



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities



# Platanos College Consultation Booklet

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## WELCOME FROM THE CEO

Platanos College is a high-performing school for pupils aged 11 to 16 and is rated Outstanding by Ofsted. We are an academy and a member school of the Platanos Trust.

Platanos College received its third, successive Outstanding Ofsted rating in 2014/2015 and have held this status for over a decade. We are proud of our commitment to high standards, to our learners and to the local community.

We look forward to an exciting future as we expand our Outstanding provision to post-16 learners. We believe that every young person should have the opportunity to become active citizens in a college that values academic excellence, creativity and resourcefulness.

We are proud that Platanos College is such a college.

*J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH (CEO, Platanos Trust)*



# OUR VISION & ETHOS

## Our Vision

Platanos College is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between all members of our school community.

Our school has inclusivity at the heart of our equality plans. We recognise that some pupils and their families struggle more than others against disadvantage and discrimination. The pursuit of equal opportunities is at the heart of our determination to provide an excellent service for all our pupils, working to make a positive contribution to the outcomes of all. We are equally committed to ensuring equality for everyone who works for us.

Platanos College provides an excellent learning environment for all pupils and staff. We have high expectations of everyone in our community. We prepare pupils and learners to take advantage of learning opportunities throughout their lives and to rise to the demands of academic rigour, high standards of scholarship, further and higher education, as well as opportunities in creative careers, the service industry and business, accountancy and finance. We have an unshakeable belief that we can make a difference. We are changing lives.

We believe that every learner can succeed, and we challenge and support them to reach their full potential. We offer all learners a rounded education to meet the challenges of an ever-changing society.

We raise the aspiration of learners to ensure that they achieve beyond their expectations and play a valuable role in the world. We celebrate success and encourage pupils and learners to take part in and enjoy learning and life by stretching the abilities of all. We are part of a group of schools that work together with shared and consistent values.

We are proud of the cultural diversity in our school and encourage tolerance and respect for each individual. We link our school to other cultures and communities throughout the world.

## Our Ethos

Platanos College, with its business and enterprise specialist ethos, has had considerable success by following Forbes' simple formula for entrepreneurship:

**Define, invest, build, repeat.**

We are committed to:

- creating an environment where our students achieve outstanding progress and attainment
- students achieve and exceed their baseline aspirations
- having all courses enhancing clear progression opportunities
- encouraging creativity and innovation in the Sixth Form within a shared vision and common purpose clearly aimed to preparing students for their future as international citizens
- an inclusive approach where we will listen and learn from others
- a positive and consistent approach where we will support our students and staff
- striving to find innovative solutions to challenges
- promoting and continuing to develop a safe and secure environment where the wellbeing of everyone is central



# OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSALS

**The professional ethos of Platanos College is one of competence, confidence, entrepreneurship and independence, alongside lifelong skills development. We want to prepare students to be employed and self-employed and to be empowered to utilise high-level digital skills and competencies as part of the growing economy.**

**This consultation is comprised of two proposals.**

Firstly, a proposal is to introduce a Sixth Form at Platanos College. This is a natural way to progress our commitment to promoting social mobility and equal opportunities. The Sixth Form will present a rich variety of new experiences for students at that pivotal phase when they are beginning to define themselves socially, politically and intellectually and to discover those passions and enthusiasms, which will shape and inspire their adult lives.

Secondly, we propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN), while maintaining the curriculum offer and offering support for staff, to support the delivery of our aims and objectives.

As ever, we will continue to strive for outstanding outcomes through:

- continuing to provide an inclusive and diverse community
- promoting access to learning and development opportunities
- offering both academic and vocational courses
- increasing participation and achievement
- researching and developing new and innovative ways of working
- providing opportunities for staff and a wide range of businesses, institutions and organisations to be involved in learning
- celebrating the success of our students and staff



**This booklet will tell you what these proposals mean and how they will affect students, parents/carers and our local community.**

**Your views and contributions will be fully considered before a decision is made on these proposals. The proposals are subject to the approval of the Department for Education (DfE).**

**A feedback questionnaire is included at the back of this booklet so that you can make your views known.**

**You can also do this online from 25th February 2019 at [www.platanosconsultation.org](http://www.platanosconsultation.org)**

**All questionnaires need to be returned by 26th April 2019.**

## **Towards a Sixth Form**

A Sixth Form college is where students aged 16-19 typically study for qualifications, such as A-levels, Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) and International Baccalaureate Diploma or qualifications such as General Certificate Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations.

Young people are now in education until 18-19. It makes sense for Platanos College to be an all-through education provider. The possibility of staying on into our Sixth Form will be the culmination of a Platanos pupil's school career. At present pupils do not have the choice to remain at the College after 16. Over the last few years, there have been increasing demands and interest for the school to provide a Sixth Form for our Year 11 pupils, following the end of Key Stage 4.

The reasons that this is a positive proposal for students, and our wider community include:

- We know from feedback over the years that some of our former pupils do not thrive after moving to another setting. An existing outstanding secondary provision provides a smooth transition and continuity to their education as well as a strong foundation for further education.
- Pupils speak about the familiar location, the good and friendly teachers, the pastoral care and the existing friendship groups.
- A familiar and a strong community environment at the College. This enables continuity in their welfare and pastoral support. A Sixth Form would perpetuate high aspirations and provide role models for lower year groups.
- Staff view this provision is an opportunity for career progression and professional development, both for existing staff with experience and aspiring staff new to the profession and to the College.
- Feedback from current staff indicates that the vast majority of staff (98%) strongly support the establishment of a Sixth Form provision.

These reasons are particularly relevant for the two-thirds of pupils who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many of those have also experienced complex or challenging social environments with unique needs and the school has over many years developed an expertise in nurturing and catering for our pupils. Providing a Sixth Form provision extends the educational and community support that our pupils might otherwise lose and prevents our disadvantaged youth, particularly our vulnerable girls, from potential exposure and risk of negative influences.

**We are seeking to launch our Sixth Form in September 2020.**



## **Reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) to the College**

From September 2020 the College intends to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) to 160 pupils in Year 7. The rationale for the reduction of numbers includes the creation of a Sixth Form, which forms part of this overall proposal.

Platanos has operated with a roll of 180 pupils per year group, this has risen over time. In 2018, the intake was 210 in year 7. This will be unsustainable if a Sixth Form is opened.

Having already consulted on our admissions policy and on the proposed reduction in our Year 7 admissions number between 29th November 2018 and 31st January 2019, we intend to adopt our proposed admissions changes for September 2020.

By implementing these changes, it will allow us to:

- Be consistent with the intake of other Lambeth schools, as the intakes range from 125-180 in each year group. The proposed figure of 160 sits in-line with these figures.
- Become a centre for initial teacher training in the future.
- Better engage with the local community. The reduction in numbers will allow us to look at larger scale projects and use staff to work on building these relationships.
- Continue to raise standards in a smaller context, including:
  - Building the skills of the pupils across the curriculum and focusing on the holistic development of the child.
  - Better able to offer our Business & Enterprise specialisms from 11-19+, with a number of 160 in each year group this would give us the capacity to do so.
  - Improve the level of pastoral care and continue to nurture the more challenging pupils.
  - Continue to be outstanding and move to beyond outstanding by layering the curriculum further with additional music, the arts and drama.
  - Develop the pupils' range of skills offering individuals a wider range of development. Streaming from KS3 will become easier and allow pupils to move from one pathway to another, including the possibility of blending pathways.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How will students be admitted into Year 7 under the new admissions policy?**

For Admissions to Year 7 in September 2020, the main principle of admission to Platanos College is to secure and maintain the character of the school as a comprehensive school, providing for the needs of young persons within the 11–16 age range. In order to achieve this, the admissions criteria have been designed to produce an intake that is representative of the national ability range. Pupils will therefore be admitted according to a banding system, as is current practice.

The school participates in the Local Authority (Lambeth Council) co-ordinated admission procedure and all deadlines within that should be adhered to by applicants.

For further information visit the 'admissions policy' page on the Platanos College website:

**[www.platanoscollege.com/index.php?page=admissions-policy](http://www.platanoscollege.com/index.php?page=admissions-policy)**

### **How will Platanos College work with families and the local community?**

Platanos College is at the heart of the community it serves. Parents and carers are welcome in the school and there are a wide range of opportunities for learning and community involvement. Our message is straightforward: we believe in our motto, that **“attitude determines altitude in all human endeavour”**.

We want to create an environment where pupils can take ownership of their own learning journey, and a space within the community and within our own buildings, which can be both formal and informal, both business-like and welcoming, a special place for children, staff, parents and the community, a learning hub for all.

### **Where can we find out more?**

You can find out more about the consultation and participate in the online survey at:

**[www.platanosconsultation.org](http://www.platanosconsultation.org)**

Please also speak to any of our reception staff in regards to this matter and they will be able to assist you.

# HOW DOES THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS WORK?

Views about Platanos College creating a Sixth Form are being sought as widely as possible. Although the consultation on the reduction in the Year 7 Published Admissions Number has concluded, we would still welcome your views. This includes students, parents, school staff and the local community and local schools. Consultation events, detailed below, will be held for the students, local residents, parents/carers of our students and the wider community.

## Consultation events

- **Community consultation event** - 5:00pm on Friday 8th March 2019 at Platanos College
- **Local residents' event** - 5:00pm on Friday 15th March 2019 at Platanos College
- **Parents' consultation event** - 5:00pm on Tuesday 19th March 2019 at Platanos College
- **Student consultation week** - throughout the week commencing 4th March 2019
- **Staff consultation week** - throughout the week commencing 11th March 2019

Representatives from Platanos College will be available at these events to answer your questions.

To ensure that all views are collected, both paper and online questionnaires are available. If you are a parent or carer who cannot access any of these methods and wish to participate in the consultation, please discuss with our staff in Reception who will be able to assist you.

Your views and contributions will be fully considered before a decision is made on these proposals.

The proposals are subject to the approval of the Department for Education (DfE).

**A feedback questionnaire is with this booklet so that you can make your views known**

**You can also do this on-line from 25th February 2019 at [www.platanosconsultation.org](http://www.platanosconsultation.org)**

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For more information about the consultation, visit: [www.platanosconsultation.org](http://www.platanosconsultation.org)