



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's Letter to Parents

Thursday 2 January 2020

Dear Parents

First of all, may I wish you all a peaceful and fulfilling 2020.

I must apologise for the lateness of my 'End of Term' letter. I was unable to send it out before Christmas as we were caught out by the breakdown of the Virgin fibre network at the end of term and the London Grid for Learning was down, meaning we did not have access to the internet and emails at school.

2019 ended on a very positive note with a variety of fantastic activities taking place. These included the wonderful school production of A Christmas Carol, both football and rugby fixtures against St Aloysius College, Sydney and our joint Carol Service with the Ursuline High School, which was extremely well attended. As always it is the engagement of the boys in so many extra-curricular activities and opportunities beyond the classroom that makes life at the school so rich and I am grateful to them for their involvement, for the staff who ensure that we can offer such a variety of activities and yourselves for encouraging and supporting your sons in all that they do.

## Report Card and set changes

You will have received your son's report card at the end of term. When comparing your son's grades with his target grade please bear in mind that the target is where he should be at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of the year, grades may be slightly below target grades but as the year progresses assessments should generally meet or exceed target grades. If you have any concerns about your son's target grades, or about his progress in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Head of Line. Any missing work is clearly shown on the report card and your support is appreciated in following up missed work with your son.

There will be changes to timetables for many pupils in the spring term due to staffing changes and the increase in the number of Mathematics teaching groups in Grammar. All pupils will be issued with a new timetable at the start of term.

## **Farewells**

We said goodbye to three members of staff at the end of term. They were Mr Parfitt who has been working in the English Department, Fr Byron SJ who has been working alongside Mr Potter in the Chaplaincy as well as teaching in the RE Department and Mr Ngwenya who has been a member of the Chemistry Department since 2014 and who made a very positive impact on both colleagues and the boys that he taught in that time. He has emigrated to Western Australia where I am sure he will have the same success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for everything that they have done for the College and wish them the very best for the future.

## **Drama productions**

The Christmas production of *A Christmas Carol* was a fantastic success and very well attended on each night. We are very proud of the cast, crew and musicians who worked so hard and showed such skill and talent.

Our next performance is the Easter production of Sondheim's *The Frogs*. You may not have heard of it, but it is a quality piece of musical theatre, based on an Ancient Greek comedy, and very suitably for our times the storyline follows a pair of Greek heroes who are determined to save the world as it plunges into disaster, and decide that the only thing that could rescue the situation is drama - which of course is a truth we could all do to acknowledge. They set out on a comical quest filled with encounters with famous Greek figures and lots of great songs. The dates of the performances are the 25th, 26th, and 27th of March, and tickets will be released on sale during the next half term.

We will also celebrate Easter as we did last year with a performance, at the start of the summer term, of *The Mystery Cycle* - boys should look out for auditions in early January for this amazing opportunity to perform in this ancient tradition of English drama - a funny and sometimes rude but always truthful retelling of the story of Christianity and the mystery of the Passion. Last year more than 60 boys took part in the evening, and it was a very meaningful way of our community celebrating Easter. Please encourage your son to audition and take part, and look out for information about the tickets nearer the time.

## **Music**

Early next term we have our annual School Concert, which will be held in the school hall at 7pm on Wednesday 15 January. The concert will feature the College Orchestra and a variety of ensembles and soloists from our GCSE Music classes. Then on Wednesday 4 March we will have our BTEC Music showcase. Both concerts are free and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of March our choir will be participating in a Joint Jesuit Schools Concert at the Church of the Holy Name in Manchester. This will be a fantastic opportunity for pupils

from all of the Jesuit schools in the United Kingdom to come together and perform in what will be a wonderful venue.

## **Rugby**

The end of term also sees the conclusion of all but one of our rugby team's XV a-side season. We have had another hugely successful season with over 300 boys regularly representing the College and showing the amazing talent and ability that we have at the College.

Competing against some of the strongest schools in the London & SE region our teams' overall success was; played - 168, won - 86, drawn - 15, lost - 68, with a win percentage of 51%.

Notable successes include the 1st XV who have had another successful season, with a winning percentage of 65% and reaching the 3rd round of the National Schools Cup, the U13A & U14A teams who have only lost 3 games between them and especially the U15As who have beaten Epsom College and St Paul's School on route to setting up a last 16 clash against Harrow School in the National Schools cup competition, in January. They currently have an 85% win rate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and pupils who have given up their time to ensure our strong sporting tradition continues and also a huge thank you to the parents who help with the match teas & those who recently hosted our friends from St Aloysius College, Sydney. Without these acts of kindness and generosity, our ability to provide our pupils with every opportunity and provision would be greatly diminished.

Rugby 7s continues in the Lent term with training after school for Seniors, U16s & U12s on Thursdays & U13, U14 & U15s on Fridays.

## **Football**

Our season of Saturday fixtures commences on our return to school and Mr Barnes has asked that if there are parents, who are able to help with the provision of our hospitality to players after the fixtures, would they please contact him before the season starts.

## **Uniform and haircuts**

It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of boys are wearing their uniform correctly however I would like to remind you of the school's clear expectations on uniform requirements and on outer clothing that boys will be wearing as the temperature drops over the coming months. I would ask that you ensure that your son has the correct uniform for the new term and that he is wearing it every day. We do sanction boys for incorrect uniform. This can be easily avoided by the boys being properly attired at all times both on the way to and from school as well as when they are in school.

The requirements are listed in the uniform section of the boys' handbooks. Boys in Lower Line must only wear the College reversible coat. Boys in Higher Line are allowed to wear the College coat or a plain black coat, with sleeves, that does not have a logo or a hood [including hoods that roll up into the coat]. Any **other items of clothing** (hats, gloves, scarves) are to

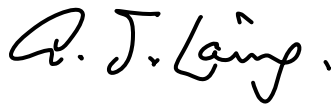
plain [i.e. no pattern, with the exception of the school scarf] and to conform in colour (dark green, dark maroon, grey, dark blue or black) and style so as to be compatible with and not detract from the school uniform. Prominent logos or wording are not permitted. Hats must not have a peak.

I would also like to remind you that boys' hairstyles should be in keeping with the formality of school life. Extreme styles as listed in the Homework Diary are not acceptable.

Finally shoes should be in line with College expectations which can be found in the boys' diaries and which are available on the College website.

**Next term starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing

Head Master

### **Wimbledon College Twitter accounts**

The College has a number of twitter accounts that are regularly updated sharing news about what is happening at the College. Please do follow us and also if you are happy to do so please retweet messages. The accounts are:

**@Wimb\_Coll**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Rugby**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Music**

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Chap** (Chaplaincy)

**@Wimb\_Coll\_Art**

