



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 25th January 2013

Issue 2

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

Thank you and the many parent(s)/carer(s) who responded in such a positive way to the first edition of our e-newsletter.

In the feedback, parent(s)/carer(s) liked the format of the new e-newsletter, the brief articles, the topics and the photographs.

One parent said: "I have campaigned in my own way for this type of communication from the school with us as parents. I know from my children that lots and lots of things go on in the school and we need to celebrate them together. The old newsletter was good but not everything was included. Well done Platanos College for giving parents like myself such a lively and informative newsletter."

PUPILS ARE AT THE CENTRE OF OUR EFFORTS

We continue to keep our pupils at the heart of our efforts. We have an "**unshakeable**" belief in our pupils. We will continue to work with parent(s)/carer(s) to ensure that our pupils succeed.

The few pupils who display disruptive and violent behaviour will be excluded from school.

For the overwhelming majority of our pupils (who are so ambitious and hard-working), it is a pleasure to praise and reward their efforts.

Everything is possible with hard work. One step at a time. **ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE.**

Our second e-newsletter reflects both the wider curriculum and achievements of our pupils.

God is with us, especially with our pupils. Always.

Ms J. Tapper
Headteacher

Refocus on Punctuality

At Platanos College, we view good attendance and punctuality as important attributes for our pupils to achieve success. Hence, this is strongly embedded in our rewards and sanctions system, **CHABOP** (classwork, homework, attendance, behaviour, organisation and punctuality).

Although the current attendance levels are very good, the punctuality of a minority of pupils requires further improvement. Poor punctuality can disrupt learning and has a negative impact on attainment.

From Monday 11th February 2013, we will have a re-focus on punctuality. This is an early notice that the school gates will close at the start of the school day at 8.40am. Pupils arriving after the school gates have closed will be deemed late and, in line with the school's rules and values, will receive a **Same Day Detention**.

Same Day Detentions will take place for half an hour after school. We will continue this drive until the end of the academic year.

Recent News

Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme



Accelerated Reader (AR) is a programme used at Platanos College to increase reading comprehension and generally, develop the love of reading. This motivational programme helps our pupils to focus on different authors and genres enabling them to learn and use a wide variety of reading skills. These skills serve to enhance their ability to understand different levels of text in all subject areas.

Pupils are required to read a certain amount of books each term and take quizzes on each book. The goal is to achieve 85% or higher in each quiz. Parent(s)/carer(s) can find out about the books their child(ren) are reading and how they are performing in the quizzes! Please refer to the information letter sent home recently about the Renaissance Home Connect website.

We hope to instil a love of reading in all our pupils. The most important aspect of AR is the fact that children are reading and understanding what they have read.



Celebrating Success

At the end of the autumn term the top readers in each class received certificates and gift cards for their efforts and achievement.

Top Reader for the Term: Ayman Abdulrahim read 15 books during the term, passed 13 Reading Practice quizzes, and achieved 100% in seven of the quizzes.



Top reader: Ayman Abdulrahim

Promoting Equality and Diversity

Our Commitment

At Platanos College we are fully committed to promoting equality and diversity. This is ensuring that individuals or groups of individuals at the school are treated equally, specific to their needs, and inclusive of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age. We are also

pleased to announce that we are a recognised School Champion in this work, in partnership with Stonewall, a charity dedicated to tackling bullying in all its forms, particularly homophobic bullying. We aim to remove all forms of discrimination, recognise and value differences and help pupils to realise their full potential by promoting an inclusive culture for all pupils and staff.

Equality Assemblies

Last month pupils in Years 7 to 11 had Equalities Assemblies, focusing on tackling homophobic language and bullying. These Assemblies were pupil-led and included the showing of the Stonewall Project Fit DVD. The pupils who led the assemblies were trained on the subject by Stonewall during the Summer Term of 2012.

"It is important that people accept that we live in a diverse society and learn to deal with it. People should not be bullied for being different. People should learn to deal with their own prejudices and understand that bullying people by calling them "gay" can be really hurtful." **Gisela Fernandes, 9A.**

"Language is important. When people use homophobic language they make others feel insecure and excluded." **Zara Ahmed, 9A.**

Pupils involved in leading the Equality Assemblies:

Edward Adonteng, 8A	Genielle Dearne, 9A
Nadege Makengo, 8B	Lydia Amoabeng, 10A
Christiana Olufade, 8A	Daniel Ennis, 9A
Zara Ahmed, 9A	Celia Hoang, 10A1
Gisela Fernandes, 9A	Melissa Branco, 11A1
Louis Karten, 9A	Shanae Bedford, 11A1



Gisela Fernandes,
Anti-Bullying
Committee member



Zara Ahmed, Anti-
Bullying Committee
member

Anti-Bullying Poster Competition

As part of our drive to tackle bullying, a whole school Equalities Poster Competition was organised and all the posters produced by our pupils were displayed around the school building.

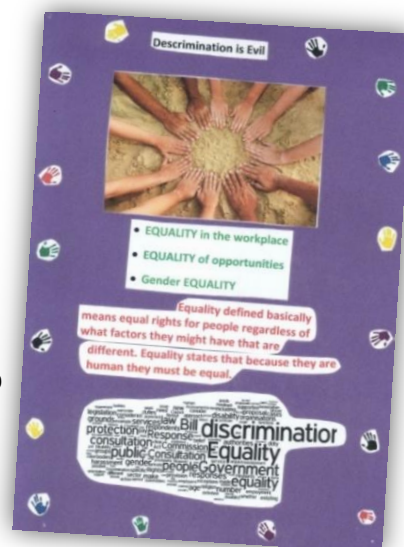


**Poster Competition
Winner**
Esther Lee, Year 11

Winning Poster
Esther Lee's winning anti-
bullying poster



**Runner Up
Poster**
Shaniela Lindsay, Year 8



**Runner Up
Poster**
Paulo Reis Marques,
Year 7

International Basketball Tournament

An excited group of Spanish basketball players and their parents filled our school's Sports Centre for the first Platanos College-Greenhouse International Basketball Tournament.

Over 25 players from Club Baloncesto Vilagarcia from north-west Spain travelled to London to play against our basketball teams with many visiting the UK for the first time.

Our Under-11 Boys managed a hotly contested draw (20-20) while our girls lost narrowly as the clock ran down.

Our pupil, Eunika Edwards, 15, said: "I've really enjoyed it and it's been great to see how the Spanish play. The girls all seem really nice, I can't speak Spanish but some of us have swapped emails with some of the girls so hopefully we'll keep in touch. It would be great to go to Spain one day and have a re-match!"



Alberto Blanco, President of CB Vilagarcia, said: “We’re very honoured to be here and we’ve been very excited about this kind offer of an international tournament. Coming here is about much more than just the basketball, it’s about kids from different cultures coming together and trying to speak to each other and enjoy themselves. The College and Greenhouse have been a great host and I hope we can organise many more future internationals.”

During the event our pupils had the opportunity to speak to the Spanish players and soon formed friendships as they spoke about their respective cultures and interests.

U-12 Boys’ Team

Adebola Adobayo	7B
Azaldin Guma	7D
Darvin Vargas	7G
Ekene Uzoukwu	7C
Jamal Jackman	7G
Hussein Maye	7B
Clarence Baah	7G
Ricardo Gordan	7W
Ryan Aoki	7W
Steven Sylla	7A
Imran Sankoh	8A

U-12 Girls’ Team

Ademola Ogannowo	7W
Laura Deane	7W
Ilahan Sumay	7W
Marta Mateus	7F
Laura Fee	7W
Dekha Abdullahi	7W
Sarah Bello	8W

U-15 Girls’ Team

Patrea Powell-farquharson	9C
Domika Williams	10A1
Mawa Bagate	9F
Melissa Rodrigues	9F
Renée pemberton-wright	10A2
Eunika Edwards	10A2
Georgia Morgan	9B

NBA Basketball Event

Pupils from Year 8 and 9 had the wonderful opportunity to attend an NBA basketball event held at Sky Sports Studios, where they received training from NBA veteran Bill Laimbeer. Pupils were put through their paces during a one hour session and were then invited to ask Bill Laimbeer questions regarding his playing career.



Following the intense training session, our pupils were then given the opportunity to watch the Detroit Pistons Dance Troop performance and appeared on Pistons TV.

The children had a fantastic morning and represented the school with the knowledge and understanding that **"ATTITUDE (TRULY) DETERMINES ALTITUDE"**.

Girl Guides Cookery Club

Last week, our Year 7 Girl Guides cooked a dish of their choice from their own recipe books which they created as part of the Independent Living Badge.

Hanna, who made chocolate cupcakes, said: "I really enjoyed cooking with my friends and the cakes were fantastic!"

Kristina cooked a Bolognese pasta bake and said: "At first I was a bit nervous about following all the steps in the recipe, but I am really proud of the end product. I am really excited when cooking and will be more adventurous next time."

Victoria, who cooked chocolate cupcakes, said: "It was really fun cooking everything from scratch and working together. I am looking forward to cooking a main course meal next time."



Precious Oladipo, 7B; Hanna Bagate, 7A; and Victoria Odubote, 7D



Kristina Sawyers, 7D



Erica Seabra, 7B; and Larissa Diacos, 7D



Year 7 Youth Club

The Year 7 Youth Club is a new initiative for accommodating pupils who wish to develop a variety of social skills such as communication, building confidence and self esteem, and is an opportunity to build on a strong peer group environment.

This new Youth Club will begin on Wednesday 6th February 2013. The Youth Club will be structured with a variety of activities such as music, homework, sport, making friends, trying new activities and much more.

Day: Every Wednesday from 6th February 2013

Time: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online



The school has purchased access to ***Encyclopaedia Britannica Online!*** This gives pupils, parent(s)/carer(s) and teachers instant access to the unique encyclopaedia that offers high quality online learning and teaching materials developed by curriculum experts. This large knowledge resource also contains thousands of magazine and journal articles, teacher resources, videos, multimedia, interactive lessons, and thousands of images and illustrations that help bring subjects to life.

To access this resource, pupils, parent(s)/carer(s) and staff can simply login to our **virtual learning environment (VLE)** at <https://www.klp.rm.com> using their existing login details.

Once logged in to the VLE, click the '**SHARED SPACES**' tab, click the '**SHOW ALL**' button, and then click on the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' link to gain access. The '**Britannica Student**' section is specifically for pupils in secondary education. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Dr C. Lok

Key Dates

Tuesday 12th February 2013 Jack Petchey Year 10 Speak Out Workshops

Wednesday 13th February 2013 Jack Petchey Year 10 Speak Out Workshops

Thursday 14th February 2013 Annual International Evening, 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Safeguarding Information

Platanos College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils. Our **Designated Senior Person for Child Protection** is **Ms T. Williams**.

There is also an **Anti-Bullying Committee** (ABC) run by a group of pupils who meet every week to discuss any issues that may arise.

The anti-bullying email address for both pupils and parents to raise any issues about bullying is abc@platanoscollege.com.

Severe Weather Conditions

The weather is likely to remain poor in the coming weeks. This is a reminder that, in severe weather conditions, we will close the school as a (very) last resort if pupils and staff face a significant risk of injury or non-attendance.

If the school is to be closed, we will post a notice on the school website (www.platanoscollege.com) and send a standard text message to all parent(s)/carer(s) before pupils arrive at the start of the school day.

If the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, we will inform all parent(s)/carer(s) of the situation by text message and via our website.

Uniform Shop Opening Times

Term time opening hours

Mondays: 9am - 12.15pm

Wednesdays: 3pm - 6pm