



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# Key Stage 4 Newsletter

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

## *Attitude Determines Altitude*

### Key Dates / Events Calendar

<b>Autumn Term (Term 1)</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>
<b>Induction Day for (NEW) year 11</b>	<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020</b>
<b>Key Stage 4 return to school</b>	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>

### Welcome

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

On behalf of all of the staff at Platanos College, I hope that you and your family are all keeping well and staying safe.

It has been wonderful to welcome back our year 10 pupils to school for their face to face sessions with their teachers. I have frequently popped into lessons and I have been really impressed with their hard work, diligence, and enthusiasm. Equally, the feedback from our pupils has been really positive and as a result we have seen a significant increase in the cohort over the last couple of weeks.

By now you would have heard the government's announcement regarding the full re-opening of schools in

September. The full DfE guidance has now been published and is readily available on the gov.uk website.

Whilst I appreciate that many parents/carers may still be apprehensive about their child returning to school in September, rest assured we are diligently planning and will follow all relevant guidance carefully to ensure that our pupils, families and members of staff are safe.

We are keen to get our pupils back on track with their learning and to help them to catch up on the education they have missed.

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.

We hope you all enjoy the summer break and renewed thanks and best wishes to you all.

*Mr Edwards*



*Our Year 10 pupils diligently working*

### **Farewell message to year 11**

On behalf of the staff at the school, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our year 11 pupils a warm-hearted farewell. Despite our goodbye to you, rest assured that staff are still fully committed to supporting your post 16 transition. I would like to congratulate year 11 for their continued resilience, hard work and

determination to succeed. This resilience and determination will bode well for the future.

Nearly all of year 11 have successfully managed to secure a college placement and it has been an absolute pleasure to assist you with this process. For any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com](mailto:ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com).



I am very proud and honoured to have been your pastoral manager for the last 3 years. I have had the pleasure of seeing many of you grow into fantastic young people and my colleagues and I are immensely proud of your achievements. As individuals, you all have fantastic personalities and I have really enjoyed your company and working alongside you. I have seen many of you grow in and confidence and I am heartened to have witnessed so many wonderful journeys towards growth and maturity.

As a cohort, you have worked tirelessly and demonstrated outstanding commitment towards your education. Your attendance to the after school and weekend revision intervention classes was unwavering and my colleagues and I are privileged to have supported your progress and your learning journey.

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Whilst your GCSE exams were always your intended end goal, your learning journey began over 5 years ago and will continue beyond Platanos College. Whilst this year did not end the way you would have liked it to, it does not stop you from creating the life and dreams you want to achieve. Remember our school motto - your attitude determines your altitude. Many of you have great character and discipline and I am confident you will continue to do well and soar.

As you leave Platanos College, I urge you to continue to set your direction with a positive attitude and to push for excellence in everything you do. Remember all the fond memories over the last 5 years and remember the teachers who have worked hard on your behalf to enable you to unravel and realise your inborn talents and your unique creativity.

You will always be part of this special establishment and we wish you all the success in your life endeavours and I personally, am genuinely excited to hear all about your successes in the coming years.

Please note that further information on Results Day will be made available soon.

*Mr Edwards*

## Our Online Working Champions

**PLATANOS COLLEGE**  
 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  
 Tattana 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  
 Alda Nezir  
 Gema Fernandez Serbu  
 Grace Morrison  
 Matthew Zelalem

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



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## 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.

## Year 10 Academic Review Day

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, we invited year 10 pupils and their parents/ carers to meet with members of teaching staff.

The Academic Review Day was an opportunity to review our pupils' learning from home and to provide targeted work to help support our prospective year 11s in preparation for September.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many of our pupils and see our wonderful and supportive parents/ carers again!

## Preparing for September

When we return in September, pupils must be in full school uniform. We have seen from the year 10 being back at school that many of our pupils have grown, so please give serious consideration to what uniform you may need for September.

Similarly, please buy your school uniform early over the summer holidays as shops can become very busy towards the end of August. Any in-house uniform ordered on ParentPay must be collected during term time.

Many of our pupils have been going to bed and getting up much later than usual. Therefore parents/ carers will need to establish proper routines that will help their children to readjust to school life in the new academic year.

Obviously, we talk to children about good habits and about the need for a definitive amount of sleep at their age, however we need the support of parents and carers to ensure that all our pupils arrive to school in the best possible frame of mind for learning and are fully focused during the school day.

It is imperative that these concerns are addressed before the academic year begins in September.

Can I also ask that you have a dialogue with your child and encourage them to research potential colleges and courses

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that they would like to apply for in the autumn term.

I thank you in advance for your support.

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

School will look a little 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.

### 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.

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## Pupil Leadership



Pupil Leadership Team 2019-2020



At Platanos College we want our pupils to play an active and positive role in all aspects of school life. We whole-heartedly value the work of our pupil leaders and offer a wide range of leadership roles in year 11.

The current cohort of year 10 pupils have some fantastic potential candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl and the extended pupil leadership team (i.e. Senior Prefect and Prefect)

Applications will be taken in the first week of the Autumn term.

## 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

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