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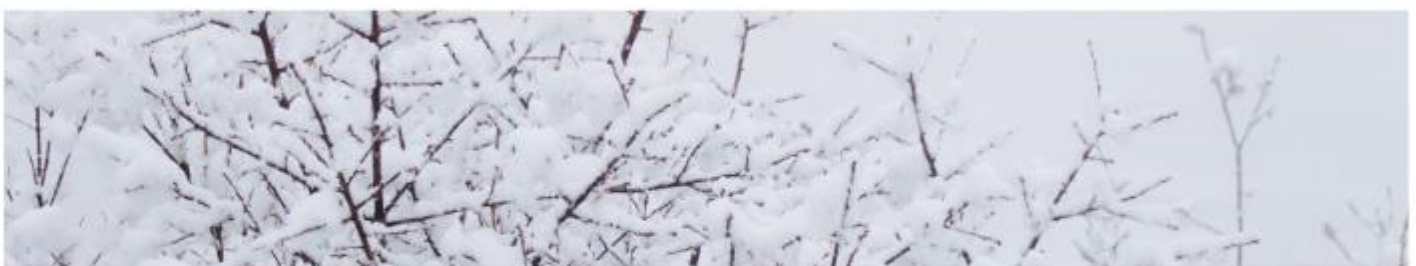
“

When we began to plan this newspaper, we wanted to write about things that interest young people like us.

”

MEET THE STAFF

Laney Neilson, page 22





Editors' Welcome

WRITTEN BY THE EDITING TEAM

A very warm welcome to the very first edition of the Platanos College KS4 Newsletter! We are proud to present this publication for Autumn Term 2018.

Platanos College is a community school, located at the heart of Lambeth; it was a pleasure to pen these articles in the voices of teenagers who were born and raised in this Borough.

This is not just any ordinary school newsletter – it was written by KS4 pupils for KS4 pupils. Each of the articles in this Newsletter was conceived, planned, researched and composed during after-school English sessions.

We didn't want this to be bone-dry; our intention was to create an interesting, thought-provoking and exciting publication that also provides useful information for our peers.

In this Newsletter you will find articles about a range of issues, from the potential impact of Brexit to top tips on how to stay safe on social media.

We've even thrown in a couple of fun quizzes for you to try out; think you know the staff at Platanos College? Think again!

A lot of enjoyment and dedication went into creating this Newsletter, which we believe covers many of the issues we face as young people growing up in the 21st century, along with a celebration of the academic excellence of Platanos College pupils and intriguing facts about the local area of Lambeth that we live and study in.

Our thanks go to our teacher and supervisor, Ms Thompson; this newsletter would not be what it is now without her.

In addition, we would like to thank all of the pupils who have contributed to this publication, researching, writing and re-drafting their articles for your perusal and enjoyment.

And to you, our readers; it was our intention to both inform and entertain our fellow pupils through this Newsletter - we sincerely hope that you enjoy reading it!

– MIA ADEBOYE, ROBERT KARAPETIAN & JAEAN INGLIS



This newsletter's cover was thumbnailed and designed by Andave Ramdhun.

It's an amalgamation of symbols and images that resonate with us as pupils, Londoners and teenagers in general.

Kudos, Andave!



the learning lounge

REVISION TIPS

WRITTEN BY CAROLINA SANTOS & LANEY NEILSON

At Platanos College, revision is a crucial way of maintaining our high standards to ensure that we can fulfill our potential.

Revision brings you much closer to success: it trains your mind, preparing you further for your GCSEs. Don't forget that if you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail.

We have gathered some revision tips to help you revise effectively and to achieve your long and short-term goals.

- Firstly, make sure you maintain a positive attitude consistently towards the preparation of your revision! A negative mindset will not help you work to your best ability.
- Create a timetable: it'll prepare you mentally to achieve your set revision goals! Structured revision is the best revision.
- Be sure to revise regularly in short manageable chunks.
- Believe in yourself. You are always more capable of achieving higher grades than you think.

- Take short breaks during revision so you can concentrate when studying. A proven method is revising in 25 minute chunks and having five minute breaks: this is called the Pomodoro technique.

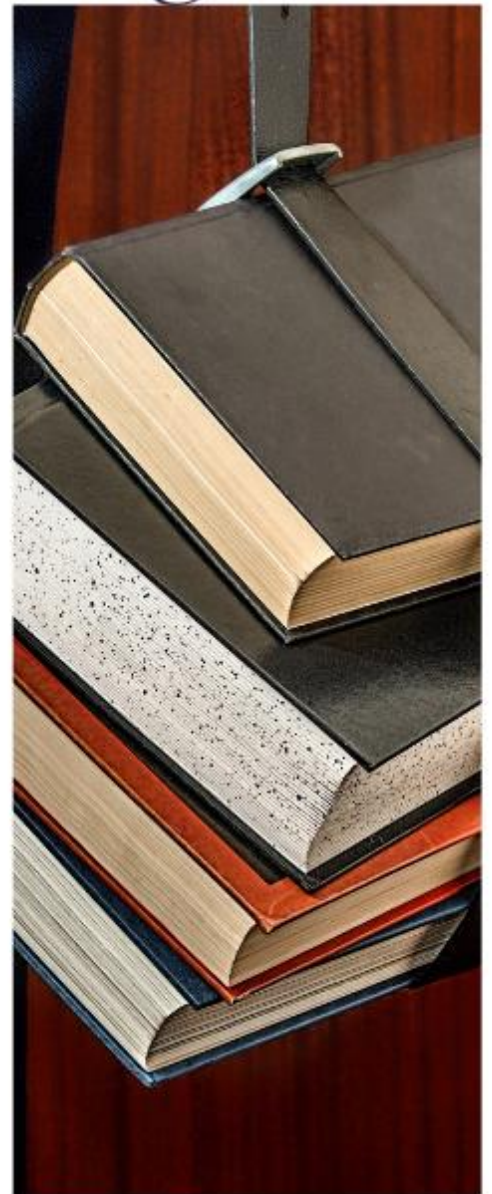
- Never leave revision till last minute!
- Making mind maps and flashcards are known to be more effective as you are more likely to remember key points using such active revision techniques.

It is very important to make sure you carry out revision to your best ability throughout your journey here at Platanos College.

This will enable you to achieve the grades that you are aiming for.

To help you carry out revision effectively, we have interviewed a past pupil of Platanos College and asked her to share some of her best tips!

Fransica Lopes achieved dream GCSEs and hopes she can help you to achieve yours!





Q. What revision methods did you use to achieve such great results?

A. I revised consistently in my spare time and took matters into my own hands by teaching myself things I didn't know. I re-read key notes too so that they would be embedded in my mind—ready for the exam.

Q. What advice would you give to someone who is aspiring to get their dream GCSE results?

A. My key advice is to prepare beforehand rather than cramming it all in days before. This is so that you're prepared before the exams, so you can just focus on key information rather than rushing your studying.

Q. Were you proud of all your GCSE results or do you think you could have done better?

A. Yes, I was extremely proud of my results. I wouldn't have changed anything, except maybe Maths as it was the only B I had got!

Q. What did you learn from doing your GCSEs?

A. I had learned how to be patient with myself and my studies as I knew that going over things once wouldn't stick in my mind—I had to go over things several times in order to remember the key information, which required patience.

Q. How have your GCSEs helped you with your future?

A. GCSEs have helped me a lot with my A Levels. It allowed me to be able to do all the subjects I wanted to do at A-level, and led me to University.

I would say that GCSEs are most important for the entrance of Sixth Forms. Preparing for GCSEs taught me to be patient and organised for the future too.

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

WRITTEN BY MIA ADEBOYE

Having some experience in the workplace can mean the difference between getting that college place or job.

Your friends and family can be a great boost; many people manage to access placements by just asking people they know!

There is a wide variety of work experience opportunities, but so much freedom of choice can be daunting to all of us. Here's a little guidance to give you the push you might need.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

- Accountancy, working in finance in areas like Canary Wharf if accessible
- Working with corporations like GSK
- Helping out at your local clinic, a pharmacy or a hospital
- Volunteering to aid your local vet

HUMANITIES

- Volunteering at museums, or charities like the National Trust
- Working with your local newspaper
- Volunteering to help out at your local library
- Participating in one of the many media-oriented schemes provided by Channel 4 or the BBC

ARTS

- Working with photographers
- Volunteering in small galleries, like Studio 73 in Brixton or the GX in Camberwell
- Finding placements at theatres like the Young Vic or Southwark Playhouse
- Volunteering to aid any Arts charities in your area





AN INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER OF STAFF

WRITTEN BY CAROLINA SANTOS & REANNA JORDAN

We interviewed Ms Bajaj, who is a Mathematics teacher and discussed her educational experience and career to date.

Q. How long have you been teaching at Platanos College?

A. I have been teaching at Platanos College for 3 years.

Q. Have you always aspired to become a teacher?

A. No. At first I wanted to become an accountant and enjoyed some aspects of the study. However, as soon as I realised what accountancy actually was, I thought it was really boring and didn't think of it as something I wanted to do in the future.

Q. So, when did you decide to become a teacher?

A. Teaching was part of my life. I used to teach my peers at school and help them with any queries they had about the work. As well as this, I did some tutoring and found it really intriguing to understand the needs of different people. This was when I became aware that teaching was my core skill and something I wanted to do for the rest of my life!

Q. What university did you attend and would you recommend it?

A. I did my BSc in India at Delhi University; this is one of the top 10 Universities in India, so I do recommend it. Then I moved to the UK and did my MSc from Bangor University, which has some excellent professors.

When I realised teaching was my core skill, I completed my PGCE at Bangor University.

Q. What were your favourite and least favourite subjects at school?

A. English was my favourite subject at school because I really wanted to learn how to speak it well as I had friends in India who were fluent in it. My English teacher motivated me; she encouraged me to read books and watch English movies so that I could improve my speaking and understanding skills. However, my least favourite subject was History because my teacher was not enthusiastic about the topics taught in class. This led to me being uninterested in the subject.

Q. Do you like being a teacher?

A. Being a teacher is very rewarding because you have the opportunity to see pupils understand the work and engage in lessons! Although it can be challenging, I believe that it is worth it as it makes a difference to people's lives.

“

Teaching can be challenging, but I believe that it is worth it as it makes a difference to people's lives.

Teaching was a part of my life... I became aware that teaching was my core skill and something I wanted to do.





CAREERS ADVICE

WRITTEN BY MIA ADEBOYE



Options are a core part of life's experience because they're necessary agents of change. Being in KS4 can be scary, because you're teetering on the edge between continued education and falling deeper into the big wide world of work.

We at Platanos College believe wholeheartedly in taking control of your own future, and so we're sharing some of our guidance with you.

I – *Think about where you've been.*

The subjects you're more familiar with at GCSE may be the ones you'll enjoy. Keep the subjects that have links to your favourite topics in mind!

II – *Consider where you're going.*

A-Levels aren't necessarily the right qualification for everyone. When your family, friends and teachers tell you to think about your job, they don't mean for you to decide on a specific company.

Narrowing down your options to a sector you can imagine yourself in will make it much easier for you to work out the steps forward.

III – *Stay realistic.*

It's easy to say, 'I want to have a good job in a business I enjoy,' but as stated before, being vague can be one of your worst enemies.

Fleshing out your ideas and providing clarification for your goals makes them more attainable—think about where you want to be in the next two to three years and then start to put steps in place.

Using these three pointers, you can consider which careers you'd like to pursue. Here are some careers based on specific GCSE subjects.

ENGLISH

Education, Editing, Journalism, Tutoring, Lexicography, Directing, Academic Library Management

MATHS

Accountancy, Engineering, Education, Finance, Programming, Statistics, Meteorology, Financial Management

SCIENCE

Lecturing, Pharmacology, Research, Meteorology, Technical Work, Engineering

BUSINESS

Data analytics, Project management, Stock-broking, Urban Design, Human Resources

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Game design, Engineering, Web Design and Development, IT Consultancy, IT Training

ART

Illustration, Printmaking, Gallery Management, Education, Exhibition Design, Lecturing





GUESS WHICH MEMBER OF STAFF

WRITTEN BY SHEYMA HAOUACHE & PHOEBE ANNA SCOTT

You see your staff every day, but how well do you really know them?

1) Which member of staff loves board games and general knowledge activities?

- A) Mr Williams B) Mr Boyles C) Ms Bahia

2) Which member of staff took 4 years and 3 teachers to learn how to swim?

- A) Ms Williams B) Ms Thompson C) Mr Bell

3) Which member of staff has two kids and is very good at badminton?

- A) Mr Rigby B) Mr Bourke C) Mr Smith

4) Which member of staff is very sporty, athletic and likes swimming, running and cycling?

- A) Mr Hobson B) Ms Bajaj C) Ms Simpson

5) Which member of staff is a very good cook who also has five kids?

- A) Mr Rigby B) Mr Scott C) Ms Akingbule

6) Which member of staff has been to 54 different countries and has even been sky diving?

- A) Mr Edwards B) Ms Graham C) Ms Alam

7) Which member of staff used to do ballet and has been to 34 different countries?

- A) Ms McAteer B) Mr Hall C) Ms Cleasby

8) Which member of staff lived in Canada for a year?

- A) Mr Bourke B) Ms Bartley C) Mr Edwards

9) Which member of staff studied in 18 different schools?

- A) Ms Cleasby B) Ms Ismail C) Ms Jordan

10) Which member of staff has an avid interest in art, and an online portfolio?

- A) Ms McAteer B) Mr Kabaka C) Ms Gonzalez



ANSWERS

GUESS WHICH MEMBER OF STAFF

1)A 2)B 3)C 4)B 5)A 6)B 7)A 8)C 9)B 10)C





ACADEMIC LEADERS' REPORT

WRITTEN BY BRUNO CAVACA & ROBERT KARAPETIAN

At Platanos College, we take pride in achievements of all varieties. So, we have compiled this report about the Academic Leaders of Platanos College. Academic Leaders are 50 of the highest achieving pupils in each year who are celebrated for their efforts in formal examinations during the year.

These pupils are chosen based on an average of all of their subject grades. An extra emphasis has been placed on Mathematics and English. This promotion of academic excellence at Platanos College is just one example of one of the many ways achievement is acknowledged.

Each Academic Leader receives a badge and all members of staff are informed of their successes.

The topics discussed in these lectures range from Accountancy, Engineering, and Law to the Energy Sector, Business and Enterprise, and Entrepreneurship.

After these lectures, the academic leaders are expected to create and deliver an assembly based on their newfound knowledge, therefore disseminating it to their peers.

Additionally, Academic Leaders act as ambassadors for the school and are selected to greet external visitors and guests, with whom they share their experiences in certain subjects.

Excellent behaviour and attitude are expected from these pupils, not to mention consistent high-quality classwork and homework. Furthermore, supporting fellow pupils in revision also occurs.

Finally, the Academic Lecture Series involves a series of prestigious lectures from external speakers set up by the Worshipful Company of Fuellers.

We hope that all pupils at Platanos College can aspire to undertake the prestigious role of Academic Leader.





FUELLERS' ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

WRITTEN BY JAE LAN INGLIS

Platanos College pupils have been extremely fortunate to experience the Fuellers Academic Lecture Series, opening their minds to different career pathways.

One lecture by Mr David Lewis focused on the energy market and creation of windfarms all around the country. He also shared his experience as an accomplished economist and taught pupils some of the valuable lessons he learned throughout his career. One pupil described how they were "captivated" by the lecture.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 were also offered a foray into the professional world through a seminar. They met a small group of people from entrepreneurial backgrounds who all had different success stories, including an aspiring Olympian turned businesswoman and a successful bilingual translator.

Zied Talaboulma, one of our current Head Boys stated that "It had helped in my consideration for future career choices and the steps needed to get there."

One of the final lectures was taken by a lawyer, Ms Mary Simmons. Ms Simmons taught our current Academic Leaders about the paths they could take before practising law and which qualifications would be needed.

She went on to explain the values needed to enforce order through law and demonstrated the diversity in lawyers— both Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela being memorable names. A fellow pupil wrote, "I found the lecture thoroughly fascinating and will definitely utilise the skills it taught me."

In all, the Fuellers' Lecture Series have provided Platanos College's pupils with greater skills, understanding and determination to pursue their goals.

We are really grateful for the Fuellers' contributions to the Platanos Trust and we look forward to continuing the current academic lecture series for 2018-19 after Christmas.





cacophony of colours

DOOMSDAY, BEHOLD

WRITTEN BY DAHIR NUR

Silent, echoing screams of agony and horror— I could not escape. Dark mists enveloped the landscape as nature unveiled its true colours.

Rain poured its misery and misfortune upon the forsaken world. Guileful ghosts and ruthless demons corrupted the wastes.

Everywhere, everything was stained in thick blood. Nature soon unleashed its childish rage and fury.

The ominous roar of thunder sent the Earth shivering, chills of horror and agony shaking the land. Day became night and night became day.

NICOTINE

WRITTEN BY ILHAM MOHAMED

And when my lips are against hers the sensation is almost indescribable;

The chemistry between us, like the sparks of a lighter that's almost out of fuel.

The flicker of the flame mirrors the fleeting moments of the euphoric feeling her kisses give me.

Waves of tranquillity and warmth that once enveloped me are replaced with

Guilt and fear of our perilous, forbidden love,
For each sweet kiss she gifts me with I take once step closer to death's door.

But in some moments I fail to realise her true intentions, for her identity lies behind a smoke screen of temptation,

And when the kiss is over, her scent clings to me like a boa constrictor to its prey:

Me.

Beastly birds destroyed one another as nature was sullied again. Chaos suddenly plunged the whole world into the abyss of chaos, greed and immorality. Monsters that rose from purgatory: a hellish, vile race.

The end was nigh.



“

All of these pieces were penned by the creative minds in our team; they've devised some stunning worlds for us to immerse ourselves in. So sit back, relax and enjoy.

When I'm without her, I crave her presence...

I'm reminded constantly - with every fibre of my being - that she owns me, Yet I can't live without her:

I was born a free man, but by her hand I will die a slave.
A slave to my obsession with her.

I'm addicted to her kiss and the feelings that come with it,

Her presence relieves me of all stress and I relish the thrill I get from our prohibited love.
And without her I'm hopeless, irritated as my body refuses all sleep.
I can't be without her but everyone tells me she's toxic and will only cause trouble.

They think I don't understand, but I do. What they don't understand is my craving for her in her absence. She controls me and my body has already pledged allegiance.





NIGHT, IN LONDON

WRITTEN BY ROBERT KARAPETIAN

England in 1871: London, to be precise.

I approached the centre of the city. To my amazement, this once bustling, chaotic and lively city had drifted into slumber. Dense, uninterrupted and serene— those were the only words I could use to describe the atmosphere.

The clock struck midnight. Gloomy, thick and hazy, the sky stood still, looming over the scene. Dull, dim and drab, the sky remained anonymous, baring no secrets...

Big Ben stood, towering over London; an obelisk for all to bow down to. The ebony sky battled with the ivory moon.

Alas, the desolate sky prevailed, leaving the quartz moon watching over all. All was as quiet as space. Multiple lamp posts, with intricate engravings, illuminated the surrounding area.

Ethereal light emitted from the signals dotted around an infinite abyss of nothingness. A lone tree, stripped of all its leaves was an unusual, macabre addition to the scene.

Branches protruded out of the slender tree, like the legs of a spider. It towered over the lamp posts and the surrounding area of central London.

Its silhouette could easily be mistaken for a malevolent being, ready to pounce at any moment...

WINTER'S GIFT

WRITTEN BY LEIGH-ANNE SIMPSON

On the curve of glass the light does gleam,

The spirit of life from the core does beam.

Dormant crystals dress the rocks,

Scuffed up boots all remain docked.

Festive cheering low and high,

Blocked out by the inside cry.

Families together through it all,

Yet he sits alone as silent tears do fall.

Relatives forgetting all their strife,

They try to store the gift of life.

As warmth from deep within them grows,

Each man awakes with frozen toes.

All together all as one,

Together but alone as it all begun.

Memories of them continue to grow,

Their pictures in the family snow globe.





inspiration station

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

COMPILED BY BONNY KUNG & LAUREN TRAN

'Attitude Determines Altitude' is a quote that our pupils see everywhere. But what does it mean? Well, at the heart of our school motto are tenacity, drive and self-confidence.

For example, KFC was rejected *1009 times* before succeeding with their famous chicken recipe.

“
Mankind cannot discover new oceans if they are not prepared to lose the sight of the shore.

“
Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Can you believe that J.K Rowling's first book was rejected 12 times before being published?

Our school motto helps us focus on how to overcome difficulties and challenges in the face of adversity. Remember, attitude really does determine altitude!

Need some motivation? Look no further— we've rounded up some inspirational quotes for you right here.

“
*When it rains,
look for rainbows.
When it is dark,
look for stars.*

“
When you walk a different path from others, it doesn't mean you're lost.

“
Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

“
*Be a pineapple:
Stand tall, wear a crown and be sweet on the inside.*

“
Always face the sunshine: the shadows will naturally fall behind you.





“
*If you can't fly,
 run. If you can't
 run, walk. If you
 can't walk, crawl.
 But whatever you
 do, you have to
 keep moving
 forward.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“
*Believe you can,
 and you're
 halfway there.*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

“
*If I have the belief
 that I can do it, I
 shall acquire the
 capacity to do it
 even if I may not
 have it in the
 beginning.*

MAHATMA GANDHI



“
*Learn from
 yesterday, live for
 today, hope for
 tomorrow.
 The important
 thing is not to stop
 questioning.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

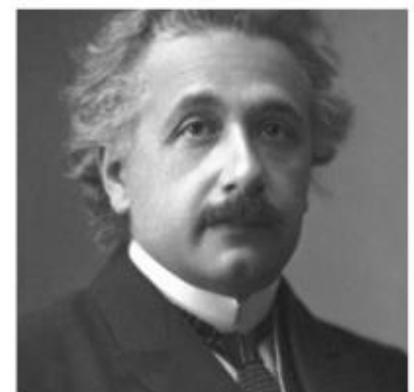


“
*I have not failed;
 I've just found
 10,000 ways that
 won't work.*

THOMAS EDISON

“
*Life is not easy for
 any of us. But what of
 that? We must have
 perseverance and
 above all confidence
 in ourselves. We must
 believe that we are
 gifted for something
 and this thing must be
 attained.*

MARIE CURIE





community corner

HISTORY OF LAMBETH

WRITTEN BY BRUNO CAVACA

Platanos College is one the 'Outstanding' schools situated in the heart of Lambeth, which is the home to many of its pupils. Lambeth is the home to an estimated 330,000 people and over the years has changed massively to improve the living and working conditions of its residents.

Indeed, Lambeth is now completely different to what it used to be. Having roots stretching back to 1088, Lambeth is rich with history and the differences from the 11th century to the present day are fascinating to behold.

The name 'Lambeth' has disputed origins, but has been recorded in the Domesday Book through the name 'Lamhytha,' which can be translated as 'Harbour landing for lambs.'

Sparsely populated until the 18th century due to its lack of populated areas, Lambeth was mostly used due to its marshlands but lacked any form of towns or villages.

Clapham and Streatham became the most renowned villages; these areas are still present to this day but have increased tremendously in size and population.

One of the most iconic streets of Clapham has kept a part of its history to this day; the clock tower has maintained itself in the heart of Clapham since its date of inauguration in 1906.

Clapham's growth commenced in the late 18th century, with the entry of many who were refuging from historical occurrences like The Great Plague and the Great Fire Of London.

This led to the commencing of businesses, like perfume retailers. A large field of lavender begun to be grown, hence why there is now a road called Lavender Hill.

Surprisingly, Clapham has actually been known for its history in football- once winning the FA Cup in 1880!

Interestingly, Clapham has been the location of the homes of some of England's most familiar figures, like Piers Morgan, JK Rowling and Samuel Pepys. Streatham is another part of Lambeth where you can still see minor similarities between what it used to be and what it now is.

The iconic spot of the Beacon Bingo on Streatham High Road used to rather be known as the Locarno Dance Hall. It first opened in 1929 by band leader, Billy Cotton.

The Locarno Dance Hall rapidly proved itself to be one of the most premier dance venues in London with many of the country's top bands performing there. Its opening night was attended by over 1,500 people and this number only kept on growing.



“
Let us be regarded according to our conduct.”



So next time you walk through the streets of our local area, think about the history in which it is steeped – there is something to discover in the most unexpected of places!





FAMOUS FACES OF LAMBETH

WRITTEN BY MANAAR MOHAMMHED

Platanos College is situated in Lambeth where many of us live. Do you know any of the many famous faces who originate from our local borough?

One of the most well known of these individuals is David Bowie - originally named David Robert Jones. Bowie was born in Brixton on the 8th of January 1947. Interestingly, he happens to share the same birthday as Elvis Presley!

Bowie's career started when he first became interested in playing the saxophone when he was only 12 years old. His first hit in the UK was 1969's Space Oddity.

Bowie enjoyed a long successful career and become one of the biggest and best known international artists. He married Somali supermodel Iman in 1992.

In 1972, David Bowie officially rose to stardom and this was one of the most successful years of his fantastic career.

GQ UK editor Dylan Jones said "That was the performance that turned Bowie into a star, embedding his Ziggy Stardust persona into the nation's consciousness."

Previewed in London that spring, Bowie's alien-like rock star creation, Ziggy Stardust, staged one of the most spectacular and bestselling live shows to date.

Bowie was estimated to have sold over 140 million albums worldwide throughout his phenomenal career.

An unusual fact that you may not know is that one of his most famous features were his eyes that seemed to be two different colours.

However, whilst both of his eyes were indeed blue, his left was left permanently dilated after he was punched in the face by a friend over a girl when he was just 15 years old!

Just imagine: Bowie from Brixton getting inspiration for his musical creations from the streets of our very own Lambeth!



“
The greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return.

“
Fame itself... doesn't really afford you anything more than a good seat in a restaurant.

“
As you get older, the questions come down to about two or three. How long? And what do I do with the time I've got left?





office of opinion

SHOULD YOUNG CHILDREN BE EXPOSED TO SOCIAL MEDIA?

WRITTEN BY CHERRYFATH DIALLO & ILHAM MOHAMED

Social media: a fun and entertaining way to keep in contact, find out the latest news and build a name for yourself. Many parents use social media to introduce their children to the world of modelling and acting.

By doing this, they can help to promote their children's talents and maybe even start fledgling careers in these industries.

Social media can also offer them many opportunities doing things they dream of and enjoy, including enrichment opportunities on film sets and backstage shows.

In addition, there is no doubt that by experiencing modelling and acting opportunities, children can improve their confidence, understanding of different jobs and how to act accordingly.

An example of a successful social media influencer is Shane Dawson.

After joining the YouTube platform 10 years ago, Dawson has gained 27.6 million subscribers across both his channels and over 4 billion views on his main channel alone.

Being on social media, Dawson has come to star in movies, created his own short movies, written books, won awards and has had podcast.

Indeed, it is evident that social media can be very helpful when playing the fame game.

On the other hand, some argue that exposing children to social media at such a young age could be dangerous. They believe that such public exposure gives easy access to the lives of minors, making them easy targets for potential criminals.

One of the most infamous cases of over exposure (though preceding the Age of the Internet), is the case of JonBenet Ramsey.

JonBenet was a 6 year old beauty pageant contestant who was brutally murdered in her own home during Christmas 1996. A crudely written ransom note was left in the home, sparking a huge manhunt.

There are many theories suggesting who murdered her; amongst those, the most controversial is that she was murdered by her parents, John and Patsy Ramsey or her brother Burke. Others believe that she was the victim of someone who had become infatuated with her after following her beauty pageant success.

Burke's alleged motive was jealousy; some argue that he was jealous of his sister's fame and killed her as a result. An alternative theory is that her parents accidentally killed her after severely punishing her for wetting the bed. It has never been conclusively proved who was to blame for JonBenet's death. However, there is much speculation as to the role of her parents in exposing her to too much too soon and therefore attracting the attention of those who might wish harm upon her.

Even if the parents had no direct role in her untimely death, many people disagree with the amount of publicity they exposed their youngest child to at such a vulnerable age.



Although this is a unique case and pre-dates the Internet, it does expose the issue of children and young people being in the spotlight too early in life.

Today, children and teenagers face a potential multitude of dangers on social media including pressure to conform to certain standards, cyber-bullying and the hazards of attracting unwanted attention from unsavoury characters.

So how do we keep ourselves safe on social media today? Here are some top tips:

- 1) Never reveal your date of birth or birthday on social media posts – criminals can use this information to steal your personal data.**
- 2) Ensure your privacy settings are secure.**
- 3) Don't open suspicious-looking links or messages. Criminals can abuse your trust to access sensitive information about you.**
- 4) Be aware of what you post: once it's up, it cannot be removed from the Internet entirely.**
- 5) Think before you post! In the Internet age, your social media pages can affect your job prospects, and criminal record depending on what you post.**
- 6) Remember there's nothing wrong with blocking someone who you don't know. If their presence makes you uncomfortable, you're not expected to 'suck it up.' Your online space is YOUR space.**





BREXIT MEANS BREXIT... BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

WRITTEN BY ROBERT KARAPETIAN & MIA ADEBOYE

It's been over eight-hundred and fifty days since the EU Referendum, and the current state of affairs is up in the air.

Brexit, the one word that has been circling our nation for over two years now, is a term that refers to Britain's exit from the European Union.

This is due to a referendum held and triggered by Former Prime Minister David Cameron, held on the 23rd June 2016. As a result, with over 30 million overall votes, the Leave campaign prevailed (51.9% to 48.1%).

This vote involved England (who voted for Brexit 53.4% to 46.6%), Wales (who voted for Brexit 52.5% to 47.5%), Scotland (who voted against Brexit 62% to 38%) and Northern Ireland (who also voted against Brexit 55.8% to 44.2%).

But what does 'Brexit means Brexit' actually mean?



Most news about it sounds more like Parliament working themselves into a frenzy, buzzwords like no-deal and immigration floating around, and resignations hitting the floor faster than you can say 'Boris Johnson'.

From a teenage perspective, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of noise accompanying Brexit, and it's time enough to attempt to decipher the matters surrounding our 'divorce' from the European Union.

This divorce is possible thanks to a clause in the Treaty of European Union called Article 50, which allows any member of the Union to leave.

Britain is the first member state to invoke this clause, which means we as a nation are essentially stepping into uncharted territory.

The EU or European Union is a political and economic partnership involving 28 European countries. It was formed after World War Two to ensure that countries which took part in regular trade did not start wars with each other.

Since then, it has grown to become what is called a single market. Therefore, goods and people can move around as if the member states were one country. 19 of the 28 members use the EU's currency: the Euro.

Nations that are members of the European Union become a part of the European Economic Area.

This is just a fancy way of saying you can move people, goods and whatever financial goodies you have freely between the countries in the EU.

It also means that anyone in the EEA can choose to live wherever they want in the EEA.

However, the United Kingdom is edging further and further out of this economic agreement as we approach the 29th of March, next year. The question on many peoples' lips is just what will happen if we leave the EU without an agreement on what happens to the goods and people residing there?





In short, a no deal Brexit is what happens if the UK and EU reach no withdrawal agreements.

It doesn't stop us from pulling a fast Brexit, but it does make the results a lot foggier. We would have to set up our own independent framework near-immediately in response to the split, amongst other things.

In terms of trade, we'd have to follow World Trade Organisation rules. The prices of goods imported from the EU would rise and as a non-EU state, we'd have to pay taxes for importation. Although the UK could set its own controls on immigration of EU nationals, the same could be done for us.

Delays at customs and borders would rise, since checks would increase in thoroughness. We wouldn't, however, have to contribute to the EU budget, but would lose out on the subsidies that would have supported our economy.

Theresa May triggered Article 50 on 29 March 2017, resulting in the UK leaving the EU on Friday, 29 March 2019. However, the terms of the arrangements must still be decided, hence the need for "deals" and "plans".

Nonetheless, the question still stands: Will our Prime Minister be able to secure a watertight deal for Brexit under so much opposition?



BREXIT: Q&A

WRITTEN BY ROBERT KARAPETIAN

Q: How will Brexit affect student loans?

A: If the pound maintains its low value, then no, student loans will not rise by a substantial amount.

EU students, however, will have to pay an increased price for student loans.

Q: How will Brexit affect prices in shops?

A: If the pound's value remains low, there will be more exports as it will be cheaper to buy UK goods in other countries. However, imported goods (products brought into the UK) will be sold at a more expensive price.

Q: How will Brexit affect immigration?

A: After Brexit fully takes action, it is Theresa May's plan to reduce immigration. Also, as the UK will not be in the European Union, fewer EU immigrants will be able to enter the UK.

Q: How will Brexit affect pensions?

A: Pensions will continue to rise due to inflation by 2.5% each year, whether or not the Brexit deal takes place.

Q: In the case of a no deal Brexit, will EU nationals have to leave England?

A: For recent arrivals it is not yet certain whether they will be able to remain. However, in the case of those who have lived here for 5 years, their rights should not be affected after Brexit.

Q: Will a Visa be needed to travel to EU countries?

A: No agreement has been met as of yet, however, the UK wishes to keep visa-free travel to the UK for EU visitors. Hopefully, this will be followed when considering UK citizens' travel to EU countries.





sporting celebration

SPORTING FIXTURES

WRITTEN BY DANIEL DEARNE & YAASIIN MAHUDIN

Here at Platanos College, every sporting activity is encouraged and any drive or talent for sport is nurtured within the PE department.

We are proud of the range of students who participate in extracurricular activities within Physical Education.

Their hard work and training was evident in recent successes and results of all age groups in competitive sports across Key Stage 4. Here are some of this half-term's highlights:

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL RESULTS IN THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Ruslip vs Platanos College
Away Game – 21st October
WIN 0-3

Scorers: Kalani Barton, Wesley Barragan and Abdoulaye Coulibaly

Sedgehill vs Platanos College
Away Game – 2nd November
WIN 0-3

Scorers: Kalani Barton, David Edwards and Christopher Bochen

Stanley High Park vs Platanos College
Away Game -14th November
LOSS 2-1

Scorer: Abdoulaye Coulibaly

UNDER 14's BASKETBALL RESULTS

Platanos College vs St Gabriels
16th October
WIN 34-22

Platanos College vs EGA (Evelyn Grace Academy)
18th October
WIN 42-41

We congratulate and celebrate all the sportsmen and sportswomen's efforts and wish them the best for their upcoming season after a well-deserved Winter break.

Well done!



THE CREED II PREMIERE

On the 28th and 29th of November, a lucky group of KS4 pupils were selected for a chance of a lifetime: the Creed II Premiere. The pupils arrived at the Waterloo IMAX Red Carpet event and met some of the most prominent stars in the world in the flesh. They also had an opportunity to meet some of the lead actors and afterwards enjoyed the thrill of a boxing session with the none other than Michael B. Jordan himself at The Black Prince Trust Centre!

This amazing experience was offered to Platanos College pupils only. It was challenging to tell who was more excited about this amazing opportunity - the staff or pupils. This memory will most certainly be cherished by all those who took part. Platanos College pupils conducted themselves impeccably and were true ambassadors for our school.

WOMENS' NETBALL MATCH

On the 30th of November two pupils Latesha Lodge and Teniola Okunrunkoya went on a Women's Netball trip to watch The England Roses compete against Uganda in the Copper Box Arena. This was the England Roses' first match since winning Gold in the Commonwealth Games. The England Roses won 65-53. These pupils had an incredible experience and gained a better understanding from watching the professionals' strategies.





seasonal specials

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

WRITTEN BY TOMMY DAO

1) How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

- A: 8
- B: 12
- C: Too many to count

2) What does the hanging of stockings represent?

- A: Santa's socks
- B: The hardships of elves working in the north pole
- C: Leaving shoes packed with food for St. Nicholas' donkeys

3) Where does Boxing Day get its name from?

- A: Santa and the Grinch had a boxing fight
- B: The wrapping and boxing of gifts
- C: The money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor

4) When was the first Christmas tree set up?

- A: The year when William, Duke of Normandy invaded
- B: The 16th century
- C: When the Houses of Parliament opened

5) Who invented Christmas crackers?

- A: father Christmas
- B: A London sweet shop owner called Tom Smith
- C: Nicholas Tesla while he went on Christmas holiday

ANSWERS

CHRISTMAS QUIZ
1) A 2) C 3) C 4) B 5) B

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Claustrophobia.



Why are Christmas Trees like bad knitters?

They keep losing their needles!



What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!





HAVE WE LOST THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

WRITTEN BY LEIGH-ANNE SIMPSON

It seemed that as soon as the pumpkins had been discarded and the Halloween costumes put away, the Christmas countdown truly began. You definitely know that the festive season is upon us when our nation is presented with the long awaited John Lewis advertisement.

The successful British retailer has come up trumps this year with yet another spectacular TV advert, this time featuring British icon, Sir Elton John as the face of their new campaign.

The advert features Sir Elton John's life in reverse chronological order from the present day to when he was a young boy. It shows the importance of a mother's love and encouragement of her child as she supports him with his true passion at a nerve-wracking first school concert.



And we, the viewers, know what she couldn't possibly have realised – that her anxious, awkward little boy will go on to become one of the biggest music legends of all time. Despite being able to afford any piano in the world, Sir Elton keeps that first special piano for the rest of his life, as revealed at the end of the advert.

The message John Lewis is trying to present? Well, surely that a mother's love, the parent-child bond and childhood passions and memories are things of genuine sentimental value—after all childhood innocence, parental love and our most special relationships are all recurring themes in Christmas adverts.

These things are priceless, as the John Lewis advert concludes by reminding us that "some gifts are more than just a gift."

In stark contrast, the 'Love is a Gift' short film currently making people cry over their laptops, arguably has a stronger connection to the true meaning of Christmas. In this YouTube short film, a young man is shown patiently counting down the days to Christmas.

When the big day finally arrives, he unwraps a small box, removes a cassette and puts it into a Walkman (Google this if you were born this century...). As he listens to the cassette, the disembodied voice of his mother is heard, as she tells him how proud she is of him, how much she wants for him and how much she truly loves him.

As we hear her say "I will always be your mother", it is clear that she shares many of the same sentiments that Sir Elton's mum no doubt felt for her son, yet this film somehow delivers them in a more poignant, sincere and relatable (not to mention cheaper) way.

The film tugs on our heart strings because loss is something that at some point in our lives, we all face. Death is universal, with Christmas being a special time to remember those who remain in our hearts, but who won't be sitting around the table with us 25th December.

The message is simple and the opposite of the rampant commercialisation of the festive season: love is a gift.



However, it could equally be argued that this melancholy man, fast approaching 30, is stuck in the past; he has no friends or family around him on Christmas Day. So is he really living the life his mother would have wanted for him? Viewers of both the John Lewis advert and the short film will need to make up their own minds about the degree to which they each successfully achieve their purpose.

Recently, a teacher wrote to the parents of the young children in her class about how, when they return to school in January, they talk less about the gifts that they receive and more about the time they get to spend with their families: visits to see grandparents, staying up late, being able to sleep in their parents' bed and late night "walks in the cold to McDonalds".



Even though they are of a young age, all of the children know what is important to them: "they mention their gifts, but for them Christmas is you and your love and time and routine and feeling safe. You are their favourite thing."

So in the run up to Christmas, as people risk getting into debt finding the 'perfect present' or stress over catering for family at Christmas lunch, let's all try to remember what's important: for Christians, this is significant religious celebration, a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. For all of us, it is an opportunity to relax, rewind and recharge and spend time with those we love.

After all, love in itself, is surely the most wonderful gift in the world?



meet the staff

WRITTEN BY LANEY NEILSON

Howdy! I particularly enjoyed writing the piece on Brexit. I like knitting and I also have a deep appreciation for socks!

— Mia Adeboye

I worked on the Christmas Quizzes alongside with other pupils and I like to watch movies in my spare time.

— Phoebe Anna Scott

I recorded the sports results for KS4 and I love football.

— Yaasiin Mahudin

I wrote the inspirational quotes in the newsletter. I also like background music as I think it helps with stress.

— Bonny Kung

I created the Staff Quiz with Phoebe and I also like to listen to music.

— Sheyma Houache

I wrote a creative writing piece and I always try my best at everything.

— Dahir Nur

I wrote *Nicotine*, and I really like conspiracy theories.

— Ilham Mohamed

I drew the cover for this Newsletter. I love films and comics.

— Andave Ramdhun

I wrote about Brexit, the school's academic reports and worked on the creative writing article. I enjoy Coding, Programming, Mathematics and Science.

— Robert Karapetian

I wrote on the famous faces piece. I really enjoy watching movies.

— Manaar Mohammed

I worked on the revision tips section and a teacher's educational experience. I also love pets, especially dogs.

— Carolina Santos

I collected quotes for the second inspirational section. I love trying new foods.

— Lauren Tran

I worked on staff bios and revision tips of this Newsletter. I also enjoy listening to music and studying Biology at school.

— Laney Neilson

I helped edit the newsletter and I'm double-jointed in both my arms.

— Jaelan Inglis

I wrote Winter's Gift for the Creative Corner, and I also love music of all kinds.

— Leigh-Anne Simpson



I helped compose the sports fixtures and I really like basketball.

— Daniel Dearne

I worked on the Christmas quiz and in my spare time I like to play games like FIFA.

— Tommy Dao

I wrote about the History of Lambeth and the academic report along with Robert. I like computing and coding.

— Bruno Cavaca

I wrote the interview for the advice section, and I really like K-Pop and Korean culture.

— Reanna Jordan

I worked on the opinion debate piece and I also hate pizza.

— Cherryfath Diallo



This newsletter was overseen by Ms Thompson who loves exploring new places in London with her 2 year old son.

It was also formatted and edited in part with love by Mia Adeboye, Editor-In-Chief.

