



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Half Term Letter to Parents

Tuesday 26 May 2026

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the half term break and coping with the hot weather. I appreciate that these are not the best conditions for our pupils who are revising for their exams; however, I hope that they are managing to complete their revision and to also take some time to rest in preparation for the remainder of their examinations after the break. I wish them all the very best over the coming weeks.

Report Card

Pupils in Years 7 -10 and 12 will receive their report cards [electronically] during the half term break. Pupils in Years 7-9 have been given a progress judgement for the work completed since the start of the Summer term. Years 10 and 12 report cards have their latest summative assessment grade. Please do take the time to look over your child's card and if you, or your child, are concerned about their progress compared to their target grade please do not hesitate to speak to your child's Head of Line.

School Uniform expectations

As you are aware Mr Cargill emailed all parents of pupils in Years 7-10 to make you aware of the focus we are having on uniform and making sure that pupils are wearing the correct items of uniform. Mr Cargill had said that we were focusing on pupils wearing their tie and blazer correctly and having the correct shoes.

I would like to thank all of our 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 were a few pupils who were still wearing trainers at the end of the half term who have assured us that they would have new shoes after the break.

I do ask that you continue to ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform at all times. A number of pupils have been wearing a coat instead of their blazer on the way to and from school. This is not acceptable. The pupils must wear their blazer. If they want to wear a coat it is to go over their blazer. For the next half term pupils will only be allowed to wear coats on the school site if it is raining.

Shirt Sleeve Order

In light of the hot weather, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the school's expectation on what uniform is acceptable when it gets hot. We have 'shirt sleeve order' and when it is decided to go to 'shirt sleeve order' pupils can take their blazer and tie off and put them in their bags. Pupils can choose to keep their blazer and tie on or remove both. They are not allowed to just take their blazer or their tie off. [Please note jumpers are not allowed to be worn without a blazer]. It is the school's decision to go to 'shirt sleeve order' and until pupils are told they are expected to wear their uniform correctly at all times.

Use of the College's 3g pitch – correct footwear

I must remind parents that all pupils are expected to wear the correct footwear when using the 3G pitch at the College. What this means is that pupils must wear boots with the correct studs and not trainers. I appreciate that the pupils are participating in summer sports, however, for their safety and to avoid unnecessary wear of the playing surface, the correct footwear must be worn.

Pupils were using the correct footwear earlier in the year and must do so after half term. Failure to have the correct footwear will mean that they will not be able to take part in activities on the pitch.

Changes to compulsory branded items of school uniform.

As you may be aware the Government has introduced new legislation from September, which only allows secondary schools to have four compulsory branded items of school uniform (including sports kit).

*We have identified the four compulsory items of uniform as:
our blazer, our tie, our rugby/football shirt and our rugby/football socks.*

This means that it will no longer be compulsory to have a logo on your child's school jumper however they will be expected to wear the same-coloured jumper as present. Similarly house tops will no longer have to have their house logo on them. Pupils will still be expected to have the correct coloured t-shirt for their house. Our uniform suppliers still hold some stock of the branded items and pupils may still continue to wear these branded items. Details of the changes will be available in our uniform list.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Merton Final

One of the highlights of the last half term was when we hosted the Merton Regional Final of this prestigious public-speaking competition in the first week of this term. It was a pleasure to welcome the winners from a range of Merton schools, along with their teachers and parents. We were also fortunate to welcome The Worshipful, The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Martin Whelton. The school winners came together to compete for a place in the National Final. It was an evening of extraordinary high-quality oratory. In the end, it was one of Wimbledon College's own who progressed to the National Final: Marcos Zayas Felipe delivering a passionate speech on the necessity of failure if one is to succeed. High praise also for our other two Regional

Finalists: Diego Pereira Braun and Aran Quinn. Watch this space to see how Marcos goes in the National Final in July!

More Able Pupils

Our 'Senior Aspirations' programme continued this half-term, alongside other schools in the borough. Year 10 had a series of Science workshops at KCS, Wimbledon (thanks to their sixth formers for organising), in which they catapulted rockets and launched eggs with parachutes, with various levels of success! Year 9 also took part in a highly engaging film and narrative session. Last week, Mr Schoen took the Year 10 group to a Taster Day at King's College University on The Strand, which was again well-received.

Lower Line Ski Trip

It now seems a long time ago however in the first week of the Easter holidays our annual Lower Line ski trip for Rudiments boys took place, with over 40 pupils travelling to Austria for a week on the slopes. The progress boys made in their skiing was great to see, and it was a group characterised by enthusiasm and determination. The evenings saw a range of activities, from swimming to bowling, Art and Design projects to quizzes. Thanks to Mr Causton for his fine organisation of the Trip, and to all other staff who accompanied the trip.

Careers - Quality in Careers Standard Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard Award. This externally assessed award required the Careers Department to spend a year building a portfolio to demonstrate that we were delivering excellence in careers education to our students. We would like to thank the students, staff, parents, and the Careers Department for their hard work in helping the College achieve this prestigious award.

Our careers programme has continued to thrive this term. Figures and Rudiments enjoyed an engaging Sinnott Careers talk from Michael Tabirade, who focused on seven steps to success. Members of Lower Grammar visited University of Roehampton to gain an insight into what university life is like.

PSHE Programme

As part of our PSHE programme, we have been very fortunate to welcome external speakers to enhance the curriculum. Students in Poetry listened to Max Smith, whose talk focused on maintaining a positive body image and the dangers of the extreme fitness industry. Alison Harvey also spoke to them about staying safe in social situations, as well as highlighting the risks associated with drugs and alcohol. Students in Lower Line and Lower Grammar attended an informative talk from Mind of the Student about coping with exam stress and strategies to help manage stressful situations.

Rugby

Upcoming Tours

Would parents of pupils who have represented the school at rugby and who have expressed an interest in either of the two tours [Senior Tour to Sri Lanka and Rhetoric Tour to Italy] please check their emails for further information about the tours. The Senior Tour is open to pupils who are

currently in Lower Grammar or Grammar and the Rhetoric Tour is open to pupils currently in Poetry.

The deadline for completing the google forms has now been extended and is as follows;

- Senior Tour to Sri Lanka - 1st June
- Rhetoric Tour to Italy - 1st June

There are still plenty of spaces available, especially for the Senior tour to Sri Lanka, please see link below for an idea of what to expect in Sri Lanka (please note this isn't our confirmed itinerary) - <https://www.edwindoran.com/tour/school-rugby-sri-lanka/>

Pre-season training - before the start of the Autumn term.

May I remind you that our Pre-season training sessions will be taking place this year as usual. They will take place during the last week of the school holidays (Mon 24th - Thu 27th August).

Further details will be sent out before the end of the summer term. However, please do try and ensure that your child(ren) make at least one session so that they have an opportunity to impress their new coaches.

Travelling to and from school

We were made aware of a number of incidents towards the end of the last half term where our pupils were not behaving appropriately in Wimbledon Town Centre. It is an expectation on our pupils that they simply travel through the town centre on their way to and from school and do not hang around in Wimbledon. The area gets extremely busy with pupils from many schools being present.

The vast majority of our pupils do set a positive example through their behaviour and we receive positive feedback from members of the public. There are however a small number of pupils who have not maintained these high standards.

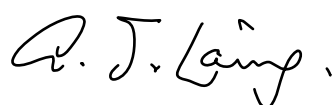
I ask that all parents support the school by talking to your child[ren] about their behaviour on their journeys to and from school.

Next half term - Dates

Just to remind all parents that school reopens on Monday 1 June.

We celebrate the College Feast Day, The Feast of the Sacred Heart, on Friday 12 June. School finishes at 12.40 on that day.

With best wishes,
God bless



Adrian Laing
Headteacher