



# Wimbledon College

## Head Master's End of Term Letter to Parents

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents

Reflecting on this term I have to say that it has been a very difficult one for the school however a constant through it all has been the positive attitude and commitment of both pupils and staff.

It has been pleasing to see boys keen to engage with their studies and once again be able to participate in all of the extra-curricular activities that we offer. I am grateful to you for supporting your sons in this and to all of our staff who have willingly given up of their time throughout the term.

We remember Mr Berry and Mrs Lawrence who died during this term. I would ask that you remember them and their families in your prayers and indeed all families in our school community who have lost family members this year.

Would you also please pray for two of our families who have children who are seriously ill at this time.

As I am certain you are aware we all face the challenges of Covid and the latest Omicron variant. I encourage you all to take all measures that you can over Christmas and into the new year to keep safe. I attach with this letter the latest version of Government guidance for parents on Covid vaccinations.

## Y7-11 Subject Targets & Assessment Grades

You will have received a copy of your son's subject targets at the end of term. These have been set by your son's class teachers in order for your son to develop his understanding in the subject and help make progress towards his end of year target. Class teachers have also graded your son's standard of classwork, contribution to class and independent learning (homework).

There will also be a summary of the latest round of assessments carried out this half 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. Departments will be also using this data to make changes to setting, boys affected by these changes will receive a new timetable in January.

Poetry and Rhetoric Subject Targets will be sent out in time for Parents' Evening, you will receive an updated grade card for this half term

### **Jesuit Pupil Profile Report**

You will receive a copy of your son's Jesuit Pupil Profile Report. The Jesuit Pupil Profile draws together the virtues that the College seeks to develop in all of our pupils. Each term they are recognised for the virtues that they have displayed both in and outside the classroom through nominations from tutors and the achievements awarded by teachers. Depending on the number of nominations pupils accumulate over the course of the year, they will move from 'Emerging' to 'Developing' and finally 'Embodying'.



### **Staff leaving**

We say goodbye this term to Mr Joseph who has been a member of the English Department for 10 years. He has also in that time taken responsibility for editing the College Magazine and been a Head of House. He is leaving us to branch out into new ventures. On your behalf I would like to thank him for all that he has done for the pupils and the College and to wish him the very best for the future.

We also say goodbye to Mr Barnston who has been with us this term working in the PE and Science departments.

## **Thank you for your Advent contributions**

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to our various fundraising efforts over Advent. Our joint Christmas Carol Service with the Ursuline High School raised over £600 for the Passage Homeless charity. We have had an amazing response to our collection of food for the Dons Local Action Group which will really help them as they continue to support many local families during these difficult times. Money is also still coming in via SchoolGateway for a variety of charities chosen by different year groups, so thank you for any of your contributions to that, and contributions can still be made until the new year.

## **Mental Health Resources available to parents and pupils**

I would like to remind all parents that we have a webpage on the College website [[www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/healthyminds](http://www.wimbledoncollege.org.uk/healthyminds)] which has a number of resources and links to external agencies/resources where you can access support or self-help information. During this term we have also developed a new Student Wellbeing Hub which has lots more information about mental health services, urgent support numbers or websites with more advice and information. Students can access this via their tutor group google classroom or via the link on the webpage above (note students have to be signed in to google with their school google accounts to access the Wellbeing Hub).

## **Online safety - New guidance from the National Children's Commissioner**

The national Children's Commissioner yesterday released a guide for parents to support you in keeping your children safe when they are online. The link to the document is here : [A guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online](#)

We will also be placing a copy of the guide on the College website on the 'Keeping Safe Online' page.

## **Sport**

### **PE Department.**

A General reminder to all pupils about having the correct kit for their Games lessons. All pupils must make sure they have the correct clothing for their Games lessons. You must wear the school Games shirt for the Games lessons, house T shirts are not acceptable. Please also make sure you have white shorts as again other colours are not allowed to be worn.

## Rugby - from Mr Hallett

On behalf of all the coaches a huge thank you to all the boys and parents who have supported and committed to turning up to play, watch or help out during this term on a Saturday and also during the week for training. It has been a challenging past 18 months and competitive rugby was hugely hit with the suspension of all contact matches. The boys have lost so much coaching and playing time and considering this gap in their development it has been a remarkable return to fixtures and an absolute pleasure to be involved in.

Our strong fixture list has not made it easy for the boys to return to the sport and the results that followed, might not make pleasant reading but the performances, application and attitude has been a credit to all involved.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank all the staff who without their commitment we would not be able to fulfil so many fixtures each week. Without members of staff who so generously give up their time, rugby at the College would not be of the exceptionally high standard that it currently is. A special mention to Mr Barnston who leaves us this term but has encapsulated the ethos and values of rugby at the College by unselfishly dedicating his time and effort to helping the U16s. He will be sorely missed.

It is not just the College staff that I would like to thank. We are renown throughout the school rugby circuit as one of the best hospitable venues to visit. The credit for this is purely down to the loyal and dedicated parents who tirelessly step up with homemade cakes, teas, coffees and of course match teas for the players. A huge thank you to all of you. It really has been a pleasure having your support. Those parents whose sons are in Rhetoric, it truly has been remarkable. Thank you for all that you have done during your son's time at the College. We have been blessed with your hospitality and generous support.



**The result of this year's #WCbakeOff2021**  
is as follows;

1<sup>st</sup> Place - **Ms Sharon Borsah's** creative and delicious College inspired cake. (see picture).

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - **Mrs Curtis'** amazing chocolate cake

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - **Mrs Boardman's** Christmas Victoria sponge

With the end of the 15 a side season, however, comes the start of our preparation for the 7s season. 7s training will take place at the College field on Thursday and Friday. It is open for all, regardless of what team you played for in 15s. With more space, a faster pace and more games to play in, it's a perfect opportunity to once again demonstrate to others how rich the sporting talent is at Wimbledon College. Please see the poster below for full details about training. 7s tournaments are held either midweek or on Sundays ALL except for Warwick 7s for U13 - U16s which is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Full details are available on SOCS. Dates to remember are 20<sup>th</sup> March which is our very own John Pieroni U15 7s tournament. Schools such as Eton, Dulwich, Whitgift and Warwick are already confirmed and it should be an amazing event so please come down to support our U15s in this prestigious tournament.

Rugby will always be open to all, and we would love to see so many who have been unable to play this year make a welcome return to the playing fields for the 7s or next seasons 15 a side. Stay active and thank you once again to all those for all you've done this season.

### **Basketball - from Mr Simon**

It has been a pleasure to see the progress of the basketball groups this term with the sessions being very well attended. The sessions with Coach Roz Mason and Mr Mundy have been both challenging and enjoyable and the boys have performed very well in all year groups in their Surrey Cup and League games.

The Year 11 are through to the latter stages of the Surrey Cup and the Year 8 have made great strides with their performances. The good news is that we have been chosen to be part of the Junior NBA in the New Year for both Years 7 & 8 so we have some exciting evenings ahead next term.

### **Return to school in January and in school Covid Testing**

The current Government plan is that all schools carry out a lateral flow test for all pupils at the start of next term. To facilitate this the Government is allowing schools to have a staggered return to school so that testing can take place before pupils return to lessons.

I will send out further details of times of testing before the start of term however I provide an outline of when testing will take place and when lessons will recommence below.

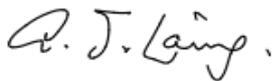
Teachers will set work via Google Classroom for the days when pupils are not in lessons. Please note this will not be live lessons. On the days that pupils are being tested they will be asked to attend school at a specific time and then return home. The exception to this will be Year 7 who will remain in school once tested.

If there are any changes to these plans I will contact all parents via SchoolGateway and will place information on the College website.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Testing</b>	<b>Return to lessons</b>
Year 13	Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Year 12	Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Year 11	Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Year 10	Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 9	Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 8	Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Year 7	Thursday 6 January	Thursday 6 January [Period 3 onwards]

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas. I hope that you are able to make the most of it while keeping safe and Covid free.

God bless,



Adrian Laing

Head Master