



PLATANOS COLLEGE
An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 15th March 2013
Issue 4

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

This has been a short yet fulfilling term.

The Grammar School Pathway (GSP) tests as usual dominate the end of term arrangements for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Friday 22 nd March 2013	Grammar School Pathway Tests
Monday 25 th March 2013	Grammar School Pathway Tests
Tuesday 26 th March 2013	Grammar School Pathway Tests
Wednesday 27 th March 2013	CHABOP Day (the day will end at 2.30pm)
Thursday 28 th March 2013	Staff Training Day

For pupils in Years 10 and 11, Wednesday 27th March will be focused on a range of activities including controlled assessments, catch-up and extension classes. A separate programme will be sent to parent(s)/carer(s) of pupils in Years 10 and 11.

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW TERM

The new term will start on Monday 15th April 2013 at 8.40am for all pupils.

OUR DRIVE ON PUNCTUALITY CONTINUES

I fully accept that there are endemic transport problems in and around the Brixton and Stockwell areas. Despite the problems, pupils are expected to arrive on time to school and to lessons.

Since we started this drive, more pupils are arriving earlier to school.

- Punctuality to school is non-negotiable.
- Punctuality to lessons is non-negotiable.

Please try to ensure that your child arrives at 8.30am for an 8.40am start. Please remember that we will close the school gate at 8.40am.

During the coming terms, our focus will be on a very tiny minority of pupils who regularly fail to arrive at school on time.

Well done to the overwhelming majority of pupils who attend school regularly and on time.

WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR LEARNING

We have increased the monitoring of lessons by senior managers.

It is wonderful to walk around the school regularly to observe so many effective lessons. Most of our lessons are very good to outstanding. The monitoring is also an opportunity to check on the setting and marking of homework and to support staff, where appropriate. We are able to ask pupils questions about their learning and to assess their views about learning.

Occasionally, we have to put pupils in isolation (where they are asked to complete work in small groups) because of a failure to line up on time at the end of a break or if an incident of poor behaviour occurs in lessons. We are determined to keep our school environment focused on learning.

PARENTS MONITOR LEARNING

Parents regularly make requests to visit our school in order to monitor the learning of their child/children.

If you would like to do so, please contact us at info@platanoscollege.com or send a letter via your child addressed to Dr. Lok at the school.

CHABOP DAY PRIZE WINNERS DESERVE THEIR REWARDS

THE ENJOYMENT OF CHABOP DAY is a key feature of our end of term celebrations. **CHABOP Assemblies** are wonderful occasions because they rightly reward high standards of academic performance, punctuality and attendance as well as the wider aspects of school life, including citizenship and pupil leadership within our school. We will publish details and photographs on our website and in the next edition of this Newsletter.

Every best wishes to each and every one of you.

I believe that God is with us, especially with our wonderful pupils. Always.

J. Tapper
Headteacher

Recent News

Rotary Youth Speaks London Debating Competition

At Platanos College we place an immense value on debating because we believe that debating and public speaking provides our most able pupils with intellectual stimulation outside of the classroom that facilitates the development of higher order thinking skills.

Last term, our Gifted and Talented pupils were selected to take part in the 2013 Rotary Youth Speaks South West London Debating Competition. The competition, attended by parents, staff and pupils, was held in the Council Chamber of Wandsworth Town Hall.

This event was important for a number of reasons. Firstly, it provided our pupils with invaluable experience in speaking on a public platform. Secondly, it encouraged our pupils to formulate their ideas on specific topics and present them concisely in a limited time; together with the opportunity to learn from the high standards of other speakers. Thirdly, the event was important because it provided our most able pupils with the opportunity to develop their self confidence by competing and socialising with a wider circle of pupils.



Following the event **Patrick Ballesteros, 10A**, who delivered a first class speech on the influence of the media, commented on the important skills he developed in preparing for this competition: *"Oratory skills and team working were some of the skills used. In preparation, team work was essential to coordinating each other's speeches. Debating has improved my school work because it has taught me how to plan my work and structure it effectively."*



Ms Mills, the parent of **Toni L'Ouverture, 9A**, who attended the event praised Platanos College for promoting debating and public speaking competitions: *"I thoroughly enjoyed the event because it provided pupils with a great opportunity to think deeply about issues, carry out in-depth research and collect ideas. Debating helps them to be more tolerant of other people's ideas as well as building their self confidence. These are skills children need when they go to university. The Platanos College debaters were brilliant - alert, vibrant and authentic. The event was great."*

Francisco Ferreira, 7A, summed up the experience by simply stating: *"I enjoyed the debating competition. It was great! It was an experience I'll never forget."*



Mrs Ferguson, assistant headteacher and Gifted and Talented coordinator, would like to express her sincere gratitude and congratulations to all the pupils who took part in the 2013 Rotary Youth Speaks South West London Debating Competition.

Year 7 Debating Team

Kevin Lam 7A
Francisco Ferreira 7A
Hafsa Besong 7A
Yoel Abadi 7A

Year 8 Debating Team

Edward Adonteng 8A
Cuba French 8A
Cameron French 8B

Year 9 Debating Team

Zara Ahmed 9A
Gisella Fernandes 9A
Toni L'Ouverture 9A

Year 10 Debating Team

Patrick Ballesteros 10A1
Daniel Ennis 10A1
Oniel Croal 10B1



Year 9 Cambridge University Workshop

Our pupils in 9A had the wonderful opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by Chemistry graduates from Cambridge University last week. The aims of the workshop were:

1. To raise aspirations early so that pupils see Cambridge and Oxford as an option; help pupils make the right choices in terms of their subjects; and motivate pupils to put in the necessary effort to achieve their aims.
2. To give pupils an insight into university life at Cambridge and get pupils to consider the choices available to them in future education.
3. To broaden the horizons of able pupils, raise academic/career aspirations and increase their motivation to achieve the top A/A* grades at GCSE.

The session was interactive and designed to meet the specific needs of our pupils. The topics included:

- Why go to university;
- What is university like;
- Benefits of attending Russell Group universities;
- Skills needed to secure a place at a top university;
- The things that our pupils can do now to prepare themselves.

At the start of the session some of our pupils already had solid ideas on what they wanted to do in the future and most were interested in attending university. Information on the Russell Group universities, the top 24 universities in the UK, was shared. The Russell Group universities lead the way in research, outstanding teaching and learning, and have unrivalled links with businesses.

The class also heard about life at Cambridge and were enlightened with the knowledge that university life is accompanied by independence and ownership. Pupils recognised the importance of choosing a good university and appreciated that a degree from a renowned university could significantly impact their education and future careers.

Our pupil **Lisa Tham** said: *"I learnt about the importance of selecting a subject you love and are passionate about."*

Natasha Smith said: *"It extended my knowledge and informed me vastly on the courses that could be studied at university."*

Another pupil, **Nathaniel Edwards**, said: *"The workshop showed us options and opportunities that previously seemed unreachable."*



International Evening Celebrations

Our annual International Evening, traditionally organised by our parents/carers and staff, took place last term with a whole host of events and activities.

The event celebrated the cultural diversity at Platanos College with entertaining acts including cultural dancing and singing on show, and a wonderful variety of food.



London Zoo Educational Visit

A group of our Year 7 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to visit London Zoo to enhance their learning. The trip was organised by Siham Osman, 7B, as part of the Animal Rescue Project that was launched earlier this term.

The pupils involved were delighted to be chosen and showed great interest, reading a vast amount of information and taking notes throughout the day. Pupils were able to learn about animals and their environment.

The pupils were split into two groups later in the day and each group chose an area they would like to explore, feeding back to each other after each exploration. All the pupils said they had learnt many interesting facts and had an immensely enjoyable day despite the cold weather!



Norwich City Football Club Trial

Hamed Timite (8D), a very gifted young footballer, has recently been invited to train with Norwich City Football Club in the Premier League.

Hamed is a hard working and determined young individual who has excelled in every training session and football match. He attends every training session with the same work ethic and discipline and has represented Platanos College on many occasions.

His PE teachers, Ms Simpson and Mr Mayne, said: *“Hamed is very popular amongst his team mates and always plays with a smile on his face. He has a very positive attitude and is always willing to help his peers. With his continued hard work and dedication, we are confident he will fulfil his dreams of becoming a professional footballer.”*

A delighted Hamed said: *“I am extremely happy and excited right now. I now know that with the right attitude and hard work, I have a chance of succeeding. I am grateful for the support that I have been getting and the encouragement to work at something that I am passionate about.”*



National Schools Basketball League

Our Under-14 Girls Basketball Team played against Battersea College in the second round of the National Schools League.

The team played extremely well and triumphed 47–31. They now progress to the third round, the first time the U-14 Girls Team have made it this far in the competition.

The winning team: Mawa Bagate, Melissa Rodrigues, Sarah Bello, Patrea Powell-Farquharson, Bryony Bloomfield, Marta Mateus, Laura Deane, Ademola Ogannowo.



St John Ambulance Cadets

Our St John Ambulance Cadets continued their training programme this term, attending a seminar and training sessions which included a focus on radio communication skills. This allowed our

Cadets to gain knowledge on radio communication and to develop acute communications skills for an operational event or an emergency.

The cadet training programme has over 70 different subjects with a focus on life skills and community.



Anne Frank Exhibition

The Anne Frank Exhibition was held at Platanos College last week. It provided a creative workshop programme and an exhibition exploring the story of Anne Frank, the Holocaust, genocide, civil rights and conflict. This was in a context for young people to discuss contemporary issues including:

- Understanding human rights
- Promoting diversity and community cohesion
- Exploring democracy
- Challenging anti-social behaviour
- Understanding the negative impact of religious extremism
- Tackling racism and hate crime

Mr Freddie Knoller, a Holocaust survivor, kindly attended the closing ceremony of the Anne Frank Exhibition and gave a powerful presentation of his life story to a group of our Ambassadors.



Our pupil and exhibition tour guide, Julie Dao (8A), said: *"It was a great opportunity to be able to share the knowledge of the Holocaust. The role of an exhibition tour guide has certainly developed my confidence in speaking to an audience."*

Eniola Edusi (10A1), an Anne Frank Ambassador, said: *"Listening to Freddie Knoller's story was truly inspirational. I was very pleased to be able to attend this event."*



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 Pupil**' section is specifically for pupils in secondary education. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Dr C. Lok

Health and Wellbeing Programme

A new Health and Wellbeing Programme will be run during Term 4 and Term 5 for all pupils at Platanos College. The programme is delivered by the Lambeth Health and Wellbeing Team. The programme aims to offer specialist support in delivering topics on Relationship Education, Risky Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing.

Year 9 sessions: Wednesdays after school.

Years 10 and 11 sessions: Wednesday lunch times.

FreshStart Healthy Living Programme

The FreshStart Programme is a new healthy-living programme 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

Sports Results

Football

Platanos College 9 – 4 Dunraven School (Year 7 Boys, 11-a-side, South London League)

Basketball

Platanos College 47 – 31 Battersea College (U-14 Girls, National Schools League)

Key Dates

Friday 22nd March 2013 Grammar School Pathway exams
Monday 25th March 2013 Grammar School Pathway exams
Tuesday 26th March 2013 Grammar School Pathway exams
Wednesday 27th March 2013 CHABOP Day (day ends at 2.30pm)
Thursday 28th March 2013 Staff Training Day
Monday 15th April 2013 Start of Term 5
Thursday 18th April 2013 Year 8 Careers Advice
Friday 19th April 2013 Educational Visit – Tate Britain
Friday 19th April 2013 Primary Basketball Tournament – Young Leadership Programme
Monday 22nd April 2013 Educational Visit – Centre of the Cell
Tuesday 23rd April 2013 Educational Visit – St. John Museum
Tuesday 23rd April 2013 Educational Visit – The Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising
Tuesday 23rd April 2013 Educational Visit – Grangewaters field trip
Thursday 25th April 2013 Educational Visit – Design Museum
Thursday 25th April 2013 Year 9 Careers Advice
Thursday 25th April 2013 Year 10 Careers Advice (incl. interview skills/work experience advice)
Monday 29th April 2013 Educational Visit – BBC Broadcasting House

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.

Uniform Shop Opening Times

Term time opening hours

Mondays: 9am - 12.15pm

Wednesdays: 3pm - 6pm