



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Wednesday 18 February 2026

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your family are having an enjoyable half term week.

During the half term we welcomed our Provincial, Fr Peter Gallagher SJ, and the Delegate for Education, Mr Andrew Johnson, to the College for our biennial Apostolic Visitation. This is a formal visit by the Provincial to ensure that the College fulfilling its mission as a Jesuit school. Over the course of a day Fr Provincial met with Governors, staff and pupils. He celebrated Mass with Figures pupils and also went into a number of RE lessons. I am happy to say that Fr Provincial was pleased with what he saw and was grateful to the whole College community for their commitment to the College's Jesuit Mission and Identity.

In early January, we were delighted to see two of our pupils receive conditional offers to take up undergraduate places at Oxford university next academic year. Anthony Crundwell (Physics) and Freddie Noctor (Biochemistry) worked extremely hard to achieve these offers. The two of them also came to speak to the Year 12 pupils about their experiences of the application process. Well done to all of the Year 13 pupils who worked through the Oxbridge application process with us, and who we expect will go on to be equally successful at their chosen universities.

Other highlights of the half term include the inaugural Battle of the Bands Competition for Merton secondary schools. This was organised by Mr Thomas and hosted at the College, with bands from five Merton schools participating. The band 'Jet Lag' from Ricards Lodge School were the winners. Half term concluded with the House Music Competition, which as always included numerous outstanding performances from pupils in all years. Our lower line athletes continue to excel with both our Figures and Rudiments Sports Hall Athletics Teams winning through to the overall London finals in March. We wish them well. Last Friday saw two trips depart from the College; the Rhetoric Rugby Tour to Portugal and the Grammar Ski Trip to Austria.

Lent

As we start the season of Lent today, I wanted to repeat the invitation to all parents, that Mr Potter sent out last week, for you to participate in a mini-Lenten retreat experience on Tuesday 3rd March [4.30 - 6.00pm] in the Sacred Heart Church.

I hope that some of you will be able to attend. Please see the details below.

Wimbledon College and the Ursuline High School are collaborating with the Sacred Heart Parish Wimbledon to put on a mini Lenten retreat experience for parents/carers from the school communities, as well as parishioners.

*When: **Tuesday 3rd March, 4:30-6pm** (followed by optional opportunity for confession (@6pm) and Mass (@6.30pm).*

Where: The Sacred Heart Parish Hall (next to our school).

Theme: Penitence/Confession

It will be a relaxed atmosphere and aims to be a spiritually uplifting experience.

You are all warmly invited.

Grade Cards

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 are being sent out electronically this week and next for the last half term. Higher Line and Sixth Form gradecards include the latest, graded, assessments for this half term (HT3). Lower Line gradecards contain the subject progress judgement for this 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.

Upcoming Music Events

Friday Lunchtime Concerts

These are held most Fridays and pupils of all abilities are encouraged to perform. Please speak to Mr Thomas if you wish to be involved.

Instrumental Recital, Friday 13th March, 3.45pm, Sacred Heart Church

There will be a performance by some of our more advanced pupils on Friday 13th March in the Sacred Heart. Please do join us if you are able to.

Orchestra and Choir Performances

Our joint Ursuline/Wimbledon College orchestra, the St Cecilia Sinfonia will be performing a selection of orchestral works at the Ursuline's St Cecilia concert on Wednesday 11th March. They will also be combining forces with the Wimbledon College choir to perform Durante's *Magnificat* and Jommelli's *Requiem* on Tuesday 24th March at 7pm. Parents are welcome to attend.

Spring Concert, Tuesday 21st April, 6pm

The Wimbledon College Hall will become a jazz club on Tuesday 21st April as we hold our annual Spring Concert, featuring the Wimbledon College Swing Bands

as well as various rock and jazz ensembles. This is one of the highlights of the College's busy musical calendar. Parents are welcome to attend.

ESU MACE Public Speaking Debate Competition - Round Two:

Well done to our three-man team of Max Rodgers, Colm Casey and Neal Chumroo who competed in the second round of this prestigious competition. By all accounts, it was a very close contest, with the Wimbledon College trio just missing out on the chance to compete in the next round. The judges were overwhelmingly positive in their post-debate feedback to our boys. Thanks to Mr Coleman for his continued hard work with Debate Club and Oracy in the school.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Assembly Final

We held one of the strongest Grammar (Year 10) Assembly Finals in recent memory earlier this half-term. Six boys qualified for the Assembly Final via the workshops that 60 pupils did at the start of the half-term. The atmosphere in the School Hall was electric, and the audience of the year-group enthralled by each speech. A tough task for our judges: Mr Coleman, Ms Walker and Tymon Janik (Syntax, our reigning champion). In the end, it was Marcos Zayas Felipe, Diego Pereira Braun and Aran Quinn who go on to the Merton Final, hosted here at Wimbledon College. Watch this space for information on tickets to attend what promises to be an exciting event on Wednesday 15th April.

Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season commences after half term with teams from all year groups competing in a variety of competitions. Our own John Pieroni Sevens will take place in March at Coombe Lane. If you have never attended a sevens competition it is well worth coming to watch. Many of the best teams in the country at U15 level attend and the standard of sevens is always high.

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 legal requirement for students to be in school and that absences can only be authorised for extenuating circumstances.

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 times in a week then they will be required to sign in on a **Saturday morning**. There are different sanctions for Sixth Form pupils who are late to school.

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.

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. This includes formal black shoes and appropriate overcoats.

Please be aware that the expectations on coats are that they are 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 would ask that you check the School Uniform List before buying any school uniform.

Mobile phones and smart watches

In light of the Government's move to require all pupils not to have access to their smart phones when in school I wanted to inform you that we are currently looking at revising our own policy. For the time being our policy remains in place and 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. 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.

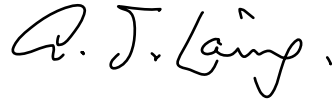
We have allowed pupils to have their phones on when they are in lessons and have been given specific permission to use their phones to support their learning in a particular lesson however this practice will be ceasing, in line with the direction of the Government's policy.

Monday 23 February 2026

I remind parents that Monday 23 February is a staff inset day and so there are no lessons. However, Rhetoric mock examinations will be taking place on Monday. I ask that all students in Rhetoric check their exam timetable.

God bless.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. J. Laing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Adrian Laing
Headteacher