



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter

Half Term 1, October 2017

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates for Half Term 2

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 23rd October 2017 - Friday 3rd November 2017 | Holiday |
| Monday 6th November 2017 - Friday 15th December 2017 | Term 2 |
| Monday 16th October 2017 – Thursday 19th October 2017 | Year 7 Formal Examinations |
| Monday 20th November - Friday 24th November 2017 | Year 9 Formal Examinations |
| Monday 27th November - Friday 1st December 2017 | Year 8 Formal Examinations |
| Tuesday 12th December 2017 | Key Stage 3 Academic Review Day |

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this academic year.

Firstly, we would like to offer our many congratulations to our outgoing year 11 pupils, who with the support of staff and parents have achieved great results in their GCSE examinations this summer. It was wonderful to see so many of our young people working so hard to reach their academic goals and equally gratifying to see them all leave Platanos College and go on to destinations which will allow them to contribute to the wider world. We are immensely proud of them and wish them all the best for the future.

We would also like to welcome our new Year 7s to Platanos College. We have been very impressed with how quickly they have settled in with lessons and the enthusiasm they have shown towards their classwork and homework.

Pupil Voice & Leadership

An integral part of a pupils' experience at Platanos College is formed by the extensive opportunities we provide our pupils to take up roles of responsibility and leadership. This is so that they may take a proactive role within the school's decision-making processes. Encouraging pupils to participate in pupil leadership opportunities also allow them to develop new skills. The Pupil Leadership scheme is something we are very proud of at Platanos College and was at the forefront of what has been a very busy start to the new academic year

In Key Stage 3, elections were held for Class Presidents, Year Group Presidents, House Captains, Business and Enterprise Committee members and Charity committee members through a formal application process. Pupils also applied for the Year 8 Ambassadors and Year 9 Junior Leaders roles.

Year 9 Class Presidents / Student Council



Year 9 President - Robert Karapetian and Mohamed Idris.

| Class Presidents | Vice Class President |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Teniola Okunrinkoya | Jaelan Inglis |
| Dahir Nur | Sakeria Diblawe |
| Mohamed Idris | Shane Hopkins |
| Sofien Talaboulma | Shakan Roberts-Ennis |
| Kieron Mignott | Jessica Djondo |
| Necat Gullu | Tania Monterio |
| Mikhi Fearon | |

Presidents and Vice Presidents are elected by their tutor group to represent the pupils who elected them.

Their main responsibilities include:

- Collecting the views of their year group and passing them on to other committees and the school council (which is made up of the Year Group Presidents and Vice Presidents for Year 7, 8 and 9)
- Taking an active part in meetings, including Year Group Council meetings consisting of all the other Presidents in their Year Group, and feeding back to their class, especially any decisions that were made or questions that need to be asked.
- Organising CHABOP day via their Year Group Council meetings

Year 9 Junior Leaders



| Year 9 Junior Leaders | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Teniola Okunrinkoya | Mohamed Nur |
| Renad Yassin | Dunnia Mahmoud |
| Anisa Abdi | Abdulqadir Ali |
| Paris McLeggan-Milner | Sabarin Haji |
| Brayn Yildirici | Mikhi Fearon |
| Rabiah Malik-Ahmed | Tania Monteiro |
| Adna Haggi | |

Year 8 Ambassadors



| Year 8 Ambassadors | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Ashia Wright | Aryan Miah |
| Hibah Mumin | Inaya Jahan |
| Huda Hassan | Umaymah Yassin |
| Asha Ali | Humaira Istia |
| Tasneem Adam | Amran Omar |
| Abdullahi Ahmed | Deivid Alemida |
| Andrew Clarke | Nazifa Abdullah |
| Mahkie James | Jahmare Baugh |
| Chanel Davis-Purcell | Medina Sedequi |

Year 9 Junior Leaders and Year 8 Ambassadors play a vital role in contributing to the wider aspects of Key Stage 3 and make a valuable contribution to the wider school community at Platanos College. Our leaders assist and support Key Stage 4 Trainee Leaders/Prefects, staff and pupils alike. Both Year 9 Junior leaders and Year 8

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Ambassadors are appointed through a formal application process. They play a key role in representing the school at key events and functions and help maintain the smooth running of the school by completing weekly duties in the Key stage 3 building and playground

Year 8 Class Presidents / Student Council



Year 8 President -Tasneem Adam

| Class Presidents | Vice Class Presidents |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shani Evans-Smith | Nadira Mohamud |
| Shamarnae Reid-Dolphy | |
| Tasneem Adam | |
| Tiarnae Fearon-Spencer | |
| Ezekiel Asamoah | |
| Melanie Bazan | |
| Lama Fofana | |
| Tamayah Barnett | |

Year 7 Class Presidents / Student Council



| Class Presidents | Vice Class Presidents |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| D'Andre Arthur | Leatiyah Adeyemi |
| Victor Valdivieso-Ayala | Vivian Okonwo |
| Meriem Ati | Ramey Mitchell |
| Chuckwunwike Okoli | Ramadan Mani |
| Nada Said | |
| Emily Teixeira | |
| Rahmarno Sawyers | |

Charity Committee



The Charity Committee main responsibilities include:

- Encouraging pupils to think of others through a collaborative approach to fundraising.
- To raise as much money as possible for worthwhile causes by organising fundraising events and increase awareness of charitable organisations through assemblies.

Business & Enterprise Committee



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The main purpose of the Business & Enterprise Committee is to ensure that the school's ethos is incorporated into every aspect of school life by creating a variety of projects across the curriculum.

They are responsible for raising the profile of Business & Enterprise in assemblies, promoting links between local businesses and the school.

House Captains



The roles of House and Vice House Captain are ones of privilege, pride and responsibility. Their main purpose is to motivate pupils in participating in and fully supporting the House System at Platanos College. In addition they oversee the organisation of teams for competitions. They are expected to participate in House assemblies and to act as a role model to other pupils.

| Nile | Amazon | Tagus | Indus |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Aryanna Jahanbani | Emily Teixeira De Aveiro | Alaa Yassin | Shavone Edwards |
| Rhyion Edwards-O'Callaghan | Olivia Coka | Shantara Williams | Amin Osman |
| Tania Ali | Emma Bui | Paige Odonoghue | Kaelan Bowes |
| Zeyneb Kelifa | Umaymah Yassin | Leighanne Simpson | Dylan Holicka |
| Asiyo Mohamud | Robert Karapetian | Daniel Dearne | Abrar Zahran |
| | Amina Hoque | Suweyda Ahmed | Jadashai Thomas |

Pupil of the Month



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

Being awarded Pupil of the Month is an honour and a privilege, and recognises the outstanding achievement, hard work, determination and behaviour of our pupils who are leading the way in our school community.

Congratulations and very well done to;

| English Pupil of the Month | Science Pupil of the Month |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kalani Barton | Leisha Laroyia |
| Ana Clamor- | Theo Mclean |
| Karolina Rhys | Kaelan Bowes |
| Daniel Dearne | Vickie Tiew |
| Tania Montero | Renad Yassin |
| Alexie Jahanbani | Robert Karapetian |

Year 7 Residential

As part of the transition from Primary to Secondary school, 31 new Year 7 pupils attended a weekend residential to Kingswood in Ashford.

The weekend was thoroughly enjoyable. Pupils worked on team building and completed activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, zip wire and problem-solving activities.



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Year 7 Settling-In Evening



Our Year 7 Settling-In Evening took place on Wednesday 11th October 2017.

The evening gave parents/carers the opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor and to discuss how their child has settled into Platanos College. Parents / Carers was also given the opportunity to listen to a presentation in the main hall by Ms Yin on the assessment and grading system at the school. The evening also gave parents a chance to meet Ms. Kellman, their child's Pastoral Manager. There was also an enrichment programme display led by pupils from the Uniformed Services.

The parent questionnaire conducted during the evening informed us overwhelmingly that parents/carers felt their child had settled in well at Platanos College and equally, they were happy with the transition work the school had carried out.

Year 6 Open Evening



In September we opened our doors to prospective parents and pupils during our Open Morning and Evening. This was a chance for prospective pupils to see our Outstanding school.

Each department hosted activities and had displays of our students' work. Our Uniformed Services presented on their roles within the school and wider community and our pupil leadership team presented to parents. We are delighted that so many people visited us to discover what Platanos College has to offer and we have really enjoyed meeting possible future pupils!

Many pupils also gave up their evening to act as tour guides and many visitors commented on how informative, polite confident and welcoming these pupils were.



National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is the UK's annual celebration of poetry. This year it fell on Thursday 28 September 2017. The theme was Freedom. For Platanos College, this was a chance to consolidate something already enjoyed throughout the school and a competition was held in Year 8 and 9.

Congratulations to all the winners.

The Year 7 winners were:

1. Joshua Lewis
2. Rahima Abdulla
3. D'Andre Arthur
4. Fatmata Fofanah
5. Theo Mclean
6. Rihanna John

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The Year 8 winners were:

1. Alifiyah Ogboyi
2. Ana Pereira
3. Damien Telvak
4. Nadira Mohamud
5. Shantara William

Fireworks

Please be aware that as Bonfire night approaches, pupils are not permitted to bring fireworks onto the school site. Pupils risk being permanently excluded if they bring Fireworks onto the school site.

Equipment

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that we expect all our pupils to be fully equipped to learn in their lessons.

The following items are absolutely essential for all pupils and will be needed at all times:

- A sensible school bag
- A reliable blue or black pen (and spare)
- A ruler
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A Maths scientific calculator
- A dictionary
- A reading book

We hope you will be able to support us in maintaining a positive learning ethos by encouraging your child to carry all the above equipment to school on a daily basis.

Please also ensure that school planners are checked regularly and signed on a weekly basis. Many thanks for your continued support on this matter.

Attendance & Punctuality

As we begin a new school year it's important that the children come to school every day. Having time off school has an impact on learning. Please note

holidays will not be authorised and will be marked as unauthorised and could be subject to a fixed penalty notice.

Parents are only allowed to take their children out of school for 'exceptional circumstances' at the discretion of the Executive Headteacher.

Please ensure that all holidays are taken within the designated school holiday periods. Term dates for the academic year are available on the school website.

Lastly, we appreciate that most of our pupils arrive to school on time at 8.40am; however there is a small group who regularly drift in between 8.50am and 9am and a smaller group who arrive even later.

When pupils arrive late they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of their lesson. Equally, this impacts on pupil achievement and progress regardless of academic ability. Please continue to encourage your child to attend school on time. Thank you in advance for your support.

Term Dates

HALF TERM 1

Monday 4th September 2017 - Friday 20th October 2017

HALF TERM 2

Monday 6th November 2017 - Friday 15th December 2017

Key Stage 3 Pastoral Managers

Mr. Edwards, Mr. Boyles and Ms. Kellman.

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