

STOCKWELL PARK HIGH SCHOOL NAME-CHANGE



THE STORY OF THE JOURNEY SO FAR AND WHERE NEXT?

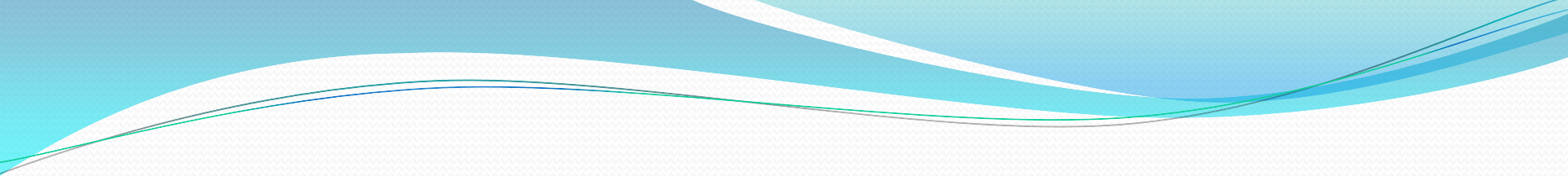
Good morning, everyone, I would like you to listen carefully today, as what I am going to share with you is very important news about our school.


First, however, I would like to share a few thoughts with you which may help to put into context our journey and achievements as a school.



Upon reflection:


- We have good reason to be proud of our school.
- Over the last 12 years there has been huge progress and improvements for all the pupils and staff at Stockwell Park High School.
- Pupils are working harder than ever and exam results have risen so that we are one of the top schools in Lambeth, and even in the whole of England.

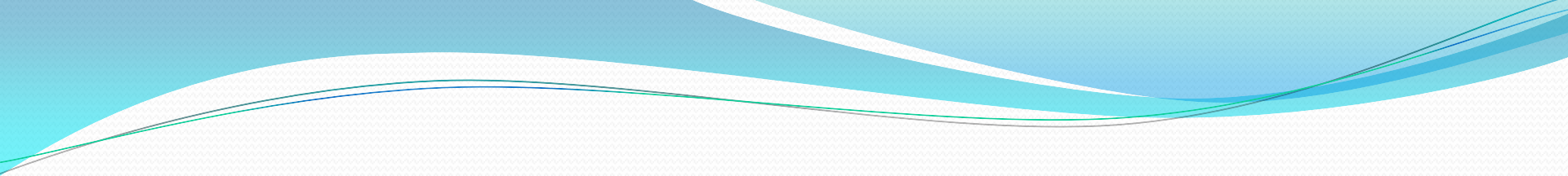
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- Being a Business and Enterprise college has had a very positive and far-reaching impact on all aspects of school life, especially for pupils' development as leaders.
 - As you know the presidents and vice-presidents of tutor groups play a major role in school; so do the prefects, head boys, head girls, deputy head boys, deputy head girls, pupil ambassadors, guides, cadets, all the sports teams, and, of course, the pupils who go into primary schools to train Year 5 and 6 pupils. Every pupil who has represented our school or who has taken part in an outside event is a leader. We are proud of our pupil leaders. Every one of you should take the opportunities that school provides to be a leader of the future.
 - Our teachers are experts in their subjects. They work very hard to make sure that pupils love learning and are successful.

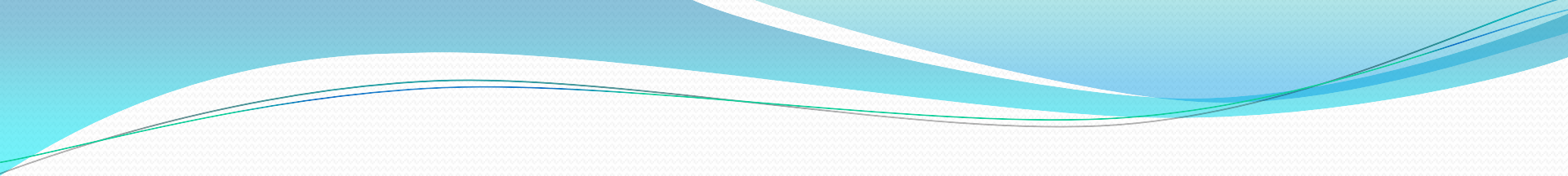
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- Our behaviour policy and CHABOP have helped to improve all aspects of pupils' behaviour.
 - Seeing the academic success of older students has given pupils direct encouragement, models and aspirations.
 - Everyone who graduates from this school goes on to further and higher study at college and university.
 - We are an academy now. This means that we can grow, we can share the things that we do well with other schools. We can help other pupils to have ambitions and to succeed.
 - The new building has been up and running for two years; still in good condition and respected by pupils, staff, parents and visitors.
 - We have a wonderful new website which every day is read by hundreds of people, many of them from countries round the world. Our school has a world-wide reputation for excellence and many global links.
 - Now, some months ago, governors took the decision to mark this stage of the school's development by changing the name of the school.

There are good reasons for changing the name of the school at this time. Reasons such as:

- *It is time for rebranding to meet the new needs of the school now that it is an academy.*
- *It is time to go beyond old ideas – perhaps rather negative ones- of the school that still exist from past times.*
- *It is an opportunity to select a name which conveys a good strong message about the academy -reflecting its spirit, its aims, its ethos, its ambitions.*
- *The name-change will allow us to communicate the academy's values for parents, new pupils, existing pupils, staff, governors and everyone who is interested in our school.*

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- Earlier this year we held meetings and sent out surveys to consult pupils, staff and parents about a new name.
 - When we listened to everyone's opinions, there was a strong preference for a name which could combine the school's character, aspirations and ethos with some link to our existing geographical site.
 - We thought about the site on which the school has stood for half a century.
 - We thought about the ground, the earth; the physical, historical and ecological features of our location.
 - In 2007, before the new school had started construction, the school had received a tree survey carried out by landscape specialists. There are fourteen species of tree on the site, the largest group being plane trees.
 - This set us thinking about plane trees in particular and trees in general. We remembered that the plane trees in the centre of the campus used to reach right up to the seventh floor of the old tower block, so that the highest classrooms used to look straight into the heart of their topmost branches.
 - We wanted to keep the continuity of this environment within the new name.

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- The ideas associated with trees, growth, earth, roots, change, development and transformation would seem to be appropriate for a school.
 - If the school provides sound educational roots, like a tree, the pupils will flourish, just as leaves, blossom and fruits grow on healthy trees.
 - Many cultures and religions recognise the concept of the tree of life as a symbol of the link between earth and heaven and humankind's development and aspirations.
 - Plane trees are often planted in cities because of their purifying qualities in polluted environments. They are reputed to be very long-lived and grow to great heights.

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- We decided to name our school after the Plane tree.
 - These ideas led us to the name **Platanos**, a Greek word for ‘a grove of plane trees’, which expresses simply and clearly the place where our school is located. References to trees are universal throughout world cultures and religions, are always positive and very often symbolic of wisdom, stability, continuity and spirituality. In fact trees are the biggest living organism on the planet.

So, we are going to be called **Platanos College**.

- **Platanos College**, pronounced with the three syllables having equal emphasis (**Pla – tan – os**).
- It has a straightforward, dignified sound and an easily memorised spelling. To the best of our knowledge there is no other school in the UK with this name.
- Governors have decided, therefore, that the new name to replace 'Stockwell Park High School Academy' should be **Platanos College**, to be adopted with effect from September 2012.
- There will be no changes to the existing school uniform. The school badge will remain the same, the school colours, the school logo and all items of clothing and kit remain unchanged.
- We very much hope that you as pupils of the school will wholeheartedly support **PLATANOS COLLEGE**.

So, come on everyone, let's
practise our new name.

READY...

After three....one, two, three,
PLATANOS COLLEGE!