



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Newsletter

December 2017

Attitude Determines Altitude

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We are pleased to report that we have had a very successful and productive autumn term. We maintained our focus of ensuring that pupils in Key Stage 3 are being prepared with the skills and knowledge for Key Stage 4. In turn, structures are now well established in Key Stage 4 to prepare our pupils for the demands of the new GCSEs this year.

Our staff and pupils remain committed to the belief that **Attitude Determines Altitude**.

We were also delighted to meet so many parents and carers in our recent parents' evenings and our Key Stage 3 Creativity Evening, which was a wonderful showcase of our pupils' talents. The level of engagement and support from parents and carers have been overwhelmingly positive. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to meeting many more parents and carers at our forthcoming Academic Review Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents and carers a restful and peaceful holiday.

A separate programme for the end of term arrangements was sent to parents and carers. Our last day of term is **Friday 15th December 2017**.

All pupils return for the new term on **Thursday 4th January 2018 at 8.40 am**. We expect all pupils to return on time in full school uniform and ready to learn.

ACADEMIC LEADERS

Platanos College has launched a very prestigious pupil academic leadership role within the school. The selection process was extremely rigorous with pupils being selected on the grounds of having proven that they:

- are excellent school ambassadors;
- have maintained excellent attendance and punctuality since being at the school;
- have shown consistent exemplary behaviour;
- have performed well compared to their target grades in class assessments and formal examinations.

Pupils selected to be Academic Leaders have been notified and will be celebrated at our Whole School Assembly on **Monday 8th January 2018**. Some of the roles expected of Academic Leaders are as follows:

- to maintain excellent behaviour, punctuality and attendance to school;
- promote reading within the school;
- work with the Heads of Departments of the core subjects to support the academic journey of the school;
- represent the school at whole school events;
- plan and present assemblies.

Academic Leaders will have the opportunity to attend a professional lecture series, where external speakers from the working world and academic institutions will deliver topics to enrich our leaders.



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NORMAL SCHOOL DAY
TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACADEMIC REVIEW DAY (KEY STAGE 3) (Full school uniform must be worn) YEAR 7: ATTEND 8.30 am – 10.30 am YEAR 8: ATTEND 11.00 am – 12.30 pm YEAR 9: ATTEND 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm YEAR 10 – COLLEGE TASTER DAY (ALL DAY) YEAR 11 – INTERVENTIONS (ALL DAY)
WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YEAR 7 – INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS (OFF-SITE) YEAR 8 – INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS WORKSHOP YEAR 9 – HEALTH AND WELLBEING DAY YEAR 10 – LEARNING PLATFORM SEMINAR YEAR 11 – INTERVENTIONS <p>FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN FOR ALL PUPILS</p>
THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NORMAL SCHOOL DAY (full school uniform) CHRISTMAS LUNCH (11.30 am – 1.00 pm) SCHOOL CONCERT (1 pm – 2 pm) SCHOOL ENDS at 2.00 pm
FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHABOP DAY (Non-Uniform Day - £1 contribution towards a charity organisation) SCHOOL ENDS at 12.00 pm
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2018	<p>FIRST DAY OF NEW TERM FOR ALL PUPILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full school uniform School begins at 8.40 am WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN THE MORNING

RECENT NEWS

The Mayor of London recognises Platanos College for exceptional achievement

We are delighted that Platanos College has been recognised by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, for exceptional educational achievement in the new **Schools For Success programme**. The school has been celebrated under this new programme to recognise top performing schools in the capital.

The new programme creates a network for schools to share best practice with other schools in order to continue to raise standards. The programme represents approximately the top 6% of the capital's schools.

In a wonderful awards ceremony hosted by the Mayor of London at City Hall, Platanos College was recognised earlier this term for the achievement of its pupils at GCSE. The Mayor of London said: *"Congratulations to Platanos College for its outstanding achievements and for the hard work of its pupils and teaching staff. London has some of the best schools in the country, and Schools For Success shows the huge difference good quality teaching can make to pupils."*



Doctors in training

Medical students from King's College London came to speak to our Year 8 and Year 11 pupils in an exciting, interactive workshop about the process of applying and training to become a doctor.

Pupils learnt about the demands of studying medicine and were able to get hands-on experience on many different activities including suturing wounds, taking blood samples and monitoring blood pressure. The informative workshop gave our pupils an incredible insight into life as a medic.

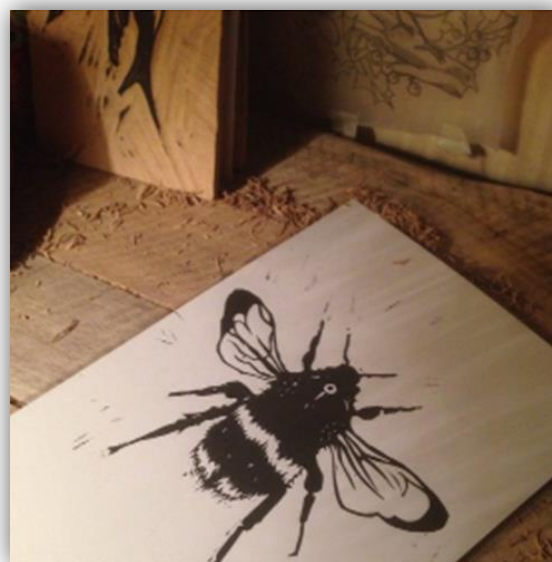


Artist in residence

This year, we are delighted to have an *Artist in Residence* at Platanos College. One of the members of our Art Department, Mr Gent, is an accomplished artist and has had his work displayed in exhibitions both nationally and internationally. We have incredibly creative pupils here at Platanos College and having the influence of a successful artist will foster the creativity in our pupils.

As a practicing artist, Mr Gent produces limited edition hand carved and printed gig posters and record sleeves for international touring bands, in addition to regularly contributing illustrations to various magazines, exhibiting widely throughout London, the UK and abroad.

Mr Gent has previously exhibited his work at the O2 Arena, Alexandra Palace and the 100 Club, Oxford Street, as well as galleries throughout the country. Mr Gent's work can be found in the permanent collections of Arizona State University, Bradley College Illinois, Asagaya College of Art and Design, Norwich School of Art and numerous private collections throughout the world. Recently, Mr Gent has been invited to be a guest artist at a life drawing evening at the Royal Palaces, Tower of London.



The school has introduced additional enrichment projects for pupils with the help of Mr Gent.

Youth Travel Ambassadors

The week of 20th November was Road Safety week and the Youth Travel Ambassador (YTA) programme was held at Platanos College. The group started last year with a team of year 7s, now in its second year of existence the team comprises Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Their aim is to educate, enlighten and create awareness of road travel safety as well as being responsible citizens of travel.

The YTAs hosted assemblies for Year 7 and 8 during Road Safety week and launched the Transport for London (TfL) poster competition.

During the assembly the winner of last year's Oyster Wallet Competition was announced. The winner of the competition was **Abrar Zahran in 8A** who won a £10 voucher from a store of his choice and all Year 8 pupils received an oyster wallet with Abrar's design.



England Rugby coaching for Platanos College pupils

On the 22nd November, Mr. Klassen took 14 pupils from Year 9 for a rugby taster session at the Black Prince Trust. This was an opportunity for our pupils to receive coaching from the England Rugby Football Union development coaches.

Despite having only previously played rugby in Year 7, our boys did us proud and were true ambassadors of Platanos College. Their behaviour and dedication was impeccable. They displayed exceptional playing confidence and progress over the training session. As a result, our pupils have been invited back for



further extensive training with the team. We now look forward to expanding rugby at Platanos College in the near future.

What Career Live Event

Earlier in October, a selection of Year 11 pupils attended a 'What Career Live?' event at London Olympia. This event gave pupils the opportunity to consider their postschool options such as apprenticeships, internships, full-time/part-time work, gap year opportunities and undergraduate courses all under one roof. It was a unique chance to meet with some of the UK's top employers and put questions to universities.

Pupils used the Careers Theatre section of the exhibition to find out what it's like to work for some of the UK's top companies. They discovered what companies are looking for in a candidate and explored a variety of industries ranging from tourism and events to business and finance. Pupils thinking about a career in engineering were able to take part in a STEM Challenge. They were invited to put their practical skills to the test so they could get an insight into a career in STEM. There was also a Student Advice Theatre available to pupils for independent advice on choosing careers, exploring apprenticeships and how to improve employability.

It was an incredibly informative event and many pupils came away with a clearer idea of what they would like to do in the future and what they need to do to achieve that.

"I really enjoyed the event. There were such a wide variety of universities and employers there; it was really useful to speak to them and get a better idea of what certain courses and careers are like."

Year 11 Pupil



Tycoons in School programme

Tycoons in School is a free national enterprise competition spearheaded by Peter Jones CBE, entrepreneur and star of Dragons' Den, which gives young people the chance to run their own business. This is the second year that Platanos College has been successful in the participation of the Tycoons in School Programme.

We would like to congratulate our Business and Enterprise team who entered the competition and successfully achieved a start-up grant of £750.00 for their business 'Bow Hunters'.

The Bow Hunters went 'live' on Friday 10th November. The business sold hair bows, key rings and badges, all adorned with the school logo. Staff and pupils alike were busy purchasing items and ordered special featured pieces. The atmosphere was lively as Bow Hunters traded through the hustle and bustle. Well done to the Bow Hunters for their successful launch this term!



SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The weather is likely to deteriorate as we reach 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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We believe it is important to provide pupils with the option to have an adequate breakfast before their first lesson.

Attending a breakfast club can have a positive impact on pupils' ability to concentrate in lessons. Pupils at the club are provided with books and newspapers to read whilst eating their breakfast. It is also an opportunity for pupils to interact with others from different classes, have topical discussions and develop new friendships. In addition, it can also help improve pupils' punctuality to school.

The breakfast club returns on **Monday 8th January 2018** from **7.30 am** to **8.30 am**. There will be a small charge of 50p which allows a pupil to buy two items from the breakfast menu.

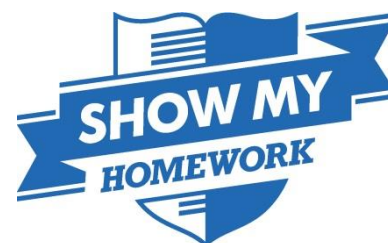
The menu is as follows:

Hot chocolate	Scrambled Eggs	Toast
Croissants	Beans	Sausages
Cereal	Fruits	Bacon

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 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 notifications before homework deadlines if they wish.

This allows parents/carers to gain an up-to-date insight into 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>

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.



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