



PLATANOS COLLEGE
An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 22nd February 2013
Issue 3

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I wish you well during a busy half term for our school.

ATTITUDE TRULY DETERMINES ALTITUDE

A full programme of GCSE Revision and Catch-up classes has been taking place. It is still wonderful to observe so many pupils working hard to achieve their full potential. It ensures that our positive ethos enables each pupil to reach a point where they realise the connection between giving up what is seen as "spare time" to attend school to prepare for the future.

There has also been a full programme of activities linked to sports. The Basketball programme has been very popular. During the week I have met pupils from at least six local schools.

THE PUNCTUALITY DRIVE CONTINUES

We will continue with the punctuality drive on Monday morning. The last week of term was extremely effective. Thank you for your support.



I am aware of the transport problems in this part of London. We have to live with these difficulties. They are a way of life. We cannot use them as an excuse.

BUSY SCHEDULES

Our Newsletters will now focus on individual year groups because there are extensive plans around Business and Enterprise, Careers, Work Experience and so on. I am pleased to report that we are extending the trips to Spain this year and hope that as many pupils as possible will visit Barcelona in the summer.

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES

The Pastoral Managers have written about our Achievement Assemblies. They were wonderful. We will formally congratulate pupils in the next edition of the Newsletter. Parents and carers have no doubt received letters congratulating the successful pupils.

The Achievement Assemblies were well attended and suitably lively. Unfortunately, parents/carers do not attend



Achievement Assemblies because of the lack of space. Parents/carers will be able to attend our end of year formal Awards Evenings.

GOD IS WITH US

Some parents have written to ask why I end my letters with the mantra, 'God is with us'. It is simple. I am not driven by a particular faith. It is something I truly believe. This mantra can be embraced by all.

Given all the challenges, I truly believe that God is with us. God is especially with our wonderful children. Always.

All good wishes,

J. Tapper
Headteacher

Recent News

Lambeth Music Achievement Awards 2013

Our Year 7 pupils representing our Key Stage 3 music at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (South Bank University) Annual Music Event were awarded medals and certificates in recognition of their achievements.

Our pupils were delighted that their efforts and achievement in music were being recognised.

Award recipients: Yoel Abadi, Jason Akbulut, Hanna Bagate, Hafsa Besong, Jahmi Bryan, Bernardo Coelho, Ana De Lima Alencar, Ibrahim Dirie, Antoni Fazio, Francisco Ferreira, Mohamed Amin Haile, Kawtar Haouache, Fardowsa Hersi, Jon Kalij, Samir King, Muhammed Koomson, Jason La, Kevin Lam, Daniela Louro, Ram'I Miller, Margarida Monteiro, Ang Ngo, Benjamin Otto, Samiha Parvez, Rachel Phang.

The music event was organised by the Lambeth Children and Young People's Service (CYPS).



Animal Rescue Project

This week, the Platanos College Animal Rescue Project was launched in the school. This project was initiated by one enthusiastic pupil, Siham Osman in 7B, with the aim of recruiting volunteers to care for and rescue animals in need of help.

In her assembly speech last week, Siham said: "I love animals and I want to become a vet. I think our volunteers will benefit from this project. It is about raising money and helping animals. It will involve visiting rescue shelters and zoos and doing sponsored runs and walks. I also think that the animals will benefit from the human comfort as many come from a rescue home and will have had a traumatised background."

"I would like to thank Ms Tapper for taking this idea on board and making this idea possible."



Siham Osman, 7B

Platanos College welcomes Cardiff visitors

Pupils and staff of Platanos College gave a warm welcome to two distinguished educationalists from Wales who came to visit the school on 13th February 2013.



**Mr Nick Jarman,
Corporate Director
(People), Cardiff
Council**

Mr Jarman and Cllr Magill toured the school and met a range of pupils from all years. They were interested to hear pupils' views on their lessons, sports activities and after-school clubs, homework, uniform and CHABOP. Of special interest were the pupils' accounts of their experience in various leadership roles such as vice-presidents and presidents of tutor groups, prefects and ambassadors for the school. Pupils also explained how they felt proud of the school and how the new building had allowed them to add positive new aspects to the achievements of the old school.

Over a working lunch the visitors had extensive discussions with Ms Tapper (Headteacher), Ms Phillips, Ms Williams and other staff about pupils' achievements and many other aspects of education in both Platanos College and Cardiff.



**Councillor Julia Magill, Cabinet Member for
Education and Lifelong Learning, Cardiff Council**

Richmond Park Educational Visit

Our pupils in Year 10 visited Richmond Park as part of the Skills Force programme at the school. Our pupils had the opportunity to take part in an orienteering exercise, learning and developing a range of skills.



Our pupil, Liliana Fernandes said: “The trip was really good fun. I also realised how important team work can be in everyday life.”

Anne Frank Ambassadors

Our Anne Frank Ambassadors from Years 8 and 9 delivered an Anne Frank Programme to Year 6 pupils at Ashmole Primary School last week.

They presented a power point presentation on Anne Frank’s life and the Holocaust and delivered a poetry workshop, an interactive quiz and provided educational clips of survivors from the Holocaust. The presentations were enlightening.

Our Ambassadors were wonderful representatives of the school.



Edward Adonteg, 8A



Nathaniel Edwards, 9A



**Genielle Dearne, 9A;
Edward Adonteng, 8A;
Gisela Fernandes, 9A;
Zara Ahmed, 9A.**

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 SPACES**' 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

FreshStart Healthy Living Programme

From the start of Term 4, a new Healthy Living Programme called "FreshStart" will be launched for pupils in Key Stage 3. The programme aims to provide pupils with knowledge and fun opportunities that will aid them in leading a happy and healthy lifestyle.

The project is a collaborative venture between the Pastoral Team, PE Department and Food Technology teachers. The programme will also involve parent(s)/carer(s) as well as pupils! It will include activities such as trampolining, dodgeball, trips out to swimming and even to the supermarket! There will also be informative sessions about healthy eating and ways to cook nutritious meals.

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.

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

Key Dates

Friday 1st March 2013 Academic Review Day
Thursday 7th March 2013 Year 11 Parents' Evening

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

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