



Assembly notices

Monday 18th May 2020

Reflection for the week

There is a problem with the media – newspapers, televised and radio news, and social media – about the information that they provide. People can be forgiven for taking what they see, hear or read as being true. Unfortunately, it is not that straight forward.

Newspapers and radio stations often will have political agendas and they will spin information to get a particular message across. They will not report certain stories. People who share news on social media will use your personal information to target particular stories for you to read – and sometimes the news that is spread just isn't true – this has typically become known as 'fake news'.

Coronavirus misinformation is flooding the media.

Consider the advice below on how to find out the truth and stop the spreading of misinformation.

A) Stop and think before sharing news on social media platforms.

B) Check your source - ask some basic questions about where the information comes from. If the source is "a friend of a friend" or "my aunt's colleague's neighbour" – the information probably isn't true. Everyone seems to know someone who knows someone else who works close to a government source.

At the moment, for advice on staying healthy the most reliable sources of information remain public health bodies like the NHS, or the World Health Organisation. For information about the current lockdown, visiting gov.uk is the most reliable source. Experts are not infallible. But they are much more reliable than a stranger's distant relative on WhatsApp.

C) Could it be a fake? Appearances can be deceptive.

It is possible to impersonate official accounts and authorities, including BBC News and the government. Screenshots can also be changed to make it look like information has come from a trusted public body.

Check known and verified accounts and websites. If you can't easily find the information, it might be a hoax. And if a post, video or a link looks fishy - it probably is.

Capital letters and mismatched fonts are something fact-checkers use as an indicator a post might be misleading, according to Claire Milne from Full Fact.

D) Beware of emotional responses or opinions - It's the stuff that gets us fearful, angry, anxious, or joyful that tends to really go viral. Fear is one of the biggest drivers that allows misinformation to thrive.

E) Think about subjectivity (bias) – People will not tend to share something that they disagree with. Would you share something because you know it's true - or just because you agree with it?

Reflect on the issue of news at the moment – what will you do to ensure that you are better and accurately informed of what is happening at the moment?

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Year 8 Options process

In the letter dated Monday 4th May 2020, we informed parents/carers of year 8 that the Year 8 into Year 9 Options interview phone calls would commence on Monday 18th May 2020.

We have decided to postpone this process until a later date.

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

We know that your intended sixth forms and colleges may have provided you with transition work. It is important that you prepare for your next steps.

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

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:

- stay at home as much as possible
- complete your school work at home
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly

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