



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Year 9 Curriculum Bulletin

Attitude Determines Altitude

5th June 2020

English Notice



We would like to congratulate you on how you have moved from classroom learning to online learning. The majority of pupils in year 9 are completing the work set by their English teachers to a high standard. We are very proud of the maturity you have shown in your communication with teachers; your feedback to marking successfully and you ask intelligent questions in order to improve your work.

You have been excellent at:

1. Submitting high level responses to homework tasks, in particular your language comparison questions.

2. Completing the spelling tests and not being satisfied until you have achieved 100%.
3. Completing the quizzes set and trying again and again until you have gotten all of the answers correct. This is excellent revision.
4. Communicating with your teachers, your honest communication means that we can support you to achieve as best you can.

Remember to:

1. Complete any outstanding work that you may have missed – lessons from March.
2. Respond to the feedback given to you by your teacher.
3. Communicate with your teacher if you need any support or advice.
4. Read for at least 1 hour a week (more is preferable). If you have finished the books you have please let Ms O'Connell know and she will send you extracts and short stories.
5. Check SMHW each morning to ensure you do not miss an additional task/spelling test or quiz.

Pupils who may not have been completing as much work as they might, now is the time for resilience and perseverance. All of the work set is specific to the skills and knowledge that you need in order to move on to year 10. Give yourself a positive beginning to year 10 in English with the knowledge that you have tried your very best, even in difficult circumstances. If you need any support, your teachers are here for you.

This half-term the topic is 'Creative Writing'. Link to GCSE Paper 1

Section B

Pupils will be given the choice of writing a descriptive piece or a narrative piece.

Criteria:

A05

1. Register that is compelling to the reader.
2. The writing piece should match the task that was set out, matched to purpose.

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3. Using ambitious vocabulary and continuously use of effective language techniques (similes/extended metaphors/anaphora and many more)
4. Varied and inventive use of structure, consider how you layout your piece of writing, it should be laid out in an interesting way.
5. Writing should be compelling; readers should be engaged in the piece of writing.
6. Paragraphs should be linked well; if you change the tense, time or atmosphere for example, you should begin a new paragraph.

A06

1. Sentence demarcation is secure and accurate throughout the piece of writing. Use of full-stops, question marks, exclamation marks, ellipses for example, should be correct.
2. Use a wide range of punctuation – consider using semi-colons/colons/brackets/ for example, when they are needed and will be effective. Use punctuation purposefully.
3. Use different sentence forms (complex sentences, short sentences, one-word sentences, exclamatory sentences, rhetorical questions for example. Consider the effect you want the sentence to have on the reader.
4. Use Standard English consistently as well as grammatical structures used correctly.
5. Spellings should be accurate including the spelling of ambitious vocabulary. (Spelling tests on SMHW will aid pupils with this)
6. Colons/colons/brackets/ for example, when they are needed and will be effective. Use punctuation purposefully.
7. Use different sentence forms (complex sentences, short sentences, one word sentences, exclamatory sentences, rhetorical questions for example. Consider the effect you want the sentence to have on the reader.
8. Use Standard English consistently as well as grammatical structures used correctly.

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9. Spellings should be accurate including the spelling of ambitious vocabulary.
(Spelling tests on SMHW will aid pupils with this)

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Maths Notice

You have been excellent at solving linear equations, plotting linear graphs and finding LCM of pairs of numbers. You have also done well in writing numbers in standard form and interpreting and completing two-way tables. We are very impressed by the efforts of pupils in sets 9AM1 and 9AM4.

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

1. Area and circumference of circles and areas of compound shapes
2. Volume of cuboids, prisms, cylinders and composite shapes
3. Triangles and quadrilaterals
4. Congruence and similarity
5. Angles in polygons

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. The topics listed above also appear in the GCSE course which you will be studying in year 10 so it is vital you put much effort into completing the work.

Please try to complete all of the times tables which have been set. Mastery of the times tables will develop your proficiency at solving problems.



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Science Notice

You have been excellent by submitting high quality work on scientific skills and the topic of ecology. Your science teachers are hugely impressed by your efforts. This term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. Atomic structure
2. Energy resources
3. Evolution and Inheritance

We are aware that some of you will find the work challenging since you have to work through your lessons without face-to-face help from your teachers. However, you can always message your teacher on SMHW and we will guide you as best we can.

A band should complete more of the lessons on 'elements and the periodic table' as well as 'order of magnitude'. B and C bands should complete the work set on looking at cells. We would like you to complete the lessons that you have not yet attempted.

The vast majority of you completed the spelling tests and quizzes - well done!

Finally, it is important that you engage with the topics numbered above because these are part of the GCSE content and will directly prepare you for your final examinations.

Together, we can do this.

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Spanish Notice



You have been excellent at completing vocabulary quizzes on the topic of future jobs. We are very impressed by your efforts. Next term we will be setting work on the following topics:

1. Social issues: discussing children's rights and workers' conditions.
2. Environment: talking about strategies to help the environment
3. City: describing how our neighbourhood used to be in the past

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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History Notice

Dear year 9, well done on making an excellent start to the new GCSE unit of work! I am amazed at how quickly you have got on with the business of completing tasks, and showing resilience despite having to work independently. In stepping up to the demands of the course, you have adapted well.

We have seen our year 9 pupils begin to write in more detail. I can see that you are reviewing your work, writing with greater clarity, and interweaving judgements with evidence and explanation. The History department has noted an improvement in the quality of work, and this is promising as we continue to build on our GCSE knowledge and writing.



By the half term break, you have completed a whole topic area on Elizabethan government.

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

1. Elizabethan Society - the rich, poor, and gentry classes. The homes of the rich, reasons for poverty, and how Elizabeth tried to deal with these problems through the Poor Laws of 1601.
2. Entertainment in the 1600s - looking at cruel sport such as bear-baiting, rough sports like football (it is a little different to football today), and the beginnings of popular theatre.
3. Elizabeth's religious settlement - the problems between the Catholics and Protestants, and how her new laws - known as the Middle Way - helped to ease tensions.

This is a new topic, and there will be things that challenge you. Please make sure you message the teacher setting work if there are any problems. We are more than happy to help, and like seeing you attempting the tasks set.

Please remember to use detail in your work, and continue to weave evidence and explanation into your answers so that you meet the GCSE criteria as best as you can. Also, make sure you are trying out the quizzes, so you can assess how well you are doing. As your teachers, we are here to help - so please do get in touch if we can help in any way.

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

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Religious Education Notice

Well done on all your efforts with RE submissions! Your tutors are delighted to see each task submitted with effort and focus, and you are now making more judgements in your work.

Even though we have started the new topic of Islam, you continue to work with resilience and have made an excellent start to this new unit of work. There are more key words in your answers, you are starting to explain your ideas without prompting, and include evidence of key terms in your written answers. Please continue to do this, because each practice piece will help towards achieving the GCSE grade you deserve.

Do remember that there is a wealth of information online - so try to watch BBC Teach videos about Islam and remember to try out the quizzes to recap your knowledge of Christianity.

By the half term break, you will have developed your knowledge of Islam further and will be expected to look at the Five Pillars and examples of prophets in more detail. So, it is important that you work your way through each lesson, and ensure you do not have gaps in knowledge.

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

1. Authority in Islam - including the role of the prophets, the Qur'an and other
2. Holy Books. The idea of Imamate in Shi'a Islam and leaders in Islam.
3. The Five Pillars of Shahadah, Sawm, Zakah, Salah and Hajj.

Some of these words will be completely new to you, but you have done so well with familiarising yourself with the basic ideas of Islam that we are confident you will continue to grow in your knowledge and ability to write about this topic in preparation for the GCSE criteria.

As new learning, there will be things that challenge you. Please make sure you get in touch if we can help in any way.

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Art and Design Notice

The Art and Design department have missed practicing your GCSE skills within lesson but have been enjoying seeing your excellent submissions.

The standard of work from some of the submissions demonstrates the high standards you developed within the start of your year. You have remembered the standards we have demonstrated to you and your work continues to prepare you for GCSE. The presentational skills and levels of independence is setting you up well for year 10. You are applying your clear understanding of the formal elements and you are being creative with your use and application of materials- those of you who created your own paint have been incredibly innovative!



To ensure you continue to prepare yourself for GCSE and develop your skills further we encourage you to focus on the finer details of your observational work and record closely the details, textures and tones. This will improve the quality of your outcomes.

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

Well done to all pupils who have been able to complete tasks set online. The results for the completed quizzes and spelling test have been encouraging which reflect the learning that took place when you were in school.

We will continue to set quizzes, spelling tests and video analysis tasks this term to continue your learning. There will be an increase emphasis on topics that link between PE and Science such as aerobic/anaerobic respiration and the heart. This will further support those looking to undertake GCSE PE, which is also needed for Science, a subject you will all take.

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



We have been impressed by the sophisticated work handed in by pupils in year 9, where attention to detail in incorporating advanced practitioners' approaches into rehearsals facilitated great progress.

Pupils should feel proud of how they have adapted their approach to practical tasks. Focusing in detail on GCSE criteria used to make judgements about the quality of performance work, many pupils have impressed us with the way they have embraced this opportunity to focus and delve into greater depth regarding the theory of Drama to underpin rationales for decisions made. This will be particularly useful for those pupils continuing their Drama studies next year.

Next we will be moving on to the following topics:-

1. An introduction to the play 'Blue Stockings' by Jennifer Swale
2. Consideration of context
3. Main characters and characterisations within 'Blue Stockings'
4. Understanding AO4 GCSE questions
5. Lighting techniques

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. A great starting point would be to look at the Globe Theatre and resources on its website

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relating to the building itself, as this is the original venue 'Blue Stockings' was performed in, and much of the writing had the specifics of the acting space taken into account at the point of its creation.

Please complete more of the quizzes set. For some pupils, the longer pieces of writing also need greater attention to detail to ensure the learning intentions (highlighted in the yellow, green and purple pathway boxes in PowerPoint attachments) are fully met. The set text 'Blue Stockings' is your key GCSE text. The highest percentage of marks available in the GCSE written exam are directly linked to acting and directing decisions about this play so it is very important to invest all your effort into the work.



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