Wimbledon College

Dedicate a Chapel Chair

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 23 Nov 2026

About the scheme

What is Chapel chair dedication?

It is a way to support Wimbledon College and mark your connection to it. With a gift of £50 or more to the School Fund, we will thank you with an engraved dedication plate on one of the 190 chairs in the College Chapel.

Why now?

The College is replacing all the chairs in the Chapel in 2027. Your gift supports the School Fund at the same time.

Who can dedicate a chair?

Anyone with a connection to the College: Old Wimbledonians, current and former parents, staff, and friends of Wimbledon College.

Where does my gift go?

Your gift goes via Jesuits in Britain to the Wimbledon College School Fund, which supports the life of the College, including its Chapel.

Is there a deadline?

No. The scheme stays open until all 190 chairs have been dedicated.

Your gift

How much do I need to give?

To have a chair dedicated, the minimum gift is **£50**. You are welcome to give more, and every gift makes a difference to the School Fund. A gift of **£100 or more** would also cover the cost of the replacement chair.

Can I Gift Aid my donation?

Yes. If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid lets the College, through Jesuits in Britain CIO, claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no cost to you. Just tick the Gift Aid box on the donation page.

Am I buying the chair?

No. Your gift is a donation to Wimbledon College, and the dedication plate is our way of saying thank you. A dedication does not give you ownership of the chair, a reserved place in Chapel, or any seating or ticket privileges at College events.

Can I dedicate more than one chair?

Yes. Each chair needs a minimum gift of £50 and has its own dedication plate. If you would like to dedicate three chairs, you would need to make three separate donations.

Can a business dedicate a chair?

Dedication plates are for personal, family and memorial dedications only. Advertising of a business or a company name cannot be included.

Will I receive confirmation of my gift?

Yes. You will receive an email confirming your gift, and we will be in touch to confirm your dedication plate wording.

Your dedication plate

What can be engraved?

Each dedication plate has **up to three lines**, with a **maximum of 30 characters per line**, including spaces. Popular formats include:

Format	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3
Your name and leaving year	Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam	THOMAS J. BRENNAN	OW, Rhetoric 1987
A family name	THE OKAFOR FAMILY	Parents and OWs	2009-16
In memory	In loving memory of	PATRICK JOSEPH DOYLE	OW 1958, 1940-2015
In honour	In honour of	MR ANDREW WHITFIELD	Teacher of History 1979-2011

Who approves the wording?

The College has final approval of all wording and formatting, and reserves the right to decline or request amendments to any inscription that is defamatory, commercial, political, inappropriate, or inconsistent with the College's values. We will confirm the exact wording with you before it goes to the engraver.

Can I dedicate a chair in memory of someone?

Yes. Many people choose to remember a parent, grandparent, friend, classmate or teacher. A dedication can also honour someone living, or mark a leaving year, reunion or anniversary.

If yourare dedicating a plate in the name of another living person, you confirm by submitting your request that you have obtained their permission (or the permission of their parent or guardian, if they are under 18) to display their name publicly. For memorial dedications, the College reserves the right to consult with the deceased's immediate family or next of kin regarding the proposed wording before engraving.

Can I dedicate a chair as a gift for someone else?

Yes. Just let us know at alumni@wimbledoncollege.org.uk when you donate, and we can send you a confirmation to pass on to them. As with any dedication naming a living person, you must have their permission (or their parent or guardian's permission, if under 18) to include their name on the plate.

Can I change my wording after I have donated?

Yes, until your dedication plate goes to the engraver. Once it has been engraved, it cannot be changed.

Can I choose which chair is dedicated?

No. The College allocates chairs so that dedication plates can be installed fairly and efficiently.

Installation

When will my dedication plate be installed?

We engrave and install dedication plates in batches at key moments in the College year:

Batch	Installed	Gift deadline
Easter (first batch)	Before Easter Sunday 2027	Tuesday 23 February 2027
Summer alumni event	By Friday 28 May 2027	Friday 30 April 2027

Batch	Installed	Gift deadline
October alumni events	By Wednesday 15 September 2027	Friday 13 August 2027
Advent	By Sunday 28 November 2027	Friday 29 October 2027

Gifts received after a deadline, or where wording has not been confirmed in time, will be included in the next batch. We will let you know when yours is in place.

How long will my dedication plate stay in place?

Dedication plates remain the property of the College and are intended to stay in place for the useful life of the chair. However, the College reserves the right to relocate, remove, or replace a dedication plate at its discretion - for example, due to Chapel refurbishment, reconfiguration, or maintenance, or if a named individual brings the College into disrepute.

Can I visit to see my dedicated chair?

Of course. Please contact us to arrange a visit, or look out for invitations to Chapel services and alumni events.

Still have a question?

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