



**PLATANOS COLLEGE**

An outstanding school for  
pupils of all abilities

# Key Stage 3 Newsletter

## Autumn Term – December 2020

### *Attitude Determines Altitude*

Key Dates / Events Calendar	
Return to school – Spring Term	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8.40am
Year 7 Parent-Teacher Evening (TBC) 7A, 7B, 7C	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Year 7 Parent-Teacher Evening (TBC) 7D, 7E, 7W	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Welcome

At school, we remind pupils on a daily basis that Attitude Determines Altitude. This means that the effort and the approach that one approaches life with will have a direct consequence on what one achieves.

Never before in the history of this or any other school has having the right attitude been so important in facing the obstacles that have beseeched us. This Autumn Term has been tough for so many of us – pupils and staff alike – however, we must celebrate how

successful this term has been. Staff and pupils alike have been amenable to the changes that have been imposed upon us and so many have worked so hard in order to help bridge the gap of the loss of education caused by the pandemic.

The effort and attitude from so many pupils has been incredible. Whether it be them reading for an extra half hour an evening, using Seneca Learning or IXL at home to consolidate their learning, focusing completely in their lessons or completing their homework to a high standard – so many of our

pupils have impressed us this term. We have been so happy to have our children back in school. We have relished returning in helping to shape our pupils into successful young people.

Naturally, some pupils have found this return to school tough after such a long time out of school. The stresses, the anxieties, the disruption to routines – have all meant that a minority of pupils have struggled to adapt to the rigours of their lessons and a working lifestyle. It has taken them a bit more time to adapt to schooling again compared to their peers. However, we are confident that with our support and the support of you, their parents and carers, that they will start to focus on bettering themselves in the Spring Term. And what an apt time to do so, when Spring is a symbol of new starts and beginnings.



As well as sharing some important messages with you, form tutors across Key Stage 3 have shared their reflections on their form groups since September.

As we finish 2020 and the Autumn Term, we again congratulate our wonderful pupils for all of their achievements. The merit totals we see and hear week on week are testament to the hard work that they put in. We implore our pupils to rest well this holiday. Spend time with their families and loved ones. Be grateful for what they have and be proud of what they have achieved. And be ready from January to face all the challenges that come their way head on!

*Mr Bourke*

**A message from the Pastoral  
Manager of Year 7**

I commend you as a year group.

As individuals and a collective cohort you have been outstanding as you have risen to the challenge of transitioning into secondary education during these difficult times.

Individually and collectively you should be proud of the progress that you have made during your first full term here at Platanos College, this is reflected in the outstanding net CHABOP total of 568,060 achieved this term.

I looking forward to seeing you in the January 2021, ready to start the Spring term and build on your impressive start to the academic year.

**7A  
Mr Vaishampayan and Ms Bahia**



7A have had a marvellous start at Platanos College.

Their hard work and engagement is evident through the rewards and merits they receive each week across a range of subjects with a number of pupils being awarded the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards on a weekly basis.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm to apply for the leadership roles offered at Platanos and the applicants put in effort to prepare their applications. Congratulations to Samira and Kyra who were voted in as Class President and Vice President.

The Portfolio for Life (PfL) lessons have been received well with pupils engaging in debate when allowed and not being hesitant to express a point of view. There was passion and enthusiasm when pupils discussed communities and identities and celebrated the wonderful range of cultures and ethnicities that are reflective of pupils and staff within our school. While most pupils were born in the UK, the range of ethnicities is wide ranging and includes Saudi Arabian, Algerian, Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eretria, Vietnam, Portugal, Guyana amongst others!

As part of their PfL project, a group of 7A pupils made a fantastic informative video about Platanos College. Well done to Kyra, Sumaya, Emnet and Hanan!

7A pupils have commented positively on their first term:

*“All the teachers are very kind and you can make loads of new friends there. I think that the teachers can also handle things very well”.*

*“My Platanos College experience has been a very positive one. I have enjoyed it very much. To me it could not have been better”.*

## 7B

**Ms C. Lopez and Mr Tannam**

7B have had an outstanding start to their academic journey at Platanos College.

7B have shown that they are resilient and have adapted to change since September. They have been consistently engaged in their PFL lessons and have really embraced our Mindful Monday sessions organised by Ms McAteer. The calming music and time for reflection ensures that we start the week on a positive note.

Thus far, 7B have amassed over 120,000 merits in a single term and we are both incredibly proud of their efforts to date. 7B have been involved in a book club where they are regularly posting reviews on Show My Homework of what they have been reading since we began at the outset of the academic year. It is a great way to engage with the texts that they have read and we already have a few budding literary critics in our form group.

Our involvement with the History Month project was an opportunity to showcase the diversity within the classroom. Pupils' efforts across the board - in all of their subjects - showcase the positive approach to

learning and the school's ethos. 7B's exemplary attitude is going to determine how very high their altitude will go. We look forward to continuing to support and guide them when we return in January.



**7C**  
**Mr Kabaka and Ms Azam**

The pupils of 7C have done exceptionally well in their move from primary to secondary education.

This is evident in 7C's CHABOP. The form group has been one of the best performing form classes in their year and in the school, accumulating over 120,000 merits this year so far - meaning that the average 7C pupil has close to 4000 merits this year!

7C have embraced their Portfolio for Life, taking a keen interest in the history and structure of society and democracy. The pupils have enjoyed their Art lessons, with one pupil saying that Art is their favourite lesson because "you can express your creativity and expand on your learning journey".

7C's enjoyment of Art is highlighted by how often they have been nominated Artists of the Week by the Art department. The pupils have also enjoyed their Maths lessons, one pupil noting that Maths is their favourite

because they "learn new things every lesson".

Pupils in 7C highlighted many other subjects that they enjoy, such as: Science, History, English, PE, Drama, Computing and Geography. When commenting on Platanos College itself, one pupil said that when leaving primary school they didn't feel "very smart... but coming into secondary school has improved my reading, listening and writing skills".

**7D**  
**Mr Sintayehu and Ms Wilson**

It's been a pleasure getting to know pupils in 7D and here are a few highlights from our year so far:

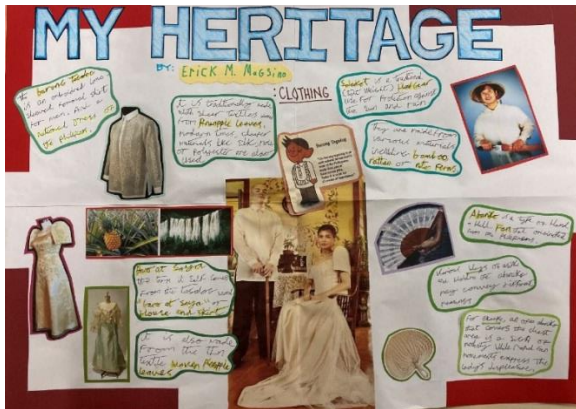
When asked what he has enjoyed the most about his time in 7D, Idris said 'I enjoyed anti-bullying week because it gave me a good understanding of the effects bullying has on people and why it should be dealt with'.

Leila-Mae was selected as our Anti-bullying Ambassador. After initially being hesitant about public speaking, she faced her fears and shared a well composed speech highlighting why she was the right person for the role. Her display of courage has inspired her peers to step out of their comfort zone too.

Well done to Madina on becoming our Class President. Medina has shown exemplary behaviour and conduct, and she will represent our form with excellence. Congratulations should also go to Geediyo who has been an embodiment of resilience, after putting herself forward for the Anti-bullying Ambassador and President roles, falling short on both occasions - however she was not discouraged and recently became Vice President of our form.



A special mention to Daniel, Kasey, Picetra-Nyarko, Isabel, Maria and Xia who have consistently behaved well and worked hard in lessons, you have received the highest number of merits in the class, keep leading by example.



**7E**  
**Ms Daniels and Ms Peliza**

It has been a pleasure to get to know and engage with 7E. They have become a friendly, polite, outgoing and confident form class. Some of our highlights include welcoming Teanna and Deco as our Vice President and President, hearing so many names read out weekly by Ms Taybi for highest merits and regularly being praised by Mr Hobson for consecutive days without a single demerit.

Another aspect we have enjoyed is developing our understanding of our cultures during our PFL lessons as part of History Month. This led to many

interesting conversations about similarities and differences between us all, where we bonded over languages, food and traditions. Yahya and Damarie expressed how they liked using the computers to create their work where they learnt new skills and felt proud of the standard of work they were able to produce.

7E also highlighted their Platanos experience thus far as a positive, in the sense of their teachers, touring the school, having new responsibilities and subjects which are interesting. It has been wonderful to watch many the children evolve and grow in confidence; the majority of 7E applied for leadership roles and showed amazing confidence giving public speeches to their peers.



**7W**  
**Mr Gent and Ms Wilson**

Congratulations to 7W who have made a very strong start to life at Platanos College.

Collectively pupils have managed to accrue 54,975 merits since September which is a very impressive feat.

Special recognition goes to Klearna Richards who has managed to achieve 3,130 net CHABOP merits. Congratulations!

**A message from the Pastoral  
Manager of Year 8**

The first term has been a challenging for us all, however Year 8 have shown how resilient they are displaying a positive attitude to their learning across all subject areas, making excellent progress.

Each day it is clear to see how much they enjoy being at school and creating amazing memories in their learning journey.

I would like to say that I am extremely proud of all pupils in year 8 and I look forward to continuing to guide them in reaching their goals this academic year.

Stay safe and I wish you all restful and enjoyable break with your families and loved ones.

*Mr Schardsmith*

**8A  
Ms Cooke**

There have been many achievements for 8A to be proud of: from the amazing, high-quality History Month displays to the vast amounts of merits earned. I am proud that they are regularly at the top of weekly merits!

I am incredibly proud of 8A – the pupils are resilient, conscientious, creative, friendly, keen to succeed and deserve every plaudit for their continued hard work. I would like to congratulate our President Asmaa and Vice-president Crystal on their appointments and wish them all the best for the coming year. I know they will represent 8A with integrity and pride!

Amina and Rushda's class presentations have set the standard very high for our biweekly discussions on current affairs and key issues. They

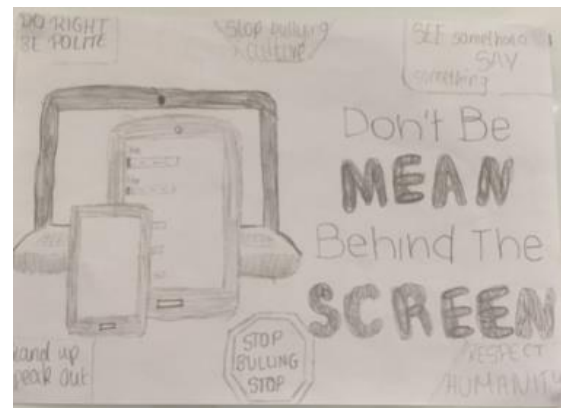
have been articulate, detailed and informative: I know they gave the rest of the class lots of food for thought!

I am immensely impressed with the members of 8A for all they have achieved so far this year, against all odds. I know that they will keep up the hard work into the new year and will make themselves proud.

**8B  
Ms Roso and Ms Amenedo**

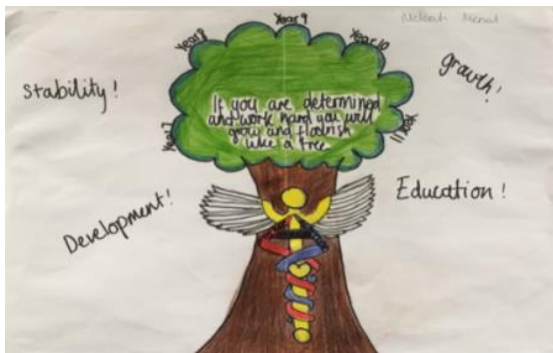
It has been a very successful Autumn Term for 8B. As a whole class they have achieved over 50,000 merits with outstanding individual achievements. It is worth to mention Uhunoma for the highest numbers of merits achieved and Katy Le for achieving 100% in punctuality.

After a thorough selection process, two Anti- Bullying ambassadors have been appointed: Meleah as Anti-bullying Ambassador and Suhayla as co-ambassador. As ambassadors for the class, they are expected to be outstanding role models within our school community which I believe they are able to do. Another great announcement is the election of Class President Stephanie and Vice President Attica.



8B pupils consistently behave in a way that contributes to excellent learning and outstanding lessons which has been reflected during PFL session. All

of the pupils have worked exceptionally well and made some excellent contributions.



As History Month took place during November, pupils had the opportunity to learn about people whose roots lay in different countries but made great contributions to British society. As part of the celebration of communities, pupils therefore had the opportunity to showcase their heritage and community through a display piece that focuses on one aspect of their culture.

**8C**  
**Ms Hall**

Despite the strange times that we are all living in, I am so proud of my colourful form group and how they have navigated their way through this together. Their witty sense of humour has uplifted us all each morning in tutor time and there is never a dull moment in 2C5 when we, as a class, debate a range of subjects, from politics to moral choices. Our great range of personalities sees a wonderful mix of school achievements to celebrate.

We celebrate the outstanding conduct of Nicholas who has 0 behaviour points! We celebrate the leadership skills of Sumaya. S and Ahmed, who have just been voted Class President and Vice President. We celebrate Lana and Lezan in Art who have 'Consistently completed homework to

a high standard and produced fantastic classwork' and Diego who has made excellent progress in class. We celebrate the consistent focus and hard work ethic from Nathan, Malachi, Nezhire, Nicholas, Monab, Thalia, Mohamed, Rhiyaad and Moosa in English. We celebrate how in History, Tristine has written and vocalised her answers excellently, and Amara has been volunteer class reader frequently and as such her confidence has grown greatly.

These are just a few of our class achievements. I personally would like to congratulate every single one of 8C for their academic and personal achievements this year, whether it has been instilling new manners or moving up a grade in a specific subject. We have all achieved something, despite the obstacles this year has thrown at us, and that is something we in 8C can be really proud of this year.

**8D**  
**Ms Mujawamaria**

As time has gone by since September I have noticed improvement both academically and in CHABOP in all pupils in 8D.

I regularly receive positive feedback from your subject teachers telling me how proud they are of you as a group; for example, your Art teacher, Ms Mcateer, has said how incredibly hard you have worked and produced the most beautiful work and overall it is an excellent start to year 8!

Ms Stephenson, your History/Geography teacher, mentioned that she enjoys teaching you, you are inquisitive learners and pose very interesting questions.



Ms Anderson, your English teacher has said, 'I would like to commend the pupils of Year 8D for the massive improvement they have displayed in English lessons. They have shown that they know how to conduct themselves with maturity. Most importantly, they have consistently produced work to the best of their ability on a day –to – day basis. Well done 8D pupils!'

Congratulations to Lucas with 1,800 merits, Jennifer with 1,645 merits and Abdullah Mahmoud 1,630 merits! I would like to leave you this term with something to think about.

'Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.' Pele.



**8E**  
**Mr Klassen and Mr Ahmed**

Despite such turbulent times, this half term 8E have continued to show an incredibly positive and hardworking attitude towards their learning.

Pupils have expressed their joy at being able to have a sense of normality by being back at school. It has also been so very encouraging to see such personal growth amongst each and every one of our pupils, particularly when considering the challenges of this first term.

Over the course of the term, Platanos College has celebrated the successes and achievements of our 8E pupils and has awarded them with thousands of merits.

Notable mentions being Daniel who was in the Top 5 for CHABOP on two occasions; along with Leonor, Beatriz and Jaime attaining this feat once.

This outstanding achievement has been a key highlight across the first term and we hope our class can continue this positive attitude and work ethic into the new year.

Although there have been many amazing and notable highlights, it has been a personal highlight for Mr. Ahmed to witness 8E on their journey of reflection on Monday mornings. With the introduction of '*Mindful Mondays*' we have seen our pupils take time out to reflect on their learning and think mindfully about their progress so far.

The class thoroughly enjoyed Anti-bullying week which continued over two weeks during Portfolio for Life lessons. It was particularly encouraging for Mr. Klassen to witness how freely and readily pupils provided their personal accounts, views and opinions on the subject. The class benefitted by being able to reinforce their understanding and strategies on how to combat bullying. As a result of this Halimah has subsequently volunteered to be an Anti-bullying champion.





During the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> November, we had a closely-contested Class President election - the successful candidates being: Juleson (President) and Halimah (Vice-President).

It continues to be a pleasure to nurture, guide and mould the 8E class. We look forward to the remainder of the academic year, wishing everyone a peaceful and restful break over the Christmas season.

**8H**  
**Ms J. Lopez and Ms Hassan**

It has been a challenging start to the year for all of us, however, pupils in 8H have shown how resilient they can be and have continued to show their determination in order to achieve great outcomes.

We have some talented individuals that have great aspirations and have academically improved since the beginning of the year. I would like to highlight Nyron as one of our outstanding pupils of the group, who every week since the beginning of the year, has been mentioned in the Praise Newsletter. Nyron continues to show great attitude to learning and always challenges himself to do better.

So far within the group we have over 50% of the pupils with over 1000 merits and some pupils with over 2000

merits. These pupils are: Nyron, Inaya, Bader and Soraia.

Deborah O. is congratulated for the best History Month project. Deborah produced an amazing poster on her Nigerian heritage showing the different types of food and clothing.

As a group, we also had the opportunity to vote for our Anti-Bully Ambassador and Anti-Bullying Co-Ambassador, which we are delighted to announce are: Inaya as our Anti-Bully Ambassador and Mariama as our Co-Ambassador. These two individuals have shown great leadership and communication skills within the group so I am sure they will be great models in this role.



I am also honoured to announce our President and Vice President for our tutor group who are Nyron and Soraia. These two pupils have shown great citizenship throughout the year which has equally reflected in their grades and CHABOP.

8H have also shown how creative they can be and below are some of their great art pieces of work.



the coronavirus pandemic during PFL and other tutor time presentations.

I am looking forward to reading reports from other teachers praising your continued dedication to your work. 8W is a class that is full of life and I want to see that energy always turned toward creativity as well as a vibrant spirit toward learning. I believe that each and every one of you has what it takes to succeed academically and I look forward to watching you tread that path to towards your chosen goal.



In achieving your goal, *learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings given to you to learn from - Elizabeth Kübler-Ross.*

Keep striving towards your goals by clearly identifying what you want to achieve and constantly checking how you are doing, as well as developing new smaller goals along the way.

**8W  
Ms Browne**

**A message from the Pastoral  
Manager of Year 9**

I want to say how proud I am of the progress you have made this year. I have watched the number of CHABOP points increase for the class to over 20,000 merits as most of you made progress in your academic achievements and pupil leadership. Congratulations in particular to Regina with 1,595 merits, Tamera with 1,485 merits and Richella with 1,445 merits.

I would like to give recognition and praise to all the pupils for their outstanding dedication and efforts in making a such a positive start to the academic year.

I have applauded the pupils who received praise from different subjects in the school's newsletters. It was with satisfaction that I was able to witness your views and ideas on topics such as Climate Change, discrimination and

The pupils have shown great resilience in their attitude to learning. This goes to show that despite the pandemic, pupils are focused and working to the best of their abilities.

In 2021, I hope that we can continue to move forward in a constructive and positive way.

I am wishing you all a happy and safe holiday and I look forward to seeing you in January 2021.

Mr Boyles

**9A**  
**Ms Bejtullahu**



With their warm greetings, I always look forward to form time with 9A. There has never been an uninteresting morning with Xamza's 'story time', Enoch's daily concerns about the effectiveness of government decisions and Fares' remarkable geographical awareness, which still amazes me.

The eagerness of 9A to express their opinions and interrogate mine during PFL lessons, and no doubt in others, is admirable. 9A show awareness of sensitive topics such as bullying as well as growth in maturity in questions posed, especially during a recent STEM workshop.

Creative assignments have deepened 9A's knowledge of one another's diverse cultures, interests and future aspirations, one of which is Phebe's incredible talent and love of body art and traditional food from Betul's Turkish culture.

Although it is such an apprehensive time to be in school, 9A have shown great interest in their learning. I am proud that 9A has been able to achieve over 10,000 merits in consecutive weeks, demonstrating yet another successful term.

I would like to specifically praise Boushra and Muaze for being at the top of 9A's CHABOP leader board and Imogen with no demerits since the start of the academic year. I would also like to congratulate Anastasia and Keightley on being appointed Class and Vice President, showing commitment and care in representing 9A.

I hope that in the next term, 9A will seize more opportunities and uphold their upbeat personalities and passion for success.



**9B**  
**Ms Ahn**

9B have managed to demonstrate and sustain outstanding this term effort making progress in their learning and attitude towards learning.

To highlight the achievement as a whole group, 9B received more than 3,400 merit points in total since September. The pupil awarded with the highest number of merits is Omar with 1,820 net points. The second and the third places go to Ana and Emily. Congratulations!

In leadership positions, Michelle Le and Pelumi were elected as the President and Vice President of 9B, and Emily became an Anti-bullying



Ambassador to represent the form group this year.

During PFL lessons this term, pupils were engaged in sharing ideas regarding various topics such as communities and politics. Excellent creative pieces were produced by a number of pupils including displays for the History Month project to celebrate different heritage and culture.

9B pupils also participated in a virtual workshop with the National Grid to learn about the London Power Tunnels Project taking place in Lambeth. All pupils showed maturity beyond their years during the workshop and Q&A session with the National Grid employees and it was a great opportunity for pupils to think about their own career pathway and start preparing for work experience in year 10.

## FEIRA DE S. MATEUS PORTUGAL

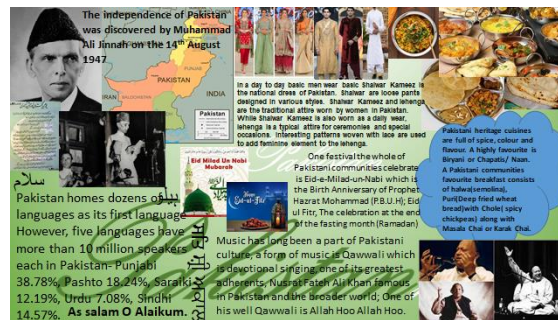
BY ANA MARQUES, 9B

*Feira de s. Mateus (also known as Feira Franca) takes place in Viseu, is an annual event and usually lasts from August to September. It is decorated beautifully and bright, attracting more people to come and see its magic. This funfair is extremely important to me because I can bond with my family and friends, buy new things, eat yummy food and have a load of fun!*

Many people also take this as an opportunity to make money, so they put up their own stalls and sell anything they want to. For example, some sell: furniture, fancy cutlery, fun toys, wonderful accessories, delicious food, you name it! One of my personal favourite activities is going on the interesting rides! There are so many breathtaking activities to choose from. Additionally, they are fairly cheap!



As of 2016, it surpassed a million visitors, and they get more each year. The crowd is always larger when concerts are around, here are some examples of how full it gets sometimes (keeping in mind that this is only the concert area!)



## 9C Ms Kernon and Mr Smith

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 9C on your achievements this term despite the challenges that the current situation has brought. You have achieved the second highest merits in year 9 three times since the start of November and the following pupils need a special mention for repeatedly being named in the top 50 merits for year 9: Reezah, Osarodion, Alonce, Nada, Mark, Alexandre, Silvia, Anisa, Tiago and Ritaje.

We would like to congratulate those who have been appointed to our current leadership posts and hope to see more applications in January for the remaining positions. Well done to Reezah who was voted our Anti-Bullying Ambassador during Anti-Bullying Week, to Peter who was voted as Class President and Osarodion voted in as Vice President.

9C took part in an exciting STEM workshop with the National Grid this term. The whole class were engaged and excited by the idea of renewable energy and were interested to hear about the range of careers the National Grid covers. We were impressed by the maturity and engagement of the whole class during the workshop.

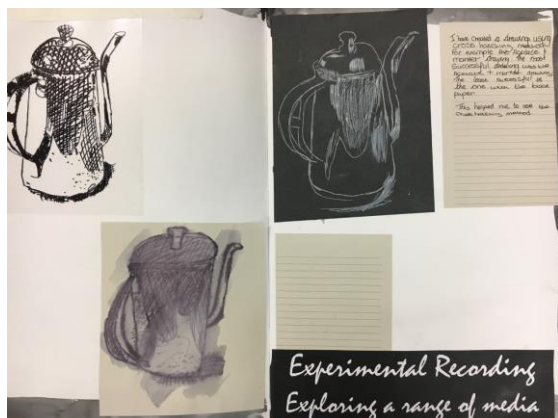
Anisa commented: 'The STEM workshop was really fun because I learnt lots of new information about The National Grid and renewable energy. I would like to do more workshops like this in the future.'

Many pupils have been making good progress in their core and foundation subjects with Dihaz particularly enjoying Science and Drama this term:

*'I enjoy Mr Rigby's class because I find I retain a lot of information. I particularly enjoy learning about the human anatomy. His lessons are informative, fun and we always learn something new.'* *'I also enjoy my Drama classes because I learn something new each lesson. Such as this term we are learning more about addictions which is very interesting.'*

And lastly here is a special mention to the budding photographers and graphic designers in the class with fantastic work from: Ritaje, Nubia, Silvia and Atule.

Well done 9C! Keep up the excellent work!



**9D**  
**Ms Simpson**

9D is a class with lots of strong personalities and, since September, 9D's behaviour for learning has greatly improved. Currently, there is only one pupil with negative CHABOP net points and over 51% of pupils in excess of 1,500 merits. Overall 9D are firmly and consistently in third place on the year 9 CHABOP league table.

The PFL programme has been embraced by 9D, and through the programme they have made outstanding progress in their abilities to communicate effectively and be creative.

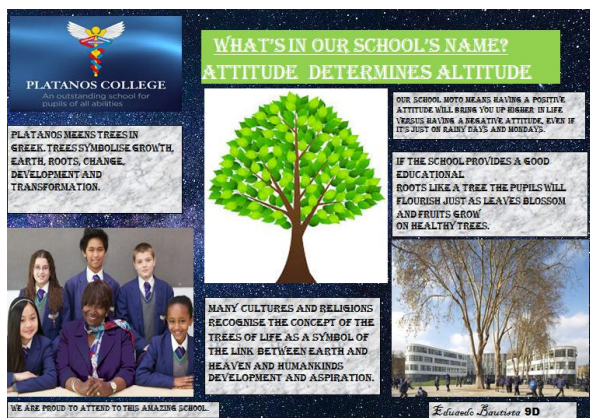
The class now recognised that they do have a voice, which can and does impact on their learning. They have been encouraged to put forward their ideas to establish better relationships with their class teachers and, therefore, enhance their learning.

9D's ambition should be applauded. Pupils want to achieve a great deal more are trying hard to take more ownership with regards to their progress.

Pupils recognise which lessons they are doing much better in and lessons where they need to work harder.

They want to be recognised and rewarded for the positive changes they are making both as individuals and as a class as a whole.

I am proud of the progress 9D is making. Well done!



**9E**  
**Ms Damoo and Mr Hall**

It is a pleasure to share each morning with the wonderful 9E. Every pupil has a unique way of applying their skills in different subjects and discussion during tutor time. We believe that all pupils in 9E can achieve their full potential in the future.

Since September, Diana has been a good role model to others. She is a very self-motivated individual. Alfie, Diana, Amjad, Ahmad, and Ahmed have been enthusiastic participants in PFL, which reflect well upon their understanding of the units being taught. Ranaad displays self-discipline and can generate neat and careful classwork. Alfie is a conscientious, hard-working pupil.

Pupils have worked really hard this term which has been demonstrated through the accumulation of CHABOP points. Ranaad, Diana and Amjad

have now achieved more than 1,300 merits from all subject teachers. Well done!

Amjad has been elected as the Anti-bullying Ambassador and continues to demonstrate that he is passionate and committed to the anti-bullying agenda. Ranaad has been elected as the President of 9E and is committed to taking on responsibilities and assisting others when needed.

We are proud of the pupils from 9E and hope that they continue to build on the great start to the year.

Well done 9E!

**9H**  
**Ms Alam**

Every pupil in 9H is unique in terms of their capabilities and abilities. There are pupils who are gifted in arts and crafts, sciences, maths and other subjects. There are pupils who are articulate and are capable of initiating constructive group discussions and leading conversations.

This term, pupils in 9H were able to show their creativity across all subjects, including in PFL lessons. They were able to complete their projects successfully on our school identity.

I was so proud to see Syrin's art work on Platanos College's etymology. However, I was also incredibly proud of Alda, Parweaz and Yasin who showed their dedication and hard work in making their posters as required for the PFL projects.

I also want to say how proud I am with the progress of 9H so far this year. During the registration it was an honour for me to read the CHABOP points for the tutor group. I have seen



the number of CHABOP points increase for many pupils week on week. Ricardo and Alda have been neck to neck in achieving the top CHABOP points for 9H! However, I would like to congratulate Alda for scoring the highest CHABOP points in 9H and Ricardo for being the runner up who was at the top until last month. I would also like to congratulate Parweaz, Jaden, Caleb, Nicandro, Bolu and many more who have shown considerable improvement in their attitude towards learning in the class. I have full belief that 9H will be successful and will achieve much this year!

*“There is no magic to achievement. It is really about hard work, choices and persistence” - Michelle Obama.*

**9W  
Mr Daba**

There are over 20 different languages spoken across pupils in 9W. This demonstrates the amazing diversity within the tutor group and the ability to learn new things from one another.

Pupils have enjoyed reflecting each Monday through ‘Mindful Monday’, with pupils believing that it has a positive impact on their learning in other subjects.

Pupils are working well in all of their lessons, but particularly in History, Mathematics, Art and PE. Pupils have deservedly been rewarded for their achievements through merits and Good News Letters home.

Pupils are welcoming of the high expectations placed upon them by their teachers and this is evident through the overall focus and presentation in their exercise books.

Pupils in 9W have now elected their Class President and their Vice President. Congratulations to Maakare and to Kyrhys.

Congratulations also to Mary-Rose and Shadae who are now the Anti-bullying Ambassadors for their form.



**Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefect Team**

After a very challenging and thorough selection process, we are delighted to appoint Mohamed Khiar as this year’s Head Boy and Sumayah Abdulrahim as Head Girl.

Both were appointed following a rigorous selection process which involved an application form, a pre-recorded speech, a pupil vote and a final interview with the senior management team.



**Head Boy  
Mohamed Khiar**

**Head Girl  
Sumayah Abdulrahim**

Mohamed and Sumayah will be assisted by Deputy Head Boys

Tassnim Abdessalem and Haysam Osman and Deputy Head Girls Rebecca Obadina and Laura Dogbey.



**Deputy Head Girl  
Rebecca Obadina**

**Deputy Head Girl  
Laura Dogbey**



**Deputy Head Boy  
Tassnim Abdessalem**

**Deputy Head Boy  
Haysam Osman**

The competition for this prestigious role is always strong, and this year the calibre of the candidates is truly exceptional.

Congratulations to the Prefect Leadership Team of 2020.

### **History Month**

The theme for this year's History month was community and what that means to different people in our school.

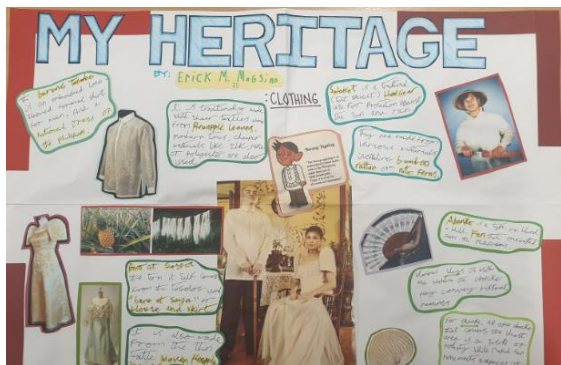
As a school we are lucky to have huge diversity within our community including different ethnicities, different cultures, different languages and different accents. We are proud of this

diversity and this month we celebrated all of the differences that make our community so unique.

One way that we marked History month was through a tutor group competition in which pupils showcased their heritage and community through a display piece that focused on one aspect of their culture.

Pupils created outstanding display pieces that discussed different parts of their culture from food and traditions to dress and festivals. These display pieces were colourful and informative whilst being hugely creative and artistic. Some tutor groups allowed pupils to work individually which then allowed for discussions about different important features of culture that have created the identities of pupils. In the case of 10A1 pupils worked together to create a podcast that involved family members discussing what is important to them, we hope to put this on the website soon to showcase their amazing work.

All pupils who submitted a display piece have been merited to reward their great work. Each tutor then chose the most outstanding piece/pieces from their tutor group which provided the History department with a shortlist to pick our bronze, silver and gold winners from each year group. Bronze winners will receive stationary and merits to help them to continue with their fantastic work, silver winners will receive vouchers to be spent on stationary or books to keep their curiosity burning and gold winners will receive a book of their choice highlighting history that is not usually discussed.



### Year 7

Gold:  
Erick Matthew Magsino 7D

Silver:  
Stephanie Camacho Pinto 7C

Bronze;  
Joseph Tah 7E  
Lina Rigui 7A



### Year 8

Gold:  
Saahirah Khan 8C (as shown here)

Silver:  
Ferdos Hagos 8A

Bronze:  
Menal Ahmed 8B  
Deborah Oworu 8H

### Year 9 winners:

Gold:  
Hamdi Moahmed 9W

Silver:  
Syrin Abdessalem 9H

Bronze:  
Ana Rita Marques 9B  
Betul Karkin 9A



This was an informative and enjoyable History month that broadened the pupils' understanding of community.

### **Equipment**

As we continue to work hard to keep our school community safe as possible from Covid-19, please ensure that your child continues to attend school with their face covering.

It is vitally important that pupils wear face masks in communal areas around school, unless medically exempt. By doing so, they are protecting themselves, other pupils, members of staff and their families.

We will continue to record behaviour points for any pupil found not wearing a mask.

Pupils must also remember to bring all their school equipment to school. We will not be lending out equipment, as per public health guidelines.

The following items are absolutely essential for all pupils and will be needed at all times:

- A sensible school bag
- A blue/ black pen (with spares)
- A ruler
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A Maths scientific calculator
- A dictionary



Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

### Punctuality to school

Disappointedly, we still have a number of pupils who arrive to school late.

Please support us in maintaining good punctuality by:-

- Ensuring your child gets enough sleep and gets up promptly for school.
- Ensuring your child has organised their school bag and equipment the night before so that this does not delay departure in the morning.
- Addressing punctuality concerns raised by the school (via punctuality letters) and discussing the importance of punctuality in the workplace and life beyond Platanos College.

We thank you in anticipation of your support.

### 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 November with breaches of school uniform will be sent home until this is corrected.

### 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)

### Twitter

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

#attitudedeterminesaltitude