



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Year 8 Curriculum Bulletin

Attitude Determines Altitude

5th June 2020

English Notice



Well done on completing the first full half term of digital learning. While we know that it has been a challenging number of weeks, but we are so proud of how well you have risen to the challenge and continued your hard work online. You have communicated very well with your teachers and have shown great resilience. We are so impressed with how well you have worked independently at home.

You have been excellent at:

- Submitting homework on a consistent basis and to a high level.
- Completing quizzes and spelling tests and attempting them more than once to challenge yourself to achieve a better score.
- Responding to some of the difficult and complex topics in a mature way.

Remember to:

- Complete any outstanding work that you have from the end of March; if there are any that you found too difficult, contact your teacher for support.
- Respond to marking and redraft your work based on the comments made by your teacher.
- When you have completed a spelling test or quiz, keep retrying it until you get 100% - this is a great way to revise and improve.
- Communicate with your teacher if you need help with anything; we are always here to support you.
- Take some time to do your own independent reading at home – newspapers, books and even online articles are a good place to start. However, when reading newspapers, make sure you consider bias and how objective they are.

Well done again for your continued hard work and resilience; you are all showing that the Platanos spirit is alive and well in our community. If you are struggling with anything or are finding any of the work too challenging, please contact your teachers on SMHW or by email and we will support you as best as we can.

This half-term, you will be studying ‘Gothic Fiction’:

AO2 and AO4

You will:

- Read a range of gothic literature from the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Understand key poetic and structural features and identify them in Gothic fiction extracts.
- Understand conventions of gothic fiction and how they are used.
- Evaluate language used in a range of different extracts.
- Evaluate the writer’s use of structure and tone.
- Compare different gothic extract, evaluating their efficacy.

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AO5 and AO6

You will:

- Revise language and structural devices so you can use them effectively in your own writing.
- Practise writing in the style of the Gothic genre
- Use a tone and register that is compelling and engaging to the reader and that fits the gothic genre.
- Use different sentence forms and consider the impact you want to have on the reader.
- Use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar when writing creatively
- Practise planning and re-drafting your work in order to improve it.

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Maths Notice

You have been excellent at completing work on MyMaths. 124 different pupils were regularly logging in and accessing task set there. Many of you were achieving over 80% marks in different tasks. You were especially good in number task, which were revision of Autumn 1 term.

We understand that it is challenging for some of you to have access to a computer or internet, but we would like to encourage those who haven't yet try to log in to their accounts if they can.

We will continue to set tasks on MyMaths, but you will also regularly receive worksheets on SMHW as some of you find it easier to access those.

Recently you have been given literacy task to complete on SMHW. However, only a few pupils have done so.

Please complete them if you have not yet. We will continue to upload more of literacy task as they will boost your mathematical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills, and will help you greatly in your maths next year.

We are very impressed by your efforts.

This half term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. Angles
2. Measures
3. Area

We know that some of you will find these challenging, however you can always message your teacher on SMHW and we will guide you as best we can.

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Science Notice



Year 8 (especially 8a/Sc1 8a/Sc2 and 8 a/Sc3,) have been excellent at working scientifically through the following topics: Acids and Alkalis, Neutralization and Indicators, and pH. We are very impressed by your efforts.

This half term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. Chemical reactions 2
2. Waves-Sound
3. Waves-Light

We know that some of you will find some of the tasks challenging to work on, since these are new topics presented without face to face support. However, you can always message your teacher on SMHW and we will guide you as best we can.

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Please complete more of the set classwork task set by your teacher: A band should focus more on completing their spelling test and their quiz, B and C bands should focus on completing the tasks set on metals and acids, polymers, ceramics and composites.

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History Notice

You have been excellent at:

- Finding definitions for new keywords
- Using evidence to show how Britain increased their control of Australia and how this impacted the indigenous Aborigines.
- Making judgments on extent that people benefitted from the British Empire

This half term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. How far did the European Transatlantic Slave Trade under develop West Africa?
2. What is the difference between a developed country and an underdeveloped country?
3. How Africa developed prior to the slave trade by looking at the medieval African Kingdom of Benin?
4. The relationship between Europe and Africa prior to the slave trade
5. What were the causes of the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
6. To what extent did Africa benefit from colonial rule?
7. How far the European Transatlantic Slave Trade changed West Africa from 1650-1850?



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We know that some of you will find these challenging, however you can always message your teacher on *SMHW*, and we will guide you as best we can.

Please complete more of:

- The extended writing pieces so you can show how well you understand what you have learnt.
- Writing examples in your answers so that you have lots of evidence to prove all of your judgements
- Include specific statistics, people, events and dates to support your answers for more historical accuracy
- Writing balanced responses to questions
- Include specific historical vocabulary

We look forward to seeing you develop further in the next half term.

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Spanish Notice



You have been excellent at completing vocabulary quizzes on the topics of holidays, food and clothes. We are extremely impressed by your efforts. This half term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. City: describing houses and their locations
2. Directions: understanding and giving directions
3. Holidays: discussing summer camps and summer activities

We know that some of you will find these challenging, however you can always message your teacher on SMHW, and we will guide you as best we can.

Please complete more writing tasks using the writing frame and the success criteria given in each lesson to help you construct your writing and include more detail.

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Art and Design Notice

The Art and Design department hope you are all safe and well. We have missed our lessons together at school but have been proud of those of you who have been continuing to develop your Art skills at home.

You have been innovative in the ways that you have been producing your work and have been applying your understanding of the formal elements in your portraiture work. You have developed your accuracy in drawing the proportions of the face and engaged really well with the quizzes. There have been some truly excellent submissions demonstrating the application of skills learnt in the classroom and utilising them independently at home.

In order for you to continue to succeed, we encourage you to complete some of the more challenging tasks on offer, using the formal elements to ensure your work demonstrates your full ability. Try to spend more time on the independent research and to practice your skills further. Use the Artist analysis to inform your practical work and learn from the research you are completing.

This half term, we will continue to set you work in the same format- there will be some analysis based tasks, some practical tasks and of course the weekly quizzes which you all have been so great at!

Your teachers are all on hand to help you, please just contact them through SMHW if you need any help or support. We are here for you!

We hope you have been enjoying seeing some of your peers work within the weekly celebration newsletter- there has been some truly excellent pieces of work from year 8- keep up the excellent work!



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Physical Education Notice

It has been fantastic to see many Year 8 pupils engaging with the tasks set online. The most impressive completions have been the quizzes. Many of you have been demonstrating your knowledge and understanding on topics you have covered this academic year and the results have been very encouraging.

This term we will be setting spelling test on words you will encounter in Year 9, this is to familiarise yourself with these keywords. You will also be learning the meaning of these keywords and how you can apply them. Also, there will be work set on the skeleton and you being able to name which muscles are connected to which bone in the body.

We would like to encourage more pupils to complete the tasks set online. If you are having any difficulties with any work or submitting work, please send your teacher a message through SMHW.



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Drama Notice

Year 8 Drama pupils have by far sent back the most work during lockdown. We have been impressed that many pupils have gone beyond the homework set to also feed back to us on their practical sessions, annotating the slides of step by step guides to devising and rehearsing with their experiences and ideas in context.

In particular, 8a/Dr1, 8a/Dr4 and 8b/Dr2 have shown an exemplary level of commitment to creative approaches to the devising process.

Next we will be focusing on the issue of 'Choices' in moving on to:-

1. Cross-cutting
2. Independent devising
3. Conscience alleys
4. Thought tracking
5. Applying theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions

Creating and developing ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance.

For some, the rapport you have built up with your acting peers over the first half of the academic year has meant that group pieces and peer assessment of practical work have become much easier. This may not be the case when you have to work with people at home.

Some pupils may find performance tasks more awkward at first, which is understandable. In such cases, it's useful to cast your minds back to the start of the year when there were similar feelings of reserve. It is only by taking risks and pushing forward that your self-confidence, stage presence and working rapports will improve.

We are extremely proud of the efforts of our year 8 pupils. Please retain the high standards you have shown right through to the final lesson of the next series of lessons.

Where some pupils have made errors in using subject terminology, particularly in the spelling mat challenges, spend more time revisiting the work to hand in your own corrections.

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Even more importantly, keep topped up on creative stimuli. There are so many more opportunities to stream free theatre, music and dance performances than would usually be available.



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