



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Year 7 Start of Term Newsletter

Friday 10th September 2021

Attitude Determines Altitude

Message to our new Year 7 pupils

Welcome to the Platanos College Year 7 Start of Term newsletter.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 pupils to Platanos College this week and support their transition into secondary education.

All pupils have displayed an outstanding attitude to their learning across all subjects. They have displayed impeccable manners and respect to both members of staff and their fellow peers.

It has been wonderful to see the pupils taking the opportunity to form new friendships and to get to know new members of staff as they start their secondary school journey here at Platanos College.

The pupils have spoken glowingly about their first experiences of Platanos College and have expressed their enthusiasm and excitement regarding the coming term.

I hope that all pupils, parents and carers have found the transition into secondary education a positive experience and are looking forward to successfully working in partnership with Platanos College for the benefit of each pupil.

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

Mr Hobson

First Day

We started the week with an assembly to welcome all year 7 pupils to our school community. During the assembly all pupils were taught about what it means to be a pupil at Platanos College in line with the school motto 'Attitude determines Altitude'. A selection of pupils then bravely spoke to the year group explaining their experience of summer school.



The pupils looked outstanding in their brand new uniforms and listened keenly throughout.



The pupils were then placed into their tutor groups where they met their tutor and form groups before going on a tour of the school site. All pupils enjoyed a free school lunch in the school canteen with many commenting positively on the varied range of food available.



The pupils enjoyed playing and socialising with their peers in the year 7 playground before being taught how to line up in their tutor groups at the end of lunch time to ensure a safe and orderly entry into the school building.



After lunch the pupils completed lessons on the following topics;

- Covid-19 – Pupil expectations
- Being Hygienic
- How to developing organisational skills.
- How to communicate with others.
- How to resolve conflict.
- How to move around the school building in a safe and orderly manner.



The school day concluded with a year group assembly with each pupil being congratulated for completing their first day of secondary school in such a positive manner. It was outstanding to see that so many pupils had already earned merits in line with the school CHABOP system.



Each tutor group had a pupil representative who spoken glowingly about their first experience of secondary school.



During the assembly every pupil was awarded with a reading book as a gift to celebrate joining Platanos College.



The pupils were dismissed class by class. It was evident that year 7 were tired after their first full day of secondary education, however they were very excited to return the very next day to see what lessons they would be taught.

Induction Programme

As the week progressed the pupils have been working on an induction programme designed to support their transition into secondary education which has included the following topics;

- Being Hygienic
- Organisation and timetables
- Communication
- Dealing with conflict
- School tour

- Homework and meeting deadlines
- Uniform and equipment
- Travelling to and from school
- Google classroom training



Tutor Welcomes

Dear 7A,

During your first days at Platanos College, I was instantly impressed by your enthusiastic attitude to learning and eagerness to participate. You have all shown great politeness and embraced all changes into your new school journey.

I look forward to supporting you as your form tutor and seeing your great personal achievements. I am sure you will have an amazing year 7A!

Ms Bejtullahu

Dear 7B,

I am very happy to welcome such enthusiastic learners as yourselves. You have shown that you are enjoying in your new school and also committed to doing your best.

I am looking forward to work with you as I can see that you are keen to learn and succeed at Platanos College. I wish you the best of luck.

Ms Azam

Dear 7C,

All of you have made such a brilliant start to year 7! Well done for showing a positive attitude and engagement during the first days of school and it is great to see that many of you are already building confidence to challenge and stretch yourselves.

I am really pleased and excited to be the form tutor for 7C this year and I look forward to getting to know you more.

7C, we are going to be a great team to support each other for the start of this new journey!

Ms Ahn

Welcome to 7D,

After the summer holidays, I was very excited to see my tutor group and the excitement turned into the pleasure when I took you to our tutor room. I was very pleased with the attitude that you had adapted on your first day of secondary school.

All of you conducted yourself with a positive attitude towards the school rules and displayed good manners. Each one of you have shown that you are enthusiastic to learn new things in life, which shows that you are capable to achieve targets.

I wish and hope that you all will remember our school motto “**attitude determines altitude**” for your five-year journey in this school. It is a pleasure for me to be your form tutor.

Ms Alam

Dear 7E,

7E you have made an exceptional start to your time at Platanos College, of which you should all be very proud.

It has been a joy to get to know your personalities, interests and skills across the different sessions.

I look forward to this year and to see what you are able to achieve; stay enthusiastic and kind. It has been a pleasure!

Ms Daniels

Dear 7W,

You have shown an impressive attitude during the first days of school. Each one of you have proven to be engaged and it shows your commitment towards the school.

It has been a pleasure getting to know you and I wish you the best of luck during this academic year. I'm sure, you will all achieve amazing things.

Ms Roso

CHABOP Assembly

On Thursday 9th September 2021 a year group assembly was held in line with the weekly rota. The theme of the assembly was the school reward system called CHABOP.



Pupils were advised that CHABOP stands for the following;

Classwork
Homework
Attendance
Behaviour
Organisation
Punctuality

This was followed by outlining the various methods used to celebrate pupil achievements in relation to CHABOP. This included celebrating the pupils with the most CHABOP after the first three days.

Top 5 Pupils

Dorian Levy-Allen 7E – 300 merits

Uchechukwu Ezinwa 7A – 270 merits

Zaakir Habib Alabira 7A – 270 merits

Asma Mohamed-Ali 7A – 270 merits

Kelly Oliveira 7A – 270 merits



This week our safeguarding notice informed the pupils of the importance of not running in the school building and outlined the potential consequences of this behaviour.

Our safeguarding theme will change weekly and it is in place to continue to

remind pupils about the importance of safeguarding.



We concluded the assembly with a number of pupils sharing their experiences of secondary school this week, in particular identifying things they have found challenging but successfully overcome.



Portfolio for Learning

Year 7 pupils started their Portfolio for Life this week. This is designed to meet the needs of our school community and ensure that we deliver the statutory PSHE and RSE curriculum.

Portfolio for Life lessons develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural skills. Pupils study a range of topics in these lessons such as Health and Well-being, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. In Portfolio for Life lessons, pupils learn a range of

skills which directly relate to the world of business. As a Business and Enterprise school, we encourage our pupils to value and practice enterprise in all its forms. This is a course designed to develop the skills and attitudes pupils need to prepare them for their future success in life and work.

Pupils receive certificates for their work in Portfolio for Life lessons termly. They also receive certificates for wider contributions to the school community. This includes participation in clubs and partaking in wider school programmes such as the leadership programme. Pupils receive a 'Record of Achievement' to collect their certificates in. Year 7 have received their record of achievement this week and have begun working towards their first certificate in Portfolio for Life lessons.

Year 7 pupils begin by focusing on 'Well-being'. They started the week with a transition programme designed to help them familiarise themselves with Platanos College and with their new teachers and peers. Over the course of this term, pupils will learn more about the school community and learn about the importance of skills such as resilience.

It has been an excellent start for Year 7s in Portfolio for Life lessons and we look forward to celebrating their successes in the subject over the course of the academic year!

Ms Henry

Start of lessons

On Thursday 9th September 2021 pupils started their lessons in line with their timetables. This included English, Maths, Science, PE, Music and Art

lessons. The pupils were particularly excited to visit the Art department and take part in their music lesson where they were able to use musical instruments.

This year every year 7 pupil will receive a musical instrument to learn. Letters have been given to your child. Parents should sign and return the form, we will then issue instruments to year 7 in their next Music lesson.



Pupil Voice

Some of our new Year 7 pupils were asked about how they found their first week of secondary school. Here is what they have to say:



“Before I started in Platanos College I was nervous about meeting new people and moving from class to class, but as soon as I finished my first day I knew that I would be safe and have nothing to worry about. This school is a big friendly environment, the teachers are amazing and all the work

we have done is very enjoyable. I am grateful to be accepted into this lovely school.” **Jena Aberaa 7A**

“This school has really given me confidence over the past few days. When I started I thought that I would not get lots of friends because I wasn’t a great speaker. I didn’t even want to raise my hand in class in case I got something wrong and pupils laughed at me. Over the days I realised that the pupils in this school are kind and mature so I started to talk more and I now have a decent amount of friends, I am no longer afraid to speak in class anymore.” **Adham Ahmed 7A**

“My first week at Platanos College has been amazing. All the teachers are really nice and all have a different style of teaching making it exciting to learn new things. In primary school I did not really meet new people, I just stayed with my friends, whereas now in secondary school I have met new people and made new friends. I have enjoyed my first week of secondary school.” **Khloe Pereira 7B**

“I was wondering from the start on how the school was going to be and I was quite nervous about making friends around school. It turns out that the first week was very fun and the teachers were great including having a laugh. I enjoyed learning about the school expectations and de-coding the timetable.” **Michael Coker 7B**



"I have only been here at Platanos College for four days and have already learnt so much, for example I have learnt how to wash my hands properly and how to put together a flute. I am so grateful to be in Platanos College and I'm excited to spend the next 5 years of my life here." **Luca Teixeira 7C**

"I have enjoyed meeting new people and the teachers. Secondary school is a great way to start a new hobby and be free to express yourself. Coming here has made me feel like another person, this place is perfect to start a new." **Adeshewa Adebayo 7C**

"I liked that I got to make new friends and see my new teachers. Everyone says good morning and good afternoon to each other. I have been able to play basketball at lunch and have PE on Fridays." **Reyon Andrew 7D**

"I really liked my English lesson with Ms Cooke and Ms O'Connell, I am looking forward to writing our letter. I have also liked doing music and playing different instruments. I like this school all around, I can't wait for what it brings." **Sarah Salah 7D**



"I have really enjoyed Maths, English and PE this week. I really like the teachers when they help me. I cannot wait to do music." **Israe Sehimi 7E**

"I have enjoyed meeting new students and teachers. It has been fun this week so far. I can't wait to enjoy more lessons and to learn more. I enjoyed taking a tour of the school building even if it wasn't the whole school." **Rosie Button 7E**

"I've enjoyed the Music and Spanish lessons today and am looking forward to the Drama lesson and learning more." **Francisco Silva 7W**



"I have enjoyed doing every lesson with the different teachers and I like how every teacher has hope in all the pupils." **Karnae Murray-Stewart 7W**

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