Wimbledon College

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Headteacher's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 23 October 2026

Dear Parents

We have come to the end of our first half term, which has been extremely busy for the whole school community. We have held our open evenings for Year 7 and Year 12 entry in September 2027 and both were very successful events thanks to the involvement of pupils and staff. I am grateful to all of the pupils who gave of their time to support the evenings. As always, the most positive feedback we received was for the pupils who showed parents and prospective pupils around the school.

The deadline for submitting the Year 7 application form is 31 October 2026. There are details further in the letter about applications to Sixth Form.

We are also moving towards our conversion to academy status and joining the Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust. It is planned that we will become an Academy on 1 December 2026. This will not impact on the day to day running of the school. We will begin to work more closely with the local Catholic schools who we already have good relations with. Indeed, many of our pupils have joined us from these schools.

Next week marks the retirement of Mrs. Wright, our Facilities Manager. She has worked at the College for just short of 30 years and she has played a very important role in ensuring that the College is maintained to the very high standard that you know. Her knowledge of the school has been invaluable and she will be greatly missed. On your behalf and on behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank her for everything that she has done for Wimbledon College and to wish her a very happy, long and enjoyable retirement.

Sadly, this week was the funeral of Mr. Andrew Kennedy, who was a Governor of the College for twenty-five years, many of which were as Chair of Governors. He worked closely with the Headteachers at the time moving the College forward through some significant changes. As a school community we are tremendously grateful for everything that he did to support the College. I would ask that you remember him and his family in your prayers.

This half term has seen all of our extra- curricular activities in full swing and I strongly urge you to encourage your children to take advantage of the wide range of activities available to them. If you have not already done so, please look through our extra-curricular activities' booklet with your children. Many of the activities have been highlighted via our Instagram and LinkedIn pages. Please do sign up to follow these accounts as they give a positive snapshot of College life.

Grade Cards

Grade cards will be made available this afternoon on the **Arbor Parent Portal.** Further information regarding how we assess pupils and report to parents and how to access the portal is available here: *https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/curriculum/assessment-and-reporting*

If your child's grade card is not available, would you please email their Head of Line to let them know.

Application deadlines for the Sixth Form

Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2027 have to be submitted, via Applicaa by Friday 4 December 2026. Boys in Syntax should be starting to complete their applications. If they have not done so, there is a link to Applicaa available on the College website. *[https://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form+Admissions&pid=108]*

Syntax Mocks

The Syntax mock examinations commence on Monday 16 November 2026. Parents of Syntax pupils and the pupils themselves should be receiving a copy of their exam timetable today, along with revision materials for the examinations. Please support your child[ren] to make use of the time over half term to undertake effective revision for their exams.

BlackOut App

Thank you to you all for your support in ensuring that your child[ren] have the app installed on their smart phones that they bring to school.

I would be grateful if you would discuss with your child[ren] how they have found the app over the first half term and if there are any issues, please do email Mr Cargill regarding these.

PSHE

We are very grateful to the London Ambulance Service for organising a 'Lifesavers Day' for all Rudiments students. Students learnt how to place someone in the recovery position and administer CPR. We are thankful to the team for sharing their expertise.

Grammar and Poetry students also attended a very important PSHE talk delivered by 'Talk Consent'.

Drama Production – The Mask!

We are in the middle of preparing the Wimbledon College Christmas Production, which this year will be *The Mask*! Performances will be on Thursday 3rd December and Friday 4th December at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale shortly after half-term, so please look out for the information on the website. Do come and join us for an evening of *Sssssmokin'* fun!

School Magazine 2026

The Wimbledonian 2026 school magazine has been distributed to pupils during this week. It is a fantastic record of the many activities that take place throughout the year, that pupils can involve themselves in. It is always pleasing to see how many pupils are engaged in our wide variety of clubs, activities and trips. I would like to thank all of the contributors and Mr Simpson who has undertaken the significant role of editor.

Oxbridge Applications

We were pleased to see a number of boys send off their Oxbridge applications this half-term. Significant work had been done on personal statements and references by pupils and staff alike. Several candidates have also taken their Oxbridge exams (TMUA, ESAT etc), and we now move on to the interview practice and preparation stage. If any parents feel they would be able to offer assistance in providing mock interviews in the likes of Engineering, Computer Science, Maths, or any other subject, please do contact the Sixth Form Team.

Figures and Rudiments Escape Room

Pupils on the More Able programme from Years 7 and 8 took part in the inaugural Wimbledon College Escape Room activity towards the end of half-term. A series of puzzles and conundrums had to be solved, covering History, Chemistry, English and Maths, to name but a few, in order for boys to work out the code that unlocked the briefcase that held their prize! Well done to Ivor, Nathan and John from Year 8 who were the winners.

Black History Month

This October, as a school, we have been celebrating Black History Month, the theme for this year is ''Honouring Our Communities.'. Pupils have had numerous opportunities to engage thoughtfully over the course of the month. We started the month by celebrating Nigerian Independence Day and Black History Month has been the focus of our morning prayer, assemblies and the Examen. In addition, there have been displays around the school and on the screens which have included information on inspirational black figures from different

subject areas as well as a timeline of Black British History. Daily profiles of 'Great Black Britons' and other resources such as a reading list produced by the History department have been shared on Google Classroom and a quiz will be posted so pupils can check how much they have learned throughout the month. Finally, departments have planned a wide range of activities across the school to commemorate the month in their subject area. We have also celebrated Ugandan Independence Day as a school community this month.

International Food Festival

We held our fourth annual International Food Festival on Friday 2nd October which was organised by Year 13 Business BTEC pupils as part of their course and the Friends of Wimbledon College. It was a fantastic evening which was very well attended with lots of delicious food and the opportunity to learn more about different cultures, a big thank you to all of those who prepared dishes.

Joint Carol Service 2026

Our joint carol service with the Ursuline will be held on Monday 14th December at 8pm in the Sacred Heart Church and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the College Hall. You are invited to be part of our preparation for Christmas. Please come and support one of the musical highlights of the term.

Cross Country Success

Congratulations to the Junior Boys Cross Country team who have qualified for the South East England finals at Seaford College in November. They qualified from the Surrey Regional rounds after an excellent performance at Stoke Park in Guildford.

Rugby

Mr Hallett has sent the following message:
This term saw the start of our major sporting Saturday fixtures and eventually the first opportunity for our new figures pupils to engage, for many, in rugby not only for the first time for the College, but their first time ever.

After a difficult start to the season due to the unplayable pitches after the summer heat, hopefully this new weather front sweeping across will ensure that all pitches are playable after the break and we will be able to maximise the opportunity for everybody. It was pleasing that we were able to play a number of fixtures each Saturday on our 3G pitch at the College.

A huge thank you to everybody who has taken part or contributed from the sidelines or inside the pavilion post-match. It is hugely appreciated by all involved and I am eternally grateful for the support.

Furthermore, we are still looking for parents/guardians who are able to assist in providing match teas for the Figures teams post-match. All of their remaining fixtures are on a Friday during Games so please, if you are available and willing contact Mr Hallett who will inform you of what is required. All costs or expenditure are fully reimbursed and there are numerous people within the college who are able to guide you through the process.

Training continues as advertised after the week's break.

Uniform

I would like to draw all parents' attention to the College's uniform expectations now that we are once again moving into the colder months. The full uniform list and expectations on school shoes can be found on the College website [link]. Pupils in Years 7-11 are expected to wear plain black coats over their blazers. Hoods are permitted however these are to be down when in school.

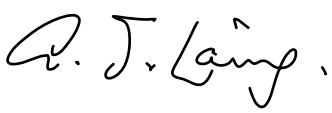
Pupils are expected to wear their blazers to and from school and while they are in school. Coats are only to be worn over blazers and not instead of blazers. Please ensure that your child[ren] has a suitable coat that can be worn over their blazer. If pupils continue to wear a coat instead of their blazer the coat will be confiscated. Pupils are aware of this already.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents who have ensured that their children are coming to school wearing the correct uniform and with all of the correct equipment for their lessons.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 2 November for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 3 November [with the exception of Rhetoric students, who will be taking mock exams on Monday 2 November].

Yours sincerely,

God bless,



Adrian Laing

Headteacher