



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter

March 2018

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates

| Key Dates | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Trips to Enhance learning | 23rd March 2018 |
| Battlefields trip to Belgium | 23rd March 2018 |
| Academic Review Day | 28th March 2018 |
| Staff Training Day | 29th March 2018 |
| Holiday Break | Friday 30th March 2018 - Friday 13th April 2018 |

Welcome

Platanos College is delighted to share the second addition of our newsletter. We are now over half way through the academic year and much has been happening since our last newsletter. The second term has undoubtedly been very busy, packed full of fixtures, events and trips. Some of the highlights have included: our annual Christmas concert, foundation awards evening and our new exciting specialist academic lecture series, to name a few.

We continue to have an unshakeable belief and thank all the parents and carers who continually support the school in our efforts to create well mannered, well-educated and well-rounded citizens.

Tycoon in Schools

Congratulations to our Business and Enterprise team who have successfully received funding from the 'Tycoon in Schools' initiative.

'Tycoon in Schools' gives pupils an opportunity to experience running a real life business whilst at school. Peter Jones CBE of Dragons' Den started

the initiative in 2012 to encourage entrepreneurship in schools.

The Business and Enterprise team successfully set up their own business 'Bow Hunters' which sold a range of products which included key rings, hair bows and badges - all decorated with the school logo and house colours.



Charity Committee and the Uniform Service Groups

A special thank you to our members of the Charity Committee and all the pupils, parents and staff who contributed to the collection for Children in

Need and the Shelter Appeal. The Charity Committee also worked in collaboration with the Uniform Service Groups in the recent Poppy Appeal. Throughout the week our pupils in the Charity Committee, Girl Guides, Scouts and St. John Ambulance Cadets were diligently out fundraising during lunchtimes and after school in local shops.

For this year's Poppy Appeal, we raised an incredible £467 from sales of wristbands, slapbands and poppies. All are congratulated.



Trips to Enhance Learning

At Platanos College, we continue to enhance the learning of our pupils through a range of school trips and educational visits. These trips and visits to places of interest, museums, galleries and historical sites enrich and broaden our pupils' knowledge of the curriculum and equally are absolutely essential in enhancing the social, personal and emotional development of our pupils.

The end of the Autumn term saw our Year 7 pupils going on trips to the Royal Airforce Museum, The Royal Observatory Greenwich, and the Science Museum. The Year 8 pupils went to the Imperial

War Museum. These trips provided our pupils the opportunities to actively explore and consolidate their understanding of a range of curriculum subjects in relation to real historic artefacts and offered robust links to different curricula areas.

The Year 9 pupils went to the Design Museum. This trip supported the curriculum for Design and Technology and Art & Design, as well as incorporating STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Additionally, pupils went on a trip to *KidZania* as an introduction to careers. *KidZania* is designed for children to discover their potential and build life skills, with more than 60 fun filled real life role-play activities to participate in.

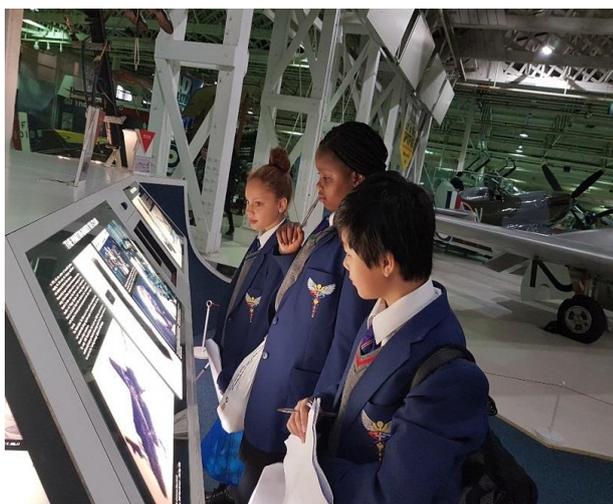


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The Mayor of London's launch of #BehindEveryGreatCity with Platanos College pupils

On the 19th December 2017, Platanos College pupils took part in a major campaign with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Fawcett Society to mark the centenary of the first women in the UK securing the right to vote and to drive forward the progress of gender equality across London.

The new #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign was announced at Platanos College as the Mayor of London and Platanos College pupils took part in a gender equality workshop about the work of Millicent Fawcett and the suffragist movement.

During the visit, the Mayor heard from our pupils about their hopes for gender equality and the current challenges that still exist.

Trip to Matilda the Musical

Based on the cherished children's novel by Roald Dahl, *Matilda the Musical* is one of the West End's most popular and critically acclaimed shows. A group of Year 8 pupils had the pleasure of seeing this superb production currently playing at The Cambridge Theatre on 29th November 2017.

Pupils really enjoyed the experience and all agreed that they had a fantastic time. Year 8 Azariah describes her experiences as "*It was entertaining, amusing and inspiring.*" As usual, the behaviour of our pupils was exemplary – with members of the audience commenting on the pupil's good manners and conduct.



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KS3 Creativity Showcase Evening

On Wednesday 6th December 2017, Platanos College opened its doors to the local community and parents/carer hosting an exhibition and showcase of the creative work undertaken by our pupils.

All subjects across the curriculum used the event to showcase pieces of work (as part of a creativity marketplace) which was produced as part of *History Month's Migration Creative Independent Learning Projects (CILPs)*,

Central to the evening were the live performances from our pupils which included: musicians, singers, dancers and pupils performing short dramatic pieces.

There was a lovely atmosphere on the evening and our visitor's feedback was that they enjoyed browsing the creativity marketplace stalls and the performances.

A big thank you to all the staff and pupils who worked extremely hard on the evening, and to everyone who attended.



Christmas Concert

Our Music and Drama Department rounded off the festive season with a music concert which had pupils from Year 7, 8 and 9 performing to a packed hall. There was some real talent on show. Well done to all who contributed or performed.



Pupil of the Month



Pupils of the Month awards are given to those pupils who have made a special effort in their core subjects.

Below are the students who were celebrated for their effort, progress and attainment in the core subjects for October and December 2017. All of these pupils were awarded certificates in the whole school assembly.

Congratulations and very well done to:

| October Pupils of the Month | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | English | Maths | Science |
| Year 7 | Thayssa Gordo | Khiara Jarrin Herrera | Jessica Ferreira |
| | Jeremiah Olanrewaju | Dennis Lopez Garcia | Rayyan Aberra |

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| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 8 | Yasmin Tanout | Annie Le | Zainab Animashaun |
| | Mahkie James | Ezekiel Asamoah | Kenny Thai Hoang |
| Year 9 | Joana Brito | Tania Monteiro | Latesha Lodge |
| | Daniel Allistair Dearne | Joel Eshon | Tommy Dao |
| December Pupils of the Month | | | |
| | English | Maths | Science |
| Year 7 | Sihan Ahmed | Amira Benseba | Khiara Jarrin Herrera |
| | Nathan Beaumont | Chukwuebuka Olisaedu | Dennis Lopez Garcia |
| Year 8 | Yasmin Tanout | Ana Clamor | Umaymah Yassin |
| | Kenny Thai Hoang | Kenny Thai Hoang | Riley Goldberg |
| Year 9 | Jessica Djondo | Tania Monteiro | Carolina Santos |
| | Rayane Ouaguennouni | Joel Eshon | Rayane Ouaguennouni |

Fuellers' Academic Lecture Series

On Monday 22nd January 2018, an exciting new specialist academic lecture series began here at Platanos College. Specialist guest speakers have been giving our pupils a comprehensive insight and perspective into the world of work.

Each lecture will explore a specific career field and a different group of Most Able students will attend each week.

The first lecture was on the energy industry. On Wednesday 7th February 2018, the academic lecture series continued with a talk on careers in law and on the 22nd February, pupils had a lecture on engineering. Additional topics that will be addressed in this lecture series will include accountancy and entrepreneurship.



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Lambeth Youth Mayor and Lambeth Youth Cabinet Elections

LAMBETH

YOUTH COUNCIL

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Lambeth Youth Council **YOUNG LAMBETH COUNCIL**

Remember to vote in the Lambeth Youth Elections



Platanos College actively got involved in the election for the Lambeth Youth Mayor and for the Lambeth Youth Cabinet. Our pupils (in Year 8 and 9) welcomed the opportunity to vote in much the same way as they would in local Councils and national Government elections.

Lambeth Youth Council is a group of elected young people to who fulfil the roles of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Members of the UK Youth Parliament and Youth Councillors.

The election was conducted on Monday 22nd January 2018.

Foundation Awards

Platanos College held its annual Foundation Awards evening on 31st January 2018. This was once again a great success.

The Foundation Awards celebrate pupils' achievements in Art and Design, Drama, Music, Dance, PE and Design and Technology.

The evening began in the 'Marketplace' where visitors could explore the Creative Independent Learning Projects completed by pupils from each subject. There was an impressive display and visitors were asked to vote for the subject area they felt was most creative.

The event was hosted by Year 9 pupils Emina Salesevic and Mikhi Fearon who both did an outstanding job.

The audience enjoyed some great entertainment from our talented pupils. The Year 9s performed an array of comedy sketches, mime and ballet. The Year 9 Drama performers were Abdoulaye Coulibaly, Shakan Roberts-Ennis, Necat Gullu, Grace Domingos and Joana Brito.

There were musical performances from Robert Karapetian on the violin, Kemi Kehinde on the guitar and a dance performance from our Year 7 girls. Congratulations, to all performers who demonstrated their amazing talent. We are immensely proud of them and our award winners.

A special thank you to Ms Valmarana for all of her hard work in making the evening such a memorable event.



Barcelona Trip

During February and March, a group of 30 girls and 30 boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 travelled to Barcelona for four days. The trip offered our pupils the ideal opportunity to practise the Spanish they

have learned so far and to experience Barcelona and its vibrant culture and architecture.

During their stay they visited the Camp Nou stadium, the Poble Espanyol (an open-air architectural museum) and the Picasso museum; as well as many other important and historical sites. It was a very exciting experience for our pupils who not only enjoyed the language and culture, but also developed a sense of independence and responsibility. Pupils were also happy to bond with their friends at the accommodation and during their free time.



Behaviour

Platanos College would like to congratulate the majority of our pupils for continuing to have an excellent attitude towards their learning and continually demonstrating outstanding behaviour. These pupils are a real credit to both our school and their parents/carers. However, there is a minority of pupils who are challenging our behaviour policy and undermining our systems and procedures.

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As a result the Executive Headteacher wrote to parents/carers clearly outlining our expectations and explained that the school will not tolerate any poor behaviour in line with our high expectations. Equally, the school will not hesitate to impose severe sanctions on those pupils who exhibit poor behaviour.

Please continue to help us promote high standards and high expectations for behaviour and attainment by encouraging your child to follow the school's Code of Conduct, which is part of the Home School Agreement.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Platanos College we continue to feel strongly about the importance of maintaining excellent attendance and punctuality to ensure outstanding learning.

Platanos College's expectation for its pupils is 96% attendance or above. Pupils with under 90% attendance fall into the *Persistent Absence* category and could well be subjected to: fixed penalty notices, Education Supervision Order or prosecution.

Parents/carers are reminded that **all** absences must be reported to the main office by **9am each day**. Absences of over 5 days must be supported by medical evidence.

Parents/carers are reminded to follow up any absences with a note in their child's planner to the form tutor on their return to school or a written explanation or email to the main office.

If possible, planned absences/appointments such as medical appointments must be accommodated outside school hours. Medical appointment cards or a copy of the hospital letter will also be required, (before or after the appointment) otherwise the absences will be registered as unauthorised by the school.

Term time holidays will not be authorised by Platanos College and the academy wishes to discourage holidays during term times, which has a detrimental effect on academic progress. Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year can mean one GCSE grade drop (DfE).

Lastly, it is also vital that pupils arrive at school on time and that they are not late to lessons to enable maximum learning time. **Registration is at 8.40am**

If a pupil arrives late to school, they must serve a 30 minutes detention after school. Three (3) or more lateness within the same week will result in higher sanctions.

Persistent lateness can also result in a fixed penalty fine being issued to parents/carers by the Local Authority.

Important Facts about Attendance (over an academic year)

- 100% = no days absence from school
- 95% = 10 days absence from school
- 90% = 20 days absence from school
- 85% = 30 days absence from school
- 80% = 40 days absence from school

Uniform

At Platanos College all pupils must wear the correct school uniform to, from and at school with a sense of pride.

We believe that our uniform is essential to the ethos of our school community. It establishes a clear sense of identity, fosters a sense of inclusiveness and brings about both positive behaviour and self-discipline, which in turn supports good teaching and learning. Equally, it prepares our pupils for the world of work.

Parents/carers are reminded that our pupils are required to wear School Uniform as outlined below:

| BOYS | GIRLS |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dark grey or black trousers | Dark grey or black skirt/trousers |
| White shirt | White blouse |
| Black shoes | Black shoes |
| Grey/black socks | Grey socks or black tights |
| School tie | School tie |
| School jumper | School jumper |
| Blue School blazer | Blue School blazer |

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In addition, streaked, dyed and coloured hair are not permitted, nor are exaggerated hair styles, e.g. lines, Mohican, Afros spiked hair, hair reaching below the collar etc.

No shaved or patterned eye brows are allowed.

No trainers, ankle boots, bandanas, caps and hats are allowed.

Boys are not permitted to wear earrings and girls are only allowed to wear a small discreet stud, which must be worn in the lower lobe.

A watch may be worn but no other jewellery (e.g. rings, body/face piercings and adornment of any form) are allowed.

Girls' skirts must be knee length. Make-up, nail varnish and false nails are also not allowed.

Jeans, jeggings, chinos, stretch pants or skin-tight-fitting clothing are not allowed.

Coats and scarfs must be plain dark or black. Coats with large logos or slogans are not allowed. Denim/leather coats and hooded tops are also not allowed.

Any pupils in breach of these rules risk being sent home until the issue is resolved or may be sent to the isolation room.

We thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

Communication

It is vital that you keep us informed if there are any changes to your contact details. This includes information such as landline/mobile numbers, emails and home addresses.

If you wish to supply your contact details again, or amend your details, please email the school at info@platanoscollege.com. Thank you.

Safeguarding at Platanos College

At Platanos College, we are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of our pupils.

We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. We have a rigorous system in place to promote the welfare of our pupils.

Our **Designated Senior Person for Child Protection** is **Ms T. Williams**.

The dedicated Safeguarding email for pupils, parents and carers to raise any concerns is:

safeguarding@platanoscollege.com.

Term Dates

TERM 4

Monday 19 February 2018 - Thursday 29 March 2018

Holiday Break

Friday 30 March 2018 - Friday 13 April 2018

TERM 5

Monday 16 April 2018 - Friday 25 May 2018

Key Stage 3 Pastoral Managers

Mr. Edwards, Mr. Boyles and Ms. Kellman

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