



**Wimbledon
College**

EDGE HILL
LONDON SW19 4NS

020 8946 2533
wimbledoncollege.org.uk
mail@wimbledoncollege.org.uk

Head Master's Autumn Half-Term Letter to Parents

Monday 25 October 2021

Dear Parents

It has been a very busy half term, with pupils focused on their learning and once again able to engage in the school's many extra-curricular activities. It has also been pleasing to see pupils competing in various sports fixtures against other schools. I hope that you all received copies of the Extra Curricular Booklet, which contains information about all of the clubs and activities available to pupils. You will notice that there are some new ones and I hope that all of our pupils will engage in at least two different activities over the year.

Mr Berry's sudden death has had a significant impact on our school community and I am very grateful to all parents and pupils [past and present] who have shared messages of condolence via our condolences [page](#). I know that Mr Berry's family found them a great comfort and helped them to understand how much Mr Berry was valued and loved by the school community. Mr Berry's funeral was a fitting tribute to him and was attended by many current and former members of staff. It is our intention to have a Mass celebrated in school for him after half term.

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-11 have been sent out to you electronically for the last half term. If you have not received your son's would you please email his Head of Line to let them know.

Application deadlines for Year 7 and the Sixth Form

A reminder that online applications for pupils starting in Year 7 in September 2022 have to be submitted by 31 October 2021 [which is this coming Sunday] and Supplementary Information Forms have to be sent to the College by this date.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening, with Ursuline High School, went extremely well and was very well attended by our own pupils and by external pupils. Applications for pupils starting in the Sixth Form in September 2022 have to be submitted, via [Applicaa](#) by Friday 26 November 2021. Boys in Syntax should have already started their applications. If they



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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>]

Covid 19

I hope that you are all well as we continue to face an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases again. As I am sure you have seen the Government is indicating that they believe that this number will continue to increase. It is important therefore to maintain all of our precautions to minimise the transmission of Covid-19.

I ask that, in line with Government guidance, your son[s] continue to undertake their twice weekly LFD tests over half term and that they move next weekend's test to Monday 1 November which is the day before they return to school.

Over the last half term, we have had a number of positive cases among both pupils and staff all of whom have received positive results from their LFD tests. I am conscious that the number of tests being reported has dropped off and I urge all parents to ensure that their sons are taking the test regularly and reporting the result.

In addition to this testing we will continue to maintain our precautions in school. Pupils must continue to wash/sanitise their hands on a regular basis throughout the school day and are encouraged to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' Campaign to help reduce the spread of the virus.

I am conscious that there are a number of pupils who are still coming to school without water bottles. We continue to encourage boys not to share drinks bottles and the water fountains remain switched off. Please ensure that your son does have his own water bottle, which he is able to refill at various points around the school.

I also bring the Government's campaign to vaccinate as many people as possible, including 12 to 15 year olds, to your attention. As you know vaccinations took place in school this half term, however a number of pupils were not able to receive their vaccination as parents had either not completed the online consent form or missed the deadline for doing so. Within Merton and other local boroughs additional venues have been made available where appointments can be made to receive the vaccination. A link to the South West London NHS vaccination service is below. You will see on this that 12-15 year olds have to book via the National Booking System.

<https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid/where-can-you-get-vaccinated/vaccination-walk-in-clinics/>



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St Cecilia's Concert

We are pleased to announce that our St Cecilia's Concert will be held on Monday 22nd November at 7pm. The first half of the concert will be held in the chapel and will be a performance of Faure's *Requiem* by the Wimbledon College Choir. The second half of the concert will be held in the school hall and will involve performances from various school ensembles including our new Swing Band. Entrance will be free of charge and the concert is expected to finish by 9pm.

Oliver – School production

Our Easter production this year will be Lionel Bart's much loved musical adaption of Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Auditions will be held on Wednesday 3rd and Friday 5th November. All are welcome as there are many parts available for both younger and older boys as well as those keen on being involved in the technical side of the production.

Drama

The Drama Department is very pleased to have been invited to join with King's College Wimbledon, and three other local schools, in their partnership production *The One Thousand and One Nights*, based on the Middle Eastern folk tales told by Scheherazade. We are creating our part of the performance in collaboration with King's, and it will be brought together with the other schools on 25th March 2022. There are still places available to take part if your son would like to join us, and it is open to all year groups.

Football

Having been over 18 months since the College have been able to field a competitive football fixture, it has been great to see positive results in the Surrey cup this half term. With the 1st XI, U15 and U13's successfully winning their first round fixtures ensuring the College's 100% record moving into the next half term.

We have also seen fantastic participation in the U12 and U13's football trials this half term and during the morning training sessions for those competing in the Surrey cup.

We look forward to seeing the representative teams continue to progress in the Surrey cup and participation levels to grow into the start of the Football season in the Spring term. A big thank you to those staff who have been running the morning training sessions and trials for their Surrey cup teams this half term.

COP 26

As I sure that you are aware COP 26 starts this coming weekend and pupils at the College have been engaged in raising awareness of the need for us all to consider how we can make changes to our lifestyle in the face of climate change. Our pupils took part in the Jesuit



Missions 'BE BOLD' petition [<https://www.jesuit.org.uk/news/pupils-urge-prime-minister-to-show-bold-leadership-at-cop26>]. This was only one of many ongoing projects that our pupils are involved in.

Care for our environment is one of the central goals for all Jesuit communities and schools [<https://www.ecojesuit.com>] and I ask that you spend some time over the coming weeks discussing the importance of tackling climate change at all levels with your son[s].

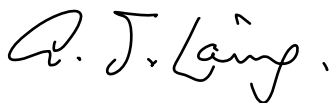
CAFOD also has excellent resources available on their website.

[<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/COP26-climate-summit>].

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have an Inset Day on Monday 1 November for all staff. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 2 November [with the exception of Rhetoric students taking mock exams – their exam timetable is available on the Rhetoric page of the College website].

Yours sincerely,

God bless



Adrian Laing

Head Master

