



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 19th April 2013

Issue 5

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

Recent News

Jack Petchey Speak Out Lambeth Champions

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

Last term, our Year 10 pupils attended the *Jack Petchey Public Speaking "Speak Out" Workshop*, an annual programme run by the school to support our Year 10 pupils in achieving the top A/A* GCSE grades in English.

Shana Kay Harwood and **Patrick Ballesteros**, the winners of our Year 10 *"Speak Out"* school competition, were invited to take part in the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Lambeth Final* last term.

The final consisted of eight Lambeth schools, including St Martin in the Fields, Dunraven and La Retraite. As expected, the competition was fierce and the standard of speeches this year was extremely high. However, our first speaker **Shana Kay** fought off the stiff competition and impressed the judges by delivering an inspirational speech against the death penalty, making her one of the favourites to win the competition. Unfortunately, she was penalised for speaking beyond the strict three minute time limit.

Our second speaker **Patrick Ballesteros**, however, also delivered a truly outstanding speech entitled *"The Influence of the Media"*. Patrick's articulate, eloquent delivery and his logical, persuasive arguments highly



Patrick Ballesteros delivering his winning speech

impressed the judges and this won him the competition!

Patrick said: *"Public speaking and debating has really helped develop my speaking and writing skills. It has also helped me build a lot of confidence and I am delighted to win this competition!"*

Sally Benton, Regional Co-ordinator and Associate Trainer for the Speaker Trust, speaking after the event was full of praise and admiration: *"Thank you so much for bringing the students along tonight and for your continued support of the project. Huge congratulations to Shana Kay and especially to Patrick - they both gave extremely confident, well structured and self assured speeches."*

Both pupils have truly done us proud and we are delighted that Platanos College are the well deserving winners of the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge!*

Once again, well done to Patrick Ballesteros and Shana Kay Harwood!



Shana Kay Harwood with the Mayor of Lambeth

Phoenix Book Awards

On World Book Day, 7th March 2013, our pupils KawtarHaouache (7A) and SamihaParvez(7A) won the **Best Book Review Award** and the **Special Book Review Award**, respectively, at the Phoenix Book Awards Ceremony held at the new Clapham Library.

The Phoenix Book Award programme promotes reading for pleasure among our Key Stage 3 pupils and is a borough-wide awards programme. Our pupils have greatly benefited from the school's participation in the programme since its launch in 2007.

Our pupil Kawtar Haouache said: *"I really enjoy the programme. My reading has improved a lot and I now realise that reading can be enjoyable."*





Music Awards



Congratulations to two of our gifted musicians!

Congratulations go to Esther Lee for achieving her Grade 5 in piano from Trinity College London and Laura Graham-Clarke in achieving her Grade 4 in her vocals.

Educational Visit to the Tate Britain

On Friday 19th April 2013, our pupils visited the Tate Britain as part of their GCSE Art. They were able to see a number of fascinating artworks from the new Tate Britain collection from the 1800s to the present. Many pupils were taken by the work of John Brett, 'The British Channel seen from the Dorsetshire Cliffs' (1871), depicting an ocean landscape with rays of sunshine reflecting off the water. Pupils recorded sounds heard in the gallery, the meanings of artworks, and the artists that inspired them and wrote down suggestions for media they would like to try.

Pupils will use this experience and the drawings from this trip to inspire ideas for their exam preparation where they will create an exhibition piece under exam conditions. This year's exam is

based around the theme 'Force', with many pupils exploring the forces of nature or force created by celebrity culture.



Bronze Medal Winners at the London Youth Basketball Finals

Our Under-14 Girls Basketball Team was in competition in the London Youth Games Finals last term.

The Finals consisted of the best eight teams in the whole of London. Our girls performed extremely well and this was the first time they had progressed this far in the competition!

Our team finished in 3rd place overall, winning the bronze medal, and only losing to the eventual winners of the tournament in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to our U-14 Girls Team!

The Bronze Medal team:

MawaBagate, Patrea Powell-Farquharson, Melissa Rodrigues, Georgia Morgan, Bryony Bromfield, Sarah Bello, Laura Deane, Marta Mateus, AdemolaOgannowo, Laura Fee, and Ilahan Samey.



Primary Basketball Leadership Programme

The Primary Basketball Leadership Programme took place at Platanos College on Friday 19th April 2013. This was in partnership with the Lambeth School Sport Programme and introduces a different aspect of sport to pupils.

Seventeen primary schools from across Lambeth played in the round robin basketball tournament throughout the day. The top six teams will be returning to play in the final stages of this competition. This was led by our Platanos College young leader coaches and officials.

The talent on show was particularly impressive with lots of very athletic children participating. The visiting staff and teachers were also extremely impressed with the organisation, knowledge and

practical ability of our young leaders throughout the programme. They led and interacted with the primary pupils at an exceptionally high standard and were truly inspirational leaders.

"The kids enjoyed the programme and the leaders were extremely helpful." **Wyvil Primary School.**

"It was extremely well organised and was a wonderful experience." **Hitherfield Primary School.**

"It was a very good experience for me to lead and coach the primary school children." **Chenola Henry, Primary Leader at Platanos College.**

Our primary leaders:

Bryony Bromfield, Patrea Powell Farquharson, Sarah Bello, Erece Edwards, Travis Edwards, Patrick Lanipekun, Ola Olarene, Temidayo Aleshe, Javarne Roberts, Mawa Bagate, Melissa Rodrigues, Oliva Beckford, Chenola Henry, and Kiara Peters.

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

The new Health and Wellbeing Programme continues to run during 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

Time: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

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.

Key Dates

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
Thursday 9th May 2013	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4pm – 6pm
Friday 17th May 2013	Educational Visit – Greenwich Planetarium
Friday 17th May 2013	Lambeth Schools Athletics Tournament
Monday 20th May 2013	Educational Visit – Science Museum
Monday 20th May 2013	Educational Visit – Tate Modern
Tuesday 21st May 2013	Educational Visit – Supreme Court
Wednesday 22nd May 2013	Educational Visit – London Eye
Wednesday 22nd May 2013	St. John Ambulance National Schools Competition
Wednesday 22nd May 2013	Parent Forum Meeting, 5pm
Thursday 23rd May 2013	Educational Visit – Royal Courts of Justice
Friday 24th May 2013	Educational Visit – Greenwich Planetarium
Friday 24th May 2013	Educational Visit – Horniman Museum & Gardens
Friday 24th May 2013	Lambeth Schools Athletics Tournament
Friday 24th May 2013	Last Day of Term Five
Saturday 25th May 2013	Educational Visit – Photofusion Gallery
Monday 3rd June 2013	Start of Term Six
Wednesday 5th June 2013	Educational Visit – RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire
Friday 28th June 2013	Staff Training Day
Monday 1st July 2013	Key Stage 3 Awards Evening, Year 7
Tuesday 2nd July 2013	Key Stage 3 Awards Evening, Year 8
Wednesday 3rd July 2013	Key Stage 3 Awards Evening, Year 9
Friday 5th July 2013	Graduation Evening
Thursday 11th July 2013	Grammar School Pathway exams – English
Friday 12th July 2013	Grammar School Pathway exams – Maths
Monday 15th July 2013	Grammar School Pathway exams – Science
Tuesday 16th July 2013	Sports Day
Wednesday 17th July 2013	Educational Trips
Thursday 18th July 2013	CHABOP Day
Friday 19th July 2013	Business Fair
Friday 19th July 2013	LAST DAY OF TERM
Saturday 20th July 2013	Parade Day