



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# E-Newsletter

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013

Issue 6

Dear Parents(s)/Carer(s),

## **A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR**

I welcome you to the start of the new academic year, 2013-2014.

As you will see in our latest Newsletter, we have been extremely busy.

I sincerely apologise for the lack of e-Newsletters at the end of last term. There was a technical problem on our email system and we were unable to send them out in the usual way. Thankfully, the errors were resolved and we have therefore returned to our normal service.

This edition contains many useful items, including the following: start of term arrangements; recent news and events; pupil welfare and safeguarding information.

## **HIGHER EXPECTATION THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 7, 8 AND 9**

As you know, our pupils do extremely well at the end of Year 11. Indeed, pupils who spend five (5) years with us perform above the national average. Our role is to continue to raise the achievement of all pupils. This can only be achieved by setting higher expectations each year for every single pupil.

In the past, we have asked pupils to improve their learning by three (3) to four (4) levels of progress during Years 7, 8 and 9. This is simply not enough.

In order to continue to improve learning and achievement throughout the school, we have decided to set higher expectations.

We now expect pupils to achieve five (5) levels of progress over the course of Year 7, 8 and 9.

- We will continue to track pupils regularly.
- We will continue to intervene in order to support pupils.
- We will continue to meet with parents/carers regularly to discuss progress and improve the setting of targets.
- We will continue to target our support for key groups of pupils.

Higher standards will be set for Literacy and Basic Skills throughout the school and especially in Years 7, 8 and 9. By setting higher standards, it means that our pupils will continue to perform well at the end of Year 11.

## **AN UNSHAKABLE BELIEF IN OUR PUPILS**

We exist for our pupils and have an unshakable belief in them. So states our Mission Statement. We try to ensure that our Mission Statement is part of the reality of the lives of our pupils.

There will be an early Academic Review Day for you on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to discuss the new targets.

All pupils will be given their new targets at the very start of the new term.

## **CONTINUING TO KEEP OUR PUPILS SAFE**

When we reviewed our Safeguarding Policies and systems at the end of last term with the Governors, we were very pleased. We intend to expand our e-Safety support for pupils during the new academic year.

We are also keen to ask you about your experience of safety issues in relation to your child/children.

We would therefore like you to complete our online survey, please email [consultation@platanoscollege.com](mailto:consultation@platanoscollege.com). We will write to you about the outcomes early in October 2013.

## **A SOLID FOUNDATION**

The new year will be challenging, especially for our pupils. We are very proud of them.

Our school culture has been built on a solid foundation and, with your help, our pupils will continue to thrive.

Finally, I repeat without hesitation or reservation that God is with us, especially with our wonderful pupils. Always.

Yours sincerely,

**J. Tapper**  
**Headteacher**

### Key Stage 3 Awards

The annual Key Stage 3 Awards evenings that took place last term were a success. The ceremonies aim to recognise and celebrate the academic and extra-curricular achievements of all our pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. They were well attended by parents, carers, staff and pupils.

The awards were presented by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors with wonderful opening speeches from our pupils.

Pupils were rewarded for their outstanding attainment and progress in the different subjects and for various other extra-curricular achievements including citizenship.

The awards were a true reflection that *"Attitude Determines Altitude"*.

*"It was wonderful to see the pupils getting their awards, particularly as this is their first year at Platanos College."* – Year 7 parent

*"It is always great to see the children being recognised for their achievements."* – Year 8 parent

*"The evening was very positive and I think it really encourages the pupils to work hard."*  
– Year 9 parent



### Year 7 award winners:

Ade Adebayo, Jason Akbulut, Liban Ali, Sanmay Ali, Clarence Baah, Hanna Bagate, Andy Cassombi, Nathanael Clarke, Roger Costa-Quiroga, Leandro Matias Da Silva, Mary Da Silva, Larissa Diacos, Ibrahim Dirie, Idris Diwalabe, Janay Eduardo, Antoni Fazio, Francisco Ferreira, Nadia Felix, Walter Goncalves, Meshan Grazette, Kawter Haouache, Fardowsa Hersi, Lucy Hoang, Eduardo Janay, Edwin Karten, Hamza Khalif, Faiyaz Khan, Samir King, Jason La, Lara Laguas-Dos Santos, James Lau, Kaitlyn Lewis, Daniela Louro, Daniel Mahmood, Paulo Rei Marques, Erica Marques, Rami Miller, Margarida Monteiro, Felix Nadia, Ademola Ogunnowo, Precious Oladipo, Rachel Phang, Leandro Reis Souza, Clifton Richards, Patsy Ruthven, Erica Seabra, Laneil Thompson, Sebastian Tomczak, Ekene Uzoukwu.



### Year 8 award winners:

Hafiza Abdullah, Ayman Abdulrahim, Kamel Abraham, Fadumo Ahmed, Nabilah Ahmed, Nader Akmel, Temidayo Aleshe, Jerome Anoché, Hateem Awelu-Umer, Khalid Bashir, Sarah Bello, Unique Bloomfield, Rachel Clarke, Rafeeq Clarke, Julie Dao, Christerfany De Souza, Asma Djabali, Naol Duguma, Shirmae Elliott, Charley Gazely, Paulo Gois, Kelly Goncalves-Freitas, Suna Gulen, Crystal Hernandez, Ahmed Idris, Atosh Ismail, Tia John, Jamila Karamoko, Marian Mohamoud, Kyrone Mahmood, Abdul-Bari Mughal, Katherine Ordonez, Daniel Payne, Andrew Pham, Sajidha Rahman, Francisco Ramalho, Harmony Reid, Mariana Rodrigues, Joshua Scott-Childs, Tamara Stewart, Leila Talash, Julia Tomczak, Eiji Torres, Jason Tran, Reon Williams, Shanze Yao.



### Year 9 award winners:

Hassan Abdulrahim, Ewan Ackah, Shayma Ahmed, Karlos Aidoo, Diana Akapea, Patrick Alexandre, Mawa Bagate, Leigh Baker, William Benedito, Arriane Bionas, Bryony Bromfield, Daniel Buckman, Shanice Collins, Genielle Dearne, Celine Djedjemel, Malak Dob, Erin Elson, RJ Eytle-Rock, Catarina Fernandes, Raquel Ferrao, Kane Flynn-Wallace, Christiana Goncalves, Iris Goncalves, Vanessa Goncalves, Maklit Hannah, Ladin Idris, Ridwan Jamir, Louis Karten, Toni L'Ouverture, Dashiell Lorrett-Clapp, Nadia-Nadine Manar, Fabio Marques, Ricardo Martins, Chloe McGovern, Shahidul Miah, Shayma Mohamed, Selman Mohammed, Michael Norfield, Edward Oliveira, Cleo Patterson, Roberto-Miguel Pimentel, Leh Mon





Pang, Catarina Pereira, Patrea Powell-Farquharson, Jorge Quisbert, Bruna Santos-Gomes, Priscilla Simoes, Natasha Smith, Nahom Solomon, Magdalena Strzempek, Bernice Tetteh-Owusu, Lisa Tham, Romaine Watson, Chizera Whitrod.

## Graduation Evening

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The Graduation Evening in July reflected a successful year for our Year 11s of 2013. The evening was a wonderful occasion with achievement awards presented by our Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Pupils were awarded for their attainment and progress in various subjects. Two special awards, the Guy Lee Achievement Award and the Elizabeth Oweradaba Achievement Award, were awarded to the following two pupils:

Esther Lee (Guy Lee Achievement Award)

Ruben Pereira (Elizabeth Oweradaba Achievement Award)

The evening concluded with a special graduation dinner at the Croydon Park Hotel. Our Prom King and Queen this year was Ruben Pereira and Shanae Bedford!

Many congratulations to our Graduates of 2013!



## Educational Visits

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An extended programme of educational visits took place last term to enhance the learning of pupils at Platanos College.

These included trips to museums (Science Museum, Design Museum, St. John Museum, Tate Modern, amongst others), the Greenwich Planetarium, Royal Courts of Justice, Centre of the Cell, the Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Brize Norton, residential trips to Barcelona and many others.



The trip to RAF Brize Norton was an extremely enriching trip and pupils were involved in many different activities such as the application of maths and physics to flight navigation. Our pupils also had the opportunity to board the Tristar aircraft and fly out to the North Sea for an air-to-air refuelling operation!



Our pupils were treated to a spectacle as the Tristar refuelled several Typhoon jets mid-air at an altitude of 20,000 feet!





Our pupil, **Francisca Lopes**, said: *"It was an extremely informative trip and I enjoyed every bit of it. The highlight was being able to meet the pilots, plan the flight and fly over the North Sea and see fighter planes refuel mid-air! It was overwhelming."*

Throughout last year, pupils have been learning about Business and Enterprise as part of the Year 7 Enrichment Programme. Over the course of 5 weeks the pupils studied the Black Rose Programme, focusing on the branding and marketing of the programme. The pupils then visited the Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising, learning about business and marketing from the Victorian era right to the present day.



During the hot spell of weather, our St. John Cadets also enjoyed a wonderfully wet water weekend with fellow cadets last term. They spent a weekend aboard the Lord Armory Ship in the Docklands, where they took part in various activities such as sailing, canoeing and a regatta. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to experience life on a ship and to develop various life skills.



A visit to the St. John Museum...



## A trip to the Centre of the Cell...



## Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

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Platanos College participates in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme, which aims to recognise, reward and celebrate the achievements of our pupils.

The Scheme recognises a wide range of achievements and young people themselves are involved in nominating and selecting the winners.

Last term, several Platanos College pupils were recipients of numerous Jack Petchey Achievement Awards on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The awards ceremony took place at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre.

Our Jacky Petchey award winners were: Eniola Edusi, Maklit Hannah, Connor Hopkins, Faiyaz Khan and Special-Rose Briseferf.

Our prize winner, **Eniola**, said: *"It was an amazing ceremony with a great atmosphere. The venue was also very nice and I really enjoyed the evening. My parents are very proud too."*

Prizes were presented by Cathy Twist (Assistant Director of Lambeth) and Adedamola Aminu (Deputy Mayor of Lambeth).





Well done and many congratulations to our Jack Petchey award winners!



## CHABOP Day

CHABOP Day last term was again well organised by the pupils, especially the Presidents and Vice Presidents.

CHABOP Day recognises and rewards pupils with positive CHABOP merit points in Classwork, Homework, Attendance, Behaviour, Organisation and Punctuality.

Special competitions as well as an end-of-term party were organised in Key Stage 3 on CHABOP Day.

Year 7 pupils arranged a film event and a volleyball competition.

Year 8 pupils organised a table tennis competition and a games room.

Year 9 pupils organised both a karaoke event and a basketball event.



## Business Fair

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The annual Business Fair at the end of last term was a busy and successful event. The Business Fair remains an integral event on the school calendar as part of Platanos College's Business and Enterprise specialism.

The day was, once again, a wonderful platform for Platanos College pupils to display their sharp entrepreneurial skills.



## Music Concert

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Platanos College pupils delivered an inspiring musical performance to an audience of hundreds. In attendance were parents and carers, pupils, staff and members of the local community.

The performance reflected the dedication and enthusiasm of our pupils over the last year and on display was another crop of gifted musicians!





One of our gifted performers, **Larissa Diacos** (electric guitar), said: *"It was a lot of fun! After all the hard work and practise, it is great to be able to perform in front of such a large audience. I'm already looking forward to our next performance!"*

## Sports Day

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Sports Day this year was again well organised and a wonderful success following on from the Olympic spirit of last year.

Both pupils and staff showed great enthusiasm and the day brought about great competition and sportsmanship from participants. On the field in abundance were some very good athletes with potentially bright sporting careers ahead of them!





## 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](mailto:abc@platanoscollege.com).

## Uniform Shop Opening Times

### Term time opening hours

Mondays: 9am - 12pm

Wednesdays: 3pm - 5pm

## E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive our regular E-Newsletter via email, please provide us with your email address by contacting us on 020 7733 6156 or emailing us at [newsletter@platanoscollege.com](mailto:newsletter@platanoscollege.com).

The latest news and previous issues of our newsletters can be found on our website at [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com).