



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# Key Stage 3 Newsletter

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## *Attitude Determines Altitude*

### Key Dates / Events Calendar

Induction Day for (NEW) Year 10	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 8.40am – 12.30pm
Induction Day for (NEW) Year 9	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 8.40am – 12.30pm
Induction Day for (NEW) Year 8	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 8.40am – 2.30pm
TERM 1 (All year groups)	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2020

### Welcome

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope that you and your family are all keeping well and staying safe.

It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils and their parents/ carers at our recent Academic Review Days. Although, they were different than usual, it was fantastic to see so many of our pupils looking so smart in their school uniforms. It was amazing to see how tall and grown up many of the children were – especially given that the last time we saw our pupils was on in March.

It has been fantastic to be able to celebrate pupils who have worked so

hard with their home learning and submitted work to their teachers! It has been a pleasure to read the Pupil Celebration Newsletter on a weekly basis.

At the same time, it has been warming to be able to hear of conversations via phone and email between the Pastoral Managers and our pupils and their parents and carers.

We, of course, keep in our thoughts and prayers those of you who have been directly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: those whose family members who have lost their jobs, those who have had loved ones be seriously ill, and those who have had members of their families die of Covid-19.

Our message throughout the school closure has remained the same – safety first. Everyone’s priority should be on keeping safe and well – both physically and mentally.

We understand completely that this pandemic and lockdown will have impacted the ability for a number of our pupils to complete work online. Additionally, the number of issues surrounding technology has deeply hampered the attempts of some of our pupils to complete the work to the best of their ability.

However, from September it has to be business as usual – as far as possible. HM government has informed us that we must open as normal as possible from the Autumn term – and we will do so – with the plan to accelerate the social and academic learning of our pupils. We do not want the children who have missed school since March to become the forgotten generation of the future.

When we open, we will have undertaken a number of new measures to ensure that our pupils, their families, our staff and their families, are kept safe from the impact of Covid-19. We continue to study carefully HM Government’s instructions and guidance and we will follow this when we re-open.

These changes will be unusual and so we will be holding induction days for pupils in every year group before the official start of term. It is essential that we remain safe – but also that we are prepared for education in its normal setting so as to begin with extreme pace of learning.

There is no doubt that the last few months have been extremely challenging for all of us. However, I want to thank all our parents and carers for their continued patience and support. We are extremely proud of how well we have come together as a school community to support each other.

On behalf of all of the staff at the school, I hope you all enjoy the summer break and renewed thanks and best wishes to you all.

Please, stay safe.

*Mr Bourke*

### **A message to our outgoing year 7 pupils**

As I write this article it is hard to believe that the end of the academic year is approaching and your time as a year 7 pupil is almost complete. When I reflect upon the year I have some particularly fond memories:

- The first day of secondary school in September, in particular the welcome assembly with the year group reciting the school motto.
- The trip to enhance learning in December to Kidzania, seeing pupils learning about different job roles and professions. The pupils in attendance were outstanding representatives of the school whilst using public transport, resulting in several members of the public commenting on the maturity, behaviour and presentation of the pupils.

---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

**Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL**

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

- The Autumn Term achievement assembly, celebrating individual and collective achievements from the autumn term.



I can't reflect upon the academic year without mentioning the impact of Covid-19 and the school closure, it has been a difficult time for everyone but I feel a real sense of pride when I consider the manner in which year 7 pupils rose to the challenge of online learning. As your pastoral manager Pastoral Manager, I am incredibly proud of the positive attitude displayed by the year group when faced with this unique challenge, along with remarkable levels of resilience and persistence to strive for academic excellence during such an uncertain period.

On a personal level whilst the school has been closed I have missed the following things:

- Individual conversations with pupils throughout the course of the school and in particular the smiles and genuine happiness each morning when pupils arrive.
- Visiting lessons and seeing pupils actively engaged in their working displaying a real thirst for learning.

- Seeing pupils sharing a lunch table deeply engaged in passionate conversation about all manner of topics.
- And of course the rush of pupils to line up when they realize that it's BBQ chicken on the lunch menu.

As the year group prepares to transition into Year 8 my advice is simple, remember the basics that have been instilled in each of you since your first day at Platanos College and look to stretch yourself with the various leadership roles and positions of responsibility available.

As you are no longer the newest pupils to our school community it is vital that you conduct yourself as supportive role models welcoming the new Year 7 cohort into our school community.

Whilst this summer holiday will no doubt feel very different to any you have previously experienced due to the current circumstances, make sure you take advantage of the opportunity to rest and relax.




---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

**Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL**

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

It can also be a great time to learn about something you wouldn't normally experience or develop a new skill and of course ensure that you are prepared in regards to uniform and equipment for September. Take the time to reflect upon this year and consider what you would like to achieve in year 8.

Finally enjoy the hopefully warmer weather, make memories with your family and friends but most importantly listen to guidance and advice to keep yourself safe.

I wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved restful Summer break. I look forward to everyone's safe return in September and seeing the year group successfully transition into Year 8.

*Mr Hobson*

### A message to our outgoing year 8 pupils

As always it is a delight to serve the pupils of Platanos College, in particular the outgoing year 8s.



They have been a wonderful year group, displaying many personalities and characters which have shone through all year.

Reflecting on the past year, I have fond memories of attending the Museum of London last December, where a small group that I was overseeing pretended to re-enact living in the Victorian era. I remember being so proud when a member of the public commented on how well behaved the children were and how smart their school uniform was.

I have missed watching tutor groups take assemblies and seeing those usually shy pupils be bold and present to their peers – it is that development and courage which I have loved to see this year.

It has been an eventful term due to the Covid19 pandemic. We have all, of course, had to make numerous changes and adjust the way that we work or go about our daily lives. I would never have thought that I would be working from home and speaking to parents and carers often via the phone. It was only natural to check in and ensure that pupils are safe and well and had access to online learning.



As the year draws to a close and you enter year 9, remind yourselves of the expectations that the school has of you. You are about to become the seniors of Key Stage Three and the younger ones will be looking at you and how you conduct yourselves. Please be role models for them to follow.

---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

You will need to work hard to make progress as well as improve your attainment. Follow instructions from your teachers and complete your homework to the best of your ability. Always believe in yourself. You have the competence to do anything that you put your mind to.

Always remember the school motto: 'Attitude Determines Altitude' and repeat it to yourself.

It has been a privilege working with you. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the parents/carers who have also been so supportive.

As you break for the summer holidays, it would be wise to keep reading daily. 'The man who does not read books has no advantage over the one who cannot read them' (Mark Twain).

As lockdown eases remember that the virus IS still out there, stay safe, wash your hands and keep your distance. Have a restful and enjoyable break, whatever you do.

*Ms Kellman*



**A message to our outgoing year 9 pupils**



Year 9 is the final year in KS3 where pupils should be more in tune with the learning tools and skills in school-life. Being able to sit, listen and focus in the lesson.

The year started well with pupils having made their selection of taster option subjects, which are studied in conjunction with their compulsory subjects.

In the absence of daily school life I have missed the smiling faces, greetings (and moaning!) of the individuals on a morning.

I have also missed greeting pupils in assemblies and the cheekiness of some who would try to sit with their friends as oppose to their tutor group and seeing if the teachers would notice! But also to see the faces of this year group as they anticipated what the assembly theme would be.

It was a shame that I was unable to continue the questions, the advice and the general conversations with individuals and groups of pupils whilst walking amongst the year group at lunchtime.

As you enter the crucial years at Platanos College, make the most of your free education period. See education as your wages - *Learn to Earn*.

---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

**Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL**

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

This is the time that I would encourage you to be sensibly selfish and focus on your learning.

During the Summer Holidays, keep up with the new skills that you have learnt during online learning since March 2020.

Give yourself a break and have fun, enjoy the time, look after one another and most of all Be Safe!

I look forward to seeing you back as year 10 pupils in September 2020.

This year has been a challenging, difficult and strange for us all, in the unforeseen circumstances and impact of Covid-19.

It has affected the world but we believe in you and wish the best for all of you in your daily lives.

*Mr Boyles*



## Academic Review Days



We were delighted to see many of our pupils across Key Stage 3 at our staggered Academic Review Days in June and July.

It was important that we gave our pupils and you, their parents and carers, an opportunity to meet with teachers at the school in order to help prepare for September.

Most importantly though, it was an opportunity to explicitly remind you all that we are still here and you are still very much at the forefront of our minds.



*Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

## Our Online Working Champions



**PUPIL CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Edition 13  
*Attitude Determines Altitude*

**WELCOME**



celebrate our pupils who show terrific effort in submitting outstanding work onto Show My Homework and the other online platforms being used by the school.

This newsletter highlights pupils nominated by the Directors of Learning of subjects as showing extraordinary effort in the past week.



Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Platanos College pupil celebration newsletter.

The lockdown is continuing to ease with more and more parts of society opening up, however schools continue to operate in extraordinary circumstances. We continue to be proud of all of our pupils for how they have continued to complete work from home.

Our teachers continue to work tirelessly to set meaningful lessons and work online and we continue to

Every week since the school's closure we have celebrated pupils who have been able to produce excellent school work from home and submit these to their teachers.

Our Pupil Celebration Newsletters can be accessed via the school website.

### KEY STAGE THREE

#### ENGLISH AWARDS *The Authors of the week...*

##### Gold

Year 7  
Daniel Rodrigues Silva  
Lezan Abas

Year 8  
Imogen Bowes  
Ana Rita Marques

Year 9  
Ramey Mitchell  
Reuben Bowes

##### Silver

Year 7  
Sophia Martins  
Uhunoma Obayangbona  
Menal Ahmed

Year 8  
Ritaje Khair  
Tatiana Abrantes  
Caleb Thomas  
Tajja Maddix

Year 9  
Khiara Jarrin Herrera  
Denis Lopez Garcia  
Juan Lopez Garcia

##### Bronze

Year 7  
Aaron Ahua  
Crystal Azzopardi  
Ryan Channer  
Ferdos Hagos  
Safara Coke

Year 8  
Nicandro Carvalho Mendonca  
Aida Nezir  
Gema Fernandez Serbu  
Grace Morrison  
Matthew Zelalem

Year 9  
Leisha Laroya  
Muhammed Ali  
Beatriz Ramos  
Jehan Keifa  
Alaa Yassin



*Attitude Determines Altitude*  
Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL  
Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)  
Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

## Our Weekly Reflections

### Assembly notices

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020



#### Reflection for the week

A car salesman shares the success-producing technique he has developed. It makes sense.

*"A big part of my job, for two hours a day", he explains, "is telephoning potential customers to arrange test drives. When I first started selling cars three years ago, this was my big problem. I was shy and afraid, and I know that my voice sounded that way on the phone. It was easy for people I called up to say: "I'm not interested," and hang up.*

*"Every Monday morning back then our sales manager held a sales meeting. It was pretty inspirational, and it made me feel good. And what's more, I always seemed to arrange more test drives on Monday than any other day. But the trouble was that little of Monday's inspiration carried over to Tuesday and the rest of the week.*

*"Then I had an idea. If the sales manager can pep me up, why can't I pep myself up? Why not give myself a pep talk just before I start making those phone calls? That day I decided to try it. Without telling anyone I walked out on the forecourt and found a vacant car. I sat in it and for several minutes I talked to myself. I told myself, I am a good car salesman and I'm going to be the best. I sell good cars and I give good deals. The people I am phoning need those cars and I am going to sell them.*

*"Well, from the very beginning, this self-supercharging paid off. I felt so good I didn't dread making those calls. I wanted to make them.*

*"I no longer go out on the car lot and sit in a car to give myself a pep talk. But I still use the technique. Before I dial a number I silently remind myself that I'm a top-notch salesman and I'm going to get the results – and I do."*

It is a pretty good idea – to be on top, you've got to feel like you're on top. Give yourself a pep talk and discover how much bigger and stronger you feel.

Practice up-lifting self-praise. Don't practice belittling self-punishment.

You are what you think you are. Think more of yourself and there is more of you.

Set yourself this task: build your own 'sell-yourself-to-yourself' commercial. Think for a moment about one of America's most popular products, Coca-Cola. Every day your eyes or ears come in contact many times with the good news about Coca-Cola. The people who make Coca-Cola are continually reselling you on Coke, and for good reason. If they stopped reselling to you, chances are you'd go lukewarm on and eventually cold on Coke. Then sales would drop.

But the Coca-Cola Company is not going to let that happen. They resell you and resell you and resell you on Coca-Cola.

Every day we see half-alive people who are no longer sold on themselves. They lack self-respect for their most important product – themselves. These people are indifferent. They feel small. They feel like nobodies, and because they feel that way, that's how they project themselves to others.

Every week since the school's enforced closure; we have published weekly reflections on our website and sent these by text to you. If you wish to read these reflections again please visit the latest news section on the school's website.

## Academic Scholars

Over the last half term members of the 'Academia Society' in both years 7 and year 8 have been working on project number 4. The project is entitled 'Mount Everest – A Mountain that conquers man or that man has conquered?'

### *Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

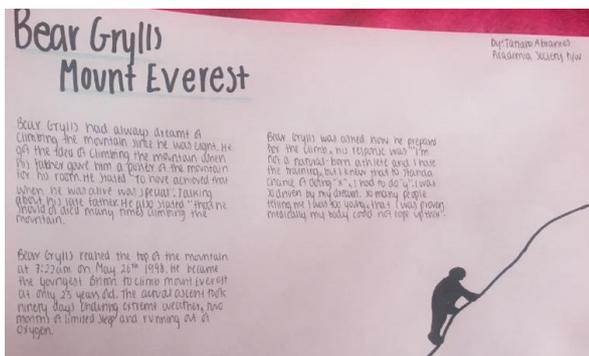
Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

Pupils were asked to choose, and base their project around, an explorer who had scaled the peaks of Everest. Throughout their research, pupils came across shocking and intriguing facts about these explorers, one of whom is celebrity survivalist Bear Grylls. Grylls became the youngest Briton ever to climb Mount Everest, a feat he achieved less than 2 years after breaking his back in a sky diving accident.

Pupils were permitted to base their project around the mountaineer of their choice and outline their lengthy and arduous path to the summit of Everest. Tatiana Abrantes in year 8 decided to discover more about Bear Grylls amazing feat, an example of which is pictured below.

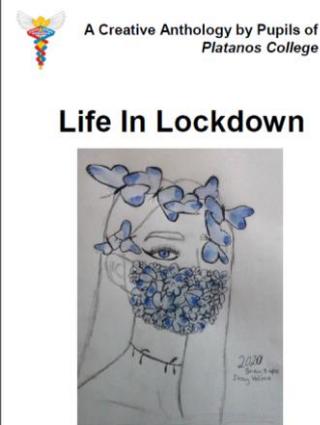
Muaze Nur Hassan also in year 8 completed his project on the great Sir Edmund Hillary who, along with his Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, became the first man to reach the summit of Everest. Pupils in the 'Academia Society' are looking forward to the next academic year and the exciting projects that are in store for them.



## Pupil Anthology

Pupils across Years 7 to 11 vocalised their personal perspectives of the pandemic that they all collectively endured. In this anthology pupils have written reflections, demonstrated their photography and artistic creations to express their thoughts, feelings and experiences during this unprecedented global crisis.

The anthology can be accessed through the school's website.



## Hold Still Exhibition

Platanos College pupils contributed to The National Portrait Gallery 'Hold Still' Lockdown Photography Exhibition and the Platanos College Anthology Project.

We are very proud that our pupils' work has been entered for both of the above projects. Our pupils' fantastic contributions document life during the Covid-19 pandemic from their own perspectives.

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

The exhibition can be accessed through the school's website.

Daniel Coelho  
Year 7  
"Untitled"



### Induction Sessions – w/c 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

School will be very different when pupils return in September. We will need to ensure that they are fully aware of new behaviour expectations, their new timetable and new health and safety rules which are linked to Covid-19.

As a result, before their actual first day of learning, pupils will be required to attend an induction day. The days are different for separate year groups and are as follows:

- New year 11 pupils  
– Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 8.40am – 12.30pm
- New year 10 pupils  
– Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 8.40am – 12.30pm
- New year 9 pupils  
– Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 8.40am – 12.30pm

- New year 8 pupils  
– Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 8.40am – 3pm.
- New year 7 pupils  
– Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 8.40am – 2.30pm

Key Stage Four pupils will return to school on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**.

### Uniform

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform for their return to school. **This includes hair cuts which should be of a straight forward style – natural colour without lines or patterns. Lines cut into eyebrows are not allowed.**

- Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. Girls are permitted to wear a small stud in the lobe of each ear. **No other piercings are permitted.**
- Uniform includes: school blazer, school tie in house colours, formal white collar shirt, grey or black trousers (not denim), black or grey skirt for girls, black or grey socks, school shoes (not boots/ canvas shoes/ trainer style shoes).
- Hair colour must be natural
- For girls who wear a hijab this must be only plain dark blue, plain black, plain white or plain grey.

Pupils who return to school in September with breaches of school uniform will be sent home until this is corrected.

---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH

### Attendance from September 2020

Following HM Government's announcement in June, it is compulsory for pupils to attend school in September.

The school will have ensured that all guidance from the Department for Education is followed. Further details will be sent in the post.

### Keeping safe in the summer holidays

We would like to encourage parents and carers to continue to be vigilant during the summer break. Please continue to follow the (published) government guidelines on '*Staying alert and safe (social distancing)*' and '*Staying safe outside your home*'.

Both published guidelines are available on the gov.uk website and advice includes:

- stay at home as much as possible
- work from home if you can
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance from people not in your household (2 metres apart where possible)

- wash your hands regularly

### Update to Contact Details

Please ensure the school office has all your current contact details, especially your current mobile phone number and email address and advise us immediately if any of these change.

If there are any changes, please let us know by informing the main office as soon as possible or email [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com).

### Term Dates

#### TERM 1

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Holiday: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

---

*Attitude Determines Altitude*

Platanos College, Clapham Road, London, SW9 0AL

Tel: 020 7733 6156 | E-mail: [info@platanoscollege.com](mailto:info@platanoscollege.com) | Web: [www.platanoscollege.com](http://www.platanoscollege.com)

Executive Headteacher: Ms J. Tapper CBE FRSA MA NPQH