



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2014

Issue 9

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter after another successful term at Platanos College.

Pupils have really focused on their targets and how to improve their targets this term and the Learning to Learn Project has been embraced by pupils in Key Stage 3.

I enjoy the obvious enthusiasm pupils have for their learning and for life in general. We are so pleased that our pupils understand the need to work hard now in order to achieve their goals in later life.

The pace of learning has been brisk and teachers continue to ensure that pupils make rapid progress throughout lessons.

The end-of-term tests and exams have focused all our minds. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have studied for the Grammar School Pathway (GSP) tests and I know that the test results will be embraced by both pupils and teachers.

You will see from this edition that, once again, the successful Trips to Enhance Learning have taken place as pupils continue to learn and reflect about the wider world of work.

As we remember the lives lost during the First World War, senior pupils will travel to Belgium next week as part of a research project. You will be able to read about this in detail during the next edition of our Newsletter.

In the meantime, I wish you a peaceful break.

I know that God is with us at Platanos College, especially with our wonderful pupils. Always.

Yours sincerely,

J. Tapper
Headteacher

The Mayor's London Schools Gold Club

We are pleased to announce that, by invitation earlier this year from the Mayor of London, Platanos College became a member of The Mayor's London Schools Gold Club for excellent schools.



The Club recognises and celebrates exceptional schools that have succeeded against the odds in improving pupils' aspirations and achievements. The Club also facilitates the sharing of good practice amongst schools.

The Gold Club is based on the belief that all schools can aspire to attain excellence for all their pupils, whatever their circumstances. Platanos College was recognised for this achievement.

The award was presented to the school at The Mayor's Education Conference at City Hall by The Mayor of London.



**The Mayor's
London Schools
Gold Club Awards
Ceremony at City
Hall**

IntoUniversity 'Leadership in Focus' programme

Our Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to participate in the new IntoUniversity Leadership programme this year.

The exciting programme was a three day course which took place from the 8th January 2014.

The course is designed to help pupils unlock their potential and provide a platform for them to develop their skills and think about goal-setting for the future.

Pupils took part in a variety of team challenges and individual exercises that promoted teamwork, leadership, communication and negotiation skills.

All of the pupils successfully completed the intensive course, which concluded with an awards ceremony in recognition of their hard work.



Well done to the following pupils:

Cuba French, 9A
Ma Meco Tesoro, 9W
Khadijat Atunrase, 9B
Khalid Bashir, 9B
Najma Abdi, 9B
Ayman Abdulrahim, 9A
Tia John, 9C
Christiana Olufade, 9A
Naol Duguma, 9B
Fadumo Ahmed, 9C
Sajidha Rahman, 9C
Wisam Osman, 9B
Julie Joram, 9A
Ilham Chaouki, 9A
Asma Djabali, 9C
Alaina Oposa, 9A
Charley Gazely, 9C



Our pupil, **Charley Gazely**, said:
"It was a brilliant course. I have a much clearer idea of targeting university and a better idea of my areas of strength and areas that I need to work on to get there."

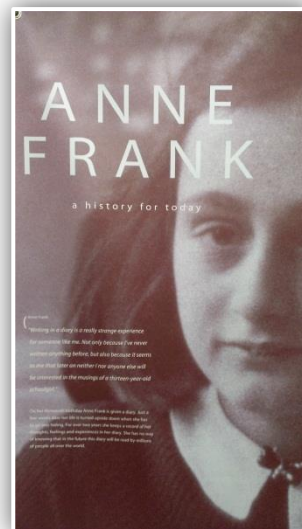


Anne Frank Exhibition 2014

The Anne Frank Exhibition at Platanos College returned this year in February. The exhibition took place from the 3rd February to the 13th February at the college due to its success in previous years.

The exhibition draws on the power of Anne Frank's diary to challenge prejudice and encourage people to embrace positive attitudes, responsibility and respect for others. The exhibition provides a platform for exploring the story of Anne Frank, the Holocaust, civil rights and conflict in a context for young people to relate to contemporary issues. This included:

- Understanding prejudice
- Responsibility and resistance
- Human Rights
- Identity and diversity
- Historical context



The exhibition is pupil-led and a selection of our Year 8 pupils were specially trained as tour guides by the Anne Frank Trust UK. The guides then led tours for visitors and pupils on the exhibition.

The Anne Frank Exhibition Guides:

**Hanna Bagate,
Precious Oladipo,
Devanyea Williams,
Melissa Amaro,
Hibiq Haji-Ali,
Patsy Ruthven,
Rodrigo Branco,
Alex Djalo,
Teresa Alves-Teodoro,
Meshan Grazette,
Destiny Campbell,
Tino Cabral,
Laura Deane,
Ilahan Ali,
Darvin Reyes.**



Our exhibition guide, **Laura Deane**, said: "The exhibition has been very insightful. I have learnt many things, from education to human rights, by studying and then teaching others about the story of Anne Frank."

The guides were fantastic and extremely knowledgeable throughout the exhibition. Our visitors were no doubt impressed.

The Anne Frank guides will now go through a selection process to become Anne Frank Ambassadors and participate in the Anne Frank Trust UK's Schools Competition.

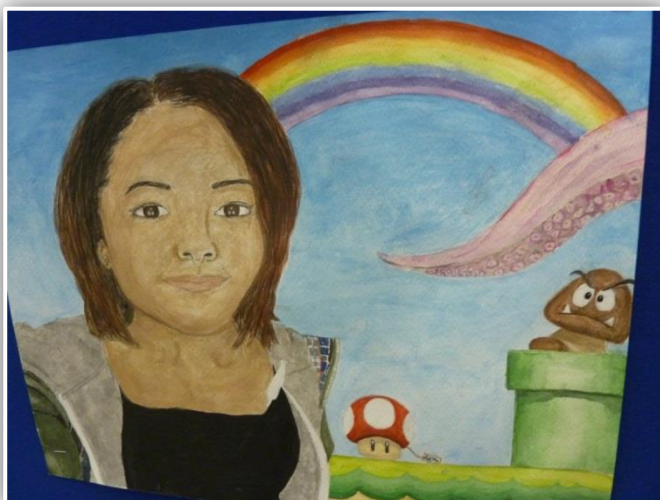


Tate South Lambeth Art Exhibition by Year 11 pupils

Our Year 11 pupils who graduated last year had their artwork on display at the Tate South Lambeth Library earlier in the term. This was part of the National Libraries Day.

This was a wonderful recognition of their brilliant work, which remained on display for 10 weeks. The pupils have a fantastic range of styles dealing with concepts such as identity, culture and the exam topic 'Force'.

A very well done to our very talented artists!



Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' competition

Earlier this term, over 60 of our Year 10 pupils took part in the annual Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' selection competition - the UK's largest youth speaking competition.

The art of public speaking was relatively new to some of the pupils, but the sessions soon put them up to speed. The programme trained the pupils on how to structure a speech, how to deliver the speech and how to develop the confidence to overcome their fears.

By mid-morning the pupils had already developed the confidence and skills to participate in the speaking sessions and speak on a subject chosen at random in front of a large audience which included the Jack Petchey representatives.

It was indeed very pleasing to see the pupils develop their confidence and skills so quickly and make such significant progress by the end of the day.

Our group winners, six in all, will now have the opportunity to 'Speak Out' yet again for the Lambeth Finals in May.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Abdullah Suleman	10A2
Catarina Pereira	10A2
Zara Ahmed	10A1
Roberto-Miguel Pimentel	10A4
Lauryn Gayle	10B1
Oghenero Ukuoku	10B1



Safeguarding at Platanos College

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

The dedicated Safeguarding contact email for pupils and parents/carers to raise any safeguarding concerns is safeguardingconcerns@platanoscollege.com.

There are also pupils in each tutor group who are fully trained as **Anti-Bullying Champions** and they meet regularly to discuss any issues that may arise.

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

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and SAM Learning

So you want to make sure your child succeeds? Here are **two ways**.

Firstly, use our VLE: Virtual Learning Environment.

What is the VLE?

Platanos College's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is the College's on-line learning space. Unlike a normal web site it is a direct link between teachers and pupils, where such things like homework can be posted. There is both a pupil portal and a parent portal. As a parent you will be able to view such things as attendance, timetable and homework.

Accessing our VLE for Parents:

1. Go to <https://www.klp.rm.com>.
2. Enter your username and password (both supplied by Platanos College).
3. The first time you log on you will be asked to accept the terms and conditions. Click "**Yes**" and it will take you to the parents' aspect of the Platanos College Homework page. Click on the name of the subject teacher of your child. This will open and show five (5) folders. Click on the year group your child is in and the latest homework will be the file at the top of the list. (Homework is located in the "Shared Space" tab.)
4. If you click on "Home" in the left hand column of the page it will take you to the information on your child. *(You will only be able to see information about your own child, you cannot access other pupil's information and they cannot see anything about yours.)*

Another way is to use SAM Learning.

What is SAM Learning Go?

It is an online educational service, providing year-round learning.

It has been independently proven to raise attainment. Its simple approach focuses on interactive revision and "test question" practice to consolidate learning and increase confidence.

It helps raise achievement by providing high value services that enables your child to take more individual responsibility and improve their results.

SAM Learning can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet.

Accessing SAM Learning:

(Please note it is the pupil's log in account that it used)

- Go to www.samlearning.com
- You will need to enter the Centre ID, User ID and Password
- The Centre ID is **SW9OSP** (O as in the letter **not** the number)
- The user ID is the pupil's date of birth followed by their initials. For example if John Doe was born 01/05/2001, the **User ID will be 010501JD**

The **password** is initially the **same** as **the User ID**. For example **User ID** 010501JD would be **password** 010501JD. Once the pupil logs on they can change their password.

Your son or daughter can now work, with you, through "online" tasks, specifically targeted at their level. You can monitor and check your child's progress, diagnose where they need extra help and work with them to achieve the highest grades of which they are capable.

You can now make a difference. Help your child to success. Log on and give it a try.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr N. James (Assistant Headteacher).

Key Dates

Friday 28th March 2014	Grammar School Pathway tests – English
Monday 31st March 2014	Grammar School Pathway tests – Mathematics
Tuesday 1st April 2014	Grammar School Pathway tests – Science
Wednesday 2nd April 2014	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 3rd April 2014	CHABOP Day (LAST DAY OF TERM)
Friday 4th April 2014	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 22nd April 2014	FIRST DAY OF NEW TERM FOR ALL PUPILS

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.

The latest news and previous issues of our newsletters can be found on our website at www.platanoscollege.com.