



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

E-Newsletter

Friday 4th December 2015

Issue 14

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas holiday. Since the start of September 2015, we have been very busy trying to elevate our School to new heights. The journey has been both challenging and enjoyable. It helps that our hard working staff are committed to our **unshakeable** belief that every single pupil can achieve, by hard work and determination. **ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE.**

Our Achievement Magazine will be published in January 2016.

A separate programme for the End of Term Arrangements, formal mock examinations, was sent to parent(s)/carer(s) of pupils in Years 10 and 11.

I enclose the End of Term Arrangements for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9.

FOCUS ON KEY STAGE 3

The skills that pupils have developed in primary school, together with those that they develop in Year 7 and Year 8 are in some ways the most important part of their education. It is on this foundation that their success at Key Stage 4 depends.

We are putting even more focus on Key Stage 3, that is, Years 7, 8 and 9. Most pupils are able to start their GCSE studies in Year 9. As always, we value a positive attitude to learning, readiness to take part in lessons, good manners and co-operation from pupils. The teacher will tell pupils where they may be seated in the classroom and will establish the routines. Good behaviour is rewarded and poor behaviour is sanctioned under our College Discipline and Behaviour Policy through **CHABOP**. Please support us in this by taking an interest in your child's progress, merits, demerits, homework and additional reading.

Pupils will study a unit of work for six weeks and will be tested on each unit. We are still using national curriculum levels for the time being as a convenient and familiar way of looking at each pupil's progress. We will continue to keep you fully informed through reports, meetings and pupils' planners.

FUTURE EXPANSION

As a result of our success, our family of schools has grown as you know. In addition to Platanos College, we now have a primary academy in Croydon, Winterbourne Boys' Academy. We are pleased to report extremely good examination performance by pupils in both of our schools in 2015. We intend to grow the Platanos brand in the coming years. Our unshakeable belief in the ability of our pupils to learn and make progress is still at the heart of our mission.

I am of course still legally responsible for Platanos College and I am answerable to the Governing Body in the same way that I have been for the past fifteen years. If I have to be off-site from time to time, we have a strong team of staff who ensure the smooth and safe running of all daily routines of the College. We are fortunate in having many very experienced staff, academic, pastoral, administrative and support staff, who have been loyal to the College for many years.

We greatly appreciate their professionalism and their reliability, and we know that you share this view.

Once again, thank you for your unfailing support for all that we try to do at Platanos College. I believe that God is with us, especially with our wonderful children. Always.

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE.

Very best wishes,

J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Headteacher
The Platanos Trust

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRIPS TO ENHANCE LEARNING FOR KEY STAGE 3 • SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 10 AND 11
MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NORMAL DAY FOR PUPILS IN KEY STAGE 3 • SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 10 AND 11
TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NORMAL DAY FOR PUPILS IN KEY STAGE 3 • SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 10 AND 11
WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NORMAL DAY FOR PUPILS IN KEY STAGE 3 • SEPARATE PROGRAMME FOR PUPILS IN YEARS 10 AND 11
THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2015	<p style="text-align: center;">NON-UNIFORM DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Extended tutor period</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.30 am – 12.30 pm Christmas Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.00 pm – 2.00 pm School Concert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2.00 pm EARLY CLOSURE</p>
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2015	<p style="text-align: center;">NON-UNIFORM DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHABOP DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12.00 pm EARLY CLOSURE</p>

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

We start the new term on Monday 4th January 2016 at 8.40 am for all pupils.

We start the new year 2016 with a specific focus on behaviour around the school.

AT CLASSROOM CHANGE-OVER ALL PUPILS WILL ENSURE THE FOLLOWING:

- **They speak to each other quietly during change of lessons.**
- **Arrive to lessons on time.**
- **Not eat or drink during change of lessons.**
- **Not loiter in the toilets, stairwells, stairs or corridors during change of lessons.**
- **Pupils will not run in the building.**
- **Pupils will move around the building quietly and safely.**
- **Pupils must always walk on the left.**

NEW SANCTIONS FOR POOR BEHAVIOUR DURING LESSON CHANGE-OVER

In changing the school day, our pupils move around the building at least four times per day. There are times when areas of the school become congested. Pupils must be patient when moving from one lesson to another.

Behaviour at change-over must be of a high standard. The overwhelming majority of our pupils have been exceptionally well behaved during change-over times and must be congratulated.

- They have been courteous during change-over.
- They have spoken quietly during change-over.
- They walk slowly around the building during change-over.
- They have been punctual to lessons.

A tiny minority of pupils are currently failing to live up to our high expectations. This tiny minority are mainly repeat offenders. We have imposed the following sanctions:

CLASSROOM CHANGE-OVER

EXPECTATION(S) PUPILS MUST:	FAILURE TO FOLLOW EXPECTATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS
Leave each lesson quietly.	10 Demerits Same Day Detention
Speak to each other quietly during change of lesson.	20 Demerits
Move around the building quietly and safely.	20 Demerits Same Day Detention
Arrive to lessons on time.	15 Demerits Same Day Detention
Pupils must not run in the building.	10 Demerits Same Day Detention
Always walk on the left.	10 Demerits
Not eat or drink during the change of lessons.	20 Demerits Food and drink will be confiscated
Not loiter in the toilets/stairwells, stairs or corridors during change of lessons.	10 Demerits Same Day Detention

We will impose greater sanctions for repeat offenders. I know that you will co-operate fully with the school because it is part and parcel of the high expectations set out in the Home-School Agreement. We are determined to make every single area of our school outstanding, including change-over periods.

Platanos College one of the best in the country for pupil progress at GCSE

Earlier this year, Platanos College received national recognition for the value it adds to pupils' achievement at GCSE by the independent organisation SSAT.

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified Platanos College's success.

The school qualified for an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award for progress made by pupils between their Key Stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16.

The results are a testament to the commitment and hard work of the pupils and staff at Platanos College and the school's high expectations for every individual.



The Mayor's London Schools Gold Club



We are delighted that Platanos College has remained as an invited member of The Mayor's London Schools Gold Club for excellent schools for the third consecutive year.

Since the Club's inception three years ago, Platanos College has been one of a very few number of schools who have qualified as a member in each and every year.

The Club recognises excellent schools that have succeeded in raising pupils' achievement and aspirations. The award is due to be presented to the school later this term at City Hall by the Mayor of London.

Good Schools Guide Award

Platanos College has also been nominated in the Good Schools Guide Award 2015.

The award is in recognition of the school's consistent performance and excellent teaching in comparison to schools across the country.

The award is based on calculations and surveys by the Good Schools Guide, the largest independent guide to UK schools.



Foundation Awards Ceremony 2015

The annual Foundation Awards ceremony this term was a wonderful celebration. The awards aim to recognise the outstanding success and talent of our pupils in the foundation subjects: Art, Drama, Technology, Physical Education and Music.

The annual event was well attended by pupils, staff, parents and carers and also provided a wonderful showcase of pupils' work during the evening. We have an unshakeable belief that every learner can achieve beyond their expectations. We were therefore very pleased to see the many awards being presented to our pupils.

The key note speech was delivered by our special guest speaker, David Pickering, a performing artist and Education Administrator of the Royal Opera House, with which the school has established educational and career links.

The awards underline our belief that **"Attitude Determines Altitude"**.

Many congratulations to the following pupils for their outstanding achievement.

"I am very happy for my son. He has improved a lot this year and the hard work is paying off."

- Year 8 parent

"It is very reassuring to see that my child has been recognised for awards again this year."

- Year 9 parent

"I am very impressed by her awards. I am very happy that she has made so much progress in her first year."

- Year 7 parent

TECHNOLOGY

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
Shane Hopkins	Konstantinos Pirios
Ngoc Nguyen	Bonny Kung
Darnel Gordon	Ron Krasniqi
Stephanie De Jesus	FiFi Olasupo
Kayden Wilson	Daniel Gatward
Sadia Haji	Margarida Da Silva
Laneil Thompson	Akene Uzoukwn
Ziyi Yao	Kesi Jackson
Gunaraj Gurung	Jaye Miller
Salma Adam	Stephanie Nobrega



Foundation Awards Ceremony 2015

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
Elvis Davidson	Denilson Caschili
Oluwadamilola Olanrele	Lianna Calvert
Ron Krasniqi	Jahiem Ford
Tatiana Teofilo	Sirla Abreu
Ramal Watson-Chinloy	Wilfred Santhe
Kelly Saraiva	Carolina Ferreira
Dominik Do	Roger Costa-Quiroga
Kelsia Pires-Costa	Natalie Paredes Alvis
Joao Cuoto	Kevin Ordonez
Jamila Karamoko	Sarah Bello

ART

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
David Edwards	Andave Ramdhun
Dunnia Mahmoud	Mya Adeboye
Rodrigo Jesus	Rafael Rodrigues
Thalita Dos Santos	Jasmine Scott
Ventsislav Palev	Asar Conten
Elle Peart-Charman	Mariana Ribeiro
Jose Cardos	Dusan Neskovic
Patsy Ruthven	Rachel Phang
Jerome Anoché	Jason Tran
Shaniela Lindsay	Christina Njoku

MUSIC

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
Abdul Meziane	Sirla Abreu
Michael Curtis	Raheem Elliot
Lara oliveira	Claudia Mendez
Daniel Payne	Larissa Diacos
Rita Krasniqi	Sirla Abreu
Dante Thompson	Claudia Mendes
John Roberto	Laura Oliviera
Salome Perreira	Abbie Messenger
Julie Joram	Jessica Djondo
Caroline Alves	Emina Salesvic
Helena Veiga	Jaelan Inglic
Robert Karapetien	Fifi Olasupo
Jadashai Thompson	
Shivaruby Premkathan	



DRAMA

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
Asar Conteh	Bryan Teles
Iqra Elmi	Daneshai Thompson
Claudia Mendes	Daniel Payne
Laura Oliviera	Rita Krasniqi
Abbie Messenger	Dante Thompson
Jessica Djondo	John Roberto
Emina Salesvic	Salome Perreira
Jaelan Inglic	Julie Joram
Fifi Olasupo	Caroline Alves
Jadashai Thompson	Helena Veiga
Shivaruby Premkathan	Larissa Diacos
	Sirla Abreu
	Robert Karapetien



DANCE

Outstanding Progress	Outstanding Attainment
Christiana Wifa	Sarah Bello
Mary Wifa	Kristina Sawyers
Rebecca Nkumu	Latesha Lodge
Stacey Abie	Cherryfath Diallo
Caroline Sontas	Laney Neilson
Taisa Soares-Ferreira	Samantha Candido
Tia Williams	Shaniya Ralph
Benedite Ngiena	Alexis Lindo
Sharae Nevers	Crystal Smith
Aaliyah Oduja	Shayla Stewart
Remi Ojo	



OVERALL AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Overall Achievement	
Ngoc Nguyen	Leo To
Sirla Abreu	Ron Krasniqi
Vicky Do Mai	Ventsislav Palev
Patsy Ruthven	Dominik Do
Jamila Karamoko	Gunaraj Gurung



Debate Mate national competition

Should adults be given full access to their children's social media accounts? Should the selling of organs be legalised? These were some of the challenging themes that Platanos pupils tackled during the Debate Mate Grand Final held at the House of Lords recently.

Members of our Debating Society competed in the Artemis Debate Mate National League last year and achieved some spectacular results. Our talented pupils debated against hundreds of other schools up and down the country and were ranked in the top 16 teams out of all schools in England!

Debating forms a valuable part of pupils' development at the college. It provides pupils with opportunities to develop in multiple areas including higher order thinking and research skills, communication and leadership, as well as self-confidence and team work.

Platanos pupils have traditionally had an excellent track record in debating competitions in recent years and our current team did not disappoint, following in their predecessors' success.

"I want to congratulate your pupils on doing so well. Competition was very tough and this success is a real credit to your school's support and a recognition of the pupils' dedication and talent."

***– Director of the
Debate Mate National
League***



"The Debating Society and the competition have been an amazing learning journey for us. We have been able to develop our public speaking skills as well as our ability to construct an argument, think critically and articulate our thoughts in an eloquent manner. Our transition from our first debating session to the league competition has been incredible." **Sajidha Rahman (Y10), President of the Platanos College Debating Society.**

Platanos celebrates International Day of Languages

Pupils and staff at Platanos College celebrated the International Day of Languages earlier this term. It was a delightful day with a host of special lessons, assemblies and food from around the world.

Did you know?

It has been estimated that a 21-year-old has already uttered some 50 million words.

There are between 6,000 and 7,000 languages in the world, spoken by about 7 billion people over 189 states. Many languages have 50,000 words or more. At least half of the world's population are bilingual or plurilingual (speak two or more languages). These are just a few of the fascinating facts about languages.



In celebrating the day, the programme began with an assembly with a variety of presentations from staff and pupils. This was followed by special language-themed lessons. Lunch was an

impressive occasion with a whole variety of food that represented countries from around the world.

The day was a great reflection of the diversity at Platanos College.

Did you know?

75% of the world's population do not speak English at all.



Our first Army Cadet Fusiliers

Congratulations are in order for two of our pupils, Connor Hopkins and Cameron French, who became the first Platanos College pupils to be promoted in our Army Cadet unit. Following months of intense training and examinations, both pupils were recently promoted to the rank of Fusilier.

Our Army Cadets form one of many important aspects of extra-curricular school life at Platanos College. Our cadets are now a well-established unit at the college and gives pupils



an invaluable opportunity to develop many personal skills and characteristics. The programme trains pupils in a variety of areas, developing team work, resilience and leadership, as well as instilling a sense of social responsibility.

The origin of the Fusilier dates back to the early 17th century with various important roles in maintaining order and discipline amongst their regiment.

"The challenges and assessments were very tough but we were always confident that we would overcome them. I am very happy and I am already thinking ahead to further achievements and medals." **Connor Hopkins, Fusilier.**

Junior NBA England Basketball Champions

We are extremely proud to report that earlier this year, Platanos College were crowned champions of the inaugural Junior NBA Basketball England League.

The trophy was presented by NBA legend Dikembe Mutombo, with the winners of the competition receiving exclusive invitations to an official dinner with NBA legends and VIP tickets to the NBA global games at the O2 arena!

It was a fantastic final game between Platanos and St. Bonaventure as the two teams battled it out with an NBA basketball legend courtside, who witnessed Platanos claim victory by 27-21. A very well done indeed to our winning team.



Photograph from Basketball England

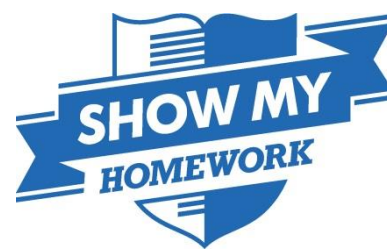
Team members: **Ahmed Kahssia; Brandon Thomas; Da Shane Monfies; Denilson Caschili; Janali Miller Reid; Lemar Beckford; Lemar Elson James; Rashawon Graham; Vasharn Mignott; Zied Talaboulma.**

One of our champions, **Brandon**, said: *"This is truly amazing. We have put so much hard work into this and winning the competition was our aim. Our skills and level of teamwork were at its best today."*

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

What is 'Show My Homework'?

Show My Homework is an online tool to record and monitor pupils' homework. The school has introduced this online system this term in order to continue to maximise pupils' learning.



This tool allows staff, pupils, parents and carers to see the homework that has been set for pupils on a regular basis.

Parents and carers will be able to access the online system on a computer, mobile phone app or tablet device and receive automated notifications before homework deadlines if they wish.

This allows parents/carers to gain an up-to-date insight of their children's homework so that they can better support the pupils.

Parents and carers can log in to the online system via the following link:

<https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk/>

Login details (linked to your child's homework calendar) were previously sent to all parents and carers. If parents/carers have any further questions regarding the new online tool, please contact the main office via email or telephone.

SAM LEARNING

What is SAM Learning?

SAM Learning 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 login 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 Smith was born 01/05/2001, the **User ID will be 010501JS**

The **password** is initially the **same** as the **User ID**. 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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICES

Water fountains

Please be reminded that pupils should only use the water fountains in school before the start of the school day, during lunch and after school.

Pupils must avoid using the water fountains during lesson change-over as this will have a health and safety impact on the movement of staff/pupils across the school during these busy periods. Equally, this can cause delays and impact on pupils' learning. For these reasons, we will begin to enforce this in the new year.

Severe weather conditions

The weather is likely to deteriorate as we approach winter. This is a reminder that, in severe weather conditions, we may close the school as a (very) last resort if it is deemed that 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 parents/carers before pupils arrive at the start of the school day.

If the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, we will inform all parents/carers of the situation by text message and via our website.

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 safeguarding@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.