



Assembly notices

Monday 4th May 2020

Reflection for the week

You very well may be one of the hundreds of thousands of people that go to your front door on a Thursday at 8pm and applaud the workers in the NHS. It is a lovely way to show your appreciation for people who are risking their own lives to save the lives of others. Gratitude is an amazing emotion to share – and it should be a reminder how good it feels to say thank you to those who do something for us.

The workers in the NHS more than deserve this gratitude – in fact they are owed much, much more. But what about the other ‘key workers’ at the moment? Those who are leaving their homes on a daily basis, while the rest of us stay home to stay safe. Police officers, supermarket shop workers, the refuse collectors, delivery drivers, post office workers, bus drivers, train and tube drivers, fire fighters, plumbers, electricians, builders, engineers – just some of the workers who are delivering services that bring a little bit of normality to our lives. How should we show our appreciation to these people?

Have you gone to the supermarket with your parent/ carer and asked how the shop assistant is? Have you thanked them? Smiled at them?

Have you had something delivered – have you said thank you for bringing that parcel to you and allowing you to have that product that you otherwise wouldn’t have? Or maybe left a kind note on your door with a positive message for them?

When your bins are collected – have you thanked the refuse collectors for allowing our streets to be cleared, cleaner and safer?

We should always show kindness – but it is at times like these that we are reminded of the power of kindness.

In the Guardian Newspaper on Saturday 2nd May 2020, key workers shared how they would like to be thanked – the message from them is quite clear – stay home and when you do come across them, the most powerful and uplifting thing is, quite simply, a thank you.

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Year 9 Options

Despite these unusual times, we must continue to look forward to the future. Your children are at a phase in their education where they need to start thinking about their next steps and future pathways, and this means, more immediately, their GCSEs.

We hope you have had a chance to read the Options Information Booklet sent by text and available on the school’s website and that you feel better informed about GCSEs and the option subject that you can choose from.

From Monday 4th May 2020, we will be holding telephone interviews with you and your parents/ carers to help in the choosing of the option subject.

- The call will last for approximately 10 minutes.
- At the end of this phone call, we will ask what option subject your child would like to take – there will be a first and second choice.

Some things to consider before this telephone interview:

- The telephone call will come from a withheld number.
- Both you and your parents/ carers should ensure that you have read the Option Information Booklet prior to the call.
- Once the option choices have been made, it might not be possible to change them.
- Since the government changes to the grade 9-1 GCSEs, GCSE examinations in England and Wales have become more challenging.
- For some option subjects you will notice current grade requirements. For example, Business Studies and Computer Science have current grade requirements linked to mathematics. For some option subjects it would not be suitable for some of our pupils to study them without a specific level in mathematics – you would not be able to access the course content, you may regret the options choice, and therefore this would be setting you up to fail.
- In addition to this, for a minority of pupils, the option subjects that we have on offer may not be suitable, and for these pupils we will be able to offer a more technical or vocational option.
- In the event of a subject becoming oversubscribed, attendance, punctuality and behaviour records will be taken into account in being accepted for a first-choice option.

The extraordinary Options process we have planned for is by no means ideal. However, until we receive further guidance from the UK government on when it is safe to reopen schools, we must continue to plan for the new academic year.

We cannot delay this process as the planning for the new academic year begins in the Summer term.

If you have any queries regarding the Options process, please consult the Options Information Booklet as your first point of reference. Any additional queries can be made by emailing the year 9 pastoral email account year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Show My Homework – Year 10

With the decision now made on the year 11 GCSE examinations, the pressure will be on year 10s being fully prepared for sitting their GCSEs next Summer.

By now, in school, teachers in all subjects would have moved on to the new topic for that GCSE. As we do not know when we will return to school, it is important that we do this – as best as possible – through online learning. It is by no means ideal – but we have to do this – and the reason for why is

that the government have made it quite clear – **the GCSEs for next academic year will not be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic**. Therefore, at present the education for our year 10s must be taken extremely seriously – by us, by our pupils, and by their families.

Work has been set on SMHW and this must be completed and submitted by the deadlines issued. Phone calls were made to every pupil in year 10 last week to ensure that there are no issues with accessing your learning from home. However, 35 parents/ carers were unreachable. If your parent/ carer receives a phone call from a withheld number, it is most likely us, so please answer.

If there are immediate issues, please email Mr Edwards at KS4pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

Show My Homework – Years 7 - 9

Well done to all of our pupils who have continued to consistently use *Show My Homework* (SMHW) to complete lessons and work set by your teachers over the break. We continue to miss you all – and we are continuing to work tirelessly from home to ensure that your education can continue during these unprecedented and unusual times.

Work should be uploaded onto SMHW and your teachers will check this for you. If you see work has been set for you by a teacher that doesn't usually teach you – this is okay – you should still complete the work which has been set and upload this and it will be seen by your class teacher.

If you have a problem with uploading to SMHW you can add your work as an attachment to the pastoral email addresses (reminder below). Your Pastoral Manager will forward any work to the relevant departments.

Year 11 - Keep working. Keep going.

A level transition work has now been uploaded to SMHW. At present we have submitted A level taster units to help prepare for year 12 for the following subjects:

- Philosophy- Epistemology
- Sociology- Education
- Psychology
- Politics
- History- Russia
- Drama
- Chemistry
- Biology
- English Literature- Poetry
- Maths
- Spanish
- Physical Education
- Art and Design

Additionally, it is essential that you remain focused on your future pathways, and we therefore believe that you should now start to be thinking about your next destinations:

- Have you applied for your chosen sixth form/ college(s)
- Are you preparing for your next steps?

If you need further advice on this, you must email ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com for guidance.

Year 11 – Intended destinations

As you prepare for your transition from year 11 to year 12, schools across England have been given the task to collect your intended destination data.

We understand that you may be uncertain about your final decision, however we do need to know where you intend to go post 16.

This could be a 6th form, a place at college or attending an apprenticeship.

We therefore need you to support us by completing the application form which you can complete by visiting this website <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/intended-destination>.

Health and safety

We hope that you have been and continue to be well, safe and healthy. We continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have been directly affected by coronavirus – staff, their families, our pupils and their families. If everyone works together this will come to an end. Please follow the advice set out by the UK government:

1. Stay at home
2. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
3. If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
4. Wash your hands as soon as you get home
5. Do not meet others, even friends or family (unless you live with them).

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Mental Wellbeing

Many of you will be feeling anxious because of the dramatic change to our lives. This is normal. It is okay to feel this way. Please remember: YOU ARE NOT ALONE! Many of us are feeling the same way. We must bide our time and sooner rather than later things will return to normal. Try to help your mental wellbeing in the meantime:

- Limit the amount of news you watch and read. The constant reminder will only add to your anxiety.
- Read a novel or listen to an audio book. This will act as escapism and take your imagination to new and exciting places.
- Limit the amount of social media you access – fake news thrives on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. Fake news will only worsen your anxieties.
- Exercise – you are allowed out of your homes for a walk or another form of exercise. However, try out PE with Joe Wicks' – your teachers have been. Exercise releases chemicals called endorphins which trigger a positive feeling in your body.

- Keep to a routine – set an alarm in the morning, make your bed, brush your teeth, set aside time for school work, set aside time for downtime and exercise, and do not go to bed too late.

Uniform notice

We do not know when school will reopen. We are seeking and following advice from the government on a daily basis. However, when school does reopen – things will be as close to normal as possible. Therefore:

- Look after your school uniform
- Please do not get piercings – nose piercings, smiler piercings, eyebrow piercings or multiple piercings are not allowed – and boys are not allowed piercings at all
- Please do not get any outrageous hairstyles – no cuts or lines, no high top or big afros and hair must be your natural hair colour.

This will ensure your return to school will not be delayed even further.

Email addresses:

year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com

ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Stay safe.

Attitude Determines Altitude