



Assembly notices

Monday 1st February 2021

Reflection for the week

On Wednesday 27 January 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated. The 27th of January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest death camp in Nazi occupied countries. It is a day for people to remember the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust for just for who they are, and the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution. It is a day where we also remember people killed in genocides which have followed, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for people to reflect on those whose lives were changed forever and to remind ourselves of the lessons of the Holocaust. It is also a time to remember how we should challenge prejudice, discrimination and hatred in our own society today. The Holocaust should remind us that we all have a role to play in ensuring that we learn the lessons of the past, to create a safer, better future.

The Holocaust took place during the Second World War (1939-45) and nearly 7 out of every 10 Jews in Europe were murdered.

- The Cambodian genocide saw 1.7 million people lose their lives (21% of the country's population) because of a paranoid regime that targeted those who was educated, influenced by the West, Christian, Buddhist or Muslim.
- In 1994, in Rwanda (now Zimbabwe), members of the Hutu ethnic minority murdered as many 800,000 people, mostly of the Tutsi minority.
- In 1992, the government of the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina declared its independence from Yugoslavia. The following years saw 100,000 mainly Bosnian Muslims and Croatian civilians murdered.
- In what has become known as the first genocide of the 21st century, the Darfuri people of Sudan has saw between 80,000 and 500,000 deaths in a conflict in Sudan that is still ongoing.

The genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries should serve to remind us to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to. A genocide is the result of discrimination and persecution. From an individual or group of people deciding that they don't like someone or a group of people just because of who they are – their identity.

Discrimination and persecution is very much alive in the United Kingdom today – it is led by a minority of people – but it is still there. And it is for this reason that we all have a responsibility to stand up and defend those who are treated in a horrid way just because of who they are. It is all of our responsibilities to defend the downtrodden.

Consider different kinds of identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice; and different ways of standing up for people: resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and revealing mistruths.

People are discriminated and persecuted for their gender, sexuality, disability, race and religion. If we do not ally ourselves with these groups of people there is a risk that the discrimination they face will get worse. No one ever thinks that they will ever experience such humanitarian crises such as a genocide – but they have happened and sadly they will happen again.

For your reflection consider the following two quotes and reflect on ways that you can help stand up for people who face discrimination today. After all, it is nobody else's responsibility but ours:

*'The only thing **necessary** for the triumph of evil is for **good men to do nothing.**' – Edmund Burke*

*'First they came for the socialists, **and I did not speak out** – because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, **and I did not speak out** – because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, **and I did not speak out** – because I am not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me – **and there was no one left to speak for me.**' – Martin Niemoller*

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Online Learning

Years 7, 8 and 9 should now be following their timetable for English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish and History for their live lessons via Google Classroom and G Meet.

Work that is completed in the lesson must be uploaded to Google Classroom as directed by your teacher. **Work for all other subjects must continue to be completed as it is added to Show My Homework and Google Classroom.**

All resources will be uploaded and it is expected that your work will be submitted to your teachers.

If you have a problem with uploading to SMHW or Google Classroom you can add your work as an attachment to the pastoral email addresses. Your Pastoral Manager will forward any work to the relevant departments.

Email addresses:

year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com

year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com

ks4pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Please ensure the school is made aware if you do not have access to technology to complete your online work.

Online Learning – problem solving

Attendance to online and live lessons has continued to be outstanding.

Some pupils have had issues joining their live lessons, with most having been resolved by last Friday. However, some key and common solutions have been:

- Ensuring that your web browser is Google Chrome. If you have not got Google Chrome on your computer or laptop it is free to download. Just enter Google Chrome into your search engine and follow the installation instructions.
- If clicking the link still does not work, copy and paste the link into the address bar in Google Chrome.
- If using a tablet or your smart phone, download the Google Classroom and G Meet apps and join using the apps.
- If you are late to your lesson, the code may be taken down by your teacher – this is so that the teacher can teach online without interruption to keep checking the identity of those who have entered late. So be on time! Your teacher will add the G Meet link to your Google Classroom 5 minutes before your lesson starts.
- For years 7, 8 and 9, you should follow your normal timetable for English, Mathematics and Science. So, if you normally have English period 1 on a Thursday, your lesson will begin at 9am.

Online learning - expectations

Unless there is a valid excuse that has been explained to the school, all pupils are expected to attend live lessons via Google Classroom and G Meet, and complete work that is set by their teachers.

We will contact home for pupils who do not attend or do not complete their work.

Please note that any form of disruption to online lessons is extremely selfish and will not be tolerated. If a pupil disrupts a live lesson their parents will be contacted in the first instance. In the second instance pupils will be banned from attending live lessons and will have to complete work set by their teachers on Show My Homework and Google Classroom.

Please do not share the code that your teacher provides for their live lesson. You should treat this code like it is a pin for your bank card. This is for safeguarding reasons.

Online learning – advice for pupils attending live lessons

- Create a timetable for your week: when are your live lessons?
- Like the school bell is a reminder to you when a lesson ends and when it begins, set an alarm so that you are punctual.
- If possible, take yourself to a quiet area in your home. If this is not possible, use headphones so that any noisy distractions are reduced.

- Make sure you are organised – the correct resources are open on your screen, you have a notepad, and plenty of pens.
- Do not play music in the background – this will distract you, other pupils and your teacher.
- Have some water and a snack with you so that you do not have to leave your live lesson.
- Make sure that you have used the toilet before your live lesson.
- Make sure that you are comfortable.
- Make sure that your camera is turned on when you enter a classroom. If your camera (or microphone) is not working then inform your teacher using the chat function. We need to make sure that it is really you!

Year 11 - Keep working. Keep going.

The Department for Education (DfE) and OfQual are yet to inform schools of exactly how your GCSE grades will be assessed. As soon as it is confirmed we will ensure that you are the first to know.

We know that, like year 11 pupils up and down the country, our year 11 pupils will be extremely upset and worried about what this means for their qualifications.

However, **you must keep working and studying** as you will be awarded your GCSE grades by your teachers. These grades will be externally moderated which means that they will have to be accurate.

We are certain that results from your formal examinations and the work in your exercise books and folders will be key evidence that will be used to validate the grades that you are awarded.

You are reminded that in the week that you return to school you will be assessed in a range of different subjects.

Health and safety

We hope that you have been and continue to be well, safe and healthy. We continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have been directly affected by coronavirus – staff, their families, our pupils and their families. If everyone works together this will come to an end. Please follow the advice set out by the UK government:

1. Stay at home
2. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
3. If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
4. Wash your hands as soon as you get home
5. Do not meet others, even friends or family (unless you live with them).

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Mental Wellbeing

Many of you will be feeling anxious because of the dramatic change to our lives. This is normal. It is okay to feel this way. Please remember: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!** Many of us are feeling the same way. We must bide our time and sooner rather than later things will return to normal. Try to help your mental wellbeing in the meantime:

- Limit the amount of news you watch and read. The constant reminder will only add to your anxiety.
- Read a novel or listen to an audio book. This will act as escapism and take your imagination to new and exciting places.
- Limit the amount of social media you access – fake news thrives on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. Fake news will only worsen your anxieties.
- Exercise – you are allowed out of your homes for a walk or another form of exercise. However, try out PE with Joe Wicks – your teachers have continued to! Exercise releases chemicals called endorphins which trigger a positive feeling in your body.
- Keep to a routine – set an alarm in the morning, make your bed, brush your teeth, set aside time for school work, set aside time for downtime and exercise, and do not go to bed too late.

Uniform notice

We do not know when school will reopen. We are seeking and following advice from the government on a daily basis. However, when school does reopen – things will be as close to normal as possible. Therefore:

- Look after your school uniform
- Please do not get piercings – nose piercings, smiler piercings, eyebrow piercings or multiple piercings are not allowed – and boys are not allowed piercings at all
- Please do not get any outrageous hairstyles – no cuts or lines, no high top or big afros and hair must be your natural hair colour.

This will ensure your return to school will not be delayed even further.

Google Classroom

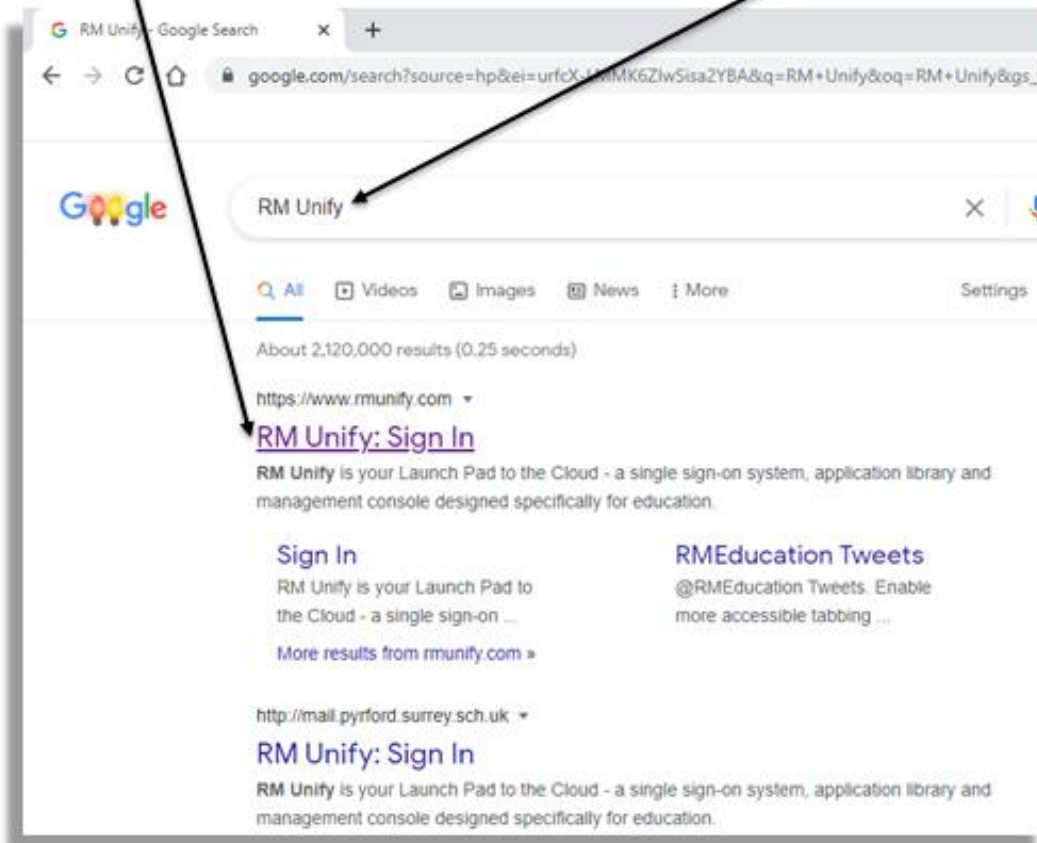
Below is a reminder of how you should log into Google Classroom:

1. Visit RUnify.com and enter your school log in username followed by @platanoscollege.com
2. You should then type in your school account password in the relevant box.
3. When you are logged into RM Unify you should click the Google Classroom tile.

Entering a live lesson is straight forward. This is how you do it:

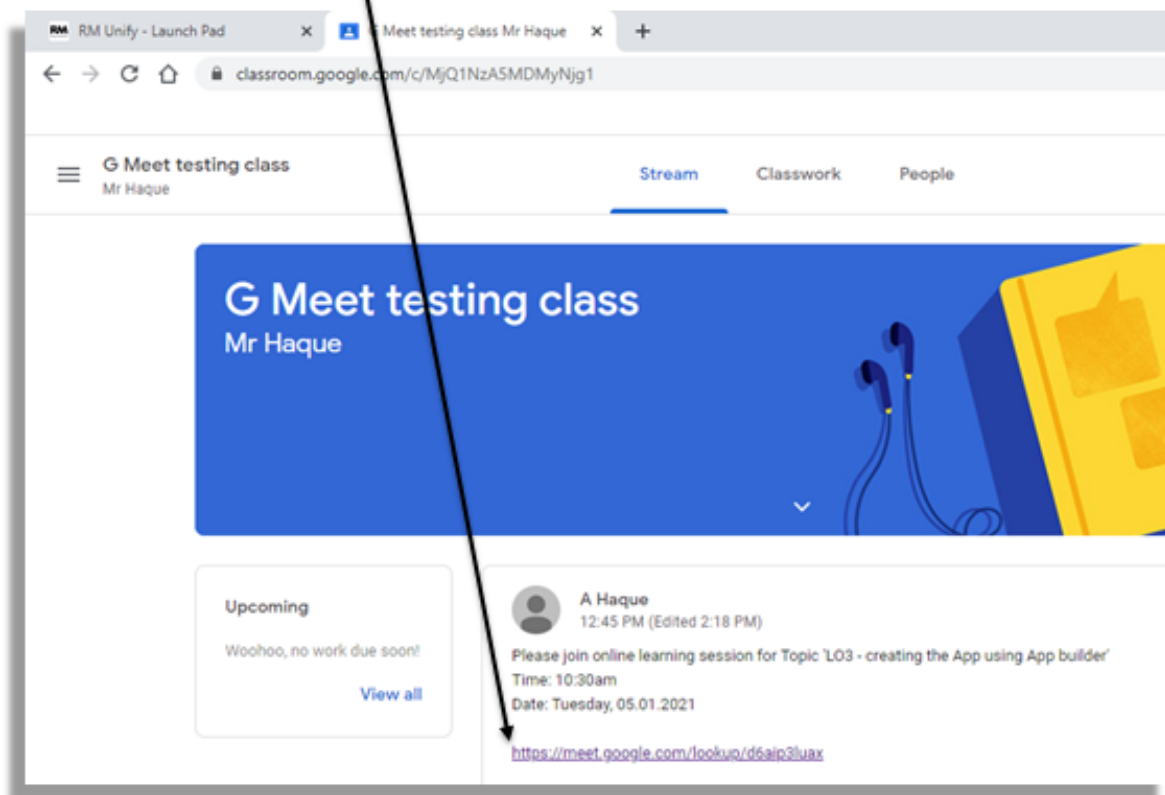
Currently, in order to access a Google Meet (G Meet) session, you must open and use Google **Chrome**.

In **Chrome** log into RM Unify. If RM Unify does not appear, you can Google search for 'RM Unify' then select the RM Unify link from results.



When in your Google Classrooms you will be able to join the live lessons:

You will find the G Meet link along with any teacher instructions; read the instructions carefully. When ready, click the G Meet link



A more detailed guide will be added to Google Classroom and Show My Homework.

Stay safe.

Attitude Determines Altitude