



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter

Summer Term – July 2021

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates	
Return to school – Autumn Term 2021	Friday 10th September 2021
Friday 3rd September 2021	Year 8 and Year 9 first LFD test
Monday 6th September 2021	New Year 7 pupils start school at 8.40am
Tuesday 7th September 2021	Year 8 and Year 9 second LFD test
Monday 13th September 2021	All pupils return to school

Welcome

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s),

As another term draws to a close, we would like to thank you, our parents, and carers for the continued support that you have shown us in the Summer Term.

Needless to say, it has been a difficult time as Covid-19 has impacted upon schools nationally, across the country. However, we would like to congratulate our pupils for the consistency they have shown in their engagement and focus in lessons and online. They should be commended for

their commitment to their learning. You too have been appreciative and positive in supporting your children's learning at home. Collectively we have ensured that pupils have continued to learn and make progress online.

The focus remains to ensure that pupils drive the momentum of independent learning forward – to consolidate their learning, to think critically and to have an inquisitive nature when it comes to their learning. Being an independent learner will auger well for pupils for their futures – whether it be in preparing for their GCSE or A Level examination, university or the working world.

Our focus during the Summer Term has been to reinforce our high expectations. This has included teachers continuing to provide high quality lessons, providing pupils with feedback and ensuring high standards. We have also organised catch up classes for our pupils which will continue in the new academic year 2021-2022.

Our focus remains on our pupils making rapid progress academically and personally. Our high expectations of our pupils remain.

We believe that every pupil can achieve beyond all expectations. After all -Attitude Determines Altitude.

Message to Year 7

It is hard to believe that the end of the academic year is approaching and your time as a Year 7 pupil is complete. When I reflect upon the year I have many particularly fond memories of your arrival, like the first day of secondary school in September, in particular the welcome assembly with the year group reciting the school motto in the school playground.

It was also great to celebrate the individual and collective achievements of the year group with your first autumn term achievement assembly and CHABOP day.

There is a real sense of pride when I consider the manner in which Year 7 pupils rose to the challenge of online learning. To be having to learn new systems and technology in a short space of time, was not only successful but an achievement. As the Year 7 Pastoral Manager I am incredibly proud of the positive attitude displayed by the year group with the remarkable levels of resilience and persistence to strive for academic excellence during such an uncertain period.

Your incredible collective achievement of earning more than 1,000,000 net CHABOP points this academic year signifies the positive manner in which you have transitioned into secondary education. It has been a pleasure to support the year group during a significantly different transition into secondary education as each of you have slowly grown and settled in your new place of education.

As the year group prepares to transition into year 8 it is vital that you conduct yourself as supportive role models welcoming the new Year 7 cohort into our school community.

Whilst this summer holiday will no doubt continue to feel different to those you have experienced prior to the pandemic due to the current circumstances, ensure you take advantage of the opportunity to rest and relax.

I wish all pupils, parents, and carers a well-deserved restful summer break. I look forward to everyone's safe return in September.

If there are any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

Mr Hobson



Message to Year 8

As I write this newsletter article it is hard to believe that this academic year has come to an end. It feels like this year has flown by with national lockdowns, periods of isolation and the majority of the spring term online learning. I think we can all say what a different year it has been for us all.

I have been extremely optimistic this year and I always look for the positives in everything, I often let pupils know how proud I am of them. Pupils will forget what we have said, pupils will forget what we do, but they will never forget how we make them feel.

Year 8 have shown commitment, resilience and vibrancy in such unusual and difficult times. Since returning after the Easter break I have been extremely proud of Year 8 and the way they have shown resilience beyond their years, once again adjusting to significant changes to their daily routine, shifting from the online lessons to attending school daily.

It is clear to see that the Year 8 cohort enjoy being in school, interacting with friends and members of staff, they appreciate their teachers and it has been great to see their passion for learning.

The pupils' outstanding return to school has been evidenced by the significant number of merits accrued by each tutor group in such a short period of time.

In terms of CHABOP data the year group has achieved 524,760 merit points this is a fantastic achievement highlighting how hard the cohort have been working since their return.

I must commend the year 8 pupils who have maintained a 100% attendance and punctuality record and received zero demerits so far, this academic

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

Finally, as the year draws to a close and the focus shifts to next academic year, year 9.

I hope the year 8 cohort continue build upon the strong foundations that have established over the course of the academic year, both with regards to their academic progress and their personal development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the challenge pupils are facing, with the focus on their options choices and starting to think about their GCSE's.

It is important that pupils take their focus, motivation and resilience into their final year of KS3.

I have no doubt that the year 8 cohort will once again rise to the challenge and make a smooth transition into year 9.

I wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved and restful break over the summer. As the restrictions are easing even more, enjoy the time with family and loved ones.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in the next academic year.

Mr Schardsmith

Message to Year 9

Year 9 have shown a mature approach in their preparation for their transition into year 10.

Year 9 should be congratulated on their overall approach to their learning throughout the school year.

The option process was very successful and pupils commented on how this was a lesson in teaching year 9 how to make life choices. Year 9 carefully considered their option choices after a range of subject specific talks and presentations, which all linked to a careers focus.

Within the year group, there have been several opportunities for pupils to participate in extra-curricular programmes. It has been very pleasing to see how pupils have engaged in the Spiral project. This project focuses on community work and learning and employability skills.

We have launched a range of sports clubs during the summer term and year 9 were very excited to be back on the Muga pitch.

The radio play project and the many contributions to wider school projects such as the Platanos College anthology should also be commended.

The pupils' outstanding return to school has been evidenced by the significant number of merits in the year group. Each tutor group has worked hard to contribute to the success of year 9 in a short period of time.

Year 9 must also be commended on having both the highest attendance record and punctuality record across the school. We look forward to year 9 continuing with the same focus as they prepare to move into key stage four.

Pupil learnt more about the phrase 'Time waits for no one', and of course our school motto 'Attitude determines Altitude'.

Ms Simpson

Radio Play Project

Huge congratulations go to the team of the Year 9 Drama pupils who took part

in a series of workshops this July 2021 to examine the impact of Covid -19 on our local area.

Focussing on timelines of events from the start of the pandemic and the social and political issues connected, pupils created a radio play script set in Stockwell featuring the families of five flats in an imagined apartment block. Charting the characters' varied experiences during the first 6 months of the pandemic, the play was built on a combination of research findings, case studies and archived news footage to combine imagined scenarios with authentic issues such as the difficulties faced by frontline workers, the rise in domestic violence during lockdown and controversies concerning the Black Lives Matter marches.



In-depth discussions, role play and further research by pupils resulted in a sequence of more than 20 scenes which they then went on to record in a radio play that represents the experiences of our community from January to June 2020. Pupils showed excellent teamwork skills, creativity and resourcefulness in working together to develop characters, produce sound effects and merge ideas. Recordings are currently being edited, but we look forward to sharing the play as soon as it is available.



In a survey of the pupils, 80% believe the pandemic has impacted on stress levels and / or mental health. As part of our efforts to help them process trauma, pupils also took part in a series of workshops teaching them how to meditate, exploring the idea of a 'home base', exercising at 'the concentration gym', equanimity and how to ease a crowded mind.



The meditation sessions combined with Drama Therapy based exercises meant that 90% of pupils reported that the experience had helped them process stress and trauma by the end of the program.

We look forward to offering many more creative initiatives next year, moving forward with this excellent team and expanding the group to incorporate many more of our talented young performers.

Certificates of distinction were awarded to the following pupils in recognition of their creative efforts and dedication shown throughout the process.

Emily Adegoke 9B
Brenda Lauren Figueroa Mbelek 9A
Jessica Marques 9A
George Roberto 9A

Sashaya Chambers 9B
Alae Chentouf Sehimi 9D
Pelumi Olasupo 9B
Anastasia Shovkopyas 9A
Dylan Tham 9A
Maryrose Appah 9W
Boluwatife Coker 9H
Ricardo Palmer 9H

Well done team. I cannot wait for our next project!

Miss Valmarana



Anti-Bullying Champions

Our Anti-Bullying movement is a community led process, although it was more difficult to lead the campaign in the same way, we altered our approach to suit the introduction of year group bubble system to ensure that we could continue our Anti-Bullying campaign.

This year we called upon pupils to nominate one or two members from their tutor group who had expressed an interest in becoming an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and to represent their tutor class. Each candidate wrote a speech giving their reason for wanting to be an Anti-Bullying ambassador and how they could make a change once in the position. The tutor group then voted on who would be their best representative.

The successful candidates attended a training session about their roles and responsibilities of being an Anti-

Bullying Ambassador and then they were allocated the opportunity the next day to carry out their duties. Usually as an Anti-Bullying community we would meet up with our partnership primary schools to train their younger peers. This year we facilitated this online.

The Year 9 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors came together to lead an online training session on Anti-Bullying, for one of our partnership primary schools. The pupils delivered an excellent interactive presentation which was engaging and fun and they were also able to answer quite difficult questions from their younger peers about why they wanted to become Anti-Bullying ambassadors. Both schools had an amazing time online and really enjoyed the whole experience of meeting new people with the same mind-set and passion for Anti-Bullying.

They demonstrated excellent leadership skills that will support their transition into year 10.

Year 7 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Year 8 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Year 9 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Academic Scholars

Over the course of the Spring term Platanos College 'Academic Scholars' in year 7, year 8 and year 9 have been working diligently on their projects. Pupils have shown fantastic work ethic and IT skills in their most recent projects.

Year 7 were given a project entitled 'Mount Everest – A Mountain that conquerors man or that man has conquered?' The criteria for the project included pupils having to research a particular mountaineer who has managed the perceived impossible feat of summiting the highest mountain in the world. Pupils looked back at the history of the mountain, read stories through the eyes of Sherpas (local guides/ethnic people) about the mountain and considered through research, the economic gains for Nepal but also the negative aspects of having such a famous tourist attraction in the country. The projects that pupils produced were excellent.

Joude Aouchiche's focused on Edmund Hillary's expedition.

SIR EDMUND HILLARY

Who Was He?

Sir Edmund Hillary was a New Zealand mountaineer, explorer, and philanthropist. He was born 20 July 1919, Auckland, New Zealand and died 11 January 2008, Zealand. On 29 May 1953, Hillary and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers established to have reached the peak of Mount Everest. They were part of the ninth British expedition to Everest, led by John Hunt.



Historical context from Kyra Knibbs-Curtis Y7

Historical context

Mount Everest History

In 1841 a hazy peak was found in the Himalayan mountains on the border of Nepal and Tibet and was found to be the tallest mountain in the world by a British survey team led by Sir George Everest whom the mountain was named after in 1865. It is a whopping 29,029 feet which is equal to 8848.0392 metres

Year 8's project was called 'Space Exploration'. Pupils researched and constructed, either on a computer or by hand, a project based on the Solar System that earth belongs to. They discovered the advances made in space exploration and uncovered the history behind the first moon landing, the failed attempts, the astronauts involved and the findings of the expedition. Astronomers have found more than 500 solar systems and are discovering new ones every year. Given how many they have found in our own neighbourhood of the Milky Way galaxy, scientists estimate that there may be tens of billions of solar systems in our galaxy, perhaps even as many as 100 billion. We know so little about the universe we inhabit from our own small planet, earth, it is important to educate ourselves about what has been discovered and what is left to be answered.

The first moon landing from Asmaa Yassin.

Moon landing

The first space shuttle

April 12, the first space shuttle ever to carry humans to the moon. The first person that went to space was cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin and Alan Shepard. After four days the craft landed and descended back to the earth. Apollo 11 was one of the most advanced space shuttles at that time. This is one of the reasons it was able to land on the moon. The space had extreme temperatures (either exceptionally cold or exceptionally hot). The other reason had to do with the fact that the shuttle had to be able to land on the moon. The shuttle had to be able to land on the moon with only 27 seconds of fuel to spare.

Our moon

The first steps on the moon were six and half hours after they landed was by commander Neil Armstrong on behalf of America. Although, the Soviet Union was the first people to achieve sending a space shuttle to the moon. The United States were the second people to plant a flag on the moon they also planted five more flags on the moon (up to 1972) in addition to the first one.



Space related facts from Elisha Broadhurst

A space suit weighs approximately **280** pounds without astronaut.

It takes **45** minutes to put it on.

The Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik I in **1957** is credited with launching the U.S. space program.



Year 9 pupils researched the history of the game of chess. They chose and researched a particular individual who has become famous because of their prowess in the game of chess. Pupils looked back at the origins of the game, researched the many famous individuals associated with the game and how it became so popular in Britain in 2020 that there was a shortage of chess boards that could be delivered to addresses in the UK.

A slide on the popularity of chess in Armenia from Iman Sakir.

ARMENIA, THE COUNTRY THAT LOVES CHESS



- THERE IS NO DOUBT, ARMENIA LOVES CHESS. ARMENIA EVEN TEACHES CHESS TO KIDS AS A MANDATORY LESSON TO FOCUS AND DEVELOP THEIR COGNITIVE SKILLS SO THEY COULD BE GRANDMASTERS AT IT ONE DAY. ARMENIA IS ONE OF THE BEST COUNTRIES THAT PLAY CHESS SINCE THEY TEACH CHESS TO CHILDREN AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.

Fares Ouanoufi explains why chess became popular during lockdown.

Is chess worthy of its popularity?

The global pandemic has led to a big online chess boom. With large parts of the population in lockdown, chess has become a popular pastime and coping mechanism. Also, chess is just really enjoyable and really easy to learn.



The projects produced by year 7, 8 and 9 were of a very high standard. Pupils who were involved should be immensely proud of themselves and their achievements.

Ms O' Connell

Key Stage 3 Anthology

This year, Key Stage 3 pupils have had several opportunities to write creatively for our end of year Platanos College anthology. Pupils have written some incredible pieces of work about a range of topics including how to stay motivated during times of challenge, family, love, loss, Coronavirus, racism....you name it, our pupils wrote about it!

Pupils completed English lessons to help them to plan ideas for their creative writing pieces and they also submitted some brilliant pieces of art and photography through a competition run by the Art department.

We are so impressed with all of the work submitted for the anthology and incredibly proud of our pupils, in particular those whose work was selected for publication.

There will be plenty more exciting creative projects running next year for our pupils to have more opportunities to have their work published.

Here is an example of just one of the brilliant pieces from the anthology.

2020

*The atmosphere is filled with apathy and internalised feelings
Oozing out of ears and mouths like a Jammy doughnut*

*What would it take to make a change?
How many lives lost, petitions signed?*

Coloured

Blood

Spilt.

*What will it take
For the world to wake the hell up and notice that
Your utopia is another's cacotopia?
One man's meat is another man's poison.*

*Shower thoughts like these
Strung around like fairy lights in my dreamscape.*

Maryrose Appah

PE Extracurricular activities

Year 7 Netball

The year 7 netball club has become increasingly popular with many eager, excited, and able individuals. The core group of girls that have attended regularly have demonstrated great potential and made a lot of progress over the short period of time.

Undoubtedly, with more exposure to the game, their resilience, enthusiasm,

and attitude will enable them to be very successful. Looking forward to September we hope to return to our local league fixtures, so the girls can represent the school in a competitive environment.

Pupil Voice: Zahra - *“Netball club has been really fun, and I hope we can play games next year with other schools. I have learnt a lot so far and made new friends.”*



Year 8 Netball

It has been a delight this year to see the entire Year 8 netball team return to netball club, they have come back with such positive attitude and an increase level of maturity. They have demonstrated the willingness and resilience to improve and maintain skills that they learnt in year 7 but they have also been very receptive in gaining new skills and tactics in preparation for their next competitive season. It has also been great to welcome pupils who are new to netball, who have now become regulars and have been embraced and encouraged by the current players who are now blossoming into great netballers.

Year 9 Netball

It has also been encouraging this year to see the Year 9 netball players return to the game with force. The numbers were so high there was even the possibility of creating 3 teams. Again, it

has been wonderful to see the pupils implementing their leadership and communication skills when they independently led warm-ups and drills during the session. It was very clear to see that these young sports people were still hold a passion for netball.

Year 7 Girls Football

The interest and consistent attendance to girls' football in Year 7 has been extremely encouraging since the restart of afterschool clubs. The girls have been working hard and have shown great commitment to the sport. What has been really encouraging is the resilience of the girls, many started off quite shy and timid however as training progressed over the weeks, it has been pleasing to see the group grow in confidence. Undoubtedly, all the hard work that has been put into training this academic year will benefit the girls for their return in September when we begin to compete against different schools.



Year 8 and Year 9 Girls Football

Year 8 and Year 9 girls' football has continued to be well attended by the core group of girls that attended last year. The group have continued to show great commitment, hard work and dedication in each session. Despite the lack of competitive game time, this has not deterred the girls and they have continued to work on developing their individual skills and their overall team play. What has been really pleasing is the fact that some of

the girls are now pursuing football outside of school and training with local teams. The girls are motivated in keeping up the successfulness of girl's football here at Platanos College and looking forward to competing in September.



Year 7 boys Football

The year 7 boy's football club has been a huge success this academic year. The club has grown from strength to strength and has remained at capacity. The pupils from across all form classes in year 7 have been enthusiastic and committed to date. The club's success and impact has been fostered by both pastoral support and the support of year 7 class teachers. The club started with pupils being challenged to work on basic football skills through fun and engaging drills and games. In addition to this pupils were also introduced to holistic elements of sport such as sportsmanship, ethics and values and teamwork.

The football club has also challenged pupils to improve on elements of CHABOP particularly in relation to punctuality and organisation.

This was encouraged and refined through weekly house and form competitions where pupils would compete for a range of extrinsic and intrinsic accolades. This culminated with national schools' sports week where the pupils participated in a mini

football tournament which was themed alongside the European 2021 football tournament. The pupils found this engaging and inspiring and was the perfect platform for the development of the year 8 football programme next academic year.



Year 8 Boys Football

After a lengthy break due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the year 8 boys have thrived on the opportunity to play sport once again.

There are 37 pupils attending football club and have had to limit numbers due to ever changing restrictions. The boys have demonstrated renewed appreciation and understanding of the benefits and importance of sporting clubs. Evidently clear in the camaraderie and support of each other's weekly efforts during training drills and five or six aside matches.

The boys are optimistic about Year 9 football and looking forward to inter-school competitions once again.

Year 9 Boys Football

Since the restarting of clubs, our year 9 boys Football club has been very popular. The Club has seen a consistent mix of both familiar year 9 pupils who have represented the football team as well as new and enthusiastic pupils. In light of the pandemic and subsequent periods of inactivity the club has attempted to

generally provide pupils with the opportunity to have fun, socialise with other pupils and to importantly improve fitness goals.

As the sessions have progressed pupils have been exposed to a range of different technical aspects of football and have been challenged to apply these to a range of challenging scenarios that have been integral in the building of pupil's confidence. Moreover, the above skills and techniques will help to develop pupils overall football progress and ultimately aim to impact their attainment at the end of key stage 3.

For the remainder of this academic year the football club aims to consolidate the above whilst beginning to move towards more competitive match-based sessions where pupils can develop key aspects such as decision making, tactics and teamwork. This will provide opportunities to prepare for school fixtures and as well as potential GCSE practical lessons in KS4.

Mr Olaniran

Greenhouse Basketball

Greenhouse Sports is very delighted to have basketball at Platanos College. We re-launched the basketball programme and we have over 80 pupils taking part in at least one basketball session per week. Over 30% of the participants are doing 1+ hours of basketball per week.

In year 7, we have 35 participants taking part in before, during and after school clubs. This year group is energetic and keen on developing their skills and having fun.

In September, year 7 will be focusing on basic skills such, shooting, passing, footwork (basketball stance, pivoting and stopping), movement without the

ball and dribbling. The goal is to develop these skills and transfer them into matches. Some of our year 7 participants are already showing hard work, commitment, and leaderships skills.

In Year 8, we have over 25 participants with at least 10 of the participants being girls taking part in before, during and school club. Year 8 participants missed a full year of Greenhouse Sports basketball programme due to pandemic. They are now playing catch up. The main focus for this year group is to develop their enjoyment for the sport. There are some talented participants who will get the opportunity to benefit from Peri sessions from September 2021.

There are some very talented individuals in year 9 pupils at Platanos College. Going into year 10, they will benefit more from internal competitions. Their commitment has been very impressive, and they are looking forward to the next academic year.

All key stage 3 basketball participants are looking forward to returning to basketball in September 2021 as there will be more opportunities to take part in small group peri sessions and will also be able to represent the school in fixtures.

Mr Davy



Art & Design

Platanos College KS3 Art and Design pupils have been working extremely hard this academic year both in the classroom and at home, we are all incredibly proud.

The Art and Design department continually strive to engage all pupils, with a broad, balanced, and diverse curriculum. We establish coherent career pathways through the implementation of a transferable skill set developing resilience, problem solving, independent learning and a multi-disciplinary approach to Art and Design. We aim to instil a love and appreciation of the Arts by encouraging progress and celebrating success.

Below are just some of the achievements and highlights that we would like to share, we hope you enjoy looking at the pupils' work!

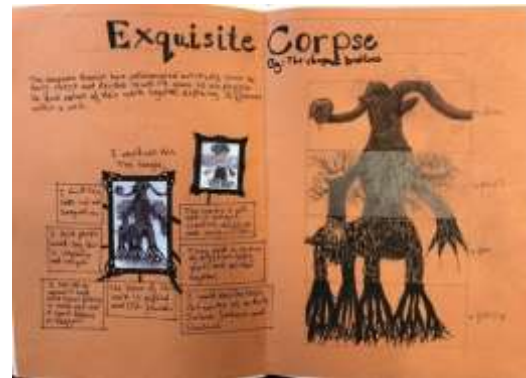
Year 7 Art

Year seven pupils have had a strong start to their secondary school Art experience. They have explored a range of projects including 'Freeze Frame' which introduced them to the formal elements of Art and Design, 'African Masks' which explored a range of cultural and historical aspects and other projects covering environmental issues such as 'Plastic Ocean' and 'Jungles'.

Below are just a few of the outstanding examples of work from our year seven pupils including drawings, research pages, 3D sculptures and ceramic work. Well done year seven!



Mimoza Ferati 7A



Lina Rigui 7A



Rhys Arnold 7E

Year 8 Art

Pupils in year eight have been working incredibly hard this year to develop and build upon the skills introduced in year seven. They have been enjoying more advanced and in-depth projects such as 'Natural Forms' which is a GCSE theme, and 'Self Identify' which explores portraiture.

Pupils have discovered a wide range of Artists from different periods of time in history and from different cultures to inform and inspire their own work.

Below are just some of the excellent pieces of work the pupils have produced within their 'Self Identify' Project.

Well done Year 8, we look forward to seeing your skills develop in year 9.



La'Shae Plummer 8C

Year 9 Art

Our year 9 Artists have had the opportunity to experience a 'Pre-GCSE' year. This has enabled them to complete a GCSE style project while also still developing the core skills, understanding knowledge needed to prepare them for KS4.

Pupils have specialised in one or two of the following subjects, Art and Design, Graphics, Animation or Photography. Year 9 pupils have risen to the challenge of working in a KS4 style and format and have developed specialist skills in their chosen area of study while creating their response to their theme 'Reflections'.

Below are just some of the excellent pieces of work created by our talented year 9s, well done.



Katy Le 8B



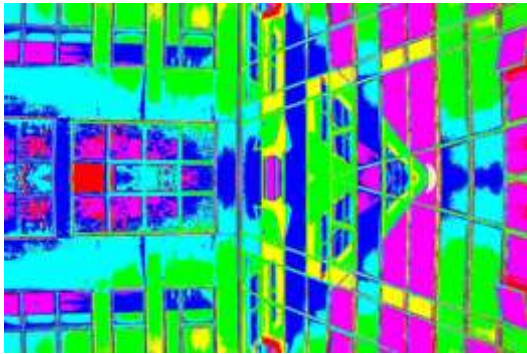
Moosa Ahmed 8C



Ece Ergench 9W



Syrin Abdessalem 9H



Iman Sakir 9W

KS3 Enrichment- Me and My World

Pupils were given the opportunity to explore their experience of the lockdowns this year by responding to the theme 'Me and My World'.

KS3 pupils created innovative and exciting approaches to the theme and responded through Photography and other Art mediums. These were published alongside poems and creative writing in our KS3 anthology along with the English department. Well done to everyone who entered the competition and all those pupils whose works were published!

Please see below some of the fantastic entries.



Nina Luong Yr9



Daniel Coelho Yr8



Imogen Bowes Yr9



Rushda Ahmad Yr8

UK Maths Challenge

UK Maths Challenge is a prestigious national competition which aims to stimulate mathematical thinking and encourage a problem-solving attitude amongst pupils. It gives pupils an opportunity to compete against other schools across the UK.

We would like to celebrate the achievements of our pupils in year 7 and year 8.

Sumaya Hassan 7A	'Best in Year' and Bronze certificate
Michael Persaud 7A	'Best in Year' and Bronze certificate
Joude Aouchiche 7A	Bronze certificate
Abdimalik Elmi 7A	Bronze certificate
Hanan Hussein 7A	Bronze certificate
Henri Jeanson 7A	Bronze certificate
Mohamed Johar 7A	Bronze certificate
Lucas Lin 7B	Bronze certificate
Rafaela Relvas 7A	Bronze certificate
Alessandra Rios 7B	Bronze certificate
Ryan Channer 8A	'Best in School' and Gold certificate
Crystal Azzopardi 8A	Silver certificate
Daniel Coelho 8A	Silver certificate
Yusuf Elmi 8A	Silver certificate
Arman Hussain 8A	Silver certificate
Caleb Chukwu 8A	Bronze certificate
Virtuous Danzaria 8A	Bronze certificate
Teejah Dixon-Morgan 8A	Bronze certificate
Ahmed Mohamed 8A	Bronze certificate
Jason Tran 8A	Bronze certificate

Our pupils have worked extremely hard for the competition which is evident from the results of the competition, and we are proud of the achievement of our pupils.



Mindful Monday

Mindfulness means living in the moment. It is paying attention to the present moment, on purpose and without judgement.

Being mindful means simply bringing a friendly curiosity to our experience. Just noting what is arising, without naming it as good or bad - just letting it be.



Mindfulness can help us learn how to reduce stress and teach us to be happier and calmer with the ups and downs of life. Sometimes we can be consumed with thoughts about the past or future. Mindfulness means we can notice our thoughts, and through letting go, find calm in the midst of life's challenges.

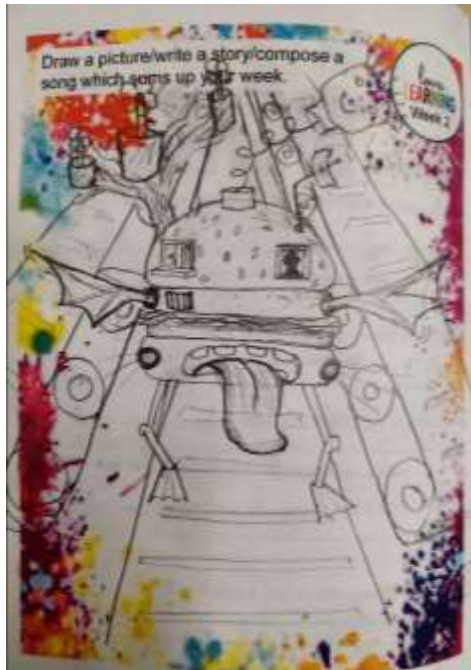
Below are just some of the excellent examples of feedback pupils have given about their experience of Mindful Monday and examples of their work:

The mindful Monday booklet was reassuring. It helped me to achieve my goals, it calms me down and makes sure that I was ok". 7A pupil

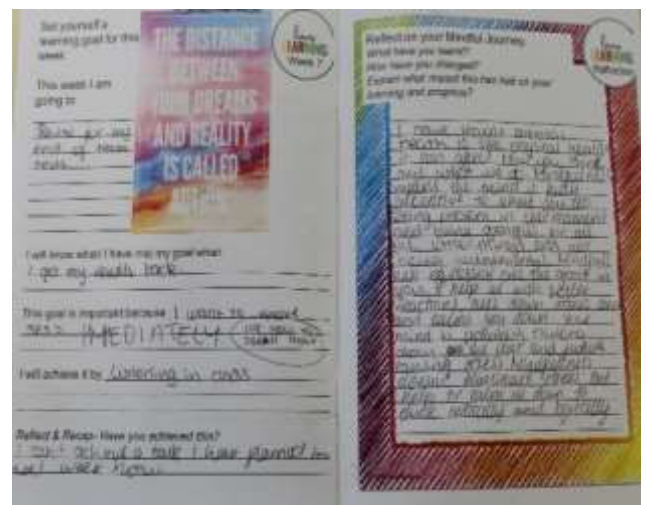
"It keeps me calm & focused, mostly refocused for the remainder of the day" 8C pupil.

"It helped me to focus on the positives things about myself and what I am good at which I don't get to do that often as I am always focusing on my targets." 8H pupil.

"I think Mindful Monday was a good way to start off our week in a calm way. It helps us to focus on our goals for the week and motivates us." 9A Pupil.



This term, key stage three pupils have been taking part in the Mindful Monday programme. Every Monday morning, pupils have 20 minutes to practice their mindfulness in a calm and focused environment through a range of activities.



"The Mindful Monday helped me because I found peace within myself and that was able to help me overcome things I didn't want to do." 9B Pupil.

CHABOP Day

CHABOP Day is an important part of our end of term celebrations. It is a chance for pupils to be rewarded for their many achievements throughout the academic year.



We decided to announce all of the CHABOP winners outside in the playground. Above the pupils are waiting excitedly for the winners to be revealed.



Pupils enjoyed playing basketball as one of their chosen activities.

Below are just some of the excellent examples of feedback pupils have given about their experience of CHABOP Day:

"It was really good, we could plan what we wanted as a reward- as long as it was safe- of course!"- Pupil 7A

"I liked wearing my own clothes!"- Pupil 7C

"It is my first CHABOP day and at first I didn't realise it was a reward, I thought we did CHABOP activities- actually it was very good to know that if we plan things we can have fun as a class"- Pupil 7W

"This year has been hard for everyone and it was good to do something fun!"- Pupil 8C

"We were rewarded for everything we had achieved this year, its good because it means we have something to look forward to all year round". Pupil 9C

Sports Day

Congratulations to all of our wonderful pupils for their achievements and participation in sports day.

Across all year groups our pupils demonstrated outstanding resilience and competitiveness throughout the day.

There were a range of different activities which meant that every pupil could participate. We were very proud of all of our participants because every pupil earned CHABOP points for their houses.

We were very pleased to be able to celebrate sporting achievement and participation across key stage three since the government guidance changed.



Above pupils participate in the standing broad jump.



Above pupils prepare for the football slalom.

Pupils are looking forward to...

At Platanos College, we asked our pupils what they were looking forward to when they return to school in September.

Here are some of their responses:

“New challenges” - Pupil 8C.

“Being able to move around the building more and having more PE lessons” - Pupil 8H.

“Feeling more grown up when I go to the next year group” – Pupil 8A

“It is my first year and I have learned a lot about myself and the way I learn. I will be able to apply this next year” - Pupil 7A

“Seeing my friends after a long summer break and making new friends. I want to speak to more people in the year group next year” –Pupil 8H

“Achieving higher grades next year, I want to be a paediatrician”- Pupil 8B

“Sports and more sports. I love sports and when I come back in September I want to join all of the clubs again”- Pupil 8D

“Going on trips! I really want to go on more trips next year. Before the lockdowns my brother told me that the school always planned loads of trips for the pupils”- Pupil 9A

Face Coverings

If you would like your child to continue to wear a face covering in September they should feel free to do so.

We will encourage pupils and staff to wear a face covering in the school building and in communal areas.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child has the correct items of 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.

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 your details 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.

#attitudedeterminesaltitude