



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Letter to Parents

Friday 25th October 2013

Dear Parents

A very busy and successful half term has come to an end. The key event being our successful Ofsted inspection. As I said in my previous letter to you the report is I believe a true reflection of the College at the present time. We now continue on our journey to becoming an outstanding school.

Other important events were our successful open evenings, one for Year Six boys and the second for pupils considering joining our Sixth form partnership with the Ursuline. The feedback that we have received about both has been very positive in particular the contributions made by the pupils. They take great pride in showing the College to prospective students. I am very grateful to them, our staff and those of you who are active Friends of Wimbledon College for helping to make the evenings such positive events.

Just before our Inspection we had our whole school photograph and I hope that your sons brought home information regarding this, i.e. how you can view the photograph online and, if you wish to, how to order a copy of the photograph directly from Gillman & Soame. There is a deadline of 11 November for ordering photographs. If you are interested in obtaining a photograph and you have not received the information I have referred to then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Lawlor, the College Secretary.

I have highlighted a number of issues and events below and I hope that this will be useful to you. There is a full calendar of events on the College website and I would encourage you to check this on a regular basis. There are also a number of additional items accompanying this letter on this occasion and I refer to them below.

Report Card

Your son's report card should be with this letter (except for boys in Sixth Form who receive their card during their Review Days). 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. Grades are colour coded so that you can see an overall impression of your son's achievement and progress in each subject: reds should be turning green as we go through the year. 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.

Parent Governor Vacancy on the College's Governing Body

The College Governing Body has a vacancy for a parent governor to serve a four year term of office from the 1st of December 2013 and I have been asked to invite you to consider standing for election as a parent governor or to nominate another parent to do so.

Together with the Head Master, the governing body has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governors are involved in deciding school policies, allocating the school's budget and appointing senior staff. No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work and the mission of the College.

I would ask you to seriously consider putting yourself forward for this role. **The deadline for nominations is the end of the school day on Friday 8th November** and details about the role of Governors and the nomination process are included in the attached letter and information sheet from Mr McDonald, the Clerk to the Governors

Parent Pay and the Refectory

I would like to remind you that it is expected that boys in Years 7-10 pay for their food in the refectory via Parent Pay only. They should not be using cash as it causes delays at the tills, which has led to boys not being able to buy food in time. Boys in Years 7-10 are not allowed to use money to 'top up' their daily limit with cash so I would encourage you to check with your sons that their daily limit is set at an appropriate level. Boys in Syntax and Sixth form can use cash.

Year home pages on the College website

As part of our ongoing drive to improve communication between school and home we are in the process of developing the year homepages. They contain material that is relevant to boys in each specific year and which will help parents to support their sons' learning. For example the Syntax homepage contains GCSE examination specifications and dates for upcoming controlled assessments; information that boys and parents will find useful as we progress through the year. Please do take the time to check the relevant pages on a regular basis.

School Police Officer

The Metropolitan Police made the decision last year to reinstate the funding for Schools Police Officers for Secondary schools in Merton. This means that we now have PC Gemma Forder working with us. She is also working with The Ursuline High School and Raynes Park High School. As part of her role she has been a presence in Wimbledon centre both before and after school.

Rugby

Over this half term 111 matches have been played against other schools. We have won 60 of these and four have been drawn. I would like to thank and congratulate all of the boys who are representing the school, particularly the U13A's and the U16B's who remain unbeaten so far this season. Both the First XV and U15s lost their third round matches in the Nat West National Cup and now enter the Vase competition after half term. The U15s lost 0:3 to Epsom College in what was a very competitive exciting game. Further to this the fixture against KCS takes place on Saturday 9 November. The venue for 1st and 2nd XV fixtures will be the Saracens' Allianz Stadium.

Christmas play

This year's performance is entitled "**THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES?**" - It will be two plays about school life, one based on Roald Dahl's short story "**Galloping Foxley**", written by the A Level Drama Group and the other Giles Cooper's "**Unman, Wittering and Zigo**" (adapted by kind permission of NelsonThorne Drama Scripts). *Please note that the content of the plays are not suitable for children under the age of 11.* It takes place on December 11th, 12th & 13th at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and will be available from Mrs Lawlor, the College Secretary.

Remembrance Day Mass

This takes place on Monday 11 November in the Sacred Heart Church for boys in Years 10-13.

Carol Service

Our annual joint carol service with the Ursuline High School takes place this year on Monday 16 December, in Sacred Heart Church. The event is well attended and provides us with a spiritual dimension to our preparation for and celebration of Christmas. May I take this opportunity to invite you and your family to the service.

Uniform and haircuts

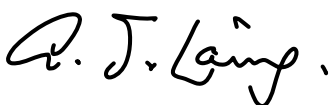
As always the vast majority of boys have arrived to school every day looking extremely smart, wearing their uniforms correctly. They are proud of their uniform and this is reflected in their appearance.

I would however like to remind you that the school has clear expectations on uniform requirements and on outer clothing that boys will be wearing as the temperature drops over the coming months. These requirements are listed on page 12&13 of the boys' Homework Diary. Boys in Lower Line should 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. 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.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Laing

Head Master