



Wimbledon College

Headteacher's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 11 February 2022

Dear Parents

As I am sure you are aware there is a focus on ensuring that all pupils are attending school when they are able to do so. Thank you for your ongoing support this term with regard to informing us when your son has been ill, with Covid-19 or otherwise, and for ensuring that your son is attending school. It is important that we continue to get that balance right so that we are keeping members of the community safe while at the same time ensuring that all pupils are engaging with their learning as much as possible.

Linked to this is the need to ensure that as many pupils as possible are vaccinated against Covid-19. I fully appreciate and accept that the decision for your son to be vaccinated lies with you and him however I would ask you to consider current evidence supporting the effectiveness of the vaccination programme and to consider again whether your son is vaccinated. If he has received one injection it is important that he gets double vaccinated and 16-17 year olds can now receive a booster jab if they are double vaccinated.

We have been asked to share the following information with you by Merton regarding the ongoing vaccination programme and the need for your son to continue testing at home using the LFD tests that are provided via the school.

12-17 year old vaccination- half term pop-ups

- 12-15 year olds are encouraged to get fully vaccinated (two doses), to ensure they are protected. 16 and 17 year olds are now eligible for boosters and are being strongly encouraged to take up this offer.
- The next local Pop-up vaccination session will be held on:
 - Sunday 20 February 2022 - Coombe Boys' School, College Gardens, New Malden, KT3 6N. 10am - 5pm Walk-in or book: [Covid-19 Vaccination Coombe Boys School \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)
 - You can also call 020 8614 5306 to book
 - Vaccinations for 12-17 year olds are also available at local walk in clinics. The main drop in clinics Merton are at :
 - ~ Centre Court Shopping Centre, Wimbledon
 - ~ Morden Assembly Hall, Morden, SM4 4SP
 - ~ The Nelson Health Centre, Kingston Rd, SW20 8DA
 - ~ The Wilson Hospital, Cranmer Rd, CR4 4LD

- Other vaccination dates and venues can be found here: [COVID-19 vaccinations | Merton Council](#)

Lateral Flow Tests (LFT)

- Testing before returning to school: Students in Year 7 and above are reminded to do a LFD test the night before returning to school after the holidays. Tests can be picked up from the school or community venues such as pharmacies and libraries. Once everyone is back to school, please continue with the twice weekly testing and more frequently if you are specifically asked to do so, such as in the event of an outbreak.
- Report all test results online : [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Students who are a close contact of a positive case will need to do daily LFT testing for 7 days, preferably first thing in the morning.
- If anyone has Covid-19 related symptoms however mild, they must do a PCR test, not a LFD test.

Grade Cards

Grade cards for pupils in Years 7-13 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.

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 when they return to school.

Provincial's Visitation

We were pleased to welcome Fr Damian Howard SJ, the Provincial for the British Province, to the College on Thursday 3 February for his biannual visit. The Visitation is an opportunity for the Provincial, on behalf of the Society of Jesus, to recognise and celebrate the good work being undertaken in the school and to affirm and strengthen the school community's Jesuit identity and mission.

The Provincial was accompanied by Mr John Stoer, the Delegate for Education and they spent the day meeting pupils, staff and Governors. He also celebrated Mass with Rudiments in the College Chapel.

Drama Production – ‘Oliver!’

After a near three-year Covid-induced interval, we are pleased to say that the College’s Easter Drama production is back! The much-loved musical “*OLIVER!*” will be taking place on March 23, 24 & 25 at 7.30 pm in the College Hall.

Tickets at £9 for adults and £6 for under-18s may be ordered and paid for through Reception (box-office: Mrs Paola Cray) and through School Gateway. Tickets will be distributed via your son’s PSA. Otherwise booked tickets may be collected at the door before the show. We are asking that all attending the performances do take an LFD test within the 24 hours prior to the performance and you should only attend if the result is negative. Please be prepared to show your negative lateral flow test result on the evening. We are also encouraging members of the audience to wear face coverings. The young cast look forward very much to welcoming you to their show!

College Sports

We have a lot of fixtures taking place throughout the coming half term and I would like to remind all parents that they can access our fixture lists via the College website.

<http://www.wimbletoncollegesport.org.uk/Default.asp?Id=562>

The success of our teams at all levels depends on the commitment of the boys and the support from you as parents. While I appreciate that many boys also play regularly for teams outside of school I would ask that you prioritise school fixtures as we do expect boys to represent the College if selected to play.

Rugby Sevens

The Sevens season commenced on the last Sunday of half term with the Senior VII competing in the Portsmouth Grammar School Sevens and came away with the Bowl Trophy. All year groups will be competing in a variety of competitions after half term.

Our own John Pieroni Sevens will take place on **Sunday 20th March** at Coombe Lane. If you have never attended a sevens competition it is well worth coming to watch. Many of the best teams in the country at U15 level attend and the standard of sevens is always high.

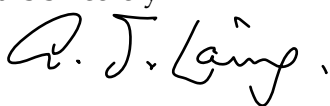
Monday 21 February 2022

I remind parents that Monday 22 February is a staff inset day. However, Rhetoric mock examinations will be taking place on Monday. I ask that all students in Rhetoric check their exam timetable.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

God bless.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Headteacher