



Assembly notices

Monday 11th January 2021

Reflection for the week

The holiday time is over for another year. The gifts have been opened, the chocolates eaten and the TV binging has come to an end - and now the Christmas holidays has been and gone for another year.

But one date last week, the 6th January, marked an important date for many Christians in the Christmas calendar.

That is because it is the date of something called Epiphany.

The Epiphany - also known as the Three Kings' Day - is a Christian festival, which is held on 6th January.

It is a famous date in the Christmas story as it is when people celebrate how a star led the Three Wise Men to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

This is why you might hear people say they've had an epiphany when they've just realised something.

It is perhaps fitting that the new national lockdown became law on the same day. When listening to the coronavirus cases and deaths, the people of England – and the rest of the United Kingdom – realised that Covid-19 is still very much among us.

We could see it – in the shops, on buses, and even at school – that some people had started to relax and not be as cautious as they had been back in the summer. It is clear now that this was a mistake. In fact the virus has now mutated – and it is worse.

It should be a reminder – a realisation – to us all that we should try to be alert in our day to day lives. Not just with coronavirus, but in all aspects of our lives. Not completing that lesson online, not doing your homework, not getting out and exercising, not checking in with that friend – if we leave things and ignore what is important to our lives, we lose out and we fall behind. A loss of education, being unhealthy, a breakdown in a relationship – whatever it is – is caused through being lackadaisical and not putting in the efforts that we should do; the efforts that will benefit our lives and those that care about us.

Your reflection for this week, therefore, is to consider what the important things are that will influence your lives. What do you need to remind yourself of daily? As you enter another period of time without face to face classroom time with your teachers – what are you going to do so as not to fall behind? What will be your daily epiphany?

Please see the assembly notices for this week:

Online Learning

Well done to all of you who have been logging onto Show My Homework and Google Classroom since 4th January 2021. Your work will continue to be uploaded and you should continue to submit work on either Show My Homework or Google Classroom as directed by your teachers.

Year 11 and year 10 pupils have started live lessons through Google Classroom. The expectation is that all pupils attend their lessons by clicking the link on the Google Classroom.

Lessons follow your normal school timetable for English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish and History and your options subject (except Business Studies, Art and Design, Photography, Graphics and Animation).

This week we will start to deliver live lessons through Google Classroom for all pupils in the school.

Year 9 pupils will go live from **Tuesday 12th January** and pupils will be expected to attend lessons for English, Mathematics and Science, following your normal school timetable. So, if you have Science period 5 (2pm) on a Wednesday, your live lesson will be at this time too.

Year 8 pupils will go live from **Wednesday 13th January** and pupils will be expected to attend lessons for English, Mathematics and Science. You will follow your normal school timetable for these subjects. So, if you have English period 1 (9am) on a Thursday, your live lesson will be at this time too.

Year 7 pupils will go live from **Thursday 14th January** and pupils will be expected to attend lessons for English, Mathematics and Science. You will follow your normal school timetable for these subjects. So, if you have Maths period 2 (10am) on a Friday, your live lesson will be at this time too.

Work for all other subjects must continue to be completed as it is added to Show My Homework and Google Classroom.

Once you are all confident with Google Classroom we will add additional subjects to your timetable.

All resources will be added to Show My Homework and the Google Classroom and work will be expected to be submitted to your teachers.

Submission reports will be created next week and these will be sent to your parents/ carers.

It goes without saying that any misuse of online learning will be dealt with severely by the school.

If you have a problem with uploading to SMHW 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 ask your parents/ carers not to email any other email address than these as not all email accounts will be checked during school closure.

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

Google Classroom

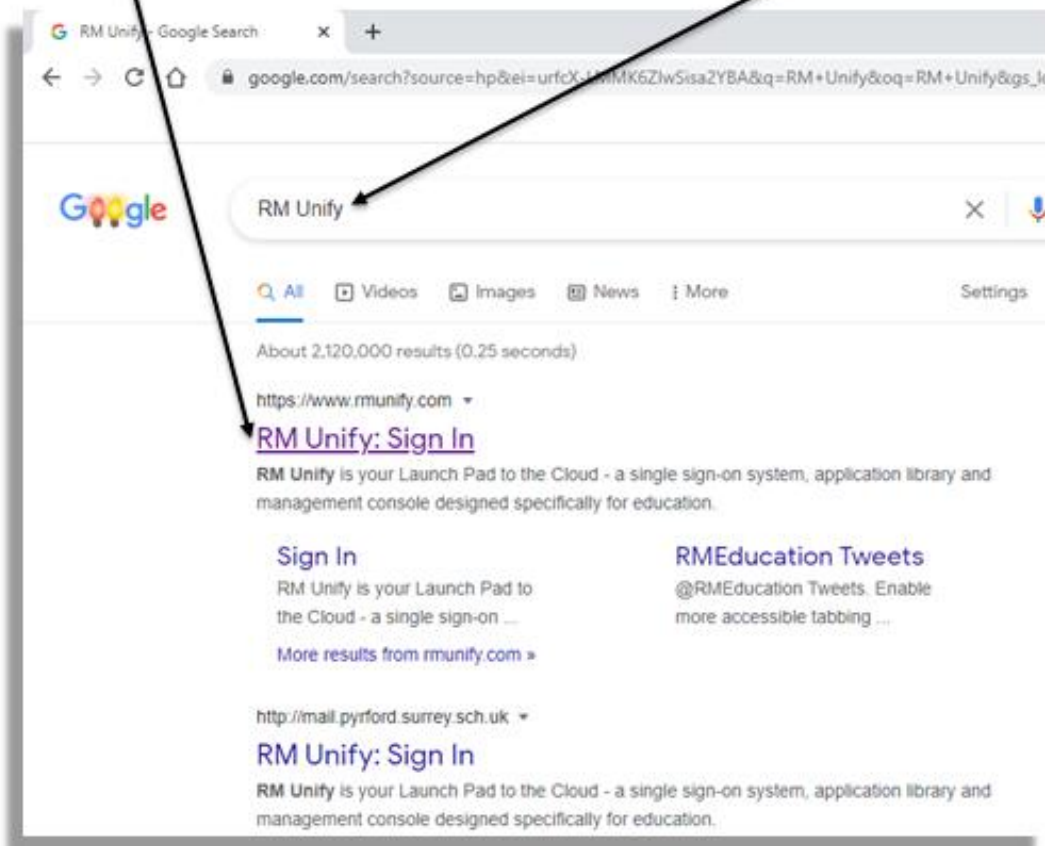
Below is a reminder of how you should log into Google Classroom:

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:

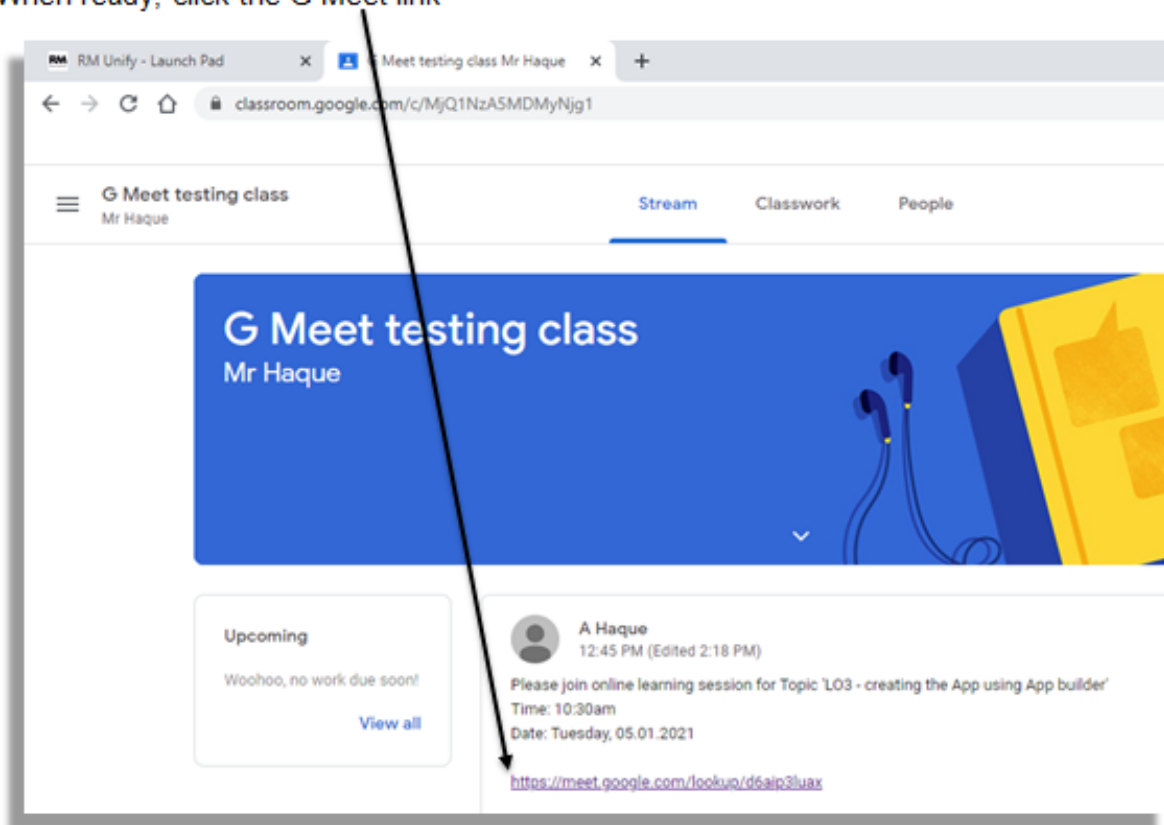
Currently, in order to access a Google Meet (G Meet) session, you must open and use Google **Chrome**.

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.

Year 11 - Keep working. Keep going.

On Tuesday 5th January 2021 it was confirmed that GCSE examinations will not take place this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

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.

We will update you through the Assembly Notices every week.

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 have not been told yet how this will be done. However, 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.

The week that you are able to return to school will be your formal examination week. The revision guidance that you received before the Christmas holidays is still relevant and if there are any changes to the topics or question type your teachers will inform you in good time.

It goes without saying that these examinations will be crucial.

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 been. 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.

Stay safe.

Attitude Determines Altitude