



PLATANOS COLLEGE

An outstanding school for
pupils of all abilities

Key Stage 3 Newsletter Autumn Term

Friday 17th December 2021

Attitude Determines Altitude

Key Dates / Events Calendar

Wednesday 5th January 2022	Testing for Year 9 and Year 8 only Year 9 - 9.30am-12.30pm Year 8- 1pm-3.30pm
Thursday 6th January 2022	Start of term- Year 7, 8 and 9 return at 8.40am Year 7 testing will take place during the school day

Welcome Message

Welcome to the Platanos College KS3 Autumn Term newsletter.

It was a pleasure to welcome all of our KS3 pupils back to school in September supporting their transition into their new year groups.

The KS3 pupils have adapted incredibly well once again in response to changes affecting day to day life at Platanos College as a result of the pandemic.

In particular it has been great to see pupils now able to move to specialist areas of the school for practical lessons

such as the Art and Science departments.

A real positive for the pupils this term has been the further development of our pupil leadership which unfortunately was curtailed last academic year due to the restrictions in place in schools, as a result of the pandemic.

Our pupil leadership model is key to ensuring that all pupils have a forum where their voice is heard. It is great that the pupils have continued to speak so glowingly about their experiences of Platanos College.

As we are in the Winter season I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils to ensure they are taking extra

precautions when travelling to and from school in the interest of keeping safe.

Pupils should be reminded that they are expected to make their way directly home at the end of the school day.

I must also provide a special mention to our new Year 7 pupils, who have transitioned into secondary education during such a difficult time. As a cohort they have risen to the challenge over the course of their first term at Platanos College displaying resilience, determination and a thirst for learning.

I hope that all pupils, parents and carers have found this academic term to be a positive experience. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents.

I wish all pupils, parents and carers a well-deserved restful break during this festive period.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Pastoral Manager using the email addresses below.

Year7pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Year9pastoral@platanoscollege.com

Mr Hobson

Literacy at Platanos College

At Platanos College we place significant importance upon literacy across the curriculum. Two areas in which literacy is promoted at present are: Drop Everything and Read and our Accelerated Reader programme. Not only do pupils have a dedicated form time each week in which to read their class novel, at Key Stage 3 they also have one hour each week of Accelerated Reader.



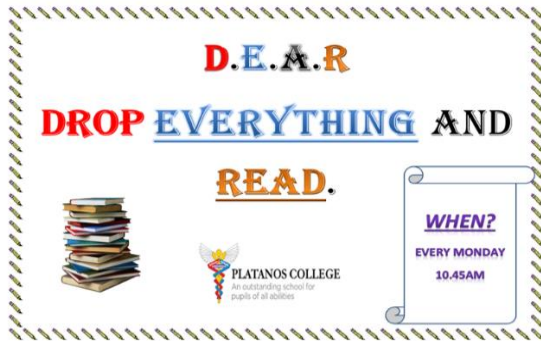
Accelerated Reader is a programme that the school has been using for a number of years with huge success.

Pupils take an initial test to determine their reading skill and this then generates specific books recommended for each individual pupil. When pupils have completed reading their recommended book they then complete a quiz on the book in order to recall, comprehend and analyse. The result of the quiz can also determine whether they have raised their reading level, after which they will be recommended more challenging texts. Not only do pupils enjoy the competitive nature of the quizzes, they also benefit from this dedicated reading time. The benefits of reading are vast: cognitive and language development, expanded vocabulary and a prolonged attention span.

**Children who
read at least 20
minutes a day are
exposed to almost
2 million words**

On Monday mornings pupils, 'Drop Everything and Read'. Across Key

Stage 3, at 10.45am all pupils put down their work and pick up a book. Pupils enjoy this interval from their studies so that they can spend some time reading and exploring the worlds within their chosen text. Reading daily has been proven to benefit children and young adults in particular.



Ms O'Connell

History Month

The theme for this year's History month was 'London'. As one of the most historic, diverse and famous cities in the world we are lucky to live in a place that can teach us so much about the history of humanity. Our school reflects the diverse community of London in that we have different ethnicities, different cultures, different languages and different accents.

As a school we are proud to live in a city that has birthed some remarkable individuals and has produced some truly significant events. However, many people who have contributed to the history of London are unknown. We have used History month this year to put faces on London's hidden heroes and names to some of the lesser known events. In this way we allow our pupils to see History as the story of all humanity and enable them to search out history that is not always focused on.

We have marked History month this year in a number of ways.

Firstly, pupils were introduced to this year's theme through assemblies. Pupils and staff discussed important, overlooked individuals and events that have shaped London. These ranged from Mary Seacole to Ellen and William Craft.

Additionally, all Key Stage Three pupils had a PFL History lesson which focused on how forgotten individuals who have shaped London's history these included Jacques Francis and Barbara Burford. Their learning continued in their History lessons when they analysed lesser known events that have shaped the city such as the Battle of Cable Street and the creation of London Pride.

Also, Friday registrations throughout this month looked at case studies of a number of individuals who lived in London and changed the city that we live in. These case studies included people such as Dr Harold Moody, an important campaigner for racial equality in the UK.

Finally, we ran a tutor group competition in which students can create a display piece about an important Londoner who isn't usually studied in History. We will celebrate all pupils' submissions through debates, presentations and discussion within the tutor groups. All students who submit a display piece will be merited to reward their great work and each tutor will choose their top display piece before the History department selects a gold, silver and bronze winner from each year group.

We hope that pupils found this to be an informative and enjoyable History

month that broadened the students' understanding of the contribution of forgotten individuals and events in shaping the London that we live in today.



Ms Graham

I am delighted to announce that our under 14's basketball team were victorious in their match against Evelyn Grace Academy, by 30 points to 19.

Under 14 Basketball Squad

Kallai Boswell 9A
Lemuel Oderinde 9A
Mohammed Rahman 9C
Diego Tituana Yopez 9C
Theodore Bailey 9D (Captain)
Nyron Ukeku-Kerr 9D
Pharrell Green 9W
Cairo-Cartier Haye 9W
Melshi Nguisani 9C
Max Scott 8C
Zhikang Chen 8B
Osamagbe Austin 8C

U14 Basketball Match

On Tuesday 19th October Platanos College under 14's Basketball team played a home game against Evelyn Grace Academy. Our return to playing fixtures, post lockdown (Two years) was really exciting and thrilling for our under 14's boys team playing competitively against a local school.

The game started off tentatively with our players not really executing what they have learnt over the past 4 weeks during after school basketball club. However, technical instructions and words of encouragement from Coach Louis helped the team to relax and play with more conviction.

The spectators, who were made up of the year 8 and 9 basketball club members, kept the atmosphere buzzing as they shouted Go Platanos Go! Clapping each time we made a telling move or scored.

The teachers who came to watch were just as excitable, jumping and cheering as our players took control of the game.



A special thanks to our Key Stage 4 Sports leaders who assisted with the Refereeing, Table Officiating and the coaching of team.

- Raheem Headley-Bennett 10A2- Assistant Coach
- Kadian Webber 10A1- Referee
- Keiran Whyte-Williams 10A2 Assistant Coach
- Orhue Austin 10/B1- Table official
- Omar Aouchiche 10A1- Table Official
- Ebuka Olisaedu 11A1- Referee

An enormous well done to everyone involved!

Ms Simpson

Prevent Workshop

The year 9 pupils participated in the Prevent Workshop from Monday 18th October 2021 until Friday 22nd October 2021.

The pupils were led through an online programme of work that uses presentations and information-based exploration of the words Racism, Extremism, Terrorism, the Far Right and Islamism as particularly connected to the Prevent Agenda.

The work enabled the pupils to acquire an understanding and knowledge that will provide them with an awareness to safely challenge extreme views and beliefs that could impact on a cohesive community in their school, and its' surrounding areas.

The pupils were given, through the workshop, information connected to the historical context of racism, religion, extremist organisations and their ideologies and, alongside Reveal's experienced practitioners, learnt to "unpick" the extreme ideologies connected to both Far Right and Islamist Organisation.



Extra-curricular clubs and enrichment

It has been an absolute delight and extremely encouraging to see so many pupils engaged in a number of different clubs and activities across the 26 clubs currently on offer. As a school we would like to offer more clubs and enrichment opportunities and hope this is possible in the near future.

There are currently 26 clubs in full operation with 384 pupils in KS3 attending clubs. The clubs currently on offer are History 'Fact and Fiction' club, Computer 'Robotics', St. John's and CCF Army Cadets, Reading, Drama, Spanish Club and Science STEM Club. The PE department offer Table tennis, Basketball, Netball and boys' and girls' football club.

Pupil voice:

History 'Fact and Fiction' Club:

"It's been really fun; I like how the films relate to what we are studying in our lessons at the moment."

"I like learning about the truth behind each movie."

"It's something I wouldn't normally watch but I really liked it."

PE Clubs:

"It is very cool and fun as I have new opportunities to learn different sports & get to meet new people. It also increases my social confidence."

"The reason I like basketball is because it keeps me mentally & physically fit & I've always wanted to play the sport."

"I like coming to netball because it distracts me from the outside world & school life. Also, I really like the sport in general."

We hope that many more pupils capitalise on the extra-curricular opportunities and the benefits thereof to their holistic development, wellbeing and academic progress.

Mr Klassen

Year 7 Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing Workshops

On Monday 18th October 2021 all year 7 tutor groups attended an introduction to Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing workshop.

The workshop introduced all pupils to safeguarding at Platanos College focusing on the following areas;

- Introduction to the basic understanding of safeguarding.
- Outlining the reporting process at Platanos College.
- Considering the types of concerns that should be reported.
- How to be safe in the wider community.

The sessions then concluded with the pupils anonymously suggesting safeguarding topics they would like further training on.

The Worshipful Company of Fuellers' Music Scholarship

Following a rigorous selection process on Monday 11th October 2021, Uchechukwu Ezina was awarded the prestigious Music Scholarship, sponsored by The Worshipful Company of Fuellers.

This scholarship is named *The Worshipful Company of Fuellers Music Scholarship*. It is an extremely competitive scholarship and Platanos College is very proud of Uchechukwu.

The Worshipful Company of Fuellers has a long-standing partnership with Platanos College and this scholarship is a testament to the strength of the partnership.

The scholarship offers pupils the opportunity to develop their skills technically, academically and artistically.

Platanos College believes in each and every pupil and we look forward to showcasing Uchechukwu's performances in the future.

Ms Taybi, Acting Headteacher said, *"Uchechukwu has made an excellent start to his academic career at Platanos College, this started for Uchechukwu at the Platanos College Summer School. Uchechukwu has an outstanding attitude to all aspects of school life, more specifically Music and it is with great pleasure that he has been given this opportunity".*

Mr Ezina, Uchechukwu's father said, *"We are absolutely proud of Uche and the scholarship, we will support Uche throughout his time at Platanos College. I hope he makes the school proud and continues to develop and grow from strength to strength".*



KS3 Assemblies

This term has also seen the return of Year group assemblies, this has been an aspect of school life that has been greatly missed as a result of pandemic.

KS3 have had assemblies focused on the following topics;

Independent learning
Leadership
President and Vice President
nominations
Safeguarding
World History Month

On the the highlights of each assembly is the pupil involvement, where pupils actively deliver sections of the assembly to their peers. This develops both their confidence and presentation skills.

Each assembly also has a key safeguarding notice tailed to the specific needs of the year group.

Each year group also concluded the term with a CHABOP assembly, CHABOP is a merit and demerit system running throughout everything that we do at Platanos College standing for the following areas;

Classwork
Homework
Attendance
Behaviour
Organisation
Punctuality

Within each year group CHABOP assembly nominated pupils were awarded with certificates to celebrate their achievements in relation to their progress and effort across all subject areas. Prize draws were held in relation to pupil CHABOP performance and the top five pupils within each year group were celebrated.

Year 7

Eden Bowes 7A 5725
Ceyda Ayhan 7A 5720
Archie Montez 7A 5620
Joana Ferreira 7A 5620
Kelly Oliveria 7A 5610

Year 8

Stephanie Camacho Pinto 8C 4985
Raquel Nunes Franco 8C 4645
Teanna Tran 8E 4610
Ezra Agyei-Darko 8C 4415
Max Scott 8C 4345

Year 9

Lemuel Oderinde 9B 2845
Madinah Maksene 9B 2650
Sophia Martins 9A 2590
Crystal Azzopardi 9A 2575
Jason Tran 9A 2455

We also awarded a prize to the top tutor group in each year group for attendance and CHABOP.



KS3 Leadership Teams

Each tutor group has nominated a president and vice president to represent them. These roles a vital part of our pupil leadership structure within the school community as they ensure the regular promotion of pupil voice.

To secure these positions pupils delivered a speech to their tutor group

outlining why they feel they would be the right pupil for the role and how they would represent their fellow tutees. Elections were then held across all tutor groups with the following pupils being selected.

Year 7

Tutor Group Presidents

Eden Bowes 7A
Michael Coker / Aya Akarmass 7B
Ahmed Osman 7C
Giovanni Edwards 7D
Dorian Levy-Allen 7E
Halla Mohammed 7W

Tutor Group Vice Presidents

Zaakir Habib Alabira 7A
Nataly Sandoval De Freitas 7B
Ashradul Chowdhury 7C
Rahkira Crawford 7D
Hamza Ali 7E
Chloe Pinto 7W



Year 8

Tutor Group Presidents

Samira Abdu 8A
Ahmed Hagos 8B
Max Scott 8C
Madina Rezay 8D
Damarie Smith 8E
Julie Cruvinel Costa E Silva 8W

Tutor Group Vice Presidents

Abdimalik Elmi 8A
Ranyah Nurhusein 8B
Stephanie Camacho Pinto 8C

Ibrahim Hersi 8D
Javanni Warren Evelyn 8E
Sharaye Rodney 8W



Year 9

Tutor Group Presidents

Yusuf Elmi 9A
Attica Hussein 9B
Lana Quintal 9C
Tamera Jerry 9D
Halimah Olatunji 9E
Inaya Rose 9H
Yasmin Elhag-Salih 9W

Tutor Group Vice Presidents

Ali Osman 9A
Shyla Fenton-Duhaney 9B
Nicholas Da Costa Silva 9C
Samuel Cardoso Fernandes 9D
Angelica Britto Martins 9E
Lasharnae Bennet 9H
Zakiyah Rose 9W



KS3 Honour Roll

This term we have introduced the KS3 Honour Roll, the purpose of which is to

celebrate pupils who have attained the following achievements throughout the half term;

- 100% Attendance
- 100% Punctuality
- Zero demerits

Achieving excellence in each of these areas demonstrates an outstanding daily attitude to school life very much in line with the school motto 'Attitude Determines Altitude'. Please see the KS3 Honour Roll below;

Beyza Aydin 7B
Stella Candido 7C
Jason Costa Braganca 7W
Ana Beatriz 7D
Tahseen Haque 7B
Ryan Hoang 7B
Oluwafunilayo Lori 7B
Mihad Saeed 7E
Israe Sehimi 7E
Siham Yusuf 7C
Zhikang Chen 8B
Stephanie Camacho Pinto 8C
Hanan Hussein 8A
Talia Magloire 8B
Alaa Ouzane 8A
Lina Rigui 8A
Simra Zainu 8A
Menal Ahmed 9B
Daniels Rodrigues Silva 9W
Zakiyah Rose 9W

Pupil Voice

Some of our KS3 pupils were asked about how they found the academic year so far and this is what they had to say.



"I like being a vice president because I get to show how to be a leader and make school a better place." **Chloe Pinto 7W**

"I like music a lot and I really enjoy it because I can release my energy." **Francisco Silva 7W**

"In my opinion music is very entertaining and it lets us learn new skills." **Karina Ribeiro Sanches 7C**

"I enjoy music because I get to learn about different notes and helps me use my right hand" **Soraira Alves 7B**

"I like how the lessons are going and the building is huge. I love how the teachers are so kind, funny and caring whenever anything happens for us." **Jannat Miah 7D**

"Many students have joined clubs and I recommend trying to go as it helps you mentally as well as physically." **Raquel Freitas 7D**

"The clubs are very good when you have a stressful day doing a lot of work. I go to two clubs and they have helped me." **Daniella Broadhurst 7D**



"My opinion about the after-school clubs is that there is a large variety which helps children to learn and involve themselves in new things. I have engaged in new things and enjoyed it." **Eden Bowes 7A**

"I like that all the teachers are really nice and the food is good. I also like that the teachers set the lessons up really nicely." **Ana Beatriz Goncalves 7D**

"I like how the staff are fully trained and they provide equipment for us. The food here is amazing, they provide vegetarian and halal and also cater for allergies. My favourite subjects are PE, Art, Maths, English, Computing and History." **Jannah Maddix 7D**



"We have learnt about caring and being respectful and responsible with each other. We as students are always encouraged to speak up. We had training about safeguarding and how important it is to speak to our teachers." **Shareen Zainu 7C and Halla Mohamed 7W**



"We recently had safeguarding training and we learnt about not crossing the road when the cars are coming and should wait for the green man. We also learnt you should not be on your phone when around the road as it is dangerous and distracting." **Sienna Robinson 7D**



"School is interesting and exciting. I am adapting as we have more work and homework. I have enjoyed the start of my journey at Platanos College and am looking forward to learning more." **Alaa Jalal 7D**

"Taking on a leadership role has helped me get to know my peers and has helped to get out of my comfort zone." **Ranyah Nurhussien 8B**

"Music club has helped me with being more creative and building my confidence. I also attend football club which has helped me to develop my communication skills and my fitness. It has also improved my mental health." **Samira Abdu 8A**



“Netball in my opinion is fun and enjoyable. It is also a good way to express my feelings. It is a good way to improve my physical and mental health whilst being an educational activity to take part in after school.” **Stephanie Camacho Pinto 8C**

“I attend music club which has helped me to learn a new skill. It is fun to enjoy different music.” **Damarie Smith 8E**

“I become a pupil leader to help me get to know and help my peers, I also want to improve the school community. I now feel more confident speaking in front of people.” **Ibrahim Hersi 8D**



“The Year 8 safeguarding assembly taught us how to better ourselves, particularly how to adapt to new things and how to approach people in new environments.” **Picetra Nyarko-Croffie 8D**



“The basketball game this week was amazing.” **Max Scott 8C**

“I feel that everyone is safe at this school. If something happens then the teachers will deal with it straight away.” **Xia Maddix 8D**



“I love football club because it helped me improve my skills and I have made new friends. I also realised that it made all my stress go away, I am glad that I joined a club.” **Julie Cruvinel Costa E Silva 8W**



“Clubs keep me motivated in my learning, it gives me something to look forward to. Its helps to form friendships

and improves communication skills.”
Nyron Ukueku-Kerr 9D

“Having clubs helps with my mental health and well-being.” **Dillon Agyemang 9W**



“I’m proud to have a leadership role in my class. I need role model and lead by example all times.” **Samuel Cardoso Fernandes 9D**

“Being class president, I have a voice for the class, I can help put our opinions forward.” **Attica Hussein 9B**



“I liked that it was interactive and this helped with my understanding.” **Moosa Ahmed 9C**

“I like the fact that it was interactive and used various games to keep us focused and engaged during the session.” **Femi Idowu 9B**

Year 9 Trip to Chelsea Football Club

On Wednesday 15th December 2021, Ms Bartley, Mr Bourke, Mr Paton and Mr Scott took pupils from 9A, 9B and 9E

to Chelsea Football Club. The trip included a stadium tour and a visit to the club museum.

The tour included visits to different spectator areas of the stadium, the dugout where the managers and substitutes sit, the away dressing room, the home dressing room and the press room. Pupils were given opportunity to ask the guide questions. Pupils were able to see what goes on behind the scenes of a football club, as the stadium was being prepared for a league fixture the following evening.

During the tour, the guide explained how the club generates its income. This included match day ticket sales, sponsorships, merchandise and TV rights.

After the tour, pupils were able to visit the museum and see how the club has become quite successful over the years. There were winning medals from the various winning performances on display.

It was a very enjoyable trip. Asked how the trip enhanced their learning, one pupil responded *“I was able to see how a football club is able to generate their income from different things”*.



Year 7 Trip to Kidzania

On Wednesday 15th December the year 7s enjoyed their first trip to

enhance learning, travelling to Kidzania.



The pupils were commended by the public on their demeanour, attitude and good manners.

Whilst there the pupils participated in a range of work-based activities to earn points. Some of the most popular activities included the emergency services, deliveries and news reading.



Overall, the year 7 pupils were a credit to the school and it was an enjoyable experience for all.



"I really had fun."

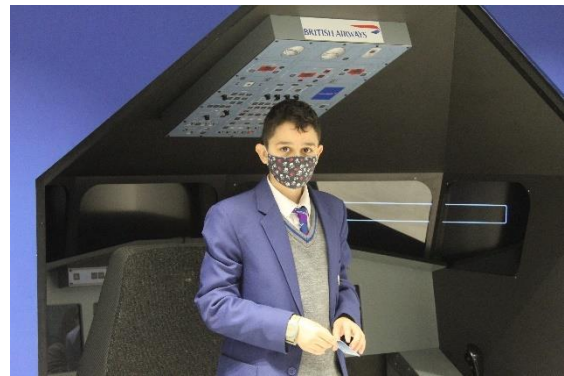
Swahili Da Cruz Costa 7C

"It was amazing and the slushies are really good." **Isra Ahmad 7A**

"Today I enjoyed it when I was riding on the fire truck." **Sienna Robinson 7D**

"Today we went to Kidzania and worked with staff members and we got to go into the theatre." **Nataly Sandoval De Freitas 7B**

"Today I enjoyed going around and getting jobs with my friends and having the experience to be an adult." **Stella Candido 7C**



Year 8 Trip to New Wimbledon Theatre

On 15th December 100 Year 8 students travelled to New Wimbledon Theatre to watch the pantomime classic 'Dick Whittington.'

This year's panto featured Eastenders and I'm A Celebrity star Shane Richie as Dick Whittington, guided by the magical fairy Bow Bells on an adventure that sends him from London streets not exactly paved in gold to the high seas.



With outrageous comedy, stunning costumes and a set full of fantasy, Year 8s were entertained and very involved in the interaction throughout. (We definitely won the 'He's behind you' competition...)

It was wonderful to see an auditorium full of smiles and laughter from pupils whose conduct was exemplary throughout.

“My favourite part of Dick Whittington was that a male played a female character, it was nice to see them change it up. I also liked the interaction with the actors on stage.” **Javanni Warren-Evelyn 8E**



Year 8 & 9 Trip to London Dungeons

As part of trips to enhance learning sixty Year 8 and 9 pupils took part in a trip to the London Dungeons. The trip links to learning pupils have been doing in History and was a thoroughly enjoyable day out for both staff and pupils.

During our visit through the Dungeons, pupils learnt about Crime and Punishment through the ages as they were guided by costumed actors who explained medieval torture devices, and gave us an idea of what life was like during the Great Fire of London and the Black Death. Our pupils were sentenced by an 18th Century judge and sent to the gallows in the form of a drop ride.

Pupils screamed their way from one experience to another, and went through a variety of emotions during the visit ranging from fear to laughter - all to the delight of the teachers and actors supervising the tour. Once outside, pupils ate their lunch in the surprisingly pleasant weather with a gorgeous view of the Southbank and the hustle and bustle of the Central London location. Despite the aggressive seagulls, pupils were impeccably behaved and a real credit to the school.

After a thoroughly enjoyable day, pupils returned to school tired but feeling accomplished. They had shown real curiosity through asking thought-provoking questions and making links to their previous learning. Our pupils were amazing representatives for our community, and conducted themselves well throughout the day.

Pupils enjoyed their day as shown by their glowing reviews:

“My favourite parts were the boat ride with its jump scares and the death drop. Also, the elevator in the dark with scary sounds was my favourite play” **Romaysa Bouain 8C**



"Today was fun but it was way too quick". **Theodore Bailey 9D**

Year 9 Trip to the Science Museum

9W and 9H attended the Science Museum for their trip to Enhance learning.

Pupils were excited to attend and spend the day with their friends and members on staff on a school trip.

Pupils' behaviour was outstanding as they explored the museum learning loads of new facts.

"I enjoyed seeing all the old cars and planes that were in the museum, it was interesting to see how they both have evolved over time." **Seth Leo Morgan Powell 9H**



"I enjoyed learning loads of new facts, looking at old clocks, telephones and machinery as well as the artefacts."
Tyrell Allen 9W



"I enjoyed the trip to the Science Museum as it was nice to be able to go on a school trip with my class, which we haven't been able to do since year 7."
Mya Abdelwasi 9H



CHABOP Day

The Autumn term concluded with CHABOP day, this is a day where pupils are rewarded for their consistent performance in relation to the CHABOP system.



In the build up to the day pupil leaders gathered feedback from their peers regarding the activities they would like to take part in.



On the day the pupils were allowed to wear their own clothes, had extended time in the playground and participated in tutor-based quizzes and activities.



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