

# Platanos College News

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Yet another wonderful start for our Year 7 pupils who arrived at the school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. They demonstrated excellent behaviour in their first assembly of the academic year and were ready and eager to immerse themselves into the Platanos way of life. Staff praised the fact that they are extremely bright and willing to learn. Pupils met their form tutors and spent the morning getting to know them and their new classmates in their form groups. Additionally, all Year 7 pupils were gifted with a new reading book on their first day; we aim to instil a love of reading in our pupils as it is fundamental in expanding pupils' knowledge and vocabulary. The Year 7s were given David Walliams' *Grandpa's Great Escape* or Ruta Sepetys' *Salt to the Sea*.



We had our first Whole School Assembly of the 2017-2018 academic year on Thursday which welcomed staff and all returning students back to school. Our Executive Head Teacher, Ms. Tapper, addressed the students and reminded them that they are very lucky to be alive and be in education as 38 million children across the world would not attend school on that day. Every pupil at Platanos should recognise that they are very fortunate to receive an education, particularly in an outstanding school.



Ms. Taybi talked to the pupils about the need to look at learning as a rigorous process and the importance of hard work throughout the school year. She also spoke about the need for patience – patience with each other; patience in the classroom and patience with yourself if you get something wrong. The teachers at Platanos College continue to focus on developing the pupils’ resilience in lessons. Pupils know that it is acceptable to make a mistake and be wrong – the important thing is to try hard and learn from mistakes. This, in turn, makes pupils more resilient in life.



Ms. Williams informed the pupils about changes to the behaviour policy and reminded them that there will be an emphasis on punctuality this term. Dr. Lok updated the pupils on our health and safety policy and highlighted the fact that this is everyone’s responsibility. As we get back into our everyday school routine, we must be aware of the potential risks that surround us and behave in a manner that ensures the safety of those around us. Dr. Lok also informed pupils about fire safety and the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency.



## Feedback From Y7 Pupils



**Eniola** – “I felt anxious and frightened at first when I arrived at Platanos College but now I’ve made some new friends so I feel much better. I’ve really enjoyed meeting new teachers and new pupils. My goal this year is to take part in the leadership programme and become an ambassador. I think that your behaviour and attitude towards learning determine where you will end up in life.”

**D’Andre** – “I felt excited about starting Year 7 as I knew I would be challenged to overcome new obstacles. I’m really enjoying my new classes, the fun lessons and making new friends. My goal for the year is to maintain good grades. I believe that your attitude towards your learning decides how far you can go and what you can achieve in life.”



**Muhammed** – “When I was starting at Platanos, I felt excited at first but also nervous because I was unsure of what tutor group I would be in. My goal for the year is to stay in 7A and maintain a high standard of work in all of my subjects. To do this I will need to have a good attitude towards my learning.”

## Year 11 Pupil Goals

**Vitor** – “By the end of this academic year, one of my goals is to achieve a higher grade than my projected target. I’m hoping to attain 9s in my GCSEs, especially for English, Maths and Science. To accomplish my goals I need to study hard and work to the best of my abilities.”

**Donniel** – “This year I intend to surround myself with people who will motivate me and are positive influences in school. I want to become a more independent learner and push myself to study more after school and at lunchtime.”