



**Wimbledon
College**

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Head Master's End of Year Letter to Parents

Friday 23 July 2021

Dear Parents

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to you and to all of our pupils for the way in which they have responded to the challenges of school life during this academic year due to Covid-19.

As you are aware it has been an ever-changing picture ensuring that everyone has been kept as safe as possible and to the boys' credit they responded positively to all of these changes. I am grateful to you for the support that you have given to the school over the year.

We intend to revert back to the more usual timetable from September, without bubbles. This will mean that boys will be taught in all specialist areas again, including the Arts and Science. We are also going back to the normal school day of 8.25 – 3.10 for all year groups however there will be some changes to the school day to enable us to increase our PSHE provision. We also intend to maintain a split break and later tutor time similar to this year.

Covid 19 forced significant changes on all schools and it has been interesting to see how some of these changes have had a positive impact. It is our intention to retain some of these [including the later tutor period] and I will share more about what we are keeping in the new academic year.

We are also hoping to see a full return to our extra-curricular offer and a busy fixture list from September. These are important dimensions of College life and have been sorely missed by both pupils and staff.

Staff leaving

Mr Mark Ventom

Yesterday marked Mr Ventom's retirement from full time teaching and from his position as Assistant Head Master after 36 years at the College. He is our longest serving member of staff.

Mr Ventom joined the College in 1985 as a History Teacher [after completing his teaching practice at the College in the previous year] and very rapidly became involved in the sporting



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life of the school. Both have remained important aspects of his role at the College throughout his career. He has also been Head of History and a member of the College's Senior Leadership Team for many years.

Over his career he has taught hundreds if not thousands of pupils [including two generations from a number of families and all of his own children] instilling a love of history through his own passion for the subject. He has been one of the few non-PE specialists who has consistently taken both winter and summer sports teams throughout his career.

Mr Ventom epitomises the Jesuit ethos and is a much valued and respected member of the College staff who will be sorely missed.

On your behalf I wish him a long and fulfilling retirement.

Mr Philip Barnbrooke

Mr Barnbrooke is leaving us this summer to take up a new position overseas and we wish him and his family every success in this venture. In his 12 years he has been Head of Geography and Assistant Head Master supporting colleagues in his department and across the school through his responsibility for professional development at all levels. He has a genuine concern for all staff and pupils and has been responsible for ensuring that many new to the profession have become well established and moved rapidly on their career path.

Other staff leaving Wimbledon College this summer

Staff retiring from their role at Wimbledon College are Mr John Lonergan [Head of Rhetoric] and Mrs Inez Varlow [LSA], who both started at the College in 2002 and Mrs Franziska Clarke [LSA] who started in 2003.

Staff leaving to take up other posts are Mrs Sonia Cordones [Head of MFL], Miss Joanne Topping [Science teacher], Mrs Zaynab Zangie [Science Teacher], Mr James Villet [Site Team], Miss Chamiah Dewey [LSA], Miss Anna-Marie Jordan [LSA], Ms Stefania Fassio [RE Teacher], Mr Lorcan Dow [Psychology Teacher] and Mr Maurice Ngwenya [Maths & Science Teacher].

We thank them all for everything that they have contributed to the College and wish them every success in the next stage of their careers.

Covid Testing - Summer and Staggered Start of year in September

I would like to remind you that your sons are not required to continue their twice weekly LFD tests over the summer holidays.

All schools have been asked to carry out two LFD tests for each pupil, in school, at the start of the new academic year. This will be similar to the process that we carried out in March. It will not be necessary for both tests to be administered before the return to school.



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We do, however, intend to carry out one test for all pupils before their return to school. The exception to this will be Year 7 who will have their first test on their induction day on Friday 3 September.

Parental permission to administer the tests will be taken from the permissions received in March. Parents of pupils new to the school should have already received an email regarding consent for the tests.

Due to the testing the first day of attendance will be staggered for different Year Groups. [Some years will be pushed back]

The timing of the first tests and start days will be as follows:

	First LFD Test [In school]	First day of term
Year 7	Friday 3 September	Friday 3 September
Year 8	Tuesday 7 September	Wednesday 8 September
Year 9	Monday 6 September	Tuesday 7 September
Year 10	Monday 6 September	Tuesday 7 September
Year 11	Friday 3 September [AM]	Monday 6 September
Year 12	Thursday 2 September [PM]	Friday 3 September
Year 13	Thursday 2 September [PM]	Monday 6 September

I will provide more detailed timings for the testing over the summer holidays so please do keep checking your emails. On the test days [except Year 7] pupils will only be expected to come to school for the test and will return home immediately afterwards.

[Please note that these dates are subject to change if we receive further guidance from the Department for Education or Public Health, England.]

Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing

We have been making all pupils aware of the mental health and wellbeing support that is available to them over the summer. Please see the attached leaflet which the boys also have access to any time via their tutor group google classroom - it is titled '*Where to get support for you or a friend when you are not in school*'. Many of the support services listed here are also happy to talk to parents who are worried about their child. In addition to this leaflet I have also attached three further leaflets on stress, anxiety and depression.

We have many more mental health and wellbeing resources on our website which also includes information about support for parents own mental health and wellbeing -

www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/healthyminds .



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Rugby pre-season training

Mr Hallett has asked me to provide you with the details of our initial training session for the new season, which will take place from the 23 to 27 August for boys in Years 8 -13. Our first fixtures are on 11 September.

All players are encouraged to attend the sessions detailed below.



WIMBLEDON COLLEGE
Pre-season Rugby
2020 – 21 SEASON

YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
8	24 th & 26 th	10.30 – 12.30	Pre-season training	Coombe Lane
9	23 rd & 25 th	13.30 – 15.30	Pre-season training	Coombe Lane
10	24 th & 26 th	13.30 – 15.30	Pre-season training	Coombe Lane
11	23 rd & 25 th	10.00 – 13.00	Pre-season training	Coombe Lane
12 & 13	23 rd 25 th & 27 th	10.00 – 13.00	Pre-season training	School 23 rd ONLY & Coombe Lane 25 th & 27 th

Music

We are aiming to run a full extra-curricular programme in music next year which will hopefully also include at least one musical production in collaboration with the drama department. Next year will also see the return of the House Music Competition.

Orchestra and Wind Band

On Tuesdays we will be running our Junior Orchestra (Grades 1-4) at lunchtime and our Wind Band (Grades 5+) after school. Both ensembles will perform at our St Cecilia's Day concert on Monday 22nd November.

Choir

Thank you to the dedicated band of choristers who have persevered through what has been a challenging year. Autumn term rehearsals will be as follows:

Trebles: 7.55am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mu2

Altos: 7.55am on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Mu2

Tenors and Basses: Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes at 12.55 in Mu2



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Full choir practice will be every Friday at 7.55am in Mu2 or Chapel (COVID-rules allowing)

Other Ensembles

We have two Jazz bands, a guitar club and various rock bands. Interested boys should see Mr Thomas at the start of term.

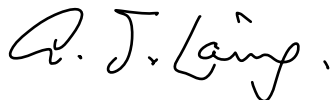
Instrumental Lessons and Strings Project

There will be opportunities for boys to learn a musical instrument either during the school day or on Saturdays. There will also be opportunities for some of the younger boys to receive group lessons for the violin or cello. Mr Thomas will be sending out further information in the coming weeks.

Please remember that we will be operating a staggered start to the beginning of the year [see earlier in my letter].

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

God bless,



Adrian Laing

Head Master

