



PLATANOS COLLEGE
An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter

October 2020 Half Term

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates / Events Calendar

Return to school	Monday 2nd November 2020
9A, 9B, 9C Parent-teacher evening	Wednesday 25th November 2020
9D, 9W, 9H, 9E Parent-teacher evening	Thursday 26th November 2020
8A, 8B, 8C Parent-teacher evening	Wednesday 9th December 2020
8D, 8W, 8H, 8E Parent-teacher evening	Thursday 10th December 2020
Last day of term	Friday 18th December 2020

Welcome

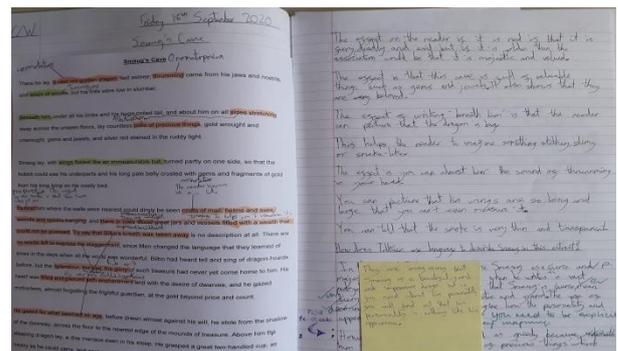
Dear parents and carers,

Despite the challenges of opening our doors to all pupils in September, we are immensely proud of the achievements of our staff and pupils this half term.

The vast majority of our pupils have adapted well to staying in their year group bubbles, having different start and end times to lunchtime and the start and end of the day, and to limited movement around the building.

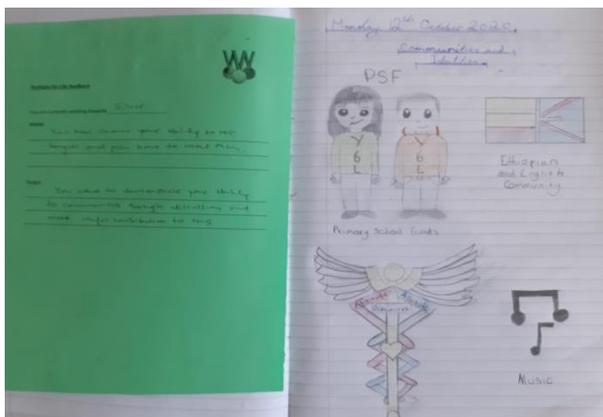
School is notably different at the moment – for example we sadly cannot currently

hold extracurricular activities and assemblies are delivered via video link to classrooms. But despite the differences we have continued to ensure that your children are educated to an extremely high standard – both academically and socially.



Our curriculum has evolved this half term with pupils in years 7 and 8 now studying Geography and the introduction of Portfolio for Life.

Portfolio for Life is a new subject that encompasses the social, moral, spiritual and cultural curriculum. This half term, pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 have been studying their school identity and community.



The quality of work from our pupils has been outstanding on the whole. Excellent learning has been taking place and the behaviour of our pupils has continued to be outstanding.



It has been an absolute pleasure to see so many different names being celebrated in the Pupil Celebration

Newsletter for their outstanding CHABOP and subject achievements.

We have invested heavily in our online curriculum and now have a multitude of online platforms such as Show My Homework, Seneca Learning and IXL. Pupils are using these platforms to keep organised and to enrich their learning opportunities, particularly in English and Mathematics.

We look forward to the next half term as we look to further evolve our online presence to ensure that learning continues outside of the classroom setting.

It was fantastic to open our doors to formally welcome our new year 7 pupils at the Year 7 Progress evenings back in October. The feedback from form tutors and parents/ carers was delightful. Year 7 should be congratulated for an excellent start to their secondary school experience.

As a school we continue to be thankful to all of our pupils' parents and carers for their support this last half term.

Attitude Determines Altitude.

Mr Bourke

Year 7

It is hard to believe that the first term has drawn to a close. The last six weeks have flown by - but what a superb half term it has been.

It has been incredibly encouraging to see the personal growth that has been made by each pupil in year 7 in their transition from primary to secondary school.

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This is particularly impressive considering the barriers that have had to be overcome by all involved when returning to full time education following the national lockdown earlier this year.



There have been several highlights this half term with one observing the year 7 formal examinations. All of year 7 rose to the challenge of approaching each exam in a positive and studious manner.

Another highlight was meeting so many parents and carers at the Year 7 Progress evenings and it was great to hear such positive feedback regarding the term so far.

The year group has currently accrued a net total of more than 250,000 points – a fantastic achievement. This demonstrates the sheer amount of positive outcomes being achieved on a daily basis across year 7. We are so proud of them all.

Name	Net Points
Shackayla Reittie	2460
Ranyah Nurhussien	2455
Liam Hopkins	2425
Ahmed Hagos	2410
Amina Jaanaht	2400

Alisa Coka	2380
Monae Coleman	2380
Veli Karkin	2380
Deborah Dickson	2355
Lucas Lin	2340

Tutor Group	Net Points
7B	59,885
7C	59,185
7A	51,390
7D	36,980
7E	26,285
7W	26,180

The following pupils are commended for having maintained a 100% attendance and punctuality record and receiving no demerits this half term.



This is a great achievement by each individual and showcases the outstanding attitude they display towards their learning on a daily basis.

Name	Reg
Albuquerque Relvas, Rafaela	07A
Ali, Anas	07W
Aouchiche, Joude	07A
Ati, Sara	07W
Bryan, Jeremiah	07A
Camacho Pinto, Stephanie	07C

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Name	Reg
Dunn, Daniel	07D
Gjjekaj, Lec	07D
Harvey, Lashayah	07C
Hussein, Hanan	07A
Jaanah, Amina	07C
Ketema, Ement	07A
Knibbs-Curtis, Kyra	07A
Nunes Franco, Raquel	07C
Nurhussien, Ranyah	07B
Prowse O'Brien, Oliver	07C
Rigui, Lina	07A
Sanchez Rojas, Martin	07W
Stafasani, Monica	07D
Vieira Roque, Francisca	07W
Walker-Hill, Tyler	07E

In the new half term, the central aim will be to continue to establish strong foundations both in regards to academic progress and personal development.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved restful break over the half term break. I look forward to continuing our successful working partnership when we return on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Mr Hobson

Year 8

The pandemic has impacted us all in many ways but we have successfully returned to our primary business: education.

Year 8s nationally have been faced with having to return to school having only served 6 full months of secondary education. The half a year missed meant that the transition of year 7 was lost, and we have seen the impact of this on our year 8 pupils. Where most pupils have successfully restarted their secondary education, a minority of pupils have struggled to adapt to returning to secondary school.

It is so important that all of our year 8 pupils start the new half term with the focus on learning – every lesson impacts their futures. The lockdown should have taught us all how invaluable education is.

It was a pleasure to meet so many pupils in September 2020.

I am proud of the commitment and effort that most pupils have put into attending school and adapting to the new school procedures.

Next half term promises to be filled with new opportunities and experiences for our pupils and I hope they are accepted gratefully with open arms.

It is important to recognise the tremendous start to the academic year with many pupils in year 8 achieving over 500 merits in the first half term. I would like to congratulate them all for their efforts and I look forward to seeing more fantastic Classwork, Homework,

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Attendance, Organisation and Punctuality from all pupils in year 8 next term.

Please see the top ten pupils of CHABOP points:

Azzopardi Crystal	1370
Danzaria Virtuous	1315
Channer Ryan	1305
Martins Sophia	1290
Coke Safara	1280
Tran Jason	1280
Abdulalim Abdulrahman	1275
Adem Duaa	1225
Quain-Brown Chyna-Chae	1210
Yassin Asmaa	1205
Hagos Ferdos	1200

Congratulations to all of the pupils above and I encourage you to keep building on your successful start!

On our return from half-term break pupils need to be prepared. Teaching and testing of pupils will be on-going as academic progress remains our priority.

Mr Schardsmith

Year 9

It has been a pleasure to be back working with our pupils and I am delighted by how year 9 pupils have restarted school.

It was a real highlight at the start of the year to see our pupils return to school, with a smile on their faces - visible even behind the masks!



It has been a pleasure to teach and help your children – our pupils – to adapt to life after lockdown and relearn the skills necessary to continue their educational journey.

I am immensely proud of year 9 pupils' efforts and how they have risen to the challenges and adapted to the new school procedures.

It is important to recognise that a high number of year 9 have made a tremendous start to the academic year and achieved over 500 merits in the first term. I would like to congratulate them all for their efforts and I know that we can build on their positive start.

Please see the top ten pupils of CHABOP points:

Mert Aydin	1075
Nina Luong	1030
Justin Yasno	940
Jessica Pereira Henrique	930
Omar Aouchiche	915
Ricardo Palmer	905
Muaze Nur Hussain	895
Mary Rose Appah	880
Alda Neziri	875
Alicia Cardona-	855

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Oliveira	
Boushra Hagos	855

Congratulations to all the pupils above and I look forward to seeing all year 9 pupils build on what has been a very successful start to the academic year.

Mr Boyles



Careers Education, Advice and Guidance

Platanos College is part of the 'Quality in Careers Standard'. The Quality in Careers Standard is the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

The 'Quality in Careers Standard' is about improving our pupils' awareness of opportunities, raising their aspirations and working with them to ensure they achieve their full potential

As a pupil at Platanos College, our pupils receive to the following;

- A timetable programme of careers for year 7-11

- Access to impartial advice at any time during your education but especially in 10/11.
- Access to up to date information from the internet and the careers library.
- A work experience placement during year 10.
- Support to develop a personal portfolio and an individual learning plan.
- Access to the opportunities offered from providers of technical education and apprenticeships.

Detailed information pertaining to our whole school Careers Policy can be found on our school website.

Face Coverings

Please ensure that your child is equipped with a face covering every day. Unless pupils have a medical reason not to, pupils should wear a face covering when walking in the communal areas in the school.

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

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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 November 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 from September.

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

Twitter

We are on Twitter! If you want to see our latest successes as they happen follow us @platanoscollege.

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