



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Letter to Parents

Please note amended letter to reflect the College's current policy on mobile phones

Thursday 2 April 2026

Dear Parents

It seems as though I have only just written my spring half term letter to you. It has been a short half term and yet the pupils and staff have managed to squeeze in everything that we would normally do in a longer period. We finished the term with our Sixth Form pupils departing on our first trip to China and Rudiments pupils travelling to our well-established ski trip. We wish them all safe and enjoyable trips.

The last week of term saw the return of our French exchange pupils, three sevens teams competing in the Rosslyn Park National Sevens competitions, two football matches being played against touring sides from Bishops Diocesan College, Cape Town, South Africa and a number of our pupils performing in the Kings College, Wimbledon performance of Silas Mamer. In addition, we had the very successful Music Concert on Tuesday 24 March with performances from our choir and the St Cecilia Sinfonia, a collaboration of pupils from the College and Ursuline High School. This followed on from a performance earlier in the term at Ursuline High School and we are looking forward to seeing it grow from strength to strength.

All of these events go on in addition to the hard work being undertaken in the classrooms including the preparation for GCSEs and A Levels at the beginning of May. I am, as always, grateful to our staff for enabling all of these activities and to you, who, as parents, support and encourage your children.

Term ended with our traditional Tenebrae services which give staff and pupils the opportunity for quiet reflection on the forthcoming events of the Triduum and the sacrifice and death of Christ.

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

Charity Fundraising

With the shortness of this half term Mr Potter, working with the Magis Reps, has organised our Lenten fundraising to continue after the holiday and into the Easter season. As parents I am sure that you are aware that many pupils have already taken part in fund raising activities and I know that there are more to come. Mr Potter has asked that the following be included in this letter

During Lent each year group chose a charity that they would like to support. Each tutor group has started planning fundraising activities for their charity. Many of these are sponsored initiatives. Some tutor groups have planned for sponsored challenges that students will do independently over the holidays (things like sponsored silences, going without their phones for 24hrs, sponsored chores, etc.). Other tutor groups may be planning activities or sponsored challenges that will be taking place after the holidays. These are the charities the different year groups have chosen and their associated Justgiving pages for any donations or sponsored monies to be paid in. Thank you for any support and encouragement you are able to give them.

Years 7,8,9&11 <https://www.justgiving.com/page/wimbledon-college-cancer-research-uk-2026>

Year 10 <https://www.justgiving.com/page/wimbledon-college-st-georges-hospital-charity-2026>

Years 12&13 <https://www.justgiving.com/page/wimbledon-college-jesuit-missions-south-sudan>

Alumni Development Officer

Our new Alumni Development Officer, Mike Palacios, started this term and he is working hard to develop our Alumni database and to build connections with Old Wimbledonians.

We have a webpage dedicated to our Alumni on the College website. Mike has outlined how we hope to keep contact with Old Wimbledonians. There is a link on the page to an Alumni Update form that we are asking all former pupils and staff to complete. Initial responses have been excellent.

I would be grateful if you would share the link to the webpage, below, with any Old Wimbledonians that you know. [<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/about-us/alumni>]

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

Tuesday 24 March was the date for the College’s wonderful music concert. It was a well-supported event and included the St Cecilia Sinfonia [players from both Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College] and the College choir performing Durante’s *Magnificat* and Jommelli’s *Requiem*.

We look forward to the *Spring Concert* which is taking place on *Tuesday 21st April at 6pm in the College Hall*. Parents are welcome to attend.

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

Rugby [Mr Hallett]

This term sees the conclusion of all forms of rugby for this academic year.

A season that has seen many highs, U18 plate quarter finalists. The Rhetoric tour to Lisbon & some outstanding 7s displays from numerous age groups. But as always there are a few things that never change; the unbelievable support dedication, commitment and generosity that the whole rugby community (parents, pupils & staff) within the college, have become renowned for.

The end of this term also sees the final College rugby for a group of students who have contributed so much to the College over the last seven years. My thanks gratitude and wholehearted appreciation to those in Rhetoric who have been part of the Rugby programme throughout their time at Wimbledon College. Their tour to Lisbon during February half term exemplifies their outstanding contribution, attitude friendship, and camaraderie. It was a pleasure to be part of that experience and to be part of their journey.

With that in mind it gives me great pleasure to inform those pupils playing rugby for the College in the current Poetry, Grammar and Lower Grammar that they too will have the opportunity of experiencing a rugby tour in 2027 and 2028 respectively. Please keep an eye out for future correspondence, regarding these exciting opportunities.

My concluding words are once again of thanks, to the staff, parents and pupils who helped make the 36th John Pieroni 7s tournament a huge success. It was a fantastic rugby spectacle and another example of the College community coming together to

offer numerous schools the chance to commemorate and pay our respects to both John Pieroni and Luca Buttaci through their participation in some wonderful rugby.

Enrichment Opportunities

Travel Writer Workshop: We were delighted to welcome travel writer and Times columnist, Ben Aitken, to give a workshop to some of our Figures and Rudiments pupils. Ben shared his experiences and tips for effective writing, after which boys pitched ideas for their own travel books. Boys' proposed titles ranged from 'Pennsylvania on a penny' to 'Going to Goa'.

Performing Arts Workshop: Esteemed theatre and TV actor, Tony Bell, led a series of engaging and energising sessions with our A Level Performing Arts pupils. Tony taught the boys a range of strategies for performing on stage, bringing monologues to life, and preparing for a life treading the boards.

A Level Theatre Trip: Our English Literature A Level pupils enjoyed an excellent performance of the tragi-comic 'Waiting for Hamlet', an entertaining and thought-provoking fusion of Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' and the imagined afterlife of 'Hamlet', where the murdered King (Hamlet Senior) and his dead Fool (of skull and 'Alas, poor Yorick') wrestle with the challenges of being and not being. We were very fortunate to have our own personal Question-and-Answer session with the actors shortly after the performance at the Tabard Theatre concluded. This again was fascinating and insightful.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This term, we celebrated LGBT+ History month during February, and we have recognised the contribution individuals from this community have made to different subject areas. We have also celebrated Ghana Independence Day and were joined by Alex Addae-Brobbey who spoke to Year 8 about his career in creative marketing and the importance of his Ghanian heritage to him.

We have marked International Women's Day by sharing resources with pupils as well as shining a light on the contribution women have made in a wide range of different industries. We During Neurodiversity Celebration Week (16-20 March) we had the opportunity to join in with a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual. Finally, we also

celebrated St Patrick's Day, again by sharing resources and highlighting the contribution made in various fields by people of Irish heritage.

Careers

With, Mrs Parrish and Mr Skinner who continue to work so hard to promote careers opportunities to all of our pupils, I would like to thank all of those who volunteered to take part in our Careers and Future Options Fair this year. It was a very successful event where pupils from each year group were able to visit the fair and discuss future education and employment opportunities that they may be interested in pursuing. The range of exhibitors included apprenticeship providers, FE colleges, universities, and a wide range of employers. Please see our termly careers newsletter, which has been sent to all parents, for further information about the opportunities that pupils have had to access careers education this term.

Reminders

Nut free school

I must remind all parents that we are a nut free school. 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.

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

Our current policy remains in place however as I stated in my February half term letter, we have stopped allowing pupils to use their phones to support their learning in lessons. The key elements of our policy, in terms of use in school, are as follows:

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.

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.

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

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>

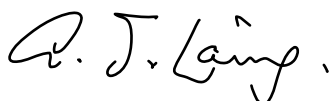
Grade Card

Gradecards for pupils in years 7-10 and Sixth Form are available to download from the Arbor Parent Portal. The Syntax (Y11) Gradecard is also available but only contains mock exam results for English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies. A complete gradecard with grades for all subjects will be available 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, a reminder that **next term starts on Monday 13 April 2026**

God bless.



Adrian Laing
Headteacher