



Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's End of Year Letter to Parents

August 2026

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are having an enjoyable summer, especially now that the temperature has dropped. As with the rest of London the heat in school at various times this term made it very difficult for pupils and staff and I am grateful for the way in which everyone responded. We were fortunate that with different year groups out of lessons at different times we were able to move lessons from the hottest rooms.

A number of events were unfortunately impacted by the weather, including our sports days. These were replaced by a variety of different activities which were well received by the pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff involved in the organisation of these events at such short notice.

The last week of term saw Poetry pupils engaged in their work experience, the return of the school choir from their successful tour to Naples, the culmination of the Rudiments First Give Project as well as the activity days mentioned above. Term finished for pupils in school with our end of year Masses of St Ignatius.

Fr Kensy Joseph SJ and Fr Christopher Brolly SJ celebrated the Masses with us and I would like to thank them both for giving of their time to do so. We were very fortunate to welcome Fr Brolly SJ as he was ordained to the priesthood in June and is currently studying in America. He is a former Governor of the College. We wish him well as he starts his ordained ministry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support of the College and for ensuring that your children attend school and make the most of the opportunities that are available to them both in lessons and in the extra-curricular activities that we offer.

Staff leaving

We say farewell to a number of staff who left us at the end of the year.

Mr McMichael is retiring from his teaching role in the Mathematics Department after eight years at the College. He will be missed not only for his teaching but for his passion for cycling, which has seen him encourage staff and pupils alike to cycle. He was involved in our bicycle maintenance group during his time with us. Mrs Picton is leaving us after over six years in the



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MFL Department where she has taught Spanish to A Level and French. Also leaving the College this summer are Mr Beare [Geography and PE Teacher], Mr Bailey [Learning Support Assistant], Ms Cullinan [Learning Support Assistant], Mr Costello [Learning Support Assistant], Miss Moore [Learning Support Assistant], Mr McLellan [History Teacher] and Mr Schoen [English Teacher].

On behalf of the College community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for everything that they have contributed to the College and wish them every success in the future.

Examination results days

Key dates:

A Level and Sixth Form vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 13 August from 8.00am – 9.00am**, in the Sixth Form Study Hall. Staff will be available to support pupils during the morning.

GCSE and Syntax vocational results are available from school on **Thursday 20 August from 8.00am until 8.30am** in the main hall.

Pupils should collect their own results. Prior notice is required if another family member needs to pick up results for a pupil. If this is necessary then please email either Mr Murphy (philip.murphy@wimbledoncollege.org.uk) or the Examinations Officer (exams@wimbledoncollege.org.uk). The family member will also need to provide identification.

Sixth Form Enrolment

Once pupils have received their results on **Thursday 20 August**, they will be able to complete their online enrolment form on the Applicaa platform. They will be able to do this in school, from 8.30am in the computer rooms. As part of the enrolment process there will be guidance available on pathways and subject choice. This will take place in the Sixth Form Study Hall with Sixth Form staff

I would like to remind you that pupils will require their passports to enrol. Enrolment fees will be required to be paid via Arbor.

Parent Information Evenings – September 2026

Looking forward to the start of the new year I want to share with you the dates for our Parent Briefings so that you can add them to your diaries. They are as follows:

07/09/2026	Y7 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
08/09/2026	Y12 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [in person]
08/09/2026	Y13 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]
09/09/2026	Y9 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
09/09/2026	Y10 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [online]
10/09/2026	Y8 Parents' Briefing	6.00pm [online]
10/09/2026	Y11 Parents' Briefing	6.30pm [in person]



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Mobile phones in school – Blackout App

As I shared with you during last term it is now Government policy that all pupils [Years 7-11] must not access or use their mobile phones in school. Sixth Form pupils may only use their phones in the Sixth Form area.

To ensure that we are in line with the Government's Policy we are introducing an additional measure from September alongside our current mobile phone policy.

From September all pupils in Years 7-11 will be required to have the Blackout App on any smart phone that they bring to school.

Information about the App and how to download it are available in the parents' section of the College's website. Please use the following link to access the information:

<https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/parents/mobile-phone-procedure>

We held a webinar for parents last term explaining why we are using the app and how it works and a recording of the webinar is available using the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KbpbcbjFX7mXkYsB1jEenYILR2enK2soB/view?usp=sharing>

Further information about the app and the limited permissions required is available on the Blackout Technologies website - <https://www.blackout-technologies.com/education/info-for-guardians>

Downloading the App

All pupils in Years 8-11 will receive an invitation to download the app before the start of term. Please ensure that if your child will be bringing a smart phone into school it has the Blackout App downloaded onto their phone.

Year 7 pupils will receive the invitation once they have started at the College.

We expect that pupils who have a smart phone in school will have the app on their phone. If it is found that they do not or if they refuse to show a member of staff that they do have the app on their phone and working then the pupil's phone will be confiscated for five days and we will contact parents to request that the app be installed.

Alternatively, pupils may bring a brick/dumb phone to school.

From September our Behaviour Policy will include the following section relating to mobile phones in school and the use of the Blackout App. Please share this with your child[ren].

Extract from Wimbledon College Behaviour Policy – September 2026

Mobile phone and other electronic device rules

It is recommended that mobile phones are not brought into school by pupils.

However, if parents feel that it is necessary for their son[s] to bring a mobile phone to school, we strongly recommend that only the cheapest models are used. Expensive brands should be avoided. Phones should be protected with security markings and passwords.



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As part of the current Department for Education policy we, as a school, have to ensure that pupils in Years 7-11 are not able to access social media or other apps on their phones while they are in school.

We therefore require that all pupils in Years 7-11 who bring a smart phone to school must have the 'Blackout App' working on their phone.

Alternatively, pupils may bring a 'brick'/'dumb' phone instead.

Any pupil choosing to bring a mobile phone into school does so at the owner's own risk and the pupil is expected to abide by the following rules which control the use of mobile phones in Wimbledon College:

- 1. Mobile phones may only be brought into school so that pupils can contact parents on their way to and from school. They must be switched off before the pupil comes on to the school site and kept switched off throughout the time they are at school. They must not be switched on again until the pupil has left the school premises. [This does not include travelling between the main site and sports facilities].*

It is not acceptable for mobile phones to be kept on airplane mode. They must be kept out of sight at all times [with the exception of No.6 below].

- 2. Mobile phones are not to be used on Edge Hill either before or after school. Phones being used on Edge Hill will be confiscated.*
- 3. Parents who need to get messages to their child/children during the school day should telephone the school in the usual way and not contact the pupils directly.*
- 4. Any pupil found using a mobile phone, with a phone visible [with the exception of No. 8 below] or with a phone switched on (including on airplane mode), at any time on school premises or when going to Games, will have that phone confiscated. In the first instance this will be for 5 school days. The phone will be kept in the relevant PSA's safe. Parents will be contacted by the school in the event of confiscation.*
- 5. If we have reason to believe that a pupil has used their smart phone in school, we may ask them to show a member of staff that the Blackout App is installed on their smart phone.*
 - If the pupil's smart phone is found without the Blackout App installed and working the phone will be confiscated in line with Number 4 above. We will also contact parents and request that the app is installed on the pupil's smart phone.*
 - If the pupil refuses to show a member of staff, when requested, that the app is installed on their smart phone the phone will be confiscated in line with Number 4 above.*
- 6. Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school should make every effort to reduce the risk of theft during school hours. Pupils who carry mobile phones are advised to keep them well concealed.*
- 7. If pupils bring phones in to school it is their responsibility to hand them in to the teacher during PE & Games lessons. Phones must be clearly identifiable.*
- 8. The school accepts no responsibility for loss of, damage to, or cost incurred relating to mobile phones [including if they are confiscated]. Any mobile phone that is brought into school will be at the owner's*



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risk. It will not always be possible for staff to investigate the loss of mobile phones.

9. *Sixth Form pupils may use mobile phones in the Sixth Form area only. Phones must be switched off in other areas of the school. If they are used in any other area of the school the phone will be confiscated in line with No. 4 above.*

10. Smart watches are not permitted in school and will be confiscated for 5 school days.

11. *Failure to hand over a phone, smart watch or electronic device to a member of staff will be treated as a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy.*

All pupils and parents should also be aware of our expectations contained within our E-Safety Policy

Teachers have the statutory power to confiscate mobile phones in school.

Uniform

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for ensuring that your children come to school with the correct uniform and with an appropriate hair style.

All pupils will be expected to return to school in September in full school uniform

If you are finding it difficult, for financial reasons, to purchase any item of school uniform for your child then please contact your child's PSA and we will do what we can to support you.

There are a number of reminders below regarding uniform. I am very conscious that the vast majority of pupils are proud of their uniform and wear it correctly. A small number of pupils have not been doing so.

Coats

Coats are not to be worn instead of the College blazer, both on the way to and from school and in school. This is not acceptable and pupils have been informed that if they do this their coat will be confiscated. If a coat is required then it is to be worn over their blazer.

Coats should also be plain black, with sleeves and without logos. Coats may have hoods.

Shoes

I am aware that many of you will be buying new shoes for your sons over the summer and I direct you to the uniform and suitable shoe pages on our website [the Transition to the College page of the Parents section] for the relevant information about what shoes are acceptable. I must emphasise that we insist on **black, leather, plain, formal and polished shoes**. I must also point out that our list of unacceptable brands [to be found in our 'a Guide for New Parents' on the Transition to the College page of the College website] is not exhaustive. They are simply given as examples.

I must emphasise that trainers or shoes that have the appearance of trainers [even if bought at specialist shoe shops] are not acceptable and parents will be expected to change unacceptable



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shoes. I really do urge you to ensure that you buy the correct style of shoe to avoid any unnecessary expense, if you have to buy a second pair of shoes.

Correct footwear for use on the 3G pitch

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that all pupils must have football boots, with the correct studs [blades are not allowed], to use the school's 3G pitch.

Wearing uniform correctly

Pupils are expected to wear their uniform correctly at all times.

This includes having their top button done up, their tie at an appropriate length [a simple rule of thumb is that there are seven strips visible on the main part of the tie] and that their trousers are at the right height, held up by a plain black belt if necessary.

A number of pupils have been wearing their trousers much lower than they should which means that what they are wearing underneath is visible. This is not acceptable and pupils who persist in wearing their trousers in this manner will be sanctioned.

Please support the College and ensure that your child's uniform fits him properly and that he knows what the College's uniform expectations are.

Careers

The Careers Department has had a busy term, welcoming speakers to discuss their career journeys with students. We were delighted to see our Grammar and Poetry students organise such worthwhile work experience placements, including placements at the House of Commons, within law firms, and in the construction industry. We are very grateful to the employers who have supported our students by providing these opportunities.

Lower Line also had a very successful Careers and Enterprise Day. This included a range of activities that gave students the opportunity to develop their employability skills. Please see the newsletter that was sent out recently for more information.

Drama

There will be many opportunities for boys to join with extra-curricular performances next academic year. The auditions and rehearsals for the Christmas production will start in the first full week back, and boys from all year groups are welcome to come and be a part of the production. It's always a lot of fun and a great chance to realise that anyone can be on stage!

We will also be joining King's College School in their community production and rehearsals for this are on Fridays, with the performance in March. This is open to all Lower Line pupils, and will start in October.

Please ask Miss O'Brien or Miss Moore if you have any questions.



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More able enrichment programme

Public Speaking

What a pleasure it was to watch Grammar (Year 10) pupils, Marcos Zayas Felipe, perform in the **National Grand Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out** competition at Cambridge Theatre, London. Supported by family, fellow pupils and staff members, Marcos spoke powerfully in what was a field of highly talented orators. Elsewhere, a cohort of Rudiments (Year 8) pupils visited the Imperial War Museum as part of the **Culturally Speaking** programme for an interactive session on 'Art and War'. Following this, an in-school workshop day drew on these experiences and taught boys how to develop their own persuasive speeches.

Model United Nations

Another very enjoyable Model UN Conference as we sent a group of ambassadors from Years 9 to 11 to Mulberry School for Girls for their very slickly-organised two-day Conference. All of the boys represented their countries with great confidence and perspicacity, dealing with the issue of Humanitarian relief in the face of Armed Conflict. A particular well done to Diego, Philip, Yusif and Nathan, who came away with awards for their diplomatic endeavours.

Oxbridge and University Applications

Poetry Pupils (Year 12) continued their preparation process with a very useful interview preparation session at South Hampstead High School with a number of other schools. Towards the end of term, we took groups to the Oxford and Cambridge University Open Days, and boys made the most of taster lectures, q-and-a sessions with admissions tutors, and college tours. We hope that these experiences will inspire them for the hard work ahead, wherever they end up applying to.

Rugby

With rugby being the major sport of the term, pre-season training will, once again, take place during the final week of the holidays. With a number of changes to the coaching set up, this is a perfect opportunity for your child(ren) to introduce themselves and impress a new set of eyes before the season starts.

Details of pre-season sessions and training over the Autumn term can be found below.

Match day teas

Mr Hallett is also looking for more parents to volunteer to help with match teas. We provide teas for players and staff following our home fixtures on Saturdays and the teas are greatly appreciated by visiting teams as well as our own. If you are able and willing to give some time on a Saturday morning, please do contact Mr Hallett [neil.hallett@wimbledoncollege.org.uk]. He will then be able to put you in touch with your year group organiser.



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WIMBLEDON COLLEGE

Pre-season Rugby

2026 – 27 SEASON

ALL
PUPILS ARE
WELCOME
TO ATTEND

Please arrive 15mins
before the start of the
session



YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY VENUE	VENUE
8	24 th & 25 th August	11.00 – 12.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
10	26 th & 27 th August	9.00 – 10.30	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
11	24 th & 25 th August	9.00 – 11.00	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane
12 & 13	24 th , 25 th & 26 th August	9.00 – 12.00	Pre-season Training	Coombe Lane



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RUGBY TRAINING NIGHTS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

DAY	AGE GROUP	TIME	COACHES	VENUE
MONDAY	U13s	3.30 – 5.00	Mr Modeste, Mr van der Hoeven, Mr Fitcher, Mr Laing	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
TUESDAY	U12s	3.30 – 5.00	Mr Rees, Mr Mr O'Hare, Mr Potter	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
WEDNESDAY	SENIORS & U16s	3.15 – 5.00 3.15 – 4.00	Mr Hallett, Mr Hillhouse, Mr Doran, Mr Skinner & Mr Reneker & Mr Simon	COOMBE LANE
	U14s & U15s	3.15 – 5.00	Mr Stock, Mr O'Connor, Mr Morris, Mr Causton Mr Milloy	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots
	1 ST & 2 ND XV Captain's run	3.30 – 5.00	Mr Hallett, Mr Hillhouse, Mr Doran, Mr Skinner	SCHOOL 4G Must have boots

Saturday fixtures start on the 5th September.

Cricket

Wimbledon Cricket had another successful year, where numbers and results continue to increase. A 30% win increase across Year 7 to Year 10, demonstrates the dedication and hard work from the students and coaches across the board. Unfortunately, a number of games were cancelled due to poor weather, yet this did not deter attendance and participation numbers. House Cricket for Year 7 to Year 9 was a brilliant way to close out the Cricket season, with over 180 students participating across the 3 days.



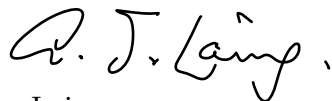
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Start of Autumn Term

May I remind you that all pupils return to school on **Thursday 3 September**. There is a staggered start to the day with **Years 7 and 12 starting at 8.30am** and **the rest of the school starting at 11.00am**.

Finally, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer.

God bless,



Adrian Laing
Headteacher



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