocchi, Goncalo Ferreira, Adam Shalders and others. We are grateful to them for assisting the pupils and for giving freely of their time. Their help is invaluable.

Lunchtime Concerts

It has been pleasing to see so many pupils attending our lunchtime concerts this term. It has given over 30 pupils the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and all have been well received. We look forward to them continuing after Christmas. Pupils of all abilities and musical experience are encouraged to perform. If your child is interested, please ask him to speak to Mr Thomas.

Orchestra rehearsals

After Christmas we will also be holding orchestra rehearsals. They will take place on Wednesdays after school, until 4.30pm. This joint ensemble will be performing at the Ursuline St Cecilia Concert on Wednesday 11th March and in a concert at the College on Tuesday 24th March. There will also be an additional rehearsal on the afternoon of Saturday 17th January at 1pm in the College Hall, to which all are expected to attend.

Instrumental Lessons

If you would like your son to commence paid musical instrument lessons, please email Mr Thomas at ifor.thomas@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Music Festival 2026

Instrumental Recitals Friday 16th January and Friday 13th March

We will be holding instrumental recitals in the Sacred Heart Church at 4pm on Friday 16th January and Friday 13th March. These are suitable for any boys who are Grade 5 standard or above.

Battle of the Bands 7pm Thursday 29th January

We are holding a competition to find the best young band from state schools across the borough. The final will be held on Thursday 29th January in the College Hall at 7pm.

House Music Competition 2026 7pm Thursday 12th February

The final will be held in the College Hall at 7pm on Thursday 12th February. There will be a preliminary round for younger musicians after school on Thursday 5th February.

Choir and Orchestra Concert 7pm Tuesday 24th March

The Wimbledon College Choir and St Cecilia Sinfonia will be performing Francesco Durante's wonderful *Magnificat* and Niccolo Jommelli's vibrant *Requiem* on Tuesday 24th March in the College Hall.

Spring Concert 2026 7pm Tuesday 21st April

The College Hall will temporarily become a jazz club on Tuesday 21st April as the Wimbledon College Swing band will be performing with various guests at our Spring Concert.

PSHE and Careers programme

We would like to thank Voicebox and TFL who both gave informative workshops to Lower Grammar during their PSHE sessions this term. We are always very grateful to external speakers, particularly alumni and parents, who give their time to inform students about possible career pathways. Please see the Careers Newsletter for a more comprehensive overview of careers events that have happened at the College this term.

We are hosting our bi-annual Future Options Fair on Friday 6th March 2026. This is where all students get the opportunity to visit exhibitors and ask questions about a vast range of careers. It is always a fantastic event and one which pupils really gain valuable insight from.

We always appreciate parent volunteers and if you are able to be an exhibitor, please do not hesitate to contact us at careers@wimbledoncollege.org.uk for more information.

The Boxing Club

This term saw six pupils be awarded a Wimbledon College Boxing Club certificate in recognition of completing their 'basic' boxing level assessment. The assessment comprised of a series of fitness exercises and repetitions that each boxer had to achieve, alongside an assessment of their current boxing skills. All six boxers are now looking forward to progressing and developing their boxing prowess in the new year, with opportunities to spar with other boxing club members. The aim being that those most proficient, may go forward in representing the College in future competitive bouts, against other club boxers.

PE Department

A General reminder to all pupils about having the correct kit for their Games lessons. This includes the proper boots for use on the College's 3G pitch. All pupils must make sure they have the correct clothing for their Games lessons. You must wear the school Games shirt for the Games lessons, house T shirts are not acceptable. Please also make sure you have white shorts as again other colours are not allowed to be worn.

Athletics

Congratulations to our athletes in Years 7 and 8 who have been very successful this term.

Our Cross-Country team competed in the National Schools Final at the beginning of the month, which was a significant achievement for the team. Unfortunately, illness played its part on the day however the boys are to be commended on their success and determination.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 Sportshall Athletics teams both won their respective Merton Championships and they now move into the Regional Finals in February. We wish both teams well in the competition.

Football

The College's football season begins in the spring term, with after-school training commencing on Monday 5th January from 3:15pm to 4:45pm at school for Rudiments. After school training [please see the schedule below] is open to all pupils wishing to attend and be considered for selection to represent the College. Saturday morning fixtures kick off on 10th January against Glyn School; the full fixture schedule can be found on the school sports website.

If any parents are able to give some of their time by volunteering to support with match teas during the season, please contact Mr O'Connor.

[rudiments@wimbledoncollege.org.uk].

Training schedule

Monday; U13's (Rudiments)

Tuesday; U12's (Figures)

Wednesday; U14's (L. Grammar)

Thursday; U18's (Syntax, Poetry & Rhetoric)

Friday; U15's (Grammar)

Rugby

Another season of rugby fixtures have now come to an end and it is a credit to you, pupils and staff that we continue to field so many teams on a regular basis. This gives large numbers of pupils the opportunity to represent the College and to play rugby. In doing so they not only develop their rugby skills but also the important elements of sportsmanship and teamwork.

I want to thank both you for your ongoing support and the staff who give so much of their time at training sessions and at matches on Saturdays to support the pupils. Without them we would not be able to play such a variety of fixtures against some of the best schools in the country.

I must also thank all of the parents who have generously given of their time and efforts to provide refreshments at our home fixtures this year. Something that is regularly complimented by the visiting staff.

It has been pleasing to see a number of Old Wimbledonians who are now playing regularly for Premiership clubs and who have also gained representative honours in the England A Team.

We look forward to the Sevens' season in the spring.

Attendance

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child[ren] is[are] getting to school on time however I would like to remind all parents of the importance of high levels of attendance and punctuality.

Our expectation is that all pupils should be aiming for 100% attendance and that they should have a **minimum** attendance of 95%. The statutory guidance from the Government states that it is a legal requirement for students to be in school and that absences can only be authorised for extenuating circumstances. Please see the information sheet [included in the email containing this letter] from Merton regarding school attendance and penalty notice information.

All pupils are required to be in school by 8.25am. For pupils in Years 7-11, failure to do so will result in the pupil having to sign in at 8.10am the following day with the PSA. If a pupil is late 3 time in a week then they will be required to sign in **Saturday morning**. There are different sanctions for Sixth Form pupils who are late to school.

School Uniform expectations

Thank you to all parents who have ensured that your children are wearing the correct school uniform, not only in school but on their way to and from school.

There are however a number of pupils who are wearing incorrect shoes and coats. I ask that you ensure your child[ren] is [are] wearing the correct uniform when they return to College in January. This includes formal black shoes and appropriate overcoats.

I am conscious that some pupils may be getting new coats over the Christmas period. I want to take this opportunity to remind all parents that coats are to be plain black, with sleeves and without logos. Hoods are allowed but are not to be worn in school. I must also point out that coats are to be worn over blazers and not instead of them. I have noticed this term that a number of pupils have started to wear two coats. The expectation is that they wear one coat over their blazer. I would be grateful if all parents would speak to their children about the College's expectations regarding uniform and coats in particular.

Please do check the School Uniform List [available on the College's website] before buying any school uniform.

Support with the purchasing of College uniform

I am aware that families may be finding it difficult to purchase items of school uniform at the current time due to financial reasons. We do have provision in place to support our families. I would ask, if you find yourself in a position where your child needs items of school uniform and you are unable to purchase them for financial reasons, that you contact your child's Head of Line in the first instance and we will do what we can to provide the appropriate support.

Mobile phones and smart watches

I would like to remind all parents of the College's rules regarding mobile phones and smart watches.

Pupils are allowed to have mobile phones in school but they must be switched off ['airplane mode' is not allowed] when pupils are in school and on Edge Hill. Pupils may only have their phones on when they are in lessons and have been given specific permission to use their phones to support their learning in a particular lesson.

Smart watches [that link to mobile phones or are phones in themselves] are not allowed in school for the same reasons that we do not allow mobile phones.

If a pupil is found with a mobile phone switched on when it should not be or with a smart watch [either on or off] the phone/watch will be confiscated for five days, in line with our Behaviour Policy.

Electric Hire Bikes

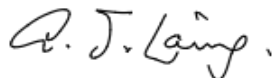
Pupils are not allowed to ride electric hire bikes to or from school. The reason for this is one of safety for members of the public. There is insufficient space on pavements or bike parking bays around the school for our pupils to leave the bikes and they would become a danger to pedestrians. If pupils are seen riding an electric bike to school, they will be instructed to take it back to where they started their journey on the bike and then to get to return to school. In addition, pupils seen riding an electric hire bike on the way to or from school will receive a school detention.

Return to school

Finally, a reminder that school reopens for all pupils on Monday 5 January 2026.

With every good wish for the new year

God bless,



Adrian Laing
Headteacher