



Assembly notices

Monday 11th May 2020

Reflection for the week

It perhaps didn't feel like it – but Friday 8th May was a bank holiday. It is unusual to have a bank holiday switched from a Monday to a Friday – but it was done this year in order to recognise an important anniversary in the history of our country. Friday 8th May 2020 marked 75 years since peace was announced in Europe during the Second World War.

Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8 May 1945 saw Britain and its Allies formally accept Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender after almost six years of war.

At 3pm Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced on the radio that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before.

Celebrations broke out across the country and the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, and her sister Princess Margaret, ventured out with a group of friends to experience the excitement in London.

The situation we have found ourselves in over the past two months is, in a way, a war-style situation. During the Second World War people had to make sacrifices similar to the ones we are making today in order to keep safe.

The enemy we face may not be visible – rather than shielding from bombs in the skies, we are shielding from a deadly virus.

Soldiers may not be fighting on the beaches of Normandy – but doctors and nurses are fighting to keep infected people alive.

Families were kept apart during the war – children had been away from their families for years due to evacuation – we are having to stay away from our families and friends.

After the Second World War – life did not get back to 'normal' for many years. Rationing in Britain, for example, continued in Britain until 1954 – 9 years after the war ended; the economy was ruined in Britain and there was a period of austerity in the 1950s. We should be prepared for changes in our lives to continue for the next few years at least.

Some good was to come about from the Second World War – and we should take comfort from this. In 1948 the NHS was officially set up. Injury, disease and flu was rife during the war and immediately after it. Evacuation from the cities to small villages in the countryside had awakened a realisation in the UK that poverty, malnourishment and squalor was a big problem. The government felt as though they needed to have more intervention in people's lives. This socialist system – the NHS - has come to be this country's champion in fighting this new war.

As you read this there is no direct comparison to a war that killed an estimated 70-85 million people worldwide over 6 years. But we are living through a pandemic where reportedly nearly 300,000 people have died of coronavirus worldwide since December 2019.

But we are in a war-like situation at the moment – and this is why our lives have changed and this is why they will continue to change for years to come.

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Year 9 Options

We have had a very successful week conducting interviews with parents and pupils and we thank you for making your GCSE Options choice.

We were unable to contact some of our pupils and their parents/ carers.

If you have not submitted your GCSE Options choice please email year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com as soon as possible leaving a contact number and a suitable time to call.

Show My Homework – Year 10

We continue to stress that all pupils in year 10 complete all work that has been set on Show My Homework. This work is a continuation of your GCSE courses.

Work will continue to be set on SMHW and this must be completed and submitted by the deadlines issued.

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>.

Year 11 – Transition

We will continue to support your transition from year 11 to year 12. Many colleges and 6th forms are working with Platanos College to ensure that you still can make important decisions about your future.

South Bank UTC is offering an enhanced Engineering and Health curriculum, working with industry sponsors including Guys and St Thomas' and Skanska to ensure that pupils get practical experience alongside academic studies.

If you want to know more about what's on offer at South Bank UTC visit their online assembly on YouTube - 'Why choose South Bank UTC'.

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